

Book Takes a Look at Political Correctness

BY JAMES KIM
STAFF REPORTER

Politically Correct Bedtime Stories

Author
James Finn Garner

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Genre
Fiction

Currently #1 on the
New York Times Best Seller List

The idea of political correctness has been under attack recently and the new book by James Finn Garner shines a satirical light on this topic. Entitled *Politically Correct Bedtime Stories, Modern Tales for Our Life and Times*, it is a collection of classic fairy tales with a decidedly modern twist.

Garner opens with a brief introduction in which the Brothers Grimm's "insensitivity to women's issues, minority cultures, and the environment" along with Hans Christian Andersen's neglect of the "inalienable rights of mermaids" are excused as a product of the times. Garner corrects these past injustices by retelling the stories so as to make them more agreeable with the current politically correct times. Careful attention is paid to

every detail to avoid offending any groups as evidenced by the fact that the book's original title, *Fairy Stories for a Modern World*, had to be revised to avoid showing a heterosexual bias.

The revamped stories give a hilariously exaggerated account of political correctness taken to the utmost extreme. In the "Three Codependent Goats Gruff," it is pointed out that the goats did not overgraze their valley and so prevented any unnecessary environmental damage. In the familiar tale of "Little Red Riding Hood," the woodsman is referred to as a "wood chopper person" or "log fuel technician" and grandma is "as optically challenged as a bat." Near the end of the tale, the wood chopper person is scolded and called a sexist for assuming that women and wolves are unable to solve their problems without the help of a man. The tale

concludes with little red riding hood, grandma, and the wolf living together with "mutual respect and cooperation." Rumpelstiltskin is also given a modern spin. Esmeralda moves to California at the end of the story to open up a birth control clinic in order to teach women their reproductive rights. The book contains a host of other stories that are sure to elicit more than just an occasional chuckle.

All joking aside, however, the much maligned idea of political correctness does serve a valuable purpose. It is responsible for fostering the general atmosphere of tolerance for different ethnic, religious, and social groups in our society today. Some, however, may argue, and rightly so, that our society is hardly the perfect example of harmony. This is an accurate assessment, but one only needs to examine the past to realize that this nation has, indeed, come a long way. In fact, the current concept of political correctness is a natural consequence of the civil rights movement of the 1960's.

Once minorities achieved their goals of changing the laws to gain equal rights,

the next step was to alter the deeply ingrained prejudices that still prevail in society. This second goal is far from being completed, and perhaps, will never be fully accomplished, but progress on this front can only come about through the constructive use of ideas that will promote an attitude of tolerance and sensitivity towards other groups.

Thus, although people may complain about the overuse of politically correct language, it must be understood that its function is to create an atmosphere of mutual cooperation and trust by attempting to alter the irrational and biased beliefs that everyone has.

In order to truly appreciate its influence, one must take a moment to consider what society would be like if political correctness did not exist. Without it, the use of racial, religious, ethnic, and other slurs would be commonplace in the media and would even be considered normal.

Of course, political correctness, like all things, must be used with a sense of proportion; coming to the defense of trivial issues is certainly not appropriate.

A Star is Born in Las Vegas

BY MICHELLE SHENSKY
STAFF REPORTER

Erica Jong once said in *The First Ms. Reader*, "Everyone has talent. What is rare is the courage to follow the talent to the dark place where it leads."

Introducing the latest in talent agent representation, the new Star West International talent and production company. It's owners Leanne Lindsey and Patty Linson are no strangers to the entertainment arena. Having lived in the Las Vegas area for the past twenty years, each of these women have diverse backgrounds in sales, marketing, set design, wardrobe, film production and representation.

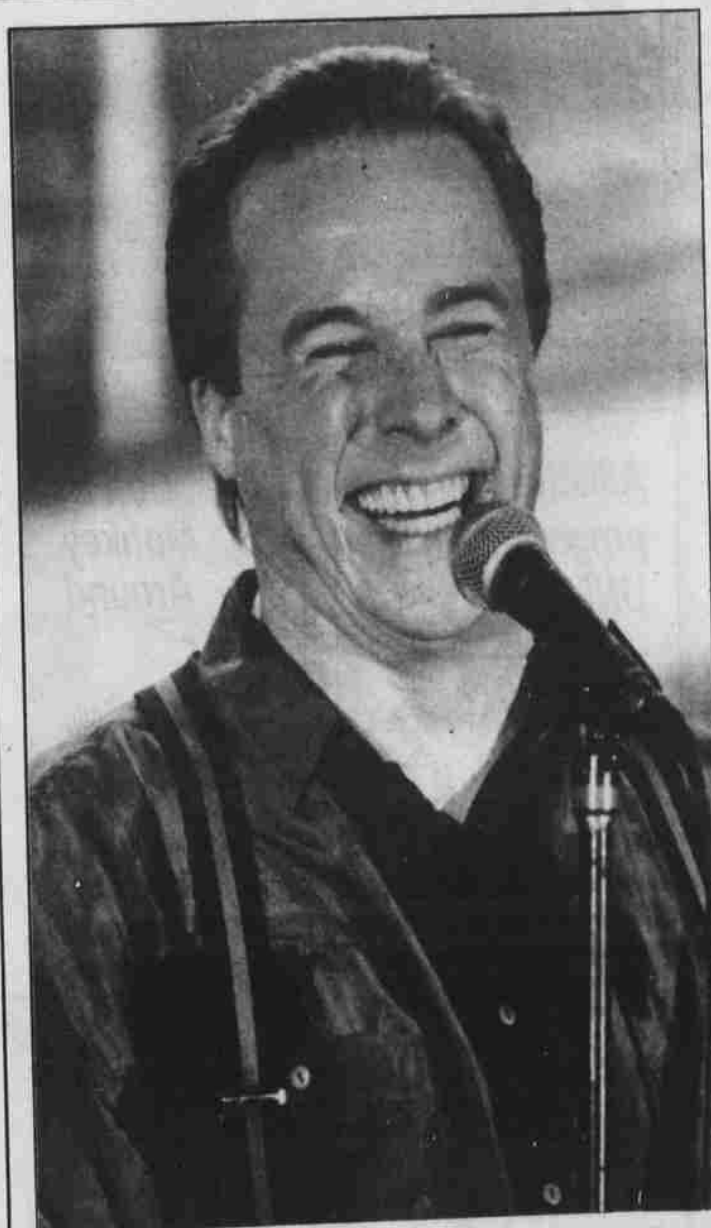
When I spoke with Lindsey about the future direction and intention of Star West International, her response was so positive towards the talent based here in Las Vegas, I signed up myself. Maybe I'll get a job as an extra in some new movie being filmed here in Las Vegas.

Star West International aims to represent new and experienced talent to grow and develop with the agency. For those of you here on campus who think you've got the talent, but haven't figured out how to go about getting that special break, Star West International is the answer. They are seeking fresh faces in all areas of

Please see Star—9



Hey Jerky! The boys are coming to a theater near you. Watch UNLV-TV 4 on Tuesday Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. to win tickets to a special sneak preview on Thursday.



A younger, skinnier Jackie. The older, larger Jackie "The Joke Man" Martling will be killing them at the Riviera this Saturday at 9 p.m. Show up and you won't be disappointed.

For Martling, Telling Dirty Jokes Gig of a Life Time

BY SCOTT JEFFREY OSBAND
STAFF REPORTER

Jackie "The Joke Man" Martling will be coming to Las Vegas this Saturday, Jan. 28, with his one man comedy show at the Riviera Hotel in their Top of the Riv Ballroom. Martling who has enjoyed national exposure through his lucky hook-up with radio personality Howard Stern will prove his talent as he starts off the Superbowl festivities. Martling was a struggling comedian with a college degree playing small clubs when he hooked up with Stern. Martling who claims to be the head writer for the "Howard Stern Show" admits that most of the show is spontaneous, and he never knows where it will end up. Martling showed what he was made of in a recent phone interview:

How did you hook-up with Howard Stern?

I didn't know Howard before the show, when he was moving his show to New York it was suggested to me I send him the comedy albums I had made in 1982. I've been the head writer for the show since.

Since the "Stern show" has gone from a radio show to a T.V. and radio show, what new problems have you had to adjust to?

It's like you can't sneeze without the nation saying bless you! To me, it's just MO' money in the bank because I'm not really doing any more work.

Who do you admire as a colleague in comedy?

Anyone who has the balls to get behind the mic I have respect for. It's hard to compare myself with other comedians because I'm on the "weird level." People don't have to think to get the jokes at my

show like Dennis Miller's Show. I'm more like Andrew "Dice" Clay.

All the talk about Howard Stern and his movie deal, do you think you'll play a part?

If is the biggest word in the English language! Plus that's really Howard's deal and I don't know if I have a role, it's always hard to tell what's really happening and what's just being said for publicity.

Will this be your first movie if it happens?

I was in a movie called *The Dirtiest Dozen*. It was 12 stand-ups showing their best. It was cool because I got to work with Tim Allen and Chris Rock.

What ever happened to the "Underdog Lady" that was on the old TV show?

I'm not sure but I heard she turned into Billy West. But really I have not even thought about her, but it would be interesting to find out.

For anyone who has heard the ending of the "Stern Show" they know it's filled with your self-promotion, Do you get alot of flak for that?

Since the 1-800-323-5464 promotional line and the 516-922-WINE dirty joke line have been in service, it has been like part of my pay on the show to get promo time.

Ticket price for Saturday's show is \$27.50. There is no student discount, but since Adam Sandler isn't showing up you might be able to afford Martling's show.