

Dobbs- Schools Banning Words at 'Alarming Rate'



<http://www.dfamily.com/philosophy/teach/hswtl/journal.html>

[Bias Guidelines being issued to remove sexist or age-biased, or words (*not vulgarity*) someone will find them offensive.] Post Modern

Dobbs- Schools Banning Words at 'Alarming Rate'

<http://www.newsmax.com/showinsidecover.shtml?a=2003/6/24/05310>

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Political correctness has so infected the public schools that classroom textbooks are now vetted for bad words and phrases that may upset people.

Lou Dobbs reported Monday night on his CNN program that "the list of words and phrases now banned in American classrooms is rising at an alarming rate."

[Should words ever be banned?

How come foul language cannot be banned?

Where is the disconnect?

Do schools teach us the language of the people or do they mold the language of the people?

Do English classes incorporate common words because they are in the culture?

If true, on what basis would an English class ban a word?

Do schools teach us the proper methods of writing or speaking or are they to mold the language into a pattern they believe is right? In other words, the chicken and the egg concept. Where do the rules of language usage originate from?]

"You may be surprised" to find out the innocent words and phrases now being deemed inadmissible in a classroom, Dobbs said.

Dobbs' launch pad was author and education expert Diane Ravitch's new book, "The Language Police: How Pressure Groups Restrict What Students Learn."

Here are some examples from Ravitch's work:

- "Anchorman" is a no go. Sorry, Lou, it's sexist!

[True or False?

Should it be banned or not?

Ethics?]

- Forget about mentioning "Adam and Eve." The PC crowd says it should be "Eve and Adam to demonstrate males do not take priority over females."

[Your reaction to that one.]

- "Abnormal. Banned as demeaning to persons with disabilities."

[<Avnormal: Not typical, usual, or regular; not normal. >]

Ravitch says the thought police at schoolbook publishers even issue "bias guidelines" to enforce their edicts.

[Do "bias guidelines" suggest adoption of the common use language or a plan?
What do you believe is the plan? The motivation?
If you took the most innocent angle possible, how would you explain this?
If you took the most critical angle possible, how would you explain this?]

Textbooks have been disinfected of such words as "actress or businessman or salesman, or founding fathers or brotherhood."

Ravitch explains that banned words and phrases are removed because, as the p.c. crowd argues, "these are either sexist words or age-biased words, or someone will find them offensive."

[The hair on the back of my neck goes up when I hear of Political Correctness. Why is that word not banned?

Can you think of a few words which should also be banned?

How about minority and non-minority since their definitions have been destroyed?

How about gay since its definition has also been destroyed?

How about diversity, since its definition has been destroyed?

If a common word is used for some other purpose and given a new definition which attaches a political or cultural meaning to a formerly innocent, operative word, is that word not forever unable to be used in any manner except political or cultural?

How about 'civil rights' since its definition has been destroyed?

<I've (Rush Limbaugh) often joked, you could pass a law that legalized rape if you called it the Civil Rights Act of 2003, because there's not a politician alive today with the guts to vote against anything with the words, "civil rights" in it, because it's come to mean something that we've allowed the left to define. It is not a coincidence that the left's agenda has falsely become synonymous with civil rights>]

The thought police, according to Ravitch, have also been busy "rewriting classic literature, dropping phrases and words because there were words like 'God' that weren't allowed, even though it appeared in the works of Eli Wiesel, or Isaac Bashevis Singer."

[Do you have a problem with anyone rewriting classic literature for any reason?

Is removing that ugly "G" word an exception?

Can you rationalize rewriting classic literature?

Can you rationalize rewriting classic literature if you are never confronted?

Classic literature which is rewritten - is it still classic literature?

<Wiesel is the author of 36 works dealing with Judaism, the Holocaust, and the moral

responsibility of all people to fight hatred, racism and genocide.>
<Polish-born American journalist, novelist, short-story writer, and essayist, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1978. Singer's chief subject is the traditional Polish life in various periods of history, largely before the Holocaust. He has especially examined the role of the Jewish faith in the lives of his characters, who are pestered with passions, magic, asceticisms and religious devotion.>]

One explanation for the growing censorship in the schoolbook publishing market: four publishing companies dominate 75 percent of the market.



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