

Politically Correct = Bias?

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Since the founding of this country, there has always been the ability for the minority to voice its' opinions. The concept of majority rule with minority rights was originally based on a solely political standpoint, but as our society has evolved it has moved into other categories

This allows minorities of religion, race and sexual orientations, as well as other opinionated peoples to have their say on various matters. Now, this is a great concept that prevents the majority from oppressing the views and ideals of the many different subcultures whatever they may be. Lately, there has been an alarming trend submerged in political correctness that seems to create an atmosphere that does just the opposite. Sure, the minority has rights, but that should not affect the thoughts and opinions expressed by the majority.

The minority is exactly what it is defined as: the smaller in number of two or more groups. A perfect example that illustrates this trend of trampling on the majority's rights is the holiday of Christmas. According to a CIA study, the religious makeup of the United States is seventy-six percent Christian - not a Muslim majority or Buddhist majority but, yes, a Christian majority. Yet, Boston, Massachusetts has put up a "holiday tree" in a city park because they didn't want to offend non-Christians who like to view the "holiday" lights.

It is perfectly acceptable if they do not wish to celebrate Christmas as a holiday, but it is the majority's right to do so if they please. Besides, there is a good possibility that many of the employers of these people could use somebody to work every December twenty-fifth. It would be offensive if "Ramadan" was referred to as "Rama-dumb" just as it is equally offensive to slander Christmas and label it "x-mas". There is little to no complaining going on when a student or an employee needs to get out of class or work for the Passover. The majority is still required to allow minorities these rights and it should follow both ways.

There has been another recent depiction of the minority being overrepresented, although this time it deals with sexual orientation. A student run publication that is distributed on the UWM campus published seven articles dealing with being homosexual or questioning a straight orientation in just one issue. Now, it is fair for them to deal with the subject because it is a minority right; however, the abundance of coverage leads one to believe that their publication has become a complete advocate for the promotion of homosexuality.

If it is a newspaper that is not biased towards one's sexuality, then they should report the news that covers what the majority of the people on campus are encompassed around. An American National Health Interview Survey concluded that only about two to three percent of the population of the entire country would be classified as gay or homosexual.

The highest figure of any study was placed around ten percent. If we used the high-estimate number and applied it to the population of UWM's 27,000 students, it would only make an estimated 2,700 gay or lesbian students – a definite minority. Some of the articles even went as far as questioning straight students, which appeared to be an attempt to downgrade the quality of being heterosexual. A quick review of the facts would show that this is quite the opposite view of the majority.

Does this mean that minority gay pride is okay, but straight pride is not? There is nothing wrong with publishing articles with gay and lesbian viewpoints, but there needs to be a more accurate account for what is truly the majority.

These are just two examples of what has become the societal norm to be politically correct instead of the majority realizing that they should stand up for their own rights and beliefs. Gay people can be proud of who they are just as people of different religious denominations may celebrate their individual customs as they choose.

The media can still cover any subject and place whatever bias they are inclined to, but Christmas is still Christmas. It is time for the majority of people not to oppress the views of the minority, but to demand that the minority opinion stop pushing away the views of the largest percentage of the population. No matter what people stand for, category or culture they fall under, or what they believe this season, it should not matter as long as they mind to their own customs and stay out of everybody else's practices. Keep this in mind or next year you could be eating a tofu turkey for Thanksgiving.