

Norton also site for movie protest

Norton saw something last Friday evening it hasn't seen for a long time — a protest. It was peaceful. It was small. But it was a public demonstration in opposition to a movie at the Norton Theatre.

"The Da Vinci Code" was on the big screen. And the movie, much like author Dan Brown's book, has come under fire from some voices in the Christian community, here and elsewhere. Despite being a fictional creation, there was fear director Ron Howard's film would send viewers the wrong message.

So, a small group of Nortonites got together and picketed the Norton Theatre in an effort to sway potential movie goers to boycott the showing.

But that didn't work.

Keep in mind that the protest group had every right to do what they were doing. And those not in favor of their public display apparently caused no commotion. No need for law enforcement to enter the picture.

The negative controversy the movie has generated in some quarters nationwide, and the calls for boycott, apparently backfired and instead hiked the curiosity of Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Public. Consequently they, the 'Public' couple, are going in large numbers to see why this movie has generated this full scale attack. Ticket sales are said to be brisk from coast to coast.

The movie makers got an unsolicited boost. Money could not have in any way done what those clogging the sidewalks in front of movie theaters have done for attendance.

Sometimes our efforts don't bring desired results. But whether you agree with the local protest or not, you got to give them an "A" for trying.

And they may not know it, but they put Norton on the map, gauging from the number of inquiries this writer had while visiting in the Hays area over the weekend.

—Tom Dreiling

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Controversy helps sell movie

To the Editor,
I read the column by Mary Kay Woodyard about the novel, *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown. I agree with her about all the hype that has been flying about this piece of fiction.

I read the book and it was a good adventure story that moved along very well...but that is all it is: a fiction adventure story.

The storm of controversy that the religious leaders have raised about the book has turned it into a wonderful money maker for Mr. Brown and his publisher. It will do the same for the movie.

There is another area where this 'tempest in a teapot' is making money for those who are seizing the opportunity. Various "Christian" organizations are holding out

their hands for donations to fight this 'terrible attack' on the Bible and Christianity. I know I have received a couple of solicitations in the mail from an organization that is headed by a person I felt (until now) was reliable.

The Christian faith has endured all kinds of attacks and persecutions over the two thousand years of its history and guess what: we're still here. Personally, I think we should welcome this kind of thing. It shakes us out of our apathetic complacency and makes us stronger and more deeply grounded in our faith.

I Thessalonians 5:21, "But examine everything *carefully*; hold fast to that which is good." (NASB)

June Prout
Norton

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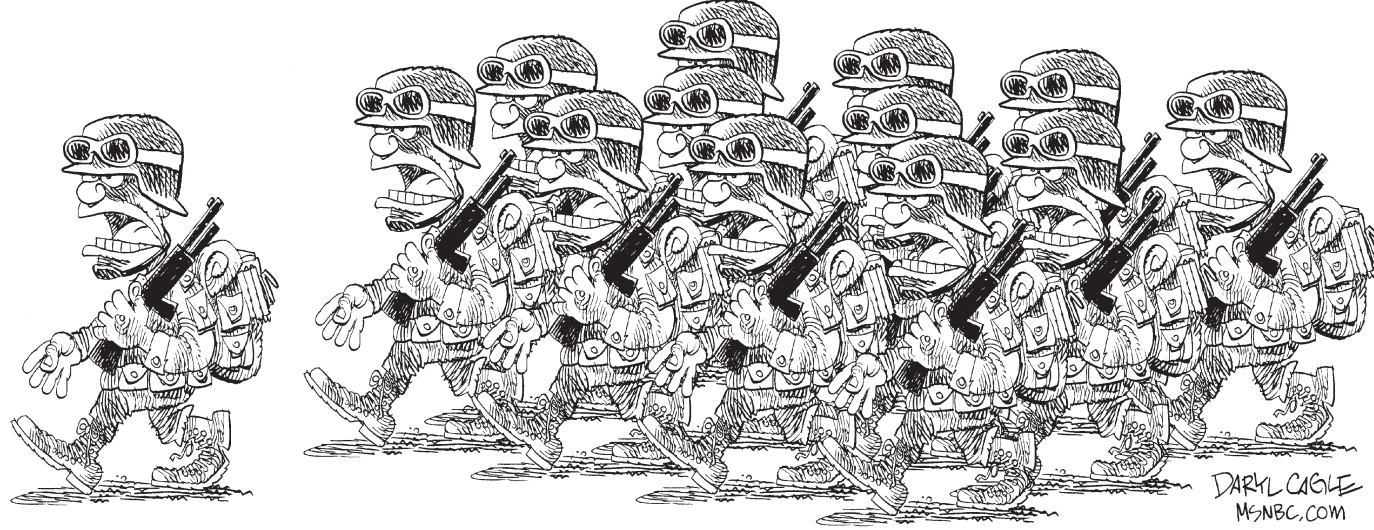
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I DUNNO BUT I'VE BEEN TOLD..
SHOOTIN' THINGS IS GETTIN' OLD..
KISS A BABY-HUG A TREE..
SHOW SOME HOSPITALITEEE..
SOUND OFF HUT HOO HREE HO..



SENSITIVITY TRAINING.

This household's gym is spelled Jim

Jim and I are on the board of directors for the hospitality house we operate for inmate's families. As a fund raiser, we are planning an auction and are soliciting donations. That, of course, means we're looking around our own house for stuff to donate.

Jim asked me if I would like to get rid of a stair-stepper exercise machine that has been gathering dust for a couple of years. I said, "No, I think it would be kind of neat for us to have our own little work-out gym in the basement of the house.

He said, "I think I'm going to be your work-out Jim." And, then in what I perceived as a somewhat mocking tone, went on, "Work-out here, Jim. Work-out there, Jim. Work-out everywhere, Jim."

-ob-

There's a huge "hub-bub" going on right now, over the movie, "The Da Vinci Code." I've watched the previews; I've listened to Gene Shalit and other critics; I've seen the actors and the author interviewed; and I'm still confused.

But, one thing I am sure of: the Bible can withstand Hollywood's best efforts to

Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



discredit it.

Modern critics have nothing new to add to what has already been said. The Bible has been assailed for two thousand years and it has withstood the opposition. It always has been and will continue to be the No. 1 best seller. It's still here and it's opponents are gone.

The biggest danger is that unlearned people will see the movie and come away saying, "So, that's the way it really is." The best thing people can do is to actually get their Bible down from the shelf, dust it off and study it.

I considered not going to see the movie, but have since decided that I can't say anything about it if I haven't seen it. Besides, my boycott wouldn't make Ron

Howard stop and say, "Oh, my, Carolyn Plotts didn't come see my movie." My \$6 ticket price won't make or break Hollywood.

-ob-

Last week my oldest daughter, Halley, made the move to Dallas. Her sister, Kara, flew to Washington, D.C., to help her move. The plan was to fit all they could in Halley's pick-up. The rest she would leave.

I called them on moving day to ask how they were doing. Halley said, "Mom, we were born for this. The packing gene we inherited from Grandma Kelley is awesome." The only thing they couldn't fit on the truck was Halley's cowboy hat (which she mailed to herself in Dallas) and one small box of books.

The "packing gene", however, did not include the "tarping gene" and they had some trouble keeping the load covered and protected from the rain they encountered several times along the way. Kara said it got to the point where they would pull into a service station and say, "Hi, do you carry duct tape?"

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Why political correctness should be eradicated

To the Editor,

Through publicly objecting to a moral dilemma I had with not keeping score on the soccer field, I have been plunged into an intensive research project into the historical roots of Political Correctness, it's definition, it's purpose and prevalence and it's danger to the uniqueness of the individual and our American right to freedom of speech.

I want to thank those who have emailed me their criticisms, encouragements and advice in response to my first letter. My character has also been challenged and grown through all of you. I want to especially thank my long time childhood crush, actor and past president of N.R.A. Charlton Heston for a speech posted on the web that gave me courage of heart and greater clarity of this subject.

However, I am just beginning to learn. It is my hope that there are many readers here who have a greater understanding of this subject and would be willing to submit their knowledge and understanding to this discussion through *The Norton Telegram*.

According to Wikipedia and various universities and historical evidence, P.C. originated with the communist governments of Eastern Europe in the early twentieth century. From the University of Toronto's website

"PC"ism was developed at the Institute for Social Research in Frankfurt, Germany, which was founded in 1923 and came to be known as the "Frankfurt School." It was a group of thinkers who pulled together to find a solution to the biggest problem facing the implementers of communism in Russia.

The problem?

Why wasn't communism spreading?

Their answer?

Because Western Civilization was in its

way. What was the problem with Western Civilization? Its belief in the individual, that an individual could develop valid ideas. At the root of communism was the theory that all valid ideas come from the effect of the social group of the masses. The individual is nothing. And they believed that the only way for communism to advance was to help (or force, if necessary) Western Civilization to destroy itself. How to do that? Undermine its foundations by chipping away at the rights of those annoying individuals. One way to do that? Change their speech and thought patterns by spreading the idea that vocalizing your beliefs is disrespectful to others and must be avoided to make up for past inequities and injustices. And call it something that sounds positive: "Political Correctness."

From there, "Political Correctness (PC)" is the communal tyranny that erupted in the 1980s. It was a spontaneous declaration that particular ideas, expressions and behavior, which were then legal, should be forbidden by law, and people who transgressed should be punished. (see Newspeak) It started with a few voices but grew in popularity until it became unwritten and written law within the community. With those who were publicly declared as being not politically correct becoming the object of persecution by the mob, if not prosecution by the state." says Philip Atkinson Political Correctness

http://www.users.bigpond.com/smartboard/pc.htm

According to The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition Copyright © 2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company, political correctness is:

"The declared rationale of the tyranny of Political Correctness is to prevent people being offended; to compel everyone to

avoid using words or behavior that may upset homosexuals, women, non-whites, the crippled, the mentally impaired, the fat or the ugly." And in our case, the less athletic.

However, Bonnie Laughlin has brought up a valid and rightly Christian concern, that of being sensitive to the needs of the 'underdog,' the under-achiever, the 'broken' and hurting people of our society. It is the heart of the good Samaritan. And it is Christ's heart. I have personally known Bonnie for over a decade. I can attest to her genuine and heartfelt concern for people. Political Correctness utilizes and then capitalizes on the good Samaritan sentiments of decent cultures. Instead of 'encouraging the weak' to become strong, it keeps people in bondage to their weakness by denying the reality and consequence of cause and effect.

Christians are to encourage one-another to become strong through the power of their faith in Christ, not to remain in their weakness.

Political Correctness is not only prevalent in AYSO (soccer league). It is intertwined throughout our society. It has been with us so long, and rooted so deep that we are becoming blind to it. I hope that this article and further discussion will help us to better identify it and gracefully eradicate it from our institutions, our media, our way of life.

Thank-you to *The Norton Telegram* for allowing me the opportunity to express my American right to publicly express my moral concerns. Indeed, it is 'the free press.'

Under Construction,

Robin Somers

Norton

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Don't forget Friday is 'Thumbs Up' day. Send your submission to tomd@nwkans.com, or call (785) 877-6908 or fax (785) 877-3732.