

**ARIZONA  
SUPPLEMENT**

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**The Fun Police Ride Again**

Political correctness is a plague that has entered much of our cultural scene during the past generation. Although courtesy and civility are definitely great aids to a pleasant and orderly society, political correctness tends to put a damper on anything that might be the cause of the slightest offense to anyone, and a humorless and gray world is the usual outcome.

First, a case in point: Companion and Sir Knight Ken Smith is a great fan of the Big Band Era, just as I am. He told me of his attendance at a recent performance in Tucson of the Glen Miller Orchestra. All the usual Miller tunes were played: "In the Mood", "String of Pearls", "Pennsylvania Six Five Thousand". But one had been dropped: "Chattanooga Choo-Choo". Apparently, the lyrics are now considered to be inappropriate and a great musical treasure may be lost forever.

Along those lines, I recently read in the Arizona Republic that the great Disney classic *Song of the South* has also been deemed as inappropriate and has not been seen in the United States since 1986. An entire generation (including my own children) has missed this timeless classic. The movie is now sadly only a footnote to the hit song, "Zip-a-Dee-Do-Dah".

Some churches seem to be pioneers in political correctness and take it to new heights of absurdity. I noticed this over 20 years ago while reviewing a newly published hymnal. It seems that the National Hymn of the United States has now been changed from "God of Our Fathers" to the more inclusive (?) "God of the Ages".

It has also been my experience that some clergy refuse to use

any pronoun when referring to God. This results in the repetitious use of "God" instead of landing on an occasional pronoun. News flash: Normal people don't talk that way, and for most people it is annoying to listen to.

Other organizations use monitors at conferences to watch the proceedings in order to ensure that participants follow an agenda of racial and gender inclusiveness. Additionally, they monitor the speech of all involved and note anything that might be the slightest bit offensive. This practice is certainly Orwellian, and tends to make discussion joyless and bland as well as stilted. The Founding Fathers of our country certainly knew what they were doing when they added the First Amendment to the Constitution protecting free speech – which could potentially be offensive. The First Amendment is probably not necessary to protect most speech, but it is certainly necessary to protect offensive speech.

One great institution is not mired in political correctness; that institution is Freemasonry. Some may identify shortcomings within the Fraternity, but the ability to freely exchange information in a respectful manner is a hallmark of our institution and one that we can be proud of.

--- Ed.

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The Editor reminds all Arizona Sir Knights and Commanderies that these supplement pages are your opportunity to publicize your Commandery's activities. I encourage you to submit articles and/or photographs to me at the email address above. Deadline for submission is the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month for publication in the supplement two months hence (i.e., August 25<sup>th</sup> for publication in the October supplement). Text should be submitted as a Word document and photographs as JPEG.