

People take "PC" too far

by Anna Esslinger
Culture Editor

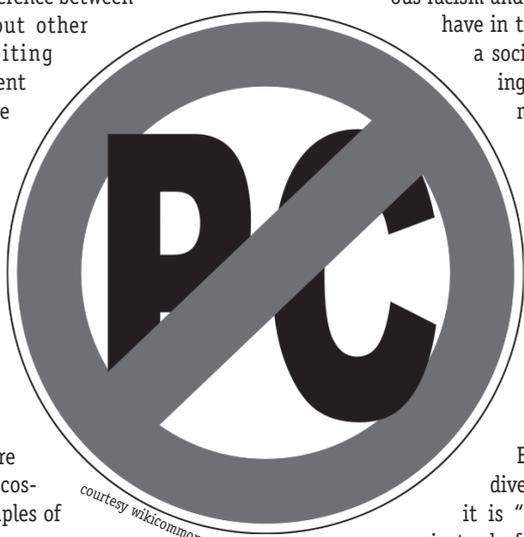


The topics of cultural appropriation and sexism are difficult to discuss. Oftentimes the statements, "That's so racist (or sexist)" and "Stop being so sensitive" are thrown around by either party.

Yes, racism, cultural appropriation, sexism, and slut-shaming are still major problems in our society, but sometimes people go too far to be politically correct and just end up wrongly censoring and shaming others. Calling a person racist or sexist without merit deeply hurts many people and can ruin a person's reputation. People cannot just accuse someone of being a bigot if they don't agree with that person's idea. Additionally, political correctness hinders our ability to talk about race freely and only reinforces the barriers that years of racism have put up.

There is a major difference between wanting to learn about other cultures and exploiting them. During the recent Halloween season there is a flood of racially insensitive costumes: "Geishas" with white face paint, barely-there kimonos, and chopsticks in their hair; "Mexicans" wearing gaudy ponchos and sombreros; and maybe even some cringeworthy "Sexy Muslim Terrorists." There is no doubt that these costumes are blatant examples of cultural appropriation.

However, sometimes people are only attempting to understand different cultures and countries instead of trying to belittle them or debase them. If a person simply wants to attend a Dia de los Muertos celebration or participate in Holi, he or



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she is not disparaging Mexican or Hindu culture and should not be wrongly chastised for wanting to do so. In fact, people of other cultures often appreciate when outsiders want to learn about and attend these festivals. The only people who are ignorant and in the wrong in this situation are the people who falsely accuse someone of being racist.

Sexism, and more specifically slut-shaming, is another topic that is taken too far by political correctness. It seems as though nowadays any attack on a woman's clothing choice, personality, or actions are flagrant examples of slut-shaming. Saying a girl's outfit is tacky gets interpreted as not respecting her as a person, but in reality you're simply making a harmless and meaningless comment that shouldn't be misinterpreted as slut-shaming.

My biggest problem with political correctness is that it makes the topics of race and gender more taboo than they already are. Walking on eggshells and pretending like everything is cultural appropriation or sexist will not fix the obvious racism and sexism problems we have in the US. BJ Gallagher, a sociologist at the Huffington Post says, "If we must constantly self-censor any conversation pertaining to race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or physical ability, then we are doomed to perpetuate the very barriers we say we want to overcome." Equivocating around diversity issues because it is "politically correct" instead of tackling them head on, will cause us to have the same problems regarding race and sex fifty years from now.

(Sources: Huffington Post, LA Times, The Courier Journal)

Stop talking about scores

by Montana Fowler
Center Editor



When students dive into the world of high school as upperclassmen, conversations of SAT/ACT/college/grades seem to dominate the halls. These are the years when all of these fac-

tors suddenly matter more than before, because the time to decide what we will do after high school is just around the corner. Students should try to stay away from the topic of scores and numbers, because the competition should be between their fellow applicants instead of their friends.

Juniors are constantly talking about the PSAT, SAT tutoring, and the scores they expect to receive. They are told again and again how important junior year is for their future; the notion is practically carved into their brains. Even when they go somewhere to hang out with friends to forget the stress of school for a few hours, the topic of exams still

manages to slip into conversation.

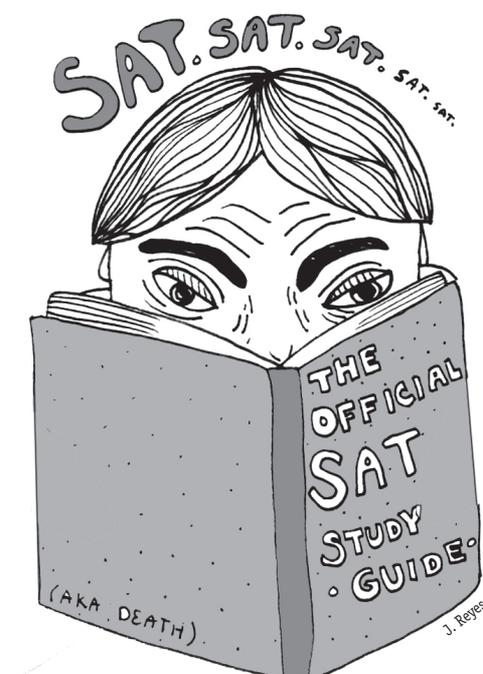
Grades and test scores are meant to evaluate students on their performance in a class or activity. Students compare their scores for the competition, but they should focus more on improving their scores rather than beating their peer's. Yes, our world is based on competition, but we should leave the competition to being with the other applicants of our dream colleges. Let the college decide who is better than the other, and do not bring that competition into your friendships.

Colleges should be the ones using your SAT/ACT scores to judge you; your friends should be the ones there to support you when you are getting acceptance or rejection letters. If you let your academic life intertwine with your relationships, you will lose necessary bonds. You won't have a place to be or people to be with when you just want to laugh and forget about school and its pressures.

The best solution is to avoid talking about grades and scores. If you don't know your friends' SAT scores, the scores will not affect your friendship in one way or another. Let hanging out with friends be time for fun and laughter instead of judgement and competition. We only have a few numbered years left with our fellow classmates, so we should create as many positive memories as we can.

An SAT score is just a number of correctly bubbled-in circles. It is important and should be taken seriously, but it should not be used as a form of judgement between classmates. A person with a high SAT score is not necessarily kinder or smarter than a person with a lower one. Letting mere numbers influence your opinions of your fellow classmates is just wrong. The scores are supposed to be used to compete with applicants to the same schools not among friends or acquaintances.

So, when you log onto your College Board account to see your latest scores, think twice before you bring them into your friendships.



Anger isn't a bad emotion

by Hana Beach
Editor-in-Chief



Anger is a taboo emotion. We judge anger in others, and try to suppress it when we feel it within ourselves. When we think about anger, we only see drivers filled with road rage and giant green monsters. However, we

don't immediately see the growth and passion that anger can catalyze.

Nobody likes to be angry, and everyone hates to be around people who are angry. We see anger as inappropriate, violent, and detrimental. However, it is an emotion that is so intertwined with our survival. Anger is designed to protect us, our relationships, and our views of the world. It allows us to sense when things are wrong or doubtful. As we go through life we set expectations and goals, not only for ourselves, but also for those around us. We want people to respect others when they talk and say things that show a certain degree of tolerance, so when people break our expectations and goals, we get angry.

Metaphorically, anger is your watchdog. It tells you when injustices have been committed. It reminds you of social norms, and often polices those around you. When it comes at the right time, it is able to control the situation. But if that internal policeman is rash and impulsive, he does more harm than good.

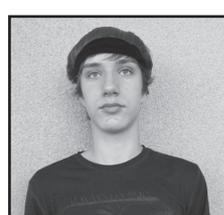
I understand that when anger is random and motivated by rage it is violent. But as Aristotle stated, "The man who is angry at the right things and with the right people, and further, as he ought, when he ought, and as long as he ought, is praised." Anger represents growth, change, and a desire for improvement. It is passion and conviction. Anger is not something to shy away from, it is something to accept.

When anger is isolated and random, it is aggressive and terrifying, but without anger our society would be full of passive citizens. Anger allows us to set goals and norms for the world. It keeps us accountable for our actions. Yes, I agree that when anger is dealt with in inappropriate ways or not at all, it is detrimental and counterproductive. But there is no better motivator than anger to kick us into action and force us to stand by our values.



Shutdown is irresponsible

by Aidan Adams-Campeau
Humor Editor



Last month, the Republican party shut down the government in an attempt to gain concessions regarding the Affordable Care Act, which was signed into law in 2010. In an attempt to gain leverage, the House Republicans refused to pass a continuing resolution on next year's budget, a position which, if held, would lead to a government shutdown, a default on US debts, and likely financial calamity. The congressmen and congresswomen responsible for this destructive strategy need to be held responsible for their reckless behavior by being voted out of office. This extreme form of political posturing is immensely damaging to our country, and American voters need to send a clear message that they will not tolerate this kind of behavior.

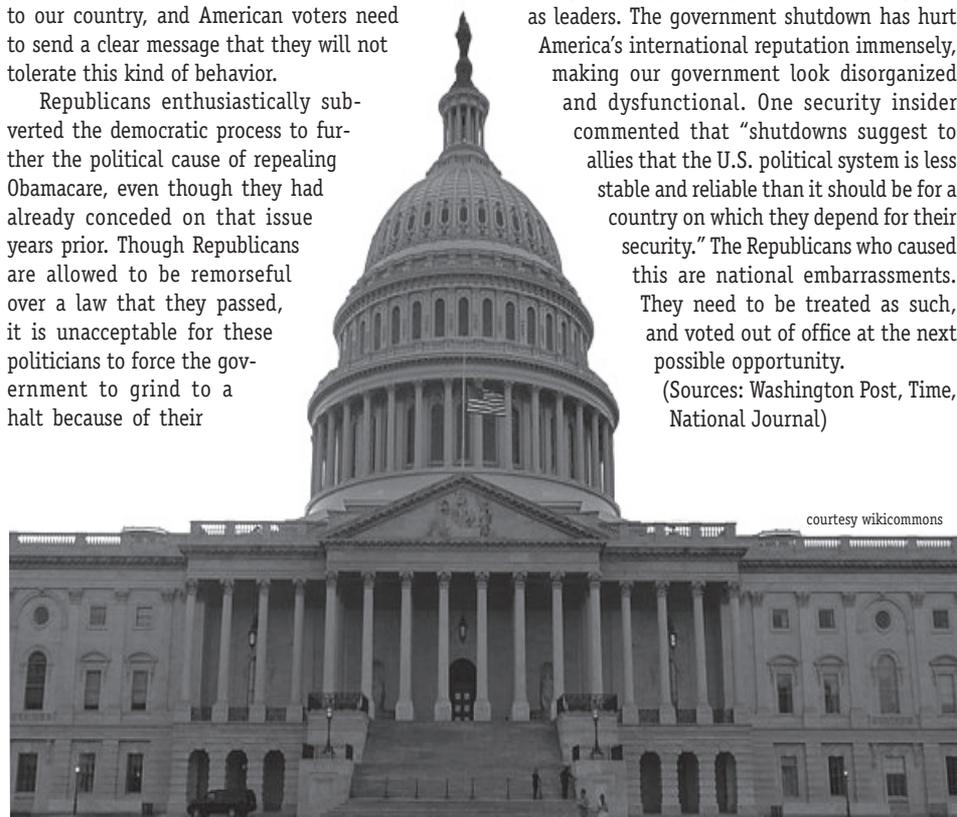
Republicans enthusiastically subverted the democratic process to further the political cause of repealing Obamacare, even though they had already conceded on that issue years prior. Though Republicans are allowed to be remorseful over a law that they passed, it is unacceptable for these politicians to force the government to grind to a halt because of their

displeasure. At best, this political move was a tantrum thrown by officials holding some of the most prestigious jobs in government. At worst, it was a calculated decision which placed the interests of a select few Tea Party Radicals above the interests of both the citizens of America and the democratic system.

In either case, all of those responsible for inciting this recent government shutdown have proven themselves unfit to possess so much power and responsibility. Even those who agree with these politicians ideologically need to reassess their support, as the House Republicans were completely unsuccessful and received absolutely no concessions as a result of their experiment in political brinkmanship. Instead, they embarrassed the United States on a global level by hijacking the government with a ransom demand of defunding Obamacare.

The House Republicans responsible for the shutdown have shown themselves to be inept as strategists, incapable as politicians, and dangerous as leaders. The government shutdown has hurt America's international reputation immensely, making our government look disorganized and dysfunctional. One security insider commented that "shutdowns suggest to allies that the U.S. political system is less stable and reliable than it should be for a country on which they depend for their security." The Republicans who caused this are national embarrassments. They need to be treated as such, and voted out of office at the next possible opportunity.

(Sources: Washington Post, Time, National Journal)



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