

Day Off, Absurdity On

June 16, 2021

In the days of his on-air reign, Bill O'Reilly would make much hay of the so-called "war on Christmas." One common retort among O'Reilly's detractors was to scoff: "there is no 'war on Christmas'; the old grump is just over-reacting to a rising tide of inclusive good manners" — the idea being that wishing a more vague but all-inclusive "Happy Holidays," instead of a specific "Merry Christmas," was being kind to Jews, Muslims, atheists, those who do not celebrate the ancient Christian holiday.

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However much sense this strategy may have once made, nowadays it seems an absurd ploy: political correctness being so widespread, even domineering, that it extends deep into the minutia of life.

How deep? Just as the Confederate monument iconoclasm extended from General Lee back



to Presidents Washington and Jefferson, now the spurning of traditional holidays reaches out beyond Christmas.

"The school board of Randolph Township in Morris County, New Jersey has decided to do away with named holidays on the academic calendar," writes Samuel Chamberlain at *The New York Post*. "Now holidays like Thanksgiving and Memorial Day, as well as Jewish holy days like Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, will simply be listed as 'day off.'"

Behind this? The notion that the posited discomfort and possible offense taken by any person of a "marginal group" should completely override the conventions of a community's traditional in-group.

But where does it end? With less knowledge of others' traditions, less understanding, and therefore less harmony among groups . . . including marginalized groups.

That couldn't be the plan, could it?

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.