

## Handicapping the Best

June 24, 2021

*The year was 2081, and everyone was finally equal.*

That's the first sentence of Kurt Vonnegut's short story about how everybody with above-average intelligence, looks, or talent is chronically handicapped, by law. To enforce equality.

"Harrison Bergeron" is satire. Vonnegut exaggerates and invents. Our world will never be like the world he depicts.

But not for lack of trying.

***How could we knowingly keep her in a place where she would be allowed to stagnate for the "greater good" of keeping people "equal"?***

The latest episode ripe for satire? The decision of the Vancouver School Board to kill honors programs to enforce "equity."

What is that?

Don't bother using an old dictionary.

Today, *equity* is a code word for bringing everybody down to the same low level in defiance of the real differences in abilities among students — not to mention effort expended.



The board had already killed English honors programs. Now it's killing science and math honors programs. To foster "an inclusive model of education."

Jennifer Katz, professor at University of British Columbia, accuses parents angry about the decision of supporting "systemic racism."

My family has been subjected to this mentality. Years ago, my daughter was advanced in math, way ahead of other first-graders at a private school. My wife asked the teachers to give her some more difficult problems in addition to what the class was doing so that she wouldn't die of boredom.

Answer: "No." Reason: "Then she would be even further ahead."

We never took our daughter back to that school. How could we? How could we knowingly keep her in a place where she would be allowed to stagnate for the "greater good" of keeping people "equal"?

Whether in my state of Virginia or in Vancouver, British Columbia, children should be free to learn, to progress. Let's keep Vonnegut's work fiction, not prophecy.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.