

# PC: Both Extremes

- Andrew Dearborn

Political correctness is a term which, in modern usage, is used to describe language or policies that are intended not to offend or disadvantage any particular group. Currently there seems to be two views of political correctness. There are those who disregard the idea entirely, and those who cling to it feverishly. Both sides have been in the news, and both sides are increasingly militant.

On one hand there are the SJW's, or Social Justice Warriors, bloggers and Tumblr users who stand up for disadvantaged minorities. They live and die by political correctness and have gained a reputation for being easily offended. Originally SJW's stuck to the internet, posting about race and gender inequality, but these internet "warriors" have cast themselves into the limelight recently on college campuses all over the U.S. On these campuses they have become a strong force for upheaval with their fragile emotions and loud voices. One of the key phrases of the SJW's is "microaggression," a word used to describe a situation in which a person or group of people may be offended by something that is not meant to offend them. When a college refuses to acknowledge these aggressions, or if they commit a microaggression themselves, it often leads to the SJW's protesting and calling for members of the administration's resignation. One such event occurred at Yale University this past December. Protesters were upset by a professor's reply to an email that warned students not to wear offensive halloween costumes. The professor said that students should be able to wear whatever they please and that people have lost their capacity to disregard things that offend them. The SJW's reacted vehemently, declaring that the campus was no longer a "safe space." The professor later resigned from the university.

On the other hand, some people completely disregard political correctness. An outspoken example of this is current GOP front-runner Donald Trump. When Mr. Trump began his campaign he claimed that society had become "too politically correct," and he has tried to elevate political incorrectness as a campaign theme. Political commentators have deemed his comments racist, sexist, and offensive to the handicapped. Trump's campaign of political incorrectness has become a thinly veiled excuse for insulting whomever he wants, however he wants. This rhetoric has seeped into the speeches of other presidential candidates, turning debates and even the entire election into a string of petty arguments.

In this age of political undecidedness, where does the layman find himself? Forced with the decision between too much and not enough, is there a just right?