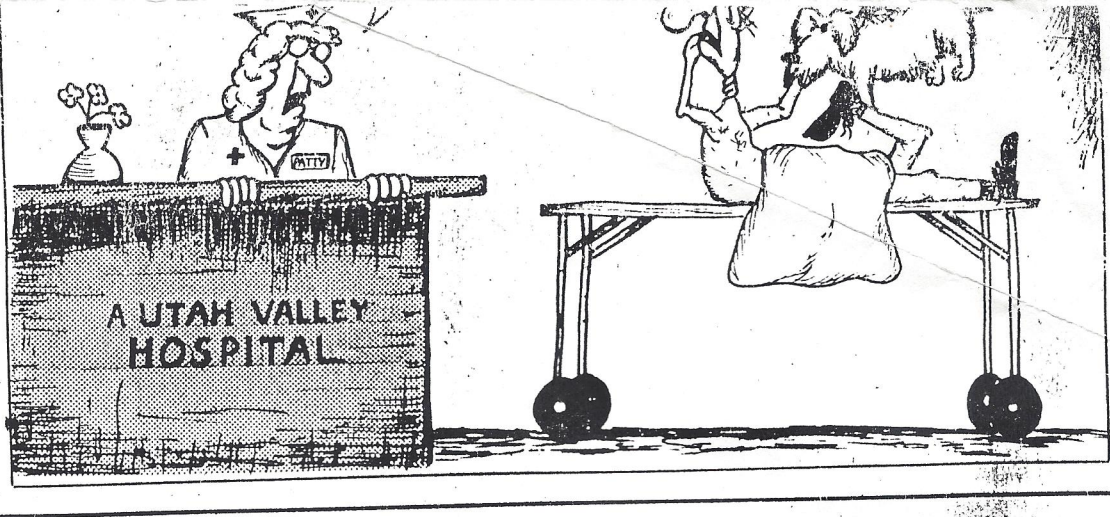


...owe more than when
 ...many Americans have
 ...equity loans because
 ...primary residence is still
 ...irony of this is that the
 ...can be, and frequent-
 ...the same purposes as
 ...credit which is no longer
 ...to buy a car, take a trip,
 ...wardrobe.
 ...of Congress in removing
 ...deductibility was ren-
 ...because the home equity
 ...borrowers to transfer
 ...status.
 ...ers be prudent enough to
 ...their homes in danger?
 ...y have not been wise and
 ...with high unemployment
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 ...hms, currently enjoying a
 ...ny while much of the
 ...thing the "R" word, will
 ...station to secure vacation
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Jan. 3, 1991
'Politically correct' road to fascism

Finally — about five years too late — Newsweek magazine has taken note of the growing dictatorship of the "Politically Correct" (or PCs). In a recent cover story Newsweek examined the growing influence of campus Thought Police (Newsweek's term) who seek to eliminate prejudice by removing Western Civilization by its intellectual roots.



Will Grigg

ABROAD

Political correctness (PCism) is enforced on many campuses through guidelines about "correct" scholarship, speech and action about race, gender and other political topics. "Incorrect" attitudes and speech may be punished through suppression of scholarship and sanctions against students; such sanctions often include expulsion.

Guidelines about political correctness are exhaustive, and "incorrectness" may include sins of omission. For example, a student at Smith College may be guilty of "heterosexism" if he does not "acknowledge" and "affirm" the existence of homosexuals. Woe unto the student who takes note of physical attractiveness: such attentions fall under the rubric of "lookism ... construction of a standard of beauty(.)"

PCs work through an Iron Triangle: The intellectual foundation is laid by aging 1960s radicals now ensclosed as tenured professors; young students, overzealous with ambition and casting about for a cause, do the legwork; and the victims du jour ("students of color," gays, women) provide an ennobling rationale. There is nothing new here. All of these elements are present in what historian Will Durant calls the "General Gospel of Revolt" — a system of tactics Durant culled from his study of political rebellions from ancient

Greece to 20th century America. Every movement that has been inspired by the "Gospel of Revolt" has produced (in Newsweek's phrase) "The replacement of one repressive orthodoxy by another."

Newsweek correctly observes that PCism is a totalitarian philosophy, one that has connections with Marxism. Alan Bloom is even more specific. Bloom notes that PCism is the revenge of the "New Left" of the 1960s, which movement "had become imbued with the language of fascism ... anyone with an ear for the speech of intellectuals in Weimar Germany will hear echoes all around us of the dangerous ideas to which they became accustomed."

As critic Terry Teachout has pointed out, PCism is fascism with a kindly face — "Sensitivity Fascism."

Bloom became a household name in 1987 with his best-seller "The Closing of the American Mind," in which he showed how moral relativism had become the prevailing dogma in American academia. As a reward for his efforts, Bloom was indicted for "elitism" by academia's anti-elitist elites.

In his new book "Giants and Dwarfs," Bloom quotes a New York Times account

of an Orwellesque "minute of hatred" at Duke University. In Orwell's 1984, citizens were required to participate in a daily "minute of hatred" directed against the "enemy of the state," a man named Goldstein. At the Duke late-in, the "enemy of the state" was identified as the "cultural conservative movement" and, by derivation, Bloom himself.

The current recognition of the PC dictatorship (U.S. News and World Report has also noted the trend), although tardy, is a welcome vindication of the lonely efforts of Bloom and a few other stalwarts, such as Dartmouth's Jeffrey Hart. From his self-styled "Ivory Foxhole" at Dartmouth, Hart has cataloged the outrages of the local PC Directorate. But the recognition of the problem may have come too late to help in the effort to craft a remedy. The plague has spread from the campus to the larger culture.

PCism is present in "hate crimes" laws that threaten to make citizens criminals for a word; PCism inspired the boycott against Arizona's King holiday, and also the boycott of Miami after the city chose not to honor Nelson Mandela following Mandela's embrace of Fidel Castro. MTV-entranced youths are spoon-fed PCism by selected celebrities who propagate "correct thinking" about everything from the environment to abortion. (MTV has even endorsed recordings by what it calls "politically correct artists.")

And on America's college campuses PCism will continue to be enforced by shock troops clad in earth tones. At least Mussolini's blackshirts had better fascist fashion sense.

Turkey: a willing ally in gulf conflict

ISTANBUL, Turkey — The taxi driver winding through the narrow streets of this ancient city could speak only a few words of English. When he learned we were Americans, he used them: "Bomb Saddam!"



Jack Anderson & Dale Van Atta

UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE

Through several hairpin turns, made more treacherous by his gesticulations, he made the motion and sound of helicopter blades and a missile being launched. "Bomb Saddam!" he repeated.

Next came the sound of a jet streaking over the skies of Baghdad and dropping a heavy payload. "Bomb Saddam!"

Finally, as near as we could tell by his hands forming a mushroom cloud, the taxi driver simulated a nuclear bomb and said, "Bomb Saddam!"

He was articulating as best he could the feeling of many Turks that they are ready to go to war with the United States against neighboring Iraq. There seems to be little fear here of Saddam Hussein, even though Turkey and Iraq share a 150-mile border.

There is also a gnawing notion we picked up that the Turks are less interested in teaching Saddam a moral lesson than they are in carving off a piece of Iraq for

border region with Iraq, forcing Saddam to keep nine army divisions lined up against the Turks when he needs those divisions badly along his southern border with Saudi Arabia.

Ozal let the United States keep F-111 bombers bristling with nuclear weapons at a base in southern Turkey within easy striking distance of Baghdad.

He does this not out of charity, but out of hope that the reward will be big. There is serious talk in Turkey that it might end up with an oil-rich part of Iraq as a result of being on the right side of a war.

Right-wing newspapers in Turkey are openly campaigning for the return of the Mosul and Kerkuk provinces of Iraq just

BACK TO VIETNAM — The Pentagon would like to re-establish military bases in, of all places, Vietnam. Pentagon officials are tired of the contentious talks with the Philippines over the continued presence of U.S. military bases there. The United States needs bases in Asia, and Vietnam is not completely out of the question. The Soviets are pulling out, and the communist government is broke. The Vietnamese are desperate for economic aid, even U.S. aid. The Pentagon would not be surprised to get an invitation to return to the massive bases the Americans built at Cam Ranh Bay, Da Nang or Bien Hoa.

MINI-EDITORIAL — The greatest threat to America's security right now is not in the Persian Gulf, but in our own urban neighborhoods. Crime has all but exhausted the power of police to fight back. Murder and assault have become common responses to trivial irritations. Hospitals are collapsing under the burden of trauma cases. In many neighborhoods it is hazardous to venture out at night. The U.S. military deployment to the Persian Gulf was massive and impressive. But what America needs more is a deployment of volunteers to the inner cities to show the