



Straight Talk

by Muriel Sluyter

Innocent Until Proven Guilty

13 July, 2004

Greetings, Gentle Reader,

One of our sons-in-law inherited the dubious honor of being the buckler-of-the-bales for a 600 bale load of hay we bought. He is an extremely muscular man, so it seemed not too daunting a task. He bucked bales half of one day and half of the next. Having developed tremendous respect for boys who do this everyday, he quietly told our daughter, speaking generally, not specifically, "Don't pick a fight with those farm boys, they'll kick your butt."

Someone should have warned those college "adults" who were so outraged because our kids were flying the Confederate flag. They could have discovered that experiencing diversity includes learning that, if you pick a fight with country boys, they just may kick your fanny.

By the way, remember that part about being innocent until proven guilty? Since when do we convict on the questionable word of strangers? Yet some in this community have turned on our two kids as nastily as though they were Ku Klux Klanners.

None of us was present at the reported altercation, none of us saw it. But if our boys picked a fight with a whole group of adults, they definitely expected them to fight back, especially since the supposed attackers were just two boys. They legitimately could and would have expected the adults to try to whip them, but cry? Cry? Good grief! Who would have thought it?

And why would our boys be so dumb? If only two of them really attacked a whole group of adults, they deserve punishment! Being that dumb should be a punishable offense! But if the college group started the verbal fight, calling our boys crude names because they were flying their flag, why should we tell the world our boys are bad for standing up to a group several times their size? Come on!

Though the Civil War is still being fought in the South, this isn't the South, though, admittedly, some of our residents want to pretend it is. Our kids can fly their flag if they choose. What they cannot do is attack others. The problem? We don't know our boys are guilty.

We are Westerners and we don't do Civil Wars out

here, but we do expect our kids to defend themselves. All parents worth the space they take up on this earth hope their teenage boys will develop the steel to fight back when attacked. What are Americans for if they don't have what it takes to defend themselves?

We have allowed ourselves to be manipulated into this "political correctness" garbage to the point that we are supposed to feel extreme guilt for everything we or our ancestors may or may not have done. This guilt trip is deliberately, knowingly designed to make us submit to abuse from anyone who accuses us of prejudice. It works with a huge percentage of Americans, effectively cowering them, but at the same time, tragically subverting our culture.

As a result of our neurotic obsession with this phantom guilt and our determination to make all Americans grovel before it, we abandon our kids when they are under attack. We throw them to political wolves to assuage our own pathetic need for acceptability.

If our kids get out of line, we can take them to the woodshed, but when we turn on our own at the behest of strangers with unproven credibility, we deserve to be taken to the woodshed.

It's time to abandon these repulsive neuroses, grow up, and become tough and responsible like hard working farm and ranch boys, because political correctness has produced an entire generation of pathetic "wannabe" adults who lack it.