

**SOME CALL IT TAURUSIAN WASTE, OTHERS DON'T LIKE
EUPHEMISMS
12/14/99**

There's been an awful lot of water over the dam since I was born. My grandchildren have a great deal more knowledge to absorb than I ever did. If you don't believe it, just try to help them with their homework. Fortunately, they have much more technology available to help them absorb it.

The language they use to describe objects, places or people has been expanded as well, much of it euphemisms conceived by government bureaucrats to soften the impact of unpopular or even illegal government programs. Euphemisms are, of course, the use of artificially bland languages so as not to offend.

Everyone is guilty of employing euphemisms to gain a point or promote their ideas. Many of them are routinely used to replace the more explicit term that best describes the situation.

When I was a young man growing up there were fewer juvenile delinquents than there are today. Society and government in general have in large part been responsible for this. To soften the impact, what once was known as "reform school," in my time is now referred to as a "youth camp." Even the term "young criminals," would better describe many of the so-called juvenile delinquents of today.

Prisons are now routinely called correctional facilities and prisoners are now inmates.

I reiterate, we all resort to the use of euphemisms are forced to do so by circumstances beyond our control. My own profession of forestry has had to do so to counteract unprincipled attacks on a necessary and respected use of a natural and renewable resource by (so called) environmentalists. The basic term of logging is generally now referred to as timber harvesting.

Euphemisms were and still are the domain of the radical left wing. Legitimate businesses and the rest of society have had to resort to their use to survive.

John Leo in a recent column expounded on many of the more common terms used today. The following are a few of the examples he gave:

Roster management – Removing boys from sports teams to make more room for girls.

Narratized sexual harassment – An off-color joke.

Visual Harassment – Girl watching, glancing at people who have not said they wish to be glanced at.

Surface irregularities – Potholes.

Top-free – Topless.

Spouse-free – Divorced.

Hope-free – Hopeless.

Comb-free – Bald.

Charm-free – Boring.

Transitional Assistance – Welfare.

Spouse equivalent – Lover, sex partner.

Disadvantaged – Poor.

Gaming – Gambling.

Historically oppressed people – Non whites.

Third World – Non whites.

Traditional peoples, premodern peoples – New term for primitive peoples.

Goals and timetables – Quotas.

Statistical targets – Quotas.

Fair representation – Quotas.

Race-sensitive admissions – School quotas.

Urban campers – Street people, formerly the homeless.

Poorly buffered precipitation – Acid rain.

The list goes on, but you have the drift by now. One of the most controversial subjects today is abortion and euphemisms are heavily resorted to make it somewhat acceptable. John Leo in the same column lists:

Effecting fetal demise – Abortion.

Planned cessation of gestation – Abortion.

Interrupted pregnancy – Abortion.

Selective reduction – Abortion.

Choice – Abortion.

Charley Reese in a recent column describes it in more lurid detail: “This monstrous evil is scabbed over with euphemisms – embryo, fetus and specimen – but in fact, from the moment of conception there exists a unique human being who, from that moment on, will do nothing but grow if left alone. Common language is more truthful than propaganda. When women decide to get an abortion, they say, “I don’t want this baby,” not “I don’t want this fetus or specimen.”

To make a long story short, this is one of the most graphic examples of the power of euphemisms you will ever see.