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by Nat Christian

Sandra Tsing Loh was fired for saying “fuck” on the radio. I suppose if she were actually fucking and all we heard were moans and groans on the radio, she would not have been fired.

But she said the “F” word. What if it were the “Z” word. Zuck. It would mean the same thing, but pronounced “Zuck.” How many meetings would they have to have before they decided to can her. All because of a certain configuration of alphabet letters - “F-u-c-k.” She can say screw, but not fuck. I think I might prefer screw. Or screwing, rather. It’s a just little different than fucking. I’ve been told that Balzac said something like “I prefer the slow rhythmic movements of the whore to the wild thrashings of the virgin.” There is that slight difference, but let’s not go into that. Ms. Loh was fired because she said one four letter word. Hmm. Last year, every night for about a month, we watched on all of the TV news channels, tons and tons of bombs being dropped on a fourth world country, who had nothing but rhetoric to try and deter the bombs. People... kids watching that must have, even subliminally, understood that civilian men, women and children were being blown to shreds, yet we can’t say a four letter word on the same channels or, in this case, on the radio. Hockey players can beat the crap out of each other, but we can’t say crap on the same channel. Or maybe we can. We just can’t say shit. But crap and suck are okay. Words. What if a large number of the population decided that “flower” meant fucking, what then?

So Sandra, Janet Jackson and Howard Stern are a warning to all others.

“Hey, Nat, you don’t understand, with Jackson, kids were watching the Super Bowl.” Okay, fine, then make it universal. If the players in the Super Bowl fight (which to some is more vulgar than a four letter word), then can their asses for good. Don’t show boxing, where two humans beat the living daylight out of each other.

Four letters. The “F” word. What does it actually promote? It doesn’t matter that hate is expressed all over the airways. It doesn’t matter that kids are prejudiced by their elders, or are taught to hate. It doesn’t matter that sometimes such kids, who are prejudiced and taught to hate, bully other kids. It doesn’t matter that, albeit on rare occasions, bullied kids shoot up everyone at school. But, by gosh, those four letters must not be heard.

So, what does it mean – fuck. Fornicating? It’s so terrible that it’s not even in the dictionary (well, maybe it’s in the Scrabble dictionary). Everyone reading this knows that their parents had to do the above-mentioned for the reader to be here.

What if we took away the arbitrary stigma associated with it, and it became so commonplace that it wouldn’t mean anything? Imagine all of the energy, reactions and reprimands spent on it, which then would turn to something else. Imagine a billboard which reads: “Every 16 seconds another person is punished either physically (that includes washing your mouth out with soap – old fashioned, but very effective with the additional benefits of replacing bad breath with the odor of Palmolive Pink) or verbally for saying the “F” word. Imagine making a mistake on the road and instead of someone ranting and raving “You fucking this!” and “You fucking that”, they ranted and raved with “You didn’t give me the right of way!” At least I can discuss that. I can apologize for that. I simply can’t apologize for being a fucking idiot. An idiot? Maybe. The other driver may have a valid point on that. But a fucking idiot? Let me try – I’m an idiot who fornicates while I’m driving?

So, who decided that it is soooo vulgar? Who decided that we must be controlled. That we must be stifled. The same male chauvinistic repressive attitudes that go way, way back? One of many examples could be in the Ten Commandments: “Though shall not covet thy neighbors wife?” Not “husband.”

Does that mean it's okay to covet thy neighbor's husband? It doesn't say not to. By the way, let me get this straight, it might actually approve of gay relationships, suggesting that a man could not covet thy neighbor's wife, but could covet the husband. Or could the male chauvinistic point of view have been that it was needless to mention coveting a neighbor's "husband", because no one could ever have imagined that a woman could ever have possessed such desires. If coveting is a bad word, why not outlaw that? "You coveting idiot!" I kind of like that.

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