



Educating Our Community About
Critical Theory in Nevada County Schools

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Happy Independence Day

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On July 4th, 1776 the
Continental Congress adopted
the Declaration of
Independence.

“The Declaration of Independence is the ring-bolt to the chain of your nation’s destiny; so, indeed, I regard it. The principles contained in that instrument are saving principles. Stand by those principles, be true to them on all occasions, in all places, against all foes, and at whatever cost.”

Frederick Douglas

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BULLYING IN NEVADA COUNTY SCHOOLS

Nancy Mitchell - Grass Valley

This past May, as I was drinking my morning coffee and perusing the social media app, Nextdoor Alta Sierra, I came across a long thread of painful disclosures from parents and grandparents about bullying experienced by children in their families. I had heard some of this from my own family and was aware of efforts by the high school district (NJUHSD) to curb bullying by relabeling it as “racism” and then passing a microaggressions policy. The theory, apparently, is to pass more rules (that also aren’t enforced) or implement a new system like “Restorative Justice” or Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). The failed end result of these new rules and systems is laid bare in the heart-rending comments of our neighbors below. The words have not been edited.

K: “There is a problem in this county with children bullying other children and nothing’s being done about it. My 11 year old and 3 grandsons have been bullied by the same kids over and over and nothing is done. Schools won’t give info needed to contact parents nor will they facilitate a meeting.”

J: “Don’t count on school or Board to lift a finger if you don’t constantly insist on it. It’s not new, but volume is! Problem can be made totally unacceptable in our area.”

S: “I am sorry this is going on and would love to say our quiet little Nevada County is so sweet and innocent. We truly need to take its shape back that is dwindling away.”

D: “My daughters have also been bullied repeatedly. They even had green peas thrown at them on the bus just because they’re vegetarians.”

L: “Adults need to show gumption and confront abuses. Until people in authority take charge, there is little accountability for abusers.

V: “My grandson was bullied at school. My son talked to the teacher.”

P: “All 3 of my children have been bullied at multiple schools in this county. I’ve reported and documented events, but school does nothing.”

T: “Thank you for sharing this info for those of us who would not hear about it otherwise. There is a huge lack of tolerance for another view, another look, or another way.

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Strength in Pride: LGBTQ+ Youth Panel Held in Nevada County

Nancy Peirce - Penn Valley



With standing room only, the free event at the Miner's Foundry in Nevada City was packed on Thursday night March 23rd. In what appeared to be a significant majority of adults in the 40 plus age range, there were comparatively few teens. The catered event featured a variety of finger foods and drinks along with information tables, including Nevada County Pride, Community Beyond Violence, NC Citizens for Choice, Bright Futures for Youth (NEO/Friendship Club), and Color Me Human.

The event, *Strength in Pride*, was advertised as an "opportunity for a panel of local students to educate the Nevada County community, and beyond, about the struggles and experiences of LGBTQ+ youth". The stated goal of the student panel was to "uplift and encourage LGBTQ+ youth to share their voices and cultivate resilience by being proud of their identity".

The evening was the culmination of Ghidotti High School student, Maddux Eckerling's, Senior Project. His project mentor, and assistant moderator, was Daniela Fernandez, Nevada City Vice Mayor, Queer Activist and self-described lesbian. (Please note, according to the evening's panel, the word queer is no longer a slur or pejorative. Instead, it is the preferred umbrella term that includes

all divergent sexual orientations.) Fernandez stated she interacted with Maddux in two summer programs and is also a principal in the Catalyst Theatre for Change.

As a queer youth who stated he struggles with anxiety and depression, Maddux is a local mental health activist and leader of both the Bring Change 2 Mind (BC2M) and Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) clubs at Ghidotti High School. There he works to help educate his schoolmates on LGBTQ+ awareness and de-stigmatizing mental health conditions. He's also president of Ghidotti's Associated Student Body, member of the school's site council, and a student representative on the NJUHSD LCAP Committee. After high school, Maddux will attend San Francisco State University where he plans to earn a BA Degree in Sociology and then pursue a Master's Degree in Social Work. His career goals include working as a community educator and policy advocate fighting for governmental change for LGBTQ+ individuals and those with mental health challenges.

The evening's five member panel included three teens in various stages of female to male transition, one student as non-binary, and Maddux who described himself as gay/pan sexual. Four students attend Ghidotti High School and one student attends Colfax High. Four students preferred self given names rather than their birth names. Two stated they preferred male pronouns, and two preferred genderless they/them pronouns, while Maddux prefers, he/him pronouns.

Most panelists stated they "came out" first to friends, then teachers/counselors, and lastly to family at home. One student chronicled the name change process as emailing teachers asking them to acknowledge the desired change including pronouns and much later going to a counselor to make a records change. The student's family only learned when the parents received a report card with the new name. Another student queried the audience, "Are any of my mother's co-workers here?", implying that the family wasn't aware of the name change or transgender orientation, although it was known in some limited circles.

One student related attending Nevada City School of the Arts Charter Elementary School, and described the school as "queer friendly", which was roundly applauded. The young student, with diagnosed ADHD, had not considered gender possibilities, but when put on the spot by other NCSA students, decided to declare non-binary as it seemed to take the least commitment. Even today, the now high school sophomore is still using the non-binary label and they/them pronouns as preferred gender descriptors.

Another student, presenting as a female to male transexual, stated their gender identity crisis began at age 10 when the family moved "from the country into the city". Detailing the process which included years of hand me down clothes from an older brother and growing up without gender distinctions, the student described now successfully "passing" as a male. He stated his mother was supportive in the process, and his father as the last to openly acknowledge the chosen gender identity.

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NEVADA COUNTY IS GOING WOKE

Thea Hood - Penn Valley

I woke from a bad dream. The world appeared upside down. What used to be right, was now wrong. What was wrong, was now right. Somehow, my dream catapulted into a nightmare – a real, live nightmare.

Yes, I was totally awake, but the nightmare continued. I just read that “Wokeness = kindness.” Did I actually read that or was I still asleep?

I was also told recently that I could not use the term “woke” since it was offensive. How did an innocent term suddenly take on such an onerous meaning while I was apparently asleep? OK, I’ve been challenged by one too many people recently to give a definition of “woke,” and Klata’s Other Voices, “Wokeness=kindness,” just sent me over the edge. So, this is my opinion of Woke.

The term “woke” is as slippery as jello, constantly morphing in meaning to suit somebody’s agenda. Yesterday it described being well-informed; today it is politically incorrect to use.

Looking at its history, the term “woke” first appeared in 1962 in a New York Times article, referencing African American slang for awareness or being well-informed. By 2013 it became the rallying cry for Black Lives Matter activism. By 2017 it made its way into the Merriam-Webster and Oxford Dictionaries, defined as “alert to racial or social discrimination and injustice.” Yesterday it was a slang term for awareness; today it is an ideological term, involving activism. How did that change take place?

Having lived in Africa for several years, I immediately noted the shift in meaning for the term “African American” after it was appropriated by Black Lives Matter. I have many African friends who are white Africans and many who are white African Americans. So the first phase in changing the meaning of “woke” took place when the term African American was replaced with Black American. It suddenly lost its ties to Africa (and hence slavery) and encompassed all black cultures.

It wasn’t long before other cultures jumped onto the woke bandwagon. And then the whole gender issue jumped on board as well. Today, anybody who feels the least bit discriminated against, for any reason, can lay claim to being a part of the woke movement.

This left the door wide open for certain politicians to latch onto the term to pitch their progressive agenda. They also saw this as an opportunity to garner votes and, thus, progressive and woke became synonymous.

The next morphing took place when wokeness became intertwined with the progressive activist’s “cancel culture,” since anything ideologically non-woke was subject to cancellation. So, what originated as an African American slang word has morphed into extremes, and, as is the case for most extremes, where truth ultimately wins, wokeness appears to be on its way to the cemetery.

Just look at the number of Americans who are standing up to the woke agenda and countering “cancel culture” by boycotting companies and education systems which promote an un-American progressive agenda.

Another thing to understand about wokeness is that this is a war. No, not a war with Russia or China, but with ourselves. One group of Americans believes that America is systemically racist and evil, and therefore must be destroyed—and then what? Allow Communism to take over? Another group of Americans love this country and the freedoms afforded here, providing true principles against racism. They do not want to destroy America, but to preserve the best democracy in the world.

So, how did we get to this divisive point, where one group wants to blow up this country and the other wants to hold on to its greatness? How did we get to a point where the left wants to move away from Martin Luther King’s dream of judging people by their character, instead using accusations of racism to destroy this country?



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WOKE - Thea Hood

I propose there is no such thing as racism. It is an incorrect term intentionally used to distract us from the really important issues facing this country. God created just one race – humankind. Some people have more pigmentation in their skin than others. Some people are shorter or taller than others. Some have rounder faces. Some have different shaped eyes. But they are all still just one race. How then can racism exist if we are all one race? Why group people according to some superficial criteria that doesn't change the fact that they are still all part of the human race?

I'll tell you why I think humans are being divided into groups—this time by skin color. Because grouping people into “tribes” allows those in power to create hatred between the groups, then chaos, finally leading to war between the groups, which then allows totalitarian control to arise. This is exactly how Marxism works. It doesn't matter how you group them—by social status, color, culture, gender, whatever—the result is always the same: Marxism and Communism.

In summary, the term woke is not used by conservatives as an insult against African Americans, but as a descriptor of the progressive activist's ideological agenda it has morphed into – an agenda which has used black Americans in order to gain votes rather than to offer any real help; an agenda which seeks to destroy individuals, families, our laws, our democracy, our country. It is not kind, as Klate proposes; it promotes hatred and destruction.

And now that the term woke is backfiring on progressives, they claim it is an unusable word which doesn't actually mean anything. So, with the death of a term, are we also seeing a corresponding death of an agenda?

WOKE - Jonathan Kors - Auburn, CA

There is a new faith in our county. Not the “*I believe they will perform as intended*” type of faith but a religious type of faith. Not the religion that gets coaches fired for leading a prayer at half time, it's a new one – and its called Woke. Woke is a gnostic faith, meaning that the faithful have obtained special knowledge - they see what others do not. In the case of Woke, this special knowledge is that the United States is systemically racist. To the faithful, disparate outcome by race in any number of circumstances (e.g. academic achievement, professional status, incarceration, household income, etc.) is the proof. Because of this, American ideals of self-determination and meritocracy must be replaced with equity. Equity is a word that sounds like equality but means something else entirely. It is the process of reconstructing systems to achieve a utopian notion of equal outcome. The tools it uses are never officially disclosed, but mostly involve discrimination against the “advantaged” and the lowering of achievement standards altogether.

And this gnostic faith is showing up everywhere in our Nevada County institutions.

You will find it in Goal 3 of the 2021/2022 Nevada Joint Union High School District Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP): “*Our district prioritizes equity, promoting an inclusive and safe school culture and climate, free from bias...*”
<https://www.njuhsd.com/documents/2021-22-LCAP.pdf>

The County Board of Supervisors notes in their Newsflash web page that: “*The Nevada County Behavioral Health Director.... was recently among 21 behavioral health professionals from across the country who completed the first-ever Equity-Grounded Leadership (EGL) Fellow Program, an 11-month course to develop skills centered on diversity, equity, and inclusion.*”
<https://www.nevadacountyca.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=6409>

If you are not particularly fervent in the faith, the institutions will train you to absorb and promote it. In 2023, two NJUHSD Board Members and the Superintendent attended training by the California School Board Association to “*collaborate and build capacity to govern through the lens of equity that will lead to improved opportunities and outcomes for historically and marginalized students*”.
https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SB_Meetings/ViewMeeting.aspx?S=36030345&MID=17859

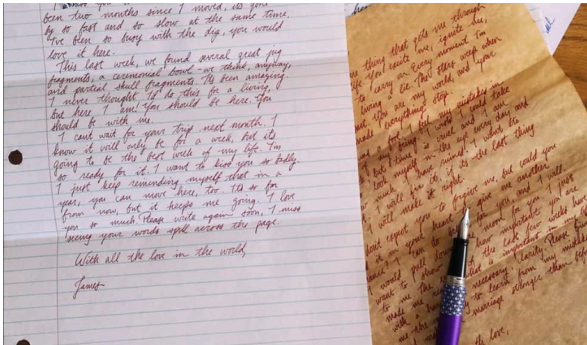
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Letters From Our Readers

Maria W., Auburn, Ca.

Thanks for the great newsletter. I just want to add a couple things that I personally experienced...

My son and I toured Bear River High School in spring and he wanted to go. He couldn't get in because of his vaccination status. He is a straight-A student and scores high on achievement tests. (So haha to BRHS for scoring poorly - they exclude high achievers so they get what they get! I didn't allow my son to stay in public school during the scamdemic, and his scores did not suffer.)



Secondly, a friend of mine has a son who is a Ghidotti. He came home one day and asked his mom if he should be feeling suicidal because it seems that most kids do. At least that's what they are teaching at school. (So he feels different because the school talks of suicide so often that it seems the norm to have those thoughts.)

Thirdly, this whole "Diversity/Inclusivity" push is backfiring (or maybe not depending on what you think the Agenda is). A boy comes home from public school and tells his mom (a friend of mine) that "Mom, I just learned that black people are different from white people. Did you know that?" His mom never taught her son that different races are inherently different at their core. This resonated with me because as my own son grew up, race was never a subject I taught my son; people are people in my opinion. And although we may have different customs and cultures, we are all the same at our core. We all love and hurt and cry and laugh. We all want to live life freely. But the schools are teaching our kids that based on the color of your skin, we are different people.

Fourthly, changing the definition of gender does not make it so.

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Strength in Pride: LGBTQ+ Youth Panel Held in Nevada County - Nancy Peirce

While we often hear reports of adults grooming children, this didn't seem to case for these panelists. When Fernandez asked the students who was the first LGBTQ+ adult they encountered, these youth stated it was Maddux, while two said recently it was Fernandez herself. The "coming out" process entailed "gender declarations" and pronoun choices being made with friends and then allies, youth and adults, coming forward to acknowledge, reinforce, and celebrate the chosen self-descriptor. At one point Fernandez asked for a show of hands of those who would commit to being such an ally. An over whelming number of those in attendance signaled their willingness to support the gender choices of "coming out" youth.

It was noted in the program, and by the panel, that Nevada County has avenues of established LGBTQ+ support groups including Nevada County Pride and high school based clubs like Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA).

Christopher F. Rufo: [How Gender Radicalism Conquered Sacramento Schools](#)

Rebecca Velo: [Denying The Sexes Is About Forcing All Of Us To Live A Lie](#)

Courage Is A Habit: [What Is The Amygdala?](#)

Andrea Widburg: [We're Coming for Your Children](#)

Alexander Riley: [A Rising Tide of Pride](#)

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Bullying in Nevada County Schools - Nancy Mitchell

L: "Yes, we do have a bullying problem in this county. I've worked with youth in nonprofits and it is many times a learned "trait" from parents."

B: "My 2 nephews here are treated God awfully by children. I hate seeing them come home crying still!"

K: "There is a problem in this county with children bullying other children and nothing's been done about it. I have an 11 year old and I have three grandsons that have been completely bullied in the last couple of years its been by the same kids over and over and over and nothing's being done.

I wanted to update, yesterday my son was assaulted with battery in the bathroom at school, another boy same age, put his hands on my son not letting him leave, he threw urine in my son's face along with hitting face. Luckily another boy walked in saw what was happening and went to get help. Lucky for us a new principal took over on Friday, she has zero tolerance for bullying or violence, and because of what happened the rules and regulations concerning bullying have changed at my son's school. Zero tolerance. The principal is also contacting the other parents to arrange a meeting, as the act was with bodily fluids, and we don't know if he has anything communicable that will affect my child. Made a police report, and the officer is going to the school to make sure that the school knows that the probation officer can help. He was concerned about the age of this boy and the violence level. I also went to the superintendent, and going to try and change the way that bullying is handled around here. Next stop the Grand Jury. Thank you all for participating."



Parents Defending Education: [Discipline in Schools - What Parents need to Know](#)

Scarlen Valderaz: [Restorative Practices, Do They Really Work?](#)

Jill Simonian: [Students Assaulting Teachers for Taking Cell Phones](#)

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WOKE - Jonathan Kors

These Faith-based initiatives permeate the School system. If you attend your local school board meeting, you are far more likely to hear about safe environments, re-imagining discipline, toxic mental stress, stopping micro-aggressions or social emotional learning than you are to hear about advancing academic achievement or reversing the learning loss of the last several years. Social emotional learning? Where did that slick name come from and what lies beneath its murky surface?

If our education system leaders and teachers are taught to see all things through the lens of equity, what belief system will be inculcated in their students?

I saw an enchanting dance performance last week from a local youth dance company (my daughter being one of the dancers). They rented the Bear River Amphitheater to perform an interpretation of "Alice in Wonderland". As I sat in the High School amphitheater and watched the beautiful and graceful young Alice follow the White Rabbit down into the well, I couldn't help but think of the children of Nevada County innocently following Woke into the abyss.

SOLAS: [Wokeness Is Ripping Through America's Schools. Here's How To Protect Your Children From It](#)

James Lindsey: [Cult Language of Woke](#)

Thomas D. Klingenstein: [Rittenhouse, Smollett and the Big Lie Eating Away at America](#)

James Lindsey: [Woke Terms Conceal Agendas](#)