

Toby Or Not Toby

and other stories



The gala opening night performance of Hamlet is interrupted by the indigenous actor playing the lead, as he exploits the occasion to make a strong political statement. The play's director insists on removing him from the production, in favour of his non-indigenous understudy.

A cartoon in an online magazine is met by a torrent of readers' criticism and displeasure. The cartoon is a parody of racial issues, sexual preferences, and the pandemic. The cartoonist, a Black male, is fired by the publisher, who is also Black. A colleague at the magazine takes up the cartoonist's cause.

A Muslim woman, in a Media Studies course, files an official complaint against her professor. She claims she was denied her right to free expression in responding to a class presentation by a Jewish student.

Two Black women create an organization to march for women's rights, adding nine other women to the organizing committee, women of various ethnicities, nationalities and cultural backgrounds. The inevitable problems and conflicts that develop threaten the group's cohesion and goals.

These and other stories illuminate the prominent role of political correctness and cancel culture in contemporary North American society. Institutional policies and societal standards must promote diversity and reflect prevailing sensitivities. Negative impact on identifiable groups must be minimized. Decisions based on these principles land unevenly and problematically on the individuals in these stories.

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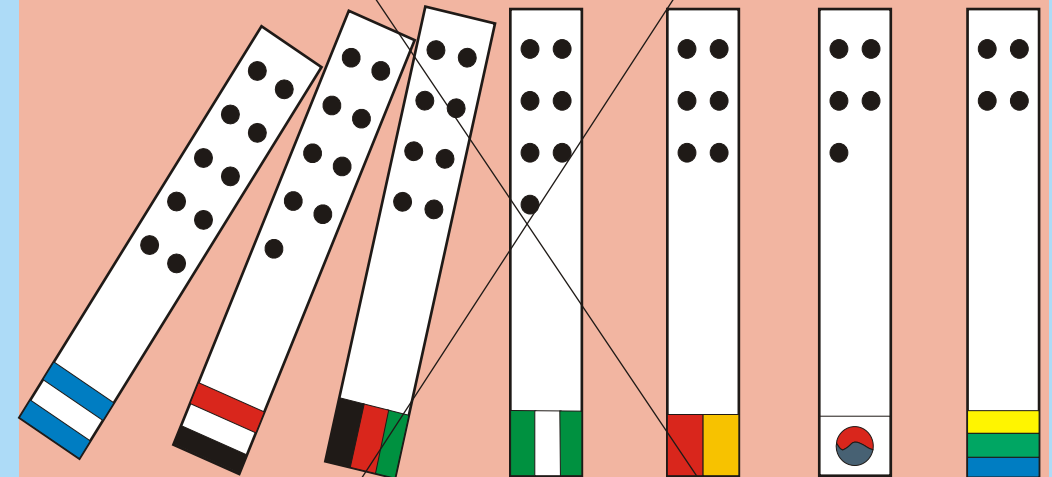
John Ginsburg

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Stories about political correctness
and cancel culture from the author
of *20 Mile* and *The Last Straw*