

PC or what?

Anyone think all this PC rubbish has gone too far (and I'm talking Political Correctness here - not Personal Computers)? I do! I'm getting totally fed up with being told what I can and cannot say.

Don't get me wrong - I am totally against all racial, sexual and even ageist discrimination (especially the latter as I am an old git myself) - but it's gone too far, hasn't it?

My business relates to products for the elderly and disabled, which includes wheelchairs, and when I joined the company. 11 years ago, I was told that people who use wheelchairs are no more "wheelchair bound" than we are "shoe bound" - but they are "wheelchair users". OK I can go along with that, but just recently I am told that I should no longer say a "wheelchair user", as that puts the chair before the user and therefore makes it more important than the person, so we now have to call them "users of wheelchairs" or "people who use wheelchairs"!

Now I don't mind if "people who use wheelchairs" really object to being called "wheelchair users" - but most of them I know call themselves "wheelchair bound"! Half the time, the people who are supposed to be being protected by Political Correctness are not annoyed or upset at the traditional words and phrases we use.

As I said, I think Political Correctness has gone too far. Last week I was told off for asking for black coffee! When I asked what was wrong with asking for black coffee, I was told I should be asking for coffee without milk! The reason - I might offend someone whose skin is black! Evidently one London Borough has even tried to ban people asking for *black* coffee. Isn't that daft?

Imagine taking that to its obvious conclusion. No more "TVR for sale" adverts for "Griffith in sparkling Moonraker Black" - instead it could be "Griffith in sparkling very, very dark grey"! Come to think of it, us old gits could well object to the "grey" bit, so the advert could become "Griffith in coffee without milk colour"!!

And if we can't say black, then logically, we can't say white either, so Pearl White would become "Pearl No-colour". Taking it even further, "Back Home" would be held at "Very Dark Pool", and it's probably a good job we no longer have "pale walled tyres" any more!

But it's not just colours - is it? Us guys are going to have to change the way we refer to our TVR's. No more "she'll" do 0-60 in 5 seconds - from now on it'll have to be "it" will do 0-60 in 5 seconds! But that does apply both ways - I notice a lot of women are now referring to their Tiv as "he" - presumably because of the grunt and muscle! But that will not be allowed either - equality of the sexes and all that! (Mind you I've met a few women for whom the grunt and muscle would be more appropriate!)

And the equality of the sexes has led to words like chairman and mankind being taboo because they discriminate against women! The dog is no longer man's best friend but person's best friend! Very soon you will need to call the AA man an AA person, the garage man a garage person, your exhaust manifold will become your "exhaust person-ifold", manual gearboxes will be replaced with "personal gearboxes" and I hate to think what they will do with Le Mans!

But the demands by feminists for equality and the removal of all sexual comments, innuendo's and double entendre's will mean the end of greasing your nipples, tightening your nuts and even hanging your rear end out! You will no longer be allowed to comment that a TVR has a "nice pair of headlamps" or even a good body, and references to waxoyling the underside will definitely be a punishable offence!

Going back to the world of the disabled - don't forget when you have switched your alarm on and activated your immobiliser, you have definitely NOT disabled the car - you have just made it "less-able"! Our cars will no longer have blind spots, but "visually impaired spots", and blind corners will become "less visually able corners". "Bald" has now been replaced with "follicly challenged", so presumably tyres will be "tread depth challenged"!

But what about patriotism? Well that's frowned on as well in case it upsets some Johnny Foreigner (oops! A bit non PC there!). Already the Union Jack cannot be called that any more because there isn't an equivalent and equal Union Jill - but if the "lefties" have their way, British Racing Green will become Country Green (can't mention Race can we?), and the Car Pound will soon become the Car Euro! And the colour Old English White has absolutely no chance - ageist, patriotic *and* racist!

But where does it all end? Will the roof of a convertible be called a "person with criminal tendencies" rather than a "hood", and to check the oil you will have to use a "person of less than normal intelligence" (actually you may already do that without knowing it!). Referring to something as a Dipstick is likely to be totally offensive to all those who are!

It's all gone a bit daft, hasn't it? So, what are we going to do about it?

Well we could restart the old Buy British campaign. This can be quite good unless you are looking for food. I often entertain American business visitors and recently one asked to be taken to a "typically English restaurant". I took him to a pub, which was as English as I could think, and then he asked for "typically English food"! By the time we had crossed off the Tandori Chickens, the Sweet and Sour Cows, and the myriad of Pizzas and pasta dishes, the only thing left was his "...own personal spotted dick served in a dish with custard"! It took me ages to convince him to remove his hands from in front of his privates!

But buying British would have been a good campaign for TVR - wouldn't it? Sadly a little too late!

At the 2002 Coventry Run, I tried to run my own "Support Britain" campaign. I not only wore a Union Jack tie, but also had 3 more Union Jacks flying from the old S2 - one from each door pillar and one attached to the aerial. I intended to have them there for the whole run, but when we pulled up at the half way stage for a glass of Pimms - jolly sophisticated run that one - I noticed that the wind in the flag had bent the aerial in two! As I straightened it the top half of the aerial came away in my hand!

I didn't want to appear a total idiot, so I nonchalantly placed the piece of metal aerial into the boot. I wonder if David Gerald's found it when I part ex-ed the car 6 months later!

Personally I don't want to be PC! I want to be