



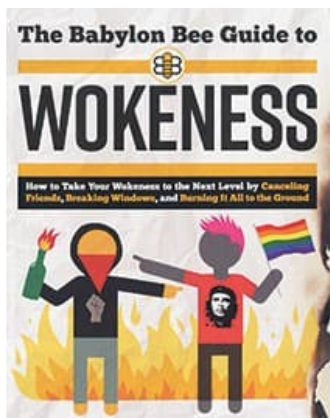
Written by [William P. Hoar](#) on February 4, 2022

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## The Review

### Laughing in the Face of Cancel Culture



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***The Babylon Bee Guide to Wokeness: How to Take Your Wokeness to the Next Level by Canceling Friends, Breaking Windows, and Burning It All to the Ground***, by Kyle Mann, et al., Washington, D.C.: Salem Books (an imprint of Regnery Publishing), 2021, 208 pages, paperback.

This book makes a pretense of being a how-to manual for fugitives from the brain gang, sages who have been educated beyond their intelligence, and prodigies who think the Kentucky Derby is a hat. If the reader passes this advocated course, he or she or it will go through life believing everything — which no doubt saves thinking.

In short: It devastates the enlightened woke crowd with apt and witty ridicule.

Woke activists, the targets of this satirical guidebook, have taken political correctness to preposterous, even dangerous, heights. They assuredly deserve the knife-edge hand slashes they receive herein — albeit (to mix metaphors) in a tongue-in-cheek fashion.

*The Babylon Bee Guide to Wokeness* is a creation of personnel from the eponymous satirical website that boasts of being “fake news that you can trust.” The Babylon Bee website is more than a place where people laugh and knowingly nod in agreement; it has become a political force of its own. (The website gets about 20 million page views monthly.) The book’s co-authors are Kyle Mann, the Bee’s editor-in-chief; Ethan Nicolle, the site’s creative director; Joel Berry, managing editor; and Gavin Yee, who deals with graphics and animation.

The illustrations are an integral component of the book. In this way, we can better grasp, assisted by a “microaggression deadliness rating” — which is needed because woke people can be “offended by absolutely everything” — why such microaggressions are more lethal than hand grenades.

We can also picture clearly why a headless treesexual elf on a unicycle should be considered a hero of oppression.

It’s one thing to read in an American history chapter, as we do, that “Before there was Hitler, there was someone even worse: Christopher Columbus.” Yet, the art drives home the point, picturing the hated Chris’s dastardly accoutrements, including “leftist tears tumbler,” “rosary nunchucks,” and boots (“for stomping on the necks of marginalized groups”).



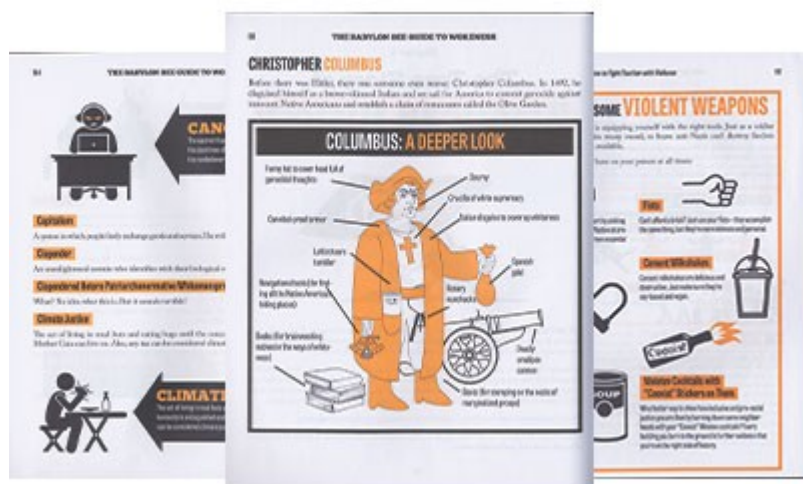
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The feminism and gender section includes lesser-known letters in LGBTQ+. And we certainly don't want to ignore the "P" and "U" folks who, we learn, are "Potatogendered" and the "Umbrellaphiliac." Also shown — with their very own symbols — is a "sampling of the many genders you may transition to at any given time." Among these are the "Elvish," "Ubertrans," "Trans-Former," and "Twixsexual."

Meanwhile, there is a plethora of pronouns to choose from because, as the authors point out, "Pronouns are everything. They are your badge — the identifying marker that will separate you from the outsiders, the science deniers, and the unbelievers." These days, we are way beyond simple parts of speech.

On the other hand, we learn that certain "bad pronouns" should be avoided; in this vile category we find "He/Him," "Thee/Thine," "Dude/Bro," "Ptera/Dactyl," and "MA/GA." One can imagine — though the kindly Bee people don't mention this — a not-so-distant future that includes giving such unmanageable creatures a taste of something similar to 1984's Two Minutes Hate — the ritualistic loathing by good members to express revulsion for enemies of the Party.



Humor and satire are potentially hazardous tools. What makes one guffaw makes another gasp. When you add politics to the mix, some folks will undoubtedly be offended. But humor does have its purposes. There are reasons why *Reader's Digest* has long had a section called "Laughter, the Best Medicine." While jesting can hurt, it can also heal. Consider President Ronald Reagan's comment to the surgeons on his way to the operating room after being shot. "Please tell me," said Reagan, that "you're Republicans." After hearing about that quip, the nation (largely) smiled in relief.

Not long ago, the *Deseret News* quoted Seth Dillon — the current owner of The Babylon Bee — and his comments to a group of conservatives in Orlando. Dillon mentioned one of his favorite G.K. Chesterton quotes: "The world has become too absurd to be satirized." So it often seems. Indeed, Dillon is known to get laughs when he points out how frequently the Bee has been erroneously "fact-checked" by the mainstream media as if it were a newspaper of record. If Chesterton, who died in 1936, thought the world was overly absurd in his day, what would he make of TikTokers with pink hair? Or, even more unhinged, the ludicrous so-called progressive "Squad" in the U.S. Congress?!

What is real? And what is satire? The differences can be difficult to discern. *The Babylon Bee Guide to Wokeness* asks: "What better way to show how inclusive and pro-social justice you are than by burning down some neighborhoods with our 'Coexist' Molotov cocktails?" It also depicts "The Stool of Justice" with the three legs of "Racist Guilt," "LGBTQ Solidarity," and "Climate Change Activism." You cannot,



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the guide preaches to disciples, “be a true anti-racist ally without also being a climate activist. You can’t be a true climate activist until you also stand in solidarity with the LGBTQ movement.”

Absurd? Sure. But is it too much of a stretch? Consider a recent satirical Bee headline that cited a San Francisco store clerk who was said to be confused because a shopper actually tried to pay for merchandise. Is the parodied event more far-fetched than a true-life report (a typical one) from *Law Enforcement Today*? The latter account described how, as a result of “criminal justice reform,” shoplifters had been “walking into stores, filling bags, walking out doors in San Francisco.” That city’s district attorney disdains prosecuting criminals who commit “low-level” crimes, and is, as the law-enforcement account pointed out, “one of a number of radicals that were elected to the office of district attorney across the country, helped in no small part by radical billionaire George Soros money.”

It can indeed be hard to differentiate the satirical farce from the factually bizarre. Can’t you see an obsessive leftist activist picking up this book and being triggered about, say, certain Disney movies because of their questionable content? Take *Winnie the Pooh*. Please. After all, as the wokeness guide informs us, there “is a lack of gender/ethnic diversity among the human cast, which consists of a single white male character named Christopher Robin.” Surely *Lady and the Tramp* involves “slut-shaming.” And there is the horror in *Sleeping Beauty* that “depicts kissing without consent.” (In the real world — if that is how you describe California — two San Francisco critics last year publicly got their panties in a twist because Disneyland’s “Snow White” ride still included Prince Charming’s kiss while she sleeps and “without her consent.”)

There’s no end to the brainwashing. Because being woke is a long game, the next generation must also be targeted. This involves, as our guidebook instructs us, separating kids from the “oppressive parents.” Madness? Crackpot? Daft? Yep, but it’s analogous to last fall’s gubernatorial debate in Virginia when Democratic nominee Terry McAuliffe insisted that he didn’t “think parents should be telling schools what they should teach.” (This may have cost him the election.)

The guide to wokeness is saying out loud what the radicals silently believe. Would-be woke readers are instructed accordingly. “The number one rule of education is this: Parents are the worst. They must be treated as an adversary and obstacle to your students’ woke enlightenment. Your job as a woke educator is to liberate kids from the unfair parent/child power dynamic.”

There are ulterior reasons why the brainwashers want to keep so many parents in the dark about what their children are being force-fed. As the handbook explains: “If a child takes away one thing from their K-12 education, it should be a state of constant horror that the earth is dying and all life as we know it ... will face extinction because all parents are capitalists who drive minivans.”

The guide keeps up its well-aimed fire throughout — starting with its dedication to Joseph Stalin, “a woke hero and champion to the oppressed proletariat” — right to the final entry in its glossary. There, it is emphasized that the “woke” are the “good guys.” Their ranks have “woken up to the plight of the oppressed and done something about it by posting virtue signals on Instagram.” Since you have finished the book, say the congratulating authors, you too are truly woke.

*William P. Hoar is a longtime writer for The New American and its predecessor magazines, and has served as editor-in-chief and contributor for other publications.*



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