



**Your on the
Street Reporter**



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Picnic is no Picnic

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Las Vegas, Nevada---“A law group at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas has apologized for inviting members to a ‘picnic,’ citing the word’s ‘historical and offensive connotations.’”

Here are some dictionary definitions of the word:

pic-nic

[ˈpɪk.nɪk]

NOUN

1. an outing or occasion that involves taking a packed meal to be eaten outdoors.
2. an amusing or carefree existence.
3. an easy task or feat.

So, what is the problem with the word, *picnic*? According to Merriam-Webster and other dictionaries, picnic has no historical or offensive connotations. But it does for the politically correct crowds---the illiberal liberals. They have struck once again.

The UNLV Environmental Law Society incorrectly associates picnic with racist lynchings that took place in the south during America’s early years. Their claims are baseless. I searched many sites on the Internet in attempts to find if *picnic* and *lynch* were associated with each other in those past days. I found no such associations, but several statements like this one from a Bing search:

The word “picnic” has French origins and refers to a gathering with food. The concept of lynching African-Americans is a horrific reality in American history, but the word “picnic” has nothing to do with it.

Actually, the word did not even originate in France. The earliest known citation is “in 1748, from Lord Chesterfield who associates a ‘pic-nic’ with card-playing, drinking, and conversation; around 1800, Cornelia Knight spelled the word as ‘pique-nique’ in describing her travels in France.”²

Picnic has long been associated with things of trivial and pleasant importance. That is what I think of when the word comes to mind...mainly accompanied with my savoring fried chicken, potato salad, and apple pie.

Undeterred by facts, these misguided “progressives” attacked a harmless, yet revered part of America. To throw salt on the wound of the insulted word, they “...apologized for ‘any harm or discomfort’ and renamed its event a ‘lunch by the lake.’”

What if we wish to go outdoors for a pleasant getaway snack, but there is no nearby lake? What is the outing to be called? Courtesy of the growing bastion of politically correct illiberal liberals, how about “lynching your lunch?”

As for picnic tables, as American as apple pie, according to these pedantic word-smiths, they are now to be called *lunch by the lake tables*, so as not to cause harm or discomfort to anyone.

We can hear it now:

¹ *The Week*, November 3, 2023, 6.

² Courtesy of Wikipedia.

“Let’s take a break. Let’s have a lunch by the lake!”

“Good idea, but there is no lake nearby.”

“Okay, but we can still eat on a lunch by the lake table.”

“Yeah, and munch on chicken while we sing that famous theme song from the movie *Lunch by the Lake*.”³

“I’ve forgotten the lyrics, how about you?”

“I remember them, here they are.”

♪♪♪♪

On a lunch by the lake morning, without a warning,
I looked at you and somehow I knew.

On a day for singing,
my heart went winging,
a lunch by the lake grove was our rendezvous.

You and I, in the sunshine,
we strolled the fields and farms.
At the last light of evening
I held you in my arms.

Now, when days grow stormy,
and lonely for me,
I just recall, a lunch on the lake time with you.

♪♪♪♪

“Something is amiss with the song.”

“It’s the *P* word, the illiberal liberals have deleted it.”

Politically correct America, in action once again.

³ In the 1950s, a big hit sung by the McQuire sisters from the 1955 movie *Picnic*.