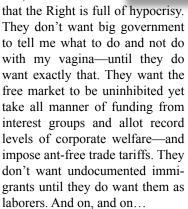
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Derogatory Labels Shut Down the Conversation

The political right and victim status

BY LAURA FINLEY

In all honesty, there is a lot I do not understand about the Right. Although the Left is far from flawless, it strikes me



These hypocrisies are pernicious, but one that really boils my blood is the calling out of the Left as "snowflakes" who simply want to maintain victim status while at the same time fulling embracing victimhood. While this is true of many on the Right, no one embodies that hypocrisy better than Donald Trump.

Calling out the Left is part of the broader attack waged by the Right, and by Trump himself, against so-called political cor-

merely serves to shut down con-

which 'You triggered, snowback. Its purpose is dismissing liberalism as something

rectness. Labeling the Left as po- luniak novel of the same name. ing a healthy appetite for feeling owning and encouraging viclitically correct or as snowflakes In it, the narrator joins an underground men's fighting club, where versation and dismiss important members repeat the mantra, "You ideas. As Dana Schwartz wrote in are not a beautiful and unique a February 2017 article for GQ, snowflake." Men's rights activists, however, "There is not a sin- bodybuilding forums, and the pogle political point a liberal litical Right have picked up on this can make on the Internet for mantra, which many have called the "manosphere." In reality, the flake?' cannot be the come- roots are far deeper, emanating from the Right's need to reject the threat of communism by labeling effeminate, and also infan- it "red" or "pink," hence "wussi-

snowflake, supposedly? An inflated sense of self-importance, an inability to handle criticism, demand for respect, and a sense of victimhood supposedly disproportionate to reality. Sound familiar? That is Donald Trump embodied.

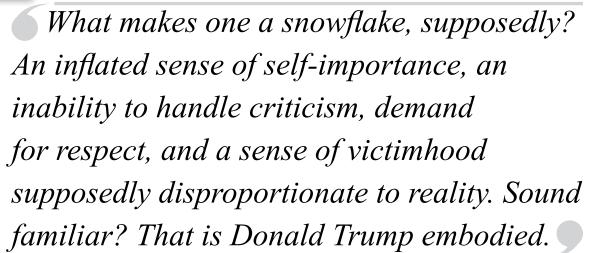
When he's insulted, he melts down on Twitter, berating people in a fashion not dissimilar to a middle schooler. He is, supposedly, a victim of various attacks by

oppressed." What makes one a tim status. His squad was all too quick to buy the rhetoric that their jobs have been lost or are at risk to immigrants, that people from certain countries threaten our safety, that women levy false accusations to destroy men, and that rights for LGBT individuals threatens the sanctity of the "American family," among other things. Even "Make America Great Again" presumes some great travesty befell the poor nation. Victims must be returned to a state of prominence!

> Likewise, the notion that the Left is too soft to handle certain conversations and the minimizing of people feeling "triggered" is also in the Right's playbook, albeit using different language and tactics. The continued efforts to criminalize nonviolent protest, for example, show that the Right is all too happy to shut down di-

I believe that there is something to be said about overdoing victim status. That is a worthwhile conversation. But when the very real picture of the U.S. is one that is still tremendously racist, sexist, militaristic and unequal, it is deeply infuriating that negative labels prohibit real discussion and actual action.

Laura Finley, Ph.D., syndicat-Barry University Department of



tile, an outgrowth of the lessons fied" or feminine. Republicans, individuals and institutions, most you were taught in kindergarten. 'Sharing is caring'? Communism. 'Feelings are good'? Facts over unique'? 'Shut up, snowflake.'"

The derogatory use of the term snowflake comes, in large part, from the film Fight Club, an adaptation of the 1996 Chuck Pah-

then, use the rhetoric of "men" while Democrats are "women."

But, in reality, those slingfeelings. 'Everyone is special and ing the snowflake allegations, as Amanda Hess wrote in June 2017 in the New York Times magazine, "tend to seem pretty aggrieved themselves — hypersensitive to dissent or complication and nurs-

often the press, of course, but also Hollywood celebrities, Broadway stars, even a Gold Star mother. He is the victim of a "witch hunt" regarding collusion with the Russians in the 2016 election. Could any words better describe victim ed by PeaceVoice, teaches in the status than "witch hunt?"

Trump won the election by Sociology & Criminology.

Children Want Adults to Protect Them, Not Guns

A prayer to stand up and say 'no more'

BY MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

Twelve people were killed and at least 60 others were injured by guns during one weekend in Chicago this month.

Fourteen of these shooting victims were children and teenagers, the youngest an 11-year-old boy who was shot in the leg.

Kenny Ivory, 17, was shot and killed while riding his bike a block from his home. Jahnae Patterson, 17, died after being shot in the face while standing outside during a nighttime block party. Two more 17-year-olds and a 14-year-old were shot and injured at the same party. Four teenage girls were among the mourners shot after a funeral.

The same weekend, students and families from the Parkland, Fla., high school where 14 students and three adults were shot and killed on Valentine's Day led a march at the National Rifle Association's Northern Virginia headquarters pleading for common sense gun control It happened on what should have been Parkland victim Joaquin Oliver's 18th birthday.

Last year his family celebrated with a surprise party as he started his senior year. This year his parents sang happy



birthday in a crowd carrying signs reading "One Child is Worth More Than All the Guns on Earth" and "Children Over Guns!"

Our children are crying out for adults to protect them, not guns - and our children are dying while powerful lobbies and political leaders refuse to act. I wrote just recently about 10-year-old Makiyah Wilson, shot and killed last month on the doorstep of her Washington, D.C. home on her way to the ice cream truck across the courtyard.

When will we do something? When will adults across our nation join every single parent who refuses to bury another child and stand up and say no more?

I offer this prayer for all children, especially those who are victims of war and violence everywhere - including their own homes, front porches and neighborhoods, streets and schools, and their own countries and at the border.

O God of all time Yesterday, today, tomorrow, and eternity Give us courage in our lifetimes To make war on war Which leaves behind waifs and widows Rubble of spirit, home, and community.

Mothers, grandmothers, and all with a mothering spirit Let us declare and demand:

No more war

No more violence and abuse

No more killing of our young

O God of yesterday, today, tomorrow, and eternity Our dwelling place in all generations

Give us courage to sow seeds of life and hope for the

And to fight with all our moral might for justice for every

Help us to pluck the thorns of despair from our children's

Mothers, grandmothers, and all with a mothering spirit Let us declare and demand:

No more hunger

No more homelessness

No more poverty

O God of yesterday, every child's history

O God of today, every living child's birthright

O God of tomorrow, every child's inheritance

O God of eternity, every child's hope

Lift our voices against the spiritual and cultural pollution which leave dreamless and purposeless the fruit of our

Mothers, grandmothers, and all with a mothering spirit Let us stand together and build a world fit for children Calling all to serve, to care, and to act to leave no child

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund.