

The BBC Is Tacky

The BBC takes seriously the tale of a **telepathic parrot which also understands English, tenses and all, and has a sense of humour.**

And the tale of an Indian holy man who has not eaten or drunk anything for several decades. (He *definitely* has a sense of humour.)

And some policemen who are earnestly chasing a lead **given to them by a psychic.**

And no, they are not merely reporting how irrational some people are: they do not say "psychic", or purported psychic, they say psychic. They do not speak of the *alleged* finding of a parrot with an almost unparalleled power to communicate, they report the finding as fact. Their tone is indistinguishable from that which they adopt when reporting a Mars landing or a new vaccine. They are taking this nonsense seriously. They are affording it more legitimacy than they do, say, **President Bush**, to say nothing of the State of Israel. This is not **villeepinism**. This is not idiotarianism. This is just tacky.

Mon, 01/26/2004 - 20:41 | [digg](#) | [del.icio.us](#) | [permlink](#)

Tacky?

I'm not sure tacky covers it.

It's not exactly villeepinism or idiotarianism; but I think it *is* related to the desire to appear open-minded and uncritical of anything that goes against traditional, western, philosophy.

It's deference to whatever doesn't make sense to people who are committed to objective reality and reason.

It's not the exact same impulse as the one that makes them side with terrorists against victims, but I think it's related.

Gil

by **Gil** on Wed, 01/28/2004 - 05:49 | [reply](#)

Or, perhaps

I think that a reasonable term (or at least one I've grown fond of) is

Generalized Tardedness.

by **Anticipatory Retaliation** on Fri, 01/30/2004 - 16:51 | [reply](#)

I think you're onto something

Gil writes:

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It's called *Political Correctness*.

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The proverbial "silver lining" of the September 11 atrocity is the anti-PC backlash that it has quietly engendered.

by **Alan Furman** on Sat, 01/31/2004 - 07:31 | [reply](#)

Not Tacky

The BBC isn't "tacky" (unless I mis-understand the use here) so much as "wacky."

Think one shot Ananova's *Quirkies* 3 quick dashes of Weekly World News plus a big shake of New York Times arrogance. Make that two shakes. Okay, three. Add toff accent and serve.

Timothy Lang

by **Timothy Lang** on Sun, 02/01/2004 - 01:11 | [reply](#)