

# Social Justice Candle

Given by: Dennis Durler

I had to really search through the drawers Wednesday to find the old purple sweatshirt that I usually wear only on winter nights to feel warm and snuggly. I dug it out and wore it to work Wednesday.

I walked into the shop and the first thing I noticed was that my boss, Keith, had on a purple shirt that was about as purple as you could get. He was standing with Rick and Rob the two other shop workers as I said, “Keith! You’re wearing purple today. Good for you.”

He gave me a puzzled look and said, “What? I’m wearing purple because I’m a Vikings fan.”

Then Rob who I now noticed had a purple t-shirt on under a gray hooded jacket said, “I’m wearing purple because I’m a Spartan fan.”

I explained the significance of wearing purple that day, to which they answered with a very nonchalant “Oh.”

Social justice is not easy. Not because most people fight against fairness and equality, although some will. The truth is, most people are just oblivious to it.

At some point in time society accepts something as a “norm” and people just don’t think about it. They don’t see how telling this joke could actually hurt someone’s feelings. I mean, come on, it’s just a joke.

Until enough people stand together to say, “this is not the norm of a healthy society.” Most people will stay oblivious to it. Even though when you present the problem to them, they will agree with you.

Before I got my new hip I was walking in a slow halting manner, and could feel the glares of people and knew they were thinking to themselves, “Come on. I’m in a hurry. Get out of the way.” But when I started using a cane the change in peoples’ attitude was nothing short of miraculous. People, young and old, would hold doors open for me. They would stop dead in their tracks to let me pass. The vast majority of people are good people. They just sometimes need to be reminded of that fact. The cane reminded them. Maybe now purple will be a good reminder.