



Vermont Cop Story: AP's Bias or America's?

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[Passionate pacifist? School indoctrination. Political views in classroom settings.]

Breakdown of Society

Vermont Cop Story: AP's Bias or America's?

Rush Limbaugh

May 6, 2003

I spent Tuesday's Hour One discussing this story about Vermont police officer John Mott. While off duty at 1:30 AM, Mott entered a high school through an open service door. He then asked a janitor to unlock a classroom so he could take pictures of displays by "passionate pacifist" teacher Tom Treece to present to an attorney.

[What is a "passionate pacifist"? Are they not opposites?

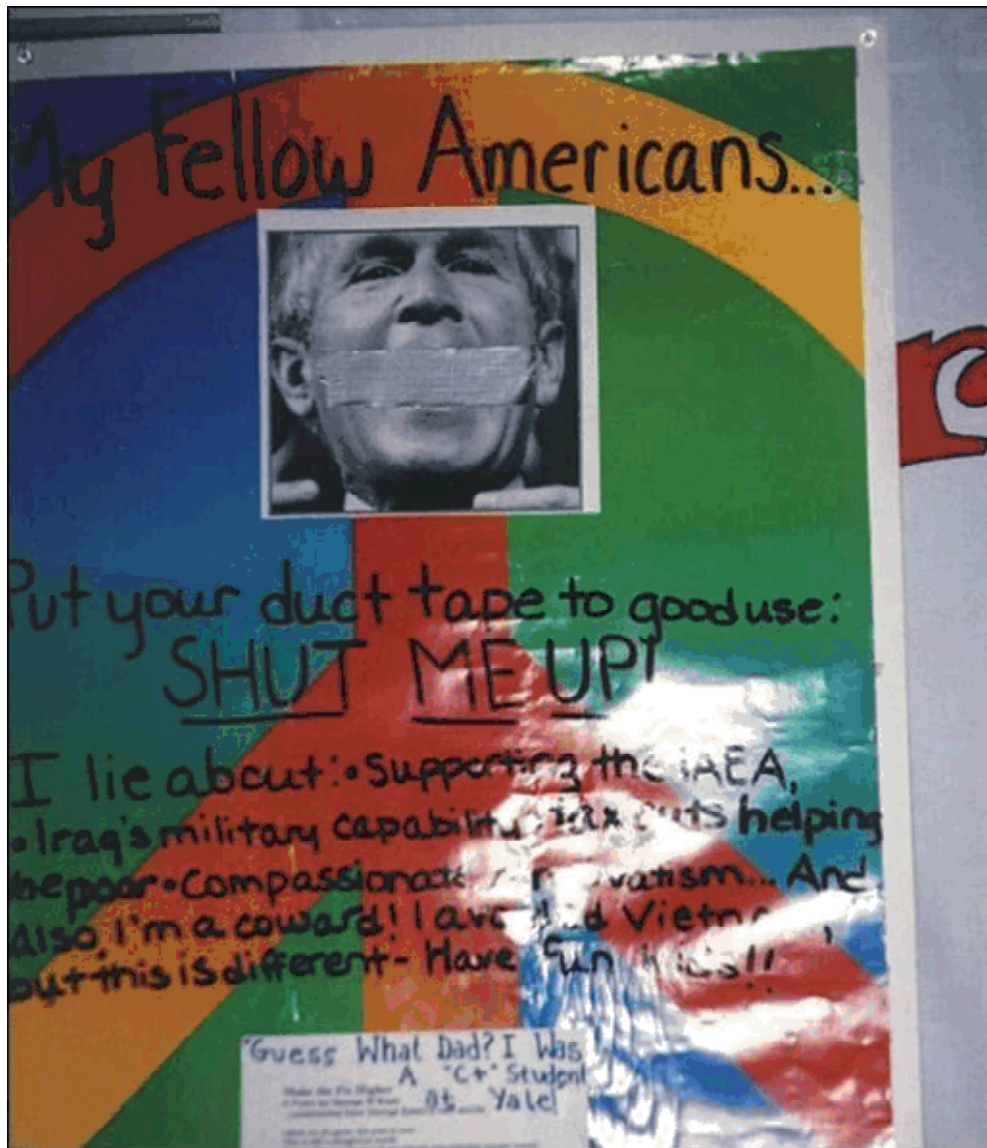
Why after hours?

Is it possible John Mott sleeps during the day or that outsiders had been refused admittance or he thought if they had advance warning they would remove evidence?

]

The Associated Press headlines this story: "Vt. Cop Photographed Class Projects," pointing a finger at the **cop as the villain**. We had to go to a local paper, the Barre Montpelier Times Argus, to find the classroom details. But this is not a media bias story. I held off giving my opinion on these events just to see what my audience's reaction would be, as you'll see below. More:

The officer reports taking pictures of "a **poster of President Bush with duct tape over his mouth** and a **large papier-mâché combat boot with the American flag stuffed inside stepping on a doll**, along with pictures of Cuban dictator Fidel Castro and his co-thug reactionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara. They aren't "pacifists"! Besides, the whole so-called peace movement was organized around defending and protecting Saddam Hussein! The slogan: "All hail the idiot boy king" was posted next to a picture of President Bush as, **Treece claimed, "a reason to reject the high school budget."**



[I don't understand. What connection is there between the High School budget and someone's dislike of the president? Is this to suggest the HS budget is the only method Treece thought he could use to protest with? Would not Mr. Treece be guilty of harming the "children" for political reasons?

No matter how much you hated the United States, does it seem ethical for a teacher to be paid in US dollars for teaching children to hate the United States?

Or, do you believe these expressions given here would invoke thoughtfulness and reflection and no emotions?

Maybe they provoke "passive" thoughts? No, can't be that. Not if they are going to reject the HS budget, which is "action", not "passive".]

If Mr. Treece posted pictures of me (*Rush Limbaugh*) and Ronald Reagan on the wall, this cop would be a hero and the teacher would be on his way out. Apparently there were "rumors" about this teacher's curriculum, so this officer investigated. It's reported that there's a "backlash" against Officer Mott, but not that there was any sort of backlash against the class content. Why does it take a cop, taking pictures at 1:30 AM on his own time, to find out what's going on in this class? Where are the parents?

[What do you find objectionable?

08/29/2003

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Nothing?
The policeman?
The call content?
Both?

Also, a seemingly good question. Why do the pictures have to be taken at night rather than at day by anyone? Is this not a public building with public school kids all paid for by public dollars?]



Is this not a public school? Our legal division doesn't see any constitutional issue on the officer entering the classroom in his private or public capacity; there's no expectation of privacy in a public school. We had a police officer call us up and say that Mott was off duty and out of his jurisdiction, so he shouldn't have entered the school or asked to be let into the locked classroom. You can hear such calls below along with my lengthily reporting of the details. I dedicated more than an hour to this story, and here's why:



After 70 minutes of discussion, all my e-mails and calls similarly focused on the cop - just like AP did. "So what, Rush?" So we hear education this and education that all the time in this country. Everybody claims to care about teaching "the children." But if we really cared about education, 90% of the garbage going on inside classrooms wouldn't be permitted. We would have parents involved in their children's education that know every word on the chalkboard and in the books. A police officer - who from this story doesn't seem to have any kids in the school much less in Treece's class - wouldn't have to enter through a service door and then ask a janitor to unlock the classroom for him. The parents would have expressed their outrage; instead, there wasn't a peep.

[Should there be any outrage for what is going on in the class room?

If no, why not?

If yes, why? What was objectionable? It is objectionable ONLY because its school?

If yes, what should have happened instead?

Does the issue of the class room content change your view of what the policeman did?

Do you think this is an issue to come to terms with or a trivial matter?]

E-mailers Prove Lack of Concern For Schools

May 6, 2003

Dear Mr. Limbaugh,

In your haste to bash the liberals, you have overlooked one important point: the policeman entered a locked public building. Even a policeman can't do this without permission of a school official, not a janitor. I don't for a moment agree with the teacher promoting his personal philosophy on the students, but the fact remains the policeman had no right to be in the building.

A School Principal in Illinois

[Note: Our EIB legal advisors found no wrongdoing by the officer.]

[Does this mean all the janitor rules of conduct in the entire country must now be re-written (probably by congress) so the janitors will know, under penalty of law, they may not let a uniformed officer into a school after hours?]

Rush,

08/29/2003

Are the people who are attacking this patriotic cop on constitutional grounds (meaning, 'He had no right to be in that building! Who does he think he is?') the same people that are defending Saddam Hussein and his dissident torture chambers because we haven't found weapons of mass destruction? Now, let's see if I understand these people. **It's okay to be a murdering tyrant to stay in power, but exposing an anti-American that influences young minds is somehow criminal?**

Raleigh, NC

[Note: This is a good point, when you consider how the anti-American crowd took over the once-noble peace movement and steadfastly opposed liberating Iraq.]

Rush,

Why is the only way an outsider can get access to that classroom is to have a uniformed officer go in the dead of night and use deception to enter? I'll bet you parents have tried to get access but were denied. I'd bet money on that. The public education system is not teaching. It is indoctrinating the students.

Thanks

[Note: This gets quite close to the reason for my giving the details of this story without giving opinion: everyone focused on the cop, without any outrage over the teacher.]

[Indoctrinating? Isn't that the same thing as brainwashing very similar to Political Correctness?]

Dear Sir:

Why the heck do you spend an hour on a stupid cop, a doorknob teacher and a biased reporter? As you say, media bias is old hat and you could spend every program on it. It's boring. Don't you realize there are brave Americans getting shot at in Iraq and Afghanistan as I write this? Get a clue!

A postdoctoral researcher, chemistry department at Fargo, North Dakota

[Note: As I pointed out at the end of my experiment, I spent so much precious broadcast time on this to illustrate that people only mouth the words of caring about education. Rush Limbaugh]

**[Well, was Rush right or does his illustration go wide of the mark?
Does the word "hypocrisy" come to mind?
Seen "hypocrisy" lately?]**



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