

The American Government Times

Section 4

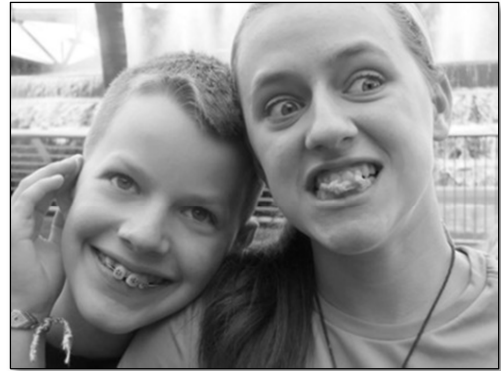
Thursday, October 9

FINAL EDITION

BREAKING NEWS: KIDS HAVE “A RIGHT TO EDUCATION,” JUDGE RULES

By DALE E. NUZE

Political Columnist



Paul and Joy Grutch (POLICE FILE PHOTO)

LITTLETON TOWN – A local judge ruled yesterday that a free education—from kindergarten all the way through high school—is the Constitutional right of all children, to be provided by the school district in which they live.

Judge Judith Wackton ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, Jacob and Bethany Grutch, who had sued the Derf County School Board after their daughter Joy and son Paul were permanently suspended from school. The children’s record was dappled with 173 violations, including tardiness, cheating, throwing food at teachers, “constantly making weird faces” (according to one traumatized eyewitness), and a near-fatal game of Pin the Tail on the Donkey.

Attorney Ron Lastinger, who represented the plaintiffs, asked Judge Wackton not to abdicate her duty during the two-day trial: “Judge Wackton,” said Lastinger, “I ask you not to abdicate your duty during this two-day trial. These youngsters need an education, just like every young person. Our Constitution says explicitly: ‘Congress shall have power to provide for the general welfare.’ All we’re doing is trying to look out for the welfare of the Grutch kids, and that depends upon their ability to read and write effectively.”

Judge Wackton agreed, ruling in favor of the Grutches: “Basic literacy is crucial to success in our modern world,” she said. “All Derf County residents pay taxes that fund public schools, and it is the duty of our society to provide an education for all children, regardless of their personal, uh, situations.”

Derf County School Board member Robert Pross disagreed. “Those two kids should not be allowed to return to school,” he glowered. “They’re dangerous, and they haven’t shown any desire to learn at all.” But Bethany Grutch disagreed: “It’s just the Christian thing to do. The government’s job is to protect our rights, and we’re glad the court did the right thing.” ■

Question for Review

Name some ideas expressed in this news story that you would disagree with, both as a Christian and knowing what you know about the legitimate purposes of government.

The American Government Times

Section 2A

Saturday, July 3

NEXT-TO-LAST EDITION

BREAKING NEWS: SCHOOL BOARD, PARENTS BATTLE OVER TEXTBOOK CONTENT

By BAILEY GEORGE

Political/Education Writer

BEDFORD SPRINGS – In a town meeting yesterday, Capra County parents and school board members staged another three-hour battle over the content of local public high schools' science, history, and health textbooks.

"We're trying to keep our children educated in the latest scientific knowledge, including the fact that global warming will melt all the polar ice caps by 2007, and that there are a number of genders we didn't know about before," said board member Henry Claymolder. "Our children need to know about how dangerous the ideas of the American founders have been to the rest of the universe. The new textbook company, we feel, effectively points out these issues."

(When one parent pointed out that it was well past 2007, and the polar ice caps were still there, Claymolder responded, "Sentimental hogwash!")

More than 200 parents attended last night's hearing, many of whom forcefully voiced their anger at the school board. "We're tired of school board members like Claymolder and others teaching our children that freedom is dangerous and that socialism is a good government system," said high school parent Eustace Gower. "And there's no reason to be teaching five-year-olds about imaginary genders and other topics that they're not ready to handle."

Claymolder and other school board members in the district have doggedly resisted the pleas of parents like Gower, even though a recent poll showed that 76 percent of Capra County parents agree with this statement: "I think our high schools' textbooks display an anti-Christian and anti-American bias."

"We'll keep fighting," said local mother Zuzu Spettles, who attended the meeting (even though she had a slight temperature). "Our children deserve it."

But little progress was made last night, and if current trends hold, there is no end in sight to the conflict. ■



Question for Review

How does the textbook controversy described above relate to the central point of our study of government—that there are true, moral, Biblical reasons for government to exist? How are the parents who are angry about the content of the textbooks missing the entire point? How could they better spend their energy and time?