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Should students be suspended for wearing 'obscene' B-A-B shirts?

Controversy in Ohio shows that school bureaucrats can be D-U-M-B

WASHINGTON, DC — An Ohio high school has threatened to suspend students for wearing shirts with the letters B-A-B — which proves that many public school administrators are just plain D-U-M-B.

That's the S-O-B (Sensible, Obvious Belief) of the Libertarian Party in response to the G-A-C (Great Acronym Controversy) at Gahana Lincoln High School in Columbus, Ohio.

"G-M-A-B," said George Getz, the party's press secretary. **"That stands for Give Me A Break.** Why do school officials think that censoring B-A-B shirts is more important than teaching students the three R's?"

Last week, controversy erupted at Gahana Lincoln High School after junior girls were prohibited from wearing shirts with the letters "B-A-B." School officials said the acronym stood for "Bad-Assed Bitches," while students claimed it stood for "Bold And Beautiful."

School administrators said the ban was an attempt to "uphold a standard of taste" — even as they acknowledged that a potentially vulgar acronym is "pretty subliminal."

Some students have already served time in detention for wearing the shirts, and the school said it would enforce "progressive punishment" for B-A-B violators — eventually leading to suspension. Many parents are so outraged by the ban they are planning to protest it at a school board meeting on October 12.

The great debate over B-A-B shirts is a trivial issue, acknowledged Getz — but is symptomatic of a greater problem in government schools.

"The censorship you see at Gahana Lincoln High School is a natural by-product of a system that puts government bureaucrats in charge — rather than parents," he said.

"When government bureaucrats control schools, they can overreact to even the mildest situation — like potentially vulgar acronyms — and can threaten to suspend students. Since most parents can't afford to pay school taxes and pay again to send their children to private schools, families are at the mercy of those government bureaucrats."

What's the solution to the B-A-B controversy? Give parents C-O-N-T-R-O-L over their children's education, said Getz.

"When parents are personally in charge of their children's education, they will tend to select schools that treat children with respect," he said. "The fact is, if more American parents had a genuine, free-market choice in education, students wouldn't be at the mercy of school administrators who are just plain D-U-M-B. And that's no acronym."

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