


## POLITICS

- [Politics Main Page](#) >
- [Interactives](#) >
- [Lynch: Political Points](#) >
- [Meyer: Against the Grain](#) >
- [CBS News Polls](#) >
- [2004 Election Results](#) >
- [National Exit Poll](#) >
- [Audible.com Downloads](#) >
- [Politics Video](#) >

- > WIRELESS ALERTS
- > E-MAIL ALERTS
- XML RSS FEEDS
- POD PODCASTS

### INTERACTIVE



**Bush Presidency**  
The president's second-term agenda, plus facts, figures, major events and key personalities.

### INTERACTIVE



**Ports In The Storm**  
Controversy over plan to transfer management of six U.S. ports to a Dubai-owned company.

### INTERACTIVE



**After The Storm**  
The road to recovery for the people and places along the storm-ravaged Gulf Coast.

### RELATED STORIES & LINKS

**Poll: Bush Ratings At All-Time Low**  
Strong Opposition To Ports Deal; Pessimism On Iraq, Katrina Response

**Church Ready To Fight IRS**  
Calif. Church Could Lose Tax Exemption For 2004 Election Sermons

**Ready, Aim, But No Fire On Campus Bias**  
Legislatures Mull Conservative Academic 'Bill Of Rights'

**Bush Poll Feb. 2006**  
Bush Poll Feb. 2006

**Katrina Poll Feb. 2006**  
Katrina Poll Feb. 2006

## Teacher Probed Over Bush Remarks

AURORA, Colo., March 3, 2006



Overland High School students demonstrate March 2, 2006, in Aurora, Colo., to protest the school district's decision to put geography teacher Jay Bennish on administrative leave. (AP Photo/Aurora Daily Sun)

(CBS/AP) About 150 students at a suburban Denver high school walked out of class to protest a decision to put a teacher on administrative leave while the school investigates remarks he allegedly made in class about President Bush, including a comment that some people compare Mr. Bush to Adolf Hitler.

The protest came Thursday as administrators began investigating whether Overland High School teacher Jay Bennish violated a policy requiring balancing viewpoints in the classroom, Cherry Creek School District spokeswoman Tustin Amole said.

### FAST FACT

**A student recorded about 20 minutes of Bennish's class during a Feb. 1st discussion about President Bush's State of the Union speech and gave the recording to his father, who complained to the principal.**

"It was peaceful. The students yelled, but there was no fighting," Amole said. "Most of them did return to class."

The suspension, says Amole, is a paid leave and is "not a punitive situation... It just gives us the

opportunity to talk to him, to talk to students."

Overland High student Stacy Caruso says Bennish hasn't done anything wrong. "In the classroom," says Caruso, "everyone has their right to speak their opinion and he's not forcing any opinions on anyone."

Another student, Derek Belloni, tells CBS News Station KCNC-TV reporter Rick Sallinger that Bennish is out of line.

"He's supposed to be teaching geography," says Belloni, "and yet he's pushing a liberal agenda trying to convert kids to his side of the spectrum."

A telephone number listed for Bennish, who has been teaching social studies and American history at Overland since 2000, had been disconnected.

Sophomore Sean Allen recorded about 20 minutes of Bennish's class during a Feb. 1 discussion about President Bush's State of the Union speech and gave the recording to his father, who complained to the principal, Amole said.

"After listening to the tape, it's evident the comments in the class were inappropriate. There were not adequate opportunities for opposing points of view," she said.

The student who made the tape agrees.

"I've been his class four weeks," says Allen, "and I've never heard another side."

Deborah Fallin, spokeswoman for the Colorado Education Association, which represents about 37,000 union teachers, said it will not represent Bennish because he is not a member.

"He's terribly upset about the fact that he can't teach right now," says David Lane, an attorney who is now representing Bennish. "He's so upset and I am now his lawyer and we will be going to federal court."

©MMVI, CBS Broadcasting Inc. All Rights Reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. The Associated Press contributed to this report.

### INSIDE POLITICS



**Former Congressman Awaits Sentencing**  
Cunningham Asks For Less Than 10-Year Maximum Jail Term

- Key GOP Lawmaker Blasts Ports Deal
- Tight Security Greet Bush In Pakistan
- Tapes Show More Katrina Confusion
- More

### TOP STORIES



**Tight Security Greet Bush In Pakistan**  
Air Force One Lands At Pakistani Airbase After Dark With Lights Off

- 'Cell Phone Bandit' Gets 12 Years
- Tapes Show More Katrina Confusion
- U.S. Intel: Qaeda Plotting 'Big Bang'
- More

Advertisement



**LIVE VIDEO OF THE 2006 NCAA® DIVISION I MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP!**  
**DON'T WAIT - GET YOUR FREE VIP PASS NOW!**

Presented by COURTNEY COURTNEY IT'S A DOLL

CLICK HERE

## CBS NEWS VIDEO

Ready Fullscreen | Help

**Teacher's Bush Comments Probed**  
Students in Aurora, Colo., walked out of their classes yesterday, protesting over a teacher's right to express political opinions in class. Jay Bennish has been placed on leave.

### RELATED VIDEO

**Teacher's Bush Comments Probed** | E-Mail

### POLITICS VIDEOS ALL POLITICSVIDEOS

- Ex-FEMA Chief On Katrina Tapes** | E-Mail
- Report: Soviets Targeted Pope** | E-Mail
- Ex-FEMA Chief On Katrina Tape** | E-Mail
- Pakistan On Alert For Bush** | E-Mail

### TOP VIDEOS ALL VIDEOS

- 'Brokeback' Spoofs Just Jokes?** | E-Mail
- Pakistani Protests Greet Bush** | E-Mail
- Ex-FEMA Chief On Katrina Tapes** | E-Mail
- Supreme Court Class Photo** | E-Mail

More Video

Advertising Links | What's This?

**Econoclass**  
Free games, lesson plans, brain teasers, and other activities for economics teachers.  
www.econoclass.com

**Teaching Social Study**  
In 3 easy steps, create 40+ social studies games/activities using your input (or our 100,000+ database of numbers, words, diagrams and more). Unlimited use just \$3 a month. Free trial.  
www.teachingmadeeasier.com

**100% Online Teaching Degrees**  
Get ahead in life with a 100% online Teaching degree. Advance your career at your own pace. Request free information. Get started today.  
www.degrees-online.us



SEARCH

CBSNews.com  Videos  The Web

SEARCH

Powered by