

Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line

Board members blast class project; final 'testimony' to come

PARSIPPANY -- The war crimes "trial" of President Bush in a Parsippany High School classroom is expected to conclude today with additional defense testimony from the student playing Bush, but controversy over the project is continuing.

"It clearly crossed a line," school board member Frank Calabria said Monday of the mock tribunal, in which Bush is charged with "crimes against civilian populations" and "inhumane treatment of prisoners."

Calabria said he will be asking some questions -- "What occurred, how did it happen, why did it happen and exactly what are the ramifications" -- when the board meets on Thursday.

"We're polarizing people in an area that we shouldn't be," said Calabria, who is running for re-election in April.

Mayor Michael Luther also criticized the trial on Monday, saying it "breeds disrespect to accuse the commander-in-chief of being a war criminal."

"My initial reaction was, I didn't like it. I thought it was too emotional and not necessarily a proper exercise ... I was not comfortable with it," said Luther, a Democrat.

Luther thought the overall tone of the project was too rough, particularly given the involvement of high school students.

"It's a very emotional time for the country, in terms of the state of war," Luther said.

Teacher Joseph Kyle, whose advanced placement government and politics class researched the project and opened the trial Feb. 27, continued to stand by it.

"Everybody has an opinion. I don't agree," Kyle said in response to Luther's comments.

Nationwide reactions

Kyle, 37, an 8-year teacher at the high school, has been the subject of mostly critical but also some supportive feedback from across the nation since the mock tribunal was first reported in last Thursday's Daily Record.

In a format change announced by Interim Superintendent James Dwyer on Friday, the five-teacher "international court of justice" will not reach a verdict on Bush, and instead will prepare evaluations of student performances.

School board president Robert Perlett said Monday that a verdict would have detracted from the project.

"Guilty or not guilty, that's all people remember. There was much more to the project than that," Perlett said.

A meltdown

The teachers' union president, however, charged that administrators in the K-12 district were swayed by the firestorm into making the change.

"They just couldn't take the heat," said union president John Capsouras, who defended the class project.

Capsouras said that Kyle and his students, including two who appeared with him on Fox News on Sunday, "deserve a lot of credit for grace under fire."

Much of the reaction, pro and con, to Kyle and the mock tribunal has been from outside New Jersey. Calabria said he received e-mails from Texas, California and elsewhere.

Perlett said he expected that local residents will want to address the issue at Thursday's board meeting.

"There will be a reference to it, in all probability," Perlett said.

He said that neither Kyle, who received approval for the project in advance from principal Anthony Sciaino, nor the principal did anything wrong.

Back in class

Kyle, who said he didn't plan to attend the board meeting, said the trial would conclude today with further testimony from "Bush" and closing arguments.

The student standing in for the president, Xiaoyuan Jiang, was questioned on Monday by Preeti Shenoy, part of the four-student defense team, and Peter Chen, one of four prosecutors.

"I thought (Shenoy) did an excellent job of trying to make the case that the president has never condoned these actions," Kyle said of alleged abuses of prisoners by U.S. forces.

Bush testified after a series of defense witnesses, including Vice President Dick Cheney, U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez and former U.S. Envoy to Iraq Paul Bremer.

Prosecution witnesses last week included students standing in for Sen. John McCain and Hachemi Abdullah, an Iraqi man who allegedly lost several family members in a U.S. bombing raid.

Rob Jennings can be reached at (973) 428-6667 or robjennings@gannett.com.

[Baron Stein](#) writes: "FYI"

[Baron Stein](#)
(revolutionary)
03/07/06 04:16
PM

 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

Flag to: MarcusAurelius, wile, Heretic, HOUNDDAWG, BlondGermanNight, A_Bert, Aeryn_Sun, Mr_Kurtz, Liberty_Burning, rearguard, VictorP, GeorgeSalt, guenon68, DocLady, aerial, Emperor_Junior, Another1, BikerNina, ignition

Fredo, you're my older brother, and I love you. But don't ever take sides with anyone

against the Family again. Ever.

...It was Barzini all along

[Baron_Stein](#)
(revolutionary)
03/07/06 04:17
PM

 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

Flag to: ExiledInTaiwan, DamageInc, Gustav_Vasa, FreeToThink2005, natibrau, Hoosier_Patriot, grapple, SlackerSlayer, UsedToCould, angle, WestPacSailor, calrodin, Eddy, Sept, rottenjohnh, BlackJade, beowolf

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[Baron_Stein](#)
(revolutionary)
03/07/06 04:17
PM

 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

Flag to: Constantine, KingKangaroo, NOLAJBS, tgambill, rusalka, jjbrouwer

Fredo, you're my older brother, and I love you. But don't ever take sides with anyone against the Family again. Ever.

...It was Barzini all along

[cruster](#)
(radical)
03/07/06 04:20
PM

 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

Interesting story.

"It's a very emotional time for the country, in terms of the state of war," Luther said.

I submit that the US populace is nearing the limits of 'war weariness.' The edges are beginning to fray.

That's the trouble with precision sarcasm. Nobody gets it. -- Hoosier_Patriot

[Hayseed](#)

 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

(freedom
fighter)
03/07/06 04:20
PM



"Calabria said he will be asking some questions --"What occurred, how did it happen, why did it happen and exactly what are the ramifications"--when the board meets on Thursday.

"We're polarizing people in an area that we shouldn't be," said Calabria, who is running for re-election in April.

Mayor Michael Luther also criticized the trial on Monday, saying it "breeds disrespect to accuse the commander-in-chief of being a war criminal."

"My initial reaction was, I didn't like it. I thought it was too emotional and not necessarily a proper exercise ... I was not comfortable with it,"said Luther, a Democrat."

Damned kids haven't learned how to accept lies just yet,.

The mayor is especialy disgustingly a coward with his " not comfortable" statement.

Truth hurts and this reminds me of what exploded a different generation.

" THE POSSE " the only party of liberty

[Aeryn_Sun](#)
(Son of Liberty)
03/07/06 04:21
PM

 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

Congratulations to this class!!!!

(When I was in high school, I got stuck as Richard Nixon's defense attorney for his impeachment ... I won, though!)

[Whatever happened to the WTC HARD-DRIVE recoveries?](#)

[polperro](#)

 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

Quote:

Mayor Michael Luther also criticized the trial on Monday, saying it "breeds disrespect to accuse the commander-in-chief of being a war criminal."

Respect is not given, it is earned, or in Bush's case, lost.

Well they busted me for nothing
Cos they said I was insane
So they let my body go
But they locked away my brain

(extremist)
03/07/06 04:24
PM



[ThreeOfSeven](#)
(extremist)
03/07/06 04:29
PM

 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

I'm a little disappointed they won't be allowed to reach a verdict.

Chinese Saying - "When the Map is Unrolled, the Dagger is Revealed."

[GeorgeSalt](#)
(extremist)
03/07/06 04:32
PM



 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

Showing disrespect to the King is a serious offense.

"If he'd been in the military, he would have learned gun safety" -- Sen. Chuck Hagel

[Heretic](#)
(Son of Liberty)
03/07/06 04:32
PM



 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

Flag to: polperro, cruster, hayseed, baron_stein, eir

Thanks for the article and great responses across the board.

Quote:

Respect is not given, it is earned, or in Bush's case, lost.

A memorable quote.

Freedom of speech encompasses freedom to offend. The instant that any ideology is considered off-limits for critical examination and even ridicule, freedom of speech is dead.

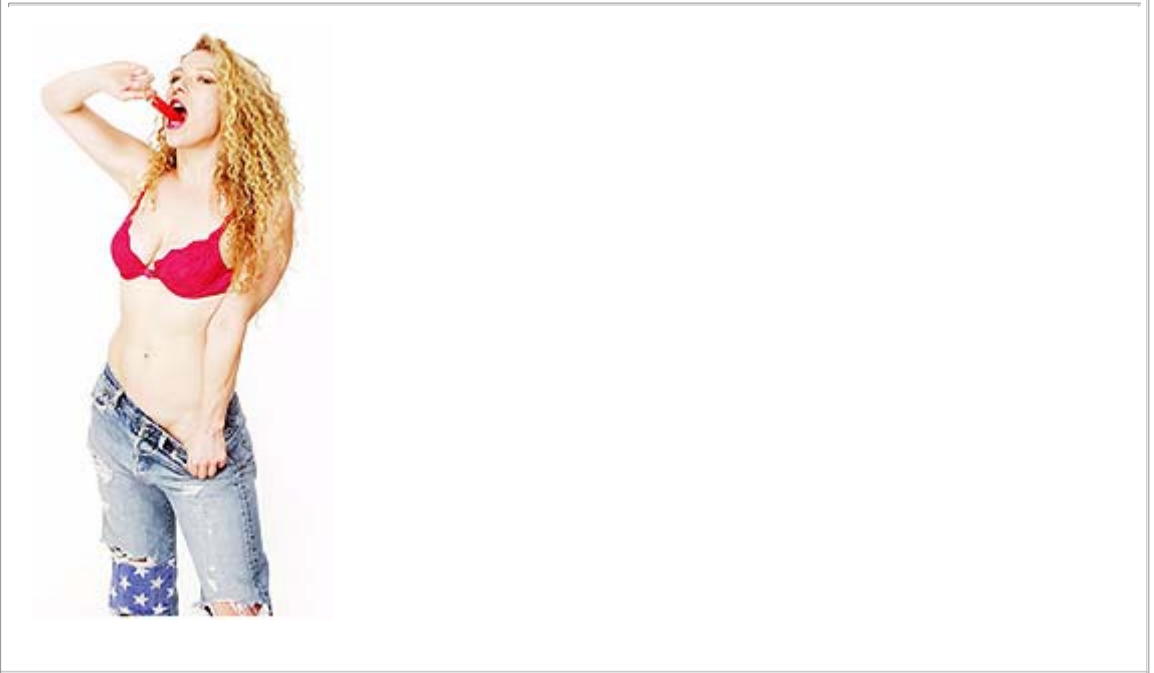
[outofstate](#)
(agent
provocateur)
03/07/06 04:49
PM

 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

Flag to: INRI, NOLAJBS, E_T, America, LeezaMarie, BlondGermanNight, JRadcliffe, PatrickHenry, D_Joyce, The_Skunk, dirtyharriet0, sushi_girl, Judson, ggekko, grizzle, ratcat, Glyndwr, Hayseed, hamzat, wadosy, Eichman



When they questioned the kid who played Bush, did the kid who played Cheney have to sit in his lap?



[Rhonda](#)

(insurgent)

03/07/06 04:54

PM



Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line

Quote:

it "breeds disrespect to accuse the commander-in-chief of being a war criminal."

haha, yeah.

The grounds are quite fertile, though.

Visit Auschwitz with a Jewish friend!

<http://www.vho.org/GB/c/DC/gcgvcole.html>

Watch this videoclip. It documents that the 'gas chambers' and camp tour are a hoax.

[hmsinflammable](#)

(agitator)

03/07/06 04:56

PM

Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line

it "breeds disrespect to accuse the commander-in-chief of being a war criminal."

Only when he is. Only when he is.

Nothing is settled until it comes out right - Clemenceau quoting Charles Sumner

[cruster](#)

(radical)

03/07/06 04:59

PM

Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line

Showing disrespect to the King is a serious offense.

And don't even think of commenting on his wardrobe.

That's the trouble with precision sarcasm. Nobody gets it. -- Hoosier_Patriot

[Rhonda](#)

(insurgent)

03/07/06 05:04

PM



🤪 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

They are all criminals.

Slightly off top, but this is a great little clip of that dick, Cheney:

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/video1018.htm>

Visit Auschwitz with a Jewish friend!

<http://www.vho.org/GB/c/DC/gcgvcole.html>

Watch this videoclip. It documents that the 'gas chambers' and camp tour are a hoax.

[GeorgeSalt](#)

(extremist)

03/07/06 05:21

PM



📖 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

Sniff Condi's glove!

["If he'd been in the military, he would have learned gun safety" -- Sen. Chuck Hagel](#)

[Baron_Stein](#)

(revolutionary)

03/07/06 05:35

PM

🚩 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

Flag to: ThreeOfSeven, GeorgeSalt, Hayseed, Liberty_Burning, Aeryn_Sun, Polperro, cruster, Rhonda, outofstate, Heretic, MarcusAurelius

Quote:

I'm a little disappointed they won't be allowed to reach a verdict.

Given the most recent generic poll on the congressional election, saying that voters favor Democrats over Republicans 53% to 39%, the verdict may come in the fall. For those not familiar with Parsippany, it is part of the 11th CD, represented by Republican R. Frelinghuysen. This is a red or pink, at least, district. As you may remember, during Presidential elections, polls taken of students have an excellent track record as a predictor of results.

As for the mayor, Luther, he should change his name as he brings dishonor to an illustrious name. He, a Democrat, is afraid of his own shadow whereas another Luther had the greatest power in the world calling for his death and didn't relent. A 'Luther' should be made of sterner stuff.

Fredo, you're my older brother, and I love you. But don't ever take sides with anyone against the Family again. Ever.

...It was Barzini all along

[sushi_girl](#)
(agent provocateur)
03/07/06 07:03 PM



📖 Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line

By not allowing a "verdict" should hopefully attract enough attention to wonder "why"!

[JRadcliffe](#)
(well of great wisdom)
03/07/06 07:30 PM



📖 Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line

Quote:

"It clearly crossed a line," school board member Frank Calabria said Monday of the mock tribunal, in which Bush is charged with "crimes against civilian populations" and "inhumane treatment of prisoners."

Who does he think he is deciding where the line is?

Quote:

Mayor Michael Luther also criticized the trial on Monday, saying it "breeds disrespect to accuse the commander-in-chief of being a war criminal."

Bush deserves to be disrespected, horse whipped, tried and then hung by his neck until dead. Anything less would be disrespectful to the people of this nation and to the people of Iraq.

Since Bush based his war on Iraq from a student's paper written years earlier, he should read the minutes of this trial in preparation for his own.

<http://100777.com/> A site for truthseekers.

[CubicleGuy](#)
(freedom fighter)
03/07/06 11:50 PM

📖 Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line

Quote:

"It clearly crossed a line," school board member Frank Calabria said Monday of the mock tribunal, in which Bush is charged with "crimes against civilian populations" and "inhumane treatment of prisoners."

Yes, I imagine that it crossed the line into "incontrovertably guilty" territory. We just can't have *that*, now can we?

[CubicleGuy](#)
(freedom fighter)
03/07/06 11:53 PM

📖 Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line

Quote:

I'm a little disappointed they won't be allowed to reach a verdict.

That's the reason people are unhappy: they know, without rendering a verdict, what the verdict must be. And subconsciously, at the very least, they recognize that it renders them guilty as well, for not having stopped it from happening.

[angle](#)
(extremist)
03/08/06 04:49
AM

 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

they know, without rendering a verdict, what the verdict must be

We aren't responsible for the acts of criminals. We are responsible to bring them to justice.

"Libby did not lie, commit perjury, and obstruct justice for no reason... the crime being covered up must be very serious indeed...the falsification of intelligence in order to deceive..."

[angle](#)
(extremist)
03/08/06 07:24
AM

 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

Check it out [Board of Education email addresses](#)

Board meeting tomorrow.

"Libby did not lie, commit perjury, and obstruct justice for no reason... the crime being covered up must be very serious indeed...the falsification of intelligence in order to deceive..."

[CubicleGuy](#)
(freedom
fighter)
03/08/06 08:49
AM

 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

Quote:

We aren't responsible for the acts of criminals.

Nevertheless, because the Congress refused to perform any kind of oversight function, the checks and balances supposedly built into the Constitution failed us, and they failed the Iraqis, and they failed the world.

The checks and balances are only as good as the men and women we elect to Congress who pledge to protect and defend that Constitution. The men and women of Congress therefore stand condemned, and we who elected them do as well.

[SonOfLiberty](#)
(well of great
wisdom)
03/08/06 08:52
AM

 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

Quote:

The checks and balances are only as good as the men and women we elect to Congress who pledge to protect and defend that Constitution. The men



and women of Congress therefore stand condemned, and we who elected them do as well.

Placing your trust in a man who is a liar but hasn't revealed himself as a liar to you yet, but rather has posed as an honest man, does not levy his sin upon you when he commits it.

Whoa

[CubicleGuy](#)
(freedom fighter)
03/08/06 09:04 AM

📖 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

It remains to be seen, now that the liars stand exposed for all to see, whether or not we will hold them responsible. If I have to bet on it, sadly, a winning bet is probably going to force me to bet on "no".

[The_Almighty](#)
(agent provocateur)
03/08/06 09:08 AM

📖 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

the more political expression the better. if i were bush i wouldnt worry abt this. he has a repub congress so why should he worry unless he thinks theyll pull another '74 & shoot their own man

think of yourself as god. subjectivism spiritualism outofbody advaita ancap christianscience bigfoot bornagain math sexuality comfortbears rabbits artbell mikesavage fnetcspln physicalimmortality

[SonOfLiberty](#)
(well of great wisdom)
03/08/06 09:18 AM

📖 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

We? Got a mouse in your pocket? 😊

Even if you held them responsible, they'd still not be held responsible, if you get my drift. You can vote till the cows come home, and they'll still be in office, even in the event the numbers didn't add up (thinking a bit Machiavellian here).

Whoa

[another1](#)
(rebel)
03/08/06 09:32 AM

📖 **Re: Parsippany officials say H.S. mock trial of Bush crossed line**

Thank you for the flag, Baron. These kids probably know far more about the subject than their parents.

In this world, you must be oh so smart or oh so pleasant. Well, for years I was smart. I recommend pleasant. And you may quote me. - Elwood P. Dowd