

November 16, 1973

Dear Mr. McCarthy:

I am writing to you in your capacity as chairman of the Drake School Board. I am among those American writers whose books have been destroyed in the now famous furnace of your school.

Certain members of your community have suggested that my work is evil. This is extraordinarily insulting to me. The news from Drake indicates to me that books and writers are very unreal to you people. I am writing this letter to let you know how real I am.

I want you to know, too, that my publisher and I have done absolutely nothing to exploit the disgusting news from Drake. We are not clapping each other on the back, crowing about all the books we will sell because of the news. We have declined to go on television, have written no fiery letters to editorial pages, have granted no lengthy interviews. We are angered and sickened and saddened. And no copies of this letter have been sent to anybody else. You now hold the only copy in your hands. It is a strictly private letter from me to the people of Drake, who have done so much to damage my reputation in the eyes of their children and then in the eyes of the world. Do you have the courage and ordinary decency to show this letter to the people, or will it, too, be consigned to the fires of your furnace?

I gather from what I read in the papers and hear on television that you imagine me, and some other writers, too, as being sort of ratlike people who enjoy making money from poisoning the minds of young people. I am in fact a large, strong person, fifty-one years old, who did a lot of farm work as a boy, who is good with tools. I have raised six children, three my own and three adopted. They have all turned out well. Two of them are farmers. I am a combat infantry veteran from World War II, and hold a Purple Heart. I have earned whatever I own by hard work. I have never been arrested or sued for anything. I am so much trusted with young people and by young people that I have served on the faculties of the University of Iowa, Harvard, and the City College of New York. Every year I receive at least a dozen invitations to be commencement speaker at colleges and high schools. My books are probably more widely used in schools than those of any other living American fiction writer.

Vonnegut Letter To School Board

Claudia Johnson



Vonnegut Letter To School Board:

Why Freedom Matters Daniel R. Katz, 2003-01-01 Why Freedom Matters celebrates freedom in over 100 speeches letters essays poems and songs all infused with the spirit of democracy Here are the voices of presidents and slaves founding fathers and hip hop artists suffragettes civil rights workers preachers labor leaders and baseball players Inspired by the Declaration of Independence the book is published in conjunction with The Declaration of Independence Road Trip a 3 1 2 year cross country educational tour of an extremely rare original hand printed copy of the Declaration The Declaration of Independence Road Trip s mission is to energize Americans by bringing our founding document to towns small and large across the country Like the document itself this compelling anthology reveals America s soul as it wrestles with questions of life liberty and the pursuit of happiness and strives to fulfill the ideals of Thomas Jefferson s words *Kurt Vonnegut's Crusade; or, How a Postmodern Harlequin Preached a New Kind of Humanism* Todd F. Davis, 2012-02-01 I ve worried some about why write books when presidents and senators and generals do not read them and the university experience taught me a very good reason you catch people before they become generals and senators and presidents and you poison their minds with humanity Encourage them to make a better world Kurt Vonnegut Kurt Vonnegut s desire to save the planet from environmental and military destruction to enact change by telling stories that both critique and embrace humanity sets him apart from many of the postmodern authors who rose to prominence during the 1960s and 1970s This new look at Vonnegut s oeuvre examines his insistence that writing is an act of good citizenship or an attempt at any rate to be a good citizen By exploring the moral and philosophical underpinnings of Vonnegut s work Todd F Davis demonstrates that over the course of his long career Vonnegut has created a new kind of humanism that not only bridges the modern and postmodern but also offers hope for the power and possibilities of story Davis highlights the ways Vonnegut deconstructs and demystifies the grand narratives of American culture while offering provisional narratives petites histoires that may serve as tools for daily living **Burning Books** Haig A. Bosmajian, 2006 This work provides a detailed account of book burning worldwide over the past 2000 years The book burners are identified along with the works they deliberately set aflame Provided by publisher *The American School Board Journal* William George Bruce, William Conrad Bruce, 1923 **The Compleat Motherfucker** Jim Dawson, 2011-05 How this vulgar slang became a cultural archetype and the subject of Supreme Court rulings [The Bill of Rights Journal](#) , 1981 **Stifled Laughter** Claudia Johnson, 2023-03-14 Pulitzer Prize Nominated Winner of the 1993 PEN Newman s Own First Amendment Award for Claudia Johnson s extraordinary efforts to restore banned literary classics from Florida classrooms Part memoir part courtroom drama and part primer for advocates fighting assaults on free speech Stifled Laughter is the story of one woman s efforts to restore literary classics to the classrooms of rural north Florida Updated with a new introduction Johnson s honest often hilarious first person account of censorship in its modern form provides valuable insight into why the books children read at school remains a controversial issue and why free speech in America remains a

precarious right Johnson fights tirelessly to keep texts like *Lysistrata* and *The Millers Tale* in Florida school textbooks regardless of a preacher's efforts to take them out. Readers are given a glimpse into the courtroom and all the drama, passion and hard work that follows. Johnson's writing is witty, emotional and humorous and it makes you want to jump in and fight censorship and book banning right alongside her. For anyone who has ever wondered just how far those who seek to ban books will go in limiting free expression, this book proves once again that the personal is political. At a time when book banning has reached new heights, parents and teachers, writers and readers will all benefit from Johnson's experience and be touched by her spirit and courage.

Humorists vs. Religion Iain Ellis, 2018-08-16. Critical humorists and religion are steeped in a long-standing cultural antagonism. This book recounts the dramatic skirmishes between religion, its dogma and edicts, political manifestations and the nature of faith, and the satire, parody, jokes and hyperbole of popular wits. The writings of Twain, Vonnegut, Mencklen and Hitchens are included along with the films of Monty Python, the cartoons of Charlie Hebdo, the animated television series *The Simpsons* and *South Park*, the comedy of George Carlin and Bill Maher, the music of Randy Newman and Pussy Riot, the performance monologue of Julia Sweeney and the magic of Penn Jillette.

Activities
Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, 1922 *A Teacher's Miscellany* Bernard E. Farber, 1990 *English Journal*, 1997

Michigan School Board Journal, 1981 **Onoma**, 2003 *Journal of Research and Development in Education*, 1975
Some numbers include the proceedings of various conferences on education held at the University of Georgia. **CM**, 1993

Engineering News, 1910 **Indiana Magazine of History**, 1958 **Public School Law** Martha M. McCarthy, Nelda H. Cambron-McCabe, 1992. A Comprehensive Treatment Of The Evolution And Current Status Of The Laws Governing Public Schools. Contains comprehensive coverage of students and teachers' rights. Discusses implications of legal mandates and provides guidelines for school. Presents material in a non-technical, non-threatening manner, avoids extensive use of legalese while still providing thorough documentation for further exploration of issues. Since WWII, lawmakers have significantly reshaped educational policy. Most school personnel are aware of the burgeoning litigation and legislation and some are familiar with the names of a few landmark Supreme Court decisions. Nonetheless, many teachers and administrators misunderstand the basic legal concepts that are being applied to educational questions. As a result, they are uncertain about the legality of the daily decisions they make to operate their schools. A bestseller by the topic authors in this subject, this book helps alleviate concerns voiced by educators. It addresses legal principles applicable to practitioners in a succinct but comprehensive manner. Topics with a direct impact on educators and students are explored: student classification, attendance, teachers' constitutional rights, church-state relations and much more.

Engineering News and American Contract Journal, 1910 **The Publishers Weekly**, 1977

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