

Re: Banned billboard -- Soviet Stalinist State of AmeriKKKa Censors Free Speech while erecting KGB--Homeland--Security--Apparatus

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.geo.meteorology/2004-07/0289.html>

From: Strabo (strabo_at_flashnet.com)

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Date: Mon, 19 Jul 2004 18:59:41 GMT

On Fri, 16 Jul 2004 13:54:06 GMT, Sonof Ravenson
<theskald@pacbell.net> wrote:

> *Psalm 110* wrote:

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>

>> *POLITICAL WATCH*

>> *Banned billboard*

>> *Thursday, July 15, 2004*

>> *San Francisco Chronicle*

>> *Chronicle Sections*

>>

>> *News flash: Project Billboard, a group of Bay Area women started by*

>> *chef Alice Waters, thought it had a deal to display an anti-war*

>> *message in Times Square during the Republican National Convention in*

>> *September. But the billboard owner, a division of Clear Channel*

>> *Communications, abruptly decided the cartoonish bomb image on the*

>> *display would be inappropriate in New York City.*

>>

>> *Background: Since when has Clear Channel worried about propriety and*

>> *taste? This is the same media mega-company that owns local radio*

>> *station KNEW and put a huge billboard of Scott Peterson along Highway*

>> *101 (just as the jury was about to be selected) with the words "Man or*

>> *Monster?" in huge letters -- along with a toll-free number for a*

>> *call-in poll.*

>>

>> *Upshot: There are several disturbing aspects to this story. For one,*

>> *it is a sad commentary on the state of free speech in this country*

>> *when an anti-war message (with the words "Democracy is best taught by*

>> *example, not by war") is blocked because it includes an illustration*

>> *of a bomb. Also, it underscores the danger to dissenting voices when*

>> *one media company becomes too dominant. Fast-growing Clear Channel*

>> *owns or operates more than 1,200 radio stations, 39 television*

>> *stations and has 776,000 billboards worldwide. Clear Channel should*

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- >> *show its commitment to free expression by allowing the anti-war*
- >> *billboard, uncensored.*
- >
- >*Only the government can censor, Clear Channel isn't the government.*
- >*A private business refusing to publish something is merely exercising*
- >*it's right to publish what it chooses, a right guaranteed by the 1st*
- >*amendment to the US Constitution.*

A couple of points.

To be clear, the enumerated rights of the Constitution apply to individuals not a business or corporation.

Clear Channel is in a gray area of public accomodation similar to that of a business in a shopping mall. In this case the individual radio and TV stations and CC holds FCC licenses which gives the Feds certain latitude over speech and behavior by individuals using such a license.

The Feds have forced accomodation on political issues before and have censored licensees.

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