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as I see it;
trying not to
offend
those who will
disagree."

The truth as I see it™

Idaho Common Sense™



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When does dissent cross the line?

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The First Amendment of the Bill of Rights states "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." We can openly complain about our government. We can peacefully demonstrate against our government. But are there any limits to dissent? Is there a line we should not cross? Is there a point that dissent becomes un-American or even treasonous? In the last few weeks we have seen examples of both un-American behavior and potentially treasonous behavior.

MoveOn.org ran an advertisement in the New York Times calling General Petraeus "General Betray Us"? The New York Times violated their own advertising policy which states they will not allow any advertisements that are "attacks of a personal nature." "General Betray Us" is an obvious personal attack. Could MoveOn.org have explained their dissatisfaction with our government without stooping to personal attacks? If you son, daughter, father, mother, brother or sister were in Iraq would you see this as legitimate dissent or would you feel this is un-American behavior? Could we ask those who disagree with the war to give nothing but respect and admiration to our troops at the same time they are questioning our leaders? MoveOn.org needs to offer apologies to General Petraeus, the military, and our country. The New York Times needs to offer the same apologies.

Even more outrageous behavior came from Columbia University. Columbia president Lee C. Bollinger invited Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to speak at Columbia September 24, 2007. Is this appropriate? Is this a university

president with the fortitude to deal with very difficult issues willing to face criticism to do so? Or is this an arrogant university president thumbing his nose at his own country? Is this, as come claim, no different that President Nixon initiating discussions with China or President Reagan meeting with Nikolay Gorbachov? The president of Columbia invited the leader of a terrorist nation to speak on American soil while that leader is actively aiding and abetting terrorists murdering American soldiers. Hardly a good analogy with China and the Soviet Union. Has the president of Columbia achieved anything beyond giving Ahmadinejad a world forum for his propaganda under a veil of legitimacy?

The Columbia president was asked specifically about Adolf Hitler and stated that as long as we were not in a declared war with Germany Hitler would have been welcome at Columbia. This is the same university that refuses to allow ROTC on campus claiming they are discriminatory because they do not allow openly homosexual individuals in the military. This is the same university whose students stormed the stage when Minuteman leader James Gilchrist attempted to speak claiming the Minuteman organization is "a racist, armed militia who have declared open hunting season on immigrants." Now I am really confused. Our military's ROTC is unacceptable because they "discriminate". Minuteman is unacceptable because they are "racist". But Adolf Hitler and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad are acceptable? Adolf Hitler was known to be murdering Jewish people well before we declared war but he would be allowed on Columbia's campus as long as we had not formally declared war! Mahmoud Ahmadinejad claims the Holocaust never happened and actively supports terrorists who are murdering American soldiers. Two country's leaders, one

murdering Jews and the other assisting the murdering of Americans, are both acceptable to the president of Columbia University. Apparently murdering Jewish people is not as discriminatory as the ROTC is perceived to be! Apparently aiding the murdering of American soldiers is not as atrocious as the perceived racism of the Minuteman organization!

We are still at war in Iraq. Iran actively supports our enemies. Our soldiers are dying. Is the behavior of Columbia president Lee C. Bollinger legitimate dissent, un-American behavior, or treason? Our Constitution Article III, Section 3 reads "treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort." Can Iran be defined as an enemy of the United States? Ahmadinejad is supporting terrorists who murder American soldiers. That makes him an enemy of the United States. Columbia president Lee C. Bollinger gave Ahmadinejad a forum to speak to the world and gave him a veil of legitimacy with his invitation to Columbia. That is giving "aid and comfort" to the enemy. The president of Columbia University needs to be investigated to determine if he committed treason against the United States of America! And Mahmoud Ahmadinejad needs to be ordered out of this country except for legal access to the United Nations.

We have soldiers in Iraq who must read the un-American advertisement by MoveOn.org. And they must also read that Columbia University opened it doors to a man responsible for the deaths of their comrades. Our military deserves better support than this. Our country deserves better.

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