

BIG BROTHER'S BUTTERFLIES

by Professor Faber

As you may know, the “butterfly effect” is the belief that each action can cause a whirlwind of changes and problems, like a butterfly flapping its wings, eventually leading to a hurricane. Each action taken by the people in charge can lead to something else of ours being changed and altered into unrecognizable, malice-filled control. In this column, we will discuss how each of the changes and “progressive” steps taken could see more of your liberties stolen away from you.

Inviting Trouble

As you might have heard in the news recently, a child in a Colorado Springs “virtual classroom” (aka, his own house) happened to have a toygun in the vicinity of the camera, and his teacher just so happened to catch sight of it. The teacher dutifully reported it to the principal, and the police were instantly called on the family, with suspicion that the child had a “real firearm.” The kicker is that the toy itself was bright green, with an obvious orange tip and the words “Zombie Hunter” plastered on the side. Unlike the

jumping-the-gun (pun intended) school administration, the teacher had the forethought to contact the boy's mother, who confirmed that it was just a toy, but by that time, law enforcement had already been called. Not long after, they showed up and created a great deal of tension for a family and a child who had done nothing wrong.

This was a heinous act on the school's part. Not only was it a waste of busy police officers' time, but it was also a serious, unprovoked invasion of the family's privacy in their own home. Worse yet, this sort of behavior can and is likely to happen to more of us if this trend of rights-trampling continues. Don't get me wrong: Not all teachers and school administrators are so easily offended, unreasonable, or sensitive. I've known a whole lot of great teachers who are levelheaded and genuinely concerned with their students' education and trust parents to make sound judgments about the raising of their own children. The teacher in this situation stated she didn't think the gun was real, and I'm sure her intention was not to cause any kind of trouble. She was simply *following protocol in a system that is already faulty*. I've always felt

our education system is decaying, but this makes it even more evident. The fact that the school district informed the police before ever bothering to check with the parents is ridiculous. Schools now believe they are allowed and entitled to overstep the bounds of privacy and legality.

The second issue is the video-recording of a child, possibly without the parents' consent. The school's answer to this? A shoddy excuse that they weren't aware how the video chat service works. Funny, since most school-aged children can figure out Zoom these days. This answer is irresponsible at best. A tax-funded "educational institution" struggles with fairly simple technology? Okay, bummers. I've seen my own upper, middle-aged family and friends and my second- and fourth-grade cousins using these systems efficiently. If the school doesn't know how to use the technology, how can we trust them to properly educate our children with it?

And what about the financial burden here? Many schools are not providing computers or offering internet service refunds. They do not pay for the electricity needed to run those computers either, nor do they pay any property expenses. Rather, we pay steep property taxes to fund school buildings that are sitting dormant and unused for a good portion of the week.

Another issue is a blatant attack on parental authority and family privacy. I have heard many accounts from teachers who are angry that parents or even siblings are present during virtual classes, because those people have the audacity to be in their own homes during school hours. Why? What, exactly, are they trying to teach our kids that they must demand privacy that they aren't willing to give? It is appalling that the people who hide behind the seemingly innocent notion of education could be so biased and detestable that they don't want a child's legal guardians hearing the liberal propaganda they preach.

These seemingly isolated incidents paint a bigger, far more dangerous picture for the future of the American household. Recording video of anyone in their personal home, particularly minors, is both illegal and invasive; this must be kept in check. This literally opens the door not only to school district spies but also to the third-party video services who may have some insidious motive for looking into and scrutinizing our possessions, behavior, and family dynamic within our own private property.

What right does any institution have to invade our privacy and scrutinize everything about us, right down to the toys our children own? Remember, the public school system is government-run, so we can only reason that this is yet another underhanded attempt on their part to practice tyranny. The government is already doing everything it can to monitor and restrict our rightful freedom of movement under the thin veil of protection from a sickness. Now, parents are actively and naïvely letting them in to film and record footage of their children in their own private domiciles.

Virtual schooling may seem like a small problem right now, Some even wish to purport it as an alleged solution to an alleged pandemic. But it is far, far more than that, just more early fluttering that will lead to a windfall of trouble. Like inviting a vampire in, we're opening our doors to them, letting them see and hear everything we do in the comfort of our own bedrooms or living rooms, rendering ourselves vulnerable to government overreach or sinister stigmas or unfair judgments and harassment like the family with the Zombie Hunter toy faced. How much more leeway do they need before they decide to place their own cameras and microphones in your house under the guise of "safety and protection?"

About the Author

Professor Faber joined *The Oracle* due to his frustration with those in his community seemingly being unable to differentiate "protection" from control. While most others of his younger generation refuse to fight back against the tyrannical binds we've been forced into, Professor Faber refuses to sit still and stay quiet.