

# The Bizarre War That One Public Library Waged Against The First Amendment



Public libraries have long represented the freedom of information, providing a space for individuals to explore a wealth of knowledge and diverse perspectives. However, in a shocking turn of events, one public library found itself at the forefront of a bizarre war against the very principles it was designed to uphold - the First Amendment.

## Discovering the Hidden Agenda

It all started innocuously enough, with a routine visit to the library by concerned patrons. As they perused the shelves, something caught their eye - a noticeable absence of certain books and materials. Curiosity piqued, they delved deeper,

only to uncover a clandestine operation that sought to control the narrative and manipulate the access to information within the library's walls.



## Shut Up!: The Bizarre War that One Public Library Waged Against the First Amendment

by Megan Fox(Kindle Edition)

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Books discussing controversial topics were systematically removed or hidden away in remote corners, depriving library visitors of the opportunity to engage with diverse perspectives. Titles covering politics, social issues, and even historical events were deemed unfit for public consumption.

### The Suppression of Ideas

The library's attempt to suppress ideas based on personal bias and subjective opinions severely violated one of the fundamental principles of the First Amendment - the freedom of speech. While libraries have the responsibility to curate their collections, it is essential that they remain impartial and inclusive, providing the public with a broad range of viewpoints.

The act of cherry-picking only information that aligns with a specific agenda undermines the purpose of a public library and poses a threat to democratic values. People rely on libraries as unbiased sources of information, and the manipulation of this trusted source creates turmoil within the community.

## **The Battle for Intellectual Freedom**

News of the library's hidden agenda quickly spread, sparking outrage and leading to a public outcry. Advocacy groups, intellectuals, and concerned citizens rallied together to fight this assault on the First Amendment.

Legal experts were consulted, filing lawsuits against the library to compel transparency and accountability. The battle for intellectual freedom had begun. Public demonstrations, petitions, and town hall meetings were organized to bring attention to this disconcerting issue.

## **The Turning Point**

Under immense pressure, the library's board of directors was forced to confront the gravity of the situation. They hastily called a public hearing, where citizens were given the opportunity to express their concerns and demand change.

After a lengthy and emotionally charged debate, the board unanimously agreed to revoke the policies that had allowed the suppression of ideas within the library. An immediate plan of action was implemented to restore the diversity of viewpoints in the collections, ensuring that the library faithfully fulfilled its duty to the public.

## **A Lesson Learned, A Renewed Commitment**

The incident served as a painful reminder of the importance of vigilance and accountability, even within institutions that are meant to champion the principles of freedom, democracy, and equal access to information.

Public libraries are the cornerstone of intellectual freedom, serving as gateways to knowledge and fostering an informed society. It is crucial that we remain ever watchful to prevent the distortion and manipulation of information, ensuring that the first line of defense for the First Amendment remains steadfast and true.

This bizarre war waged against the principles of the First Amendment ultimately strengthened the resolve of individuals to protect their fundamental rights. It highlighted the fragility of the freedoms we often take for granted, motivating us to champion intellectual diversity and the unhindered pursuit of knowledge.

As we reflect on this extraordinary event, we are reminded that the fight for the First Amendment is an ongoing struggle, one that requires constant vigilance and commitment from all who value the power of ideas.



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What bad things could possibly be happening in your local public library? In SHUT UP! The Bizarre War that One Public Library Waged Against the First Amendment, citizen sleuths Megan Fox and Kevin DuJan expose the pattern of

censorship, intimidation, harassment, bullying, and retaliation that the Orland Park Public Library engaged in (with help from the American Library Association (ALA), the Orland Park Police, and the Village of Orland Park) to chill free speech, trample civil rights, destroy a safe space, stifle debate, and frighten away critics. This one wayward public library in the affluent Chicago suburbs had for years willfully covered up dangers to children and unreported crimes...and its staff and library board trustees used every dirty trick they could think of (including weaponizing the police and engaging in lawfare with a SLAPP suit) to silence parents and patrons who complained about sexual activity, a hostile work environment, and rampant spending waste in a spare-no-expense public building with all the bells and whistles (but little accountability for public employees who blatantly ignored Illinois state library and transparency laws). The library committed itself to shutting up Fox & DuJan at all costs, in what became a war of proxy between the lobbyists of the ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom and the rights of citizens to petition government bodies for change and redress of grievances. A public library that insisted men have a First Amendment right to sexually arouse themselves in a building full of children became obsessed with eradicating the public's First Amendment right to address and correct dangers to children in the one place that everyone always assumed was safe for kids: the local public library. This is the story of how a suburban Chicago scandal became so outrageous that it made national headlines (and even ended up on Saturday Night Live).



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