University of Massachusetts Amherst

From the SelectedWorks of Laura Quilter

September 25, 2014

From 'Banned in Boston' to Ethnic Studies in Arizona: Intellectual Freedom in America Today

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/laura_quilter/38/
from Banned in Boston to Ethnic Studies in Arizona

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM IN AMERICA TODAY
I READ
BANNED BOOKS
BANNED BOOKS WEEK
CELEBRATING THE FREEDOM TO READ – ala.org/bbooks
First Amendment to the United States Constitution

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.

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ratified 1789 - 1791
Anthony Comstock
New York Society for the Suppression of Vice
New England Watch & Ward Society
Jacobellis v. Ohio (1964)
modern censorship
PLUS ÇA CHANGE, PLUS C'EST LA MÊME CHOSE
Minarcini v. Strongsville Ohio (6th Cir. 1976)
student poetry
LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD
retold and illustrated by
TRINA SCHART HYMAN

Culver City, CA, 1990
Sund v. Wichita Falls
(ND Texas 2000)
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

MARK TWAIN
state of censorship today
FIVE CASE STUDIES
Internet access, 1996-...
ACLU v. Reno (1997) ... filtering
Salt Lake City, 2012-2013
“I’d recommend LITTLE BROTHER over pretty much any book I’ve read this year.”

NEIL GAIMAN,
author of SANDMAN and AMERICAN GODS

LITTLE BROTHER

CORY DOCTOROW

“A rousing tale of techno-geek rebellion.”

SCOTT WESTERFELD,
author of UGLIES, PRETTIES, and SPECIALS

Florida, 2014
take-home points
censorship = restricting access to information, by someone with authority
First Amendment

- state action
- content- and viewpoint-neutrality
- question: restrictions versus additions?
- question: marginal edges?
- question: libraries versus curriculum?
censorship

- of what
- for whom
- by whom
- tactics? reasons? circumstances?
of what?

GOD, GENITALS, GOVERNMENT (POWER/SOCIETY)
for whom? "vulnerable" & society at large

PROTECTING CIVIL SOCIETY, SOCIAL ORDER, PUBLIC MORALS
by whom? well-intentioned people
GOVERNMENT? PRIVATE? BUSINESS?