

Ashamed to be Pro-American?

We were disgusted to discover **the cruel way** some Americans treated a group of French children:

A group of French schoolchildren has been forced to cancel a summer exchange trip to America after being told that the students were no longer welcome because of anti-French sentiment following opposition to war in Iraq.

"Makes you feel ashamed to be pro-American!" commented one chap we know. He seemed to think that Americans visiting France would be treated better than the French schoolchildren would have been treated in America.

According to the Telegraph,

Their parents had each paid £900 for the trip, which was abruptly called off last month in an email sent by Court van Rooten, a French teacher at Springside School. He also cancelled the return trip to France due to be made by American students next year.

"It is with great regret that we have decided to suspend the exchange for this summer and the next," he wrote. "The main reason for this is that we do not feel that we can ensure a truly comfortable or hospitable stay for your students as the anti-French sentiment here in the US is very strong."

Since our friend was misled, we expect others might be too, so we thought we'd better provide **The World's Exclusive Translation**, for those of you not totally fluent in Weasel:

"It is with great glee that we have decided to suspend the exchange for this summer and the next. The main reason for this is that we are callous, spiteful, idiotarian losers who feel not the slightest compunction about using children to make a political point. Making Americans look bad is our raison d'être, and we don't care who gets hurt in the process. We're teaching those American bastards a lesson for their failure to understand that the sun shines out of every French arse."

But wait! We didn't need to translate: Mr van Rooten just could not

resist spelling it out himself. The Telegraph story continues:

Mr van Rooten added that he and his colleagues at Springside had experienced "unpleasant moments (from colleagues, friends, students – and even family) because of our allegiance to the French." To bolster his argument, he wrote: "A Pennsylvania senator has introduced a bill in the state legislature to ban the sale of all French alcohol in the state liquor stores."

[...]

Mr van Rooten added: "It is unfortunate when the world situation dictates what we do in our schools and with our students, but I know you understand that this difficult decision was made with the best interests and well-being of your students and chaperones in mind."

Mais *oui*, mon ami, whatever made you think we might doubt your ~~political motives~~ intentions? *Naturellement* nous don't think que vous êtes a slimy Anti-American **macaque capitulard bouffeur de fromage** who couldn't wait to make the children suffer in this way.

"The parents are frankly scandalised by this xenophobic view. We don't understand it. We have been friends with this school for many years and I am disappointed with their attitude and the fact that they cancelled the visit without any consultation or discussion and informed me in an email."

...which is exactly the result the dimwitted low-life of a teacher *wanted*.

Victorine Robin, whose son Pierre, 16, was among the exchange group, said: "It was to have been his first trip to the US and he was so excited he'd been talking about it non-stop since September. It's every young person's dream to go to America, and as he will be 17 in August it was also a birthday present.

"Now he's desperately disappointed. I find it a great pity that, because of adults and politics, these youngsters are being punished. They had nothing to do with the war, and it went over the heads of most of them, so why should they suffer this injustice?"

A very good question, Madame Robin. But we doubt Mr van Rooten will deign to explain why he chose to deprive those children of the American holiday that certainly would have been enjoyable.

Mon, 06/16/2003 - 06:28 | [permalink](#)

Prejudiced

Are you sure your interpretation is not prejudiced? What evidence is there that your interpretation is correct? Aren't you being a bit cynical?

by a reader on Mon, 06/16/2003 - 08:52 | [reply](#)

What more evidence do you wan...

What more evidence do you want than what was in the Telegraph article?

by a reader on Mon, 06/16/2003 - 08:54 | [reply](#)

Cynical

Come now -- do you really think those kids would enjoy A SCHOOL EXCHANGE trip?

by a reader on Mon, 06/16/2003 - 09:15 | [reply](#)

Translation?

It would be nice to know what "macaque capitulard bouffeur de fromage" means.

by [Chris](#) on Mon, 06/16/2003 - 10:05 | [reply](#)

Re: Cynical

When you have normal parents, and you've never heard of TCS, and you go to school every day, and you probably like school about as much as being around your parents anyway, a school exchange trip might be quite nice. And when you live in France, and its a trip to the USA, :-D

-- Elliot Temple

<http://curi.blogspot.com/>

by [Elliot Temple](#) on Mon, 06/16/2003 - 10:05 | [reply](#)

Discount translation services

The relevant cognate to *capitulard* is, to the surprise of all our Libertarian readers, not 'capitalist' but '**capitulate**'. *Fromage* (as every Canadian who has spent hours searching the fridge for items mistakenly placed upside down eventually learns) is **cheese**. And a *macaque* is a **macaque**, since we lack an Academy of the English Language to mandate a grauitously different term.

by [Kevin](#) on Mon, 06/16/2003 - 15:45 | [reply](#)

Mr van Rooten Replies on The World

That is – in another universe – the one in which [this](#) goes through.

by [Sarah Fitz-Claridge](#) on Tue, 06/17/2003 - 06:46 | [reply](#)

Sarah Fitz-Claridge

"That is ♦ in another universe ♦ the one in which this goes through."

Don't you think it will go through? You trust these bastards????
Anyone ever tell you you're naive?

by a reader on Tue, 06/17/2003 - 11:00 | [reply](#)

Mr van Rooten replies

"Everything on **The World** is a pack of lies. They're showing they're ignorance and xenophobia. Witch is not surprising when you consider their funded by the CIA, MI5, MI6, MI7 and the Bush/Blair Jewish conspiracy. If they were in my class I'd teach them better ideas. I wouldn't no how to make a political point and it gave me no pleasure to call off the trip.

The pleasure was in getting all that attention from the media. I'm in the papers! Have you seen me in the papers? Any other media outlets want to interview me?"

dvgbits bows

by [dvgbits](#) on Tue, 06/17/2003 - 11:41 | [reply](#)

Mr van Rooten's more likely reply

The article on **Setting The World To Rights** did not inspire confidence. Has there ever been a blog so misnamed? If the folks at **The World** think they are **setting the world to rights**, why don't they have the guts to include their bylines? What are they afraid of? The guy who wrote this article should check his facts before mouthing off about something and someone he knows nothing about.

by a reader on Tue, 06/17/2003 - 12:10 | [reply](#)