

CSS Episode Outline

Intro - 5 min

Welcome to the Chris Spangle Show, where we discuss life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is episode __ on August __, 2018. We are part of the We Are Libertarians Network and you can find all of our shows at WeAreLibertarians.com. While you are there, support independent media like our show by clicking the support button, especially as a Patron of We Are Libertarians.

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Main Headline Block - 15 min

Segment devoted to the biggest news story of the day.

Purdue students walk out of offensive Andy Gross comedy set during Boiler Gold Rush - <https://www.indystar.com/story/news/2018/08/19/purdue-students-walk-out-andy-gross-offensive-comedy-set-during-orientation-boiler-gold-rush/1036382002/>

Each year, Purdue University's annual Boiler Gold Rush event serves as a week-long introduction to campus for incoming freshman and a way for the newest Boilermakers to forge long-lasting bonds while learning their way around.

But this year, the event ended with thousands of students bonding together in opposition to a comedian accused of sexually harassing a student leader in front of more than 7,000 of her peers and the university vowing to never associate with him again.

An apology to Purdue: Andy Gross changes act, removes himself from college circuit after Purdue student walkout

"On Saturday night, a comedian performed as part of our BGR student orientation closing session," Purdue officials said in a statement provided to IndyStar. "Accounts differ as to what exactly happened on stage, but some portions of the performance were clearly inappropriate and contrary to the university's values of respect and support for all."

"We will not work with this comedian again and are proud of our students who are standing up and voicing their concerns about the performance."

The comedian referred to in the university statement is Andy Gross, a ventriloquist and illusionist known for his touring show and YouTube channel that has amassed millions of views.

Uncomfortable audience volunteer

Students in attendance, including freshman Andora Fess of San Francisco, said Gross' show was unfunny and distasteful throughout, but it took a troubling turn for the worse when he called a student up to the stage to serve as a volunteer.

"He brought up one of our supers, which is a leader in our BGR orientation program, and he proceeded to harass her," Fess explained. "He made her stand closer and closer to him and made a joke about that giving him an erection and making his pants seem to say 'let me out,' referring to his genitals."

Fess said Gross then made the student stand back-to-back with him, despite her apparent discomfort.

While standing back-to-back, Fess said Gross made the student touch his upper thigh, and made a joke about "at least getting a feel" after performing a magic trick.

"In the beginning it was disbelief and extreme discomfort. I know I was pretty angry and just in shock that this seemingly very famous person was treating women like this at a school, and he continue to make jokes at the expense of women ... he made a Matt Lauer joke," Fess said. "It was just very distasteful, and once he started doing that, people in the audience started to get up. He came into the crowd, and none of the women would volunteer, and he just kept making sexual jokes even as the crowd was leaving."

Fess said after Gross finished, a representative from the university took the stage and said the performance does not represent Purdue and its values. The Center for Advocacy, Response and Education at Purdue also released the following statement via Twitter.

"CARE was contacted earlier this evening regarding a performance during the BGR closing ceremony that was described as harassing and offensive. As a result, a CARE advocate responded to campus to offer support to students," said the statement. "If you were impacted by this evening's event and need to speak with someone, please remember that support is available 24/7."

Students also made a statement by creating the hashtag #AndyGrossisGross on social media. Just moments after the performance, students and others in attendance were spreading the word about Gross and asking the university to take action.

allisynsmith
@allisynsmith

If anyone saw the show at Purdue tonight, I hope that you can join me in boycotting Andy gross. We need to recognize sexual harassment for what it is and not let it go unpunished. No means no no matter where you are and who is watching.
#AndyGrossIsGross

Ryan
@rgrunsten
#BGR18 #andygrossisgross

Huge discomfort at Andy Gross's performance at BGR. Very uncomfortable sexual jokes, participants crying afterwards... Tears in audience as well. Many started walking out, eventually all did. TL's/supers are apologizing. "This isn't BGR, this isn't us."

pretty sure purdue students are willing to put our rivalry with iu on hold so that we can put all of our vengeful energy into ending andy gross's career #AndyGrossIsGross

— Leah (@lkline1998) August 19, 2018
Gross's Wikipedia page was also altered to include the incident, and the following paragraph was added to his bio Sunday.

"On the 18th of August, 2018, Andy Gross was invited to perform in front of a group of incoming freshman at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. During the course of the event, he engaged in questionable behavior on-stage that prompted several students to walk out during his performance. Said questionable jokes included 'sexually suggestive comments' with a female volunteer on-stage [4], as well as tricking her to grope his butt. Later in the show, he berated female audience members when they refused to participate, and despite this, continued with questionable humor. Self aware, he quipped 'You should call me the Matt Lauer of magic.' More than half of the audience left the theater before the end of the show."

Fess said Gross did not acknowledge or apologize for the offense during his performance. As of Sunday afternoon, he has not commented on the incident on social media.

IndyStar has reached out to Gross for comment.

Meanwhile, Fess said she is feeling even closer to her new campus family following the fallout.

"There was a real sense of pride honestly when everyone started to leave because it's kind of like we banded together as a freshman class already," she said. "The students showed what we stand for as a freshman class. Stand up when you see it and call it out when you see it because their time is up."

Jonathan Carter

@jjcart21

Seeing the Class of 2022 and BGR staff take a stand against Andy Gross's disgusting "performance" makes me proud to be a Boilermaker. Sexual harassment/assault is not a joke and will NEVER be tolerated. #AndyGrossIsGross

Linds †

@LindseyHopping

Proud to go to a University that stands for what they believe in. Boiler up. #AndyGrossIsGross

Andy Gross changes act, removes himself from college circuit after Purdue student walkout

- <https://www.indystar.com/story/news/2018/08/21/andy-gross-no-longer-perform-colleges-after-purdue-walkout/1049942002/>

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"Andy Gross is profoundly sorry that students at Purdue University were offended during his show this past weekend," the

weekend's act for many years without complaint, including in venues such as the Laugh Factory, the Comedy Store, the Improv and dozens of venues throughout the United States and abroad," the statement reads. "Andy has never before been accused of sexual misconduct or harassment. Andy was oblivious and naive about the current environment on college campuses, and he sincerely regrets causing any offense or discomfort to any student participating.

"Andy has chosen to no longer perform on college campuses in the future. Further, he plans to change the parts that upset Purdue's students. Again, Andy Gross sincerely regrets causing offense or discomfort."

VIDEO: Comedian Andy Gross is slammed for 'sexually harassing' a female student during a performance at Purdue University orientation by miming an erection and making her touch his upper thigh - <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6076545/Comedian-Andy-Gross-stirs-outrage-Purdue-University.html>

How it is supposed to go: <https://youtu.be/Z-lsq53CvnE?t=5m54s>

Why Some of the Most Famous Comedians Are Skipping College Campuses - <https://youtu.be/1kVdHr7sR0o>

Hate speech is not free speech,' insist college presidents - <https://www.campusreform.org/?ID=10313>

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How Humanity Won the War on Famine

<https://humanprogress.org/article.php?p=1459>

The greatest famine of all time occurred between 1958 and 1962, when the Chinese communist ruler Mao Zedong used brute force to nationalize his country’s farmland, causing between 23 and 55 million deaths in the process.

The “Great Leap Forward” was paradoxical for two reasons. First, historically speaking, famines were more likely to occur as a result of harvest failures that were precipitated by droughts or flooding, rather than violence. Second, food security has increased tremendously during the second half of the 20th century. The global average population-weighted food supply per person rose from 2,225 calories in 1961 to 2,882 calories in 2013. To put these figures in perspective, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends that moderately active adult men consume between 2,200 and 2,800 calories a day and moderately active women consume between 1,800 and 2,000 calories a day.

In sub-Saharan Africa, food supply rose from 2,004 calories in 1961 to 2,465 calories in 2013. Put differently, the world’s poorest region enjoys access to food that is roughly equivalent to that of the Portuguese in the early 1960s. In fact, scientists from the African Population and Health Research Center in Kenya estimate that in four out of 24 African countries surveyed, obesity prevalence among urban women exceeded 20 percent. It ranged between 10 percent and 19 percent in the other 20 countries.

What accounts for the growing access to food?

First, agricultural productivity has greatly improved due to more scientific methods of farming, access to plentiful and much improved fertilizers and pesticides, and new high-yield and disease-resistant plants. The main hero of this story was an American agronomist and the winner of the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize, Norman Borlaug. In the mid-20th century, Borlaug “worked with the governments of Mexico, India and Pakistan to introduce a combination of modern agricultural production techniques and his new high-yield wheat varieties. As a result, Mexico became a net exporter of wheat by 1963. Between 1965 and 1970, wheat yields nearly doubled in Pakistan and India, greatly improving the food security in the subcontinent. These collective increases in yield have been labelled the Green Revolution and Mr Borlaug is often credited with saving over a billion people from starvation.”

Second, the world has grown much richer and people can afford to buy more food. The average global income per person per day rose from \$3.7 in 1900 to \$35 in 2000 (both figures are in 2018 U.S. dollars). Third, food has become cheaper. The Food Price Index, compiled by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, shows that the inflation-adjusted price of food in 2017 was lower than what it was in 1961. Or, to take a longer view, the value of the Grilli and Yang Food Price Index has halved between 1906 and 2006. Fourth, improved transport and communications allow countries with plentiful harvests to sell or donate their agricultural surpluses to countries suffering from food shortages.

Fifth, the spread of democracy and a free press ensures that governments are more accountable and human rights abuses widely reported. As Amartya Sen, the winner of the 1998 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Science, noted, “No famine has ever taken place in the history of the world in a functioning democracy ... [because democratic governments] have to win elections and

face public criticism, and have strong incentive to undertake measures to avert famines and other catastrophes.”

Ethanol is terrible for health and the environment, but government keeps backing it

Source: Foundation for Economic Education

by Craig Eyermann

<https://fee.org/articles/ethanol-is-terrible-for-health-and-the-environment-but-government-keeps-backing-it/>

When the elected officials and bureaucrats who run a government want to stack the deck in favor of a politically connected special interest, they have three main ways that they can go about it:

They can subsidize the special interest, often using taxpayer cash.

They can penalize the competition of the special interest, often through tariffs.

They can mandate that people do business with the special interest.

In the case of ethanol in the United States, the federal government has employed all three measures over the years, frequently with bipartisan political support. Its subsidies keep afloat politically connected businesses that wouldn't otherwise be able to keep themselves in business. Its tariffs have kept consumers from being able to buy cheaper sources of ethanol on the global market. And its mandate to put an increasing amount of corn-based ethanol into fuel makes food more expensive.

The Daily Caller's Jason Hopkins reports on a new study from the Environmental Protection Agency:

Agency (EPA) determined that ethanol derived from corn and soybeans is causing serious harm to the environment. Water, soil and air quality were all found to be adversely affected by biofuel mandates.

“Evidence since enactment of [the Energy Independence and Security Act] suggests an increase in acreage planted with soybeans and corn, with strong indications from observed changes in land use that some of this increase is a consequence of increased biofuel production,” read a portion of the 159-page report.

The ethanol mandate has negatively effected water quality, with greater biofuel production resulting in more harmful algae blooms and hypoxia. While most algae is harmless to water, some forms —such as the kind produced in Lake Erie from biofuel feedstock —has emitted toxic chemicals into the water. This harmful algae can consume the oxygen in the water, a process known as hypoxia, killing other wildlife.

Increased irrigation—fueled by growing demand for ethanol—has also taken a toll on the ground, with the report finding “grassland-to-annual-crop conversion negatively impacts soil quality because it increases erosion and the loss of soil nutrients.”

Essentially, the study found that biofuel mandates are boosting production of corn and soybeans. Large-scale production of these crops is causing environmental degradation. The EPA also found that—at least in some instances—using ethanol in lieu of gasoline resulted in worse air emissions.

Trump vows “no concessions” to Turkey over US pastor
Source: BBC News [UK state media]

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-45254325>

“US President Donald Trump has insisted he will not back down in a standoff with Turkey over a detained US pastor. ‘I think it’s very sad what Turkey is doing,’ he said. ‘I think they’re making a terrible mistake. There will be no concessions.’ He said he had thought Turkey would release pastor Andrew Brunson after the US helped persuade Israel to free a detained Turkish citizen. Mr Brunson denies allegations he was in a plot against Turkey’s president. Mr Trump has imposed tariffs on imports of Turkish steel and aluminium in response to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s refusal to free Mr Brunson. The US president brushed aside concerns that the row between the two Nato allies could cause serious economic damage in Europe and emerging market economies.” (08/20/18)

Nabisco uncages its animal crackers after 116 years

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2018/08/21/nabisco-uncages-its-animal-crackers-after-116-years/989928002/>

The packaging of Barnum's Animals, a classic Nabisco snack, doesn't depict the exotic creatures in cages anymore. Instead, a zebra, an elephant, a lion, a giraffe and a gorilla are out roaming among grass and trees.

The change comes at the urging of animal-rights organization People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, who said that in April 2016 it pointed out to Nabisco's parent company, Mondelez International, that circuses often beat, shock, chain and whip animals to intimidate them into performing tricks. Other cruel practices include tearing baby animals away from their mothers and keeping animals in cages and chains, they said.

"The new box for Barnum's Animal Crackers perfectly reflects that our society no longer tolerates the caging and chaining of wild animals for circus shows," PETA executive vice president Tracy Reiman said. "PETA is celebrating this redesign, just as

we've celebrated the end of Ringling Bros. circus and the introduction of animal-circus bans across the U.S."

Ad or Promo Stop: Patreon - 2 min

Short break for ad or promo. Music bed underneath.

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We Are Libertarians Mailbag - 5 Min

Segment answering a listener questions. Play any voicemails.

Corrections, Thank Yous and Promos - 5 Min

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