



Classroom 15

How the Hoover FBI Censored the Dreams of Innocent Oregon Fourth Graders

Edited by Peter Laufer, Foreword by Ann Curry

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A collective work by investigative reporters showing how Hoover's FBI censored the dreams of innocent Oregon fourth graders

"It is a fascinating tale, all the more remarkable because it was written not by a single author but by a class of journalism students. The book will appeal to history buffs (not just professional historians but average readers interested in history). It will appeal to readers who like a mystery – who stopped the pen pal project and why? It will appeal to journalism students, who will learn how a story can be divided into parts for different writers and reassembled. I think it will appeal to readers who just like a good story. And for those, like me, who remember the McCarthy era it will bring back some chilling memories."—Roberta Ulrich, veteran *Oregonian* and United Press International journalist; author of *Empty Nets: Indians, Dams and the Columbia River*

A result of an investigative report by tenacious University of Oregon journalism students, *Classroom 15* tells the story of how the dreams of fourth-grade students at the Riverside School, Roseburg, in rural Oregon timber country, were crushed by the prevailing Red Scare, McCarthyism, state and societal censorship, and J. Edgar Hoover's FBI. The book is a remarkable example of experiential learning techniques and successes and is a prime tool to teach by specific example the pragmatic processes of student-conceptualized research, employment of the FOIA, and shoe-leather journalism.

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About the Author

Peter Laufer, PhD, holds the inaugural James Wallace Chair in Journalism at the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication where he was awarded the Marshall Prize for teaching innovation. A former and longtime global correspondent for NBC News, Laufer reports on borders, identities and migration. He has covered the requisite wars and earthquakes, coups and elections.

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