



- Home
- Live online
- News
- Community
- Sports
- Opinion
- Living
- Special coverage
- Photos
- Things to do
- Marketplace
- You tell us



The trick for your brain to learn a new language fast



Can't fall asleep and stay asleep?



The secret method the FBI uses to speak new languages

Advertising by:

CONCORD

Tattoo bully, victim on Dr. Phil

Lewd phrase was drawn on boy

By [Karen Langley](#) / [Monitor staff](#)

November 24, 2010

The Concord tattooing bully and bullied didn't quite come face-to-face yesterday when they appeared, parents in tow, on the nationally syndicated television show of Dr. Phil McGraw.

A court order prevented Blake Vannest, 18, from speaking directly with Zach Austin, 15, or his parents, explained McGraw, the self-help talk show host, and so Vannest spoke through McGraw to apologize for his part in tattooing a lewd phrase on the buttocks of the younger boy.

"I would like to apologize to Zach," Vannest said to McGraw as the Austins watched on television from another room. McGraw asked why.

"Because it's a ridiculous, stupid thing I did," Vannest said. "It was wrong. It shouldn't have happened."

The Concord families appeared yesterday on a segment devoted to bullies and their parents. Vannest and three other men were convicted of charges stemming from a May 10 incident when the police said they bullied Zach into letting them apply the tattoo.

Vannest said on the show that he was freed Nov. 11 after serving four months in jail. Ryan Fisk, Donald Wyman and Travis Johnston were also sentenced to jail time in connection with the event. The police said at the time that a 15-year-old could face charges in juvenile court.

In footage taped before the show, Michael and Tammy Austin described how they felt after hearing what their son had endured in the basement of a Concord home.

"When I heard about the tattoo, I felt just a rage that was inside of me," Michael Austin said. "And to be honest with you, if I had known where these kids lived at that time, I may have gone to their house and tattooed those guys."

article tools

- Email
- Comments (9)
- Share
- Print



A computer nerd's tip for fixing a slow computer



How to eliminate credit card debt in 2011



New scientific discovery fuels muscle building

Advertising provided by:



A computer nerd's tip for fixing a slow computer



How to eliminate credit card debt in 2011



New scientific discovery fuels muscle building

Advertising provided by:

Marketplace »

- CLASSIFIEDS
- JOBS
- AUTOS
- REAL ESTATE

1999 Ford F150 XLT - \$6995

Carlsons Motor Sales - Concord, NH

2002 Chevrolet TrailBlazer - \$7603

Benson Auto - Franklin, NH

[More Autos »](#)

Connect with us

- RSS
- Facebook
- Twitter
- YouTube
- You tell us



Customer service

Live Online »

Vermont knocks off New Hampshire 61-53

DURHAM, N.H. (AP) -- Joey Accaoui scored 13 points and...

AP HEADLINE 09:43 PM



"How could they do this to my son? Even once this tattoo is removed, he's still going to be the kid for the rest of his life that had the tattoo on his rear end."

Zach Austin described his response to the tattooing. "It kind of made me feel sick, and I felt really bad about myself," he said.

In her own pre-show interview, Patti Vannest, Blake's mother, said the tattooing had been a joke. She maintained that Zach had wanted the tattoo and said the news media had failed to tell the whole story.

"After this tattoo was done, Blake prepared it, put ointment on it and drove this boy back to school in my car," she said. "I find it hard to believe that if you're bullying somebody that you're going to give them a ride in your car."

During the show, McGraw challenged her claims and suggested she was portraying her son as the victim.

"Here's what we do know," McGraw said. "We do know this is a younger boy. We do know it was a 4-to-1 ratio, and these four boys took him to a basement, isolated somewhere. And is there any question that they in fact took a tattoo gun and wrote 'poop d---' on his rear end?"

"They did that," Patti Vannest said.

"Then what difference does it make what the peripheral circumstances about it are?" McGraw said.

Later, Patti Vannest said she felt pushed to defend her son in part because she had received death threats. Otherwise, she would focus on helping her family and the Austins, she said.

"If my life wasn't being threatened from people all over the country, I don't think I would be defending any of it," she said. "I don't think I would address it beyond what's going on in my house and what I could do to make their lives better."

She told McGraw she agreed her son should be punished for his crime, which she described as horrible and disgusting.

Finally, Blake Vannest appeared, saying he wanted to tell his side of the story. He said he did not deny doing anything wrong, but he said the story that was told about him was not truthful. [\(next page »\)](#)

Tagged: [Crime Law & Justice](#) [Education](#) [CONCORD \(NH\)](#) [Schools](#) [Crime](#)

[Email](#) [Comments \(9\)](#) [Share](#) [Print](#)

1 2 next › last »

Comments

Comment viewing options

Select your preferred way to display the comments and click "Save settings" to activate your changes.

Somebody...

By [BIODTL](#) - 11/24/2010 - 12:38 pm

...should tattoo 'Dr.' Phil. Right across that ugly dome of his.

What a joke that clown is. Every time I see his smarmy face on an ad or the cover of a book it makes my skin crawl.



[Log in](#)

1 dead in NH tractor-trailer-car crash in Milford

MILFORD, N.H. (AP) -- A female driver is dead and Route...

[AP](#) AP HEADLINE 06:06 PM



ConMonitorNews:

Attention Bristol residents: Drink up! Boil order lifted in Bristol [\(link\)](#)

[TWITTER](#) 04:51 PM

Boil order lifted in Bristol

Bristol residents no longer need to boil their water, the...

[NEWSBLOG](#) 04:48 PM



NHgov: News and

Events : Governor Lynch Orders Flags to Half-Staff on Friday : [\(link\)](#)

[TWITTER](#) 02:51 PM

[More Live Online »](#)

Sleep research leads to a simple snoring solution



The secret method the FBI uses to speak new languages



Shocking discovery for joint relief

Advertising provided by: [ARALifestyle.com](#)



Tags

[View all tags](#)

Popular »

[MOST READ](#) [MOST COMMENTED](#) [MOST EMAILED](#)

Most read content in the past 48 hours.

1. [Privatizing among prison ideas](#) (2,204)
2. [Prosecutors: Lessen Ponzi punishment](#) (2,188)
3. [Speak out now, property owners](#) (1,995)
4. [Shooting probe turns to vehicle](#) (1,669)
5. ['E-court' system proposed](#) (1,447)
6. [Farah sentenced to 15 years](#) (1,444)
7. [Senate votes to repeal evergreen law](#) (1,259)
8. [Will sun set on overnight parking ban?](#)



- Home
- Live online
- News
- Community
- Sports
- Opinion
- Living
- Special coverage
- Photos
- Things to do
- Marketplace
- You tell us



Need joint relief? Surprising natural solution



How to start living debt free in the new year



What Asian plants make hair stronger?

Advertising by: **ARA**lifestyle.com®

« first < previous 1 **2**

CONCORD

Tattoo bully, victim on Dr. Phil - page 2

Lewd phrase was drawn on boy

"The media took it and made it something it wasn't," Vannest said. "I got kicked out of my mom's house, kicked out of school. I don't see why the school threw me out."

McGraw asked Vannest if he knew Zach was younger and didn't have many friends. Vannest said he did.

"So did it occur to you he was doing this in order to get acceptance from you all?" McGraw said.

"Not until after the fact, no." Vannest said. "After it happened, yes."

Molly McKean, an attorney representing the Austins, said the family appeared on Dr. Phil to raise awareness of bullying and show that their son should not be ashamed that he was bullied.

"The more people that hear about bullying and talk about bullying, the more people might say something to their kid or notice something going on," McKean said.

McKean said the Austins are considering suing the Concord School District for negligence. She declined to say where Zach now attends school.

Jonathan Cohen, an attorney representing Vannest, said the segment was accurate and fair. But he said the case was too complex to be portrayed fully during the program.

"My impression is that this incident is a lot more complicated than can be fully reported in a half-hour segment," Cohen said. "Clearly the producers of the show have their own agenda and want to make the show interesting to their audience, but that's not a complete picture of the case."

He said more witnesses and more evidence was involved.

article tools

- Email
- Comments (9)
- Share
- Print



A computer nerd's tip for fixing a slow computer



How to eliminate credit card debt in 2011



New scientific discovery fuels muscle building

Advertising provided by: **ARA**lifestyle.com®



A computer nerd's tip for fixing a slow computer



How to eliminate credit card debt in 2011



New scientific discovery fuels muscle building

Advertising provided by: **ARA**lifestyle.com®

Marketplace »

- CLASSIFIEDS
- JOBS
- AUTOS
- REAL ESTATE

CORNER CUPBOARD: (8)ALAN JACKSON: PLATES W/FRAMES \$140 225-8911

CARPENTRY SERVICE: John Milliken, Carpentry Complete Remodeling, Building... (full ad)

[More Classifieds »](#)

Connect with us



RSS Facebook Twitter YouTube You tell us



Customer service

Live Online »

A month into winter, Easterners have had enough

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) --

ARAlifestyle.com®

(Karen Langley can be reached at 369-3316 or klangley@cmonitor.com.)

Tagged: [Crime Law & Justice](#) [Education](#) [CONCORD \(NH\)](#) [Schools](#) [Crime](#)

[Email](#) [Comments \(9\)](#) [Share](#) [Print](#)

« first < previous 1 **2**

Comments

Comment viewing options

Select your preferred way to display the comments and click "Save settings" to activate your changes.

Somebody...

By [BIODTL](#) - 11/24/2010 - 12:38 pm

...should tattoo 'Dr.' Phil. Right across that ugly dome of his.

What a joke that clown is. Every time I see his smarmy face on an ad or the cover of a book it makes my skin crawl.



Log in to vote

1

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments [report](#)

I'd be interested to read

By [reader123](#) - 11/24/2010 - 11:52 am

I'd be interested to read what Mr. Gene Connolly had to say. Dr. Phil said that it would be on the website but I couldn't find it anywhere. If anyone could help that would be great. Thanks.



Log in to vote

0

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments [report](#)

I'd like to see Phil, go the

By [Waltham Watch](#) - 11/24/2010 - 8:50 am

I'd like to see Phil, go the way of Oprah.



Log in to vote

2

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments [report](#)

You guys are missing the

By [saa1971](#) - 11/24/2010 - 8:49 am

You guys are missing the point. The article isn't about Dr Phil. It's about raising awareness for a very serious problem in our society. This boy did not deliberately "get tattooed" to go on the Dr Phil show. His family is trying to put their story out there so that we can all see that this is a real problem with young people.



Log in

Major cities up and down the...

[AP](#) AP HEADLINE 03:52 PM

Humphrey endorses Kimball

Former U.S. Senator Gordon Humphrey endorsed Jack Kimball...

[NEWSBLOG](#) 03:26 PM



nhdoti93: NH

TRAFFIC ALERT:

The Winter Travel Speed Advisory for I-93 has been lifted. Please drive safely.



TWITTER 02:54 PM



NHgov: News and

Events : New Hampshire Exports Up More Than 40% in 2010 : ([link](#))



TWITTER 02:35 PM

Rep assists convicted child rapist has reached 25 comments. Join the discussion.

[HOT TOPIC](#) 01:41 PM

[More Live Online »](#)



The secret method the FBI uses to speak new languages



Sleep research leads to a simple snoring solution



Shocking discovery for joint relief

Advertising provided by: [ARALifestyle.com](#)



Tags



[View all tags](#)

Popular »

[MOST READ](#) [MOST COMMENTED](#) [MOST EMAILED](#)

Most read content in the past 48 hours.

1. [Rep assists convicted child rapist](#) (4,316)
2. [Power plan has local connection](#) (2,663)
3. ['E-court' system proposed](#) (1,717)

 [Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments  [report](#)

to vote

5

Idiotic mom



By [Common Grind](#) - 11/24/2010 - 8:13 am

I suspect she only started receiving those death threats in response to her having arrogantly denied that what had happened was bullying, and belittled the victim. SHE was the only deserving victim in this case, and amply so. (Although I will say that she's perfect for the Dr. Phil show...)



[Log in](#)
to vote

5

 [Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments  [report](#)

no accountability

By [nhmadness2003](#) - 11/25/2010 - 5:57 am

classic case of denial...my son didnt do anything wrong,he shouldnt go to jail, blah blah.. of course had it been HER son who had something horrible like that happen to him, the shoe would have been on the other foot! Johnson's mommy did the same thing if you recall, blamed the victim. That in a nutshell is the problem with society today, no accountability for one's actions, it's always everyone elses fault when you make a bad decision...



[Log in](#)
to vote

0

 [Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments  [report](#)

This is just an entertainment television show

By [kraftypat](#) - 11/24/2010 - 4:34 am

When all is said and done, it is all about the money. This show is purely entertainment, which is how Dr. Phil makes his living and a very good living it is. He is not a psychiatrist. He is an entertainer. He does not have a license to practice psychiatry in Texas or in California. In fact, he was brought up on ethics charges in Texas in a case that involved his employment of a client who had gone to him for counseling and had gotten sexually involved with him.



[Log in](#)
to vote

4

For more info do a search for

<http://jonathanturley.org/2008/01/21/the-dr-phil-defense-if-it-was-frien...>

People willingly participate in his television show, but they are not receiving any professional therapy. It is strictly entertainment. Whether they receive anything in exchange for their appearance or not, I do not know. He bought a home for 29 + million dollars, so he is making plenty of money out of it. Is it exploitation? Perhaps. He does have a history of less than stellar business practices.

Pat Kraft

 [Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments  [report](#)

and this is why the internet is a dangerous place

By [nhmadness2003](#) - 11/26/2010 - 5:04 am

hey Pat, he never was a psychiatrist... he's a psychologist. He graduated with a PHD in psychology from the Univ of Texas. he also held a valid license to practice until 2006, when he officially retired. The link you posted above has to do with him trying to help Britney Spears, lol... the Texas case you refer to has nothing to do with sex, the Board investigated that and nothing was brought against Dr Phil regarding innapropriate contact. He was reprimanded for HIRING a former patient to do part time work, and he never had his psychology license suspended. If your going to try and make a point, better make sure your actually posting the correct info. Now having said all that, I do not particularly like the guy or his show, but I don't think I'd be slandering him either



[Log in](#)
to vote

0

4. **Farah sentenced to 15 years** (1,659)
5. **Bill pares back adequate education** (1,615)
6. **E. Paul Tournant** (1,576)
7. **Face it, liberals - you lost!** (1,519)
8. **Senate votes to repeal evergreen law** (1,413)
9. **Company admits to ammonia dump** (1,289)
10. **Panel: Direct AG to join lawsuit** (1,019)

[More Popular »](#)

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments [report](#)

Anything

By [Jirdex77](#) - 11/24/2010 - 11:13 am

... for one's "15 minutes of fame", huh? As a "leading edge baby boomer" it's been fascinating to observe over time peoples' growing obsession with "being seen", being on television, etc. So we have the multitude of idiots ho get caught for committing crimes because they just couldn't resist posting their acts on FaceBokk or whatever.

Superficiality Reigns!

[Login](#) or [register](#) to post comments [report](#)



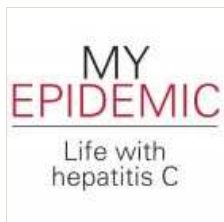
[Log in to vote](#)

0

Don't miss this



2010 Photos of the year



My Epidemic



Green Guide NH



Real Estate Monitor

[NH Tattoo Removal](#) Yes, you CAN afford to let health professionals remove your tattoo. www.PinewoodLaser.com/New
[Stop Your Bully Boss Cold](#) What They Don't Want You To Know Get Relief With Our Exclusive Tips! www.Unde
[University of Phoenix®](#) Online and On-Campus Programs Earn Your Degree! Learn More. Phoenix.edu



Ads by Google

Live online »

Our blogs
 Web Cams
 Twitter / Facebook etc.
 Online polls
 RSS feeds

News »

Local & state
 Politics
 Nation & world
 Work & business
 Cops, courts & fires
 News blog
 Associated Press
 Archives
 In print
 Weather

Community »

Town-by-town
 Local headlines
 Obituaries
 Couples
 The Concord Insider

Sports »

High schools
 Professional
 College
 By sport
 Sports blog
 Submit to Sports

Opinion »

Editorials
 Letters
 Columns
 BlogsNH
 Submit your letter

Living »

Arts & entertainment
 Food
 Health
 Pets
 Travel & tourism

Special coverage »

Publications
 News topics
 Podcasts

Photos »

PhotoExtra (reprints)
 Photo Blog
 Multimedia
 Web Cams
 Pulitzer

Things to do »

Calendar
 Arts & entertainment
 Movies
 Travel & tourism

Marketplace »

Classifieds
 Corner Cupboard
 Yellow pages
 Dining deals
 Local books
 Photo reprints
 Cars
 Houses
 Jobs
 Place an ad
 Subscribe
 Public Notices

Advertise »

Classified Advertising
 Display Advertising
 Help Wanted
 Real Estate
 Online Advertising
 Preprints/Inserts
 Rates & specifications
 Print ad specifications
 Special sections and publications

Services »

Commercial printing
 Newspapers in Education

You tell us »

Submit News
 Submit Events
 Submit Wedding Announcement
 Birth announcements
 Submit Obituaries
 Letter to the editor
 Contact us

Customer service: [For readers](#) | [For advertisers](#) | [Market Power](#) | [Help and information](#) | [Get directions](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Place an ad](#) | [Newspapers in Education](#) | [Copyright policy](#)
[Privacy policies](#)