



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on April 5, 2019
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The Left's Flawed Cause Célèbres

You didn't need to see more than 60 seconds of the video to know what the narrative would be when "Native American elder" and "Vietnam veteran" Nathan Phillips confronted the boys of Covington Catholic High School, who had gathered at the Lincoln Memorial after attending the March for Life.

Backed by ranting Indian protesters, Phillips approached the boys, banged what appeared to be a ceremonial drum, and chanted in his unintelligible native tongue. The short video supposedly showed the boys, some of whom were wearing MAGA hats, taunting Phillips. According to the leftist spin, they were the villains; he was the victim.



Phillips was the perfect hero for the Evil White Man-Good Red Man narrative the Left would use to manufacture the latest moral panic. Because he is a "Native American," he is the rightful occupant of any space he chooses because his land "was stolen." Because he was an "elder," he was a wizened Indian sage. Not insignificantly, he was also a battle-tested former "recon ranger" in the Marines who had "served in Vietnam."

The Covington boys, on the other hand, were cast as "privileged" white racists who were also anti-abortion and Christian. Even the smile on the face of Nick Sandmann, the 16-year-old boy who stood nose-to-nose with Phillips in the video, was repeatedly described as a "smirk" in media accounts to fit the leftist narrative.

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And then the truth surfaced. A group called the Black Hebrew Israelites had shouted and yelled at the boys, the Indians, and passersby. The boys performed school chants to drown out the black radicals. Phillips ignored the real source of the trouble, the black radicals, and approached Sandmann, beating his drum.

Military records showed that Phillips was neither a "recon ranger" nor a Vietnam vet. He was a refrigerator repairman who never left the United States but was Absent Without Leave (AWOL) more than once.

Court records showed that Phillips was, many moons ago, a violent criminal who broke out of prison.

Full video showed that the boys did not shout racist epithets, or slogans such as "build the wall," or "it's not rape if you enjoy it." The Black Hebrew Israelites shouted "build the wall," and someone who did not go to Covington Catholic yelled the unconscionable rape remark.

Why did the media recklessly malign the Covington boys? In a very real sense, the boys were collateral



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damage. The establishment media loathes President Trump and his supporters. The boys — white, pro-life, and, again, wearing MAGA hats — were a target for the media to advance their anti-Trump narrative.

The Phillips-Sandmann story, the subject of two defamation lawsuits with more to come, is one of many from the Left that follow a remarkably consistent narrative with stock protagonists and antagonists. The protagonists are often “innocent” blacks, other minorities, or immigrants. The antagonists are often “racist” white men or cops who attack without provocation, and a “corrupt” criminal justice system that unjustly persecutes and convicts the “innocent” protagonists.

The false narrative might or might not involve race, but like Phillips, the protagonists in these elaborately staged dramas often have something in common. They are liars, phonies, and criminals. Going back almost 100 years, the Left has frequently adopted dangerous criminals and even convicted murderers as “victims” to advance its revolutionary goals.

Photo credit: Newscom

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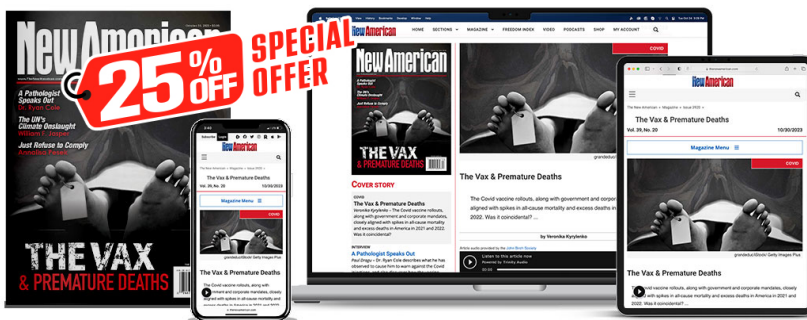
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