

Episode 710: Zuckerberg Strikes Again: Liberty Memes Punished for Straightforward anti-Hillary Meme

Guest: Liberty Memes Admin 2

WOODS: All right, listen. We've got some stuff to talk about. Of course the really interesting thing is that image that got you guys into some trouble, but let's save that juicy part for a little bit later, and why don't you start by telling me about your page and how long you've been doing it, and maybe how often do you produce new material?

ADMIN 2: Well, about the page and about my page, I can't really say that it's mine, because I'm Admin 2 of a set a Admin 1. That would be my older brother, so I'll get in trouble if I claim that it's mine. But back in — well, going back all the way to 2007, my brother and I were both really heavily involved in Ron Paul's presidential campaigns, both of them. And there was an instance at the 2012 convention, where, I guess we'd call her Joan the Silencer, or whatever we called her, put a piece of paper in front of a delegate's microphone so that he wouldn't speak. And my brother said, this is great; we should make a viral picture out of this. We didn't even think of the word "memes" at the time. And so he posted that, and suddenly it was just on fire, all over the place. We were putting different words to it and different jokes to it. And at the same time, there was the Hostess situation, where they were going bankrupt, so I had her stealing the last box of Twinkies. Lots of fun stuff. And I looked at him, and I said, you know, we should probably make a page and call it Liberty Memes. And so we did, and that's how we got our start back in, probably finally got it done in 2013. We waited a few months.

WOODS: All right, so I'm looking at that page right now, and you're just under 137,000 likes, which is a pretty good number for a page, especially given how hardcore you guys are. Now, how often are you producing these memes?

ADMIN 2: Well, we don't produce all of them on our own. Fortunately, once you get to the size that we're at, you can ask your friends, hey, post a few memes, and you kind of look at their favorites and you post those as well. But no, we make our own a few times a day, and if they're no good we just don't post them, because we peer review them.

WOODS: Okay.

ADMIN 2: [inaudible]

WOODS: Right, right.

ADMIN 2: But we post all the time. I mean, I don't think there's a time of day that's off limits for us.

WOODS: But is it fun, or is it a lot of pressure to produce?

ADMIN 2: It's funny. I remember — and now this is a paraphrase — Ron Paul once told me if you're not having fun doing it, you probably shouldn't do it. And I love doing it. I think it's a lot of fun. And there's really no pressure. If something doesn't take off, it doesn't take off. It doesn't take anything out of my pocket. I have unlimited data on my phone plan, so I'm not really worried about spending money posting memes. I have a job; it doesn't take any time out of my day to just kind of look for a good meme to post and throw it up there. So it's not really that difficult. The difficult thing is there's kind of a battle between Admin 1 and Admin 2, and the battle is, should we really care about what the audience thinks or should we just post these pure, libertarian, basically anarchist memes constantly.

WOODS: All right, where do you come down on that?

ADMIN 2: Yeah, I mean, I try to be more sensitive, because he loves to do kind of purges of groups of people that might have shown up because of this meme or that. So for example -

WOODS: All right, I've got to book Admin 1 for the show then.

ADMIN 2: Well, eventually, yeah. No, I mean, I try to be more sensitive — I don't take any of this stuff down; I don't really care. And I post a lot of this stuff myself. But he likes to, for example, go after the police state more often than I do. It's just more often; it's not that — so he does that more often, and I say, you know, all these conservatives that just followed our page because we posted a Hillary meme, and he's like, yeah, let them leave. So it doesn't really bother me too much, but I just try to be a little more sensitive for a couple of days while we grow the audience. Then I like to hit them.

WOODS: Well, of course I'm going to link to your page, because I hope people who haven't liked it will go ahead and do so after they hear this episode, so it'll be TomWoods.com/710; we'll have the link there.

Now, it's great what you're doing, and a lot of times these memes do make people stop and think, and sometimes it could be that little switch that gets people to think differently, and this is all great. But I have to tell you, the reason I decided I would have you on wasn't just that; it had to do, of course, with what happened not too long ago when you posted something relating to Hillary Clinton.

And of course the context for this is the open secret that Mark Zuckerberg has left liberal political views and that Facebook has obviously been privileging left liberal political views. It's the usual thing; it's left liberal privilege. And incidentally, left liberal privilege so swamps white privilege. I mean, left liberals have intimidated everybody into agreeing with them on everything, because they don't want their careers ruined. Now that's privilege. My gosh, I wish I had that. I guess I'd wish I'd had that if I were a really terrible person, which I'm not, so I don't wish I had that. But anyway, tell us about what it was you got in trouble for. When I saw it, I absolutely could not believe that this had gotten you guys suspended.

ADMIN 2: Well, you know, actually this whole idea that they can intimidate everybody into doing what they want or saying things the way they want, it's actually social engineering, and Facebook has done just a spectacular job of this, where you're afraid to post something that might get you punished by Facebook, because you use Facebook for business networking; you use Facebook for your outreach to your friends or to your political groups. So you're afraid, you know, I won't be able to be in touch with my audience for a while if I do this, and so you don't say these things that you would naturally want to say. And that right there is social engineering and gets you to self sensor.

But going back to this meme, so we posted this completely inoffensive meme, just ridiculously inoffensive, just this, "Silly Americans, laws are for poor people." Picture of Hillary Clinton, just after the whole FBI situation. And it got taken down, and we got messages from Facebook saying "Please verify your account." I go to verify my account, and they say, "We removed this image you posted because it doesn't follow our community standards." Like, no clue what those are. And so then it goes on to say, "And we unpublished your page," and I don't know what that means because our page is still up. Maybe they took it down to scrub for further violations and then left it up, but then they suspended my personal Facebook account for 30 days.

Now, I wouldn't have been quite as upset about being suspended for 30 days if I hadn't just gotten off of another suspension for another ridiculous meme that had no real shock value whatsoever. So I was kind of upset about that, and I took to it — I guess I have an alternate account, is what I use when I am banned so that I can still use the page. And just decided that it was time to bring awareness to this issue of Facebook censoring people outright, especially when it was just these minorly — I can't even say minorly offensive. There's no offense to it whatsoever, except for the fact that it insults the queen.

WOODS: Well, before we get into the exact details, does anybody have any idea how many strikes before they're out?

ADMIN 2: No, I don't know, because I've been banned several times now. I had this one that got me banned; it was just a guy who says, "There's two things that Republicans hate." And it said, "Number one, Democrats, and number two" — no, it was, "Number one" — oh, sorry, I messed it up. It said, "Number one, Republicans hate being called racist. And number two, they hate black people." That got me banned.

WOODS: Okay, but that's an insult to Republicans, though. Doesn't that undercut your point?

ADMIN 2: Yeah, but it had the word "black people," and I guess you're not allowed to say that anymore unless you're I guess a Black Lives Matter Page? I don't know.

WOODS: Oh, that's very, very strange. Well, what was the Hillary Clinton one?

ADMIN 2: There was another Hillary Clinton one, but it also insulted Donald Trump, but the fact that it insulted Hillary Clinton was bad enough for them, I guess. It was just a, I guess, '50s image, black and white, of a little child with a fork next to a socket. And it says, "Hillary or Trump? Top socket or bottom socket?"

WOODS: And that got you in trouble?

ADMIN 2: And that got me in trouble. But that didn't actually garner a ban; what it garnered was a warning, and it said, "We took this post down because it promotes self harm."

WOODS: Oh my gosh. I mean, what, do they think they're dealing with six-year-olds? Maybe they are, frankly.

ADMIN 2: Well, it was a picture of a six-year-old, so you know, they're allowing younger kids on Facebook nowadays, so maybe kids would think, oh, if Hillary or Trump is elected I'd better electrocute myself. Which, I think is actually a good idea, but -

WOODS: Yeah, fair enough. But I want to review the one that most recently got you in trouble. So just paint that picture for me?

ADMIN 2: It's a picture of Hillary Clinton, one of her dignified, if you can call it that, pictures. She's all looking presidential and junk. And it says, "Silly Americans, laws are for poor people."

WOODS: Yeah, now, I mean, it seems to me, first of all, vastly worst things are said about all kinds of people on a constant basis on Facebook. Vastly worse, constantly. Even vastly worse about Hillary, probably. Maybe not in image form. Is it the images that bother them? I can't imagine. I mean, that was — what you just heard — I want to make sure everybody's getting this. That's the thing that got you in trouble (laughing).

ADMIN 2: Yeah, I mean —

WOODS: Everybody on Facebook was criticizing Hillary over this.

ADMIN 2: Yes, yes, and I think we were using the #toobigtojail —

WOODS: Yeah, that's a good one. That's a good one.

ADMIN 2: I don't know if everybody who was using #toobigtojail was getting their posts deleted. We have no way of knowing unless people come out of the word work and tell us. But there were other people who were, they would take that picture that got us deleted and use it as a comment on different people's pages, and those were getting taken down, so we weren't the only ones that had that particular picture removed by Facebook.

WOODS: All right, okay, fair enough, so it's not targeting you specifically, but -

ADMIN 2: Well, we were first.

WOODS: Right, well, you do deserve some credit for that.

ADMIN 2: Once they took us down for that little "violation," that they call it, then they proceeded to find that image elsewhere and take it down. So we actually posted a screengrab of their warning message to us that this had been taken down and that we're going to be suspended and this and that — we posted that, and that was also removed by Facebook as a violation.

WOODS: Ah, okay. Now, I wonder what would happen if you had some kind of meme about the fact that Hillary's been endorsed by the Communist Party, if that would get you in trouble. I'm just wondering, because obviously there are some anti-Hillary memes that survive. I mean, we see them on Facebook, so it can't just be - if they were just doing anything against Hillary gets banned it would be too obvious and they wouldn't do it.

ADMIN 2: No, I have an opinion on that. The one thing that all three of these memes that I've described to you so far today have in common is that they went viral very quickly. Viral to us would mean that they've got tens of thousands of likes and tens of thousands of shares and multiple millions of views, because Facebook does have metrics, and they do tell us where our memes are going, basically. And this one had millions of shares and views and likes and comments, so it was really going around. All three of them did. Those are the ones that got censored. So they were actually making a difference, I guess, or people liked them and they were against the queen. That's why they took them down.

WOODS: Well, you know, it's not by accident that I asked you that question about the Communist Party, because it seems highly unlikely that a meme that says that Donald Trump has been endorsed by the American Nazi Party would be taken down, but it seems much more likely that one pointing out the entirely factual point that Hillary was endorsed by the Communists would be taken down. I think there was just a news story recently about Trump and the Nazi Party, and it very oddly and quite unexpectedly left out the corresponding detail about Hillary and the Communists. I mean, I just wonder; I'm not necessarily saying you have to test this out for me. I'm just wondering. It seems like you could get away with more when it comes to Trump. And I say that as somebody who's not supporting Trump.

ADMIN 2: You know, nothing anti-Semitic or anything, but we do post a lot more of Joseph Stalin than we do Adolf Hitler. He killed a lot more Jews. So it just seems to me — I don't know if that would be a problem or not. There are definitely more offensive things out there. But for me the idea is, are people aware of this? Is the entire country sharing this image? Does everybody by dinner time know what that image said before they take it down? I mean, it seems to me that they're just afraid that little pages like Liberty Memes are becoming the new media and forming public opinion, and as soon as that happens they have to stop it. They've stopped it in its tracks. And it happens every single time.

WOODS: Well, leaving aside things you've gotten in trouble for, are there a few of these from over the time you've been doing it that you're especially proud of? That you say, boy, that one just nailed it, or that one is so unbelievably funny. What comes to mind?

ADMIN 2: You know, it's usually the ones that we make that we think are junk or that, like, nobody's going to share this, nobody's going to care about this. We don't even — we like to put a watermark — we don't believe that copying is theft or anything like that. I don't really believe in copyright. But we don't put a watermark on ones that we don't think are going to do well, and then suddenly those do really well. So we've had the one that says — the woman's reading the newspaper and it says, "FBI foils FBI terror plot!" And that one is our profile picture. Actually, we swapped out her face for Harambe at this point, just to be hilarious.

WOODS: Right.

ADMIN 2: But that's one. And there was also, there's a kid, he's got his fists clenched kind of successfully, and that's called "Success Kid"; that's the name of the meme. And he says, "Did not vote for lesser of two evils. Not responsible for evil."

WOODS: (laughing) I saw that one, okay.

ADMIN 2: That one's gone all over the place over the years, and we didn't watermark that one either, because we just didn't think it was going to be any kind of a big deal, but apparently lots of people liked it.

WOODS: Yeah, yeah, I can imagine that. So do you have any other, not necessarily war stories, but I don't know, maybe there were ones that you put up and everybody was offended by it, everybody hated them or everybody disagreed with you, and you were shocked at the liberty movement?

ADMIN 2: You know, I always wonder what page they're on. There are some people who say, "You must be new here." Like, they'll comment before we even say it. When someone gets offended, they'll just say, "Buddy, you must be new here, because if they haven't gotten to you yet, you've got to be new here," because we get pretty much to everybody's soft side or weak side eventually. We try to be purely libertarian, as purely as you can while participating in some nature in electoral politics. But we try

to keep it really just pure nonaggression principle. You can't do bad things to other people; you know, you have a right to life, liberty, and property. Just keep it completely Bastiatian.

And people are offended every once in a while. You say, you know, the police can't search you without a warrant, or they can't just throw you on the ground and start tasing you just because you were slightly resistant or whatever. And you post something like that, and it's just immediately defensive of the police state. And that's one that gets us a lot. There's a lot of defense of the police state nowadays, and sometimes people look at it as their — I guess they look at it as their duty, depending on their race, which side they should be on with the police argument, when I just look at it from a purely libertarian standpoint, that if you're going to have police at all, their job is not to mete out punishment.

WOODS: Yeah, I can see that. I remember a time not too long ago where I posted something about how I was driving home; I'm on a road that I've been on 8 million times; no one's ever on this road. I mean, no one is on this road. No one. It's like they made it for me to get back to my house. And I think I was going 45 in a 35, like something that, yeah, I shouldn't have been doing, but not so ridiculously outrageous, especially for a road nobody even knows exists.

ADMIN 2: You mean you shouldn't have been doing it if you didn't want to be detained.

WOODS: Yeah, yeah, exactly. Well, I mean, it wasn't like it was an unusual stop. I mean, nothing outrageous happened. But I thought I would just sort of make the guy think a little bit. I said, you know, I had been told by police officers in Topeka, where I lived at the time, that they are overwhelmed. There's more crime than they can possibly deal with. We had a home break-in; nothing was taken, but they were over there talking to me, and he was saying, yeah, we just don't have the personnel to do it. And I said, but yet you do have the personnel to monitor a street nobody uses to pull me over for doing something that was obviously never, ever under any scenario going to harm anybody. Don't you think that's a weird allocation of resources? I was getting him to think like an economist. Like if you were a for-profit company who wanted to satisfy consumers, there's no way you'd have a car here. It makes absolutely no sense. You'd be going out trying to solve those crimes your own people told me you don't have the people to solve. Of course you don't have the people to solve. You're sitting here on a road nobody knows exists to pull over a harmless person. Don't you see that that's a —?

ADMIN 2: That's —

WOODS: So anyway, but the point is I raised this to him, and every argument I made makes perfect sense. I put that on my own page, and I had people who had never commented on my page before, all of a sudden they want to weigh in on something, and it's to tell me that he's just doing his job. Like, all this low IQ kind of response. "He's just doing his job." Yeah, that's my point. Apparently his job is idiotic if it's got him sitting on that street.

ADMIN 2: You know, if only everybody in America could have it as nice as you did at that point, having your taxpayer funds going for everything they say they go for.

WOODS: Yeah.

ADMIN 2: You had your own road, you had your own cop.

WOODS: Yeah, that's — exactly. It was just for me (laughing). Just to make sure I'm doing the right thing. But my point is I had exactly the same experience, where I'd made a reference to the police that I thought was absolutely unobjectionable and certainly to so-called conservatives who are supposed to believe in inefficient government provision; they're supposed to believe in irrational allocation of resources. Here was a clearly irrational allocation of resources, and instead they were badgering me for, oh, you were speeding and you're trying to make an excuse and the police are doing their best and why are you criticizing him for doing his job. Well, why do you criticize some FDA hack for doing his job? Why are these people off limits? So it's interesting to hear that you've — I went into this because I just feel like it's interesting that you've had the same experience (laughing).

ADMIN 2: Oh yeah, definitely, and it's really unfortunate, because you think that the liberty movement is finally on board with liberty, and then something happens. Then you post something about the police, and it all falls apart and you've got to start over.

WOODS: But I think, in defense of liberty people, I bet in that case a lot of those people are people who followed because of some Hillary meme.

ADMIN 2: That tends to be the case — or an anti-Obama meme. But they don't like the ones that criticize Obama's foreign policy. And you gave a speech at Liberty Fest a few years ago; you said, you know, why do we hate Iran, and they're all talking about these bad things about Iran, and then the conservatives say, "And they threatened our Secretary of State" — that's Hillary Clinton. And you said, you know, the Iranians have every right to hate Hillary Clinton, for the same reasons we hate her.

WOODS: Yeah, I mean, I'm not advocating killing anybody, but I just - I was making the point that when Iran says nasty things about Hillary Clinton, they get all up in arms. But wait a minute. Don't you understand that there's a reason the rest of the world might dislike here and for the same reasons that you dislike her? I don't know, it's like a plug that's not in the socket or something. I don't know how to account for this.

ADMIN 2: Well, that's the thing. I made an Obama meme right after the bombing of that hospital in Afghanistan, and it's him giving I guess a press conference, and it says, "You've got to understand, I killed Osama bin Laden. The military bombed that hospital."

WOODS: Yeah, exactly, exactly.

ADMIN 2: And you say something like that, and for some reason they still hate you. I'm

WOODS: No, I know, I know –

ADMIN 2: — criticizing Obama and still hate me.

WOODS: Yeah.

ADMIN 2: So I don't understand.

WOODS: Yeah, I know; I know; I know. But on the other hand, you've planted a seed in that head, and that helps. All right, before I let you go i want to make sure that I've given you the chance to say what you want to say about the page and what you've been up to. I do not want you to end and think, ah, why didn't I get to mention X and Y. So here's your chance to mention whatever X and Y are.

ADMIN 2: Yeah, so, you know, a lot of times people are offended by the things that we post, but we try to warn them, when you're on this page, you're going to get offended at least once. We try to get to everybody at least once a week, so nobody should feel left out. But during this interview, I did want to make sure that I mention that Ron Paul was definitely our inspiration to libertarianism and the reason we do this and the reason we do it kind of in a joking way, because he has said on multiple occasions that you should have fun promoting liberty. And I can't think of a more fun way for myself to do it than by making silly memes that mock the government.

WOODS: Well, and again, I think it's great, because you're doing the sort of thing that a lot of people say we should do more of. In fact, one of those people is me, that it's great to write books, but how about getting something right in the face of somebody who will never, ever read your book, but it's right in the face; it takes one second to comprehend. It's ideal, really. And it can help clarify people's thinking; it can provoke discussion. I mean, it's not a small thing you're doing. It actually really, really helps get people thinking differently, because, yeah, you are going to criticize Obama, and then you're going to also criticize his foreign policy. Or you're going to criticize the inefficiency of government, and then you're going to criticize the police, which is part of government. So it confronts people with their own inconsistencies, and I think that's fun and healthy and worthwhile.

So the page is Liberty Memes. I'm going to link to it at TomWoods.com/710. If by some incredible oversight somebody decides not to visit the show notes page for this episode — which, I can't imagine that they wouldn't — but supposed that they didn't. Is there a direct Facebook .com link that can take them right to your page?

ADMIN 2: Yeah, if you go on to Facebook and look for LibertyMemesPage — now they have the @ symbol just like Twitter, so you go @LibertyMemesPage, will pull it up, because I think there are a couple other — there's a kid who lived in Liberty, Ohio, and

he made a Liberty Memes page, and so that's, like, 20 memes of his high school, and there's another Liberty Memes page that's actually for Liberty University.

WOODS: Ah, okay, so the actual Liberty Memes is you guys, but it'll be pretty obvious.

ADMIN 2: If you're looking for Liberty Memes, it should have a profile picture that says, "FBI foils FBI terror plot!"

WOODS: Yeah, I'm looking at it right now, and I think that's not going to be Liberty University or that little town of Liberty, so it'd be obvious it's yours (laughing). All right, Admin 2, so-called, I appreciate your time with us, and I sure hope people check out your page. Thanks so much for what you're doing.

ADMIN 2: You've got to get us some time in the evening so you can have Admin 1 on the phone.

WOODS: Yeah, one of these days we'll - especially if you get in trouble again, so you can aspire to that. I'd love to talk to Admin 1.

ADMIN 2: We'll do our best to get in trouble again —

WOODS: (laughing) All right.

ADMIN 2: We will do our best.

WOODS: All right, thanks again.

ADMIN 2: Take care.