



Pope John XXIII High School

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POPE JOHN HOSTS POLICE SERGEANT WHO BECAME NATIONAL FIGURE

Sgt. James Crowley, the Cambridge police officer whose arrest of a Harvard professor last summer became a national news story, spoke to students Friday at Pope John XXIII High School.

The sergeant, whose niece is a senior at the Everett school, was invited to talk to a journalism class about the intersection of the media and law enforcement.

During his hour-long visit, Sgt. Crowley answered questions from the students about various aspects of his job, but the focus was the mid-July incident involving Henry Louis Gates, which resulted in the Harvard professor being charged with disorderly conduct.

Though prohibited from discussing the specifics of the arrest, Sgt. Crowley recounted his surprise at suddenly becoming the subject of intense media scrutiny. He also told the students about his trip to the White House.

“President Obama couldn’t have been nicer,” said the 16-year law-enforcement veteran. “And seeing the looks on my kids’ faces as they met the president was the best part of the trip for me.”

Though bombarded with many offers to speak publicly since the event garnered national attention, Sgt. Crowley rejected them all -- including the chance to appear on Oprah Winfrey’s show -- until he accepted the invitation from Pope John.

The sergeant told students that he and Prof. Gates have been in contact since the White House meeting, and the two men hope to work together on a project that produces a positive outcome from something that began as a tense confrontation.

Most of the school’s student body attended the event, as did Everett police Chief Steven Mazzie. Before leaving, Sgt. Crowley was presented with a Tigers sweatshirt in appreciation for his visit to Pope John.

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