

# button-making /1/ trust betrayed

The button-making **privileges** of Mrs. Orlowski's fourth-grade class were **suspended** when **an estimated** 15 students **were found to have used** the button maker to create **inappropriate** buttons.

"These students **were trusted** with school **equipment**, and they **betrayed that trust**," said teacher Karen Orlowski, holding a pair of buttons **reading "Suck My Ass"** and "Farty Fart." "I **signed** this button maker out of the school **supply closet so that** the students could spend their lunch hour **creating fun, colorful** buttons for the **upcoming** student-council **elections**. **Instead, I return to find** this. Those buttons **were supposed to read** 'Robert K. For Treasurer' and 'Danny Carter For V.P.,' not 'Mrs. Yanofsky Has Big **Boobies**.' **Until** someone **comes forward with** the names of all the students **involved**, I am **forced to punish** everyone."

**At approximately** 1 p.m., Orlowski returned from lunch to find students **hurriedly gathering** the scissors and **scraps** of paper that **littered** the floor as well as the buttons. She said she **didn't think to inspect** the buttons **closely until she noticed** Lindsay Chao **wearing** a button **bearing** the image of Marie Curie with a beard **drawn onto** her face.

Chao, one of the few students willing to discuss **details of the incident**, said she **and** her classmates **started out** with **the best of intentions**. "We were **honestly** making buttons for the election for, like, a long time," Chao said, **offering up** four "Alyssa 4 Prez!!!" buttons as **proof**. "But then, Amanda made **this one that said** 'Justin Timberlake 4 President,' and it just **sort of went downhill from there**."

**According to** Chao, after this **breakthrough**, the buttons **became** more and more funny, **with each student trying** to **top** the last one. **Particularly** aggressive in their **efforts** to **push the envelope**, Chao said, were the boys. "The girls were doing a lot of buttons about **stuff they liked**, like The Backstreet Boys and horses," Chao said. "But then the boys started doing all these **mean, funny ones**, like 'Student Council **Sucks**' and 'Mr. Cecil Is Gay.' One boy made, **like**, 10 different buttons **calling** different people gay."