

Jr.: "The hateful and hurtful actions of bad people are wrong, but the silence of good people is wrong, too." Now, Inmate Joe is buying it. He concedes that the words describe him, standing around with his hands in his pockets, doing nothing. Inmate Joe realizes that his attitude is not in proper working order, just like Deputy Bob's broken watch. He resolves to fix his bad attitude.

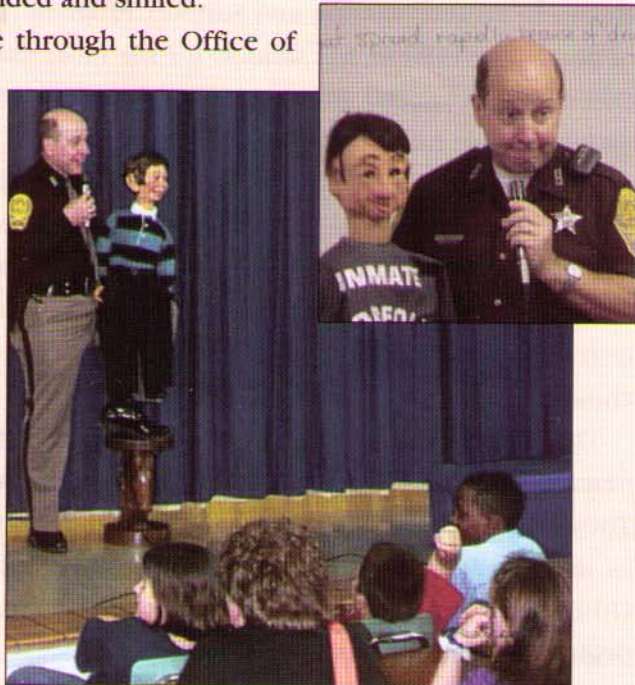
Hokey, but fun. And the kids, just like Inmate Joe, buy it.

After one show, a student asked me why I was looking at the dummy on-stage instead of him in the audience. Deputy Bob said, "It's polite when talking with another person to look them in the eye." The student nodded and smiled.

The community outreach, available through the Office of Norfolk Sheriff Bob McCabe, gives students a positive look at law enforcement and emphasizes the value of right choices, a value often omitted by movies and television. Each student receives a coloring book that reinforces the lesson.

"Choices with Deputy Bob" also plays in prisons. Talking about drugs, Inmate Joe is infamous for yelling out, "I do what I want, where I want, and any time I want." Inmates relate to this. But the words, coming from a dummy, can have a sobering influence.

Another scene, this at a prison: Deputy Bob and Deputy Matthew, wearing matching sheriff's deputy uniforms, are talking about picking up some autumn leaves. Matthew starts scratching a rash from poison ivy. He itches in places he never thought you could itch. As Deputy Bob highlights the various infected areas, one inmate laughs so hard he falls off his chair. Everyone laughs. "Things don't always look the same on the outside as they do on the inside," Deputy Bob says. Like drugs and alcohol. Like leaves and poison ivy. The audience gets serious. The point is understood: Focus on learning from your mistakes and not repeating them.



**Deputy Bob and his sidekicks teach young people to handle conflict without violence, to respect others, endorse kindness, and shun drugs.**

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