

[Professor Rod Carveth, faculty advisor to the Wood Word (Marywood's "student" newspaper) heard about the "Mohammed cartoon on Fagal's door controversy" and asked Sr. Margaret Gannon and Professor Fagal to write opposing "op-ed" editorials in the Wood Word. After Sr. Margaret stated [see bold paragraph below] that Professor Fagal was involved in a "personnel matter," and that legal issues were involved, Professor Fagal decided it was in his best interest to pursue the issue in another way and not, at this time, write an editorial.]

Sun, 26 Mar 2006 21:05:12 -
0500 (EST)

Subject: RE: An op-ed over the cartoon controversy
From: "Rod Carveth" <racarveth@es.marywood.edu [View Contact Details](#)
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To: "Gannon, Margaret" <gannon@es.marywood.edu
CC: fffagal@yahoo.com, awilliams@marywood.edu

Sister Margaret,

I am sorry that I did not make myself clearer in my post to you. I am Not asking you to reference your discussion with Dr. Fagal in any way. You were asked to write an op-ed on your position about the cartoon. Obviously, if you asked Dr. Fagal to take down the cartoons from his office door, you feel that if a particular form of speech causes more harm than good, then that form of speech should not be expressed. Your op-ed should talk about that perspective on speech, in the general context of the cartoon controversy (not the specific one related to Dr. Fagal).

The plan is for you to have your op-ed, Dr. Fagal to have his op-ed, And the Wood Word will have an op-ed dealing with the two positions. That's the plan.

If you don't contribute your op-ed, one of several things will happen.

1) You pass on the op-ed, but a suitable replacement for you will be Found (have any suggestions?). That person will write an op-ed, Dr. Fagal will write his op-ed, and the Wood Word will write its op-ed.

2) You pass on the op-ed and a suitable replacement for you can't be found. At that point, Dr. Fagal will write his op-ed and the Wood Word will write its op-ed. Because invitations were extended to you both, if either of you declined, the other would still have the opportunity to write the op-ed. If we were not to run the one person's op-ed because the other person refused, then the person who refused could effectively veto the speech opportunity of another person -- which is unfair.

3) You pass on the op-ed, but a suitable replacement for you will be found. That person will write an op-ed, Dr. Fagal will not write his op-ed, and the Wood Word will write its op-ed.

4) You pass on the op-ed, and a suitable replacement for you will not Be found. Dr. Fagal will not write his op-ed, but the Wood Word will Write its op-ed.

We're still hoping that you will contribute your op-ed. It's important that both sides are clearly articulated. For one thing, students have approached me in the last few days asking what is going on regarding the "cartoon thing". My questioning of them suggests that they are only getting bits and pieces of the story, and hence are forming misimpressions. The inclusion of the op-eds in the Wood Word will help

at least give the students get the right idea about the general issue – the possible limits of free speech.

In addition, when it comes to issues of importance to a community, the answer is more speech, not less.

We hope you reconsider. This can be accomplished without any personnel issue being compromised.

Rod

Rod,
In my conversation with Dr. Fagal, I was acting in my role as his immediate supervisor. Since this is a personnel matter, I cannot legally discuss the matter in any such a public forum as the paper.
Margaret

From: Rod Carveth
Reply To: racarveth@es.marywood.edu
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2006 10:22 PM
To: gannon@marywood.edu
Cc: awilliams@marywood.edu
Subject: An op-ed over the cartoon controversy

Sister Margaret,

The Wood Word is inviting you to write an op-ed for the next issue of the paper. The topic would be your position against the display of Muhammad that originally appeared in a Danish cartoon, and subsequently appeared in a plethora of media outlets.

As you know, beyond numerous protests across the world, the decision of whether or not to run the cartoon has resulted in a much-debated topic in the journalism world, including college newspapers. Just last week, Acton Gorton, managing editor of the Daily Illini, was fired for running the cartoons on the editorial page of the student newspaper. Reactions to the firing among college students and college media advisors has been split.

Your recent disagreement with Dr. Fagal shows that the controversy has now hit the Marywood campus. Rather than members of the Marywood community learning about the issues surrounding the controversy in bits and pieces, we are inviting you to present your position on the issue.

A similar invitation to write an op-ed has been extended to Dr. Fagal.

We hope you both accept because carefully crafted explanations of your positions (minus the ad hominem attacks that often characterize political, social and cultural discourse these days) will do a great service to the Marywood community.

Rod Carveth, Chair
Communication Arts Department