

April 26, 2007

To Marywood Students for Free Speech,

A ghastly horrific crime has been committed on Marywood University's campus and continues to be committed today. Freedom of speech, thought, and expression are being stifled to no end.

This crime specifically occurred to me several weeks ago. As I was walking through my dorm, I was assailed by several fellow students about the question of free speech on campus. I was asked whether I would prefer un-shackled freedom to say whatever I wanted or whether I would prefer limited "responsible" speech. I felt somewhat intimidated by the question. If I answered for "free speech," my opinion and thoughts would be valued. If I were to answer for "responsible speech" I would have been ridiculed as a commie or terrorist, both of which I am not. Due to this personal conundrum, I decided to abstain from voting and walked away, much to the scorn of the pollsters.

I honestly believe that this "club" is stifling free speech more than it is promoting it. In its quest for "The First Amendment" it has created an inherent paradox. Anyone who agrees with it is championed as a free thinking, individualistic, American. Anyone who disagrees with this "club's" premise is un-American and supportive of values that will lead to America's destruction.

By expressing "free speech" and arguing that this "club" that champions "free speech" is wrong, one is told that they are wrong and are not speaking freely and furthermore are hurting Marywood and America. What greater freedom of expression could exist than to argue that a group that promotes free speech is in itself not guaranteeing the freedom for students to speak against this group?

The "survey" conducted by this "club" is ludicrous. What student in their right mind would disagree with "free speech" without fear of retribution? The whole survey appears to be huge loaded question.

Freedom of Speech will only exist when we realize that we already have it. A purposeless war is being fought that was already won by the blood of Americans over two-hundred years ago.

Was it a violation of the First Amendment for the offensive Danish cartoons to be removed from a faculty member's door after his boss told him to do so? Consider this:

In the military, which is filled with the men and women who protect our freedom of speech, it can be argued that freedom of speech does not exist. A private cannot question a superior officer's decision or express his free opinion's to an officer. If a private asks "sir, permission to speak freely?" and his officer grants the request, only then can a private say what is on his mind. A chain of command exists.

If that soldier shot his mouth off, he could cause serious damage to his unit. The officer in charge needs to make the decision of how his unit could be affected by what his soldier has to say.

The point is, a chain of command exists here at Marywood. A superior officer needs to make a decision about what his or her underlings can say, not because he or she enjoys violating the First Amendment but because he or she needs to think in terms of the safety of Marywood's students and the welfare of the University in general. The officer's decision must be respected and obeyed at all times.

The Marywood Free Speech website specifically states in the Writings link:

This section of our website is dedicated to being an outlet for the stories, articles, and poetry written by Marywood students. The writings included on this page are writings that either have been rejected by or would more than likely be rejected by Marywood for inclusion into one of their many publications.

If you would like to have a piece of writing that you have composed published through our site, please let us know! You can send your piece to us through one of the e-mail links in our contact page.

Thank You.

This letter that I have written will be e-mail to www.marywoodfreespeech.com and I demand that this letter in its entirety be posted. If not, we'll see just how serious this club is and how deep paradoxes flow.

Yours in Freedom,
A Concerned Student