



Office of the Vice President for Equity and Diversity

September 28, 2005

Christopher Lee
210 Timothy Street
Pullman, WA 99163

Dear Christopher:

Thank you for your letter dated September 8, 2005. I understand that you have ongoing concerns, and I appreciate that you took the time to write me a thoughtful letter. Your letter contains numerous statements, assumptions, and assertions, which make it clear that you and the University continue to disagree on a number of issues. This reply also is the product of substantial thought, on my part, and consultation with other members of the University administration.

I appreciate your concern with the free speech at Washington State University, in general, and the specific exercise of your rights; however, WSU never has condoned a "heckler's veto," as you state, and we will not in the future. I assure you that WSU is committed to everyone's exercise of all of their human rights, including free speech, without fear of unlawful obstruction by anyone. This is fundamentally important at any university in a free society, as it is throughout the entire society.

Specifically, WSU has not and will not encourage or condone the illegal obstruction, interruption or censorship of your plays, nor will it seek to impede the lawful exercise of anyone else's free speech rights. In all circumstances, WSU will take reasonable precautions to ensure that the rights of everyone are protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Tate".

Michael J. Tate
Vice President