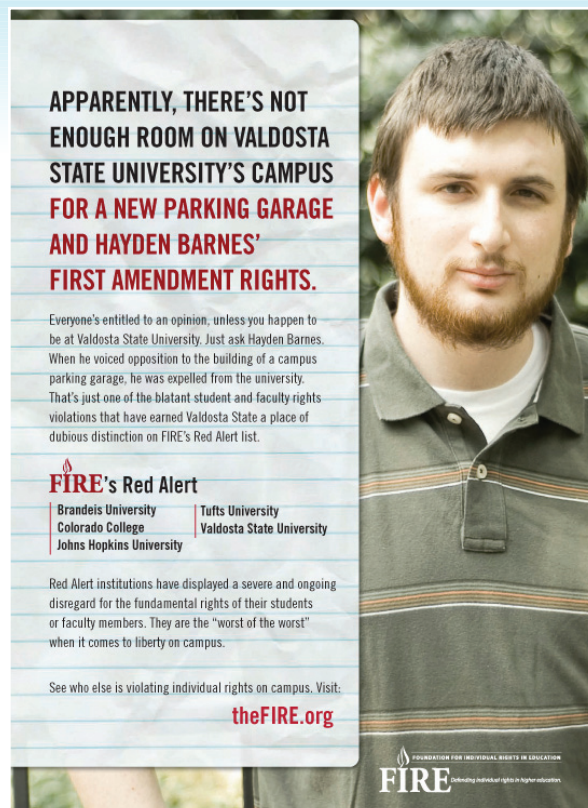


The Last Word: FIRE Exposes Unrepentant Abusers of Liberty in *U.S. News* College Rankings Issue

The 2009 edition of *U.S. News & World Report's* America's Best Colleges issue includes a full-page advertisement from FIRE highlighting the five colleges and universities that have earned FIRE's Red Alert distinction for being the "worst of the worst" when it comes to liberty on campus. The advertisement features Hayden Barnes, a former student at Valdosta State University in Georgia, who was expelled by the university's then-president for protesting the building of two parking garages on campus. Since the release of the ad, Valdosta has revoked its unconstitutional free speech zone policy and has been removed from its status as a Red Alert school.



FIRE THANKS ALL OF ITS SUPPORTERS FOR THEIR
DEDICATION TO FIRE AND ITS MISSION.

...

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Newsletter of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education

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THE FIRE QUARTERLY

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Volume 6 Number 3

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Victory for Free Speech at Valdosta State University New President's Changes Remove School from FIRE's Red Alert List



In a welcome reversal, Valdosta State University (VSU) has revoked its unconstitutional free speech zone policy, restoring free expression to the vast majority of VSU's campus. Newly installed VSU President Patrick J. Schloss announced the change in a letter to FIRE. His action comes in response to months of pressure from FIRE and removes VSU from FIRE's Red Alert list, a distinction reserved for institutions demonstrating a severe and ongoing disregard for the fundamental rights of students or faculty members.

"President Schloss has distinguished himself from his predecessor by setting an admirable new course for student rights at VSU, and FIRE is pleased to be able to remove VSU from our Red Alert list of the worst schools for fundamental rights on campus," FIRE President Greg Lukianoff said. "Recognizing that free expression must be able to occur all over campus enriches discourse and will make VSU an engaging marketplace of ideas."

VSU's former free speech zone policy restricted the free expression of all "persons wishing to speak on campus" to one small stage, the use of which was restricted to two non-consecutive hours per day—and only on weekdays. The new policy effectively restores freedom of expression to VSU's entire 168-acre campus, stating that expressive activity will be "uncensored" and may take place on the "campus green" without prior reservation or other regulation. The stage has been relegated to hosting additional "public discussion or debate" and is now open at all hours and available without regard to the content of the expressive activity taking place.

FIRE first wrote former VSU President Ronald Zaccari in November 2007, explaining that VSU "cannot lawfully quarantine free expression to just one area of the school's 168-acre campus" and warning that VSU's unconstitutional free speech zone was in violation of the school's legal obligation to uphold the First Amendment. Over the next nine months, FIRE would write Zaccari twice more, as well as create a short film about VSU's free speech zone. FIRE's campaign to eliminate VSU's free speech zone culminated in an advertisement in the 2009 edition of *U.S. News & World Report's* America's Best Colleges issue highlighting VSU's position on FIRE's Red Alert list.

"Finally, Valdosta's policy no longer limits student speech to a tiny free speech zone," FIRE Director of Legal and Public Advocacy William Creeley said. "Students should no longer have to fear retribution for expressing their views peacefully on campus. While the policy is by no means perfect, and could use several clarifications, FIRE will be happy to work with VSU to further improve the policy to the benefit of the entire VSU community."

The policy change is the latest development in a turbulent year for freedom of expression at VSU. Over the past year, former VSU President Zaccari sparked national controversy by personally expelling former student T. Hayden Barnes on the basis of a satirical collage posted at Facebook.com. With FIRE's aid, Barnes' expulsion was finally reversed by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. After Barnes filed a federal civil rights lawsuit alleging that Zaccari and other VSU administrators had violated his constitutional rights, Zaccari retired several months earlier than planned. That lawsuit is ongoing.

From the President

It's fall and the collegiate school year is back in full gear. That means I'm back to digging through claims by students and faculty across the country that their rights have been violated by overzealous campus administrators. Unfortunately, my experience tells me that a shocking number of these claims will prove meritorious. Therefore, it's pleasant to start the new academic year on a positive note and celebrate a hard fought victory.

For those of you familiar with FIRE's recent cases, for the last year FIRE has been criticizing Valdosta State University (VSU) in Georgia, both for its abominable treatment of expelled student Hayden Barnes and its incredibly restrictive free speech zone.

Hayden was kicked out of VSU after posting a collage on Facebook, for which he was deemed a "clear and present danger" by the then-president of the university. Thankfully, after FIRE saw to a good drubbing in the court of public opinion and the filing of a free speech lawsuit, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia overturned VSU's expulsion of Hayden.

Yet even after being embarrassed publicly for violating a student's First Amendment rights, VSU decided to maintain its brazenly unconstitutional free speech policy. How bad was this free speech zone? Possibly the worst I've ever seen. It limited free expression to just one tiny ten-foot stage in a huge 168-acre campus. What's more, students and faculty were only allowed to engage in free speech for two nonconsecutive hours per day (12-1 PM and 5-6 PM), and even then only after providing VSU administrators with two days' advance notice! Finally, to top it off, the space was unavailable on weekends. Have something to say on a Saturday? Sorry, at VSU, you were out of luck.



Greg Lukianoff

So FIRE stayed after VSU all summer for this laughably unconstitutional free speech zone. We even went so far as to take out a full-page ad in the 2009 America's Best Colleges edition of *U.S. News & World Report*, calling out the school by name.

Finally, just two weeks after the ad hit newsstands across the country, the new president of Valdosta State, Patrick J. Schloss, announced a dramatic reform of VSU's free speech zone, rightfully opening up the entire campus to expressive activities. Though their new policy is not perfect, and is still more confusing and restrictive than necessary, it is worlds better than the old policy.

So hats off to Valdosta State President Schloss. I am always happy to work with people who are willing to make serious reforms in the name of free speech. Now, if we could just convince the presidents of Red Alert schools Brandeis, Tufts, Colorado College, and Johns Hopkins to take the same attitude...

Greg Lukianoff

Victory for Free Speech as Third Circuit Issues Ruling against Temple University

FIRE Issues Warning to Public Universities on *DeJohn* Case



In August, the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit issued an opinion in *DeJohn v. Temple University* upholding a decision by a federal district court that Temple University's former speech code is unconstitutional. In the wake of this momentous ruling, FIRE sent letters to administrators at twenty public colleges and universities in New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania warning them to abandon their own speech codes. Between the outcome of the *DeJohn* case and FIRE's warning, college administrators who maintain unconstitutional speech restrictions now face the very real possibility that they will face personal liability for their assaults on the Constitution.

"For decades, college and university speech codes have been overturned by court after court, and for nearly ten years FIRE has railed against those schools that brazenly continue to maintain them. In light of the *DeJohn v. Temple University* opinion and now FIRE's letter, no public university in the Third Circuit can credibly argue that it did not know that campus speech codes are forbidden by the Constitution," said FIRE President Greg Lukianoff. "University administrators, especially those in the Third Circuit, maintain speech codes at their peril."

DeJohn v. Temple University began in 2006, when a lawsuit was filed against the school by attorneys from the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) on behalf of Temple student Christian DeJohn. DeJohn's complaint alleged both that Temple had engaged in actions that violated his rights and that Temple was violating the free speech rights of all of its students by maintaining an unconstitutional speech code. Temple's speech code prohibited, among other things, "generalized sexist remarks and behavior."



Sgt. Christian DeJohn won a symbolic \$1.00 in his lawsuit against Temple

Temple revised its speech code more than a year into the lawsuit, but argued on appeal to the Third Circuit that its original policy was constitutional despite the District Court's holding to the contrary. FIRE filed a friend-of-the-court brief urging the Third Circuit to uphold the lower court's ruling and was joined by a remarkable coalition of organizations including the ACLU of Pennsylvania, the Christian Legal Society, Collegefreedom.org, Feminists for Free Expression, the Individual Rights Foundation, Students for Academic Freedom, and the Student Press Law Center.

In August 2008, Temple's unconstitutional restriction on speech was overturned by the Third Circuit, which, in an opinion authored by Judge D. Brooks Smith, stated that "[d]iscussion by adult students in a college classroom should not be restricted." The court found that Temple's code "provide[d] no shelter for core protected speech" and was facially overbroad.

"The schools that FIRE has warned in our letter maintain policies that are as bad, if not worse, than the policies ruled unconstitutional in *DeJohn*," William Creeley, FIRE's Director of Legal and Public Advocacy, said. "These schools must understand that if these restrictions are challenged in court, they will fail, and that they have both a legal and a moral duty to their students and faculty to dismantle these speech codes."

Please visit



for comprehensive information on the state of liberty on America's campuses, including pages for individual academic institutions, relevant links to our research of speech codes, and case materials from FIRE's Individual Rights Defense Program.

Victory at the University of Delaware; Prevention of Distribution of Students' Newspaper Reversed



After unconstitutionally denying students the right to pass out a student newspaper without prior approval, the University of Delaware (UD) has changed course and restored the rights of free expression and freedom of the press on its campus. The policy change came in response to a letter from FIRE demanding changes to the university's restrictions on student speech. However, the university has yet to explain why administrators made misleading statements to students about the nature of their rights.

"The right to freely distribute publications dates to the founding of our nation, when American newspapers and pamphlets encouraged resistance to British tyranny," FIRE President Greg Lukianoff said. "For very good reason, then, their distribution is well-protected by the First Amendment. While we are pleased with UD's policy change, we are disappointed that it once again took FIRE's involvement to get UD to recognize fundamental constitutional rights."

FIRE wrote UD President Patrick Harker after several students complained that on September 1, they were prevented by administrators from distributing a student newspaper, *The LampLighter*, on campus. The administrators told the students that distributing the newspaper counted as "solicitation" and would require a permit from the city of Newark, Delaware. When the students reminded the administrators that students enjoy a constitutional right to distribute materials, one UD administrator responded: "According to policy, they don't." UD policies required "approval" from administrators before published materials could be distributed, and banned distribution of anonymous published materials altogether.

After unconstitutionally denying students the right to pass out a student newspaper without prior approval, the University of

"Delaware's policies would have banned the distribution of both Thomas Paine's 'Common Sense' and the Federalist Papers," remarked Lukianoff. "Is this the lesson about American liberty that UD wants to teach its students?"

In response to FIRE's letter, Vice President for Student Life Michael Gilbert informed the affected students in a September 12 e-mail that the policy had been changed. While the previous policy required newspapers to be "labeled to indicate sponsorship," the new policy states that UD only "encourages those who publish materials to identify themselves." The new policy also omits any reference to published materials requiring administrative "approval." While the new policy answers many of FIRE's concerns, the university has yet to answer for the misleading statements of its administrators to UD students.

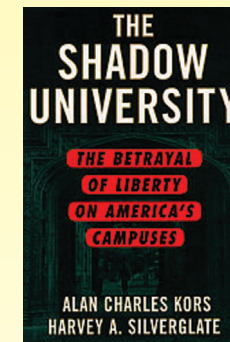
“The right to freely distribute publications dates back to the founding of America”

"A large research university should not have to wait for FIRE to teach administrators how to respect students' rights," Adam Kissel, Director of FIRE's Individual Rights Defense Program, said. "The past twelve months have been a boon to students' rights at the University of Delaware, but only because the

school could not defend in public its shameful violations of the Constitution's guarantees."

The policy change is the latest development in a tumultuous year for individual rights at UD. Over the past year, the University of Delaware also has had to end a thought-reform program in its residence halls; has had to change a speech code that required immediate notification of the authorities for any "oppressive" speech; has had to change a funding policy that provided only half as much funding to political student groups as to other student groups; and has lost the free-speech part of a lawsuit filed after a student was suspended, pending psychiatric evaluation, because of postings on his personal website.

The Shadow University Celebrates its Ten-Year Anniversary



October marks the ten-year anniversary of the publication of *The Shadow University: The Betrayal of Liberty on America's Campuses*. The book, co-authored by FIRE founders Alan Charles Kors and Harvey Silverglate, is an examination of the erosion of liberty on American campuses, and public reaction to *The Shadow University* was the single most influential factor leading to FIRE's establishment in 1999. The moment the book hit the shelves, Kors and Silverglate received pleas from students and professors across the country requesting aid and reporting horrific cases of censorship and abuses against liberty on college campuses. Less than one year later, Kors and Silverglate founded FIRE.

In the ten years since the publication of *The Shadow University*, FIRE has won more than 130 public victories affecting more than 2.3 million students nationwide. But more than just winning cases, FIRE has spearheaded a national campaign to educate students and professors about their fundamental individual rights and the ways to protect and sustain those rights on campus. Through this combination of casework and education, FIRE works to address the abuses documented by Kors and Silverglate. They founded FIRE for several reasons; among them, to dissolve the repressive, chilling policies that exist on college campuses and to ensure that students in our country learn in environments where a marketplace of ideas truly exists. FIRE's founders understood that censorship has dangerous repercussions that transcend the classroom: if students are made to believe that they have fewer rights than the Constitution actually grants them and that they must "respect" the opinions of everyone by not "insulting" or "offending" anyone, we will have produced a generation of Americans who are unable to benefit from the power of free inquiry. Indeed, free

inquiry is an indispensable educational tool for individuals and communities, and without it, the academy—and, for that matter, our democracy—cannot flourish.

Nearly ten years after FIRE's inception, the founding principles of Kors and Silverglate continue to guide FIRE's staff members, all of whom have made it their personal goal to defend those principles each day. To commemorate the anniversary of *The Shadow University* and to celebrate FIRE's success and hard work over the years, FIRE will send a copy of the book to anyone who donates \$150 or more to FIRE in 2008. Please make sure to specify that you would like to receive the book when you give.

Alan and Harvey, thank you for your passion for free speech and for having the foresight to recognize the need for this organization, which has benefited millions over the past nine years. We look forward to another decade of success at FIRE. By the 20th anniversary of *The Shadow University*, with the help of FIRE's committed supporters, we may have an even more significant landmark to celebrate—the success of FIRE's efforts to change the campus culture so that campus discourse may flourish.



Harvey Silverglate and Alan Charles Kors



CFN Launches Incentive Program, Prometheus Society for Student Activists

The Campus Freedom Network (CFN), FIRE's effort to unite students and faculty members from across the country on behalf of individual rights, has launched an incentive program to reward students engaged in reforming their campuses for liberty.

When students recruit new members, publish op-eds about FIRE issues, or host FIRE speakers, they earn points and receive prizes including books, gift certificates, and FIRE promotional items. FIRE will induct students with the highest point totals into CFN's elite Prometheus Society and guarantee them acceptance to the CFN's Summer Conference. The CFN member with the most points at the end of the fall semester will receive the choice of either a \$2,500 college scholarship or a technology bundle (see thecfn.org/benefits for more details). Second- and third-place winners will also receive prizes.

"FIRE has implemented these new resources and programs to encourage wider student participation in the struggle for liberty on campus," said FIRE President Greg Lukianoff. "College and university speech codes and administrative repression, sadly,

give students incentives to keep quiet about immoral and unlawful assaults on their rights. With our new incentive program, FIRE hopes to give students one more reason to take up the fight to defend their rights."

Membership in the CFN's Prometheus Society is an exclusive honor bestowed upon only the most active CFN members. To be inducted into the Prometheus Society, CFN Members must have first have earned 125 points through the CFN Incentive Program.

In addition to attending CFN's annual student conference, Prometheus Society members will be invited to a number of FIRE events throughout the year, including FIRE's 10th Anniversary Gala. The following students are the first to have been inducted into the Prometheus Society:



John Eubank (on the right)

John Eubank

John Eubank IV is a senior at Towson University in Maryland. A native of Lutherville, Maryland, he has been extremely active while at college. He currently serves as a Justice for the Student Government Association (SGA), is the co-president and founder for Towson PROLIFE, is active in the local chapter of Campus Crusade for Christ, and plays on an intramural flag football team. And yet, between his involvement in all of these groups, his schoolwork, and socializing, John has been quietly engaged in other work over the past year.

John first got involved with FIRE in the spring of 2007 when the pro-life group he helped create was being barred from hosting an event on campus. Thankfully, the university came to its senses before FIRE had to get involved. John contacted us again the following semester after becoming a member of the SGA when he discovered that there were rules against funding religious student organizations on an equal basis with other expressive groups. As John explains, "with the help of a well written letter from FIRE, the SGA and the TU Administration decided to fund religious organizations for the first time in the University's history." Later that semester, we worked with John again after the university attempted to put into place a "Free Speech Policy" that would have curtailed student rights. With pressure from FIRE, Towson scrapped the policy and asked John to serve on a committee charged with a drafting a policy that would not infringe on the rights of students.

What motivates John to spend all this extra time improving his campus?

"I have always had a passion for protecting the rights of the citizens of the United States of America," explains John, "and for standing up for those that cannot support their rights on their own." So when John got back from the 2008 Campus Freedom Network Conference this summer, he decided that he wanted to help his school reform its policies. "After the conference," says John, "I informed the TU administration that I would be reviewing all of their policies with the help of FIRE." The administration was receptive to John's mission and has been working with him to change four separate policies.

As a senior, John has begun to look to the future, post graduation. He is currently hoping to pursue a Master's degree in business while working in a technology/finance related field.



Josh Warren (on the right)

Josh Warren

The Vice President of the Penn Libertarians, Josh Warren has been concerned about individual liberty since his junior year in high school. In college he joined the Penn Libertarian student club and soon found out how fragile liberty really is on college campuses when the University of Pennsylvania attempted to deny the group official status. The students contacted FIRE, and the University relented after FIRE intervened. Having grown up in a small town outside Milwaukee, Josh says, "I have not had experience going up against a large University administration. FIRE gave us invaluable assistance and inspiration to keep our cause going."

Our first inductee into the Prometheus Society, Josh brought Greg to the University of Pennsylvania campus this September for a public lecture. Greg was greeted by a substantial crowd comprised of students from Penn as well as nearby Temple University and Drexel University. Reflecting back on last month's event, Josh said, "I was amazed at the outpouring of compliments we received in the days since Mr. Lukianoff's speech. People are really energized."

Josh describes himself as an avid reader of mostly economic and political philosophy and someone who is motivated by "the conviction that freedom is everywhere and always the best choice." In addition to his involvement in the libertarian club, he stays busy as a Peer Advisor for the Class of 2012, by playing football, and as a member of the Dean's Advisory Board for the College of Arts and Sciences. Although he is still considering his post-graduation plans, he is currently interested in both economics and medicine.

FIRE's **THE TORCH**

Want more FIRE news and views?
Check out *The Torch*, FIRE's blog, for daily updates at www.thefire.org/torch.

FIRE Completes Successful Summer Internship Program



2008 SUMMER INTERNS:

Michael H. Davidson
Princeton University
Philosophy

Jaclyn A. Hall
University of Pennsylvania
Political Science

Melissa Kaplan
Muhlenberg College
Media and Communication

Brian J. Mink
University of Georgia
International Affairs and History

Maggie Rackl
College of Charleston
History

Jacob Summerhays
Columbia University
Political Science and Economics

At the start of June, six undergraduates arrived in Philadelphia to begin their summer internship at FIRE. For the next ten weeks, they assisted in advancing FIRE's mission and brought to the table their numerous talents and ideas.

Over the course of the summer, the interns were able to work on FIRE's new projects as well as bolster and refine FIRE's classic resources. Among the new projects was FIRE's first-ever Campus Freedom Network (CFN) summer conference. The interns were able to fully participate in the conference as student attendees and offer valuable feedback and advice for the future direction of the CFN. They also tackled huge summer projects such as reviewing FIRE's website, updating CFN's database, updating FIRE's donor archive, and gathering and analyzing information about the financial size of the American university system.

In addition to the opportunity to be able to assist with FIRE's work, the interns also participated in educational seminars hosted in the FIRE office. FIRE invited experts in the arena of individual rights to speak to the interns over the summer. Topics included parody, Dartmouth's trustee fiasco, law school applications, the 26th Amendment, and sexual harassment law. Over the summer, the interns received a comprehensive education on individual rights on campus.

FIRE's staff is thankful for the contribution this summer's interns made to FIRE's important work. At the end of the internship, one intern remarked, "There is no doubt that FIRE's enjoyable and thoroughly engaging atmosphere has made me a better American and a better advocate for fundamental human rights."

What they had to say...



FIRE stands out as an organization committed to upholding the principles of free speech for all students and professors, without a litmus test or political agenda. Working as an intern has given me the words to express and the skills to defend what I always believed: the protection of dissent is essential to the preservation of liberty.

— Jaclyn Hall



With a staff as religiously and politically diverse and as strong-willed as FIRE's, I was welcomed into the kind of environment that FIRE fights to preserve on college campuses. My summer spent amidst deeply conservative Christians, Green Party liberals and moderate agnostics arguing about everything from stem cell research to Seinfeld was the closest I've ever come to an environment with absolute free speech. That experience—more than the cases we worked on, the speakers we heard, or the CFN conference we attended—showed me the true value of free speech.

— Michael Davidson



A short time at FIRE is enough to convince virtually anyone that our First Amendment rights are, both legally and philosophically, an indispensable component of American culture. Working environments such as the one at FIRE are rare gems which stimulate intellectual development and model the kind of free-thinking milieu they hope to restore throughout academe. There is no doubt that FIRE's enjoyable and thoroughly engaging atmosphere has made me a better American and a better advocate for fundamental human rights.

— Brian Mink

‘Fear and intimidation at Brandeis U’

by Nat Hentoff

(This article first appeared in The Washington Times on September 29, 2008. Reprinted with permission.)



Nat Hentoff

At Brandeis University in Massachusetts, professor Donald Hindley, on the faculty for 48 years, teaches a course on Latin American politics. Last fall, he described how Mexican migrants to the United States used to be discriminatorily called “wetbacks.” An anonymous student complained to the administration accusing Mr. Hindley of using prejudicial language. It was the first complaint against him in 48 years.

After an investigation, during which Mr. Hindley was not told the nature of the complaint, Brandeis Provost Marty Krauss informed Mr. Hindley that “The University will not tolerate inappropriate, racial and discriminatory conduct by members of its faculty.” A corollary accusation was that students suffered “significant emotional trauma” when exposed to such a term. An administration monitor was assigned to his class. Threatened with “termination,” Mr. Hindley was ordered to take a sensitivity-training class. With no charges against him, no evidence of misconduct given him and no hearing, he refused in the spirit of Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, for whom this university is named.

A passionate protector of freedom of expression in a series of seminal Supreme Court opinions, Brandeis wrote in “Whitney v. California” (1972): “Those who won independence believed ... that freedom to think as you will and to speak as you think are ... indispensable to the discovery and spread of political truth.” The Brandeis Faculty Senate, joined by Brandeis’ Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities, objected to this assault on academic freedom. So did the Massachusetts affiliate of the ACLU, and in what would have greatly pleased Justice Brandeis, so did the university’s student newspaper, *The Hoot*, declaring: “The administration’s instant punitive response made Hindley’s guilt a foregone conclusion ... With this kind of an approach, how will the University attract the high caliber professors who will be able to give the

incoming classes of students the education they deserve? How will it draw students who want a free and open academic environment?”

Mr. Hindley tells me that despite the response of the faculty Senate and the Committee on Faculty Rights, individual tenured members of his department, though outraged, would not stand up publicly on his behalf. One of them explained to him, “I’m about to retire.” He and others fear retaliation.

I first heard about this dishonoring of the name of Brandeis University from FIRE, who has advocated, and sometimes litigates for, the free-speech rights of students and professors across all ideologies and beliefs. This shows, as Justice Brandeis said, that “sunlight is the best disinfectant.” Notwithstanding the indignation on campus, and elsewhere, on how this university, despite its name, has harassed Mr. Hindley as if he were a danger to what the provost accusatorily described as “the welfare of the University’s students,” the administration remains certain it is acting in the best interests of its students, present and future.

Indeed, in January, the provost actually wrote Mr. Hindley, not with a pledge to give him a fair hearing, let alone an apology, but with this imperial statement: “I trust [by now] you understand your responsibilities regarding the University’s policies on nondiscrimination and harassment. The University now considers this matter closed.” No, it isn’t. Says Adam Kissel, director of FIRE’s Individual Rights Defense Program: “Brandeis has yet to explain how administrators could have so grossly misinterpreted normal classroom speech as ‘harassment.’ FIRE will pursue this matter until Brandeis finally applies basic standards of academic freedom and fair procedures to Donald Hindley’s case.” So will I.

Before writing this column, I left a message for Brandeis President Jehuda Reinharz, asking for his response. My call has not been returned. If Justice Brandeis were still here, I am sure he would call Mr. Reinharz instantly and would get a response. How I would like to hear that conversation! Said Justice Brandeis: “It is the function of speech to free men from the bondage of irrational fears.” And from undereducated college administrators? Are any of the trustees of Brandeis University at all concerned with restoring its good and once-honored name? FIRE has written to each of the 45 trustees. There has been only one response, saying that the matter is being handled “competently.”

About the Publication

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The *FIRE Quarterly* is published four times per year by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education.

The mission of FIRE is to defend and sustain individual rights at America’s increasingly repressive and partisan colleges and universities. These rights include freedom of speech, legal equality, due process, religious liberty, and sanctity of conscience—the essential qualities of individual liberty and dignity. FIRE’s core mission is to protect the unprotected and to educate the public and communities of concerned Americans about the threats to these rights on our campuses and about the means to preserve them.

FIRE is a charitable and educational tax-exempt foundation within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to FIRE are deductible to the fullest extent provided by tax laws.

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Lukianoff Wins Freedom of Expression Award and Establishes a Matching Gift Fund for the CFN

FIRE President Greg Lukianoff has announced that 100% of the \$25,000 Freedom of Expression prize he was awarded by the Playboy Foundation will go to FIRE and directed that the award be used as a matching grant for donations to FIRE’s Campus Freedom Network.



The Freedom of Expression Award is given to support an individual “whose record of accomplishments indicates a promising future as an effective advocate for the First Amendment.” The award is the newest of the Hugh M. Hefner First Amendment Awards, which have been presented by the Playboy Foundation annually since 1979 to honor citizens who have “contributed significantly to the vital effort to protect and enhance First Amendment rights for Americans.”

This is the first year that the Playboy Foundation has awarded the Freedom of Expression Award, which includes a \$25,000 cash grant. In presenting Greg the award, Christie Hefner, Chairman and CEO of Playboy Enterprises, stated, “Greg Lukianoff has defended freedom of speech, legal equality, due process, religious liberty, and sanctity of conscience on our college campuses, and we are proud to help support his ongoing work to protect individual liberties.”

At a ceremony at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., Greg announced that he would develop a matching gift fund in support of FIRE’s Campus Freedom Network (CFN), our dynamic coalition of students and faculty members who work to fight campus injustices by educating members of their communities about their rights and the ways to protect them. Greg hopes to double the effect of his donation with gifts from individual donors like you. If you are interested in giving to the fund, please indicate that your donation is in support of the CFN.

FIRE is proud of Greg’s accomplishments and thankful for his generosity. The existence and success of FIRE’s programs is only possible because of the support of our donors. Please consider contributing to match Greg’s generous gift and to help support FIRE’s Campus Freedom Network. You can visit www.thefire.org/support to learn about the many ways to give to FIRE. Every dollar helps us in the fight for liberty on America’s campuses.