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April 18, 2005

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held that “conventions of decency” did not dictate what speech was protected on a public college campus.

The desire to avoid controversy is also not a constitutionally permissible reason to deny a student’s right to protest. In the case of *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District*, 393 U.S. 503 (1969), the Supreme Court determined that, even in high schools, “undifferentiated fear or apprehension of disturbance is not enough to overcome the right to freedom of expression.” Adult students at a community college would, naturally, enjoy even greater freedoms than high-school students. Agor’s refusal to allow any PETA-related activity to take place on campus because of PETA’s tactics in other locales is unconstitutional as well. In *Healy v. James*, 408 U.S. 169, 186 (1972), a case that dealt with a college student organization, the Court found that “it has been established that ‘guilt by association alone, without [establishing] that an individual’s association poses the threat feared by the Government,’ is an impermissible basis upon which to deny First Amendment rights.” Agor’s e-mail indicates that “guilt by association” is precisely the reason that Campos’ protest was forbidden.

SCC’s enactment of a “free speech zone” on its Oveido campus is also a special cause for

From: "Gail Agor" <AgorG@scc-fl.edu>
To: Eliana Campos <e-mail address redacted>
Subject: Re: Quick Question
Date: Fri, 25 Mar 2005 08:30:10 -0500

Eliana:

Gail

Gail Agor
Student Activities/Career Resource Specialist Seminole Community
College Oviedo Campus
407-971-5033

> >>> From "Eliana Campos" <e-mail address redacted> 3/24/2005 6:08:46 PM

> >>> >>>

>Mrs. Agor

>

>Yesterday, March 23rd I came to your office with one of the counselors
>to ask you if I would be able to set up a table in the cafe. You asked
>me what organization and I told you PETA. Right away with no hesitation
>you laughed and said no. There were two other girls in there at that
>time and they began to laugh as well. You again laughed and stated that
>you lived or are from Norfolk, VA, then said no again to my request.

>

>My problem is not so much the fact that you said no, but that I feel
>you went about it the wrong way. At no time did you ask me what my
>literature would be about nor did you explain to me exactly why it was
>that I could not table in the first place. I did not ask you why
>because I felt embarrassed about how everyone in the room was laughing
>at me, as if what I was saying was a joke.

>

>I would like to know what the guidelines for tabling are, not what you
>interpret it as, but what the school requires. I do not want to table
>for PETA per say, I want to table about the brutality suffered by
>animals in slaughterhouses. My literature will be