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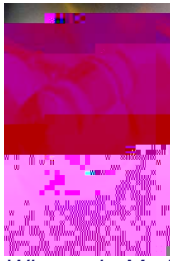
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Read *Memo to Free Speech Advocates University of*

*Wisconsin-Madison* by Harvey A. Silverglate.

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construed as criticism of Career Services personnel. Since a violation of Harvard's community standards can result in punishments that go all the way to expulsion, this was a chillingly clear threat.

According to Will's widely distributed resignation letter, he was told that this admonition constituted a "verbal warning"—the first step of the HBS disciplinary process—and that he would be held responsible for any future objectionable content in the *Harbus*. Will was instructed that the *Harbus* should give more "positive" coverage to HBS and should steer clear of "questionable content" in the future. Citing these unreasonable and illiberal demands of the HBS administration, Nick Will resigned from the *Harbus* two days later.

As dean of a school at a major university in a free society, you could have renounced your agent's censorious actions. Instead, you sent an e-mail, on November 8, 2002, to "The *Harbus* and Harvard Business School," addressing "freedom of expression," "community standards," and "the relationship between the *Harbus* and Harvard Business School." You wrote: "Regardless of the role(s) we play on campus, each of us first and foremost is a member of the Harvard Business School community, and as such, we are expected to treat each other respectfully. Referring to members of our community as 'incompetent morons' does not fall within the realm of respectful discourse."

Even considered in the light most favorable to HBS, the facts of this case are outrageous. The editor of an independent newspaper at HBS was called into a special meeting by the director of his program and told that a satirical cartoon, tame by any standards, could constitute a disciplinary violation. Investigating a cartoon is terrible enough. Officially warning a student editor and publicly calling this a violation of HBS policy are simply beyond the pale.

You have turned Harvard's "community standards" into the Harvard Sedition Act, declaring that only the gentlest criticism of individuals at HBS will be tolerated. While you claim to encourage "debate, discussion, and dialogue,"



2) that it will not summon students editors for administrative meetings when it is displeased with the content of their publications;

3) that it will not abuse Harvard's "community standards" to silence what would be protected speech in the larger society, but, rather, that it will embrace the robust discourse that befits a great institution.

Only an apology and a clearly articulated "hands off" policy will begin to restore an atmosphere of freedom to HBS.

Please reflect on these matters, and please do what you surely know to be the right thing. This is a time when our nation's universities must be beacons of liberty and honest criticism, not the enemies of these previous things. Please know, also, that if HBS does not take corrective measures, we will seek, with all of the resources at our disposal, to take this issue to the broadest possible court of public opinion, with the fullest public exposure of the state of freedom and dissent at HBS. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Alan Charles Kors  
President and Co-Director

Harvey A. Silverglate  
Vice-President and Co-Director

cc. The President and Fellows of Harvard College  
The Board of Overseers of Harvard College