



CRAVEN

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Reaching New Heights

Office of the President

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April 30, 2005

Mr. Robert L. Shibley
Foundation for Individual Rights in Education
210 W. Washington Square, Suite 203
Philadelphia, PA 19016

Dear Mr. Shibley:

Thank you for your interest in Craven Community College and our college newspaper, *The Campus Communicator*.

Our recent administrative involvement with the newspaper began in October 2004. At that time, members of the newspaper staff appealed for the administration's help to resolve an internal *Communicator* dispute over the editor's decision to publish the address of a student charged in connection with an altercation on campus. The student pleaded that her address not be published due to personal security concerns and many on the newspaper staff agreed. In fact, the staff subsequently developed an editorial policy not to publish student addresses in similar instances in the future.

Since that time student leaders of the newspaper and the Student Council have worked with members of the administration to craft what we hope will be useful guidelines that provide for an even stronger student newspaper. Several drafts have been proposed and the discussions appear to be moving forward in a positive manner, with student leaders and administrators continuing to meet on at least a weekly basis.

I assure you that we do not now seek, nor have we ever sought to suppress our students' rights to free speech. We have not censored any material from the newspaper nor do we seek license to do so. We have also taken no action in response to the recent controversial "Between the Sheets" column, despite numerous complaints from students, parents, advertisers and faculty.

We will continue to work collaboratively with members of the newspaper's staff and leaders from the Student Council in pursuit of our common objective of producing an excellent student newspaper that is consistent with the best journalistic industry practices and all applicable laws, including the students' First Amendment rights. The college is deeply committed to the success of *The Campus Communicator*, and I remain optimistic for a favorable conclusion for all parties involved.

Thank you again for your interest. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Ralls". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "S" and a long, sweeping tail.

Scott Ralls
President