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Sheldon Hackney

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UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

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April 27, 1993

This has not appeared (been printed) yet

Editor
The Wall Street Journal
200 Liberty Street
New York, NY 10281
ATTN: Ned Crabb

Dear Editor:

I write to correct the unfortunate impression left by your editorial of April 26 about a student disciplinary case now pending at the University of Pennsylvania. Although I am not permitted by federal law or University policy to discuss the facts of the case, I can put it into context.

Freedom of expression is the paramount value at Penn, and we are unwavering in our commitment to protect it. To that end, we have well-established policies to protect open expression, and we have very deliberate and fair procedures for judging alleged violations.

Penn is a special kind of community. Not only does the University put the free exchange of ideas at the core of its being, but it strives to ensure that no member of the community is prevented from full participation in those debates by intimidating and abusive racial slurs that are intended only to wound, rather than to enlighten.

Whether a student has engaged in racial harassment according to our very narrowly defined policy is now up to a judicial panel of students and faculty to determine. If errors are made, ample avenues of appeal are available after the judicial panel has reached its conclusion.

Those who think they know what the outcome should be are impatient with the process, but that process must be allowed to run its course.

Sincerely,

Sheldon Hackney
Sheldon Hackney
President