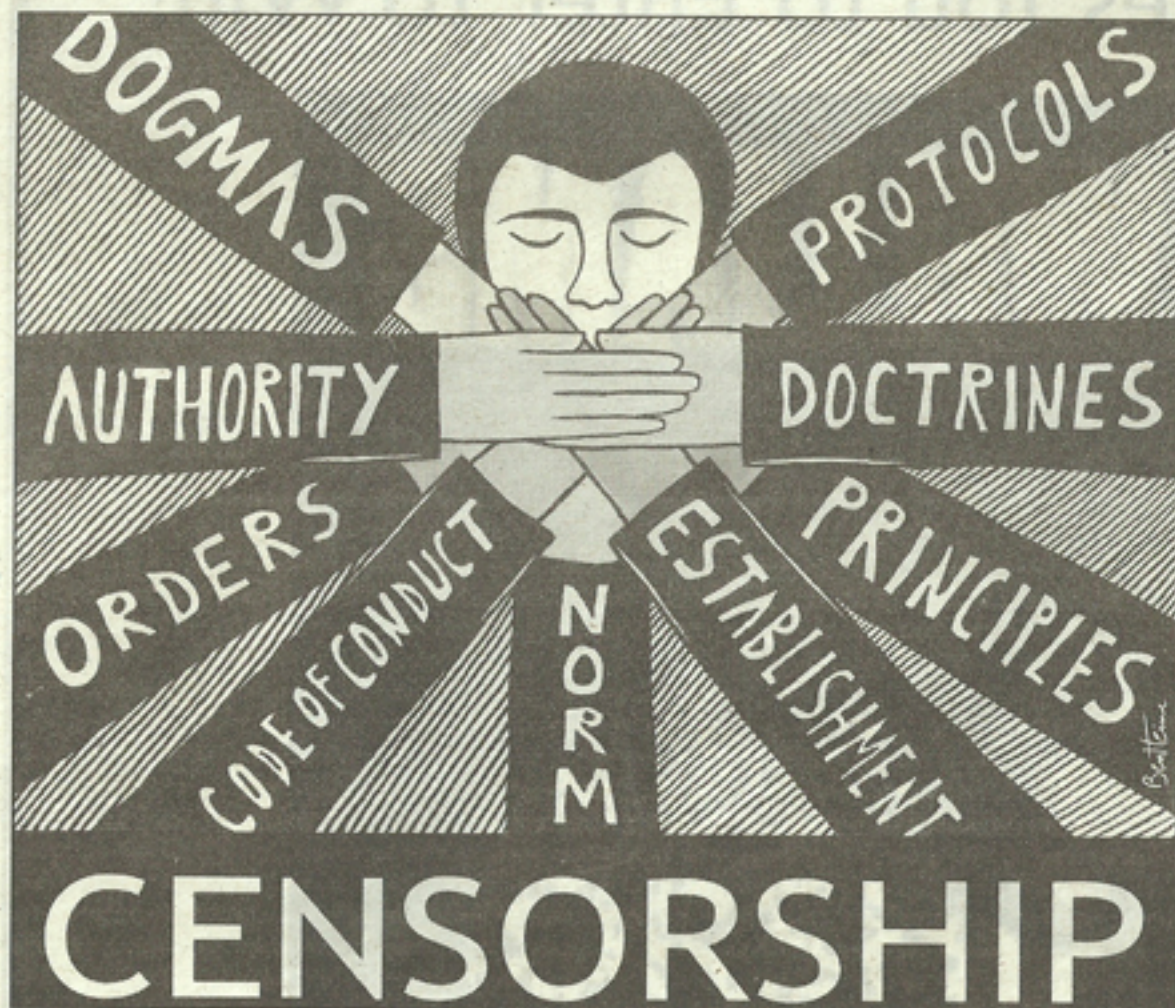


# Obscene material resolution becomes a slippery slope



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When will it be acceptable to watch porn in the Quad?!

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On one side, many believe that it is an issue dealing with the First Amendment. Basically, they say that it is an issue of students being censored. When students at Col-

lege Park wanted to show a pornographic movie, they should have been allowed to. On the other side, the University System of Maryland (USM) provides the environment for students to interact. Since the USM is supported by tax dollars, the taxpayers of Maryland, theoretically,

have a right to control what's going on at state campuses through their representatives.

But really, how can a law made in the state take away privileges granted by the United States Constitution? In all fairness and logic, it can't. It is a violation of basic principle rights.

Besides the point of censorship, I'm concerned this could serve as a possible precedent for other things.

For example, if some bureaucrat sitting in a comfy chair controls what I can and cannot do on campus, it might be enough incentive for me to switch to a private school. I mean if I am paying for college out of my pocket, why shouldn't I be allowed to form a group of students and publicize something? Forget the idea that what I might want to show is pornographic.

I just see this leading to other more important things than porn. Why should someone control what I do if it is perfectly harmless? What is to stop the same elected delegates and senators from controlling what clubs are formed for on campus? I'm not saying that there should be an Obscene Material Club, but (by the same standards of saying that showing a pornographic movie) that club wouldn't be allowed. It just seems wrong that my experience of college is stifled due to the meager fact that I like different things than a senator.

I mean, it's dumb that my experience at college could be controlled to the point that I can't join a club because the general public does not agree with my idea (I can't stress enough that it is a harmless idea). What happened to the day when creative, but weird, ideas were accepted?

A more realistic scenario: there is an organization called the Ku Klux Klan (KKK). If I were to start a club that advocated the values of this clan,

I would most likely be frowned upon as a member of society. True, some may argue that their ideas are harmful, although in cities, the KKK has demonstrations. These are perfectly legal and are not controlled by delegates and senators. Why then should that level of control be present on a college campus? If the KKK and pornography are thought of as similar (taboo) things by society's standards, then really they are harmless.

Now, think of a world where something that we all know is harmless (a newspaper) is then snatched away because it is considered offensive. Wait a second. That sounds like a dictatorship. All I see is one thing leading to another, and to another, until we all slide down the slippery slope of censorship.

People who get offended easily need to take a deep breath and relax. Just because I like oranges and you like apples doesn't mean that you can ban oranges from me. I might then decide that I like kiwis, and then cherries, and then who knows, I may have to like apples because you banned everything else.

If taxpayers, politicians, students, or whomever don't like obscene material, then please, respect me and my ideas. By that I mean, do what you got to do but just let me do what I want, even if you don't think it is moral or right. Hey, guess what, you can even frown.

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