

1993

Hackney, Sheldon: Humanities Chairman Nomination Hearing (1993): Letter to the Editor 06

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Hacker 8

The Philadelphia Inquirer **Commentary** Tuesday, April 27, 1993

LETTERS

Tactics in trashing of Penn's daily are abhorred

I have had occasion to read a columnist whose views appear in a small newspaper distributed near where I work. As a white person, I find his column offensive, even racist. However, it has never occurred to me to respond as the students at Penn did when similarly offended by columns in the Daily Pennsylvanian.

My response could take many forms. Perhaps a letter to the editor objecting to factual inaccuracies or the tenor of the column. If refused publication, I could go to another newspaper. I might even picket the paper's offices. But certainly my response would not be the confiscation of the offending newspaper as occurred at Penn. If this were acceptable, we would have no publications, as there is probably no groups that at one time or another has not, at least from its perspective, been unfairly attacked.

"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it" are words attributed to Voltaire that warrant strong consideration.

W. G. O'Rourke
Philadelphia