

---

**From:** William Dempsey [whdempsey@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 16, 2008 9:09 PM  
**To:** Brown Dennis  
**Cc:** Burish Dr. Thomas G.  
**Subject:** The Sycamore Trust

Dear Mr. Brown:

As I have said in the course of our prior exchanges, we at the Sycamore Trust are dedicated to insuring the accuracy and completeness of the information we send to our mailing list, which now numbers some 6,000 and continues to grow. Accordingly, I invite any comments you might have as to two matters that have come to our attention that appear to bear upon the University's Catholic identity.

The first is the award of an honorary degree to, and the presence on the Board of, Dr. Marye Anne Fox, a prominent advocate of embryonic stem cell research and of Proposition 71, the California measure providing substantial public funding for such research that was strongly opposed by the Catholic bishops. In reporting this award, the Cardinal Newman Society stated: "Marye Anne Fox, chancellor of the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) . . . is an architect and leader of one of the nation's foremost initiatives in embryonic stem cell research, the San Diego Consortium for Regenerative Medicine, which will open its \$115 million facility at UCSD by 2010. UCSD research is partly funded by California's \$3 billion grant program for embryonic stem cell research, independent of ethical restrictions that President George W. Bush has tied to federal funding."

Next, the National Catholic Register has taken note of the presence on the Board of Trustees of a prominent public advocate of The Vagina Monologues, Ms. Cathleen Black: "Cathleen Black, president of Hearst Publishing, was listed on a V-Day poster in 2003 as a 'V-Counsel,' along with other prominent supporters of the play like Jane Fonda. Hearst Publishing has also served as a V-Day sponsor. 'It was just literally a life-changing experience,' Black said about the play's impact in a CNN interview in 2001. 'She [Enslar] has kind of taken it all out of the closet and kind of put it right on in front of people so that you can say the word v-----.'"

In addition, Ms. Black is reported to have helped launch Ms. Magazine in the early 1970's and to have been its associate editor when the publication was an early and ardent pro-abortion advocate.

Dr. Fox and Ms. Black are, of course, entitled to say and do as they choose and freely to accept honors and positions proffered by the University. Our interest is in the relationship between Catholic identity and the standards applied in the conferring of honors and the selection of Board members. It is that question as to which we would welcome the University's comments. We will be happy to pause to await a response, but if none is to be forthcoming I would be grateful to know as soon as may be convenient.

Very truly yours,

Bill Dempsey

William H. Dempsey  
President, The Sycamore Trust

cc: Dr. Thomas G. Burish, Provost