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Time to Exorcise G-town

P.C. wars at the nation's oldest Catholic college .

By Kathryn Jean Lopez, NR associate editor-----lopezk@nationalreview.com

Georgetown senior Robert Swope used to be a columnist for the school's main student newspaper, *The Hoya*. That is, until he dared to criticize the nation's first Catholic college for kowtowing to feminists.

As the token conservative columnist, Swope was never all that popular. After the paper published a column of his in October calling the campus women's center "an indoctrination camp for lesbians and feminists," one faculty member wrote that his views did not "represent a legitimate contribution to the debate." Last week, a group of English department professors wrote a letter to the editor denouncing another of his columns, this one on the school's Women's Studies Department.

On Sunday, the paper had enough. They e-mailed him to say they couldn't publish his latest submission, critical of the university's Valentine's Day presentation of Eve Ensler's notorious *Vagina Monologues*. By Monday, he was fired. The editors tried to claim it was because he keeps writing about the same topic —women. (Um..might that happen on a coed campus? Swope asked.) Once that ceased to be the claim, it was because his column just wasn't constructive.

Reading the unpublished column, you wonder what could be more constructive. He opens with a quote from the play, which features a 24-

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year-old woman with a 13-year-old girl: “Your vagina, untouched by a man, smells so nice, so fresh, wish I could keep it that way forever.” She then “rapes” the girl. Why exactly is a Catholic institution paying for the presentation of a play that glorifies lesbian statutory rape?

Robert Swope shouldn't expect school administrators to come to his aid. When you look at the school's track record under the current president, Jesuit Father Leo O'Donovan —soon to retire—it all makes sense. He's brought alumnus Bill Clinton to campus numerous times, as well as *Hustler's* Larry Flynt. He's allowed university-sponsored fetal-tissue research. He's supported university-funded pro-abortion groups and homosexual social clubs.

Still, it's a scandal. Another alumnus, William Peter Blatty, the author of *The Exorcist*, says, as he has in a letter to the editor of *The Hoya*, “With all that the demon says and does in my novel, never until I read of *The Hoya's* and Leo O'Donovan's support of *The Vagina Monologues*, and their suppression of Robert Swope's article, have I truly appreciated the meaning of the word ‘obscenity.’”

Manuel Miranda, president of the Cardinal Newman Society said in a press release, “If Catholic morality cannot be reflected in a Georgetown University-funded newspaper, where will it be heard, the *Harvard Crimson*?” Catholic and other religious schools need to look in a mirror and decide why exactly they exist. Georgetown would make a fine secular institution, drenched in political correctness—just like so many others. With O'Donovan's imminent departure, it's time for Georgetown to decide whether to officially join the crowd or clean up and readopt its mission as a university with a moral code.

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