



then YAF would have to pay the officer's overtime wages. When Bristow refused to pay for the officer's overtime, Special Events Coordinator Kelly Beck implied in an e-mail that if a protest broke out at the event and the police were called in, then YAF would incur extra fees. Beck wrote:

In the past, there have been events in which the security need was not adequately met due to groups not wanting to spend the extra funds on having police presence for their entire event and their attempt to "police" their peers was unsuccessful. This has led to pulling additional police personnel from their patrol duties and thus creating a shortage of manpower to respond to emergencies in the community. Those groups were subsequently charged for the additional manpower necessary to bring their special event under control.

Michigan State's requirement that student organizations hosting controversial events pay for extra security may seem like a reasonable policy, but it is clearly unconstitutional, as it affixes a price tag to events based upon their expressive content. The Supreme Court addressed this issue in *Forsyth County v. Nationalist Movement*

responsibly engaging in protected political expression. The university must not hold YAF responsible for additional security costs or for whatever protests occur in reaction to the screening of "Obsession."

FIRE hopes to resolve this situation amicably and swiftly; we are, however, prepared to use all of our resources to see this situation through to a just and moral conclusion. Due to the pressing nature of this situation, we request a response to this letter by Wednesday, March 21, 2007.

Sincerely,

Tara E. Sweeney  
Senior Program Officer

cc:

Kim A. Wilcox, Provost, Michigan State University  
Lee N. June, Vice President for Student Affairs and Services, Michigan State University  
Terry Denbow, Vice President for University Relations, Michigan State University  
James H. Dunlap, Director of University Police, Michigan State University  
Kelly Beck, Special Events Coordinator, Michigan State University  
David Oslund, Police Officer, Michigan State University  
Kyle Bristow