

October 5, 2001

President Margaret Gratton  
Orange Coast College  
2701 Fairview Rd.  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

**RE: Professor Kenneth Hearlson**

Dear President Gratton:

As you can see from the list of our Directors and Board of Advisors, FIRE unites leaders in the fields of civil rights and ci

very core of freedom at any institution of higher learning, Orange Coast College must change course before campus speech is irreversibly chilled. Orange Coast College's duty is to protect speech at all costs, not to appease those who would silence it.

Accordingly, FIRE asks Orange Coast College to weigh its constitutional obligations to the First Amendment and to due process, and, indeed, to weigh the very liberty for which this nation struggles, and:

- 1) Affirm that Professor Hearlson's opinions and due process are fully protected under