

Calumet addresses email

When the paper was published on Dec 10, 2014, there was a picture of you included in the article. There were also pictures of MCC Assistant Dean for Library Services Nancy Luikart and Learning Tree Manager Patricia Salyars, who were the other two grant recipients. Pictures are included to help readers to identify and remember names of subjects of news articles. You were not singled out. You were not treated any differently than others featured in the article, others who were happy to answer the first, “negative comment” question, the following “silly” question, and the third question you choose to ignore in your e-mail.

You state, as per your e-mail, you do not like to have your picture taken for personal reasons. However, the picture included in the article was and is a headshot that has been used to identify you in campus e-mails and in the Muscatine Journal as far back as September 2, 2014.

This is the same picture that was sent by Lisa Wiegel, Secretary to the Dean of the College, to all employees of MCC, plus a number of adjunct instructors on September 2, 2014, announcing you as the new Student Senate co-advisor. The Calumet assumes students also received a version of this message as the e-mail asks students if they are “interested in joining” the senate. Were you unaware that a picture was going to accompany the quote that appears to the right of your photograph? Are we to assume you sent an e-mail to the same 28, complaining about Lisa Wiegel’s use of

Journal receive a phone call from you similar to the Calumet’s? Did you question the Muscatine Journal on how it acquired this picture?

This is the same picture, again, that the Calumet received when we asked in February for a headshot you would approve of to use in future publications received.

In the e-mail you state that the purpose of the phone call was to make the Calumet “be respectful to others feelings.” The Calumet was mindful to use a headshot that seemed complimentary and which had already been featured in e-mails

to campus and the Muscatine Journal. A Calumet photographer did not snap a random picture in a hallway or across campus, though legally this is completely allowed. Had this happened, there could be a conversation to be had about respect. However, let me state again, the picture used was a picture that had been in circulation since September 2.

Speaking of being “respectful to others feelings,” in regards to the phone call to the Calumet office, there were other persons in the room besides the student with whom you spoke. The person you were speaking to was heard to be unable to finish sentences due to interruptions while attempting to explain the use of the photograph and how fair use laws are practiced.

You state in the e-mail, “I thought that I heard a click and the phone hung up. I hung up the phone thinking that call was ended.” In most situations where one party feels that a call has been disconnected prematurely, the customary “respectful” action is to call back to verify that the conversation had in fact reached its conclusion. This did not happen. The reporter remained in the Calumet office all afternoon of December 10. If you felt that the call had been cut short, why did you not call back? Declining to call back after a questionable disconnect is not consistent with someone who is attempting a calm and reasonable explanation. Declining to call back is,



Picture in the Muscatine Journal



e-mail received from Erika Battern when asking for new headshot.

however, consistent with what was reported in the February 6 Calumet article on the December 10 phone call, “She [Mason] was hung up on during her explanation.”

At the conclusion of the “Not so Punny” e-mail you state, “I will not be making statements to the paper on topics that I feel go against the culture and integrity of MCC.” Dr. Boyer, that is completely your right. However, Calumet reporters will continue to contact you via e-mail, phone call, or in person, giving you the opportunity to comment on every issue that the reporters deem relevant. Responsible journalism gives you the opportunity to comment. If you choose not to comment, that is perfectly within your rights, as it is within the rights of the reporter to include whatever various form of “no comment” that you choose to provide.

However, the Calumet would like to give you the opportunity to explain what “the culture and integrity of MCC” are in your opinion. Does the betterment of the science program through a grant that purchased microscopes not qualify? Does an article about the student governing body of the college not qualify? Shouldn’t “the culture and integrity” of the college promote free speech, freedom of expression and freedom of thought? If MCC “culture and integrity” do not, can you please explain why to us? Or are these to be referred to as “rather silly” freedoms and questions, as you called the reporter’s questions about the \$38,000 grant to your department?

The Calumet publishes in every issue the request for feedback and input from those on campus. It is highly welcomed and encouraged that faculty, staff and students make their voices heard. “Calumet Tip Boxes” are located in seven convenient and easily accessible places around campus.

We greatly appreciate feedback, such as the letters to the editor that have been received from Ellie Sweet and Kay Rooff-Steffen. Thank you ladies.

However, if faculty members have serious issues that they feel need to be addressed, the professional route of handling that would be to speak directly to the Adviser, Jim Compton, and not address those issues with phone calls to students that contradict material taught in Mr. Compton’s journalism class. Mr. Compton is then able to take the issues that are presented to him and use them as educational tools to correct and instruct the students enrolled in the class.

Thank you, Dr. Boyer

In light of this e-mail and all incidents and publications involved

in it, the entire Calumet staff would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Boyer. The current 22 students enrolled in the Calumet could not have asked for a better education in journalism at its core.

When these students are sent out to investigate a difficult story and meet resistance at every turn they will be prepared. This is something that journalism majors do not typically encounter until their first full-time positions in the “real world.” Thank you.

When these bright young minds seek to interview a person who refuses to comment on every issue, no matter how large or small, they will know what to put into their articles. Thank you.

When the latest annual study by firstamendmentcenter.org indicates that less than 1% of the nation’s population can name all five rights listed in the First Amendment, there are now 22 reporters, photographers, artists, web designers and editors who can now name all five without hesitation. Thank you.

When students need to know the definition of “libel,” they can read “Not So Punny” as a reference example of what they are not allowed to put in print, as the definition of libel is “a published false statement that is damaging to a person’s reputation; a written defamation.” The e-mail sent from you definitely appears to have been sent to discredit Calumet Editor Mary Mason, as well as staff writers Jacqueline Griggs of “MCC receives grants,” and Jessica Gomez of “Calumet receives curt call.” Calumet’s future journalists will know what not to do to avoid libeling when referencing “Not So Punny.” Thank you.

Dr. Boyer, you have in fact given the education of a lifetime to a room full of students. At the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year, three of our members planned to pursue a career in journalism. That number has grown, adding seven (so far) more who are now considering a journalism career. Thank you.

Dr. Boyer, if we have not learned enough from this situation, then perhaps the recent news events surrounding a man named Kirby Delauter can teach us the rest. Mr. Delauter is an elected official in Frederick County, MD, who publicly declared that the local newspaper must obtain his permission before using his name or referencing him in any manner. Mr. Delauter soon learned the error of his thinking and eventually apologized to the journalist that he publicly confronted. You might want to look him up.

The education continues.

Thank you, Dr. Boyer.

-Mary Mason, Calumet Editor-in-Chief



Why are you looking forward to Senate?

I am looking forward to working with the Senate to make MCC a rewarding and positive experience for our students.

Rick Boyer, Co-Advisor

your picture?

This is the same picture that appeared in the Muscatine Journal on September 11, 2014, along with an article introducing the Student Senate. As of this writing, this picture can still be seen on the Muscatine Journal website. The Muscatine Journal picture focuses more closely on your face, and is a little washed out compared to the e-mail picture, but if you doubt these are from the same photograph, please note the folds in the shirt over the left shoulder. Are we to assume you sent an e-mail about the Muscatine Journal’s use of your picture, published for the entire city of Muscatine to see, to the same 28 people, explaining that you do not like your picture published? Did the Muscatine