



# THE HEIGHTS

The Independent Student Newspaper of Boston College

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## Letter to the Editor: Resident responds to "Open Letter"

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To the Editor:

I am thoroughly appalled by both the tone and the content of your "Open Letter to Councilor McDermott" (The Heights Jan. 27)! As a professor of political science at the College of the Holy Cross, I am concerned with your dismal ignorance of, and disregard for, a most important social and political controversy currently rocking Brighton-Allston: the destiny of the Our Lady of the Presentation School building. In addition, let me briefly recommend that you go back to your Political Science 101 textbooks and refresh your memory on a key dilemma of Liberal Democracies: finding the right balance between individual and collective rights. Your statement that "the University [Boston College] should be able do to whatever it chooses with its land" (as should the Archdiocese of Boston) ignores that urban development and urban planning are processes that democratically take into consideration BOTH individual AND community rights, thus legislation on zoning, taxation, etc. No, dear Editors. Neither BC nor the Archdiocese are either legally or morally free to do whatever they choose in Brighton-Allston!

As a resident of Brighton, I am terrified to know that the mood on the BC Campus is one of complete disregard for the destiny of Oak Square, its families, and its children. As an informed citizen, I am concerned that young people involved in a campus newspaper feel competent to issue inflammatory accusations without researching the most basic facts about the Oak Square Partnership for Youth and Families. Had such a basic research been done, you would have fully understood - and possibly supported - Councilor McDermott's outrage at BC's position.

Finally, as a parishioner of St. Ignatius Church and a teacher of religious education to many children of BC staff and faculty, I am deeply saddened by your open letter. It seems to indicate that an important voice in a Catholic campus prefers to ignore the principles of social justice that are such an intrinsic part of our common faith. Or should I assume that these days, on the BC Campus, social justice is believed to be best served by meeting the needs of a handful of employees of the Metropolitan Tribunal, in detriment of creating an educational cooperative to serve local children, families, and recent immigrants?

Maria Rodrigues

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