

Publication Theft Resolution – September 28, 2006

WHEREAS freedom of the press is specifically granted to all citizens of the United States of America by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America,

WHEREAS Westminster College is an institution that thrives on the flow of information,

WHEREAS information contained in a publication, be it positive or negative, is meant to inform the readers of the publication of a situation or event, bring back memories and feelings, and/or entertain the reader,

WHEREAS a reader cannot read what he or she cannot see,

WHEREAS theft is an effective way of preventing readers from obtaining a copy of a publication which contains information which the thief wishes to prevent readers from seeing,

WHEREAS student-run publications are complementary to students even though there is a high cost for the production of these publications,

WHEREAS it is important for SGA and the college to show its support of the First Amendment and take action to ensure that student publications will be protected from theft in the near future,

WHEREAS official documentation outlining the consequences of publication theft will make theft of any Westminster College publications an officially recognized infraction in the eyes of the college and possibly prevent a situation in which the college's agenda may be questioned,

We, the Student Government Association of Westminster College propose an addition to the Student Handbook outlining the consequences of publication theft.

THEREFORE, we move that the following clause be added to the appropriate section of the Westminster College Student Handbook:

Publication theft is prohibited at Westminster College. A person commits the offense of publication theft when he or she willfully or knowingly obtains or exerts unauthorized control over a more than reasonable number of copies of an edition of a publication distributed on campus, with the intent to prevent other individuals from reading that edition of the publication. Publications protected are *Argo*, *Scrawl*, *The Holcad*, *Westminster Magazine*, admissions materials, and department newsletters. In addition to the imposition of other campus or outside law enforcement disciplinary penalties, a person who violates this provision may be responsible for compensating the publication for all reasonable costs incurred.