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Americans have since recognized the injustices dealt to Bruce. He was the last comedian to be criminally prosecuted for obscenity in the United States. Today, Bruce is revered as a champion of free speech and First Amendment principles — so much so that he was posthumously pardoned by New York Governor George Pataki in 2003. His life story serves as a cautionary tale of what happens when we censor artistic expression.

Given this history, the undersigned are sensitive to the possibility that Bruce's words may again be censored. Our unease is amplified by the

We write to ask for more details about Brandeis' decision to cancel this month's production of "Buyer Beware." What material, *exactly*, did the university consider too "challenging" for its students and faculty? And why, when an agreement could not be reached with Weller to find a more "appropriate" setting for the play, did the university decide not to stage the production as intended, and instead defaulted to functionally censoring the "challenging" material instead of openly engaging with it?

We call upon Brandeis University to answer these questions in a manner consistent with the principles of freedom of speech to which the university claims to commit itself, principles

Attorney responsible for successfully petitioning Governor George E. Pataki to grant the first posthumous pardon in New York history to Lenny Bruce in 2003

Ronald K.L. Collins