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Mr. Justice Brennan:

Sir,

I know Mr. Tigar only by reputation as an outstanding student and humane citizen. I have just finished my first year at Boalt Hall, where he was an inspiration to many of us.

Your court, too, has been an inspiration, reflected in all our textbooks. It has been a symbol, an outpost defending rational political discourse, which the cold war environment threatens to erase from the political landscape. Many of us have looked on your court as living proof of the genius in the Constitution's design; even the harshest light becomes great architecture.

The shock over Mr. Tigar's cruel dismissal, therefore, does not stem from any concern about his future career. He can take care of himself. Rather it arises from the way he was so neatly pinched out of the position by men who stand for destruction, fear, and irrationality. It is in the realization that his dismissal is not so much a breach of the court's integrity but an invasion of the Constitution itself.

The one institution in this Nation that the drafters of the Constitution took most scrupulous pains to insulate from transient hysteria appears, finally, to have been violated. It is difficult to convey the gloom this incident creates.

My impression of the affair is based entirely on a story in the Washington Post. A letter from Mr. Tigar posted on the school bulletin board is entirely free of bitterness--or explanation, except to say that the Post story is close to the mark.

Sincerely,

