

## THE PRESS OPINIONS

### Inaccurate facts

To the Editor:

The necessary foundation for any form of news media, including a college newspaper, is accuracy in reporting, a foundation which last week's *Press* clearly lacked.

More than one article contained incomplete or inaccurate information, but the most brutal abuse of journalism was "NYPIRG Tells of Issues During Rally." Clearly the reporter did not take his assignment seriously. Either he did not pay attention to what was said, or didn't bother to take notes, or both. Purely fabricated "facts" referring to the \$1.45 billion environmental bond for toxic waste clean-ups such as "proposition 1 on the ballot for nuclear clean-up" and "six to 10

plants have been cleaned in the last five years," are inexcusable. Almost every paragraph in this article contained misinformation, which is especially disturbing since several NYPIRG representatives could have easily cleared up any confusion this reporter may have had, yet no questions were asked.

O.K., so it's the beginning of the semester, some of the old *Press* crew are gone, and you've got lots of energetic inexperience. But accurate and complete information is essential. We can tolerate fewer articles, an imperfect lay-out, or some typing errors, but get the facts straight.

Mary Buffington

### Actor misquoted

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to two things, the interview with me by reporter Bob Velez and the letter to the editor by Patricia Francis.

As cliché as it may sound, I was misquoted, quoted out of context, and the facts in that interview were simply incorrect. I don't believe the reporter wrote with malicious intent, but I do feel that his enthusiasm for "Enquirer type" reporting got the better of him.

When I was asked about the use of profanity in the play, I responded by saying I didn't think the profanity was excessive that I thought it was true to life. When asked my opinion on the subject of A.I.D.S. and homosexuals, I responded by saying that I believe that a small portion of the homosexual

society is subconsciously relieved that A.I.D.S. is among us because they harbor deep feelings of guilt over their homosexuality. There are even homosexuals who do not practice safe sex. In the interview, Mr. Velez meshed these two issues and put quotations around them making me sound ignorant and insensitive to the homosexual faction of society. If that were the case, I would not have accepted the role in "As Is". As an actor I am aware of my limitations.

Also, James Palmer did not direct "Cabaret" last season. That credit belongs to Thomas Hischak.

I believe *the Press* should set higher standards in regard to reporters and editors.

Thanks for this chance to set the record straight.

Tony Foggia

Letters to the Editor and opinion articles submitted for publication must be typewritten, double-spaced and received at *The Press* office in Room 111, Corey Union no later than 3 p.m. on the Monday before Friday's edition.

Responses must be devoid of personal attacks or they will not be published. Anonymous letters and opinion articles will not be published.

Last week's issue of *The Press* incorrectly identified homecoming queen Sarah VanHeusen as Sarah Papach.

### Animal cruelty

To the Editor:

Outraged students and faculty on college campuses throughout the country are becoming concerned over the unbelievable mistreatment of animals in our society. There are less than 4,500 eagles left in America and less than 1,000 pandas in China. Some experts predict all mammals (bears, whales, elephants, big cats) will be gone by the year 2000! The wildlife population of Africa is only ten percent of what it was 80 years ago.

Cruelty to animals is also rampant. One animal is put to death every three seconds in American laboratories alone, and 90 percent of the

experiments contribute nothing to the advancement of knowledge!

Animal welfare organizations are growing all over the country, and some are being started on college campuses. There's a very active organization on the SUNY Potsdam campus that would like to help groups get going elsewhere in SUNY. If any students or faculty are interested in becoming involved in such an effort contact me and receive a free brochure.

John F. Marshall  
Raymond Hall  
Potsdam College  
Potsdam, N.Y., 13676

## Women under attack

To the Editor:

Women are again under attack. Let's leave alone the exploitation involved with advertising, the unpaid labor in the home, the "63 cents to every man's dollar" in the work place, the fear of rape and violence and societal pressure to overdose on Dexatrim and let's look at the issue of women's health care.

When was the last time this was on the top of people's minds? Today? Yesterday? Last week? Last month? I doubt it. But if you're a woman the last time was most likely when you yourself were in need of health care. Did you know where to turn for pregnancy testing, birth control, counseling and other necessities? Did you know absolutely where to get unbiased information and affordable prices? I doubt it, but if so — consider yourself lucky because you're in the minority.

Women, the fact is, we're under attack by certain "pro-life" advocacy groups who are subtly attempting to gain control of our bodies, our reproductive rights. These groups are deliberately advertising in ways which imply that a whole range of reproductive health services, including birth control and abortion and unbiased counseling are offered at their agencies. The truth of the matter is that their objective is to attract women and girls who are considering abortion as an option. The "counselors" try to coerce these women into NOT having an abortion under any circumstance and that they should practice abstinence and if married the "natural family planning" method rather than "artificial means" of birth control. They are using deceiving tactics such as showing anti-abortion films which are brutally graphic, medical misinformative and highly coercive, high-pressure anti-abortion rhetoric.

For example, a woman or girl who goes to one of these agencies may be shown a gory slide show consisting of bloody, mutilated fetuses and often times a dead woman who has died from a legal and safe abortion. What woman in her right mind who had not been adequately informed of the other side would even consider an abortion after that?

Some offer financial assistance but often times this only means setting the woman up with welfare and food stamp benefits so that she can at least have enough aid to keep herself barely alive until the baby is born.

Another tactic has been to set up their centers close to a legitimate clinic in order to confuse women who are going by looking for the legitimate clinic.

Who's to say abortion is right or wrong? So what gives an individual or agency the right to tell another individual that they should or should not have an abortion? There is nothing wrong with these groups voicing their opinions freely, in fact, they have this right. But they should be advertising in a clear, up front manner as to what they are. An individual does have a right to obtain unbiased and adequate information on both sides of the issue in order to make intelligent, individual choices. This is called Reproductive Freedom, the opportunity to choose, and this is what is under attack. We, as women, should not be subjected to these deceptive tactics which are threatening the right to control our own bodies and make our own choices.

So, what can be done? This calls for an immediate evaluation of all health care clinics around the state in order to find out exactly what services each facility offers and in what way they advertise. According to NOW (the National Organization of Women) there are 12 illegitimate organizations that exist presently in New York State, the nearest one being in Ithaca.

NYPIRG is currently working on this issue and will soon begin the evaluation and surveying process of all Clinics in the state.

Ultimately, NYPIRG will publish the results in a survey which will contain complete, unbiased information as to services offered and prices for each service. This will allow everyone to know exactly what they are getting into before they go to the clinic.

Jennifer Parker  
President of AWARE

### Prejudice and discrimination

To the Editor:

I am a junior here at SUNY Cortland and during my course of study have been involved in many organizations and participated in extensive committee work. I consider Cortland to be an open campus with ample opportunity for the student's voice to be heard. I appeal to you now to make known your opinion on what I consider to be a very important issue for us all.

There is a movement on campus to recognize the issues of prejudice and discrimination as major problems in our society and further, to initiate specific goals and guidelines to counteract their effects. Most of us have very little actual understanding of the many factors involved in the existence of prejudice and discrimination and are generally unaware of how, as Dr. Martin Marger states, "prejudice and discrimination are used as tools applied at varying times and degrees to protect the social, economic, and political advantages of some groups over others."

Last semester I took a course entitled "Prejudice and Discrimination," which was one of the most valuable and applicable learning experiences I've had as a student.

Indeed, I believe that my entire awareness of the existence and causes of prejudice and discrimination was substantially increased. Given this experience, I believe that we all need to become aware of the severity of these problems, even if we haven't experienced them ourselves.

Many concerned individuals on this campus have been trying to accomplish just that, and therefore have come together through the minority and Women's Studies Council and the General Education Committee to institute required educational courses in this area.

I urge you to help these committees achieve their goal and show them and the entire college community your support. Talk to your fellow students, some of whom are on the council, and let them know your opinion. I personally support the revision of the General Education Program to include courses on prejudice and discrimination.

Carole Brown

