

THE PRESS OPINIONS

Disgusted with police

To the Editor:

I am appalled with the fact that the "ski mask" attacker is still at large in our community after several months of countless committed crimes against women.

I am sincerely disheartened by the fact that more than 15 women have already been victims and that all women on campus and in the community have been subjected to the threat of mental and physical abuse by this harasser.

I am especially disgusted with the reactions expressed by police in the Press issue of Sept. 26. If the statements by Sgt. Buggs of the Cortland Police Dept. are in fact correct as quoted in the article "Ski Mask Suspect Continues to Strike" then there is an obvious lack of concern over this matter on the part of the police force.

My questions are: How can one say that this may just be a fraternity prank? How can one say that it may just be a practical joke? And finally, how can one imply that there is little reason to be concerned for no one has been physically harmed?

This "man" right now, has the power to seriously alter and even destroy the lives of many women, socially, emotionally, and educationally. This "man" is not just a "peeping Tom." This "man" enters women's private homes. This "man" runs around without pants. This "man" waits inside bathrooms for women to

come out of showers. This "man" enters bedrooms while women are sleeping and "gets off" by the excitement of women's paranoid screaming.

Can one honestly believe this to be a fraternity prank? This individual is mentally deranged and emotionally decrepid. To even consider his actions as a "practical joke" is to greatly undermine the magnitude of the problem.

One must question how great the efforts are of the police in catching this individual. One must question what kind of a priority a "practical joke" has compared to other police concerns such as torn down parking signs, riding bicycles the wrong way down Main Street and 20-year-olds drinking alcohol.

I know law enforcement is not an easy job. I know that police put their lives on the line for the protection of our community. I do sincerely appreciate this. But isn't it about time they started reevaluating the given circumstances? Isn't it about time they started expressing the magnitude of the problem? By undermining this problem they are degrading the lives and integrity of all women. It is about time they started giving women the respect they deserve. Crimes against women is not a joking matter!

Jennifer Parker
AWARE Member

What is NYPIRG?

To the Editor:

Over the last few weeks confusion has arisen about NYPIRG. NYPIRG is a statewide student directed organization that works with students to develop citizenship skills and to teach students how to shape public policy. The funding of NYPIRG on this campus is based on a referendum run every two years. The last referendum which passed with an overwhelming majority of over 75 percent of voting students, increased NYPIRG's funding to \$3 per student per semester. For that amount students receive a great deal including the following:

Last year NYPIRG ran a statewide campaign to stop financial aid cuts that were proposed. Locally we held a rally, which got wide media coverage and a petition campaign. NYPIRG along with other groups around the country was able to stop the majority of proposed cuts.

This week NYPIRG opened a Small Claims Court Counseling Center which will help give students advice on how to use the Small Claims Court system.

Consumer Guides: NYPIRG's Guide to Banks in the Cortland Area helps students decide where the best place for money is. Currently NYPIRG students are working to put together a guide on women's health care services in Central New York.

Voting: NYPIRG worked with the voter registration coalition and registered over half of the 1400 students that were registered. NYPIRG is working with the Press to put out a guide on the candidates in the upcoming election.

The Environment: NYPIRG is running a campaign to pass the environmental Quality Bond which will be on the upcoming ballot in the November election. The campaign has so far sponsored a rally and uncovered vital information to the Cortlandville water contamination problem and received media coverage everywhere from Syracuse to Binghamton.

Nuclear Issues: NYPIRG has just launched a campaign to educate people and organize them around the issue of food irradiation.

Internships: NYPIRG offers 3 credit internships on campus and full semester internships in Albany.

The funding of NYPIRG at the \$3 level is needed so that we can continue to do so much with and for students. If you are interested in NYPIRG and/or would like to get involved with any of our projects, come to our office in Corey Union and find out how you can get involved.

Ken Deutsch
NYPIRG Project Coordinator

Disappointed with Joffery report

To the Editor:

In reference to the review — or was it a "report?" — of the Joffrey II Ballet Company's performance last week, I would like to make a few observations.

Ballet is one of the most difficult of all the performing arts to review because the vocabulary used to describe it is very specialized. Sending someone to evaluate or even describe a ballet who, by her own admission, is "no connoisseur," is somewhat like asking an Australian aborigine, straight from the outback, to do a play-by-play of the World Series. It just can't be done.

As a result, your reporter ended up writing one of the most unintentionally hilarious articles I've ever seen in the Press, complete with misspellings "Boboi" for "Bobili," misapprehensions, "the male dancers displayed symmetry," and illiteracies: "In a moving sequence involving three intermissions."

As a further result, the writing competence of our students will be questioned by both the

members of the Joffrey II who might get hold of this article, and any Cortlandite who'd seen the performance and had a smattering of knowledge of what he or she saw.

As one of the "older crowd (who) really enjoyed" the performance (I'll be forty-three soon which, I suppose, makes me eligible for Social Security), I sense the enthusiasm which your reporter felt for what she saw, and I feel for her in her frustration at being unable to describe the performance coherently. It does not help, however, when one is doing a review, to quote others who seem to be even more incoherent ("Your heart was totally exposed") than oneself.

I would suggest, in the future, that the safest and fairest thing to do when giving a reporter an assignment is to make certain that she's equipped to do it so that she does not find herself in such a difficult position.

Joel Shatzky
English Dept.

Who blinked first?

By ART BUCHWALD

The most important question to be answered about the Daniloff affair is: which side blinked first?

This was what the press asked President Reagan when he announced that the reporter was being released by the Soviets.

The President replied with a stiff upper lip, "They blinked... We didn't give in."

I believe President Reagan. What is distressing is that the President's right-wing supporters do not. They have been trumpeting charges that the United States caved in and gave Moscow a victory.

The question of who blinks first has become more important than arms control as far as the superpowers are concerned. Some people even say that the survival of the human race hangs on it.

Even amongst the country's foremost blinking experts there is disagreement about the eye movement of the leading players.

The White House Blinkmanship expert told me, "Daniloff was not swapped for Zakharov. There is no link between the two men. The Soviets gave up Daniloff

because they know they were wrong, and we gave up Zakharov because he was getting to be a pain in the ear."

I pursued this. "The President says he didn't blink. Is it possible Secretary of State George Shultz blinked in his place?"

"George Shultz doesn't blink without Reagan's approval."

"I've seen him blink on television coming out of negotiations with the Soviet foreign minister."

"He was blinking because of the TV lights — not because of his meeting with Shevardnadze. The reason why people think that Shultz blinks is because he always looks as if he's dozing off at his own press briefings."

"Nevertheless, the right wing says because the United States blinked, the Soviets no longer believe we'll use the bomb."

"Well, the right wing is wrong."

I decided to find out how the Daniloff release was playing in Moscow. I called the Kremlin collect.

"I understand you people blinked in order to get your spy back," I said.

"U.S.S.R. never blinks," the Red expert said. "Is

U.S.A. that blinked. We could have held Daniloff for 30 years."

"Yes," I said, "and we could have held Zakharov just as long."

"Who cares? Do you think we would blink with the U.S. over inept Soviet spy?"

"When the deal was made by the Kremlin big shots, were you in the room?"

"Yes, I was there."

"And can you swear to me on your honor as a Communist government flunky that Gorbachev did not blink?"

"He did not blink. He scratched his head, but he did not blink."

The line was cut off. The last call I made was to Professor Walter Lowen who holds the chair of Regis Blinkmanship at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

"Professor, you've been studying the swap. Who do you think blinked first?"

"I'm looking at the films now," he said. "They blinked at exactly the same time."

"Why would they do that?"

"So they could both get a free trip to Iceland."

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AIDS awareness

To the Editor:

President Clark has designated Oct. 22 to Oct. 29 "Aids Awareness Week." During that time there will be a number of lectures and seminars, and the play "AS IS" will be performed a number of times on campus.

That week will present a test for our community and the college. It is a test that many other communities have failed and are failing. As a college, we advocate and should observe a more objective and open approach to issues such as homosexuality and death than other segments of society ordinarily demand.

We can fail this test by using the occasion more as an opportunity to express our own insecurities about homosexuality and death than to use the opportunity to learn and educate

ourselves about a serious concern to society. Our goal should not be the perpetuation of stigma and avoidance, but to increase awareness about the difficult human problems raised by the existence of AIDS in our society.

It would be particularly sad if the actors, actresses (indeed, all those who work to bring this controversial play to us), the educators who devote their class time to the issue or the speakers who come to campus at our invitation were to be subjected to suspicion or hostility for their role in the activities of that week.

This has happened in other places, and if it were to happen here it would lessen our standing as an open educational community. The issues are very emotional, but our

reaction need not be hysterical.

We could also fail by ignoring the events of the week, and this may be a temptation, since the issues are painful to confront.

Can we profit from the test by a calm and open-minded discussion of a potentially divisive and, for many, personally threatening topic. The occasion offers a chance for increased tolerance of others, and a chance to examine our own humanity. Principally, by learning. Nothing less should be expected of a college.

Larry Ashley Kathryn Russel
Robert Schwager Henry Sieck
John Ryder Craig Little
William Russell Del Janik
Robert Lehr Dev Kennedy
John Stockwell Richard Ives
Susan Scales Clayton Alcorn
Bob Hammond Phil Bennett