

VIEWPOINTS

Alpha Epsilon Pi

...not to discriminate

To the Editor:

Alpha Epsilon Pi is a non-discriminatory Jewish international fraternity. It was originated on November 7, 1913 by Charles C. Moskowitz at New York University.

My goal is to clear up any questions you may have about whether this fraternity is for you. The most common question is "Do you have to be Jewish to belong to this fraternity?" "The answer is, "NO!" Even though students get the feeling that they have to be Jewish to belong, they don't, they never had to or will have to. This fraternity will always be a non-discriminatory Jewish fraternity. It would be silly to discriminate when there are more non-Jews than Jews on campus.

Every fraternity has its origin, its roots, and this fraternity will never take them for granted. Within every origin there are certain values. Not every fraternity respects those values, but Alpha Epsilon Pi does. Not every fraternity recognizes the importance of its origin's

values.

What are these values that are so important, that even a person who is not Jewish would want to take part in? I feel that there are four major values that are an essential part of the fraternity. They are a sense of brotherhood, to educate those that are lacking information about people's differences, tzedakah; which is the act of giving of one's self to help others, and to fight for the rights of all people, not just the Jewish people.

I would think that anybody, whether Jewish or not would agree that this is a fraternity worth fighting for. Even though I am not a member, I do support this fraternity as long as it keeps in mind its original purpose. This is why I choose to fight for it, rather than stand idly by. I encourage anyone who believes in these same values, to get in touch with Scott Hutten and become one of the many who belong.

Brian Kerman
Elementary Education

Concern regarding 'racial?' cartoon

To the Editor:

I am writing regarding a pair of editorial comments published in *The Press* issue released on October 7. The people in question seem to be worried about minorities being unfairly painted as dumb or stupid in a cartoon released on September 30.

I think that these people's fears are unfounded and unfortunate. I think that half of the problems involving minorities are caused by the minorities themselves. In the cartoon in question, nobody was being harmed. What if the cartoon had been of a white student? Could the white students then argue that they were being portrayed as dumb? Under the arguments used by the two

writers in Friday the Seventh's issue, they could. Minorities cause half of their own problems. They seem to take everything as a personal slap in the face. The cartoon was intended in fun, and I am disappointed that it could only be taken by some as a racial slur.

I don't believe that that cartoon was meant in any way as a racial crack. Minorities say that they want to live in peaceful coexistence with the majority, and the only way that I see that that can be done is if the minorities of this world stop taking every little thing as a personal attack on themselves.

Kirby Lord
Education Major

COCO to support off campus students

To the Editor:

It can't happen to me. Everything is great, my house is perfect. Are you an off campus student thinking this right now? If you are, just sit back and think about this. Every semester there are students at SUNY Cortland who are living under conditions unthinkable by the average student. Some off campus dwellings lack the basic plumbing, heating and support utilities that most of us take for granted. Even if there are no problems with the house, there are certainly problems with landlords or housemates.

Now you're thinking that there is nothing that the off campus resident can do about his or her particular situation. But here you're incorrect, on campus there is an organization called the Cortland Off Campus Organization or COCO for

short, and its job is to help the off campus student deal with their particular problems. Now you're thinking, hey great, but I have no problems now. But you might have problems in the future, and what are you going to do then? Now, we have the answer, support COCO. You can do this several ways; First, join COCO, Its not just an office, but a forum of students. Second, Attend COCO workshops (the first on October 26) and become involved in off campus affairs. And third, Tell a friend to join COCO, on campus or off they are more than welcome.

All I'm trying to say is get involved with COCO because it needs you to exist and you need it to exist.

Michael C Benton
CCSA senator
COCO member

No sexual harassment

Letter to the Editor:

Over the past few years, I have written each member of the faculty about the problem of sexual harassment, stating that the College does not tolerate this kind of inappropriate, disrespectful, and often illegal behavior. Sexual harassment is widely understood as an abuse of power and, in the relationship between faculty and students, a violation of ethics and trust. The result of sexual harassment is to deprive women students and women employees of their right to learn and work in a sex-neutral environment, a right protected in state and federal law. I am writing now to reaffirm this College policy and to express concern about other incidents of harassment.

Given the College's commitment in its mission statement to basic civility, social justice, and respect for human diversity, we must not tolerate incidents which demean, stereotype, discriminate, threaten, or harm another person, particularly on the basis of one's sex, race, ethnicity, age, handicapping condition, or sexual orientation.

In recent years the numbers of racially charged, anti-Semitic, and anti-homosexual incidents have increased throughout the country. Even Cortland College has had a few such incidents. It is important to safeguard the rights of all members of the Cortland community to learn and work in an environment free of personal harassment. We must use the tool we know best—education—to prevent the occurrence of such incidents and we must act expeditiously if and when incidents occur.

It has been brought to my attention that there has been some confusion in the past regarding the appropriate channels for reporting incidents of harassment. Obviously, no action can occur unless information is accurately and appropriately reported.

Incidents which occur between students should initially be brought to the attention of the Vice President for Student Affairs. Incidents involving faculty/staff and students or faculty/staff and faculty/staff should be brought to the attention of Affirmative Action Officer. Both offices are located on the fourth floor of the Miller Administration Building. The process for remedy may take a variety of forms including counseling, mediation, formal grievance procedures, and disciplinary action.

I trust that each of you will support the College's efforts to create a campus environment that exemplifies the best of liberal learning—tolerance and respect for the dignity of all people.

James M. Clark
President

THE PRESS

OPINIONS

Students violated of due process

By JOE IORIZZO
CCSA President

The first of many issues that I have promised to solve this year, you have read about in the September 30th issue of *THE PRESS*. The issue being Judicial Reform.

When I was running for President last semester, I made judicial reform one of my campaign issues for one reason. Students were not getting due process in their hearings. I often thought that it was the JRB Justices themselves that were responsible, but I guess I owe them an apology. Last semester, one of my ideas for judicial reform was to create a Student Advisory Board. The Board was to act as representatives for other students before JRB, as to insure a fair hearing. Over the

summer, this idea was met with much disapproval by the Administration. One can only ask why would someone not want students representing students in front of JRB as to assure a trial with due process? One could make an educated guess and say that the Administration feels that the system is running fine and needs no reform. Perhaps, but in light of the testimony given by several former JRB Justices, it is time to listen to the students.

Now let me give you a brief summary of what has been going on with judicial reform. The Chief Justice of JRB came to the Executive Board in early September and said that there were some serious problems with the way JRB was running. Further investigation affirmed the concerns about JRB's problems. For example, when students were found "Not Guilty" by JRB, the administrative advisor would

show disagreement towards the decision either by a facial expression or a sigh of disgust. These actions clearly pressure the student justices to find other students guilty. Also, the JRB advisors would often suggest that the JRB believe testimonies of college employees over a student's. In other cases, student justices were led to think that students should be found guilty on one particular charge because of their past history. Another clear example of a

students violation of due process is when information is provided about a student to the Board, and the students can't refute it or at least explain the information provided. In short, JRB is a puppet branch of the administration and is no longer student controlled. But, most important, is that students going before the board might as well not ever get a hearing, because it seems the question of guilt or innocence is already decided by the administration, prior to the hearing.

In an effort to try to combat the sustained administrative control and due process violations of JRB, I am working closely with former JRB Justices in order to form an Advisory Board.

In closing, I would like to quote an ancient Greek tragedian, who sums up nicely how I feel the administration views the student movement for judicial reform. "Whom the gods wish to destroy, they first make mad". (Cited - an article by Norman Podhoretz, *Commentary Magazine*).

These views do not necessarily represent those of The Press.