

VIEWPOINTS

"Hollywood" insulting to Cortland students

To the Editor:

In last week's Press, the candidates for the CCSA elections were given the opportunity to introduce themselves to those who would vote for them on April 10 and 11. Putting my personal candidate preferences aside, I could not help but feel that my intelligence had been highly insulted by the presentation made by the presidential candidate, Michael "Hollywood" Paul. His article was nothing more than a vagrant boasting of his personal career successes. A career, one may note, which has almost nothing to do with the problems facing SUNY Cortland overall as an institution, as well as, the student body within it.

Unlike the other two presidential candidates, Paul failed to let his possible constituency know where he stands on the issues which students face today. As a matter of fact, he gives no indication that he is even aware of the existence of these important problems. Furthermore, Paul states that he was once a CCSA Senator and that he also served as a JRB justice. But that was four years ago, and since then, a lot of changes have occurred on the Cortland campus, changes whose importance he fails to acknowledge. For example: Four years ago there was no GALA on this campus; four years ago, the black student population was not even one-half of what it is today. And for

the Latin Student Union, it was hardly in existence at that time. Four years ago, there were four fraternities and one sorority. Today, the Greek organization has expanded and flourished, and I venture to say that it has doubled in size compared to what it was then. Today, there is GALA, and Paul states that he is for them. But in what way? What GALA members should want to know (as well as other students) is where he stands on the funding of GALA, more specifically, on where exactly those funds should come from. What members of the Black Student Union and the Latin Student Union should want to know is Paul's stand on the minority recruitment program, on programs focusing on the assimilation of minority students into a predominantly white campus, which leads inevitably to the problem of prejudice. What would his policies be on these issues? He also indicates an awareness of one of the problems facing fraternities and sororities, but fails to indicate what possible role, if any, these growing organizations should/could play on this campus in a drive to improve Cortland, both academically and socially.

Paul does, however, seem to it that voters are aware of his close friendships with both Governor Cuomo and President Clark. In the article, he states that "(i)f elected, I will personally continue my contacts with the Governor and ask him to speak at Cortland." Are we to then assume that if not

elected, he will not use his "personal contacts" to ask the Governor to speak at Cortland (an act which in itself would be quite controversial since Cuomo is the one [proposing such drastic budget cuts for the SUNY system]? And are we also to believe that Paul is of such an influential role to the Governor that his personal requests carry so much more weight than the rest of the Governor's whole constituency? This I doubt highly. AND as for relations with President Clark, I think it is safe to assume that whoever is elected will have to establish such a close working relationship with the President, as well as with any other member of this school's decision-making body.

What Paul does promise, however, is the opportunity for more parties and a disc jockey. It is here that he proves to be most offensive. Is he suggesting that we are so shallow a student body that we would elect the first person who is not only an alleged "star" (for lack of a better word), but who also promises to fight for our right to party only, without touching on the major issues? What Paul has failed to realize (and what I would most dearly hope is safe to assume) is that the students here at Cortland make up a thinking, able-minded community who cannot be so cheaply bought.

Beatrix Valles
Political Science

Hazing violence unacceptable

To the Editor:

The April 6 issue of the Cortland Standard reported that three members of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity were arrested April 5 on a charge of second degree hazing. According to city police Sgt. Emmett Lang, the three are accused of entering the residence of a pledge, tying a scarf around the student's face, handcuffing his hands behind his back, and tying a rope under his crotch by fastening it to his belt. The three fraternity members then reportedly put the student in a sack, put him in the back of a truck, and drove him around the city. The vehicle was later discovered in the Neubig Road parking lot with the student still in the back. Activities relating to fraternity initiation or other fraternity activities that include coercion, physical or mental abuse are illegal. According to state law, any pledging activity that causes injury, or creates the risk of injury, is illegal—even if pledges participate voluntarily.

I urge any student who has knowledge of such incidents, either as a participant or a witness, to contact Public Safety (x2111), the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs (x4721), me (x4106), or any faculty member. These individuals are more than willing to maintain confidentiality. Anyone who tells you that violence or abuse of any kind is an acceptable part of fraternity pledging or fraternity life either is a liar or a fool.

Robert J. Spitzer
Department Chair, Political Science

Mediation and off campus student services available

To the Editor:

Are you having legal trouble with your landlord or with housemates? Right about now you are probably wondering if you will ever see that security deposit again, or if that housemate you never really liked much, who you just know is failing out because he/she spent

every waking moment downtown is going to stiff you for the bills at the end of the semester. Let Mediation Services and the Off-Campus Student Services Program help you!

Cortland Off-Campus Mediation Services are reaching out in an effort to let Off-Campus Students know about its services

and what they can offer.

Mediation can help with landlord/tenant situations, small claims type disputes, communication problems between housemates or friends, and in many other circumstances. Parties to a mediation have the opportunity to create a legally enforceable

(cont'd on page)

THE PRESS

OPINIONS

Participation Appreciated

By Tracy Messinger
and
Kathryn Russell

Many thanks to the Cortland College students, faculty, staff and Cortland community members who traveled by bus to the March on Washington April 9th. Also, thanks needs to go out to those individuals who made contributions to the effort of getting the Cortland group to the march. This contingent was organized by the women students' group All for Women Achieving Respect and Equality (A.W.A.R.E.) and the Cortland Coalition for Choice. Our group was spirited and supportive of each other, and it was exciting to be part of the largest demonstration for women's rights in the history of this country. What a feeling it was to be surrounded and united with the people from across the country and world joined for the purpose of one cause — women's rights! How spectacular it was to see over 600,000 people stretched from the steps of the Capitol!

Unfortunately, some think our presence will have no impact on the government. Vice-President Quayle, for example, doubts the Supreme Court will pay attention to the demonstration. But such mass actions have had an effect before — witness the anti-war movement's effectiveness in helping to bring an end to the Viet Nam War. In demonstrating for reproductive freedom and the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, we are struggling for a time when pregnancy is neither a mandatory condition of womanhood nor a punishment. As a civilization and as intelligent and thinking persons, we need to take rational control of the reproductive process. Abortion rights are necessary so that women have the right to choose when they are able to care for a child and so that we are not forced to turn to life-threatening procedures to terminate a pregnancy. Some members of our group might not opt for abortions themselves, but we all feel that legal and safe abortions must remain available for women who need them. Cortlanders who went to the Capitol, and many more who were unable to go but supportive, stand with huge numbers of citizens ready for a long organizing campaign to safeguard women's needs.

Press Editorial Policy

The Press welcomes letters from readers. All letters to the editor submitted for publication must be typewritten, double-spaced and received at The Press office, Room 111, Corey Union, no later than 3 p.m. on the Monday before Friday's publication. All letters must contain the writers name, class year, major, and phone number for clarification.

Letters longer than 300 words will be edited by The Press in such a way as to preserve brevity, without altering the syntax of the letter. All letters will be run verbatim. Letters too long for editing or those in question will be returned to the writer for clarification and/or shortening.

Letters must be devoid of personal attacks or they will not be published. Anonymous letters will not be accepted. The Press reserves the right to accept or reject and letters received, and all letters become the property of The Press.