

Current Affairs

Misconceived notions...

By ARUNA BALLADIN
Current Affairs Editor

An Eastern woman in a Western culture was once told "you can't hold on to your Eastern ideas any more, you are in a Western world now." Essentially she was told to forget her values, ideals, and the sense of being that she had worked for during the past twenty-one years. She was told to just throw it out.

Well, Western heritage represents, as an Easterner sees it, the philosophy of the majority.

That's why there are so many minority groups being discriminated against. If those minority groups give up their rights to their lives, to their values, to their hopes, then what? This is the philosophy that leads to oppression of people. This is the philosophy that breeds a land of weak, silent minds.

So why would the Eastern woman have to be accountable for learning and understanding this philosophy? Should she not hold on to her values but socially find a point where she

can co-exist with her new surroundings?

Yes, Plato and Locke were undeniably part of the mainstream...but they represent a universal philosophy. This philosophy extends to people as a whole regardless of culture, creed, color, or sex. If you listen to your forefathers, the ones you based your constitution on, you hear, "You do your thing, I'll domine." A loose way of looking at the golden rule, maybe, but respect and tolerance of differences is

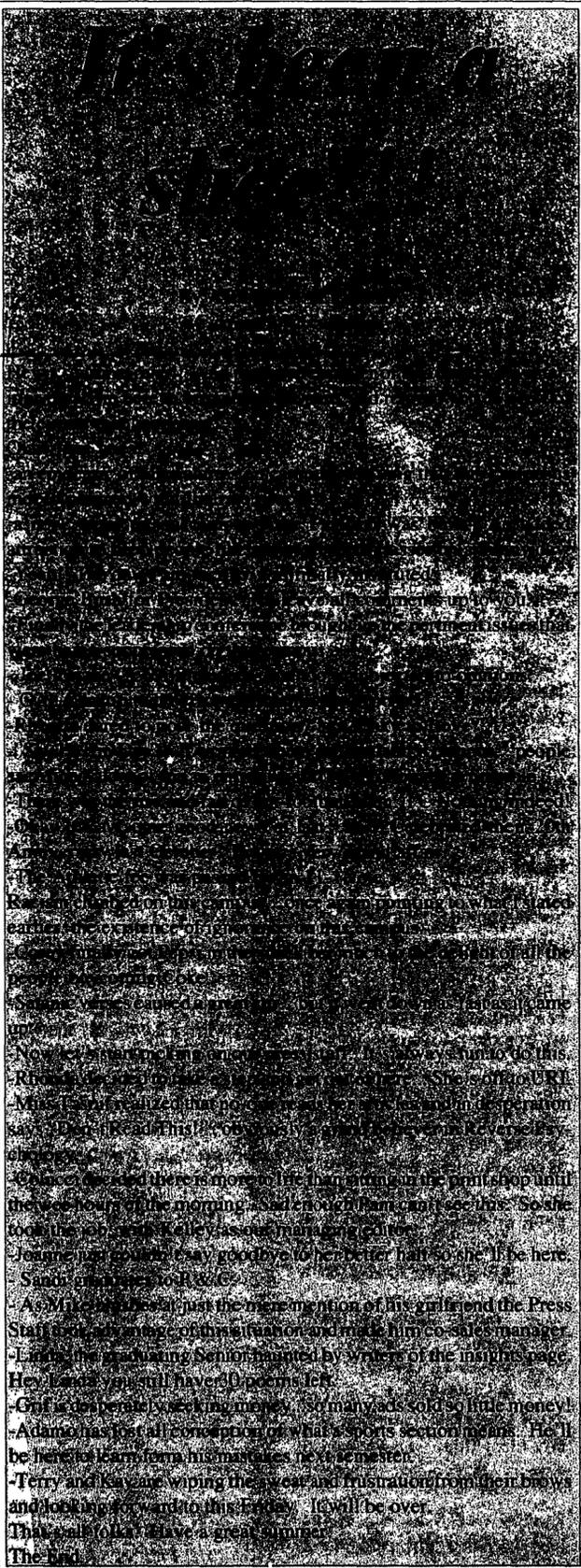
needed. Plato said that everything's not relative. This is important if we are to speak of rights. There should be some truth in this notion of rights.

It is important to recognize the meaning of what constitutes a minority group. It is not just Blacks or Latinos. It's also women, Easterners, Indians, gays and lesbians, or anybody being discriminated against because they are not a part of the mainstream.

It's a misconceived no-

tion that people when in Rome should do as the Romans do. Think about it. If everyone just repeated what the majority believed what indeed would this world be?

It is true that the Eastern woman has to sacrifice a few of her norms to fit into the Western way of life- that is expected. But why her values? As we understand it, America is the "Land of the Free", with "Liberty and Justice for All." Or is that too a misconceived notion?



There are creatures in the laundry

By ARUNA BALLADIN
Current Affairs Editor

Please allow me to entertain you with this story. It's about a college student who looks and thinks like I do, a basket of dirty laundry and destructive little creatures residing in the washing machine. There was a time when I had white or red, and once even blue ones. Now they're either not there at all or are now a funny green color. At one time all my underwear were pastel shades...now it's green. They are all green. I had hated white Cortland sweat pants once ... I don't anymore. It's all green. No more white. Just green. Maybe I should have asked for guidance and expert advice on how to tackle the dorm sweet dorm outlook. I may have avoided this entire situation. Hey let's start from the begin-

ning. It's always the best place to start. Well it was a Monday night and here I was Joe -coed all ready to venture into the world of laundry. I approached the machine remembering all the acts of reverence... bowing, crossing fingers and praying reverently. This is needed so as not to offend the creatures of the washing machine. I opened the tomb of my fate, filled it with clothes, went through all the rituals of closing the lid, putting the detergent and the softer. I stood there head bowed, hands clasped as the machine went into the spin cycle. Finally the rumbling stopped. That was it my laundry was done. I opened it... what was this green sock doing in here... who's green sweats are these. Slowly realization dawned ... this was my laundry gone green. Now what had I done wrong?

Maybe I didn't say the right hymns, oh I don't know, all I know is that my -laundry is green. And I hate the color green. I panicked, I asked everyone's advice. Noone knew. I settled for mom... Mom who always picked up the pieces as they fell and replaced them with a smile. Mom was always synonymous with a cure, until today... When I realized that not even mom can help me. I was doomed to walk around with green laundry! There is a moral that those dratted creatures in the machine taught me... I have to learn to make my mistakes, fall and learn to walk again. Because mom won't always be there and one day I will be the only person there for me. So I will have to be enough to make the sun shine again ... green laundry or else.

A break from civilization

By AMELIA ALI
Asst. Current Affairs Editor

A touch of the Islands was brought to Cortland on Friday, April 21. The Black Student Union sponsored their first Caribbean Festival in the Van Hoesen Cafetorium at 7 p.m. The coordinator was John Baptiste, a freshman here at Cortland College. The Festival was designed to educate and entertain people about the diversity of cultures on the Cortland campus. This was done through a cultural dinner and the entertainment was by a Steel Band.

The program began with Robert Benjamin, Assistant Director of EOP (Educational Opportunity Program). Mr. Benjamin, a native of Trinidad, an island near Venevezula, spoke

about the history of how music began in the Islands. The band that performed used Steel pans, which are portions of a steel barrel. In the Caribbean Islands, when slavery was occurring, and instruments were taken away, the slaves found many things from which to make music. One of these was a steel barrel, thereby creating a steel band. This instrument is usually played during a carnival. Carnivals are large festivals used to express the feelings of the people in any type of situation. Such situations include financial problems, family matters and political disagreements. Costumes were created and songs were made to bring forth the full effect of a carnival.

The music was performed by the Dundee Symphonic Band who were from the Dundee

Central School located in Dundee, New York. Some of the tunes played were kokomo, Surfing U.S.A., Tie a Ribbon Around the Old Oak Tree, and several from the Caribbean Islands. The Band members were students whose ages ranged from twelve to seventeen. They tour all over the United States and Europe.

The dinner consisted of curry Chicken and beef, three types of rice, fried chicken and other delicacies. The food was a big change from the usual Winchell servings. It contained a lot more spices but everyone welcomed it openly.

After the entertainment a party was held which lasted until 1 a.m. A variety of music was played and the large turnout was receptive to the whole program.