

# Briefly...

## BRIEFS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

### WISCONSIN STUDENTS COULD SUE IF SCHOOL DISCRIMINATES AGAINST THEM

(CPS)— The Wisconsin state Senate passed a bill Feb. 27 that would let students sue the University of Wisconsin if UW discriminates against them on the basis of race, sexual orientation or "other minority status."

UW officials "don't want to be held accountable for their discrimination, and that's a fact," claimed Sen. Don Stitt, who sponsored the measure. Gov. Tommy Thompson has not said whether he will sign the bill into law, which supporter Sen. Lynn Adelman characterized as a "strong sword" to force UW to avoid discrimination problems.

### TENNESSEE STATE REELS UNDER 'QUALITY OF LIFE' PROTEST

(CPS)— Complaining about cockroaches in their dorms, leaky roofs, unreliable bus service and other "slum-like" living conditions, about 1,000 Tennessee State University students conducted a midnight march on TSU President Otis Floyd Jr.'s house Feb. 22, while another 75 occupied Floyd's office.

"All we're asking for is a little hot water when we take a shower," student body President Jeff Carr told the crowd outside Floyd's house.

Floyd said he would not pardon any protesting students. "I'll guarantee that."

In recent months, students at the University of Rhode Island, State University of New York at Brockport, and Kansas State, Western Michigan and Clarkson universities, among others, also have protested declines in the quality of campus services.

### BOSTON U. PRESIDENT CHIDES SCHOOL OFFICIAL FOR PRAISING MANDELA

(CPS)— Jon Westling, acting president of Boston University, chastised a subordinate for citing South African dissident Nelson Mandela as a worthy role model during an early February speech to 8th grade children.

"Nelson Mandela is not someone who should be held up as an heroic example of patient commitment to a good cause," Westling wrote to Diana Law, superintendent of schools in Chelsea, Mass., which BU controls as part of an experiment to improve the school system.

Westling noted Mandela "has advocated violence" and "sanctioned the murder of political opponents."

## *We the students...* Students have rights

Debi Tracy  
CCSA Executive Vice President

"No man was ever endowed with a right without being at the same time saddled with a responsibility"— Gerald W. Johnson.

One of CCSA's primary responsibilities is to defend students' rights. But often I wonder if students realize how many rights they have and if they actually understand them.

Sometime during my first few months at Cortland, I received a list titled "Students' Rights." Now, in the midst of the semester, I would like to share with you the list.

You have the right to:

1. ask for help, time; the right to make requests;
2. ask questions of process, teachers, administrators, etc.;
3. need help, information, etc.;
4. express your own opinion and preference about what is valuable to you as a learning experience;
5. take time to make a decision;
6. make requests that are sanctioned by rules;
7. refuse requests for personal information;
8. have a professor's time;
9. have help, from peers, teachers, administrators, staff, etc.;
10. ask others to keep agreements (faculty, administrators, staff, peers);
11. express your feelings— positive and negative, including disappointments, frustration, etc.;
12. ask for fair evaluations and feedback;
13. ask for reconsideration of grades, dates, etc.;
14. define your motives and behavior;
15. be treated with respect, to be listened to and taken seriously;
16. present yourself positively;
17. refuse a request without feeling guilty;
18. set your own priorities, agenda, etc.;
19. control your own work, ideas, etc., to determine how you will spend your time;
20. ask people to take responsibility for their actions;
21. make requests for change in others' behavior;
22. express your preference and values;
23. apply your own judgement to making decisions about yourself and your future;
24. negotiate differences or conflicts; and
25. make mistakes— and be responsible for them.

Remember, know your rights and your responsibilities.

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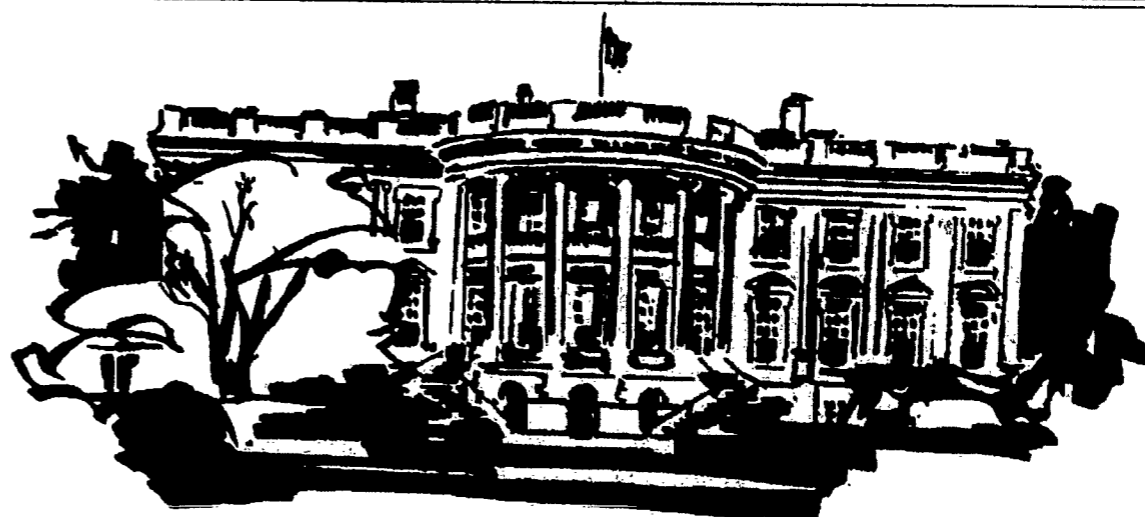
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SUNY Cortland - Office of Student Life

Fay Corey Union, P.O. Box 2000, Cortland, New York 13045

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