

## Letters to the Editor

# Theta Chi "mistreated" claims SR student

To the Editor:

Your article about the loss of recognition of Theta Chi by the administration, is reflective of a larger injustice infecting the Greek system. I believe the injustice is in the suppression of the fraternal system.

Though I'm not a brother of Theta Chi, I can sympathize with their plight. They are charged with not showing enough commitment to the Greek system. I feel this is

simply untrue. They regularly attend IFC meetings and participate in as many Greek events as the "best frats" do.

"The large number of incidents" may be a function of their highly visible house. As a Greek, I know they do nothing worse than any other frat does, whether or not they currently live in a house. Not one active brother can be accused of having a hand in the auspicious placement of their house. Perhaps Old Main is more upset with where things

happen rather than what is happening.

"Low academic status" is a crime a lot of individuals and organizations can be charged with at one time or another. This should not be a basis for loss of recognition. Other times, other frats have had the lowest QPA in the fraternal system yet they did not lose their recognition. Underage drinking isn't a bad crime, and it isn't as bad as disorderly conduct. Tell me this, is disorderly conduct

worse than allowing a thief to go free without pressing charges?

Dr. Matthews 'asked' Theta Chi for a written report of their intention for improvement. "Asked," is the key word. He cannot demand it nor does Theta Chi have to submit one, which they did not. Dr. Matthews said that to get back into good standings, Theta Chi must "clean-up" their act. "Clean-up" is another key word. It is vague and no set guidelines exist to judge a "clean-up" process.

"Cleaning up ones act" is on-going relative to one's morals, perceptions, and duties. It sounds like Old Main could hold Theta Chi in a state of limbo until it is choked out of existence.

Theta Chi is not the first frat to be a scapegoat for what all frats do. I fear they won't be the last victim. The injustice is where an organization is sacrificed for the perceptions of another entity.

Blake Inman  
Sigma Nu 213

"If you don't want it in print, don't let it happen." --Spencer Crump

## Voters urged to sign-up to vote in November

To the Editor:

Hello again. In my first Letter-to-the-Editor, I promised to keep students informed on CAS activities during the year. Since then, plenty has been happening in and around the Commonwealth Association of Students.

Voter registration has been underway since the beginning of September. The importance of this project can't be overemphasized. As the student lobbying voice in Pennsylvania, our effectiveness depends on support. Support which can best be measured by the number of students registered to vote.

Next week is National Student and Youth Voter Registration Week. Registration tables will be stationed all over campus. Places to look for them are: the College Union, both cafeterias, and the dorms.

In the first week of voter registration, CAS along with

other organizations on and off campus, registered 200 voters. We would like to see at least 1000. Since elections are on November 2, our voter registration drive ends on October 1. Let's show Pennsylvania that we are concerned and aware at Slippery Rock State College. Register to vote.

Also coming up, Greek Voter Registration Day is on Thursday, September 30. Beginning at common hour, Greeks can show their support.

In the month of October, CAS will be sponsoring voter education. The Butler County Nuclear Freeze Ballot will be one of our main interest areas along with CASPAC's (CAS Political Action Committee) endorsement of Rob DiSpirito for State House Representative from Butler County. Thank you.

Wendy J. Bossons  
CAS Coordinator

## Commentary

# "Freedom" is the Key Word

That freedom includes your right to read this newspaper. It includes other rights such as freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

All too frequently, the newspaper reader forgets that these rights are guaranteed under the First Amendment. We're prone to accept these freedoms, because they're not challenged.

The reporters and editors of this newspaper work for YOU the reader. They want to have the latest information that is needed for YOU to participate in our democratic form of government.

YOU should have high expectations from your newspaper. You want truthful, accurate, factual reporting. You want clarity in writing.

Adversarial interviews and one-sided reporting are threatening a free press and freedom of expression.

Not everything in the world is wrong. This newspaper brings you the highlights of positive happenings, too.

This newspaper must not withdraw from controversy like ignored beauty contestants, however.

It must be fair. It must be accurate. It must listen to your concerns. It must provide solid, basic information.

Communication may not be easy. But the alternative is non-communication. That begs governmental controls.

We in the press can and should be objective. We can and should let you be drawn

into a dialogue about the meaning of an unimpeded flow of information. We can and should be responsible and accountable. We can and should encourage professional excellence.

The press is met with a certain amount of distrust, cynicism and skepticism. Thus, the press must make every effort to close those cleavages.

The American people are freer than ever before. They are freer to criticize. They are freer because of freedom of expression.

This newspaper has an obligation and responsibility to rethink your attitudes toward the future.

Our democratic system is healthy because competing voices are ready and willing to challenge one another in public.

The First Amendment protects with equal force the ideas we despise as well as those we cherish.

In a democracy, it is the public's job to determine what information is necessary to a self-governing society.

The U.S. Supreme Court repeatedly has said, "Speech concerning public affairs is more than self-expression; it is the essence of self-government."

Howard Graves  
President, The Society of  
Professional Journalists,  
Sigma Delta Chi

## Editorial

# Theta Chi's loss of recognition will benefit SR Greek system

On Sept. 15, the administration of SRSC revoked the recognition of the Theta Chi Fraternity for a large number of unacceptable occurrences and low academic status.

We at the *Rocket* agree with this action, although it amounts to little more than a slap on the wrist, we hope this will direct the fraternity towards a more acceptable mode of behavior.

The college has left the door open for the fraternity to regain recognition if they

"clean up their reputation" and "participate more often in Greek affairs." This discipline is clearly of a constructive nature.

The statement issued by Theta Chi, claims they are attempting to make the improvements the college has asked for. If this is so, they are moving toward regaining their recognition.

In the long run, Theta Chi, the Greek system and the entire campus will benefit from this incident.

## The Rocket Staff

The *Rocket* is published weekly during each academic year by the students of Slippery Rock State College. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the college and the student body.

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