

Since November 22, our two organizations have had continuing discussion over the printing of the "Ding Dong" character in the November 16th edition of the City Collegian.

The Asian/Pacific Islander Student Union (A.P.S.U.) realizes that there are certain fundamental differences between the philosophies of the two organizations that are delaying a complete resolution.

To restate how we view the cartoon: it ~~depicted~~ an Asian given a demeaning name was depicted gritting his prominent front teeth, squinting his slanted eyes, cringing foolishly, and spitting out broken English. The caricature "Ding Dong" reflects anti-Asian depictions in the media throughout this century. These negative stereotypes have contributed to and encouraged hostility, both verbal and physical, towards Asian/Pacific Islanders in the United States.

The City Collegian has raised the issue of freedom of the press; however, freedom of the press is not an excuse for ignorance or irresponsibility. Freedom of the press must be based on ethics, including a basic respect for human dignity. The press exists in the context of society and not in the abstract realm of rules and guidelines. It is negligent for journalists to rely on someone else's vague guidelines, without acknowledgement of the influence they have in the campus community.

The commentary appearing in the November 30th edition of the City Collegian did not satisfy the A.P.S.U.. Not only were the articles incoherent and nebulous, but some actually

contained serious allegations of racism and malicious retaliation against the A.P.S.U.. These accusations were unnecessary and inflammatory.

The A.P.S.U. is not changing it's position: the demands for an apology and retraction still stand as stated in the petition presented on December 1st. To make the most efficient progress between the A.P.S.U. and the City Collegian, the A.P.S.U. will focus it's energies toward the following.

- 1) The adoption of guidelines and procedures for the City Collegian that address specifically incidents of this nature.
- 2) Multicultural sensitivity training for the faculty of the City Collegian.