

4/19/2006

To Whom It May Concern:

After much deliberation between people throughout the Student Association office, understanding the Federal Constitution, and accepting the fact that our position, even if upheld by Student Court, will not be upheld by the UW-System or State law, we as the Defendants of court case *The Second Supper Alternative News v. University of Wisconsin – La Crosse Student Association* relinquish our legislation limiting distribution of the Second Supper Alternative News across campus, noting that our stance has not weakened or diminished toward the language and inappropriate content used in the paper.

We, as Student Association, uphold our integrity and responsibly to all students across the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse campus. We were never trying to stifle first amendment rights or stop The Second Supper Alternative News from distributing on campus. Our concerns stem from the fact that we know that directly and indirectly students, faculty, and staff have been hurt by the language the paper publishes. Furthermore, we as Student Association want all people on this campus, across the state, and even across the country to know that this paper inhibits diversity recruitment and retention and completely goes against much of what higher education tries to accomplish. It is not the intent of higher education, or Student Association, to regulate speech, rather to educate people of differing opinions and points of view.

Understanding that we can not limit the distribution of this paper, Student Association wants to make people aware of what is happening with it. It is our desire to ensure the potential of The Second Supper will become a true satirical paper, much like The Onion and will not continue to minimize people of different races, genders, sexual orientations, or any other under-represented groups. People have consistently brought issues and concerns of the language of this paper to our office and we WILL NOT continue to stand up for any discrimination or hatefulness here at UW-L. We hope that students will see this event as an opportunity to foster and facilitate conversation about the difference between freedom of speech and hate speech. Furthermore, with freedom comes great responsibility and the way people are using there freedoms can hurt and marginalize others.

With that being said, we as your Student Association President and Vice President encourage everyone to take this chance to reach out, learn about understanding human differences, and stop marginalizing people here at UW-L. This University prides itself in much of what it does and we need to continue to make this a better place where ALL students *want* and are *encouraged* to learn.

Sincerely,

Ryan Kockler

AJ Clauss

President of Student Association

Vice President of Student Association