

THE DRAGON CHRONICLE

Vol. LXXXVI No. 16 • State University of New York College at Cortland • March 19, 2009

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Win \$800 in Connections at Meal or No Meal

Come to the Corey Function room tonight at 7 p.m. for a chance to win up to \$800 in Connections to be used on campus and off campus wherever Connections are accepted.

Inspired by the popular game show, Deal or No Deal, Meal or No Meal is sponsored by RHA, NRHH, SAB, Alpha Sigma Alpha and Kappa Sigma.

Arabic professor will discuss growing up in Iraq

Hayder Assad, a Cortland Arabic professor, will discuss what life was like growing up in Iraq and what it was like being a U.S. government translator in the Iraq War.

His lecture marks the beginning of the Global Professor Lecture Series and will be held at 1 p.m. today in the Old Main Mezzanine.

CSA Carnival to be held this weekend

The Carribbean Student Association (CSA) will be holding its annual carnival this weekend.

The carnival includes games, prizes, food and more. It will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, March 20, in the Corey Function Room. Admission is free.

8th Annual Latin Fest being held this Saturday

The 8th Annual Latin Fest will be held from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Saturday, March 21, in the Corey Function Room.

Semi-formal attire is required. Admissions is \$3 for students, \$4 for non-students and \$5 for faculty.

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Students disagree with Obama's choice on Afghanistan

Survey reveals that students don't want additional troops sent

By Scott Rapp's News Writing & Reporting Class

An overwhelming majority of Cortland students surveyed

Monday disagreed with President Obama's decision to send 17,000 more soldiers to Afghanistan by the end of summer.

Out of the 114 students surveyed, 79 opposed the idea of sending additional soldiers to Afghanistan while 27 were in favor and eight were undecided.

Many students said they

opposed Obama's plan because they don't want to see anymore soldiers killed and it costs too much money to fight a war.

"We've been over there long enough. It seems to be at a standstill. It's worthless and we might as well stop sending soldiers over there to die," said Kelsey Maxon, 20, from Oswego.

In January, Obama announced that he would be sending the additional troops, starting in the spring, to stabilize the war and meet military needs. They will increase the troop force by about 50% in addition to the 38,000 that are currently there.

SEE STUDENTS ON PAGE 2

Student tells story of battle with anorexia



photo by Ben Bolding

Freshman Makenna Moriarity discusses life-threatening battle with an eating disorder. See story on page 2.

Teach-in on Congo women's struggles

Teach-in shows film about the rape and violence in the Congo

Katelyn Byrd
Contributing Writer

A teach-in entitled "Mapelo: Hearing the Women of the Congo," took place to educate about the horrifying rapes and violence that is taking place against Congolese women in Africa.

A packed crowd came to hear the message in the Dowd Fine Arts Center on Feb. 26

The teach-in included the HBO documentary film "The Greatest Silence," by Lisa Jackson, an American woman who was gang raped after a late night of work in her Georgetown neighborhood.

Trying to understand what had happened to her, Jackson soon learned that she was not alone;

there was a much more severe and intense situation occurring the world over.

"Looking for my own answers," Jackson said, helped her to decide to travel and give a voice to the suffering Congolese women who otherwise would never have an opportunity to speak out.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has had a long history of war and bloodshed due to the high amount of natural resources such as gold and coltan, which is used to make cell phones and other electronic devices.

Although a peace agreement was signed in 2006, the fighting, brutal rapes and exploitation of women march on. Within the past 10 years, over four million people have been killed and over 400,000 women raped.

Jackson documents how the rape victims try to move forward

SEE DOCUMENTARY ON PAGE 3

Unabomber's brother discusses the death penalty

David Kaczynski speaks of alternatives to controversial issue

Lauren Schutt
Staff Writer

Most of us remember back to 1996 when the series of bombings stretched over 17 years came to an end.

David Kaczynski and his wife Linda brought their suspicions to the FBI about who may have caused the three deaths and numerous injuries.

Two years later, the Kaczynskis received a \$1 million award for leading the FBI to their prime suspect: Kaczynski's own brother.

On Tuesday, March 3, Kaczynski spoke on campus in Sperry to discuss the alternatives to the death penalty and to share his story as the brother of the Unabomber.

An introduction was given by one Sociology professor Dr. Herbert Haines, who spoke of Kaczynski as the "very

personification of compassion and peacemaking."

Haines said that Kaczynski is a graduate of Columbia University and has been featured on many national TV programs to discuss the abolition of the death penalty.

Kaczynski is also an advocate for Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights and an advocate for helping the mentally ill.

"Something is changing," Kaczynski said, in regards to the death penalty.

He started out talking about which states still use the death penalty and how close they are to repealing it. He said which part of the country is most likely to use the death penalty and what New York's stance is. He also discussed the DNA revolution and a flawed justice system.

Kaczynski said the death penalty is expensive and that the process of the death penalty costs more than keeping someone in prison for life without parole. Kaczynski said, "The only excuse for taking life is necessity."

In September of 1995,

SEE UNABOMBER ON PAGE 2



photo by Ben Bolding

Kaczynski speaks to students and faculty in Sperry.

Students oppose more troops in Afghanistan

CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

Thirty-two U.S. soldiers have died since January.

However, some students feel that sending more troops to Afghanistan is a necessity.

"Yes, to maintain the progress we made. If we pull out now all that we've accomplished will be for [nothing]," said Ryan Phillips, a senior from Minders.

Mike Moriarty, a freshman from Hendrick Hall agreed.

"I have a cousin in Afghanistan. Obama is making a

choice for our nation and not supporting the president is not supporting my cousin," he said.

On March 8, army Pfc. Patrick A. DeVoe II, 27, of Auburn, was killed during a roadside bombing in Afghanistan. He was buried this week in Auburn.

With the death toll rising and the economy sagging, most students are calling for an end to the war.

"People should be coming home by now. We've been there long enough. We need to protect our people and we really don't have

the money to send them there in general. It could be used towards other things, like to better our security," said Jacqueline Marconi, a junior from Long Island.

Editor's Note: The following students contributed to this story: Jewel Brangman, Adrienne Bryerton, Kelsey Butz, Katelyn Byrd, Tara Castiglia, George Chalsen, Danielle Coughlin, Carly Montroy, Caitlin Mooney, Katelyn Moore, Patrick Morgan, Vicky Paz, Colleen Rourke, Gabe Schaub, Becky Scott and Matt Wink.

Student tells how she fought for her life

Freshman reveals personal story of battling anorexia

Erica Sanderson
News Editor

The room was silent as one Cortland student bared her soul and story of coming back from the brink of death.

This was the scene at the lecture given by Makenna Moriarity, a freshman who recounted her battle with anorexia as part of Cortland's Body Appreciation Week.

The lecture, which was attended by about 80 students and went for an hour, was held in the Corey Exhibition Lounge on Wednesday, March 4.

Moriarity explained how, with two tri-athletes for parents, she always grew up in an environment filled with healthy nutrition.

Her 6 ft. height allowed her to become an exceptional basketball player at her high school, but Moriarity said she always felt awkward and insecure about her

towering height.

Moriarity recalled how people would always exclaim how big she was. What she didn't understand at the time was that these remarks were in regards to how tall and big-boned she was, and not her weight.

This self-consciousness coupled with these comments, resulted in Moriarity slowly beginning to reduce her food intake. Eventually, Moriarity lost a lot of weight and was only eating a few grapes a day.

One day her family performed an intervention and Moriarity was forced to go to a clinic which deals in treating eating disorders.

Moriarity described all the procedures and daily routines she had to face at the clinic including a blind weight test and eating a full plate of food. Resistant to the system at first, Moriarity spiraled into a deep depression.

In addition to her personal struggles, Moriarity found out that her mother had been diagnosed with breast cancer and was undergoing chemotherapy while Moriarity lay in the hospital fighting for her life as she continued losing weight at an

alarming rate.

She even admitted attempting suicide once by trying to jump out of a hospital window to end her suffering and struggle with the disease.

After being forced to receive a feeding tube, Moriarity explained that finally a light came on inside of her and she knew that she wanted to fight and not die.

A slow recovery emerged from this revelation. Moriarity slowly began to view calories as points like in a basketball game, making food seem not as scary.

She also explained that she began to accept herself for who she is and realized that there is no such thing as a perfect body.

Today, Moriarity does a lot of advocacy work for educating people about eating disorders and is a spokesperson for people who have successfully battled an eating disorder. Her mother's cancer is in remission.

After, there was a moment of silence for all of those who have lost their lives to an eating disorder or who are currently battling one.

A survival guide for Women of Color

Club tells what it is like to be a woman of color at Cortland

Samantha Long
Staff Writer

Last year M.O.V.E (Men of Values and Excellence) presented "The Black Man's Guide to Survival at Cortland," as a part of the Black History Month events that Cortland hosts every February.

This year it was the women's

turn. On Thursday, Feb. 26, in the Jacobus Lounge, three members of Women of Color presented their guide to survival.

Tharisa Perez (Vice President), Rachel Gorman (Public Relations) and Jean-Necole Longmore (Secretary) held a panel discussion, sharing their experiences and advice with the audience.

The girls explained what it was like to come here as a woman of color and how they have adjusted

SEE SURVIVAL ON PAGE 3

Unabomber's brother turned him into the FBI

CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

Kaczynski's wife, Linda, brought up her suspicions about Kaczynski's brother Theodore.

At that point, there had already been 16 bombings sent through the mail since the late 70's.

His wife's reasons for suspecting his brother were: the "Unabomber" was thought to have been born in Chicago and a math professor at the University of California at Berkeley. Both of these were true about Theodore.

There was also a letter written to *The New York Times* from the "Unabomber" explaining his motives. Linda thought that the style of writing was very similar to the letters sent by Kaczynski's brother.

Kaczynski didn't believe his wife because his brother had never been violent or a danger to others; though his brother did have a mental illness, he denied any problem.

Kaczynski read the manifesto online and said that right from the beginning he felt uncomfortable.

He said he could hear his brother's voice while reading it. But, he still wasn't convinced. Then, when the police released an artist's sketch, Kaczynski said it looked nothing like his brother, but his wife couldn't let it go.

Kaczynski went through letters from his brother, looking for similarities. One night he had a dream and said that was the turning point, he became convinced that the "Unabomber" was his brother.

Kaczynski's wife brought up the issue of morals, ethics, and values. She said that if someone

else was hurt, then they would have that on their conscience.

Kaczynski brought up the issue of the death penalty. He was sure that if his brother was found guilty of the crimes, then he would be executed. Then Kaczynski began to worry about his mother but the Kaczynskis decided that they had no other choice but to turn him in to the FBI.

They made the call and told the FBI all the evidence they had against Theodore Kaczynski. The FBI said that they get 30,000 calls a month about the "Unabomber" and that they would look into it and get back to them.

A few weeks went by when a profiler got a hold of Kaczynski and said his brother had moved to being a suspect, but that they were going to try and rule him out first.

When he moved to the top of the suspect list, the FBI asked Kaczynski to speak to his mother about her other son.

Ten days later, he was arrested at his home in Lincoln, Montana. The FBI gave no warning to Kaczynski and his family. After that, there was a media flood. Thousands of letters were sent to the Kaczynski family. Out of all of it, there was not one piece of hate mail he said.

The Kaczynski family went a year not knowing what was going to happen. Prosecution offered life in prison without parole and the defense took it because they didn't want his mental illness exposed.

Kaczynski said he has hope that President Obama will end the death penalty. He said that the death penalty "never brought us any place positive."

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Need something to do this summer?

2009 Summer Job and Internship Fair to be held next week

Not sure what you're going to be doing this summer? Are you looking to make some money? Do you want to get job experience or internship credit?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you should attend the Cortland Summer Job and Internship Fair.

Student Employment will be holding this event on Wednesday, March 25, from 10:00a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the Corey Union Lobby and Fireplace Lounge.

A variety of employers from across New York State as well as a couple of other states will be on campus looking for summer employees and/or interns.

If you have any questions, please contact Student Employment at (607)753-2223 or ses@cortland.edu

Documentary exposes horrors faced in the Congo

CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

and live in a country that ostracizes them. Because there is such a negative stigma that is placed upon the women, they are blamed for what has happened.

Immakilee, a Congo woman who was raped by a group of Rwandan soldiers when she was 15, became pregnant. She "hopes by the grace of God someone will marry me."

Those women who were married before being raped or made into sex slaves, have been left by their husbands and abandoned by their families.

Now, in a culture that revolves around the domestic skills and the motherly guidance of the female population, these women have been involuntarily pushed into a war.

"Men are considered kings. The only war is the war against women," said a nun who helps victims through a religious group called "Mothers of the Parish."

Congolese rape victims rely on each other and a combination of prayer, song and dance to let go of the emotional pain that still holds strong.

But many women would not even be in a physical position to rejoin their communities without the help of Dr. Denis Makawage, who runs the Panzi Hospital.

As Jackson documented, the Panzi Hospital specializes in the treatments of the mutilation of women.

Makawage, who has treated females aging from two to 80, has become "overwhelmed" by how the number of victims is only increasing.

Most women have had their female reproductive organ mutilated, which is known as a



photo by Ben Bolding

Students gather in Dowd Fine Arts to view a documentary about women in the Congo.

fistula, a process where the uterus is destroyed. The rapists use a variety of instruments such as guns or sticks to achieve these monstrous destructions.

Others learn that after their attacks, they have become part of the large percentage of those who are HIV positive. But despite the horrific events these women have endured, all display smiles and affection towards Makawage and Jackson.

Makawage poses the question, "Who could do this and not feel any pain or suffering?"

In an environment where money pays for the release of rapists and males have an egotistical mentality that they own women and their bodies, this taboo only flourishes.

Despite this, there is a small movement that hopes to reinstate

the value of Congolese women.

Through the Teach-In of Mapelo and filmmaker Jackson, a message was spread through the courage of the Congolese woman who spoke out about what happened to them.

Lorraine Berry, who is the head of Neovox on campus and coordinator of the event said, "I can't believe the amount of people who showed up."

Packets were handed out to those upon arrival with information regarding the history of the Congo and what could be done to help on a personal level.

With 75 packets put together, Berry thought that was an "optimistic number." But instead of having packets leftover, a sign up sheet started for those who were unable to get a packet.

Maria Mursch, a junior

involved in CAAR, Cortland Against Another Rape, became involved after receiving an e-mail from Berry about the event and wanted to help in "standing for something I believe in because women aren't formidable and can be helped by us as students."

After the documentary, attendees were able to ask questions about how they could help the condition of the Congo.

One exciting way was through the purchase of a t-shirt, designed by Cortland art students. With four different designs, all proceeds go to benefit the Panzi hospital.

The t-shirts are being sold for \$15 with the goal to raise a total of \$2,500. T-shirts are still available in 122 Old Main or contact professor Lorraine Berry at Lorraine.Berry@cortland.edu.

Survival guide

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

to living here .

All coming from very diverse areas of New York City, the girls were used to being surrounded by people from many different cultures.

Although Cortland prides itself on being a school that is "dedicated to the affirmation and promotion of diversity," the actual campus itself is not very diverse, making it difficult for them to adjust, the panel said.

From facing stereotypes to not being able to find the food they wanted in the grocery store, these girls had quite a time adapting to life in Cortland.

Longmore talked about what it was like to be the only woman of color in her entire dorm.

All of the girls talked about what a culture shock coming here was and how difficult it was finding other people to relate to.

One of the major issues they discussed was the lack of social life they felt they had here.

They explained that they weren't looking for a specific group of people to hang out with, just to identify with.

The girls' advice for freshmen is to "listen to other people," "get involved," and "go to the Voice Office."

Another major issue for the girls was the lack of diversity in their actual classes and the way that they were treated as the only women of color in the room. Some of the experiences with professors they shared with the audience were shocking.

The girls also explained that they were sometimes offended by comments and questions from people including their friends of other races.

They said they had to learn to differentiate when they were being criticized from when people just wanted to be informed.

They don't feel that every little difference in their culture, for example the hair product they use, needs to be a topic of discussion.

After the girls were finished with their panel they opened the floor up for questions from the audience.

During this time several audience members actually shared their experiences as women of color at Cortland.

One even shared that she was considering transferring because she had experienced many of the same problems the girls on the panel had their first year.

One of the major points of the presentation was that in order to survive here as a woman of color you need to create a network of people in which you feel comfortable and can relate to.

In order to do this you need to get involved and one of the best ways for a woman of color to do that here is to go to the Voice Office in Corey Union.

Women of Color meet Thursdays at 6 pm in the Voice Office in Corey Union and all are welcome to attend.

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Wellness Wednesday: Andrea's Voice acts as a message for all

Parents tell about the lessons learned from daughter's death

Rebecca Job
Staff Writer

"Andrea was incredibly talented. She was able to put words together even when she was just writing a simple journal entry—uniquely and creatively. Andrea had a tremendous stride and I think that many of the qualities she had—her drive, her creativity—that all of those can be incredibly valuable for a person to succeed in life.

They can also be harmful when utilized to excess, so that drive became a drive for perfection and the desire for her body to be perfect because happiness would follow. In June of 1999, Andrea died of an eating disorder," stated Doris Smeltzer.

Doris and Tom Smeltzer, a California couple, came to campus on Wednesday, Feb. 25, to raise awareness about eating disorders during Body Appreciation Week.

The Smeltzers' touching story demonstrated the power of the

human spirit that continues after a loved one is gone.

Since losing their 19-year-old daughter Andrea to bulimia, the Smeltzers have traveled across the nation to many colleges and organizations giving a presentation titled "Andrea's Voice."

This is the title of the presentation because excerpts from Andrea's journal were incorporated into the Smeltzer's compelling presentation about disordered eating.

"We are here to challenge behaviors [of eating disorders] that have been normalized in our society...since she died we have tried to learn as much as we can about eating disorders," said Smeltzer.

Although their daughter "lived life with a passion not matched by many," her disorder consumed her life for 13 months before she passed away due to an electrolyte imbalance that caused her heart to fail.

"We have felt guided by Andrea and are assured she is okay that we share these [journal entries] with you in awareness of eating disorders," said Smeltzer.

As she shared stories, pictures, and other information



photo by Ben Bolding

Bob and Doris Smeltzer shared their daughter's story.

with us, her husband read powerful portions of the journal entries that expressed Andrea's feelings about how her eating disorder made her feel.

The Smeltzers stressed that the "perfect body" image that the media portrays is not an ideal image

of what a healthy body is. They highlighted the fact that photos in magazines and advertisements have been retouched to create the "perfect body" image for men and women that is not ideal. What message are they really trying to send to men and women?

Smeltzer suggested many websites that can be used as resources for weight struggles, ways to find appropriate help, and offered advice on how to get help when it's needed.

The Smeltzers stressed how important it is to "share emotions, feelings, and communication" when one is dealing with an eating disorder.

Based on the Smeltzer's personal experiences and research, the three most common characteristics of disordered eating include: dichotomous thinking, perfectionism, and caring for others before caring for yourself.

If you think a friend or someone you know is at risk, talk to them about it.

The Smeltzers closed by expressing gratitude for the incredible special treatment they had received upon entering the campus.

In light of the tragic loss of their daughter, they were grateful to be speaking to so many attentive students, faculty, staff and community members to spread their word and tell their story.

For more information about the Andrea's Voice visit andreasvoice.org.

National Pay it Forward speaker motivates Cortland

Donovan Nichols speaks at Residence Life Conference

Vicky Paz
Editor-in-Chief

National Pay it Forward motivational speaker Donovan Nichols served as the keynote speaker for this year's Residence Life Conference at Cortland.

Nichols addressed on Feb. 28 approximately 430 participants from 35 different schools' residential programs regarding his life experiences, his dedication to philanthropy and the Pay it Forward movement.

"Service has always been a culture in my family; no ands, ifs or buts about it," said Nichols, who has been an advocate of altruism since his youth.

Influenced by Catherine Ryan Hyde's book, *Pay it Forward*, the concept of the movement is simple: one person does a good deed for three people and requests that each of them in return do the same for three others, and so on, so that cycles of good deeds continue to foster.

At the first cycle, three people are helped; by the 16th cycle, over 21 million people, comparable to the population of Australia, are helped. It would only take 20 cycles to help the entire population of the world.

Nichols began speaking to students about servant leadership in 2005. He officially joined forces with Hyde and the Pay it Forward Foundation in 2006 and has since continued to propel others to join

the movement.

"Every time you give, you receive," said Nichols, who promoted the same idea in "Give Yourself," an original song he performed at the conference.

He emphasized that even if one does not have the money to help someone out, love is endless and a kind gesture is sometimes all a person needs.

He proceeded to play an emotional video of the Free Hugs Campaign, a controversial movement launched by Juan Mann, "whose sole mission was to reach out and hug a stranger to brighten up their life."

At the conclusion of the video, Nichols encouraged the audience to do the same. It wasn't long before nearly everyone in the room exchanged embraces.

Serving one year in AmeriCorps*VISTA, helping raise \$12,300 for the American Red Cross and more than \$43,000 for the Children's Miracle Network are just a few of the accomplishments on his track record. The litany of his good deeds does not cease there either.

Though the 28-year-old has helped countless numbers of people through his charity work, the three he feels he has paid it forward to most are B.J., Laura, and James, whose last names Nichols requested to be withheld.

B.J., 13, is Nichols' little brother through the Big Brothers Big Sisters youth mentor organization he joined while he was attending the University of Toledo in Ohio. Children who are a part of the program are 52% less likely to skip school, 46% less likely to use illegal drugs and 27% less likely to use alcohol, Nichols said.

Though he currently resides in Las Vegas, his bond with B.J.

has not wavered. The two keep in touch regularly and spend time together each time he visits home.

Nichols met Laura, who suffered from an eating disorder, while she was a resident assistant at his college. He inspired her to join him and a group of volunteers on an alternative spring break to aid in Gulf Coast disaster relief after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

She got so much out of the experience that she enlisted his and the group's help after she opened up about her struggle.

Laura has been at her healthiest ever since, working with Miss Michigan in the Miss Monroe County Pageant to raise awareness about eating disorders. She has even visited Washington, D.C. to lobby Congress to support a bill that aims to help treat victims of eating disorders.

Nichols met James, a homeless man, at a bar in New York City when, due to his disheveled appearance, a bartender threw him out after he had simply tried to buy orange juice.

Concerned about the situation, Nichols bought James an orange juice and spoke to him outside of the bar for more than an hour. He offered his suit coat to James, who, in turn, traded him for the frayed vest he was wearing.

"I met him four years ago and still think about him everyday," said Nichols, who donned James' vest at the conference.

Like James, Nichols is no stranger to struggle. He grew up in a poverty-stricken family who made it by on food stamps, church baskets, and help from vast numbers of people who saw the potential in his family, he said.

"There were so many people who helped us out that it was hard to pay them all back, so I always

pay it forward," said Nichols.

Though he and his three siblings emerged from the trench as success stories, Nichols hit rock bottom several years ago, silently suffering after a devastating breakup with his long-term girlfriend.

On the brink of suicide, he fled town and left his funeral plans on a Post-It in his desk drawer. Grateful for the love and support from his family and friends who urged him not to take his life, Nichols has come a long way since then.

The tales of his life's struggles and successes drew tears of both joy and sorrow from many audience members.

"His message was moving and brought tears to my eyes as [he told us] about his life and what he's done to enrich the lives of others. His story was heartfelt," said Kelly, a resident assistant in Clark Hall.

Junior Antonio Mancilla agreed. "His story really inspired me to be a better person to my peers and to people I don't even know," said Mancilla, a resident assistant in Hayes Hall.

Senior Natalie Antranik, another resident assistant in Clark Hall, was so moved by Nichols' presentation that she decided to use a Pay it Forward theme on her floor's announcement bulletin board.

"I personally got invested in the idea from the story Donovan told about [James]. When he came to realize that the man was truly in need of help, he[took] the opportunity to do something to help him," said Antranik.

"It's in these small acts that a single person can affect many people if the cycle continues... it was amazing how much good can

be done in just a few cycles. I hoped that making the bulletin board would allow some people to see the sheer amount of people that could be helped by doing something as simple as buying a cup of coffee for someone."

"Be comfortable with the uncomfortable and take the time to make opportunities a reality," said Nichols, just two of the many success tips that he shared with the audience.

So how exactly does Nichols define success? "To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived - that is to have succeeded," he said, quoting renowned American essayist and poet Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The "ultimate, far-reaching vision" of Nichols, who additionally serves as Program Coordinator for Student Activities at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas, is to influence everyone to participate in a Pay it Forward activity daily, even if it is as simple as holding a door open for someone. He and his father are also considering writing a book together.

"Donovan's presentation was absolutely wonderful and truly inspiring. He took time to gear his presentation to our theme and to truly understand the role of student staff," said Jesse Kimmerle, who co-ran the conference with fellow Residence Hall Director Evan Bigam. "Many are still singing his praises to me and I know that his story touched many people."

Worldwide Pay it Forward Day is on April 30. Pay it forward to three people and request that they do the same. Visit donovannichols.com for more information and service opportunity ideas.

Opinions

Do you have something to say and want your voice to be heard by the campus community? Then speak up and e-mail us your ideas, thoughts or opinions to dragonchronicle@cortland.edu.

Our View

Barack Obama has only been in office for 56 days and some skeptics are wondering why the economy hasn't done a 180°. People need to realize the severity of the situation and be patient. The billions of dollars that the country needs to get back on its feet is not going to appear out of thin air.

While it is easy to be frustrated with what is not happening as fast as some would like, Obama has made huge advances in scientific legislation. On March 9, he overturned a Bush-era order limiting federal tax dollars for embryonic stem cell research. "...I believe we are called to care for each other and work to ease human suffering," he said. Embryonic stem cells have the ability to turn into any organ or tissue cell. By allowing the National Institutes of Health to increase research, it could potentially lead to a cure for cancer and Parkinsons disease, amongst other things.

Obama also created a White House Council on Women and Girls. "The purpose of this council is to ensure that American women and girls are treated fairly in all matters of public policy," he said in a statement on March 11. He cites pay inequality, domestic violence and the relatively few number of women in government and major companies as issues that will be addressed by the council.

So while Obama works on a stimulus plan that will satisfy the masses, don't overlook the important steps he has already taken to create a better nation.

Letters to the editor

Last week, a colleague related a story to me that had taken place the previous week. It concerned another colleague, a black man on his way into the Cortland Post Office with his 13-year-old daughter, who was stopped by two police officers for questioning with regard to a bank robbery.

As they were preparing to take him to the police station for questioning, his daughter asked the height of the offender for whom they were looking.

This was a brave act for a 13-year-old, but also an astute question, since her father is noticeably quite tall.

She was, in fact, inquiring whether they had probable cause for stopping him. Without that, they are engaging in racial profiling, which is illegal except in specific circumstances, none of which seem to have applied here.

He was later allowed to leave the station, but found two police cars sitting outside his house, and later watched officers walk up and down his driveway, in an apparent attempt to intimidate and/or embarrass him.

We hear stories like this all the time from big cities like New York or Los Angeles and we express concern over such injustice, particularly when we know the victim, in this case, a gentle, soft-spoken, thoughtful man, is incapable of the crime for which he is apparently a suspect.

We are sympathetic, often angered, and occasionally outraged.

We may raise the incident in

our classes as an example of how much we all still have to do. But we get past it because it's unpleasant, and even unhealthy, to dwell on such things and feed that anger.

But something happened to me recently that makes putting this incident behind me more difficult.

The incident was trivial, a ticket that I felt was unwarranted and unjustified. But during the stop, the officer made a sarcastic remark that made not just the ticket, but also the stop itself, seem personal.

The remark was uncalled for, unprofessional, and thus, in my mind, unacceptable; but still, a trivial incident.

Yet for the next two weeks, I found myself waking up every morning thinking about it and getting angry all over again. I also feel myself getting tense driving down the streets around my own house.

I've been stopped before for reasons that were justifiable. And I have generally found the police to be reasonable, often helpful, and unfailingly polite.

But it only takes one negative encounter to change that relationship, sometimes forever. Statistically, we know that the police more often target people of color, particularly men.

They are also far more likely to go to jail or prison, and for longer sentences. We also know that in dangerous times, the police are under more pressure to make arrests.

And Cortland County is not immune from the dangers once

more limited to big cities.

In such times, professionalism on the part of public officials is even more important. Our taxes pay their salaries and we have a right to be treated with respect.

My colleague at the College also pays taxes. He, too, has a right to respect. He, too, I suspect, is angry.

But he bears the additional burden of knowing that, absent a clear description of the suspect, he was stopped because he was black.

Unlike my experience, it wasn't personal. It was worse. He was a faceless, nameless "other," someone whose dignity need not be considered.

I find myself wondering how this incident changed him, his family, his neighbors, and other people of color in the community.

During Black History Month, we take time to recognize the contributions, so long ignored, of African-Americans to this country.

But it is also a good time to reflect upon those everyday occurrences that detract from social justice in our own community.

The police have the power, and often the authority, to greatly enhance or diminish our lives. And, to paraphrase John Donne, that which diminishes one, diminishes us all. That is a burden we all, even the police, must bear.

-Peg Murphy
Political Science Dept.

THE DRAGON CHRONICLE

135 Years of Tradition

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The Dragon Chronicle respects individuals' ideas, interpretations and beliefs and we encourage the right to express those views. Letters to the editor should be typed, double spaced and no more than 350 words long. You must submit both a hard copy and one on a disk or submit your piece via email. Please submit the article on a disk in Microsoft Word for PCs. If that is not possible, save in text only format. Letters and articles must be brought to our office in 111 Corey Union. All submissions must be signed and include a valid telephone number or they will not be printed. No personal attacks are permitted. No pen names are permitted. All submissions become property of the newspaper and we reserve the right to edit.

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Activities funded by SGA and MAF

As a student at Cortland and a member of the SUNY Student Assembly, I would like to call attention to the recent Deficit Reduction Plan passed by the state legislature, as well as the 2009-2010 Executive Budget proposed by Governor Paterson.

As every reader of this paper knows, these are devastating economic times for New York State and all of its residents.

Workers all over this state are suffering through job losses and pay cuts.

Students are aware that state agencies should not be exempt from such reductions, but it is important to recognize that the purpose of SUNY is unique to other agencies.

SUNY provides affordable, quality higher education for over 438,000 students in New York. It is likely that someone you know has been educated or will be educated through SUNY.

In 2008 alone, the SUNY system has been the victim of an unprecedented level of cuts.

The 2009-2010 Executive Budget proposes yet another \$146 million reduction in state support.

Far worse however, is the legislature's endorsement of a

policy that directly taxes students and their families.

My tuition dollars are taken away from my classrooms and my campus to close state budget gaps.

The \$146 million decrease in state support for SUNY this year was supposed to be offset by the \$310 increase in tuition for students like me.

Instead, the \$76 million that will be generated by a tuition increase will not be seen by SUNY at all.

We are left with a mere \$7.6 million. This policy essentially makes permanent the concept that SUNY students and their families would be paying additional state taxes when they pay their bills each semester.

Every leader in New York State, including Governor Paterson, has asserted their support for public higher education.

However, the passage of the DRP and other Executive Budget proposals show otherwise. The plan passed by state legislators forces the burden of the deficit onto the backs of students and their families.

The SUNY Student Assembly has presented practical options to massive cuts.

The students have agreed to do our fair share by supporting a rational tuition plan.

We recognize that the cost of operating a university, like everything else, changes from year to year, and we have acted responsibly in our interest and the interest of the state.

In supporting a rational tuition policy, students do not mean for tuition increases to be a gift to the state, but rather as a means to ensure the quality of our education and that of New Yorkers for years to come.

As the prospective residents, workforce, and leaders of this state, I can assure you that the future of New York State lies in the quality of a SUNY education.

A quality education needs to be properly funded and, for many New Yorkers, a SUNY education is the only affordable option in higher education.

-Mariah Gerty
SUNY Student Assembly State Representative

SUNY Cortland Student Government Association Parliamentarian

What do you have to say?

WHAT IS THE WEIRDEST GIFT YOU EVER RECEIVED?



photo by Kelsey Delmotte

"An umbrella hat."

Haley Hudson
Sophomore
TESOL &
Psychology



photo by Kelsey Delmotte

"A sculpture of a bunny. I think my aunt painted it herself."

Tina Carletto
Freshman
Communications



photo by Kelsey Delmotte

"My uncle bought me a case of Pringles when I was younger."

Chris Garitee
Junior
Political Science



photo by Kelsey Delmotte

"I got a blanket made out of lamb fur. It had a face."

Alyssa Casale
Freshman
Childhood Education



photo by Kelsey Delmotte

"Socks."

Molly Fogarty
Sophomore
Sports Management

More letters to the editor

In light of recent slander beset against the portion of this college's population that has made the decision to recreationally smoke marijuana, my co-author and I feel moved to express our own opinions on the subject.

For those of you who are unaware, an opinion article by Staff Writer Matthew Fanelli concerning the use of marijuana was published in the Feb. 26 issue of *The Dragon Chronicle*.

Throughout the course of the piece, its creator saw it fit to brazenly deride and unequivocally criticize any and all campus residents who, as college students and legally recognized adults, partake in smoking marijuana.

Upon reading such starkly confrontational and deeply biased literature, such blindly hostile commentary requires a reasonably

deduced response from a sect of this campus whose views and perspectives regarding the use of marijuana stand in complete and total opposition.

As a matter of discussion, the topic of marijuana presents itself as a fascinating substance to debate.

Unbeknownst to many, a 2003 study published by the *British Medical Journal* revealed that from a clinical standpoint human beings are physiologically incapable of overdosing from the use of marijuana.

Furthermore, according to the same scholarship, marijuana has resulted in no recorded deaths worldwide since the compilation of such statistics has become common practice.

In the original *Dragon Chronicle* op-ed piece, a pair of

60s icons was referenced as villainous examples of what the smoking of marijuana can lead its users to aspire to.

As a matter of principle, we feel it necessary to illuminate the simple truth that some of America's finest and most gifted citizens have openly admitted their conscientious use of the drug.

Amongst the most compelling on that esteemed list are former President Bill Clinton, revered singer/songwriter and poet Bob Dylan, guitar virtuoso Carlos Santana, Nobel Prize-winning author Ernest Hemingway, 16x Olympic medalist Michael Phelps, renowned European psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud, the world's most highly regarded playwright William Shakespeare and NBA legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

Judging by the vast array of achievement displayed by the above listing, the use of marijuana clearly has no adverse effect upon one's ability to perform at a substantially elevated athletic, artistic, or intellectual level.

For the record, my co-author and I believe strongly in the message we have labored to put forth in this open letter.

Above all else, we stand for the free and unabashed expression of thoughts and feelings concerning any and all subject matter.

In essence, it is our deepest hope that, if nothing else, the undercurrent of honesty, respect, and dignity flows uninterrupted through our writing.

Lastly, we would like to firmly state that our primary goal was to rise up against the ignorance and

close-mindedness that can often rear its insolent head when a highly contentious topic such as drug use enters the conversation on a college campus.

It is not so important how many opinions one changes, but rather it is more crucial how many individuals have opened their minds to the possibility of finding truth and rationality on both sides of every argument after reading this article. Thank you all for listening.

-Ben Lester and
Zach Bowen
Contributing Writers

In response to the article entitled, "Want to look like a fool but not sure how? Smoke pot," (*The Dragon Chronicle*, Feb. 26) the author succeeded in looking like a fool and it wasn't by smoking pot.

I've also decided "to do a public service to all Cortland students and issue this public statement": passing judgment on people you don't know is wrong.

It is great that the author chose to abstain from using marijuana. It is a personal choice.

However, it does not give the author a right to claim that he is better than people who chose a different path than he did.

College is a time to experience new things and new ideas, living independently and with financial responsibility.

You learn time management and you might try some drugs. It

does not make a difference if a student smokes weed once or does it regularly.

For some it might be rebellion but for most it isn't. It's a social activity just like drinking.

If anything, alcohol should be the illegal substance because it kills people. Not one person has died from smoking marijuana.

It is true that most of us here will be future educators. While I do not think any of those teachers will be endorsing the use of marijuana, they will be teaching something that the author knows nothing about. That is benevolence and tolerance. Especially for those who only teach "kickball."

For the rest of us open-minded individuals, please note that some of those "kickball" teachers are committed to reducing one of America's growing problems of

childhood obesity.

We should commend them for committing their future careers to improving the health of the nation.

Lastly, Michael Phelps is an American hero despite smoking a bong.

If anyone in this nation is allowed to smoke weed, it should be Michael Phelps. He is an amazing athlete who has not been given anything except discipline.

The Cortland campus should also note *The Dragon Chronicle's* ironic placement of the Quote of the Week by Friedrich Nietzsche which sums up this piece perfectly. "You have your way. I have my way. As for the right way, the correct way, and the only way, it does not exist."

-Stephanie Worden
Contributing Writer

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“
**Music washes away
from the soul the
dust of everyday
life.**
”

-Berthold
Auerbach

A-Rod's biggest strikeout

Stories of steroid use surround one of baseball's heroes

Eric Dillon
Staff Writer

For decades, baseball has been known as America's most popular pastime. It's no wonder then, that we idolize its professional players and children all across the country look up to them. It's our nostalgia with baseball, however, that makes it all the more shocking when a player is accused of wrongdoing.

Early last month, Alex Rodriguez, third baseman for the Yankees and better known as A-Rod, admitted that he used banned performance-enhancing steroids from 2001-2003.

A-Rod said it was the enormous amount of pressure put on him that caused his steroid use. While it may be true that professional athletes always run the risk of public scrutiny, this is no excuse. These substances are illegal, and give the players who use them an unfair advantage.

Some of A-Rod's fans have tried to defend him by saying that while he may have taken steroids at one point in his career, it was only for a small portion of it. They say he should not have everything

he worked for in ruin because of a bad choice.

However, many of A-Rod's biggest achievements took place during his steroid use. During his 2003 season playing for the Texas Rangers, A-Rod won his first MVP award, broke 300 career home runs, and earned a Silver Slugger Award. Unfortunately, this is also one of the seasons in which A-Rod admitted to using steroids.

This leads to the question of whether his awards should be revoked because of this. To be honest, they should not.

Although the steroids helped his performance, these are still achievements A-Rod worked hard for. At the same time, however, he should be taken off the list regarding potential Hall of Fame admissions.

There are already hundreds of great men who deserve to go down in history for their contributions to baseball.

They are honest men who played fairly and for the love of the game, not huge contracts. It would be insulting for A-Rod to join the ranks of men like Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth.

Another important aspect of this controversy is how it will affect A-Rod's popularity among the fans. Whether or not he wants to be, A-Rod is in the public spotlight and is a role model to his younger fans.

While many of the younger fans probably won't understand

what all the fuss is about, it certainly must be aggravating for hardcore Yankee fans.

Is A-Rod's case one of a few select players using steroids or a sign that baseball is changing?

Baseball used to be about having a great time watching your favorite team but nowadays it seems it's all about bigger contracts, bigger stadiums and corporate sponsors.

Perhaps we shouldn't really blame A-Rod but where do we draw the line between personal responsibility and the pressure to succeed?

Heads up, professors

New syllabus gives professors a few guidelines

Eric Feuer
Staff Writer

There are some certainties in life, such as taxes, death, and teachers handing out syllabi at the start of every semester.

Every syllabus is pretty much the same, detailing which books

you will need to over pay for, what the professors expect of the students throughout the semester and when work is due, even though students always seem surprised when they are reminded their paper is due tomorrow.

Whenever a student has a question pertaining to the class, the answer always seems to be, "look at the syllabus."

But what if professors had a syllabus that *they* had to observe and follow?

After talking with some of my fellow students, I've come up with the unofficial professor syllabus for 2009.

A) Test what you teach

It's as simple as it sounds, professors. Too many times teachers have spent class time discussing topic A, but when test day rolls around more questions are on topic B or C.

I'm not saying you can't test us on topics not discussed but either give us a heads up so we can plan ahead or teach the topics to avoid problems all together.

B) If we buy it, will we use it?

This is all about books. You know, those \$100 textbooks you tell us we need, but end up sitting in the bottom of our drawers until the end of the semester.

If we're going to overpay for books, at least let it be for books that we will use. Let us know on day one which books will be used. Is that too much to ask?

C) Intro means intro

This part is for all the teachers who teach intro level classes but treat them like upper level classes.

Often, teachers lose sight of the fact that many students are taking these classes for General Education requirements and that the class might not even be part of the students major.

Just because a student is in BIO100 or taking Intro to Sculpting doesn't mean they want to become an artist or know everything there is to know about prokaryotes.

D) Look at the big picture

If college is a learning marathon, as supposed to a sprint, then shouldn't it be about what you learn in the end rather than the beginning?

If a student does poorly on a test at the beginning of the semester, but by the end of the class fully understands the content of what is being tested, shouldn't the student get the grade from the end of the class? Isn't it about what you learn in the long run?

E) Focus on the facts

When teaching a class, don't spend time talking about the broad topic. Focus on the facts, the main points.

What is this class really about? At the end of the day what do you want us to understand and really comprehend?

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More troops sent to Afghanistan

17,000 more troops will be deployed to Pakistani border

Lauren Schutt
Staff Writer

President Barack Obama has announced that he plans to send 17,000 troops to Afghanistan to join the 34,000 that are already there.

Deployment orders have been made for 12,000 troops. Of the 12,000, 8,000 are Marines based out of Camp Lejeune, NC; 4,000 are from an Army Stryker unit from the 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division out of Fort Lewis, WA. The additional 5,000 are army support troops.

The United States entered Afghanistan in October 2001 following the terrorist attacks on our country the month before.

Since then, the war in Afghanistan has taken second place in the headlines to the war in Iraq.

But now troops are being pulled out of Iraq in order to fight a constant threat to America in its safe-haven along the Pakistani border, the Taliban.

The Taliban are being supported by al Qaeda, which is an international Sunni Islamist extremist movement.

Along with the 8,000 Marines being deployed this spring is my brother.

At 20 years old, he's going on his second tour of duty. Along with

the thousands that have lost their lives in this war is the son of my family's close friends, killed by a roadside bomb after being in Afghanistan for a week. He was 28 and the father of a young girl.

It's not often that we hear this stuff in our newspapers or on our morning news.

It's hard to find a table in Neubig that's discussing the status of our troops overseas. It's not necessarily that people don't care; it may be that they don't know what is happening with our military.

I try to pay attention to what is happening in Afghanistan but I feel like we're not getting the whole truth of what is going on over there.

We hear about the bombings and deaths but we don't know if there is any progress being made. As far as I know, we're losing the war. But if our troops pull out now, another terrorist attack is inevitable.

The war in Afghanistan is one of the few political issues I have trouble taking a stance on.

While following my conservative views, I know the war is necessary. But knowing my brother and countless other soldiers are in danger, I want there to be other options. An option that is less dangerous for our country's sons and daughters.

I can't be against the war. I think that as an American, I should support most of the decisions made by the government, especially the ones I believe in.

I believe that war can usually resolve issues. I can't be completely for the war when I don't even really know what the war is being fought about.

Hey students, get off your butt and do something

Lack of involvement is threatening Cortland's clubs

Erica Sanderson
News Editor

The life of a college student can be pretty hectic. Between academics and social life, students often feel they have little or no free time.

I will admit that you can usually find me at Red Jug on the weekends and I always try to clear the 11 p.m. to midnight timeslot to get my nightly fix of *The Daily Show* and *The Colbert Report*. But that is pretty much where the similarities between other typical Cortland students and I ends.

I am highly involved on campus. I am News Editor of *The Dragon Chronicle*, a member of the Student Activities Board (SAB), an intern with Cortland's online magazine *NeoVox* and I attend countless campus events.

The lack of student involvement on campus is one that I witness on a daily basis.

The majority of students will defend their actions by resorting to the "I have way too much work" excuse.

True, around midterm and finals week work begins to pile up, but when was the last time you saw everyone in your dorm studying besides during finals?

"The fact that so many people don't show up to events just shows how much they don't care and it's sad," said Brandy Lawrence, a junior who is Spring

Fling chair of SAB, Vice President of the Student Alumni Association (SAA) and a member of *Speak Magazine*.

Faculty member Mary Kate Boland, Assistant Director of Leadership and Community Development, advisor of SAB and coordinator of Cortland Nites, isn't sure of how to activate greater student participation.

"I think student apathy is a problem...there's got to be a way to motivate people to get involved and they are not going to realize it until it is too late and they are filling out their resume and see that it is bare," said Boland.

The more student dedication and participation in clubs, the more fun the campus will be. As of now, clubs of a few dozen are making huge decisions for the entire campus, which includes over 8,000 students.

For example, the members of the Student Government Association (SGA) only total roughly 80 people. This means that thousands of student voices are not being heard.

"It's hard to figure out what everyone wants; you can't plan for 8,000 people off of 20, but we do a good job in doing it," said Christine Whittam, regarding the challenges SAB faces in planning substantial campus events.

Whittam is the Siblings Weekend chair for SAB, President of SAA and a member of the Speech Pathology club. "People complain about things but they don't show up and try to change it; they can talk but they can't act," she said.

Which begs the question, if you have a problem with it then

why don't you do it? And this is the trouble with the recreational, entertaining events.

As Lawrence said, "We have enough trouble for kids coming to fun events, so I wonder how well the academic events go."

For those students fresh on the college scene, everything seems overwhelming at first.

As freshman Margaret Tucker put it, "I think everything is so new that I think they will see the importance of getting involved later on, like as sophomores. Sometimes I see people getting involved and uninvolved very quickly; their involvement in the club withers away over time."

Getting involved freshman year introduces you to your school and is a great way to make friends. Tucker, who is not involved on campus, but is an athlete on Club Swimming, gave a little insight into the opportunities available to the student athlete.

"Club sports are flexible and take into consideration that people are involved, other sports outside of club, limit your time and energy," she said. Athletes don't have time to spare. Between training, practice and games, they barely have time for homework.

Cortland offers so many great opportunities, events, organizations and clubs that we as students are fortunate enough to have offered to us.

Sadly, the fates of many clubs are facing an uncertain future as few new members are joining and executive boards are compiled of juniors and seniors soon to graduate. Will some of our clubs end up being lost forever?

Obama tackles the economy

Stimulus plan has good intentions; students may benefit

Danielle Eckert
Staff Writer

One thing on most graduating college students' minds this year is the economy.

Not only are we worried if our parents will be able to keep their jobs due to severe cuts in countless job markets, but we worry about being able to find a job on our own after graduation.

We wonder if our hard work at college will pay off. Flooded daily with negative headlines about the economy, stock market and the nation's current state of being in a recession, it is natural for one to feel concerned and uneasy.

President Obama has an economic stimulus package that he believes will aid Americans in their economic troubles.

The package consists of \$787 million in funding that will aid in creating millions of jobs and distributing the money to families who need it most.

It will also give tax cuts to the most deserving and, if all goes according to plan, will shorten the recession.

Obama, a fresh face in the White House, believes he has solved America's financial crisis, which has been brought on by people spending more than they have, with a startling sum of money.

Where does this \$787 billion come from, and where is it going? Obama has picked seven categories of spending.

They include relief for families, modernizing federal infrastructure, alternate energy sources, health care, education, science and technology, and small businesses.

Can we correct Americas overspending with even more spending? The deficit will reach \$1.2 trillion in 2009 and it may be more responsible to have everyone reduce spending rather than take money away from some people to give it to others.

The majority of the stimulus plan has good intentions, like giving tax cuts to college students, senior citizens and first-time home buyers.

Obama also puts a great deal of money into advancing

education, so children have a hope for a better future.

Obama also hopes that by giving money to small business owners, it will not only generate spending to stimulate the economy, but allow them to keep prices consistent because they won't have to worry about high tax rates.

However, in his stimulus plan, Obama plans to use the majority or the funding in 2009, but also reserve a large majority for use in the next 10 years.

While it is good that the money can be used over a long period of time, it is worrisome. Will Americans be dealing with the effect of the economy's current state for the next 10 years? Will our jobs, taxes, and economic security be in jeopardy for that long?

It seems skeptical that after spending such a great deal of tax payer's money to in turn, give aid back to them with tax breaks.

I believe that Obama had good intentions in this economic stimulus, but we must realize that Americans need to budget their money and make good decisions financially, not hope that the government will be able to bail them out in the future.

Middle of nowhere

The typically physical state is redefined in today's terms

Matthew Ianno
Staff Writer

The middle of nowhere could be described as a mental, geographical, or materialistic phenomenon. They are often far from civilization, without their usual materials, consciously exonerated from everyday life, or all of the above.

Thus the term is used with varying meanings and emphasis. But couldn't someone's nowhere be another person's somewhere? And couldn't someone be on the outskirts of somewhere while also being in the middle of nowhere?

In today's world, being absent of a cell phone reception or a Wi-Fi signal could formulate into "I'm in the middle of nowhere," or it could just be a part of everyday life.

It is clear that the middle of nowhere depends on one's personal understanding of somewhere, and since somewhere and nowhere are opposites of each other, then the middle of nowhere can be a scary place.

If one were to fall asleep and

then wake up in the middle of nowhere, it would be a scary place. But in other circumstances, it should be considered as now being a part of somewhere.

Originally perceived Cortland as being in the middle of nowhere until I decided to attend school there. I now consider it somewhere that I receive an education.

Birds eat food, fly and then poop out that food miles away from where it was consumed.

The nutrients in this food land in the middle of nowhere on soil, and a plant begins to grow. This plant has turned that "nowhere" into somewhere to live. So I wonder if the middle of nowhere really exists.

It certainly exists in the minds of most people but such a thought is originated by comparing this new area or place to previous understandings of living conditions. Being in the middle of nowhere is something we all define mentally and something we either enjoy or despise at the given moment.

There have been plenty of situations where people turn "nowhere" into "somewhere," all that has changed is their perception of that place.

Rock and blues with dinner

Students enjoy a musical performance with dinner at Neubig

Samantha Ficken
Staff Writer

The Cortland Rock, Jazz and Blues Ensembles performed for Neubig diners last Saturday and added a nice change of setting to the buffet style dining hall.

Some songs that were played were by Smokey Robinson, Robert Cray, The Doobie Bros, ZZ Top and The Who.

The band incorporates all different types of instruments such as drums, guitars, bass, keyboards, violins, flutes, harmonicas and vocals.

The Ensemble is broken up into two groups: The Tuesday Night and the Thursday Night groups.

One band has practice on Tuesdays, and the other on Thursdays. They practice for two hours a week and each group plays a bunch of different songs.

"Both bands were really great! I liked the songs and it was great to see so many talented students on campus" said sophomore Nick Battiste. "I also thought it was cool that it was like a free private concert for Cortland students."

"I thought it was really

excellent. It was nice to have music to listen to while eating dinner" said Mandy Baker, who stayed until the end of the concert.

"I would really like to see Neubig host it again. I would absolutely come again" said Baker.

The Rock, Jazz and Blues Ensemble has about thirty students between the two bands.

Antonio Mancilla, a guitarist in the Thursday Night Band said, "I thought overall we sounded really good. Some of us wished the performance went better, but we are always more critical about the performance. Everyone in the audience looked like they were enjoying the concert and that's what matters."

The singers were dancing along with the instrumentalists and everyone was smiling. "My favorite songs we played were 'Sharp Dressed Man' by ZZ Top and 'Rocket Man' by Elton John" said Mancilla.

"I loved all of the songs. I was singing along and bopping my head. My favorite song was the Doobie Bros one" said Baker.

The Rock, Jazz and Blues Ensemble does about four shows a semester. Luckily, this semester they are putting on about seven, so there are many opportunities to see them perform. The next show is on March 19, at Lucky's, so keep an eye out for e-mails and flyers.

Students helping students

Benefit concert to be held by Alpha Phi Omega in April

Caitlin Mooney
Contributing Writer

Alpha Phi Omega will host a benefit concert for Invisible Children on Sunday, April 5, in the Corey Union Function Room.

Invisible Children is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing awareness to the on-going war in Northern Uganda and helping the children and their families affected by it.

The Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have been at war for the past 23 years. As a result, an entire generation of Uganda's youth has never known peace.

Alpha Phi Omega hopes to raise \$1,000 through the concert for the Invisible Children and their families who are suffering.

The concert will begin at 6 p.m. with a screening by Invisible Children representatives.

Following the screening, there will be performances from four bands. These bands will include, The Hoodies, Greene Reveal, Goot and The In Crowd.

All of the bands are generously playing for traveling expenses only so that we can donate more money to Invisible

Children.

While the bands are playing, the Invisible Children representatives will be running a merchandise table in order to raise more money through sale of clothing, DVDs, and accessories.

All of the money donated goes towards their different projects.

Invisible Children has a number of programs including The Invisible Children Bracelet Campaign, Schools For Schools, and The Visible Child Scholarship Program.

The Bracelet Campaign gives jobs as bracelet makers to people who lost their previous jobs because they must now live in displacement camps due to the war.

Through donations, the people in Uganda are given the weekly supplies of reed and recycled wire, from which they make about 50 bracelets per week.

They make a salary for the bracelets and are taught how to budget their money and invest savings.

The bracelets are then sold in the U.S. along with a DVD of a child affected by the war, and the money goes towards putting children into school.

Schools For Schools is a program dedicated to improve the quality of education in Northern Uganda.

The focus is on secondary schools because higher education is difficult for students to obtain

and essential to the future of the country.

Money donated helps to build new classrooms and science laboratories, renovate existing schools and dormitories, restore plumbing systems, and provide textbooks, art materials, sports equipment, and science instruments for the students of Northern Uganda.

Through The Visible Child Scholarship Program, students are assigned mentors within the community who encourage them to do well in school, teach them leadership skills and provide guidance, both personally and academically.

Each mentor is assigned 30 students and receives training in psychosocial support, child protection, and trauma counseling. Many students in the program are orphans, formerly abducted returnees, HIV/AIDS positive, or child mothers.

Benefit concert tickets are \$5 for Cortland students and faculty, and \$7 for the public. Tickets can be purchased beforehand through Alpha Phi Omega members in Corey Union (dates TBA), or at the door the night of April 5.

If you cannot attend the concert, but would still like to contribute, Alpha Phi Omega will be accepting donations.

For more information visit www.invisiblechildren.com or email Caitlin.Mooney@cortland.edu.

A great massage is closer than you thought

Students can get a great massage right here in Cortland

Katie Rosenbrock
Entertainment Editor

If you were wondering if there is a place where students could get a great massage that might be a little closer than Ithaca, then you are in luck.

Cortland's downtown area is the location of a wonderful massage and wellness center called "Invigorations."

Located at 55 Port Watson St., "The Invigorations Massage and Wellness Center" offers a variety of services.

Some of these include massages, sauna & steam heat treatments, foot & hand treatments, acupuncture, and even counseling sessions; and that's just to name a few.

On their website, Invigorations states that they "use professional interventions of alternative medicine to complement traditional medicine."

So if you are feeling stressed or fatigued from midterms or loads of schoolwork, maybe a relaxing massage would do the trick.

Invigorations is not just any old massage and wellness center either.

They have received awards such as, The Business of the Year Award from the Employment Connection, Access to Independence, and Cortland Works Career Center in 2006, as well as the county's Best Spa Award from the Cortland County Business Outlook and Chamber of Commerce event, also in 2006.

In addition, massage therapist Julie Seamans was named Local Massage Therapist of the Year in 2006.

The local massage and wellness center promises it's customers that they will help ease pain, encourage health, relaxation and well being, educate about self-care, provide a nurturing and healing environment, and finally, "help people feel invigorated and renewed."

Invigorations clearly offers its customers a wide variety of excellent services and they do so at a reasonable cost too.

A half-hour massage costs \$40



provided by invigorationswellness.com

The Invigorations Massage and Wellness Center is located on Port Watson St.

and an hour massage costs \$60. Of course, they offer many more services that all seem to be affordable.

So, even though there may be some great massage places in the surrounding Cortland area, we've got a great one right in our backyard.

If you have been feeling stressed or maybe just need a pick-me-up, a trip to the Invigorations Massage and Wellness center may be just what you need.

They also offer gift certificates which make a great gift for friends, family and significant others.

If you would like more

information about the Invigorations Massage and Wellness center visit their website at www.invigorationswellness.com.

Codas Part XLIII: The Pervert

The mighty Beowulf battles the enemy, Judas Iscariot

Andrew Hamilton
Contributing Writer

COLUMN

The mighty warrior Beowulf was panting heavily, his legs and arms were losing strength as his lifeblood cascaded down his back and stained the ground.

He had just delivered a mighty blow with his sword to his enemy, the dark priest descended from Judas Iscariot himself.

Beowulf's battle-scarred blade pierced through the man's stomach, and then with a prodigious swing Beowulf cleft his enemy from the belly up through the right shoulder.

Now the Iscariot's right arm merely hung off of the man's body.

Yet there is no blood gushing from the wound, and the Iscariot is rising to his feet.

The Iscariot's upper body looked like an imbalanced V as he stood up, with his right side cut away from the rest of his torso.

His right arm was lifeless, and yet it still held fast the dark priest's

sword.

The Iscariot was laughing; it was a dry, sickly sound. It was a disturbing noise, made utterly more terrible by the fact that the bandages that always kept the Iscariot's face hidden were becoming undone.

Beowulf's sword had cut through some of them, and they were now unwinding to reveal parts of the perverse priest's hideous face, with skin that bore the sickly tint of visceral green.

At least, it could have been called a face if he was still a human.

One of the Iscariot's eyes were exposed, but instead of a sunken-in, pale white orb, there lay nothing but an abysmal ditch in the man's face.

His nausea-colored eyelids were the snapping jaws of a Venus flytrap, with thick violet veins that protruded from its base, pulsing with unholy sap the likes of which any innocent heart would wail upon its sight.

Still rasping with laughter, the Iscariot's right arm began to flux and twist with an ill-gutted ecstatic pleasure as what appeared to be leafy vines that pulsed and bled like human arteries burst forth wildly from his wounded torso and attached themselves to his mangled right side.

After attaching, the vein-vines became rigid and started to retract back into where they sprung from the Iscariot's body, effectively

repairing his ravaged body.

"So, that's how it is." Beowulf growled as his vision began to darken, he had been bleeding for far too long.

"You have sacrificed your humanity; become a demon in spite of yourself. Your hateful and misguided soul has cultivated your body to become a loathsome and venomous weed in the sight of the Lord our Father."

He spat toward his enemy, but in his weakened state the spittle merely dribbled down his chin and into his beard.

"You're nothing but a craven devil now..." He concluded in a whisper before at last his head fell limp upon his shoulders, overcome by loss of blood.

Without a second thought to the fallen warrior-king, the Iscariot passed by Beowulf as if the mighty Geat's body was but a malformed stone in his path.

His depthless, flytrap eye snapped noisily in its socket as he put Beowulf behind him and approached the two whom the warrior Guardian was protecting: the sobbing woman Carmen and the placid child she held tightly to her chest, Emanuel, the very Second Coming of the Redeemer.

"And thusly shall I cast all who blaspheme against thee into the fiery pit."

The Iscariot murmured, raising his unholy paladin's sword to deliver the killing strike. "Amen."

Before the fatal blow could be struck, though, the Iscariot's hand was stayed by a mighty flash of lightning between him and his would-be victims.

The deafening, thunderous clap came immediately. The Iscariot stumbled backward, Carmen screamed, Emanuel merely looked on passively as if he had only imagined the lightning that struck mere inches before him.

The child didn't even stir with the earth began to quake beneath him, and great catastrophic fissures appeared in all directions as the earth was violently uprooted.

As if the light switch of the heavens was struck, the pale blue sky became as a dark and pulsing ocean overhead.

The cataclysm continued with more lightning, and wind the like of which even the worst tropical storm could not even match given the most perfect of circumstances.

In the end, the valley which they all inhabited moments ago was torn asunder.

However, amidst the chaos of the catastrophe, they found themselves at last inexplicably settled in the square of a city of an illustrious and ancient city with a mighty tower looming over them with all the splendor of the heavens.

To be continued... Request past chapters from the author at: Andrew.hamilton@kortland.edu

Editors' Picks: Top 10 Cover Songs

1. "Free Fallin'"
John Mayer
2. "Smooth Criminal"
Alien Ant Farm
3. "King of Wishful Thinking"
New Found Glory
4. "All Along the Watchtower"
Jimi Hendrix
5. "Friend of the Devil"
Counting Crows
6. "I'll Be Missing You"
Puff Daddy & Faith Evans
7. "Bold as Love"
John Mayer
8. "Killing me Softly"
The Fugees
9. "American Woman"
Lenny Kravitz
10. "Melt with You"
Bowling for Soup

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Movie Review: Taken

This action thriller will have everyone on the edge of the seat

Andrew Harrison
Staff Writer

REVIEW

The recent movie, Taken, was released January 30 and is still currently in theaters, which may prove that this is a good movie that is continuing to make money.

Bryan Mills, who may be best remembered for his role in Batman Begins, is the main character played by Liam Neeson.

Maggie Grace plays Bryan Mills' daughter Kim, who you may have seen creaming as she is torn

away from underneath the bed in many of the previews for the movie.

She has been in the mystery thriller The Fog and the TV series Lost.

Famke Janssen plays the snobby ex-wife, Lenore, that does not respect Bryan until it is necessary for him to return their daughter.

Famke Janssen is most well known for playing Jean Grey in all 3 of the X-men movies.

The allure of this film is that it is a movie about a tough guy who can take out an army of bad guys, but at the same time has a heart of gold and is using all of his talents to make sure his daughter gets home safe and sound.

Bryan Mills plays an ex-government agent who refers to his line of duty as a "preventer" which makes him the golden character who everyone loves because he is unstoppable, but he still only uses what he has learned for the good.

Mills retires from the government because he has hopes to spend more time with his daughter since he has missed the first 17 years of her life because of his line of work.

Once this mob group in Europe takes this opportunity from him he unleashes a reign of fury that is beyond comparison.

He uses his skills and resources to tear across Europe where he is met with every possible obstacle.

Mills tries to stay one step ahead at all times to try and find the one last love in his life, and the ones responsible for her kidnapping.

The movie remains in theaters and that is where you can find the answer to whether Bryan Mills has the ability to single handedly make his way from the bottom to the top of this organization to bring his beautiful daughter home.

Horoscopes

Aries

You can sense that things are going to get busier, but you're ready for the action.

Virgo

Put your life first today. Free yourself from the dramas in other people's lives.

Taurus

Getting time to yourself is difficult today — your popularity is at a record high.

Libra

Seek out what you enjoy today — enjoying life is as good of a purpose as any.

Gemini

Someone has been preaching at you for too long. Tell them to leave you alone today.

Scorpio

Devote your intense concentration to anything you do today that involves money.

Cancer

Coworkers are suddenly fascinating and your curiosity about them is undeniable.

Sagittarius

Whatever confusion your dreams have been causing will start to clear up today

Leo

You're full of good energy that will carry you over any pettiness that might erupt.

Capricorn

You love to be organized, but sometimes structure can be overrated. Loosen up today.

Aquarius

New members of your social group are starting to have a big effect on dynamics.

Pisces

When you share a secret, anticipate the emotional upheaval that it could ignite.

According to Astrology.com

Do you like writing movie, CD, play or concert reviews?

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Schedule Spring 09	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 pm-4 pm	National Public Radio	One More Hit w/Dloganhdlh Hall/Electronic/Dance/ Hip-hop show	National Public Radio	The Electric Avenue w/TJ Maher Calssic/Modern rock show	One More Hit w/Dloganhdlh Hall/Electronic/Dance/ Hip-hop show (2:30-4:30pm)	Moonwalk radio w/Deb Handy, Laura Martin Rock/punk/ alternative show	Keepin it so fresh and so fly w/Scott Neri Hip Hop Show (12- 2pm)
4 pm-6 pm	"Sunday Evening Hour" w/Daniel Caputo Variety/sports show	Around the Town w/ Erin Adams Local Music Show	Labrynthlan pomp w/Tara Molloy, Krisitln Bantug. Indie/Alternative Show	Into the fire w/Mike Millstein, Steve Cuce, Kelsey Maxon Sports talk show	Haceremos lo que queremos w/Rachel Gorman, Melanie Wetlauffer Hip hop/ R&B show (4:30pm-6pm)	Sean Dolberry Sports/Hip Hop show	
6 pm-8 pm	"Custy" w/Nicole Lana, Jes Tamol, Kelly Meler Variety Show	Octopus Garden w/ Katie T and Kelsey D Variety Show	Meg Panzone Alternative show (6-7pm) The Mlx Upw/Jeanette Luther Variety Show (7-8pm)	Kansas City Shuffle w/Steve Cuce, Kelsey Maxon Variety show	Labrynthlan pomp w/Kristin Bantug, Tara Molloy, and Brendan Flynn Indie/Alternative Show	Dana Fjermestad& Deslree Alfieri Variety show	National Public Radio
8 pm-10 pm	National Public Radio	A&M in the PM" w/Adam Ramos, Matt Ianno Variety Show	The Arena w/Curtis Arena, Joanna Saturno Rock/Indie/Pop Show	Mlxn It Up w/Vanessa Hamilton, Tanee Wall Hip hop/R&B show	Gimme some MO w/Morgan Lewis Variety show	Time to rock w/ Kyle Hebden Rock/alternative show	National Public Radio
10 pm-12 am	Weekend wrap-up w/Colin Smith/Indie/Rock show	Meg Panzone Alternative show	Dan Baran Variety Show	Chet Clenkowski Alternative show	National Public Radio	National Public Radio	National Public Radio

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Interviewer will be on campus Thursday, April 2nd from 11am to 3:00pm in Corey Union.

Drawing Outside the Lines

**Student art exhibit
will be displayed
through Spring**

Jennifer Wilson
Contributing Writer

The student art exhibition "Drawing Outside The Lines" will open on March 18.

"Drawing Outside the Lines," an exhibition of work by SUNY Cortland Art and Art History Department students, will open with a reception from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

on Wednesday, March 18, at the Beard Building Gallery in Cortland.

The artists, all students in upper level drawing classes of Caitlin Applegate, adjunct professor of art and art history, will discuss their work between 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 19.

The drawings will be on display through Tuesday, March 31, at the gallery, located in the Main Street SUNY Cortland building at 9 Main Street. The opening as well as the gallery talk and all gallery exhibitions are free and open to the public.

"Drawing Outside the Lines" features conventional, observational drawings as well as

those that expand the traditional definitions of the medium, representing cutting-edge directions in contemporary drawing," said gallery curator Kathryn Kramer, an associate professor of art and art history at Cortland.

The Beard Building Gallery is a collaboration between the Cortland Downtown Partnership, the Cultural Council of Cortland County and SUNY Cortland.

The first floor gallery is open Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

For more information, contact Kramer at (607) 753-4290 or kathryn.kramer@cortland.edu.

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Yankees & Mets open new parks

New York baseball fans prepare for revamped ballparks

Dan Curtis
Staff Writer

A new Major League Baseball season is upon us. Spring training is winding down and ballparks around the country are gearing up for the start of a new baseball season.

With the start of the 2009 season comes some major changes in scenery for each of the New York teams.

For the first time in 86 years, the New York Yankees organization will be hosting its home games in a building other than the one built in 1923 (excluding the 1974-75 seasons when the team played its home games at Shea stadium due to renovations at original Yankee Stadium).

Construction crews broke ground on the newest site in August, 2006, and the stadium is set to debut on April 3 when the Yankees are scheduled to host the Chicago Cubs in a pre-season match-up.

Built across the street from the original site, the new Yankee Stadium is considered by some to be the best and most modern facility in the Major Leagues today.

With a price-tag of just over \$1.3 billion, it's safe to say that the Yankees were probably looking to build the most impressive stadium in baseball.

The team just recently spent



photo provided by Newsday.com

The new Yankee Stadium will open for the 2009 season.

\$423 million to bring in some of the league's best talent; giving the Yankees the four highest paid players in the game.

One that accommodates nearly every luxury a fan could possibly ask for. Whether it be restaurants, internet access, seat width, leg room, or even the largest video scoreboard the league has to offer, fans will seemingly be showered with every amenity imaginable.

Amenities that was previously only available from the comfort of your own living room.

If one grossly expensive stadium in New York didn't wasn't enough the New York Mets, not to be outdone, are being treated to a new stadium of their own.

Citi Field, sponsored by Citigroup Inc., is schedule to see its first action in a preseason match-up as well, when the Mets

take on the Boston Red Sox on April 3.

The \$850 million facility sits beside the ruins of Shea Stadium, the Mets' old ballpark. Citi Field is the Mets' first true baseball stadium.

Citigroup's sponsorship of the new stadium cost \$400 million, which is a controversial sum considering the recent multi-billion dollar bailout the company received from the federal government.

Money issues aside, these two colossal structures give Yankees and Mets fans something to look forward to for this season and seasons to come.

Fans will enjoy games in two of the most state-of-the-art facilities in the country, and that is something New Yorkers can take pride in.

Baseball has solid start to new season

Red Dragons unbeaten on road trip to Florida

Mark Nader
Staff Writer

Coming into the season as the fifth ranked team in Division III, the Cortland baseball team has high expectations for this year.

The Red Dragons finished their 2007-2008 with an astonishing 42-5 record that included a 38 game winning streak, and made an appearance in the Division III World Series.

The four time defending SUNYAC champions look to retain their title and continue their dominance as a national powerhouse.

The first three games were all tough losses for the Red Dragons who began the season with on March 20, with three weekend road games on the East Coast.

In their season opener the Red Dragons lost 4-3 to Salisbury College, of Maryland. The ninth ranked Sea Gulls, had already began their season 6-0 coming into the game.

Will Evans was hit by a pitch with bases loaded and one out in the bottom of the eighth to score the game winning run.

The following day the Red Dragons would be beaten by Mary Washington, 3-1. Sunday would wrap the trip up with a double header at Catholic University in Washington D.C.

In the first game, the Cardinals, who trailed 4-1 in the seventh scored four runs to take the game 5-4.

However, in the second game, Cortland's bats would come alive crushing the Cardinals 16-1. Steve Nickel, was a triple away from the cycle, going 3-5 with a home run and four RBI.

Mike Assmann threw six innings while striking out three to get his first victory of the year.

If there was any thought of Cortland being in a beginning of the year funk, the team changed any of those perceptions on their spring break trip to Winter Haven, Florida.

The Red Dragons went 8-0 over spring break, outscoring their oppositions 65-27.

In their opening game, left-handed junior Matt Tone pitched six strong innings allowing three hits and one run while striking out three in a 9-3 victory of RPI.

Left-fielder Jason Simone went three for four with two runs scored and an RBI while Steve Nickel and Kevin Jackson both contributed two hits and doubles, combining for five RBI.

A strong pitching outing came against Messiah College of Pennsylvania in a 12-1 win. Michael Mahay scattered six hits over six innings, giving up one run while striking out eight.

Junior David Limbach and freshman Brendan Hourian combined for the final two innings striking out five while giving up no runs.

Cortland would strike early, scoring seven runs in the second. Cortland would send 11 batters to the plate in a seven-run second inning.

Matt Salvatore and Zach Reynolds singled in runs, the third run scored on an error and Mike Avery hit a two-run double.

An error allowed another run to score and Jackson hit his second single of the inning to drive in the seventh run.

Now, ranked 15th nationally, the Red Dragons stand at 9-3 with three road games this weekend.

The team visits Farmingdale College on Friday, Montclair State of New Jersey on Saturday and visit Manhattanville College on Sunday.

NCAA women's basketball

CONTINUED FROM BACK COVER

the number two seed, New Paltz in the quarterfinals.

Cortland beat Bears handily earlier in the year 80-63. But, Potsdam would continue their upset streak, as they beat Cortland 64-59.

The Red Dragons struggled shooting the ball the entire game, shooting fewer than 30 percent from the floor. "It was not a big surprise to lose to Potsdam. Of course we were disappointed but they are a good team. I think if we made some shots in the second half we could have pulled the game out, but we didn't catch any breaks and the ball did not go in," said Mosher.

This loss took Cortland out of any possible chance of an automatic bid for the NCAA's, meaning they would need an at-large to get in.

They did just that, getting a matchup with St. Lawrence in Scranton, Pennsylvania. The Red Dragons shot 54 percent leading to a 71-55 win.

Leading by four at half, Cortland would pull away in the second half as they shot over 65 percent in the second half while the Saints shot 25 percent.

Jessica Laing led the scoring with 25 to go with eight rebounds.

In the game she moved into first on Cortland's all-time career scoring list with 1,565 passing Sara Cavanaugh's record of 1,550 from 2004-2008.

Up next for the Red Dragons was the home team, Scranton. Cortland would fall behind early trailing 8-1 before tying it up at eight.

However, Scranton would make a run of their own taking a 21-14 lead with Courtney Rosell knocking down two free-throws.

Cortland would then respond over the next three minutes the Red Dragons outscoring the hosts 8-0 to take a 24-21 lead with 2:49 left.

Freshman Michelle Volpini, who finished with ten, scored the first six points of that stretch with a three-point play and a three-point jumper, followed by two Jessica Laing foul shots and a Maggie Byrne layup. The Red Dragons would go into half with a 25-23 lead.

But the Royals would come back, taking a lead with 15:46 to go with a three pointer from Megan Kopecki. Cortland would continue to keep the game close but was never able to regain the lead.

The Red Dragons would battle until the end and would fall 51-45. Scranton has since won again and is now currently in the Elite Eight of tournament play.

Jennifer Patten and Jessica Laing both contributed double-doubles scoring ten points each, while Patten had one more rebound with eleven.

Senior Ali Canale, a SUNYAC honorable mention selection, finished with eight and set a school record by starting in her 116th straight game. Seniors Kristin Ciccone and Maggie Byrne scored four and two points each respectively in their final game.

"Ali, Kristin, and Maggie have been huge impacts on our program. Ali does nothing flashy but works hard every single minute on the court. Kristin and Maggie have been great point guards who can score for us and that elevated us at that position since they came here," Mosher added.

Cortland's 24 wins this season mark the Red Dragons' fourth straight year with at least 23 victories and eighth time in 11 years.

"I was pleased with the year—going 24-5 is a great season. We were close to meeting all our goals—just came up short in a couple. I want to make sure we take the time to enjoy this past season and get rested and refocused for next season," Mosher said.

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Cortland's players of the week excel in postseason tournaments

Laing and LeBlanc made profound impacts in playoffs

Cameron Daniels
Staff Writer

Each week one male and one female athlete are selected as Cortland's athletes of the week. These student-athletes are selected based on their excellence in athletic performance in the past week. This week's athletes are Jessica Laing and Paul LeBlanc.

Laing is a junior on the Women's Basketball team who led the Lady Red Dragons in the NCAA Division III Tournament this week.

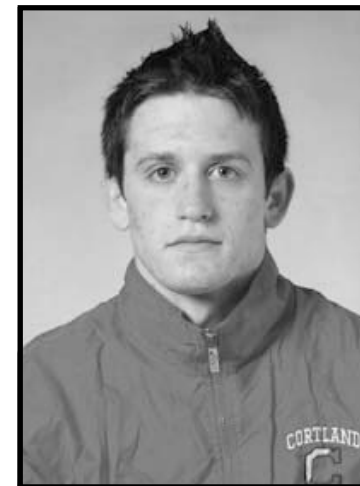
LeBlanc is a senior on the Men's Wrestling Team who participated in the NCAA Division III Championships in Iowa this week.

Laing, a junior from South Kortright High School in Bloomville, led Cortland at the NCAA Division III tournament the past week. In the first round, Laing had 23 points and 8 rebounds in a win over St. Lawrence.

The Lady Red Dragons defeated St. Lawrence 71-55 Friday night and moved on to play Scranton in the second round.

Cortland shot 54 percent from the floor in the game and were 6-of-11 shooting three-pointers. In the win, Laing moved into first place in Cortland's all-time scoring list.

She passed the previous leader and former teammate Sara Cavanaugh who had held the record with 1,550 points. Laing has



photos provided by Cortlandreddragons.com

Cortland's Jessica Laing and Paul LeBlanc both earned Player of the Week honors for the week of March 8.

finished the season with 1,575 points. Laing had a double-double on Saturday night in a tough 51-45 loss to Scranton. Laing's had ten points and ten rebounds as Cortland fell to the 25-4 Scranton Lady Royals.

Laing finished the regular season averaging a double-double with 18.3 points and 11.5 rebounds per game. In her two post-season games, Laing averaged 16.5 points per game and 9 rebounds per game. Cortland finished the season 24-5 and also won the regular season SUNYAC title. They received an NCAA Division III Tournament at-large berth.

LeBlanc finished second in the nation in the 149 pound weight class at the NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

LeBlanc, a senior from Morrisville, won his first 3 matches on decisions of 6-3, 7-5, and 7-4 to advance to the finals. By winning his first two matches, LeBlanc secured his place as an All-American at 149 pounds. This year

will be LeBlanc's third year as an All-American for Cortland.

In the finals, the third-seeded LeBlanc dropped a close 6-3 decision to fourth-seeded Matt Mauseth of Wisconsin-La Crosse. The decision was just LeBlanc's third loss of the season. He finished his senior year with a record of 29-3.

Over his four year career at Cortland, LeBlanc compiled a record of 128 wins and 14 losses.

LeBlanc's 128 wins have also put him in first place on Cortland's all-time win list. LeBlanc's second place finish helped Cortland earn 19th place overall in Division III.

The Red Dragons wrestling team finished the season with a 12-7 record in dual meets.

World Baseball Classic kicks off

Teams from around the globe battle for baseball supremacy

Gabriel Schaub
Staff Writer

The second installment of the World Baseball Classic kicked off March 5 with the defending champions, Japan, beating China, 4-0.

The opening of pool play in pool A, which also included Chinese Taipei and Korea, took place in Tokyo, Japan.

Pool A closed with Japan (2-1), and Korea (3-1) advancing to the second round of pool play. Japan has the most Major League experience that include Daisuke Matsuzaka and Ichiro Suzuki.

Possibly the biggest story leading up to the WBC was not who was playing in the event, but who wasn't.

Following all of the media attention focused around Alex Rodriguez, he was looking forward to competing for the Dominican Republic in the WBC.

Rodriguez had to undergo surgery to fix a torn labrum in his right hip that would not only keep him out of the WBC but will also include the start and much of the season.

Without Rodriguez, the still extremely talented Dominican team was stunned by the Netherlands, who have no active MLB players.

The Dominican Republic lost to the Netherlands twice. Along with the Netherlands (2-1), Puerto Rico (3-0) advanced to the second round out of pool D, which was held in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Pool B commenced from Mexico City, Mexico and included Mexico, Australia, South Africa, and the runners-up from 2006 Cuba.

Cuba finished its first round of pool play going undefeated and will face Japan in a rematch of the 2006 championship.

Also making it into the second round of pool play from pool B was Mexico (2-2). They will play Korea in the next round.

The United States made it through their pool play in pool C which took place in Toronto, Canada. The team includes such major leaguers as Derek Jeter, David Wright, and Jimmy Rollins advanced to the second round, finishing 2-1.

They took on an undefeated Puerto Rico team who crushed Team USA, 11-1. "Yes it was embarrassing, if you lose by ten or by one it's the same to me, still a loss," said captain Derek Jeter.

The USA team is not finished yet as they will need to win the rest of their games in pool play.

Venezuela (3-1) also made it to the second round where they beat the Netherlands in Dolphin Stadium in Miami, Florida, 3-1.

The second round of pool play will continue all this week, with the finals being held next weekend, March 21-23 at Dodger Stadium.

NFL free agency has helped improve teams

Great players are on the move during this football offseason

Paul Dagiolo
Staff Writer

COLUMN

In a league with no salary cap such as the NFL, the entire shape of the league can change after every season.

Teams that are on the brink of success can put themselves in a position to win by simply adding a few players during free agency.

Free agency is more prevalent in football over other major sports due to the fact that no players' contract is guaranteed.

With players' expendability, it levels the playing field from a competitive standpoint.

Teams who were in last place one year can compete for the division title in the following season if they were to add the right pieces.

In the 2008 season, the Miami Dolphins went from a 1-15 laughing stock to an 11-5 division leader largely due to the acquisition of MVP candidate Chad Pennington.

He fit nicely in there system due to the fact that the Dolphins had a lot of speedy weapons to compliment Pennington's accurate arm.

The Chiefs have modeled that format for the upcoming season by adding Matt Cassel in a trade. As for the free agent market, there has been a lot of movement in the AFC.

The Jets for starters, have added two starters in Bart Scott and Lito Sheppard to an already improving defense.

Scott will be a great fit for the

Jets because he has already proved he can perform at a high level under new coach Rex Ryan's 3-4 scheme.

Having players who are familiar with the system is a very important asset for any player looking for a contract. This is why safety Jim Leonard was an unsurprising choice for Ryan and the Jets.

At the end of the day, when a team signs a player it is a complete gamble on whether the team will perform any better.

This was proven last week when Albert Haynsworth was thrown in jail for driving while intoxicated nearly two weeks after signing a \$100 million contract.

The Redskins gave Haynsworth \$46 million in guaranteed money and also counted on him to be a model citizen for the Washington community.

Buying a player is no different than investing in any other product, and owners still run the risk of the investment not panning out in the way they planned.

The Buffalo Bills are hoping that they will not be on the list of teams in which Terrell Owens has single handedly dismantled.

Owens has signed a one year contract to play for the Bills this season, and if he keeps his mouth shut, could mean a lot of wins for the Bills in 2009.

He will add to a lot of speedy weapons that quarterback Trent Edwards already has. All in all, I feel that the Bills were one of the off-season winners.

Even if the Owens experiment does not pan out, they only have him signed for one year.

Staying in the same division, I feel the Jets were also a big winner. They improved their defense by adding Scott and Leonard in order to compete with the great offenses in the AFC East.

March Madness ready to tip off

NCAA tournament begins today as top teams fight for title

Mark Hogan
Contributing Writer

The madness is upon us. Today, the NCAA basketball tournament gets underway. The excitement of this season has hopefully been just a warm up for things to come in the next three weeks.

This season has been exceptional to say the least, but now the regular season is over and it's time to dance.

It is a historic season because for the first time ever three teams from one conference received a one seed in the tournament.

The Big East is sending Louisville, Pittsburgh, and Connecticut as one seeds. The fourth and final one seed is North Carolina.

This tournament feels somewhat top heavy because of the strength of the top seeds and two seeds including Oklahoma and Michigan State. These six teams have are the teams that most people are mentioning as final four contenders.

The tournament is truly much deeper with teams like Duke, Gonzaga, Kansas, Memphis, and Washington that have had great years, but aren't getting the respect that these top six are. All of these teams are capable of making deep runs in the tournament.

I think that there are a few teams that are getting hot at the right time. Florida State, USC, and Syracuse all made big runs in their conference tournaments.

USC was able to play their way into the tournament by winning their conference



photo provided by sportsillustrated.com

North Carolina's Tyler Hansbrough looks to lead the top seed Tar Heels to a national championship.

tournament. Florida State and Syracuse made it to the finals of their respective tournaments.

Which team in the tournament can be the 'Cinderella' team? No one can consistently pick the sleeper that will shake up the entire tournament.

There are some teams that will shock us all and make it to the sweet sixteen. A few teams that could make that could get through the first weekend in my mind are Cleveland State, Virginia Commonwealth, or Maryland.

Some of the best matchups of the first round have to be Clemson vs. Michigan and California vs. Maryland. These two matchups

both pit the Pac-10 against the Big Ten.

Also Illinois vs. Western Kentucky is an intriguing matchup. Illinois lost one of their top players in Chester Frazier. Frazier led the Illini in assists this season.

Lastly the game between #6 UCLA vs. VCU has a great matchup. Point guard Darren Collison of UCLA will go head to head with an outstanding point guard in Eric Maynor, a projected top ten pick in the NBA Draft.

March Madness is finally here. So, get your brackets ready and buckle up.

Top eight most hated college basketball teams (according to MSNBC.com):

1. Duke
2. North Carolina
3. Kentucky
4. Cincinnati
5. UCLA
6. Syracuse
7. Louisville
8. Arizona

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The Dragon Chronicle

Sports



Cortland Athletics Scores

MEN'S LACROSSE

Cortland 13
Clarkson 11
Next: Friday vs. Potsdam

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Cortland 68
Fredonia 71
Next: Tuesday @ Potsdam

SOFTBALL

Cortland 10
Wisconsin Lutheran 0
Next: Friday @ Muhlenberg

BASEBALL

Cortland 8
Clarkson 4

Cortland 13
Clarkson 4
Next: Friday @ Farmingdale

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Cortland 17
Rochester 7
Next: Saturday @ College of New Jersey

Women's basketball finishes season strong

Red Dragons earn at-large berth for NCAA tournament

Mark Nader
Staff Writer

If the women's basketball team had a checklist this season, then they sure had a lot to check off. They won a SUNYAC regular season title, got an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament, and won a game in the NCAA tournament.

Also, head coach Jeannette Mosher won SUNYAC coach of the year and junior forward Jessica Liang won SUNYAC Player of the Year.

They may have missed one or two things that they wanted to accomplish, like winning the SUNYAC playoffs but the growth from last year may make up for that.

The Red Dragons breezed through the SUNYAC regular season play with a 15-1 conference record and 13 of 15 victories.

"I think we just took one game at a time and focused on getting better every game. We also had to adjust to some adversity. The girls took on their new roles really well," said Mosher.

The team began its SUNYAC

play with eight consecutive victories before running into New Paltz for its only conference loss of the season. From then on, the team wouldn't look back-winning its last seven games of the year.

The team faced adversity, early in the year losing senior Maggie Byrne, in late December due to a broken wrist.

Byrne had been the starting point guard for the past two seasons before her injury. However, the team would step up with Liang and sophomore guard Jennifer Patten taking larger roles in the offense.

Liang led the SUNYAC in both points and rebounds this past season averaging a double-double with 18.2 points per game along with 11.3 rebounds.

She scored in double digits in 26 of 27 regular season games while also leading the team in steals while shooting 81 percent from the charity stripe.

"Jess has been one of the best players in the league since her freshmen year. It was nice to see her get the top award this year. She gets what she deserves," said Mosher.

Heading into the playoffs, Cortland looked to be the favorites, playing at home as the number one seed. In their first round bout, they crushed the Blue Knights of SUNY



photo provided by Cortlandreddragons.com

Senior Ali Canale takes a shot in the NCAA Tournament.

Geneseo 72-41. Geneseo showed to be little of a challenge for Cortland, as Liang and Patten paced the team scoring 15 and 14 points respectively. Next up for the one seed was Potsdam, who had already upset

SEE NCAA ON PAGE 9

Athletes of the Week



provided by cortlandreddragons.com

Nicolas Blanco Baseball

Earned a 2-0 pitching record during spring break trip in Florida.



provided by cortlandreddragons.com

Kristen Serikstad Women's Track & Field

Finished second nationally in high jump at NAAs.

Men's lacrosse prevails against Gettysburg

Six goals in third quarter help Red Dragons to victory

Daniel Harding, Jr.
Staff Writer

The Cortland men's lacrosse team, ranked third in the nation, outscored 6-0 in the third quarter to defeat the second-ranked Gettysburg 14-8

This high caliber game brought out record numbers of supporters from both Cortland and Gettysburg. The standing room only crowd packed the John J. Burns Park in Massapequa, Long Island.

The first thing many realized when attending this game was the hundreds of fans in attendance. The supporters, decked out in either red or orange, gave testament to the conception that Long Island is a hot bed of lacrosse.

The game began as anticipated with both teams seemingly matched in every aspect of the game. Both teams played stellar defense and the scoring was kept to a minimum.

After the first half of the game the score was tied at five goals, giving the crowd the showdown



photo by Daniel Harding, Jr.

The Cortland men's lacrosse team celebrates after a 14-8 victory over Gettysburg.

they were looking for.

The second half of the game was a different story however as Cortland played with a new found level of intensity as they sought to take control of the game.

Cortland set the pace early as Chris DeLuca was able to secure a goal within the opening 21 seconds of the third quarter.

This goal was only one of three for DeLuca on the day. Cortland remained on the offensive and was able to secure six unanswered points against

Gettysburg.

While Gettysburg refused to quit as they diminished the deficit Cortland's massive third quarter offensive surge prove to be too much for the Bullets to overcome as Cortland defeated the higher ranked opponent with a final score of 14-8.

Scoring for Cortland was Brian Krol with four goals, Chris Deluca with three, Joe Morgan and Jay DiStefano with two goals apiece. Zack Mulvaney, Cody Hoyt, and Tim Burke each scored a goal.

The men's teams continued their winning ways and remain undefeated after defeating Clarkson in a game played in Florida with a score of 13-11.

The Red Dragons will continue to battle toward a national championship with a game against rival Ithaca on Saturday.