

THE DRAGON CHRONICLE

Vol. LXXXVI No. 1 State University of New York College at Cortland September 11, 2008

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Annual Sept. 11 ceremony to be held in front of Corey

SUNY Cortland's annual Sept 11 remembrance ceremony will be held tonight at 9 p.m. at the entrance in to Dunkin Donuts in front of Corey Union.

Students, employees and community members will join in a candlelight vigil to remember those who lost their lives on the day.

Philosopher will visit to discuss Feminist Solidarity

Philosopher Ann Ferguson will be speaking to SUNY Cortland at 4:30 p.m. today in the Jacobus Lounge in Brockway Hall.

Ferguson will present "Global Gender Solidarity and Feminist Paradigms of Justice." The main focus of the speech will be on a particular case of the abortion rights movement in the U. S.

Cortland Muslim Community holds dinner

The Cortland Muslim Community will be holding a Ramadan dinner at 7 p.m. on Monday in the West Campus Recreation Center.

The dinner is held in celebration of the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan and was created to encourage diversity on campus. All students and members of the public are encouraged to attend this event.

Student Activities Board to hold meeting for students

The Student Activities Board (SAB) is holding a meeting tonight at 8 p.m. in Corey 209.

Those who did not attend the club's first meeting last week are still welcome to join the committee which plans many of Cortland's events and concerts.

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Cortland beats Morrisville in exciting opener

Red Dragons show offensive strength in shootout victory

Dan Curtis
Staff Writer

It's that time of year again. Fall is on its way, and although the weather's getting chilly, the Red Dragons football program is ready to heat things up in 2008.

In its opening game of the season on Saturday afternoon, Cortland defeated a much improved Morrisville team in a 51-37 offensive explosion. Red Dragons senior running back, Andrew Giuliano, broke a 25 year old Cortland record by rushing for 281 yards in a single game.

With the help of a veteran offensive line, Giuliano also recorded four of the team's seven touchdowns on the day. "Andrew did a stellar job of carrying the ball forward, but please credit a staunch group of blockers," said Head Coach Daniel MacNeill.

Morrisville, in its first year of



photo courtesy of Cortlandfootball.com

SEE FOOTBALL ON PAGE 10

Andrew Giuliano ran for 281 yards against Morrisville in the first game of the season.

Renowned speaker talks education



photo courtesy of Wikipedia

Jonathan Kozol, pictured above, at a previous event.

Well-recognized figure talks of the inequalities in schools

Chelsea Leone
Staff Writer

Jonathan Kozol attracted quite the crowd for his speech in Corey Union on Tuesday. Kozol spoke as part of a series of lectures which will be featured this year that revolve around the theme, "Inequality."

Kozol graduated summa cum laude from Harvard University with a degree in English and wrote several books including *Death at an Early Age*, which won a national book award and sold over two million copies.

Deeply disheartened by the

education system, he spoke out against the No Child Left Behind Act.

After he was fired by a school for reading a Langston Hughes poem to his class, Kozol was motivated to try and reform the education system today.

Kozol looks at teachers as heroes in our society and he is not happy to say that New York State rates first in inequality and in racial segregation of its children. He urges African American and Latino children to receive the same rich opportunities that they deserve. Kozol feels that conservatives are not concerned about the children's education but only for the taxes they will someday pay.

Kozol expressed that he is worried that the future of America is going to turn children into robotic moneymakers who do not enjoy life.

Kozol told appalling stories about the future of some school districts. One he mentioned was Erie, Pennsylvania where the principal of the school is terrified by No Child Left Behind because their school will be penalized if they can not improve their standardized test scores.

The school could be handed over to a private corporation, Edison, if things don't change. The principal feels that the things the teachers are being forced to do in the classrooms is completely out of hand. For example, teachers are having to hold timers in their hand so they do not spend too much time on one topic.

Kozol complains that certain standards interrogate reality. Poor children are being trained to spit out boring uncreative answers while the rich are being taught empowerment, a dangerous practice in a democracy.

Kozol hates a system where the rich can send their children to private schools and get top education while the poor have to go to inner city schools yet they all have to take the same standardized test in the third grade.

Lastly, Kozol believes separate education will not work and those who pretend otherwise are ignorant of history.

Kozol truly inspired future teachers of SUNY Cortland after his engaging speech on the future of education in America.

"I was moved," said junior education major Marissa Martinez. "Kozol is an amazing speaker."

What in the World?

A look at last week's major international news headlines

Ashley Jones
Staff Writer

The following bullets provide a quick re-cap of major international headlines for the week of Aug. 31 - Sept. 6, courtesy of articles found at time.com.

- After a dispute over how many civilians were killed in an Aug. airstrike, the U.S. concluded on Sept. 2 that 30 to 35 Taliban militants and five to seven civilians lost their lives. The airstrike took place in Western Afghanistan and according to the U.S., a known Taliban commander was killed in the raid.

- On Sept. 3, the U.S. received information that North Korea was beginning to rebuild its primary nuclear facility. Despite nuclear disarmament negotiations, the act is seen as gesture to "put pressure" on the United States. The validity of the reports, which first aired on FOX news are still under scrutiny.

- On Sept. 4, President Bush guaranteed to send an extra \$1 billion in aid to Georgia due to continued Russian aggression. Bush claimed that the aid was necessary to help Georgia rebuild its infrastructure and economy after the devastating attacks by the former soviet giant.

History made by Party

Obama is first African-American to lead a party ticket

Ashley Jones
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Aug. 28 in Denver, Colorado, the Democratic Party made history when Barack Obama officially accepted his nomination as presidential candidate, becoming the first ever African-American to lead a major party ticket.

Democrats from around the nation gathered in the Pepsi Center for the four-day event to show their support while anxiously awaiting one of the most anticipated happenings of the year.

The previous weekend Obama had named Delaware Senator Joe Biden as his running mate and Biden officially accepted his nomination as Vice President at the convention on Wednesday night.

In his acceptance speech, Obama vowed to keep the American promise alive, a promise he believes has been slipping out of reach for many Americans the past eight years. He brings to the forefront the struggles of the average American and explains how, through his own family past, he can relate to these sufferings.

While criticizing McCain's past actions and current policies, Obama laid out a plan of exactly what his platform of change means.

His platform includes many big promises including tax cuts for 95% of working families, ending American dependence of foreign oil in just ten years and implementing universal healthcare.

Obama claims that this can all be accomplished by closing corporate loopholes and tax havens.

Joe Biden's speech reminded the people of America that Obama stands for a change from the past eight years and that in voting for McCain we will only get more of the same. By listing specific examples of when McCain allied with Bush's policies he painted a picture that shows McCain not as a maverick but as a follower of his party's platform.

Between its kick-off on Aug. 25 and its conclusion on the Aug. 28, the Democratic Party's forty-fifth convention hosted a plethora of other speakers including Michelle Obama, Hillary Clinton and Bill Clinton.

Michelle Obama reminded the nation of the ideals upon which it was founded; ideals of hope and equality. She also provided a unique insight into the values and beliefs she and her husband embody, the maxim of that night's theme, "One Nation."

As former adversaries, both Bill and Hillary Clinton threw their support behind Obama as well. In her speech, Hillary Clinton urged her followers not to let the bitter disappointment of her loss shadow the true purpose of the election. She encouraged them to stand behind Obama as she was because, despite their differences, Obama represents the change America needs. Bill Clinton also reminded the party that now is the time to unite and no longer be divided from the primaries.

Senator Ted Kennedy also made a surprise appearance at the election, despite recently undergoing surgery for a brain tumor.

Ten tips for preventing identity theft

Avoid being a victim of online or computer identity theft this year

Chelsea Leone
Staff Writer

Have you ever shared the password for your computer with a friend?

Or maybe your PIN number because you were in the back seat of the car while everyone is getting money out at the drive-thru ATM?

Well, if your answer is yes then you could be at risk for identity theft. Identity theft is a very serious problem and as the new academic year begins, the potential to become a target increases even more.

In college, it is easy to be careless with this information because most of the time, as a busy student, these issues are often forgotten or even seem pointless. However, it can happen to anyone at anytime.

According to identityfinder.com, a company which specializes in protecting identities, "over 234 million data records have been exposed due to security breaches since 2005."

With this statistic in mind, here are ten tips from the website that will help you protect yourself while at school so changing your social security number is never an issue.

1. Protect the personal information on your computer: If someone ever stole your laptop, you wouldn't want every detail of your credit history floating around the Internet. Hence, lock your files and don't leave your laptop lying

around.

2. Don't use obvious passwords: Never share your passwords with other people and put some thought into creating it. Use numbers, lower case letters and upper case letters.

3. Never instant message or e-mail important information: When these messages are received you don't know who is seeing them and potentially copying it down to save for later.

4. Install computer updates regularly: When new software updates pop up on your screen don't keep hitting "ignore." Part of the reason these updates are essential is because they block pathways that hackers use to get into your files.

5. Don't leave your laptop lying around the library or your dorm room: If you have the attitude that it will never happen to you, it will. When you have to leave for two minutes to find a book in the library, just take your laptop with you.

6. Configure your file sharing so people can't see all your files: We all download music, maybe a few movies, but do not accidentally share your number. Make sure you configure your settings so people cannot see all the files on your computer.

7. Don't completely expose your life on the internet: Facebook is fantastic but configure your privacy settings so you don't come up in a Google

search. Don't put your phone number or other information that is borderline too personal as well. It is a great social network now, but don't forget about your future with an employer because you are so caught up in the present.

8. Make sure your neighbors cannot get on your wireless Internet: Having your wireless network completely accessible to anyone is like leaving the door of your apartment unlocked all the time.

9. Don't click on hyperlinks in e-mails from unknown senders: If you don't know who is sending you a random link, don't click on it. Phishing sites tend to do this so they can bring you to a false site and steal your information. Instead, type out the address and close the e-mail.

10. Don't assume campus internet is safe: Do your online banking at home on your computer because most networks are not protected on campuses.

In other words, we don't live in a safe world. There are people out there who would love to steal your social security number and make some money off of selling your identity. So take the proper precautions to keep yourself safe. For more information, visit www.identityfinder.com

McCain and Palin take over St. Paul at National Convention

McCain's words and running mate are talk of the convention

Eric Feuer
Staff Writer

As we approach that point in the year when we as free people get to exercise our right to vote, the Republicans have come together in St. Paul, Minnesota, to unite their party and announce their campaign to the people of America.

During the first four days of September, the Republicans took to the X-Cel center to come together and welcome their candidate for office, Arizona Senator John McCain, who in turn selected Sarah Palin, Governor of Alaska, as his Vice President.

Unlike Democratic nominee Barack Obama who selected his running mate, Joe Biden, well before the Democratic National Convention, giving them ample time to appear in public together to rally supporters, the Republican National Convention marked the first time McCain and Palin would appear and speak on the same stage.

As is tradition during conventions, McCain would speak on the last day and Palin on the

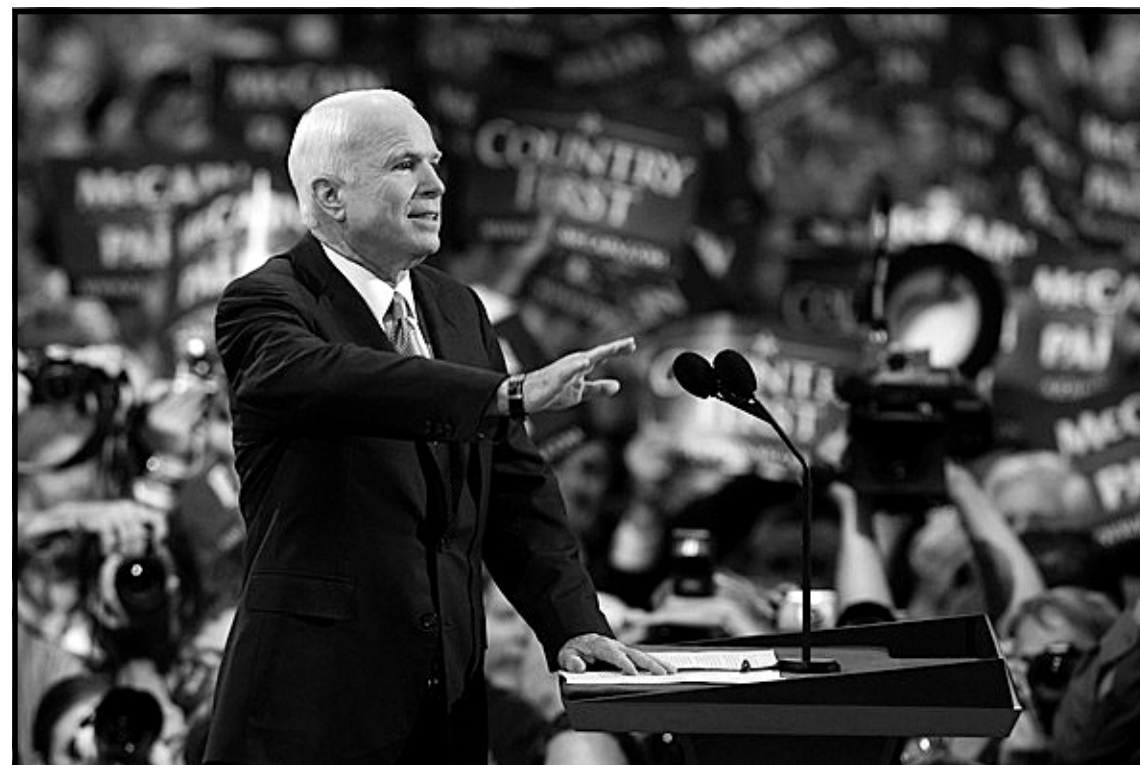


photo courtesy of zimbio.com-

Senator John McCain speaks at National Convention in Minnesota.

day before him.

Yet, the convention was not without other famous speakers. While current President George Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney were scheduled to speak on the first day, tropical storm Gustav forced President Bush to speak via satellite a day later.

As the Republicans made their speeches, they spoke to their party members, the American public and strategically to the people of Minnesota, which along with Wisconsin and Iowa is seen as a key state to win as it holds ten electoral college votes. Just as the Democrats slogan was "Change"

during their convention, the Republicans dominant message was "Country First", and at times during speeches the crowd could be heard chanting "U.S.A."

After speeches by Mitt Romney, Mike Huckabee and Rudy Giuliani, Sarah Palin took the stage with fighting words about rising to

the challenge of this election. Palin would go on to criticize Obama for his plans to raise income and payroll taxes, which the Republicans state would only increase tax burdens on Americans

When the final day of the convention rolled around, McCain took the stage to accept his nomination and give his speech. As expected, he took some jabs at Obama but also took the time to speak kindly of him. McCain stated that while over the next two months both sides would go at it, Obama had his respect and admiration. McCain went on to say that he felt he had the right running mate in Sarah Palin, and that she had the right experience in tackling major problems and that the two of them would be able to successfully shake up Washington.

When it came time to discuss what McCain would do if elected he said that he would aim to lower taxes, open markets and bolsters the country's defense. McCain also touched on what he thought the government should be like, saying that it should not make choices for you, but work to make your choices a reality. No one can be sure at this point what the next two months hold except that America will be divided by its beliefs and passion for its parties.

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The Dragon Chronicle

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

There are 54 days until the presidential election. Everyone from Bill O'Reilly to Jon Stewart has an opinion and there is no doubt they will be at the polls on Nov. 4. Will you?

While it is easy to sit back and allow the rest of the world to make decisions for you, now is the time when we as a generation can stand up and make our voices be heard.

For many people on campus, this will be the first year they have been of age to vote.

Candidates have realized what the "youth vote" will mean to their campaigns and have used technologies like Facebook to communicate with us in ways never used before.

All too often there is an apathetic approach to the government.

It is frustrating to hear "I don't really like politics."

It is not about liking politics. It is about understanding the choices that are being made for you and becoming active in the government.

If you don't go out and cast your vote, Republican, Democrat or otherwise, don't complain when things don't go your way in the future.

Nov. 4 is your day to let them know you're watching what goes on and will fight to have your say.

If you're not registered to vote, check out www.declareyourself.com to register or fill out an absentee ballot application.

Freshman transitions

A first-time Cortland student reflects on her move to college

Danielle Eckert
Staff Writer

Students adorn caps and gowns; parents line up to take pictures of this momentous occasion. Graduation day is filled with a plethora of emotions: accomplishment, nervousness, sadness and excitement.

After four years of being the underdogs of the school, it feels great to finally make it to the top. But suddenly, six short weeks later, reality hits. College has arrived.

Chaos is the only word that can describe freshmen move-in day. Nervous parents, excited students and too many boxes to fit into those tiny dorms.

Organizing a small cramped room for two girls with enough clothes to fill a mall is an overwhelming task. Three girls in a double room seems simply impossible.

My parents were shocked as my best friend and one of my roommates added suitcase after suitcase to our sky-high pile of boxes.

As the day went on, the room became more organized, we found the floor and met new friends. We exchanged tearful but happy goodbyes with our families and introduced ourselves to all the other third floor girls.

Then we sat down on our beds and stared at each other. We didn't know what to do with ourselves. We had no parents to tell us what to do, nothing controlling our lives. Sure it was exciting, but it was scary too.

One of my roommates suggested we eat, so we went to

the on-campus Friendly's and got the biggest sundae imaginable. Suddenly we realized; this is why college was so great. You can eat whatever you want, whenever you want. Instead of sleeping when we got back to the room, we could have a dance party. College was awesome.

For the next two days, we wandered through campus, checking out all the food places, the gym and the football field. Although college was exciting, the thoughts of home always set in.

After attending on campus events like the back-to-school barbeque and the Academic Convocation, my roommates and I headed back up to our dorm. We chatted on instant messenger with our friends at different schools and called our parents to see how life was back home.

The first few days were the hardest because classes hadn't begun. There wasn't much to do but think about home. But in every class, in the lounge and at the dining hall, plenty of people were willing to make friends. It took away the stress of being away.

During my first two weeks at Cortland I learned so much about being on my own and becoming my own person.

Campus was hard to navigate at first. A school with thousands of students was a big jump from my high school with a mere 150 students in my graduating class.

Each teacher's syllabus seemed like a foreign language. Budgeting time for hours of homework, eating and sleeping took very good organizational skills.

The first time in the laundry room was certainly an interesting experience. My roommate and I prayed soap wouldn't overflow from our machine after accidentally adding a little too much detergent.

SEE FRESHMAN ON PAGE 5

Teaching tolerance at the VMAs

MTV's bushy-haired host raises eyebrows amongst audience

Kelsey Delmotte
Staff Writer

The 2008 VMAs had many elements. Rihanna wore a rat-tail, Britney came out of hiding for another comeback and the Jonas Brothers gave pre-teen girls unrealistic goals for dating pop stars.

But the most entertaining part of the show was its charismatic import host, Russell Brand. After spending an embarrassing amount of time on Googling the spirited Brit, I was eager to see his performance. He did not disappoint.

As is awards show tradition, Brand went after those who had it coming, including an outsider's perspective on George W. Bush. One jab in particular did not sit well with one of the MTV newcomers.

Jordin Sparks, yet another sugary sweet cutout from the American Idol set, did not appreciate Brand's remarks about the Jonas Brother's commitment to staying virgins until marriage, as is symbolized through promise rings.

Brand said it's "a little bit ungrateful...because they could have sex with any woman they want." Funny, right? I thought so.

But later in the show, Sparks came up to present an award and replied, "I just have one thing to say about promise rings. It's not bad to wear a promise ring because not everybody, guy or girl, wants

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THE DRAGON CHRONICLE

135 Years of Tradition

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Activities funded by the SGA and MAF

World Trade Center memorial delayed

Increased budgets push completion date to 2011

Brittany Hays
Staff Writer

It is hard to believe that the seventh anniversary of the September 11 attacks has arrived. As another year has passed since the tragedy, still no monumental work has been done at ground zero.

For the survivors, family members and friends of those who lost their lives on that day of infamy, a memorial site is needed to help with closure and to act as a place to visit and reflect upon those lives that were lost.

There is no excuse, especially with the advanced technology, for

why there is a delay at ground zero.

Someone needs to step up to the plate and take charge of this project in order for something to be opened on the 10 year anniversary in 2011.

The families, friends and survivors of those who were impacted by the 9/11 attacks have waited long enough for a memorial to be built.

To place blame for the delay at one individual organization or company is hard because no one has stepped up to take the lead over this project.

One of the main issues is the size and cost of the ground zero project. An up-to-date estimated budget is close to \$1 billion, and finding an amount of money that size is becoming a major issue.

The original budget was \$610

million but has soared close to \$1 billion, adding a 65% increase to the cost.

The budget for this project is outrageous and although the projected final outcome seems like it would be worth a large amount of money, \$1 billion could do a lot for our country and around the world instead of using it for two reflecting pools.

The city should work to decrease the budget allowing for a realistic design which actually could be built in a timely fashion for the ground zero memorial.

The Port Authority has pledged to give \$150 million dollars to the project and with costs rising due to the delay in building they added another \$45 million making their total contribution \$195 million.

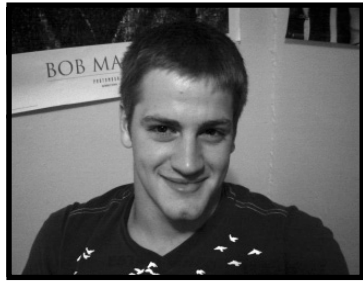
SEE MEMORIAL ON PAGE 5

What do you have to say: What do you think about all of the construction going on in campus?



Tim Cromwell
Senior
Sport Management

"I miss the good old days where I could cut through Van Hoesen to grab some Neubig with ease."



Trevor Nicholl
Sophomore
Business Economics

"I really don't care. It doesn't bother me. The only thing that makes me mad is when they dump stone at 6 in the morning."



Kelly Kreskow
Senior
Childhood Education

"I think that it is inconvenient. It should have been done in the summer, and it doesn't make the campus look nice."



Mike Torres
Senior
Sport Management

"When I'm driving around campus, I'm slowed down because of the congestion of people due to the lack of sidewalk."



Anthony Dattilo
Junior
Business Economics

"I hate it because it causes complications in my daily route to classes."

Freshman

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

My first impression of college was very different than I anticipated, but different isn't a bad thing. It is important to have a good time in college, but succeeding is crucial.

College takes responsibility. Cleaning up ("The cleaning staff are not maids" was the first thing said by our R.A.), obeying quiet hours, getting to class on time and completing the work assigned. However, college isn't just about hard work. It's about discovering yourself.

The difference between high school and college is that you chose to come here. Cortland isn't a public high school that all kids in the area are forced to attend.

Students are here because they want to be here, to succeed and get a good education. This makes finding friends with the same interests a piece of cake.

In the two short weeks that I have called myself a Cortland student, I have met a handful of people who I feel like I've known my entire life. I know they will always be right beside me. They are friends I can keep for a lifetime.

Tolerance

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

to be a slut."

I was surprised to hear such a mean-spirited comment at an event that is supposed to be a fabulous night out for the music industry. Yes, Brand made fun of people, but his energy and overwhelming happiness was something that we could all get some use out of.

Seniors prepare for the real world

Cortland students begin planning for life after graduation

Rebecca Job
Staff Writer

As every senior knows, avoiding senioritis is much easier said than done. The choices you make during college are all related to how you do each year.

If you let senioritis go to your head, it can affect the amount you study, the grades you get and your overall academic performance during senior year.

Slacking off isn't something you can afford to do if you plan to graduate in May. Students have to realize that they haven't graduated yet and there is still a lot of work to be done.

As a senior, things are starting to fall into place. This is when seniors should start thinking about their lives ahead of them.

Many of us are wishing that the parties and college would never end while others are just as excited to get on with their lives out in the work world.

Either way, for seniors, this is the last year of undergraduate study. It is necessary to start thinking about plans for your

future, whether it is grad school or starting your first job. Scary thought, right?

When thinking about graduate schools, senior psychology major, Danielle Orr said, "It's hard to apply to grad schools when you're taking 18 credits, stressed out and trying to enjoy your senior year." For the most part, this is true.

Students who are thinking about applying to graduate school have lots of decisions on where to apply, what programs to apply to and where to go when you get accepted.

For others who don't think graduate school is for them, it's

overwhelming to choose what type of job you'd like to pursue, where you want to live and where you should search for jobs. That's why seniors should start thinking ahead now.

Overall, senior year is full of important things to do.

First, make sure you're going to graduate on time. Second, make sure you still dedicate yourself to your school work. Third, make sure you're applying to grad schools now if you're interested in going on to graduate school.

World Trade Center memorial

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

The Port Authority said they will not give any more money to this project. \$195 million could go a long way and make a memorial site which would dually serve its purpose and be an attractive addition to New York City.

Right now, a large sunken crater sits in the shadow of what once was the twin towers and it is embarrassing for the people of the city.

The costs are up from the original 2009 open due to the increase in price for steel, concrete and crude oil. The original estimate was \$25 million for these supplies and has increased to \$65 million each year of the delay.

The architects Michael Arad and Peter Walker have been feeling the pressure and have made some changes in the original plan which will cut costs by \$200 million.

It seems like these two architects are cashing in on this deal and maybe further investigation should be taken as to where exactly all the money is going in this project.

The planned memorial site located at ground zero will be called "Reflecting Absence," featuring two water filled pools which land a few feet below ground level to create a waterfall in the shape of a square.

The pools will outline the footprints of the former World Trade Center twin towers.

Surrounding the pools will be a plaza of sweet gum and oak trees allowing for a place to commemorate those who lost their lives and also to be inviting for everyday use of those who work and live around the area.

An underground museum will

have a dark, cold walk way leading to the light of the landing of the pools. When you look out into the water falling from the floor above, you can see the names of close to 3,000 people who lost their lives on 9/11 floating on tiles.

If this project ever gets completed, it will be a peaceful place to remember those who lost their lives. This concept is very creative and seems like it should not be taking as long as it is to break ground and get this project moving.

A new deadline of a 2011, 10 year anniversary opening, is the goal for this project but critics have their doubts.

Many survivors and family members say that they are scared they will not live to see a proper memorial in place at ground zero and this is not right.

It will be interesting to see what will happen with this project in the next five years and if something will be open to the public on the tenth anniversary.

Do you have an opinion?

Don't be shy!

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MTV's Video Music Awards don't live up to expectations

Awards show does not compare to previous years

Katie Rosenbrock
Staff Writer

REVIEW

This year's Video Music Awards (VMAs) should not have been called the Video Music Awards.

Perhaps a more suitable title for the show would have been something along the lines of "Britney Spears' Comeback Platform."

It's not that Spears didn't deserve the three awards that she won but the fact that this was her first time ever winning a Moonman around the same time that she is seemingly trying to make a "comeback" from her downfall. It seemed more like a publicity stunt than anything.

However, MTV failed at really getting Britney any publicity at all because the host, British comedian Russel Brand, is who everyone seems to be talking about.

He opened the show by commenting on America's current president calling him a "retarded cowboy" and encouraging Americans to vote for Obama, insinuating that people who do not plan to support him are "racists."

Besides the hype about Britney, who won a Moonman for every category she was nominated in, and the obnoxious host who at



photo courtesy of MTV.com

Britney Spears and Russel Brand steal post-show publicity at the 2008 VMAs.

times, did not know when to give it a rest, there were a few memorable moments of the night.

The show began with an introduction by the one and only Spears and a dramatic performance by Rihanna, who sang her new single, "Disturbia."

The awards part of the show kicked off with Chris Brown winning a Moonman for Best Male Video for his song, "With You."

Other winners of the night included, The Pussycat Dolls, Lil' Wayne, Tokio Hotel and needless

to say, Spears, who had never won a Moonman before and did not seem surprised when she came up to the stage to accept her awards.

Her responses and mannerisms almost seemed robotic. I guess she had to be on her best behavior in order to make up for some of her antics from the past few years.

A lot of the performances of the night were very lack-luster and not memorable. However, there were a few that stood out against the others. The Jonas Brothers had

a great debut VMA performance, singing their new single, "Love Bug."

Their performance started out simple as they sat on the stoop of a New York City set on the back lot of Paramount Studios. However, it really became reminiscent of a true Jonas Brothers performance when the set opened up to reveal a stampeding crowd of young girls running towards the stage.

The Jonas Brothers were nominated for Best Pop Video and Video of the Year for their song,

"Burning Up," but they were beat by Spears in both categories.

The Jonas Brothers should have no worries because it seems as though they will definitely be collecting some Moonmen in the future.

Pink's performance of her new single, "So What," entertained the crowd with explosives, fire and many other stunts.

Through all of the craziness going on, she also managed to sing well and brought a lot of energy to the stage.

Other big-name performers included, Lil' Wayne, Christina Aguilera, Kid Rock and Paramore who all did well. However, it does not seem as though any of this year's performances will go down in history like ones from previous years.

Kanye West ended the show with a performance of his new song "Love Lockdown," despite the fact that he vowed to never appear on the VMAs again.

All in all, the show did not compare to previous years. And while it seemed as though MTV was trying to get people talking about Britney Spears again, their plan half backfired when they decided to use Russel Brand as the host because he seemed to have caused more controversy than Spears' and Madonna's on-screen kiss in 2003.

We can only hope that next year's show will be better, which almost seems unlikely since MTV (which ironically stands for Music Television), seems to be straying away from music more and more each day.

Speak Magazine's second issue to hit campus

Second issue will focus on November's presidential elections

Jessica Zito
Staff Writer

The dream of two juniors finally came true when Speak Magazine premiered on campus last May.

Both Kristen Beyer and Lauren Zuber brought their creativity and imaginations together as freshmen and have continuously inspired other Cortland students.

Speak Magazine is an opinion-based magazine. However, each article that is contributed is anonymous. The writers are all credited for the writing, but only at the beginning of the magazine, not at the end of their articles.

Speak protects their writers because they want people to contribute without being scared of what the audience might say back to them.

This fall the magazine's second issue will be coming out



photo courtesy of Lauren Zuber

Kristen Beyer and Lauren Zuber are the creators and editors of Speak Magazine.

around the beginning of November, just in time for elections.

As a result, the magazine will primarily be election-based.

The magazine is divided into four sections: Relationships/Life, Sports, Fashion/Beauty, and Politics/Social issues.

One new thing to look forward to in the first issue is the premiere

of "The Housewife and the Whore," a column in which students can ask life and relationship questions and receive advice from two different perspectives.

If anyone has questions or needs advice, there will be a box in Corey Union by the information desk.

If you are interested in joining Speak, meetings take place at 7 p.m. on Sunday nights in Corey 209. This location is temporary until Speak has an office of its own.

If you don't wish to attend meetings, anyone is welcome to contribute articles for the magazine, which can be submitted to speakmagazine@cortland.edu.

One Tree Hill off to an intense start

Season six answers questions yet still leaves us hanging

Vicky Paz
Staff Writer

REVIEW

For all One Tree Hill fans eagerly anticipating the answers to last season's cliffhangers, season six has finally arrived. 3.14 million viewers tuned into the CW throughout the nation for its Sept. 1 premiere, yet little did they know they would be watching the most intense and scandalous season yet.

Last season left us asking many questions.

Who did Lucas call to elope with him in Vegas? Brooke, Peyton or Lindsey?

SEE ONE TREE HILL
ON PAGE 9

The sisterhood is back: friendships stay true but storyline strays

Writers fail to keep storyline similar to plot of novel

Jessica Leopoldo
Staff Writer

REVIEW

Blake Lively, Alexis Bledel, Amber Tamblyn, and America Ferrera all return for another summer filled with friendship, drama and heartache.

Alongside *Sex and the City*, *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2* was one of the most anticipated chick flicks to debut this summer.

In the movie, the strong friendship between four teenage girls is yet again tested through another summer of separation and adventure.

Director Sanaa Hamri worked closely with screenwriter Elizabeth Chandler in order to create a movie loosely based on the later novels in Ann Brashares' series.

While the film is mainly based on the fourth book in the series, *Forever in Blue: The Fourth Summer of the Sisterhood*, it also includes a variety of scenes and storylines from the previous

novels.

Although some time has passed, the girls still have the strong bond that helped them through the perils of the first movie.

They continue to share the pants over another long summer vacation.

While Bridget (Blake Lively) goes off to participate in an archeological dig in Turkey for the summer, she finds a friend in one of her mentors and decides to pay her distant grandmother a visit.

Lena (Alexis Bledel) takes a drawing class where she meets a new love interest while trying to forget about Kostos (Michael Randy).

Tibby (Amber Tamblyn) struggles with her new relationship with Brian (Leonardo Nam) and Carmen (America Ferrera) travels to Vermont for an acting class and becomes close with a lead in the play.

Even though the actresses commit to the script and create an authentic friendship, the film's writing falls short. Unlike the first film, the sequel seems to take on too many storylines while trying to fit in all three novels.

In result of the twisting storylines, the film appears very choppy for fans who have read the novels. As for viewers who have not read the series, the film can become very complicated and even



photo courtesy of Starpulse.com

From left to right: Alexis Bledel, America Ferrera, Amber Tamblyn and Blake Lively.

overwhelming. All of the girls take on more than one challenge in the movie, creating a very complex and involved plotline.

With four main characters, the film would have flowed more smoothly if each character focused on one obstacle as they did in the first film.

All in all, the romantic-comedy combines too many storylines into one sequel. Besides the complex

script, the film successfully answers most of the questions left unanswered in the first film.

While the first movie ends with Tibby and Brian mourning over Bailey's death, their relationship is reintroduced in the sequel and becomes quite serious.

Lena and Kostos' relationship is also rekindled in the film.

Through all the relationship struggles, and family issues, the

sisters remain close friends. The film can be deemed an average "chick flick" with friendship, romance and comedy.

With a PG-13 rating and average storyline, the four friends are able to target teen audiences and explore the meaning of true friendship.

Your horoscope for this week

Aries: 3/21-4/19

You're so focused on a goal (or plural ones) as the week gets going, you might be a little oblivious to the impact you're having while you're going after it. Check in with the pertinent people in your life. Without them, who'll help you enjoy getting there? And the stars say that is indeed the fun part, especially around Thursday and Friday this week. The process ought to feel good now, whether it's a work project, a relationship, volunteering or a new fascination.

Taurus: 4/20-5/20

Play it safe, whatever the case may be. You'll have a much better idea about what direction to take over the next couple of days. Your efforts at developing a better understanding before you decide what to do show the universe that you care and it'll return the favor now. But look out. The energy around Thursday and Friday isn't quite as favorable to your undertakings.

Gemini: 5/21-6/21

Consider the prolonged sound of your own voice a red flag as the week gets going. Asking smart, caring questions is a lot more meaningful than launching into a monologue. After all, you already know what you have to say. The increase in understanding can take your breath away, especially after the stars kick in a little turbo power starting Thursday. Are you ready to rocket into your future? Evolve your personal and big-picture vision at lightning speed now. And be

warned: People are taking what you say this weekend particularly seriously. Make sure you mean it.

Cancer: 6/22-7/22

Conserve your resources and rest up a bit at the beginning of the week. Life looks rather busy now, and overdoing it or stressing out about it all won't help. A sensible friend can help you prioritize and provide support. But if you've got money matters mixed into a friendship or another relationship, look out around Thursday or Friday. Be crystal clear about who's paying or who's getting paid back when and even then it may not be pretty. But when the weekend comes, set your sights on big, beautiful things. You're in synch with your world and maybe a certain somebody.

Leo: 7/23-8/22

Saying what you mean is a fine idea in many a situation, but at the beginning of the week, know when you're crossing a line. A hint from the stars: Put the shoe on the other foot, see how the message feels and adjust accordingly. Then, a certain relationship requires some thought around Thursday or Friday. Whether it's your boss, your mom or your significant other, your patience and vision makes the process more of a compromise than a clash. And it's the more ephemeral, abstract stuff that'll interest you most this weekend—think art, music and the ever-ineffable love.

Virgo: 8/23-9/22

No, you don't want to do anything crazy, but the stars are calling on you to put your heart into it as the week begins. Whether it's work, a relationship, a secret hope or something else entirely, show the universe your passion. Then, if you're really ready for something new, you can start making it happen on Thursday. Check out alternative perspectives in everything you do; opposites in particular hold clues. And this weekend's prime for improving your karma. Do good now, and not only will it feel warm and fuzzy, it'll come back to you.

Libra: 9/23-10/22

While Monday might find you with your head in the clouds or even on cloud nine, the next couple of days bring you back to earth with a bump and some turbulence, too. It's time to get serious, with work and relationships demanding lots of care and feeding. Save the fun plans for Thursday and Friday, when your time ought to free up a bit.

Scorpio: 10/23-11/21

Think and plan long-term as the week begins. What have you got going on that you'd like to see more of, and what are you ready to jettison? Let others in on what you come up with, at work and elsewhere. By Thursday and Friday, it's time for you to take a particular interest in what others say; if you ignore the messages coming your way, conflict will be

inevitable. Tune in, and things can only get better—especially over the weekend, when all forms of creativity are favored, including love.

Sagittarius: 11/22-12/21

You'd rather not sweat the small stuff, but when it comes to finances as the week begins, there are no minor matters. Pay attention to receipts, to getting good value and to all the decimal points in work budgets, too. It's not very exciting, true, but if it's fun you want just wait until Thursday, when the stars kick off a couple of stellar interpersonal days for you. If you're looking to make or build on a connection of any sort, now's the time to shine. Get out there, because this weekend you're liable to be stuck running errands or playing catch-up.

Capricorn: 12/22-1/19

Monday may start out a little bumpy, but you know what to do: Keep on keeping on, and the stars will be on your side soon. In fact, the next couple of days are all lined up in your favor, with what you've been after right within your reach. Then again, it hardly feels like a stretch when you're this good. Be sure to leave yourself a little leeway on Thursday and Friday, though. Things will take longer than they should. You're thinking about the future now, but save the major brainstorming and communicating in that realm for this weekend.

Aquarius: 1/20-2/18

Take full advantage of a cosmic window of opportunity first thing on Monday, because it's gonna slam shut and leave you just looking over the next couple of days. A hint from the stars for this stymied time? A little self-discipline helps a lot. And don't get too wound up about it all, because Thursday brings all kinds of possibilities for better things. If you've been thinking about making a change of the forward-looking, positive sort, it's all systems go. When the weekend comes, though, you'll need to try harder to stay on track or just relax by the wayside.

Pisces: 2/19-3/20

Who's in charge here? While you don't have complete control over, say, who your boss is, the beginning of this week gives you the chance to make choices aplenty. Whose guidance really helps you? A little great counsel is always welcome. Just don't expect big things around Thursday and Friday, when trying to do too much means none of it gets done well. What are your current and longer-term priorities? Whatever you focus on this weekend gets assistance from some serious star treatment. And look at you, you're all aglow.

According to
Astrology-Online.com

Codas Part XXXII: The Decadent Angels One Tree Hill

The Author now learns of his purpose as a guardian

Andrew Hamilton
Contributing Writer

COLUMN

A cold hush befell the deck of the Flying Dutchman as the dark seraph Angelus and the archangel Azrael faced each other, deadly intent thickening the air between them.

Angelus drew his luminous tri-fanged sword. Behind him, Dr. Johann Georg Faust produced his staff, Captain Van Der Decken cocked a pistol and Tony the rake drew a blade of his own and stood at Angelus' side.

Though the heroic party was primed for a battle with Azrael the archangel, Angelus placed his sword between his companions and their adversary.

"Stay back," he ordered as he glared at Azrael with his red demon eye.

"You mortal beings are not prepared to face this cosmic being."

Though stricken by Angelus' words, Faust and Van Der Decken stepped away from their ally and fell back to the other side of the

ship to observe the oncoming clash. Tony hesitated grudgingly before finally retreating a few seconds after the other two.

Azrael's eyes narrowed, then he sighed and held out a hand to his side. In an instant a sword of white flame appeared in his grip.

"You will really defend them? These disgusting worms?" he growled at Angelus. He waited for a reply, but none came.

"Then you are a fool, in your weakened state you cannot hope to gain victory over me. Even when you were among the highest choir of angels, your strength still fell far inferior to mine."

The archangel Azrael's words were cut short suddenly as Angelus rushed his enemy with speed that surpassed human capacity to follow and thrust his luminous sword that was gifted to him by the Son himself through Azrael's chest.

The attack flew with such force that the Flying Dutchman quivered underfoot at the power of two angels clashing on the deck. The passengers and crew of the ship fell to the ground, unable to maintain their balance.

The only two non-angelic beings who continued to stand their ground were Dr. Faust and Tony. Faust remained standing because he braced himself for the impact of Angelus' sword, (having been present at a battle of divine proportions once before. As the force of the clashing angels came

like a mighty wind over the ship, Faust observed that Tony seemed unaffected by the angels' energy and wondered if he had once witnessed battling angels before as well.

Meanwhile, having regained himself after Angelus' leading attack (a sword in the chest could do little to slay an angel), Azrael placed a hand on Angelus' body and released a force that sent the decadent Seraph careening backward as a spear-shaft appeared out of thin air above Azrael and flew into Angelus.

The spear-tip cleft through Angelus' side, but he showed no sign of weakness as angelic blood poured from the wound.

"An injury, and so easily inflicted too," Azrael whispered, pointing at Angelus bleeding side as if it was inflicted accidentally.

"Abandon this foolish battle, old friend." Angelus did not relent. With a terrific cry he hurled the luminous blade that shared his name toward the archangel.

The song of the tri-fanged sword as it sliced through the air was deafening, and the speed with which it spun toward Azrael was greater than even the most skilled of angelic warriors could follow.

The blade whirled and flashed brilliantly in a deadly rotation around Azrael, cutting into the archangel's skin and through his feathery wings with such violence that what appeared to be a mist of red blood and mutilated down

surrounded him.

Angelus wasted no time in capitalizing on his chance to attack. He dove toward Azrael with both fists bared and struck the archangel's face and body with his bare hands.

Azrael was driven back groaning and wincing as he tried desperately to protect himself from the decadent angel before him and the mighty sword spinning behind him. The archangel waved his sword about blindly, unable to stop Angelus' onslaught.

"Enough," Azrael screamed as he struck Angelus luminous sword away from him with a prodigious swing of his fiery blade.

Angelus dove after his sword, but Azrael stopped him by launching a knee into his stomach.

Doubled over in pain, Angelus fell to his knees. Before the decadent angel could make another move, Azrael brought his fiery sword over his head with hatred and wrath wickedly twisting his face and drove it down through Angelus' body.

An obliterating silence filled the air. Angelus' tri-fanged sword slid across the ship's deck, stopping at Tony's feet.

"...Father."

To be continued...

How did it come to this?

E-mail the writer for previous chapters at

andrew.hamilton@cortland.edu

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Will Dan actually survive yet another freak accident?

Will Millicent leave Brooke's side and move to Omaha with Mouth as he pursues his dream job?

What will happen to Brooke's clothing line after she fires her mother/business partner, Victoria?

As most viewers probably expected, Lucas picked Peyton to join him in Vegas. They get engaged but logically decide to hold off on marriage and move in together instead.

Dan wakes up in a hospital after his car accident to find that Nanny Carrie is his nurse. Carrie later confesses that the incident was certainly no accident and the "hospital" he's in is literally a torture chamber set up in her house. Carrie abuses, threatens, drugs and tortures Dan with plans to abduct his grandson, Jaime.

Brooke has one last blowout with Victoria, who threatens to take her company right from underneath her.

While the premiere seemed to have answered most of our questions, we still left with even more to ponder about. Who would've thought that Nanny Carrie could get any crazier or that Victoria will literally stop at nothing to steal away her daughter's success?

This is simply what the first episode has to offer. Just imagine the possibilities for the rest of the season.

Britney's comeback platform

Were Britney's Moonmen a just a publicity stunt?

Sam Ficken
Staff Writer

Is Britney Spears back? This seems to be the question on everybody's mind ever since the 2008 MTV Video Music Awards (VMAs).

The VMAs aired Sunday and opened with Spears herself in a comedic scene with Superbad star Jonah Hill. When Spears came out on stage she received a standing ovation and graciously thanked the crowd as she stood in a classy silver dress, a definite step up from her 2007 VMA performance.

Appearing at the 2008 VMAs in such style is a signal that Spears has possibly recovered from years of so-called media stunts and custody battles.

However, controversy still surrounds her after her video, "Piece of Me," won Best Female Video, Best Pop Video and Video of the Year.

Some people think that Britney did not deserve to win those awards and that it was a publicity stunt to help get her back in the game, whereas others think that Spears' comeback is worthy of the Moonmen.

Even students here on campus are talking about Spears' appearance on Sunday night.



photo courtesy of MTV.com

Spears at MTV's Video Music Awards on Sunday.

"I felt it was a little bit fixed because of who Britney was up against" said freshman Kimberly Kodis, who watched the entire awards show on Sunday.

Spears was up against stars such as Chris Brown, the Pussycat Dolls, Katy Perry, Rihanna, Danity Kane and others.

Prior to this year's VMA's Spears has never won a Moonman before, which is surprising considering how long she has been around and how popular so many of her songs have been in the past.

Even so, students still gave

kudos to Spears for getting up on stage and looking beautiful.

Hopefully for Spears this was a preview of future progress. If this recent appearance that she has made at the VMA's is any indication of how her future will be, it seems as though an optimistic outlook can be given for what lies ahead in her career.

For more information on the 2008 VMAs go to www.mtv.com/ontv/vma/2008/.

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Football team shows offensive power in victory



photo courtesy of Cortlandfootball.com

Eric Hajnos scores a 46-yard touchdown against Morrisville.

CONTINUED FROM COVER

New Jersey Athletic Conference competition, got off to a hot start in the first quarter by scoring on a 15-yard touchdown run by senior quarterback Billy Poling to take a 6-0 lead.

Poling succeeded both through the air and on the ground, rushing for 84 yards and completing 23 of his 31 pass attempts for 344 yards.

Senior quarterback Ray Miles, passed for 239 yards of his own and completed three very long touchdown passes to his veteran wide receivers; two to senior Zacc Guaragno, and one to senior Eric Hajnos. Miles' longest pass of the day came with just seconds left in the third quarter when he connected with Guaragno for a 53-yard touchdown.

Last year's meeting between the two teams resulted in a monstrous 71-7 Cortland victory.

However, Morrisville came out strong in this one and were only down by a field goal, 23-20, at halftime. The Red Dragons retained the lead throughout the game.

Receiver/kick returner Derrick Woodard had a very productive game, giving the Red Dragons very good starting field position throughout the afternoon.

Penalties, however, hampered Woodard's day as two long returns, including one punt return for a touchdown, were called back due to holding and illegal blocks.

Woodard transferred to Cortland prior to the 2007 season.

"We gave up too many big plays on special teams," MacNeill said.

"Two big punt returns back on penalties, one being a touchdown."

He also noted that the porous Red Dragon defense gave up 15 plays that each went for more than 10 yards.

Ranked 22 in the nation on D3football.com, the Red Dragons began the season just the way they wanted to offensively but struggled on the defensive side of the ball, giving up over 500 yards to Morrisville's offense. The performance marked Morrisville's highest single game yards total since becoming a division three program in 2006.

Cortland has been scheduled with an early season bye for Saturday September, 13.

"The bye week is what it is and happens now in our schedule," MacNeill said. "We need to handle it well by growing as a team and accentuate the positives of having two full weeks to regain health, develop and grow."

The Red Dragons will continue their season with another league game on Sept. 20, at Rowan.

Cortland's first home game is Oct. 4 against Buffalo State.

Women's soccer earns two victories

The team wins two games by shutting out opponents

Kristen Borgosz
Contributing Writer

The Cortland Women's soccer team had a successful weekend, winning both games in the Red Dragon Classic. The first game took place Saturday morning at Holloway Field against the Alvernia Crusaders resulting in a Cortland victory of 5-0.

Sophomore Laura Boucher gave the Red Dragons a one goal lead in the 20th minute. The close game broke open in the second half as Cortland scored four goals to seal the win.

Sophomore Kelsey Allen scored the second goal of the game with a 40-yard free kick in the 61st minute.

Senior Katie Trivisonno then made it 3-0 with a shot that bounced off a Crusaders defender and into the net in the 68th minute.

Boucher scored her second goal of the game in the 69th minute and freshman Bridgette DeSantis scored the fifth and final goal in the 78th minute.

Trivisonno also recorded an

assist, along with freshman Jackie Deluise. Sophomore goalies Dayna Moneta and Pam Monnier split goaltending duties for the shutout.

The Red Dragons completed the two game sweep, defeating Rutgers-Camden 2-0 on Sunday afternoon. Seniors Kayla Sweet and Trivisonno each scored a second half goal to lead Cortland to the victory.

After a scoreless first half that was dominated by defense and had little offense, Sweet scored her first goal of the season in the 68th minute.

Allen sent a long free kick into the penalty box area and Sweet was waiting at the left post where she neatly touched the ball in the net to finish off the play.

Trivisonno scored her second goal of the weekend in the 87th minute on a pass from DeSantis to make it 2-0.

Moneta and Monnier shared time in the net to record their second shutout in the Red Dragon Classic.

"We came out playing our game and worked really hard the entire weekend. It was exciting that we came away with two wins," said Sweet.

The Red Dragons improved to 2-1-1 on the season.

NFL season gets underway

National Football League begins highly anticipated season

Brian Verdi
Staff Writer

Although September is commonly associated with the start of school, it also means that it's time for football to start.

The AFC has suddenly become wide open after the week one season-ending injury to the 2007 league MVP, Patriots quarterback Tom Brady.

The defending AFC Champions lost a heartbreaker in the Super Bowl to the New York Giants, but still have all the tools and personnel to make another run deep into the playoffs.

New England also lost their top cover corner Asante Samuel in the off-season, but head coach Bill Belichick always seems to have his team ready to play every week.

The San Diego Chargers now become the favorites to win this conference in the eyes of many, mainly because of the presence of running back LaDainian Tomlinson.

LaDainian can do it all and at times throughout the season, he will look unstoppable.

Quarterback Philip Rivers has two big, strong targets to throw to in Antonio Gates and Chris Chambers. They parted ways with former backup running back Michael Turner, who ran for 220 yards and two touchdowns in his week one debut with his new team, the Atlanta Falcons.

San Diego's defense is highlighted by two of the best players in the league at their respective positions, nose tackle Jamal Williams and linebacker Shawne Merriman, who will attempt to play this season with two ligament tears in his left knee.

Then, of course, there is Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts. The 2007 Super Bowl Champions will always be a threat to win the conference as

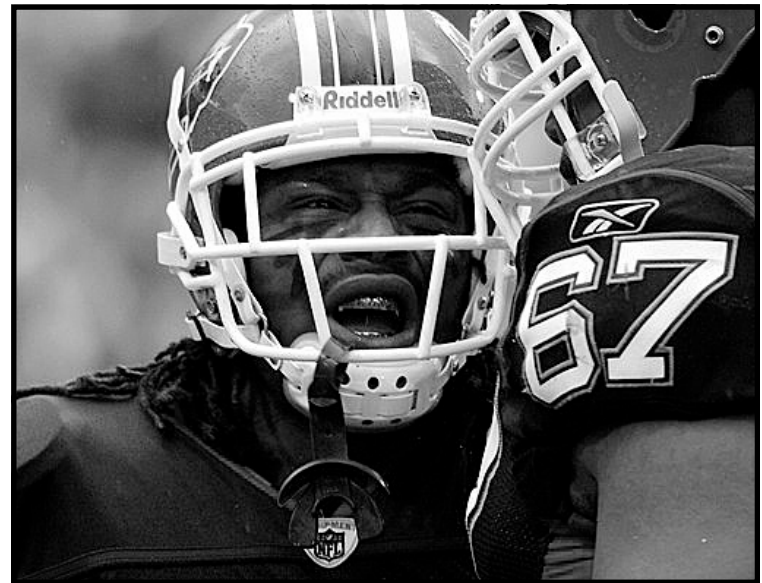


photo courtesy of AP

Marshawn Lynch celebrates the Bills' first touchdown.

long as Peyton is at the helm. The Colts didn't make any head-turning off-season moves, but they do return two of their best players from injury.

Former Syracuse University stars Marvin Harrison and Dwight Freeney hope to revert back to their Pro Bowl ways and lead this team back to the promised land.

The New York Jets added arguably one of the best players in league history in quarterback Brett Favre, and he will be a lot of fun to watch in his new threads.

Other contenders to win this conference include the Pittsburgh Steelers and Jacksonville Jaguars, while the Cleveland Browns, Tennessee Titans, Buffalo Bills, Cincinnati Bengals, Denver Broncos and Jets all look to make a run at the playoffs.

Unlike the AFC, the NFC appears to have a small number of teams that can make a run to the Super Bowl. The Dallas Cowboys seem to be the team that most "experts" have winning this conference, even though they were defeated on their own turf by the eventual 2008 Super Bowl Champion New York Giants in last year's playoffs.

It seems like it's just a matter of time before "America's Team" wins the big one, because they have so much talent on both sides of the ball. Dallas returns all 13 Pro Bowl players from last season, plus

three newcomers who have been to the Pro Bowl with other teams. Talented, but troubled, cornerback Adam Jones and future hall of fame linebacker Zach Thomas are two of these newcomers that will be keys to a 3-4 defense that has extremely high expectations this season.

The New York Giants are the defending world champions, but are still being overshadowed in the NFC East.

However, the team has lost more than they have gained since the incomparable Super Bowl XLII victory, which still seems like it was played only a few weeks ago.

The Giants lost their two starting defensive ends, Michael Strahan and Osi Umenyiora prior to the start of the season. This could spell disaster for a defensive line that was supposed to be one of the best in the league.

The Minnesota Vikings are also expected to make a serious run in the playoffs this year. They are led by second-year stud running back Adrian Peterson and an offensive line that is one of the best the league has seen in the last few years.

The underrated additions of defensive end Jared Allen and wide receiver Bernard Berrian in the off-season will make this team a tough out in the playoffs.

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Examining pitcher Justin Verlander

Tigers pitcher has not lived up to potential during 2008 season

James Hopkins
Contributing Writer

With his strong performance in 2007 and with the addition of Miguel Cabrera and Edgar Renteria to the lineup, a lot of people were predicting Justin Verlander, of the Detroit Tigers, to be a Cy Young award candidate.

So far in 2008 to call Verlander's performance a disappointment would be an understatement.

His K/9 rate has dropped from 8.17 to 7.28, so he is striking less people out. His BB/9 rate has gone up from 3 to 3.7, so his control has been more of an issue this year, and as a result he is throwing more pitches and limiting the number of innings he has pitched.

Whenever pitchers have a drop in performance as drastic as his, another leading candidate is velocity. In 2007, Verlander threw his fastball 62.3% of the time with an average speed of 94.8 mph. So far in 2008 he has thrown his fastball 63.3% at 93.6 mph. That is

a significant drop, but since it is still a plus fastball it could be attributed to throwing more pitches.

The only true outcomes a pitcher can control are strikeouts, home runs and base on balls; everything else relies on defense in some way.

Defenses can make pitchers appear worse than they are or better depending if they're good or not. The Detroit Tigers have a below average defense in the American League. To see if his defense has helped him out or not, a stat called Defensive Independent Pitching Stat (DIPS) is used. This is basically a pitchers ERA but without defense involved.

Verlander has an ERA of 4.78 and a DIPS of 4.12. It's safe to say that his defense has been a part of the problem for him this year, but not all, because his strikeout rate is lower and his walk rate is higher than in 2007.

So far this year Verlander hasn't been anywhere near a Cy Young contender. There is something else interesting about Verlander, in the ten games he has won this year he is averaging 6.2 IP per start, a 2.43 K/BB ratio and a 1.60 ERA. In his 15 losses he is averaging 5.2 IP, a 1.63 K/BB ratio

and a 7.10 ERA. Whenever he wins he has been a Cy Young contender, and when he losses he is essentially a player who can be replaced with any AAA pitcher.

Looking at the teams he has faced, he has a 6.00 ERA or higher against Toronto, the New York Yankees, Cleveland, the Chicago White Sox, the Los Angeles Angels, and Boston. Out of that group only Cleveland has below a .500 winning percentage.

Against the best teams in the American League he has struggled, which isn't what anyone wants from the ace of the staff.

Throughout his career on teams with a winning percentage above .600 he has one start with a 9.53 ERA. Against teams between .500 and .600 he has 45 starts with a 4.76 ERA, against .400 to .500 teams he has 39 starts with a 3.53 ERA and against teams with below a .400 winning percentage he has 9 starts with a 2.56 ERA.

This years' poor performance seems to be a combination of lack of control, bad defense and a continuing trend of struggling versus good teams, which the American League is full of.

NCAA football is off and running strong

NCAA season full of surprises with more to come

Mark Nader
Staff Writer

In a weekend when no ranked teams played each other, it looked as though week two of the NCAA football schedule could be one to skip. However, as we seem to learn every year, college football rarely goes without a week of upsets and controversy.

Coming into Thursday's game against 24th-ranked South Carolina, Vanderbilt had not beaten a ranked opponent at home since 1992. But that all changed when they shocked the Gamecocks 24-17. Vanderbilt's defense forced three turnovers leading them to their second win of the year.

Although the Commodores' win shook up the SEC, it was East Carolina who took the nation for a ride. After upsetting Virginia Tech, who at the time was ranked 17th, the true test would come with eighth ranked West Virginia and their juggernaut offense.

Not only did East Carolina win, they won convincingly 24-3, holding Heisman hopeful Pat White to 72 yards passing. It was ECU's first win over a top ten team since they beat Miami in 1999 and the first time since 2001 that West Virginia was held without scoring a touchdown.

What is college football without controversy? It's just not college football. With 15th ranked BYU visiting Washington, many believed that Washington would be able to hold their own for much of the game. No one imagined that the game could be put on the shoulders of the officials. With two sec-

onds left in the game, Washington trailed 28-21 and was at BYU's three yard line. Washington's quarterback Jake Locker scrambled and managed to run for a touchdown, putting the Huskies in position to tie the game with the extra point.

However, Locker was flagged for un-sportsman like conduct for his emotional celebration on his touchdown run. That penalty pushed the extra point attempt 15 yards back, setting the ball at the 17. BYU would then block the attempt ending the game with a 28-27 victory.

The question that now has to be asked is why the referee called a penalty on something so minor and should he have thrown the flag on the play? Also, how will Washington be able to rebound the rest of the season while playing in the tough Pac-10 Conference?

Coming into this week East Carolina went from unranked to 16th in the nation, ranking them for the first time in over nine years.

The team they beat, West Virginia dropped all the way down to 25th. USC, Georgia, Oklahoma, Florida and Ohio State remain the nation's top five teams, while California joined the rankings at 23rd. UCLA and South Carolina fell out of the top 25.

While none of last week's games were highly anticipated, the same can not be said for this week. Fifth-ranked Ohio State travels to number one USC to play in a BCS type of showdown. The major question of the game is the health of Ohio State's star running back Chris Wells, who suffered a foot injury in the Buckeyes' season opener, forcing him to miss his team's last game against Ohio University. It is unclear how severe Wells' injury is but it would be shocking if he did not play in a game that had so much importance.

Cortland soccer

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

"Our chemistry was superb finding holes in the defense for breakaway passes, knocking the ball side to side until we found a good run for a scoring chance, not forcing the ball into spaces when we could just make the easy pass.

Everything seemed to click last Wednesday night against Wells."

Two days later, the Red Dragons were not as fortunate as they were defeated by Houghton College with a score of 2-0.

The Red Dragons out-shot Houghton College 13 to six and recorded six shots in the first half.

The best chance the Red Dragons had scoring was by Jacques in the second half as his ball was going towards the left side of the goal, but was denied by Houghton College goaltender Erik Lefebvre as he made a diving save.

Three minutes later, Houghton College scored the second goal of the game to preserve the victory.

Both Jacques and Patterson each had three shots on goal for the Red Dragons.

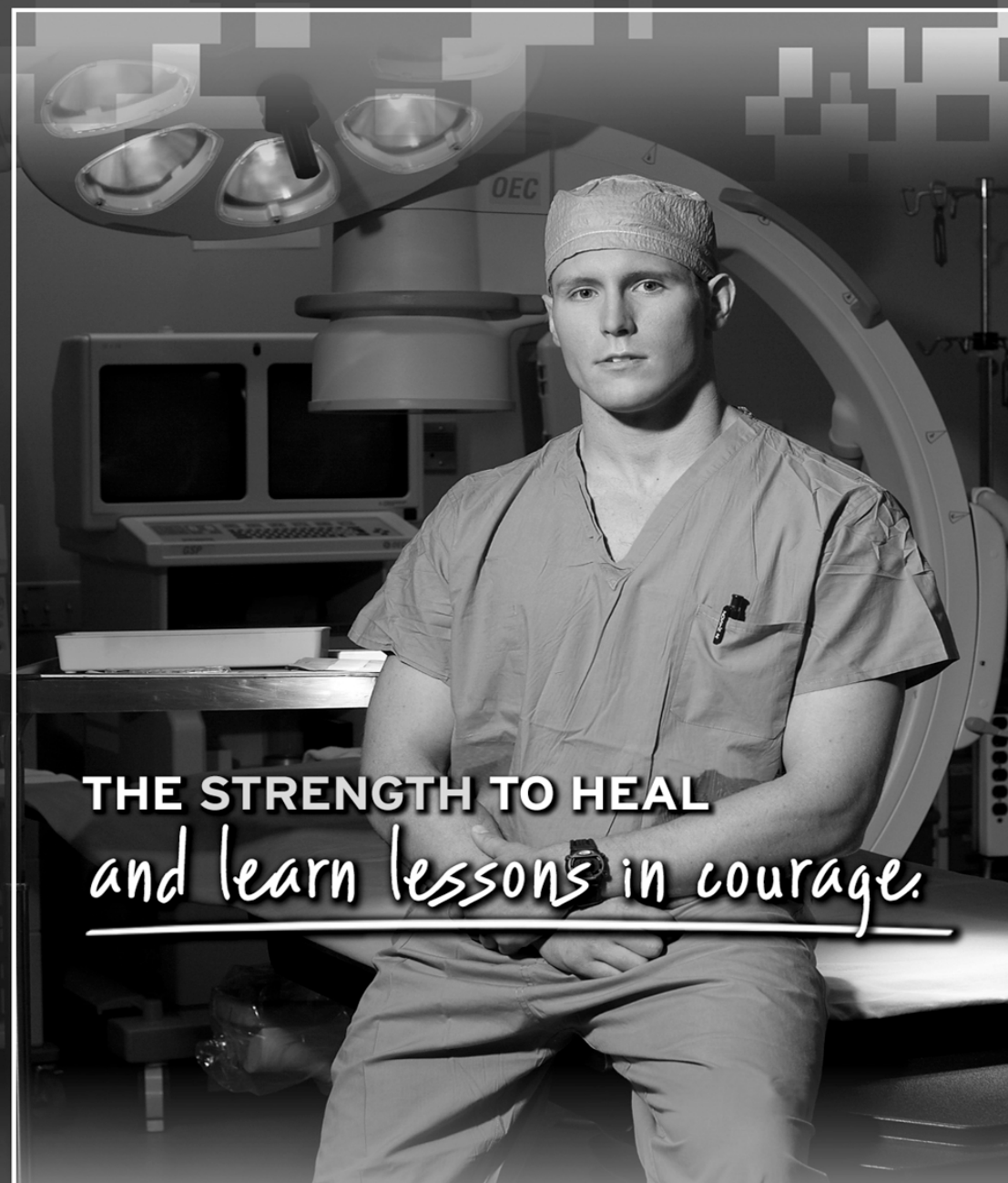
Senior Steve Axtell, who was injured all of the 2007 season with a torn ACL/MCL, recorded one save in the loss.

The Red Dragons return to action Friday against Sherbrooke of Canada in an exhibition game before heading to Ithaca to play the Bombers on Sept. 16.

Enjoy sports writing or photography?

Come to our meetings Mondays at 9:30 p.m. in Corey 111.

Hope to see you there!




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ARMY STRONG.®

The Dragon Chronicle



Sports



Cortland Athletics Scores

FOOTBALL

Cortland 51
Morrisville 37
Next: Sept. 20 @ Rowan

MEN'S SOCCER

Cortland 0
Houghton 2
Next: Friday vs. Sherbrooke

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Cortland 2
Rutgers-Camden 0
Next: Today @ Hamilton

FIELD HOCKEY

Cortland 3
Rochester 0
Next: Saturday @ RPI

Athletes of the Week



photo courtesy of cortlandreddragons.com

Andrew Giuliano
Football



photo courtesy of cortlandreddragons.com

Katie Trivisonno
Soccer

While you were gone...a spring sports recap

Red Dragons prove successful in spring sporting events

Chris Ryan
Contributing Writer

As the new school year begins, fall sports at Cortland are already up and running. However, spring sports didn't conclude at the end of the spring semester for the Red Dragons.

While students began their summer vacations last May, spring sports were still in business and playing deep into Division III national tournaments.

The number two ranked men's lacrosse team captured the SUNYAC title against Geneseo, earning an automatic NCAA tournament berth.

They proceeded to defeat Springfield, Middlebury, and Ithaca to move to the National Championship game for the third consecutive year.

They fought tough in the championship game, but fell to Salisbury 19-13 at Gillette Stadium in Massachusetts. The team fin-



photo courtesy of cortlandreddragons.com

Ryan Heath leads Cortland Men's Lacrosse to success.

ished 18-2 and had a remarkable 14-game winning streak.

The baseball team rolled along to their fourth straight SUNYAC title, their sixteenth in 18 years.

Their school record 38-game winning streak led them to the Division III College World Series in Wisconsin.

The Red Dragons fell in the series to Wisconsin-Whitewater, but finished with a record of 42-5, their second highest in history.

The Cortland softball team won their second straight SUNYAC championship, their fourth in six years, by defeating Buffalo State 3-1.

They advanced to the Division III Softball World Series, where they took fifth place nationally. They finished 39-13, matching their best finish in school history.

Both the male and female track and field teams excelled this season. Twelve men and four women advanced to the NCAA Division III Track & Field Championships in Wisconsin. One standout athlete was sophomore Kristen Serikstad, who tied for fourth place overall in the high jump.

Men's soccer splits weekend competition

Red Dragons open up 2008 home schedule with a win and a loss

Jason Silver
Contributing Writer

The 2008 men's soccer team opened its home schedule at the SUNY Cortland Stadium Complex last week.

On Wednesday, Sept. 4, the Red Dragons defeated Wells College by a score of 4-0. Two days later against Houghton College, the Red Dragons lost by a score of 2-0.

After splitting these two home games, the Red Dragons record is now 2-1-1 in four games played.

Cortland scored the first goal in the game against Wells College in the first half when senior Kyle Stepanovsky kicked a corner kick from the left side of the field.

While the ball was floating in the air, senior Adam Jurcic jumped up and headed the ball into the left side of the net for his first goal of the season.

Late in the first half, the Red Dragons struck again when junior Mark Gunsch passed the ball to a cutting David Jacques who connected for a one timer extending the Red Dragons lead to 2-0. It was the first goal of the year for Jacques.

Senior Bryan Patterson led the Red Dragons taking six shots on

net in the first half. The Red Dragons outshot the Wells College Express in the first half 14 to 1.

In the second half, the Red Dragons continued to dominate. Sophomore Andrew Schwert received a one touch pass down the left side of the field from senior Ayinde George.

Once Schwert got control of the ball, he shot the ball first and the Wells goalkeeper made the save, but Schwert was able to get his own rebound and put in past the Wells goalkeeper to increase the Red Dragons lead to 3-0.

Fifteen minutes later, Cortland scored its final goal of the game on a 3 on 2 attack.

Freshmen Brendan Wells and Max Grant centered a ball through the 18-yard box and freshman Logan Kenney was the recipient of the pass from Wells and Grant. He notched home his first goal of the season and the final goal of the game.

To preserve the victory, senior Jack Carillo recorded one save, earning his second shutout of the season. Cortland outshot Wells by a 26 to 4 advantage.

"Our midfield play has been playing very well thus far," said Coach Dwight Hornbrook after Cortland's 4-0 victory over Wells.

"Our midfielders showed a lot of creativity Wednesday night. They are combining really well with our forwards and it came to fruition when David Jacques scored to make the game 2-0. David's goal



photo courtesy of cortlandreddragons.com

Adam Jurcic helps the Red Dragons win against Wells.

was a result of some good combination play from Peter Degere and EJ Reutemann."

"We play really well when we have a lot of guys with talent and skill and it is so easy to generate shots and goals as we did against

Wells College," said Patterson.

"In the first half against Wells College, we managed to take control of the midfield and attack the third," said Schwert.

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