

THE DRAGON CHRONICLE

Vol. LXXXVI No. 11 • State University of New York College at Cortland • December 4, 2008

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Red Cross Blood Drive runs today in Corey Union

The American Red Cross will be hosting a blood drive for students to donate blood today from noon to 5 p.m. in the Corey Union Exhibition Lounge.

If interested, e-mail CortlandCAC@gmail.com and sign up for a time you are free. A confirmation e-mail will be sent when your time slot has been confirmed.

Annual Midnight Breakfast held tomorrow

This semester's favorite breakfast is back but with a twist. Midnight Breakfast will be tomorrow from 10 p.m. until midnight in the Corey Function Room.

The event is being moved from Neubig due to renovations and will have different hours of operation. Cost is \$1 per person, which will be donated to the American Red Cross.

The Nutcracker Ballet comes to Dowd Fine Arts

The holiday classic will be shown this weekend in the Dowd Fine Arts Center at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6 and at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7.

Tickets are \$12 for general public, \$10 senior citizens/SUNY staff and \$7 for students and children. Tickets will be on sale at the door at Jodi's Hallmark Shop.

'Permission to Speak' art gallery shows off talent

The artwork of two Cortland students and two Chinese students comes together to display international artwork at the Beard Building Gallery on 9 Main St.

The exhibit will be on display until Dec. 12.

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Relay for Life raises thousands for charity

Campus unites for 12-hour cancer charity event before break

Erica Sanderson
News Editor

There is always one dependable event that manages to consistently unite all students and the community alike into selfless charitable action.

That event is the annual Relay for Life. The all night fundraiser was held from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Nov. 22-23 in the Lusk Field House.

Participants arrived showcasing their Relay pride as the crowd congregated into a wave of purple and white as Relay apparel was donned by about everyone.

An array of Cortland teams and clubs were represented in addition to groups of friends who formed teams.

Relay for Life, an event sponsored by the American Cancer Society, raises both money and awareness for all forms of cancer, while providing a fun and creative night for anyone wishing to contribute.



photo by Ben Bolding

Members of the Education Club pose for a photo during the Relay for Life marathon.

"I think it's great how much awareness it brings and how it brings the campus together," said student Merchon Brower, who was one of the attendees at the event.

The total amount raised for this year was \$41,398, with 69 teams

and 938 participants in all.

The night kicked off with the survivor lap, which is a lap around the track taken by cancer survivors as everyone stands on the sidelines cheering and applauding their victorious and brave battle.

The survivors, touched by the outpouring of support and acknowledgement from the crowd, wiped away tears through smiles of appreciation.

SEE RELAY ON PAGE 2

Campus acknowledges World AIDS Day

Quilt dedication ceremony part of World AIDS Day

Erica Sanderson
News Editor

There is an international epidemic that has been waging a destructive war for decades. Millions die each year from this disease that does not discriminate.

This epidemic is AIDS. Once a year the world stops to recognize, acknowledge and pay tribute to those currently fighting or those who have lost their lives to AIDS. Monday, Dec. 1 was World AIDS Day.

As always, the campus sponsored several events in contribution to this significant day. The Black Student Union (BSU) had roughly 27 educational facts about AIDS spread throughout all four floors of Corey Union.

These facts were displayed inside blue outlines of bodies taped on the floor, similar to the outlines of victims in a police crime scene.

Women of Color tabled in Corey to snap photographs of students wearing a blindfold with a prop in their hand symbolizing different types of people, such as a jock or romantic, with a plain backdrop.

This represented the fact that AIDS does not discriminate and anyone can acquire it. The pictures



photo by Ben Bolding

A community member admires the AIDS quilt patches.

will be turned into a collage and will be displayed in the Student Voice Office in Corey Union.

When asked why World AIDS

Day was important, junior Thanisa Perez said, "It's important because

SEE AIDS ON PAGE 2

Hunger Banquet held

Students learn about global poverty and how hunger hurts

Rebecca Greenland
Staff Writer

Oxfam America's Hunger Banquet demonstrated how devastating and widespread famine is throughout the world by separating the audience into different social classes and giving a presentation about world hunger.

As students, staff, and the wider public walked into the Function Room at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 19, they each drew a slip of paper at random which told them if they were upper, middle, or lower class citizens.

Upper and middle class individuals were allowed to sit in chairs and at tables, while the lower class people had to sit on the floor during a presentation and slideshow.

Stephen Lamaute led the presentation and spoke about the pressing issue of worldwide

SEE HUNGER ON PAGE 2

Relay both touching and entertaining

CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

Following this moving and emotional moment of recognition, a pep rally commenced with performances from Cortland Kickline, Danceworks and the Cortland Dance Company.

The performances lured the audience into a large circle as shouts and applause stimulated each number.

A number of activities outlined the track as team members walked the track continuously throughout the night.

Some of the options, whose purposes were to act as fundraisers, included root beer pong, selling jewelry and scarves, decorate a cookie, massages and an informational table on cancer.

A variety of events punctuated the night to offer a bit of release and fun in addition to keeping participants engaged and active.

Some of the highlights



photo by Erica Sanderson

Students gather around in the Lusk Field House for Relay for Life, creating a fun-filled and energetic scene.

included a performance from the Oneonta band Rock to Cure, Rock Paper Scissor Tournament, an hour long Zumba session, a dance lesson from the Cortland Dance

Company, Frozen T-shirt Contest and a limbo contest.

"I've never had so much fun for such a good cause," said Senior Scott Earley, who created a

team with his friends.

The theme for this year's Relay for Life was "Decades"; even though few teams decorated their campsite, some had creative decorations. Alpha Phi Omega won the title for "Best Decorated Campsite."

Other teams recognized were Breast Friends for Life, who won "Top Team" and "Most Spirited Team;" Delta Phi Epsilon for "All Night Team;" and Justice for a Cause with "Best On-site Fundraiser."

For individuals, the "Top Performers" were Sarah Guertin in first place, Lauren Miller in second place and Nan Pasquarello in third place.

"The night was a great success. I feel proud to be a part of a campus community where students come out on a Saturday night to support a great cause and have fun while doing it and make it a memorable event," said student Elizabeth Tucker.

Hunger Banquet teaches lessons on poverty

CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

hunger. He stated that, "845 million people suffer from chronic hunger," and that, "A child dies from hunger or a preventable disease every 2.9 seconds."

The audience learned that today, one billion people are living in extreme poverty. These people lack access to education, land and other resources, with the results of illiteracy, poverty, war and the inability of families to grow or buy food.

Many people believe that poverty and hunger are about too many people with too little food, but the presentation made it clear that this was not the case.

"Our rich and bountiful planet produces enough food to feed every woman, man and child on earth. Poverty and hunger are about power."

Oxfam America have been working for over 35 years to support human rights and to end poverty. Oxfam America provides financial and moral support to the public.

A representative from Cortland's Loaves and Fishes, Holly Greer, then spoke about what

Cortland residents could do to help in their own town.

She explained that Loaves and Fishes was an organization downtown which provides lunches and dinners to anyone who comes through their doors.

However, the organization does more than simply provide food. It provides entertainment and a place for people to get together and socialize with one another.

The kitchen depends highly on volunteer work from the college and local community members so that it can continue to provide its service for free.

It was then time to introduce the three segments of the world that the audience was randomly distributed into.

The smallest group was the upper class individuals who sat at table-clothed tables. They represent 15% of the world's population with a per capita income of \$10,726; however, the upper class consumes 70% of the food grown in the world.

The next group was the middle class. They were the second largest group and sat at plain tables and represented 35% of the world's population. The middle class group

earns between \$876-\$10,725 a year, and it would only take one drought or a serious illness to throw them into poverty.

The last group represented the lower class and had to sit on the floor. They represented roughly 50% of the world's population and had an average income of less than \$875 a year. They are frequently hungry and live in homes where a hard rain or strong wind could cause major catastrophe. They do not have healthcare and death is familiar.

It may be surprising to look at many of these figures, especially since many people consider themselves middle class.

But these figures represent the world population, not the American population, which exists at a much higher standard of living than many other countries.

The groups were then served dinner and ate what their respective classes would eat.

Upper class people ate with silverware and porcelain plates, and were served spaghetti, rolls with butter and salad, and had the option of drinking water or juice.

The middle class ate with paper plates and utensils, and self-

served themselves rice, beans and water.

Lower class individuals also ate with paper plates and utensils, but had to walk to a separate table to get a scoopful of plain rice.

While the groups ate, a video was played which showed pictures of starving people all over the world.

Cortland student Kristen Pinsent said, "The images are very powerful. They're skin and bones; they just look like skeletons."

Another student, Margaret Tucker, stated, "You hear about it but seeing actual pictures makes you realize that you take what you have for granted."

Many people, such as Cortland junior Morgan Burk, had a hard time eating while knowing that these people had nothing.

Even though Burk was a lower class citizen for the night and had only rice to eat, she still expressed the desire to give the people in the film her food instead of eating it herself.

The Hunger Banquet was hosted by Habitat for Humanity.

Tenth annual College Writing Contest

Students can enter written work into contest to win \$100

Mary Lynch Kennedy
English Department

Each year, the College Writing Committee presents six awards for outstanding undergraduate and graduate student writing in the following categories:

Academic writing (papers

based on sources or other data), fiction (short stories), poetry, scripts, and creative nonfiction. Webpage design (Judges will place emphasis on writing content. Pages should contain a minimum of 500 words of written text.)

First place winners receive a cash prize of \$100 and have their writing published in a booklet and presented on Scholars' Day.

We encourage submissions by writers in all majors and at all levels of study.

Entries may be submitted by professors or by students

themselves. The work must have originated in a course taken at Cortland during the calendar year of the contest.

For example, papers written for classes taken between January 2008 and December 2008 are eligible for the 2008 contest.

The contest deadline is the last day of fall classes, Dec. 5.

Only electronic submissions are accepted. Entrants should not include their name on the competition paper itself.

In the email message, they should indicate their name and ID

number, the title of the submission, the category of the writing (e.g., academic writing, fiction, creative nonfiction), the course for which the paper was written and the name of the professor.

Electronic copies should be in either Word or PDF format.

Entrants may submit multiple submissions in one or more genres; however, each entry must be sent as a separate attachment to an email message.

Send to priscilla.harvey@cortland.edu.

AIDS

CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER
anybody can have it and you have to acknowledge the fact that it's there."

At 6 p.m. that day an AIDS quilt dedication ceremony was held in the Exhibition Lounge, to dedicate 10 new pieces to the Central New York AIDS quilt project.

Local community members and Cortland students created these 10 quilts. This project began because the actual CNY AIDS quilt, which usually is brought to campus and displayed in the Corey Function Room, wasn't shown this year due to the budget cut and the lack of attendance to view the quilt in previous years, said Cathy Smith, a Health Educator, who oversees the quilt showings.

At the dedication ceremony, red ribbon pins were offered to all who attended, which totaled to about 25 people.

The ceremony opened with some words from Smith, followed by each person or group who made a quilt to talk about the piece they made and why, followed by the lighting of a candle for each quilt made.

Those who talked of their quilts included a mother whose son died of AIDS and a student whose uncle died of AIDS before she was able to meet him. Through tears she described how she believes her uncle is her guardian angel.

A group of students who tabled in Corey and put some names on a quilt from students who submitted names of loves ones lost to AIDS. Another students whose uncle died and the quilt was the

SEE WORLD ON PAGE 3

New housing

New housing available for students in Fall 2009 semester

College Suites at Cortland announces the grand opening of its brand new student housing facility between West Road/St. Rt. 13 for the Fall 2009 semester, according to press.

Students are now able to reserve suites for the upcoming fall semester on a first come, first serve basis. Students can log on to www.mycollegesuites.com to access information and to submit their application and deposit. Students can also request an application by calling 1-877-MYCS101.

The College Suites properties include world class amenities and security for students.

All College Suites properties feature fully furnished apartment style living, with full appliances of a stove, dishwasher, etc., free cable and internet, all utilities included (heat/air/electric), free on-site work out facility, laundry facilities, on site deli, and convenience counter, SUNY Program Events, 24-hour secure building/ 24-hour maintenance and free parking.

For questions and comments, please contact Shannon Richie, Marketing Coordinator at (518) 687-735 or shannon.richie@ugoc.com.

Meet Cortland's English Club



photo by Erica Sanderson

Cortland's English Club meets at 4:15 p.m. twice a month in Old Main 127.

English Club aims for big plans to unite all English majors

Erica Sanderson
News Editor

Cortland's English Club is a group that may still be getting their feet off the ground but, they are trying to reach for the stars.

The English Club, which started a few years ago, has many aspirations for the future and plenty of ideas to strengthen this growing group of students.

The club, which is geared towards English majors but is also open to Communication majors, Professional Writing majors or

anyone interested in literature and writing, is determined to get English majors to come together and form a writing community.

"We want English majors to come together and have intellectual conversations," said Vice President Steve McCaffrey.

The other club officers include President Chelsea Leone and Treasurer Joseph Mannion; there are 19 club members in total.

The club hosts a lunch table every Wednesday and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the Old Main Colloquium where students are welcome to hold discussions on English related topics; faculty are encouraged to join as well.

There is also a blog the club has created, <http://www.weareenglish.ning.com>, that

lists announcements and students can display their writing. Future club events include participating in the annual Relay for Life charity event and taking a trip in December to Syracuse to see the musical *Godspell*.

The club aspires to get speakers on campus that are English-related, including English major alumni who can talk about their current careers. The club also wants to help students with COR classes and get involved with and submit articles to the Cortland Writer's Association (CWA) publication *Transitions*.

If interested, the English Club meets every other Monday at 4:15 p.m. in Old Main 127.

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Yoga classes available at Tomik

Students can relax and refresh with free Yoga classes at gym

Eric Feuer
Staff Writer

Interested in learning yoga or taking a class to gain more experience?

Then Tomik Fitness Facility is where you need to be. There are two levels available, both taught by Angela Perry.

The evening beginner classes run from 7:45 to 9 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday and the evening

intermediate classes go from 7 to 8:45 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Yoga is a Hindu spiritual and ascetic discipline focusing on breath control, simple meditation and specific body postures, all with the aim of improved health and relaxation.

Perry, a certified Yoga charya, has been practicing yoga since 1984 and has over 1,000 hours of training from The Yoga Vendanta Forest Academy of Rishkekish, India.

The aim of her classes is to help you reduce any stress and increase your flexibility. Yoga is about balancing your mind, body and spirit.

Anyone can join and no special clothing or equipment is necessary.

The classes have a maximum of 30 people and the registration fees are as follows:

Students pay \$40, faculty and staff pay \$50 and any members of the Cortland community will be charged \$90.

Perry said yoga is a unique discipline of "your thoughts, body and focus."

It is also a personal development of being Perry said. Perry added that she would like to see more men at the classes, since she has only seen one in her classes so far.

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World AIDS Day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

first quilt patch ever made in honor of him.

The last person to speak was a Cortland staff member who bravely told the story of her friend who died of AIDS, as well as her brother. She told of how she toured the country with her brother educating people on HIV and AIDS. Her emotional story ended

with a lesson she once learned from her friend about how "love means just being with people so they don't have to be alone." APAC, the ZAP program and Fitness Club also made quilts.

"First of all, I love that the campus and community came together to do this...so, it's extra special. These quilts represent their lives, not their deaths...people's lives are woven together on this quilt," said Smith.

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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

In college, we tend to look at our lives in four parts: fall semester, winter break, spring semester and summer break.

We go through the motions day after day just trying to get to the next step in the four-step process. It can seem monotonous at times. We hope that somewhere along the line, we form connections and become better people in the quest for the college degree.

As we come to the end of yet another part one, *The Dragon Chronicle* would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. Remember that it's not what you get for Christmas or who you kiss on New Years that matters.

It's about spending time with the family who misses you when you're away at school. A night in with your little brother might not seem cool but you'll be his hero when you pass up bars for board games.

Enjoy the much-needed vacation, and we'll see you in the spring. ☺

SUNY: the cure for our economy

Since its founding in 1948, the State University of New York (SUNY) has produced tens of thousands of graduates whose knowledge has helped to generate years of economic growth.

But following the latest round of devastating funding cuts that threaten to dismantle SUNY, that generator is losing its power.

Cumulatively, the loss in state aid to SUNY amounts to \$148 million, making it one of the state agencies to be hit the hardest. That's why United University Professions, the union that represents SUNY's faculty and professional staff, is calling on the governor and SUNY administrators to give the University the funding it needs to keep SUNY's economic engine humming.

New York is trying to cut its way out of its mounting budget deficit. But why cut an entity that produces much more revenue than invested, and serves as a major engine of economic growth? It is unwise to cut funds from an entity that produces more revenue than the amount you invest.

SUNY says that for every dollar in state support it receives,

its campuses return between \$6 to \$8 to their respective communities. Imagine that for every dollar cut from SUNY, the economic return of \$6 to \$8 evaporates. Think of how the ripple effect would hurt all sorts of businesses in the Central New York area.

You don't have to look far to see the impact that Cortland has had on the local economy. About 7,300 students, along with 854 faculty members, contribute to the economy. The economic impact of the campus on Cortland and five area counties is \$278 million annually.

The state's elected leaders need to rethink these cuts to SUNY and approach state support to the University as an investment in the future economic well-being of the state, rather than as a drain on the state's beleaguered finances.

The state ought to build its way out of this crisis instead of cutting its way out. Restoring state support to the levels in the original 2008-2009 budget is a good start.

SUNY is a major engine that drives the state's economy. It's responsible for educating the next generation of the best and brightest

of New York's workforce with the type of skills needed to retain and attract employers.

80% of the students who graduate from SUNY remain in New York to live and work. If those students are forced to study elsewhere, New York will suffer a brain drain that will hamper its efforts to bolster the economy.

Clearly, SUNY is the solution for what ails the state's economy.

We call upon concerned New Yorkers, parents, students and business owners to join UUP in asking the governor to reverse these cuts. You can do so easily by going to our Web site at uupinfo.org and sending a fax to the governor.

New York needs a strong public university system now, more than ever.

*-Phillip H. Smith
President of United
University Professions*

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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 the SGA and MAF

Fraternity and sorority Spring Recruitment 2009

Cortland Greek life offers something for everyone interested

Sandra Wohlleber
Asst. Director, Campus Activities & Greek Affairs

Are you thinking that Greek life might be for you? Are you realizing that some of the people you have met and admire belong to one of the College's recognized Greek fraternal organizations?

Are you a first-semester, first-year student and wondering how you would go about learning more and possibly getting involved?

Why should you consider joining a fraternity/sorority? Leadership opportunities, civic engagement opportunities, life-long friendships, philanthropic opportunities to support both national and local worthy endeavors, career networking, scholarship opportunities and more.

Spring Recruitment 2009 will be getting under way at the tail end of January and the first couple of weeks in February.

The school paper may not be able to print a listing of the scheduled events in time but there

will be e-mails and flyers around.

Here's a brief idea of what to expect and what to keep in mind:

Tabling will take place between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Jan. 29, 30 and Feb. 2, 3.

Information sessions with representatives from all of the recognized groups will be held from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 2 in a variety of 2nd floor rooms in Corey Union.

The sororities will have registration on Feb. 4 and then four days of events will follow. Details will be announced in the spring.

Each group will have a specific GPA requirement that needs to be met.

All transfers must have a 2.5 GPA. Others can range from a 2.0 to a 2.7.

There is also a minimum of successful course credits that need to have been earned, 24 for transfer students and 12 for all others.

Make a wise decision if you opt to join either a fraternity or sorority. Make sure it is one of those that is in good standing with the college.

Those in good standing include:

Sororities: Alpha Phi, Alpha Sigma Alpha, Delta Phi Epsilon, Nu Sigma Chi, Sigma Delta Tau, and Omega Phi Beta.

Fraternities: Delta Chi, Kappa Sigma, Pi Kappa Phi, and Lambda Upsilon Lambda.

Co-ed: Alpha Phi Omega.

Do not join the following groups:

- Pi Lambda Phi (Pi Lam)
- Local - Charter pulled by National Tau Kappa Epsilon (Teke)
- Local - Broke from National Zeta Beta Tau (ZBT)
- Local - Charter pulled by National Omega Delta Phi (Omega)
- Local - Charter pulled by National Phi Sigma Sigma (Phi Sig)
- National pulled charter
- Delta Kappa Beta (Kappa)
- Local - Permanently banned
- Beta Phi Epsilon (Beta)
- Local - Permanently banned

It is important to note that the college does not permit Local chapters, with the exception of Nu Sigma Chi Sorority, that was grandfathered in when the rule was put in place.

Do you have any questions or concerns? Looking for more information or want to have your name put on a list of potential new members? Contact Greek Advisor Sandra Wohlleber at sandra.wohleber@cortland.edu or via telephone at (607)-753-5769.

What do you have to say?

What is your favorite holiday movie?



photo by Danielle Eckert

“Home Alone’ because it’s the funniest thing on earth.”

Pat Connors
Freshman
Kinesiology



photo by Danielle Eckert

“A Christmas Story’ because I always watched it with my family every year.”

Alicia Dott
Freshman
Physical Education



photo by Danielle Eckert

“Jingle All the Way’ because Arnold Schwarzenegger is in it.”

Ed Cunningham
Freshman Physical
Education



photo by Danielle Eckert

“I like ‘Elf’ because it’s funny and a holiday movie at the same time.”

Danielle Melchione
Freshman Early
Childhood Education



photo by Danielle Eckert

“How the Grinch Stole Christmas’, the original, because it’s funny and a classic.”

Tim Connors
Freshman
Kinesiology

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Girlfriend's guide to sports

**Sarah Wolanin &
Alyssa Hendricks**
Contributing Writers

COLUMN

This week we're going to give you some information and rules about Field Hockey. Field Hockey is a team sport with 22 players on the field at one time, 11 for each team. The object of the game is to outscore the opposing team at the end of two 35-minute halves.

Although predominately played by women in the United States, field hockey is a popular sport for both women and men in many parts of the world, especially in Europe.

Equipment includes the hockey stick, ball, shin guards and pads. The goalkeepers also need a helmet. There is one net for each end of the field.

The hockey sticks have one flat side and one rounded side. Players are only allowed to hit the

ball with the flat side, which is always on the natural side for right-handed people.

Positions on the field can vary because under the Federal International Hockey rules, set positions are not required. However, positions usually include goalkeeper, fullbacks, midfield and forwards.

Goalkeepers are the only players on the field that are allowed to touch the ball with any part of their body as long as they are still inside their defensive circle.

There is an array of different plays that take place during the game, including free hits, corners, penalty corners and penalty strikes. These are awarded to a team when the other team commits a penalty or hits the ball out of bounds.

There are two criteria for hazardous plays according to the rules of field hockey by the FIH. The first is dangerous action by an opponent.

The second is when the ball is

hit above the height of the knee when an opponent is closer than five meters away.

This week instead of a trivia question we would like to fill our readers in on something very exciting that's starting on Dec. 5. The Sport Management Department is launching a fundraising auction that will help support the Sport Management programs, undergrad as well as graduate.

The auction will include a wide array of items that are guaranteed authentic. These items include licensed merchandise, sport themed trips, and autographed sports and entertainment memorabilia.

They can be found on the Sport Management homepage at <http://www.cortland.edu/spmg/>. Click on the link about the fundraising auction. This event will be taking place from Dec. 5 at 8 a.m. and will last for 10 days, ending on Dec. 15 at 11 p.m.. These items would make great Christmas gifts.

Yes, we can

Cabinet members reinforce message of change from Obama

Dustin Good
Staff Writer

We have all seen the bumper stickers. "1.20.09; the end of an error", a catch phrase most often stuck on the back side polymers of Toyota's trademark hybrid model, the Prius.

Jan. 20, 2009 represents more than the end of an error, I mean era. It signifies the official beginning of Barack Obama's presidential administration. The President-Elect will take over for the worst president in our nation's short history. I guess we should call him Governor since that is the last position he was legally elected for.

Doc Brown said it best in "Back to the Future" when he told Marty, "Where we're going we don't need roads." I reiterate the Doc's sentiments with cautious optimism regarding the direction of the United States, for the next four years at least.

Cynics and conservatives must forgive me if I am, dare I say, overly optimistic about the future of the United States after eight years of President/Governor Bush's administration.

Approximately 50 years after *Brown v. Board of Education* and just over 100 years after *Plessy vs. Ferguson*, the citizens of the United States of America voted an African American man into the highest office in the land. To put it bluntly, a black guy will now occupy a job reserved for rich old white guys.

Now I am not one of those people who believe that Obama equals rainbows and sugar cakes,

but I refuse to be apologetic.

I am excited about a redistribution of the tax burden, the end of torture as a method of interrogation, Kyoto and an administration that cares about the environment. I look forward to Supreme Court appointments whose decisions will not be analogous with erroneous biblical interpretations.

Obama haters sipping their haterade are quick to chastise him for cabinet appointments like Robert Gates, Hillary Clinton, and several other Clinton-like politicians.

Barack defended these appointments as important for the prevention of group think. It is comforting to me to know that Barack Obama is an intellectual.

Forgive me if my standards have dropped low enough that just knowing that Barack Obama knows what group think is makes me comfortable. This is the effect of George Bush and Sarah Palin. I highly doubt either of the aforementioned knows what group think is.

The point that I am making is that I am excited about Barack Obama. For the first time since I started paying attention I am proud of the president of my country. Even if you are one of the majority of voters that cast a ballot for Barack Obama, it does not mean that you should stop challenging your country.

As citizens of a democratic nation it is our duty to challenge everything. Never be silenced and never be censored. As Howard Zinn tells us, "Protest beyond the law is not a departure from democracy, it is absolutely essential to it."

RANTS AND RAVES

What completely irks you? What do you absolutely love?

COLUMN

"I like Cortland because anywhere you go there are always good times to be had and good friends to be made."

Anne Cegla
Senior
Psychology

"I like Cortland because I have made a wonderful group of friends and I'll always have good memories of being at Cortland."

Shauna Edwards
Junior
Childhood Education

"I like Cortland because I have met so many different types of people that I would not have had the opportunity to meet anywhere else. I have also formed lifelong friendships with a great group of friends."

Lauren DeLucrezia
Junior
Childhood Education

"I like Cortland because of the great memories I've made and the amazing friends I've met. I will never forget all of the great times I've had at this school."

Lauren Turner
Junior
Adolescent Education

"I like how Cortland is a smaller school, so no matter where you go you always run into someone you know."

Brittany Hays
Senior
Communications

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"
**Suburbia is where
the developer
bulldozes out the
trees then names
the streets after
them.**"

-Bill Vaughan

Cortland bar offers upscale atmosphere

Stone Lounge brings class and style to downtown Cortland

Megan Martin
Staff Writer

Cortland, like every other college town, has a few local bars that keep the college students occupied on the weekends.

They range from those that are laid back, such as The Red Jug, to those that are more for entertainment, such as the Stone Lounge and the Dark Horse.

My favorite is the newly opened Stone Lounge. It is an upscale bar that resembles those of Manhattan.

The inside of the bar is a high-class atmosphere that Cortland has not seen until now.

Plush leather couches and big screen TVs line the walls.

A stone fireplace draws attention on the adjacent wall, and a concrete bar top creates a luxurious feel.

They offer nightly specials and

have promotional parties on a routine basis.

Another extravagant feature offered by the Stone Lounge is the separate "GQ Room" in the back portion of the bar.

This room is available for rent for private parties and specialty events. I have been to a few events in this room and have enjoyed all of them.

The room comes equipped with personal servers who offer to get drinks for you so that you do not have to.

And if you do need to go to the bar for a drink, an individual section of the bar is closed for only you and your guests. It is a very efficient and quick way to get a drink.

The latest addition to the bar is the outside patio. Furnished with patio-style tables and chairs, this area is commonly used for individuals to get some fresh air or to smoke cigarettes.

The prices are reasonable and affordable, even for a college student. I go to "Stone" every weekend.

They play the type of music that is popular with most individuals and that is easy to

dance to. The DJ is also very good about playing songs requested throughout the night.

All the bartenders and staff are very friendly. Even on the busiest nights it should not take longer than a few minutes to be served a drink.

The cover charge to get in is only \$3, and only on Friday and Saturday nights. This is the same as most other bars in Cortland.

Even if my friends and I decide to go to another bar in the beginning of the night, by the end we are almost always at Stone Lounge.

I can honestly say that I usually have the most fun at this bar, no matter what night of the week it is.

If you are the legal drinking age of 21 and haven't yet experienced a night, especially a weekend night, at Stone Lounge, I strongly suggest you give it a try.

If you aren't used to the type of ambiance I have just described, then it may take some time getting used to. But I can assure you that once you have been to Stone Lounge, you will want to return every chance you get.

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The weather outside is frightful

Driving conditions force students to drive extra hours

Daniella Perruna
Staff Writer

While a break from the stress due to schoolwork was much needed, it's a shame that travel conditions before and after Thanksgiving were not so endearing.

They stated that a winter weather advisory would be in effect starting Tuesday morning, Nov. 25, until late that night.

Students who left before Tuesday survived the hazardous roads. However, those who left on the 25th suffered a drive that lasted twice the usual time.

After speaking with numerous people about their drive, it is estimated that each individual traveled an average of three hours extra on top of what it should take to get to his/her destination.

Students expecting to spend two hours in the car were fatigued after driving for five. To add to the frustration, the journey back to Cortland seemed unbearable.

Leaving on Sunday to come back to school was a tough decision to make. Snow was already on the ground in the morning in many places where students who attend Cortland live at home.

These areas include Rochester, Buffalo, Binghamton, Westchester, Orange County and

Long Island. Again, a winter weather advisory was in place but was in effect through Monday morning, making it worse.

For students who had classes early Monday morning, it was difficult to decide what to do. Those who were coming from Long Island traveled an estimated 10 hours each on Sunday. This is five extra hours than what it should normally take.

Most students are not used to driving these long hours or in such hazardous conditions, resulting in unneeded stress.

Fortunately, it seems as though no has been hurt and no accidents have been reported. It is good to know that students arrived to Cortland safely.

Unexpected factors such as these weather conditions can negatively affect student performance, especially the day after a stressful drive.

It is important for students to relax at this hectic and stressful time of the semester. While everyone should certainly take advantage of his or her study days, it is also beneficial to get a good night sleep before each examination.

In order to reduce stress, try going to the gym, for a walk, or even sitting for 20 minutes without worrying about anything.

Faculty and staff understand the pressures students are under as they, too, are forced to get a lot done in the last week of the semester.

Good luck to everyone on finals and have a safe, fun, and enjoyable winter break.

Roadblocks to registration

Negative effects of registration and how to solve them

Daniella Perruna
Staff Writer

Registering for classes can be a difficult time of the semester. Some students plan out a schedule in advance, only to be shut out of classes right before their time slot opens.

Others wait until their time slots open and proceed to register until they find they, too, have been shut out.

Students understand that first priority is given to students of upper-class status.

However, when a freshman is registering for a freshman class, or a sophomore is registering for a sophomore class, etc., it is frustrating when classes are closed and there are no other opportunities to fill a certain course.

Cortland general education requirements are of little concern. Students find that GE courses are generally available. And when they are not, another class may be taken in replace of one already desired.

However, when students reach their major classes, the maximum number allowed becomes stressful.

This can happen to anyone. Some professors do give out special permission requests. They allow students into their classes where they know some students

will either drop or there simply are still seats left in the classroom itself.

Other professors do not have the available seating and therefore cannot do that.

Students who receive financial aid are hurt tremendously by this negative outcome because they must be registered for at least 12 credits in order to still receive any aid.

Therefore, students resort to registering for any class just to fill their minimum credit hours.

It is good to know, however, that drop/add week does allow students to switch things up and hopefully get into classes they were shut out of at first.

Many students do drop classes during this week and in turn allow others to add.

But registering for classes that are not needed can still be bad if the classes needed do not open during drop/add week.

Whatever the case may be, each student is encouraged to plan out at least three set schedules before registration in hopes that it can prevent these sorts of issues from arising.

Considering that registration has come and gone, it is now important to decide what classes each individual actually needs.

Write a list of the desired classes and be sure to have three spare courses written down.

This way, during drop/add week, it will be easier to drop unwanted classes and hope for the best to add ones that are needed for majors.

Join the club

Clubs and sports a great way to branch out in college

Daniella Perruna
Staff Writer

Getting involved on campus is beneficial in more ways than one.

Students are able to interact with their peers and fellow students who they may not normally hang out with.

They are also able to interact with faculty and staff and learn from them. In addition, extracurricular activities are a great asset to any resume.

All students should consider joining a club on the Cortland campus or become involved in sports.

Both are great ways to meet new people, make new friends, and reduce stress during hectic times of the semester.

The spring semester is not too late to join clubs or sports because many do take people the second semester.

Ask any club or sport coach or captain for details.

Paving your career path

Career Services offers assistance in job development

Vicky Paz
Editor-in-Chief

If you haven't started paving your career path yet, get cracking. Need some direction? Head on over to the Career Services office, rooms B5-7 in Van Hoesen Hall, to get started.

As students in college, we are working towards a degree so that we can get a decent job after we graduate, but a degree alone is not enough. I've even heard people refer to the bachelor's degree as "the new high school diploma."

It is essential to possess strong interviewing skills and to know how to create a well-written cover letter and an impressive, concise resume.

No one is born with the ability to perfect such abilities, but Career Services can help you expand them. Such skills are vital in regards to standing out amongst a pool of job applicants, especially as the

working world is becoming increasingly competitive in the economic crisis our nation is currently facing.

Career Services offers a multitude of services and programs throughout the year, ranging from cover letter critiques to career assessment tests and free practice grad school exams.

The office is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays during the school year. You can drop in resumes and cover letters from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, where a staff member will work one-on-one with you to fine-tune them.

You can make appointments to take career assessment tests, such as Strong Interest Inventory, a mail-in assessment that compares your test answers to those of professionals already out there in the working world. The test analyzes your interests, personality and what types of careers would be suitable for you.

Even if you have a set idea of what type of job you'd like to have, it doesn't hurt to see what other potential options can be.

You can also set up an appointment with Career Services

Director John Shirley to get started on looking for internships. You can help yourself to the office's library, chock full of books pertaining to different aspects of career development and preparation, at any time when the office is open.

The congenial staff is always ready, able and willing to answer any questions you may have.

The majority of students are on campus at least five days a week for classes, so make some time to stop by Career Services if you haven't already.

For more information on Career Services, visit cortland.edu/career.

If you want to check out the Careers in Motion blog, which I've contributed to this semester, visit blog.cortland.edu/career.

***The Dragon Chronicle* is finished publishing for the Fall 2008 semester.**

Look for our next issue to hit stands during the first week of February.

Good luck on your finals!

Have a safe, healthy and happy break and enjoy the holidays!

JOIN THE DRAGON CHRONICLE NEXT SEMESTER!

MEETINGS ARE HELD ON MONDAYS AT 9:30 P.M. IN COREY 111.

The Influence raises money for American Cancer Society

The band's concert proceeds benefit well-known charity

Philip Bolton
Contributing Writer

REVIEW

The Influence, a band led by singer and songwriter Mike Scala took the stage and delivered an explosive performance in Dowd Theater to benefit the American Cancer Society on Wednesday Nov.19.

The event was sponsored by the SUNY Cortland Department of Performing Arts and Scala, along with bassist Garrett Beaty, drummer Jon Walsh and guitarist Chris Tangredi put on one of the best performances the campus has seen yet.

Their style of music is a cross between acoustic rock, jazz, hard rock and alternative. They performed a variety of new and upbeat original music as well as music by bands such as STP, Audioslave, Muse, Red Hot Chili Peppers and 3 Doors Down.

Scala also composed a number of arrangements for the violin, cello, flute and contrabass to complement some of their already hit original songs such as

"Soldier's Cry" and "The World's Edge." Scala's music has been featured on radio stations across Australia and New Zealand and his new single "Soldier's Cry" was

featured in the nationwide Wounded Warrior Project which is a charity organization that provides aid to war veterans in need and their families.

His music is now available on iTunes, Rhapsody, Napster, Shockhound, Lala and many other major internet distributors. You can check the music out at

myspace.com/mikescala or mikescala.com.

The Influence will play for the last time this semester at Lucky's on Main Street tonight at 9 p.m.



provided by Mike Scala

From left to right: Chris Tangredi, Mike Scala, Garrett Beaty and Jon Walsh of the band, The Influence.

The All-American Rejects perform on "The Today Show"



photo by Katie Rosenbrock

Lead singer Tyson Ritter on stage in Rockefeller Plaza.

The band performs as part of the Toyota Concert Series

Katie Rosenbrock
Entertainment Editor

REVIEW

Starting on April 21, 2008, some of the biggest names in music have joined their fans in New York City's Rockefeller Plaza to perform as part of The Toyota Concert Series on "The Today Show."

On Nov. 25th, despite unpleasant weather conditions, The All-American Rejects performed as part of the star studded concert series.

Previous performers for the series have included, Ne-Yo, Miley Cyrus, Coldplay, New Kids on the Block, Jesse McCartney and many more.

Before their actual live TV performance, the band warmed up and performed clips of some of their songs in front of the audience.

As the band warmed up and everyone sang along to the sound-

check, lead singer Tyson Ritter joked around with the fans stating "you guys know this is just the sound check right?"

The band completed its sound check and lucky for them, headed inside the studios as it began to rain while the fans were left outside to wait for them to return.

TV monitors displayed around the entire plaza allowed everyone outside to see The Today Show as Matt Lauer and Meredith Vieira reported the news of the day.

Soon enough Lauer and Vieira made their way outside to the plaza along with the band as they prepared to go live. Finally, it was time for the band to play as they opened the mini-concert with their hit song, "Move Along."

From the moment they began to play, it was obvious that everyone in the audience was a true fan as they all sang along and danced enthusiastically. No one even seemed to notice the heavy rain or cold temperatures.

After their first song, Lauer and Vieira went on to interview, them, talking about their previous success and their new CD that comes out on Dec. 16.

Following the interview the band played two more songs, their second song being "Gives You Hell," which is their new single off

of their upcoming CD titled, "When the World Comes Down."

The band ended the show with their well-known song, "Dirty Little Secret," which really got the crowd engaged.

It was a short show only being three songs long, but definitely worth it to see a band that I have loved for so long live.

As the show came to a close and the band made their way off stage to head back inside the studios, a fan in the crowd standing close to me near the barricade closest to the studio door, yelled out to guitarist Mike Kennerty, "Mike, can you please sign my shoe?"

He was almost inside of the building yet he graciously made his way over to the girl to give her his autograph.

I can always tell that a band truly loves what they are doing and are really in it for the music when the members take the time out to recognize their fans.

I was glad to see Kennerty sign her shoe even though he didn't have to because it showed that they do appreciate their fans, which always makes a concert all the more worth while.

Relaxation Station

Wellness Wednesday event shows students relaxation techniques

Jessica Leopoldo
Staff Writer

SUNY Cortland Health Educator, hosted the last Wellness Wednesday event "Relaxation Station" on Nov 19.

Students gathered into the Exhibition Lounge around 7pm in Corey Union.

Unlike most events, the room was dark and the seats were arranged in a circle at the center of the space. White, flashing holiday lights created a calm atmosphere in which students could come and unwind from their stress.

What is stressing you out? The event began as students shared their major stresses at the moment.

Individuals raised their hands and shared their stress over rapid assignment deadlines, relationship issues, and Christmas shopping concerns.

Smith continued to ask the consequences of these stress. While students shared various actions and emotions that they experience when they are stressed, such as tension headaches and irritableness, Smith revealed how all people react differently to stress.

"While some people may overeat or sleep, others many not be able to eat anything or sleep at all," stated Smith.

Smith then went around the room and asked each person to share a method that helps them relieve stress during the school year.

While the audience came up with many different activities, the most common stress relievers were: taking naps, listening to music, and hanging out with friends.

"I find that a good run is a great stress reliever," stated Alison Houghtaling.

After sharing individual stress relievers, Smith played a few stress exercises on a projector screen.

Everyone moved out of their seats and laid on the carpet and partook in breathing and muscle relaxation exercises.

"I didn't think it would work, but it really was relaxing," said Eric Rappaport. Along with the exercises, Smith addressed the importance of laughter.

"When was the last time that you had a really good, gut-belly laugh?" Smith asked the audience. She shared how laughter is really the best medicine.

Health promotion interns, Alyin, Lisa, and Dana, each shared a favorite YouTube video to stress the importance of laughter to end the event.

Day and Age: new album from The Killers

The Killers' newest album meshes hints of new and old style

Antonio Mancilla
Contributing Writer

REVIEW

The Killers' newest album, *Day & Age*, meshes the British synth pop from their 2005 hit, *Hot Fuss*, and the poetic American rock from their 2006 album, *Sam's Town*.

The album was released on Nov. 24 in the US, the UK, and

Canada and according to an interview with MTV news, Flowers feels that it is the bands "most playful record."

When asked where the title for album came from in an interview with *Rolling Stone* Flowers stated, "I don't know. You wait for moments. I just wait for it to come and I knew that [*Day & Age*] was right when I had it."

Brandon Flowers and company deliver a solid album full of songs that show you the glitz and glamour of Las Vegas and the tragedy and isolation of the Mojave Desert.

From the first bell of "Losing Touch" to the synthesized groove of "Human" to the steel drums of "I Can't Stay" this album keeps

you begging for more.

Day & Age flows smoothly and effortlessly from one song to the next.

According to an interview with "The Quietus," Flowers said that many songs on the album were inspired by artists such as Elton John, David Bowie and Lou Reed.

Flowers and his band mates push themselves to redefine the Alternative rock scene; and with the help of British producer, Stuart Price, The Killers create a modern-sounding album with unconventional instruments and a mentality straight from 80's British synth pop bands.

It is difficult to pick the best songs of this album; however, it isn't difficult to pick out the worst.

"Goodnight, Travel Well," is easily The Killers' weakest song to date and is a disappointing cap to such an excellent album.

However, that doesn't bring down the album's excellence and I strongly suggest purchasing the digital download to receive bonus tracks.

Day & Age is a brave effort from the best British band to come from America.

The Killers put one foot forward in the direction of the future of Alternative rock.

This is easily one of the best albums of 2008 and has definitely proved itself in the UK as it debuted at number one on the charts and sold over 200,000 copies in its first week.

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Your horoscope for this week

Aries

It's vital for you to deal with life one moment at a time on Monday — there's just no way for you to jump ahead. Make sure that your friends and coworkers know you're likely to be late to appointments.

Taurus

Monday is kind of a free day, even if you find yourself at work or school, thanks to your reservoir of positive energy. It lets you take care of obligations with ease and have fun while you're at it.

Gemini

Your mate or someone nearly as close to you may be harder to handle on Monday — watch out for disagreements that turn into small-scale power struggles. It's one of those days that demands extra patience.

Cancer

You start the week with a bang, finding more and more social strangeness going on around you as you make your way through the day. Extreme times may call for extreme measures.

Leo

You're all fired up at the start of the week, and almost nothing can bring you down. It may be hard to marshal any forces, but you might be able to go it alone anyway. That's not so true for Tuesday and Wednesday, when friends and family become much more important.

Virgo

You get praise or a reward of some kind on Monday, thanks to your tireless efforts — or maybe for one big project that has worked out just right for your family or coworkers.

Libra

You've got to pace yourself on Monday, or at least know your limits. It's far too easy to get wrapped up in frustration, when you should be looking ahead to when things are going to be easier for you.

Scorpio

You start the week mid-argument, though it should be finished — or at least moved past — quite soon. Try not to read too much into the details, as it's all part of the big picture.

Sagittarius

You feel a bit off-kilter as you begin the week, but you may be able to leverage that odd energy into something that can make a real difference in your personal life.

Capricorn

Something finishes up on Monday that should reflect quite well on you. It's a good day for you to ask for favors from the boss — or anyone else, really.

Aquarius

You begin the week feeling a little undisciplined and unproductive, but if you can find a way to enforce focus, you should be able to get all sorts of work done.

Pisces

You're a real asset to your friends and family this week. On Monday, you find yourself helping out even when you think you're just doing your own thing, so don't worry about looking around for opportunities to do good.

According to Astrology.com



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NFL playoff picture begins to form

With season winding down playoff scenarios take shape

Matt Savino

Contributing Writer

The NFL season is winding down and the playoff picture is starting to take place. Several teams look poised to seal a division title. The wildcard battle is also starting to heat up and with two of the last three Super Bowl champions coming from a wildcard berth many teams still have a shot.

The NFC contenders are starting to show themselves. In the East the Giants (11-1) have a strangle hold on the division and are favorites to lock up the top seed in the conference and the first round bye that goes with it.

In the NFC West, Arizona (7-

5) seems to be destined to take the divisional crown.

In the AFC the Titans (11-1) have proved to be the cream of the crop even after losing their first game. While the Titans look to lock up the South, the New York Jets led by the seemingly ageless Brett Favre are at the top the East. The New England Patriots (7-5) led by surprise stand-in Matt Cassel sit a game back.

In the AFC West the Denver Broncos (7-5) are in control of the division with no other team in the division with a winning record. The Pittsburgh Steelers (9-3) sit atop the AFC North despite a rash of injuries. The Ravens (8-4) led by rookie quarterback Joe Flacco are close behind.

The wildcard seems like it will come down to the Ravens, Colts or Patriots, unless one of the other AFC East teams makes a surprising run. With two of the last three Super Bowl champions coming from a wildcard seed such teams shouldn't be overlooked.

The Monday Night experience

Bills play host to Browns on Monday Night Football

Gabe Schaub

Staff Writer

COLUMN

If you've ever been to an NFL football game, then you know what an electrifying experience it can be. It's the tailgating, the cheering, the booning and the bonding with the fans in your section who you've never met before. That's what makes the NFL experience one of the best a person can have.

Now take that feeling and add the intensity of "your" game being the only game on at its time. Add the fact that it is being seen in over 10 million homes in primetime. Add all that together and you get the Monday Night Football experience.

"It's unlike anything else. The atmosphere surrounding the game jumps up a few levels because we

know that everyone around the league is watching the game," said John Maves, a senior at Brockport University.

For both the team and the fans, the tone of the game play is increased to where every single play there is a deafening roar from the crowd. Pending the quality of contest, the entire stadium could be hoarse by game's end.

Being at the Nov. 16th Monday Night Football game between the Cleveland Browns and the Buffalo Bills I can tell you first hand that there is a difference in the stands between a Sunday afternoon and a Monday night game.

"I have never been to a Sunday game where everyone in the crowd is standing the entire time," said Steve Graham, a senior at the University at Buffalo. "You only see it during Monday night."

Now for any sporting event, many fans will tell you that the most fun they have at the game is the tailgating, hours before the game.

For those of you who've never tailgated before, the necessities to bring are: grill, meat,

cooler, chairs, football and the appropriate NFL apparel.

"Tailgating for a Monday Night game is so much more fun than tailgating for a game on Sunday," Maves said. "You don't have to wake up early in the morning to get to the stadium in time, there's more time to eat and it gives you a good reason to skip work or school."

The official gates for most stadiums open about five hours before kickoff. That means for Monday Night Football games they open at 3:30 p.m. But for those hardcore fans, there are normally plenty of spaces to tailgate around the stadium before the gates open.

Before the Browns/Bills game the line to get into Ralph Wilson Stadium was a couple hundred deep an hour before anyone was even let into the parking lot. This was due mainly to the fact that the surrounding lots were already full of crazed fans.

But once the gates open and you fire up that grill or toss that first pass to your friend, the Monday Night Football experience has begun.

Red Dragons place first in Cross Country championship

CONTINUED FROM BACK COVER

out across the line, all hoping and wishing for just a little luck.

The Cortland seven—seniors, Shamus Nally and Josh Henry, juniors, Seth Dubois, Justin Wager, Kyle O'Brien and Jerry Greenlaw and sophomore Stephen Scrafford—wished each other the best, placed their toe on the white line and awaited the shot.

The Hoosier sun had neglected to pierce through the dark cold clouds and the temperature was below freezing.

Within the first mile Cortland's top four (Dubois, Nally, Henry, Wager) had moved to the lead with Hamilton runner, and eventual winner, Peter Kosgie.

The four solidified Cortland's backing as the number one ranked team in the nation and set the tone for the race. There was a large contingent of Cortland fans, including family members, teammates and alumni, who all made the twelve hour trip from New York to Indiana.

The fans orchestrated their excitement by shouting, yelling and hollering at the runners to get in gear.

After setting the pace early on, the Cortland team would go on to finish the race with four runners in the top thirty five—four All-Americans. Dubois ran a tough race in the chase pack, behind winner Kosgie and earned a seventh place finish running 24:38 for the treacherous 8K course.

Nally, who finished in the top ten his sophomore and junior years, would overcome a bought with bronchitis and a troublesome

season long foot injury to place 11th, unleashing a monster kick in the last one hundred meters to run 24:46.

Henry, one of the long time leaders of the Cortland team, stuck with Nally, even looking back to encourage the latter onward when he thought Nally was dropping off. Henry would run 24:48 and end up in 15th place.

Wager finished in 28th place, also garnering All-American honors in a time of 24:57.

O'Brien, Scrafford, and Greenlaw all finished in relative proximity to one another. O'Brien closed out the scoring for the Cortland State team in 61st place, running 25:18. Scrafford finished three seconds behind Karl in 65th place and Greenlaw finished four seconds behind him in 73rd place.

The Cortland XC team would end up winning with a total of 80 points, 35 ahead of Division III powerhouse North Central (115). The previous two years Cortland had fought long and hard for the title, but wound up short with 4th and 3rd place finishes in 2006 and 2007.

Finally, they had won, and the runners celebrated with their family and friends in the frigid Mid-Western air. It was a bittersweet feeling.

"My college career isn't over. I still have two more seasons of racing on the track, but there's no more racing on the grass, which we all know is my favorite," said Nally, who has been the face of Cortland XC over the past four years, at the team dinner later on that night.

The members of the Cortland XC team spent the entirety of the



photo by Reid McGrath

The Cortland Red Dragons hoist the cross country national championship trophy.

last year, even the entirety of their college careers, preparing to win a national championship.

After doing so, after the euphoric sensations and congratulations pass, when a crowded field at Hanover College removes her course tape and tents, you are left again with an empty field, a clean slate to begin a new journey.

This is difficult for some to give up, considering the journey was so long and difficult. However, it was also purely exhilarating. The Cortland XC team will never forget the brief satisfactions and relief

after the final results came out on Saturday afternoon. They also will never forget the journey, which seems almost more important.

You may have witnessed a part of this epic journey yourself. You may have seen one of these National Champions running up and down the service road or doing loops on the grass athletic fields behind the track.

Or maybe, you saw them in the training room, icing, or in the weight room, or even falling asleep in one of your classes while they dreamed of screaming lunatic fans in Indiana.

"Ever since NYU (last year's winner) walked up on that stage in Minnesota did I begin to think about Nov. 22," said Wager about how long he'd been thinking about the national race.

The men on the Cortland XC Team made their goal known. They wanted to win a National Championship in historic fashion. On Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008 they won their Championship, and while history may turn a boisterous race course into a lonely desolate field, it doesn't erase the hard days toiling in sun and rain, dreaming of the title: fastest seven in the nation.

NCAA basketball up and running

Top teams show strength in early season tournaments

Chris Ryan
Contributing Writer

College basketball is in its early stages of the season but there already have been exciting games and tremendous performances by some of the top teams in the country.

Many early season tournaments have teams traveling to neutral sites and have them test how well they prepared so far for this season.

This year marked the 25th anniversary of the Maui Invitational. The tournament was won by the top ranked North Carolina Tar Heels, who averaged over 15 point victories throughout the tournament.

Last year's Player of the Year Tyler Hansborough, who is playing through a shin injury and Ty Lawson (Tournament MVP) proved that it is going to be a tough road for anyone who has the Tar Heels on their schedule this year.

The biggest surprise in the early season is the Syracuse Orange winning the CBE Classic

in Kansas City. Going into the tournament unranked, Syracuse defeated both Florida (21st ranked) and Kansas (25th ranked) to take the crown.

As conference play comes closer, the Orange, who are now ranked number 20 in Division One, will need to maintain this momentum to compete in the extremely tough Big East.

Other tournament victories went to fourth-ranked Duke, who won the 2K Sports Classic. Also, 13th ranked Oklahoma won the NIT Season Tip-Off and fifth ranked Gonzaga won the Old Spice Classic.

These teams now can see if they can build off these early victories as they look toward their conference schedule coming up.

Looking ahead, there are big games coming up for some of the top teams. The Big Ten/ACC Challenge takes place and features several match-ups that could be potential national title games.

Duke will play Purdue, while Michigan State will take on North Carolina. Also, the Pac-10/Big 12 Challenge will also feature UCLA taking on Texas and Oklahoma going against USC. These games should shake up the top 25 rankings and also establish title contenders or pretenders.

Women's basketball starts strong

Juniors spark an impressive start to the season

Brian Verdi
Staff Writer

The Cortland women's basketball team has started the 2008-2009 season with a 4-1 record. All five contests were against non-conference opponents. They will play their first conference game on the road at Oneonta before coming home to face Morrisville on Dec. 5th.

The Red Dragons easily defeated Hartwick 83-50 in the season opener behind juniors Tiffany McLaughlin and Jessica Laing. McLaughlin, an Alfred State transfer, recorded 20 points and seven rebounds in her Cortland debut while Laing added 16 points and 13 rebounds.

Cortland's first home game of the season came against the Bombers of Ithaca. The Red Dragons held a 10-point halftime lead but was not able to hold on and lost by the score of 56-51. Ithaca was led by junior guard Katherine Bixby who led all scorers with 25 points, with 18 of those coming in the second half. She connected on five of 10 of her three-point attempts, and also added five rebounds and four

assists.

Laing scored 17 points and pulled down 15 rebounds for Cortland and scored six straight points mid-way through the second half to keep her team in the game. They were ahead 50-49 with 4:50 remaining, but were only able to score one more point the rest of the way.

The team then headed to Saratoga Springs to play in the Skidmore Invitational, a two-game weekend tournament. In the first game against Misericordia University, Laing led her team to a 75-54 victory with 19 points and 17 rebounds. Four players scored in double-figures and senior Ali Canale missed her first double-double of the season by one rebound, finishing with 12 points and nine rebounds.

The game was not nearly as close as the final score indicates. The Red Dragons were trailing at the mid-way point of the first half and only led by two points at halftime. Misericordia was within eight with 10:22 remaining in the second half, but Cortland went on a 17-0 run in the next four and a half minutes to put the game away.

Senior point guard Maggie Byrne made two three-pointers during the run, and Laing added three baskets to send the Red Dragons to the championship game.

Cortland faced host Skidmore in the championship game and again used a big run at the end of

Men's hockey defeats Brockport

Red Dragons play to a tie score with Geneseo Knights

John Perrotta
Contributing Writer

On Alumni weekend at Cortland, the Men's Ice Hockey Team tied the Geneseo Knights 3 to 3 and defeated the Brockport Golden Eagles 6 to 4.

In Sunday's bout, Cortland dug itself into a hole early in the game and fell to a 3 to 0 deficit in the first period. The Dragons collected themselves in between periods and went on a scoring spree in the second period.

The Dragons scored five goals in 5 minutes and 54 seconds. At 9:19 defenseman Justin Porpora scored with a shot from the point, assisted by Patrick Palmisano and Mike Maier. A minute later Matty Davie scored, assisted by Nick Catanzaro and Kyle Haines. Seconds later, the hard work of Brendan Wharity paid off when he scored on a spin-o-rama move, which he scored by tucking the puck to his backhand and sending it underneath Brockport's goaltender, Oliver Wren.

Jake Saville and Greg Haney put their work in and took the assists on Wharity's goal. Immediately after Wharity's contribution, Maier made his. After numerous attempts to skate down the left wing and shoot backhand, Maier scored a beautiful short side

goal that beat Wren near blocker side.

The game winning goal came at 15:13 when Maier passed the puck out of the corner to Jarrett Gold, who slid the puck across the crease to Palmisano. Palmisano braced himself and shot the puck past the goaltender on his high glove side.

The third period was a battle as the Golden Eagles began to play like they had at the start of the game. After even strength skate for about seven minutes, Palmisano scored his second goal on the power play to increase the lead to 3.

The Red Dragons came out of the game with a win that they fought hard for. Cortland goaltender Mike Reilly's ability to shut the door on Brockport in the third was commendable. Reilly stopped 32 out of 36 shots and Wren stopped 33 out of 39.

The night before the Brockport game, the Men's Ice Hockey Team tied the Geneseo Knights in a match that the Dragons had the opportunity to potentially take.

Cortland came out flying in the first period with a quick goal by Haney, who scored on a 2 on 1 with Wharity. Haney released a one-timer that beat Geneseo goaltender Jeff Pesemko high blocker side. Saville had the second assist on the goal.

Cortland kept the pressure on and made it difficult for Geneseo to get anything going during the first period. However, Cortland had taken some penalties which allowed for power play goals against.

Going into the second period Cortland was not fazed. Just 4:26

into the second, Seville's hard hitting shift resulted in a rebound snipe that put Cortland ahead 2-1. Three minutes later Ryan Durocher shot five hole on a breakaway and made the game 3-1. Durocher had this goal coming to him as he had not physically backed down to any Geneseo player the whole game. Later in the period, Cortland got caught in a bad change and Geneseo players Andrew Rygiel and Michael Forgione scored on a wide open 2 on 0. As the first goal, Cortland goaltender Dan Jewell was left out to dry and did not have a chance.

The third period was filled with unnecessary penalties that did not allow for Cortland to get anything going. Cortland paid for its penalties late in the period when Maier took a penalty that resulted in a game tying power play goal by Clint Olson, assisted by Forgione and Panetta. Jewell made a phenomenal glove save with about two minutes left that kept the Dragons in the game.

After regulation, the teams competed in a five-minute overtime. The overtime was filled with back and forth ice length action which resulted in a 3 to 3 tie. Cortland's Ryan Markell, Durocher, Saville and the rest of Cortland's foundation players had a weekend worth mentioning. Cortland fought hard during the two games and came out with three points.

Cortland Coach Joe Baldarotta commented on his players, "The boys found themselves with a gut check this weekend. They were challenged and they answered. They sacrificed a lot to accomplish what they had." The Dragons will be on the road until their next home game on Jan. 30 against Buffalo.

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Celtics and Lakers off to a good start

**Celtics are on top of
 the East and Lakers
 on top of the West**

Nathan Vaji
Staff Writer

As expected, the reigning NBA champions, the Boston Celtics, are off to yet another fast start. The Celtics have started off by going 16-2 and are already building a six game lead in the Atlantic Division over the second place New Jersey Nets. The big three of Ray Allen, Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce are all averaging over 15 points per game.

The runners up in last year's finals, the Lakers, are off to a very hot start. The Lakers have won 14 of their first 15 games this year. They are outscoring their opponents by an average of 14 points per game.

Lakers superstar and reigning MVP Kobe Bryant is averaging a team high 24.2 points per game and is also chipping in nearly five assists per night.

First overall pick Derrick Rose has the Chicago Bulls with an 8-9 record this year, but Rose is averaging 18.4 points and six assists per game. He is just one of the five Bulls players averaging in double figures this year. They are led by Ben Gordon, who is scoring 20.4 points per game.

The New York Knicks are off to an 8-8 start. However, the more exciting news may be in Cleveland. There are many talks of Cavaliers superstar LeBron James becoming a Knick in 2010. James' contract is

up in the summer of 2010, and it seems the Knicks may be the front runner. The Knicks recently have pulled off two trades; clearing up much needed cap room for the free agency period. James has always been a crowd favorite at Madison Square Garden.

Last year, after dropping 50 points on the Knicks, James left the court to a standing ovation and to the chants of "MVP." Just this year, James debuted his "Big Apple" sneakers, in honor of New York City.

James, who is averaging 27.8 points per game, has the Cavaliers off to a 14-3 start. They currently have a 3.5 game lead over Detroit in the Central Division.

Dwayne Wade is finally healthy, and that is bad news for his NBA opponents. Wade is averaging a league high 28.2 points per game. He recently dropped 43 in a victory over the Phoenix Suns. Wade is leading the Miami Heat in points, assists, steals and blocks per game.

The drama between Stephen Marbury and the Knicks organization won't seem to go away. Last week, Marbury refused to play, at request by coach Mike D'Antoni. D'Antoni then sent Marbury home, telling him to stay away from the team until a meeting could be set up to discuss his situation.

In a meeting Monday afternoon between Marbury, Knicks representatives, and representatives from the players' union, no decision had been made on Marbury's future with the Knicks.

Women's hockey loses a pair of games

**Women's hockey
 team loses two games
 to Hamilton College**

Mark Nader
Staff Writer

Just keep skating. Although the women's hockey team has had its struggles this year, the team continues to stay confident and focused on the rest of the season.

The team currently stands at 1-5-2. Heading into Thanksgiving break, the Red Dragons dropped a home and home with undefeated Hamilton College. In the first game at Hamilton College, Cortland fell by the score of 5-2. Hamilton took a 2-1 lead heading into the third period, when they would add three goals to seal the victory. Shannon Hakes and Danielle Scharf both contributed goals for the Red Dragons.

"We are working very hard as a team, just not scoring goals as we need to. We continue to work hard, to not get frustrated and not get complacent," said head coach Earl Utter.

In the second game, the Red Dragons tightened up their defense

only giving three goals, but the team only scored once from Shannon Hakes, falling 3-1.

After a scoreless first period, Cortland State took the lead with Hakes' wrist shot during a power play at the ten 10:12 mark.

However, the Continentals would add two goals within the next three minutes scoring 15 seconds apart at the 11:45 and 12:03 marks. Hamilton would add one more goal in the third period ending the game at 3-1.

"The team as a whole this year has worked hard. I am hoping to continue to see the work ethic and continued skill improvement. From now until the middle of February, we have the meat of our league schedule, so it is important that we, as a team, continue to strive to get better and continue to work hard." Utter added.

The offense is being led by Hakes, who has three goals while Maggie Henty leads the team in assists, with five. The Red Dragons hit the ice for three more games before winter break facing league opponent, Utica College for two away games on the fifth and sixth of December before visiting Castleton College in Rutland, Vermont.

The Dragon Chronicle



Sports



Cortland Athletics Scores

FOOTBALL

Cortland 42
Curry 0

Next: Sat. @ Mount Union

MEN'S HOCKEY

Cortland 6
Brockport 4

Next: Fri. @ Potsdam

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Cortland 1
Hamilton 3

Next: Fri. @ Utica

MEN'S SWIMMING

Cortland 128
Monroe C.C. 103

Next: Dec. 12 vs. Oneonta

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Cortland 135
Monroe C.C. 78

Next: Dec. 12 vs. Oneonta

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Cortland 63
Elmira 69

Next: Fri. vs. Morrisville

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Cortland 67
Elmira 65

Next: Fri. vs. Morrisville

Athletes of the Week



provided by cortlandreddragons.com

Ray Miles Football

Became Cortland's career leader in touchdown passes



provided by cortlandreddragons.com

Jessica Laing Women's Basketball

Recorded fifth "double-double" in five games

Red Dragons advance to third round of NCAAs

Miles sets record for most touchdown passes at Cortland

Dan Curtis
Staff Writer

Since losing to Ithaca three weeks ago in the Cortaca Jug the Red Dragons football team has rattled off two decisive playoff victories against Plymouth State University of New Hampshire and Curry College of Massachusetts.

In the consecutive home-games, Cortland made quick work of its first two playoff opponents, scoring a combined 73 points and allowing just 14. Red Dragon senior quarterback Ray Miles broke a Cortland record for most career touchdown passes last Saturday against Curry and now stands alone amongst Cortland quarterbacks with 46.

"Ray Miles is an excellent quarterback," said Cortland Head Coach Daniel MacNeill. "He's a superb leader and more important he is a great person with all the character traits coaches look for to handle the attributes of the position he plays."

Miles matched his career high against Curry with four touchdown passes and completed 17 of his 29 pass attempts for 279 yards. Senior wide receivers Eric Hajnos and Zacc Guaragno combined for 10 catches, 194 yards and three touchdowns on the afternoon.

Cortland junior kick returner Derrick Woodard returned a Curry



provided by cortlandreddragons.com

Ray Miles passes against Curry College in record day .

punt 43 yards to the Colonels own 15 yard-line setting up a Red Dragons 13-yard passing touchdown to senior running-back Dave Murphy for Cortland's first touchdown of the game. The score marked Murphy's first collegiate touchdown.

Cortland's defense allowed Curry only 208 yards and shut down the Colonels offensive attack

in all of its components handing Curry its first shutout loss in eight seasons. Senior defensive lineman Richard Rolo led the Cortland defense with 10 tackles. Joe Lopez, sophomore defensive-back, tallied six tackles of his own five of which were solo. The Red Dragons were able to penetrate Curry's offensive line all afternoon, sacking the Colonels senior quarterback Ryan

Van de Giesen three times for a total loss of 29 yards.

Coach MacNeill seemed more than pleased with the team's complete effort in Saturday's shutout of Curry.

"A shut-out against a team that hasn't experienced the same since 2000, lost only three games in three years and is prolific in the region is very gratifying," MacNeill said.

Coach MacNeill was also very happy with the way his team has bounced back from the loss to Ithaca a few weeks ago.

"This is a pretty savvy team with high aspirations," MacNeill said. "Cortaca was a disappointment which we set behind us in an appropriate manner."

The Red Dragons will now head to Alliance, Ohio where they will take on perennial powerhouse Mount Union who is ranked first in the country on both d3football.com and the AFCA coach's poll.

"Mount Union is an excellent football program and is having an excellent season," MacNeill said. "As with any such game they present a challenge, much depends on how we play."

Cortland will look to keep its road win streak alive against the undefeated Raiders this Saturday at noon. The Red Dragons have not lost a game on the road since Nov. 10, 2007 at Ithaca College.

Coach MacNeill put it simply, "we are a team that traditionally travels well, we need to continue that tradition."

Men's Cross Country wins NCAA Championship

Cortland men's Cross Country wins first championship

Reid McGrath
Contributing Writer

Quickly after announcing the 2008 NCAA XC Team Champions, the crowd within the Horner Complex Gymnasium, at Hanover College in Indiana, broke out in jubilant raucous. Nine men, all sporting suave red suits, with white suspenders, rose from the bleacher seats where they had been sitting and made their way to the front of the gym.

The entire room stood and clapped as the Cortland State XC team mounted the stage and were awarded their congratulatory paraphernalia. The seven competitors, two alternates, and one coach, stood attentively. They smiled as cameras flashed, while gold watches were handed to them



photo by Reid McGrath

The top four runners for Cortland race against top competition in championship meet.

and while the race coordinator brought out the enormous National Championship trophy.

Earlier in the day, at around

10:55 a.m., an official made a call out on his megaphone for "no more strides..." The Cortland seven jogged and hopped, trying to keep

warm, to their designated starting box. Thirty one teams were spread

SEE XC ON PAGE 11