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Audit cites SUCC for improperly withholding funds

— page 5

Rape, assault being investigated

By THAD McTIGUE
Assistant News Editor

Cortland City Police are investigating reported rape and another case of a sexual assault involving State University College at Cortland off-campus students.

According to Cortland City Police Sgt. Michael J. Laparco, "several calls related to this kind of situation are being investigated." Laparco said that a ski-masked assailant has been known to strike at any time during the week or weekends between 10 p.m. and 1 a.m. City police are also investigating reports of a "Peeping Tom," Laparco said.

Lt. William Pesesky of Public Safety said that there have been no reports of sexual assault on the SUCC campus.

Laparco, who will participate in a panel discussion on the subject at 2 p.m. at the Door Knob in

Old Main, said there are steps women can take to increase their safety. Women, he said, should take the precaution of locking the house door and windows and pulling down the window shades. "Students concentrating more on security," Laparco said, "would help the situation."

Both Pesesky and Laparco said basic precautionary measures include avoiding dark places and walking in groups. "Be aware," Pesesky said, "of who you are with and where you are going. A woman should not walk home alone with a person she just met," he added.

Laparco recommended that students enroll in self-defense programs that are available on and off campus. Laparco suggested women not carry weapons.

While admitting that some women may not agree with him, the sergeant said when a woman is confronted by a rapist, if the woman is not properly

trained in the use of weapon handling, she may put herself in an even more vulnerable position. "It may anger the rapist and he may cause more damage than he would have otherwise," Laparco said.

Marilou B. McLaughlin, assistant to SUCC President James M. Clark, said that the major problem on the SUCC campus is acquaintance or date rape. "Acquaintance rape," McLaughlin said, "makes the situation a hundred times more embarrassing for the woman."

McLaughlin said it is important for society to get over the assumption that there is a different language for men and women. "Young men are taught to be aggressive," McLaughlin said. "When women say no," she continued, "men are taught they might mean maybe."

continued on page 10



Chuck Kocalski/The Press

John F. "Goot" Denecke serves up another home run to this young slugger at Suggett Park during Community Fellowship Weekend.

Spring Fling set as an alternative to Spring Picnic

By BING MILLER
Associate News Editor

A "Spring Fling" free to State University College at Cortland students and sponsored by the Student Activities Board will be offered to students tomorrow as an "alternative to the spring picnic," according to Barbara Cheney, chairman of special weekends on SAB.

This non-alcoholic event will include a DJ from 2 to 4 p.m. and the band "Silent Partner" from 4 to 6 p.m. on the Corey Union steps. Free lemonade, iced tea and fruit punch will be provided by Auxiliary Services Corp. on the Neubig lawn, Cheney said.

"Silent Partner," from Syracuse, plays rock dance music and is "really good," according to Cheney.

Free camel and elephant rides will be available in front of Van Hoesen, sponsored by "Safari Fun," Cheney said, adding that students can get their pictures taken on the animals.

The "Spring Fling" which has been in the planning stages since the beginning of April was planned to provide students with an opportunity to do something on campus for the weekend, Cheney said.

Cheney said the event was scheduled in light of the failure to organize a spring picnic by the senior class committee.

"We're trying real hard to get campus spirit up and get the students involved with activities on campus," Cheney said, adding that student apathy is high.

**'We're trying real hard to get campus spirit
up and get the students involved'**

— Barbara Cheney

The spring picnic sponsored by the Dark Horse Tavern for the same day at Yellow Lantern Campgrounds will offer alcohol to students 21 and over, but the picnic will be open to all, according to Bill McDermott, owner of the Dark Horse.

McDermott said that he has up to 30 buses at his disposal to bring students back and forth from the campgrounds to the campus.

The buses will make their stops in front of the Miller administration building.

McDermott said that the picnic is open to everyone, including alumni and guests, but tickets are limited to 3,500 persons. He anticipates a good response, adding that the motels are "pretty much filled" with alumni.

"We plan to start banding this week" for the students 21 and over who have bought tickets to show that they are able to drink, McDermott said.

On Saturday night, after the "Spring Fling" and picnic, SAB will present John Cafferty and the Beaver Brown Band at the ice arena along with Otis Day and the Nights.

Safety by Blue Light

By DANETTE GILSON
Staff Writer

The State University College at Cortland has recently activated a new crime prevention device called the "Blue Light" system, according to Peter Lalla, assistant director of Public Safety.

The Blue Light System consists of six outdoor telephones placed at various high traffic areas on campus. These phones are recognizable by an attached blue light and the line is directly connected to Public Safety, Lalla said.

"The phones are a very effective communication device," according to Lalla. This system provides immediate help for anyone who is a victim of a crime, a witness to a crime, needs emergency medical help or needs information.

The effectiveness of this system was based on the positive responses by Cornell University, which has a similar crime prevention system, Lalla said. Some other SUNY campuses have a similar system, however, Lalla could not provide any information as to their effectiveness.

According to Lalla, Cornell University also said that there was a high degree of respect for these phones on campus and that these phones

did not fall victim to vandalism or prank phone calls.

The cost of the installation of these phones was included in the overall cost of the new telecommunications system installed this past semester, said Telecommunications Manager Robert Harrison. The Blue Light System was only a small percentage of the \$1.7 million needed to finance the new phone system, Harrison said.

The outdoor phones themselves were installed in January. However, because the wiring was not finished the system was not activated until recently. This system has not been publicized on campus until its activation, to keep non-activity of the materials that have been in place since January, Lalla said.

The Blue light phones are located in the following areas: between the commuter parking lot and the Miller lot on Graham Avenue; between Old Main and Moffet, and between Moffet and Fine Arts; on Neubig Road attached to Neubig Hall; between the tennis courts and Lusk Field House, and the last phone is in the turn around area by the Athletic fields.

These phones are for emergency use and should be respected for the purpose they serve, Lalla said.