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SUCC plagued by false fire alarms

By LAURA R. JONES

The State University College at Cortland has had to pay \$2,019 in repairs because of false alarms between Aug. 25 and Oct. 27, according to Ray Franco, director of Residence Life.

This money went toward paying the electricians that have to rewire the system each time an alarm is pulled, Franco said. These electricians are immediately paid for overtime, which automatically amounts to between \$60 and \$110.

Evidently the college is experiencing an increase in the number of false alarms, Franco said. The physical plant, public safety, and fire department are just a few who are concerned about the problems, he added.

Offenders who maliciously pull the fire alarms "should be expelled from college never to return," Franco said. After all, they are endangering the community in its entirety, he said.

If an offender is caught, Franco said, they will immediately be referred to the Judicial Review Board.

The firemen are endangered, and so is the entire city of Cortland, Franco said. The students are endangered as well, he said, because a vast majority tend to take a casual reaction to fire alarms in general.

Franco said he thinks it is a "ludicrous assump-

tion for students to think rooms cannot burn and that people can't get hurt." In dorm fires the number one killer is smoke inhalation, he said. The dorm rooms are full of plastics that give off toxic fumes when burnt, he said.

According to Franco there are four categories of fire alarms. The first kind is the case of a real fire.

The second category includes alarms that are activated as a malicious act or wrongful intent. Usually, Franco said, the offender pulls the box or puts heat or smoke close enough to the detector to set off the alarm.

The third type is an "accidental trip" in which malicious or wrongful intent is not present. For example, he said, the spraying of hairspray can set off the detector without the student realizing. If a student thinks he could have possibly set off the detector he should contact a staff member immediately, Franco said. The student should not fear prosecution — nothing will happen if it was unintentional, he said.

The last type of alarm, the director said, is caused by a system malfunction. This is when the alarm goes off for no apparent reason; it could just be bugs or spiders in the system, he said.

A major problem concerning false alarms is that the city of Cortland is getting impatient and annoyed with the alarms, Franco said.

The firemen, according to Franco, would be more willing to deal with the college if the false

alarms were accidental or malfunctions, he said.

The fire department is looking at several options in trying to combat the problem, Franco said. The department is looking at the possibility of not responding to the alarms since it provides the protection for Cortland city residents as well, he said.

The fire department would be cut off from campus, he said, and public safety would be the middle men who'd determine whether a fire was real. This is extremely dangerous, he said, because the three to five minute delay could mean lives saved or lost.

Franco said he is "absolutely against disconnecting the college from the city."

He said he feels a compromise should be attempted. He can "understand both sides of the coin," he said, and is concerned about the safety of residents. The residents clearly need "optimal fire protection," he added.

In SUCC's history, never before has the city disconnected the college or an individual dorm from the fire department because the behavior and attitudes have always improved when necessary, Franco said.

The school is trying to make students increasingly aware of the dangers pertaining to false alarms, Franco said, especially since this is safety awareness month. The Cortland fire chief, Franco said, could consider the possibility of presenting workshops and talks about the seriousness of fire alarms.



Easy Come Easy Go

Sue Mandel, who attempted to sleigh ride the day after Tuesday's snow fall, walks away from a snow ridden hill. Flurries are expected again tonight through tomorrow.

Cheney's north wing to close next semester

By LAURA R. JONES

The upcoming spring semester will see only the north wing of Cheney Hall closed rather than the entire dorm as originally planned, according to Ray Franco, director of Residence Life.

61 people will be vacating all four floors of the wing for the semester, Franco said.

The first step in the relocation process is to find out who wants to live elsewhere on campus, Franco said. The Cheney staff is sending a survey around the dormitory, he said, to determine who is interested in moving out of Cheney as opposed to those who would prefer to stay.

The next step is to allocate the remaining residents into other halls, he said. Returning students will be doubled, but new students will be tripled if they want to stay in Cheney, according to Franco.

Presently a majority of freshmen are not tripled this semester in Cheney Hall, he said. Residence Life "intentionally assigned few triples" this semester to help in the relocation process.

Originally the entire dormitory was going to be closed, but the funding for reconstruction fell through, Franco said. The renovation process was previously scheduled to take eight months — a job too big for the summer, he said.

Because all the rooms in Cheney were to be painted and all the bathrooms were to be redone, Franco said, the renovations were originally projected to extend over eight months.

In DeGroat's case there were less bathrooms and only the showers were reconstructed, he said. The bathrooms in DeGroat were renovated this past summer. There are more bathrooms in Cheney and both sides are to be completed, he added.

Due to the change in funding Cheney Hall cannot completely close. But, Franco said, after the process is determined, Residence Life will "try to be as accommodating as possible."

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