

NYPIRG semester achievements

By JOAN ZIFF

NYPIRG has been extremely busy this past semester, according to NYPIRG Coordinator Ken Deutsch.

This semester NYPIRG spent most of its energy on the Environmental Bond and Clean Up Water issue, he said. Deutsch said on Sept. 25, NYPIRG members went door to door in the Cortland community explaining Environmental Bond issues.

At the polling site on cam-

pus, the students were in favor of the Environmental Bond by 90 percent, Deutsch said. In Cortland this bond won by 70.5 percent. This percentage was one of the highest in upstate New York. Overall in the state, the bond won 67 percent.

NYPIRG began working on the water issue in September when a rally was held to discuss Smith Corona. Recently, it was due to NYPIRG's efforts that a town meeting with the Cort-

land County Clean Water Committee was held Oct. 28.

On Nov. 18, NYPIRG, CCSA, and the sociology club will sponsor another meeting titled "The Water We Drink." This will be held in Sperry 209 at 9:30 p.m.

NYPIRG this semester has set into motion a small claims counseling center. This opened up officially on Oct. 7. According to Deutsch, this has been successful. Already there have been 12 phone calls and 3

walk-ins. The center is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 11-2 and 5-7.

A series of internships have also been established by NYPIRG. The litigation internship allows students to research and help put together actual cases on enforcing clean water acts and to stop people from polluting.

The legislative internship in Albany will allow students to work on one issue and follow it completely through.

This is for a full spring semester and people can apply up until November 15. Students who would like a 3 credit on campus internship will be responsible for an entire project. For example, the small claims counseling center is a 3 credit on campus internship headed by Dylan Jones.

Next semester some issues that NYPIRG will work on are: toxic clean up, womens issues, food irradiation, and small claims.

College intimidates Literacy project

By CAROLYN LUMSDEN
Associated Press Writer

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) — Lindy Whiton wanted to teach illiterates how to read, but figured college was not the place to do it. So she set out in rural western Massachusetts looking for students, spreading the word through bars, laundromats and other gathering spots, and opened offices in storefronts and YMCAs in Greenfield, Athol and Northampton.

Her Literacy Project, which enters its third year Friday with four teachers and a shoestring budget, is serving 86 students aged 16 to 68 and has become the largest reading program in the western half of the state, Whiton said.

She said taking the reading

project outside the intimidating college atmosphere accounts for a large part of its success. "People work here at different levels and different ages and in the same room, and they end up helping each other," she said. Some were left illiterate after traumatic experiences.

"They've been beaten for bad grades and called mentally retarded. No wonder they're scared stiff of school," she said. "One man in his 40s three times my size constantly thought I was going to hit him for making a mistake."

The first few students had

to overcome tremendous shame to admit their problem, she said, but they spread the word and applicants began walking bold-

ly into the offices.

"I graduated from South Deerfield High, but I couldn't read," said Debbie Derosia, 29, of Greenfield, one of the students. "They just passed me, probably because they didn't want to sit down and teach me."

Many of the students are mill workers and farmers who felt reading was the least important task when they set about earning a living, and only learned later in the life the impact of their deficiency.

"One plant worker who was at a second grade reading level used to take home blueprints every night and have his wife read them to him," Whiton said in a recent telephone interview. "Then he'd go in and fix the plant machinery from memory."

Whiton, who worked in a Greenfield Community College reading program, said she left the program in 1984 when she tired of the fickleness of grants and of turning down students who weren't poor or illiterate enough to be eligible for the state-funded program.

She said 78 percent of her students complete the program, earning high school equivalency degrees or promotions or simply achieving their goal of being able to

read to their children.

Jonathan Kozol, a Harvard University expert on illiteracy, has estimated the national illiteracy rate at 60 million people. Those people are unable to read newspapers or even labels on food cans. According to the 1980 state census, between 25

and 40 percent of adults in western Massachusetts never finished high school.

The program, with three full time teachers and one part-time tutor, ran on a \$25,000 budget the first year and \$60,000 the second. Although private and non-profit, it has retained affiliation with Greenfield Community College to continue receiving state money. It also charges clients up to \$20 weekly, depending on their ability to pay, Whiton said.

She said she barely makes ends meet. "We are up \$5 in our bank account right now," she said. "We don't even have the money to buy a bloody blackboard. For the first time, we're considering a waiting list because of lack of money and lack of staff. We really don't want to do that."

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**MONDAY Haircuts (\$10.00)
(No styling included) Reg. \$12.00**

**TUESDAY Shampoo, Cut Blowdry
(\$11.50) Reg. \$14.00**

WEDNESDAY (\$10.00) off all perms

**THURSDAY With every s/c/b 10%
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**FRIDAY Sunstreaking (\$19.50)
Blowdry included**

**Finally Corleone's
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Beginning Fri. Nov. 14th

**Chicken Wings & Beverages
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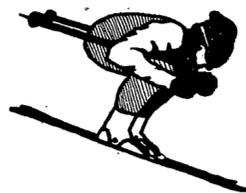
20 wings & 1 case of beverage

\$10.99

Another ... Mandatory!!

Cortland Ski Club meeting

*all members and anyone
interested must attend
the meeting on Wednesday,
Nov. 19 at 7 pm*



in Corey Union, Room 201-203.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

for the formation of the

**SUNY Cortland
GRAPE BOYCOTT
SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

7:30 pm in 207-208 Corey Union

*Arturo Rodriguez, Vice President of the
United Farm Workers of America
will be present at the meeting*

ALL STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF WELCOME