

"We the Students..."

By Debi Tracy
CCSA Vice President

"Time can tear down a building or destroy a woman's face. Hours are like diamonds, don't let them waste!" -found on a desk Spring 1988.

It is hard to believe that almost 16 weeks have passed since I have been in office on campus. Sometimes it felt like all the committee positions would never be filled! Other days never seemed to end with one meeting after another, one phone call after another and one more person to see before hanging it up for the day. Of course, after a typical day there was usually homework and dirty dishes awaiting me at home. Many days there weren't any dishes to clean because I never got home for lunch and sometimes even missed dinner. Often, I would leave the office after the Student Directors locked up and more often, I would walk out to the parking lot not remembering where I parked my car 12 or so hours earlier!!

One of the reasons I continued my daily performance as Debi Tracy/student/Executive Vice President was because I was not alone in the production. Through my column I have introduced some of the players in the production. Some of the scripts have included issues like the alcohol policy that demonstrated how CCSA defends students rights to live where they want and not to be segregated. It was because of leading players like President Todd Warren working for students, that the decision on the alcohol policy way delayed for further investigation and discussion. These actions insure students' rights as an educated vote was casted by Faculty Senate for a policy more reflective of the students' opinion. Many mornings Todd was in the office working on issues even before professors were instructing their first classes of the day and often before ASC had the coffee machines on.

Another issue that was part of the act was insuring students' social freedom. In this scene, CCSA took a leading role in alternative programming. Music Director of SAB and Chief JRB Justice, Scott Foster, was instrumental in making our on campus CLUB WSUC dance party and our Homecoming Parade a reality. These parts offered students another way of partying on the weekends and showing their pride of their college, fraternity, sorority and clubs. Also, both Scott and Todd, along with other concerned students, have been working on re-starting R.S.V.P. for next semester, Act 2.

Other supporting cast members helped carry out another scene of CCSA's production requirements: representative of the students. Numerous students directly and indirectly involved with our stage, volunteered their time and represented the students' view on many important committees that directly affect the entire campus community especially students. Some dealt with the parking fee, others with the new housing project and still others worked towards the Day Care Center, 10 years in the making. There were students making disciplinary decisions (JRB), programming decisions (SAB), and employment decisions (search committees).

Players like Senate Chair Baycan Fideli kept Senate meetings running very smoothly. Senators added to the production with discussion on various matters that evolved from talking with the many extras composed of their residence halls. Treasurer Scott Roman with supporting players, Vice Treasurer Stacia Pavia and Financial Board Chair Jackie Gouldner, kept our cash flow flowing with the assistance of the cast members from Financial Board. Stage Manager, Carol Silvino, gave a repeat performance but I secretly believe she enjoyed Act 1 because there are more women in office. Two of these actresses included our production secretaries, Kris Klose and Laura Giardina.

Another of our leading ladies turned in a superb performance as Director of Activities, known as Valerie Canino. In efforts to stimulate interest in club activities, she pulled off the Activities Festival early in Act 1. Recently she has starred in "Make Activities Happen" which include a description of over 50 campus clubs. Also she kept the students informed of the activities happening on campus through the CCSA boards displayed outside Corey Union Snack Bar. Her current undertaking is "Who's New" which will be out during the summer for all entering Freshman. Valerie's next assignment is in London, so her understudy, Kristine Logan will be taking over her role in Act 2.

Some parts were just recently filled by Tracy McPherson, Rich Dixon and John Băptiste. They were chosen by group interview to be the Minority Affairs Representatives. Although they are just learning their roles right now, in Act 2 they will be portraying a very important part of our cast. Last year's Minority Affairs Representative was a solo act by Vada Adams who joined the production again this year as Executive Advisor.

All of these students had leading roles in Act 1. They were all volunteers who got involved with their lives, all turning in their best performance for the benefit of the audience-the students of Cortland State. Auditions for Act 2 are already happening but it is not too late to sign up for a chance to star in your own spotlight in CCSA. During break, review the opportunities available to you. See how they fit into your life beyond Cortland. Think about how much a difference you can make in students' lives at Cortland. Act 2 starts now. I hope to see you there.

The "Force" fights discrimination

By Valerie Canino
Special to the Press

One of the biggest problems that exists on campus as well as in society is racism, sexism and Homophobia. People are misinformed on these three issues and this breeds ignorance.

A committee that deals with these issues on campus is the CCSA Committee on Prejudice and Discrimination. The Co Chairs of this Committee are Donald Somerville and Stacey Payette. The committee is also know as the "Force" battling discrimination on our campus. The committee is composed of 12 members, and the majority being white students.

This Committee formed last year as a result of alleged discrimination that took place at the Raquette Lake leadership trip. Current CCSA President Todd Warren and Alumnus Joe Amuso founded the original task force in response to the specific incidents that occurred a Raquette Lake and the questionable attitudes that were taken back to campus.

This year the Force has set two main goals. The first is to combat prejudice and discrimination within themselves. The group believes racism exists within each person since we have been raised and exposed to discriminatory ideas through society.

Once the Committee has combated this within themselves the second goal is to fight discrimination externally.

The Force wants to educate people through a series of workshops on racism, homophobia and sexism.

Currently the Force is going to confront the Administration's terminology in referring to certain cultural

groups in the college handbook and forms which haven't been updated since 1965. An example of this is the terminology referring to Black students as Black when the correct term is African American. Black is a generic term and it makes no reference back to culture. African American refers back to Africa and culture.

The Force this year will also be sponsoring a Mixer to increase group interaction and awareness late this semester.

The Committee has not been approached with any cases of discrimination this semester. Currently the group is working on Networking to let people know that the Committee exists.

The Force is one of the most important committees on campus. This Committee is educating, and bringing more self awareness to others while addressing three major problems on campus racism, sexism and homophobia.

There is a prejudice and discrimination Hotline available 753-4721.

Alpha Phi Makes its Mark on Cortland

By Mary Alice Maye
Special to the Press

Alpha Phi sorority has been busy throughout the semester with several different projects. The sisters and pledges have worked hard on raising money for various causes. They were able to donate money to the Heart Association by their participation in the Heart Run in October. Alpha Phi worked with Pi Lambda Phi fraternity to raise money for the coalition for children at the YWCA. The pledges paid a visit to the elderly at a nearby Nursing Home, and brought gifts for them to enjoy. Alpha Phi is presently collecting receipts at Topsto raise money for the ASPCA. The sorority has also participated in many of the CCSA events including their C.L.U.E. workshops. The Alpha Pledge class has been a success. There are many more projects in store for the spring semester and Alpha Phi plans to hit even harder.

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