

## Cortland students participate in humanity project during spring break

*Special to the Press*

During this past spring break, 14 members of the Cortland College campus took a trip to Salisbury, Maryland to participate in a Habitat for Humanity Project for four days.

The trip was organized by Tom Otis, President of the Cortland Student Hunger/ Homelessness Coalition with help from Lisa Boes who is a residence hall director with past experience with Habitat projects. The participants of the Alternatives Spring Break put up sheetrock, spackled, landscaped and helped lay brick for new houses being built by and for families who cannot afford housing in Salisbury. They slept on the floor of a church, showered at Salisbury State University's Gym facility, cooked for themselves and had the opportunity to meet and work with students from other colleges.

They were asked to share their experiences with a class from Salisbury State during the trip and overall, felt that the experience was something they would like to see repeated. Keep your eyes open for information about Alternative Spring break II next year. If you would like to join a trip like this next year, call the CSVP offices and we will let you know how you can help plan for next year's adventure.

We can be reached at x753-2200. The Hunger and Homelessness Coalition meets every Thursday at 4:00pm in Corey 208. All are welcome.



**Monday:** 7 pm Cortshorts

7:30 Roomate

**Tuesday:** 7 pm CSTV 2nd

Lip Sync Contest

**Wednesday:** 7 pm Cortland

**Thursday:** 7 pm David

7:30 pm Sports Talk

## Is it time for a dating Bill of Rights?

By Dean Orfanoyannis  
*Special to the Press*

The Cortland College Crusade Against Acquaintance Rape (CCCAAR) thinks it's time for a dating Bill of Rights.

CCCAAR is a task force made up of students, faculty and staff dedicated to educating the campus community on the dangers of acquaintance rape. The bill of rights distributed at the group's workshops encourages everybody to know their individual selves sexually, and to communicate their sexual values to their dates right from the start of a relationship.

Statistics show that over 60 percent of all rapes are committed by someone the victim knows. It is also the most common form of rape on college campuses. Several unconfirmed reports of rape on the Cortland College campus this past fall motivated several members of the school's student government to get together and discuss the issue. With the encouragement of Vice President for Student Affairs Linda Kuk, CCCAAR began the arduous task of trying to educate the campus community about this controversial problem.

According to Rhonda Tourtellotte, a student government member and co-chairperson of CCCAAR, the task force is in the process of gauging "the climate" surrounding this sensitive issue among the student population. It's not easy to get students to talk about it, it won't happen to them."

CCCAAR's next two workshops are being held on April 18th and 24th at 7:30 p.m. in Corey Union.

In the meantime, CCCAAR's mission consists of several goals, according to Tourtellotte: to educate the campus community about what acquaintance rape is, when it is most likely to happen, why it occurs, how people are affected by it, and what to do if a friend of yours is a victim of acquaintance rape.

Of the many statistics and informational pamphlets CCCAAR has been distributing, possible the most shocking are the results of a survey of college males conducted in 1987. Two-thirds of college men said they would be inclined to force sexual advances on women if they were sure of getting away with it. Over one-third of those surveyed said they would consider actual rape under similar circumstances. In addition, nearly 30 percent of college women surveyed said they had experienced at least one attempted or completed rape in their lives.

One of CCCAAR's most important messages states that if a woman is mentally unable to consent, then any sexual advance constitutes rape. CCCAAR emphasizes this because a common scenario for rape on college campuses includes alcohol or drug use. Victims are often in a state of inebriation and unable to consent in sexual activity.

It is believed most cases of acquaintance rape go unreported simply because the victim knew or may even have been friends with her attacker. Because of this, he or she

may not believe the incident would count as a rape. In fact, a 1984 survey conducted by *Ms.* magazine showed that 57 percent of women who were victims of acquaintance rape were dating their assailant.

The dating bill of rights which CCCAAR has been distributing at its workshops encourages both men and women to ask for dates, to refuse affection or sex, and even to tell their partners they want affection or sex. These and other initiatives are listed in very straight forward language aimed at enhancing communication and persuading each partner to jointly control the direction of a date.

At this point, it looks like CCCAAR has a long road to travel before persuading the campus population to adopt this new dating etiquette.

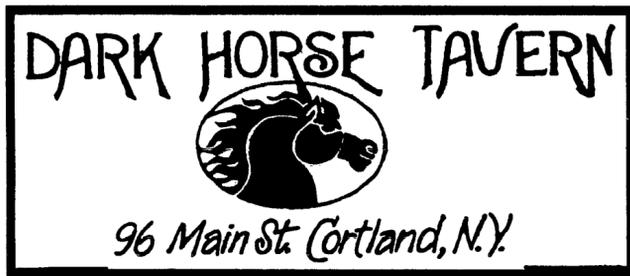
As co-chairperson, Tourtellotte said she's received a lot of encouragement so far from members of CCSA, the administration, faculty and others. But she does note that only a few, like her co-chairperson Maret Boubin, have offered to get involved directly in the task force. "It's an issue," she said, heaving a sigh, "that's difficult to deal with. People are afraid to talk about it."

According to Tourtellotte, CCCAAR's most important short-term goal, besides educating the campus on the subject, is to get SUNY Cortland to establish a policy in its judicial code regarding acquaintance rape between students. "There is currently nothing in the campus codes," she said, "to handle these types of situations."

*Next week: the dating Bill of Rights*

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