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Monstrous outlook looms in Ithaca

August 25, 2002

 By **Nancy Buczek and Rebecca James**
 Staff writers

As the semester begins this week at **Cornell University**, students, faculty, and even Ithaca residents, can't escape a monster dreamed up almost 200 years ago.

Mary Shelley wrote "Frankenstein" in 1816, but educators appreciate it for raising modern questions about the role of science, creativity and human relationships. "Frankenstein" is required reading for the incoming 3,046 Cornell freshmen, but monster-related activities are taking place all over:

A Frankenstein exhibit on the secrets of nature arrives at the Tompkins County Public Library Oct. 2.

Local ministers plan to preach sermons on Frankenstein.

Cornell's dining halls will take up the theme Monday with dishes like monster mashed potatoes and spooky salads.

Cornell Cinema will show monster movies throughout the fall, including "Abbott & Costello Meet Frankenstein," and the Cornell Interactive Theatre Ensemble will do a series in September on issues of inclusion and exclusion.

While Cornell freshmen are required to go to a symposium on the book today and small group discussions Monday, others are expected to pick up the book voluntarily in preparation for discussion groups and public lectures throughout the fall. Cornell donated 750 copies of the book to the public library and 600 to local high school students. Goons make good

When **Don Storm** parked his Honda Accord in front of Sadler Hall at **Syracuse University** Wednesday, five "goons" dressed in bright orange T-shirts descended on his vehicle and began taking his daughter's belongings out of the

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car.

The Goon Squad, as the university calls its upperclass volunteers on move-in day, filled large gray bins on wheels with students' belongings and helped them find their new rooms for the upcoming academic year, which begins Monday.

"This is great," said Storm, whose daughter, **Kathryn**, will be a freshman at the **State University College of Environmental Science and Forestry**. "I came here all prepared to do that myself."

The Goon Squad is part of a more than 55-year tradition at SU. About 400 upperclassmen volunteered this year to be goons.

SU expected about 3,000 new students to arrive on campus. SUNY ESF, whose students live in SU residence halls, expected about 530 new students. About 16,250 students total from both colleges were expected to arrive for the start of the new academic year. Bits and pieces

Tamara S. Westlake of Syracuse has been named coordinator of academic initiatives at **LeMoyne College**, where she will oversee all the college learning communities. ... **Marcia H. Finch** of Springport, a CCC and **Wells College** graduate; **Marianne R. O'Connor** of Weedsport, business manager for the Auburn school district; and **Gail A. Cowley**, of Skaneateles, executive vice president of Cowley Associates advertising and design firm in Syracuse, have been named to the **Cayuga Community College** Foundation. ... Onondaga Community College is one of nine SUNY colleges to share in a \$128,000 grant from the SUNY Research Foundation to develop and expand distance learning courses in the Early Childhood curriculum. The money will support course development and meetings among **Broome, Cayuga, Corning, Herkimer, Hudson Valley, Jefferson, Onondaga and Sullivan community colleges** and the **State University College of Agriculture and Technology at Cobleskill**. OCC's share of the grant will be about \$12,000. Compiled by Assistant Regional Editor Scott Scanlon. To provide information for possible use in the Campus Notebook, call Scanlon at 470-6049, fax him at 470-6001 or drop him an e-mail at feedback@syracuse.com.

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