

# THE ITHACAN

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Check out our Chili cook-off coverage, page 23

## Tuition to rise for 2013-14 academic year

BY KELSEY O'CONNOR  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Following the 2013-14 budget approval by the Ithaca College Board of Trustees, the college has announced that tuition next academic year will be \$38,400, which is an increase from last year of \$1,400.



ROCHON said it is a commitment to work to keep IC affordable.

The board of trustees approved the \$223.6 million operating budget Feb. 13. Room and board will cost \$13,900 next year, bringing the total cost of attendance to \$52,300, an increase of 3.8 percent from last year. The percentage increase in tuition is the lowest percent increase in more than 40 years.

From the 2009-10 academic year to 2013-14, tuition will have increased 19.8 percent.

Carl Sgrecci, vice president of finance and administration, said the college has been working to keep private higher education affordable.

"We've been making a very concerted effort during this last year to try to control the rate of increase in college costs, recognizing that affordability is becoming an increasing issue for prospective students and their families, and our current students for that matter," Sgrecci said.

President Tom Rochon said the lower percentage increase of tuition shows significant progress in keeping Ithaca College affordable.

"It's a very central commitment to reduce the rate of increase in tuition, room and board over time to reduce it significantly," Rochon said.

Many comparable private institutions have not yet released tuition data for 2013-14.

Despite the percentage increase being lower, the increased tuition is still a burden for many students.

Freshman Wahid Khan, who is from Bangladesh, said any increase in costs will create problems for him and his family. He said the fact that the percent increase is small will make no difference.

"I'm not an exception to this, so whether or not this increase is small or incremental, it doesn't matter as long as it's inconvenient for me, which it will be," Khan said.

Junior Eve Rosekrans said she is not happy tuition has increased more and more since she came to the college.

"The fact of the matter is I'm paying significantly more than I planned on when I entered the school three years ago," Rosekrans said.

See **BUDGET**, page 4

## CHANGE OF CLIMATE

ONLINE

Watch the action at the protest online at [www.theithacan.org/30116](http://www.theithacan.org/30116).



### Students travel to DC to join historic climate change protest

BY SABRINA KNIGHT  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

In what is being called the largest climate change protest in American history, about 50 Ithaca College students rallied alongside thousands of protesters Sunday in Washington, D.C.

More than 35,000 people from across the U.S. traveled to D.C. to protest issues that affect the environment, such as the Keystone XL Pipeline, tar sands oil and fracking.

The Keystone XL Pipeline is a proposed 1,179-mile pipeline that would transport tar

sands oil from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. Tar sands are deposits of loose sand or partially consolidated sandstone that is saturated with viscous bitumen.

Saturday afternoon, six buses left Ithaca for Washington, D.C.; two were a combination of Ithaca College, Cornell University and Tompkins Cortland Community College students, one was from Lehman Alternative High School and three were from the Ithaca community.

On the student bus to D.C., sophomore Dennis Fox, a student from Cornell and

treasurer of KyotoNOW!, a student climate action organization, explained what students could expect from the protest.

"There's going to be a lot of emotion, and we're going to be doing a lot of good tomorrow, but you should remember especially the world is watching, and you are the face of the environmental movement," Fox said. "We're fighting for something that is larger than just ourselves and just Ithaca."

See **ENVIRONMENT**, page 4

From left, freshmen Natalie Dionne and Lauren Gervais hold signs in protest of the Keystone XL Pipeline. Dionne and Gervais traveled with a group of about 50 Ithaca College students to Washington, D.C., to join what some are calling the largest climate change protest in American history.

RACHEL WOOLF/THE ITHACAN

## Obama pushes forward with college affordability

BY FRANCES JOHNSON  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Placing college affordability on his agenda, President Barack Obama is moving forward with initiatives to help students, whether they're headed to college or have graduated.

In his State of the Union address Feb. 12, Obama said he and Congress would work to make higher education affordable for all students.

"Most young people will need some higher education," Obama said. "It's a simple fact: The more education you've got, the more likely you are to have a good job and work your way into the middle class. But today, skyrocketing costs price too many young people out of a higher education or saddle them with unsustainable debt."

The Obama administration has created online tools such as the College Scorecard based



President Barack Obama speaks to the nation during the State of the Union address. In the address, he unveiled plans for higher education.

CHARLES DHARAPAK/ASSOCIATED PRESS, POOL

on "affordability and value" for prospective students and modified the Higher Education Act to make student loan repayment less stressful for former, current and future college students.

An initiative for loan repayment called Pay as You Earn went into effect Dec. 21.

Pay as You Earn allows students with federal loans to make low, monthly payments based on in-

come that are usually capped at 10 percent. After 20 years of payment, the remaining loan balance will be forgiven. To qualify, borrowers must demonstrate partial financial hardship, meaning their loan payments are high in relation to their income. Loans must have been taken out after Oct. 1, 2007, and must be federal direct subsidized or unsubsidized loans, graduate or professional direct PLUS loans or direct consolidation loans not linked to parent PLUS loans.

Data from the 2011-12 school year provided by the National Center for Education Statistics show 70 percent of Ithaca College students received federal loans.

Freshman Rebecca Long said the program is a positive for when she graduates in three years.

"Personally, I think Obama's

See **OBAMA**, page 4



### DUAL HARMONY

Two operatic pieces will be performed in Hoerner Theatre, page 13



### FANCY FOLLICLES

Mustaches take the stage to compete at the 15th annual Chili Fest, page 19



### OPENING UP

Administration seeks input from campus on critical decisions, page 10



# Loans will be forgiven in 20 years

**OBAMA**  
FROM PAGE 1

new bill will probably give me a better chance, especially as an independent, to pay back my college loans in a more reasonable amount of time based on my financial situation,” Long said.

Estimates from the Project on Student Debt show a 2012 graduate will end up with \$26,600 in college debt and a starting salary of \$25,000. About two-thirds of the national Class of 2011 is in debt.

Junior Stephanie Lemmons said Pay as You Earn will help her and her siblings.

“For the most part, [the program] is a benefit for students who have taken out federal aid that are thinking about the mountains of debt they’re going to have when they graduate,” Lemmons said.

Lisa Hoskey, director of student financial services at Ithaca College, said anything to make loan repayment more manageable is a good thing, but students should consider short and long-term effects of “Pay as You Earn.”

“Short-term, if you need to use it for a year or two after you’re out of school, that’s one thing,” Hoskey said. “But if you’re looking to go out to the 20-year cancellation mark, anything that you get forgiven after 20 years gets counted as taxable income, so it could inflate your income taxes for that year. You just need to be aware of the trade-offs.”

Since most payments will be set as low as possible, interest keeps growing and borrowers will end up paying more than what they would have originally owed compared to a standard 10-year repayment plan and must submit documentation each year.

Lemmons said the loan repayment plan may lead to making higher education affordable.

“We have this great program now that after 20 years, you’re forgiven. Maybe having this [program] or working toward making private education more affordable could be a positive that comes out of this.”

The Department of Education said it has developed web applications, such as the Financial Awareness Counseling Tool, to help borrowers “make responsible financing and repayment decisions” and “better understand their loan obligations.”

After the State of the Union, the Obama administration released a College Scorecard, allowing students and parents to see which institutions will be worth the “bang for [their] educational buck.”

According to the College Scorecard, 3.2 percent of Ithaca College graduates defaulted on their federal loans within three years of beginning repayment. The national average is 13.4 percent.

Obama said the new reforms and proposals will allow all students to be able to afford a college education.

“Taxpayers can’t keep on subsidizing higher and higher and higher costs for higher education,” Obama said. “Colleges must do their part to keep costs down, and it’s our job to make sure that they do.”

# New Yorkers protest fracking at rally

**ENVIRONMENT**  
FROM PAGE 1

On Saturday, students slept in St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church with about 150 other people in preparation for the protest Sunday. Some of the student groups that participated were Divest IC and Ithaca College Environmental Society.

By 7 a.m. Sunday, everyone had left the church, and protesters from the college met in front of the World War II Memorial. The group met with other protesters from New York state and chanted phrases like, “Hey hey, ho ho, hydro-fracking’s got to go” as they posed for photos by the memorial.

The protest was meant to stress to President Barack Obama how important it is to preserve the environment. Main sponsors of the protest were environmental organizations like Hip-Hop Caucus, the Sierra Club and 350.org.

After Obama made no mention of the Keystone XL Pipeline in the State of the Union Address, activists found it important to encourage him to deny the approval of the pipeline.

The Keystone XL Pipeline rally is held annually in Washington, D.C. In January 2012, about 12,000 protesters, including 70 from the Ithaca community, formed a chain around the White House. In November 2011, 10,000 protestors supported the cause at the nation’s capital.

Junior Ben Knowles said he is no stranger to the environmental protest scene. He said he has attended four tar sands protests in Washington, D.C., in the past two and a half years to encourage divestment from fossil fuels across college campuses.

“What we are doing on 250 college campuses across the country is a divestment movement,” Knowles said. “We are trying to get our schools to take their money out of fossil fuels, including tar sands production.”

Throughout the rally, many New Yorkers protested fracking, marching and carrying banners like “Our future is unfractured.”

David Braun, regional organizing director for New Yorkers Against Fracking, addressed the screaming crowd at the beginning of the rally. Braun spoke about how proud he was that everyone who came down to D.C. was motivated to make a difference.

“We had to do it and escalate it one step further, so we created the courage to resist hydrofracking,” Braun said.

Despite the wind and temperatures in the low 20s, spirits were high.

Students and protesters waved posters and signs with sayings such as “Suck my pipeline,” “Wake up and smell the methane” and “Your pipe dream is our nightmare.”

Junior Allison Currier, member of Divest IC, said climate change is more than just an environmental



From left, freshman Natalie Dionne and sophomore Curt McConnell shout at the rally in Washington, D.C., on Sunday. Protesters were fighting against the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline and other issues. RACHEL WOOLF/THE ITHACAN

issue. She said people involved with building the Keystone XL Pipeline are not adequately informing those affected by the construction.

“This is a social issue,” Currier said. “This pipeline is going to be going through people’s homes, people’s farms, people’s indigenous communities, and transcanada is taking advantage of these people, building pipelines without even telling them what they are getting themselves into.”

One of the speakers was Chief Jacqueline Thomas, past Chief of the Saik’uz First Nation in British Columbia and co-founder of Yinka Dene Alliance, which translates to “People of the Earth.” Thomas spoke about how she is seeing change in the people and land of British Columbia as a result of climate change. She encouraged protesters to do what they think is right and protect the land.

“When we take care of the land, the land will take care of us,” Thomas said. “If we explore our land, we will explore ourselves.”

Susan Multer, a resident of Horseheads, N.Y., said she was at the rally because fracking and climate change are important to her.

“I’m here because I think the planet is in trouble,” Multer said. “If we don’t decrease emissions of greenhouse gases, like CO2 and methane, our survival is at stake.”

In the fall, Multer said she plans to move to Ecovillage in Ithaca, which is a residential community that minimizes impacts on natural systems.

Throughout the march, protesters chanted phrases like, “Hey, Obama, we don’t want no climate drama” and “Tell me what democracy looks like, this is what democracy looks like.”

Among the protesters wearing everyday clothes were many characters dressed in polar bear costumes to emphasize how climate is affecting the poles.

Unlike Currier and Knowles, who went to the protest as members of groups fighting against climate change, sophomore Chris Carpenter went on the trip, because many members of his family are activists, and he wanted to see what all the excitement was about.

“I heard this was going to be a huge rally and that things were going to be happening, so that’s why I went,” Carpenter said. “It was going to be this historical event, and it was. It was really cool. But, it’s just a matter of time people have and how loud they think their voice is.”

Students at the protest said they wanted to emphasize that government decisions will affect future generations that will be forced to solve those problems.

Currier said the future of clean energy is in the hands of this generation.

“We want to create a clean future that we are proud to be a part of,” Currier said.

*Webmaster Charley Bodkin and Staff Writer Shawn Steiner contributed reporting to this article.*

# Budget incorporates 2.5 percent salary pool

**BUDGET**  
FROM PAGE 1

Sgrecci said 95 percent of the college’s budget comes from tuition, board, fees and sales. He said about 67 percent comes from tuition and fees specifically.

Students from the Class of 2013, which is the largest in college history, will be graduating in May. Rochon said the college will have 4.5 percent fewer students next year. The decrease is expected to cause a net tuition loss of more than \$5,000,000.

In a letter sent out to parents, Rochon said, “Our commitment to affordability is also signaled by our inclusion in our budget of nearly \$87 million for institutional financial aid, the highest amount ever.”

For 2013-14, Sgrecci said \$86.7 million is designated for financial aid. This is actually a decrease from the 2012-13 financial aid allotment, which, according to a college press release, is \$88 million. In 2011-12, \$84 million was allotted for institutional financial aid.

However, Rochon said the shift in student population is the reason for the financial aid decrease.

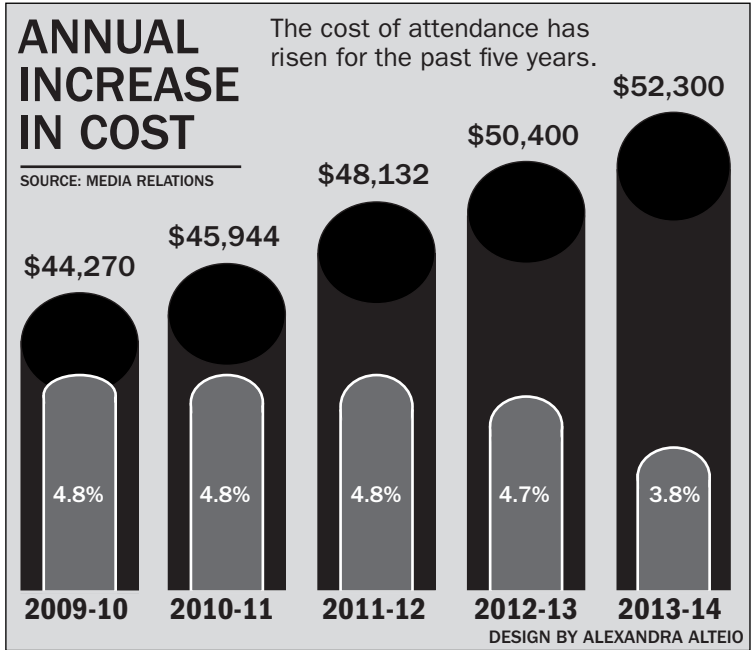
“On a per student basis, [the financial aid is] the highest it’s ever been,” Rochon said. “It’s unusual to have your student population change from one year to the next.”

The budget also incorporates \$1 million that the college needs to make in savings by June 1.

Besides tuition and financial aid, the board of trustees has approved a salary pool of 2.5 percent. The pool will have a general merit provision of 2 percent, and .5 percent will be given on the basis of performance. Salaries make up about 59 percent of the college’s expenses.

“I’m very pleased that even in these very stringent conditions, we’re having a significant reduction in the number of students and cutting back on a number of expenditures,” Rochon said. “The salary pool is comfortably ahead the rate of inflation as it has been every year for the last four years.”

The college has saved money because of reductions in utility



costs of \$800,000, primarily because of a decrease in natural gas prices. There was also an increase in income of \$850,000 from college investments which is the result of reinvesting surplus from the prior

year into the endowment. The budget also designates \$4.5 million for IC 20/20 initiatives.

*Assistant News Editor Noreyana Fernando contributed to this article.*



Nation&World

US reacts to China cyber attacks

Evidence of an unrelenting campaign of cyber stealing linked to the Chinese government is prompting the Obama administration to develop more aggressive responses to the theft of U.S. government data and corporate trade secrets.

The Obama administration is expected to announce new measures Wednesday, including possible fines and other trade actions against China or any other country guilty of cyber-espionage.

The Chinese government denies being involved in the cyber attacks cited in a cyber security firm's analysis of breaches that compromised more than 140 companies. On Wednesday, China's Defense Ministry called the report deeply flawed.

Mandiant, a Virginia-based cyber security company, released a torrent of details Monday that tied a secret Chinese military unit in Shanghai to years of cyber attacks against U.S. companies.

Mandiant concluded that the breaches can be linked to the People's Liberation Army's Unit 61398.

Kenyan official gets death threat

In an extraordinary public statement only days before Kenya's high-tension national election, the country's chief justice Wednesday said he has received a threatening letter warning of dire consequences if the judiciary doesn't allow a top candidate indicted by the International Criminal Court to run.

Chief Justice Willy Mutunga also revealed that an immigration officer at Nairobi's airport tried to prevent him from traveling to Tanzania on Tuesday in what Mutunga said was a likely a political act.

Kenya on March 4 goes to the ballot box for the first time since a flawed presidential election in late 2007 devolved into mass violence that killed more than 1,000 people. The government, international observers and foreign governments have been making efforts to ensure this year's vote is not marred by violence.

A pre-election meeting hosted by the U.S Embassy on Monday attracted more

than 500 Americans to the ambassador's residence, where U.S. citizens heard what precautions they should take in case violence breaks out.

**Bulgarian officials resign after rally**

Bulgaria's government resigned Wednesday after days of violent protests fueled by outrage over rising energy costs, corruption and a general economic decline in what is already the EU's poorest nation.

Tens of thousands of Bulgarians had turned out to protest in cities across the nation of 7.3 million people since Saturday. They accused their leaders of having ties to crime and demanded that the government resign. Many chanted "Mafia!"

The worst of the violence came late Tuesday in the capital city of Sofia, when protesters clashed with police in riot gear, leaving 15 protesters injured.

Just hours later, the center-right government of Prime Minister Boiko Borisov said it would heed the will of the people.

The move comes as the center-right government is losing public support in the wake of the country's worst economic downturn in a decade and ahead of general elections in July.

British PM visits Indian memorial

Britain's prime minister laid a mourning wreath Wednesday at Jallianwala Bhag in the northwest city of Amritsar. It is a site of a notorious 1919 massacre of hundreds of Indians by British colonial forces, calling the killings "a shameful event in British history."

David Cameron was the first British prime minister to make a gesture of condolence in the northwest city of Amritsar but stopped short of issuing a formal apology for his country's actions 94 years earlier.

The park was the site of an attack by British colonial troops on unarmed Indians attending a rally calling for independence.

More than 300 Indians were killed during the massacre, which galvanized the national independence movement and marked the beginning of the end of Britain's rule over the Indian subcontinent.

The trip was aimed at boosting trade



Food and freedom

A displaced Syrian girl waits for food in the Azaz camp for displaced people Wednesday north of Aleppo province, Syria. According to Syrian activists the number of people in the Azaz camp has grown by 3,000 in the last weeks because of heavier shelling by government forces.

MANU BRABO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

and investment between the two countries in the areas of energy, infrastructure, insurance, banking and retail.

**Iraq-Syria gas pipeline approved**

Iraq has approved the construction of a natural gas pipeline across its territory that will connect Iran to key ally Syria. The move is likely to strengthen Tehran's influence over its neighbors.

The Iraqi Cabinet said in a statement that it has instructed the country's oil minister to sign a framework agreement for the \$10 billion project, allowing the pipeline to move ahead.

The project is designed to supply gas from the giant South Pars field to Syria as well as other export markets. Iran signed a preliminary deal to build the 750-mile pipeline in July 2011 as Syrian rebels were stepping up their fight to topple President Bashar Assad. Work on the project began in November.

**North Korea video slams Obama**

A new North Korean video portrays President Barack Obama and American troops in flames and says the North conducted its recent nuclear test because of U.S. hostility.

The video follows a string of critical rhetoric against the U.S. Another video posted earlier this month showed an American city being attacked by missiles.

A recent video, posted by a YouTube account affiliated with a pro-reunification government agency, shows a blazing fire superimposed over footage of Obama, and ends with a generic simulation of a nuclear device exploding underground.

The U.S currently is negotiating in the Security Council for stronger U.N. sanctions against Pyongyang following a Feb. 12 nuclear test in the far northeast, the country's third since 2006.

**SOURCE:** Associated Press

MULTIMEDIA

THERE'S EVEN MORE MULTIMEDIA ONLINE.

VISIT THEITHACAN.ORG/MULTIMEDIA.

CORRECTIONS

It is *The Ithacan's* policy to correct all errors of fact. Please contact Noreyana Fernando at 274-3207.

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**Video**  
Students from Ithaca College joined more than 35,000 protesters Sunday in Washington, D.C., to push for environmental change.



**Video**  
Sophomore Alexis DeLouisa talks about her passion. See what it is in a new Hidden Talents of Ithaca.



**Video Montage**  
The Chili Olympics and Hot Pepper Showdown were hits at this year's Chili Fest. Check them out on our website.



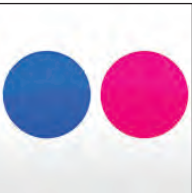
**Video**  
Senior Sean Rossi did well this basketball season. Discover his pastime and goals in this one-on-one video.



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Take a look as several members of the Asian American Alliance make origami.



**Accent**  
See our photos from the IC Players performance of the Vagina Monologues last weekend.



**Sports**  
Check out the swim team during its latest invitational and Empire 8 Championship.

Got a news tip?

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# RAs voice concern about FYRE changes

BY MICHAEL TKACZEWSKI  
STAFF WRITER

The Office of Residential Life is addressing resident assistants' concerns about new responsibilities that will come as part of the college's IC 20/20 strategic plan.

The changes to the First Year Residential Experience include new events that RAs will put on for incoming freshmen next year. The events are based on six themes that provide structure to the IC 20/20 plan. However, some RAs have voiced concerns that the new events will increase their workload, which is already demanding.

Residential Life worked with Educational Affairs to coordinate how the themes would impact first-year students' residential and academic experiences. Each student will select a theme at the beginning of the year and take Integrative Core Curriculum classes for credit. They will also attend events based on the six themes, organized by Residential Life.

The themes are "Identities," "Inquiry, Imagination and Innovation," "Mind, Body and Spirit," "The Quest for a Sustainable Future," "A World of Systems" and "Power and Justice."

The scope of the IC 20/20 residential policies has evolved since administrators, professors and students first discussed the plan two years ago, Bonnie Solt Prunty, director of residential life and assistant dean of the FYRE, said.

The program will be mandatory for next year's incoming freshmen, who will live in the Towers, Boothroyd, Rowland, Tallcott, Holmes and Hilliard.

Ron Trunzo, associate director of Residential Life, said the college became interested in remodeling the residential system because a good first year experience helps students integrate into the community and gives them a reason to return next year.

"One of the goals is to overall create more of an academic connection with the First Year Residential Experience," Trunzo said. "It's a way of building another kind of sense of community and connection outside of the classroom around themes. We see it as a positive direction of growth."

Funding for the new program comes from money set aside for IC 20/20. A large portion of the money will be allocated to hiring professors for the



Freshmen Katie Beaulé and Kait Clarke, residents of East Tower, attend the Ithaca vs. Union football game at the Butterfield Stadium in Fall 2012. The trip was a part of an FYRE program for residents. COURTESY OF MARY KATE FAIN

Integrative Core Curriculum classes, paying resident assistants and event programming, Trunzo said.

To assuage RA concerns about the workload, the college is trying to keep the workload of the new responsibilities within the same workload as in the previous years. The college will also be hiring more RAs by the beginning of the Fall 2014 semester, Prunty said.

"Particularly, we hear pretty strongly from First Year RAs that they're concerned, because they feel like they already have a very high workload given the population they work with," Prunty said.

Junior Mary Kate Fain, a resident assistant on the 11th floor of East Tower, said the themes are broad and will allow RAs to still be creative. However, she said she is concerned there will be no increase in pay, despite a bigger workload. Fain brought these issues up at a staff meeting several weeks ago. She said Residential Life officials were cooperative and listened to the RAs' reactions.

"The college is really responsive," Fain said. "They have little task forces that are working on each and every part of [the new plan]. ResLife as a whole is really good with working with RAs."

The task forces, which consist of RDs and their supervisors, are comparing the amount of compensation for RAs at the college and with other benchmark colleges, Fain said.

As a part of the program, the semester will begin with a kickoff event for each theme. First year students will be required to participate in at least two events each semester. If students want to switch themes, they will be allowed to do so at the end of the fall semester, Prunty said.

RAs are already used to working within the requirements of the college, Fain said, and the new themes are a welcome innovation in the FYRE.

"RAs are creative people. ... I think we might have to be creative to work within this new system, but I think it'll be possible," she said.

## Cuomo faces tough decision on NY fracking

BY MARY SLACK  
STAFF WRITER

The decision on whether fracking will be allowed in New York has state residents divided, putting Governor Andrew Cuomo between a rock

and a hard place while deciding whether to approve regulations and allow fracking as the state approaches its Feb. 27 deadline.



STEPHENS said fracking is one of the greatest threats to people.

Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is the process of natural gas drilling.

A poll released by Siena College last week found that 40 percent of people in the state support fracking, while 40 percent were found to be against the gas drilling technique.

In June 2012, Cuomo worked to modify the plans for hydrofracking, limiting the number of counties that would be drilled from 13 to five. The counties include Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Steuben and Tioga.

Fracking supporters are pushing legislators to see the economic benefits to the area. Ecology and Environment, a consultant contracted by the DEC, completed a study that calculated anywhere from 13,941 to 53,969 new jobs would be created over the next 30 years.

The Department of Environmental Conservation is currently working on a revised draft of its Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement regarding the concerns of hydrofracking, collaborating with the Department of Health to find potential health risks.

If the health department finds that the information provided by the DEC addresses health concerns, fracking could begin sooner, DEC Commissioner Joe Martens said in an interview with The Huffington Post. However, Martens said, if the department of health does not find public health concerns are fully addressed, fracking would be delayed even further.

Maura Stephens, associate director of the Park Center for Independent Media and adviser of Ithaca College's anti-fracking organization, Frack Off, said fracking poses a high threat.

"Many people have come to recognize, as I do, that fracking would destroy everything we hold dear and is one of the greatest threats facing us as individuals, as communities and as a species," she said.

Freshman Erika Bucior was one of the students who attended the environmental rally in Washington D.C., this past weekend. She said Cuomo should take the opposition seriously.

"Governor Cuomo should use this demonstration to understand that an anti-fracking sentiment isn't just held by a few environmentalist groups but by a wider variety of educated citizens who are counting on him to make the right decision for future generations," Bucior said.

Tompkins County Legislator Jim Dennis said the state should evaluate the impacts of fracking in individual counties and sort out possible health issues before granting approval.

## Local police crack down on distracted drivers

BY KACEY DEAMER  
ONLINE EDITOR

For the next two weeks, the Ithaca Police Department will be targeting distracted drivers as a part of a new initiative.

Through extra patrols funded by a grant awarded to the IPD by the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, the police department will ticket drivers who use a cell-phone without a hands-free device or use any electronic device for functions such as sending or viewing text messages or emails. The grant was for \$5,400. Enforcement dates will be between Feb. 18 and March 1.

Jamie Williamson, public information officer for the IPD, said each year the department applies for a grant from the committee. Then, over the course of the year, the committee notifies the police department when, and for what, the grant can be used.

"They'll tell you what the specific ticket is that the grant can be used for," Williamson said. "So they said from Feb. 18 to [March 1] you can utilize the grant for extra patrols for distracted driving."

The state law, updated in July 2011, states it is illegal for drivers to use electronic devices while the vehicle is in motion and that cellphone use requires a hands-free device. A violation can result in a fine of up to \$150 and three driver penalty points.

The goal of this enforcement effort is to promote awareness, reduce the number of motor vehicle

crashes that occur in Ithaca because of distracted driving and make Ithaca's roadways safer. Williamson said distracted drivers tend to be younger, under the age of 25, but there have been violators in their 60s or 70s.

"For this distracted driving detail, we see more younger people committing these violations," Williamson said. "I graduated high school 20 years ago, and we didn't have cell phones then — we didn't even have computers. So there are some folks at my age who either don't carry cell phones or they're not as prone to use them or pick them up when they're driving."

Thomas Dunn, sergeant investigator for the Ithaca College Office of Public Safety, said distracted driving is a problem on the college campus.

"Of the tickets our officers can write for all of the vehicle and traffic violations, cell phones are one of the higher-occurring offenses," Dunn said.

Some students are concerned that Public Safety is too quick to ticket. While Public Safety is not a part of the grant with the IPD, officers do pull students over for violations. However, senior Perri Rumstein said they have pulled her over for no reason.

"I've been pulled over multiple times from quote-unquote drunk driving when I was not intoxicated, and they made me get out and breathalyzed me, and it's pretty embarrassing when you're not drinking and people are watching



The Ithaca Police Department is cracking down on distracted drivers after receiving a grant. The stricter enforcement will continue until March 1. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY FEDOR

this happen," Rumstein said. "So I think that they stretch their authority a little bit."

Rumstein said targeting distracted driving will add to campus safety, but officers should be certain of a violation while ticketing.

"Cracking down on distracted driving and texting while driving is a good idea as long as they're sure the driver is actually distracted," Rumstein said.

Senior Marc Phillips said he is grateful for the officers' focus on distracted drivers, as he had a personal experience where he was almost in an accident due to a distracted driver.

"I've seen people talking on their phones — like holding their phones with one hand and another hand on the steering wheel, and if they got a grant to crack down on that, then

excellent," Phillips said. "One time I almost got into an accident because a girl was on her phone, with again, one hand on the steering wheel, and she just blew through a stop sign."

Williamson and Dunn both noted the connection of distracted drivers to accidents. Twenty-eight percent of traffic accidents occur when people talk on cellphones. Drivers are also eight to 23 times more likely to crash while texting and driving, according to the National Safety Council.

The IPD has advanced in its ability to accurately investigate accidents, and Williamson said they've found cell phones to be instigators of accidents.

"Where we've been able to reconstruct what has occurred, we have shown that cellphones are particularly distracting," Williamson said.



# Designer produces scarves to empower Muslim women

Ithaca College will host Nancy Hoque, designer and founder of sixteenR.com, an online store that sells scarves for Muslim women.

Hoque will address the campus at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Handwerker Gallery. She will speak about the use of the scarf as a tool of empowerment, perceptions of the headscarf and the evolution of Muslim women's identities.

SixteenR.com produces scarves based on the belief that style for the modern Muslim woman is evolving to incorporate fashion from the West as well as traditions from the preceding generations.

Staff Writer Megan Devlin spoke to Hoque ahead of her visit to the campus.

**Megan Devlin:** Tell me a bit about yourself. Has fashion design always been your background?

**Nancy Hoque:** I grew up in Southern California, and my parents are from Bangladesh. We grew up in a Muslim household. When I was growing up I didn't have a lot of Muslim friends. But when I went to college I met a lot of people who were practicing Muslims, and I started making friends with people who wore headscarves. I started to learn more about my religion, and that's where the interest came from. Also, I went to college post-9/11, so it was around the time when there were tense perceptions toward Muslims. I didn't think it was fair, and I didn't agree with these perceptions. It made me explore who I was, what my identity was and how this affected me. That was part of the reason why I started wearing a headscarf.

**MD:** Where do you get inspiration for designing headscarves?

**NH:** Our motto is "Scarves that empower." We want to spread a message of empowerment. We've been influenced by how Muslim fashion — or modest fashion — has been evolving and maturing. It's a mix between cultures from the past and traditions that our parents bring and

what's current in Western society. The headscarf itself is an important accessory if you wear it every day.

**MD:** Why do you refer to your line of headscarves as a tool of empowerment?

**NH:** We want this scarf to be something that provokes thought, or that wearing it can create conversation in a way that we can have control over. The design of the scarf, the way you wear the scarf, that's how it plays a role in the way a woman dresses. We want it to be a sign of beauty and strength, not a sign of oppression or dependence.

**MD:** What contributes to the misperceptions of headscarves as symbolizing oppression or dependence?

**NH:** There are two angles to it. One, with current events happening in the world, and the way the media shares information, a person can have the perception that Muslim women are not educated or that Muslim women are oppressed. In some parts of the world, unfortunately, that is the case, women are not able to advance in society as freely as we are in the U.S. But that's not the case for many Muslim women all over the world. The other angle is, when you wear a headscarf, particularly in a society where it's not the norm, it's not very easy. The way you're perceived affects you every day; people approach you differently. It can be a very difficult experience. So when we say scarves that empower, it's about the experience of wearing a scarf, the determination to wear it and to show your identity. It was an empowering experience for me, and when I share this message I find that many women go through the same experience.

**MD:** What's stylistically different about your scarf designs?

**NH:** In our designs we try to think of something unique and something that our customer, like



Nancy Hoque, a designer and founder of SixteenR.com, created a website to sell scarves for Muslim women. Hoque will visit campus to speak at 6 p.m. Thursday in the Handwerker Gallery. COURTESY OF SIXTEENR.COM

the Muslim woman, can relate to or be inspired by. We have a few scarves that have quotes printed on them, like Malcolm X. ... We want to make an indirect statement with some of our designs. We also have a line designed by street artists. ... Not many other companies are using artwork directly on their scarves.

**MD:** What have been some reactions from both Muslim and non-Muslim women around the world?

**NH:** Many women who live in non-Muslim countries tend to be drawn more to the scarves. But we also had a response from women who do live in Muslim countries, and they're just as inspired by our photography, the way we present fashion and the concept that scarves can be empowering ... In Singapore there's a lot of

Malaysian and Indonesian Muslims. Indonesia itself is huge on modest fashion. They're the forerunners of where fashion is going — kind of like how Paris influences mainstream fashion.

**MD:** What messages do you hope Ithaca College students and faculty take away from your presentation and gallery exhibit?

**NH:** What I want them to take away is, one, to not judge a book by its cover. A lot of this stems from how people perceived who I was as a person based on my outward appearance. There's more to what meets the eye. Muslim women are just normal women, regular women. Another aspect to take away is that this is a brand new way of fashion, a brand new style movement being created. This rarely happens. It's very exciting and something to recognize.

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# IC launches green competition

**BY LINDSEY WITMER**  
STAFF WRITER

Ithaca College's School of Business will be hosting the second annual Sustainability Case Competition this spring. The competition will focus on marketing new and improved ideas of sustainability to businesses.

The competition, which is open to all students, is meant to develop a marketing plan for the New York Sustainability Education Working Group. Last year's competition had an emphasis on business management, while this year's competition will focus on marketing new business strategies.

Participants will create marketing strategies to encourage colleges and universities in New York state to implement curriculum plans that teach graduating students about business sustainability.

The first-place winner will receive a prize of \$5,000, and the second- and third-place teams will receive a prize of \$3,500 and \$1,500, respectively.

Mary Ellen Zuckerman, dean of the School of Business, is overseeing the competition, which is sponsored by the dean's office.

"This competition is about ensuring that when students graduate they are literate in sustainability for businesses and companies," Zuckerman said.

Over eight weeks, teams of three to five students from the college will develop marketing plans that focus on teaching college students about sustainability. These marketing plans will include strategies for analysis, planning, implementation and assessment.

Three meetings will be held in March, where students will be able to update advisers on the status of their projects. The registration deadline was Feb. 11, but the competition is ongoing and the three final teams will be



**ZUCKERMAN** said the students will learn skills for post-graduation.

chosen April 5. The winning team will be announced April 11.

Sophomore Zach Briggs, marketing director for the competition, said the initiative will provide students with an outlet for creativity and innovation outside of the classroom.

"This is the students' opportunity to develop a market plan for sustainability," Briggs said. "It's a good way to get involved in teaching and learning about sustainability."

Junior Anna Isachenko will be competing in the Sustainability Case Competition with a group of four people. Isachenko said she is most looking forward to learning more about the marketing side of the business world.

"I'm a business administration major, so I'm not well-versed on the marketing side of things, but through this competition I hope to learn more about it," Isachenko said.

Competing students will be required to research and come up with their definition of sustainability. Students will also be required to identify appropriate markets for their campaign. They will develop objectives for researching each of the markets and then describe how to evaluate the effectiveness of their campaigns.

By the Feb. 11 deadline, 21 student teams had registered for the competition. Zuckerman said there were 11 teams last year.

The panel of judges, which includes Zuckerman, will also consist of staff from the School of Business, the New York State Sustainability Working Group and other experts on sustainability issues.

Briggs said students will be required to submit innovative plans for the judges.

"The students have to hand in an original plan to the judges, and the top three teams will then come back and give a presentation on their marketing plan," Briggs said.

Isachenko said her team's strategy will be to research ahead of the competition.

"Our goal is to figure out what the colleges and universities are looking for, then we will do the best that we can to give an effective sustainability plan," Isachenko said.



## Fun and fortune

From left, sophomore Bud Gankhuyag makes an origami fish with senior Sophia Terazawa during the Asian American Alliance's fortune telling workshop Thursday evening in Williams 313. Students also made scrolls for each other with lucky fortunes written inside of them.

EMILY FEDOR/THE ITHACAN

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25 **PENTATONIX**

26 **THE CHIEFTAINS**

## MARCH

16 **GOLDEN DRAGON ACROBATS**

22 **TED NEELEY**

## APRIL

09 **DAVID SEDARIS**

12 **IMAGO - ZOOZOO**

13 **JOHN PRINE**

21 **BUDDY GUY**

26 **BILLY BRAGG**

## MAY

17 **HOT RIZE**

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# College & City

## Film screening follows life of US civil rights activist

Ithaca College’s African-Latino Society will collaborate with Created Equal to screen the award-winning film “Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin.” The screening will be at 8 p.m. Thursday in Taughannock Falls Meeting Room.

The film follows the life of social activist Bayard Rustin and his contribution to the American Civil Rights movement.

Rustin has participated in several key historical events like the March on Washington, one of the largest rallies for human rights in American history.

## Sciencenter to celebrate milestone with activities

The Ithaca Sciencenter will celebrate its 30th anniversary with a line up of activities beginning at 10 a.m March 2. Celebrations will continue March 3.

Activities will include a visual journey through time with stations marking different milestones in the center’s history. It will also include thermal imaging, physics experiments, nanotechnology and origami.

Those attending will be able to explore “From Here to There,” an exhibit about transportation by land, sea and air, which is part of the Sciencenter’s international traveling exhibition program.

## College choral directors to be given national prize

The Ithaca College chapter of the American Choral Directors Association has been selected to receive the ACDA Outstanding

Student Chapter Award.

The national ACDA will present the award at the national convention in Dallas next month.

This is the fourth time that the college’s chapter of the ACDA has received the award.

Last year, the college’s chapter of the ACDA organized and hosted the first annual Student Choral Composition Competition.

The association also conducts workshops and assists at music events on campus.

## Storyteller to give lecture about teen mental health

Regi Carpenter, a nationally recognized storyteller, writer, and workshop presenter as well as a lecturer in the department of communication studies, will share the story of her teenage experience with mental health at 7 p.m. Feb. 28 in Emerson Suites.



CARPENTER

The presentation, “Snap! My Teenage Life: Breaking Down and Finding Hope,” is sponsored by Active Minds, Counseling and Psychological Services and To Write Love on Her Arms.

Carpenter has performed at the National Storytelling Festival, the Ojai Storytelling Festival and Cape Girardeau Festival. Her book, titled “Where There’s Smoke, There’s Dinner – Stories of a Seared Childhood,” will be published in 2013.

## IC joins other US colleges to mark Philanthropy Day

Ithaca College Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow will host a series of events marking Student Engagement and Philanthropy Day on Feb. 28.

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education will launch these celebrations across the country, while member institutions, like Ithaca College, create awareness and engage students in advancement of higher education. The college joins 70 other colleges and universities in this initiative.

STAT will collaborate with Student Government Association, the Office of Alumni Relations, the college’s Annual Fund and the Office of Donor Relations.

They will organize a free ice cream social where students will discuss philanthropy. STAT will also create a video of students thanking donors for their college experience.

## Ithaca senior’s research picked for national event

Research by Ithaca College senior Erika St. Denis will be featured at the New Jersey Music Educators Association Conference. St. Denis will present her independent research at the conference held Friday in East Brunswick, N.J.

The presentation, titled “Using the Savant Syndrome to Work with Non-Savant Students with Special Educational Needs,” was composed following an independent study project and a summer Dana Internship, which was supervised by Emily Mason, assistant professor of music education.

St. Denis presented her research to the college community Monday in the Whalen Center for Music, as a part of the National Association for Music Education’s Chapter 219 lecture series.

## Committee asks campus for award nominations

Ithaca College’s Campus Life Committee is requesting nominations for outstanding graduating seniors who quality for the Campus Life Award.

Faculty, staff and students can nominate seniors for this annual award, which is given to 10 students every May. Award recipients have been extensively involved in several areas of campus life and have demonstrated leadership skills.

Nomination forms are due Friday and can be found on [www.ithaca.edu/sacl/services/cla](http://www.ithaca.edu/sacl/services/cla).

## College calls for entries for Rod Serling contest

Ithaca College’s Rod Serling Conference Committee is accepting entries for the conference’s “Short Feature Scriptwriting” competition.

The competition is a part of the biennial conference, which will take place in November in Los Angeles. The conference is dedicated to the works of Rod Serling, who taught at Ithaca College from 1967 to 1975.

The college holds an interdisciplinary academic conference dedicated to the works of Rod Serling biannually.

Application guidelines state entries must display traits of either a horror or science fiction genre while exhibiting strong traditional or contemporary social themes.

The competition is open to non-produced or non-optioned writers only. The deadline for entries is April 15. The top five finalists will be judged by Serling’s wife, Carol. The winner of the competition will be awarded \$250, while the second and third place winners will receive \$150 and \$100, respectively.

More guidelines are available at [www.ithaca.edu/rhp/serling/script](http://www.ithaca.edu/rhp/serling/script).

## Professor writes medical article for French journal

Matthew Klemm, assistant professor of history, published an article written in French about moral philosophies in the “Medievales” journal.



KLEMM

The article, in English, is titled “Virtuous Complexions: The Physiology of Virtues in Pietro d’Abano’s Medical Anthropology.”

The paper looks at the physiological theory of Pietro d’Abano, a Paduan physician. He argues that d’Abano’s concerns were both moral and medical and that the body’s physiology could cause moral and intellectual virtue. D’Abano combined the qualities of the body’s physiology. D’Abano hoped that human physiology and environmental factors affecting the system could be properly understood, complexion theory could provide new, medical, approach to virtue and to the overall conception of human nature.

# Public Safety Incident Log

### FEBRUARY 4

#### FIRE ALARM

LOCATION: Lyon Hall  
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Activation caused by a person discharging a fire extinguisher. System was rest. Sergeant Robert Hightchew.

#### MEDICAL ASSIST/INJURY RELATED

LOCATION: Ben Light Gymnasium  
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person injured an ankle during a dance class. Person transported to Health Center. Patrol Officer Bruce Thomas.

#### FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Circle Apartments  
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Activation was caused by burnt food. System reset. Fire Protection Specialist Mark Swanhart.

#### MEDICAL ASSIST/INJURY RELATE

LOCATION: Terrace Dining Hall  
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person burned a foot with hot water. Person transported to the Health Center. Master Patrol Officer Brad Bates.

### FEBRUARY 5

#### FIRE ALARM FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Circle Apartments  
SUMMARY: simplex reported a fire alarm. Activation caused by burnt food. System reset. Patrol Officer Bruce Thomas.

#### V&T UNLICENSED OPERATION

LOCATION: Farm Pond Road  
SUMMARY: During a vehicle traffic stop, officer found the driver had a

suspended license. Officer issued the driver a uniform traffic ticket for Town of Ithaca Court for aggravated unlicensed operation and driving with no headlights. Sergeant Terry O’Pray.

#### ASSIST OTHER AGENCY

LOCATION: All Other  
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person sent a threatening email. Investigation pending. Assistant Director for Administrative Services Laura Durling.

#### V&T LEAVING SCENE

LOCATION: Farm Pond Road  
SUMMARY: Officer reported an unknown vehicle damaged a pole and left the scene. Investigation pending. Master Patrol Officer Bruce Holmstock.

#### MEDICAL ASSIST/PSYCHOLOGICAL

LOCATION: Terraces  
SUMMARY: Caller reported person may harm themselves. Officer reported the person was depressed and was transported to CMC by patrol vehicle. Patrol Officer Daniel Austic.

### FEBRUARY 6

#### LARCENY

LOCATION: Campus Center  
SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person stole a backpack. The backpack was picked up mistakenly by another person. Larceny unfounded. Patrol Officer Patrick Johnson.

#### SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: East Tower  
SUMMARY: Caller reported finding a box of textbooks. Investigation pending. Master Patrol Officer James Landon.

### FEBRUARY 7

#### V&T LEAVING SCENE

LOCATION: L-Lot  
SUMMARY: Complainant reported that a vehicle appeared to have been in a one-car MVA and left the scene. Investigation pending. Patrol Officer Daniel Austic.

#### FIRE SAFETY RELATED OFFENSES

LOCATION: Circle Apartments  
SUMMARY: Officer reported three persons failed to evacuate the building during a fire alarm. Three people were judicially referred. Patrol Officer Patrick Johnson.

### FEBRUARY 8

#### MEDICAL ASSIST/INJURY RELATED

LOCATION: Route 96B/Danby Road  
SUMMARY: Officer reported a person slipped on ice, fell and sustained a knee injury. Person declined medical attention. Sergeant Dirk Hightchew.

#### ILLEGAL DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE

LOCATION: Z-Lot  
SUMMARY: Caller reported people illegally dumping garbage by the side of the road. Two people were judicially referred for illegal dumping. Sergeant Dirk Hightchew.

### FEBRUARY 9

#### HARASSMENT

LOCATION: Terraces  
SUMMARY: Caller reported an intoxicated person being belligerent. Person judicially referred for verbal harassment, failure to comply with a college official and irresponsible use of alcohol. Patrol Officer Robert Jones.

## SELECTED ENTRIES FROM FEBRUARY 4 TO FEBRUARY 10

#### MVA /PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Circle Lot 5  
SUMMARY: Caller reported a vehicle damaged a parked vehicle in the parking lot. Report completed. Master Patrol Officer Donald Lyke.

#### FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Circle Apartments  
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Activation caused by burnt food. System reset. Master Patrol Officer Christopher Teribury.

#### FIRE /FLAME /IGNITION

LOCATION: Garden Apartments  
SUMMARY: Caller reported a fire on a stove top. The resident used an extinguisher to put the fire out. There was melted plastic on the stove. Patrol Officer Jeremiah McMurray.

### FEBRUARY 10

#### FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Circle Apartments  
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Activation was caused by burnt food. System was reset. Master Patrol Officer Donald Lyke.

#### UNLAWFUL POSSESSION MARIJUANA

LOCATION: East Tower  
SUMMARY: Two people were judicially referred for unlawful possession of marijuana and underage possession of alcohol. Patrol Officer Matthew O’Loughlin.

#### IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL

LOCATION: Circle Apartments  
SUMMARY: One person was judicially referred for irresponsible use of alcohol and underage possession of

alcohol, two people were referred for underage possession of alcohol. Patrol Officer Matthew O’Loughlin.

#### IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL

LOCATION: Circle Apartments  
SUMMARY: One person transported to CMC by ambulance and judicially referred for irresponsible use of alcohol. Documented in case. Patrol Officer Matthew O’Loughlin.

#### UNLAWFUL POSSESSION MARIJUANA

LOCATION: Terraces  
SUMMARY: One person judicially referred for unlawful possession of marijuana. Master Patrol Officer Brad Bates.

#### CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

LOCATION: Campus Center  
SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person damaged a window. Investigation pending. Master Patrol Officer Brad Bates.

#### FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Circle Apartments  
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Activation was caused by burnt food. System was reset. Master Patrol Officer Donald Lyke.

#### FOR THE COMPLETE SAFETY LOG, go to [www.theithacan.org/news](http://www.theithacan.org/news).

### KEY

CMC - Cayuga Medical Center  
DWI - Driving While Intoxicated  
IPD - Ithaca Police Department  
V&T - Vehicle and Transportation  
MVA - Motor Vehicle Accident



## EDITORIAL

## ALL COMMENTS ARE WELCOME

President Tom Rochon's recent attempts to gather input from the students, faculty and staff may mark a new era in open governance and balance at the college.

In the past year, the administration has come under fire from students, faculty and staff demanding an end to top-down governance and the opportunity to have their voices heard.

Ithaca College has been in the midst of major changes that include an overhaul of the academic curricula and modifications to the budget. The campus community has expressed its opposition to many of these changes through open letters, online comments and town hall meetings. While this opposition gave voice to separate specific concerns, the overall message seemed to be the same — everyone deserves a say in the college's future.

Recently, the college hired Huron Consulting Group to help the college become more efficient. When Huron unveiled its recommendations, the administration actively sought input from the community before making policy changes. The college created an online forum for input on the recommendations and scheduled open discussions on campus to ensure students were able to provide feedback. Members of the campus community were not only allowed to voice their opinions on potential changes to the college, they were strongly urged to join the conversation. All students received a letter from President Tom Rochon urging them to weigh in on the potential changes that could stem from the Huron review, faculty have received regular emails with more in depth analysis of issues facing the college and Rochon attended meetings with students to hear their concerns. Rochon's commitment to hearing all opinions is a mark of strong leadership and a hopeful sign of a more open and balanced future for governance at Ithaca College.

Moving forward, the administration must make a clear effort to include the campus community's feedback in deciding which Huron recommendations to act on. Many of these recommendations could directly impact life on campus, and student, staff and faculty opinions are critical to ensuring these changes do not hinder the college's ability to provide students with a quality education and college experience.

## UPS AND DOWNS

The best and worst of the news

## Talib Kweli sparks conversation on diversity during campus visit

Rapper Talib Kweli inspired honest dialogue about the corporatization of the music industry, American attitudes toward Muslims and the future of racial equality in the U.S.

## Students dance to raise awareness about violence against women

A group of Ithaca College students took part in a choreographed flash mob in IC Square to support One Billion Rising, a global movement to end violence against women.

## Lawmakers fail to find solutions to homeless population in Ithaca

The Jungle, a tent village for Ithaca's homeless, is empty thanks to the work of private citizens. However, the city has tabled discussion on the Jungle despite fears that residents will return.



## COMMENT ONLINE.

Now you can be heard in print or on the Web.

Write a letter to the editor at [ithacan@ithaca.edu](mailto:ithacan@ithaca.edu) or comment on any story at [theithacan.org](http://theithacan.org).

Letters must be 250 words or less, emailed or dropped off by 5 p.m. Monday in Park 269.



## SHORT ANSWER

Issues in Higher Education

## Not-So-Common Ap

The University of Iowa recently added optional questions about sexuality and gender identification to its application for undergraduate admission, making it the first public university to do so. *The Ithacan* asked members of the Ithaca community for their take on the role of sexual and gender identity in college recruiting.

## ONLINE

Watch more opinions online at [theithacan.org](http://theithacan.org).



Questions could be beneficial or harmful

Though public opinion, policy and legislation have been moving in increasingly progressive directions, some people still have complicated feelings about sexual orientation and gender identity. And unfortunately, misinformation and misunderstanding still exists. These questions would certainly communicate a commitment to diversity. They might also prove rather tricky to answer. Students who are not



Questions may balance applications

Questions about sexual and gender identity on college admission applications could have a lot of positive effects on a campus' climate and open a lot of doors for prospective students who identify with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Admission to a school should be based on academic and extra-curricular success and not what gender one is attracted to. However, one must also consider the

yet out to their families, students who are questioning or clarifying their identities and the labels they choose, students who experience orientation and gender in fluid or non-binary ways all might respond positively to seeing questions such as these yet still not feel free or able to answer honestly or completely.

**LIS MAURER, DIRECTOR OF LGBT EDUCATION OUTREACH AND SERVICES**

reality that many LGBT students have faced discrimination that could have affected their transcript. Many high schoolers are bullied because of their sexual identity. Overall, if the questions are only optional, they seem like they would have more positive benefits than negative results.

**PERRI RUMSTEIN, SENIOR INTEGRATED MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS MAJOR AT ITHACA COLLEGE**

## THE ITHACAN

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GUEST COMMENTARY

# Student searches for identity outside of race

I learned I was different from my friends in gym class in 7th grade. My classmates joked that I was brown and called me a “nigger” and a “beaner.” It was the first time race ever became a factor in my life, and from then on I’ve been hyper-aware of my skin color.

Simply put, I’m a mix between my Caucasian mother and black father. It becomes complicated when ethnicity is involved. My father was born in Panama and moved to the U.S. in his teens, and my mother was born in the U.S. and is a mix of several European nationalities. That’s a great deal to consider for the curious person who asks about my heritage — I’m not easily categorized.

Recently, I was told something I’d never heard before: that I am white. That identification, more than any racial slur, threw me for a loop. It made me think about the impact that living in the predominantly white communities of Upstate New York has had on my life as a person of color and how it has molded who I am.

Throughout my life, I’ve had very few close African-American or Hispanic friends. Most of my friends have been white. We’ve shared the same lifestyle and space. However, that space has been defined differently for me. At home I still receive unfriendly stares from older generations. They imply that I’m an unwelcome intruder in their community. At the same time, I receive looks from blacks and Hispanics that seem to say, “What are you — you’re not one of us.” I live in some ambiguous space where I’m not black, white or Hispanic. I’m an obscure race that doesn’t fit into any constructed stereotype. It’s for this reason that I never participated in ALANA activities on campus — I don’t feel I belong there. Recently, I’ve come to the conclusion that I don’t want to be framed by race. I want to be defined by who I am and what I believe, and I don’t feel I’m alone.

Unconsciously we hold onto assumptions about ourselves. What it is to be black or



Senior Derek Crossman struggled to identify as a person of color living in a predominately white community. He argues that as the multiracial population grows, racial constructs should end.  
SHAWN STEINER/THE ITHACAN

Hispanic. Much of it is reinforced through our own self-censorship as well as the media. We’re continually self-aware of the way we socialize: how we speak, dress and act. Assumptions of what it means to be black or Hispanic are limiting. If we classify people based on assumptions of race, we are confining them to a certain set of conditions that they must meet and never stray from. This limits our freedom to truly express ourselves.

Similarly, every February, these limits are placed in our celebration of black history with Black History Month. We simplify and confine the lives of some of our greatest social and civil rights’ leaders to the shortest month of the year because of the color of their skin — only to be forgotten for the following 11 months.

Race, for too long, has been a constructed way to simplify people. Since 2000, when

citizens were given the choice to choose multiple boxes for race, there has been a spike in multirace reporting. People who identified as mixed race grew to 9 million, a 32 percent increase, between the 2000 and 2010 censuses, while the single-race population grew by only 9.2 percent. With the country becoming more multiracial, it’s time to identify differently.

I choose to identify myself by my family and values. If you ask me my heritage, I’ll tell you I’m a New Yorker. If you ask me my race, I’ll tell you I’m human. There is no more time to be divided amongst constructed races, genders and sexualities. It only delays our progress. I think Upstate New York is getting there, but we’ve got some work to do.

**DEREK CROSSMAN** is a senior politics major. Email him at [dcrossm1@ithaca.edu](mailto:dcrossm1@ithaca.edu).

GUEST COMMENTARY

# Skill-based education cannot substitute for the classics

As colleges look to cut costs and create programs that promise prospective students job skills that will help them get ahead in the field after graduation, curricula that focus on a traditional college education are falling to the wayside.

The study and analysis of literature, history, language and culture are necessary to being both a well-rounded student and developing skills for any career or industry. College students should be required to take courses in classic subjects rather than focusing solely on building technical skills for the workplace.

The core of any literature class is in-depth analysis. By reading the material, the students analyze passages to determine the author’s point of view, arguments and beliefs. Readers have the opportunity to develop and defend their personal points of view. No matter your chosen field, any job will require that you take a stance on a certain topic, and you will have to give reasons why your viewpoint is correct.

The reasoning skills necessary to formulate a position are not the core of many courses focusing on technical career skills. This is not something that can be faked in today’s fast-paced world. By having daily practice in preparing and defending their point of view



Junior Zachary Woelfel is the president of IC Book Club and an advocate for colleges to require students to take courses in classic subjects,  
SHAWN STEINER/THE ITHACAN

in classes focusing on the classics, students will be prepared for the moment in which they are called on to explain their viewpoint. This is a skill students should be practicing every day, and the way the curriculum is currently structured allows for students to miss them entirely.

We live in a global society where information crosses borders instantaneously. To succeed in any sort of international business, an understanding of our world is necessary. Without a core education in the classics, where are students gaining this perspective? The first step

in having students become global citizens is to provide the perspective of cultures and traditions other than their own. Classes in literature and other classical topics allow students to gain awareness of world cultures without leaving campus.

Classical education classes provide a variety of intangible skills that are essential to success in today’s workplace. Since this is not a skill that can be easily measured, classes in these topics are withering away. As colleges look to cut costs, classics programs are often the first things to disappear. In addition to analytical thinking, courses in classical topics foster an appreciation for the humanities in students, which in turn makes them more well-rounded individuals. The study of classic topics ensures students have qualities other competitors in the field may not have.

Curricula should be structured in a way that provides students with a foundation for education. Once this foundation has been established, professional skills can be layered on top, creating students who know the ins and outs of their industry, as well as how to create and defend their point of view.

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**ROB OLIVER**

## The sugarcoated State of the Union

During the State of the Union Address last week, President Barack Obama laid out an agenda of bigger government and fewer freedoms. He reported the State of the Union with glee, telling the nation we’re out of the recession — as if that nation didn’t just tack on \$6 trillion to the federal deficit over the last four years. Instead of reporting the facts, Obama sugarcoated the State of the Union.

Obama said over the past few years, both parties have cut the deficit by \$2.5 trillion. According to Factcheck, a nonpartisan organization, that’s really the estimated amount of money the U.S. would save through the year 2022.

Tax reform is long overdue. Tax reform can deliver economic growth if we simplify our tax code. Our tax system is outdated, and Obama’s suggestion of raising taxes is not the way to reform the system. We all want to bring jobs back to America, but first we must cut our corporate tax rate, which is currently higher than even Canada. According to Politifact, our corporate tax rate is the highest on the books of any industrialized nation in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. We must create a simple and flat tax system, one that allows everyone to pay their fair share.

Obama said the state of our union is stronger, as if the economy didn’t just shrink over the last quarter and as if there isn’t another budget crisis we have to address in the next few months. If our president was a true leader, he would have told the American people what Gerald Ford told us in 1975, “The state of the union is not good.” He would have told us how it is, not what we want to hear. Obama said “Let’s pay our bills on time,” so why doesn’t our government set the example?

While Obama said none of the ideas in his address would increase the deficit, he proposed numerous new government programs, including public preschool. The White House refused to tell us how they would pay for these programs.

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the average annual real economic growth was an abysmal 0.8 percent during the president’s first term — the worst in 60 years. To top it off, he has the audacity to suggest we raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$9.00. Where job creators are struggling amidst over-taxation and over-regulation, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 12.3 plus million Americans are “officially” out of work? But the good news in all of this is that means the unemployment rate is at a glimmering 7.9 percent.

Why doesn’t the president just tell us like it is?

**ROB OLIVER** is the president of IC Republicans and a senior politics major and international relations minor. Email him at [roliver2@ithaca.edu](mailto:roliver2@ithaca.edu).





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Main stage opera separates into two shorter performances

Graduate student Wenhui Xu stars as a nun named Suor Angelica in the one-act opera of the same name by Giacomo Puccini during a dress rehearsal Monday in the Hoerner Theatre. EMILY FEDOR/THE ITHACAN

BY JACKIE EISENBERG AND ANIKAH SHAAKAT  
ACCENT EDITOR AND CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Gray arches frame brown doors to a holy convent. A statue of Mary stands in the doorway. Several nuns rush on stage and Suor Angelica begins to sing a sentimental aria. After intermission, a comedic tone washes over the stage as a sickly old man takes his last breath in his bed. Surrounding him, his family anxiously awaits his death before beginning to argue over his will.

In collaboration with the School of Music, the theater department will perform two one-act operas by Giacomo Puccini called “Suor Angelica” and “Gianni Schicchi,” respectively. Spanning 48 minutes each, the operas are part of a three-act trio known as “Il trittico.” Usually, the collaboration between the departments results in one three-act opera, but this year director David Lefkovich decided to produce two contrasting one-act operas.

The first opera, “Suor Angelica,” surrounds the title character (graduate student Wenhui Xu), who is sent to a convent by her aunt Zia Principessa (graduate student Zohaniris Torres Rosado) because she got pregnant out of wedlock. Throughout the opera, set entirely in the convent, Suor Angelica seeks redemption through prayer and service to the convent.

The second opera, “Gianni Schicchi,” follows a man of the same name (senior Michael Lewis) and his family, who plot to steal Gianni’s friend Buoso Donati’s (senior Adam Zimmer) fortune from his will. Meanwhile, a romance brews between Gianni’s daughter Lauretta (senior Megan Ort) and

Rinuccio (seniors Nick Harmantzis and Thomas Riley).

Seniors Sara Stevens and Lydia Kubiniec, assistant directors, said they chose these operas because there is a huge disparity between the two. “Suor Angelica” is a sadder opera, while “Gianni Schicchi” is a comedy. Stevens said it’s interesting to see two shorter operas, because three-act operas can seem lengthy.

“They are very contrasting,” Stevens said. “We have one that’s very sad and about nuns and one that’s funny and about a family. They are part of the same three-part opera, so the music is all Puccini. It’s kind of similar, but really you get to see two different plots, two very different situations, and that’s kind of interesting.”

After auditions at the end of the summer, the cast prepared for their roles on their own until the beginning of this semester, when they began full cast rehearsals. They only rehearsed together for three weeks, Stevens said. Kubiniec said their rehearsals were the definition of the cast’s work ethic.

“This is when how hard they work comes into play,” Kubiniec said. “They were off book from day one, they can speak it in Italian, they can speak it in English, they can speak it in their native tongue. They’ve only been rehearsing for three weeks, but they’ve been working on these roles since the beginning of the fall.”

Rosado, who is also in “Gianni Schicchi” as Buoso’s greedy cousin, Zita, said she experienced a “grueling” rehearsal process.

“It’s been long,” Rosado said. “When I first auditioned, I was hoping for the Principessa role, but then I got the Zita role, and I was really surprised. So it’s been hard work, but it’s been rewarding.”

Rosado said she had to do a great amount of preparation for the roles because they are so contrasting. Rosado said Principessa is a much more serious role than Zita. However, she said preparation for Zita was more challenging for her because she’s never been in a comedic role before.

“One is very dark — she’s just forever upset, I guess,” Rosado said. “And the other one is lighthearted, and even though she thinks herself to be very proper, she ends up being very funny. It’s good once you get it, once it’s ingrained in you, then it totally makes a difference.”

The cast comprises several international students as well. Stevens said as an exercise, a trio of women would sing in their native language, so at one point, there was a person singing in English, Chinese and Spanish.

“We have a lot of people who speak different languages and are from different countries,” Stevens said. “I love working the opera, because I love working with people

from such different backgrounds.”

Ort said singing opera in Italian is much easier than singing opera in English because of the distinct vowels and inflections. She said she also didn’t find it hard to learn how to sing in Italian because she’s studied opera in the past.

“It was not very difficult, because I’d been studying as much as I could,” Ort said. “I’ve been supplementing my own voice teacher for four years in opera. It wasn’t this brand new thing.”

Ort said preparing for this opera is different than preparing for a musical, because show tunes are more open for interpretation than traditional opera music.

“This is music first, forever and always,” Ort said. “Depending on the musical, I go for character first and analyzing how a character fits with everything else in the show. In musicals you can play with the music sometimes. The rhythms aren’t always, like, you have to do it this way.”

Harmantzis said he has grown as a performer from being in “Gianni Schicchi” because he’s had to act more. Harmantzis performed in “L’Orfeo” and “The Magic Flute” his sophomore and junior years. He said each year the level of acting grows and grows because he needs to dissect the character further. In “The Magic Flute,” he said he felt he needed to pay more attention to his vocals, but in “Gianni Schicchi,” he said he needs to concentrate on his acting.

“This is the most challenging role I’ve done so far,” Harmantzis said. “And just every year, there’s more asked of me from the acting perspective. This year it seems more like focus on the character more and what’s going on around me.”

Ort said she loves the opera because of its cohesiveness and its talented cast.

“It’s a great ensemble, and I think you’ll find that the actors, the singers are really playing off of each other and really creating a whole world in which we live. There’s no disconnect. The show is very cohesive and beautiful and hilarious.”



Senior Megan Ort stars as Lauretta in “Gianni Schicchi” during a dress rehearsal Monday in Hoerner Theatre. EMILY FEDOR/THE ITHACAN



The cast of “Gianni Schicchi” reads Buoso Donati’s will and argues over who shall get his fortune during a dress rehearsal Monday. The show will run until Mar. 2 in the Hoerner Theatre. EMILY FEDOR/THE ITHACAN





# The feminine mystique

Senior Shyanne Ruiz takes the stage in IC Players’ performance of “The Vagina Monologues.” The performance is meant to spread awareness and end violence against women and girls around the world. The event took place at 2 p.m. Feb. 16 in Emerson Suites.

EMILY FEDOR/THE ITHACAN

## do it yourself

Assistant Accent Editor Rose Vardell digs up short projects for the everyday hobbyist

Facial blemishes are advertised as an adolescent problem, but acne can still plague the post-pubescent college student. For anyone facing limited success with store-bought products, why not give a homemade turmeric remedy a try? Turmeric, an Indian spice, is widely used as medicinal beauty treatment for its antibacterial properties.

Here are the directions from poppyjuice-poppy.com.  
2-3 Tablespoons turmeric  
2-3 Tablespoons of water  
1 wash cloth

Take 2-3 teaspoons of ground turmeric, and add equal parts water in a bowl. Mix well until mixture develops thick consistency. Apply to the affected area and leave on for at least 20 minutes. Rinse thoroughly to avoid staining skin.

## CYBER Cafe

Contributing Writer John Muste surfs the Internet searching new sites to see

YouTube star and CGI master Freddie Wong is rolling in royalties after a successful fundraising event. Wong, known for his video game-themed films, tends to feature high levels of action and violence, whether characters are using flowers, hammers or milk as weapons. His most recent and ambitious project is an ongoing series called Video Game High School, or VGHS for short. The series is about a highly selective high school for video game players and designers, where the First Person Shooter teams are as prestigious as a college football team. To fund the series, the VGHS team uses Kickstarter, a site that invites people to donate money to projects they want to see. The series’ first season already has more than 2 million views on each video, so it was no surprise when Wong’s team met its Kickstarter goal of fundraising more than \$600,000. In fact, it raised \$808,341, setting a new record for funds ever raised on Kickstarter and surpassing the previous record by almost \$400,000.

## weird but true

DESIGNER BREAKS MOLD WITH GLASS SLIPPER STYLE

Dreams may come true with designer Cho Simsa’s latest fairy-tale-themed shoe. Simsa has taken sculpture and fashion to new heights with her creation of genuine glass slippers. The delicate design is featured in a series titled “Shoe Realism,” which displays a collection of glass sculptures. The artist and designer took a page from the Disney classic “Cinderella” and crafted malleable glass into wearable but breakable shoe fashion. However, the everyday pedestrian might want to think twice before donning these heels. Though the idea is romantic, these shoes are just as fragile as they are fabulous. This concept might be better off left as unworn art.



— Rose Vardell

## blog of the week

VINTAGE PHOTOGRAPHY BLOG DISPLAYS HISTORICAL HOTTIES

Those who find it difficult to decide between the elegance of vintage photography and the appeal of pictures of young, attractive men need not fret. One Tumblr has combined the two elements to create “My Daguerreotype Boyfriend.” A daguerreotype is an early photographic process developed by the French. The Tumblr blog posts vintage photographs of this style. Viewers can look upon gentlemen such as Almanzo Wilder, who married author of the “Little House” series Laura Ingalls Wilder. The Tumblr has even created calendars featuring historical hotties, such as Confederate and Union soldiers. Think of the blog as a sort of historical Match.com, only these fellows aren’t exactly available. But why should unavailability stop anyone from developing a crush?



— Rose Vardell

## celebrity scoops!

Busting moves and seams

Actress and dancer Julianne Hough recently confessed to a “dancing problem” on an episode of “Chelsea Lately.” Hough told show host Chelsea Handler that her dancing skills sometimes get the best of her, and she has destroyed several outfits because of her competitive dancing edge. Recently, she ripped a skirt at Portia de Rossi and Ellen DeGeneres’ birthday celebration. Hough said, “There’s a theme, actually. I ripped my dress at the Golden Globes because I was dancing too hard. I went to Minneapolis on tour for ‘Safe Haven,’ and we went to a strip club. Sasha actually split my pants.” Hough confessed she challenged, Justin Theroux, Jennifer Aniston’s fiancé, to a breakdance-off, taking off her ripped skirt and borrowing some pants from de Rossi. Hough never said who won the contest.



— Benjii Maust

## 1 tweetuntweet

Why is no one talking about the killer tans everyone on that cruise ship came back with?

— Talk show host Conan O’Brien makes a reference to the cruise ship Carnival Triumph, which was stranded for five days after an engine fire Feb. 10.





# Bubbling up online

## “SpongeBob”-themed Twitter garners thousands of followers

**BY EVIN BILLINGTON**  
STAFF WRITER

Who lives in a pineapple under the sea? The absorbent, yellow and porous SpongeBob SquarePants, of course. Quotes from him and his friends are sending sophomore Peter Marshall's “SpongeBob”-themed Twitter page, FoxyGrandpa62, to success.

Marshall and Tori Mueller, a senior at Harriton High School in Rosemont, Penn., where Marshall also attended, created the Twitter page in 2011. As of Tuesday, the page has garnered 29,198 followers.

Marshall and Mueller said they decided to create it because of their mutual love of “SpongeBob” and their habit of constantly quoting the characters, but they never expected that a page with simple “SpongeBob” quotes would become such a success.

“We just annoyed so many people in high school quoting “SpongeBob” out loud that we decided to basically stop and just do a Twitter instead,” Mueller said. “We just sort of wanted to share the ‘SpongeBob’ love, because there are so many people out there who love ‘SpongeBob.’”

The two searched Twitter for a page similar to their idea, and after finding none, they decided to officially create the first “SpongeBob” quote Twitter page.

The name FoxyGrandpa62 is a “SpongeBob” reference on its own. Mueller said it is pulled from an episode called “One Krab’s Trash,” in which Mr. Krabs sells SpongeBob a cheap drink hat — basically a baseball hat with two soda cups on the side with straws coming down from them

for easy drink access — only to realize it is a hot commodity and he could get a lot of money for it. In an effort to get the hat back, Mr. Krabs tries to bribe SpongeBob with a baseball cap that says “Foxy Grandpa.”

Coming up with quotes, which they tweet at least once a day, is something Mueller has a knack for, Marshall said. He said they usually correlate the quotes to things happening to them in their daily lives.

“A lot of times if it fits with something that’s going on in my day or something that happened to me, I’ll do it, and it might not mean anything to anyone else, but it does to me,” Marshall said.

Marshall and Mueller tweet quotes in the morning to greet the followers. A tweet on Tuesday greeted followers with “Good MORNING krusty crew!!” It was retweeted 122 times and favorited 27 times. However, when a series of quotes are tweeted out, they receive an even bigger response. On Sunday, the pair tweeted a group of quotes from the episode “Band Geeks” that achieved at least 250 retweets each. “YEAH, FOR THE FIREMEN!!!!!!”

Marshall said the page has gained so much popularity because college students today watched “SpongeBob” when they were younger.

“So many people grew up watching it, and it’s been such a prominent part of a lot of our lives,” he said.

Initially, only Marshall and Mueller’s friends followed the page, but as it grew, many more friends of friends and even strangers began



Sophomore Peter Marshall checks his “SpongeBob”-themed Twitter page, FoxyGrandpa62, Feb. 15 in IC Square. Marshall created the Twitter handle with his high school friend, Tori Mueller, and it has more than 29,000 followers. JENNIFER WILLIAMS/THE ITHACAN

to follow it. When Marshall came to Ithaca College, he befriended one of FoxyGrandpa62’s followers, junior Tiara Kanney, without even knowing it.

“She was one of the first [of] I guess between 100 and 150 people that found it,” Marshall said. “She was an RA in my building. We would talk, and we were friends. One day, the subject of [the Twitter] just came up ... and I realized she was one of the first people.”

Kanney said she became aware of

the page after seeing a friend retweet one of FoxyGrandpa62’s tweets. As a die-hard “SpongeBob” fan, she said she immediately followed the page.

“It’s really hilarious, and it’s a very niche Twitter page,” Kanney said. “Only people that have a serious interest in watching “SpongeBob” will get all the references, and so it’s just really funny, and it’s stuff that you watch the episode and you know, but it’s hilarious to see it again repeated randomly.”

Marshall said the Twitter only began taking off in the past few months.

He attributes this success to people following and retweeting, making other Twitter users aware of the page. While Marshall does not consider Mueller and himself Twitter celebrities exactly, Mueller said they are surprised and ecstatic with their popularity.

“It’s just a great place to go and remember all the old ‘SpongeBob’ quotes,” Mueller said. “I didn’t think it would become a huge thing when we started. It’s really awesome knowing there are, like, 29,000 people out there who follow me and Peter. It’s crazy.”

# Ithaca College International Club designs multicultural event

**BY NOREYANA FERNANDO**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Ithaca College International Club will host the college’s first InterFashion Show, which will showcase traditional costumes from about 15 countries.

The fashion show will be followed by a dinner dance and will begin at 7 p.m. Saturday in Emerson Suites. Countries featured will include Austria, China, England, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

Junior Chau Nguyen, president of the International Club, said the event will provide the campus community a rare chance to explore different cultures.

“Every day when you see [international students] pass by, you talk to them but you don’t really know the cultural identity of the person,” Nguyen said. “We think this is just the perfect opportunity for everyone who is interested in culture, traveling and just getting to know about the international student community at the college.”

The show will be hosted by junior Cody Garrett and sophomore Rachel Gray, who will pose as travelers journeying the world to discover cultures.

The event will also include performances from the college’s acoustic, Russian group The Soviet Babies and freshman violinist Aiden Chan.

Organizers said they hope to make the InterFashion Show an annual event, similar to the club’s One World Concert. The One World Concert featured performances by international and American students from the college and Cornell University.

Garrett said he is a fan of the International Club and is honored to be one of the hosts of

the InterFashion Show.

“I think this experience will help me develop as a person because not only will I get the opportunity to work with the International Club directly, but it will also allow me to be a part of an amazing event that is educational and also fun,” Garrett said. “I am glad I can be a part of that, and I am glad that I can take away from it as well.”

There are currently 160 international students enrolled in the college, according to the Office of Institutional Research. They represent 74 countries.

Sophomore Giulia Dwight, event manager of the International Club, said she believes there is a lack of diversity on campus.

“I think us as international students need to promote diversity and international cultures as much as we can because the campus is lacking,” Dwight said.

Garrett said he believes diversity is not only about race or ethnicity.

“I view diversity as more of a cultural thing, and I think Ithaca College is very diverse,” he said. “There are many different people here coming from many, many different backgrounds.”

Sophomore Khwaja Jawad is an international student from Bangladesh. He will be a model at Saturday’s show, where he will be wearing a Punjabi, a traditional South Asian costume consisting of pants and a long shirt, known as a kurta.

Jawad said most of the people he has met during his time at the college have been curious about his culture and country.

“Some people are really interested and want to experience that part of the world,” Jawad said. “Sitting down with them, I can go on talking for hours and hours, and they



Sophomore Giulia Dwight, event manager of the International Club, practices her walk. The college’s International Club will host a fashion show at 7 p.m. Saturday in Emerson Suites. NOREYANA FERNANDO/THE ITHACAN

would just stare at me.”

The InterFashion show will seek to promote awareness of different cultures represented on the college campus.

Diana Dimitrova, director of international student services at the Office of International Programs, said it is important for students to

explore different cultures.

She said she hopes the InterFashion show will create dialogue about issues such as these.

“If a conversation can start or an interest can spark from something like this, I think the club would be very successful,” Dimitrova said.



### SUMMER CAMP COUNSELOR POSITIONS

Must have a love of children, lots of energy and be able to teach one or more of the following activities:  
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Interviewers will be on campus at Ithaca College in the Career Services - Muller Faculty Center for an information session on February 27th at 6:00 pm and available for interviews on February 28th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Hudson Heights Apartments are located on South Hill, adjacent to Ithaca College.  
Prices start at \$620/month.

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**Housing Selection**  
FALL 2013

**February 2013**

- 14 Circle Selection for 6-person Circle Apartments for Fall 2013 on [HomerConnect](#) for students with 2.3+ semesters
- 18 Garden Apartment Squatting for Fall 2013 on [HomerConnect](#)
- 19 6-person Garden Apartment Selection for Fall 2013 on [HomerConnect](#) for students with 2.3+ semesters
- 21 4-person Garden Apartment Selection for Fall 2013 on [HomerConnect](#) for students with 2.5+ semesters
- 26 2-person Garden Apartment Selection for Fall 2013 on [HomerConnect](#) for students with 2.2+ semesters
- 28 Single Squatting for Fall 2013 on [HomerConnect](#)

**March 2013**

- 1 Residential Learning Community Applications due
- 4 Suite Selection for Terrace Suites for Fall 2013 on [HomerConnect](#)
- 4 Residential Learning Community Approvals posted on [HomerConnect](#)
- 5 Single Selection for students with 3+ semester for Fall 2013 on [HomerConnect](#)
- 5 Spring 2013 Wait Lists and Vacancy forms expire
- 6 Residential Learning Community Selection for Fall 2013 on [HomerConnect](#)
- 19 Possible Second Selection Circle Apartments for Fall 2013 on [HomerConnect](#) for all students
- 21 Possible Second Selection Circle Apartments for Fall 2013 on [HomerConnect](#) for all students
- 26 Possible Second Selection Circle Apartments for Fall 2013 on [HomerConnect](#) for all students
- 28 Possible Second Selection Circle Apartments for Fall 2013 on [HomerConnect](#) for all students

Your selection time will depend on your group's average semester standing. You can view your selection time on [HomerConnect](#).

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Find us on Flickr to see more photos from this week's issue.

THE ITHACAN

DURST BRENEISER/THE ITHACAN



# Ithacappella alumnus shares ‘Idol’ experience

Nate Tao '10 has transitioned from Ithacappella to an “American Idol” contestant and will soon re-release an EP. In July, Tao auditioned for “American Idol’s” 12th season in Oklahoma City, Okla., and landed a golden ticket to Hollywood. Though Tao did not make it past the show’s Hollywood Week, he still plans for a career in music.

Senior Writer Qina Liu caught up with Tao about his experience on “Idol” singing in front of the judges and his upcoming EP.

**Qina Liu:** Why did you audition for “American Idol?”

**Nate Tao:** I tried out for a couple other shows in the past like “The Voice” and “X Factor,” and I got kind of moderately far but never as far as I did in “Idol” this year, so I was kind of thinking, especially because you don’t see a lot of Asians on pop shows like that ... maybe they’re not really looking for me. But when I saw they were doing auditions in [Los Angeles] last year, I was apprehensive and wasn’t sure if I wanted to do them, so I just shrugged it off and skipped them. And then randomly in this performance I was doing in the Midwest, this old, old gentleman comes up to me after the show and he was very serious and said, “You have a gift from God, and you should never stop singing,” and then he walked away ... Maybe I just needed someone to say it to me, but I was kind of like, ‘You know what, let’s just take every opportunity I can get.’

**QL:** What was going through your mind after you sang Stevie

Wonder’s “For Once in My Life” to “American Idol” judges Mariah Carey, Nicki Minaj, Randy Jackson and Keith Urban?

**NT:** I was wearing this tie and dress shirt, so I guess I looked like the business-y type or something, but Randy was like, “You’re very unassuming,” which I get a lot, and he was like, “Yeah, I thought you were going to do my taxes,” and I was like, ‘Wait, is that because I’m wearing this, or because I’m Asian?’ I didn’t say that, but that’s what was running through my head.

**QL:** Your dad came with you to your audition. What was his response?

**NT:** It’s funny because usually when you have your family out there, there’s Ryan [Seacrest] and they’re talking before you come out of the judges’ room, but because my dad’s deaf, they were apparently just standing there until I came out. They were trying to communicate with each other. But my dad was really happy, and I’m glad we could share that.

**QL:** Who are your musical influences?

**NT:** Mariah Carey, Kelly Clarkson, Stevie Wonder ... and who doesn’t love Adele?

**QL:** What was it like meeting Mariah Carey? She’s one of your heroes, right?

**NT:** Mariah spoke first after I sang, and when she started talking, I think I blacked out. It was a very, “Is this real life?” kind of moment, and I actually forgot what she said because she was



Nate Tao '10 stands with his golden ticket to Hollywood on “American Idol.” Though the Ithacappella alumnus only made it to the Hollywood Week portion of the singing competition, he still has plans to release an EP in March. COURTESY OF NATE TAO

the first one to speak, until I saw her on TV, which is pretty cool to forever have a video of Mariah Carey telling you she really liked how you sang a song.

**QL:** What’s next for Nate Tao?

**NT:** I’ve been thinking that I might try out for another show again. Maybe “American Idol” next year,

who knows? We’ll see. Last month I went to Singapore to make an album.

**QL:** What should we know about your new EP, “Nate Tao?” What is your sound like?

**NT:** It’s really my first attempt at making a record. It’s kind of a weird mix, but you can think

of [it as] Adele mixed with Bruno Mars mixed with Maroon 5.

**QL:** When can we get it?

**NT:** We’re going to release mid to late March, but we actually already released the first song and you can get it for free on our website [www.natetao.com](http://www.natetao.com).

# REMEMBER THAT TIME...

... your roommate made it into the Public Safety Log?

# THE ITHACAN

## Public Safety Incident Log

JANUARY 31		SELECTED JANUARY 31	
<b>BURGLARY</b> LOCATION: Emerson Hall SUMMARY: Complainant reported an unknown person entered a room and stole a wallet. Investigation pending. Master Patrol Officer James London.	<b>CASE STATUS CHANGE</b> LOCATION: Lower Campus SUMMARY: Officer reported a bike that was recovered Jan. 22 and was not stolen. Property was returned to owner. Patrol Officer Patrick Johnson.	<b>HARASSMENT</b> LOCATION: Circle Apartments SUMMARY: Caller reported a person attempted to gain entry into a residence. Officer found the perpetrator intoxicated. Person taken into custody under mental hygiene law and transported to CMC by ambulance. Person judicially referred for harassment and irresponsible use of alcohol. Master Patrol Officer Brad Bates.	<b>UNDERAGE POSSESSION</b> LOCATION: Lyon Hall SUMMARY: Two persons reported for underage possession of alcohol. Master Patrol Officer Daniel Austic.
<b>DRUG VIOLATIONS</b> LOCATION: Emerson Hall SUMMARY: One person judicially referred for violation of college regulation and drug policy. Sergeant Terry O'Pray.	<b>ASSIST TCSD</b> LOCATION: State Route 96B/Danby Road SUMMARY: Caller reported a two-vehicle MVA. Report taken. Sergeant Terry O'Pray.	<b>IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL</b> LOCATION: East Tower SUMMARY: One person transported by ambulance and judicially referred for irresponsible use of alcohol. Master Patrol Officer Daniel Austic.	<b>CRIMINAL MISCHIEF</b> LOCATION: East Tower SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person ripped a screen and threw it out of a window. Investigation pending. Patrol Officer Bruce Thompson.
<b>LARCENY</b> LOCATION: Park School SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person stole a cell phone. Investigation pending. Master Patrol Officer Donald Lyke.	<b>BURGLARY</b> LOCATION: East Tower SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person entered a room and stole clothing. Investigation pending. Patrol Officer Jeremiah McMurray.	<b>FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL</b> LOCATION: Circle Apartments SUMMARY: Two persons judicially referred for violation of the drug policy and one referred for underage possession of alcohol. Master Patrol Officer Brad Bates.	<b>CRIMINAL MISCHIEF</b> LOCATION: East Tower SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person ripped a screen and threw it out of a window. Investigation pending. Patrol Officer Bruce Thompson.
<b>SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE</b> LOCATION: Holmes Hall SUMMARY: Complainant reported an unknown person possibly entered a room. Investigation pending. Master Patrol Officer James London.	<b>BURGLARY</b> LOCATION: Hillard Hall SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person entered a room and stole textbooks. Investigation pending. Master Patrol Officer Donald Lyke.	<b>UNLAWFUL POSSESSION MARIJUANA</b> LOCATION: Grant Egbert Blvd. East SUMMARY: During a traffic stop, an officer issued the operator an appearance ticket for unlawful possession of marijuana and a uniform traffic ticket for having no tail lights for the Town of Ithaca Court. The operator was arrested from the scene. Patrol Officer Patrick Johnson.	<b>CRIMINAL MISCHIEF</b> LOCATION: East Tower SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person ripped a screen and threw it out of a window. Investigation pending. Patrol Officer Bruce Thompson.
<b>DRUG VIOLATIONS</b> LOCATION: Emerson Hall SUMMARY: Two people judicially referred for violation of the drug policy. Patrol Officer Jay Vanvolkhoust.	<b>DANGER TO SELF</b> LOCATION: D-10 SUMMARY: Caller reported attempting to self-harm with a knife. Person transported to hospital. Patrol Officer Patrick Johnson.		

## CREOLE CHOIR OF CUBA

Friday, February 22 • 8PM @ Bailey Hall

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## PONCHO SANCHEZ LATIN JAZZ BAND WITH CHRISTIAN SCOTT, TRUMPET

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# Tactical video game innovates genre

BY ROBERT MAYO  
STAFF WRITER

While the Tactical Role Playing Game genre has existed for almost 30 years, “Fire Emblem” set the kindling for the genre ablaze upon its release in 1990 for the Nintendo Entertainment System. The game has made improvements and innovations to the genre, such as the addition of class-based units and simple-to-learn mechanics. The Fire Emblem series has continued to be a staple for Tactical Role Playing Games and has paved the road for others such as “Final Fantasy Tactics” and “Tactics Ogre.”

The most recent entry to the series, “Fire Emblem: Awakening,” continues to innovate with new gameplay aspects while maintaining its successful formula.

“Fire Emblem: Awakening” follows the “Shepherds,” a group of mercenary-like protectors of the Halidom of Ylisse, and their leader and prince, Chrom. With agitated kingdoms on all sides of Ylisse, and strange corpse soldiers called “Risen” appearing from inside the country, the Shepherds must defend their country from foreign and domestic myriad threats. The player must deal with diplomatic conflicts, enemy combatants and strange forces to protect their kingdom and its people.

“Fire Emblem: Awakening” knows when to be like its previous counterparts and when to innovate and define itself. The same golden formula the series featured more than 20 years ago still holds today: class-based characters fighting on a square grid with turn-based combat. The strategic elements make the game difficult and, at times, seemingly unfair if the player is unprepared. What defines “Fire Emblem: Awakening” are the new concepts and ideas it brings to the Tactical Role Playing Game genre.

The two core additions to the game, unit cooperation and character relations, refine the series even further. Adjacent units now add bonuses to each other’s skill and can occupy the same location, providing greater bonuses. Units who fight alongside each other grow closer, granting them with bonuses when in proximity to each other. Players must now

## VIDEO GAME REVIEW

“Fire Emblem: Awakening”  
Nintendo  
Our rating:  
★★★★



From left, sorcerer Validar battles the Prince Chrom who stands in the way of his evil schemes. “Fire Emblem: Awakening” is a Nintendo 3DS exclusive and was released Feb. 4 in North America.

COURTESY OF NINTENDO

take more tactical measures emphasizing unit positions and relations. Developing units’ relationships both aid the player in combat and create incentives by depicting the units’ interactions outside of battle. This rewards players for making certain units fight together, and the player eventually begins to play the role of matchmaker for the units.

When in a battlefield, the game sports classic pixelated sprites, which are reminiscent to earlier games in the series. When combat occurs, the game changes to visually stunning 3D segments, breaking up the strategic elements. Character profiles are drawn beautifully in a Japanese anime style, and gorgeous animated 3D cut scenes effectively mimic the style through cel-shaded animation. Dialogue is sparse, used usually only for exclamations or cut scenes, and is provided in either English or Japanese, depending on player preference. The game has an orchestrated soundtrack that excels in creating a

given mood for each situation.

Lastly, the game features a “Classic” mode, in which character death is permanent like in previous games. An easier and more forgiving mode also exists, which causes units to flee from battle and escape death. Because of this, and additional difficulty features, the game can cater to new players and veterans alike. The user interface is cumbersome, especially to new players, but the dual screens of the 3DS help relieve the cluster of it all.

“Fire Emblem: Awakening” is the best Fire Emblem to date, taking the 20-plus years of work the series has made into a masterpiece and further refines it into a near-flawless game.

“Fire Emblem: Awakening” was developed by Red Entertainment and Intelligent Systems and published by Nintendo. It is available on Nintendo 3DS.

## hot dates thursday

**Mike Thueson and Evan D. Williams** return to play at The Rogues Harbor Inn. They will perform their original folk and rock music at 8 p.m.

## friday

“**Moose Murders,**” Arthur Bicknell’s satirical mystery play, will take place at 7:30 p.m. at Ithaca’s Community School of Music and Arts. Tickets will cost \$15.

## A Black History Month

**Concert** will feature Africa Dance Ensemble, the Worlds of Music Class, the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers and other music venues. The concert will begin at 8:15 p.m. at Ford Hall.

## saturday

**Water Stillness,** a meditative workshop presented by Cornell Plantations, will train attendants to reduce anxiety through calming exercises. The workshop will begin at 2 p.m. at the Nevin Welcome Center in the Botanical Gardens of Cornell Plantations.

**Tom Bronzetti Organ Trio** will perform original jazz music at 7 p.m. at The Carriage House Cafe. Tickets will cost \$10.

## sunday

**Ellen Fullman and the Cornell Avant-Garde Ensemble** will perform improvised music at Milstein Hall. The event will begin at 8 p.m.

# English indie rock band dabbles in diverse sounds

BY JARED DIONNE  
SENIOR WRITER

Following the release of their Mercury Prize-nominated album, “Total Life Forever,” in 2010, English indie rock band Foals has released their latest creation, “Holy Fire.” With this new LP, Foals reemerge with a collection of powerful songs.

As has been true in the past, Foals continue to dabble in the math rock genre. Math rock is usually recognized as an offshoot of progressive rock, since it combines eclectic styles and a variety of rhythms that tend to deviate from the standard four-on-the-floor beat.

## ALBUM REVIEW

**Foals**  
“Holy Fire”  
Transgressive Records  
Our rating:  
★★★★

Foals embrace this genre with “Holy Fire,” as each song takes on distinctive features. Most tracks sample from sub-genres such as tropical rock, hard rock and shoegaze.

One cut that exemplifies such diversity is “Inhaler.” Speedy guitar licks enhanced with a guitar delay pedal and accenting woodblock strikes lock into an infectious tropical groove. The tropics subside as the song builds and climaxes in a maelstrom of unrelenting power chords.

“My Number,” one of the album’s singles, seems to have been crafted for indie-minded dance clubs. Listeners are sure to find the desire to bust a move once they hear this catchy jam.

Culminating track “Moon” recalls one of the band’s breakout singles, “Spanish Sahara.” The track



COURTESY OF TRANSGRESSIVE RECORDS

simmers with electronic organ chords and guitar plucking. The cut crescendos underneath lead singer Yannis Philippakis’ solemn storyline of birds falling out of the sky and teeth falling out of a head. The song eventually fades out in a dying blaze of distorted instrumentals.

Foals have delivered an album with a little something for everyone and then some. With “Holy Fire,” Foals have set the bar high for further 2013 releases. Bands, consider yourselves on notice.

# Artist broadens country style

BY BENJII MAUST  
STAFF WRITER

After ending his 20-year relationship with Curb Records in 2011, Tim McGraw has released an album, “Two Lanes of Freedom,” that features a fresher sound than in previous albums.

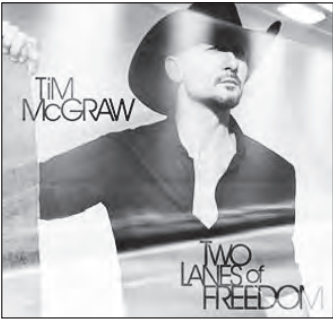
The slicker production values on “Two Lanes of Freedom” can be attributed to Byron Gallimore, McGraw’s collaborator, who opted for a pop-oriented direction. The rock-infused balladry of the song “Friend of a Friend” details the gossip surrounding the breakup of a relationship, while the auto-tuned sections of “Southern Girl” stand out as

testaments to McGraw’s willingness to experiment with different genres of music. These songs are expertly crafted with a pop-rock oriented sound as opposed to adult contemporary country.

While “Two Lanes of Freedom” signals a departure from McGraw’s more traditional country style, it maintains just enough of his inherent sense of musical direction to make for a cohesive collection.

## ALBUM REVIEW

**Tim McGraw**  
“Two Lanes of Freedom”  
Big Machine  
Our rating:  
★★★



COURTESY OF BIG MACHINE

Check out **theithacan.org/spotify** to listen to the songs featured in this week’s reviews!



# quickies



COURTESY OF EONE MUSIC

## “ILLUSION” Spoken

**eOne Music**  
The Arkansas rock band returns with its seventh studio album. The record features a hard-rock sound and a central Christian theme embedded in the lyrics. Fans of Christian music and heavy rock will be sure to enjoy the album.



COURTESY OF NONESUCH RECORDS

## “HOW I KNEW HER” Nataly Dawn

**Nonesuch Records**  
The singer and songwriter delivers her airy sound with her second studio album. With a voice eerily reminiscent to artists such as Regina Spektor and Lana Del Rey, Dawn will certainly attract the indie rock crowd.



# Foreign film attracts wide audience

## Talented cast gives poignant performances in emotional movie

**BY JOSH GREENFIELD**  
STAFF WRITER

After becoming an international favorite among critics and garnering five Academy Award nominations, the French-Austrian film “Amour” has already made a name for itself in the world of cinema. The reason for the film’s fame is its highly impressive acting as well as its emotional and thought-provoking story that connects with all audiences, even though the movie is in French, and has the potential to leave even the strongest viewers teary-eyed.

**FILM REVIEW**  
“Amour”  
Sony Pictures Classics  
Our rating: ★★★★★



Georges (Jean-Louis Trintignant) comforts his wife Anne (Emmanuelle Riva) in “Amour.” The French-Austrian film stars Trintignant and Riva as an elderly French couple. The foreign movie has received five Academy Award nominations. COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

The film’s narrative focuses on an elderly French couple, Anne (Emmanuelle Riva) and Georges (Jean-Louis Trintignant), who have shared a long and happy life together. Shortly following the beginning of the film, Anne suffers a stroke and is hospitalized. During her visit to the hospital, she undergoes a necessary operation that proves unsuccessful, leaving her health in a state of steady decline. Upon returning home, Georges must take care of his wife as paralysis begins to take hold of her.

Award nomination makes her the oldest nominee in the category in history, gives a realistic performance. Audiences may forget they are watching an actress and not a real woman withering away before them.

One of the most captivating aspects of the film is the connection between its leading actors. Riva and Trintignant give highly impressive and believable performances as their characters persevere through their difficult situation. Riva shines with her demanding role, which requires her to exhibit the stages of a degenerative condition. Riva, whose Academy

Also sharing in Riva’s Academy recognition is Michael Haneke, who was nominated for his writing and directing. With the script, Haneke is able to masterfully craft a story that bridges the language gap and engages the audience despite the necessity of subtitles. His dialogue is believable and profound, while never coming off as predictable. The script’s structure also successfully serves as a window

into the human mind and depicts how one character faces the premise of helping a loved one in pain. Most notable, however, is the script’s ability to leave the audience with so much emotion after witnessing the painful struggles the lovers face.

case in the film. His controlled cuts and poignant dialogue is able to drive the pace of the film. Haneke is able to match the speed the story is told with the natural degenerative development of the lead character’s health.

With his directing, Haneke also establishes a realistic tone through his inclusion of moments of characters simply living their lives. Though slow at times, these prolonged instances of normal tasks help show how the average life can be affected by illness. Similarly, they show the modifications people will make to best accommodate those who they love, as was the

With its memorable acting and heartfelt script, the now widely released film will leave audiences in an emotional state of awe. Easily among the most emotionally intense films in recent years, “Amour” might leave many looking back on their relationships with teary, retrospective eyes.

*“Amour” was directed and written by Michael Haneke.*

# Action-packed franchise loses momentum

**BY BRIAN PORRECA**  
STAFF WRITER

Bruce Willis reprises his role as John McClane in the fifth installment of the “Die Hard” franchise, “A Good Day to Die Hard.” It is 25 years since the original “Die Hard” release, and new director John Moore should have admitted the franchise’s defeat after the fourth installment’s flop in 2007.

McClane, a retired cop, flies to Moscow to stop a nuclear weapons heist. When he arrives, he runs into his son Jack (Jai Courtney), a CIA agent on the same mission. McClane is hesitant to enter a world of danger and risk his son’s life until he realizes his son has more power to save his out-of-shape dad.

**FILM REVIEW**  
“A Good Day to Die Hard”  
20th Century Fox  
Our rating: ★★

The father-son relationship is one of the only genuine elements to the otherwise slow script, and the actors make it believable. Though they may not resemble each other perfectly, it is their stubborn personalities that show they both stem from the same family tree. As McClane looks after Jack, it is revealed that each character will risk his own life for the other. Their back-to-back banter adds comedy to the film, and their ability to fight side-by-side to save the day drives the action scenes.

The cinematography and explosions help keep the audience awake and alert. While the slow script makes the film hard to follow, the action guides viewers in the right direction. Whether McClane is jumping from building to building or crashing through glass with his son, the visual effects keep up the entertainment. The portrayal of McClane in this film is not as powerful as in past “Die Hard” films. Though jumping from atop buildings, crashing through glass and escaping an explosion



Bruce Willis and Jai Courtney star in “A Good Day to Die Hard.” Former cop John McClane (Willis) teams up with his CIA agent son Jack (Courtney) to stop a militant group from hijacking nuclear weaponry. COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX

may look intense, for the majority of the film, his character usually shoots his gun standing still while his son takes on the bad guys.

The setting of the film, Moscow, could have made the movie more aesthetically pleasing without the addition of so many special effects. Unlike in films such as “Taken 2,” which was set in Istanbul, the setting isn’t used to develop the story. Moore should have used the Russian setting to develop the script and make the characters more relatable. The director missed the opportunity to show the father and son struggling to fit into the Russian culture, which could have helped the audience connect with the characters.

The amplified sound effects intensify the action but can come across as obnoxious. Every character in the film seems to have unlimited gun ammunition, which hinders the potential

suspense of the film. The shootouts and car chases are repetitive, and there is no clear moment that leaves viewers on the edge of their seat. The repeated explosions of bombs drag the film and come off as boring.

The film had potential to recreate the action and drama from the original films, but the franchise was meant to just be a trilogy. Moore should have taken a lesson from Christopher Nolan’s “Dark Knight” trilogy and let the film go out with a bang while the franchise was still on top. Willis is a brilliant actor, but he is nothing more than an old man with a gun in this film. His character may seem invincible in the film, but it is time for this franchise to die.

*“A Good Day to Die Hard” was directed by John Moore and written by Skip Woods and Roderick Thorpe.*

[TICKET STUB]

VALID FRIDAY THROUGH THURSDAY

CINEMAPOLIS

The Commons 277-6115

**DJANGO UNCHAINED**

5 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. and Saturday 1:45 p.m., 5 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. and Sunday 1:45 p.m.

**A GLIMPSE INSIDE THE MIND OF CHARLES SWAN III**

9:25 p.m. and Sunday 2:40 p.m.

**AMOUR ★★★★★**

4:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:25 p.m. and weekends 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:25 p.m.

**QUARTET**

5 p.m., 7:05 p.m. and 9:10 p.m. and Saturday 2:30 p.m., 5 p.m., 7:05 p.m. and 9:10 p.m. and Sunday 5 p.m.

**BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD**

5:05 p.m. and 7:10 p.m. and Saturday 5:05 p.m. and 7:10 p.m.

**ARGO ★★★★★ ½**

4:35 p.m., 7:10 p.m. and 9:40 p.m. and Saturday 2:05 p.m., 4:35 p.m., 7:10 p.m. and 9:40 p.m. and Sunday 2:05 p.m. and 4:35 p.m.

REGAL STADIUM 14

Pyramid Mall 266-7960

**DARK SKIES**

2:30 p.m., 5 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

**SNITCH**

2:15 p.m., 5:15 p.m., 7:40 p.m. and 10:10 p.m.

**ESCAPE FROM PLANET EARTH**

12:40 p.m., 3 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 8:20 p.m.

**BEAUTIFUL CREATURES**

1 p.m., 3:50 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9:55 p.m.

**ESCAPE FROM PLANET EARTH 3D**

1:20 p.m., 3:40 p.m. and 6 p.m.

**SAFE HAVEN**

12:50 p.m., 1:50 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:15 p.m., 7:20 p.m., 9:10 p.m. and 10:05 p.m.

**A GOOD DAY TO DIE HARD ★★**

1:40 p.m., 3:10 p.m., 4:40 p.m., 5:45 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 8:10 p.m., 10 p.m. and 10:40 p.m.

**IDENTITY THIEF ★★**

1:30 p.m., 4:10 p.m., 6:50 p.m. and 9:50 p.m.

**SIDE EFFECTS ★★★★★**

1:05 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.

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2 p.m., 4:50 p.m., 7:50 p.m. and 10:20 p.m.

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3:20 p.m. and 9:40 p.m.

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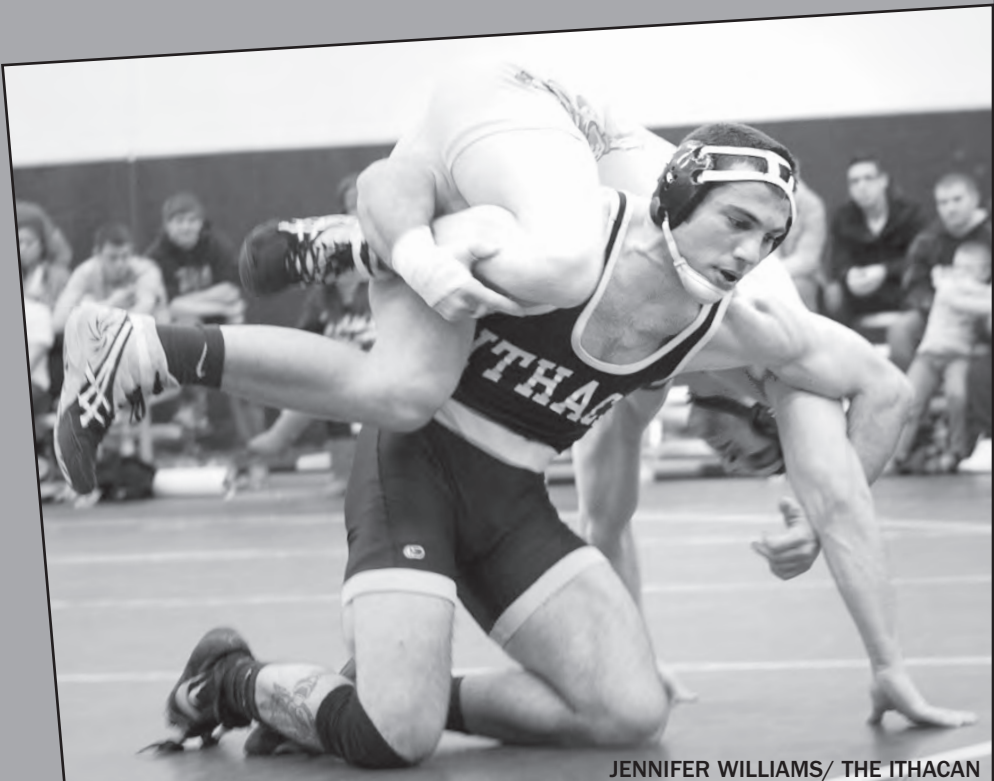
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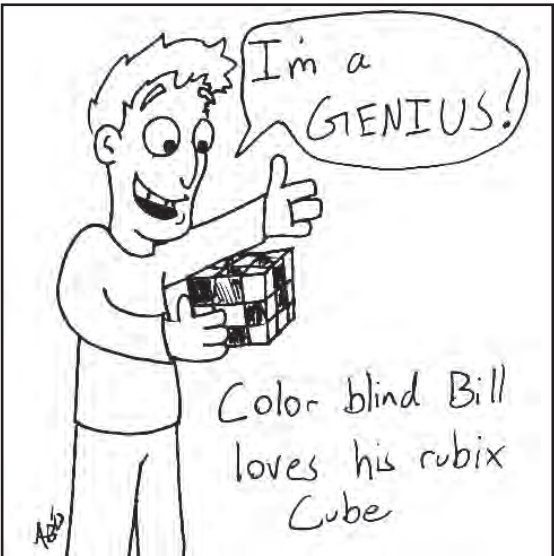


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the here and now    alphabet stew

By Caroline Roe '13                      By Alice Blehart '16



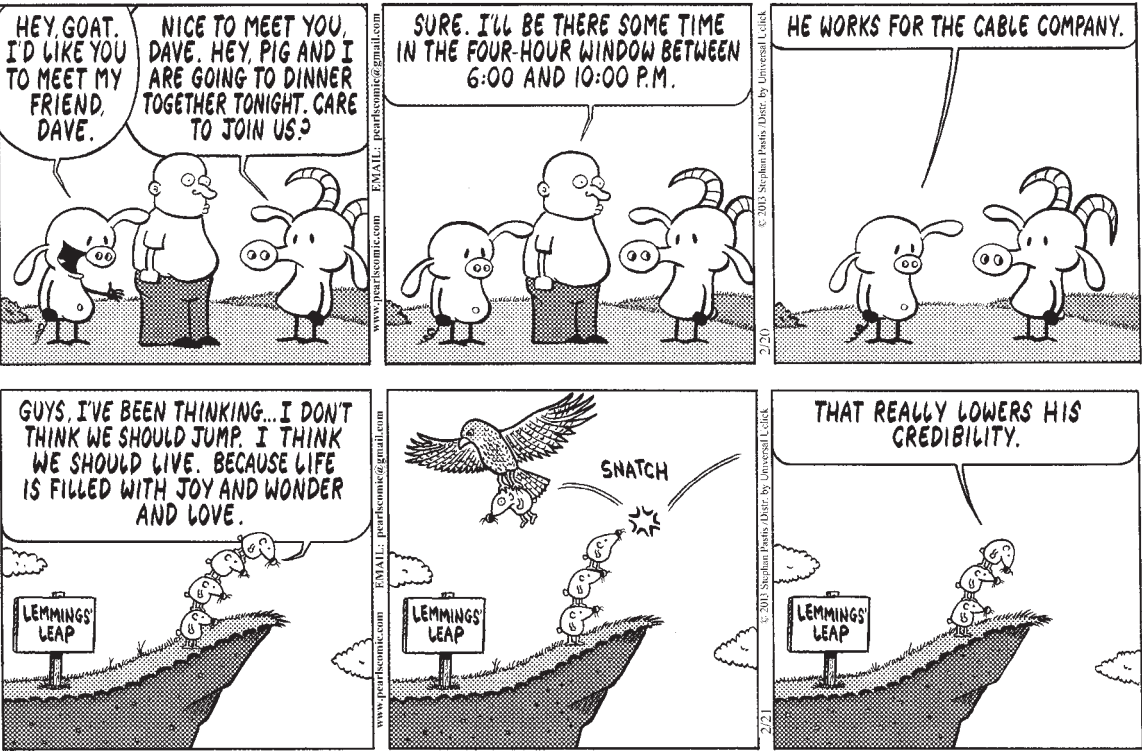
dormin' norman

By Jonathan Schuta '14



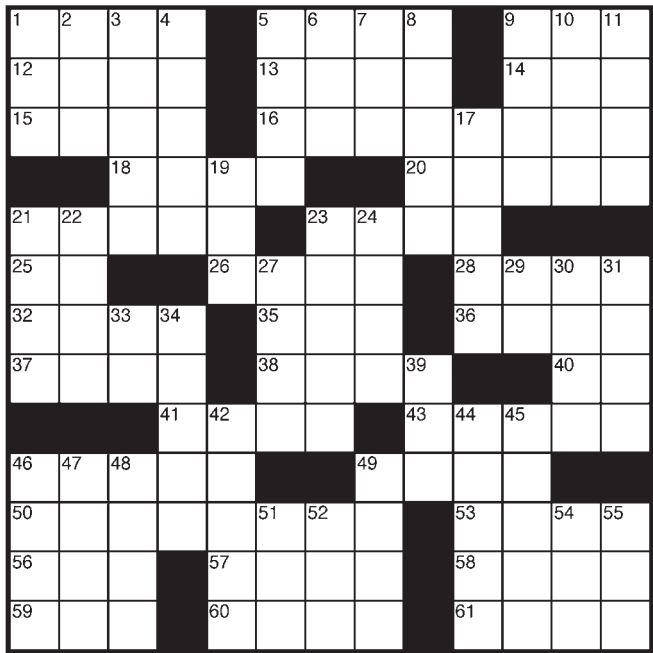
Pearls Before Swine®

By Stephan Pastis



crossword

By United Media



ACROSS

- 1 Burlap fiber
- 5 Four Corners state
- 9 Best medicine?
- 12 Remote
- 13 Prefix for second
- 14 Yes, in Yokohama
- 15 Heard the alarm
- 16 Soften (2 wds.)
- 18 Mountain refrain
- 20 Get more out of
- 21 Squander
- 23 Pliny's bear
- 25 Stammering sound
- 26 Mountain lion
- 28 Big black dogs
- 32 Contract proviso
- 35 Eighteen-wheeler
- 36 Slant
- 37 Mystery writer – Paretsky
- 38 Deep cut
- 40 Shoe width
- 41 Mild onion
- 43 Hockey infraction

- 46 Quivering tree
- 49 Red-waxed cheese
- 50 Vied for a hammerlock
- 53 Green vegetable
- 56 -- moment's notice
- 57 Took a good look
- 58 By Jove!
- 59 Shaggy beast
- 60 Bank on
- 61 Jiffies

DOWN

- 1 Mandible
- 2 Pilot's sighting?
- 3 Movie shots
- 4 Build
- 5 Till
- 6 "– Te Ching"
- 7 Abby's sister
- 8 Weed whackers
- 9 Quaker pronoun
- 10 Ordinances
- 11 Film
- 17 Mergers and buy-outs

- 19 With it
- 21 Rains on
- 22 General vicinity
- 23 Boat made of skins
- 24 Cleaning cloths
- 27 Natural impulse
- 29 Gold Rush st.
- 30 High-fiber food
- 31 Festoon
- 33 B&O, e.g.
- 34 Steers and rams
- 39 Lay low
- 42 Sign up for
- 44 Party desserts
- 45 PR concern
- 46 "Hi-yo, Silver, –!"
- 47 Mlle. in Barcelona
- 48 Max out
- 49 Dust devil
- 51 Wood ash product
- 52 Sushi bar bit
- 54 Resinous substance
- 55 Journal VIPs

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last week's crossword answers



sudoku

easy

6			8					5
	3	7						1
4	8	1	3			9		
	4					3		
	5		2	3		1		
1	2	3		7				6
	1				6		4	9
					3		1	
8					1		7	

very hard

					7			2
9		7				1		
	5		3			9		
6	4		8		1		7	9
		9		4			8	
	8		9			4		
		1			6			4
8				1				6
		4		3			1	

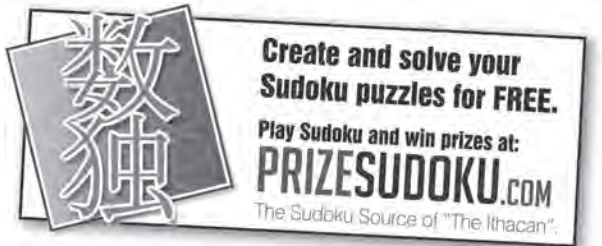
answers to last week's sudoku

Medium

8	4	1	5	3	9	6	7	2
9	2	5	8	6	7	3	4	1
6	3	7	4	1	2	9	8	5
7	6	9	1	5	3	4	2	8
4	8	2	9	7	6	5	1	3
5	1	3	2	4	8	7	6	9
2	9	4	6	8	5	1	3	7
3	5	6	7	2	1	8	9	4
1	7	8	3	9	4	2	5	6

Very Hard

1	5	6	2	8	9	3	4	7
2	7	8	3	6	4	1	9	5
3	9	4	5	1	7	8	6	2
7	4	9	6	3	2	5	8	1
6	8	2	1	9	5	7	3	4
5	3	1	4	7	8	9	2	6
8	6	5	7	2	3	4	1	9
4	2	3	9	5	1	6	7	8
9	1	7	8	4	6	2	5	3





# TOO HOT TO HANDLE



Pepper-eating champ goes for fiery glory

BY TAYLOR PALMER  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Chili Fest athlete's road to glory is paved with blood, sweat, tears, cornbread, black beans and broken dreams.

Every February, restaurants set up booths around The Commons to sample their wares and compete to be named the creator of the "Best Chili in Ithaca" in either the meat or vegetarian category. Local chefs scour their recipe books looking for the one set of ingredients that will put them on top.

But for the festivalgoer — the heat seeker, consumer of fiery dishes, veggie and meat alike — Chili Fest's top prize is first place in the hot pepper-eating contest.

Each year, this burn-inducing competition has attracted people around the city to test their mental and physical fortitude. The pepper-eating contest has been one of the flagship events of the annual Downtown Ithaca Chili Cook-Off since its inception.

"The chili pepper-eating contest is one of the true Ithacan experiences," junior Cassie Medcalf, WICB promotions director and pepper-eating contest emcee, said.

Participants have stepped up in front of the festival's largest crowds to eat every kind of pepper, from mild poblanos to tongue-searing ghost peppers. Contestants have to bear the heat of the most famous member of the pepper family — the jalapeño — to be the champ.

"The hot pepper-eating competition lets everyone in the community go head to head to see who is top dog — who can handle the heat," Patty Clark, events manager for the Downtown Ithaca Alliance, said. "Only one person can be the hottest chalupa."

For two years running, that chalupa was me, and this year I sought out glory once again, chasing after a three-peat.

In 2011, I entered the contest as a freshman with bright eyes, a bushy tail and an empty wallet. I wasn't really interested in chili supremacy, but I was definitely enticed by the \$50 gift card that went to the winner. I was a lot broke, a little drunk and knew a win would cover about 20 slices of pizza. So, I signed the contest's don't-sue-me-if-these-peppers-kill-you waiver and stepped on stage alongside 14 eager competitors — a ragtag group made up of young and old, men and women, students and townsfolk.

The rules were announced to the crowd and contestants. Each round, a certain number of peppers would be given to each person, who must finish the peppers in an allotted time or be eliminated from the competition. Each successive round, the time limit would be shorter or the number of peppers would increase.

The emcee went down the line and contestants introduced themselves. Pepper-eating



From left, senior Cory Healy, junior Duncan Fuller, Ithaca resident Aleks Racenis and junior Taylor Palmer eat jalapeños on The Commons during the preliminary round of the 15th Annual Downtown Ithaca Chili Cook-Off's hot chili pepper-eating contest on Saturday.  
SHAWN STEINER/THE ITHACAN

champions. A hot dog eating contest winner. A townie and a student who had both put down ghost peppers in their day. And me.

"What's your name, kid?" the emcee, then-junior Jordan DeRulo, asked me.

"Uhm, I'm Taylor," I responded hesitantly, nervous about my impending ass kicking.

"What makes you think you can win this competition?"

"Whenever I order chicken wings, I pick the hottest sauce," I replied. "I guess that's all I've got."

The crowd let out a hearty laugh at my uncertainty, the emcee moved on and the eat-off began.

The competition was an adrenaline rush. The roar of the crowd toward the end of a round, the pain of the heat coming from the pepper's capsaicin seeping into my tongue and the thrill of moving to next round were exhilarating. I fed off of the excitement of the contest. When the audience cheered, I ate faster. When another competitor picked up speed, so did I. I

spent the entire contest in the moment.

In the beginning, I was an underdog, but in the end, I took home the championship for the first time. The only feeling that matched my sense of pride was my yearning for a glass of milk.

The gift card from the win was great, but the pride of being the city's pepper-eating champion was the real prize. Whenever I looked at a hot pepper, a spicy dish of curry or a wing sauce touting a name like "Kamikaze" or "XXX," I could look at it and scoff. When a waiter asked,

"Are you sure you want it that hot?" I could puff out my chest and give a steely gaze and say, "City pepper-eating champion, at your service."

"The winner, obviously, gets gloating privileges for the full year," Clark said. "That's what it's all about."

I felt like Ithaca's Michael Jordan of pepper eating. So, when February rolled around the next year, I joined the contest and met similar success, winning the city

title against a field of 29.

As this year's hot-pepper eating contest grew near, contestants began training for the event. Ithaca resident Doug Moorehead said he prepared by chewing mass quantities of bell peppers to up his chewing speed, while others ate Habanero peppers to train for the spice. Legend has it that some competitive eaters have eaten whole heads of lettuce and drank entire gallons of milk before a contest to expand their stomachs and fit more food in.

Very much aware of these training methods and equally as confident in my natural pepper-eating abilities, I chose not to train, thinking a two-time champ didn't really need to.

As Saturday rolled around and the 2013 contest was approaching, I sauntered into chili fest an hour or so early and stood by the sign-up table to scout the competition. Five stood by the sign-up table, awaiting registration. Three were Ithaca College students, playfully jostling with friends that were ready to watch their respective buddy embarrass himself in front of a crowd.

One was an older man, seemingly in his

"ONLY ONE PERSON CAN BE THE HOTTEST CHALUPA."

—PATTY CLARK

See **PEPPER**, page 26

## Facial hair frenzy hits Chili Fest

Many styles of facial hair were on display at Chili Fest's fourth annual mustache contest

BY KARLY REDPATH  
STAFF WRITER

Facial hair of all shapes and sizes took center stage on The Commons at this year's annual Chili Fest mustache competition. Contestants sported twirly handlebars, full beards and stick-on, glitter staches, hoping to be the crowd favorite and win the title of best mustache.

This event was the fourth annual installment of the mustache competition, hosted by the Downtown Ithaca Alliance. It was an event all festival attendees could enjoy and compete in, regardless of the presence of facial hair.

Over the past several decades, beard and mustache competitions have entered into the wide world of sport. The World Beard and Mustache Championships occur

biannually and a number of other globally-recognized facial hair competitions are held each year. Patty Clark, events coordinator for the Downtown Ithaca Alliance, said this year's event was particularly important because of the sport's rapidly-growing and wide-spread popularity.

Just like world competitions, the hopefuls in the Chili Fest mustache competition are judged in different categories. While world competition has up to 10 categories, such as the Dali, the Imperial and the Hungarian mustache, Chili Fest staches were judged in three categories: the hairiest, the cutest and the curliest. The winners of each category then moved on to the final

See **MUSTACHE**, page 24

### THE MANY STYLES OF MUSTACHE

Here are a few specifications for mustaches that are judged in international competition

<p><b>THE DALI MUSTACHE</b></p>	<p>SLENDER WITH LONG TIPS ARCHING UP. HAIRS ALLOWED TO START GROW UP TO END OF UPPER LIP.</p>	<p><b>THE FU MANCHU MUSTACHE</b></p>	<p>CHIN SHAVED WITH MUSTACHE THAT GROWS DOWN PAST THE JAWLINE. TIPS ARE LONG AND PULLED DOWN.</p>
<p><b>THE HUNGARIAN MUSTACHE</b></p>	<p>BIG AND BUSHY, BEGINS AT MIDDLE UPPER LIP AND IS PULLED TO THE SIDE. ENDS ARE UN-CURLED.</p>	<p><b>THE IMPERIAL MUSTACHE</b></p>	<p>SMALL AND BUSHY WITH TIPS ARCHING UP. HAIRS CAN TO GROW TO END OF UPPER LIP.</p>
<p><b>THE MUSKETEER MUSTACHE</b></p>	<p>LONG AND SLENDER, TIPS MAY BE POINTING UPWARD OR OUT TO THE SIDE. THE BEARD IS SMALL AND POINTED.</p>	<p><b>THE ENGLISH MUSTACHE</b></p>	<p>SLENDER, BEGINS AT MIDDLE OF UPPER LIP WITH LONG HAIRS PULLED TO SIDE. TIPS LIFTED SLIGHTLY.</p>

SOURCE: WORLD BEARD CHAMPIONSHIPS.COM

DESIGN BY EMILY FULLER





BETWEEN  
THE  
LINES

NATHAN BICKELL

## Keep wrestling in the Olympics

When Seth Ecker '12 saw a story on Yahoo! News mentioning Olympic wrestling last week, he didn't pay it much notice. It was only after his phone began buzzing with text messages that he learned the sport he he'd competed in for his entire life had lost its pinnacle competition: the Olympics.

"At first I thought it was a joke," the two-time Division III national champion said. "Since I was young, wrestling and the Olympics have been synonymous."

Ecker decided he wasn't going to let this go. He had posted an open letter to the International Olympic Committee online, and his Facebook page was filled with links to support saving the sport.

"I wanted to be one of the first people to say something," Ecker said. "I hope the IOC is getting bombarded by emails."

I have never wrestled, nor do I really enjoy watching it, but when I think of sports in the Olympics that seem out of place, such as air rifle or synchronized swimming, wrestling is not one that comes to mind. One of the most important considerations of an Olympic sport should be how widespread it is throughout the world, and at this summer's Olympic games, 22 countries won medals in wrestling. This diversity of talent was second only to track and field. Not only has wrestling been a part of every modern Olympic games except one, it was also a contest in the ancient Greek Olympics. I don't think the same can be said for air rifle.

The executive advisory board of the IOC voted to recommend wrestling be eliminated from the 2020 Olympics. Mark Adams, a spokesperson for the IOC, told reporters that the IOC's decision was based on what would be best for the Olympic Games as a whole. Adams said it's "A decision to look at the core sports, what works best for the Olympic games. This is not about what's wrong with wrestling but what is good for the Games."

While the exact reasons why it was chosen remain unclear, there's something fishy about the whole thing. Many expected the modern pentathlon to be axed, that natural combination of swimming, fencing, shooting, equestrian and cross-country running. However, the current vice president of the International Modern Pentathlon Union, happens to be a member of the IOC board that voted on which sports to cut. If that isn't a conflict of interest, I don't know what is.

All hope is not lost for wrestling, it now joins seven other sports competing for its former spot. Thankfully this decision will be voted on by the IOC general assembly, which includes representation from all countries competing in the Olympics and not the same executive board that kicked wrestling out in the first place.

The future of Olympic wrestling is uncertain at this point, but it's sure to not go down without a fight.

To find the letter, visit [seth0189.tumblr.com/tagged/saveolympic-wrestling](http://seth0189.tumblr.com/tagged/saveolympic-wrestling).

**NATHAN BICKELL** is a senior documentary studies major. Contact him at [nbickel1@ithaca.edu](mailto:nbickel1@ithaca.edu).

# Festival hosts first-ever Chili Olympics

BY JACLYN CATALDI  
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

While hungry festivalgoers waited in line for cups of chili at the Great Downtown Ithaca Chili Cook-Off, some took a shot at the Chili Olympics — braving an obstacle course made of tires, spoons, sombreros and paddles in the middle of The Commons.

Contestants participated tested themselves during a number of games in the first-ever Chili Olympics on the brisk Saturday morning, and some walked away with a \$25 Downtown Ithaca gift card and a Chili Olympics championship title to their name.

The Chili Olympics is an event hosted by four stations of the Cayuga Radio Group: Lite Rock 97.3, 98.7 The Vine, I-100 Classic Rock on 99.9 and Hits 103.3.

During past Chili Fests, the area of The Commons was home to obstacles that promoted the prevention of drunk driving and other causes. This year, organizers said they wanted to mix it up.

"This was kind of their [the Cayuga Radio Group's] thought on how we could make this part a little more fun," Patty Clark, event manager for Downtown Ithaca, said. "This is a way for you to interact and do something really silly that's a little competitive."

The event consisted of four game challenges: an obstacle course, a game of tomato pong, a hot tire challenge and a jalapeño hustle.

Cornell University student Michelle Nanni said she and three fellow students were asked to volunteer in the opening challenge.

The students said they enjoyed racing in the obstacle course. For the race, the contestants had to test their agility by circling around two sombreros and stepping over a tire, all while trying to balance a jalapeño pepper on a small, plastic spoon.

"It was awkward at the beginning, but then it got really fun," Cornell student Taylor Smith said.

After the first round, festival attendees joined in the games. Four participants stepped



Competitors in the first Chili Olympics run an obstacle course while balancing a hot pepper on a plastic spoon. Other events included tomato pong, the hot tire challenge and the jalapeño hustle.  
DURST BRENEISER/ THE ITHACAN

up to the plate to play "tomato pong," in which each contestant had three cherry tomatoes and three chances to make it into a tire hole. One gift card winner for tomato pong was Ithaca resident Peter Park, who said he participated in the event "just for fun."

Though the start of the Chili Olympics may have started off slow, people were lined up to be a competitor in the third and fourth games of the event: the hot tire challenge and the jalapeño hustle.

Casey Martin, participant and winner, said he had a great time hustling and an even better time winning the \$25 gift card. Martin and his fellow contestants had to wear the sombreros on their heads and balance a jalapeño pepper on it while balancing another on a tiny ping-pong paddle.

They then had to race each other by stepping through tires one way and straddling them back. While many competitors were having some trouble holding onto both of their

peppers, Martin said he was prepared and finished ahead of the rest.

Martin said he participated in the Chili Olympics because he is athletic and really loves chili peppers.

"I'm really overjoyed, I'm still kind of processing it," Martin said. "Tomorrow morning it will really set in. I might go to Disney World."

While a \$25 gift card won't go far in getting someone to Disneyland, Martin said his winnings would go a long way toward getting him a ticket to an upcoming show at the State Theatre of Ithaca.

Four games, eight sets, eight \$25 gift cards and a bunch of happy people later, it was a successful Chili Olympics. Next year, Clark said she is hoping a lot more people will be aware of the events.

"Just let people know that these things exist, because they're very minor events," Clark said. "You never know who's going to get competitive over food competitions!"

## Ithaca residents compete for best stache

### MUSTACHE

FROM PAGE 23

round to compete for the grand prize: a small trophy with a mustache glued on the top, a \$25 gift certificate to the restaurants and shops on The Commons and mustache glory.

"Everyone wants people to look at them and say, 'That's the best mustache in Ithaca,'" Clark said. "It's an awesome honor."

Kat Walters, the host of the event, introduced the crowd to the contestants and had the audience cheer for their favorite. She announced one of the categories and crowdsourced who would move onto the finals in each division based on applause.

Ithaca resident Jonathan Ward, who went by his mustache alter ego "El Guapo" in the competition, was first in line. When his name was called, the crowd roared, and "El Guapo" was moved on to the final round.

Ward said although he didn't know there was a mustache competition held at Chili Fest, he had a great time participating in the event and enjoyed its showmanship. As he stood up on stage, "El Guapo" frequently pulled a comb out of his pocket and ran it through his thick, brown, nine-month-old Imperial mustache.

"It was fun playing with my mustache in front of so many people," he said.

Though his mustache might not be as old as Brown's, he said

he puts a good deal of effort into taking care of his facial hair.

"I comb it, I twirl it, I condition it," Ward said. "I give it a lot of trimmings, tender care and love of course."

Walters made her way past Ward and another contestant sporting a full, brown beard before arriving in front of John "Johnnycakes" Brown, last year's champion of the Chili Fest mustache competition. Starting bushy on his upper lip, Brown's mustache has a classic Fu Manchu quality to it, but instead of hanging straight down, his thick, white hair juts out toward the sides. It resembles an overgrown handlebar mustache, wide at the bottom on both sides.

Walters was initially unimpressed by the crowd's response to "Johnnycakes" and eliminated him from the competition after the first round.

After receiving low applause, Brown was ready to leave and headed away from the stage when the crowd began to stir.

"Johnnycakes ... Johnnycakes," the crowd chanted.

The crowd grew louder and louder, demanding that Brown progress to the final round of competition.

Walters said she could not ignore the crowd's request and moved him into the finals. She continued through the line of contestants that ended with two small local girls with bedazzled, adhesive mustaches.

"Johnnycakes" ultimately took the prize and "El Guapo" finished



Contestants in the Chili Fest mustache competition look on as Downtown Ithaca Events Coordinator Patty Clark speaks to a young contestant.  
KARLY REDPATH/ THE ITHACAN

in second.

Brown said he has been working on his mustache for more than five decades.

"I'll tell you, I was 17 when I got kicked out of high school for attempting to grow a misplaced eyebrow, so I've been growing [a mustache] since 1960," Brown said. Brown said a strict training regimen helped him grow out the best mustache possible.

"Oh I do push ups, I run 20 miles a day and eat a lot of sticky

stuff," he said.

Walters said the mustache competition was a successful event that she hopes will continue, and she thought the festival goers responded positively to it.

"This is a good time where everybody in the community is together," Walters said. "We have all different kinds of people [that participate], young and old — everybody can sport a mustache. And that's the great thing about the competition."



# Student goes for third hot pepper-eating title

## PEPPER

FROM PAGE 23

early 50s. Dressed in a worn Carhartt jacket, a pair of jeans and work boots with more than a few miles on them, he stared intently ahead as he quietly waited for his opportunity to sign into the contest. Everything from his thick, luxurious, graying beard to his steely gaze said he was an experienced pepper eater, ready to beat the heat.

The other was Aleks Racenis, an Ithaca resident, ready to enter the pepper-eating contest for the first time, fresh off of a final round defeat in the tomato toss. Standing tall at about 6 feet, Racenis waited in line and joked with other competitors. With an affable confidence, he smiled, grabbed a pen off the table, thanked the people behind it for hosting the event and signed his name on the waiver.

"Gather round!" Medcalf yelled, her voice booming through the cold, winter air. "We have a chili pepper-eating contest about to begin."

The crowd responded. Dozens looked on, creating a horseshoe around the eaters, pumping up a favorite competitor or chatting with friends. The atmosphere was electric, and a buzz was building around the tent as contestants chose their pepper.

"For the preliminary round, we want to find out if you can handle the heat," Medcalf said. "You must eat one jalapeño in one minute. Three, two, one — go!"

I took a small bite into the pepper — its seeds spilling out onto my tongue immediately turned the temperature in my mouth from "comfy" to "annoying." The heat was tolerable,

so I kept on chewing.

Before I could finish my first bite, I heard a loud cheer from the crowd.

"We've got our first finisher," Medcalf said. "He took that one down easily."

It was the bearded man. He came into this contest ready to eat. *Dammit.*

I finished my pepper shortly after and waited out the 30 seconds remaining in the round. When the minute ended, the emcee asked every competitor to stick his or her tongue out to make sure all of the pepper had been swallowed. Down the line she went, nixing two competitors before clearing me for the next round. As she continued down the line, the bearded man, red-faced and watery eyed, threw one hand up in the air and walked out of the competition and into the crowd.

*What a relief.*

Rounds came and went, and untested palates dropped like flies until the final round. Only three remained. One was Racenis.

"How have you prepared for this competition, Aleks?" the emcee asked.

"I have two brothers and everything we did was a competition, so I'm used to this kind of stuff," Racenis said with a laugh.

"What about you, Taylor?"

"I was just born with this talent, I guess," I replied, assured of my eventual victory.

In the final round, the first contestant to finish two peppers would be the winner.

The round began and all three of us jammed a jalapeño into our mouth and began chewing as fast as we could. The heat had mounted from the past



From left, junior Cassie Medcalf holds up the hand of Aleks Racenis, the winner of the jalapeño eating contest during the 2013 Chili Fest while junior Taylor Palmer expresses his disappointment. This is Racenis' first title.

SHAWN STEINER/THE ITHACAN

few rounds, and I began to sweat a little. I was in a good rhythm and the first pepper was down, but the crowd's eyes were fixed on Aleks. He had already popped his final jalapeño into his mouth, and I had a full pepper still in my hand.

It was game time. I bit into the pepper, furiously swallowed half of it with just one bite and put the rest of the pepper in my mouth, looking over toward Racenis out of the corner of my eye. Chewing as fast as I could, I saw Aleks open his mouth and stick out his tongue, signaling that he had finished the pepper and was about to be crowned champion.

"Oh, you've got some seeds on your tongue. You've got to clean those off," Medcalf said.

I was still alive! My head perked up and I chewed through the pain, closed my eyes and tilted my head back to get the last remnants of pepper down my throat, opened them back up and stuck out my tongue confidently.

When my eyes opened, I could see Racenis to my right with his tongue already out and the emcee in front of him checking for leftover jalapeño chunks.

"We have a winner!" she shouted.

The crowd cheered on the new champion, Racenis, and quickly dispersed as the spectacle ended. Feeling dejected, I shook his hand after our audience was gone.

"Earlier today, I was in the tomato toss and lost in the final round," he said. "I had a huge motivation to win

this one. I said 'I'm not losing again' it helped me win."

Racenis left The Commons with a friendly "See you next year" and a pepper-eating championship to his name, while I was left to wallow in defeat and contemplate the loss.

Arrogant and cocky, I walked into the contest assured of my victory and ended up surrounded by a group of people who were motivated for victory and well-trained.

I solemnly walked back to my apartment knowing that Racenis had bested me and that he was right about one thing — he would see me next year. He would see me well-trained and ready to challenge a formidable champion.

Everyone loves a comeback story.



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# TRACKING PROGRESS

The *Ithacan's* beat writers give an update on the Bombers' 2012-2013 winter sports regular season.

## Men's & Women's Indoor Track



Senior runner Jenn Randall on Jan. 26.  
DURST BRENEISER/THE ITHACAN

Both the men's and women's indoor track teams are continuing to have success this season. The women won their sixth-straight Empire 8 Championship this season. Women's team members have beat three school records so far this season. Senior Jenn Randall broke the school record in the 500-meter and the 800-meter. The 1,600-meter relay team, consisting of Randall, freshman Eliza Dewart, sophomore Harmony Graves and junior Martyann Chromik, has also set a new school mark.

The men's team won its sixth-straight Empire 8 title, and senior Alec Svoboda set a Heptathlon school record with 4,418 points Feb. 3. Next up for the Bombers is the New York State Collegiate Track Conference Indoor Championships in Ithaca at the Athletics and Events Center. The events begin at 10 a.m. Friday and will continue at 10 a.m. Saturday. The women's team is going for its fifth-straight state title, while the men look to improve on their 2nd-place finish from last year.

— Matt Contas

## Women's Basketball

The women's basketball team heads into the postseason with a 10-game winning streak and with a 23-2 overall record, its best regular-season finish in program history. The Bombers went 13-1 in the Empire 8 Conference play to claim the regular season crown and the No. 1 seed in the E8 tournament.

However, the team is unable to host because of renovations at the Hill Center and Ben Light Gymnasium and conflicts with potential neutral sites. The South Hill squad will travel to Oneonta, N.Y., to take on St. John Fisher in their semifinal matchup Friday. The Cardinals are the Bombers' only blemish in the E8 after falling to Fisher 63-59 Jan. 18. The South Hill squad is determined to accomplish their goal of reaching game number 33, the national championship. As injured players return to the court, things are looking good for the Bombers.



Junior guard Kathryn Campbell on Feb. 15.  
DURST BRENEISER/THE ITHACAN

— Danielle D'Avanzo

## Men's Basketball



Senior guard Sean Rossi on Feb. 16.  
DURST BRENEISER/THE ITHACAN

The men's basketball team clinched the second seed in the Empire 8 tournament with a 76-69 victory against Nazareth College in its final regular season game Feb. 16. The team ended the season with an overall record of 17-8 and a conference record of 10-4 and earned a win over the then-20th ranked Ducks of Stevens Institute of Technology on Jan. 25.

Senior guard Sean Rossi lead the E8 in assists this season with 7.0 per game and tied the all-time Division III record for career assists by recording 12 assists in the winning effort against Nazareth. Rossi is likely to break the record, needing just one assist during the Bombers' conference semifinal matchup against St. John Fisher Friday night in Hoboken, N.J.

If the Bombers advance, they will either play the top-seeded Stevens or Utica College on Saturday afternoon in the second round of conference play.

— Christian Araos

## Gymnastics

With its best meet of the season totaling 186.025 points, the gymnastics team showed last weekend that it's prepared for the ECAC Championship. Following the loss of a large senior class and multiple injuries, the Bombers' season started with a 0-9 record overall and 0-3 in the conference. But with weekly improvement and strong training, the squad put itself back on the map at the invitational last Saturday. The squad beat three teams in the conference, including Brockport, which defeated the Bombers earlier this season. The team has two meets left during the regular season and will enter the postseason beginning with the ECAC Championship on March 10 and then will move on to the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association Team Championship on March 22.



Junior Rani Jacobson on uneven bars Feb. 16.  
PARKER CHEN/THE ITHACAN

— Haley Costello

## Wrestling



Senior Ricky Gomez with the hold on Feb. 15.  
JENNIFER WILLIAMS/THE ITHACAN

In what was predicted as the Bombers' matchup of the year in The Ithacan's "Winter Sports Preview," the wrestling team entered the ring with a record of 7-5 trying to upset 7th-ranked Wilkes University.

In the end, the Bombers fell short on Senior Day, dropping the contest 19-12 with nine of the 10 matches coming down to decisions.

The Bombers raced to a lead early as senior Ricky Gomez, junior Dom Giacalone and sophomore Alex Gomez all decisively won the first three matches of the evening.

The Colonels turned things around, winning the final six of seven matches led by 149-pound sophomore Mark Hartenstine and 157-pound Kris Krawchuk, who ranked 2nd and 4th nationally in their respective weight classes, and won the match.

The Bombers will now have two weeks before they travel to Worcester, Mass., to compete in the NCAA Northeast Regional Competition, where they placed 2nd last season.

— Steve Derderian

## Men's & Women's Swimming & Diving

The regular season for the men's and women's swimming and diving teams is coming to a close. The teams' successes have led them to the Upper New York State Collegiate Swimming Association and Empire 8 Championships this upcoming weekend.

This season, the men were 15-1 in dual meet competition, with their only loss to Hartwick College. The women's team finished undefeated at 12-0. Sophomore Matt Morrison and junior Korie Fackler both set school records in diving during regular season competition. At the Bomber Invitational, junior Zack Kundel set the school's most recent record in the 50-meter freestyle.

So far this season, three Bombers on the men's side have been named Empire 8 Swimming and Diving Athletes of the week: senior Jake Lichter, junior Taylor Van Cott and Morrison was named twice. For the women, Fackler and senior Carly Jones earned the title as well.



Sophomore diver Matt Morrison on Jan. 19.  
DURST BRENEISER/THE ITHACAN

— Doug Geller





# Top Tweets

The funniest sports commentary via Twitter from this past week



**Sports Pickle**  
**@SportsPickle**

Do you think a 50-year-old Jordan could beat a 15-year-old LeBron?????



**Referee Logic**  
**@RefereeLogic**

SportsCenter is scrambling to confirm a report that LeBron likes his eggs scrambled. More to come.



**Bill Simmons**  
**@BillSimmons**

I'm rooting for MSU to win on a buzzer-beater just to see if Magic forgets he's on TV and loses his mind screaming.



**Brian Phillips**  
**@RunofPlay**

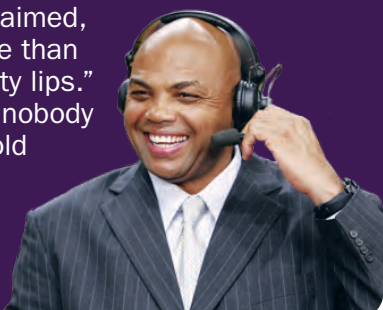
I hate the way Duke draws charges. But I also hate the way Maryland is Maryland. #drama

## the foul line

Weird news from the wide world of sports

TNT's Karl Malone revealed this week that retired NBA player and current analyst Charles Barkley used to keep Vaseline in his belly button during games to apply to his lips. Barkley did not deny Malone's comments but in fact offered a justification for his actions. Barkley claimed, "There's nothing worse than a black man with crusty lips." Seriously Sir Charles, nobody on the bench could hold your Vaseline?

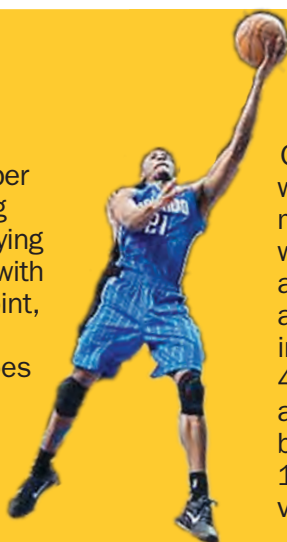
— Emily Hull



### MOE HARKLESS

Orlando Magic

He's only averaging 4.8 points per game. He may be in the starting lineup and getting sufficient playing time, but he is not doing much with it. Besides an impressive 19-point, 14-rebound and 4-steal game against Milwaukee, Harkless does not warrant consideration on a fantasy team. The fact that the Magic is playing him says a lot about its season.



### MILES SURREY'S

## FANTASY CORNER

Here are some athletes that get significant court time but aren't worth fantasy time.

### ALONZO GEE

Cleveland Cavaliers

Gee is a prime example of players who can help their own team with minimal contribution on offense, which is exactly why he should be avoided. His 10.4 points per game are not mind-blowing, he is shooting a low field-goal percentage at 41.1 percent, he has limited range at 0.8 3-pointers per game and besides respectable steal numbers, 1.4 per game, there is nothing of value here.



## One good egg

From left, senior Joe Potter of Green Eggs and Swightham drives to the basket while juniors Colin Monroe and Greg Stoll of Monstars look on in Ben Light Gymnasium on Monday night. Green Eggs and Swightham defeated Monstars 68-57.

DURST BRENEISER/THE ITHACAN

FEB  
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## On this day in...

Assistant Sports Editor Emily Hull breaks down important moments in pro sports and Bombers sports history that occurred Feb. 21.

### PRO SPORTS HISTORY

# 1948

The National Association for Stock Car Racing became affiliated. The driving force behind the sports incorporation was William "Bill" France Sr., a mechanic and auto repair shop owner. France served as NASCAR's first president. NASCAR's first Strictly Stock race was on June 19, 1949 in Charlotte, N.C. Nearly 13,000 fans attended to watch Glenn Dunnaway win the event in his 1947 Ford.

### BOMBERS SPORTS HISTORY

# 2006

In a game against Elmira College, then-senior forward Jill Post scored the winning basket with 2.1 seconds left on the clock in a 62-61 victory. The game winning shot came after a pair of missed free throws by the Soaring Eagles. Elmira had come back from a nine-point second-half deficit and took the lead with 32 seconds left on the clock. This marked the ninth straight loss in Ben Light Gymnasium for Elmira since 1998.

### Sports tidbits for the less-than-casual sports fan

Assistant Sports Editor Emily Hull offers a few sports topics to use at the bar, a party or an awkward lull in conversation



- Last Thursday, Michael Bloomberg, mayor of New York City, gave his annual state of the city address in the Barclays Center, home of the Brooklyn Nets. Among the banners touting basketball legends, city officials hung banners stating the decreased crime rates and other encouraging statistics. One banner stated there were a record low 419 homicides in 2012.

- Danica Patrick became the first woman to win the pole position for the upcoming Daytona 500 and a Sprint Cup event. She posted a speed of 196.434 miles per hour in the qualifying race.



# PHOTO FINISH

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CAPTURING THE BOMBERS AT THEIR BEST

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2013



## Up in arms

Freshman forward Brad Johanson charges up toward the net while Nazareth College freshman forward Maurice Mills attempts to block his shot Saturday afternoon in Ben Light Gymnasium. The team won with a 76-69 victory to conclude its regular season and will now move on to the Empire 8 Championship tournament against St. John Fisher on Friday.

DURST BRENEISER/THE ITHACAN