THE ITHACAN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015 • VOLUME 83, ISSUE 12

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Tom Rochon has complex tenure at IC

BY EVAN POPP
STAFF WRITER

Tom Rochon has been president of Ithaca College since July 2008. His tenure has seen several campus initiatives, but it has also been marked by campus controversies and problems with the college's racial climate.

This semester, major protests have erupted at the college regarding issues of race, diversity and inclusion at the college following several recent racially charged events. The demonstrations have been spearheaded by the group POC at IC, which stands for People of Color at Ithaca College.

The demonstrations have centered around improving the college's racial climate and the removal of Rochon as a result of his handling of racial issues at the college and a perceived lack of inclusivity in decision-making, among other grievances. The demonstrators have used the rallying cry of "Tom Rochon: No Confidence," and both a student and a faculty vote of no confidence in Rochon have been initiated.

Early Years

Conflicts occurred early in Rochon's tenure. IC View, the alumni magazine, came under fire in February 2009 after Emily McNeil '08 wrote a piece titled "Final Word: The Violence Must End" about the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine. Some found McNeil's article offensive because they viewed it as only telling the Palestinian side of the story.

Rochon responded to the piece, saying IC View failed to engage the topic of the conflict between Israel and Palestine in an unbiased way.

The then-editor of IC View Maura Stephens said she was forced to apologize for the article. She said the administration threatened to fire her and her original apology was edited by the administration.

"[Rochon] handled it very badly," Stephens said. "First of all, he couldn't speak to me personally, and that seemed very cowardly to me. And removing the heartfelt apology that I had agreed to write, an apology that I wanted to write and they agreed to do that, then editing it subsequently without my permission is highly unethical."

Leadership Style

A theme among current and former student leaders and some faculty members regarding Rochon is a perceived dictatorial, top-down leadership approach.

Cedrick-Michael Simmons '14, the Student Government Association president during the 2013–14 academic year, said from the start of his SGA presidency, Rochon made it clear who had the power.

"In our first conversation, he pretty much told me that, I'm summarizing what he said … SGA can create a bill, with a recommendation, and he, if he wants to, can look at it and throw it right in the trash," Simmons said.

An additional example of Rochon's leadership style prompting friction was in September 2012 when he implemented a policy requiring student media outlets requesting an interview with college administrators to go through the

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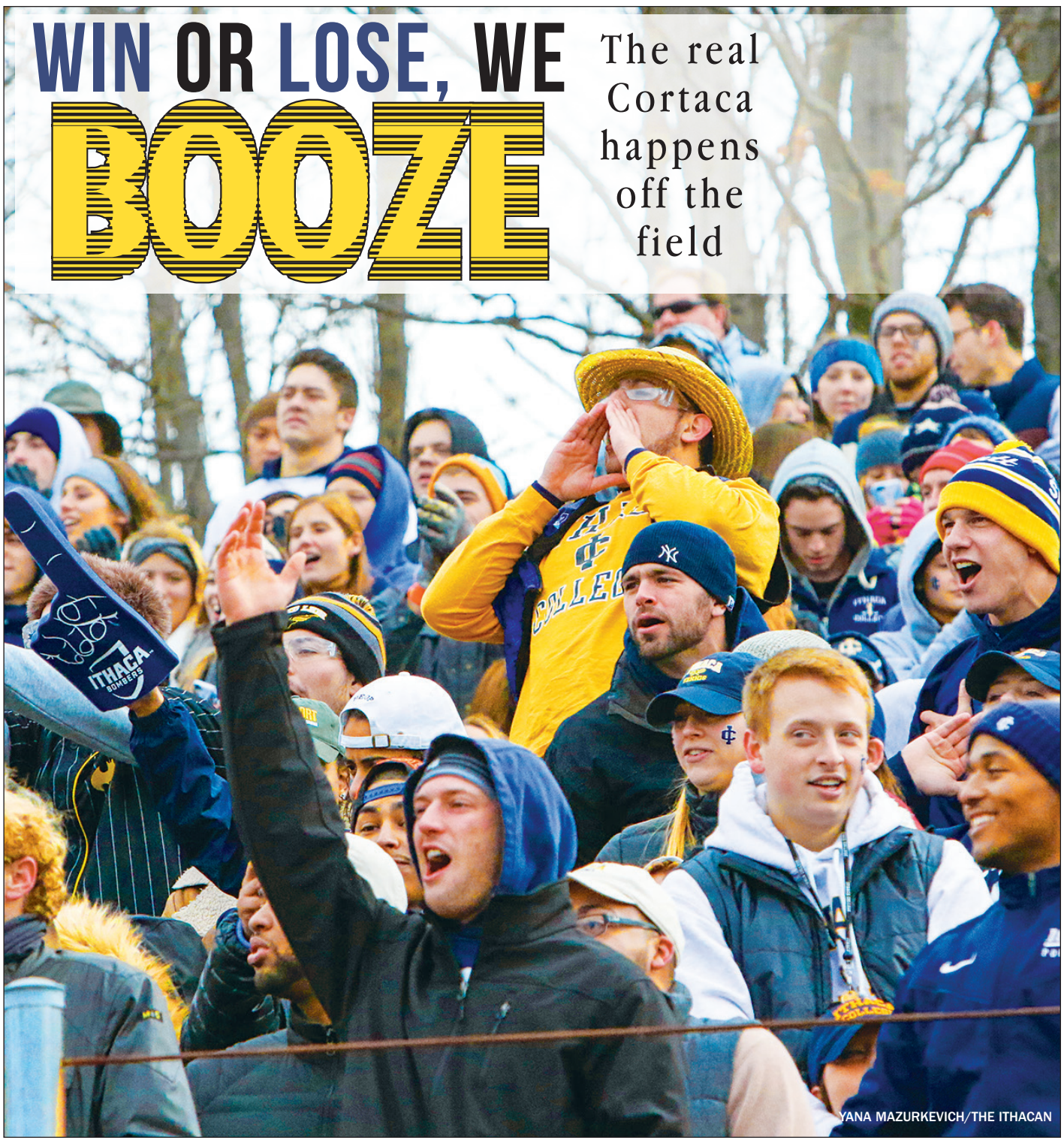
ITHACAN LONGFORM NARRATIVE

WIN OR LOSE, WE BOOZE

The real Cortaca happens off the field



YANA MAZURKEVICH/THE ITHACAN

BY MARY FORD
LIFE & CULTURE EDITOR

The screaming began at exactly 8:11 a.m.

"Let's go BOMBS!"

"Fuck Cortlaaaand!!!"

They weren't screams so much as they were greetings. In a way, that made them more frightening. Shouted from balconies and out of doorways to those who carried clanging-bottle bags in from their cars, through held-open doors the salutations rang:

"Let's go Bombers!"

"Fuck yeah, Cortacaaaaaaaa!"

1/4 — Pregame

It was the start of that year's quintessential rivalry game day, in which the Ithaca College Bombers squared off against the SUNY Cortland Red Dragons. As with most college rivalries, it had little to do with football: Though Cortaca itself has gained fame as the Biggest Little Game in the nation, able to be bet upon alongside the Division I big guns, for most of its attendees, Cortaca meant something different. Some thought of this day as more important than graduation: At an hour that's difficult to make it to class, waking up for Cortaca was easy. Almost any task is made easier when you wake up with a beer already in hand.

They readied themselves by taking several shots of Fireball and flavored Smirnoff for breakfast, steadied themselves by taking a longer-than-usual time to dress, donning the women's Cortaca uniform: flannel shirt, leggings and winter vest, baseball cap, long socks and face paint — all, of course, preferable if colored Bomber Blue and Gold. They, too, called themselves Bombers, and they had pride without knowing why: They knew they'd lost last year, and the year before that and the year before that and the year before ... really, they knew they'd lost a lot, but couldn't put a finger on how many times. (Ithaca had been defeated for the past five years, in fact. A sixth would make it the longest losing streak in Cortaca history, and based on the teams' season records, was almost inevitable.)

After an hour, they transferred mixed drinks to take-out containers or Vitamin Water bottles, rendering them conspicuous with oddly tinted contents. From every corner of campus they paraded, sashaying out of dorms and apartments, laughing loudly and making their way — albeit crookedly — to the stadium on the far west end of the hill. Soon, on Ithaca College's main quad was the largest gathering of students since ... well, since last Wednesday, when a thousand or so of the fans had turned out to block the very pathways they were walking down now, part of a protest against President Tom Rochon and the racial climate of the place. Led by people of color on campus, a group known as POC at IC, they received national media attention that day. Now, with flashy cameras gone, the excitement of protesting had faded. There were rumors there'd be more disturbances today, rumors that had been quelled by threats of violence posted on Yik Yak: "If you try anything on Saturday you'll be jumped;" "POC you have been warned." Although appalled, these Bombers chose to carry on. But who could blame them? The college only had one day to go crazy: At any DI school, there'd be a Cortaca-caliber celebration every weekend. It was no one's right to revoke their fun, even if it had been revoked from the people of color leaving campus for their own safety.

For outrage, there would be plenty of other days. But not today.

By 9:30 a.m., all parking lots nearest the game were filling quickly with cars and with crowds — although, according to the girl manning the neon-striped traffic gates, visitors had been waiting for her at the beginning of her 7 a.m. shift, kegs at the ready. She volunteered for the work, she said.

"It was either this or sleep. At least this way I get paid. I mean … I just don't understand people! How can you do this?"

She gestured toward the lot where the students crowded

See **CORTACA,** Page 16

Nation & World

Islamic State militants await possible assault on their capital

Islamic State militants are stiffening their defenses for a possible assault on their de facto capital Raqqa as international airstrikes intensify on the Syrian city in retaliation for the Paris attacks. The fighters are hiding in civilian neighborhoods and preventing anyone from fleeing, activists said.

Activists from Raqqa said the northern Syrian city's estimated 350,000 residents are gripped by fear, rattled by powerful Russian and French airstrikes that shake the city daily and worried they would be trapped with nowhere to go amid signs of a looming ground invasion by U.S.-allied Kurdish and Arab forces in Syria.

For months, those forces have been advancing gradually toward Raqqa with backing from American-led airstrikes, capturing IS-held towns to the north and east of the city. After IS claimed responsibility for the Nov. 13 carnage in Paris that killed at least 129 people, there are calls for even stronger action in Syria.

Iraqi intelligence officials this week told The Associated Press the operation was planned in Raqqa, where the attackers were trained specifically for this operation with the intention of sending them to France. The attacks came soon after IS claimed the downing of a Russian plane in Egypt and deadly suicide bombings in Lebanon and Turkey.

John Kerry, U.S. Secretary of State, suggested Raqqa would be the new focus.

"My sense is that everybody understands that with Lebanon's attacks, with what's happened in Egypt, with Ankara, Turkey, with the attacks now in Paris, we have to step up our efforts to hit them at the core where they're planning these things," he said after his meeting with French President Francois Hollande on Nov. 17.

White House holds conference call with governors on Syrian refugees

The White House held a 90-minute conference call with governors about plans to increase the number of refugees accepted in the United States after governors raised concerns related to last week's attacks in Paris.

The governors of Michigan, Pennsylvania, Vermont and other states participated Nov. 17 and asked questions of senior Obama administration officials.

A spokeswoman for Michigan Republican Gov. Rick Snyder said he appreciated the discussion and told officials he'd like "more robust data" on the refugee system.

Vermont Democratic Gov. Peter Shumlin said he has faith in the "rigorous" screening process outlined by administration officials, and he reiterated to governors that terrorists win "when we give into fear."

More than half of governors object to plans to resettle Syrian refugees in the U.S.

Strong quake hits Greek island

A strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of at least 6.1 hit the western Greek island of Lefkada Nov. 17, killing two people, sparking landslides and causing extensive damage to roads and buildings.

The temblor was felt across western Greece, prompting residents on Lefkada and the nearby Ionian Sea island of Kefalonia to rush out into the streets.

The Athens Geodynamic Institute said the undersea quake occurred at 9:10 a.m. off of Greece's western mainland, 186 miles west of Athens. The U.S. Geological Survey put the preliminary magnitude at 6.5. Different agencies often have varying preliminary magnitudes, sometimes even days after a quake.

Greek authorities struggled to assess the damage, their efforts hampered by landslides blocking Lefkada's narrow, mountainous roads.

The fire department said an 82-year-old woman was killed in the village of Athani when a wall collapsed on her, and a 69-year-old woman died in another village when a boulder loosened by the earthquake tumbled down onto her house. Four people were hospitalized with injuries that were not life-threatening.

Paris terror victims remembered with vigils

People light candles for victims who were killed in the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris during a vigil in Lahore, Pakistan, Nov. 17. Multiple attacks across Paris the night of Nov. 13 have left at least 129 people dead — including Nohemi Gonzalez, an American student from California — and hundreds injured.

K.M. CHAUDARY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Minneapolis police shooting videos won't be publicly released

State investigators looking into the fatal shooting of a black Minneapolis man by police have partial videos of the incident but won't release them at this time, an official said Nov. 17.

Jamar O'Neal Clark, 24, died Nov. 16, the day after he was shot by police during an early-morning dispute.

Some witnesses said Clark was handcuffed when he was shot. Police initially said he was not handcuffed, but authorities later said handcuffs were at the scene, and they were trying to determine whether Clark was restrained.

SOURCE: ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Who I Am: Muslim Students
Amid stereotypes and misconceptions, Muslim students stay true to their faith.

***The Ithacan* Interview: Dominick Recckio**
The Ithacan sat down with senior Dominick Recckio, Student Government Association president, to discuss the student no confidence vote.

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College working to address ADA compliance issues

BY MAURA ALEARDI
STAFF WRITER

With 16 areas on campus cited by the Office of Civil Rights as not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act standards, Ithaca College is currently working to resolve these issues.

The college initiated an agreement with the Office of Civil Rights on Aug. 4 to resolve all areas of the campus that are not compliant with the ADA standards, said Nancy Pringle, vice president and general counsel of legal affairs.

When a building is cited as noncompliant, it refers to specific areas, not the entire building, Pringle said. Most of the areas cited as not compliant with the ADA regulations included restrooms, electric door openers and the weight of doors, and parking lots, she said.

Pringle said the following buildings on campus were cited as noncompliant: Roy H. Park Hall, Smiddy Hall, Alumni Hall, Peggy Ryan Williams Center, Park Center for Business, Williams Hall, Center for Natural Sciences, Rothschild Place, Egbert Hall/Campus Center, Fitness Center, Whalen Center, Center for Health Sciences, Garden Apartments, Boothroyd Hall and all parking lots.

The Office of Civil Rights visited the college twice in 2009 to assure that the ADA standards were in place on campus, Pringle said, and provided a final list of updates required by the campus in August 2014. The college created a resolution agreement, outlining potential solutions to the problems, she said. After approving the solutions, the Office of Civil Rights granted the college two years to implement the solutions, Pringle said.

The resolution agreement has three parts. The first two include small projects, such as door openers, weight of doors, restrooms and slopes getting into buildings, Pringle said. She said the first part is to be completed by Jan. 31, 2016, and the second by Sept. 1, 2016.

Senior Suba Chakraborty was born with a disability causing his leg to stop growing after his thigh. He said he has been waiting for the college to resolve issues of accessibility around campus since his freshman year of college.
JENNIFER WILLIAMS/THE ITHACAN

Pringle said the third part is probably the most costly and difficult: the parking lots. For example, she said the F Lot next to Smiddy Hall will need to undergo serious slope renovations. This project, to be completed by 2017, along with part two, will take longer to complete because engineers must assess the potential renovations first, she said.

Senior Suba Chakraborty was born with a disability causing his leg to stop growth after his thigh, he said. He now uses crutches to get around.

Chakraborty said he has been waiting for these ADA changes to happen since his first year at the college. One of the main obstacles Chakraborty said he's faced on campus is accessing Friends Hall. He said taking the stairs is the only way to get to the third floor of Friends Hall, which is something he's had to do for at least four classes during his time at the college.

"It's always been an uphill climb. It kind of makes sense that I go here now because it's also an uphill climb," he said.

He said despite presenting feedback, he hasn't seen accessibility improvements since his freshman year.

"They've tried something in the past where they wanted feedback or suggestions as to what they could do to improve the campus or classes itself," he said. "We gave a bunch, but none of them actually happened, so I'm pretty sure that is a definite, 'No, we don't care. We'll make the effort to show that we might.' But it's just a face they put on."

The funds for the renovations come from a $100,000 placeholder in the yearly budget, set aside for compliance issues, Pringle said. She said many of the ADA compliance renovations may be covered by that budget.

Along with compliance renovations, the college is also working to address issues caused by deferred maintenance, said Gerald Hector, vice president of finance and administration. Deferred maintenance is when renovations need to be made but are not covered by the budget. Hector said deferred maintenance is a necessity on every college campus and many are struggling to battle it.

Tim Carey, associate vice president of the Office of Facilities, said the only time the college would defer maintenance is when the administration is sure the problem is not harmful. For example, he said if the college cannot afford repairs on a boiler, the administration will only defer the maintenance if it knows the boiler can make it through the winter. He said with the five-year plan set in place, the college will be able to better handle deferred maintenance.

"We have some deferred maintenance on our campus. The good news for Ithaca College is that we have a really robust plan for how to address it," Carey said.

Carey said the administration will never defer maintenance if it is health-related. He said they work closely with Student Accessibility Services and the Office of Residential Life to ensure they make the campus accessible.

Over the past two summers, Carey said the college has done renovations to rooms on campus, making them more convenient for students.

He said architects are working on plans to build rooms that accommodate students with and without disabilities.

He also said an elevator will be added to Friends Hall during the summer of 2016.

"What we're trying to do now, and wherever possible, is to try to get our buildings to be accessible by our students," Carey said.

Part-time faculty want to vote on Rochon

BY GRACE ELLETSON
STAFF WRITER

Ithaca College part-time faculty have expressed disappointment about being excluded from the vote of no confidence in President Tom Rochon to be held by Faculty Council and have been in conversation to initiate their own vote.

Faculty Council decided to include all full-time, continuing faculty members, professional librarians and phased retired faculty. Peter Rothbart, chair of the Faculty Council and professor in the Department of Music Theory, History, and Composition, refused to comment since the decision to exclude part-time faculty was made in executive session.

In an earlier interview, Rothbart said his own personal reasoning as to why part-time faculty should not be part of the vote is because they are "somewhat transient," some having been at the college for years, some only a semester.

Sean McKinniss, a Ph.D. graduate from Ohio State University, has studied no confidence votes that occur at colleges and universities from around the country. He's found that part-time faculty are usually not included in the vote.

"Full-time faculty tend to be more involved in the university by virtue of their position," McKinniss said.

The University of South Carolina Upstate held a no confidence vote April 24, 2015. Tammy Whaley, assistant vice chancellor for University Communications, said part-time faculty were not included in the vote because they are also not involved in shared governance processes.

Above, Peter Rothbart, chair of Faculty Council, speaks during the Nov. 10 meeting where the council decided to exclude part-time faculty members from the faculty vote of no confidence.
AMANDA DEN HARTOG/THE ITHACAN

Rachel Kaufman, a lecturer in the Department of Writing, said she definitely disagrees that most part-time faculty are transient. She said part-time faculty who have only been here a semester are outliers and represent a very small population of the part-time faculty.

"A lot of us have been here for many years, a vast majority of us have more than a semester contract," Kaufman said.

Rothbart said the reason for excluding the part-time faculty was taken directly from the H&S Senate's motion for a vote of no confidence.

Kaufman said while in the process of organizing data for the part-time union, she determined that part-time faculty make up a third of the faculty population at the college, and she is disappointed they are being excluded.

"This is such an important time for us to raise our voice in unison," Kaufman said.

Brody Burroughs, a lecturer in the Department of Art, said while he is disappointed, he also understands why part-time faculty might have been left out.

"I understand that they have reasons for wanting the vote to be crafted in a certain way … I don't think it was intended to diminish us," Burroughs said.

Dominick Recckio, Student Government Association president, said while he is happy that the council elected to hold a vote, he's frustrated with part-time faculty not being included, arguing that they're a substantial part of the campus community. Recckio said not including part-time faculty was "really, really disappointing and exclusive."

Sarah Grunberg, a lecturer in the Department of Sociology, said some part-time faculty met over a weekend and have been conversing about possibly creating a vote of their own.

Kaufman is newly appointed to Faculty Council, as a seat was made available for a part-time faculty representative. Her first meeting was supposed to be Nov. 11, when the decision for a vote was made and who would be voting in it, but Kaufman was out of town at an academic conference.

"It's unfortunate because if that hadn't happened, we would have been able to be a part of the discussion," Kaufman said.

Faculty will hold teach-in

BY SOPHIA TULP
STAFF WRITER

A teach-in titled "Confidence or No Confidence? Making an Informed Decision" will focus on the racial climate at Ithaca College, the no confidence votes in President Tom Rochon and other recent campus issues.

The event will be held during the noon hour Nov. 19 in Textor 102.

Peyi Soyinka-Airewele, a professor in the Department of Politics who was involved with a group of faculty responsible for planning the event, said the teach-in will be about how faculty are thinking about the events on campus from their perspective, offering a chance for students and faculty to get together and ask questions about the recent events.

Soyinka-Airewele said all members of the campus community are welcome, however they specifically encourage people who are not sure about their stance on the issues.

"We have actually been planning to do this teach-in because it has been clear to us that a lot of students, faculty and staff are not sure of all the issues involved in the whole discussion around the crisis happening in the moment," Soyinka-Airewele said.

"Some think it's just about a few racial incidents, and I think faculty have a much deeper historical understanding of why it is the vote of no confidence is going on," she said.

She also said faculty from many of the schools across campus will be present to share.

Soyinka-Airewele said this event is not the only event being planned, and there is a possibility for an all-faculty meeting in the works for the week after Thanksgiving break. The student no confidence vote ends Nov. 30 while the faculty no confidence vote will open Nov. 30 and close Dec. 11.

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Higher than the national average

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA DEN HARTOG

Ithaca College students report using more drugs and drinking more alcohol than the national average

BY MAURA ALEARDI
STAFF WRITER

Ithaca College students use marijuana, drink alcohol, feel stressed and have sex more than the national average, according to survey results from the National College Health Assessment survey.

The college's Center for Health Promotion released the 2015 survey results Sept. 13, and the national reference data from the American College Health Association was released this month, revealing the college places above the national average in a number of categories.

The survey was emailed to 3,062 students between February and March. Of the students who received the email, 718 completed the survey.

Seventy-six percent of students at the college said they consumed alcohol in the past month, while the national average was 64.8 percent.

In addition, 34.7 percent of the college's students said they used marijuana in the past month, while the national average was 16.9 percent.

Nancy Reynolds, health promotion center program director, said the trends may be explained by the stress levels revealed in the survey.

The stress results revealed that 9.6 percent of students at the college have seriously considered suicide within the last school year, while the national average is 5.7 percent. Only 12.1 percent of students nationally reported being treated for anxiety, while 19.5 percent of students at the college did. Fifteen percent of students at the college reported being treated for depression, while nationally only 10.7 percent of students did. In addition, 59.7 percent of the students at the college felt overwhelming anxiety within the last school year, while the national average was 20.8 percent.

Reynolds said it's common for students to relieve stress by using substances, such as alcohol or marijuana.

These results have exceeded the national average since the Center for Health Promotion began conducting the survey in 2003, Reynolds said. While she cannot explain why the results are so high, she said she is trying to reduce them for the future.

"Any change toward improved health is really what we're after," Reynolds said. "I don't think anyone's decided that our students should be entirely substance free, that's really not the realistic goal, but we're definitely on board for reducing harm that substances cause."

Reynolds said she is attempting to do this by implementing programs to improve the health of the college's students. One of the most influential programs in place is the Balancing Alcohol and Substance Use to Improve College Success program, she said. BASICS is a program used by many universities in the U.S. to focus on prevention, identification and early intervention.

Reynolds said she and the health promotion team on campus can use these survey results to benefit the students on campus. Reynolds can present the results to the Ithaca College Board of Trustees and other stakeholders in order to receive more resources for the specific health needs of the students.

"We need to be able to find resources that are going to help us address the high demand that we have for our services," Reynolds said. "Knowing that our substance rates are higher, we should have a credentialed substance abuse counselor on staff. Currently, if you need that service, you need to go off campus to find that."

In addition to above-average substance use, students at the college reported having more sexual partners than the national average. Sixteen percent of the college's students reported having more than four partners, compared to 7 percent nationally.

Students have differing opinions about the levels of both substance use and stress on campus. Some, like freshman McKenna Pols, believe substance abuse is not any more of an issue than it would be at the next college.

"It's typical of a college campus," she said. "I'd say stress levels would be a little bit lower than average. It seems like everyone kind of knows how to handle their stress and have fun, but also learn."

After learning about the survey results, Pols said she was not confident in the college's ability to change them, attributing the problem to influences students experienced prior to attending the college.

Reynolds said the results from the AlcoholEdu survey, completed by incoming freshmen, indicate that many students come to the college already using substances.

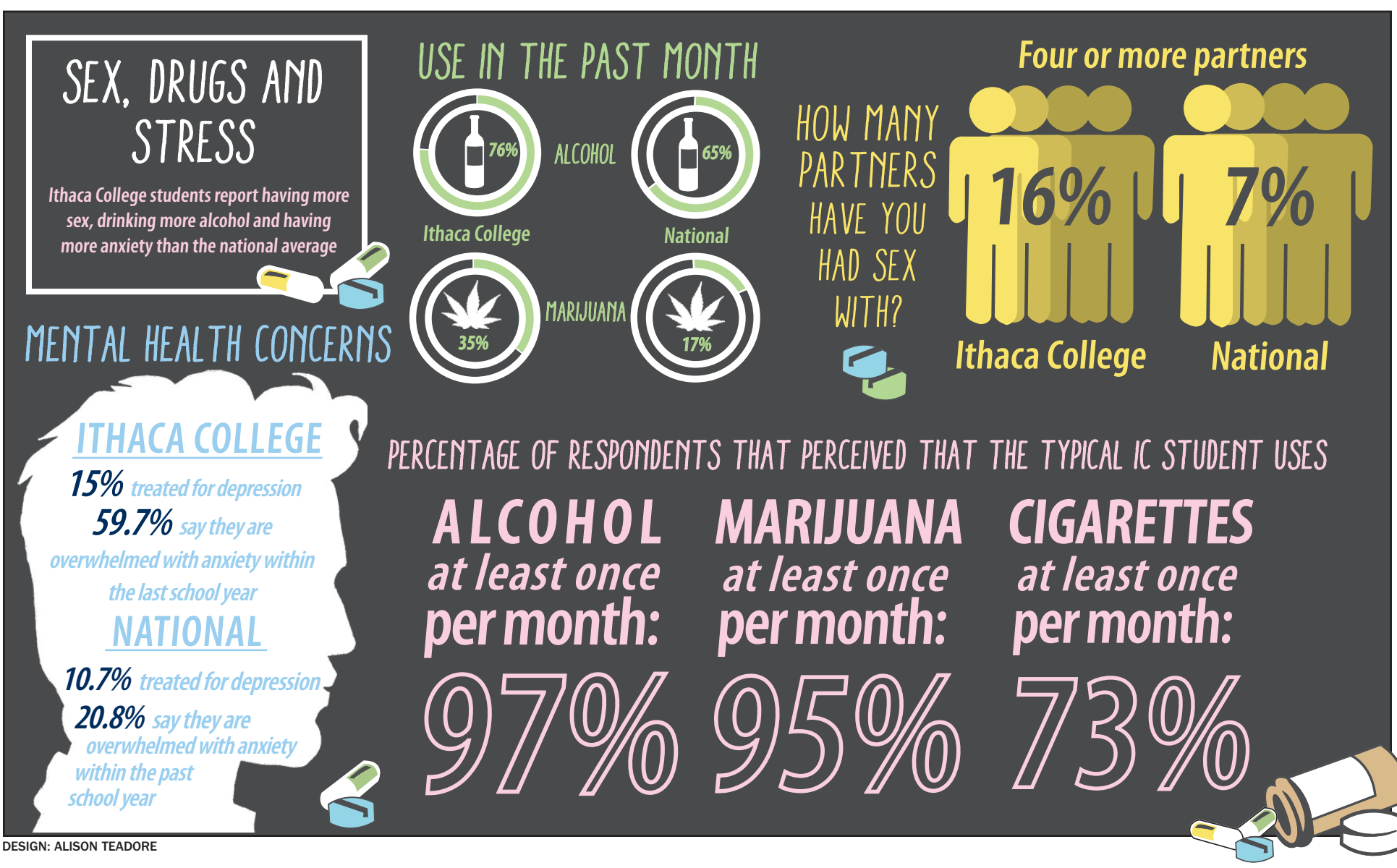
Junior Dylan Radigan also said high stress levels may be caused by outside influences that the college cannot control. He said while the school is making a strong effort to address the problem, it may just be "the nature of Ithaca."

"I could see it because of the weather conditions and the winter depressions people go through," he said. "I know some people who use substances as a result of stress. I consider them outliers and not a huge part of the general population."

Reynolds said although the results have been consistently above the national average, alcohol and cigarette use has decreased over the past 10 years by 6 and 8 percent, respectively. Marijuana use, however, has increased by almost 8 percent.

The decrease in alcohol and cigarette use, however, along with the increase in condom use after providing free condoms, proves that the college's methods are working, Reynolds said.

"The substance abuse issue is one that's kind of risen to the top of our radar because of our NCHA data," she said. "It's really allowed us to understand that this is a really significant health concern at IC. We're certainly not the only ones."



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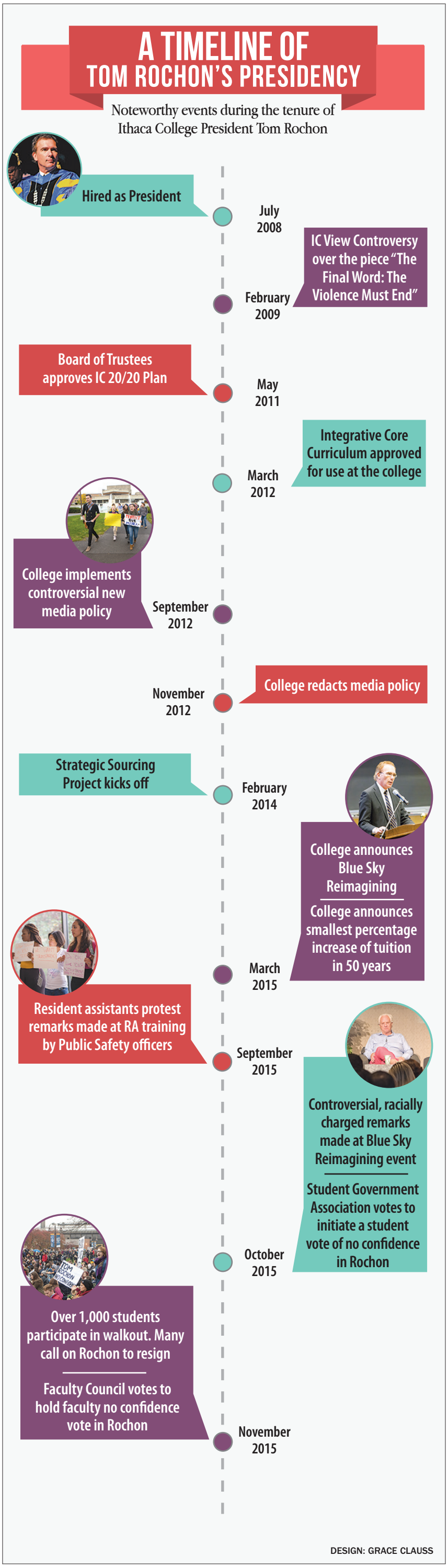


President Tom Rochon attends the Nov. 11 "Solidarity Walkout." POC at IC, the group that planned the walkout, is calling for Rochon to resign. Rochon has said he has no intention of stepping aside.
AMANDA DEN HARTOG/THE ITHACAN

ROCHON, from Page 1

college's media relations department. The policy caused an uproar in the campus community, with students holding a sit-in protest. Rochon eventually gave in and revoked the policy.

An additional criticism of Rochon during his tenure has been a perceived lack of student input and engagement. Tariq Meyers '14, the student trustee on the Ithaca College Board of Trustees from 2012–14, said he didn't engage with Rochon as much as he expected to as the student trustee.

Asma Barlas, a professor in the politics department and the former director of the Center for the Study of Culture, Race and Ethnicity, said Rochon does not make an effort to form relationships.

"He's remote in terms of cultivating relationships with anyone, and to be perfectly frank, in all of the years that I've talked to people around him . . . I didn't get the sense that people were actually very comfortable around him," Barlas said.

Raj Subramaniam, a graduate chair and professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Physical Education, said he has no confidence in Rochon's leadership.

"He doesn't seem to be connected to the faculty or the students — he seems to be in his own world, so to speak," Subramaniam said.

Subramaniam said Rochon is looking at the activities of the college through too much of a corporate lens.

Meyers said he often felt Rochon didn't care about or respect students' perspectives. He said before he was the student trustee, there was an opportunity for the student trustee to give a presentation to the board of trustees. However, Meyers said this time was taken away when he was the student trustee.

"His leadership failed the student body, and it's been failing the student body," he said.

John Rosenthal, professor in the Department of Mathematics, said he thinks Rochon has a top-down approach.

"I would add that is not just an Ithaca College situation. From what I understand, that is a national trend," Rosenthal said. "Many college presidents, I think, have become increasingly top-down in how they act."

However, Rosenthal said he does have some confidence in Rochon's leadership, although not total confidence. He said while he is not satisfied with everything Rochon has done, he doesn't expect that he should be.

Warren Schlesinger, an associate professor of accounting, said he will not be voting no confidence in Rochon's leadership. He said he interprets the vote of no confidence as a question of whether Rochon should be fired, and added that Rochon has been receptive to faculty and student demands this semester, except for the demand that he resign.

"I have yet to hear of a single demand that students or faculty are currently making that he has turned down in this area," he said.

Racial Issues

Protests regarding the issue of race have erupted this semester. But Crystal Kayiza '15, the SGA president during the 2014–15 academic year, said these issues existed at the college previously. She said anyone who is surprised by the current protests hasn't been paying attention and Rochon does share some of the responsibility for the events leading to the demonstrations.

A statement from the college was released by David Maley, senior associate director of media relations, regarding the college's racial climate issues. It reads: "There is no question that the college, like the rest of our nation, has a great deal of work to do to make this happen, including the very urgent need to combat systemic and structural racism."

The statement goes on to say the college won't shy away from encouraging tough questions and concludes by saying issues of race and cultural bias are receiving Rochon's full attention.

The acknowledgement of issues of race at the college has been a topic of conversation in the recent past, particularly with the campus-climate survey conducted in Fall 2012, which measured student, faculty and staff comfort levels on campus. Simmons said a large part of his year as SGA president was spent attempting to get the administration to release the results of the campus-climate survey. The survey, which was the subject of repeated delays in its release, was released in February 2015 and revealed stark perception gaps among different identity groups regarding inclusivity at the college.

As an explanation for the delay, Simmons said he was told the Office of Institutional Research didn't have the capabilities to analyze the data. However, Simmons said at the end of the year, he found out Institutional Research had been asking for help in analyzing the data.

"It seemed as if for some reason the data, or the evidence, was being hidden, and once we looked at the data, it was very apparent that there were wide disparities with respect to race, with respect to status of disability, with respect to gender," Simmons said.

> "He doesn't seem to be connected to the faculty or students — he seems to be in his own world, so to speak."
> — Raj Subramaniam

Rochon declined to be interviewed for this story. However, he conducted an interview with *The Ithacan* Nov. 12 during which, among other topics, he addressed the delay in the release of the campus-climate survey. Rochon said he could have handled the survey differently.

Rochon said he was so focused on getting meaningful feedback he allowed the perfect to get in the way of the good. Most of the delay in the release of the survey was due to the college trying to figure out how to get that deeper analysis, Rochon said.

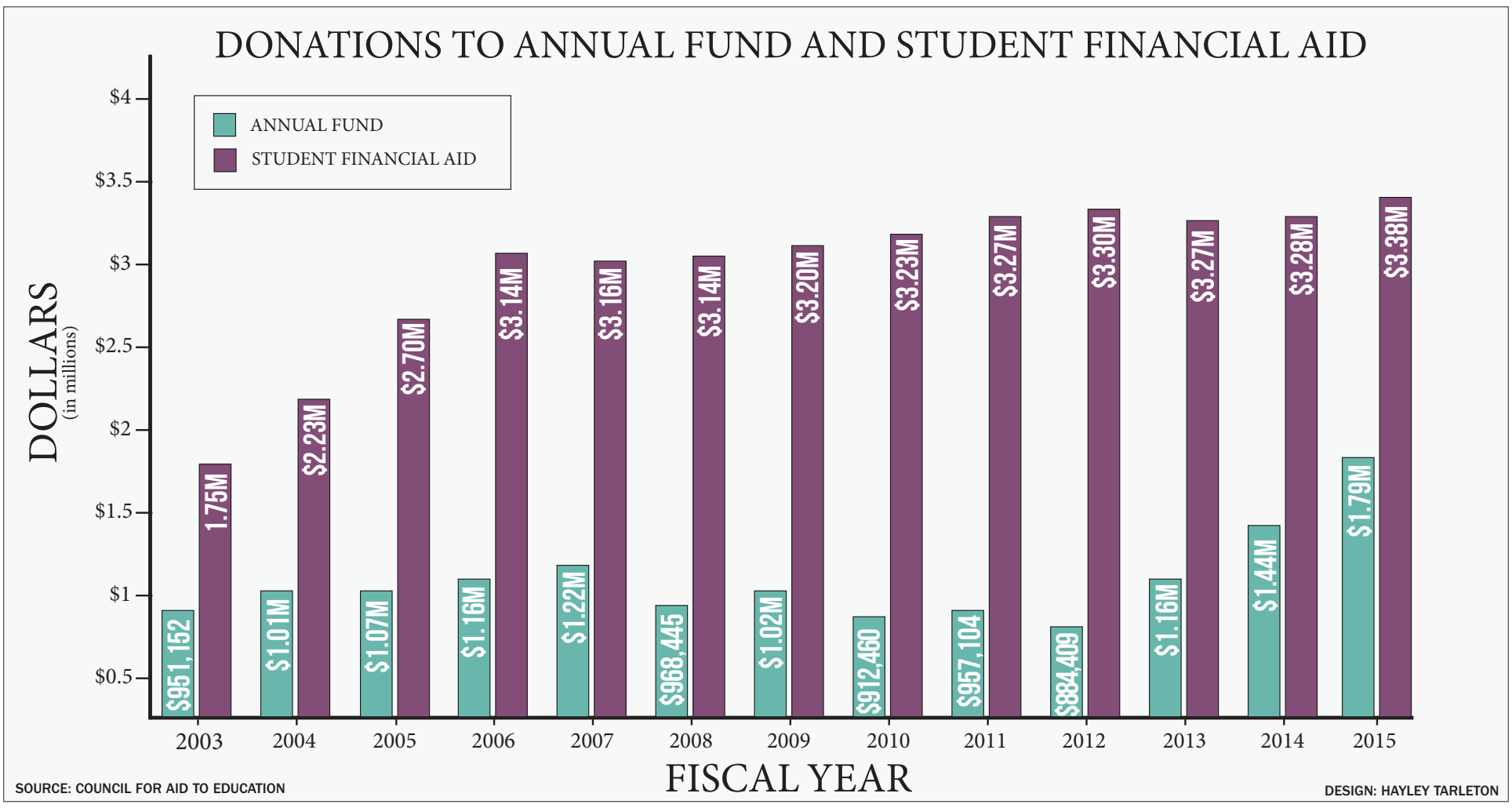
Senior Dominick Recckio, the current SGA president, said Rochon has contributed to the college's racial climate issues and that systems at the college have marginalized students of color. He said even though over Rochon's tenure, the percentage of African, Latino, Asian and Native American students at the college has increased to about 20 percent of the student body from 10.8 percent in Fall 2008, that is not enough to create a campus climate that is safe and supportive of students of color.

"What's the faculty number that aligns with that?" Recckio said. "It better damn be 20 percent."

As of Fall 2014, ALANA faculty made up about 11 percent of the overall faculty population.

Rochon acknowledged the gap between the number of ALANA students and ALANA faculty. He said fewer new faculty come into the college every year than new students, so it is natural that faculty diversity grows at a slower rate. However, he said he wishes the college had initiated an increase in faculty diversity.

"Of course I wish that we had addressed that sooner," Rochon said. "Though at the same time, I have to tell you that had I taken the initiative to point to that even two years ago, I'm not sure the campus was ready to hear that was an issue and was ready to embrace that as something we need to work on the way they are



right now."

Simmons said he sent a policy brief to the president and the provost about microaggressions and told them they should pay attention to racial issues before they saw resistance.

However, Benjamin Rifkin, current provost and vice president for educational affairs, defended Rochon's actions during an interview with *The Ithacan* Nov. 11, saying he has confidence in Rochon's leadership of the college.

"President Rochon has a record of extraordinary accomplishments on this campus, and while we have had a very difficult fall semester, he and his leadership team have put forward a plan of action in response to community suggestions, and he and the leadership of the college have continued to express their willingness to be flexible on adapting that plan of action and adding new ideas and projects," Rifkin said.

Schlesinger said while Rochon has his shortcomings as a leader, including not taking student concerns about microaggressions and other racial issues seriously enough until students began to protest, he thinks Rochon's capable of addressing the issues with the campus climate.

"I think he's capable of making really good progress on the issue of racism and cultural bias on campus," he said.

Fundraising and Cost-cutting Initiatives

During his tenure, Rochon has begun a number of measures in an attempt to stem the increase in tuition and add money to the endowment.

Those fundraising initiatives include attempting to increase the number of donors and to increase donations to the annual fund and the college's endowment.

Some of the cost-cutting initiatives the college is taking part in include zero-based budgeting, strategic workforce analysis — which includes the restructuring of a number of departments and cutting staff — and strategic sourcing, an effort led by Gerald Hector, vice president of finance and administration.

Chris Biehn, vice president for institutional advancement and communication, said Rochon works with him when interacting with the college's top donors.

"He and I focus largely on our top donors," Biehn said. "The top donors include the board of trustees and others who have the philanthropic capacity, but also likely the inclination — so they're connected to the college already."

Since the beginning of Rochon's tenure, donations to the endowment have increased. In the 2015 fiscal year, there were almost $7.5 million donated to the college's endowment, the highest since 2000.

According to records on the Park Foundation website, the organization made a $5 million donation to the college's endowment in 2014.

During Rochon's tenure, total yearly donations to the endowment have averaged $2.4 million. In the seven years prior, the average total yearly donation to the endowment was $969,209.

The annual fund has also slightly increased, topping $1.8 million in 2015 and averaging $1.1 million during Rochon's tenure. In the seven fiscal years prior to Rochon's arriving at the college, the annual fund averaged $1 million.

Donations to student financial aid have averaged $3.3 million. In the seven years prior, donations to student financial aid averaged $2.5 million.

Biehn said if the college — and Rochon — wasn't focused on cutting costs and diversifying revenue, then students would be facing the costs. Biehn said Rochon has to be focused on raising funds.

"There has to be [that focus] from the president," Biehn said. "The board hires the president. The board looks to the president for leadership. The president drives philanthropy at the highest level."

Biehn credited Rochon for providing "active leadership" to the fundraising process since Biehn began at the college in April 2012. He brought up how Rochon has been instrumental in securing donations to create a number of multi-million-dollar scholarships.

"We're starting to see those results, but we're just starting to see those results," Biehn said.

The college's cost-cutting efforts have led the college to slowing the rate of tuition increases and slowing the rate of increase of the college's expenses.

Tuition for the 2015–16 school year is $40,658, a 2.85 percent increase from the last year, the smallest in 50 years, according to the college.

In the seven years prior to Rochon, the college averaged an annual increase in tuition of 5.9 percent.

Hector said the college "would be in trouble" if Rochon and the college weren't focused on the finances.

Campus Initiatives

Rochon's tenure has seen an influx of campus initiatives, chief among them the IC 20/20 and the Blue Sky Reimagining.

The IC 20/20 features 10 programs, including diversity programming. It also includes the Integrative Core Curriculum, the general education requirements for students at the college. However, the ICC, which was approved in 2012, has received mixed reviews.

Rochon called the ICC his biggest achievement as president, but stressed faculty were essential in the creation of it. He said it was implemented after the Middle States Commission on Higher Education — the organization the college is accredited by — wanted the college to have a stronger general education requirement, and the college was given a two-year timeframe to do so in 2008.

"It is actually, as far as I can tell, a unique curriculum around the country for helping students make connections between how you think like a scientist, how you think like a social scientist, how you think like a humanist and how you think like an artist," Rochon said. "And that's exciting."

However, not everyone is as thrilled with the curriculum. Barlas said the ICC is a labyrinth and hard to navigate for both students and faculty. She also said the ICC took away the power faculty have to set the curriculum.

Rosenthal said he doesn't think the ICC can be judged yet.

"We don't have a single class that has gone through it yet, so it's early to judge that and probably very hard to judge because we don't have base data to compare things to," he said.

Schlesinger said Rochon's tenure has seen a multitude of accomplishments, including the establishment of the Academic Advising Center, the creation of the Institutional Budget and Effectiveness Committee with three faculty members on it, strong fiscal management of the college and a willingness to admit past mistakes, among other attributes.

Another of Rochon's initiatives is the Blue Sky Reimagining, in which Rochon invited the campus community to rethink what the college could look like in the future. Many faculty felt the kickoff event devalued classroom learning. However, the biggest controversy came when panelist J. Christopher Burch '76 and moderator Bob Kur '70 referred to Tatiana Sy '09, a woman of color, as "the savage" after she said she had a savage hunger to succeed.

Many felt the comments were racially insensitive and criticized the college for taking days to respond to the comments, as opposed to the mere hours it took the administration to respond to an unaffiliated fraternity party with a racially charged theme. The comments at the Blue Sky kickoff event helped spark the current protests.

Rochon has said he regrets not intervening and stopping the racially charged remarks during the event.

Rochon has put new initiatives in IC 20/20, any additional Blue Sky activities and the strategic workforce analysis on hold in an effort to respond to the college's racial climate issues.

Future at the College

With POC at IC's calls for Rochon's resignation and the student and faculty votes of no confidence initiated, questions have arisen whether Rochon will resign. However, Rochon has said he has not thought about leaving.

"Right now, I am giving no consideration to resigning," Rochon said. "I am completely focused on doing what I consider to be a very important job at a crucial moment in Ithaca College history."

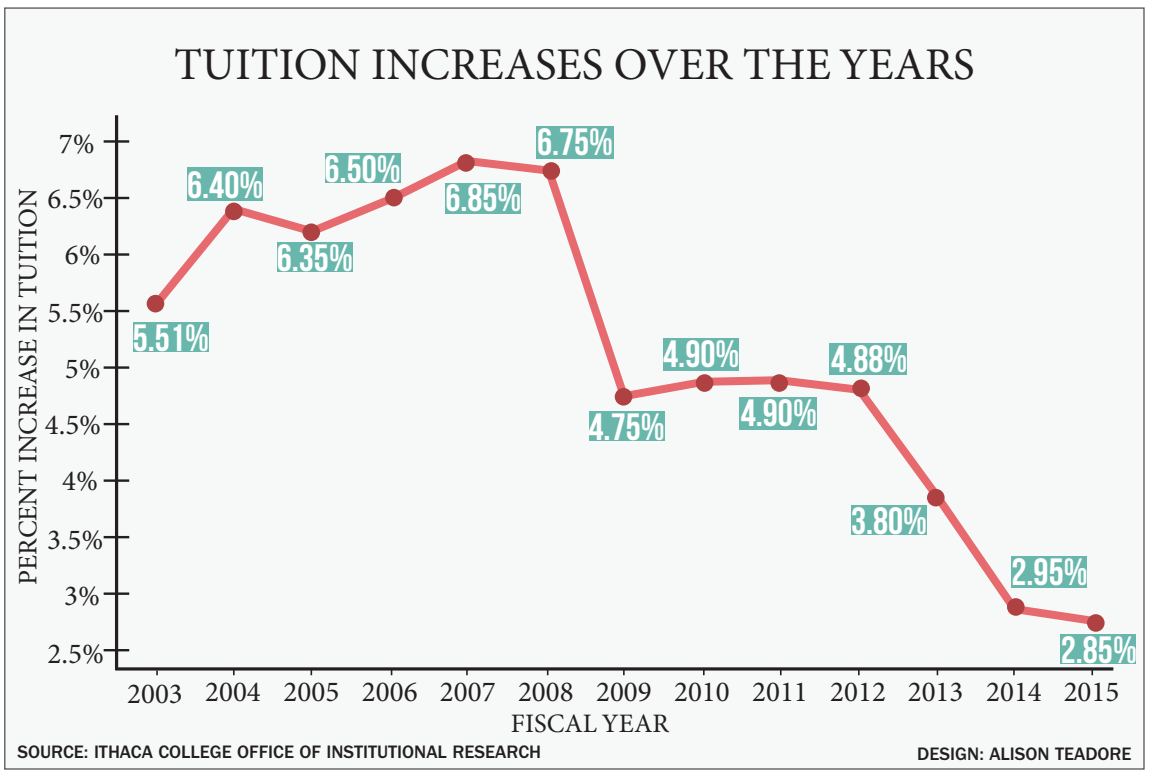
Tom Grape, chair of the board of trustees, released a statement to *The Ithacan* Nov. 11. In the statement, Grape said the board of trustees is partnering with Rochon to move the college forward.

"We understand that the issues are serious and significant, and we are listening," Grape wrote. "I am certain that Ithaca College will emerge from this chapter stronger and more resolute in its direction forward, and the board and I are actively partnering with Tom Rochon and other campus leaders to make sure that happens."

Barlas said after years of Rochon's leadership, enough is enough.

"It's pretty clear for me, at least from my perspective, that seven years of failed leadership is long enough," Barlas said.

Assistant News Editor Max Denning and Staff Writer Sophia Tulp contributed reporting to this article.



Friends say happiness defined student's life

BY EVIN R. BILLINGTON
SENIOR WRITER

Ask any of Shannon Sakosits' friends to describe her and they'll say she was smiley, gentle and so, so funny. She was artistic and spiritual. She liked giving tarot card readings for her friends and even strangers. Many of those closest to her sum her up in one way: Shannon was a sunflower.

It was fitting, then, that sunflowers sat behind the podium during her vigil on Nov. 12 in Ithaca College's Muller Chapel, and also dotted the service at her funeral Nov. 17 in Park Ridge, New Jersey. The junior integrated marketing communications major died Nov. 11 after a brief illness.

Junior Melissa Rosenberg had been one of Sakosits' best friends since sophomore year. She said she and Sakosits were very different people — Rosenberg likes sports, while Sakosits preferred reading — but their friendship worked.

"We were always joking around," she said. "It was very fun, but also serious when it needed to be. She just had a good outlook on everything. She knew when to have fun, but she also knew when to be serious and buckle down."

Last summer, they both stayed in Ithaca. Rosenberg worked, and Sakosits took classes. In the evenings they watched the sunset together and went swimming at the gorges. They took a trip to Colorado to see Hard Rocks, an electronic music festival. Tired of getting jostled by the crowd, they climbed to the top of some stairs.

"We were away from everyone else, secluded," Rosenberg said. "We could see all the stars, and she was pointing out all the names of the stars. It was just really cool. I don't get to experience that a lot."

Rosenberg said Sakosits had this way of making everyone around her feel important, and even strangers from the concert they attended in Colorado have been reaching out to her with condolences. This was echoed by junior Matt Bruch, who met her freshman year, and their friendship grew over time. Looking back on it, he said he would consider her a sister.

"Shannon, from when she came to Ithaca to when she left us, she just changed so much when she got to school," he said. "She just became so much more herself it seems like, she was just smiling and laughing more every day. We were totally blessed to have her here."

Sakosits was a dean's list student who, Bruch said, worked hard but played harder. In addition to her major, she was a writing minor and wanted to go into writing after graduation, although she didn't have any specific plans. Rosenberg said she always told Sakosits to go into journalism.

On Bruch's 21st birthday, Sakosits gave him a bottle of wine in the morning and made him chocolate chip pancakes. They drank wine with their breakfast and went hiking, then went out for dinner and dancing with Sakosits and her boyfriend, junior Spiros "Nick" Segalas-Shaw.

"I just remember my whole birthday, Shannon and her boyfriend being by my side the whole day," Bruch said. "I didn't have some huge party. It was just nice to have them there the whole time. It was probably the best or one of the best birthdays I've had."

Junior John "JR" Perkins went to high school a few towns over from Sakosits and knew her through mutual friends. He didn't realize they were attending the same college until he ran into her at a party freshman year, and they forged a friendship based on their roots.

"She was just this kind, sweet little girl," he said. "It was great. We had each other to remind us of home."

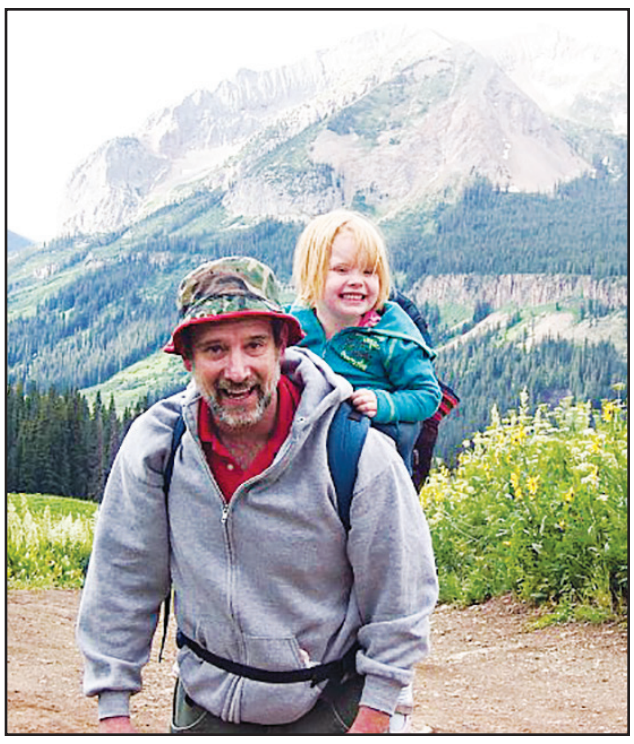
Bruch said happiness was what truly defined Sakosits. She always strove to be happy, and he said if she were still here, she would have reminded all of her friends to be happy.

"If Shannon were to be here and to talk to us, I think she would say, and this was just how she lived, just don't stress about the little things," he said. "Live happy, love those around you. That's just what she was about. She just wanted to be happy."

Junior Shannon Sakosits, an integrated marketing communications major from Mahwah, New Jersey, died Nov. 11 after a brief illness.
PHOTO COURTESY OF MELISSA ROSENBERG

Sakosits, left, traveled to Colorado with junior Melissa Rosenberg, right. Rosenberg said Sakosits made everyone around her feel important.
PHOTO COURTESY OF MELISSA ROSENBERG

Community and family remember IC professor



Michael LaTour, professor of marketing and law, backpacks with his daughter Zoe in Colorado. LaTour died Nov. 13.
PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHRYN LATOUR

BY KRISTEN GOWDY
SENIOR WRITER

There was never a dull moment in marketing professor Michael LaTour's lectures.

"He was a very animated and engaging person," his wife Kathryn LaTour said. "He'd maybe prepare a couple of slides, but ... it would just kind of become its own experience. It was a very fun, free-flowing kind of class."

On Nov. 8, LaTour, 61, died "peacefully at his home," according to a Nov. 13 announcement by Ithaca College. He leaves behind three daughters, Zoe, 12; Katherine, 19; and Madeleine, 21.

After spending time teaching at a host of institutions that included Cornell University, Old Dominion University and Auburn University — where he met his wife, who is currently a marketing professor at Cornell — LaTour began teaching at the college in Spring 2015. Colleagues and former students describe LaTour as a dedicated, personable and fatherly figure both in and out of the classroom.

To increase his students' love for marketing, LaTour often utilized personal anecdotes. For example, when he lectured on intergenerational differences, he'd bring in an Associated Press photograph of his father fighting in the Normandy invasion during World War II. Kathryn said he'd use the photograph to illustrate the differences between the "Greatest Generation" and today's millennials.

"He would story tell and bring up the photo and get really animated," she said. "He'd get the students who may not know very much about that generation to experience it through his eyes and through his dad's eyes."

Kevin Turnbull '15 said LaTour constantly pushed him to find his passion not just in his career, but in his life.

"I know that sounds really cliche, but he wanted us to find passion in the most boring of things or the most remedial of tasks because in life you have to do that," Turnbull said.

Benjamin Daumas '15 took a Cornell class with LaTour through the IC-CU Exchange Program during LaTour's time at Cornell. He echoed Turnbull's sentiment.

"It was my first class at Cornell, so I was a bit stressed about it, but he made it a wonderful experience," Daumas said. "I found my passion there."

For many students, LaTour was much more than just a professor. Turnbull said he saw him as a mentor.

Turnbull, who is originally from South Africa, said LaTour helped him not only find his career path, but also vouched for him when it came time to apply for jobs.

"Finding a job in the U.S. was a little bit of a daunting task," Turnbull said. "I think we spoke on the phone biweekly and emailed over the course of the summer. He checked up on me."

Turnbull said though LaTour's "outside laugh and booming voice" made him popular in the classroom, he found him to be introverted outside of it.

"He truly was the kind of teacher you wish you had," Turnbull said. "He definitely quickly became one of my most inspirational teachers."

LaTour was also well-respected outside of the classroom, where his research was frequently published in some of the most prestigious academic journals in his field, including the Journal of Consumer Research, the Journal of Marketing and the Journal of Advertising.

Scott Erickson, professor and chair of the marketing and law department, said LaTour never let his lengthy list of accomplishments inflate his ego.

"His reputation was such, in terms of his scholarship, it was very well-known," Erickson said. "The business school, we don't often see that. He could've come in and kind of big-timed us, but he was always very friendly."

Erickson, whose office is directly across the hall from LaTour's, added that there would constantly be a "gaggle" of students waiting to speak with him.

Outside of his career, Kathryn said she and LaTour frequently spent time outside, be it skiing in the winter or hiking and kayaking in the summer.

The couple took a trip to Napa, California, last spring when Kathryn attended a professional conference there. LaTour, who is originally from Northern California, treated the trip like a second honeymoon.

"We had a great time together," she said. "We drove around in a Mustang convertible, and it was just a lot of fun."

This semester, LaTour was on leave for medical purposes. His official cause of death has not yet been released, but Kathryn said it was somewhat unexpected as he had recently been making significant improvements with his illness.

She said her husband was even talking about returning to teaching next semester before he died.

"We thought, honestly until a couple of weeks ago, we thought he had a shot," she said. "It just went down very quickly. We knew he was sick, we just thought we had more time. We really thought he'd be in phase two of his treatment during the spring and be able to teach."

That was an indication, she said, of how much he loved the college.

"He didn't have the opportunity to be here very long, but he was very proud to be there," she said. "He really found a lot of camaraderie around campus, and he said it was the best place he ever worked."

From left, wife Kathryn, daughters Zoe, Madeleine and Katherine, and Michael pose for a photo in New York City.
PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHRYN LATOUR

College

Condition of young man who fell off college dorm balcony improves

A college-age man who is believed to have fallen from a balcony of Clarke Hall on Nov. 14 was still hospitalized as of Nov. 16, but his condition has improved and his injuries are not life-threatening, according to an update from David Maley, senior associate director of media relations at Ithaca College.

The cause of the fall is currently unknown. However, the victim said he does not have any memory of what occurred, Maley said.

The investigation by the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management is still continuing at this time.

Alumni to give presentation on productivity and habits at work

Dave Cameron '96 from the Office of Strategic Marketing and Communications will give a presentation called "Human At Work," in which he will speak on how a new approach to work has helped him replace bad habits.

Cameron will also teach audience members how to evaluate their own habits, make focused productivity part of each day and become healthier and less stressed at work. The presentation will take place at noon Dec. 10 in the Human Resources Conference Room, located on the Garden Level of the Peggy Ryan Williams Center. Those interested can RSVP to benefits@ithaca.edu.

Diversity Awareness Committee will open meeting to community

The members of the Diversity Awareness Committee are inviting anyone who is interested in attending their monthly meeting from noon–1 p.m. Dec. 8 in the Human Resources Conference Room on the Garden Level of the Peggy Ryan Williams Center. The committee will facilitate a discussion on supporting transgender and gender nonconforming students.

The discussion will be facilitated by Luca Maurer, program director of the Center for LGBT Education, Outreach and Services. The discussion will cover changing student needs, pronouns, terms, being sensitive and culturally aware, approaches, forms, policies and services.

Those interested in joining this discussion can RSVP by emailing mriosdominguez@ithaca.edu. More discussions on this topic will be held Jan. 26, Feb. 9, March 8, April 12 and May 10.

Workshop on conflict resolution open to college faculty and staff

Jeff Shepardson of Cornell University's Conflict Dispute Resolution Center will host a workshop called "Conflict Transformation and its Opportunities" from noon–3 p.m. Nov. 19 in the Human Resources Conference Room, located on the Garden Level of the Peggy Ryan Williams Center. The purpose of the workshop is to gain a better understanding of conflict.

The workshop will be interactive, and those attending will explore the experience of conflict and its effects on people as individuals. It will also explore key skills and inclusive strategies that can be used to shift negative interactions. This workshop is open to faculty and staff members as well as supervisors.

Graduate students seeking elderly individuals for research

Graduate students of the occupational therapy program at Ithaca College are searching for individuals to participate in their research study. The title of their study is "Assessing Communication and Information Needs of Community Dwelling Older Adults in Tompkins County." The purpose of the study is to identify how older adults within Tompkins County obtain information and news about the community. The results of their research will be used to provide the Ithaca Area Agency on Aging with information regarding barriers that prevent elders from receiving area information and communicating with others in the community.

The results of the study may be published in scientific research journals and presented at professional conferences. Participants will be asked to complete a survey to determine how they communicate with and receive information from the Ithaca community. Those interested in participating can contact Lynn Gitlow at 607-274-1532.

Office of Civic Engagement seeking student job applicants

The Office of Student Engagement is seeking student applicants for new positions. Responsibilities for these positions include in-office duties and projects, training support opportunities, social media work and web development.

The students in these positions will also have an opportunity to interact with community partners to better their relationships with student groups at the college and faculty delivering service-learning courses. The OCE offers in-office duties and projects, training support opportunities, social media work and Web development. Anyone who is interested in filling one of the positions can go to the Student Employment Job Database to apply for the available opportunities.

Students share social justice–themed poetry

Junior Marli Peress performs at a social justice–themed poetry gathering Nov. 17 in Textor 103. The event, called "Grabbing the Bullsh*t by the Horns," was composed entirely of performances from students in this semester's Poetry of Social Justice class, taught by Jaime Warburton, assistant professor in the Department of Writing.

KELLIE HODSON/THE ITHACAN

Public Safety Incident Log

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM NOVEMBER 1 TO NOVEMBER 12

NOVEMBER 1

SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL
LOCATION: West Tower
SUMMARY: Caller reported intoxicated person. Person taken into custody under mental hygiene law and transported to hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon.

CHANGE IN CASE STATUS
LOCATION: Terrace 7
SUMMARY: Officer interviewed person in reference to incident from Oct. 19 at the Center for Natural Sciences involving fake IDs. One person referred judicially for possession of fake ID. Master Patrol Officer Brad Bates.

NOVEMBER 2

SCC FIRE SAFETY–RELATED OFFENSES
LOCATION: Circle Apartments
SUMMARY: During health and safety inspection, Environmental Health and Safety officer reported confiscating propane cylinder. Assistant Director Tim Ryan.

NOVEMBER 3

CRIMINAL TAMPERING
LOCATION: West Tower
SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown persons put couch in elevator. Investigation pending. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones.

PETIT LARCENY OVER $200
LOCATION: T-Lot
SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person stole bicycle. Officer stopped person, who was identified as the owner. Larceny unfounded. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon.

NOVEMBER 4

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
LOCATION: Circle Apartments
SUMMARY: Caller reported person going in and out of consciousness. Person transported to hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Steve Ward.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
LOCATION: Terrace 8
SUMMARY: Caller reported odor of marijuana. One person referred judicially for unlawful possession of marijuana and one person referred judicially for violation of drug policy. Patrol Officer Waylon DeGraw.

NOVEMBER 5

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
LOCATION: Hilliard Hall
SUMMARY: Caller reported being unable to make contact with a person who was feeling stressed. Officer determined person is OK. Master Patrol Officer Don Lyke.

NOVEMBER 6

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 4TH DEGREE
LOCATION: Muller Chapel Pond
SUMMARY: Officer reported unknown person cut rope on bridge. Master Patrol Officer Jon Elmore.

NOVEMBER 7

SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL
LOCATION: Terrace 4
SUMMARY: 911 center reported person ill and vomiting. One person transported by ambulance to hospital and referred judicially for irresponsible use of alcohol. Master Patrol Officer Bruce Holmstock.

NOVEMBER 8

MEDICAL ASSIST
LOCATION: Garden Apartments
SUMMARY: Caller reported general illness. Person declined medical assistance. Patrol Officer Lance Clark.

SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL
LOCATION: Terrace 2
SUMMARY: Caller reported person vomiting. Person declined medical assistance with ambulance staff and referred judicially for irresponsible use of alcohol. Master Patrol Officer Don Lyke.

NOVEMBER 9

LARCENY CREDIT CARD
LOCATION: Friends Hall
SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person stole purse. Investigation pending. Master Patrol Officer Dan Austic.

MEDICAL ASSIST
LOCATION: Friends Hall
SUMMARY: Caller reported person having seizure. Person declined assistance and was escorted to the Hammond Health Center. Fire Protection Specialist Enoch Perkins.

NOVEMBER 10

GAS ALARM ACTIVATION
LOCATION: Terrace 8
SUMMARY: Simplex reported carbon monoxide detector fire alarm. Activation caused by a loose fitting on a vent pipe. System reset. Fire Protection Specialist Enoch Perkins.

MEDICAL ASSIST
LOCATION: Ceracche Athletic Center
SUMMARY: 911 center reported person made threats to harm him or herself. Person was taken into custody under mental hygiene law and transported to hospital. Patrol Officer Lance Clark.

NOVEMBER 11

DISORDERLY CONDUCT NO DEGREE
LOCATION: Campus Center
SUMMARY: Caller reported people blocked a tour group. Investigation pending. Master Patrol Officer Jon Elmore.

SCC HARASSMENT
LOCATION: Unknown
SUMMARY: Caller reported third-hand information about a person being "verbally harassed" about Halloween costume. Investigation pending. Master Patrol Officer Jon Elmore.

NOVEMBER 12

HARASSMENT 2ND DEGREE
LOCATION: Muller Faculty Center
SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person posted threatening message on social media. Investigation pending. Master Patrol Officer Chris Teribury.

For the complete safety log, go to www.theithacan.org/news.

KEY
SCC – Student conduct code
V&T – Vehicle and Transportation
AD – Assistant Director
IFD – Ithaca Fire Department

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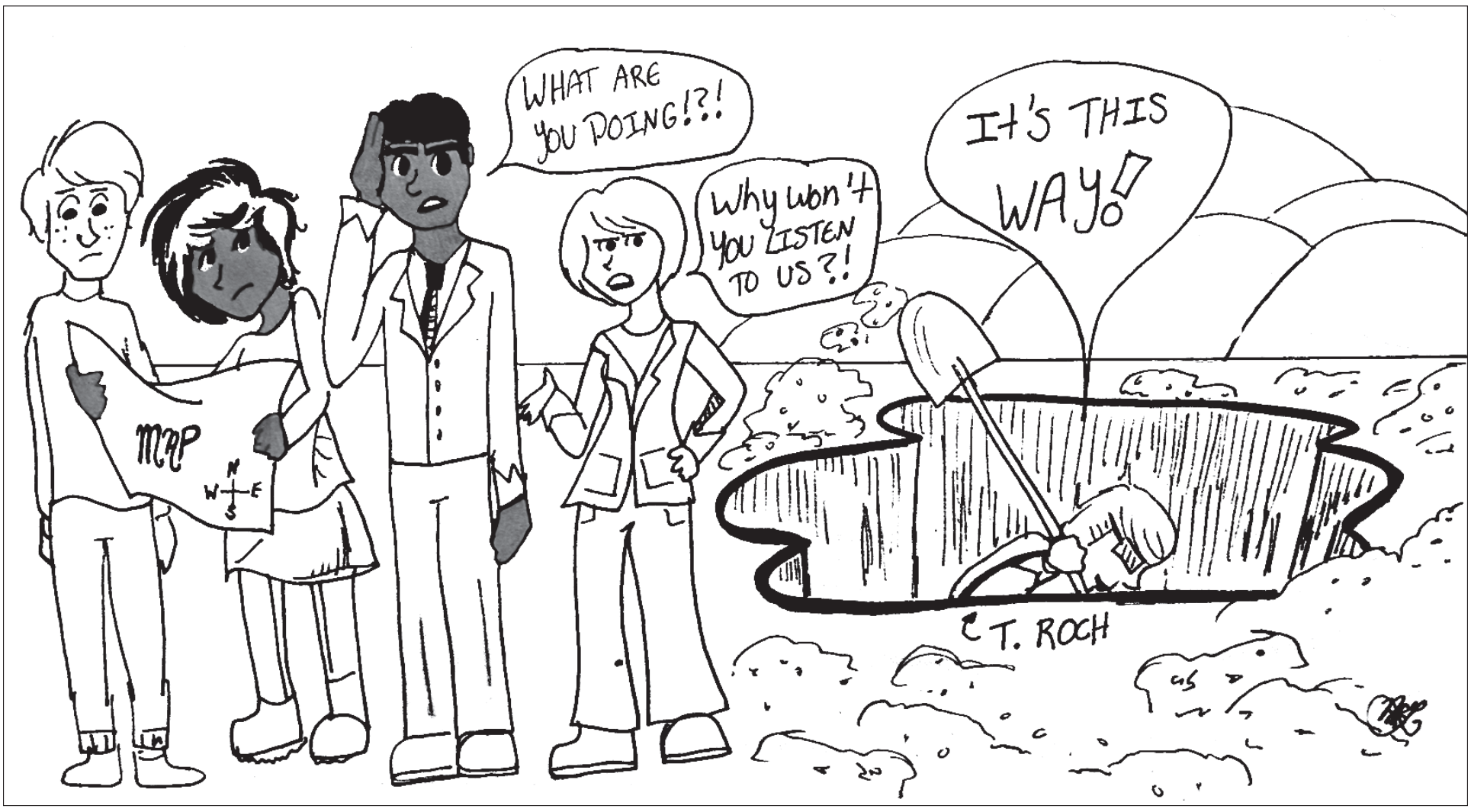

ALLISON LATINI/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIAL

Rochon's public relations headed in wrong direction

With his presidency under fire, Rochon has launched a public relations campaign that avoids the actual concerns of those dissenting against him

With the chant "Tom Rochon: No confidence" ringing through the air at Ithaca College, as well as a number of documents detailing grievances against him being released by faculty and students alike, President Rochon has been forced to defend himself with a strategic public relations campaign. In just the last couple of weeks, Rochon has been featured in interviews with *The Ithacan*, the Ithaca Journal and the Ithaca Voice and has even published an op-ed in The Chronicle of Higher Education. Yet, despite all of these opportunities, Rochon seems to be digging himself deeper into a hole of contradictions and continues to avoid the very issues that put him on the defensive in the first place.

It is not an unprecedented practice for Rochon to shift accountability onto another person or group in times of distress, as was made evident by the sudden creation of a chief diversity officer position to front for the administration on race issues in the midst of high-profile protests. This same act of putting responsibility onto someone else appeared again in Rochon's interview with the Ithaca Journal, in which he blamed other constituencies, particularly faculty, for the reinforcement and perpetuation of the inequitable campus climate, stating how there are "instances of faculty either making insensitive comments or kind of standing by not seeming to intervene effectively in the classroom when students make comments to other students." He goes on to assert the same complicity among students and staff as well, instead of addressing his role in creating this climate of insensitivity.

But if Rochon does hold faculty behavior responsible for some aspects of the campus' negative racial climate, his newly developed administrative action plan fails to adequately address the need for faculty and classroom education as a necessary avenue for improvement, only including a provision of optional diversity training for faculty members, which is hardly enough.

In terms of public relations, it serves Rochon well to shift reasonable blame onto faculty and other constituencies for the current racial climate. But his contradictory recognition of this fault while refusing to address it with real determination seriously undermines his credibility as an able leader and problem-solver.

His public avoidance of the doubts surrounding his credibility as an able leader, though faculty have made it clear they are dissatisfied with his entire top-down administrative methods, gives rise to even more concerns. Rochon chooses to focus on the issue of race, as he does in his op-ed in The Chronicle of Higher Education, titled "Why Embattled Leaders Should Be Stepping Up, Not Stepping Down." In "stepping up," Rochon is referring to how administrators like himself should be stepping up to the "opportunity to bring a commitment to inclusion into fuller alignment with a longstanding commitment to diversity."

Rochon likely attaches his public relations campaign almost exclusively to the race issues on campus because this is what stemmed student dissatisfaction with his presidency, and the reality is he probably feels much less threatened by students than he does other constituencies dissenting against him, such as the faculty, who in their classes and in a series of letters published by *The Ithacan*, have detailed each and every grievance they have against Rochon's top-down approach to leading the college.

And now, even students and alumni have joined in on making others aware of these grievances. Dominick Recckio, current student body president, along with the student body presidents of the last nine years and one student trustee, explained these grievances in an open letter published in this week's issue of *The Ithacan*. There is no shortage of posts on social media from other students that bring up these issues as well.

Rochon should not be ignoring these concerns, and instead should be seeking out ways to collaborate with the faculty and students protesting his presidency. His avoidance of their grievances only furthers the disconnect, when the administration should be structuring avenues for conversation and sharing of power in decision-making, to alleviate the top-bottom approach to leadership that has been plaguing this campus.

However, Rochon continues to distance himself from these criticisms and focus on issues regarding the racial climate because within these problems, he sees an opportunity to help himself. He can take the campus protests against the racial tensions at the college and spin them to demonstrate the college's encouragement of activism and freedom of speech, as he did quite explicitly at the Open House event.

In issues of racism, it is not difficult for him to pass on responsibility to someone else through the creation of new administrative positions. In discussions of campus climate, it is not difficult for him to remove himself from accountability by placing fault on the "insensitive comments" made by faculty and students.

But he cannot avoid being accountable for the way in which he leads this college and makes administrative decisions any longer. He cannot dismiss his responsibility in creating a culture of fear at the college through his top-down, deeply hierarchical and problematic leadership tactics, which continue to be present in his public relations strategies as he disregards faculty and student voices.

If Rochon has any chance of winning the respect and approval of the campus community members currently dissenting against him, he must stop ignoring the comprehensive list of grievances faculty, students and alumni have issued against him. He must recognize, both personally and publicly, that the current campus racial climate is not the only issue he needs to address and begin to address the roots of this issue, an important one of which is his leadership.

The editorial published in the Nov. 12 issue of *The Ithacan* analyzed how different constituencies were beginning to take power for themselves through protests and no confidence votes. At this time, this redistribution of power is critical as it gives us the first glimpse of what shared governance might look like on this campus.

Rochon needs to acknowledge this redistribution. He needs to listen to it. He needs to listen to what his constituents are saying about him, and he needs to make the change this burgeoning form of shared governance is speaking to and make it publicly clear how he is making that change. Only then will his public relations campaign, and his leadership, be effective.

THE ITHACAN

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Whiteness must be named and contextualized

When structural racism appears at the forefront of our national dialogue, as has happened in light of recent protests on college campuses, a radical backlash often emerges. I speak, of course, about recent threats made on the social media app, Yik Yak, at the University of Missouri and Ithaca College — threats made all the more frightening in the wake of the murder of nine black churchgoers in Charleston, South Carolina, earlier this year.

At the same time, a wave of less-threatening, defensive comments tend to materialize, largely initiated by white males who express their belief that students of color are "overreacting." As a white male, I view these two reactions as similar. I believe both stem, in part, from the white community's inability to understand whiteness as a concept and designation within our country's racial paradigm.

Whites in our country inherit a "dream" that keeps us sheltered from notions of our own privilege — something so deeply ingrained in our systems that it can, at times, seem intrinsic, even innate. We inherit the propensity to engage in what author Ta-Nehisi Coates calls "the politics of personal exoneration," rather than shoulder any metaphysical burden.

We live saddled by a dream that tries at every turn to make us comfortable in our lives and our position in society. Through centuries of selective reasoning, construction of blinders and historical shading, the structure we inherit allows us to consistently distance ourselves from issues of race and then criticize those who might point out its many realities to us.

There is an argument to be made for lack of education, that whites truly don't understand our country's history of racial oppression. To address the question of white ignorance, however, would be to attack a single aspect of a multidimensional issue. While recognition of past wrongs and acknowledgment of historically constructed systems may be the first step to tearing down our dream, I believe there is an important step that needs to happen concurrently.

Senior Taylor Graham said it is essential for white members of college communities to recognize their whiteness and stop leaving it to be undefined and perceived as a normality.

YANA MAZURKEVICH/THE ITHACAN

The preceding has been a discussion situated plainly within a white framework. Did you notice? I have already made assumptions that whiteness is the status quo in this country, that whites are the oppressors. More importantly, I have made those assumptions from a perspective that is centered in whiteness. In other words, the statements I have made assume that whiteness is the basis for our interaction with the structures around us.

This white-centered base for race discourse could be discounted for feeding right back into the system it attempts to undermine, and I would agree that such an approach is dangerous. It is dangerous because, as white people attempting to define our role in the system around us, we may be complicit in the perpetuation of that structure and notions of how it is segregated — we may be solidifying the position we hold and ultimately hope to undermine.

However, as a white person in this country attempting to wake from "the dream," it's important for me to recognize that my path to understanding and action must ultimately stem from a white perspective. I must strive to see from the perspectives of others in order to see my own role more explicitly, but not fool myself into believing that I do not employ a white gaze.

It seems, to me, true danger comes from allowing ourselves to approach race through a white lens, while leaving whiteness and the ways in which that perspective affects us unquestioned. We can begin addressing this danger by naming whiteness when we see it. It is the ambiguity of whiteness — our ability, for example, to say Ithaca College is "not very diverse," rather than "Ithaca College is, in general, largely white" — that allows whiteness to remain in the dark, silent and indefinable.

There is danger in claiming whiteness, but there is far greater danger in leaving it unnamed in an attempt to decentralize whiteness from our perspective. Our desire to leave whiteness undefined is systemic — a byproduct of a colorblind society where white is normality. Thus, as a first step toward addressing racial issues in our country, I believe it is important to begin seeing whiteness as something tangible and thus assailable.

Perhaps, in this way, we can understand the threats recently made to students of color at Ithaca College as a product of a system in addition to their being the actions of a single individual. White members of college communities play a critical role in the racial climate of their campuses. As such, I would offer that it is vital for members of college communities, myself included, to see a defining of whiteness and a contextualizing of our own deep-seated perspectives as central to an anti-racist mode of being.

TAYLOR GRAHAM is a senior emerging media major. Email him at tgraham2@ithaca.edu.

Dialogue on campus has been lost in current activist movement

Earlier this month, we witnessed the unrest at the University of Missouri. Unrest, as a term, barely cuts it. Threats of campus violence, reports of white power chants and the alleged self-evacuation of students of color from the campus are the manifestation of something that has been seething for decades: that our education system is not, and hasn't been, free from the grips of racism. It's this same notion that drove roughly a thousand members of this campus to lie, in the rain, in solidarity Nov. 11. It's this same notion that has fueled the past months of passionate advocacy for a more inclusive, more aware and ultimately, more equal learning environment here at Ithaca College.

STEVEN PIRANI

All of these things are inseparable from the rights of my fellow students and peers, and all of us, regardless of race, creed or any other distinguishing factor, want to feel safe, heard and welcome in our community. This I know for certain.

What we have here on this campus now is perhaps the most tenuous dialogue in its history, and this, within itself, is good. But I fear we are in danger of losing sight of the essential, critical dimensions of argument, and as a result, crafting a social atmosphere that warps a healthy dialogue into a monologue.

Let's first establish what a healthy dialogue is. This is simple: a conversation, either literal or metaphorical, where all parties involved can equally share ideas, thoughts and opinions. It's something that the group central to this conflict, POC at IC, has vocally rejected, asking for action, rather than conversation.

That notion, within itself, should have the campus asking important questions.

When POC at IC stormed the stage during the Oct. 27 assembly and then shortly after marched out with the majority of the event's attendees, then, too, the campus should have begun asking questions. It should seem contradictory that the individuals calling for "radical change" effectively ended the event before the administration could present any of the "action-oriented goals" they had been asked to present, by POC at IC members, in a meeting three days before.

POC at IC leads the "Tom Rochon: No Confidence" chant at the walkout that took place Nov. 11 at Free Speech Rock.

KEVIN TOAL/THE ITHACAN

It's equally puzzling that, for a group that still, at the time of writing, has no tangible plan of action beyond three vague bullet points, POC at IC seems quite comfortable deeming any other plans of action invalid. And with POC at IC's ongoing "Demand Sessions" stipulating that no media may attend and that those who do attend must be "in support of the POC at IC movement," it seems that they are committed to having a dialogue among themselves, and not with the larger campus community.

But no one has said anything because voicing these concerns poses an entirely different issue, and it's the most concerning one of all: Both members of POC at IC and its supporters have crafted a social media gallows where anything perceived as contrary to "the cause" is screenshot, mercilessly hashtagged and left for anyone uncertain, unsure or scrutinizing to look and say, "I'd rather that not be me."

I'm not talking about those who threatened violence at Cortaca — that is wrong. That is criminal. There are those who seek to invalidate the struggles of their peers. I will not deny this, but I am not talking about them either.

We're talking about a student of color accused, on Facebook, of "internalized racism" for appreciating a more moderate stance put forth by an IC alumna of color. Of people accused of "invalidating" struggles through their criticisms. Let's be sensible here: If someone asking a question, posing another viewpoint or criticizing another can invalidate an entire community's collective struggle, then the struggle's power has already been surrendered, and the movement is effectively over.

But most of all, I'm speaking about potential allies who all of a sudden feel ignorant for not knowing, not understanding or, as they are rightfully allowed, not agreeing with the movement.

Of the many students I have spoken with, all of them loathe the idea of campus racism. I have not spoken to one individual that, vocally, decried the movements on our campus. Many of them, however, have moral quandaries and questions, which, out of fear of scrutiny, they are afraid to voice. More simply, out of fear of being labeled a bigot, they are afraid to speak. This notion is no more an issue of race. This is a binary issue. If people cannot speak out of fear, regardless of race, gender or creed, that is wrong.

I've told only a few of my close friends that I had plans to write this commentary. One of them called me brave. Another called me admirable. I am none of these things and I never will be, but the mere notion that I have been labeled as such proves something: that our journey toward a campus dialogue is far from over.

STEVEN PIRANI is a senior journalism major. Email him at spirani1@ithaca.edu.

The opinions expressed in the guest commentaries, columns and open letters in this section do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Ithacan*.

OPEN LETTER

H&S faculty denounce Rochon's leadership

Members of the Ithaca College faculty chant "Tom Rochon: No Confidence" along with the group POC at IC and its allies who took the stage at the "Addressing Community Action on Racism and Cultural Bias" event in the A&E Center on Oct. 27 before walking out of the building in protest.

YANA MAZURKEVICH/THE ITHACAN

The actions of President Tom Rochon over the last seven years have brought Ithaca College into a state of crisis and many faculty members have been left with grave doubts as to whether he can effectively address the dire situation in which we find ourselves. As our rationale for an all-college vote of no confidence, we focus upon two explicit failures of the President's administration. The first is his inability to chart a consistent way forward for Ithaca College. Tom Rochon's tenure has been characterized by a puzzling and capricious series of stops and starts, all of which call into question his competence as a visionary thinker and steward of the College. The Blue-Sky Reimagining event is only the most recent and glaring example, with its absence of any discernible intellectual content and its implicit and explicit disparagement of classroom and book learning. Its uninterrupted, flagrant racism, which in all likelihood would have been mitigated if the conversation had included at least one participant conversant in the world of higher education, was followed by a slow and clumsy response from the President, further aggravating campus unrest. Moreover, while the racist remarks by Chris Burch could not have been anticipated, the President showed poor judgment in placing a wealthy donor at the center of an event focused on a subject upon which Burch was ill-equipped to comment knowledgeably.

The Blue-Sky Reimagining enterprise was announced suddenly in the spring of 2015 without prior consultation with faculty, and it typifies the President's habit of concocting visionary initiatives that turn out to be vaguely conceived and short-lived. Blue-Sky is just the most recent of a dizzying array of initiatives that the President has rolled out during his tenure at IC; others include IC-Squared, the Listening Sessions, IC20/20 and Imagineering. Apart from IC20/20, these initiatives have by and large proved to be momentary enthusiasms that have cost both time and money and to date have amounted to little. IC-Squared vanished without a trace. The Imagineering event, despite great fanfare, reaped no results, and its ostensible goal of providing a visible, physical presence for Academics and Academic Advising has seemingly dropped from the college agenda, without explanation. As for IC20/20 and Blue-Sky, they have now been "suspended" to allow the campus to focus upon (we agree) pressing and important racial issues. Nevertheless, the complete suspension of the other initiatives has left many faculty members all the more dubious about Blue-Sky's significance and uncertain as to what it means to "suspend" a strategic plan. Perhaps it is the President's view that we have achieved IC20/20's key goals, but the announcement of a suspension sends an unclear message to the campus community. Meanwhile, the President remarked publicly at the fall 2015 all-college meeting that the master plan does not commit the college to any particular plan.

Professor Carla Golden holds up a sign in protest at a campuswide meeting Oct. 27.

YANA MAZURKEVICH/THE ITHACAN

President Rochon's inability to provide a consistent vision of Ithaca College's future is further demonstrated by the fact that his own office is unstable and volatile, as manifested by the revolving door for Provosts and other high and mid-level administrators. Moreover, there is an annual dissonance between his call for fiscal prudence and the regular, end-of-year multi-million dollar surpluses, frustrating departments desperate for faculty lines and concerned about the lack of support for or elimination of programs. Each year begins with an announcement of a looming catastrophe–one year it was the MOOCS, another year it was the imminent decline in our enrollments (which was quickly followed by a surge in our enrollments), more recently it has been the high cost of tuition for students. The last claim in particular surely has credibility, but the perpetually changing justification for an endless state of fiscal alarm has forged widespread mistrust and left faculty and staff morale lower than anyone can remember seeing in many decades. Indeed, Rochon has created a culture of fear for faculty and staff by announcing alleged cost-cutting measures that are at once vague and draconian: such as vertical and horizontal cuts to programs—announced in 2012 and never officially retracted, though the numbers it was based on were when a faculty member showed them to be completely erroneous—and the 40+ staff cuts.

The second reason we bring this motion is the President's failure to work productively with the faculty. Although President Rochon gives frequent lip service to collaboration and shared governance, he has responded with hostility to dissent and disagreement, and he has worked avidly to control the free flow of information. For example, in the weeks leading up to last spring's part-time faculty vote to unionize, the administration put together a highly misleading "Union Choice" page which, many faculty believed, contained slanted talking points and links to anti-union propaganda. When faculty members criticized the page, Rochon published an op-ed piece in the Ithacan which contained the gratuitous accusation that these critics were trying to suppress free speech. Furthermore, when faculty members expressed concern about two controversial tenure decisions, in 2014 and 2015, Rochon attempted (unsuccessfully) to persuade Faculty Council to make a statement that would muzzle further expressions of dissent about ongoing tenure cases. Moreover, an edict issued by Rochon early in the 2012-13 AY sought to require all student media to route requests for interviews with administrators through the college's office of Media Relations. An outcry ensued, with faculty and students coming together to resist this infringement upon intellectual freedom. After 5 weeks of protest, Rochon finally rescinded the order.

The faculty at Ithaca College supports immersive learning, high impact practices, and calls for self-examination, flexibility and change. But the faculty most committed to such practices report that they are regularly frustrated in their efforts by administrative units in PRW (such as Marketing Communication, Risk Management, Transportation and the Registrar's Office) that are under the supervision of the President. These offices are perceived by many faculty as obstacles to the very student-centered environment we wish to create.

The President's responsibilities, as defined by the Ithaca College Policy Manual, include "long-range and strategic planning" and "institutional, faculty and educational leadership" (1.4.1). As we hope this motion makes clear, President Rochon has failed conspicuously in these two crucial areas. To be sure, taken singly, some of the issues and actions listed above might be written off as one-time mistakes, lapses of judgment, or even defensible actions that were poorly communicated. But there has been such a notable accumulation of missteps over the years as to constitute a pattern of misjudgment and miscommunication that is detrimental to the College. President Rochon has shown a persistent inability to lead Ithaca College prudently, effectively, or collaboratively, and this inability has now reached a crisis point. The only responsible way forward, given these circumstances, is to allow the faculty to express its collective will through a vote of no confidence, and we call upon Faculty Council to do precisely that.

Respectfully,
The H&S Faculty Senate, on behalf of the H&S faculty

INTO IDENTITY

FRANCES JOHNSON

No type of racism should be ignored

As I've stated before, I'm often uncomfortable talking about my personal experiences with racism. Racial and ethnic issues are supposed to make anyone uncomfortable, but this is a different kind of discomfort. It's a kind of discomfort that no one will believe when you say you've experienced racism.

In light of the recent protests against racism here at Ithaca College, there have been several instances of students dismissing fellow classmates' accounts of experiences with racism via social media and verbal exchanges. These dismissals are a major reason why I often don't publicly share my stories.

Growing up, I was told Asians could never experience racism, and that our stereotypes were "not that bad" because they were usually positive. Assuming I was good at math solely because I'm Asian was supposed to be a compliment. News flash: I actually scored a 1 on the Advanced Placement calculus test.

This jargon didn't just come from my white peers, but from other people of color. These comments stung more when they came from other people of color because they knew exactly what it was like to experience racism.

I can assure you there are negative stereotypes of the East Asian community. I've been accused of being a terrible driver because I'm Asian. I've been asked if I see in widescreen because of the shape and size of my eyes. These are just two of hundreds of racially charged comments I've received in my lifetime.

In 2005, Gallup released a poll that revealed 30–31 percent of Asian-Americans have experienced workplace discrimination, the largest of any group. They were also the least likely to file a formal complaint regarding discrimination. Could it have something to do with people not believing them? I think so.

On Nov. 11, the Los Angeles Times published an online article and survey called "Do you feel safe on campus? Share your story." It asked students from marginalized groups to share their stories of times they haven't felt safe or comfortable on their college campuses.

It's obvious that my experiences with racism are different from others in the East Asian community and other people of color, but no one should be hesitant to share their stories with these experiences. Most importantly, no one's story should be dismissed. Everyone should share their stories and be comfortable sharing them because every story can be used to make the public aware of how much words can hurt.

INTO IDENTITY is a column about identity issues written by Frances Johnson and Marissa Booker. **JOHNSON** is a senior journalism and politics double-major. Email her at fjohnso1@ithaca.edu.

OPEN LETTERS

Faculty make list of Rochon's alleged failures

President Tom Rochon sits in the Taughannock Falls Room after POC at IC silently walked out of a meeting Oct. 23.

TOMMY BATTISTELLI/THE ITHACAN

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the undersigned, express no confidence in Ithaca College President Tom Rochon for the following reasons, among others.

Also, we wish for this statement to correct President Rochon's problematic and self-aggrandizing claims about "collaborative leadership" in his recent commentary in The Chronicle of Higher Education ("Why Embattled Leaders Should Be Stepping Up, Not Stepping Down," November 16, 2015).

Sincerely,

Nick Kowalczyk, Associate Professor, Writing; Maura Stephens, Associate Director, Park Center for Independent Media; Peyi Soyinka-Airewele, Professor, Politics; Stewart Auyash, Associate Professor and Chair, Health Promotion and Physical Education; Carla Golden, Professor, Psychology; Women's and Gender Studies Coordinator; Patricia Rodriguez, Associate Professor, Department of Politics; Patricia Zimmermann, Professor, Media Arts, Sciences and Studies; Rebecca Plante, Associate Professor, Sociology; Jeff Claus, Emeritus Professor, Department of Education; Linda Hanrahan, Associate Professor and Chair Graduate Program, Department of Education; Asma Barlas, Professor, Politics; Bruce Henderson, Professor, Communication Studies; Peter Martin, Associate Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Education; Raj Subramaniam, Professor and Chair Graduate Program, Health Promotion and Physical Education; Mary Bentley, Associate Professor, Health Promotion and Physical Education; Hayley Cavino, Dissertation Diversity Fellow, Women's and Gender Studies; Todd Schack, Associate Professor, Journalism; Jennifer Spitzer, Assistant Professor, English; Janice Levy, Professor, Media Arts, Sciences and Studies; Michael A. Malpass, Dana Professor, Anthropology; Claire Gleitman, Professor, English; Zillah Eisenstein, Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence, Professor, Political Theory and Anti-Racist Feminisms; Matthew Holtmeier, Postdoctoral Fellow, Media Arts, Sciences and Studies

"NO CONFIDENCE" IN PRESIDENT ROCHON:
EXPERIENTIAL EVIDENCE

1. TOP-DOWN, OUT-OF-TOUCH LEADERSHIP

- President Rochon came to Ithaca College in 2008 hosting "strategic visioning listening sessions" but since then rarely has solicited faculty, staff, or student input before creating top-down, all-campus initiatives and cultivating faculty buy-in through various meetings and task forces (e.g., IC20/20 and Blue Sky Kickoff).
- Months after his arrival, still unfamiliar with the campus and the greater community, Rochon censured a recent journalism grad for her firsthand essay in IC View about a summer spent in the Occupied Territories. He also forced the magazine's editor to issue a public apology (which was posted and quickly redacted to remove the editor's comments about journalistic integrity and the importance of shining a light on stories of marginalized people). This resulted in a huge, overwhelmingly unfavorable outcry against the president.
- Rochon assaulted media freedom with the abrupt announcement that he would block student journalists from direct access to top-level administrators. The resulting furor caused him to rescind the misguided policy.
- Rochon consolidated control and reduced access to administration by eliminating the position of Vice President of Student Affairs and Campus Life and moving those responsibilities under the Provost (academic vice president).
- Ten successive Student Government Association Presidents & One Student Trustee have publicly critiqued the President for disregarding student voices and inclusion and for deploying "top-down leadership," "corporatism," and "we know best" governance.
- Rochon continues to show disregard for faculty and has yet to request a meeting to discuss the range of faculty grievances against him despite public articulation of faculty concerns and an upcoming faculty vote on confidence.

2. DISREGARD FOR MINORITY COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- Despite the modest increase in diversity, Rochon has failed to initiate the structural reforms needed for a welcoming, secure and fair environment for minority students, faculty and staff to thrive. Examples include his ineffective responses to longstanding complaints of discriminatory treatment of minorities by campus police and administrators, and the implicit demands on minority faculty and staff to serve as a 'diversity voice' on several of the college's most time-consuming committees, in a system that leads to fatigue and overwork, but not necessarily tenure and/or promotion.
- He has failed to fund meaningful programs to retain ALANA faculty and students.
- In Fall '14, student protesters asked IC to implement a Native American Studies minor. Rochon replied he "didn't have the power" to do so. Later he issued a press release in which he said, "Following up later that day, I learned that we already have a Native American Studies minor." Protesters later publicly corrected Rochon: The minor exists only on paper, as Rochon's administration has never funded it.
- He ignored the recommendations in the 2011 campus racial climate study by Honors student Joyti Jiandani and others.
- He failed to release the results of the 2012 campus climate survey until he publicly was pressured into doing so…in 2014. And he now claims his current "diversity action plan" is addressing the problems the report highlighted and made suggestions to combat.
- He offended students of color by responding to POCatIC's multi-point indictment of his leadership at the all-college meeting on Oct. 27, 2015, by saying, "I'm glad they read my book" after 1,000+ audience members walked out, in protest.
- He and his advisers undermined the messages of POCatIC speakers who disrupted admission events with the intention of getting their own messages out.

3. BLURRED VISION AND MISDIRECTION

- Rochon created a climate of fear and uncertainty by announcing that there will be 40+ staff cuts this year.
- He has cycled through several Provosts and interim Provosts since his arrival. Benjamin Rifkin is his fifth.
- Under Rochon, several Vice Presidents have left IC or come and gone, turning Ithaca College into an academic way-station where relationship-building and long-term planning are nearly impossible.
- Since Rochon's arrival, the deans of all 5 schools have changed over—sometimes more than once.
- Rochon affords inadequate resources to the counseling center despite an increasing need among students for support.
- He affords inadequate resources to the Student Health Center, a building in much need of renovation.
- Under Rochon, the college's primary staff working on sustainability, the issue for which IC had gained a favorable national reputation and which is critical at this time of exacerbating climate change, have been reassigned or let go.
- Rochon repeatedly organizes sessions for "visioning," "imagineering," "Blue-Sky Reimagining"—all featuring corporate language, corporate guests, and vague goals, which lead to nothing that matters to students and faculty.
- Faced with student protests, he announced suspension of the IC20/20 project and Blue Sky Reimagining and abruptly announced a new plan for faculty training in cultural competency—without input from faculty who teach these subjects.

4. BOARD STACKING THAT'S UNREPRESENTATIVE OF THE COLLEGE'S MISSION

- In 2007-2008, the year before Rochon came to Ithaca College, the Board of Trustees (the president's "bosses") had a corporate-tied membership of roughly 40 percent. The bulk of the board of trustees came from the worlds of social services, education, media, arts, small business, etc., in line with the college's progressive mission and vision. Since Rochon, the board has become 81% corporate. Of the two other board members who are connected to higher education, one is a retired high-level administrator (vice president), and the other is a dean at New York University where her faculty voted No Confidence in the president, yet this board member still backed the NYU president.
- Since Rochon's arrival, the board of trustees has added former U.S. Attorney Michael Battle, who helped to keep an Algerian man imprisoned for five years after this man was cleared by the FBI of all charges. Mr. Battle later resigned due to a national scandal involving political corruption in the Department of Justice. Now Mr. Battle—the only African American man on the board of trustees—is a partner in a law firm that defends corporations accused of white-collar crime.
- It has added Thad Fortin, CEO of the largest chemical management services company in the world.
- It has added David Giannotti, "environmental" attorney who litigates pollution cases for fossil fuel corporations.
- It has become 21% female, whereas it had been 36% female.
- It includes not a single music or theater performer or direct human services professional, or teacher. Its only member who was a longtime teacher (and now works in philanthropy) was on the board before Rochon's presidency.
- Rochon's complacency in recent interviews shows his sense of security with this board of trustees—a governing body that is unaccountable to the campus community, in that there are no mechanisms for students, faculty, and/or staff to collectively remove board of trustees members or demand changes in the Board's bylaws to make it more inclusive, transparent, and focused on education rather than the bottom line.

5. DISCONNECTION

- Rochon acts as if faculty are not already providing innovative and powerful forms of education.
- When asked to act to address campus racial dynamics, Rochon can't even articulate the more successful efforts already on campus; he apparently is unaware of these existing programs.
- When asked to propose solutions, Rochon fails as a former scholar to conduct even the most basic research by drawing on eight years of reports and recommendations that involved countless hours of work by students, faculty, and staff, or by accessing the many demands that have been addressed to him and gone unanswered.
- The recordings of his 10/23/15 meeting with POCatIC and of his interview with the Ithacan on 11/12/15 show he clearly plans to do more "talking" and pass off onto faculty the blame for Ithaca College's problems of institutionalized racism, sexism, and classism...a tactic that effectively diffuses any efforts for structural, policy, or leadership reform.
- In a commencement speech, Rochon described globally revered human rights activist (and democratic socialist) Nelson Mandela as "the CEO of his own life," a dismissive reframing of this Black leader's noble and self-sacrificing life's work.

6. HOSTILITY TOWARD CRITICISM

- Rochon took more than two weeks to respond to student and faculty anger over the "Blue Sky" kickoff.
- His op-ed to *The Ithacan* in response to the "Blue Sky" kickoff evaded the blatant acts of racism and sexism, and utterly failed to respond to faculty charges of anti-intellectualism.
- Faced with frequent adversarial coverage (a hallmark of good journalism that is taught in the Park School) in *The Ithacan*, Rochon rarely praises (or even mentions) this newspaper, even though it consistently wins national awards and brings honor and recognition to the college.
- In the weeks leading up to the Spring '15 adjunct faculty vote to unionize, Rochon's administration put together a highly misleading "Union Choice" page which, under the guise of providing allegedly objective facts about adjunct unionization, contained slanted talking points and links to anti-union propaganda. When faculty criticized this, Rochon published an op-ed in *The Ithacan* containing the gratuitous accusation that critics of the page were trying to suppress free flow of information.
- Rochon acknowledges that faculty do not trust him, but blames them instead of questioning his own privilege and reexamining his behavior over the last seven years.

7. LOW CAMPUS MORALE

- Faculty members will hold a vote of no confidence.
- Student government is holding a student vote of no confidence, a rare, perhaps unprecedented, event in higher education.
- Staff are stressed, with layoffs ongoing and no one knowing whose job will be next on the chopping block.
- Rochon's failed leadership has led to student demonstrations at recruitment events for our tuition-driven college.
- We have not seen this degree of widespread distress, anger, and dissatisfaction since President James Whalen's years (1975-1997).

OPEN LETTERS

SGA representatives detail grievances against Rochon

As hundreds of Ithaca College students and alumni rise up against institutional racism on the campus we once called home, we as former presidents of the student body and student trustees felt it important that we add our voices to the many who are standing with POC at IC. Even more importantly, our years of experience in dealing with President Tom Rochon offer us the perspective to make one thing perfectly clear: his disappointing leadership is nothing new.

We support the POC at IC movement and join them in standing against the exclusion, racism, and ignorance on our campus. The Ithaca College community deserves better. Unfortunately, we are not surprised by the administration's incompetent, bumbling, and tin-eared response. Racism is hardly a new phenomenon at Ithaca College nor at universities across the country, but Rochon's disinterest in improving the student experience has all but ensured the current climate on South Hill.

When he was hired in 2008, Rochon faced the challenging and necessary task of guiding Ithaca College through tough financial times. He has used those concerns, however, to justify excluding the participation of campus stakeholders, including students and the leaders elected to represent them. His history of sacrificing the quality of IC's living, studying, and working cultures through top-down leadership long precedes recent incidents on campus.

One need not look further than his decision to eliminate the Vice President of Student Affairs position after Brian McAree's retirement in 2012. McAree, a staunch advocate for students, was the only direct line of communication between student leaders and the highest decision makers on campus. Rochon's decision to cut this position was unilateral and made no efforts to replicate the same level of student access in the new, more-centralized administrative structure.

There was also Rochon's 2012 media policy, which was designed to severely curtail *The Ithacan*'s and other media's access to nearly every campus administrator. Student sit-ins and other policies forced him to rescind his policy just weeks later, but the fact that he considered it a good idea at all demonstrated how little transparency he wanted his administration to have with students.

Rochon's interest in creating barriers to prevent student feedback from reaching campus decision-makers has presented itself in other ways. For example, he eliminated the student report to the Board of Trustees, ensuring that the student selected to serve on the board would be reduced to nothing more than a symbolic placeholder, rather than someone entrusted to speak on behalf of student experiences.

When students offered concerns about the implementation of IC 20/20, Rochon's grand strategic plan for the college, he callously dismissed the feedback, comparing it to a patient dictating what a doctor should prescribe. Instead of considering the input of students, he spent no small amount of institutional resources on the Huron review, which produced only a few minor changes like raising parking fees and the controversial closing of the Rochester campus — more heat than light.

Eleven current and former SGA representatives explain their concerns with President Tom Rochon and why they believe he should resign.

PHOTO COMPILATION BY AMANDA DEN HARTOG/THE ITHACAN

In 2012, Ithaca College conducted a campus climate survey, the first to collect feedback not only from students, but from faculty and staff as well. It would take several years, however, for any of that survey's troubling results to be made public. In a recent interview with *The Ithacan*, Rochon claimed that "it is not true" that he nor anyone else knew the results of the survey, but this is misleading. As he clarified, he simply wasn't satisfied with the level of analysis and didn't take any proactive steps to rectify his concerns. In contrast, his level of direct engagement in the doomed mascot search demonstrated how proactive he could have been if he'd set his mind to it.

It's unclear if any level of analysis would have motivated Rochon to take action. As he said in the same interview, he wasn't sure that the campus was "ready" to tackle issues of diversity and inclusion in years past. What seems to be the more accurate admission was that it took him several years — and recent incidents — to find an angle for "constructive leadership" on such matters. We're skeptical he's found one yet.

Taken together, these actions, among countless others, have sent a clear message that Tom Rochon does not trust students and believes their feedback to be worthless.

At the end of the day, students know more about their experiences living and learning on campus than anybody else. By constantly turning a cold shoulder to students and disregarding the notion that their perspective even has any value, Rochon sowed the seeds for the votes of no confidence he rightfully now faces. Though our perspective here reflects only that of student leaders, we know that faculty and staff share their own concerns with his administration.

Those of us who witnessed the transition from Peggy Williams's presidency know that this is not what Ithaca College's leadership must look like. Indeed, Williams admirably demonstrated what a college looks like when all constituencies have easy access to administrators and the campus is dedicated to community engagement. She also modeled proactive leadership when racist and anti-LGBT incidents happened on campus, standing in solidarity with students during 2005's "Erase the Hate" rally — not needing to be asked to respond. Rochon's burden of navigating IC through the country's economic collapse does not explain nor justify the way he shifted the culture away from such collaborative shared governance across campus.

As we've watched recent events unfold, it comes as no shock to us that in the face of concerns about structural racism facing academic leaders nationwide, Rochon withered and failed to respond adequately. Not even his most recent responses show any indication that he is capable of advancing Ithaca College's future. We believe it is time for him to resign and allow for a new leader who can actually be trusted to advocate for all members of the Ithaca College community — someone whose vision isn't just 20/20, but 360 degrees.

Dominick Recckio '16
Student Body President 15-16

Crystal Kayiza '15
Student Body President 14-15

Cedrick-Michael Simmons '14
Student Body President 13-14

Tariq Meyers '14
Student Trustee 12-14

Rob Flaherty '13
Student Body President 12-13

Scott Nachlis '12
Student Body President 11-12

Kevin Fish '11
Student Body President 10-11

Aubrey Bendix '10
Vice President of Campus Affairs/Interim
Student Body President 09-10

Cornell F. Woodson '09
Student Body President 08-09

Aaron Bloom '08
Student Body President 07-08

Zack Ford '07
Student Body President 06-07

Faculty object to creation of chief diversity officer position

To the Editor

We, the undersigned, commend Ithaca College students – and POC@IC in particular – on giving voice to their concerns. We strongly and unequivocally support their work on campus.

In contrast, we strongly oppose the recent decision by President Tom Rochon to create a "Chief Diversity Officer" position at Ithaca College. We want to be very clear that our objection is to the authoritarian top-down process used to create the position and is not in any way directed at the choice of Dr. Roger Richardson, who is a highly regarded colleague and collaborator of both students and faculty at the college. Last year, the Student Government Association requested just such an appointment, and the President passed it over. While opportunistically embracing the idea now, the President has designed the position so as to ensure that its occupant is accountable to no one but the President. Given the means by which this decision has been made, we have little faith that this action will result in the change we need. We also reject all new upper administrative hires on our campus at this time.

Our students, faculty, and staff have done far more to raise awareness of racial inequality in our community than the current administration. President Rochon should acknowledge his indebtedness to our community rather than pretend he has been at "the forefront of this priority," as he stated in the announcement of this new position. Another unnecessary upper-administrative position only adds to the bloat that fuels rising tuition and the elimination of essential staff positions at Ithaca College.

This top-down decision to hire a "Chief Diversity Officer" evidences a continued failure by President Rochon to understand that discontent on campus is rooted in a persistent, autocratic mode of problem solving. It demonstrates a fundamental failure to enact real shared governance.

We do not need more administrators. We need foundational change that can only happen cooperatively -- not through administrative decree. An administration that refuses to draw on the expertise and resources of its faculty bespeaks an utter lack of humility and a damaging lack of respect for the very people who deliver the education that Ithaca College offers. It also evidences viewing the campus as a corporation -- rather than as a dynamic and responsive intellectual community.

We insist that future plans for addressing racism, sexism, and other discriminations on campus be drafted and initiated in collaborative consultation. Decision-making must be participatory, engaging a broad set of constituents, including students, faculty, staff, and alumni groups. A number of other groups are already working on campus for "diversity and inclusion." These constituencies should seize their own power to enact change. And they should be heard. Rather than adding high-level administrative positions or hiring outside consultants, the solutions to our current challenges should draw on the expertise and experiences of students and faculty on our campus.

Over the last two years, Ithaca College has eliminated a significant number of administrative assistants and other staff posts. This workforce reduction has resulted in more work and less support for many departments. It has also forced staff to be constantly fearful about whether or not their own jobs are secure.

The funds now earmarked for new upper administrative hires should be rerouted to reinstate staff who have been recently fired. These funds should also be redirected to offer increased pay and benefits to our part-time faculty. And finally, these funds should be redirected to hiring more pre-doctoral or post-doctoral lines to support additional faculty who can contribute to shifting the racialized structures on campus by offering courses and perspectives our institution needs.

These unnecessary upper administration hires impact our students, whose tuition dollars end up subsidizing the explosive back-end administrative costs to higher education.

Answers to Ithaca College's diversity and racial sensitivity challenges should be pursued in the classroom and through intellectual, constructive interactions between students, faculty, and administrators.

Decisions should be made with our students and their education at the core of our deliberations.

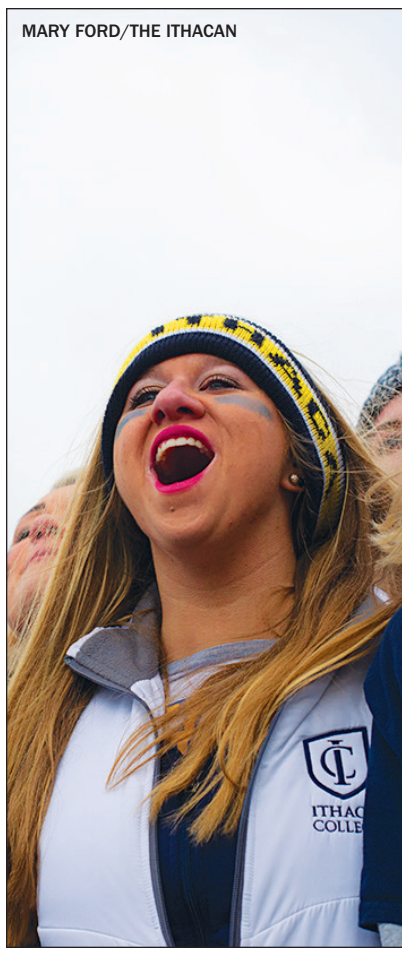
As faculty, we envision Ithaca College as a space for intellectual, collaborative community-building.

Autocratic pronouncements have no place in our academic community. They undermine our shared responsibility to our students and to a larger intellectual conversation that moves beyond our campus and into the world.

To see the list of the faculty members who signed this letter, go online to www.theithacan.org/opinion/open-letter-faculty-object-to-top-down-administrative-hires/

TOMMY BATTISTELLI/THE ITHACAN

SAM FULLER/THE ITHACAN


MARY FORD/THE ITHACAN

CORTACA, from Page 1

around a gray pickup truck, its flatbed full of ice. The goal was simple: to drink enough to keep a buzz throughout the game without bringing alcohol into the stadium. This could be done in myriad ways, but the most popular was to pregame at the tailgate. And pregame they did: Upperclassmen brought beer and bottles of cheap champagne and passed them out to passersby, no ID required.

It was mad, it was wild, it was the mayhem of human waste. When the people moved, they barely picked up their feet for fear of tipping in their tipsiness, shuffling across discarded Jell-O shots and shredded beer boxes and abandoned Solo cups. In the middle of it all was — bizarrely — a Catholic chaplain in his collar, congenially clasping arms and taking selfies with the revelers. He turned down several beers, smiling.

"Not for me, thank you. I don't start drinking till at least noon," he joked.

It was an hour till kickoff, and already the ground glistened with beer that had been spilled by hugs and lazy elbows and, perhaps, some that had already made its way back up from stomachs. It made for a rancid smell, coupled with a strong reek of weed, petroleum grills and hot-dog water. With crushed cans, the bros played basketball with a toy hoop, adding the scent of overworked deodorant to the mix. As they dunked and cheered and swigged and swaggered, the crowd swelled to double, triple, quadruple its starting size. In no time, there were hundreds of people — or, at least, enough to keep the boys bouncing around the crowd like wobbly pinballs. More filtered down from the Terraces, Towers and Circles above, trudged up from the Gardens and Quads below, spilled out of cars and TCATs that had rerouted around the constant-motion mass of messy students.

Some women in Ithaca-yellow vests picked their way carefully through, maintaining a "positive presence" in the throng; a trio of police officers watched from the corner of the lot, waiting for real trouble as the crowd shouted and sprayed one another with beer. The pace of the party was rapidly accelerating: soon, the few remaining sure-footed students resigned to following their sloppier friends around, holding the backs of their shirts to keep them from falling like mothers might do to their toddlers.

Every so often, the man standing on the flatbed started the cheer:

"When I say 'Fuck,' you say 'Cortland'! Fuck —"

"— Cortland!"

"Fuck —"

"— Cortland!"

The screaming, which had begun at 8:11 a.m., was to last another 15 hours.

Not a single voice could say why.

2/4 — Game on

At 11:30 a.m., in an unspoken but communitywide shift, students flocked toward Butterfield Stadium, taking a long last sip from hidden flasks and bottles before dropping and kicking, usually toward the Cortland side. "Hopefully they'll roll their ankles," someone shouted, and the crowd around him roared with laughter. Some braver Bombers would try to smuggle them in, unintimidated by the mild security pat-downs, determined to stay entertained in spite of the game.

The live radio announcer blasted the ticket lines: "The Bombers have absolutely nothing to lose!" And it's true: The Bombers didn't have much in the first place. They had Butterfield Stadium, a big divot in the side of South Hill, its crumbling slag slowly sliding past another era's metal bleachers. They had a fistful of prior losses, including last year's rather devastating miscue in the final minutes, a moment watched with drunken disappointment on many an Ithacan computer screen. They had their name, but that was it: not a flying squirrel, phoenix or lake beast in sight. The president had recently called the lack of mascot one of his greatest failures. Really. Truly. The Bombers had little at stake today.

Most of the crowd had never been here before; they found the view of Cayuga Lake particularly mesmerizing. In their stupor and their boredom, it almost seemed as though they could reach out and touch the calm, blue water, could escape the noise and the sweaty press of bodies balancing on the chain-link ledges. It was standing room only, or else an uncomfortable squeeze onto the bleachers, where blurry, bleary enthusiasm caused more than one back to be accidentally bruised by a wayward kick.

For every Butterfield first-timer there were virgins of another kind: Cortaca, for some, was a first time getting drunk. For example, the three freshman girls in pink-felt hats who stumbled up the path asking each and every person they passed, "Where are we? Who are you? Who am I?" They were giggling, swept up in the hysteria of 10,000 plastered people all talking at once, punctured here and there only by a distant shrill whistle or low bass beat. Neither sound could hold its own against the chatter.

There may have been constant talking, but few knew what they were talking about. In fact, the general mood of the crowd was one of contented confusion. When, five minutes in, the stadium began to boo, two girls with gold-and-blue glitter on their cheeks debated what was happening:

"I think the other team got a kick point."

"What's that?"

"It's cheating, that's what it is. It's bullshit."

"Yeah, what's a kick point, anyway? They're not even real!"

The drunker of the two blinked, touched her fingertips to her glitter streaks and asked, "What are we doing? Why are we even here?" To that, her friend could only laugh.

Meanwhile in the stands, a dark-haired young woman none-too-carefully threw back a shot of pineapple vodka, crushing the knees of the people behind her, then shouted, "Passionfruit is fantastic!"

In a rare moment of clarity, the crowd assembled once more into one voice. After all, someone must have been in the lead, scrounging the happy masses into a coordinated cheer or boo. Something must have been putting these words in their mouths other than the muddled inner workings of their minds. But what was it? Or who? Someone in the sea of faces must have had a concrete idea. It wasn't the girl manning the parking lot, it wasn't the Ithaca-yellow vests, not the police, not the radio announcer, not Rochon, not the players. It wasn't the game itself. Who, what was holding Cortaca's reigns? Who decided this? Who chose this way for the Bombers to behave?

No one did, and yet somehow, all of them did.

From somewhere in the upper stands, a man with a hoarse voice was smart enough to amend the chant so they wouldn't be thrown out:

"Let's go Bombers!" Stomp, clap, clap-clap-clap.

With each repetition, the stadium fell more in rhythm. Tiny pieces of shale started to slide down the slope.

"Let's go Bombers!" Stomp, clap, clap-clap-clap.

"LET'S GO BOMBERS!" Stomp, clap, clap-clap-clap.

And, in the moments before the coordination dissolved into indistinct yelling, the sun came out.

Glitter Girl squealed and jumped up and down. "It's a sign!" she shouted. "It's a sign!"

3/4 — Waiting

By halftime, the pregame excitement had waned. The wind — or some other unseen force — had dealt the Bombers several significant gametime blows, though of course for most of the spectators, these went unnoticed. Soon, the swell of people was pushing out of Butterfield rather than in, coming down off its buzz as it progressed sluggishly down the hill.

"This is such a waste of time. I don't know why we even go to this part."

"I've literally been waiting this whole game just to leave."

"Who's winning?" "Who cares?" The score was 9–0 Cortland.

"Should've come more prepared. Some people brought stuff."

"Maybe I can find my flask on the way out of here."

On the way down from the stands, Passionfruit-Pineapple Girl shouted, "I'm going to go harass that guy because I'm drunk, so I can do that!" before promptly falling over two rows of bleachers into the arms of a cop.

Those who stayed behind remained just as confused as before, perhaps using smuggled goods to carry on their intoxication: A group of boys with bloodshot eyes wandered near the fences, cheering, "Let's go boys! C'mon Bombers!" for the duration of the hip-hop dance team's halftime performances — the only 15-minute time frame during which females were on the field.

Three girls spent the third quarter waiting in line for the bathroom, passing time till the game could be over.

"Those Cortland girls better lose those ugly-ass pom-poms," the one wearing a gray Ithaca College sweatshirt shouted to no one in particular.

"I could be watching the game right now, but I can't really see," her black-scarfed friend said giddily.

Gray Sweatshirt waxed philosophical: "I feel like this is all more of a production than it actually is worth. It's all about the pregame. It's all about the postgame. But none of it is about the actual game. Like in reality, no one gives a shit cuz WIN OR LOSE, WE BOOZE!" She thrust her fist in the air. "Oh crap." She hastily took it down again. "Don't wanna do that."

"Yeah, don't do that!" Black Scarf snorted back her laughter. "That's POC at IC shit." Unbeknownst to most, a few Ithaca College players had flashed a Black Power symbol proudly when their names

"They readied themselves by taking several shots of Fireball and flavored Smirnoff for the women's Cortaca uniform: flannel shirt, leggings and winter vest, baseball cap, lo

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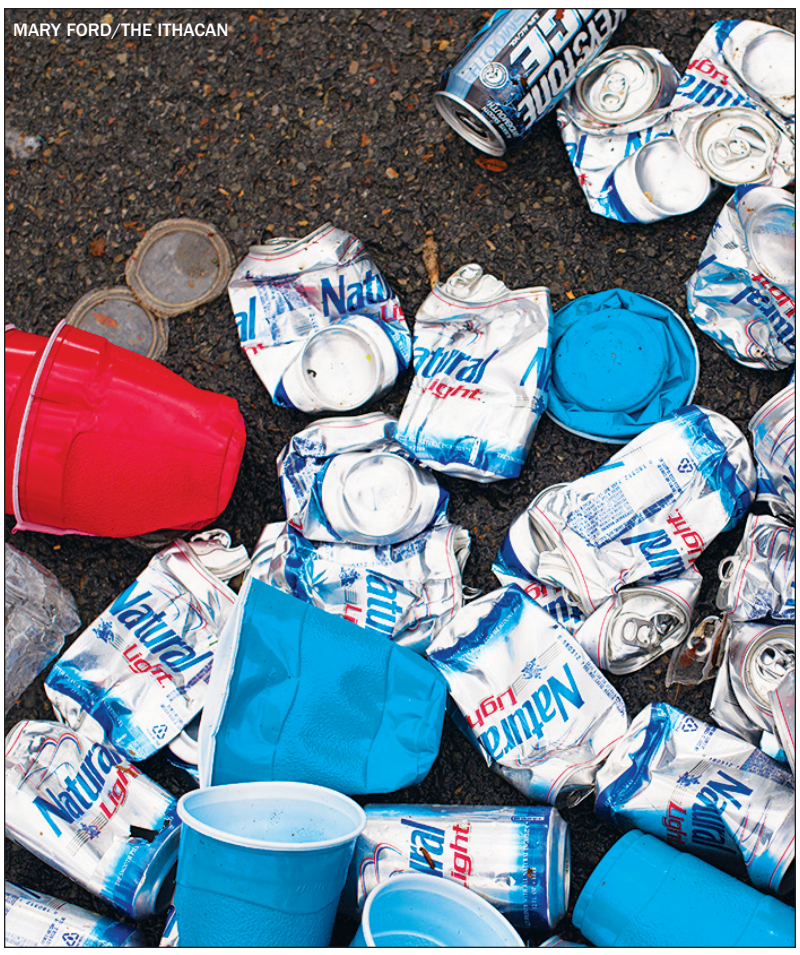

MARY FORD/THE ITHACAN

were announced before the game.

"It's insensitive, but at the same time, I don't know. I wonder when they're going to be here. Like that's scary. I feel bad about all that YikYak stuff but…" Their third companion seemed less drunk and less sure than the other two.

Gray Sweatshirt helped her out. "This isn't a serious school matter. It's our one fun day of the year. I mean, c'mon!"

Her friends nodded, and she continued. "I think one of the things is like they're trying so hard to prove a point that they are willing to squash every other opinion or every other opposition that comes up on them, and by doing that, they're actually invalidating themselves."

"I mean, it's no one's right to be on the field during the game," the soberer girl reasoned. "It's not like they're taking it away from anyone, and there's no need for you to ever take it.

"If we win or lose, we don't storm the field so why should they do that? You know what we do do? WIN OR LOSE, WE BOOZE!" Gray Sweatshirt said.

The trio laughed, and Black Scarf stumbled a bit on the rocks as the line moved up.

"I think they really take that to heart," Gray Sweatshirt continued. "No one plays shitty on it. Everyone plays their hearts out because —" She paused, seeming to lose track of whether she was talking about the fans, the football players or the protestors. "— because we don't get to act like this on a typical Saturday game. No one even goes!" Ah. The fans.

By 2:30 p.m., Butterfield Stadium was running on empty. The Bomber footballers had already missed two of their "kick points." Though they'd rallied in the last quarter, in the final minutes the score stood still: 8–11 Dragons. Finally, the weary watchers funneled out of the stadium, most of them back, actually, to their funnels. That men had smashed helmets together in hopes of securing some victory didn't change the scene, didn't sway or stop the screams from carrying on, although somewhat more tiredly:

"Let's go Bombers!" Stomp, clap, clap-clap-clap.

"When I say 'Fuck,' you say 'Cortland.' Fuck —"

Only 10 hours to go.

Those who drove vacated the place pretty quickly, cars filled past capacity due to a dearth of designated drivers, making illegal K-turns to avoid the mass of students flooding the street. Stomachs grumbling, the walkers dialed Sammy's or D.P. Dough for pizzas, searched for Wings Over on their iPhones or, begrudgingly, crept toward the dining halls, preparing to post the sparse selections on Instagram.

With a last longing whoop, the campus collapsed into its annual mid-Cortaca nap. A few rallied against the looming hangover, preferring to roam the campus in disheveled bands, mildly harassing anyone they passed wearing red. Back down the pathways they went, Bombers breaking through the heart of campus again. They didn't understand or care too much why they had lost; at least it didn't change their post-game plans. They were grateful for a lack of significant disturbance, grateful to know where they were supposed to be going, eager to chalk their losses up to simple bad luck. But maybe it was more than that. Maybe it had something to do with the ground they walked upon, something to do with how they'd disturbed a native burial ground by building Butterfield, something to do with their lack of grappling with this fraught history. After all, the Bombers who now compete for the Cortaca jug used to be called Cayugans, named after the tribe the college's land had been taken from; perhaps the stronger loss sprung from the bones dug up again and again by a ruckus of unconscious Bombers, an explosive influence felt far more deeply than they could see from their high-above planes.

Rumor had it that while the campus slept, at least one girl jumped into the fountain. Tradition stated that jumping in the fountain early ruined the jumper's chances at graduation.

Oh well. At least she had Cortaca.

Most of the fallen Bombers slept dreamless sleeps. Those who didn't dreamt in strange half-truths, unable to dislodge the feeling of shifting earth from their feet or the white-noise roar of the crowd from their ears. They tangled their sheets in restless wrestling, some fighting the urge to vomit, others choking down unwanted memories. Limbs heavy with drink and fatigue, they kicked away weakly the memory of their loss, the memory of losing before they even began, the memory of the dream they'd been having that morning when they'd been woken up by —

"Let's go BOMBS!"

"Fuck Cortlaaaaand!"

In its eleventh hour, Cortaca was dragged back to life, and not one dreamer dreamt of what it had been dragged by.

4/4 — Win or Lose We Booze

For some reason, the mania of the morning surged anew with the purple sunset. Once more, drinks were called for, but even the most enthusiastic felt the strangeness of a hair-of-the-dog tactic at this time of day. Bedraggled, they threw shots back like medicine and tried to revive their initial excitement. And, on the surface, it worked. They cranked up "Hotline Bling" and prepared for after-parties, still cheering out their windows.

Any other time, they would have dressed to the nines. But not now. This was more a celebration of survival than a celebration of life. Most of them had that dirty-jersey-crinkled-jeans-crumpled-shirts-smudgy-makeup look, traipsing down the hill toward town while taking lazy swallows from paper bags. They slouched into lines in front of houses on Kendall and Penn and Hudson, saying things like, "Can't believe we made it" and "Damn, was this walk even worth it?"

"Of course it was! It's Cortaca!"

The real question might have been this: Why did they even get out of bed? Perhaps it was that weird wellspring of pride again. Bombers had one day to do this, and they were determined to do it right. Perhaps they were just too tired and dehydrated to resist. But then, what pressed them on? Who dictated the terms? It was easy to follow the patterns but not to dissect the design.

They were past the point they normally would have enjoyed but carried on anyway. There were signs: Unlike most weekend nights, the house parties' music wasn't loud enough to hear from the street. Once they got in, some people didn't even bother to take off their coats, trying instead to sweat out their last six shots. Kids with dark-circled eyes walked the fine line between exhaustion and ecstasy, calculating how much they could take in before they gave out, how much they needed to be happy enough to stay awake. More than once, the hosts had to run out and get more beer. More than once, when they went, the stores were out. Downtown in the bars, upperclassmen — and underclassmen who could afford it — were picking walls and sticking to them, sipping overpriced drinks in the semidarkness.

Then, a shift. The second wave of booze was hitting them hard over the head, twisting their limbs into a semblance of consent as they thrashed halfheartedly on the dance floor. In the basements of house parties, black lights brought the partiers' whites to life as the music churned the masses back into a feverish stupor once more. At the bars in the blue, red and green beams of light they danced, too, heads lolling carelessly, arms by their sides — at least, until the DJ shouted, "You want some Bieber? Who wants some Bieber?" And, remembering the call-and-response from earlier, the Cortaca crowd roared, throwing its hands in the air.

It was as simple as that: As soon as they were gone enough to have forgotten the day's earlier jaunts, it was easy. Here they writhed in Cortaca's prime. A moment aside from the everyday, a moment away from the lameness and listlessness of real life. A puddle in the dry, dry desert of shamefulness. An odd, unexplained excuse to drop reality and savor, instead, what those D1 colleges taste all the time.

They forgot what they were there for; they forgot how they even got there. By midnight, some were attempting the trek back to campus, following curbs to at least a street they recognized the name of. No one was in a rush. Sleeping now would only bring tomorrow's troubles faster, would only lead to more of those mild nightmares.

And yet, if they'd done Cortaca right, there was hope. Hopefully, the next day they'd wake with only fond, fuzzy memories of things that might never have happened. They'd have a headache, granted, but otherwise, most would survive the night unscathed. They'd have no memory of the second orders of food they'd placed before they passed out, the crew of confused deliver men waiting by residence halls like grumpy guardians. They'd piece it together with phone records and recycling-bin piles and other people's photos. The day would exist, a pearly, nebulous period apart from their responsibilities, apart from the mundane multitude of perfectly ordinary days.

Who could blame them for wanting to escape?

At 1:29 a.m. the last drunk bus wended its way up South Hill, its interior lit with a soft blue that glowed well beyond the windows. It was packed and sweaty and tired, but despite it all, the cheers began to rise:

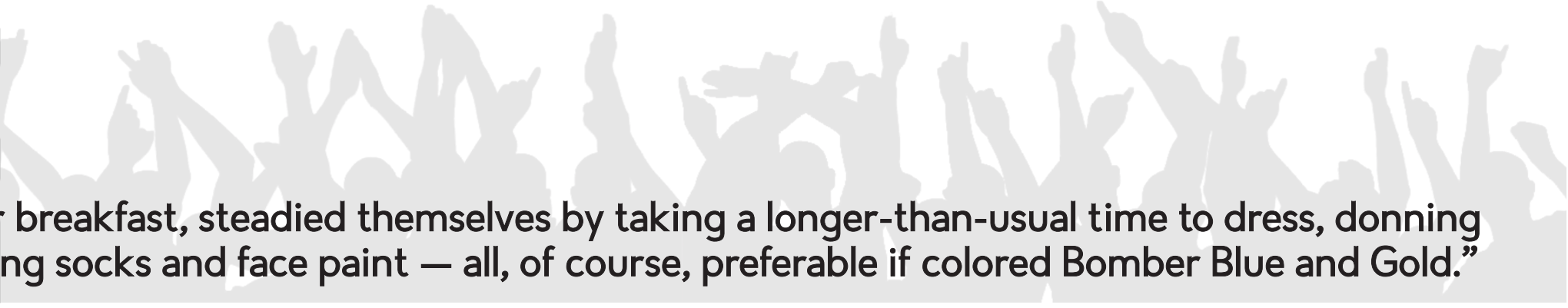
"Let's go Bombers!" Stomp, clap, clap-clap-clap.

The momentum tripped on itself, then gained again as the bus continued its climb.

"Let's go Bombers!" Stomp, clap, clap-clap-clap.

"LET'S GO BOMBERS!" Stomp, clap, clap-clap-clap.

They were unable to hear the music the rest of the way home.



r breakfast, steadied themselves by taking a longer-than-usual time to dress, donning
ng socks and face paint — all, of course, preferable if colored Bomber Blue and Gold."

BODACIOUS BURGERS

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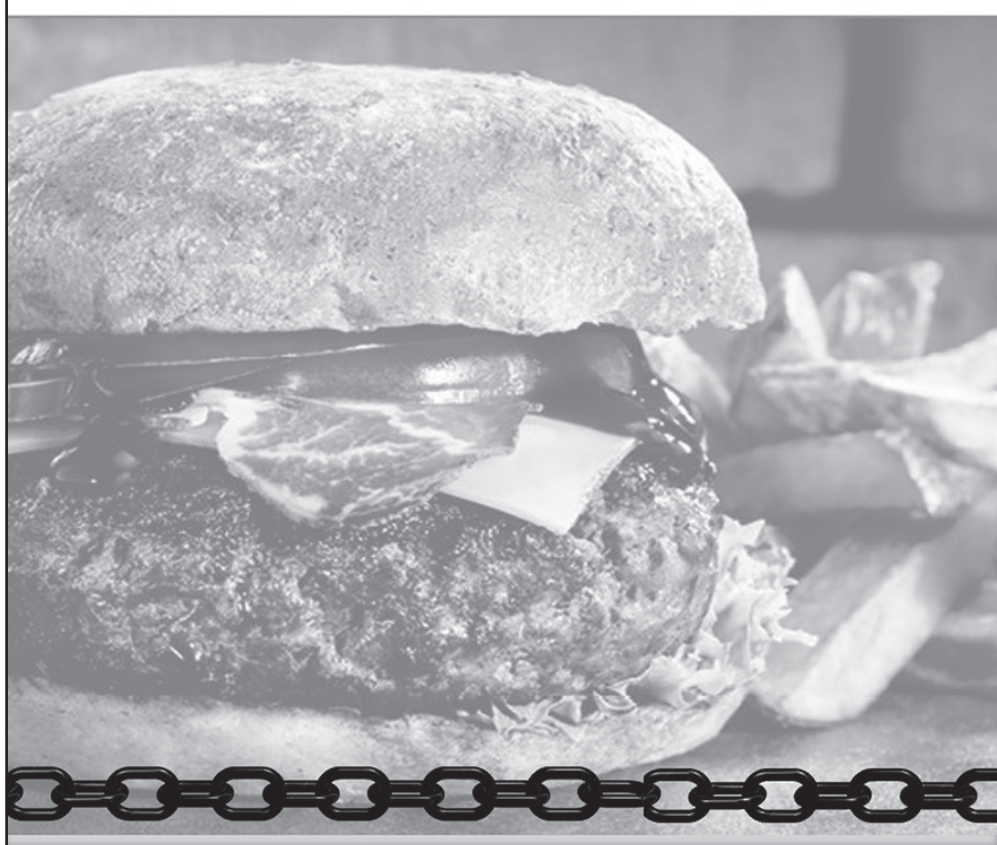

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TUCKER MITCHELL/THE ITHACAN

ONLINE
For more on Muslim students, go to theithacan.org/-strength-in-faith

BIG PICTURE
For more on Muslim students and Islam, go to Page 32.

STRENGTH IN FAITH

From left, seniors Anikah Shaokat and Jihan Moumou identify as Muslim students. Some of the central Islamic teachings include the belief in one God and practicing the Five Pillars of Islam.
MICKEY DANN/THE ITHACAN

Amid stereotypes and misconceptions, Muslim students stay true to their faith

BY CELISA CALACAL
ASSISTANT LIFE & CULTURE EDITOR

Inside the sanctuary of Muller Chapel, senior Anikah Shaokat sits alone by the glass windows, her eyes closed and her hands held close to her face. She has just finished praying, and the space around her is completely, utterly quiet. Her mouth is closed, and her face remains peaceful. But within the silence, she is talking to Allah.

Shaokat is a practicing Muslim student at Ithaca College — one of 1.57 billion Muslims in the world, according to the Pew Research Center in 2011. A monotheistic faith, Islam is currently the world's fastest-growing religion, with Muslims predicted to make up 29.7 percent of the world population by the year 2050.

Some of the basic tenets and central beliefs of Islam include the belief in one God, Allah, and the practicing of the Five Pillars of Islam: shahada, salat, zakat, sawm and hajj. Shahada translates to the confession of faith that becomes the two fundamental beliefs: Allah is the only God, and Muhammad is God's prophet. Salat is the Islamic ritual prayer, in which Muslims are called to pray five times a day: at dawn, midday, afternoon, sunset and evening. Zakat, meaning almsgiving, calls Muslims to be charitable and give alms to the needy. Sawm refers to fasting during the month of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, where Muslims abstain from food and drink from sunrise to sunset, which is seen as a form of self-purification. Hajj refers to the pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia, the holiest city in Islam. Muslims are expected to fulfill this duty at least once in their lifetime.

An international student born in Bangladesh, Shaokat grew up in a Muslim household. Shaokat was introduced to different principles in regard to practicing her faith and said Islam has had a strong influence in making her the person she is today.

"I believe in equality, I believe in love, I believe in kindness, and I believe in empathy," she said. "And I think that is what religion and that is what Islam is all about, especially for me."

As evidence of her strong ties to her faith, Shaokat tries her best to follow the Quran, the Islamic holy book. The Quran and the Hadith are the two main sacred texts of Islam, teaching the beliefs, practices and values central to the religion. The books also serve as historical documents, retelling the origins of the Islamic faith. The Quran is considered the most sacred, as it is believed to be the word of God revealed to Muhammad. The Hadith records the sayings of both Muhammad and his followers. Together, the Quran and the Hadith serve as the foundation for Islamic practice and Sharia, Islamic law.

In fulfilling salat, Shaokat actively tries to pray five times a day despite the busyness of college life.

"I try to say my prayers five times a day, which is very hard," she said. "When you're saying your prayers, there's a matter of cleanliness. There's a matter of dressing a certain way. There's a matter of covering yourself appropriately, which I try to do my best when I'm praying."

Shaokat chooses to practice Islam in her own personal way and said she strongly identifies with her faith.

"I do the things that the Quran mentions to do: I pray, I read my Quran, and I just practice being a good person at heart," she said. "And that's the sole meaning of Islam, is like you have to practice being a good person throughout your entire life."

Shaokat came to the United States only three years ago. She said her arrival to the States brought about an increased awareness of the ways in which her religion is misconstrued by others and said it made her realize she would constantly be battling those stereotypes.

"I had to answer a lot of questions. I had to get into some very awkward conversations, so I mean, it has definitely affected my experience here," she said. "And to this day, I think that's something that really, really saddens me: the fact that the world can't get over the fact that Islam really isn't what extremists portray it to be."

When she first arrived at the college, Shaokat said many people were surprised that she was Muslim because she did not fit the stereotypical, perceived appearance of a Muslim woman. She does not cover her head, and she said even wearing jeans and a T-shirt shocked others.

"People in the United States and people here in Ithaca College were used to the image of a

See **MUSLIMS**, Page 22

Accentuate

Are Starbucks red cups offensive?

What is it about Christmas that Starbucks is afraid of celebrating?

Starbucks' annual holiday Starbucks cups are causing some controversy this season. The company usually has a snowflake or some type of design on the red cup. This year, the designers went for a more basic look "with a bright poppy color on top that shades into a darker cranberry below." Because there are no symbols or designs on the cups, people are furious. "What is it about Christmas that Starbucks are afraid of celebrating?" said Simon Calvert from the Christian Institute. People also tweeted that they won't be going to Starbucks anymore since the company is trying to be more politically correct.

SPICE GIRLS REUNION

Rumor has it that the Spice Girls may be going back on tour in 2016. Melanie Brown, also known as Scary Spice, told Billboard that, "Once we sort everything out, we will make an announcement, but right now we're just figuring it all out." Since it is their 20th anniversary next year, the women are hoping to do something special to show their appreciation to all the fans who have supported them throughout the years. Get a refresher on all the songs because many will "Wannabe" at the tour if it actually happens!

CELEB SCOOPS

Daniel Radcliffe

On Nov. 12, Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe received his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Known for being laid-back and charming, Radcliffe gave an authentic and genuine speech. "I will never stop feeling lucky to be here and to be a part of this," he said. He proceeded to say he was "very lucky to get the part of Harry." He also continued to thank his parents, saying, "The seeds of all my luck were sown at the very beginning, 26 years ago, when I got you as parents." Radcliffe was also joined by "Harry Potter" director Christopher Columbus during the ceremony.

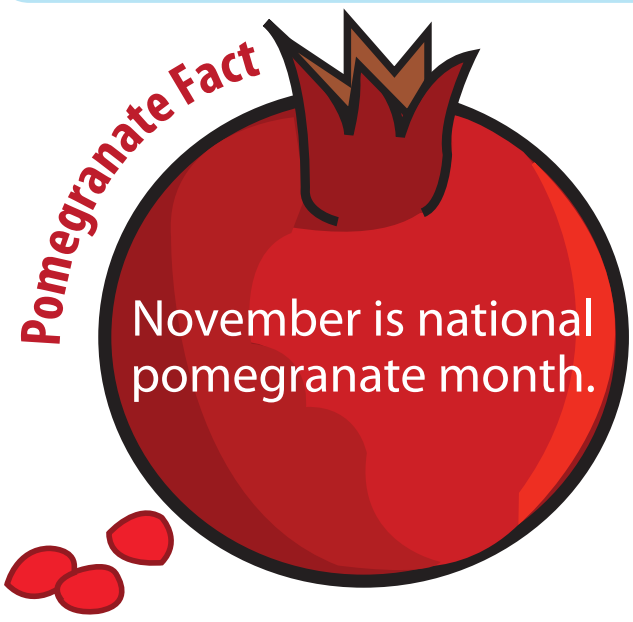
VIRAL VIDEO

Senior gives inspiring speech after finding out he has cancer

Jake Bailey, 18, was set to give a speech at his school graduation in Christchurch, New Zealand, on Nov. 4. He was a senior monitor, a leadership position in his class, and found out that he had an aggressive form of cancer a week before he had to give the speech. If he was unable to receive treatment within the next three weeks, he would have died. Additionally, he would not have been able to leave the hospital due to the aggressive treatment. However, Bailey was released from the hospital to deliver the speech at his graduation. Bailey made sure to give his classmates wonderful advice, saying, "None of us get out of life alive, so be gallant, be great, be gracious and be grateful for the opportunities you have." When he finished delivering his speech, the room was filled with applause. Bailey was overwhelmed by the response he received from his classmates and repeatedly thanked them while struggling to maintain his composure.

Love Letters

Seven-year-old Cadence, who has autism, has exchanged a series of letters with her mom that have touched the lives of many after being shared on Facebook. Cadence wrote the letters under her teacher's desk, which she said is a "safe space" for her. In the letters, Cadence asks her mom if being autistic "makes her bad." In response, her mother asks why being autistic would make her bad. Cadence responded by saying, "Grown-ups always say it is hard being mum or dad if your kid is autism." Cadence finished the exchange of letters by saying she never wants to hurt anyone. "I don't like hurting people. I don't like being scared. I was born [with] autism but that doesn't mean I was born bad."



COMPILED BY MARY FORD AND AMANDA CHIN

Students to perform new American operas

Students in the Opera Workshop course rehearse for their first show on Nov. 19. A semester-long course, the performance will feature pieces from American composers.
KARIELLE WILLIAMS/THE ITHACAN

BY ALLISON FALK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This semester, students in the Opera Workshop course are being challenged to create a show with new American works from American composers that have not been recorded or performed.

Directed by Professor Erik Angerhofer and alumnus Zach James '06, and with music directing by Professor Blaise Bryski, the opera students are preparing for their first performance at 7 p.m. Nov. 19 in Hockett Family Recital Hall in the James J. Whalen Center for Music. Bryski said the excerpts to be performed are from several contemporary American composers, introducing new genres and setting higher standards for the students.

Students in the Roy H. Park School of Communications will be producing the live show as part of the television-radio course, Live Event TV Production. This will be the first live-streamed performance at Ithaca College. The Park course, taught by Professor Chrissy Guest, is composed of 15 students. Five of the students, including junior Griffin Schultz, are spearheading the opera event.

"We are in charge of everything from the ground up," Schultz said. "[The course] is testing us for prep work and also has us working with people outside the Park School. We need to be solving problems on the fly."

Bryski said a difficulty the students face is learning the works while interpreting and visualizing the scene in their minds.

"Imagine this is the 18th century and Mozart has just written a new opera. Everyone has to figure out how they're going to perform it. Students have to figure out who their characters are and what the setting is. [This performance] will be the conception," Bryski said.

James, an opera singer and Broadway actor, organized the repertoire, which is inspired by his experiences working with contemporary opera.

"I've done a ton of new opera myself as a singer and theater student, so I was thinking about what I didn't learn in school and wish I had because so much in the professional world I have had to piece songs together without the aid of a recording," James said. "And because I have done so much new opera, I had access to a lot of composers who are working in all the biggest opera companies in the country."

James said he is in constant contact with the composers, each of them wanting to share their ideas of how their works are being interpreted.

"[The composers] are all very curious. One composer emailed me this morning with all these thoughts," he said. "Composers are really eager to be involved, and it's almost painful for them to know that someone's doing their music and they can't hear it in the rehearsal process."

Angerhofer said performing songs that have not been acted out before is a remarkable experience that affects all parties involved.

"I think for them, they must be really excited about being able to see what they've conceptualized up on its feet," he said. "It's a spiral effect in that they write something, we go to work on it, they get to see it, they might get some new ideas and new thoughts, and it just takes from there."

The variety of the opera also adds an air of intrigue. Angerhofer explained how each excerpt originated from different styles of composing, therefore resulting in a range of genres.

The Opera Workshop performance gives experience to the students producing the show and the cast who will perform in front of an audience with cameras nearby. James said he expects the concert to be an engaging show for the cast and audience.

"It's very difficult music, and it's been a huge challenge for everyone involved," James said. "Everyone's had to rise to the occasion because it's out of their comfort zone, and it will be out of the audience's comfort zone."

Talks on race continue with reprisal of play

BY ANGELA WELDON
STAFF WRITER

First performed in October, "On the Corner" will be reprised to continue the conversation about race in Ithaca.

A historical recap of racial struggles since the time of slavery, "On the Corner" explores the backstory of an African-American teenager who has just been stopped by a white police officer in Cayuga Heights. This fictional story reflects events happening in the area, and will be performed by the Civic Ensemble Nov. 19 , 21 and 22 at the Beverly J. Martin Elementary School on W. Buffalo Street.

Ithaca resident Godfrey Simmons Jr. and Ithaca College alumnae Sarah Chalmers '94 and Jennifer Herzog '00 founded Civic Ensemble three years ago, hoping to put professional theater into the hands of the community.

"We wanted to fill a gap in the Ithaca theater scene, where community members could engage in theater," Chalmers said.

Civic Ensemble's play last year, "Safety," also focused on the relationship between a community and police. When discussing possible ideas for this year's play, themes from its predecessor spilled over and helped inspire "On the Corner." Chalmers and Simmons co-wrote "On the Corner" to continue Ithaca's race conversations.

"The point of the community play is to deepen, expand and build on conversations our community is already having," Chalmers said. "This is what's boiling in our community, and we want to contribute to conversation through theater."

"On the Corner" asks why real events like those in this story happen so often today. Chalmers said the play challenges the community to examine the situation of a racial confrontation between a young black man and white police officers and to offer suggestions for a future of racial equality by exploring historical context. Chalmers said the main story was inspired by real-life events she heard about from black community members who were stopped by police.

After its five performances in October, Civic Ensemble was asked to continue the work by members of GreenStar Cooperative Market and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County. These two organizations, along with the Tompkins County Office of Human Rights and the Village at Ithaca, sponsored this encore performance.

Seth Soulstein, lead of the play and graduate student at Cornell University, joined the Civic Ensemble's original cast for this second production.

"Ithaca's a hot spot for racial tension, it seems, and we at least try to bring it out in the open and talk about it," Soulstein said. "This show goes through the history of racism in the U.S., and it sheds light on things that are really relevant today."

Chalmers said this play will continue to spark awareness and change for the Ithaca community in its second appearance.

"For white community members, this can help them know that this happens and what can be done about it," Chalmers said. "Through humor and drama and a 'fictional' story, we can step back and think about that."

"On the Corner" ensemble member Donna Acquavella helped come up with the idea for the play. She said she is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this conversation on race through theater.

"It was wonderful to be a part of," Acquavella said. "To me, nothing that I did out there compared to the work I'm doing with Civic Ensemble. I wanted to do things about subject matters that are really relevant, made people think and affected change in the community. The time is very relevant that we're able to bring this to the Ithaca community right now. I'm very proud to be a part of it."

Soulstein said this play touches on many issues of race and has a message for the community. He said theater is his way of making these statements.

"I think it's a great opportunity for me to find ways in which to wrestle with my privilege and my position, using skills that I have instead of another body at a protest," Soulstein said. "Both are valuable and important, but it's a way to use what I do to advance the cause and help educate and entertain."

From left, actors Jay Towns and Seth Soulstein play Julian and Officer James, respectively, in the Civic Ensemble play "On The Corner," which comments on issues of racism.
KEVIN TOAL/THE ITHACAN

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ITHACA COLLEGE

COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES

MUSLIMS, from Page 19

Muslim woman being shy and being under the covers and kind of a little more conservative than I was," she said. "I've been just as influenced by Westernized cultures as I have by traditional aspects of my culture."

At the college, Islam is not its own separate religious entity like Hillel and the Catholic Community. Instead, Islam is part of Muller Chapel's interfaith community, and every Friday at 1 p.m. the chapel hosts Jumu'ah, the congregational prayer held by Muslims every Friday. The service begins with an open discussion about the religion and is followed by prayer. Jumu'ah is led by retired Dana professor Raquib Zaman.

Junior Arham Muneer, a Muslim student who attends the Friday prayer, said the leader for the service can be anyone who is well-versed in Islam. In other Muslim communities, the prayer leaders in the mosques are individuals who are respected and knowledgeable about the Islamic faith.

Like other religions, an aspect of Islamic law forbids certain foods from being consumed, such as pork and alcohol. The term halal is used to refer to these dishes and specify what foods can be eaten as well as the preparation of those foods. Pork is the only meat forbidden to eat, and in terms of other foods, the source, cause of the animal's death and how it was processed are also taken into consideration. Muneer said while other Muslims he knows do not necessarily follow halal, he makes the personal choice to make dietary decisions adhering to it. However, he said since many people at the college do not know exactly what halal means, he usually resorts to saying he is a vegetarian when asked if he has any dietary restrictions.

Junior Zamar Malik is also an international student from Pakistan and said he has learned of more resources available for practicing Muslims throughout the Ithaca community, especially at Cornell University.

"I actually spent Ramadan here in Ithaca, and I don't think it would've been possible had I not been going to Cornell every day," he said. "They were giving us free meals every day."

As the number of Muslim students continues to grow, Malik said he wants the administration to become more inclusive toward the Muslim community.

From left, junior Lima Hossain, sophomore Anushka Rajbhandari and freshman Aarti Patel attend the South Asian Students Society's Eid Banquet on Nov. 1.
SAM FULLER/THE ITHACAN

"I've always felt that we've never really been included in anything," he said. "There's no inclusivity, and trust me when I say this: There's a huge amount of Muslim population on this campus. I've met them, and I know them."

Students have taken action to bring more awareness to Islam. One example is the college's first Eid Banquet, hosted by the South Asian Students Society on Nov. 1 in Emerson Suites.

The Eid Banquet is named after the Muslim religious holiday Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting. Eid is a Muslim festival of family, friends and community. Muneer, who is also a co-president of SASS, said the executive board wanted to turn the event into more of a learning, educational celebration rather than a full religious event.

Sophomore Joseph Fenning is in the process of starting a Muslim community organization, called Alif-Iqra, to educate students on Islam as both a religion and a culture. He said he has approached several professors about his idea and has also collaborated with other students about it. He said he wants the organization integrated into the community and to include both Muslims and non-Muslims who would educate the campus community on the religion by dispelling stereotypes and correcting misconceptions.

Perhaps one of the most widely accepted and most damaging stereotypes about Islam is its suggested promotion of violence, falsely supported by the events of 9/11 and ongoing turmoil across the Middle East. In addition, public reaction to the recent terrorist attacks in Paris on Nov. 13 that killed 129 people have relied on this stereotype of violence for justification, along with exacerbating feelings of Islamophobia, the dislike or prejudice against Islam or Muslims. Following the tragedy, Shaokat said these reactions only further destroy Islam's already-damaged reputation.

"Just know that terrorism doesn't have a religion," she said. "Growing up in a Muslim household and as a practicing Muslim, like I couldn't kill a spider because it was a sin. So you can't tell me that killing people is the definition of Islam because that's not what it is."

During the Fall 2013 semester, Malik said he was called a terrorist by a professor. Malik said the interaction reflects poorly on the college.

"I think that Ithaca is doing a wonderful job at providing a real-life approach by having racist professors or stuff like that," he said. "And I think that now I'm very much prepared for the harsh world because Ithaca has been harsh on me that I'm mentally ready for it."

With rampant misconceptions about Muslims and Islam, Malik believes placing all Muslims within the same boat ignores the fact that all Muslims will interpret the religion in their own way.

"Religion is a very personal thing with each and every Muslim," he said. "You will see Muslims who drink. You will see Muslims who don't drink. There are conservative Muslims. There are liberal Muslims … And that's one of the things that I want people to know, is that you cannot judge a Muslim according to Islam."

But despite the misinformation and miseducation of Islam, both Muneer and Shaokat said they do not personally feel the need to defend themselves or their religion any longer.

"It's almost patronizing to have to defend my religion because why should I? My religion is my right," Shaokat said. "I can be who I want. I can believe what I want. It says more about the person being judgmental about a religion than the person being judged or the religion being judged."

Shaokat said she believes there is significant room for misconceptions to be destroyed and stereotypes to be deconstructed surrounding Islam. And with interactions like what he experienced at the college, Malik said he's learned to simply shrug them off and instead prove the stereotypes untrue.

"You don't stop living just because some people hate you," he said. "Instead, you make it a point to prove those people wrong by being the person they never expected you to be. They expect you to be a terrorist. Instead of falling into their expectations, be what they could never expect you to be. Be the successful one."

New exhibit shows handmade crafts

BY CASEY MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

The Handwerker Gallery at Ithaca College will be showing the beauty in manual labor with its latest exhibition, "Make Do," which focuses on craftsmanship.

"Make Do" opened Nov. 12, and it features artwork from four different artists: Julie Crosby, Sarah Gotowka, Aram Han Sifuentes and Jonathan Kline. The pieces included are unconventional, like Sifuentes' "A Mend: A Collection of Scraps from Local Seamstresses and Tailors." The piece is a large, hanging tapestry made from the remnants of denim jeans. Other forms of artwork in the exhibition include pottery, weaving, woodwork and even paintings on the windows.

This exhibition is curated by Mara Baldwin, the director of the Handwerker Gallery, and junior art history major Vincent Manta. Manta was awarded a Dana Student Internship grant from the college, which allowed him to do extensive research over the summer that culminated in the production of this exhibition.

Manta said craftsmanship is not commonly considered to be a sophisticated art form, and focusing on the idea of labor as art is a different perspective.

"This show is really based around the relationships between work and home, the value in labor, art and craft, and aesthetics and forms," Manta said. "Each of these artists speak to one of those dichotomies a little, and they all kind of engage with them differently. It's really about recontextualizing craft and putting it in a lens that it's maybe not always thought to be in."

Manta said the collection of art in "Make Do" and the way it's arranged is uncommon, which is part of what makes the exhibition so special and entertaining. He said even though visitors can't physically touch the pieces, they can get close to them and view them from different angles, which provides different perspectives of the art's beauty.

"Visually, it's very interesting," Manta said. "It's something that you won't see in many other galleries. You won't see pottery next to baskets next to a giant tapestry or flower pressings on the wall, so it's something that's unique."

"Make Do" will be presented at the Handwerker Gallery until Dec. 13 and will host Artist Talks at 6 p.m. Nov. 19 and Dec. 3.

"Make Do" is the latest exhibit at the Handwerker Gallery and was curated by Mara Baldwin and junior Vincent Manta. This piece features an arrangement of dried flowers on plexiglass.
PARITA DESAI/THE ITHACAN

The pieces in "Make Do" showcase the craftsmanship of handmade art.
PARITA DESAI/THE ITHACAN

The gallery features artwork ranging from pottery to weaving from four different artists.
PARITA DESAI/THE ITHACAN

Drama film fizzles with flavorless plotline

BY KATE NALEPINSKI
STAFF WRITER

After hurling himself into a spicy situation of drugs, addiction and sex, Adam Jones (Bradley Cooper) scrambles for redemption in the restaurant business in "Burnt." Though the plot is promising, the film flakes on character development and conflict.

MOVIE REVIEW
"Burnt"
The Weinstein Company
Our rating: ★★½☆☆

Directed by John Wells, the story follows Adam, a recovering drug addict and extraordinary chef, and his determination to lead a restaurant to earn three Michelin stars, representing the highest quality of food and service based on anonymous reviews. In the film, viewers learn about Adam's passion for the culinary arts as a 16-year-old, his impulse for drugs despite his success with cooking and the very real possibility of redemption.

After shucking oysters and crawling into a ball of shame, Adam moves from New Orleans back to London, where he originally resided before drugs and alcohol ruined his career. His former maitre d', Tony (Daniel Bruhl), offers him a head position at his fine-dining restaurant. From here, Adam works with his former colleague Michel (Omar Sy), along with several other chefs, to rise to success once again. However, the stakes are high because Adam is recognized by the culinary world as a failure.

The plotline sounds appealing at first glance — a recovering drug addict is given a second chance at culinary fame. There are other films reflecting a similar story of redemption, such as "The Green Mile." With a familiar plot, the expectation for "Burnt" was high. By the middle of the film, the plot fizzles along with the lack of character development.

To obtain an accurate image of a fine-dining restaurant in the film, Gordon Ramsay was hired as a chef consultant to monitor the actors as if they were real chefs, as well as helping to construct the dishes. It seems that Ramsay did more harm than good, though, by giving more life to the food than the actors. Producers got the food right, but focused too much on the dishes and not enough on their characters.

Despite Adam's expertise in gastronomy, the study of gourmet cuisine, viewers hardly see this connection in the film. Besides dialogue, Adam's familiarity with food is mundane, along with his personality. Viewers see his drive to cook, but his personality is lost in mediocre food shots. There are images of him shucking oysters and chopping veggies, but audiences don't receive any of his personality besides his debilitating self-loathing. Moviegoers are unable to vindicate a character that doesn't show many redeeming qualities.

As if trying to feel empathy for the dull character wasn't hard enough, Adam's kitchen staff lacks depth as well. Helene (Sienna Miller), one of the main characters, serves no purpose throughout the film other than to be a love interest to Adam. It is infuriating to watch such an experienced actress such as Miller go to waste on a static character. Speaking of wasted actors, Uma Thurman is featured in two scenes in "Burnt." She acts as a restaurant critic that hands out Michelin stars, but is only present to surprise the audience with a cameo. Despite her credentials in the cinema world, her purpose in the film is brief and utterly useless.

Bradley Cooper stars in "Burnt," a film directed by John Wells that tells of the redemption of cook Adam Jones, who returns to London to work at a restaurant after his addiction to drugs and alcohol ruins his career.
COURTESY OF THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY

Sy also plays a mundane role throughout the film. Michel is an experienced chef whose restaurant was sabotaged by Adam, something that would fuel aggression or spark conflict. However, viewers don't receive any of Michel's anguish with the past. Instead, Michel follows along with his once-rival's plan as long as he can get in on Adam's future title.

One element the producers depicted well was the emotionally fueled arguments in the restaurant. While these scenes spice up the film, viewers can't help but be reminded of an episode of the reality television show "Top Chef" — leaving viewers satisfied, but unfulfilled.

The star-studded cast of "Burnt," including Cooper, Miller, Sy, Thurman and Emma Thompson, gave an attempt at something that had much potential for film. In the long run, "Burnt" stirred the pot but failed to add any zest to make it appealing.

"Burnt" was written by Steven Knight and directed by John Wells.

Bieber's album reflects purposely on mistakes

BY AMANDA CHIN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

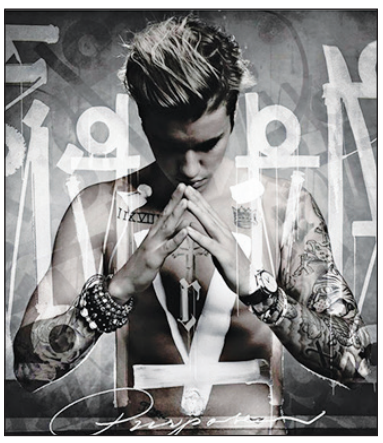
In his fourth studio album, Justin Bieber successfully makes his return to the music scene since his last album, "Believe," debuted in 2012. This pop superstar's new album, "Purpose," released Nov. 13, seems to reflect on his regrets and mistakes he has made over the past few years such as his arrogant behavior and arrest in 2014.

ALBUM REVIEW
Justin Bieber
"Purpose"
Def Jam Recordings
Our rating: ★★★½☆

Although the album has many distinct music styles, the dance floor sound seems to be a common theme throughout. His two singles, "What Do You Mean?" and "Sorry," produced by electronic DJ and songwriter Skrillex, have an electronic dance music feel.

There are many songs on "Purpose" that reflect Bieber's previous smooth rhythm and blues and dance-based album, such as "Love Yourself" and "The Feeling." "Love Yourself" has an acoustic feel that reflects back on Bieber's more traditional sound, demonstrating a melodious and boisterous feel similar to his "My Worlds Acoustic" album. However, this album's opener, "Mark My Words," is a more somber approach, fading away from his more poppy, younger sound in "Believe." Keeping with a mellow feel, "Life Is Worth Living" reflects on the troubles and mistakes he has made in the past, with lyrics such as "People make mistakes" and "I'm working on a better me." The title track, "Purpose," also has a religious aspect, with lyrics such as "Ask you to forgive me for my sins."

Bieber's strong vocals show how serious he is about his career, which is a skill not many would characterize him as having a few years ago. The lyrics show his growth and maturity, while still reaching his usual younger following. Because many of the songs are


COURTESY OF DEF JAM RECORDINGS

produced by Skrillex, Bieber may also attract a new, edgier audience.

Many notable hip-hop singers are also featured on the album, such as Big Sean, Travis Scott and Nas, shying away from the EDM feel that Skrillex gives to five of the tracks.

The album ends with the track "All In It," with dialogue from Bieber where he states that, "by not being perfect you, you sometimes can disappoint people," perfectly summing up his meaning behind the making of this album. It is clear that Bieber is "sorry" for what he has done in the past. He is surely ready to redeem himself.

Soulful tracks lack heart

BY MATTHEW RADULSKI
STAFF WRITER

CeeLo Green has seen his stock fall since his 2010 hit album, "The Lady Killer." Excluding a Christmas album in 2012, "Heart Blanche" is Green's first solo effort in five years. While the album delivers on the promised soul sound, "Heart Blanche" lacks focus when it comes to songwriting.

ALBUM REVIEW
CeeLo Green
"Heart Blanche"
Atlantic Records
Our rating: ★★½☆☆

"Heart Blanche" is a soul record, and when it sticks to this sound the album comes to life. Green is aided by producer Mark Ronson on "Mother May I." The funky song covers Green's childhood and his desire to leave his mother. The song has a slower feel to it, and Green's soulful voice brings the song to life.

The album spends too much time naming people rather than developing a story about what they mean to Green. "Robin Williams" is supposed to be a touching tribute, but comes off as a bit of a mess. The track is a salute to many late comedians and celebrities, including the eponymous Robin Williams. The song is slow and dull, and fails to capture the energy that Green says he was inspired by.

"Heart Blanche" is an inconsistent record. It does not maintain the high energy promised by "Tonight," but Green is still a very soulful artist. Much of the record rides on his personality when it should reflect it.

COURTESY OF ATLANTIC RECORDS

QUICKIES

COURTESY OF WARNER MUSIC GROUP

"KNIVES"
Matoma & Frenship
Warner Music Group
Norwegian DJ and record producer Matoma collaborated with Los Angeles–based Frenship to produce the single "Knives," a tropical house music track that features a gentle bass line and mellow guitar.

COURTESY OF CAPITOL RECORDS

"YOUTH"
Troye Sivan
Capitol Records
"YOUTH," the latest indie rock single from Australian singer-songwriter Troye Sivan, was released Nov. 13. The track is part of his upcoming album, "Blue Neighborhood."

COURTESY OF WARNER MUSIC GROUP

"VITALS"
MUTEMATH
Warner Music Group
MUTEMATH, an alternative rock band out of New Orleans, released its latest album, "Vitals," on Nov. 13. The group sticks to its signature sound, in which the band members perform on any variation of the band's four-piece instrumentals.

COMPILED BY MARY FORD

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THE ITHACAN

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- Snack Bar
- Campus Center Dining Hall
- Campus Center Lobby
- Williams Hall
- Center for Natural Sciences
- Hammond Health Center
- Alumni Hall
- Ceracche Center
- Towers Dining Hall
- Terrace Dining Hall
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Studying abroad?

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Spring 2016 study abroad students need to come to one of each of the below sessions. Winter 2016 students need to attend only the "Traveling Abroad" orientation.

NOTE: Spring 2016 London Center students do NOT need to attend either of these orientations.

Traveling Abroad

Tuesday, Nov. 10
12:10-1:00 p.m.
Textor 101

Thursday, Dec. 3
12:10-1:00 p.m.
Textor 101

Monday, Dec. 7
6:00-7:00 p.m.
Textor 103

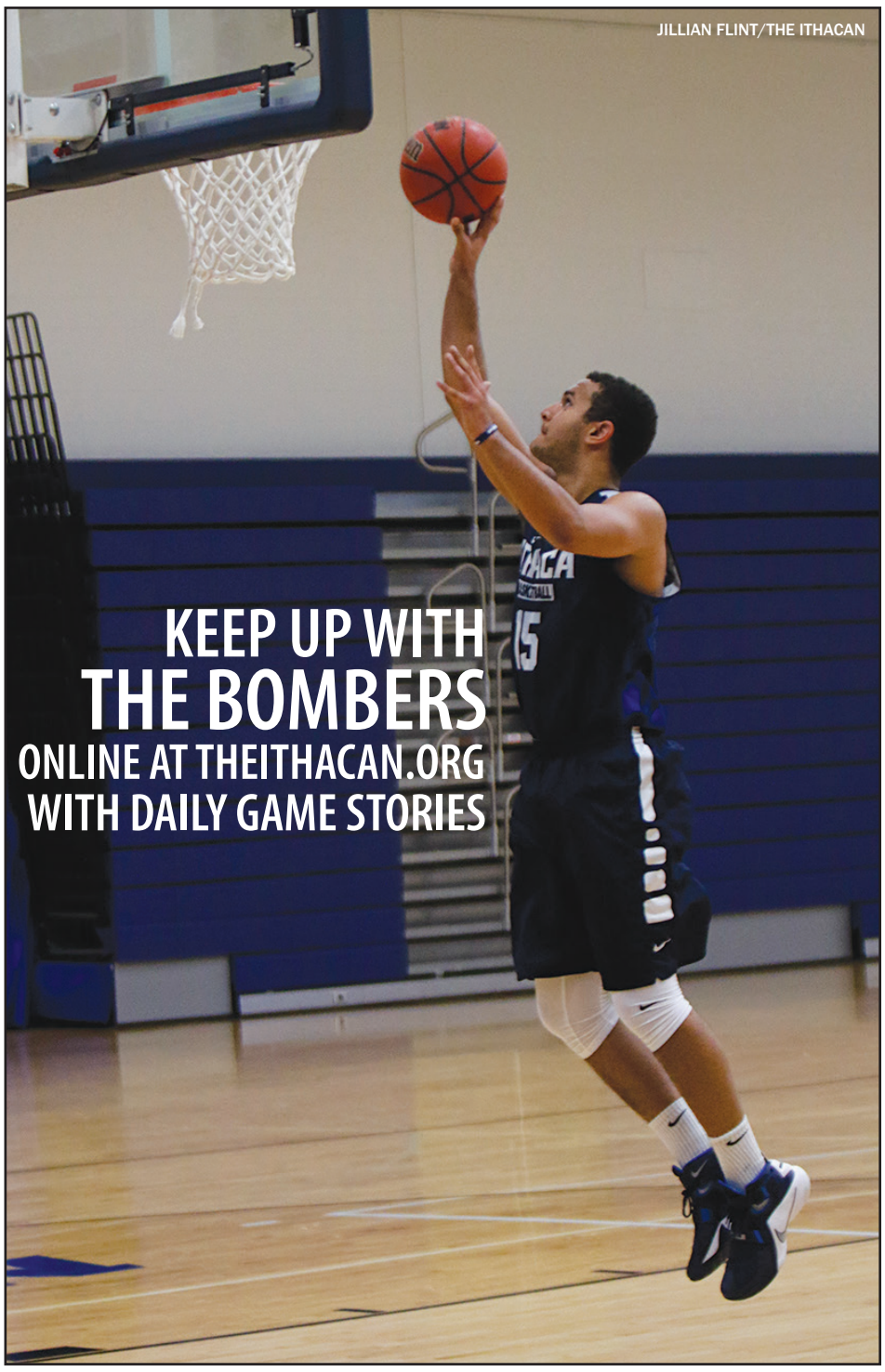
IC Details

Thursday, Nov. 12
12:10-1:00 p.m.
Textor 101

Tuesday, Dec. 1
12:10-1:00 p.m.
Textor 101

Monday, Dec. 7
7:00-8:00 p.m.
Textor 103

For more information, contact the Office of International Programs
Job Hall, 2nd floor ~ 274-3306



POWER HOUSE

Freshman Abby Mellinger, coming from a long line of rowers, masters the sport

TOP: Freshman Abby Mellinger works out on the stationary rowing machine at the Robert B. Tallman Rowing Center on Nov. 13.
TOMMY BATTISTELLI/THE ITHACAN

BOTTOM: Mellinger and her mom, Megan Mellinger, practice rowing on Aug. 12, 2014, at the Hollywood Rowing Club in Hollywood, California.
COURTESY OF ABBY MELLINGER

BY DANIELLE ALLENTUCK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It's 5:30 a.m. on a chilly October morning, and while a majority of her classmates are in bed, freshman Abby Mellinger is already out on the water. As she thrusts her oar in and out of the water, with the directions of the coxswain echoing in the background, sweat pouring down her face and the beautiful fall scenery flying by, Mellinger forgets about her aching muscles and breaks into a wide smile.

Three years ago, this moment would not have been possible for her. After dedicating her life to the sport, labral tears in both of her hips prohibited her from continuing to row after her sophomore year of high school.

Mellinger began rowing as a middle schooler and attended clinics before committing herself full-time to the sport in eighth grade. In the summer before her sophomore year of high school, Mellinger said she was invited to try out for the junior national team.

"I was training super hard, and I had no life. I was practicing six days a week, sometimes multiple times a day, for at least four hours," Mellinger said. "I was so consumed with rowing that it was basically all I did."

She was one of the youngest people invited to try out, and she qualified for the junior national sculling team. However, right before she left for the development camp, she said she felt a strong pain in her hip.

The doctors diagnosed it as a labral tear, meaning she would have to undergo surgery and eight months of physical therapy and rehab. One year later, the same thing happened to her other hip, and she had to go through another round of surgery and rehab. She said she would no longer be able to row without further damaging her hips.

"I cried a lot when I first found out. Rowing was my life," Mellinger said. "When they told me, I was like, 'What do I do now?'"

She dabbled in sailing before a concussion forced her to switch sports again, leading her to pick up water polo in her senior year at St. Thomas Aquinas High School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

"I started to miss being a part of the team sport and working out," Mellinger said. "But it was not the same as rowing."

Megan Mellinger, Abby's mother, rows with her team during the 2013 USRowing Masters National Championships in Sarasota, Florida.
COURTESY OF ABBY MELLINGER

When Mellinger arrived on campus in August, she said she had no intention of joining the rowing team. Instead, she was interested in joining the swimming and diving team to continue her love of water sports, or the skiing club to try something she couldn't do in her beach town.

"I took a step back, and I was like, 'Why am I doing this? I don't even like swimming. It's so hard,'" Mellinger said.

After more consideration and research, she decided to row again, as long as she could remain pain free. So far, Mellinger said she has had no pain in either of her hips.

For Mellinger, rowing is in her blood. She comes from a long line of talented rowers. Growing up, her mother was one of seven children, and after her four brothers began rowing, her sisters wanted to join, but there was no women's team at their school. Mellinger's grandmother created a women's team at Holy Spirit High School to give her daughters an opportunity to row, and today it is still one of the best teams in the area. Three of Mellinger's cousins compete on this team.

"A big highlight for my brothers and I would be to see our kids rowing," her mother, Megan Mellinger, said. "When my mom started the team, rowing was unpopular for girls, so it was not easy."

Mellinger's mother went on to row for Florida Institute of Technology, where she met her husband, who was also a rower. One of Mellinger's uncles went on to row for the junior national team and later won the Royal Henley in England in 1967, one of the most prestigious rowing races in the world. All four of Mellinger's uncles, her aunt and her mother rowed in college.

Mellinger's mother still competes in rowing and recently won a gold and two silvers at the 2013 National Masters Championship. Mellinger's sister followed in her parents' footsteps and attended FIT where she was a coxswain for the men's varsity team.

Despite joining several new sports and clubs during her hiatus from rowing, Mellinger said nothing came close to filling the void that rowing left. That was, at least, until she started deep-ocean diving photography in her sophomore year of high school.

One of the most influential days in her life, Mellinger said, was the day she walked into a meeting of the South Florida Underwater Photography Society during her senior year of high school. Despite being the youngest member by far, she said she was inspired by the talent and drive of the underwater photographers and videographers.

"It was then that I knew that this is what I wanted to do for the rest of my life," Mellinger said.

She began making her own underwater videos and attending meetings regularly. So far, Mellinger has made four underwater videos, one of which was bought by the company Headhunter, a boating company based in South Florida. Mellinger is now a documentary studies major and plans on making underwater documentaries when she graduates.

"I don't think I would have fallen in love with making underwater videos if it wasn't for my injury," Mellinger said. "It felt so natural, and I felt so comfortable."

Freshman coxswain Tatiana Garvin has worked with Mellinger both on and off the water, and although she was tentative concerning her comeback at first, Garvin said Mellinger has worked hard to get back into rowing shape and has, in the process, set an example for others to follow.

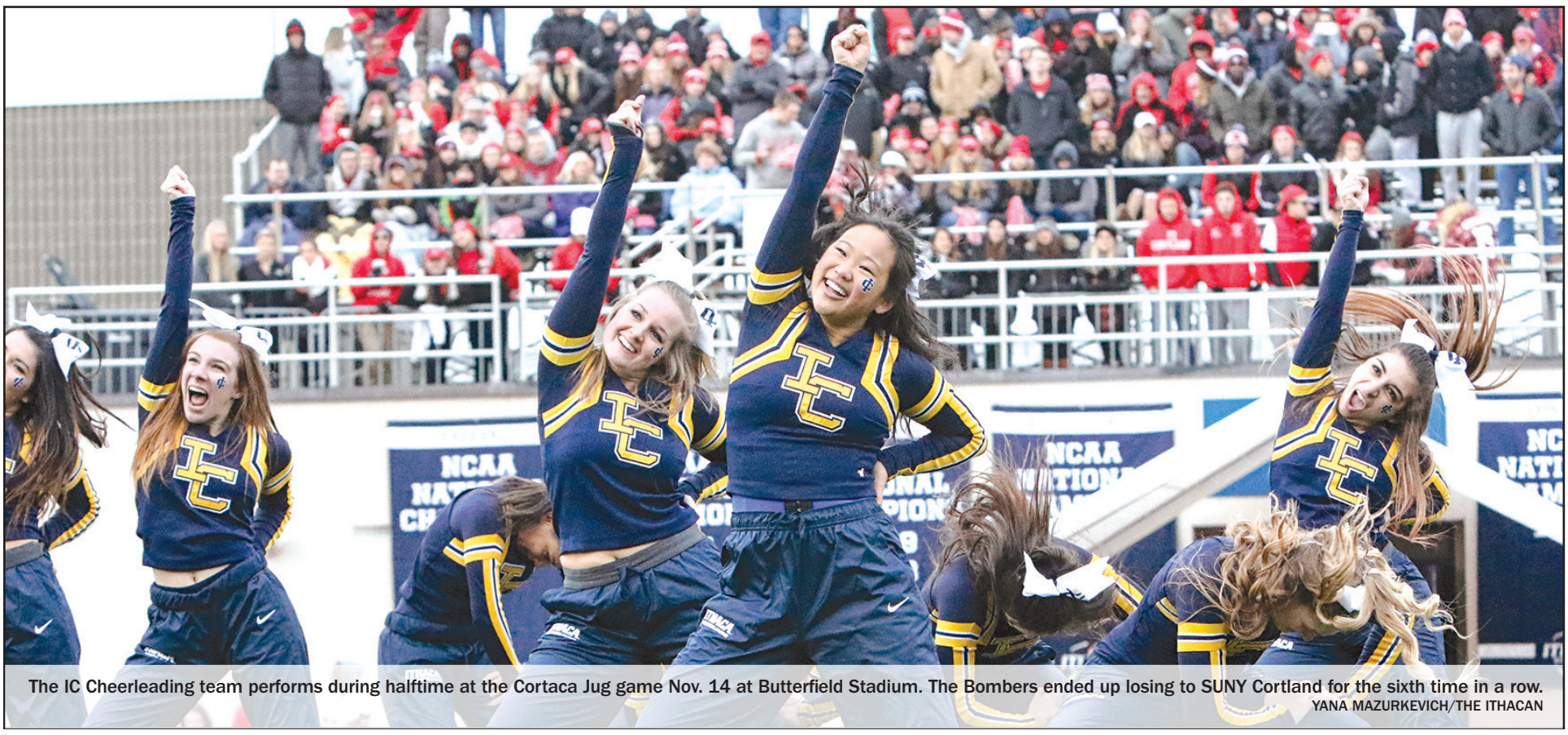
"I was pretty worried and wasn't sure if she was going to be able to handle the comeback, but I am very impressed with her work ethic and her intensity," Garvin said. "She is a good leader on the water and always sets a high standard for the rest of the team to follow."

Mellinger was one of eight women selected to compete in the novice boat for Ithaca College at the Head of Genesee regatta Oct. 3 in Rochester, New York. In her first race for the women's crew team since returning to the sport only a month before, she helped her boat win the gold medal by over a minute.

"I missed racing and that feeling when you pass the finish line and you can't even breathe. You're so exhausted and thinking that was the best I did, and no matter what the results are, I'm happy because we just killed it," Mellinger said.

THE BOMBER ROUNDUP

The Ithacan's sports staff provides statistical updates on all of the varsity Bomber squads during the fall and winter seasons.



The IC Cheerleading team performs during halftime at the Cortaca Jug game Nov. 14 at Butterfield Stadium. The Bombers ended up losing to SUNY Cortland for the sixth time in a row.
YANA MAZURKEVICH/THE ITHACAN

Football

RESULTS

Cortland **11–8** Ithaca
Nov. 14

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
CORTLAND	3	6	2	0	11
ITHACA	0	0	0	8	8

Finished season with overall record of 4–6

STANDINGS

	Conference	Overall
Cortland	6–2	8–2
St. John Fisher	6–2	7–3
Alfred	5–3	7–3
Buffalo State	5–3	7–3
Morrisville	4–4	6–4
Utica	3–5	4–6
Brockport	3–5	5–5
Ithaca	**2–6**	**4–6**
Hartwick	2–6	4–6

Women's Basketball

RESULTS

Montclair State **77–62** Ithaca
Nov. 15

Next game: 3 p.m. Nov. 20 against Bard College

STANDINGS

	Conference	Overall
Alfred	0–0	0–2
Elmira	0–0	0–1
Hartwick	0–0	0–2
Houghton	0–0	0–0
Ithaca	**0–0**	**0–1**
Nazareth	0–0	0–0
St. John Fisher	0–0	2–0
Stevens	0–0	0–1
Utica	0–0	1–1

Women's Soccer

RESULTS

Catholic **1–0** Ithaca
Nov. 14

Finished season with overall record of 13–5–2

TEAM STATISTICS

SHOTS	1st	2nd	Total
ITHACA	7	1	8(2)
CATHOLIC	6	16	22 (12)

SAVES	1st	2nd	Total
ITHACA	3	8	11
CATHOLIC	2	0	2

Volleyball

RESULTS / TEAM STATISTICS

Ithaca **3–0** Williams
Nov. 13

ITHACA Set	K	E	TA
1	14	6	34
2	15	2	31
3	11	4	36

WILLIAMS Set	K	E	TA
1	13	7	38
2	9	4	29
3	10	9	35

Clarkson **3–1** Ithaca
Nov. 14

ITHACA Set	K	E	TA
1	10	6	34
2	11	6	33
3	16	8	37
4	10	5	34

CLARKSON Set	K	E	TA
1	17	9	43
2	14	9	40
3	14	1	28
4	14	9	44

Finished season with overall record of 31–5

Wrestling

John Reese Duals – Top Five

Name	Weight Class	Place	Defeated
Eamonn Gaffney	157 lbs	1st	Jon Lado
Dan Pak	149 lbs	1st	Jonathan Buhagiar
Bryan Israel	133 lbs	1st	Ryan Flynn
Matt Booth	285 lbs	1st	Mark Fischer
Carlos Toribio	184 lbs	1st	Jesse Huber

Next invite: 9 a.m. Nov. 22 at the New York State Collegiates at Cornell University

Men's Basketball

RESULTS

Ithaca **90–84** Skidmore
Nov. 14

Scranton **78–67** Ithaca
Nov. 17

Next game: 8 p.m. Nov. 20 against Bridgewater State University in Ben Light Gymnasium

STANDINGS

	Conference	Overall
Alfred	0–0	1–0
Elmira	0–0	0–0
Hartwick	0–0	0–1
Houghton	0–0	0–1
Ithaca	**0–0**	**1–1**
Nazareth	0–0	2–0
St. John Fisher	0–0	1–0
Stevens	0–0	1–1
Utica	0–0	0–2

Cross-Country

Men's – NCAA Division III Regionals

Position	Name	Place	Time
1	Sawyer Hitchcock	7th	25:30.0
2	Sean Phillips	22nd	26:00.9
3	Jesse Capellaro	47th	26:27.3
4	Stephen Gomez	56th	26:36.6
5	Tim Chapell	62nd	26:41.8
6	Brendan Davis	97th	27:15.7
7	Shane Connor	138th	27:50.8

Women's – NCAA Division III Regionals

Position	Name	Place	Time
1	Taryn Cordani	2nd	21:56.7
2	Denise Ibarra	14th	22:29.5
3	Michaela Cioffredi	58th	23:35.0
4	Anna Fay	63rd	23:37.2
5	Emilie Mertz	65th	23:38.5
6	Kristin Lynn	79th	23:50.2
7	Emily Krakowski	110th	24:22.0

Next invite: 12:30 p.m. Nov. 21 at the NCAA Championships in Winneconne, Wisconsin

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Keep up with the fall and winter sports squads by checking out online game stories.
THEITHACAN.ORG/sports

JILLIAN FLINT/THE ITHACAN

*Updated as of Nov. 17

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA DEN HARTOG

PLAYING FAVORITES

Former and current athletes voice discontent toward longtime head coach Janet Donovan regarding the volleyball program

BY JONATHAN BECK
SPORTS EDITOR

The large turnover of student-athletes staying and leaving each year is not uncommon for most college athletic programs. However, for the Ithaca College volleyball team, with head coach Janet Donovan at the helm, more players have gone then remained, due in part to criticisms of her coaching style and what team members describe as her disrespect for her players.

"I can tell you that every single girl I've played with, I've seen cry because of Janet. Every single one, and most of them on more than one occasion."

These words were spoken by a 2012 alumna and former student-athlete of the college. A four-year member of the volleyball team, she did not want to be named for the purposes of this article.

Since the team's preseason in August, seven of last year's 13 returning players were either cut from the team or made the decision to quit. Rather than being on the court, four of the eight former players — juniors Molly Brown, Myan Idziur, Maggie Mutschler and Siobhan Sorensen — now sit on the bleachers.

Former volleyball players dating back to 2005 have expressed similar feelings about Donovan. At first, many players were reluctant to speak out against their head coach. However, in recent years, student-athletes have brought a number of concerns to the athletics department.

Over the course of two months, The Ithacan investigated and uncovered the nature and extent of Donovan's behavior. Interviews with 25 people involved with the volleyball team and the college, including five current and 11 former students, coaches, administrators and family members found a pattern stretching over a decade of damage to the volleyball program that has led to the mental strain of several student-athletes.

Donovan declined to comment on any of the content of this article.

> "I can tell you that every girl I've played with, I've seen cry because of Janet. Every single one, and most of them on more than one occasion."
> — Anonymous

A Youthful Squad and Confusing Cuts

The 2015 team is now underclassman-heavy, composed of five freshmen, five sophomores, one junior and one senior.

However, this young configuration is nothing new to the program.

Over the past six seasons, the college's volleyball program has seen 38 percent more underclassmen than upperclassmen with an average of nine underclassmen and four upperclassmen per squad.

Comparatively, from 2010–15, the other eight Empire 8 schools saw an average of about 24 percent more underclassmen than upperclassmen per squad.

Although the program has similar player-loss rates to other Division III schools, many believe there is a reason why a significant number of players have left the program, despite the record number of wins under Donovan.

Many of the players who are no longer on the team said they left preseason muddled about how Donovan made her decisions on who would make the team and felt like they were not given adequate reasoning behind the decision of being cut.

Brown said after six practices and three days of tryouts, the players were given an envelope in the locker room that said whether they had made the squad.

Idziur said when she went to Donovan for clarification after she found out she was cut from the team, Donovan would not discuss the details of her decision, which Idziur said she found immature.

"She just said, 'It's in the letter,'" Idziur said. "And [I said], 'What do you mean it's in the letter?' And she repeated herself … two more times saying, 'It's in the letter.' And I [said], 'I don't understand, can you tell me? I deserve that at this point. I deserve to know what is going through your head.' … And she didn't give me anything. At one point, she didn't even respond to me and just stared at me."

Assistant coach Derryk Williams said he and Donovan made it clear to players how tryouts were going to be run and how they would determine who made the team. They used a program called Gold Medal Squared, which evaluates players based on statistics. He said Gold Medal Squared is what the national team and Division I programs use to figure out who statistically does the best.

"We went through the tryout process, and then afterwards they received their statistics of where they stood in their position, and we were looking for very multidimensional players, so we kept players in a position that we thought would make us the best team, as well who performed the best during tryouts," Williams said.

Sophomore Kayla Gromen, one of three captains on the current team, said after tryouts her teammates had to move on from the decisions

See **DONOVAN,** Page 28

Senior Dylan Gawinski-Stern winds up to hit the ball during a volleyball match Sept. 11 against Alfred University in Ben Light Gymnasium.
JILLIAN FLINT/THE ITHACAN

Head coach Janet Donovan directs her team during a volleyball practice Sept. 22 in Ben Light Gymnasium. On the board, Donovan breaks down practice into separate time increments to assess each player's skillset.
VICTORIA SAYEG/THE ITHACAN

DONOVAN, from Page 27

made by Donovan and tried to stay focused.

"It was a very surprising 12-hour period, but we knew the first day we walked into the gym coming back from the summer," Gromen said. "We knew throughout the summer that it was going to be a competitive preseason, and obviously we didn't know the results until we got all of our envelopes."

Nonetheless, Mutschler said her perception of Donovan before and after the recruiting process was drastically different.

The Summer Email to Parents

The parents of all members of the 2014 roster received an email from Donovan regarding the upcoming season.

In the email *The Ithacan* obtained, Donovan outlined specific commitments that she needed from parents for the upcoming season.

Donovan, when referring to how their daughters would be treated, said "we will not physically or mentally abuse her." At one point Donovan suggested the players might "organize a plot to get me fired." She even told the parents to tell their daughters "to get back to the tough business of growing up and becoming accountable for the challenges she is lucky enough to have before her." Donovan also suggested that "if you cannot make this commitment then you need to look at other schools."

Susan Bassett, director of intercollegiate athletics, said she was aware of the letter and had a conversation with Donovan regarding the matter but was not allowed to talk about the details of that conversation due to the privacy surrounding personnel issues.

"I will not and cannot speak about anything that relates to what I do or don't say to anyone of the staff that I supervise," Bassett said.

A parent of one of the former players said she was surprised when she received the email from Donovan and was taken aback by the fact that Donovan suggested leaving for another school.

"The thing that stood out in my mind … from well over a year ago now, because of the numerous suggestions in the email to considering transferring to another school. … As a parent, just sending your child off as a freshman to a school with a $50,000 price tag, and they're not even there a week yet, and to have a coach to suggest that this might not be the right school for your child … I found that really offensive."

Less than a week later, Bassett said, Donovan issued an apology after complaints from other parents.

Despite these and other concerns, Donovan does have supporters among the players. Senior captain Dylan Gawinski-Stern, who has played on the team since she was a freshman, said Donovan is always trying to get better as a coach from year to year.

"For me being here for four years, there obviously have been things that have not been what we want from previous years," she said. "But I have seen a lot of change and a lot of progression of our coach, and this one seems to be the best one we have had so far, and I think that has a lot to do with how every person grows each year."

Gromen and sophomore captain Joelle Goldstein agreed with the sentiments Gawinski-Stern mentioned about their current coach. Goldstein said she's been lucky and fortunate to have a good relationship with Donovan.

"I personally have never encountered any problems with her," Goldstein said. "I mean, she's the reason I found out about Ithaca, and a large reason of why I came to Ithaca. She's very supportive in the fact that she never wants to push us to the length of where we're going to be injured."

Many of the other current players on the volleyball team declined to comment.

Respect

Mutschler quit the team Sept. 4.

Goldstein said it was tough for the players to adjust after Mutschler quit, and with a match against SUNY Brockport on Sept. 5, they needed to turn the negative energy into positive energy.

"I played for [Mutschler] because she wasn't there," Goldstein said. "There are so many other girls who would kill to be in our spots right now, so if you keep that mentality throughout the season, you just play your hardest and know that, then we'll be fine."

> "When she stopped playing me, she didn't say a word to me for a week. She didn't acknowledge what she did was wrong."
> — Molly Brown

The volleyball team just finished its best regular season since 2007 with a 30–4 record. The team won the Empire 8 Conference Championship for the first time since 2010, before falling to Clarkson University on Nov. 14 in the second round of the Division III National Championship Tournament and ending its season.

Brown said Donovan is too protective of her authoritative role, and if a player ever questioned her coaching style, Donovan would consider her a negative force on the squad, which would quickly escalate to a lack of mutual respect on Donovan's part.

Brown said she had an incident with Donovan her sophomore year and said it came out of thin air, beginning Sept. 20, 2014, in a match against Hartwick College. Brown said Donovan let every person on the team play that day except her because Brown challenged Donovan's authority due to the constant criticism she received every day.

"When she stopped playing me, she didn't say a word to me for a week," Brown said. "She didn't acknowledge what she did was wrong."

Mutschler said there was one practice in 2014 that was supposed to be a lighter practice for the team. However, she said within the first 30 minutes, one of her teammates was on the verge of crying. Mutschler said she went to comfort her teammate, and at the end of practice, Donovan came up to Mutschler in the locker room to speak to her.

"She looked at me and said, 'Haven't I given you everything you wanted,' meaning playing time, because I did play a lot," Mutschler said. "I can't say that I didn't get playing time, and I said yes. She said, 'Just remember that, finishing up the season, remember I gave you everything you wanted.' And that was it. I brought that to the athletic department, and I told them about that because it made me extremely uncomfortable, and I felt like I was pitted against my teammates for something that wasn't fair to them."

Syline Kim '14, who was a two-year captain and an office assistant for Donovan for three years, said she and her teammates faced similar problems and met with administration to try to rectify the problem.

Kim said while she did not personally have many altercations with her like her teammates, at times she did feel like her playing ability wasn't taken seriously.

"I saw other people take it harder than I did, definitely," Kim said. "I felt like if you messed up, like me personally — if I made one mistake — I feel like I would be taken out after one specific thing, while other people got a lot of chances. I did see if someone shanked a pass, they'd be taken out immediately and not be given a chance to redeem themselves."

Abbie Hutchinson '15 said she recalled one instance in which the team was playing its last game — a playoff game — and by the end of the contest, there were only underclassmen on the court.

"[The seniors] had worked their butts off all season, and they competed in practices and earned their spot on the floor to start that game, but by midway through to close to the end, their last game, we're down by quite a bit, so we can't really come back, and they weren't given the respect to be able to play, and that was frustrating to see and experience as a junior," Hutchinson said.

Many former players shared these same experiences across the years.

Casey Buss '08 played on the volleyball team for her first two years. In 2006 during her junior year, she was cut from the squad during preseason. She said she had a feeling she would be cut the first day she showed up for tryouts based on the attitude Donovan displayed toward her during tryouts.

"I had an inkling," Buss said. "Knowing how the first two years — primarily how my sophomore year went and the relationship I had with Janet — I had a feeling I was going to be on the chopping block. And I could tell during tryouts that she did not want me on the team. It was very clear."

Buss said the way she and other members of the team were treated by Donovan was not professional and that by speaking up, it could have cost her a spot on the team.

"I believe it was less to do with my athletic ability and had more to do with my stance on her coaching and how I had respectfully challenged her in the past, and she did not feel that was appropriate," she said.

The problems she and her teammates have encountered with Donovan made them uncomfortable at times, Buss said.

"If we had an off weekend from a tournament or we didn't play as well as we should have, instead of going to practice and reviewing tapes, we would have something called a circle talk, which were, in my mind, incredibly and emotionally damaging for many of the women on the team," she said.

Buss said before the team would begin practice, they would sit in a circle on the gym floor of the Hill Center and be forced to share personal reasons, such as family problems and eating disorders, for their bad performances.

"I remember I stood up and said at one point, 'This is not right, we should be studying the other teams ... not sitting in a circle and crying. That's not what we should be doing,'" Buss said. "And Janet didn't like that. When she would look at me or another woman and say, 'If you're not crying, you're doing something wrong,' I think that's incredibly inappropriate."

Buss also said she recalled an instance where the team was split into two separate groups: the starters and the role players. The starters were sent to the counseling center to discuss how they could do better as a team, and the role players were forced to practice how to stand for the pledge of allegiance.

"It was very damaging. It made the girls that had to participate in that pledge of allegiance activity feel awful," Buss said. "It was not something any athlete should be forced to do and feel like you weren't good enough."

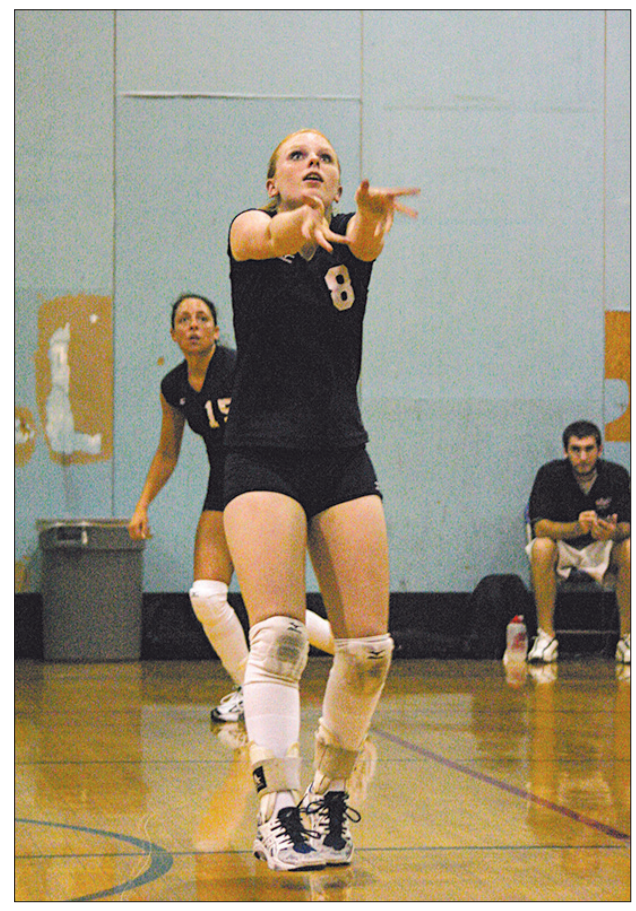
Six other alumnae also spoke of the circle talks.

Kate Thoene '12, a former member of the team, shared similar experiences and said the experiences under Donovan were undesirable.

"She is a very manipulative person. She's very

Head coach Janet Donovan coaches the volleyball team during a timeout in a match against Keuka College on Sept. 23 in Ben Light Gymnasium. Former and current players have expressed discontent toward Donovan and her coaching tactics.
FERNANDO FERRAZ/THE ITHACAN

Then-junior Syline Kim '14 prepares to serve the ball during a volleyball match Sept. 11, 2012, in the Hill Center.
FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN



Casey Buss '08, a former player, sets the ball for a teammate during a volleyball game Sept. 9, 2005, in the Hill Center.
FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

inconsistent in her coaching style, which makes it really hard for a team to grow. … She likes to make examples out of people. It was never knowing what was going to happen [with Donovan]."

Ryan Baker '03, a former student assistant coach under Donovan, said working under Donovan was one of the best experiences in his career and cites her as a mentor to him. Baker is now the head volleyball coach at Colgate University. He also said he witnessed no problems during his time and never had a player speak to Donovan with fear.

"It sounds like you have some unhappy players, former players, who to me are on a little bit of a witch hunt," Baker said. "I think you see that at all levels and all institutions where people are unhappy, they're finding a place to air their unhappiness and grievances. It's too bad, but that comes with the territory working in athletics."

Mutschler and other teammates began to bring their complaints about Donovan to the athletics department in 2014 after instances like this had started to make many of the players feel uncomfortable, she said.

Sorensen said Michelle Manning, associate director of intercollegiate athletics, was at the majority of the team's practices to observe the team because of issues that were brought to her during the 2013 season.

Bassett and Manning also had individual meetings with some of the players, and Sorensen said the players went into the meetings with a list of examples of uncomfortable encounters they had with Donovan.

"They had a meeting with us at the start of second semester to tell us that they had decided that Janet would remain as the head coach," Sorensen said. "As soon as I heard those words, I broke down. And I think that should have been a big sign that I do not feel comfortable with Janet Donovan as my head coach."

New Rules and Administration Involvement

Following the decision in 2014, rules were put into place prohibiting Donovan from having one-on-one meetings with players. However, Mutschler said the rule was not enforced.

"My first day being on the team, I had a meeting alone with Janet. My first day," Mutschler said. "We were promised that she would be held accountable. I can say from my week or two being on the team, no one was holding her accountable."

Since she was hired in 2013, Bassett said, the athletics department holds all coaches accountable through the establishment of annual goals and action plans. She said she reviews the progress of these plans throughout the year and during each coach's annual performance evaluation. The performance evaluations include feedback from the coaches, evaluations completed by student-athletes and observations of practices and competitions by her and other athletic administrators. She mentioned the college is in its second year of this phase.

"From all of that information, a variety of things happen," Bassett said. "A variety of conversations happen about strengths and opportunities to improve, and those are things that I and some of my administrative staff all have responsibility to embark upon. I take my role and my responsibility to safeguard student experience and support the mission of Ithaca College as an academic institution very seriously. There are a variety of things that we're working on, and there is a lot of progress that has been made, and there are in the whole enterprise, I'm sure, areas for where we can get better. And that's what we're focused on doing."

Mike Lindberg, the director of athletics and physical education at Wells College, also declined to comment. Lindberg was the associate director of intercollegiate athletics at Ithaca College from 1998–2014, during most of Donovan's tenure.

Hutchinson, who quit the team her junior year, said Manning randomly selected players from each class based on an online questionnaire to discuss their experiences with Donovan as a head coach. Hutchinson also said she recalls during her freshman year seniors asked for written responses from the group of players to show the administration the number of problems that took place. None of the freshmen who Hutchinson came in with remained on the team all four years.

"They presented to them our general feeling about the coaching situation and how it affected everyone and how we were sort of uncomfortable with it, and I think that was around the time at which the AD was switching, so there was some change going on anyway, but it was formally presented at multiple points in fact," Hutchinson said.

Despite the fact Kim played all four years, she said she did have thoughts of leaving the team, but ultimately her passion for the sport outweighed the problems that occurred.

"I think freshman, sophomore year you play for the sport and the hope to get on that court to please the coach because being that young, she gives you more attention and more praise when you do make mistakes, but by junior, senior year once you do make that mistake, you're criticized, and as a player, that's the hardest thing is to be always criticized by the coach, and maybe she would bring you up a little bit, but then she would push you right back down," Kim said.

Thoene also said it is inexcusable for the athletics department to have a repeated history of ignoring the problem.

"To me, for an athletic department to read those evaluations and do nothing about it is pretty astounding."

Buss agreed with sentiments of past and present players and said she hopes for a change.

"At the end of the day, this is about a student-athlete's experience on a collegiate volleyball team and what they're subjected to because of the mismanagement of a coaching staff," Buss said.

Brown said it is unfortunate to see the number of players who have lost their passion for the game due to Donovan's disrespect.

"I think a lot of it is we've all played this sport since we were in sixth, fifth grade, some later, some earlier. It's part of our lives," Brown said. "A lot of people are not willing to give that up just because someone in their life is hurting them emotionally. It's a lot to give up. It's a lot of passion. It's not taken lightly. … It's just a shame to see that passion taken away."

Mutschler said she ultimately decided to leave the team because she could not handle going to practices each day knowing how her former teammates were treated.

"I had to stay true to my conscience because at the end of the day, that's what it was," Mutschler said. "I couldn't deal with knowing everything that's happened. … I'm so proud of all the girls that are still there."

Football team squanders sixth straight Cortaca

BY DUSTIN ALBINO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In what seemed like an improbable ending, the Ithaca College football team's comeback fell short in the last six minutes, and for the sixth straight year, the Bombers fell to rival SUNY Cortland in the 57th annual Cortaca Jug game by a final score of 11–8 at Butterfield Stadium.

After plenty of missed opportunities, the Blue and Gold failed to score four times in Cortland's territory and missed two field goal attempts. The Red Dragons won an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Tournament and their first Empire 8 Conference title in their inaugural season.

Cortland head coach Dan MacNeill said he was proud of the way his defense played and happy for his team for making the playoffs.

"That's what happens with the field anyway," MacNeill said. "They don't have as much room to move. The end lines are kind of a defender for us. You can just sit right on their routes and kind of slow them down."

One of the keys to the game was Red Dragons' quarterback Steven Ferreira. He came into the game second in passing yards and the best in quarterback efficiency in the Empire 8. In the first half, he went 8–11 for 102 yards. On third downs, he threw three through the air.

The Bombers were able to move the ball down the field for a total of 141 yards, something that the team has struggled with in the past four games. Sophomore running back Tristan Brown was able to convert on some powerful runs down the field and convert on third downs.

The Bombers had the best chance to score when they failed to convert on a 22-yard field goal from senior kicker Max Rottenecker. The missed field goal was only Rottenecker's 10th missed field goal of the season. On the assuming possession, the Red Dragons connected on a 29-yard field goal from junior Shane Cronin to put Cortland up 3–0.

Senior defensive back Anthony Cugini fights for the ball against a SUNY Cortland opponent during the 57th annual Cortaca Jug game Nov. 14 at Butterfield Stadium. The Red Dragons beat the Bombers 11–8.
YANA MAZURKEVICH/THE ITHACAN

The only other score of the first half was with one minute to go when Ferreira hit sophomore wideout Jake Smith for a 14-yard touchdown pass. The Dragons led the Bombers 9–0 heading into halftime.

The second half was a different story, controlled mostly by the Bombers' offense. However, they were only able to find the end zone once.

Cortland received the ball to open the second half, and on the second play from the line of scrimmage, Ferreira hit junior running back Jon Mannix on a big 34-yard conversion to set the Dragons up for the rest of the drive. The Bombers' defense stepped up and stopped Cortland to halt the drive.

With 49 seconds remaining in the third quarter, senior punter Brandon Steff came on to punt, but the ball sailed over his head into the end zone for a safety, putting the Dragons ahead 11–0.

Once the fourth quarter began, the Blue and Gold's offense woke up, starting with a 30-yard catch and run to junior wideout Myles LaFrance. The Bombers were able to get in field goal range, but Rottenecker ultimately missed a 41-yarder, keeping the Blue and Gold off the board.

On the next drive, LaFrance was hit with a 14-yard catch to set the Bombers up with good field position. Shafer found senior wide receiver Nick Vallo in the end zone for a 3-yard touchdown pass, putting the Bombers on the board. The offense remained on the field to go for two and converted when Shafer lofted the ball in the back of the end zone to LaFrance. The Bombers trailed the Red Dragons 11–8 with just under five minutes remaining.

After picking up a first down, Cortland linebacker Matt Ambrose sacked Shafer for an 8-yard loss, leaving the team with a third and 18 play coming up and killing the momentum the Bombers had.

Shafer found sophomore wide receiver Jared Bauer to pick up 15 yards to leave a manageable 4th and 3. Shafer then threw wide to Vallo, and the Bombers came up on the short end of the stick. In the last game of the season, Shafer went 28–41 for 300 yards with one touchdown and one interception.

Senior defensive back Malik Morris said although the loss was disappointing, he is going to miss playing on the team even more after graduating.

"I wasn't even pissed that we lost," Morris said. "I'm just pissed that I can't be with the team anymore ... It was a great game. All credit to Cortland. I'm going to miss it all."

Head coach Mike Welch said it was the same mistakes that led to the Bombers' loss.

"Things that have been happening the last few weeks showed up again today," Welch said. "We didn't take care of the opportunities that we had."

Before the game, the teams honored one of the co-founders of the original Cortaca Jug, Tom Decker '64, who died Nov. 11 at his home in North Carolina.

The original jug was a $2 purchase at a garage sale in Homer, New York, way back in 1959. This year's edition of the Cortaca Jug will be the last score on the second jug.

The Bombers' football team ends its season with a disappointing 4–6 record. It's the team's second losing season in the last 40 years.

Senior guard embraces role on men's basketball team

BY MATT ROTTLER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whether it was the combination of Andrei Oztemel '13 and Sean Rossi '13 during the 2013 NCAA Tournament run, or Keefe Gitto '15 and Max Masucci '15 leading the Bombers to the Empire 8 Conference semifinals last season, the men's basketball team has always had multiple seniors to help lead it and inspire the underclassmen. However, this year they will only have one senior guiding the team.

Point guard Sam Bevan is the only senior on the men's basketball team this season. The Strafford, Pennsylvania, native is one of the new captains on a 16-man roster that consists of only one other upperclassman, junior Carlin Champion. The rest are a combination of 14 freshmen and sophomores.

Bevan said he feels like it is his responsibility in his final season to be a mentor to such a young team.

"It's my job to be a third coach on the court," he said. "To teach these young players how to work hard and to be an Ithaca Bomber."

The 6-foot-2 senior began playing basketball at the age of 5 with his father and brother. A graduate of Conestoga High School, Bevan played on varsity for three seasons for coach Mike Troy and went to the district playoffs in all three seasons. Bevan knew he wanted to play college basketball when he was looking into what school to go to.

He said he credits his former coach for getting him to the next level and noticed by college coaches.

"My high school coach was really good at getting colleges to look at his players," he said. "Ithaca was one of the schools that responded, and once I came on my recruiting visit in the spring of 2012, I knew I wanted to come here."

Since joining the Bombers' roster at the start of the 2012–13 season, Bevan's production has gone up each season. Last season, Bevan averaged career-highs in points per game with 10.5, assists per game with 4.6 and steals with 0.9, while averaging 29 minutes per game on the court. He was third on the team in scoring while starting a career-high 23 games.

Bevan said his high scoring is a result of his switch to point guard, a position that head coach Jim Mullins said Bevan transitioned into when he was a freshman on the team.

"He has evolved his game to become a point guard from originally being an outside shooting guard," Mullins said. "We had the intent of moving him back to the wing, but he has done so well we decided to just leave him where he is."

The lone senior guard Sam Bevan spins a basketball during the team's practice Nov. 16 in Ben Light Gymnasium.
KAIT TURKETT/THE ITHACAN

Bevan said he was not initially comfortable playing point guard. He moved to point guard after the departure of Sean Rossi '14 at the start of his sophomore season. But eventually, Bevan said the position grew on him, and he was able to change his game in order to play point guard.

"I was a shooting guard my whole career," he said. "My freshman year I was mainly shooting three and trying to score, and now I'm a distributor ... I try to get everyone involved."

Bevan said he thinks he has gotten this far in his basketball career because his parents, Richard and Nancy Bevan, and his basketball coaches have always inspired him.

"My mom and dad have always been super supportive," he said. "My high school coach, former assistant coach [John] Tanous, coach Mullins and coach [Sean] Burton ... without them I would not be at the level of play I am right now."

Bevan said he does the little things that every coach loves because, although he is the only senior, one player does not make up the whole team.

Mullins said Bevan's eventual departure as the final player from the Sweet 16 team in 2013 will be a huge loss for the team overall after the season.

"The biggest thing that Sam can give us is his leadership," he said. "Hopefully his leadership skills will rub off on some of the younger players during this season."

One of those young players that has taken the advice and mentoring of Bevan this season is sophomore guard Mark Chasin.

Chasin, one of the Bombers' starting five last season along with Bevan, said Bevan is a great leader who has embodied leadership responsibilities well and has the full respect of everyone on the team this year.

"He has the most experience of anybody on this team," Chasin said. "He is our go-to guy, and he keeps preaching to everyone that everyone will get their minutes on the court … but they are going to have to work for them."

Bevan said the reason he and Chasin get along so well is because of their chemistry on and off the court.

"He is like my little brother," Bevan said. "He frustrates me, and me and him fight all the time, but we have good chemistry on the court, and you love playing with a great player like that."

the Buzzer

FALL SPORTS ALL- ITHACAN TEAM

FOOTBALL

DAN LOIZOS '18

JILLIAN FLINT/THE ITHACAN

Sophomore linebacker Dan Loizos made the leap to varsity this season where he earned a starting gig right out of the gate and proved to the coaching staff that he could be an effective run-stopper for the Bombers' defense. If there was a hole with a running lane for an opposing running back to burst through, Loizos would be there in a flash to plug it as his team-leading 94 total tackles ranked fourth-best in the Empire 8 Conference. In half of the team's games in 2015, Loizos recorded double-digits in total tackles. He finished second on the squad in tackles for loss with 11. However, Loizos was far from being a one-dimensional defender. He also forced a fumble while recovering two, in addition to intercepting a pass and blocking a kick this year.

– Andrew Sullivan

MEN'S SOCCER

ZACH JACOBSEN '17

YANA MAZURKEVICH/THE ITHACAN

A junior transfer student, Zach Jacobsen commanded the Bombers' backline as if he had been starting since his freshman year. He started in 17 games, posting a 7–8–3 record overall with 97 saves and six shutouts. His signature moment of his first season in net for the Bombers was in the opening round of the Empire 8 Tournament. The Bombers had played 110 minutes of scoreless soccer against Elmira College, and the fate of the season came down to penalty kicks. Each team had converted on all their chances after 10 rounds, and Jacobsen needed one save to give his side the upper hand. Elmira's midfielder Aidan Gray struck the ball and Jacobsen dove to his left, palming it out of harm's way. One kick later, the Bombers were moving on to the Empire 8 Championship.

– Alex Wong

FIELD HOCKEY

KATIE LASS '17

TOMMY BATTISTELLI/THE ITHACAN

A huge factor in the field hockey squad's success was junior goalie Katie Lass, who set career highs in shutouts, seven, save percentage, .890, and goals allowed, a stingy 16. Against teams like the Bombers' biggest rival, SUNY Cortland, nationally ranked No. 5 William Smith and No. 15 Rochester, Lass allowed only three goals while facing 47 shots by those potent offenses. She also backstopped the Bombers to an impressive 7–1 conference record, their best mark ever. Lass' stellar stats secured her a spot on the Empire 8 first team all-conference, alongside senior Caitlin O'Brien and junior Colleen Keegan-Twombly. The most important award Lass earned was her first Empire 8 Player of the Year award, only the second Bomber ever to be honored.

– Reed Keller

WOMEN'S SOCCER

BETH COPPOLECCHIA '16

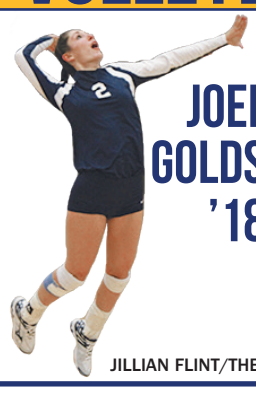
FERNANDO FERRAZ/THE ITHACAN

The women's soccer team had nine shutouts this season, an amazing feat that cannot be talked about without mentioning its rock in the net, senior goalkeeper Beth Coppolecchia. Coppolecchia was second in the Empire 8 Conference in saves and goals against with 123 saves and .744 goals against. She also boasted a save percentage of 89 percent. She started all 20 games this season, clocking 1,814 minutes in goal. Over the course of the season, Coppolecchia and her teammates held their opponents to 15 points. The Bombers had a very successful regular season, going 13–5–2, and Coppolecchia played a huge role in their dominance during her final season with the Bombers.

– Adam Brobst

VOLLEYBALL

JOELLE GOLDSTEIN '18



JILLIAN FLINT/THE ITHACAN

Sophomore Joelle Goldstein showed strength on the court defensively and offensively. Goldstein had an average hitting percentage of .262 to go along with 119 spikes and 381 kills. She collected a career-high 20 kills on two occasions this year. Goldstein had an impeccable 990 total attacks throughout the season. Goldstein also had an impressive 340 digs on the season. The highest number of digs she recorded in a single game was 20 against Cortland on Oct. 7. Goldstein has proven herself to be an all-around talented volleyball player. She has scored a total of 439.5 points this season and had a good season on all sides of the court.

– Madison Bess

MEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY

SAWYER HITCHCOCK '16

YANA MAZURKEVICH/THE ITHACAN

One year after qualifying for the NCAA Division III Men's Cross-Country Championship, senior runner Sawyer Hitchcock led the Bombers to their sixth straight Empire 8 Men's Cross-Country Championship. Hitchcock placed first individually for the second straight year at the championship meet and was named athlete of the meet after finishing 21 seconds ahead of the second-place finisher. He was also the Empire 8 men's cross-country Runner of the Week three times this season.

Throughout the season, Hitchcock was consistently the Bombers' top runner. Hitchcock earned his third bid to the NCAA Division III Championships after his seventh-place finish at Regionals as well.

– Danielle Allentuck

WOMEN'S TENNIS

HALEY KUSAK '17

JILLIAN FLINT/THE ITHACAN

Junior Haley Kusak took control of this season for the Bombers, leading the team to an 11–0 record and the team's 11th straight Empire 8 Championship. Kusak posted a 10–0 record in singles play, and she only lost more than two games in a match once. She was equally dominant in her doubles play, winning all 11 of her doubles matches. Kusak's success was recognized at the end of the season when she was awarded with All-Empire 8 first team honors, Empire 8 Player of the Year and Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Player of the Month for October. Kusak will lead the Blue and Gold into the second half of their season starting Feb. 20 when they take on the University of Rochester.

– Matt Hornick

WOMEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY

TARYN CORDANI '18

TOMMY BATTISTELLI/THE ITHACAN

Sophomore Taryn Cordani led the Bombers to their 13th straight Empire 8 Women's Cross-Country Championship this season and was the Bombers' first individual champion since 2011. She was named Athlete of the Meet after her time of 17:51.2 placed her 41 seconds ahead of her next closest competitor. Cordani was also named the Empire 8 Runner of the Week three times. She was the Bombers' fastest runner all season and notched top finishes in all of the meets in which she competed. She recently qualified for the NCAA Division III Championships after taking second place at Regionals with a time of 21:56.7, the best finish by a Bombers runner since 2004.

– Danielle Allentuck

WOMEN'S GOLF

INDIANA JONES '18

CAITIE IHRIG/THE ITHACAN

Sophomore golfer Indiana Jones greatly improved her play to help lead the Bombers this year by consistently having low scores in each round played. Her lowest score this year was a 70, which is seven strokes better than her personal best from last season. In three out of the five tournaments played this year, Jones came in first place for the team, while coming in second in the other two tournaments. Jones' competitive nature helped the team take the Empire 8 Championship crown for the fourth year in a row by having a low score of 108. Her improvement and hard work were recognized when she was awarded the Empire 8 Player of the Year.

– Caitie Ihrig

SCULLING

JENNIE PETERSON '16

JENNIFER WILLIAMS/THE ITHACAN

Graduate student Jennie Peterson was a standout for the sculling team in its 2015 season. In the squad's opening regatta on Sept. 27, Peterson, along with sophomore Karina Feitner, medaled in the open two boat, taking first place. At the Head of the Genesee on Oct. 3, the double of Peterson and senior Emily Morley finished with a time of 18:19.05, coming in first in the event. The duo then went on to the Seven Sisters Regatta on Oct. 11 and had a strong outing, finishing in one of the top spots. At the Head of the Schuylkill on Oct. 24, Peterson and Morley were the first collegiate boat to cross the finish line in the doubles event, taking fourth place with a time of 17:38.68.

– Vinica Weiss

The Holy Mecca

Learn more about Islam, the fastest-growing religion in the world

ONLINE

For more on Muslim students, go to theithacan.org/strength-in-faith

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For more on Muslim students and Islam, go to Page 19.

ISLAMIC PRACTICE IS CENTERED ON

FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

FAITH (*Shahada*) A declaration central to Islam and based on the belief that there is only one God, Allah, and the prophet Muhammad is God's messenger.

PRAYER (*Salat*) Prayers are performed five times a day at dawn, midday, late afternoon, sunset and nightfall.

FASTING (*Sawm*) During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn until sundown.

PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA (*Hajj*) Muslims are called to make a pilgrimage, the Hajj, to Mecca in Saudi Arabia. It begins in the 12th month of the Islamic year.

ALMS (*Zakat*) Zakat means purification in Arabic. In order to appreciate the gifts given to oneself, Muslims give away part of their income to those not as fortunate.

WHAT YOU

NEED TO KNOW

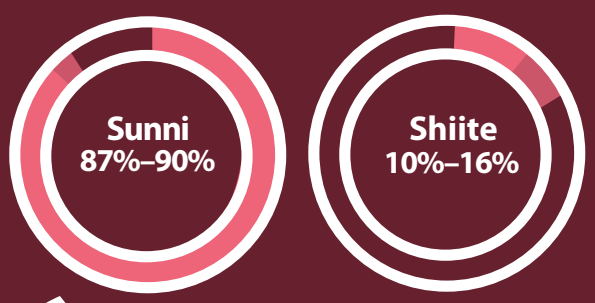
- Islam is a **monotheistic** faith.
- The holy book is the **Quran**.
- Followers are called **Muslims**.
- **Muhammad** is their prophet.

ENDING

MISCONCEPTIONS

- **Jihad** is not a declaration of war. It means struggling or striving.
- **Arabs** only comprise about 15% of Muslims.
- More than **60%** of the global Muslim population is in **Asia**.

Number of believers in the different sects



There are 1.57 billion Muslims of all ages living in the world today, representing 23% of the world's population.