Students join national protests

BY EMILY PAULSEN
Assistant News Editor

As the discussion of possible war with Iraq heats up, Ithaca College students have joined others from across the country in recent antiwar efforts.

The Chronicle of Higher Education credited students with playing a key role in a nationwide push for peace, reporting that "students were perhaps the most visible component" at antiwar protests in Washington, D.C., and other locations last weekend.

During the weekend, representatives from many high school and college organizations also took part in an organizational meeting of the National Campus Anti-war Network, a student-driven organization established to oppose war.

At the conference, sophomore Lauren Slowik represented Ithaca College as a member of Students for a Just Peace, for which she has been a member of NCAW since last fall.

The network is unique, Slowik said, because it is the first grassroots peace effort since the Vietnam War to "be built from the bottom-up by students and other campus members.

Slowik said the representatives at the conference were trying to generate a name for the network and agreed upon official goals, which include opposing war, ending racism and ethnic profiling, protecting civil liberties and demanding funding for education and other social objectives rather than war.

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At the conference in Washington, D.C., last weekend to protest a potential conflict with Iraq, College students were one of the most visible groups there.
National and International News

WORKING FOR PEANUTS

LAMDUAN, A THREE-TON Thai elephant, works on Bangkok's streets with her owner. Bangkok police recently began enforcing animal control laws to ensure that the more than 10 elephants that wander the streets each night do not cause damage to public property.

Judge sets trial for WorldCom exec

Former WorldCom Inc. chief financial officer Scott Sullivan will stand trial for securities fraud in New York in September, a federal judge ruled Tuesday, rejecting his effort to get the case dismissed or moved to Miami. Sullivan now could become the first person to face a jury in connection with the financial meltdown of the nation's second-largest long-distance firm. Prosecutors are trying to build a case against WorldCom founder and former chief executive Bernard Ebbers, who has been charged, and they hope to go Sullivan to cooperate in that effort. But settlement talks have foundered over the long prison sentence the Justice Department wants Sullivan to accept, lawyers said.

Bush officials split on affirmative action

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, the highest-ranking black person in the Bush administration, said last week that he disagreed with the president's decision urging the Supreme Court to strike down affirmative action admissions policies at the University of Michigan.

"I am a strong proponent of affirmative action," Powell said. "I believe race should be a factor in admissions." Powell joined National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice as they publicly distanced themselves from President Bush's stand on affirmative action. Last week, Bush spoke against college admissions policies that "unfairly reward or penalize prospective students based solely on their race."

Strike damages Venezuelan economy

A black market in gasoline has emerged in Venezuela, which has one of the largest oil reserves outside the Middle East. Gas prices have skyrocketed for the government expense in Colombian pots. The state oil company may face losing damage if it is not restored soon.

This is a great triumph of the nation's oil in a general strike and political standstill that continue to defy a number of seemingly sensible solutions. Despite growing economic damage and social unrest, neither President Hugo Chavez nor the organized opposition seeking to remove him from office has given up on several proposals that diplomats say should bring agreement within reach, arrest the economic decline and lead off fresh violence.

U.S. questioned on need for Iraq conflict

Facing stymied challenges at home and abroad to a possible war against Iraq, leading Bush administration officials said the onus for averting bloodshed should not be on Saddam Hussein. However, the Bush administration's difficulty in making a case for war was evident both in Washington and abroad.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said in one point-counterpoint television appearance that Saddam "lies every day" and has provided inspectors with a "fraudulent" account of Iraq's weapons program.

Some diplomats who spend years and years roaming around a country that size trying to find underground tunnels and see where he's located (weapons)," he said.

Source: Los Angeles Times and The Washington Post Service

News Briefs

Bookstore to allow returns through remainder of month

Students who wish to return books they do not need to the bookstore may do so through Jan. 31. The bookstore will provide refunds to students who return books they purchased this semester. A receipt and a college ID are needed to return books. 'Iqey the Spring 2003 session.

Center seeks stroke survivors for rehabilitation program

The college's Center for Life Skills at Longview is accepting new participants for the Spring 2003 session. The center works to develop personalized goals for clients who have experienced a stroke or other neurological disorder. The program is administered by college faculty and students from the occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech-language pathology and audiology departments and several others. They provide therapy two and a half days each week to increase independence and improve the quality of life for participants. For more information, call program manager Catherine Vooch at 375-6312.

Counselors to host groups for discussion of life problems

The Counseling Center will be offering various counseling groups regularly throughout the semester.

Psychologists Suzy Montgomery will lead a relationship issues group on Tuesdays from 4:15 to 5:45 p.m., and social worker Matt Boone will lead another on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Deborah Harper, psychologist and assistant director of the Counseling Center, will lead an eating disorders group on Tuesdays from 1 to 3 p.m.

Social Worker Alice Mehlman will lead a family issues group on Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Counseling Center Director David Spano will lead a social anxiety group. It is time that is yet to be announced.

To participate or learn more about counseling groups and other services, call the Counseling Center at 274-3136.

Group to train volunteers for work with area youth

The Community Dispute Resolution Center is seeking volunteers to work with Tompkins County youth in its CHOICES anger management program. Volunteers will teach youth anger management skills to make better decisions about their behavior. They meet for seven one-hour sessions.

Registration ends Jan. 31, and volunteers will receive training starting Feb. 6. Contact Jeci Brown at 273-5474 or brownwilco@er. org for more information.

Bay Buchanan speech 'bias' reviewed by the Young America's Foundation, to have remarks during a speech at Colgate. Active activist Bay Buchanan declared a bias-related incident. The speech was sponsored by the Ithaca College Republicans.

The list included incidents as colleges and school districts, including Harvard University and American University. Also listed were two California elementary schools that banned playground games, such as tag.

The No. 1 folly occurred at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania. At a campuswide forum held in response to free speech articles in the conservative campus paper, the Counterweight, several students called the articles "hate speeches" and threatened the newspaper's staff.

Administrators in attendance ignored the threats and even commented that the students were "loopy" the threatening students were "such good kids." One dean told the staff that they would be removed from the forum by public safety officers if they did not leave on their own.

Organization to award prizes for student radio commercials

As an award for excellence in radio commercials, will be open to college students for the first time. The Radio-Mercery College Award will give $2,500 to the winning entry.

The entry for commercials aired in 2002 is $50 and entries will be received through March 7.


Film companies offer $10,000 and chance at production

Judges in the Scriptapalooza Screenwriting Competition are looking for entries in their fifth annual competition. First prize is $10,000, while three winners, 10 runners-up and 17 finalists will receive screenwriting software. Participants who win will receive cladding AMG, Samuel Goldwyn Films, Film Colony, Evolution and Phoenix Pictures will consider the scripts of the 13 winners.

The deadline is March 3. More information can be found at www.scriptapalooza.com.

CORRECTIONS

Junior Chris Rye did not run a NCAA qualifying time in the Dec. 7 men's indoor track meet. That information was incorrect in the Dec. 12

Junior Amanda Laytnam ran a time of 12:17:05 in a women's indoor track meet Dec. 8. She was identified incorrectly in the Dec. 8 and 12 issues.

It is The Ithacan's policy to correct all errors of fact. Please contact Assistant News Editor Emily Paulsen at 274-3207.

IITHACAN INFORMATION

Single copies of The Ithacan are available free of charge from authorized distribution points on the Ithaca College campus and in downtown Ithaca. Daily subscriptions are available from The Ithacan office.

Please call (607) 274-3208 for rates. All Ithaca College students, regardless of school or major, are invited to join The Ithacan staff. Interested students should contact an editor or visit The Ithacan office in Roy H. Park Hall, room 215.

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Faculty recommend pass/fail change

BY ANNE K. WALTERS
Assistant News Editor

Faculty Council voted to recommend an overhaul of the current pass/fail system at its meeting Tuesday.

Under the current pass/fail system, a grade of D- or above is required for a passing grade. The council recommended 14-8 that the Academic Policies Committee consider adopting a satisfactory-un satisfactory system. Under such a system a grade of C- or above would be required to receive a satisfactory designation.

Joe Bailey, chairman of Faculty Council's Grading Policies Committee and associate professor of philosophy and religion, said the current system needs to be changed because it leads to a negative atmosphere in courses where students do not care about learning.

"The current standard is like a Kmart education that conceals virtual failure," he said.

Bailey said he believes a different system would reduce problems by raising the standard.

David Dresser, associate dean of the School of Health Sciences and Human Performance, attended the meeting and supported this opposition to the proposal.

Under a satisfactory-un satisfactory system, he said, a student who chose to take the course for a grade could pass with a D-, but a student who took the class satisfactory-un satisfactory would be deemed unsatisfactory with the same grade.

"On the front end, it is unfair," Dresser said. "Secondly, it doesn't seem to be based on evidence that is available from the registrar's office." He said he believes more evidence should be compiled to show whether the grade-performance of students who take courses pass/fail are higher than the GPAs of those who do not.

The available data do not show that the current system contributes to grade inflation, he said.

Faculty Council Chairman Stanley Seltzer, associate professor of mathematics and computer science, said he would continue to press for a new system to create a more positive atmosphere in courses where students care about learning.

"The current standard is like a Kmart education that conceals virtual failure," he said.

Seltzer also reminded the council that the Academic Policies Committee will determine what happens to the pass/fail system, and that Faculty Council must only comment to the committee and not set the policy.

Professor promoted

Conklin to act as interim associate dean

BY NICOLE GEHRING
Staff Writer

While the School of Humanities and Sciences searches for a new associate dean, a faculty member in the department of mathematics and computer science will temporarily fill the position.

Dean Howard Elfish has appointed James Conklin, associate professor of mathematics and computer science, as interim associate dean for this semester.

After two years as associate dean and 14 years at the college, Martin Berlinski is transitioning to retire this spring. He said that after such a lengthy tenure at Ithaca and other advanced math classes since coming to the college in 1980. He is ready for some rest and relaxation.

"I've been doing this for 33 years — it's time," Berlinski said.

Conklin said that as the associate dean he will work on the humanities and sciences curriculum, scheduling classes and getting proposals through the course catalog. He has taught calculus, statistics, freshman enriched math, an honors course in chaos theory and other advanced math classes since coming to the college in 1980.

Conklin said he had planned to go on a research sabbatical during the program and the general education program. We're just starting to look at possibilities, We'll be looking at how we can improve these programs.

Students plunge into the cold with community service day

BY EMILY PAULSEN
Assistant News Editor

Students plunged into the cold at Longview last week. Approximately 60 Ithaca College students carried early from winter break to participate in the Polar Plunge Friday and lend a hand through various volunteer opportunities.

"This year, we had a very strong group of students in the program in August, and they were sort of begging for something else to happen in January," she said.

Despite the chilly weather, students volunteered for a day of service without hesitation, according to student volunteers.

"This was a good way to ease back into college life and give something to do before the semester started," she said.

Freshman Kathleen Sweeney spent the day doing odd jobs such as filling paper and cleaning floors at Longview.

"I have a lot of experience in community service activities during the fall semester and the Polar Plunge was an ideal opportunity to get back into volunteering," she said.

One of the students who participated was senior citizen Kaitlin Sweeetman.

"I've been doing this for 33 years — it's time," Berlinski said.

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Man's actions in Gannett lead to arrest

BY KATE SHEPPARD
Staff Writer

Public Safety officers arrested an Ithaca man Dec. 14 for loitering in the Gannett Center, after suspicious behavior led three female students to report the individual. Investigator Laura Durling said that on Dec. 14, Public Safety officers arrested Willie E. Caldwell Jr., 38, of the City of Ithaca. Witnesses reported the subject after recalling several previous incidents during the fall semester in which a suspicious person was reported to Public Safety for lewd behavior, Durling said.

The suspect was located between 2 and 3 p.m. and escorted to the Office of Public Safety, where he was arrested for loitering in the library.

Caldwell was scheduled to appear in the Town of Ithaca Court in late December. Cindy Vicedomini, court clerk in the office of Judge Kristine Shaw, also refused to release information on her client's case Tuesday, stating that attorney Raymond Bordoni, said Tuesday that Caldwell is due back in court for a bench trial, but would not release any further information.

Caldwell's lawyer, Kristine Shaw, also refused to release information on her client's case Tuesday, stating attorney confidentiality laws.

A subject fitting a description similar to Caldwell's was reported for suspicious behavior Oct. 15. There was a second complaint of a similar individual masturbating on the third floor of the Gannett Center reported to Public Safety Nov. 8. The suspect(s) in the two prior incidents were not apprehended.

"We believe that it could be the same subject from the other two incidents reported, but he could not be positively identified by witnesses," Durling said. "We can not absolutely conclude that this was the same person."

Study to increase knowledge of cosmos

If the weather is good she said she can collect data on 20 asteroids each year. She said the goal is to collect information on 90 asteroids over the next several years.

"We're trying something that is difficult to do," she said. "We have a good question and are seeking the answer."

Besides learning the basics of asteroid spectroscopy, Sanders said he has greatly improved his computer programming skills.

He said his new knowledge might lead him to look twice at jobs involving computer programming, which he would not have considered before. "Beth is very kind-hearted and always willing to help out," he said. "She's very intelligent and knows her stuff."

Antiwar meeting scheduled to plan demonstrations

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Seniors Joshua Sanders and Beth Ellen Clark Joseph, assistant professor of physics, look over their research.
BY JACK KEHOE
Staff Writer

All fall and preseason, the gymnastics team has been waiting and preparing with enthusiasm and intensity in anticipation of the 2003 season. On Saturday, the wait finally came to an end as Ithaca kicked off as season in successful fashion at the MIT Invitational.

The Blue and Gold finished second out of six teams at the invitational meet last Saturday with a team score of 178.775. They defeated all other Division III teams that participated in the event including host school MIT. The only team that placed ahead of Ithaca was Division II Southern Connecticut State University which ended the day with a team score of 182.200.

This is very exciting," Coach Rick Suddaby said. "We beat every Division III team that was there and completed 75 percent of our routines compared to only 50 percent which we completed last year in our first meet.

"I'm very excited, we are very solid in everything" Suddaby said.

Standouts for the Bombers included sophomores Nancy Patterson and Devon Malcolm. In the floor exercise, Malcolm finished in a first-place tie, recording an exceptional score of 9.050. Also placing high for Ithaca were freshmen Stephanie Smith, who finished fifth in the balance beam with a score of 9.250, and junior Rachel Edelson, who ended the day right behind Smith with a score of 9.100.

On the floor exercise, two other Bombers finished the day in the top 10 along with Malcolm. Smith finished eighth scoring a 9.400 and Edelson finished a tie for ninth with a score of 9.350.

On the uneven bars, sophomore Heather Brock and senior Heidi Sanderson tied for seventh with scores of 9.000. Patterson scored a 9.850, good enough to tie for ninth.

Suddaby is not the only one who is expressing excitement and enthusiasm about what is developing with the team.

"Our expectations are high," senior Caitlin Worth said. "We keep improving and we are excited about the season. The only mistakes that were made were just out of nervousness."

Malcolm was satisfied with her day but also especially happy about the team's performance.

"It was OK but there are some things that I would like to improve on, and that is what I can use practice for," Malcolm said. "We competed very well, especially for our first meet much better than last year. We are going to keep improving and it's going to be a great season."

The Bombers finished third in last year's opener, but there are only positives to build on this season.

"The Blue and Gold's next competition will be on Saturday as Ithaca travels to Brockport in December. She finished eighth on the beam and first in the floor exercise over the weekend."

Ithaca tumbles past all D-III opponents
Ex-Olympian gives IC diving a new face

BY NORIA LITAKER
Staff Writer

Six as I child, Ithaca diving coach Karen LaFace lived from practice to practice. Swimming, ballet and acrobatics filled every evening, but the diving boards looming over the pool always intrigued her.

"I used to fool around on the boards all the time. I was fearless," LaFace said. "I'd go up on the 3-meter and try to do as many flips as I could."

When she realized that diving practice would conflict with her swimming schedule, a sport she was less than fond of, LaFace jumped at the chance to join a diving squad at the University of Pittsburgh.

A way to get out of swim practice eventually led LaFace to more than 10 years of diving on the U.S. national team and a trip to nationals. Furstoss and senior Devin Pay were also close to qualifying for the championship as they were less than fond of, LaFace said. "I'd go up on the 3-meter and try to do as many flips as I could."

When she was on her way, LaFaces transformed into a graceful and powerful diver, trading the dare-devilish flips of her youth for advanced dives and earning All-American status each of her four years in high school along the way. It was then at age 16 when she began her 10-year run with the U.S. national team.

After graduating from Ohio State and having been named NCAA diver of the year in her senior season of 1987, LaFace traveled to six of the seven continents with the national team. In 1991, she won a gold medal at the Pan-American Games.

Yet the biggest competition still awaited: the Olympic Games. "The Olympics definitely topped them all," she said. "The energy was really incredible, and Barcelona was just the best, beautiful. There was a lot of excitement everywhere you looked, any time of day, there was just one big party."

In Barcelona, LaFace placed ninth in the women's 3-meter springboard and shortly thereafter retired from competitive diving.

Following her diving career, LaFace attended medical school at Brown University. In 1996, she began coaching. "I used to fool around on the boards all the time. I was fearless," LaFace said. "I'd go up on the 3-meter and try to do as many flips as I could."

LaFace's arrival last season was described as a "godsend" by junior diving coach. She remains a family practitioner for the Guthrie Medical Group in Ithaca.

"I used to fool around on the boards all the time. I was fearless," LaFace said. "I'd go up on the 3-meter and try to do as many flips as I could."

While the program has flourished under her instruction, LaFace is not content. "She is one of the most positive people I've ever met," Furstoss said. While the program has flourished under her instruction, LaFace is not content. "She is one of the most positive people I've ever met," Furstoss said.

She hopes to send more divers to nationals. "The Olympics definitely topped them all," she said. "The energy was really incredible, and Barcelona was just the best, beautiful. There was a lot of excitement everywhere you looked, any time of day, there was just one big party."

Throughout her coaching career, LaFace attended medical school at the University of Pennsylvania and completed her residency at Brown University.

During her years in medical training, LaFace missed the sport that had been an integral part of her life since childhood. "My love for it just never went away," she said. "I do it for 20 years, and then it was like I was cut off when I went to medical school, so I really want to stay involved."

Though she had coached teammates and set diving camps in the past, LaFace's job at Ithaca College is her first official coaching position. "Fortunately, it was difficult for me at first because I wasn't allowed to see what I should be doing the diving, especially because they are at all different levels. There are some more advanced and some that are beginners," said LaFace. "You can really see all the kids improve dramatically if you just are patient and really try to explain things in a way they can understand."

Her work has paid off. "She is one of the most positive people I've ever met," Furstoss said. While the program has flourished under her instruction, LaFace is not content. "She hopes to send more divers to nationals this year and ensure that the swimming and diving program remains the best in the state."

"What makes her unique is that she really can understand," LaFace said. "She is one of the most positive people I've ever met," Furstoss said. While the program has flourished under her instruction, LaFace is not content. "She hopes to send more divers to nationals this year and ensure that the swimming and diving program remains the best in the state."

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Bomber Roundup

Men's aquatics

Shortly after the first of the year the Bombers traveled to Florida to train and compete in the annual St. Lawrence College Invitational Meet of Champions. The training paid off as the team dominated an eight-team field at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) invitational meet. The training paid off as the team dominated an eight-team field at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) invitational meet. The Bombers' six-event team scored 592 points, more than doubling their closest competitor, Penn State, who scored 274 points.

Sophomore Steve Barnes led the charge to improve their mark to (3-0 E8, 5-7) with a victory in the 200-yard breaststroke. Senior Devin Fay won both the 1- and 2-mile diving competitions. Barnes also won the 500-yard freestyle by a convincing margin with a time of 4:47.23 and won the 1,000-yard freestyle by a convincing margin with a time of 9:21.10, both times better than the Bombers' American record. Senior Jon Barnes and seniors Garrett Wagener and John Carroll improved their standards for the NYSCTC meet. The top finishers for Ithaca were sophomore Emily Maston and freshman Ireland McDaid. The Bombers return to action on Friday at 5 p.m. at St. Lawrence.

Women's basketball

The Bombers faced a disappointing 2-7 start to the season, but managed to reach their fourth consecutive conference championship with the start of the Empire 8 conference schedule. The Bombers tallied 592 points, more than doubling their closest competitor, Penn State, who scored 274 points.

The Bombers look to extend their winning streak when they host RIT on Friday.

Men's indoor track

The Bombers placed third out of seven teams at the St. Lawrence Invitational Saturday. The team finished with 111.5 points, behind only Queens University and St. Lawrence University. Three individual runners and one relay team earned first-place finishes for the Blue and Gold. Junior Chris Ryer won the 55-meter dash with a time of 6.67 seconds. Senior Jim Ravener and junior Brandon Malott were victorious in the 400 and 500 meters, respectively. All three met qualifying standards for the NYSCTC meet.

Ravener and Malott also teamed up with sophomores Robert Pickels and Adam Langan to win the 1,600-meter relay in a time of 3:24.72 seconds. The Dutchmen of Raymond predicted that scoring would continue to come from a number of players. His starting to come into his own. In the 1,600-meter division, Parry took third place. After a slow start to the season, the Bombers had other top-five finishes as well. Senior Drew Davidson took second place in the weight throw and fourth place in the shot put. In the 1,500-meter race, junior Jon Barnes and seniors Garrett Wagner and Brian Looch finished third, fourth and fifth, respectively. Wagner also earned fifth place in the 1,500.

Ryer added a fifth-place finish in the 200-meter to go with his win in the 55-meter dash. Junior Alex Paillanal finished fourth in the high jump.

The Bombers return to action on Friday at 5 p.m. at St. Lawrence.

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Olympic-style coaching
Karen LaFace is a former Olympic diver. Now she’s lending her expertise to the Ithaca diving teams.

Sports

Cleary for Takeoff

Sophomore Stephanie Cleary will let fly from anywhere on the court, but she’s more than just a scorer.