

The Cornell Daily Sun

Vol. 128, No. 87

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2012 ■ ITHACA, NEW YORK

16 Pages – Free

Staff Overburdened, Administrators Say

C.U.: After cuts, workload up

By MANU RATHORE
Sun Staff Writer

After analyzing the results of the 2011 Cornell-wide employee survey, University administrators said that they are concerned that cuts are overburdening staff with increased workloads.

According to the survey, which was conducted by the Division of Planning and Budget, 23.5 percent of the 5,647 employees who responded said they either disagreed or strongly disagreed that they were compensated fairly for the work they do. Additionally, 25.8 percent of employees said they either disagreed or strongly disagreed that workloads are fairly distributed in their units.

Mary Opperman, vice president of human resources, said she was “pleasantly surprised by the number of staff that consider Cornell [to be] a good place to work.” Still, she added, she “remained concerned by the number of staff who were dealing with increased workloads and who are feeling that, since the economic downturn, it’s gotten more difficult for them.”

Tanya Grove, chair of the Employee Assembly, attributed concerns over increased workload to the economic downturn in 2008, which led administrators to cut personnel and non-personnel staff.

Over the 2009 to 2010 fiscal year, the University cut 672 staff positions — approximately nine percent of the total 7,000 non-academic workers at Cornell, The Sun reported in February 2011.

“If you cut down from a staff of 10 to a staff of five and you are doing the same amount of work, the rest of the staff has to figure how to do it,” Grove said. “I think that we are

See **STAFF** page 4

To the beat of the drum



SHAILEE SHAH / SUN STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of Cornell Yamatai, a Japanese drumming group, participate in a workshop with Kaoru Watanabe, a professional taiko drummer, in Willard Straight Hall on Saturday.

Palms, Dryden Bldgs. Bought for \$3.8M

By JEFF STEIN
Sun City Editor

The Royal Palm Tavern and two other properties on Dryden Road were sold to Collegetown landowner John Novarr for \$3,750,000 about a year before management announced the bar would close, according to documents obtained by The Sun.

The bar, commonly known as the Palms, will likely be converted at least partially to housing, Novarr said Sunday. He emphasized, however, that there are no set plans for the location.

In January, bar owner Joe Leonardo said that the Palms

would close partly as a result of changes in drinking habits, saying that students now spend much less time in Collegetown bars than they did 10 years ago. But in December 2010, Leonardo sold the location — as well as 213 Dryden Rd. and 215 Dryden Rd. — to “Dry-Lin,” Novarr’s limited liability corporation, for far more than its assessed value, the documents show.

According to information from the Tompkins County Department of Assessment, the Palms and Dryden properties were collectively sold for more than three times their assessed value. Together, the locations were assessed at

See **PALMS** page 5

News

Talking Point

The Cornell Forensics Society hosts a debate tournament over the weekend. | **Page 3**

News

A Community Thanks

Common Council awards former Ujamaa director Kenneth Glover for his service to the community. | **Page 3**

Opinion

Eyes Wide Open

Henry Stark '59, an Ithaca resident, asks oblivious pedestrians to be more attentive on campus. | **Page 9**

Arts

A Beautiful Pairing

The Sun reviews the best film and music collaborations. | **Page 11**

Sports

Decisive Victory

Men’s hockey emerge victorious, winning the Ivy Title in a four-point weekend. | **Page 16**

Weather

Partly Sunny

HIGH: 34 LOW: 22

After Deal, U.S. Airways Cancels Ithaca Flights to LaGuardia

By KEVIN MILIAN
Sun Staff Writer

A deal between Delta Air Lines and U.S. Airways will end all U.S. Airways flights from Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport to New York City’s LaGuardia Airport. The flights will cease on March 24, according to Robert Nicholas, airport manager of Tompkins County Regional Airport.

Service to LaGuardia Airport from Ithaca is currently provided three times a day by U.S. Airways, with flights in the morning, afternoon and early evening.

At airports subject to capacity control such as LaGuardia, each “slot” an airline holds allows it one takeoff or landing. A “slot pair” gives an airline the rights to a round-trip flight, according to a joint press release by Delta and U.S. Airways.

After both airlines struck a deal in December, Delta acquired 132 slot pairs from U.S. Airways for LaGuardia, in exchange for 42 slots pairs at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in Washington, D.C., and rights for daily flights to Sao Paulo, Brazil in 2015.

Delta intends to make LaGuardia a “domestic hub” and will invest \$100 million to upgrade

its station in LaGuardia, adding more than 100 flights and 29 new destinations to the airline. While the airline will be adding passenger service from LGA to several upstate New York cities, including Buffalo,

Rochester and Syracuse, it will not offer flights from Ithaca to LaGuardia, according to the company’s press release.

“Regarding the students at Cornell, [Delta] doesn’t think it’s

worth having daily flights to LaGuardia,” Nicholas wrote in an email. “In the past several years, Cornell has had an excellent bus ser-

See **AIRPORT** page 4



RYAN LANDVATER / SUN STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Taking off, but not for long | A U.S. Airways plane prepares to take off from Tompkins County Regional Airport.