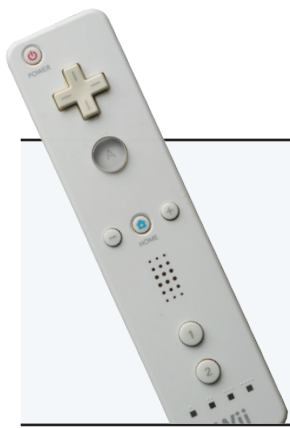


# THE ITHACAN

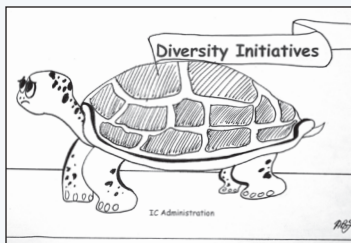
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2017 • VOLUME 84, ISSUE 18



## VIRTUALLY FAST

Through speedrunning, Ithaca College students are building communities online and offline.

Page 15



## DRAGGING FEET

The delays in several diversity initiatives reflect badly on the college's commitment to diversity.

Page 9

## DEFUNDING DEBATE

Local Ithacans gathered Feb. 11 to protest against the possible defunding of Planned Parenthood.

See more at [www.theithacan.org/planned-parenthood-protest](http://www.theithacan.org/planned-parenthood-protest)

# PERMISSION TO STRIKE

BY GRACE ELLETON  
NEWS EDITOR

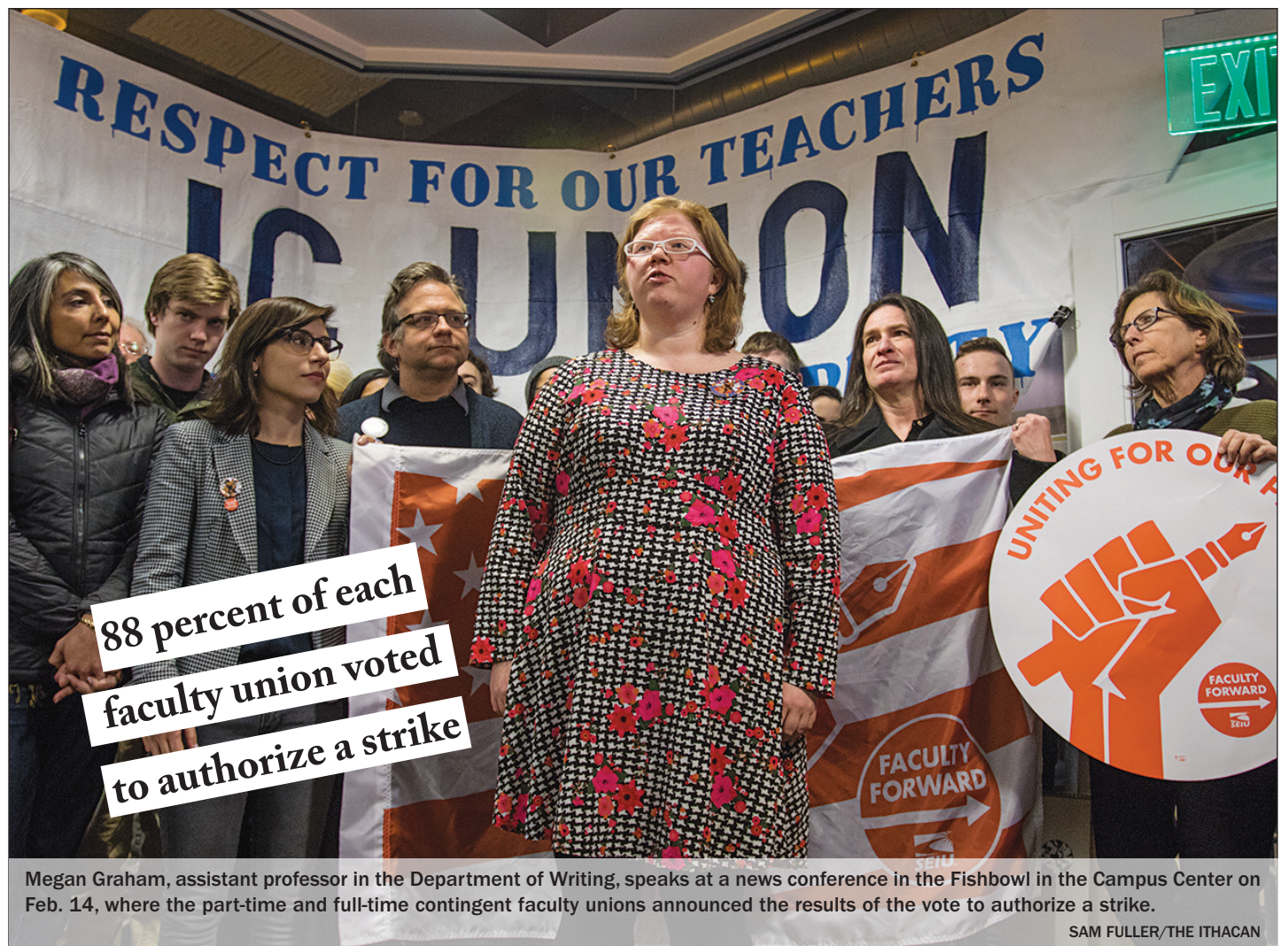
The Ithaca College part-time and full-time contingent faculty members voted affirmatively Feb. 14 to authorize the contingent faculty unions to take any action up to and including a strike.

Of those who voted, 88 percent of part-time faculty and 88 percent of full-time faculty voted to authorize a strike, said Megan Graham, assistant professor in the Department of Writing, at a news conference held by the unions Feb. 14. However, the unions would not release how many total part-time and full-time faculty members voted at this time, said a Service Employees International Union representative. The representative did not know when the numbers would be released. For the 2016–17 academic year, there are reportedly 406 contingent faculty members at the college — 249 part-time and 157 full-time.

The strike vote does not necessarily mean the unions will hold a strike, but Sarah Grunberg, instructor in the Department of Sociology, said that if the college does not present proposals for a clear pathway toward pay parity for part-time faculty and increased job security for full-time faculty at the Feb. 21 and 24 bargaining meetings, a strike could occur.

Dave Maley, senior associate director for media and community relations for the college, said the college's negotiating committee will address these issues at the bargaining table. He said on behalf of the

See STRIKE, Page 4



Megan Graham, assistant professor in the Department of Writing, speaks at a news conference in the Fishbowl in the Campus Center on Feb. 14, where the part-time and full-time contingent faculty unions announced the results of the vote to authorize a strike.

SAM FULLER/THE ITHACAN



AVRIL CROWE/THE ITHACAN

Sophomore Rachel Lee returns to the gymnastics team following a year of rest while undergoing treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

See Page 23

## Ideological divide pervades higher education climate

BY SAMANTHA MENDIGUREN  
STAFF WRITER

Preceding the presidential election, many of Donald Trump's supporters were not timid about supporting him publicly. But on college campuses, many were known to hold their tongues.

Following Trump's victory, a debate over intellectual diversity has reappeared in collegiate settings. After the election, a website called Professor Watchlist launched to "expose and document college professors who discriminate against conservative students and advance leftist propaganda in the classroom." Recent protests have broken out at numerous colleges over Milo Yiannopoulos, a senior editor at the far-right publication Breitbart News, and his speaking tour titled "The Dangerous Faggot."

Colleges are known to be predominantly liberal institutions, and Ithaca College is no exception to the stereotype, according to students and professors. However, the debate over the lack of intellectual diversity at the college has some questioning how much of an impact it has.

Darren Linvill, director of Basic Courses in Clemson University's communication department, has studied how faculty bias in the classroom affects students. He said the intellectual diversity debate first emerged in the 1950s. In the early 2000s, the movement strengthened, he said, when politicians began pushing legislation

to protect intellectual diversity in colleges, most of which was not successful. Today, the debate is taking on a new shape as academics are being challenged to question whether hate speech should be free speech with the rise of alt-right politics in the United States and Europe.

### Intellectual diversity at Ithaca College

One of the most well-known problems with the predominantly liberal climate at the college is the absence of right-wing ideological representation. Roger Custer '04, former chair of Ithaca College Republicans, made an effort to increase the range of perspectives on the political spectrum at the college while he was a student. Custer said he felt most classes he took at the college included readings about feminism, postmodernism, Marxism and socialism, which were not matched with an equal amount of conservatism, free market ideas or even classical liberal theorists.

Deprivation of diverse viewpoints on these topics led him to explore alternative ideologies.

In a 2004 report Custer published publicly for the college community to read, "The Case for Intellectual Diversity," he presented documented institutional bias toward liberal teachings. For example, the report cited a study conducted by

See IDEOLOGY, Page 4



# NATION & WORLD

## Sources say Trump knew in January Flynn mislead Pence on Russia

President Donald Trump was told in late January that his top national security aide had misled his vice president, three weeks before Trump ousted adviser Michael Flynn amid a swirling public controversy over Flynn's contacts with a Russian official, a White House spokesman said Feb. 14.

Press secretary Sean Spicer said Flynn's firing Feb. 13 was prompted by a gradual "erosion of that trust" and not any concern about the legality of the retired general's calls with the Russian ambassador to the U.S.

Flynn's ouster appeared to be driven more by the idea that he had misled Vice President Mike Pence and other officials than by his discussions with the Russians. The matter deepened questions about Trump's posture toward Russia.

## Brother of North Korean leader killed at Kuala Lumpur airport

The half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was assassinated at an airport in Kuala Lumpur, telling medical workers before he died that he had been attacked with a chemical spray, a Malaysian official said Feb. 14.

Kim Jong Nam, 46, was targeted Feb. 13 in the shopping concourse at the airport and had not gone through immigration yet for his flight to Macau, the senior government official said. He was taken to the airport clinic and then died on the way to the hospital, the official said.

Multiple South Korean media reports, citing unidentified sources, said Kim Jong Nam was killed at the airport by two women believed to be

North Korean agents. They fled in a taxi and were being sought by Malaysian police, reports stated.

### Evacuation lifted for 200k people living below dam in California

Authorities lifted an evacuation order Feb. 14 for nearly 200,000 California residents who live below the nation's tallest dam after declaring that the risk of catastrophic collapse of a damaged spillway had been significantly reduced.

Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea said residents can return home immediately. State water officials said they have drained enough of the lake behind Oroville Dam so its earthen emergency spillway will not be needed to handle runoff from an approaching storm.

But, the sheriff said, the region would remain under an evacuation warning, meaning that residents need to be ready to flee again if conditions worsen.

## Argentina condemns sanctions against VP for drug trafficking

Venezuela's government condemned U.S. sanctions on the country's vice president, saying Feb. 14 that the Trump administration's designation of Tareck El Aissami as a major drug trafficker represented an unprecedented infringement on the South American nation's sovereignty.

In a series of defiant messages posted on social media, El Aissami said the "miserable and defamatory aggression" only deepens his commitment to revolution started by the late Hugo Chavez and won't distract him from his job of rescuing Venezuela's crashing economy from what he called



## Russian crowds celebrate Valentine's Day

Young people release red and pink balloons at an ice rink during a flash mob to mark Valentine's Day on Feb. 14 in Moscow, as a woman poses as cupid to celebrate the holiday. A flash mob is an international trend in which a group of people spontaneously begin a public performance such as a song or dance.

ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

sabotage by its conservative opponents.

On Feb. 13, the Trump administration banned El Aissami from entering the U.S. for his alleged role facilitating cocaine shipments from Venezuela. El Aissami is the highest-ranking Venezuelan official to ever be sanctioned by the U.S.

### Chicago toddler shot and killed in latest spasm of gun violence

A Chicago toddler was shot and killed Feb. 14 in what police suspect was a "gang hit" on a man in a vehicle with her, just a few days after two young girls were shot in the head. It marked the latest spasm of violence in a city struggling to contain such attacks.

Chicago Police Department spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said police suspect the man, a gang member with an extensive criminal history, was the target of the shooting.

Over the weekend, two girls ages 11 and 12 were shot in the head by gunmen. The shootings highlight the street gang violence that police said was largely responsible for 762 homicides last year.

SOURCE: ASSOCIATED PRESS

# MULTIMEDIA

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VISIT THEITHACAN.ORG/MULTIMEDIA.



### Ithaca College students protest travel ban

Students protest a recent executive order blocking citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States.

### IC Voicestream hosts Pinkout concert

A cappella group IC Voicestream held its Block III concert to raise funds and awareness for Planned Parenthood.

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# Key diversity initiatives delayed

BY NICOLE PIMENTAL  
AND JACK SEARS  
STAFF WRITERS

There have been some delays in implementing diversity and inclusion initiatives at Ithaca College, including the establishment of a community review board, the creation of a body camera policy and the release of the results of the external review of the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management.

These initiatives were created as part of the college's diversity and inclusion action items in an effort to address racism and cultural bias, spurred by student protests regarding the racial climate on campus and a tense relationship between Public Safety personnel and students.

In the fall of 2015, the Student Government Association, now known as the Student Governance Council, passed a bill stating that body cameras should be worn by Public Safety officers.

So far, the body camera policy has been reviewed by the General Council and the Office of Human Resources, and it is now being reviewed by Rory Rothman, associate provost of student life. The policy will be reviewed by the Residential Life/ Office of Public Safety Work Group next week, Rothman stated in an email. Rothman said he cannot give an estimate as to when the review will be completed.

Once the policy is completed, it will be returned to Public Safety, which will review the policy with two Residential Life work groups. Terri Stewart, former director of Public Safety, had said in a previous interview with *The Ithacan* that the policy would be finished by the end of Fall 2016.

Roger Richardson, associate provost for diversity, inclusion and engagement, and interim chief diversity officer, said the reviews of the draft documents for the community review board have not yet been completed, but they have to be reviewed by the Office of Public Safety Union, which has slowed down the process for its establishment.

The community review board would include students from diverse backgrounds and serve as an impartial third party for campus community members to report concerns regarding Public Safety, according to the action item listing on the college's website.

"We haven't finalized it because the Office of Public Safety union still has to go through a review process," Richardson said. "We just need to get agreement from all parties involved."

All framework and operational aspects of the community review board have been



A few diversity and inclusion initiatives, overseen by Interim Chief Diversity Officer Roger Richardson, have missed their deadlines, including some for the Office of Public Safety.

CONNOR LANGE/THE ITHACAN

drafted, Richardson said. He said he believes the campus community will have an opportunity to see the framework before anything is implemented.

Marieme Foote, president of the Student Governance Council, said she understands that there may be concerns from students if the delays continue but that they might be influenced by Public Safety's change in leadership with the departure of Stewart.

"I am kind of sad that we do have those delays because these are really important things that we need in our community," Foote said.

Richardson said he believes the process is equally as important as the outcome, and the process of analyzing any possible nuances takes

meaning the results are not considered delayed until the semester is over. She said that if the results do not come out within the next couple of months, she would be concerned.

Derek Adams, assistant professor in the Department of English, said he thinks it is problematic that there have been no updates regarding the progress of these diversity initiatives.

"If we remain out of the loop, we're running into an issue in that we're assuming an incredibly small group of people know what's best for the entirety of the campus community," Adams said.

Foote said there is going to be some anxiety when there are delays in notifying the public about progress with diversity initiatives.

"We definitely need more transparency in terms of ... where they're at in the process," Foote said.

In terms of further diversity initiatives, Foote said she hopes the administration will do a thorough job of searching for and selecting the new chief diversity officer. The position was created Nov. 10, 2015, to provide leadership over ongoing work to improve the college's racial climate. Richardson has been serving as an interim during the search to fill the position.

Richardson said he anticipates submitting a diversity and inclusion update message to the campus community before the end of this month.

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**"We definitely need more transparency."**

— Marieme Foote

time. The firm that conducted the external review of Public Safety has also taken more time than anticipated to turn over results, Richardson said.

Third-party firm Margolis Healy conducted the external review Nov. 8 through 10, 2016. Dave Maley, senior associate director for media and community relations for the college, said the firm is currently preparing the report that will be shared with the campus community once it is finalized.

"I don't have a time frame at this time for the presentation of the report to the campus community," Maley said.

Foote said the results of the external review were projected to be released this semester,

# SGC passes allocations reform bill

BY RYAN KING  
STAFF WRITER

Ithaca College's Student Governance Council passed the Allocations Committee Reform II Bill, the SGC's fourth bill this semester, and elected three new senators Feb. 13.

The bill, which was sponsored by Conor Friend, Class of 2018 senator, and co-sponsored by the Allocations Committee, passed with 17 votes in favor and five abstaining. Friend previously co-sponsored the International Student Support Bill last week, which formed an ad hoc committee to look for alternative funding options for subsidizing international student housing over the summer.

The bill proposes to change the Allocations Handbook — which sets guidelines for organizations to receive funds from the SGC — to state that the SGC will not fund the hiring of students to provide services for clubs on campus who were not hired directly through the Office of Student Engagement and Multicultural Affairs' rules. Friend said this change needed to be made to reaffirm OSEMA's rules.

The Student Organization Handbook states that federal guidelines mandate that all students must submit an I-9 employment eligibility verification form and tax forms to be eligible to work for student organizations.

In addition to reaffirming OSEMA guidelines, the bill also added a new clause to the handbook that stated the SGC will not provide funding toward websites for student organizations. Friend said the reason for this is the college already maintains and updates a website for organizations on campus.

"There's already money being put into websites for organizations, and so there's no point in us funding an independent website for an organization when we already provide one," he said.

Friend said the idea for the bill came out of an Allocations Committee meeting. He also said the Allocations Handbook is unorganized and that more changes to the handbook are likely to come in the future.

Aside from the bill, the SGC also elected new senators. Senior Francesca Esce was elected off-campus senator, sophomore Calvin Yohannan was elected Class of 2019 senator, and freshman Darius Elmore was elected music school senator.

Esce said she found out about the open position on social media and decided to run, in part, to help make the voices of students heard and to increase transparency between the administration and the student body. As senator, she said, she will aim to be visible on social media and look into addressing parking issues on campus. She said she also wants to help bridge the gap between the extracurricular opportunities that off-campus and on-campus students receive.

"[I want to] create more awareness about ways to get involved off campus," she said. "Being off campus, you are closer to opportunities [downtown], which can lead to, segue to future careers. [I also want to] create an awareness around policies that are happening in the City of Ithaca and how they are important to our campus community."

Elmore said he plans to work toward expanding some of the arts programs on campus. Some of the changes he wants to make include getting more funds for the arts at the college and expanding outreach from the college to the community, Elmore said.

Yohannan previously served as an Eco-Rep for the Resource and Environmental Management Program. He was one of the sponsors of the Alternative Coffee Bill, a bill that proposes to bring Gimme! Coffee to campus, that passed last semester. As a senator for the SGC, he said he is hoping to make progress on social and environmental issues.

Now that these positions have been filled, there are two vacant senate seats left: varsity athlete senator and graduate student liaison. The graduate student seat has not been filled for several years.

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# IC asks town not to rescind fire services

BY GRACE ELLETON  
NEWS EDITOR

An attorney representing Ithaca College urged the Town of Ithaca board to vote against the proposal to rescind fire services from the college at a public hearing Feb. 13.

As previously reported by *The Ithacan*, Ithaca Town Supervisor Bill Goodman said the idea to remove protections arose because the college uses a large number of fire services from the town and does not pay taxes for the services. Details on how much money the college costs the town for fire protection has not been made public but will be in the coming months, Goodman said after the meeting at the town hall.

The college accounts for about 25 percent of the fire calls that are issued to the Ithaca Fire Department, he said.

Brody Smith, an attorney from Bond, Schoeneck & King, represented the college and argued that the proposal violates the United States and New York state constitutions for equal fire and safety

protection for nonprofit facilities, which the college falls under.

"Why should the educational institution be singled out and not the hospital?" Smith said.

The college does have a PILOT agreement — Payment in Lieu of Taxes — in which the college provided \$33,424 to the town during the fiscal year of 2016, according to a statement by President Tom Rochon. Dave Maley, senior associate director for media and community relations for the college, also spoke at the hearing as a community member and said the majority of calls made for fire services were from the Circle Apartments. This is the land the college pays the PILOT fee for, which means it would not be cut off from fire services.

"Therefore, cutting the rest of the campus from fire protection services would not greatly reduce the number of calls the Ithaca Fire Department responds to," Maley said.

Smith said he would prefer to resolve the issue with the town amicably but that if the board



Brody Smith, attorney for Ithaca College, speaks to the Town of Ithaca board Feb. 13 about the proposal to rescind town fire services.

GRACE ELLETON/THE ITHACAN

does vote for the resolution, the college will take legal action against the town.

Goodman said the next step for the board is a discussion with the town's legal counsel on moving forward with the resolution to re-

scind fire funding from the college. He said this may take a few months until the board decides to vote.

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## IDEOLOGY, from Page 1

the Ithaca College Republican group that found many professors at the college identified as liberal and that most guest speakers brought to the college represented liberal viewpoints. The report outlined how other types of diversity, like racial and cultural ideas, were often represented at the college, but intellectual diversity was often absent from the college's initiatives.

"The purpose of higher education should be to teach you not what to think, but how to think," Custer said. "Part of knowing how to think is that you understand where other people are coming from."

Junior Kyle Stewart, another former president of IC Republicans, also said that while professors do encourage debate within the classroom, they tend to only explain political theory from liberal angles. Stewart, also a political columnist for *The Ithacan*, said he thinks that when only one side of an argument is included, it's a disservice to students because it leaves them without the ability to fully interpret political values.

"College is supposed to be the place where you get to learn about different ideas, learn about different opinions and try to form your own opinion on your own," Stewart said.

Being one of the few conservatives on the campus, Stewart said he analyzes the classroom before voicing his opposition in an effort to find the best way to present his stance on the ideas being discussed.

Renee Brown used to be a student at the college before she transferred to Temple University — a move she made because she said she felt her conservative views were not welcome in the college's liberal climate. In Brown's freshman classes at the college last year, she said, professors often exposed their support for democratic policies in a subtle manner. However, the most aggressive attacks toward conservative ideas were initiated by other students in the classes, Brown said.

"I couldn't support anything, and I couldn't put my two cents in and argue back because I was afraid to," Brown said.

Donald Beachler, associate professor in the Department of Politics, said the political divide nationwide may be the cause of political divisiveness that is seen on campuses. Beachler said he views Trump as a provocative figure, but one that has stimulated more enthusiasm in civics and has influenced students to take a political position.

Beachler said he thinks colleges tend to emphasize racial and ethnic diversity more than intellectual diversity.

"When campuses say diversity, what they mean is racial diversity," Beachler said. "There is no interest in intellectual diversity. People would rather not hear, by and large, the people they don't agree with."

Michael Smith, associate professor in the Department of History, said he recognizes that the nation's political rhetoric has become uglier and that he has heard students vocalize that it can be challenging to express their conservative opinions on campus. But he said he thinks many, if



Following the 2016 election cycle and subsequent election of Donald Trump as president, the debate over intellectual diversity in higher education has reappeared. Professors differ on how to address these ideological divides and the impact they have in the classroom.

PERRY BENEDICT/THE ITHACAN

not most, faculty members try hard to make all students feel open to express their thoughts.

"There is a responsibility to make sure that the people who don't have that perspective don't feel excluded, but that can be challenging, too, because feeling excluded is very subjective," Smith said.

Junior Colby Daboul, president of IC Democrats, said that with such a divide between the two parties, liberal campuses tend to create an echo chamber that is unwelcoming to alternative thought, which is why he thinks students need to take advantage of opportunities to share their political perspectives. Classes like "Ideas and Ideologies" — currently taught by Kelly Dietz, assistant professor of politics — along with organizations like IC Democrats and Republicans are some avenues students should pursue to make their opinions heard, Daboul said.

"Having things like IC Democrats and IC Republicans can really engage with the student body and bring it a step further," Daboul said. You begin to foster a more intellectually and ideologically diverse campus and climate."

Sophomore Lucas Veca, a politics major at the college, said he has also experienced the outward bias professors show for the left.

"When Hillary ended up losing, one of my professors came in wearing all black," Veca said. "I'm not sure if it's their place to be talking to students about their views and making it seem like they're

the only acceptable views in the classroom," Veca said.

Veca said he has experienced a few classes at the college that have not been inviting toward right-wing ideas and that those who challenge the majority are leaving themselves open to ridicule.

"It would be nice if there was a little bit more attention focused on ideological diversity instead of just racial and ethnical diversity," Veca said.

### Intellectual diversity at colleges nationwide

Cornell University is also experiencing its own political divides. The Cornell College Republicans club invited former Sen. Rick Santorum to give a speech Nov. 30 at Cornell that was disrupted by a group of protesting students, which has been cited as an example of liberal intolerance. Cornell sophomore Olivia Corn, the club's chair, organized the event and said she was frustrated with her peers for their refusal to listen to conservative views.

"I wanted to bring Mr. Santorum to speak on the election ... not to speak on his social views," Corn said. "But people attacked him for his social views, which was not the point of the night."

The progressive climate has not only been affecting the Ithaca community but many other colleges and universities across the country. Professor Jonathan Roth of San Jose State University said he thinks the problem is embedded in the increasing number of people shifting to the far left extremity.

San Jose State is planning to host a celebration for the Black Panther party. Roth, who identifies as liberal, said he is not opposed to the discussion of such controversial topics. However, he said liberal ideologies overwhelmingly outweigh the

conservative, leaving other outlooks to be suppressed and dismayed.

Matt Lamb is the director of Campus Integrity, a free-speech advocacy group established by Turning Point USA, a nonprofit with the mission to "identify, educate, train, and organize students to promote the principles of fiscal responsibility, free markets, and limited government," according to its website. Lamb said he thinks the lack of intellectual diversity that has manifested in higher education could be contributing to the divisiveness in the country.

However, Linvill has studied how faculty bias in the classroom affects students. He found these biases do not actually harm students' learning outcomes.

He said people aged 18–22 tend to become more liberal during this period of their lives, regardless of whether they go to college or not.

Linvill said not bringing bias into the classroom is almost impossible for professors but that as long as they provide a space for the sharing of ideas in a welcoming way, learning about opposite viewpoints should not be a difficult task. Lack of intellectual diversity comes mainly from bad teaching, he said, not a professor's bias.

What Linvill and Lamb said they agreed on is that regardless of the issue, the better option is to never shut down opposing viewpoints, but to listen and to learn.

"It's the place of higher education to challenge people to make them consider why they believe the things they believe," Linvill said.

*News Editor Grace Elletson contributed reporting to this article.*

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There is a responsibility to make sure that the people who don't have that perspective don't feel excluded."

— Michael Smith

## STRIKE, from Page 1

college's bargaining committee that it is disappointed to hear the strike authorization has been approved.

"The college ... believes that any strike action while continual progress is being made, while negotiations are on the way, would be premature," Maley said.

The press conference was held in the Fishbowl in IC Square and was packed to the brim with students and faculty supporters. One of the student supporters, senior Taylor Ford, runs the IC Students for Labor Action group and said the group is currently strategizing different efforts to encourage the administration to meet the union's demands.

"There are certainly students who would be willing to stand in solidarity with their professors be-

cause this is really in their long-term interest, even if they're missing a few classes in the short term," Ford said.

As of Feb. 14, 10 departments at the college have expressed their support for the contingent faculty unions and have refused to fill their positions if a strike did occur. Patricia Rodriguez, associate professor in the Department of Politics and Latin American studies coordinator, spoke at the news conference in support of the unions and called their mobilizing efforts admirable.

She said, as a tenured faculty member, that she would join the front lines of a strike if one should occur, but she has not heard if other tenured faculty members would do the same.

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Of those who voted, 88 percent of part-time faculty and 88 percent of full-time faculty voted to authorize a strike. The Ithaca College bargaining committee will hold meetings with the unions Feb. 21 and 24.

SAM FULLER/THE ITHACAN



# Student film receives award

**BY MARISSA PROULX**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Immigration was a hot topic during the 2016 election, which led senior Daniella Hobbs and Evin Billington '16 to investigate how immigrants in Buffalo, New York, contribute to the city's economy and society. The resulting documentary won them a prominent national award.

Together, they received the Jury Award at the Directors Guild of America Student Film Awards for their film "The City of Good Neighbors."

"It was a bit unreal when I got the call," Hobbs said. "It's very difficult to plan. Even though I shot the film as a junior, it was my senior thesis project — the culmination of my college career. So to get an award for that work, it was awesome."

Billington worked as the co-producer on the documentary. As the co-producer, Billington set up interviews, recorded sound and made sure everything was running on schedule.

"When you do a documentary, you don't know what's going to happen," Billington said. "We picked the topic very early on. I'd seen an article on NPR about the refugee population, and we thought that it was perfect."

Hobbs said they began filming their documentary in January 2016 and finished in April. While they were filming, Hobbs and Billington worked with Journey's End Refugee Services to travel to different places in Buffalo, where they could meet and interview refugees.

One of the places Hobbs said she spent a lot of time filming was in a building called the West Side Bazaar, which consists of many small shops owned by refugees and immigrants who sell clothing



Senior Daniella Hobbs films a scene for her documentary "The City of Good Neighbors" in the Buffalo, New York, airport. Her documentary received an award from the Directors Guild of America.

COURTESY OF DANIELLA HOBBS

and food from all over the world. "The whole point of it was to show the human side behind the refugee debate, because you read the numbers and the random stories in the news, but we wanted to show that these are real families coming here and that they are giving back to the community," Hobbs said.

One of the people Hobbs interviewed was Rwandan refugee Rubens Mukunzi, the current CEO and founder of a newspaper called Karibu News, located in Buffalo. Mukunzi's newspaper is a multilingual and multicultural refugee and immigrant-focused newspaper. Besides filming refugees, Hobbs was also able to interview Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown. He said in the film that

since 2006, Buffalo has invested \$5.5 billion in economic projects that have created over 12,000 new jobs that immigrants could fill.

A few weeks after interviewing the mayor, Hobbs said, she attended a Trump rally where he spoke about how Buffalo was in a depression and that 40 percent of Buffalo citizens have been losing their jobs since 2001. She found that this did not correspond to the statistics given by Brown.

Arturo Sinclair, former assistant professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, said he assisted Hobbs on some postproduction work for the film and that he was impressed with the effort she put into the documentary. Her willingness

to go outside of Ithaca with the subject matter impressed him, Sinclair said.

"There was also a lot of research done on Hobbs' part, which is expected in a thesis film but does not always happen," Sinclair said.

Hobbs said she hopes the film encourages people to understand the issues surrounding refugee families.

"Take the time to listen, watch and hear stories like the ones that we are trying to show, and recognize that these are real human lives that we are talking about," Hobbs said.

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# IC launches alternative housing study

**BY MEAGHAN MCELROY**  
STAFF WRITER

Since December, Ithaca College has been working with U3 Advisors consulting firm to study the possibility of new off-campus housing for students.

The Office of Residential Life is working with the administration to gauge the interest in off-campus housing among students. Janet Williams, interim vice president for finance and administration at the college, said the study is in line with the goals set by administrators at the college this year. Williams said that by increasing revenue to the college through students' renting additional housing from the college rather than from individuals in the Ithaca community, the college could become less reliant on student tuition to fund the school's expenses.

Housing that is built for students has the possibility of reducing conflict between students and residents of local neighborhoods, said Joseph Murtagh, second ward alderperson for the City of Ithaca.

Nels Bohn, director of Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency for the City of Ithaca, stated via email that the construction of purpose-built student housing could help with the housing crisis in Ithaca.

Linda Koenig, assistant director for housing services and communications, said off-campus housing could benefit sophomores who look for better housing outside of the dorms within the First-Year Residential Experience.

A possible drawback for off-campus housing, though, could be that the Town of Ithaca loses a portion of its tax revenue, as property owned by colleges are tax-exempt. The City of Ithaca has had issues with the loss of its tax base in the past with property owned by Cornell within the city limits.

Williams said she does not have answers regarding where new housing would be built or how much the project could be expected to cost.

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# Female enrollment in the School of Business declines

**BY SOPHIA ADAMUCCI**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Ithaca College's School of Business female enrollment is the lowest it has been in five years, with women constituting 30.6 percent of students in the school.

Senior Windsor Lindsay, co-president of the Women in Business Network, said the gender gap is visible in the classroom, especially in her finance classes. She said it is common for her to be the only woman in her classes.

Out of the 670 students currently enrolled in the School of Business for the 2016–17 academic year, only 30.6 percent are female, according to the Office of Analytics and Institutional Research. For the 2016–17 academic year, there is a total of 458 male students enrolled in the School of Business, compared to 202 female students enrolled, according to institutional data.

Not only is female enrollment at the lowest it has been in five years, but it has also decreased by over 4 percent since 2012. In the 2015–16 academic year, 32.3 percent of the students enrolled were female; 2014–15, 31 percent; 2013–14, 34.2 percent; and 2012–13, 34.3 percent, according to institutional data.

Ithaca College's proportion of female students in business is lower than the national average proportion of business degrees conferred to women, which has hovered around 50 percent since 2000, according to the National Center for Education Statistics 2013 Digest of Education Statistics.

Dawn Kline, assistant dean of the School of Business, said the gender gap is something the administration is always thinking about. She said the school has created initiatives to bring more women into programs such as finance — which is typically a male-dominated

industry — including hosting alumnae who work in the industry and making sure there is a gender balance among the students who work in the school's Trading Room, where students in the School of Business access real-time stock market information.

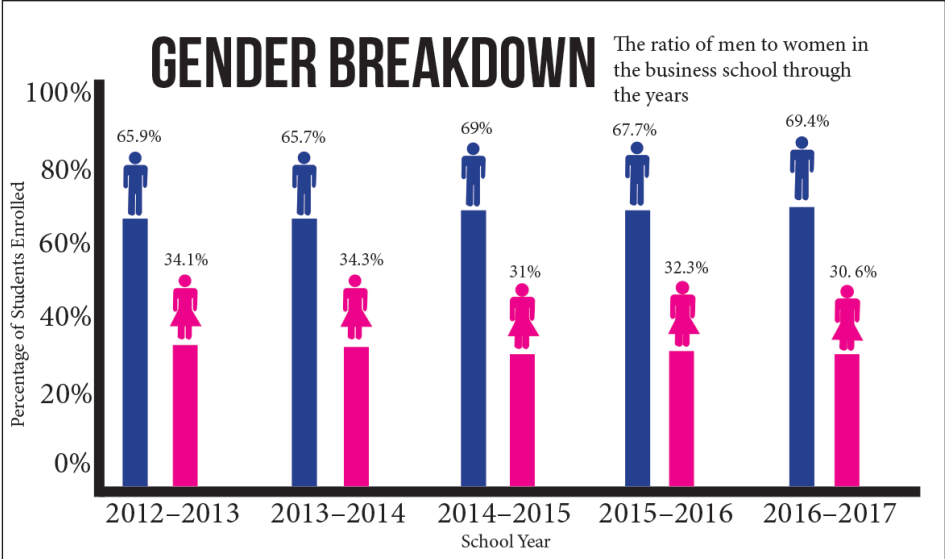
Though the administration does not know why business and administration majors skew toward men, she said it is looking to balance the gender gap. One way the School of Business does this is through staffing admissions and recruitment events with female business majors.

"I'm not sure what else we can do from an admissions standpoint," Kline said. "I think it's probably not in the admit side of things, but in the why students ultimately pick IC, and are there things we can do to be more attractive for female students?"

Freshman Julia Schmidt, a business administration major, said that when she attended Ithaca Today — a weekend-long event the college holds to welcome accepted students — the student speakers she listened to were both female, which she said sets a positive example for prospective students.

"If you're a girl and you see a woman do something successful, it's easier to picture yourself doing that than if it was a man because it is easier to relate," Schmidt said.

The Women in Business Network — which has about 60 active members — states its mission is "to emphasize the importance of women in business and leadership." Lindsay said the club is important because there are so few women in the school and the club provides a supportive environment for its female members. The club also provides a place where women can discuss the challenges of being women in the business world. These issues include sexism, sexual harassment, the wage gap and climbing the



SOURCE: INSTITUTIONAL DATA  
DESIGN BY: MARISA ELLIS

corporate ladder, Lindsay said. She said these issues are not talked about in the classroom and that the club provides an opportunity to address these challenges.

"In Women in Business ... we kind of talk about the unspoken issues that women will face," she said.

Lindsay said the gender gap exists because of a lack of female interest, not because the School of Business is denying female students. The School of Business needs to encourage and make known the opportunities available to prospective students and exploratory students, especially female students, Lindsay said.

Junior Emma Hyland, a business administration major, said there is a significant gender gap in her classes. Hyland said that when she applied, she was aware the college had more women — 57 percent of the college is made up

of women — but she was unaware of the low percentage of women in the business school.

A 2016 study "Women in the Workplace," conducted by Leanin.org and McKinsey & Company, studied data from 136 companies, coupled with 34,000 employee surveys, with the goal of promoting gender equality in the workplace. The study found that women are less likely to be hired and promoted than their male counterparts.

Sophomore Luciarose Barone said the gender gap makes her feel like she has to work harder in the classroom to succeed in.

"I'm an accounting major," Barone said. "I feel like I have to work harder to be where I want to be compared to [men]."

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# Faculty promote mental health on syllabi

BY MATT RISTAINO  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Though Ithaca College does not have a collegewide policy on the matter, many faculty members provide statements on their syllabi about mental health and resources for students seeking help as demand for psychological services is increasing nationwide.

Other schools around the country have policies in place recommending professors address mental health on the syllabus. In January, Northwestern University's Faculty Senate passed a resolution recommending professors put statements on their syllabi. Ohio State University approved a similar resolution in November. SUNY Geneseo also encourages professors to make these statements, and it even provides a statement for professors to use.

While many faculty members at the college believe this is a good suggestion, some said they are worried that making these types of statements is not enough.

There have been more students seeking help for mental health concerns recently. Last semester, the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services at Ithaca College saw a 15 percent increase in the number of students seeking counseling services, compared to in Fall 2015. The average level of counseling center usage by students nationwide increased by 30 percent from 2010 to 2015 while average enrollment grew by only 5 percent, according to the Center for Collegiate Mental Health 2015 annual report.

Most of the schools at the college already encourage their faculties to make statements about mental health in their syllabi, but none of them make it a requirement, according to the deans of each school.

Linda Petrosino, provost and vice president for educational affairs, said that while the college does not have a policy about professors putting such statements on their syllabi, faculty are free to insert whatever statements on their syllabi that will be useful for their students.

James Rada, associate professor of journalism, said he has been making sure students know about mental health resources available to them for years.

"I've always had them in there, for over 20 years," Rada said. "I always think any time you put info out there, the more you know, and the better off you are."

Deborah Harper, director of CAPS at the college, said the center puts out a statement about mental health and available resources on Intercom every year, which professors can use. Harper said CAPS has been sending out these statements since 2009. Although CAPS does not keep track of how many professors actually use that statement, Harper said the Intercom post always has a large number of page views.

"We have a large number of faculty allies," Harper said. "They know that we have students in distress, and they call and consult us."

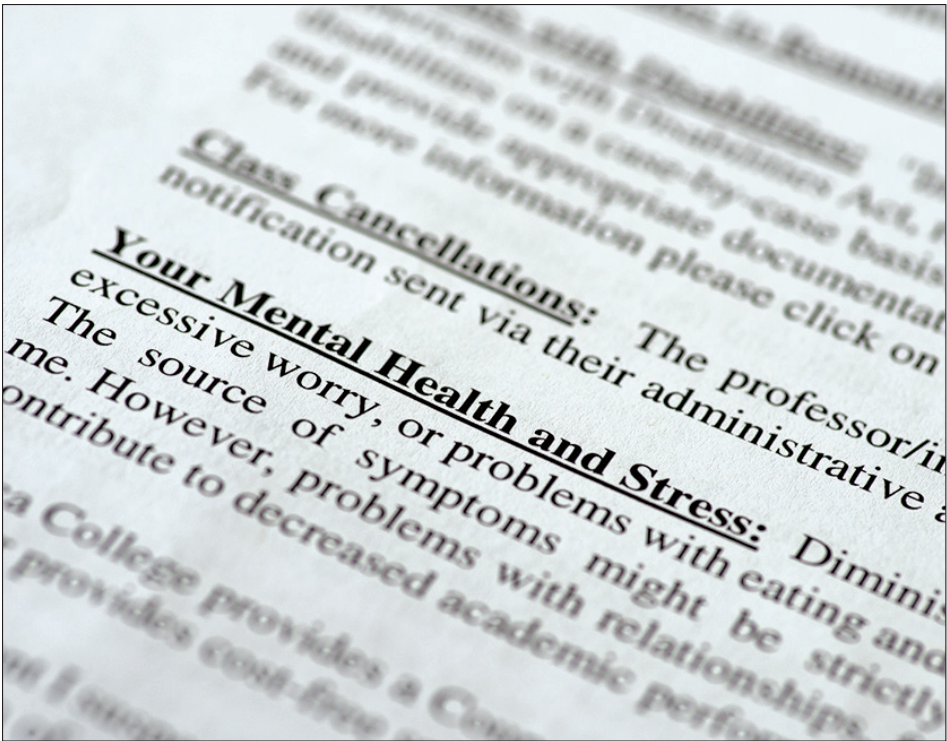
Harper also said many professors refer students seeking assistance to CAPS and that some professors will even walk students over to the CAPS offices themselves.

Sophomore Emma Nigrosh said she appreciates seeing a statement about mental health on the syllabus.

"I think it's really helpful for students to see mental health statements on the syllabus because mental health and mental illness go hand in hand with education," Nigrosh said.

Nigrosh also said it should be required for professors to include mental health statements because doing so not only helps students who are struggling with mental health issues, but it also helps bridge the gap between professors and students and makes professors seem more accessible.

However, for some, putting a statement about mental health on the syllabus is not enough. Katherine Cohen-Filipic, assistant professor of sociology who specializes in mental health, said she fears the syllabus is not the most effective place to communicate about the issue because many students often ignore most of what is on the syllabus.



Many faculty members at Ithaca College include a mental health statement on their syllabi, like the one pictured above. However, the college does not have a policy on doing so.

FERNANDO FERRAZ/THE ITHACAN

"I'm not sure how good a job it does on its own," Cohen-Filipic said. "A brief statement about it on the first day of class would be better."

Sophomore Alaina Richey said she would also like to see professors do more for their students than just include a simple statement on the syllabus.

"I do think it's good for students to see the mental health statements on the syllabus; however, I don't think it is upheld by faculty," Richey said. "In my experience, some professors aren't very understanding when it comes to mental health."

Cohen-Filipic said she believes making a mental health statement on the syllabus mandatory

would lead some professors to think that it would be enough to put resources on the syllabus and not mention it in class at all.

"People are often looking for quick solutions to big problems," Cohen-Filipic said.

Harper also said she was uneasy about making such a statement mandatory, saying that it would be too hard to enforce and that she does not really view it as necessary.

"I would like to see a campus community that's caring and informed about how to help," Harper said. "It's great that we have faculty who are willing to help."

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THE ITHACAN



## COLLEGE

### Trevor Noah ticket purchase info now available for April 8 show

Ticket information is now available for Trevor Noah’s performance April 8 at Ithaca College.

Students, faculty and staff will be able to purchase tickets beginning at 10 a.m. Feb. 15. Any remaining seats will then be open to the general public at 9 a.m. Feb. 17.

To purchase tickets, visit this link: <http://bit.ly/2l5PPKF> and select the “Buy Tickets” button under Trevor Noah’s photo. This will open the University Tickets system. Once at the University Tickets site, click on the “general public” button to create an account, or sign in if an account already exists.

Since a University Tickets account is needed to complete the ticket order, create an account ahead of time for a faster and easier purchase experience. For those seeking to purchase tickets beginning Feb. 15, an [ithaca.edu](http://ithaca.edu) address must be used.

The maximum number of tickets that can be purchased per person is six.

### CAPS to begin new group to help with addiction issues

Smart Recovery is a new group offered by the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services for students. This group offers tools and techniques for abstaining from substance use or other addictive behaviors — gambling, sex, technology, etc. — and provides meetings that are educational, supportive and interactive.

The group will meet for the first time from 1 to 2 p.m. Feb. 17 in the Hammond Health Center conference room on the upper floor. Smart Recovery provides a supportive environment for learning and discussing strategies to stay free from addictive behaviors.

The group differs from Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and other 12-step programs in many ways and requires no formal commitment to abstinence or attendance. If interested in attending, or interested in more information, contact the

Center for Health Promotion by sending an email to [smartrecovery@ithaca.edu](mailto:smartrecovery@ithaca.edu).

### Garden Apartments now available for individuals without groups

For students wanting to live in a Garden Apartment but could not find a group, rising junior and senior students can email [housing@ithaca.edu](mailto:housing@ithaca.edu) to request housing in the Garden Apartments if there are open spaces following traditional group selection.

All requests will be due to the Office of Residential Life via email no later than 9 a.m. March 2. The Office of Residential Life will prioritize all requests by average semesters completed and date and time of email request. Emails must include the student’s Ithaca College ID number and a list of apartment type preferences. The email will also need to indicate preference for co-ed or single gender room and smoking preference. The more preferences that are submitted, the better a student’s chances to be awarded a space. All awarded spaces will be final. Students wishing to change their space will need to participate in the summer waitlist application process. Decisions will be communicated by March 7 via email.

### Local organization looks to fill student board member position

As part of the partnership between Ithaca College and Longview, a student board member position was created for the Ithacare Board. There will be an opening for a student member for the academic year 2017–18.

The college has had a programmatic partnership with Longview, an Ithacare Community, for the past 17 years. Longview is a retirement community located on Danby Road up from the college’s main entrance, run by the Ithacare Center Service Company, Inc.

This position involves a one-year commitment from June 2017 through April 2018 with attendance at board meetings, which are held every other month on Friday mornings from 8 to 10 a.m. Should there be a course conflict with any of the meetings, it is assumed

that the student will contact the professor in question and request an excused absence from the class. The student representative must also participate on at least one board committee.

Interested students should send a cover letter outlining their interest in the position with a resume to Christine Pogorzala, the Ithaca College Longview Coordinator. The deadline for applications is 4:30 p.m. Feb. 27.

### Whalen Symposium submissions now open for student material

The online submission process required for faculty sponsors and students to submit

student presentations for the 20th annual James J. Whalen Symposium will close March 2.

Submissions will be accepted for presentations, performances, and displays.

Applicants can submit the online student submission form at <https://www.ithaca.edu/jotform/preview.php?formID=62983053193> or can contact their faculty collaborator to have them fill out the faculty online submission form. Faculty can submit a student’s presentation, performance, creative display or poster.

The student and submitter will receive an email with the next steps.



### Students participate in immigration rally

A crowd of about 70 students and campus community members gathered Feb. 10 at the Free Speech Rock to rally against President Donald Trump’s immigration ban on seven countries. Nine students spoke at the demonstration to advocate for solidarity with immigrants. The demonstration was organized primarily by freshmen.

SAM FULLER/THE ITHACAN

# Public Safety Incident Log

#### JANUARY 30

##### LARCENY OVER \$1,000

LOCATION: General Services  
SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person stole laptop computer. Investigation pending. Master Patrol Officer Bruce Holmstock.

##### CHANGE IN CASE STATUS

LOCATION: Office of Public Safety  
SUMMARY: Officer determined laptop computer reported stolen from mail services was located. The larceny is determined to be unfounded. Master Patrol Officer Bruce Holmstock.

#### JANUARY 31

##### MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

LOCATION: O-Lot  
SUMMARY: Officer reported falling on snow covered walkway and injured buttock. Officer declined medical assistance. Patrol Officer Jake Tubbs.

##### FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Circle Apartments  
SUMMARY: Simplex reported fire alarm. Activation caused by burnt food. Master Patrol Officer Jon Elmore.

#### FEBRUARY 1

##### OFF-CAMPUS INCIDENT

LOCATION: Unknown Location  
SUMMARY: Caller reported damage to vehicle. Unknown how

damage occurred. Patrol Officer Jenny Valentin.

#### FEBRUARY 2

##### CHANGE IN CASE STATUS

LOCATION: Office of Public Safety  
SUMMARY: Officer interviewed person regarding fictitious license from the Circle parking lot. Officer judicially referred one person for acts of dishonesty. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones.

#### FEBRUARY 3

##### OFF-CAMPUS INCIDENT

LOCATION: All Other  
SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person followed them at an off-campus location. Officer referred person to the Ithaca Police Department. Investigation pending. Sergeant Ron Hart.

##### SCC DRUG VIOLATIONS

LOCATION: East Tower  
SUMMARY: Caller reported person experiencing a panic attack. Person was transported to the hospital by ambulance and judicially referred for drug policy violation. Patrol officer John Tagliavento.

#### FEBRUARY 4

##### IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL

LOCATION: Tallcott Hall  
SUMMARY: Caller reported unresponsive person. Person transported to

hospital by ambulance and judicially referred. Sergeant Don Lyke.

##### DISORDERLY CONDUCT NO DEGREE

LOCATION: Garden Apartments  
SUMMARY: Caller reported two people arguing. One person referred judicially and one person restricted from the campus. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon.

#### FEBRUARY 5

##### OFF-CAMPUS INCIDENT

LOCATION: All Other  
SUMMARY: Caller reported person had sexual contact with another without consent off-campus. Person was transport to the hospital and incident was referred to the Ithaca Police Department. Patrol Officer Lance Clark.

##### OFF-CAMPUS INCIDENT

LOCATION: All Other  
SUMMARY: Caller reported person yelled at another at an off-campus location. Master Patrol Officer Jon Elmore.

For the complete safety log, go to [www.theithacan.org/news](http://www.theithacan.org/news).

#### KEY

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

## SELECTED ENTRIES FROM JANUARY 30 TO FEBRUARY 5

showing  
**FEB 16-22**

I Am Not Madame Bovary  
Doctor Strange • Moana  
HBO's The Night Of & All the Way with producer via Skype (free)  
Oscar Nominated Shorts: Docs  
The Great Dictator

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*Barnes Hall Auditorium*



*Simon Shaheen's*  
*Zafar*

**March 10 • 8pm**  
*Bailey Hall, Cornell University*

**cornellconcertseries.com**

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• • • • •

**FEBRUARY 20–25, 2017**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20**  
**KICK BACK TO GIVE BACK**  
Emerson Suites  
7:00–9:00 PM

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21**  
*Susan A. DiPace '74 Speaker Series*  
**"FIVE UNDER FIVE: LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD"**  
Clark Lounge, Egbert Hall  
7:00–8:30 PM

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22**  
**WHY I LOVE IC**  
Campus Center Lobby  
10:00 AM–3:00 PM


**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23**  
**GRATITUDE DAY: GET THE SCOOP ON PHILANTHROPY**  
Emerson Suites  
11:00 AM–1:30 PM

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24**  
**IC KINDNESS DAY**  
North Foyer, Emerson Suites  
10:00 AM–3:00 PM

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25**  
**MULTICULTURAL CAREER CONNECTIONS 2017**  
Clark Lounge, Egbert Hall  
1:00–2:30 PM

• • • • •

For more information about "I Love IC" Week, go to **ITHACA.EDU/ILOVEICWEEK.**

 **ITHACA COLLEGE**

Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact [lpierce@ithaca.edu](mailto:lpierce@ithaca.edu) or (607) 274-3846 as soon as possible.

# ICC Portfolio Working Sessions!

Need help with your ICC Portfolio?

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for one of these sessions:

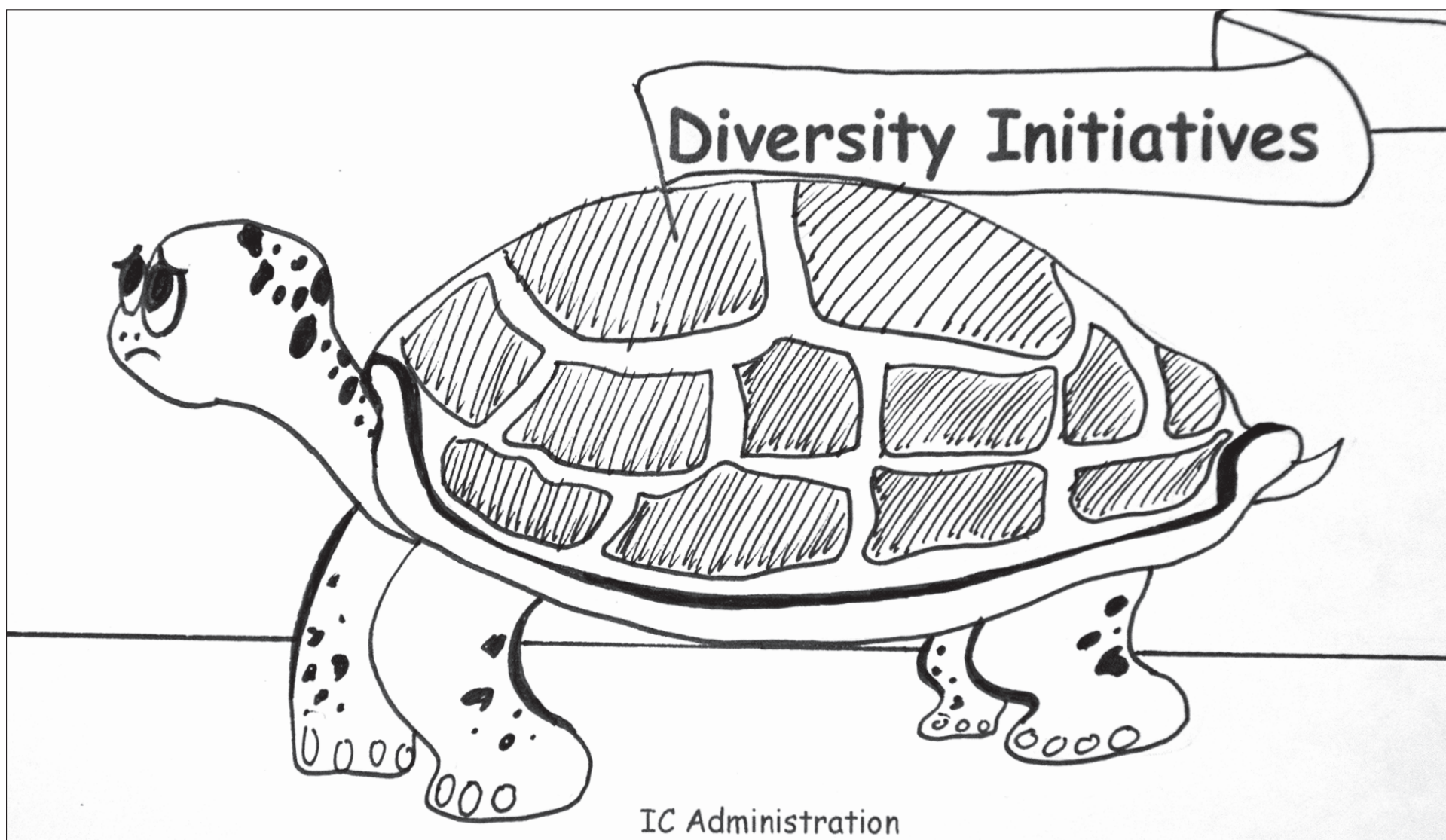
Wednesday 2/22 and 3/1  
Thursday 2/16, 2/23 and 3/2

Drop-in anytime between 1-3 p.m.  
Academic Advising Center – Rothschild Place

**\*Bring your laptop!**

The Academic Advising Center is part of the Center for Academic Advancement. The Center provides academic support and resources for all Ithaca College students, regardless of school or major! We are comprised of the Academic Advising Center, Student Accessibility Services and Tutoring Services.





ALLISON LATINI/THE ITHACAN

## Delays in initiatives harm diversity improvements

About a year following a wave of student activism that shed a light on the racial climate on campus, a number of diversity initiatives touted by the college to improve inclusivity are seeing delays.

Specifically, the creation of a community review board and the release of the Office of Public Safety's body camera policy are now past their original set deadlines. The community is also still waiting for the release of the results of the external review of Public Safety.

While these delays have been attributed to abrupt changes in Public Safety leadership and a need to thoroughly review these initiatives, this lack of development makes it seem like the administration is dragging its feet. The time spent waiting for these initiatives raises the question of how dedicated the administration is to improving the campus climate for its students.

The delay in Public Safety's body camera policy is particularly worrying, given that the behavior of Public Safety officers has been a concern of students of color for years, even spurring protests by resident assistants at the beginning of the Fall 2015 semester. The administration should be more cognizant of this history and relationship, and should work to

improve the transparency of campus police by being transparent themselves.

Yes, the process that goes into these policies is just as important as the outcome. But just as important as the process is explaining to the campus community why there has been little movement in the diversity initiatives that were so heralded by the administration last spring.

The lack of thorough explanations as to why these initiatives have been stalled is a cause for concern. Simply saying what has to happen next in the process does not explain why the process is being held up in the first place. In addition, pinning the delay on Terri Stewart's departure from Public Safety is a red herring — the policy needs to be reviewed by the Office of Public Safety Union, not the director.

Despite what most of the administration may think, many of the issues brought to light during last year's protests have not been solved. And they cannot be solved with quick, Band-Aid solutions such as a Public Safety satellite office, diversity training for faculty and staff or a multicultural student lounge. These issues deserve sustained dedication to transparency and inclusivity — delays on the implementation of initiatives only hinder this progress even more.

## Students should support union in potential strike

The Ithaca College contingent faculty union has voted by an apparent majority to authorize a strike. Provided that the vote received a statistically significant turnout, "yes" votes totaling 88 percent would indicate that part-time lecturers and full-time contingent faculty are frustrated with their ongoing negotiations with the college bargaining committee.

While an actual strike has not been officially decided on or announced, the union is one step closer to doing so. The implications surrounding a possible strike have not been lost on students, with the administration's asserting that a strike would hurt students' education.

But the short-term consequences of a brief strike are secondary to the long-term consequences of undervaluing faculty. If it must come down to it, the campus community should support contingent professors if they go on strike.

Students may worry that not having class due to a strike will be a waste of the money they pay in tuition, but the quality of their education is intrinsically tied to the well-being of their professors. If some professors do not receive adequate pay, more time is spent trying to find

additional means to pay for what they need. The health of the college — and the quality of students' degrees — is dependent upon the quality of the teaching provided by its professors.

All this is assuming that the strike vote is truly a mandate. The union has provided the percentage that voted affirmative, but not the raw numbers — how many faculty members actually voted. Though 88 percent is a substantial majority, it still matters whether it's 88 percent of 20 people or 200. The union leadership should proceed with caution, let the community know how many faculty members voted "yes" and consider the results of the two upcoming bargaining sessions before taking such action.

It is clear that negotiations with the administration have reached a point at which a strike may be the unions' most effective option. They have engaged with the administration for well over a year with still no agreement on the most pressing issues of compensation and job security. Striking, while some may see it as drastic, is the language of people whose voices and needs have gone unheard and unacknowledged. When silenced and ignored for so long, the unions' best options are the ones that amplify their voices the loudest.

## Letter to the Editor

Be heard in print or on the Web.



Send a letter to the editor to  
[ithacan@ithaca.edu](mailto:ithacan@ithaca.edu).

## Guest Commentary

Individuals or groups interested in submitting a guest commentary can send their writings to [ithacan@ithaca.edu](mailto:ithacan@ithaca.edu) or to the Opinion Editor at [cacalacal@ithaca.edu](mailto:cacalacal@ithaca.edu).

All commentaries must:

1. Convey a clear and concise message.
2. Be written by an individual or group who has an educated opinion or is an authority on a specific subject.
3. Be between 500-650 words. Whether more or less space is allotted is at the discretion of the editor.

Comment on any story at [theithacan.org](http://theithacan.org).

## Corrections

In the article "Planned Parenthood faces defunding threat" published on page 5 of *The Ithacan* on Feb. 9, it was reported that the college does not have information on how many Planned Parenthood referrals it makes for students through the Hammond Health Center. It was corrected to state that the Hammond Health Center does have information on how many referrals it makes, but did not want to make them public to protect the privacy of students.



IN OTHER  
NEWS

ISABELLA GRULLÓN PAZ

## Sketchy deals in Venezuela

On Feb. 8, CNN came out with a breaking news story on how the Venezuelan Embassy in Iraq was selling visas to terrorists.

I am surprised there were no outcries on my Facebook feed the next morning or that other media outlets did not pick up on the story. I thought the U.S. media was all about finding anything that could justify the War on Terror. Maybe I was wrong.

According to the CNN investigation, Misael Lopez, the former legal adviser to the Venezuelan Embassy in Iraq, came forward to talk about how people in the embassy were participating in a “scheme to sell passports and visas for thousands of dollars out of the embassy” to people he assumed were terrorists.

When CNN dug a little deeper, it found that from 2008 to 2012, there were 173 people from the Middle East who obtained Venezuelan passports and IDs, and among them, people who were connected to the terrorist group Hezbollah.

The all-around dismissal of CNN’s investigation might have to do with the fact that back in 2014, when the Islamic State was gaining strength, Hezbollah and the U.S. government had a common interest: not allowing ISIS to gain territory in Lebanon. This would be bad for both parties because the U.S. government did and does not want ISIS gaining strength and because Hezbollah’s most prominent military and political influence is in Lebanon, something that would be threatened if ISIS were to cross the border.

Right now, however, there seem to be certain issues between Hezbollah, the U.S. and Saudi Arabia in Lebanon — which makes me question even further why a story on the Venezuelan Embassy’s giving out fake passports to Iraqi citizens is not more alarming.

Ignoring the illegality of the matter, we cannot assume that these visas were being sold only to terrorists, as the headline of the story suggests. Although the cost of these papers makes it obvious that rural regions deeply affected by war in the Middle East were not the intended customer base for the documents, there are still people affected by the conflict who come from a higher economic status. But a family’s safety should not be contingent on its income.

My biggest critique of this entire situation is honestly not the fact that U.S. media are ignoring the story, but the fact that Venezuela provided safety to the highest bidder and not those who needed it the most.

**IN OTHER NEWS** is a column about international politics written by Isabella Grullón Paz. **PAZ** is a junior journalism major. Connect with her at [igrullon@ithaca.edu](mailto:igrullon@ithaca.edu) and [@isagp23](https://twitter.com/isagp23).

## GUEST COMMENTARY

# Actions on inclusivity ring hollow

BY CHRIS KIM

On Oct. 19, 2016, the Ithaca community gathered around Free Speech Rock for a rally in support of our contingent faculty. It’s now been over three months and the movement for equitable rights for our part-time contingent faculty is coming to a boiling point.

The administration has continued to delay any kind of action moving towards reasonable compensation for our part-time faculty. Though Ithaca College’s bargaining committee has indicated that they will continue to negotiate in ‘good faith,’ we are beginning to grasp that the administration has deferred any significant action or real changes on this issue. The college bargaining committee’s fixation on ‘meaningful dialogue’ has been nothing but a hoax, as we see that no steps toward significant action have been implemented.

“Reasonable compensation” has been defined by our part-time faculty as pay parity with the lowest paid full-time faculty member. This means that a part-time faculty member will be paid the same amount for teaching the same exact course regardless of their status as part-time or full-time (equal pay, for equal work). For faculty on contingent one-year contracts, the most important issue on the table is adequate job security. Although part-time contingent and one-year contract contingent members have differing priorities within their compensation proposals, all contingent faculty deserve a voice on our campus and the right to preserve their dignity within the work that they do for this institution and for students.

The college’s negotiations with the union have been marked by four things: meaningless dialogue with top-down compromises, delayed action in making impactful changes, absent accountability for their actions, and a seeming inability to communicate with the larger community. By disconnecting from their own community, we can see how their attitudes highly resonate with “business as usual” approaches. Not coincidentally, the administration’s current appeasements are strikingly similar to how they dealt with campus protests in Fall 2015



Buttons are displayed at a table Feb. 13–14 in IC Square as contingent faculty members voted on the authorization of a strike. On Feb. 14, the union voted “yes” with an 88 percent majority.

SAM FULLER/THE ITHACAN

regarding racism.

If contingent faculty members vote to authorize a strike, and then go on strike, students should understand the intentions and implications of this act and consider this as a part of their fight for equity as well.

Some students have voiced legitimate concerns that a strike would ultimately be counterproductive, a waste of our tuition dollars, and an impediment to our education. What must be acknowledged are the curriculum flaws, unstable departments, and faculty transience that result from producing trivial solutions in regards to compensation for the contingent faculty. This causes a revolving door of professors coming in, leaving, and temporarily filling other positions. The labor conditions of our contingent faculty, by extension, affects students who are dependent on professors who lack job security, have limiting campus presence, and are undervalued by this administration.

Part-time contingent faculty (33% of professors at IC) salaries comprise less than 2% of the school’s budget, forcing the question of who is actually benefiting from this system, if not the students or

faculty? Students who are concerned with rising tuition should be highly suspicious of this administration and demand to know how their tuition dollars could be equitably dispersed to help invest in the professors who invest in us.

While administrators claim that they strive to make this campus a more inclusive community, they easily expose their hypocrisy when they neglect their own faculty members and students. The students, faculty, and staff make IC a more inclusive environment — not the administration. If this administration hopes to create positive change, they should acknowledge how they have failed to embody this value they so vehemently preach. I advise our leaders to uphold this value for the betterment of this college and to further set an example by fighting the corporatization of higher ed. As we strive for a more inclusive environment, we, the students, ought to continue to stand in solidarity with the marginalized communities of IC, starting now, with our contingent faculty members.

**CHRIS KIM** is a junior sociology major. Email him at [ckim1@ithaca.edu](mailto:ckim1@ithaca.edu).

## ICC solutions come at cost to students

BY ELI SEROTA

With graduation looming a mere four months away, the mind of a second semester senior races with a combination of the imminent “real world” and the preservation of time left at Ithaca. The absolute last worry should be the behemoth that is the Integrative Core Curriculum. Similar to a Moonies pregame in an East Tower double, the ICC is disorganized, lacks accountability, and often causes headaches for participating students.

Recently, *The Ithacan* published an article titled “Students struggle to graduate due to the ICC,” an appropriately named piece. The story highlighted stories of the widespread concern among the Class of 2017 and the absurd lengths many students have gone through to graduate on time. At the end of the article, Mr. DeTuri, director of the ICC says “We will find a way for that student to graduate.” He may be right ... but at what cost?

I am an IMC major with a planned double minor in economics and politics and am just one example of the effects of the ICC not addressed by Mr. DeTuri. Due to a limited number of courses to satisfy the Power and Justice theme, I spent seven semesters selecting courses around the ICC.

Upon my return to campus this Fall from a semester abroad I met with Mr. DeTuri to discuss a petition to allow courses taken at the University of Auckland, New Zealand to count as my diversity requirement. He reviewed the syllabi for both Intro to Spoken Maori and Politics and the Media and expressed confidence in my petition. I was befuddled when

the petition was rejected in December. It took two weeks of persistence before I was able to meet with Mr. DeTuri and dive into the belly of the beast.

In this meeting I asked for mercy from a system whose top down disorganization had left me without a diversity credit and one semester left. I pleaded that my time and classes in New Zealand, and/or my politics and economics courses such as “Power, Justice, and Inequality,” “The Politics of US Citizenship,” “Contemporary Social Movements” more than adequately satisfied the diversity student learning outcomes. According to Mr. DeTuri, however, I had not taken the “correct class.” In other words, regardless of the content and learning, these classes and study abroad experience could not count because professors had not submitted these courses for designation prior to my enrollment. (In fact, the first diversity designation for either politics or economics was only recently approved — too late for me to incorporate into a four year schedule and complete my other required courses.) I appealed the decision to no avail.

My meetings and experience with Mr. DeTuri and others in the ICC make it clear that “checking the box” of an ICC required course is more important than the four-year journey, including the learning outcomes which have been accomplished in many courses yet to be approved.

It was suggested that 1) drop the economics minor, 2) take 18+ credits as a second semester senior, or 3) sign up for winter session



Senior Eli Serota writes about his personal experience and difficulties fulfilling the requirements of the Integrated Core Curriculum to graduate.

SAM FULLER/THE ITHACAN

courses. Having worked toward the minor for 3 1/2 years, the first option was undesirable. The second and third options are entirely predicated on my ability and willingness to pay for extra credits.

Mr. DeTuri acknowledges that improvements are needed. However, as noted in the article, the “problem solving” for the class of 2017 is solely aimed at graduation. There is no acknowledgment or resolution for the students who will graduate at a cost — the need to take (and pay for) 18+ credits in a semester, drop a minor or forego a study abroad program.

Oh, and I dropped the economics minor to enroll in a course that checks the box for the diversity requirement. Ironically, the course includes an

examination of the Maori culture ... of New Zealand ... as taught by a Native American professor in upstate New York. Under the wisdom of the ICC, this apparently teaches diversity better than my time learning about and experiencing the Maori culture first hand.

Until the ICC is truly overhauled or abolished, students will be continually funneled through an inherently broken system, and throwing on band-aid fixes disguised as “problem solving” at the eleventh hour only continues the broken cycle.

**ELI SEROTA** is a senior integrated marketing and communications major. Email him at [eserota1@ithaca.edu](mailto:eserota1@ithaca.edu)



NATIONAL RECAP

Jeff Sessions’ record questioned

BY CELISA CALACAL  
OPINION EDITOR

Following the contentious confirmation of Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) as President Donald Trump’s attorney general, many fear he will roll back the clock on civil rights for a number of marginalized groups across the country.

Many civil rights advocates and organizations have pointed to 30-year-old allegations of racism that ultimately prevented Sessions’ nomination to become a U.S. federal judge in 1986. While civil rights advocates point to Sessions’ career as a U.S. attorney as evidence of his anti-civil rights stances, the Trump administration has lobbied Sessions as a staunch advocate of civil rights.

For instance, Sessions’ supporters have cited his work in the prosecution of a Ku Klux Klan

member in the lynching case of a black man in Alabama 35 years ago. While filling out his questionnaire to the Senate Judiciary Committee last year, Sessions cited this as one of his most important cases. An in-depth look at how the case proceeded from The Atlantic reveals that Sessions’ role was much smaller than projected.

The newly minted attorney general’s allies also point to his vote in 2006 to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act. However, on the same day as the Senate vote, Sessions voiced concerns with the preclearance mandate of the VRA that required states to preclear any change in voting qualifications or prerequisites to voting. Sessions said the mandate was no longer required because there had been no recent evidence of state or local officials’ attempting to suppress votes.

When part of the VRA was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2013, Sessions praised the decision, calling it “a good day for the South.” Without the protection of the VRA, states across the country implemented new restrictions in the form of voter identification laws — laws that have been shown to disproportionately affect communities of color, poor people and the elderly — making the 2016 presidential election the first election without the full protection of the VRA since it was enacted in 1965.

Those against Sessions also cite his extensive record opposing legislation that would help marginalized groups. In 2006, Sessions voted “yes” on a constitutional ban opposing same-sex marriage and also opposed repealing the policy that forbids gay men and lesbians to openly serve in the military — “don’t ask, don’t tell.” In 2013, Sessions voted “no” to the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act and to the Lily Ledbetter Act in 2009.

Sessions also has a history of making statements against Muslim immigration, often depicting Muslims as a threat to the security of the U.S. He was one of the first people to defend Trump’s Muslim ban when it was first proposed.

As Sessions took the oath of office Feb. 9, his statements suggested a stance that is tough on crime, saying the current rise in crime “is a dangerous, permanent trend that places the health and safety of the American people at risk.” While 2015 saw a slight increase in the violent crime rates from 2014, they are still lower than the crime rates in the early 1900s and early 2000s.



During the Senate’s vote to confirm Jeff Sessions as attorney general, Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) was shut down while reading a letter from Coretta Scott King denouncing Sessions. ANDREW HARNIK/ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NEWSMAKERS

Professor explores punitive school policies

From the 1980s to the ’90s, zero-tolerance policies multiplied in schools across the U.S. as the primary form of disciplinary policies. Zero-tolerance was framed as a way to control violence and misbehavior in schools, and is still prominent in the U.S. school system today. On Feb. 9, Jessica Dunning-Lozano, assistant professor of sociology at Ithaca College, discussed how punitive zero-tolerance policies impact black and Latino children in schools at a discussion series at a discussion series hosted by the Center for the Study of Race, Culture and Ethnicity in Klingenstein Lounge. Dunning-Lozano also focused on her research from her studies on punitive policies in Texas schools.

Opinion Editor Celisa Calacal spoke with Dunning-Lozano about zero-tolerance policies, the school-to-prison pipeline and the governing through crime strategy.

*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*

**Celisa Calacal:** What interests you about school punishment?

**Jessica Dunning-Lozano:** Part of it is my own biography, my personal connection with discipline in schools and myself being a nontraditional student. I found myself getting into a little trouble when I was a teenager, and I dropped out of high school. And then the only program I could recover to was an alternative school back in California. This was in the ’90s, and I ended up graduating from this alternative school. We called it continuation high school. And I had noticed, as a student, differences in

how students at the continuation high school were policed and treated versus kids who were in the mainstream high school in the district where I attended. So that always impacted me. It stuck with me. And when I eventually moved onto college and grad school, when I got to Texas, I was interested in writing a dissertation on punishment in schools because things had only gotten worse since the ’90s. ... So I was curious about what disciplinary schools looked like in Texas. And I learned about this disciplinary alternative education program. ... Most of them are publicly funded — you find them in every public school district in the state. And I was fascinated but also really disturbed by their presence in the public schooling sphere in Texas. ... It looked, in this particular field site where I did my research, a lot like a juvenile detention facility.

**CC:** Why do zero-tolerance policies mostly impact black and Latino kids?

**JDL:** So interestingly enough we find zero-tolerance everywhere. We find it in the suburbs. We find it in the inner cities. But they tend to have worse ... impact on low-income kids of color because a lot of times they’re enforced more harshly in the inner city. You also have a lot of racialized and gender discourses about African-American and Latino kids, especially African-American boys and Latino boys, as criminals. You don’t have that same kind of stereotyping about white children, right, about white boys. So if you perceive these



Jessica Dunning-Lozano, assistant professor of sociology, studied the impact of zero-tolerance school policy on students in central Texas. FERNANDO FERRAZ/THE ITHACAN

kids to be criminal, one will be more inclined to adjudicate school-level misbehavior as a criminal act more so if it’s being committed by someone who fits the stereotype of Latinos are the bad kids or African Americans are the bad kids. So it tends to have a more pronounced effect on these groups, I would say in part because of racial biases, gender biases. ... Those practices are more acute in large urban public schools.

**CC:** How do zero-tolerance policies fit into the school-to-prison pipeline?

**JDL:** There was a landmark study, Breaking School Rules. This report that came out in 2011 based on data from Texas; it was longitudinal data. ... And they saw that students who, and mainly African-American boys in Texas, they’re more likely to be meted out severe forms of punishment,

and then as a result, were more likely to end up in ... the juvenile justice system, and eventually the adult criminal-justice system. So this was a huge game-changer because prior to this, a lot of folks would talk about, theorize about a school-to-prison pipeline and would do qualitative studies looking at parallels between how juvenile detention centers are run and how school-level minor non-violent crime is being adjudicated. ... There is a correlation between punishing them harshly and then these particular kids who are more prone to being subjected to zero-tolerance policies, so they are more likely to end up in the criminal-justice system than their peers.

*Read the full Q&A online.*

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ELEPHANT  
IN THE  
ROOM

KYLE STEWART

Pay attention to education

Betsy DeVos’ confirmation as the U.S. Secretary of Education was one of the most contentious and publicized in recent memory. Whether or not you agree with DeVos, this increased attention to the U.S. education system is sorely needed.

I have many concerns about DeVos’ qualifications. During her confirmation hearing, she struggled to answer questions surrounding the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as well as school accountability for students’ progress. As a graduate of public school, with multiple public school teachers in my family, I understand public education’s critical role in our nation. I also recognize that the U.S. education system needs a major overhaul.

First off, students must be the foremost concern of any education policy. Regardless of ZIP code or ability level, every student deserves access to a quality education. Second, we must empower parents and educators at a local level. For those who worry about DeVos’ ability to radically change education, keep in mind that her power is limited. The U.S. Department of Education states that education is primarily a state and local activity, with 92 percent of elementary and secondary education funding coming from nonfederal sources. And third, we need innovation and accountability for all types of schools.

Alternatives to public schools are not just Republican proposals. DeVos’ predecessor, John King, founded a charter school. Sen. Cory Booker (N.J.) has advocated for school choice, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) once favored vouchers. More choice alone, however, isn’t the answer, as there are mixed results surrounding charter school performance. Underperforming charter schools should be held accountable. We need to ensure that low-income students and students with disabilities are not disadvantaged by the rise of charter schools. And in rural areas where school choice isn’t possible, the focus should be on improving public education.

It is incumbent upon all of us to maintain this focus on education. Attend school board meetings, volunteer in classrooms or at after-school mentoring programs, and analyze education policy to make sure it puts children first. Blocking DeVos from entering a Washington, D.C., school isn’t the answer. A commitment to reforming our education system should be a bipartisan effort, and it needs to start now.

**ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM** is a column about conservative politics written by Kyle Stewart. **STEWART** is a junior journalism major. Connect with him at [kstewart1@ithaca.edu](mailto:kstewart1@ithaca.edu) and @KyleStew107.



## OPEN LETTERS: UNIONIZATION

# More college professors stand with union

## ITHACA COLLEGE ART HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Open Letter to the Ithaca College Community,

The Department of Art History writes to express our deep appreciation and support for our part-time and contingent faculty members, who are currently involved in contract negotiations with the Ithaca College administration. We recognize the essential role performed by part-time and contingent faculty in the education of our students, and acknowledge that their labor conditions have an impact not only on their students' educational experience, but also on the entire institution's ability to fulfill its mission.

Unfortunately, the current situation is part of a larger trend in higher education to rely on part-time and contingent labor to fill permanent, full-time instructional needs. The Art History Department experiences this directly, as we work to staff courses that are regularly full or overenrolled. We have had to cancel

courses because we were not able to staff them at the rates we offered qualified part-time instructors. Meanwhile, relying on year-to-year contracts means we cannot plan ahead and expand our ICC offerings.

We urge the parties to continue negotiations in good faith, and very much hope that they will be successful. However, if the part-time and contingent faculty hold a legal strike, we will respect their decision and not move to replace our irreplaceable colleagues.

Sincerely,

Nancy Brack, Professor; Jennifer Germann, Associate Professor; Jennifer Jolly, Associate Professor; Risham Majeed, Assistant Professor; Lauren O'Connell, Professor; David Salomon, Assistant Professor; Gary Wells, Associate Professor; Paul Wilson, Associate Professor

## ITHACA COLLEGE WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES PROGRAM

Open letter to the Ithaca College community:

We, the undersigned members of the steering committee of the Women's and Gender Studies Program, are writing in support of our part-time and contingent colleagues in their collective union efforts to forge a mutually beneficial contract with Ithaca College.

In Women's and Gender Studies, we are entirely dependent on part-time faculty to cover our primary courses. We have been able to hire excellent faculty and have seen first hand the enormous time and energy they invest in our students. But we have to hire anew every academic year, and it is an embarrassment to only offer \$4,200 per course. We would much prefer to have a full-time continuing line in WGST; we are a thriving program and our course

enrollments certainly justify it. But since our ongoing request for such a line has not been fulfilled, we continue to depend on part-time faculty to meet our basic needs (specifically, 7 courses during AY 2016-2017). This is an untenable situation for our students, our part-time faculty, and us.

We hope that the college and the union can work together toward a mutually satisfactory outcome that avoids a disruption of our students' education. However, in the event that the union decides to strike, our feminist principles will guide us in supporting the strike and not seeking to "replace" the courses of our colleagues.

Jennifer Germann; Claire Gleitman; Carla Golden; Nicole Koschmann; Jennifer Spitzer

# Faculty union releases update on bargaining process

## BY CONTINGENT FACULTY UNION BARGAINING COMMITTEE

Higher education in America is facing an existential crisis. The prohibitive cost of college education has barred an increasing number of young people from fulfilling their dreams, while for a majority of faculty, being a professor has become a dead-end job that offers no adequate pay, no job security, and no possibilities for advancement. While administrative salaries have soared, faculty compensation overall has decreased, and the percentage of tenure-eligible faculty has shrunk to under 30%. The result has been the creation of a new academic underclass: a "precariate" of demoralized and underpaid contingent professors who are forced to cobble together multiple jobs, do not have benefits, and sometimes have to rely on manual labor, food stamps or Medicaid to get by.

In response to the unsustainable stresses thus imposed on most professors in the U.S., there has been a groundswell of unionization among contingent faculty across the country in recent years. Here at IC, an overwhelming majority of part-time faculty voted in 2015 to form a union to fight collectively for fair pay and better job security. The following presents a summary of the compensation model for part-time faculty that the union has proposed to the IC administration. We provide specific details for your consideration, because much of the discourse on this issue has been clouded by misleading claims and distortions on the part of the administration. We would like to set the record straight.

### Our Situation

Part-time faculty constitute 33% of all faculty at IC and teach 15% of the college's courses. 85% have advanced degrees; 33% are IC alumni; we average 7 years of service to Ithaca College. Part-time faculty teach many of the introductory courses at the college, and thus are often the faculty that new students have the closest and most significant contact with as they transition from home into the college environment. In short, we constitute an active and significant sector of the professoriate at IC.

However, our compensation is in no way commensurate with our contribution to the college. The current salary for part-time faculty at Ithaca College is \$4200 per course. Part-time faculty are limited to teaching 50% of a full-time load, making them ineligible for benefits and capping their yearly earnings at \$16,800 (most of us earn far less than that). As a result, nearly all Ithaca College



Members of the Ithaca College contingent unions gather in the Fishbowl to announce the results of the vote that took place Feb. 13–14. The results show that a majority of part-time and contingent faculty — 88 percent — voted to authorize a strike.

SAM FULLER/THE ITHACAN

part-time faculty are required to have multiple jobs to make ends meet. It is not surprising that, according to a survey we conducted after forming our union, the single most important issue to our membership is job stability for all contingent faculty (both part and full-time), and fair pay for the work we do.

### Our Call for Pay Parity

In October of 2015 the faculty union began negotiating with the administration. From the beginning, the union has been committed to the principle of "pay parity" or "equal pay for equal work." What this means in an IC-specific context is that part-time faculty should be compensated at a level commensurate with what the lowest-paid contingent full-time (i.e., non-tenure eligible) faculty earn. This seems to us a reasonable and equitable approach that takes into account the specific remunerative structures already in place at the college, and merely brings part-time salaries into line with those structures. Not only is the concept of pay parity just, it is eminently achievable. To provide all part-time professors at

IC with pay parity would only require a 0.3% adjustment in IC's operating budget: a tiny change that could significantly improve the lives of 33% of the faculty who are part-time — and thus benefit the learning environment of our students.

It would seem that doing the right thing at minimal cost to the college would not be a difficult decision. Unfortunately, 16 months have elapsed since the start of bargaining and the administration continues to stonewall any meaningful progress on compensation. They have steadfastly refused to engage with — or even discuss — the idea of pay parity, preferring instead to present us with a series of microscopic pay increase proposals in the order of 1 or 2%, which to date have accrued to a total proposed 8.9% increase in pay, to be achieved by the third year of the contract. This means that under the administration's current proposal, within the next three years part-time faculty would see a mere \$375 increase per three-credit course.

To read the rest of the open letter, go to <http://theithacan.org/contingent-union-update>.

# IC bargaining committee responds to strike vote results

## BY ITHACA COLLEGE BARGAINING COMMITTEE

From Senior Vice President Nancy Pringle, Provost Linda Petrosino, and Professor Gwen Seaquist, representatives of the Ithaca College bargaining committee.

The Ithaca College bargaining team is disappointed that the contingent faculty unions have announced that they have voted to authorize a strike. This announcement comes despite the fact that there has been significant and meaningful progress made to date in the negotiations for a part-time faculty contract — having reached tentative agreements on 23 separate articles — and that negotiations with the full-time contingent faculty are still at an early stage.

The college remains committed to working out the remaining issues. There are bargaining sessions

with a federal mediator set for February 21 and February 24. The college is eager to continue the negotiation process in these sessions to hopefully reach a final resolution. The bargaining team believes any strike activity prior to these sessions, or while meaningful progress is still being made, would be premature.

Ithaca College strives to deliver the very best for our students, faculty, staff and the entire Ithaca College community. We look forward to continuing the conversations with the contingent faculty unions to reach an agreement and avoid a strike, which would disrupt the education of our students.

In the event a strike occurs, the college will remain open and will be as flexible as possible to help faculty and students navigate the logistics of the strike while fulfilling our educational requirements and delivering the educational experience our students expect.

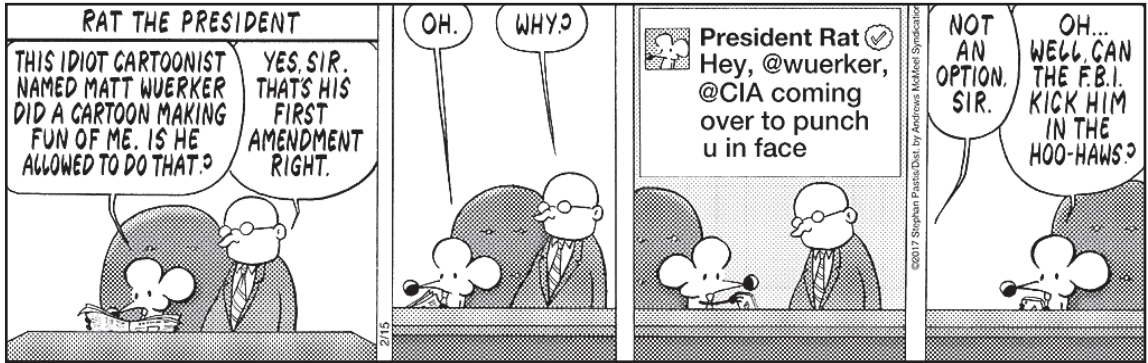
FOR MORE NEWS AND OPEN LETTERS ABOUT THE CONTINGENT FACULTY UNIONS, GO TO  
THEITHACAN.ORG/TAG/CONTINGENT-FACULTY.  
FOR NEWS ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE STRIKE VOTE, GO TO PAGE 1.



Moonshoes By Allison Latini '17



Pearls Before Swine® By Stephan Pastis



sudoku

easy

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

medium

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

answers to last week's sudoku

medium

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

very hard

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

数独

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The Sudoku Source of "The Itihacan".

crossword

By United Media

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		50		51		52		53			
54	55				56			57		58	59
60				61				62			
63				64				65			

ACROSS

- 1 Creepy-crawlies
- 5 On the – vive
- 8 Watch secretly
- 11 Old cattle town
- 13 40-cup brewer
- 14 Cached
- 15 Slangy ladies
- 16 Draws forth
- 18 Hardens, as clay
- 20 Rock concert souvenir
- 21 Fox's abode
- 23 Soho co.
- 25 Vitality
- 28 Register for
- 30 Dip in gravy
- 32 Forensic science tool
- 33 Silver, in the lab
- 34 – Dawn Chong
- 36 Barely visible
- 38 – lang of country music
- 39 Operate a ferry
- 41 Garnet or ruby
- 43 Walk slowly

- 45 Kind of pearl
- 47 Conducted
- 49 Gaze
- 50 Luau welcome
- 52 Burning desire
- 54 Tacks on
- 57 Originate
- 60 Boot part
- 61 – de-sac
- 62 Tonto's Scout, for one
- 63 Glove sz.
- 64 Attention getter
- 65 Winter woe

DOWN

- 1 Slangy physique
- 2 Thurman of "Henry & June"
- 3 Play
- 4 Woolgatherer?
- 5 Medieval adventures
- 6 Search engine find
- 7 Put one's foot – –
- 8 Marshal's badge
- 9 Indy service area

- 10 NFL gains
- 12 Try to find out
- 17 Fair grade
- 19 Loop train
- 21 By – and bounds
- 22 Ulterior motive
- 24 Financial average
- 26 Lowdown joint
- 27 D.C. consumer advocate
- 29 Type of doll
- 31 Potpie veggie
- 35 Snaky fish
- 37 Department stores
- 40 Yapped
- 42 Paltry
- 44 Danish explorer Vitus –
- 46 Billy – Williams
- 48 JAMA reader
- 51 Linear measure
- 53 Skip stones
- 54 PIN prompter
- 55 "Ulalume" poet
- 56 Proper, as respect
- 58 R-V connector
- 59 Help-wanted abbr.

last week's crossword answers

D	A	M		M	O	P		O	B	E	Y
P	I	C	A		A	Y	E		L	O	L
E	X	O	R	C	I	S	E		L	U	M
C	I	R	C	A		T	R	E	A	D	
K	E	N		B	L	E	S	S		O	I
			D	I	O	R			W	I	N
E	Y	E	I	N	G		O	V	E	R	D
V	E	N	T			I	R	I	S		
E	T	E		S	E	N	D	S		P	I
		M	A	T	E	S		A	D	I	O
Q	U	I	P		R	U	S	S	I	A	N
U	T	E	S		I	R	A		S	N	I
E	A	S	E		E	E	O		H	O	C



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3/10 SARAH JAROSZ  
4/23 GEORGE WINSTON

STATE

2/18 STEVE HACKETT :GENESIS REVISITED  
3/4 THE HEAD AND THE HEART SOLD OUT  
3/15 AN EVENING WITH DAWES  
3/20 THERESA CAPUTO LIVE!  
4/7 THE DECEMBERISTS  
4/8 JACKSON BROWNE SOLD OUT  
4/11 WELCOME TO NIGHTVALE  
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# AGAINST THE CLOCK

## Students challenge typical gaming methods

BY KALIA KORNEGAY  
STAFF WRITER

"I'm the best in the world at this thing that, like, hardly anyone else does," Twitch user and speedrunner Ryan White sarcastically said to a live audience two years ago on Twitch.tv, a website where users live-stream themselves playing video games. Minutes after ranting, White was rendered speechless as he set a new world record in the Nintendo 64 game "GoldenEye 007" on the Silo Secret Agent level.

Twitch.tv logged a total 241,441,823,059 minutes streamed in 2015, according to Twitch 2015 Retrospective, which equates to 459,366 years. An average of 1.7 million broadcasters streamed every month, making the site a strong alternative to YouTube despite its niche audience. Ithaca College students are part of this niche audience — and the speedrunning community.

A popular trend in the video game world, speedrunning aims to finish a video game as fast as possible, sometimes with certain rules and restrictions. Players enter a leader board, which compiles top times from around the world, and aim to set a new world record. Or if a player's time isn't as good as they thought, they are able to try again.

Senior Nick Gallaro, president of IC Gamers, said he's been playing video games since he was young and first got into speedrunning after finding videos of runs on YouTube. After he had watched videos of other players' performing speedruns of the original "Yoshi's Island," one of his favorite childhood games, he began to dive deeper into the culture.

"It's a fun form of competition because you're not really competing against other people, but you're

competing with people to get the best time possible," Gallaro said. "It's a very helpful ... community because everyone wants to see everyone do the best that they can."

Users are able to trade strategies and view records on internet forums moderated by other players. The website Speedrun.com allows users to submit videos of their fastest runs for any game on any console, which are then verified.

Sophomore Benjamin LeBlanc said he got discovered speedrunning games around his junior year of high school after he started watching videos on YouTube.

"It adds another challenge," LeBlanc said. "When I was growing up, I would play [a] game over and over again and just find different ways to make the game harder. As I got older, that got boring, and I stopped playing video games, and then ... I decided to start again. Then I ran into speedrunning on YouTube. ... It felt more meaningful."

While the premise of speedrunning is to have a fast time, there are subchallenges users can engage in to alter the difficulty of the run.

Freshman Ryan Yocum is currently a moderator for Speedrun.com and said he volunteered for the position because of how much he enjoys the culture. As a moderator, Yocum's job is to verify submitted runs to make sure users did not cheat. He said there are a few common ways people cheat, like using previous save states — allowing them to start at a later point in the game — or using developer commands that can make them glitch through the game map.

"I'm the one who watches and makes sure people are playing the game correctly," Yocum said.

In addition to forums, there are other places where speedrunners can gather and discuss. On YouTube, hundreds of users dedicate their channels to uploading videos on successful and unsuccessful runs.

Nathan Prestopnik, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science, said he enjoys watching video game content — specifically Twitch streams and

... They're not super rich. They're not super famous. So you get to feel like you know the person. They tell you about their lives, about what's going on, what their dog is named. ... That connection feels more real than it really is, but it's powerful. A lot of people enjoy that kind of experience."

or you can talk to other people who share your interests."

In addition to building a community with the same interests, speedrunning has also fostered a community of giving. Games Done Quick is a series of charity video game marathons launched in 2010 allowing anyone to volunteer to speedrun a game through a submission process. Two events are hosted every year called "Awesome Games Done Quick" and "Summer Games Done Quick," in which players engage in a variety of speedruns with viewers' donating to the featured charity through Games Done Quick at any time during the event. The most recent AGDQ was from Jan. 8 to 15 in Herndon, Virginia, and raised \$2.2 million for the Prevent Cancer Foundation.

Gallaro said initially getting into speedrunning was a challenge, as selecting a game to dedicate such a massive amount of time to was difficult. He eventually found "Ori and the Blind Forest," a platformer game, which challenged him and did not diminish his love of the game. Ever since, he has considered the community to be healthy and nurturing of a drive for success.

"I think being able to compete with others, but not against others, is a really enticing concept,"

Gallaro said. "I think it's really healthy competition because everyone is very encouraging."

AN AVERAGE OF  
1.7 MILLION  
BROADCASTERS  
USED TWITCH.TV EVERY MONTH IN 2015

"Let's Play" YouTube videos. These are another popular part of the online video game community in which players upload videos of themselves playing games, usually with added commentary and video of their faces.

While not a streamer himself, Prestopnik said the appeal of YouTube and Twitch culture is the closeness viewers feel when interacting with these personalities. He said while he, and many other viewers, may never meet that person in real life, watching their content and hearing their commentary on games creates a relationship that he does not experience when watching scripted television.

"It's like an alternative form of celebrity," Prestopnik said. "The people on YouTube who do these streams are very ordinary.

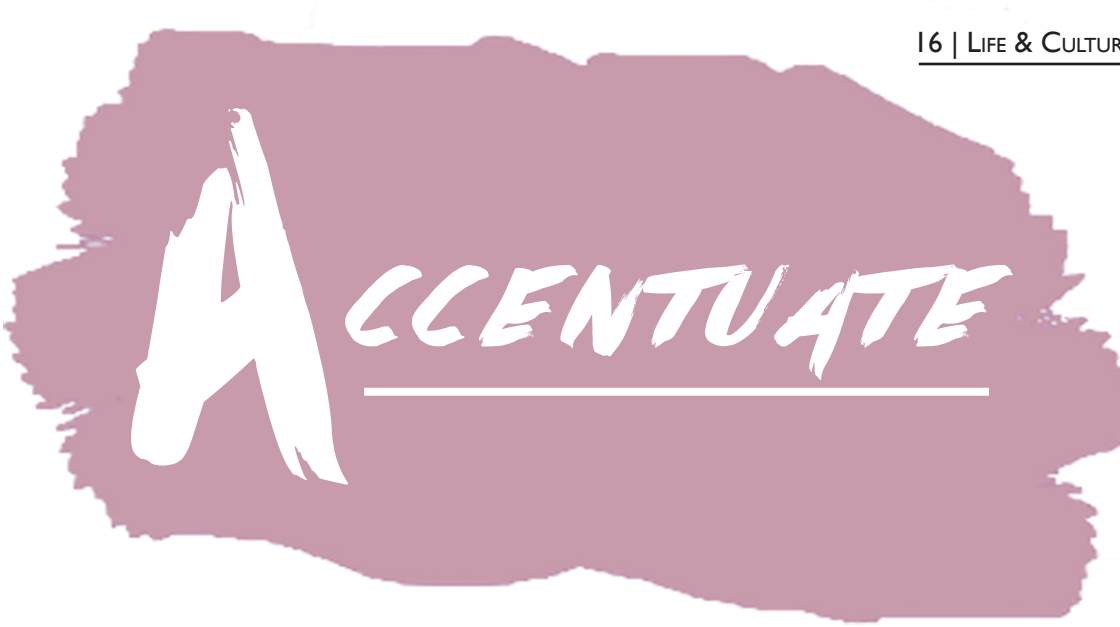
LeBlanc said he started streaming his speedruns on Twitch after seeing others broadcast "Luigi's Mansion" and realizing he could do it as well. He said his approach to streaming is to keep things casual: He prefers to focus on the game while occasionally engaging with audience members instead of emphasizing the audience over gameplay. While he does not stream in college as much as he used to, he said the streaming community is still one he thoroughly appreciates.

"I just like meeting people who are also interested in the same games as me, and talking to them about it," LeBlanc said. "With speedrunning, it's more competitive, and you're trying to get a good time. I like that you can be as social as you want. You can just sit there and play the game for hours,

"I think that being able to compete with others, but not against others, is a really enticing concept."

— Nick Gallaro





# Word of the Week



## MASTICATE

verb | mas-ti-cate  
1. to grind or crush ( food) with or as if with the teeth  
2. to soften or reduce to pulp by crushing or kneading



## CELEB SCOOPS

### Silent Bob Speaks

Director, actor and nerd icon Kevin Smith announced his latest film, “Jay and Silent Bob Reboot,” in a lengthy Instagram post Feb. 9. The post featured the script’s cover page and a statement regarding the status of other promised projects. “Sadly, Clerks III can’t happen (one of our four leads opted out of the flick). So I worked on a #Mallrats movie instead... which also didn’t happen because it turned into a #Mallrats series. I’ve pitched said sequel series to 6 different networks only to find no takers thus far.” There is no word on when Smith intends to start production or when fans can expect to see the film in theaters.

## Long Live the Prince

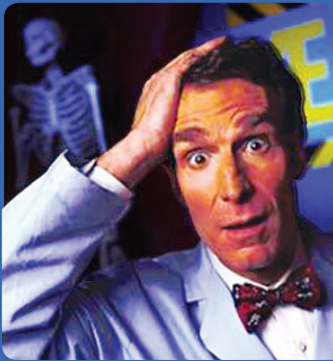
The Universal Music Group struck a deal with the estate of late music icon Prince to release the artist’s previously unreleased work. In an interview with Rolling Stone last year, employees of Prince’s record label, Paisley Park Records, said thousands of hours of live and studio material are tucked away in Prince’s vault. The deal also includes several of Prince’s work released under New Power Generation Records.



## NETFLIX CORNER



### Bill Nye Saves the World



Bill Nye the Science Guy returns to TV April 21. The pop culture superstar teamed up with Netflix to create “Bill Nye Saves the World,” a guest-heavy talk show and science experiment hybrid. The first season will contain 13 episodes and tackle pertinent science issues ranging from alternative medicine to climate change.

### The Magic School Bus Rides Again

The Netflix reboot of “The Magic School Bus” has selected “Saturday Night Live” star Kate McKinnon to voice Ms. Frizzle. McKinnon is replacing Lily Tomlin, who played Ms. Frizzle in the original ’90s series. Coming later this year, “The Magic School Bus Rides Again” will bring back several of the original cast members and feature a slew of currently unannounced guest stars.



## Dorm Room Delights No Bake Oreo Bars



Ingredients:  
1 package Oreos  
1 package large marshmallows  
4 tablespoons butter or margarine

Instructions:  
— Line 8 x 8-inch baking pan with aluminum foil.  
— Put Oreos into a large zip-close bag.  
— Crush Oreos until no large pieces remain.  
— Melt butter and marshmallows in a large

microwaveable bowl for about two minutes, until marshmallows fluff up and butter melts.  
— Add crushed Oreos and mix until combined.  
— Press mixture into lined pan.  
— Cool bars for 10 minutes until set.  
— Cut into nine large bars.

Photo and recipe from Spoon University



# Student club fosters existentialist thought

BY SILAS WHITE  
STAFF WRITER

Out of a conversation diving into deep, involved topics, a chance gathering of relative strangers came up with an idea for something bigger.

"We were all sitting in the Campus Center Dining Hall, and we didn't really know each other, and we just started having this crazy conversation about the stuff we were interested in, and we all started talking about ... higher-power things," sophomore Laura Miller said.

As a joke, Miller said, someone mentioned they should make a club, and junior Ravi Gil decided to actually do it. He called it Existentialist Coffee House.

"The reason we created it in this incarnation is we wanted to give people an outlet to express what they're thinking about and collaborate with other deep thinkers ... and to create dialogue between all sorts of different people," Gil said.

One of Gil's main motivations was to encourage compassion between people with opposing viewpoints on divisive topics such as politics or religion. Most people don't get the opportunity to discuss deeper thoughts in their day-to-day lives, Gil said. He said he wanted to give people who crave profound conversation an outlet to express their ideas.

"We have such an overstimulated culture of technology and stressful existence," Gil said. "We're trying to create an avenue for the discussion for the mysterious nature of our existence."

Gil's interest in existential topics developed at Ithaca College from an Intro to Buddhism class with Brian Karafin, assistant professor in the philosophy and religion department.

"Buddhism is interesting because it is a religion, but it's not like Western religions where there are very specific notions of God and how you should act," Gil said. "One of the central teachings is you should be your own teacher and use your own life experiences to guide you."

The group, which currently has about 30

members, plans on discussing different philosophies and trying to include a broad range of topics spanning from religion to human consciousness. Gil said there will be designated time during each meeting for members to bring up questions they might still have about existence or questions about a topic that was not discussed.

He said the current political climate has left people from both parties feeling incredibly divided and that he would like to create a dialogue to foster compassion from both sides.

"I would like to work with these deep thinkers to try to see if we can find creative ways to spread some joy and positivity in the world," Gil said. "We're all humans part of this one collective, and we need to come back together. We're not going to be able to do it by screaming at each other."

Executive board members are also interested in collaborating with other clubs to bring in ideas for discussion, Miller said, and try to brainstorm solutions that would make the world a better place.

"We could collaborate with environmental club and have a conversation about how we don't own the earth and it's weird we take everything from it," Miller said.

The book "Ishmael" by Daniel Quinn sparked Miller's interest in existential topics. The philosophical novel takes a wide-lensed look at humans' role in the universe in the form of Socratic dialogue between the two main characters.

"We need people who think about the state of the world rather than just the state of themselves in one fleeting, present moment," she said. "We want to not only have discussions but also apply some of the things we talk about ... to make a mental and physical impact on ourselves and the people around us."

Sophomore Michael Hanlon, executive board member of the club, helped Gil with the



Junior Ravi Gil initiated the discussion-based club Existentialist Coffee House after chatting about religion with acquaintances. The group meets Sunday nights in Clarke Lounge.

FERNANDO FERRAZ/THE ITHACAN

logistics of the club out of a desire to speak with more open-minded people.

"It's important for us to learn what makes sense for us in our own understanding of reality," Hanlon said. "We are the only people who can comprehend what is right for us in these topics."

Despite his passion for existentialism, Gil said he holds no authority over others.

"I'm just a seeker — I don't know about the nature of our existence, and I'm certainly not a master of this stuff," Gil said.

Hanlon said his own understanding of consciousness is that the notion of self is an illusion and that doing well for others does well for one's self and everyone else.

"There is no such thing as doing something for other people that doesn't benefit ourselves because we are everything," he said.

Existentialist Coffee House meets at 8:00 p.m. on Sundays in Clarke Lounge.

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# Students fall head over reels at film festival

BY JAKE LEARY

ASSISTANT LIFE & CULTURE EDITOR

Three teams anxiously await the verdict. Three films, each written, shot and edited in under 48 hours, face judgment as the hosts tally their votes. An audience of about 30 people and a panel of two judges decide their fate.

The Rom Com 48 Film Festival, as the name suggests, challenged students to make the best 3–5 minute romantic comedy short in 48 hours. The festival was a charity event sponsored by the Ithaca College chapter of the Delta Kappa Alpha National Professional Cinema Fraternity, a co-ed organization that seeks to foster a relationship between students and film. The festival premiered at 7 p.m. Feb. 12 in Textor 101.

Groups could be composed of no fewer than three people and no more than six. The entry fee for each group was \$15. Of the total money collected, 60 percent of the funds raised went to SeriousFun Children's Network, a nonprofit camp for children with terminal illnesses. Three films were submitted: "Lovubble," which follows a girl who, newly unleashed from her bubble, has an allergy to everything; "Pizza," an animation about a man who wants to break out of a friends-with-benefits relationship; and "Coffee for Two," which depicts infatuation among three strangers. "Lovubble" claimed victory, receiving the approval of the judges and audience as well as a cash prize of \$20.

Senior Hannah Basciano, president of Ithaca College's sector of DKA, oversees the community

outreach for the film organization and the organization's charity efforts. She said DKA is more than just a professional organization: Its donations include SeriousFun and several smaller organizations.

"The other profits that we make throughout the semester doing, like, different fundraisers ... go to different organizations," Basciano said. "We're doing a Relay for Life team, and we've already raised, like, more than a hundred dollars for that organization."

Senior James Manton, DKA vice president, said DKA members recruited students through social media and word of mouth.

Manton said he hoped the cash prize would motivate students to participate, and he stressed the importance of the donations.

"Most of these contests I've been a part of, there's an entry fee but no prize besides winning," he said. "But most of the money is going to charity, and that's the main goal."

The festival attracted roughly 15 participants and about 30 audience members, including judges from outside and within the college. The panel consisted of senior Byron Bixler, the editor in chief of Filmic magazine; Mike Skvarla, the writer and editor for the Ithaca Fantastik Film Festival, who was ultimately unable to attend and whose vote was given to the audience; and Brett Bossard, the executive director of Cinemapolis.

Basciano said the inclusion of judges outside of the college was an important way to bridge the gap between the rich film community in the City of Ithaca and the



Freshmen Victor Dangelmaier, Kevin Gesell, Sam Marks, Alex Bird, Emma Zarabet and Jyasi Nagel accept the award for best romantic-comedy film during the festival premiere Feb. 12 in Textor 101.

CONNOR LANGE/THE ITHACAN

eager population of film students at the college.

"We're trying to get the community involved in the film festival," she said. "We want to get the community involved by having judges that are out in the community, to ... bridge the gap between Ithaca campus productions and community and people involved in community affairs."

Alex Bird, a freshman film, photography and visual arts major, was a director on the team that produced

the winning film, "Lovubble." He said he faced several challenges, most prominently trying to film in busy areas, but with the limited time available to his group, they persevered.

The creativity the "Lovubble" team exhibited was exactly what Manton said he wanted out of the event.

"I think that giving people limits is a good way to get them to be more creative," Manton said. "It's 'Make a rom-com, be goofy with it.'"

Basciano said the college was the

ideal location for the competition because the film community in both the college and the Town of Ithaca is artistically strong.

"We have the infrastructure for a cinema community because we have all of the festivals that already happen," Basciano said. "It's already there, and we're just tapping into it."

CONNECT WITH JAKE LEARY  
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ONLINE

For more on the festival, go to [theithacan.org/rom-com-film-festival](http://theithacan.org/rom-com-film-festival)





IC Voicestream held a charity concert for Planned Parenthood at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 13 in the Emerson Suites

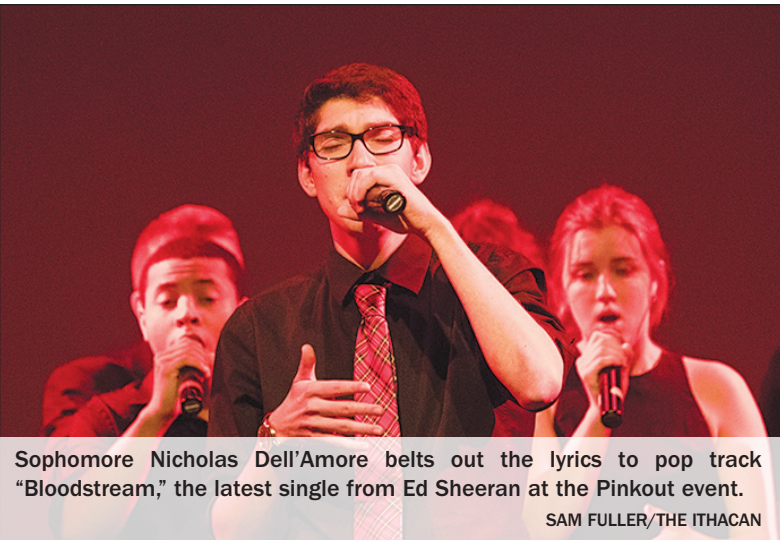
Sophomore Cara Harbinger belts out “Drowning” by BANKS at the event at 7:30 p.m. in the Emerson Suites. SAM FULLER/THE ITHACAN



**ONLINE**  
For more on the Pinkout event, go to [theithacan.org/pinkout](http://theithacan.org/pinkout)



Sophomore Juwan Bennett and the group beatbox to an audience of about 110 people. All donations were given to Planned Parenthood. SAM FULLER/THE ITHACAN



Sophomore Nicholas Dell’Amore belts out the lyrics to pop track “Bloodstream,” the latest single from Ed Sheeran at the Pinkout event. SAM FULLER/THE ITHACAN

Sophomore Lawrence Bierria is surrounded by vocalists during the Secret Serenade portion of the evening. The group performed “Can’t Take my Eyes Off You” by Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. SAM FULLER/THE ITHACAN



# Video game orchestra plays to a different tune



Left: Erika Rumbold plays the viola during the Ithaca College Gamer Symphony Orchestra rehearsal Feb. 12. Right: Sophomore Griffin Charyn, clarinetist, plays along to “Cara Mia Addio” from “Portal 2,” conducted by Bryce Tempest at the Feb. 12 rehearsal. Through music, the group aims to be empowered by the nerd stereotype that’s often associated with video gamers. FERNANDO FERRAZ/THE ITHACAN

**BY KATE NALEPINSKI**  
LIFE & CULTURE EDITOR

Low horns and tender piano notes spiral across the room. The piano chords fade away when a gong majestically interrupts, and woodwinds perk up, echoing the piano’s mellow tune. The horns, piano and clarinet boom with a fierce crescendo, repeating the same sorrowful yet euphonious sound. Video game enthusiasts recognize the tune immediately: the theme suite from “The Legend of Zelda: Majora’s Mask.”

The song from “The Legend of Zelda: Majora’s Mask,” a classic Nintendo 64 game, is just one of the pieces performed this semester by the Ithaca College Gamer Symphony Orchestra, a student-run orchestra that accentuates the soundtracks that accompany video games. The orchestra, which consists of roughly 50 members, was founded by composition major Michael Samson ’14, who was heavily involved in the video game and music community.

Senior Steff LoTempio, a flute performance major, is the vice president of the group and the conductor for the suite from “Zelda.”

The orchestra’s next performance March 29, will feature four conductors, with seven tracks from various video games.

LoTempio said the orchestra tends to attract students because the majority of the music performed is arranged by students at the college. Student arrangers typically listen to the video game instrumentals and write down how they think it should sound in an orchestral setting, LoTempio said.

Sophomore Griffin Charyn, clarinetist and public relations chair of the executive board, said his first experience with arranging music was with the orchestra.

“I had a part in arranging the huge medley of ‘Undertale,’” he said. “It’s really an opportunity for anyone to take a stab at it. It’s really cool for people to bring in music they love from a certain video game to the group.”

Charyn said the concert will conclude with “Sogno di Volare,” a piece composed by Grammy-winner Christopher Tin for “Civilization VI.” Charyn said the song requires a large choir to represent the piece properly. The choir

holds practice sessions outside normal orchestra rehearsals. The singers only perform together with the orchestra during the concerts.

“The goal is about 50 [people] — we need a full choir for this,” Charyn said. “This is going to be the most singers we’ve ever had on stage if everything works out.”

LoTempio said that while the orchestra performers are predominantly female, she’s faced misogyny as a female conductor. LoTempio said male conductors are taken more seriously than female conductors.

“[Men] seem to have a better command over the ensemble,” she said. “No one really wants to talk when a guy is up on the podium. As soon as I am . . . they won’t take me as seriously.”

LoTempio said the group is making a constant effort to eradicate gender bias by recognizing that video games, and the music within them, are not strictly enjoyed by men.

“A lot of people assume video games are male-dominated, which is a fair assumption, but I don’t think it’s necessarily true,” she said.

Charyn said he feels the representation of

students from both music and video game backgrounds is helping to erase nerd stigmas often associated with video games.

“Speaking of the perception of being a nerd, I really do feel it’s getting more accepted — it’s become more adopted,” he said. “Especially when you look at the amount of people that come out to our concerts. It’s a really crazy thing to see so many people invested in what we’re doing.”

Senior Hiroo Kajita, cellist and president of the orchestra, said playing video game music makes him feel empowered. Working alongside other cellists, he said, motivates him to work harder as a musician.

“They sat down with me; they helped me relearn all the chops,” Kajita said. “They sit down and be patient with you. The whole community is really supportive.”

The Ithaca College Gamer Symphony Orchestra will hold a free performance at 8:15 p.m. March 29 in Ford Hall.

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20	Individual Garden Apartment selection requests can be emailed to <a href="mailto:housing@ithaca.edu">housing@ithaca.edu</a> Garden Squatting 9 am
23	Individual Circle Apartment awards communicated via email
23	Garden Selection for <b>6 person apartments</b> – Rising Juniors and Senior Selection
28	Garden Selection for <b>4 person apartments</b> – Rising Juniors and Senior Selection

**March Dates:**

2	Garden Selection for 2 person apartments – Rising Juniors and Senior Selection Individual Garden Apartment requests are due before 5 pm (Juniors & Seniors)
3	Single squatting
6	Individual Garden Apartment awards communicated via email
7	Residential Learning Community applications due on HomerConnect by 8:59 pm
9	Residential Learning Communities awards posted
10	Residential Learning Community selection 7 am-8:59 pm on HomerConnect (Juniors & Seniors)
21	Traditional single selection 3+ semesters



# Lego Batman builds character

BY SILAS WHITE  
STAFF WRITER

Batman has seen a number of different interpretations in film, from Tim Burton's slightly cartoonish "Batman" movie starring Michael Keaton to Christopher Nolan's darker and grittier "Dark Knight" trilogy. "The Lego Batman Movie" is self-aware of past tropes and iterations, and that's why it works.

"The Lego Batman Movie" is a laugh riot from start to finish. It contains so many Easter eggs and nods to past Batman movies and comics that it's hard to imagine catching all of them in one sitting. It features an abundance of minor villains, so much so that the Joker (Zach Galifianakis) dares the audience to Google them to see if they really exist (they do, even Condiment King). Much of the storytelling pays off because characters within the film are self-aware. The plot highlights how goofy the character is instead of trying to reinvent him — a refreshing take for viewers sick of the dark and brooding Batman of recent years.

The film starts off with a spectacularly animated battle scene between Batman and a motley cast of villains led by the Joker. A purposefully cliched victory once again leaves all of Gotham in his debt. However, the remainder of the plot explores how

Batman is lonely and scared to reach out to others. He lives in a huge empty mansion, watching romantic comedies by himself — "Jerry Maguire" is seemingly his favorite — with nobody to talk to except his butler, Alfred (Ralph Fiennes). The film explores the idea that someone who dresses up in a Halloween costume and fights criminals at night may be suffering from deep-rooted issues. It actually does a great job of examining Batman's character, as well as the relationship between Batman and the Joker, albeit in a funny way.

Comedy is where "The Lego Batman Movie" shines. Jokes come rapid-fire, with the audience still laughing at one joke by the time the next one is heard. The film is self-aware and makes fun of not only Batman tropes, but superhero movie tropes in general. There's one joke, for example, where Barbara Gordon (Rosario Dawson) suggests taking the help of villains the Joker has scorned in the past to help fight him, and Batman says, "Criminals fighting criminals could never work," in an apparent jab at fellow DC movie "Suicide Squad." Batman also frequently mocks a popular Marvel hero, and his tepid father-son relationship with Robin (Michael Cera) is a recurring source of humor. If there is one area of the film that is slightly lacking, it's that there isn't much

**MOVIE REVIEW**  
"The Lego Batman Movie"  
Warner Bros.  
Our rating:  
★★★★★



"The Lego Batman Movie" follows the caped crusader as he punches his way through dozens of D-list DC villains, attempts to prove himself to the citizens of Gotham City and comes to terms with his solitary lifestyle. WARNER BROS.

comedy aimed at adults. There are a couple of jokes that may go over the heads of younger audience members, but compared to its predecessor, "The Lego Movie," it falls a little flat.

Voice acting in the movie is also spot-on. Will Arnett, in particular, seems like he was made to voice this version of Batman: His gravelly voice is true to the character, yet funny at the same time. Cera's innocent voice works well for the film's naive version of Robin, and Dawson brings emotional range to Barbara. Galifianakis' voice is a little too soft for a traditional Joker, but within the satirical take on the characters, it doesn't seem out of

place. While the first half of the movie is spectacular, the second half begins to falter. Plugs for other Warner Bros. franchises detract from the film's integrity. That said, the diverse cast of characters spanning multiple Warner Bros. franchises made the movie feel like it could have come from the imagination of a couple of children playing with their Lego sets. The most obvious lesson Batman learns is how to let friends into his life — even the Joker, who yearns for Batman to admit he likes fighting him.

The animation and Lego builds are well-realized and impressive. The vibrant colors pop off

the screen and the cinematography during action sequences was well-planned and executed.

Overall, the movie is a fun ride and may even be the best DC movie of the last few years. At times, it manages to find a middle ground between humor and DC's grittier take on superheroes. Perhaps DC should consider making more movies with Legos in the future. It isn't a perfect movie and isn't as good as "The Lego Movie," but it should please fans of all ages.

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# ‘Get Out’ brings Jordan Peele into the horror world

BY AIDAN LENTZ  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Coming off his hit comedy show "Key and Peele," Jordan Peele has proved that he has far more to offer than just laughs. Releasing during an incredibly politically and racially charged time, "Get Out" is both timely and incisive. Its political and racial message permeates every single frame of the film, and it's all the better for it.

"Get Out" is a movie about a young black photographer named Chris (Daniel Kaluuya) who leaves home to meet the parents of his white girlfriend, Rose (Allison Williams). The film builds on racial paranoia from the beginning, as both Chris and his best friend (Milton Howery) immediately question whether or not Rose's parents are racist. Chris seems to be fairly used to small amounts of racism in his everyday life. However, once he arrives at Rose's house, Chris starts to become suspicious. While Rose's parents, Missy (Catherine Keener) and Dean (Bradley

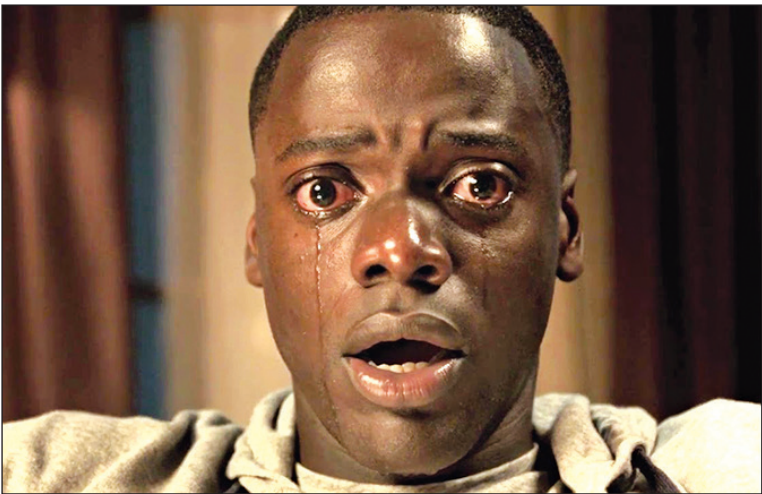
Whitford), are quite nice and attempt to be respectful, their actions betray a clear discomfort with Chris' race. From there, mere glimpses of racism escalate to horrifying and dizzying scenarios of brutality and violence.

This movie doesn't rush to that violence, though. Not a single scene in this movie feels unnecessary, instead constantly building on the plot and themes of racism, mental health and paranoia. The last 30 minutes of this movie feel like an adrenaline shot straight to the brain.

This isn't the only aspect the movie has going for it: The acting is also top notch. Kaluuya imbues his character with a natural charisma that propels him through the movie. Not only that, but his ability to sell the comedic elements of the script as well as the mind-blowingly freaky portions is commendable. The entire cast paints a believable and unsettling portrait of racism taken to surreal extremes.

When it comes to tone, Peele's work on "Key and Peele" shines through. His ability to balance comedy with the movie's dark and surreal tone is reflective of the duo's very best skits on "Key and Peele." The

**MOVIE REVIEW**  
"Get Out"  
Blumhouse Productions  
Our rating:  
★★★★★



"Get Out" is a racially charged horror film from Jordan Peele, one half of the comedy duo Key and Peele. The film depicts a seemingly normal white, suburban community that is hiding sinister secrets beneath the surface. BLUMHOSE PRODUCTIONS

movie never loses track of its horror or comedy influences, and they work in beautiful tandem without ever getting in each other's way.

While the film's scares and jokes are almost entirely solid, not quite all of them land. Fortunately, the movie's pace is fast enough that these missteps never cause a scene to fall flat. The movie also fails to explain how

the mother's hypnosis works, which distracts from the big scares of the film, as it's hard to fully grasp how certain things are happening. While these plot inconsistencies are annoying, they aren't detrimental to the overall quality of the film.

"Get Out" is one of the first must-sees of the year. Its bold writing, powerful racial themes, stand-out

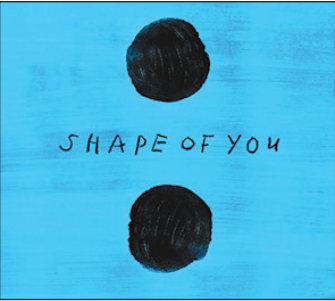
performances and cathartic third act all coalesce to form a superb whole.

If nothing else, "Get Out" is a loud and proud assertion to the world that Peele isn't going anywhere.

"Get Out" releases Feb. 24.

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## QUICKIES



**"SHAPE OF YOU (GALANTIS REMIX)"**  
Ed Sheeran  
Asylum Records

Ed Sheeran's latest version of his single "Shape of You" is full of voice modulation and synthetic instrumentation. Released Feb. 10, it grows old fast — by the end, listeners will be thankful the song is over.



**KATY PERRY**

**"CHAINED TO THE RHYTHM (FEAT. SKIP MARLEY)"**  
Katy Perry  
Capitol Records

"Chained to the Rhythm" is one part invigorating, one part obnoxious. The single was released across all music platforms Feb. 10.



**"DON'T KILL MY VIBE"**  
Sigrid  
Island Records

Released Feb. 10, "Don't Kill My Vibe" is reminiscent of early 2000s pop hits. The filter on Sigrid's voice is catchy, and the repetitive chorus makes the track easy to get into, but there is ultimately no reason to revisit the single.





CAITIE IHRIG/THE ITHACAN

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After battling cancer, Rachel Lee is back on the beam

**BY MADISON BESS**  
STAFF WRITER

During her freshman year in 2014–15, sophomore Rachel Lee qualified for the national championship and earned All-American status on the balance beam. But the following year, what should have been her second year on the team, did not go as planned.

It began with the operation to remove her wisdom teeth in the summer of 2015. The doctors had given her Amoxicillin for the pain, but she had an allergic reaction to it.

She was then put on steroids, but after she was taken off the steroids, she was still feeling sick.

During the fall of 2015, Lee said, she was still not feeling like herself, and after experiencing headaches, shortness of breath and fatigue, she knew something was off.

She went to a doctor and was told that there were leukemia cells in her blood — she was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Lee took last year off from school and

competition to receive treatment, and now she is back to both school and gymnastics, taking on that 6-inch piece of wood again.

She knew she wanted to come back to gymnastics as soon as the doctors cleared her, she said.

“I knew I did want to come back,” Lee said. “But there are days that are tougher than others. You sit there and say, ‘I don’t want to do that today.’”

She is still undergoing chemotherapy once a month and is considered in remission, but she is allowed to practice with the team even though she will not be competing this year. Lee said she takes a week off after receiving treatment due to the steroids.

Lee said she is very tired on those days following treatment. She takes anywhere from 12 to 26 pills each day — some types of pills every day and other types just once a week.

She also gets monthly IV injections, which she started in June and will continue for two years.

But not coming back to gymnastics was never a consideration for her — it’s a sport that she said has shaped her both mentally and physically.

“I couldn’t imagine life without it,” she said. “It was difficult not seeing my friends every day.”

Although Lee said she is enjoying being back with the team, she is not back into the full swing of things yet. After having taken a year off gymnastics, her body has changed.

“I lost a lot of muscle mass,” she said. “Having to get back all the skills I had before is harder. Watching everybody else being at the place they are makes me want to work harder so I can be ready for my season.”

Lee is a graceful gymnast who flows from one move to the next. Coming back, she had to relearn her skills and go back to the basics she was learning at 8 years old.

“She kind of had to learn to walk again,” head coach Rick Suddaby said. “It was hard, but she has gotten into the groove. Every day she is doing something new. It is not competitive, but it is a big step forward for her.”

Suddaby said they developed a training plan for Lee based on the USA Gymnastics level system where each level has different skill goals. Lee is slowly progressing up to the harder skills as she gets her strength back, but she said she is still not close to competition level.

“Right now we aren’t really doing anything that pounds,” Suddaby said. “It is hard to know yet how easy or difficult that is going to be for her.”

He said Lee has had a positive impact on her teammates and her coaches throughout her comeback.

“She is inspirational doing things that are really simple, but she is inspiring her teammates,” Suddaby said. “Her teammates love having her back again.”

Despite having to work to regain her strength and skills, Lee said she has been positive and mentally tough through it all.

“I guess you have to look at the long term,” Lee said. “It’s not going to happen like that. You have to work towards it and be happy for every-

one else. It’s going to be slow and steady, and you can’t rush it.”

Suddaby said one thing that is hard is that Lee doesn’t get the attention from him that she deserves. The reason for this is she is not competing and he has to devote the majority of practice time to helping the team get better. However, he said the team makes sure to support her during her comeback.

“We have done things to point out her comeback,” he said. “We sat the team down in the fall and showed them her All-American routine on beam from freshman year to keep the spark alive and the dream alive.”

Last season, the team developed the phrase “Rachel Strong” and said it at the end of practices and meets.

By saying this, the team was able to keep Lee’s presence with it, even when she was going through treatment

“She kind of had to learn to walk again. It was hard.”

— Rick Suddaby

and not on campus.

“At the end of lifts, we would say ‘Rachel Strong,’” junior Hannah Donnelly said. “The fact she went through that and is able to come back is truly amazing.”

Donnelly said composure is one of Lee’s strengths in gymnastics, one that she has always had.

“I loved competing with her on beam freshman year because she was calm and it made everyone calm,” Donnelly said. “Her composure really influenced the team, and she makes everything look easy. It helps with team dynamic.”

Suddaby said Lee isn’t stagnant. She is going in a direction, and she has something to look forward to.

“She is just an inspiration,” Suddaby said. “She just is. We will get to focus on it a little more because our next invitational is our cancer meet. She is definitely inspiring her teammates, and she is never down. She has more reason than anyone else [to be down], but she is positive. She doesn’t outwardly resent any of this. And that, to me, is incredible.”



Sophomore Rachel Lee is training again after taking last year off from school and gymnastics to receive treatment. She is starting with the basics and working her way up.

AVRIL CROWE/THE ITHACAN

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# THE BOMBER ROUNDUP

The Ithacan’s sports staff provides statistical updates on all of the varsity Bomber squads during the winter season



Fans cheer on the women’s basketball team’s seniors, Ali Ricchiuti, Erin Ferguson and Shayna Gaskins, during their game against Hartwick College on Feb. 11. The Bombers won 60–49. SEAN DULLEA/THE ITHACAN

## Track & Field

### Women’s Empire 8 Championship

Name	Event	Place	Score
Lusmer Quintana	60	1st	7.97
Emilie Mertz	800	1st	2:19.27
Taryn Cordani	Mile	1st	5:06.50
Brandy Smith	Weight Throw	1st	16.38m
Katherine Pitman	Pole Vault	1st	4.25m

### Men’s Empire 8 Championship

Name	Event	Place	Score
Daniel Harden	400	2nd	50.03
Tim Chappell	5000	1st	15:16.57
Larry Cass	Weight Throw	2nd	15.40m
Alex Arika	Triple Jump	3rd	13.48m
David Dorsey	Pole Vault	2nd	4.40m

Next meet: 10 a.m. Feb. 18 at the Marc Denault Invitational at Cornell University

## Wrestling

### RESULTS



34–12  
Feb. 10



Next game: 6 p.m.  
Feb. 15 against  
SUNY Cortland in  
Cortland, New York

## Gymnastics

### STANDINGS

School	Place	Points
Cornell	1st	194.450
Bridgeport	2nd	193.225
Brockport	3rd	189.550
Ithaca	4th	189.150

Next game: 6:30  
p.m. Feb. 15 in the  
Beauty and the  
Beast Meet in  
Cortland, New York

## Men’s Basketball

### RESULTS

	83–67	
Ithaca	Feb. 7	Elmira
	92–77	
Ithaca	Feb. 11	Hartwick
	74–75	
Utica	Feb. 14	Ithaca

### STANDINGS

School	Conference	Overall
St. John Fisher	12–1	17–5
Stevens	10–4	17–6
Nazareth	9–5	15–8
Hartwick	8–6	15–8
Utica	9–6	9–15
Alfred	6–8	9–14
Houghton	4–10	9–14
Ithaca	4–11	8–16
Elmira	1–12	3–19

Next game: 8 p.m. Feb. 16 against Houghton College in Ben Light Gymnasium

## Swimming & Diving

### Women’s Bomber Invitational

Name	Event	Place	Score
Josie Berman	100 Butterfly	1st	1:01.49
Emma Whitney	100 Backstroke	1st	1:04.44
Geneva Bielenberg	200 Backstroke	1st	2:28.38
Giovanna Fimmano	200 Butterfly	1st	2:22.54
Maura Beuttel	500 Freestyle	1st	5:30.24

### Men’s Ithaca Invitational

Name	Event	Place	Score
Jeff Gilbert	100 Backstroke	1st	57.25
Jeff Gilbert	200 Backstroke	1st	2:06.30
Nick Bonnabeau	200 Breaststroke	1st	1:52.72
Zach Meunier	50 Freestyle	2nd	22.87
Daniel Meyers	100 Freestyle	2nd	49.35

Next meet: Feb. 15–18 at UNYSCSA in the Athletics and Events Center

## Women’s Basketball

### RESULTS

	68–60	
Ithaca	Feb. 7	Elmira
	60–49	
Ithaca	Feb. 11	Hartwick
	79–63	
Ithaca	Feb. 14	Utica

### STANDINGS

School	Conference	Overall
Ithaca	13–2	21–3
Stevens	12–2	13–9
Hartwick	11–3	15–8
St. John Fisher	8–5	11–11
Nazareth	7–7	11–12
Houghton	5–9	11–12
Utica	4–10	6–17
Elmira	2–11	6–16
Alfred	1–13	3–20

Next game: 6 p.m. Feb. 16 against Houghton College in Ben Light Gymnasium

SEAN DULLEA/THE ITHACAN

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SPORTS



# Students run show at athletic events

**BY CASEY KOENIG**  
STAFF WRITER

As the stands at the Athletics and Events Center Aquatic Pavilion began to empty after the Ithaca Invitational on Feb. 11, sophomore Abby Ucen's work had just begun. Standing on a chair, she began removing the back-stroke flags, taking care not to get them tangled. Ucen, along with about 10 other student workers, were transforming the pool from competition to recreation mode.

There are about 150–200 students who work as event staffers, whose jobs include setting up for a sporting event, taking it down afterward and providing assistance where it is needed throughout the event.

Fifth-year physical therapy student Zach Cole said he works about two to three events per week, and his hours range from six to 20 a week. He began working for the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics during the spring of his sophomore year after learning that there were jobs setting up athletic events. Student workers earn \$9.70 an hour.

Cole, who played baseball for the Bombers as an undergrad, said he was working in the dining hall at the time and was willing to take any other job that came up.

"I really wanted something else because I knew my parents were going to have me do something," Cole said. "I talked to the assistant A[thletic] D[irector] at the time, and he got me the job."

Sixth-year physical therapy student Fran Busa, who works with Cole in the equipment room in addition to staffing events, played softball for the college for four years. Busa said she found out about the job while she was at freshman orientation. She said



Sophomore Abby Ucen is a pool manager for the swimming and diving meets. Her responsibilities include setting up the pool before competitions and cleaning up. There are about 150–200 student workers.

DANIELLE ALLENTUCK/THE ITHACAN

that similarly to playing softball, the event staffers work as a team.

"I like setting things up — it's fun," Busa said. "I like to move around. They tell us what to do, and we do it, but there's some of us that are more experienced because we've been doing it longer, so they let us run with it."

Ucen was offered a job as pool manager for swim and dive meets at the beginning of the fall semester. She was a member of the swimming and diving team last year but was injured before she was able to compete.

Ucen said this job, which she has been shadowing and will officially take over next year when current pool manager Courtney Christ graduates, has allowed her to

stay close to the pool and the team, as well as to see a different side of the meets.

"Everyone sees the meet going on, but nobody knows who's running the timing, who makes sure everyone is going to hit the pad right, if the time's right, and if relay touches are good," Ucen said. "It's cool to know that you're in charge of making that run smoothly."

Cole said he has set up almost all of the varsity sports competitions and finds himself helping with basketball and football the most. He works the scoreboard at the basketball games and helps to set up the chairs and the score table. At football games, he ball chases and marks the first down for the referees.

Cole said his favorite part of the

job is getting to interact with all of the different people on campus and seeing all of the sports.

"Being an athlete myself, I love watching all of the different sports," Cole said. "It's great getting to see all the athletes on campus do what they're passionate about."

He said working as an event staffer has been one of the best things that has happened to him as a college student.

"It's really flexible; it's a way to meet new people," Cole said. "The jobs are usually fun because you're watching sports events and you're interacting with people around campus."

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CKOENIG@ITHACA.EDU

# Freshman continues to hold win streak

**BY CAL DYMOWSKI**  
STAFF WRITER

Since losing to a Division I opponent from West Virginia University on Nov. 13, freshman wrestler Sam Schneider has honed in on being the best.

After an unprecedented 21 wins in a row as of Feb. 15, Schneider finds himself ranked No. 3 in the 149-pound class by the National Wrestling Coaches Association.

Schneider said he took up an interest in wrestling from a young age after watching his brother, Steven, have a successful high school career at Park Ridge High School in Park Ridge, New Jersey.

That eventually led Steven to The College of New Jersey, where he was a member of the wrestling program.

By the time Schneider first stepped onto a mat in the third grade, he said, he knew what to expect.

"I learned how to wrestle before I actually started wrestling," Schneider said. "I followed his footsteps in everything."

It was at Park Ridge High School where Schneider learned about Ithaca College through the high school's team coach and trainer, Kevin Collins '15, former Ithaca College All-American wrestler. Schneider visited the college and met assistant coach Marc Israel '05. Schneider said Israel personally spoke to him and made the college a hard offer to pass up.

"He was a big reason I wanted to come here," Schneider said. "And it was on the trip home where I said,

'Yeah, I'm coming here.'"

Head coach Marty Nichols said he was drawn to Schneider during the recruiting process because of his well-rounded personality.

"When you recruit kids, you sit down with them and talk to them about wrestling, you talk to them about family and all different types of things," Nichols said. "He had that presence about him, and those are the guys we like to bring in."

Freshman Al Ciccitto said he met Schneider early on in the preseason and realized Schneider would be a dominant wrestler.

"His technique was impeccable," Ciccitto said. "His explosiveness and athletic ability make him a great athlete. He always does what the coaches ask of him and more."

In Schneider's debut at the season-opening Ithaca Invitational on Nov. 4–5, he won all five of his matches. The hot start was cooled temporarily when Schneider fell to West Virginia University senior James Dekrone in Schneider's seventh match of the season.

Dekrone won the 2013 National Junior College Athletic Association National Championship in the 141-pound class while at Nassau Community College.

Schneider said his goal was never to go undefeated on the year but that loss served as motivation for him to go out and compete even harder.

"It was motivating," Schneider said. "You learn a lot from those losses. After that, I thought: 'I'm



Freshman Sam Schneider, top, competes Nov. 5 in the Ithaca Invitational in Glazer Arena, his first college match. He has won 21 straight matches.

TEDDY ZERIVITZ/THE ITHACAN

still young. I've got time to develop and get better. I got beat up in that match, but I felt like I could wrestle with him."

Since the loss to Dekrone, Schneider has gone 21–0 and has posted a 5–0 record in the Empire Collegiate Wrestling Conference.

Outside of his wins, Schneider said the hardships the sport of wrestling entails have helped him value the camaraderie the wrestling program has cultivated and instilled in its athletes.

"It's a lifestyle," he said. "We have to constantly pay attention to our weight, practice technique. There's just so much that goes into it, and there's very few people at Ithaca that understand, and that makes us closer together. We're the only ones who are

doing this."

Schneider said two of his 27 wins stand out above all the rest: the wins against the No. 2 and No. 4-ranked opponents in the country.

It was after his 11–5 win in the New Standard Corporation Invitational on Dec. 3, in which he defeated Danny Downes, senior captain from Roger Williams University, that he knew he could be one of the nation's best, he said. As the season heads toward tournament time, Schneider said, his goal is plain and simple: to win a national title.

"That's the big goal," he said. "I don't really mind taking losses. It's just all about winning nationals."

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FUSTOR'S  
FUMBLES

NICK FUSTOR

# Journalists need to speak

There's been a growing divide among sports writers and readers over the idea that writers should "stick to sports." In the era of a Donald Trump presidency, with a nation divided, many fans want sports media to be an escape from the constant stream of political divisiveness. And that's understandable, but not acceptable.

In recent weeks, writers like Dave Zirin of The Nation, Zach Lowe of ESPN.com and Craig Calcaterra of NBC Sports have expressed opinions about the current administration — and most have been faced with some sort of backlash.

With the nature of the current political climate, the idea that readers around the country can simply fill their news feeds with just highlights of another Russell Westbrook triple-double is absurd.

While it's clear that many of those upset with sports writers' becoming politically active are the ones who have no problem with the current administration, it's especially important that sports writers use their voices to inform a larger audience.

It's no secret that a portion of the population strays away from political news, which makes it that much more important for sports writers to integrate politics into their work. While older readers may be set in their beliefs, it's pertinent for sports writers to inform a younger audience about the political climate, even if those readers don't necessarily seek out political news.

The issue with the "stick to sports" argument is that sports have always and will always be political. Athletes in recent years — from the country's top stars like LeBron James or Colin Kaepernick, to the entire Minnesota Lynx roster in the WNBA — have taken stands for causes ranging from the Black Lives Matter movement to the recent immigration policy set in place by Trump.

But even before that, athletes like Jackie Robinson and Muhammad Ali paved the way for modern athletes of color.

The convergence of sports and politics also took place in Super Bowl 2017, which was hosted in Houston, a city with one of the largest refugee populations in the world and a strong anti-Trump movement.

With New England Patriots tight-end Martellus Bennett's comments about his disinterest in going to the White House following a victory and Tom Brady's supposed support of Trump, athletes on the most prominent stage are able to spread their opinions.

And with the influence sports writers have, they should also be able to.

**FUSTOR'S FUMBLES** is a sports column written by Nick Fustor. **FUSTOR** is a junior journalism major. Connect with him at nfustor@ithaca.edu and @FustorThePeople.



# Swim team uses taper to maximize speed

**BY ZOË FREER-HESSLER**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Competitive swimmers are used to practicing for two hours a day, six days a week. As the season comes to a close, taper begins and the practices get shorter and less intense. Tapering is the reduction in the volume of practices, and tapers generally begin a week or two before the important competitions of the season. Tapering is significant because it allows athletes to fine-tune their skills and give their bodies a chance to relax.

Senior Brenna Dowd said the end of a season and final competitions are the most exciting part of the year, so it's essential to be prepared. Both teams are competing in the Ithaca Invitational on Feb. 11 and the Empire 8 Championships Feb. 15–18.

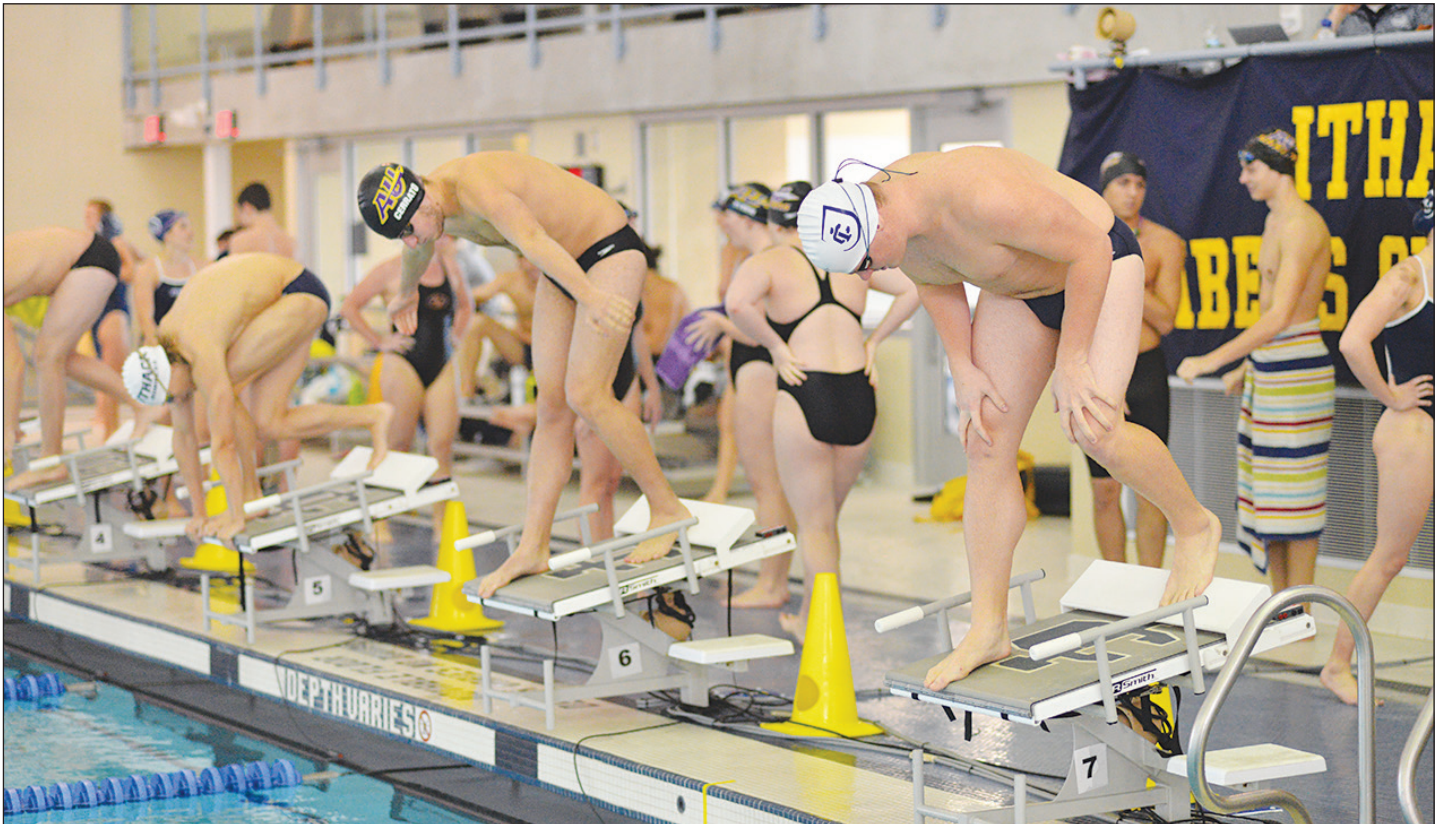
"I think it's important because it's kind of like your last rest before your biggest meet," Dowd said. "We start a taper — basically, we work doubles plus lifting for like three to four weeks over winter break, and then, once classes start, there's just not enough time in the day to do that, so you just naturally start to lessen the amount of yardage."

Research shows that swimmers generally decrease their practice volume by 40 to 60 percent during a taper. These reductions strictly regard the volume of work during workouts. The research indicates that intensity needs to stay high but frequency can be reduced by up to 20 percent.

High-intensity tapers can result in higher levels of red blood cells and hemoglobin in the blood — indicators of an increase in oxygen delivery, muscle fuel stores and muscle mitochondrial activity, which generally results in greater storage of energy.

"The team generally loves taper," junior Aidan Hartswick said. "After doing lots of yardage and doubles for a couple weeks, having that decrease in yardage and increased focus on sprinting and rest is really nice. Most people end up feeling really fast in the water during taper and generally just have more overall energy and excitement with championships right around the corner."

Kevin Markwardt, head coach of the men's swimming and diving team, said that at the end of the year, everyone expects to have their best time, and a successful taper is a key part of



Swimmers get ready to start a race Jan. 21 against Alfred University in the Athletics and Events Center. The men's and women's swimming teams are currently in taper in preparation for their championship meets Feb. 15–18. Tapering involves reduction of yardage.

FERNANDO FERRAZ/THE ITHACAN

achieving this.

"Generally, it's just a reduction in the work volume," Markwardt said. "You're doing a little more speed work, your strength routine is changing to a little bit more power, so it's tapering down, but it's also more on a one repetition—maximum type thing."

Markwardt said tapers are typically between two and four weeks long, depending on the length of the season and whether or not there has been an offseason.

"Our college season is usually the same length, so our taper is generally four weeks," he said.

The most important part of tapering is making sure the swimmers are getting enough sleep. Markwardt said that since training decreases in volume, athletes have more energy and tend to grow restless. During the beginning and middle

of a training season, Markwardt said, coaches also have to remind swimmers about the need for as much rest as possible.

"The thing you have to manage with them is to conserve their energy," he said. "They feel really good, so we talk to them about basic things about not walking around anymore than you have to. You have a lot of energy, but you want to conserve that energy."

Swimmers are generally good with their time management, Markwardt said, so it is especially important during taper for them to stay on top of their work.

"Normally, during the season, if they've got my work done, they've done practice, they just want to lay down and do nothing," he said. "But now, they've got a lot of energy, and they've got my work done, so now they want to do something, and no, no — you just rest."

During a taper, swimmers try to avoid changing very much in their daily lives. Athletes try to keep their routines as close to the same as possible because drastic changes in any type of routine can hurt their whole season's training process.

Competing well and racing fast are as much mental things as they are physical things. To achieve their best times, Hartswick said, swimmers need to be able to maintain a healthy mindset and a good training ritual.

"The only time taper isn't fun is when it doesn't pay off for you at championships," he said. "Besides that, the decreased volume of training, more rest, and better team morale is great."

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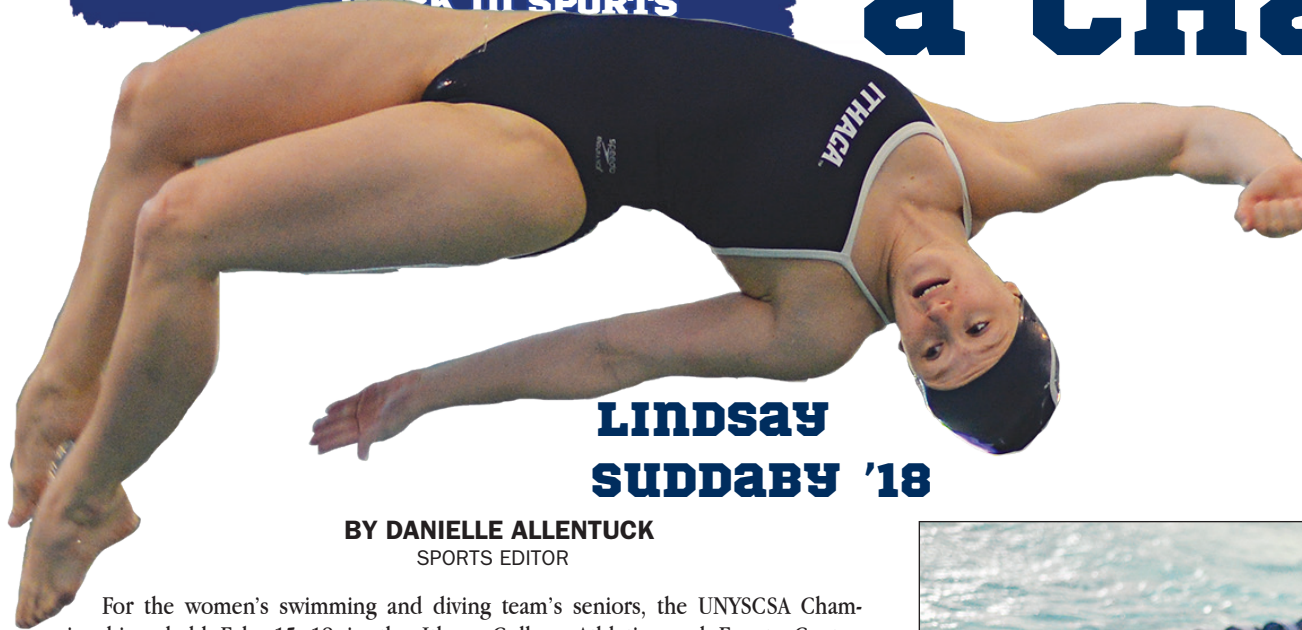
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# the Buzzer

THE BEST FROM THIS  
WEEK IN SPORTS

## CROWNING a CHAMPION



**LINDSAY  
SUDDABY '18**

BY DANIELLE ALLENTUCK  
SPORTS EDITOR

For the women's swimming and diving team's seniors, the UNYSCSA Championships, held Feb. 15–18 in the Ithaca College Athletics and Events Center, represent more than just the last meet of their careers. The Bombers are going for their fourth straight championship and seventh in eight years.

The Blue and Gold are currently ranked 17th in the nation. Their biggest threat will come from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, which is ranked 25th in the nation. The Bombers narrowly defeated RPI 132–111 Jan. 14 during the Henry Kumpf Invitational.

The team, which is 15–0 this season, will rely on its seniors to have a chance at obtaining the trophy again. Senior Grace Ayer is ranked first in the 200-yard backstroke and first in the 200-yard individual medley by over two seconds. Ayer is also ranked third in the 100-yard breaststroke, fifth in the 200-yard freestyle and seventh in the 100-yard freestyle.

The Bombers have four swimmers ranked in the top 10 in the 100-yard breaststroke, with senior Sam Reilly in second, Ayer in third, freshman Ashley Warren in ninth and sophomore Hannah Parbst in 10th.

Senior Lake Duffy will look to capture the sprinting events, as she is ranked first in the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle. On the distance side, seniors Brenna Dowd and Cat Tompkins are ranked fifth and 10th in the 1,650-yard freestyle.

In the diving well, the South Hill squad will try to pick up crucial points. It has the top four divers heading into the championship in both the 1-meter and 3-meter events. Senior Nickie Griesemer is ranked first in both heights, with juniors Katie Helly, Lindsey Suddaby and Alyssa Wishart right behind her in second, third and fourth places.



Senior Grace Ayer, who qualified for the NCAA Championship during her freshman season, is ranked first in the 200-yard backstroke and 200-yard individual medley heading into the meet.

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Swimmers dive at the start of a race Jan. 21 in the Athletics and Events Center. The women's swimming and diving team is attempting to win the UNYSCSA Championships for the fourth straight year and seventh in eight years Feb. 15–18. This will be the last meet of the season for a majority of the team, as only a few members will qualify for nationals.

FERNANDO FERRAZ/THE ITHACAN





Helen R. plays the guitar on The Commons during the festival. Music plays a major role in Ithaca's downtown festivals — at the Chili Cook-off, Chili Idol Karaoke was held at the Bernie Milton Pavilion.

ANDREW TREVES/THE ITHACAN



Chili samples from Luna Inspired Street Foods, last year's People's Choice Best Chili winner, included meat and vegetarian options.

ANDREW TREVES/THE ITHACAN

## BEAT THE HEAT

On Feb. 11, students and residents made their way to The Commons for Ithaca's 19th Annual Great Downtown Chili Cook-off, where over 30 restaurants competed



Eight-year-old Ben Friedman plays the trumpet at the Chili Cook-off. Many musicians performed at the festival, adding to the lively atmosphere.

ANDREW TREVES/THE ITHACAN



From left, executive chef Bryan Keller and sous-chef Dan Galusha from the recently opened Monks on the Commons restaurant prepare their chili. Keller won last year's Chili Cook-off.

ANDREW TREVES/THE ITHACAN



The trophy for People's Choice Best Chili went to the chefs from Monks on the Commons. They also won Best Presentation, which was decided by popular vote.

ANDREW TREVES/THE ITHACAN