

## Cuts have little effect on admissions

BY SYD PIERRE

The Academic Program Prioritization (APP) at Ithaca College has resulted in the elimination of 116 full-time equivalent faculty positions along with other departments, programs and majors. Some prospective students have concerns about the effects of the cuts, while others feel the cuts will not have an impact on their futures at the college.

Andrew Herrick, a senior at Mechanicville High School in Mechanicville, New York, said he was worried about the example the college is setting.

"I'm just concerned, mostly about the fact that if they can cut faculty now from whatever programs that they choose [and] even though it might not be affecting me specifically right now, if they established as a precedent that they can do this, in the future, they may choose to cut faculty where it does affect me," Herrick said.

Herrick, who plans to double major in music education and euphonium performance, said



Nathan Kristiansson, a high school student from St. Paul, Minnesota, walks around Ithaca College's campus with his family April 5. The college is discouraging visitors from coming to campus.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

that while the college was his first choice and he committed in February, he spent time considering other options after learning about the faculty and program cuts.

"I already applied early decision," Herrick said. "So, what does that leave me the opportunity

to do? So, it kind of puts me in a position where I'm kind of stuck, for lack of a better word. But I will add, at the end of the day, I think I made the right decision to commit."

Laurie Koehler, vice president for marketing and enrollment

strategy, said the college is just over 3.5% ahead of the number of applications submitted compared to near the end of last year. She said official application numbers could be released near the end of

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## IC to require students to be vaccinated

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

New York state has named Ithaca College, Cornell University and Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3) as COVID-19 vaccination sites. Ithaca College is also requiring vaccinations for students next fall.

Currently, it is unknown whether Ithaca College will receive a shipment of vaccines to distribute to students, faculty and staff. Tompkins County spokesperson Dominick Reccio said that the county has not received information on how to move forward with additional vaccine sites at the colleges. It is also unknown if the colleges are able to administer the vaccine to the public beyond their campus communities.

Christina Moylan, director of public health emergency preparedness, said that the college does have a plan to set up a vaccination clinic on campus but that it is waiting for more information and guidance from the state. She said the college has made a request for vaccines, but has not been informed if the vaccines will be provided.

"We've put into place the steps to be able to provide the vaccine or to do our own vaccine clinic on campus," Moylan said.

Moylan also said it would be beneficial for the college to have the Johnson & Johnson one-shot vaccine.

President Shirley M. Collado said in an email to the campus community April 7 that



Ithaca College has been named a COVID-19 vaccination site by New York state. The college is also requiring returning students be vaccinated for COVID-19 for the Fall 2021.

COURTESY OF BRANDON GALIONE

students will be required to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 to return to campus for Fall 2021.

Religious and medical exemptions for the vaccine will be honored, Collado said.

"I am announcing this intention in a moment marked by the widespread rollout of vaccination and promising data regarding its efficacy," she said.

Collado said that with most of the campus community being vaccinated, the risk of spreading COVID-19 among the campus is diminished.

Collado said students should also expect

a majority of their classes to be in person and classes will not be offered in the hybrid format. A limited amount of classes will be offered completely online. Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced March 29 that vaccine eligibility would open to New York residents ages 16 and up starting April 6.

Students can make vaccine appointments through New York state at a state vaccination site or put their names on the Tompkins County Vaccine Registry to be notified of available appointments.

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## Community mourns loss

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

Members of the Ithaca College community gathered March 31 to honor junior Abby Paquet, who died unexpectedly March 30.

Approximately 100 community members attended the service over Zoom. Paquet was majoring in applied psychology in the School of Humanities and Sciences. During her time at the college, she was the treasurer for the college's Habitat for Humanity chapter, a student employee for Information Technology, a Dean's List student and an inductee of the Oracle Honor Society. Hierald Osorto, director of the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, said the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way community members gather to grieve and remember.

"As we gather across screens and locations, this space amplifies our heartbreak," Osorto said. "In the midst of this grief, feel the love and kindness that Abby radiated. And even at a distance this community's heart will hold you and keep on beating with you."

Osorto shared part of a poem, "Blessing for the Brokenhearted," by Jan Richardson.

President Shirley M. Collado thanked the faculty and staff members who supported Paquet's growth at the college. Collado said she appreciated the college community for being there for each other and Paquet's family during this difficult time. She said she wants the campus community to continue moving forward and never take a connection with a person for granted.

"You never get used to losing a student, and I've been doing this work for over 20 years, and it never ever gets easy," Collado said.

La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, asked the attendees to join her in prayer to honor Paquet's life.

Leigh Ann Vaughn, professor in the Department of Psychology, supervises the Social and Personality research team Paquet was on and spoke on behalf of the Department of Psychology. Vaughn said Paquet was enthusiastic about psychology and wanted to get her Ph.D. in psychology. Vaughn said Paquet was interested in people's well-being and how they responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Abby was brilliant and enthusiastic, and her teammates, many of whom are here right now, talk about how she always had positive

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### TENNIS PLAYERS REUNITE ON COLLEGE COURT

# New public safety reforms passed

BY CHRIS TOLVE

Roughly nine months after the killing of George Floyd, the Tompkins County Legislature and the Ithaca Common Council each voted to approve a set of resolutions seeking to reform local law enforcement March 30 and 31, respectively.

The resolutions, drafted by the Reimagining Public Safety Collaborative, were in response to Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s executive order in June directing municipalities with police forces to develop a plan to address community engagement and racial bias by April 1.

The collaborative was a joint initiative by Tompkins County, the City of Ithaca and the Center for Policing Equity (CPE), a non-profit that collects data on police bias. The collaborative’s 98-page draft report was publicly released Feb. 22, after which it was amended by lawmakers, and the community

was invited to provide feedback.

One of the reforms adopted is to create a Department of Public Safety (DPS), initially named the Department of Community Solutions and Public Safety, which would be led by a civilian and eventually replace the Ithaca Police Department (IPD).

It will include a new team of unarmed first responders for certain nonviolent calls while maintaining its armed police officers.

Paula Ioanide, professor in Ithaca College’s Center for the Study of Culture, Race and Ethnicity (CSCRE), participated in one of five working groups that helped compose the draft report.

“I think the presence of unarmed officers will allow for the building of relationships with the community that were not possible before when the focus was only on enforcement and not on actually knowing people,” she said.

At the county’s meeting March



The Tompkins County Legislature and the Ithaca Common Council voted to approve resolutions that will reform local law enforcement. The Reimagining Public Safety Collaborative created the resolutions.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

30, the legislature passed an amendment to remove the resolution transferring ownership of the SWAT Mobile Command Vehicle from the IPD to the county’s Department of Emergency Response.

Instead, the legislature resolved to analyze the usefulness of the vehicle.

Dominick Recckio, communications director for Tompkins County, said the amendment was introduced

because the county voted on its resolutions one day prior to the city.

“The county decided that it wanted to know what the city was planning on doing with it first before it made further plans,” he said. “Also, there’s some disagreement on how it should be made available for police officers, so I think the city wanted to take the first stab at deciding what actions would happen with it before the county followed

through with its full plan.”

Josh Young, deputy senior vice president of Justice Initiatives for the CPE, said community input shaped the reforms from the summer through March.

“Part of the process was doing focus groups with very specific vulnerable communities,” he said.

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### Inside Ithaca: Buffalo Street Books

In its 10th year as a community-owned bookstore, Buffalo Street Books continues to be involved in the Ithaca community.



### “Alien” (1979)

Co-hosts Sydney Brumfield and Rachael Weinberg continue their science fiction miniseries by discussing the 1979 film “Alien.”



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# Park to have new admission option

BY SYD PIERRE

In addition to the elimination of 116 full-time equivalent faculty positions, the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee (APPIC) is also recommending the creation of more flexibility for curricula and admissions at Ithaca College, including adding a new admission process specific to the Roy. H Park School of Communications.

Additional recommendations include: Create a streamlined undergraduate application process, increase flexibility of the curriculum, make the faculty workload more equitable, revise the course schedule, establish centralized management of graduate programs and reevaluate course caps.

The draft recommends the creation of Park Pathways in the Park School based on faculty feedback during the APP process. Students accepted into the Park School who choose not to declare a major would be exposed to different departments and declare a major before starting their third semester.

Jack Powers, interim dean of the Roy. H. Park School of Communications, said there is general support among the Park School faculty for the Park Pathways program.

“We imagine this as an additional choice for students, not



The Roy H. Park School of Communications will soon have Park Pathways as a new program option. The program will allow freshmen to explore departments before declaring a major.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

one that will take away the ability of an accepted student to declare a major before arriving,” Powers said via email.

Patricia Zimmerman, professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, said the idea came from an unofficial group of approximately 15 faculty within the Park School called the Large Lecture Convening group.

She said the group has been discussing the idea of Park Pathways for four to five years.

“In the field of communications, we deal with many first-year students, and we were trying to figure out a way to both

serve the discipline and address students’ inquisitive natures to explore more widely,” she said.

Zimmerman said the group of faculty looked at other programs at the college when discussing the idea, specifically the Pre-Health Professions Program in the School of Health Sciences and Human Performance (HSHP). The HSHP Pre-Health Professions Program allows students to gain exposure to different career paths and majors within HSHP. “The Shape of the College” document stated that applications to the Pre-Health Professions Program increased by 62% this year.

The Exploratory Program allows students to try programs in all of the college’s five schools for up to four semesters. According to the document, this program saw a 25% increase in applications this year.

Chrissy Guest, associate professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, said she thinks the program will create more freedom and academic success for students.

“This needed to be something that we were doing with students far earlier,” Guest said.

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# Project tracks COVID strains

BY MAKAYLA CAROZZOLO

An Ithaca College professor helped create a project that tracks the spread of COVID-19 variants and when they were first detected in countries around the world.

Brooks Miner, assistant professor in the Department of Biology, helped create the Covid Variant Tracking Project. Miner is working on this project with Mridul Thomas, ecologist in the Department F-A. Forel for Environmental and Aquatic Sciences at the University of Geneva in Switzerland. The project currently tracks the initial date of detection of the U.K., South Africa and Brazil variants in the countries they have been found in.

Miner said he initially launched the project with a single variant map Dec. 29, 2020. He said he used winter break to develop an interactive map of the locations of COVID-19 variants around the world. He said Thomas joined him shortly after the first map. They released an updated version of the data dashboard with the three variant tracking maps Jan. 20.

Miner said these three variants are being tracked because he finds them concerning. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has classified these three variants as “variants of concern” in the United States.

Miner said he would like to eventually change the scale on the maps from date of detection to prevalence and add other variants as they become more prominent. He said he and Thomas want to be cautious in adding new variants to the tracker and make sure there is scientific consensus before doing so. The CDC has labeled the New York City variant a “variant of interest” and the California variant a “variant of concern.”

Miner said he started this project to do something beneficial over winter break. He started working with Tableau, a visual data analysis platform, in summer 2020 and put his practices to use with this project. He said there was not an organized program of genomic surveillance — checking a randomly selected proportion of people for variants — at the national level in the United States.

Since Miner and Thomas are both in the ecology field, they said they are able to analyze the data and construct it in a way that is accessible to the public.

“It’s not something that would mean that I would make any strong claims of expertise, but it means that I’m able to evaluate and identify flaws in reasoning,” Thomas said.

The Tompkins County Health Department (TCHD) released a health alert March 22, reporting three COVID-19 variants found in the sequenced positive cases of Tompkins County residents. These include the U.K., New York City and Southern California variants.

Christina Moylan, director of public health emergency preparedness, said Ithaca College has not been notified by the TCHD or the state that one of these variants was found in the college’s samples. She said the college does not have a specific plan regarding these three variants.

Moylan said there would not be a different approach to isolation and quarantining, but the contact tracing process would go to a heightened level.

She said the detection of these three variants in Tompkins County serves as a reminder to the campus community about traveling, testing, wearing masks, social distancing and following all of the recommended public health practices.

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# Seniors eager for in-person graduation

BY ASHLEY STALNECKER  
AND ALEXIS MANORE

After a year of isolation and remote and hybrid instruction, Ithaca College seniors will be able to walk across the stage and accept their diplomas at an in-person commencement ceremony.

In a March 25 announcement, the college stated that the Commencement ceremony for the Class of 2021 will be held May 21 for graduate students and May 23 for undergraduates in the Glazer Arena at the Athletics and Events Center. Students with scheduled graduation dates from October 2020 through and including December 2021 are eligible to participate in the May 2021 events. Undergraduate students will be able to walk across the stage at the arena in full graduation regalia, will have their names called and will receive their diploma covers and class medallions. There will also be virtual options.

In an April 2 statement, the college announced that Liz Tigelaar ’98 will give the main address at the ceremony. Tigelaar is an Emmy-nominated television producer, creator and showrunner.

Senior Ali Kelley, senior class president, has been chosen to be the student speaker. This year, the student speaker was selected by a panel composed of seniors Carley Teachout, Jenni D’Urso, Lily Martino, Jasmine Morrow and Bianca Summerville.

“I knew that I wanted to apply to be the speaker because I felt like I had a lot of experience with my peers and could speak



The Class of 2021 will be able to participate in an in-person Commencement ceremony in the Glazer Arena at the Athletics and Events Center despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

on our past four years together,” Kelley said via email.

Families and friends of graduates will not be able to attend the in-person ceremony for the Class of 2021 and will have to watch it through a livestream instead. This has caused some students to feel upset or disappointed.

Senior Izzy Callen said she is glad to have graduation in person. However, the exclusion of outside guests makes it difficult to celebrate with her parents in Washington.

“I feel like graduation’s more for the parents and for other people to see you rather than for us to celebrate,” Callen said.

Rather than grouping the graduates

by school, students will be able to sign up to graduate with groups of friends or classmates. Seniors must RSVP to the event by responding to an email sent from mydegree@ithaca.edu by April 14.

After a year of disappointments, senior Aidan Glendon said the in-person celebration is a source of joy.

“This whole situation has really stunk, but it’s the end of it,” Glendon said. “We get to walk across the stage. I’ll be really happy.”

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May, while enrollment numbers for Fall 2021 could be released late in the summer.

“We anticipate students will take more time than usual with their decisions, and there could also be a lot of wait list activity at colleges with stronger market positions that may impact our numbers,” Koehler said via email.

Koehler said the application deadline for regular decision has been extended to May 1.

The deadline to commit to the college was extended from May 1 to June 1 in 2020.

Nicole Eversley Bradwell, executive director of admission, said the college has communicated its plans for phasing out programs that will be cut with the students who are currently in the applicant pool for those programs. The Class of 2025 will be the final class admitted to programs that are slated to be cut.

“People had some follow-up questions, like, ‘Will this impact my experience?’” she said. “But we haven’t heard people angered by that. . . . These are things that happen all the time.”

Emma Rubenstein, a senior at Yorktown High School in Yorktown Heights, New York, said she committed to the college in January as a Communication Management and Design major.

She said she applied to the college early action, and, because her major was not being affected, she was not worried about the



From left, high school senior Garrett Neuschatz and his mother Natalie stand outside the Roy H. Park School of Communications. They did not know about the Academic Program Prioritization.

ABBEY LONDON/THE ITHACAN

impacts of the APP process. She said that if the CMD major was getting cut, she would still stay at the college.

“If they did cut it, yeah, I would probably be a little upset,” she said.

Sena Namkung, a senior at Tappan Zee High School in Orangeburg, New York, has been accepted to the college and is waiting to commit until she receives her financial aid package.

She said she has concerns about the projected student population of 5,000 — a recommendation in the final draft.

“Will I have the resources that I believed I would have before, as I go into the college?” Namkung asked. “Because there’s such a high volume of cuts, that has been an area of concern for me.”

Hannah Hughes, a senior at Ballston Spa High School in Ballston Spa, New York, applied to the college and was accepted but decided to attend Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts, instead.

“It’s definitely not something that made me want to choose Ithaca as a school,” Hughes said. “But I wasn’t fully aware of it at my time of acceptance or necessarily 100% aware of it when I was trying to pick a school.”

Jenny Rickard, president and CEO of the Common App, said in a March 9 letter that Common App applications increased in 2020–21 compared to 2019–20.

The college had 12,906 first-time freshman applicants in 2020. Out of these applicants, 9,767 were accepted, and 985

students enrolled in Fall 2020, according to 2020–21 Facts in Brief. The college had a 75.7% acceptance rate — the highest since 2009.

Koehler said the college is anticipating a similar admissions rate for Fall 2021 and is working on outreach.

The yield rate — the amount of accepted students who enrolled — for Fall 2020 was 10.1%, the lowest it has been in recent years.

The Office of Admission has discouraged prospective students and their families from visiting the campus.

The college stated in its “Return to Campus” plan that the campus is open only to students, faculty and staff.

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# Dance marathon to be held virtually this year

BY ALEXIS MANORE

In December 2019, Ithaca College BomberTHON held its first fundraiser by holding a six-hour dance marathon. Although the event will be held virtually this year, the main focus — raising money for the Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital in Syracuse, New York — has stayed the same.

BomberTHON is a student-run organization that works to raise money for children with cancer. This year, instead of holding an in-person dance marathon, BomberTHON is holding virtual events from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 10, which includes six hours of activities and fundraising. Students must register on the BomberTHON website to attend the events.

The event will begin with a morale dance, which will take place every hour, trivia and cause connection — videos of children speaking about their experiences at Miracle Network Hospitals. During the second hour, which has a beach party theme, there will be a rubber ducky derby and a Miracle Kid talent show. Students will donate to sponsor a rubber duck, which will be floated in the Kelsey Partridge Bird Natatorium, said senior Laura Heppes, executive director of BomberTHON. The top three winners will receive a cash prize, Heppes said.

There will be a fundraising power hour and a live performance from Chris Washburn, a local Ithaca DJ, during the third hour, which is glow-in-the-dark themed. Lunch and a TikTok competition sponsored by Ithaca Hummus will occur in the fourth hour. During the fifth hour, there will be Zumba led by second-year graduate student Jaleel Green, group fitness instructor, and a build-a-buddy event.

The build-a-buddy event consists of the



From left, juniors Ellie McNally and sophomore Ruth Hernandez dance in the BomberTHON on Dec. 7, 2019, to raise money for a children’s hospital in Syracuse.

REED FREEMAN/THE ITHACAN

top 100 fundraisers assembling a stuffed animal said senior Thomas Edson, director of operations for BomberTHON.

The event will end after the sixth hour, which will include a special celebrity shout-out and the reveal of the total amount of money that has been raised.

Most of these events will take place over Zoom or will be livestreamed. Edson said there will be prerecorded performances from student organizations like Premium Blend, Pitch Please and IC Defy.

Edson said the organization pushed the dance marathon back to the spring in hopes of holding some in-person events, but by December 2020, it became clear that the event would have to be held online.

“We’ve kind of had to drop the idea of a dance marathon, in a way,” he said. “Sitting there on Zoom playing music, waiting for people to dance seems painfully awkward.”

Heppes said that changing the dance marathon to a virtual event took lots of planning.

“We had to think about it a little differently,” she said. “A huge part of the dance marathon experience is getting to be in person and seeing the final fundraising total with everyone.”

Junior Alexa Bastardi, service chair for Gamma Delta Pi (GDPi), a social service sorority unaffiliated with any larger branch of GDPi or Ithaca College, said that in 2019, the dance marathon was one of the sorority’s main events.

“We can’t really do as many in-person service events than we usually do this semester, so I wanted to find an online event that everyone can get involved in,” she said. “So we decided to do BomberTHON.”

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FROM MEMORIAL, PAGE 1

energy and truly treated everyone kindly,” Vaughn said.

She said Paquet began her research quickly despite being online last semester. Vaughn had asked Paquet to work on research over the summer to submit to professional journals.

“She could see both the big picture and where the details fit in, and she did this to a degree remarkable for someone only in their first semester of [a research] team,” Vaughn said. “She made other people on team feel so welcome, and Abby made my team better by being on it.”

Robyn Leary, student services manager for Information Technology, was Paquet’s supervisor in Information Technology. Leary said it was uplifting to see so many people coming together at the memorial. She met Paquet in 2019 when Paquet began working in IT.

Leary said Paquet went above and beyond in her work and was always eager to learn more.

“It was immediately apparent that Abby brought kindness and compassion to every person she interacted with,” Leary said. “Whether it’s a friend, a colleague in IT or a client that she served through her roles with us, she always greeted everybody with a warm smile and friendliness.”

David Harker, director of the Center for Civic Engagement and adviser for the college’s chapter of Habitat for Humanity, said Paquet was passionate and committed to her work, especially through Habitat for Humanity.

“She cared deeply about the world around her and how she could make a positive impact on others,” Harker said. “She was incredibly thoughtful, would take time to think things through and her comments and replies would always have great depth and authenticity.”

Harker said that in the Honors Civic Engagement Seminar, Paquet worked on a group project that dealt with mental health, reducing stigma of mental illnesses and the need to come together as a community.

Laurie Kennedy, business teacher and internship coordinator at Williamsville South High School, where Paquet attended, said she spent a lot of time with Paquet during her junior and senior years of high school.

Kennedy said Paquet took on a lot of challenges throughout high school and helped to organize different events through clubs she was involved in.

Osorto invited attendees to write messages in the chat box about Paquet. There were approximately 50 messages from people expressing love and appreciation for Paquet.

Osorto thanked attendees for sharing memories of how she touched many members of the campus community. Osorto closed the memorial by drawing attendee’s attention to a candle.

“As we extinguish this candle, let us remember that the light has not truly left us, it’s only changed,” Osorto said.

Support services for students are available through the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services at 607-274-3136.

Students needing immediate assistance should contact the Office of Public Safety at 607-274-3333 or the on-duty staff for the Office of Residential Life. Faculty and staff can access the counseling services of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) by calling 1-800-327-2255.

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# Faculty Council discusses workloads

# Awards given to journalists

**BY ALYSHIA KORBA**

The Ithaca College Faculty Council discussed workload requirements for non-tenure eligible notice (NTEN) faculty positions and changes to the Faculty Handbook at its April 6 meeting.

The council spoke with La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, about possible changes in the workload for NTEN faculty as part of the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process. Cornish said one of the problems with the NTEN requirements currently is that each of the five schools at the college have different expectations for NTEN faculty. The Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee (AP-PIC) is recommending that all NTEN faculty at the college have a consistent 24-credit instructional workload, according to the “The Shape of the College” document. Currently, this workload ranges from 21 to 24 credits.

Diane Birr, professor in the Department of Music Performance, said she thinks NTEN faculty should not be required to have a 24-credit workload if they are looking to do professional or scholarship work while teaching.

“For faculty to have their load completely teaching and not have the opportunity to expand their horizons, either by performing or doing research or staying current, ... I wouldn’t want to see somebody teaching at 24 and have no



The Ithaca College Faculty Council talks at a meeting Sept. 5, 2017. The council discussed changes to workload requirements for non-tenure eligible notice faculty members at its April 6 meeting.

NICK BAHAMONDE/THE ITHACAN

opportunity or no wiggle room, nothing in their load that would allow them to do that type of activity,” she said.

Aaron Witek, assistant professor in the Department of Music Performance, said he believes requiring a 24-credit instructional load will deter candidates from NTEN positions.

“We want to treat our NTENs like they’re tenure faculty members,” Witek said. “I think that’s important.”

Currently, full-time teaching loads for tenure-eligible and tenured faculty range from 18 to 21

credit hours. The APPIC recommends these faculty teach 20 or 21 credit hours.

The council also discussed changes to the Faculty Handbook, which contains policies and procedures regarding faculty employment. The Bias Review Committee, which was created to make the Faculty Handbook inclusive of all faculty, has recommended several changes be made to the Faculty Handbook. Examples of recommended changes include changing instances of “him/her” to “them,” Jason Freitag, associate professor in the

Department of History, said. Cory Young, associate professor in the Department of Strategic Communications, director of the Honors Program and chair of the Faculty Handbook Amendment Committee, spoke with the council about the changes. A survey will be sent to Faculty Council members to vote on the changes.

McNamara also asked Cornish about what the second phase of the APP entails. Cornish said this will be addressed at the All-Faculty Meeting on April 15.

**CONTACT ALYSHIA KORBA**  
AKORBA@ITHACA.EDU

The Park Center for Independent Media (PCIM) announced the recipients of the 13th annual Izzy Award on April 2.

This year, the award will be presented to one publication, Truthout, and two journalists, Liliana Segura and Tim Schwab. The award highlights achievements in independent media and is given in honor of I.F. “Izzy” Stone, a politically radical American investigative journalist in the 20th century.

Truthout is an independent, nonprofit news organization that reports on social justice issues. Throughout 2020, Truthout produced a series called “Despair and Disparity: The Uneven Burdens of COVID-19,” which is composed of 250 articles about the political, economic, environmental and racial aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Through the year of social distancing, Truthout proved that journalists need not be distant from the people hardest hit by the pandemic, including prisoners and ICE detainees,” the Izzy Award judges said in a statement.

Liliana Segura is a senior reporter at The Intercept. In 2020, Segura reported that former U.S. President Donald Trump’s administration had carried-out federal executions throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tim Schwab exposed the operations at the Gates Foundation in a three-part series published by The Nation and raised questions about the power that billionaires have surrounding public policy.

The Izzy Award ceremony will be presented virtually at the end of April.

**CONTACT ALEXIS MANORE**  
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# THE FACES OF AUSTERITY

**BY HARRIET MALINOWITZ**



## LECTURER QUESTIONS LABOR EQUITY AT IC

James Miranda, lecturer in the Department of Writing, is 39 and has taught at Ithaca College for four years. He has a Ph.D. in English from Ohio University in a combination of rhetoric, composition, creative writing and literary studies.

While teaching multiple courses at the college and at SUNY Cortland and co-raising two small children, he had taken on a wide array of other roles. He is chair of the Contingent Faculty Union. He was the Contingent Faculty Representative on the Faculty Development Committee of the Center for Faculty Excellence (CFE) and worked with the CFE’s Anti-Racism Institute. Miranda also sat on the Steering Committee for Academic Writing in the writing department, served on the Strategic Plan’s Campus Climate Group and taught an Ithaca Seminar called “Weaving Sound: The Intersection of Writing and Music.” He teaches a magazine writing course every summer in the Ithaca Young Writers Institute, a program for high schoolers which can be a segue into enrolling at the college.

Most recently, incited by the Academic Program Prioritization process, he joined the Executive Committee for the college’s recently started American Association of University Professors (AAUP) chapter as a member-at-large.

He said that the courses he teaches at SUNY Cortland do not pay very much and that part of his salary mostly went toward childcare. Now, it will be his primary source of income.

Miranda’s wife, Lauren Goldberg, is executive director

for Hillel at Ithaca College, which ties the family to the Ithaca area. He loves fishing with his daughter, which he said is “a pandemic-friendly activity.” He said fishing also allows him to be “in a place where even outside the college [he] can talk about the world of reading, writing and ideas.”

“I’ll miss my students and colleagues here,” he said. “So much of this school is being cast away without considering the ripple effects.”

He said he wants to work to make higher education more equitable.

“As union chair, I’m saddened that a union that was just recognized in 2017 is being so clearly decimated by this administration,” Miranda said. “I’m sorry that they seem to see ‘diversity, equity, inclusion’ initiatives to be mutually exclusive of labor equity issues.”



## A KAFKAESQUE EXPERIENCE

Paul Hansom, assistant professor in the Department of English, is the self-described “only Brit in the English department.” He taught full-time as a non-tenure eligible (NTEN) at Ithaca College for 10 years on the heels of several one-year appointments.

Hansom, 54, came to the United States in 1989 to obtain a Ph.D. in English at the University of Southern California (USC). He also has a Masters in American Studies from the University of Nottingham in the U.K. and an MFA in fiction and drama

from USC. “I’m wickedly qualified,” he grinned.

He moved to Ithaca in 2005 as a trailing spouse — his wife now has tenure in the Department of English at Ithaca College. Hansom became a U.S. citizen in 2020.

“I was looking forward to Social Security,” he said.

He has been an arts writer at the Ithaca Times and a DJ at the Cayuga Radio Network. Trained as an actor in Los Angeles, he worked for the Ithaca Shakespeare Company and has starred in many student films — frequently in demand “due to my British accent,” he said.

Hansom has published four books and other articles on cultural theory and literary modernism. He has taught courses about American literature, science fiction, environmental literature and contemporary American and European drama.

He has a 13-year-old daughter who bears the stressors of impending parental unemployment.

“Luckily, because of my wife, we’re not thrust into being a no-income family,” he said.

With one final year of his contract, Hansom called his situation, “a slow-motion redundancy, increasingly depressing as I move through time, leaving me occasionally bewildered about how to think about what my next step will be. I’m very angry at being booted out, but I’m also numb.”

One of the things he will miss the most is the vibrant intellectual culture he has found among his colleagues. He said he loved the daily “popping in and out of each other’s office to shoot the breeze and recommend books.”

Anticipating the loss of that community and of his relationships with his students “feels like a slow-motion guillotine,” he said. “It’s like something out of a Kafka novel.”

*This series aims to put human faces on the faculty members who have been notified of their termination as a result of the Academic Program Prioritization process. Faculty members interested in sharing their stories can reach out to Harriet Malinowitz, lecturer in the Department of Writing, at bmalinowitz@ithaca.edu.*

COLLEGE BRIEFS

The Ithacan receives recognition from journalism associations

Ithaca College's student newspaper, *The Ithacan*, received multiple awards recently from professional journalism institutions.

*The Ithacan* was named a Gold Medalist for the 2019–20 academic year in the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's (CSPA) annual college publication critique. Sophia Adamucci '20 was the editor in chief and Zoë Freer-Hessler '20 was the managing editor. Judges evaluated issues of the paper and the website. The CSPA also scored *The Ithacan* at 985 out of 1,000 points on the critique scale which is the highest score the paper has received in the past decade. *The Ithacan* was also awarded All Columbia Honors which is a citation for special merit in all three critique categories. The categories were Essentials, Verbal and Visual. The publication was in the hybrid category, meaning it is a print publication that provides live coverage on its website in between print editions. *The Ithacan* also received the Silver Crown from the CSPA in March, which is different than the organization's critique.

The Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) named *The Ithacan* as a finalist "in one or more categories" in this year's Region 1 (Northeast Region) Mark of Excellence Awards. The winners will be announced at this year's SPJ Virtual Regional Conferences April 10 and April 14–15. The awards are for the 2020 calendar year. Adamucci was editor in chief for Spring 2020 and senior Madison Fernandez was editor in chief for Fall 2020.

Multiple IC departments to host screening events on docuseries

The Ithaca College Sexual Violence Prevention Committee is hosting a virtual event series to screen and discuss a docuseries on human rights.

The docu-series is called "Fundamental" and was created by the Global Fund for Women. The event is co-hosted by the Tompkins County Advocacy Center, the Center for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Social Change (IDEAS), the BOLD Women's

Leadership Network, the LGBT Center, the Office of International Programs, the Office of Student Engagement, the Office of Public Safety, the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, the Women's Mentoring Network, the Department of Politics and the Department of Psychology.

The series will allow students, faculty and staff to reflect on and discuss the films and how they relate to their own lives. Each event will screen one episode of the series and will be followed by a guided discussion.

All events are hosted at noon. Episode one, "Rights not Roses (Pakistan)," is April 6. Episode two, "Defenders of Justice (Brazil)," is April 8. Episode three, "Living Out Loud (Georgia)," is April 13. Episode four "Girls at the Heart of It (Kenya)," is April 15. Episode five, "Rising Power (United States)," is April 20.

Faculty members to share ideas for celebrating student employees

The Experiential Learning Alliance Student Employment Enhancement (SEE) Committee is inviting faculty and staff who work with student employees to an event April 9 to celebrate student employees.

The event is called "SUPERvision: Celebrating Student Employees!" Student Employee Appreciation Week is being held April 12–16, and this event is an opportunity for supervisors to learn and share ideas on how to show appreciation for student employees.

Industry professionals to discuss esports careers with students

The Park Roundtable series is hosting an event at 6 p.m. April 8 to discuss future careers in esports and gaming.

The event will be to discuss the growing esports industry, what kinds of jobs are available and how to prepare for a career in the esports and gaming field. The event features Jenn Mancini, director of client strategy at Twitch and the co-founder of Womxn in Gaming, an informal club for women in esports; Nathan Lindberg, senior director of Global Sponsorships and regional vice president for the East at Twitch; Justin Joseph, Emmy Award-winning



**Students deck out doors for the holiday**

From left, juniors Morgan Mullen, Grace Ziehnert and Allison Egan decorate their Circle Apartment's door for the Deck Your Door event April 3. A viewing of the doors was held from 2–4 p.m. April 3 and voting was online and in person.

MIKAYLA ELWELL/THE ITHACAN

creative director with over 20 years of experience in production, writing and directing for major entertainment outlets like HBO, GoPro, CNBC and the NFL Network; and Brian Terwilliger, vice president of Programming and Creative Strategy for the relaunching of G4. Students can register at <https://bit.ly/3fOLIGr>.

**Faculty and staff members invited to take survey about career advice**

Faculty and staff members are invited to participate in a survey about the knowledge and competencies used when giving career advice to students.

The survey is part of a project run by Arielle Newman, a master's in higher education student at Montclair State University in Montclair, New Jersey. Questions can be directed to Newman or her project adviser, Cheryl Rotylano, director of Career Services.

The survey's purpose is to understand the support that faculty and staff need and want to help students in their career development. Questions will be about conversations with students related to career development.

The survey can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/3fET3D4>.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM MARCH 22 TO MARCH 28

**MARCH 22**

**CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 4TH DEGREE**  
LOCATION: East Tower  
SUMMARY: Environmental Health and Safety reported an unknown person damaged a ceiling tile. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded.

**V&T LEAVING SCENE OF ACCIDENT**  
LOCATION: Circle Lot 6  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown vehicle damaged a parked vehicle and left the scene. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

**MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT/PROPERTY DAMAGE**  
LOCATION: O-Lot  
SUMMARY: A caller reported a two-car property damage motor vehicle accident. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded.

**MEDICAL ASSIST/PSYCHOLOGICAL**  
LOCATION: Tallcott Hall  
SUMMARY: A caller reported third-hand information that a known person made threats to harm themselves. The officer reported the person was located and was not a threat to themselves or others. Master Patrol Officer Jon Elmore responded.

**MARCH 23**

**SCC HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/ENDANGERING**  
LOCATION: Circle Apartments  
SUMMARY: A caller reported an odor

of natural gas. The officer determined the odor was from a person spray painting. The person declined medical attention. The officer referred one person for creating a safety hazard to Student Conduct. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

**CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 4TH DEGREE**  
LOCATION: J-Lot  
SUMMARY: A caller reported an unknown person damaged a parked vehicle. Patrol Officer Joe Oppert responded.

**MARCH 24**

**SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE**  
LOCATION: C-Lot  
SUMMARY: A caller reported people sitting inside a running vehicle. The officer reported people sitting in vehicle, no violations observed. Master Patrol Officer John Elmore responded.

**SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE**  
LOCATION: All Other  
SUMMARY: A caller reported an unknown person called and was attempting to solicit information. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

**LARCENY 4TH DEGREE VIA EXTORTION**  
LOCATION: West Tower  
SUMMARY: A caller reported third-hand information that a person was attempting to extort money from another person. Patrol Officer

John Norman responded.

**MARCH 25**

**SUSPICIOUS LETTER/EMAIL/CORRESPONDENCE**  
LOCATION: Unknown Location  
SUMMARY: A caller reported an unknown person sent an email requesting money be sent to a third party. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded.

**HARASSMENT 2ND DEGREE**  
LOCATION: Lyon Hall  
SUMMARY: A caller reported being harassed through social media by an unknown person. Patrol Officer John Norman responded.

**MARCH 26**

**V&T LICENSE VIOLATIONS (ALL)**  
LOCATION: Office of Public Safety  
SUMMARY: A person found a wallet and turned it over to Public Safety. The officer determined the wallet contained fictitious licenses. Patrol Officer Shawn Lansing responded.

**SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE**  
LOCATION: Garden Apartments  
SUMMARY: A caller reported two people near the building card readers for no perceived purpose. The officer determined people were Student Auxiliary Safety Patrol members and were checking the buildings. Master Patrol Officer Waylon DeGraw responded.

**CHANGE IN THE CASE STATUS**  
LOCATION: Office of Public Safety  
SUMMARY: The officer reported a person was interviewed regarding the possession of a fictitious license and was referred to Student Conduct. Patrol Officer Shawn Lansing responded.

**UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA**  
LOCATION: Hilliard Hall  
SUMMARY: A caller reported a person with marijuana paraphernalia. The officer referred two people to Student Conduct for unlawful possession of marijuana. Patrol Officer John Norman responded.

**MARCH 27**

**SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE**  
LOCATION: Academic Quad  
SUMMARY: A caller reported third-hand information that a person observed a homeless person with a sign. The officer determined that the person had observed a life-sized sculpture of a person on display to bring awareness to homelessness. Master Patrol Officer John Elmore responded.

**EXPOSURE OF PERSON NO DEGREE**  
LOCATION: Visitor Lot  
SUMMARY: An officer reported a person urinating in public. The officer issued a warning and the person departed campus. Master Patrol Officer Waylon DeGraw responded.

**MARCH 28**

**FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL**  
LOCATION: Circle Apartments  
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The officer determined the alarm activation was caused by burnt food. Master Patrol Officer Waylon DeGraw responded.

**MEDICAL ASSIST/PSYCHOLOGICAL**  
LOCATION: East Tower  
SUMMARY: A caller reported having suicidal thoughts. The officer reported that one person was taken into custody under mental hygiene law and transported to hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer John Norman responded.

**TRESSPASS NO DEGREE**  
LOCATION: Recreation Trails  
SUMMARY: An officer reported a group of people. The officer issued a warning to four people for being in area after it closed. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

**Full public safety log available online at [www.theithacan.org](http://www.theithacan.org).**

KEY
SCC—Student Conduct Code
V&T—Vehicle & Transportation
AD—Assistant Director
IFD—Ithaca Fire Department



MOLLY STANTON/THE ITHACAN

## EDITORIALS

### Cautious optimism needed for IC’s fall reopening plan

At the All Student and Family Gathering on March 25, the Ithaca College administration announced that the college is planning for all classes to be in person, for faculty to return to campus and to return to a normal schedule for Fall 2021.

After more than a year of fully and hybrid remote instruction, in-person classes sound too good to be true. While this is reassuring news — and a surely needed boost to make it through the end of this semester — we must remain cautiously optimistic.

This announcement sounds eerily familiar. Last fall, the college was communicating ambitiously for three months that it would be open for in-person instruction in Fall 2020. The college reversed its decision just 10 days before the first phase of students was set to move onto campus.

Now that we are further into the pandemic, it should be a given that all plans are subject to change. Even with a robust vaccine rollout across the nation and in New York

state, COVID-19 remains a threat.

COVID-19 Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines reduced risk of infection by 80% two weeks or more after the first of two shots, and the risk of infection fell 90% by two weeks after the second shot, according to a recent study. Students can make vaccine appointments through New York state at a state vaccination site or put their names on the Tompkins County Vaccine Registry to be notified of available appointments. Students can also look for appointments at Kinney Drugs, Wegmans, Walgreens or CVS Pharmacy.

It is reassuring that the college is requiring all students to be vaccinated in order to attend in Fall 2021 and shows a commitment to a successful reopening. To have another semester of remote or hybrid instruction would be detrimental to our education and well-being. The most we can do now is follow guidelines that were established to keep us safe and prevent the spread of the virus. If we want to return to our normal lives, we have to put in the work now.

### College owes transparency to prospective students

Choosing a college presents a myriad of decisions for students — cost, academics and population are just a few crucial factors to consider. It is easy to overlook a college’s administrative structure and leadership style when debating the future of one’s academic career.

Though there are a plethora of choices to ponder during the college application process, prospective students should be aware of the campus climate of schools they are considering. While the onus should not be entirely on the students to investigate a school’s political atmosphere, critically analyzing the current events of a college can allow them to see how the school treats its constituents.

Higher education in the United States is a business. Schools will market themselves through favorable reviews and flattering advertisements. Ideally, it would be great if colleges were more transparent with their issues, but it should be expected that schools are less likely to shine a light

on their troubles.

Now that most admissions efforts have shifted to a virtual format due to the pandemic, it can be even more difficult for prospective students to engage with campus life. However, it is troubling that there has been a noticeable increase of prospective students and families on campus. People traveling from outside of the county put students, faculty and staff at risk. The college is not yet prepared for an influx of visitors, as it is still focused on managing the pandemic for our own community. There are other safer ways to learn about a college’s climate.

Following the pandemic, it is even more important to consider how an administration navigated such volatile times. Learning how a college led and supported its community members can prepare prospective students for how they should expect to be led. Choosing a college is complicated as is, but providing students with transparency can help them decide which college is best for them.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send to [ithacan@ithaca.edu](mailto:ithacan@ithaca.edu).

ALL LETTERS MUST:

- Be 250 words or fewer
- Be emailed or dropped off by 5 p.m. Monday in Park 220

## GUEST COMMENTARY

Send to [ithacan@ithaca.edu](mailto:ithacan@ithaca.edu) or to the opinion editor [akohli@ithaca.edu](mailto:akohli@ithaca.edu).

ALL COMMENTARIES MUST:

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



ASK A FRESHMAN  
MIKAYLA TOLLIVER

# Time flew by this semester

The old saying goes, “Time flies when you’re having fun,” but I’d like to critique that. While I agree with the saying, as it’s been true more often than I’d like it to be, I’d like to add that, “Time flies by when you’re in a completely new place, surrounded by different circumstances and experiences.”

I have this running joke with my friends in which sometimes we’ll admit that we can’t recall what we were doing in the morning. While, for the most part, we’re only commenting on how busy the day has been, I’m starting to think there’s some truth in that. Each day on campus feels like a week. A week feels like a month.

I can only attribute this to the comparison between the remote semester at home and being here on campus. At home I had a predictable routine. Now, the events that happen in a day would have been enough events for a week back home.

What I hadn’t considered when coming to campus is how much my daily routine would change. Every day is different, so it’s been impossible to follow a consistent schedule.

“While I still strive to prioritize and turn in my assignments on time, I’m finding that living real life is like a class of its own.”

– Mikayla Tolliver

I thought coming to college would make me a more productive student. While I still strive to prioritize and turn in my assignments on time, I’m finding that living real life is like a class of its own. Now that I’m on campus, I feel like I’ve started living in a new way. I’m not saying I wasn’t changing and developing as a person at home, but I remained in my comfort zone. Being here at Ithaca College has allowed me to step out of that comfort zone, do some exploring and get to know myself in ways I couldn’t at home.

It’s about doing what once made you uncomfortable. The pandemic has been one huge experience outside of my comfort zone. I find that taking things one day at a time is the best option. That means trying not to worry about tomorrow or the past. Time continues to pass, but staying in the moment and experiencing today ensures you get to enjoy it.

ASK A FRESHMAN is a column that answers questions about the freshman experience. **MIKAYLA TOLLIVER** is a freshman writing and cinema double major. Contact her at [mtolliver@ithaca.edu](mailto:mtolliver@ithaca.edu).

## GUEST COMMENTARY

# IC must be transparent and inclusive

BY RAZA RUMI

For months, the Ithaca College community has been in a state of turmoil. The pandemic era has impacted every sphere of human activity including higher education. Within a year, the shape of IC’s present and future has changed causing consternation, especially among the faculty members. I have tried to keep up with the multiple conversations that continue in the somewhat impersonal Zoom sessions — not to mention the variety of commentaries, petitions and emails — that all point toward the disquiet that continues to brew.

Cutting down 116 full-time equivalent faculty members at a well-known place of higher learning makes news. Indeed, IC has become a part of national discussions and news coverage. Amid the cacophonous noises and seemingly well-intentioned messages by the management, a few central questions remain unanswered.

Despite the disruptive nature of the pandemic, it has been a time for reflection and reprioritization. Within the United States, the self-confessed Mecca of capitalism, elites in response have adopted unprecedented injections of public spending through the two major stimulus packages worth more than 4 trillion dollars. There is renewed focus on

public health and climate change. Whether the new commitments translate into well-resourced long-term policy is yet to be seen.

At IC, not surprisingly, the response to the pandemic has involved some revisioning through the ‘The Shape of the College’ and other instruments. But the crisis requires a bigger rethink beyond balancing the books. The argument unfolds as follows: with declining enrollment, the size of college will shrink and therefore we need to cut costs. But those asked to leave are already low-paid, vulnerable instructors.

The much-celebrated neoliberal virtue of austerity is at work. This approach presents two problems. First, austerity programs seldom work and end up depleting institutions. When applied to countries by organizations such as the International Monetary Fund, the results have been devastating. Second, faculty cuts may end up making the college even less attractive to potential students. High school students and their parents, among other things, value the quality of teaching and the intellectual standing of the faculty.

Faculty members are also concerned about the alleged lack of transparency. Data reveals enrollment was falling even before the pandemic. The admissions office and other related units need to be questioned as



Raza Rumi, director of the Park Center for Independent Media, has over two decades of experience in public administration.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

to why they have lagged behind while other colleges have made adjustments to thrive. Laying this crisis at the door of faculty is at best a diversion.

Furthermore, the cost-cutting measures that have become necessary need to be evenly applied. The number of faculty cuts has been made public. Yet, the scale of the administration’s own voluntary salary cuts and a review of the administrative positions actually needed are yet to be shared with the community.

This distinctive moment is also a time for democratic deliberation. The future vision should hold intellectual ideas at its core. It is this kind of education that would make the IC academic

experience invaluable for the incoming students. The realignment of schools, departments and degree programs needs to be based on the imagination of those who teach, think, research and write — the faculty.

We understand that the IC senior leadership — two dynamic women of color — have braved public health and economic crises and they need our support. But they also need to hear the dejected voices of those marginalized in the decision-making processes.

**RAZA RUMI** is the director of the Park Center for Independent Media and teaches in the Department of Journalism. Contact him at [rahmad@ithaca.edu](mailto:rahmad@ithaca.edu).

## GUEST COMMENTARY

# Consider moving away for college

BY NILE GOSSA-TSEGAYE

If you plan on going to college — go away. Growing up in a college town has led to frequent field trips to college campuses all throughout K-12 schooling, assemblies and talks led by familiar professors and seeing far too many recognizable faces during trips to Wegmans. When applying to colleges during senior year of high school, there are so many factors that students must consider — price, programs, people and perception are some of the most noteworthy factors in a college, and location is sometimes deemed less important. Granted, all students are different and are looking for different things if they are considering college, but location should be emphasized more.

My time spent in Ithaca as a college student has often felt stifling and underwhelming, primarily a result of being a “townie,” or someone who attends college or university in the same town that they are originally from. During a time when exploration is inevitable, there have been moments in which self-reflection and growth have felt nearly impossible because of my surroundings. The feeling of intense surveillance, a result of knowing people in what feels like most areas of town, is tiring and draining.

Truly pushing yourself to be uncomfortable in your surroundings is an important skill that can be ignited and fostered during college. With the safety blanket that comes along with the “student” label, college is the perfect



Junior Nile Gossa-Tsegaye was born and raised in Ithaca. She reflects on staying in her hometown and urges prospective students to deliberate college location more.

MIKAYLA ELWELL/THE ITHACAN

environment to actually fully live in the moments of young adulthood.

I often wish I had gone away for college. More specifically, I wish that I had access to knowledge about the opportunities that were available at other institutions that I am only finding out about years after my application cycle.

For high school students, many resources are available, but it takes strategy in order to know where how to find them — especially when it comes down to factors like the cost of attendance. Especially now, in the middle of a pandemic, the price of college is difficult to justify. However, in an ideal world where

there isn’t a contagious virus circulating (and college is much more affordable), going away for college should be strongly encouraged.

Factors like diversity, institutional goals and values, and overall campus life were never on my radar as a high schooler. If I could go back in time, I would have taken a much more strategic and diversified approach at looking into the institutions I applied to, trusted myself and taken more leaps of faith, which all prospective college students should do.

**NILE GOSSA-TSEGAYE** is a junior IMC and politics double major. Contact her at [ngossatsegaye@ithaca.edu](mailto:ngossatsegaye@ithaca.edu).

# Getting Back to Business

ONLINE  
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THEITHACAN.  
ORG/BUSINESS



Visiting local businesses one year into the COVID-19 pandemic



Nothing Nowhere began with Caleb Harrington, the current sole proprietor of Nothing Nowhere, as a small art pop-up shop and moved into Home Green Home on the Commons three months before the COVID-19 lockdown. During the summer of 2020, high rent on one end of the Commons moved Nothing Nowhere and Home Green Home to their current location at 126 E. State St., where they have operated since their reopening in October 2020 as a coffee shop with everything from matcha lattes and passion fruit truffles to their secret beverage menu based on tarot cards.

ALYSSA BEEBE/THE ITHACAN



Kristin O'Scammon opened Alley Cat Cafe on the Commons in June 2018 with the intention of creating a homey, welcoming community space for cat adoptions. O'Scammon holds a cat that is available for adoption in the cafe March 7. "Now, there are a lot more students than there were during COVID," O'Scammon said. "We're like, 'Thank god, the students. We're not empty.'"

LEXI DANIELSON/THE ITHACAN



Robert Quackenbush, manager of Sunset Grill, located on South Hill, has worked at the restaurant for nine years. Before the pandemic, Sunset Grill would be so packed on weekends that crowds of people formed as they waited for an open table. "We used to carry trays over people," Quackenbush said.

BRENDAN IANNUCCI/THE ITHACAN



Doug Levine '04 has been the executive director of The State Theatre in Ithaca for the past 11 years. When the theater's shows were canceled due to the pandemic, artists who were originally scheduled for performances shifted to livestreams throughout summer 2020 and into 2021. The State Theatre began fundraising efforts including its "Save Your Seat" campaign, which allowed members of the community to purchase a physical plaque on a seat in the theater. The campaign helped close the theater's \$160,000 budget gap by selling 1,600 seats in about eight weeks.

ALYSSA BEEBE/THE ITHACAN

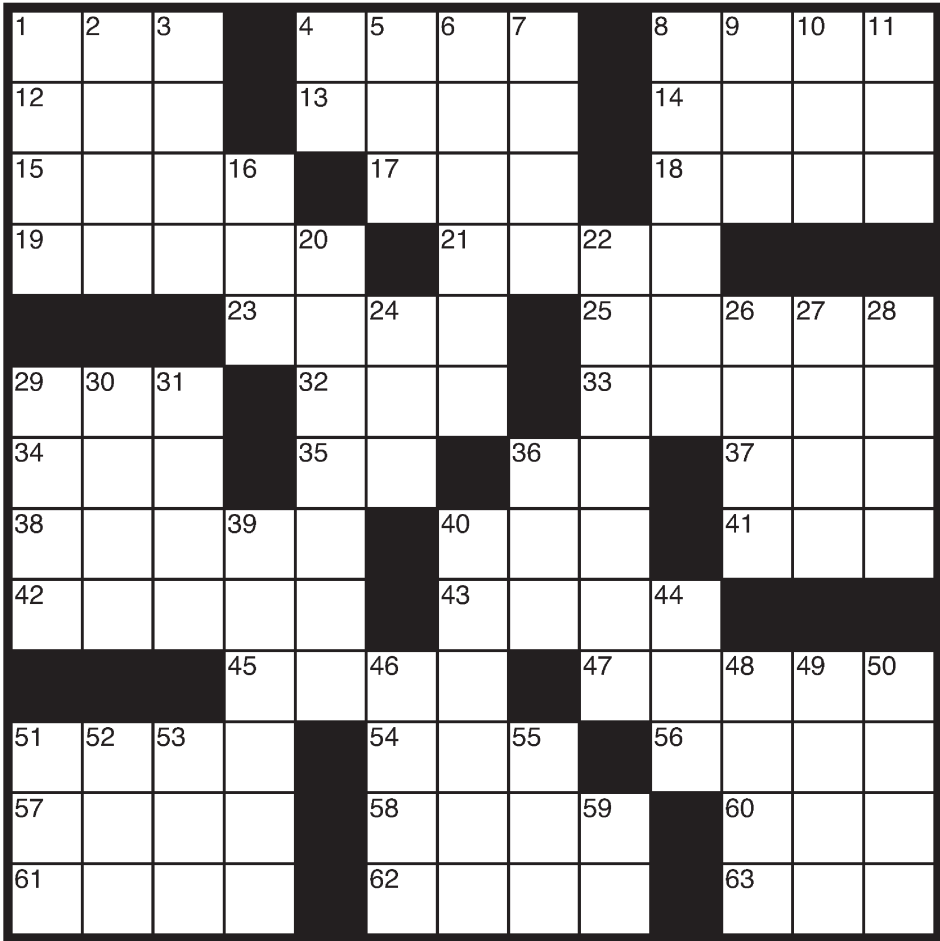
From left, Cornell University senior John Push and junior Dani Luntz enjoy meals outdoors on Sunset Grill's deck March 30. "If that deck wasn't there, this restaurant would not be open," Quackenbush said.

BRENDAN IANNUCCI/THE ITHACAN

# DIVERSIONS

## crossword

By United Media



### ACROSS

- 1 Cow's "second course"  
4 Relish  
8 Q-tip  
12 Before, to bards  
13 He directed Marlon  
14 Gov. division  
15 Humiliate  
17 Can  
19 Comedian — Costello  
20 Money repository  
21 Kind of soup  
23 Dash size  
24 Opposite of post-  
26 Straw roofing  
29 Conservative  
31 Roulette color  
32 Cargo unit  
34 Bored and tired  
37 Prosecutors, for short  
38 Complain bitterly  
40 Latin dance  
42 Less certain  
45 Funny Charlotte —  
46 Prom place  
48 Male vocalists

- 50 Mallard cousin  
52 Caustic solution  
54 Unpaid, as a bill  
55 Kind of turf  
56 Ireland  
58 Erstwhile Swedish auto  
60 Serpent  
61 Basilica area  
62 Large deer  
63 Any woman

- 28 Store info  
29 Brandy glasses  
30 Banned bug spray  
32 Cycle starter  
33 Big lug  
35 Teacup handles  
36 Double helix  
39 Speak falsely  
41 Pulls down  
43 Wrap up

- 44 Wake up  
46 Unduly severe  
47 Mountain feature  
49 True  
51 Depot info  
52 Open meadow  
53 Puppy plaint  
55 Stomach muscles  
57 Shoe width  
59 Nome's st.

### DOWN

- 1 Stop  
2 Built-up  
3 Unhearing  
4 Zuider —  
5 Subway opposite  
6 Location  
7 Pollute  
8 Pierre's st.  
9 Prosperous (hyph.)  
10 GI address  
11 Heat meas.  
16 Fall mo.  
18 — degree  
21 R2-D2's owner  
22 Oddjob's creator  
25 British rule in India  
27 KGB counterpart

### last issue's crossword answers

CUD	ZEST	SWAB
ERE	ELIA	DEPT
ABASE	TIN	LOU
SAFE	LENTIL	
EN	PRE	HATCH
	ST	NOIR
TON	JADE	DAS
RAIL	TANGO	
IFFIER	RAE	HS
	TENORS	TEAL
LYE	DUE	ASTRO
EIRE	SAAB	ASP
APSE	ELKS	SHE

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## sudoku medium

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

### hard

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

### answers to last issue's sudoku:

#### easy

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

#### very hard

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

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BOOKS

Bookstore celebrates 10 years of support

Russel Posegate, instructor in the Department of Music Theory, History and Composition at Ithaca College, skims through a book at Buffalo Street Books on April 3. ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

Across the street from DeWitt Park sits Buffalo Street Books, a quaint independent bookstore. With large glass windows revealing timely selections of book recommendations, the establishment has proven itself an essential business in Downtown Ithaca. Now, it is celebrating a decade of being a community-owned bookstore.

In February 2011, a quarter-million-dollar community-led buyout took place, transforming the store into a community-owned workplace. For \$250, Ithacans can buy a stake in the store, gain the opportunity to vote on policy decisions and run for the store's executive board. Buffalo Street Books will have a

sale April 15–17 to celebrate 10 years of being a community-owned bookstore. The store was founded in 1991 as The Bookery II, in reference to its former neighboring bookstore, The Bookery. In 2009, the store was renamed Buffalo Street Books.

Lisa Swayze, the bookstore's current manager, said the Great Recession, the rise of Amazon and the unsustainability of the independent bookstore model led to the 2011 community buyup. Swayze cited the American Booksellers Association's 2004 study, which says that making a 2% profit is the sign of a successful bookstore. Making this profit margin, Swayze said, is extremely difficult.

In 2021, the economy is far worse, and Amazon is significantly more powerful than in 2011. By connecting with the Ithaca community through curating bookshelves with current events in mind — like its bookshelf highlighting Black female writers — and creating an event schedule, Swayze said the store has found stability and success.

Over the last decade, there has been a resurgence for independent bookstores, according to the American Booksellers Association (ABA). The number of American independent bookstores has risen from 1,651 in 2009 to over 2,500 in 2019, according to the ABA.

Swayze said that this March, the store created bookshelves for the community with the Southside Community Center. The store has held virtual events during the pandemic and

expanded its website for ordering books.

"We fit a really unique place," Swayze said. "We are doing all of these things to strengthen our community that builds a culture of books and learning and literacy."

Chris Holmes, associate professor and chair of the Department of English at Ithaca College, said the store's success in Ithaca is because it made a public-private partnership that people rarely get to experience. Holmes, who was a member of the bookstore's executive board until 2019, said he hopes that as the pandemic begins to wane, Buffalo Street Books will become a place of transition and comfort.

"When we come out of this pandemic properly, it's going to take us a while to know how to be fully in the community," Holmes said. "The bookstore can be a really nice kind of way into that return to the community for people who might be nervous about it or feel like they've just had so long where they've been apart from each other."

Junior Jason Langford attended a reading for the New Voices Festival at Buffalo Street Books during his freshman year. The New Voices Festival is organized by the Department of English and the Department of Writing every year and features authors who are at the start of their careers.

"The bookstore gave the festival a certain atmosphere that felt exciting and real," Langford said. "It made me want to be featured in the New Voices Festival as an author one day."

Junior Luis Hernandez sees Buffalo Street Books as a valuable place for preserving physical books.

"In a matter of time, people are going to be reading everything online, if we aren't already doing that," Hernandez said.

"Keeping bookstores alive, including Buffalo Street Books, would really ensure that books don't get thrown into the trash heaps and are continued to be taken care of."

In the early days of the pandemic, the store had to remain closed from mid-March until May 2020. During and after this time, the bookstore held virtual events on Zoom. Anna Gardner '19, who worked at the bookstore from June to August 2020, said one of the benefits of this was being able to bring writers into the Ithaca community who live around the world — like Louisa Onomé from Canada and Charlotte McConaghy from Australia.

However, despite being able to survive the worst of the pandemic, the Buffalo Street Books community that Ithaca once knew looks different. Swayze said she tries to keep no more than 8–10 people in the store at a time, who are required to wear masks and sanitize their hands before browsing and touching books.

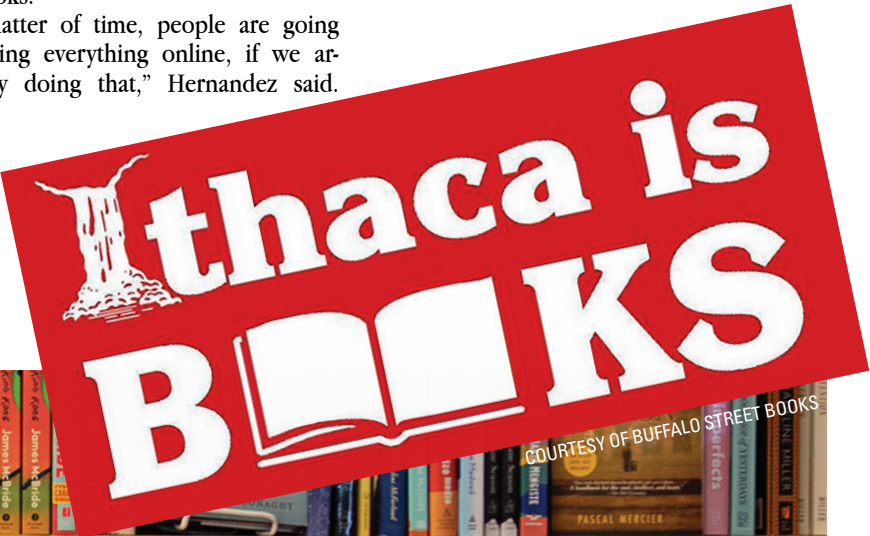
Bob Proehl, director of operations, was the original person behind transforming Buffalo Street Books into a community-owned bookstore. Proehl said he believes that after the pandemic, the store has a purposeful future.

"My hope is that it can come back to being a community place," Proehl said. "That's always one of the aspects of it that's really dear to me, is the idea of the bookstore as a community space, as a third space, as a communal space."

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Ithaca resident Mahinder Kingra browses for books in the science fantasy section at Buffalo Street Books on April 3. ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN



Buffalo Street Books is an independent bookstore in downtown Ithaca. In April 2011, the store was bought by the Ithaca community to prevent it from going under. ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

# New wellness rooms open for music students

BY GRACE AZAULA

Fairy lights twinkle, illuminating a wellness room filled with pianos, calming tapestries, a computer and bean bag chairs. This relaxing space contrasts starkly with the other bustling rooms located in the James J. Whalen Center for Music.

Ithaca College’s Mental Health Awareness for Musicians Association (MHAMA) created six of these wellness rooms this semester. The spaces are set up in old faculty offices throughout the School of Music and can be signed out by all music students through a form on 25Live.

Junior Caitlin Dansereau, president of MHAMA, said the organization first thought of creating wellness spaces last year, but the idea had to be put on hold due to the pandemic.

Junior Caitlin Glastonbury, treasurer of MHAMA, said the idea was sparked when they went with junior Gavin Tremblay, an officer of MHAMA, to the rooms set up in the Hammond Health Center that are designated for stress relief.

Glastonbury said they enjoyed the spaces but felt that it was inaccessible to students in the School of Music.

“We had to dedicate a lot of time out of our day, which we didn’t necessarily have, to engage with this resource,” Glastonbury said. “And that then brought up the conversation that I think a lot of Whalen students have, which is that we don’t often leave that building. During the

day, students tend to get there in the morning and be booked with classes and study time and practicing until the evening, and so it’s often hard to separate that work into a safe space where you can relax and unwind.”

Freshman Emma Commisso, a music education major, said she took a test in the wellness space and found that it was a much more relaxing place to spend time than the practice rooms.

“You can hear everyone from other practice rooms,” Commisso said. “You’re here for the first time with other people, and you’re like, ‘Oh my gosh, am I good enough?’ and you’re just so in your head. And so then to be in a space that says, ‘Hey, you’re allowed to relax.’”

Junior Erin Smith, secretary of MHAMA, said the Whalen Student Council, formerly known as the Dean’s Advisory Council, met with Ron Dow, a social worker in CAPS, in 2020 to discuss mental health in Whalen and articulate students’ needs.

Smith said that shortly after the meeting, MHAMA met with Dow to discuss mental health issues further and to propose the wellness spaces.

Dow said he has been working as a consultant for the School of Music for 8–9 years.

“Even though they know that they’re here in school to learn, there’s still a part of them that feels like they should be perfect,” Dow said. “So that feeling of being able to share that they’re struggling with anxiety or depression, with a



From left, sophomore Tim Coene and junior Erin Smith take a seat in one of the new mental health rooms in the James J. Whalen Center for Music. Students helped create this resource this semester.

MIKAYLA ELWELL/THE ITHACAN

professor or with other students, it’s just really hard because they don’t want anyone to feel like they can’t do their part or be a part of the ensemble.”

Dow said that after this meeting, he told Interim Dean Keith Kaiser and Interim Associate Dean Ivy Walz about the wellness spaces idea.

Smith said the deans reached out to MHAMA this semester and agreed to fund the project.

Tremblay said that the administration’s support of the wellness spaces was generous and is a good start but that it does not resolve how students’ mental health is impacted by Whalen’s high-pressure culture.

“This is not a small-level, insignificant change,” Tremblay said. “This idea that, because we’re such a

prestigious music school, it has to be like lava and you’re a diamond. And if you can stand the pressure, then you’ll harden into something amazing and beautiful and artful. And I’ll be totally honest, I think that’s total BS.”

Smith said that last semester, MHAMA wrote a letter to Whalen faculty and administration in support of the mental health subgroup of the Whalen Student Council. She said the subgroup had spoken to administration but felt that no change was being made in response to the mental health struggles students were facing because of the pandemic.

Smith said the mental health subgroup of the Whalen Student Council presented at a faculty

meeting about mental health and students’ needs.

Dansereau said that in future MHAMA events and initiatives, she hopes to continue advocating for mental health, particularly in areas that are not frequently addressed.

“I think we’re just continuing with finding topics that aren’t necessarily talked about, or that we want to talk about but other people are kind of shying away from,” Dansereau said. “But we want to be bold and confident about that and be like, ‘We need to talk about this because this has some issues right now.’ Let’s bring some awareness to it, let’s start that conversation.”

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# IC students share their Taylor Swift ‘Love Story’

BY ARLEIGH RODGERS

Actually, the old Taylor can come to the phone right now.

From her country romps in 2008’s “Fearless,” to shattering expectations with 2020’s “folklore,” Taylor Swift is known for reinventing her sound while simultaneously transforming her public image.

She will take another step into a different era by rerecording her first five albums — her 2006 debut, “Taylor Swift”; 2008’s “Fearless”; 2010’s “Speak Now”; 2012’s “Red”; and 2014’s “1989” — an act of reclamation as much as re-creation.

Swift’s official announcement for “Fearless (Taylor’s Version)” came in a post on her social media Feb. 11. A photo of Swift reminiscent of the original “Fearless” cover was paired with a longer note that comprised a hidden message in capital letters — “APRIL NINTH.”

In this case, April 9 is the date of the “Fearless” rerelease. Along with the original track, Swift will include six new songs “From The Vault” that were cut from the original “Fearless.”

The thrill of new music from a long-beloved artist was something Ithaca College freshman Lauren Lubenow said she felt when she read the announcement.

“Fearless” was the first album Lubenow listened to by Swift, and in third grade, Lubenow said her mom surprised her with “Fearless” tour tickets.

“I feel like I’ve grown up with her,” Lubenow said.

Swift said in a 2019 interview that as of Nov. 1, 2020, she would legally be able to rerecord her first five albums.

Lubenow said that after watching the 2019 interview, she saw conspiracies on TikTok about when the albums would be rereleased. The night before Swift posted about “Fearless (Taylor’s Version),” Lubenow said she saw a video that correctly predicted the next day’s announcement.

“I was listening to ‘Fearless’ on repeat, like summoning it in my mind, and then I woke up in the morning, and I was so excited,” she said. “I literally cried. I was sleeping, so I didn’t want to wake [my roommate] up. I ran around the hallway.”

Freshman Allie Barbaro, Lubenow’s roommate, also sought Easter eggs in Swift’s posts before the “Fearless (Taylor’s Version)” announcement. When the two discovered “Love Story (Taylor’s Version)” was being released at midnight, they decided to listen to it together.

“At first I was like, ‘Oh, there’s not much that’s different,’ and then we listened to it again, and I was like, ‘Oh my god, she sounds different here,’” Barbaro said.

Swift’s reason for rerecording is to regain ownership of her work as its creator, an issue she has voiced her support for in the past. The November date marked the end of a 13-year long deal with her former label Big Machine Label Group, owned



From left, freshmen Allie Barbaro and Lauren Lubenow listen to their favorite Taylor Swift song, “All Too Well.” Swift is rereleasing some of her old music April 9.

ARLEIGH RODGERS/THE ITHACAN

by Scott Borchetta. By signing a new contract with Republic Records and Universal Music Group in February 2020, she negotiated control of all her future masters, including 2019’s “Lover” and 2020’s “folklore” and “evermore.”

Now full owner of her music starting with “Lover,” Swift also became the first woman and one of four artists ever to win “Album of The Year” three times at the Grammy Awards. On March 14, Swift joined musicians Stevie Wonder, Frank Sinatra and Paul Simon with her win for “folklore.”

Kyle Davis, second-year graduate student in the physical therapy program, said that when Swift announced the imminent release of “folklore” on July 23, 2020, he had just started listening to her music again. He said that on the drive to work, he listened to the whole album, overwhelmed with excitement by

songs like “exile (feat. Bon Iver)” and “betty.”

“She appealed to country fans in the beginning, and then more pop fans, and now, just a whole different avenue of fans in general,” Davis said. “Changing the style of music but remaining true to how she writes and stuff and the way that she interacts with her fans.”

Sophomore Sammi Frieri, who has been listening to Swift since her debut, said she took inspiration from Swift as a musician herself.

“I love her storytelling,” Frieri said. “The lyrics are so rich. ... I’m an English major, too, so I always can appreciate a good story and good metaphors, ... and I always get that from her songs. I feel like they’re never two-dimensional.”

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# Comedy movie is filled with cliches

MOVIE REVIEW: “Bad Trip” Orion Pictures



BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

Eric Andre loves nothing more than overstimulating unsuspecting passersby with confusion, disgust, awkwardness and even fear. The corrosive, surreal pranks of Andre’s eponymously titled “Eric Andre Show” humorously wear down expectations of sane public behavior. So, giving Andre a bigger budget and a longer runtime would be the perfect equation for a great comedy. Right?

“Bad Trip,” Andre’s first venture into feature filmmaking as a writer and producer, features Andre playing Florida loser Chris Carey. However, the difference between Andre himself and the character he plays is essentially nonexistent — Andre puts on the same persona for the film that he does for his show. After Chris runs into his high school crush Maria (Michaela Conlin) while working his job at a smoothie store, he convinces his best friend Bud (Lil Rel Howery) to join him on a road trip to New York City to see Maria’s art gallery.

Before “Bad Trip” was released, Andre screened the film to hidden camera prank veteran Sacha Baron Cohen. Cohen, who pioneered the genre in the late 2000s with films like “Borat” and “Brüno,” clearly had a major influence on Andre’s film. However, what Andre missed is that the offensive guerilla pranks of Cohen’s films serve a greater thematic purpose. The noise created by Cohen’s characters is funny enough, but

by sending the village idiots Borat and Brüno to America — a country of village idiots — Cohen created clever satires of American culture.

Perhaps Andre didn’t want to make a satire of American culture, which is fine. However, the film needed to parody, satirize or make fun of something in order to be fully fleshed out. The pranks are great — within the first three minutes of the film, Andre is completely naked and screaming in front of a stranger — but it’s hard to hang these moments off of a plot so simple and unoriginal.

In order to get to the Big Apple, Bud steals his vicious sister Trina’s (Tiffany Haddish) trashy pink car. After hearing that her little brother stole her car, she goes to hunt Bud and Chris for vengeance. Haddish is a funny enough villain for the film, combining elements of legitimate threat and disorganized irony.

However, all of this is dressing on a film that needs more time in the writers room. The film hits all of the cliché story beats of buddy road trip comedy, making for an experience that, aside from the pranks, is hollow. If the film is trying to be a parody of the overdone road trip drama, that part is unclear. If it isn’t, all the worse.

The film has its moments, though. A prank scene that begins with Andre wandering into a zoo cage and ends with Andre on his knees getting sodomized by a silverback



Eric Andre’s movie “Bad Trip” is filled with lackluster hidden camera pranks that depict more cliches than creative humor. COURTESY OF ORION PICTURES.

gorilla is insane, shocking, hilarious and unforgettable.

However, what connects these scenes are underdeveloped attempts at parodying the overused melodramatic moments of the road trip formula.

Andre and Howery’s delivery is enough to make scenes amusing but doesn’t succeed at pushing the film over the line into substantive satire.

Despite Andre’s classic insanity

appearing in moments throughout the film, “Bad Trip” isn’t as special as it could, and perhaps should, have been. Without a more established story, the excellent prank scenes that are scattered throughout the film are likely to be chopped out of the film and posted on YouTube, leaving the rest of “Bad Trip” unwatched.

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# Talented trio shows off

ALBUM REVIEW: “OK ORCHESTRA” AJR Productions BMG



BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD

AJR came out swinging with its latest studio album, “OK ORCHESTRA.” Written last year during the COVID-19 pandemic, “OK ORCHESTRA” offers listeners intricate musical stylings and thought-provoking lyrics that culminate into an incredible listening experience. Combining elements of electro-swing, pop and alternative stylings, no two “OK ORCHESTRA” songs sound alike.

The trio of brothers excels at curating a full and voluminous sound. By playing with its members’ vocal ranges, the group creates immense depth in its songs. Demonstrated primarily in the song “World’s Smallest Violin,” the brothers’ voices are stacked into chords, creating a satisfying progression. Their vocals, along with ukulele stylings throughout this piece, craft a beautiful discourse, making for an entertaining tune.

But “OK ORCHESTRA” isn’t just an exemplification of AJR’s vocal arrangement abilities — it’s a demonstration of the group’s musical bravery. The group isn’t afraid to experiment with lush instrumentation, especially on the track “3 O’Clock Things.” It features brassy instrumentals and jazz rhythms over a modern percussion section that includes the use of xylophones. The trumpet line — which takes prominence in the instrumental breaks of the song — is swung, giving the piece a jazzy feel. These components entice the

listener to sway along to the music.

The musical stylings are paired beautifully with the theme of finding small moments of joy in the sadness of quarantine. The packed instrumentation enhances lyrics that convey a complicated mix of melancholy and alleviation. “OK ORCHESTRA” does not shy away from discussing the bleak and uncomfortable moments that have occurred over the last year. The truth of the lyrics, like “But I’m not dead yet, so I guess I’ll be alright,” may sting, but the accompaniment manages to cushion the blow. As a whole, the lyrics serve to relate to listeners who have been suffering through suffocating isolation.

Perhaps the most notable track with this theme is “Way Less Sad,” which was released as a promotional single for “OK ORCHESTRA.” Delivered with a catchy melody, the lyrics express the youthful nature of latching on to the little things that bring moments of fleeting happiness when the world is filled with pain. The lyrics are painfully reminiscent of the emotions that the pandemic brought about, like “I don’t wanna hurt no more / So I set my bar real low.” However, the lyrical wit of the group really shines when the group is able to make “Way Less Sad” into a deranged satirical song of victory for individuals who — after surviving 2020 — are hanging on by a thread, especially with lines like, “Living sucks / But it’s sucking just a little now.”

AJR shows off its songwriting talents again in “Christmas in June,” the realistic ambitious love song of the



“OK ORCHESTRA” displays AJR’s vocal talent and willingness to experiment.

COURTESY OF AJR PRODUCTIONS

decade. Lyrics like “Plan on this / You’re no longer gonna be the plan I miss” offer a pragmatic yet heartwarming depiction of love. The lighthearted accompaniment of woodwinds and acoustic guitar offers a comfortable sonic atmosphere to the listener and builds up a feeling of truthful love — one that isn’t always perfect.

AJR has mastered the ability to write heavy and moving lyrics without weighing down the tracks. Each song on “OK ORCHESTRA” has new and exciting compositions that culminate in a sound unlike any of AJR’s prior work. This mixture of lyrical genius and beautiful melodies saturates the album in a bittersweet aura, capturing the complexity of emotions like love, loss, excitement and irritation. AJR offers listeners a sense of community, allowing beauty to be found in a sea of darkness.

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## POPPED CULTURE

# Disney franchise stunts progress

BY AVERY ALEXANDER

After the recent release of Disney’s “Raya and the Last Dragon,” there has been speculation among fans as to whether or not the titular character will become the company’s next official Disney Princess. While Disney has yet to confirm or deny Raya’s princess status, the conversation has set my mind abuzz — why do Disney Princesses even exist in the first place, and why are they still relevant today?

The Disney Princess franchise as we know it was conceived in 2000 by Andy Mooney, former president and chairman of Disney Consumer Products.

It is painfully obvious that the franchise was created as a way for Disney to rake in a little extra cash. The Disney Princess franchise is one of the most lucrative media franchises in existence, and it continues to pull in billions of dollars annually for the company.

Becoming an official Disney Princess isn’t as straightforward as simply being a princess in a Disney film. After all, Mulan isn’t a royal, but she is a Disney Princess. While there aren’t any official rules dictating who can and cannot become a Disney Princess, hardcore Disney fans have compiled a list of prerequisites that many official Disney Princess share.

Besides being born or marrying into royalty, a character can also be crowned a Princess if they perform an act of true heroism — hence why Mulan is included. Other requirements say that the character has to be humanoid, must be animated, can’t be introduced in a sequel and needs to be from a Disney property.

When you take a fine comb to Disney Princesses, it quickly becomes clear that the idea behind them is wholly arbitrary. When you look at Disney’s massive list of female characters, there are a large number of them who qualify for the title but miraculously are not included.

Besides the arbitrary nature of the selection process, there are many people who accuse the concept of Disney Princesses of being old-fashioned. The argument says that older Princesses like Snow White reinforce outdated standards for young women.

Whether or not Disney Princesses are anti-feminist or relevant is a rather contentious issue, but there is some level of truth to the argument. Media shapes young minds, and there is evidence to suggest that Disney Princesses shape the way children see the world around them. It is hard to tell if this influence is wholly good or bad, but it is crucial to understand that these characters are much more than a way for Disney to line its pockets.

My issue with Disney Princesses is that the franchise ultimately reduces strong female characters to superficial, voiceless versions of themselves. Removing characters from the context of their movie might have been okay for more classic princesses like Snow White and Belle. As Disney continues to release characters who rely on deeper cultural and historical contexts — characters like Moana and Tiana — it becomes more unacceptable to remove them from those contexts. This is the primary reason why I do not want Raya to become a Disney Princess.

Strong, culturally influential characters like Raya should be allowed to exist without being tied to an arbitrary, superficial hierarchy. It seems like including the first Southeast Asian princess in the Disney Princess elite would be a great idea in theory, but she deserves to stand on her own.

POPPED CULTURE is a weekly column, written by Life & Culture staff writers, that analyzes pop culture events. Avery Alexander is a junior English major. Contact her at aalexander2@ithaca.edu.

# Trojans take over South Hill

## High school teammates reunite on college court

BY JACK MURRAY

When freshman tennis player Ally Stefanski was in high school, sophomore Sarah Sposito was consistently a player who inspired her to improve her game. This season, the two have reunited as teammates on the Ithaca College women's tennis team.

In Fall 2016, the pair stepped onto the tennis court as teammates for the first time at North Pocono High School in Covington Township, Pennsylvania. Having schools that consistently send players to a particular college for a specific sport is not uncommon in the college athletic landscape. However, having two consecutive years with a new player from an out-of-state high school is a new development for the women's tennis team, which currently has a roster of 12.

Head coach Chris Hayes said this is atypical for recruiting because when players who graduated from the same high school join the program, they are usually from the same family. The last time this happened was the 2010–11 season with sisters Melissa Nunez '11 and Cristina Nunez '13.

"I think it is an anomaly," Hayes said. "It is more common with brothers and sisters who go to the same high school and play the same sport and then want to play together. 'Spo' and Ally's situation does not come around often, not just in our sport, but in many sports."

When recruiting athletes, Hayes said the academic reputation of the college is a huge selling point, and this was instrumental in bringing both Sposito

and Stefanski to the college.

"I think a lot of it has to do with the prestige of the academics here," Hayes said. "'Spo' is in the [Roy H. Park School of Communications] which is obviously outstanding, and Ally is in the [physical therapy] program, which speaks for itself as well. The number one reason you are coming here is because of the education, as there is life after graduation besides tennis."

During her high school career, Sposito played at the varsity level for four seasons, won team MVP during her senior season and was a part of the first doubles team in school history to advance to the state tournament. Stefanski statistically led the team after Sposito's graduation, went on to be named a league all-star and had the best singles record on the team.

Sposito was deciding between the college and DePaul University in Chicago during her senior year of high school. Her high school coach, Hosiach Davis, reached out to former Ithaca tennis coach Bill Austin about Sposito, which led to Hayes recruiting her and eventually Sposito committing to the college.

Sposito said she was ecstatic to hear that Stefanski was considering the college and gave her a run-down on the academic and athletic culture on South Hill.

"When I heard that someone from home might be coming to Ithaca, I was really excited," Sposito said. "When she told me, I talked [the college] up. I did really want her to come here, and I am

glad she picked it." Stefanski said her interest in the college was piqued by the physical therapy program, but knowing that Sposito was on the tennis team made her look into playing tennis at the college level.

"I wasn't really sure if I was going to be playing on the tennis team or how rigorous it would be and was actually considering club tennis," Stefanski said. "Sarah said that it takes a lot of time but that she loved it, and I decided to try out. I loved knowing Sarah because it definitely helped my nerves at the tryout."

The last time the two were teammates at North Pocono, Sposito was the team's captain. Earlier in their careers, Sposito was number two singles and eventually rose to top singles for the team. Stefanski, who later became a captain after Sposito graduated, said her rise up the depth chart was longer, but having Sposito ahead of her helped her learn the ropes and visualize a path toward success. Stefanski said that in this role, Sposito was kind and open and displayed all characteristics of a good leader.

With both of them being underclassmen at the college, Stefanski said the new dynamic is new

but also comforting.

"It's different seeing her more on my level now because there's other people leading both of us," Stefanski said. "It's nice to be on that level with her and have similar questions and problems."

Sposito said Stefanski was always a reliable player in her high school's lineup, especially in doubles play, and had a strong work ethic.

Sposito said that playing with a familiar face and someone who shares her high school memories with her is a nice change from last season.

"It's nice to have someone to talk about memories that I have from high school that I couldn't talk about with anyone really from Ithaca because they wouldn't understand it," Sposito said. "It's nice to have someone to relate to and to talk to about things from home. It's just refreshing to have that person."

Senior Sara Steinberg, captain of the women's tennis team, said the familiarity that Stefanski and Sposito have is noticeable both on and off of the court.

"I've noticed an extreme amount of chemistry," Steinberg said. "I know the two get along really well and can predict each other's movements."

Hayes said that recruiting from high schools that past and current athletes have come from is vital to the success of the program.

"You always need sources to go back to and dig up players," Hayes said. "Developing pipelines is definitely important. The more connections you have, the more well-equipped you will be to succeed, like job-searching."

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From left, sophomore tennis player Sarah Sposito poses with freshman Ally Stefanski at the 2018 PIAA District II girls tennis championship. COURTESY OF SARAH SPOSITO

2018



Sposito and Stefanski are back together on the same team after successful careers with the women's tennis team at North Pocono High School.

HANNAH WILKINSON/THE ITHACAN

2021

# Athletes cut hair for cancer research

BY QUINTIN PELZEL

Two Ithaca College athletes raised money and shaved their heads to fund research for finding a cure to childhood cancer.

Sophomores Tyler Purdy, a men's tennis player, and Aidan Keenan, a men's soccer player, cut their hair together after planning it for eight months. They shaved their heads for the St. Baldrick's Foundation to draw awareness to the cause while also raising a total of \$1,700 for the charity. The St. Baldrick's Foundation is a nonprofit organization that funds research and cures to help fight childhood cancer.

One of the ways the St. Baldrick's Foundation contributes to this fight is through head-shaving events. Keenan and Purdy each decided to donate to the McCandless family fund, a family that Purdy knew from his hometown on Long Island.

"We personally donated to this family that's from my hometown," Purdy said. "I know them and it's an example of what you can do. It's a family that has gone through a lot and my boss actually recommended we donate to them."

Purdy works for a restaurant that donates to local charities every year called Restoration Kitchen and Cocktails, which is located on Long Island.

For Keenan, this is not the first time he has been involved in



Sophomores Tyler Purdy and Aidan Keenan shaved their heads together and livestreamed it via Instagram to collect donations for the St. Baldrick's Foundation. They raised \$1,700.

BRENDAN IANNUCCI/THE ITHACAN

a head-shaving charity event that benefited St. Baldrick's.

"I used to do it growing up," Keenan said. "It was a pretty big event in my town. A lot of the boys in my town would always do it every year. It was just something that we would always do together."

Sophomore soccer player Alec Cabeca, who is a friend of both Purdy and Keenan, shaved their heads. Cabeca said he gave his family and friends haircuts at the start of quarantine, so he was excited to pick up where he left off.

Keenan and Purdy raised just under \$1,200 and donated their own money to make it

an even \$1,200. On top of that, they also received an extra donation of \$500 from Restoration Kitchen and Cocktails.

Although the two decided to shave their heads on their own, athletic teams at the college have been involved in similar causes. Some student-athletes are raising money for BomberTHON, a dance marathon that raises money for Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital in Syracuse, New York. Over the holiday season, the Bombers were involved in supporting The Elves Program. The program, affiliated with Cornell University, helps children in need in

Tompkins County and the surrounding area, providing them with gifts during the holidays, backpacks in the summer and warm blankets in the fall.

Cabeca said that watching the duo fundraise for the organization was a special experience.

"I'm very proud of the guys," Cabeca said. "Watching them raise so much money was so cool, and I felt really proud to call them my friends."

The St. Baldrick's Foundation is accepting donations at <https://www.stbaldricks.org>.

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# College updates spectator policy

BY ARLA DAVIS

Ithaca College will permit students to attend home athletic contests in person starting April 9.

The decision was made after the Liberty League agreed on a new spectator policy for the rest of the Spring 2021 athletic season March 30. Outside fans, which include student-athletes' families, will not be allowed to attend events. Individual institutions have the choice whether or not to allow current students, faculty and staff to attend.

Students must display their green badge after clearing their COVID-19 Daily Health Screening survey from the college's Center for Counseling, Health and Wellness. Social distancing will be implemented at events.

Students will be able to attend home competitions for baseball, softball, tennis, lacrosse and crew. There are capacity limitations at each location that will be announced later and are based on New York state guidelines. The outdoor track and field teams do not have a home facility for competition.

"After a full year with no competition, the ability to compete this spring is truly a privilege," Susan Bassett, associate vice president and director of the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics, said in a statement. "Our goal is to complete our seasons, contend for Liberty League Championships and qualify for the NCAA Championships. Every additional contact puts the seasons at risk."

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# Alumni plan to ride bike across country for charity

BY EMMA KERSTING

Two Ithaca College alumni will be biking nearly 4,000 miles across the country starting in June to raise money and awareness for those with life-threatening illnesses and disabilities.

Tim Conners '17 lost his eyesight at 15 years old from T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Fellow alum Carlos Toribio '18 is joining him to explore and to support his friend. They plan to raise \$20,000 to cover the costs of the mission and establish a not-for-profit organization called The Redefine Possible Foundation.

"The idea of this foundation is to really help people forward, to help others through education and opportunities to live life fully, to make a difference, and redefine what's possible like I've been able to do with my life with so much support," Conners said.

Toribio met Conners in an economics class at the college and through the wrestling program. Toribio said Conners' father knew head wrestling coach Marty Nichols, so Nichols brought Conners in to meet the team. Toribio said that while they already had class together, he found it easier to talk to Conners once he found out Conners was a wrestler too. The two developed a friendship that has lasted even after graduating.

"You have different views and perspectives, and we argue, but at the end of the day, we're really good friends," Toribio said. "I guess the arguing is just part of it to get closer. I'm just grateful to have him in my life like my other friends."

Conners and Toribio will be starting their

journey in Anacortes, Washington, on June 6. They plan to reach their destination in Bar Harbor, Maine, on Sept. 12, making their trip nearly 100 days. Toribio said the pair plans on staying at campsites to rest overnight rather than hotels.

Conners was inspired to begin this journey to bike across the country after going on a different mission in which he set out to summit Mount Kilimanjaro in 2017.

"I was trying to think of something else we could do to make a similar impact along those lines but closer to home," Conners said. "I also want to just make a positive impact and get people to really think about hope and stop focusing on the negative stuff, bringing each other down and start focusing on bringing each other up."

Toribio has also been on expeditions in preparation for this experience. While spending a summer in 2018 backpacking across Europe, Toribio said he became inspired to bike across America after talking to an older couple in an airport who told him that anything he saw in Europe, he could see in America. A few months later, he was catching up with Conners, who mentioned he was looking for someone to bike across the country with.

Conners participated in community service during his childhood and has continued to give back as an adult. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and delayed his planned start time of summer 2020, he started the process to create The Redefine Possible Foundation and volunteered to help at the Upstate



Carlos Toribio '18 and Tim Conners '17 practice before they begin their journey riding the Northern Tier Bike Route from Washington to Maine on June 6.

COURTESY OF CARLOS TORIBIO

Golisano Children's Hospital in Syracuse, New York, where he was treated. Conners is hoping to continue this work with the children's hospital with The Redefine Possible Foundation.

"[This mission] is much more than Carlos and I just riding a bike across the country," Conners said. "It's more about these ideas of hope and possibility and knowing you're more than your circumstances."

Conners published a book, "It's Impossible Until You Do It," in 2016 that highlights the idea of paying it forward. Toribio said Conners has worked to inspire others.

"Tim wants to help others know that they're not their situation, but what they do with it," Toribio said. "Tim may be blind, but

he still has a life to live."

Junior wrestler Logan Ninos said he worked with Toribio during his freshman season in 2018-19 before Toribio began assistant coaching at Long Island University. Ninos said this service project is not out of character.

"Just in general it's a really cool thing being done by a really cool dude," Ninos said. "Carlos is a very selfless person, and this event doesn't surprise us at all as a team."

Donations for the mission can be made on GoFundMe, and more information about Conners' life mission can be found at [timconners.com](http://timconners.com).

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The Ithaca College men's crew Varsity 8+ boat rows against Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) on April 3 at the Cayuga Inlet. Ithaca won with a time of 6:23.1. The home regatta against RIT and Colgate University on April 3 was the first competition for the men's and women's crew teams since November 2019 due to COVID-19.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN