

PANDEMIC IMPACTS IC STUDENTS' FINANCES

Senators campaign for student debt relief

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

College students across the country could potentially have up to \$50,000 of their student loan debt forgiven.

In a student press conference March 17, Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) discussed a campaign he is working on with Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) to have President Joe Biden use his executive powers to forgive \$50,000 of federal student loans for anyone with remaining debt. However, Biden has said he supports forgiving \$10,000 in student debt. Schumer said 2.4 billion New Yorkers owe a total of \$90 billion in federal student loans. Nationally, the average amount of student debt per borrower is \$32,731.

“For far too many students, and so many graduates many years out of school, federal student loans and student loans, in general, are becoming a forever burden,” Schumer said.

As part of the American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion plan approved by President Biden to provide relief to Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic, colleges are receiving federal aid. At least half of that money is supposed to go to students from the college in the form of financial aid, Schumer said. He said \$2.6 billion

was allocated for New York colleges.

Ithaca College was given \$11,889,000, according to Schumer’s office. At least \$5,944,500 of the money given to Ithaca College will go to students in the form of financial aid.

Dave Maley, director of public relations for Ithaca College, said the college has not yet received the funds, but whatever is not allocated to students will be used to offset revenues that had decreased due to the pandemic. He said these anticipated revenues are tuition, room and board charges the college did not receive due to lower enrollment, low on-campus residency in Spring 2021 and no on-campus residency in Fall 2020. In a meeting with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Student Governance Council on Jan. 19, Laurie Koehler, vice president for marketing and enrollment strategy, said the college was expecting approximately 2,500 students to live on campus for Spring 2021. Normally, there are approximately 4,400 students who live on campus.

Schumer said there is \$1.6 trillion of student debt in the U.S. Student debt is the second-highest form of debt in the U.S., falling behind mortgage debt, which

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Terminated employees’ children to maintain full tuition benefits

BY JILLIAN BLEIER

Ithaca College announced April 14 that terminated employees who have a dependent enrolled at the college will continue to receive full tuition benefits for the duration of the students’ enrollment, not exceeding eight semesters.

La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, and Hayley Harris, vice president for human resources and planning, made the announcement in a letter to faculty. The letter was in response to a resolution from the Humanities and Sciences (H&S) Faculty Senate requesting support for faculty and staff terminated as a part of the Academic Program Prioritization (APP).

Students with parents employed full time by the college are eligible for dependent tuition remission. Tuition remission is a benefit available to employees, dependent children and spouses or domestic partners. Benefits only extend to tuition, leaving room and board and other fees up to the employee. Full-time dependents who qualify for tuition remission



Juan Arroyo, assistant professor in the Department of Politics, and his daughter junior Ana Maria Arroyo stand together on campus.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

may take between 12 and 18 credit hours per semester and up to 149 credit hours total.

The current policy for tuition remission states that benefits continue through May 31 of the following academic year after the employee’s termination.

The April 14 letter also stated that terminated faculty will

retain access to Netpass, email and library privileges for 12 months following their termination date. Terminated employees will also have access to job search and retraining assistance through Express Employment Professionals and Workforce NY free of

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College keeps pot ban despite NY legalization

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

After years of rallies in its favor, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed a bill legalizing recreational marijuana in New York state March 31. Despite Ithaca College having the 16th most weed-friendly student body in America, not much will change for students.

The bill, called the “Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act,” allows for the possession of up to three ounces of marijuana for recreational purposes. Cornell University, Tompkins Cortland Community College and Ithaca College are maintaining their policies prohibiting marijuana. Because Ithaca College, like many colleges in the state, receives funding from the federal government, which still classifies marijuana as an illegal substance, marijuana is not permitted on campus. Even medical marijuana, which has health benefits like reducing chronic pain and seizures, is illegal on campus.

Katie Newcomb, assistant director of the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, said the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) requires federally funded schools to not only comply

with the federal illegalization of marijuana and other drugs but also to run a drug and alcohol abuse prevention program.

Newcomb said that additionally, recreational marijuana is only legal for adults over 21 years old. Most of the college’s student body is under 21, meaning that even if the school were able to legalize it, it would still be illegal for most students to consume, similar to alcohol.

The bill treats the consumption of marijuana like cigarettes, allowing for smoking in public like walking down the street. However, wherever there are restrictions on cigarettes, there are also restrictions on smoking marijuana. Municipalities have until Dec. 31 to pass a law prohibiting the opening of dispensaries, but they cannot opt out of the legalization of marijuana. Legal sales of marijuana will likely start in 2022.

Sophomore Andres Rendon said he believes that while the legalization of marijuana in New York state is a good thing, the college should be open to changing its policy down the road.

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FRESHMAN SCORES HIS WAY TO STARTING

Plastics increase due to protocols

BY BRIDGET HAGEN

When Ithaca College senior Ab-sari Begum noticed the single-use plastics in the dining halls this semester, she said she thought the movement to use less plastic had been forgotten because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the past, Dining Services gave students reusable plates, cups and metal silverware in the dining halls. However, dining staff cannot wash those items anymore because of COVID-19 precautions.

Students now get single-use plastic utensils, which are not compostable or recyclable, and plastic cups, which are compostable and recyclable, at the dining halls.

“Before COVID, we tried to be as environmentally friendly as possible,” Scott McWilliams, director of Dining Services, said.

This year, Dining Services has purchased approximately 159,250 plastic silverware kits, McWilliams said. He said that during the 2019–20 academic year, the college purchased 14,000 plastic knives, 43,000

forks and 47,000 spoons.

He said Dining Services’ goal is still to source as many sustainable plastic alternatives as it can.

Worldwide, 300 million tons of plastic waste are produced annually, with single-use plastics accounting for half of that, according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for flexible packaging, which includes single-use plastics, has increased by approximately 4–5% in the United States.

Susan Allen, professor in the Department of Environmental Studies and Science, said students could bring their own silverware instead of taking the plastic utensil kits to reduce plastic waste.

“We’re doing everything we can to prevent the spread of COVID,” she said. “That’s great. I’m all for it, but it doesn’t necessarily mean that we have to use single-use plastics. We can just provide our own.”

McWilliams said students could bring their own silverware with



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ithaca College Dining Services has switched from using reusable utensils to single-use plastic utensils in the dining halls. The plastic silverware is not recyclable or compostable.

BEC LEGATO/THE ITHACAN

them to the dining hall and wash it themselves after they leave. Students could bring their own beverages, he said, but to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the dining hall staff cannot fill students’ own cups or water bottles for them.

Rebecca Evans, campus sustainability coordinator for the Office of Energy Management and Sustainability, said she would usually recommend that students eat in the dining halls in order to decrease their waste on campus.

In the dining halls, students avoid extra packaging by receiving their food in reusable plastic containers, despite the single-use utensils.

Restaurants often give customers their takeout food in disposable cardboard boxes and plastic bags and with single-use plastic silverware, Evans said.

She said food packaging in grocery stores also amounts to a lot of waste.

“I think that the dining hall is actually still the best bet,” Evans said.

Freshman Haley Bracken said she does not take the single-use utensils when she picks up food from retail dining options like Ithaca Bakery. She said she typically brings those meals back to her room where she has her own silverware.

“We already get the containers,” she said. “Why not use reusable utensils?”

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IC Creatives: Kellie Swensen

Junior Kellie Swensen, artist and sociology student, shares their artwork and belief in the power of art to inspire social change.



Women’s Track & Field Pole Vaulter Juliann Terry

Hosts Kaitlin Maniscalco and Gabby Laccona sit down with senior Juliann Terry to learn about pole vaulting and Terry’s transition from gymnastics to track and field.



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Gender studies major to begin in fall

BY ALEXIS MANORE

After years of progress and development, the Ithaca College Women's and Gender Studies (WGST) program will offer a new major in women's, gender and sexuality studies (WGSS) in Fall 2021.

The Women's Studies program was established in 1995 and was changed to Women's and Gender Studies (WGST) in 2014. Currently, it is only offered as a minor. It is an interdisciplinary program made up of classes and professors from all five schools that explores the way that women and gender as categories of analysis intersect with race, class and sexuality.

Claire Gleitman, professor in the Department of English and coordinator for the WGST program, said the program has grown to be the third largest interdisciplinary minor at the college.

"I'm delighted that there will be a WGSS major as of Fall 2021," she said via email. "We had hoped that the process would move along as swiftly as it did, but we weren't sure that it would."

She said the hiring of more designated WGST faculty members, like Kasia Bartoszynska, assistant professor in the Department of English and the WGST program, and Natasha Bharj, assistant professor in the Department of Psychology and the WGST program, were crucial in making the major possible.



Kasia Bartoszynska, assistant professor in the Department of English and the Women's and Gender Studies program, teaches Introduction to Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies on April 13.

ARLA DAVIS/THE ITHACAN

Carla Golden, professor emeritus and former coordinator for the WGST program, said Bartoszynska and Bharj's appointments to the program are significant because the program draws its other faculty from other departments.

Bartoszynska said she was thrilled by the approval of the WGSS major.

"Since coming to IC, I've been so excited and impressed by our students and their enthusiasm for, and commitment to, the program and the work that we do," she said via email. "It has long been a popular minor, but the shift to a major will allow students to pursue their studies

in more depth."

Gleitman said Golden was also key in the formation of the WGSS major.

Golden said she and Gleitman worked together on a proposal for the new major to submit to the New York State Education Department in Spring 2020 and throughout the summer, and submitted it in Fall 2020. The department must review, approve and register every program that is creditable toward a degree at colleges and universities in New York state.

"I think it's fantastic," Golden said. "It will bring Ithaca College into the 21st century. Every school ought to have a women's,

gender and sexuality studies program, especially Ithaca, which is such a progressive school."

Sophomore Sara Ostermeier currently has a minor in WGST. She said that the WGST classes cover engaging material and that she intends to add the WGSS major in the fall.

"There's so many people who are interested in the subject in general, that I think it's a really good move to have a major for this," she said. "I think it's the kind of major that's perfect for Ithaca College. ... It matches who the college is."

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IC launches new program

BY ALEXIS MANORE

Ithaca College has received approval to launch its Master of Science in physician's assistant (PA) studies, which will admit students beginning in Fall 2021.

President Shirley M. Collado and La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, said in an April 13 announcement that the program has received provisional accreditation from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant and the New York State Education Department. The program will be housed in the School of Health Sciences and Human Performance (HSHP). The 27-month program will admit 30 students in its first cohort in the fall. Admissions will close June 7.

A PA is a medical professional who works with physicians to diagnose illnesses, manage treatment plans, prescribe medications and more. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of PAs is projected to grow by 31% from 2019 to 2029, which is faster than the average for all other occupations.

"Ithaca College is already well-known for quality health profession programs, and the PA program is a natural fit," Linda Petrosino, dean of HSHP, said in a press release.

Susan Salahshor, assistant professor and program director for the PA program, said that she and the staff of the program are excited for the program and that they have begun reviewing applications. Salahshor joined the college in late 2019.

"Every community assessment plan shows we need more health care providers to work in behavioral and mental health," Salahshor said in a press release.

Cornish and Collado said the program is in line with the strategic plan, Ithaca Forever. The college has been planning on launching the PA program since the launch of the strategic plan in 2019.

The announcement was made in the midst of the Academic Program Prioritization process, which involves the elimination of five graduate programs at the college. This includes four Masters of Music programs in the Music School and the Image Text Master of Fine Arts in the Roy H. Park School of Communications.

"The fact that Ithaca College is doing this after getting rid of the Master programs in the music school does not sit right with me at all," user @kearbeara said on Twitter.

The program will be housed downtown in the former Rothschild Building on the Ithaca Commons and will also use some of the facilities in the Center for Health Sciences, the Hill Center and Smiddy Hall on campus. The college received a \$1,580,627 grant to help renovate facilities for the program. The new space will include a clinical learning center and a simulation center.

Sunny Days of Ithaca, a gift store located on the Commons, had to move locations as a result of the construction on the building that will house the PA program.

Deidre Kurzweil, owner of Sunny Days of Ithaca, said the program will be an amazing asset to the college and downtown Ithaca. However, she said she would have preferred more consideration from the college and her landlord throughout the construction process.

She said she went into December 2020 20% ahead of where she expected to be and ended the month 20% behind. In the end, she decided to move her store further down the Commons.

"The program is great; I'm glad it's being built," Kurzweil said. "But we're not protected by the terms of our lease."

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CSCRE to offer first major in Fall 2021

BY ALYSHIA KORBA

Ithaca College will be offering its first major in the Center for the Study of Culture, Race and Ethnicity (CSCRE). The race, power and resistance major will become available in Fall 2021.

The CSCRE previously only offered minors including African diaspora studies, Asian American studies, Latino/a studies and Native American studies. Belisa González, associate professor in the Department of Sociology and director of the CSCRE, said the major will provide students with an interdisciplinary education of race inequality.

"The race, power and resistance major will feature an unapologetic focus on race and power inequalities in the U.S. and the diaspora, delivered by a core faculty with strong and varied research and teaching profiles," González said via email.

She said the CSCRE has been working on forming the major for approximately two to three years.

The CSCRE was first developed in 1999 and celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2019. González said the major will provide a more in-depth education on race and power than can be achieved with the minors in the CSCRE. She said students will have the option of focusing their studies on African diaspora, Asian American, Latino/a or Native American studies or studying across all four areas.

The major will require 36 credits, which will include core courses like: Introduction to Culture, Race and Ethnicity Concepts; Critical Race Theory; and Capstone Seminar in Culture, Race and Ethnicity. The rest of the



Paula Ioanide, professor in the Center for the Study of Culture, Race and Ethnicity, announces the new major to her Watching Race in American Media class April 14.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

credits can be obtained through elective courses. González said the major was designed so it can be taught by faculty who are already at the college.

Paula Ioanide, professor in the CSCRE, worked with González, other faculty members and students on the conceptualization of the major. She said the interdisciplinary nature of the major makes it valuable.

"I think it's essential for all students who attend college to prepare them effectively for the world that they are in and that they will encounter in their respective workforces," Ioanide said. "The world is becoming more and more racially and ethnically diverse."

Junior Sebastian Chavez is a politics major

with a minor in Latino/a studies, but he said he would have opted for a major in the CSCRE if it had been available.

"This program, the CSCRE, allows for more diverse inclusion, equitable education and a curriculum that is inclusive to BIPOC students," Chavez said. "But it also provides an opportunity for non-BIPOC students to learn about the oppressive issues that Latinx, marginalized communities like the Asian American community, the Black community, transgender community."

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FROM FINANCES, PAGE 1

sits at \$10.31 trillion.

Schumer said that forgiving \$50,000 of student loans could help stimulate the economy.

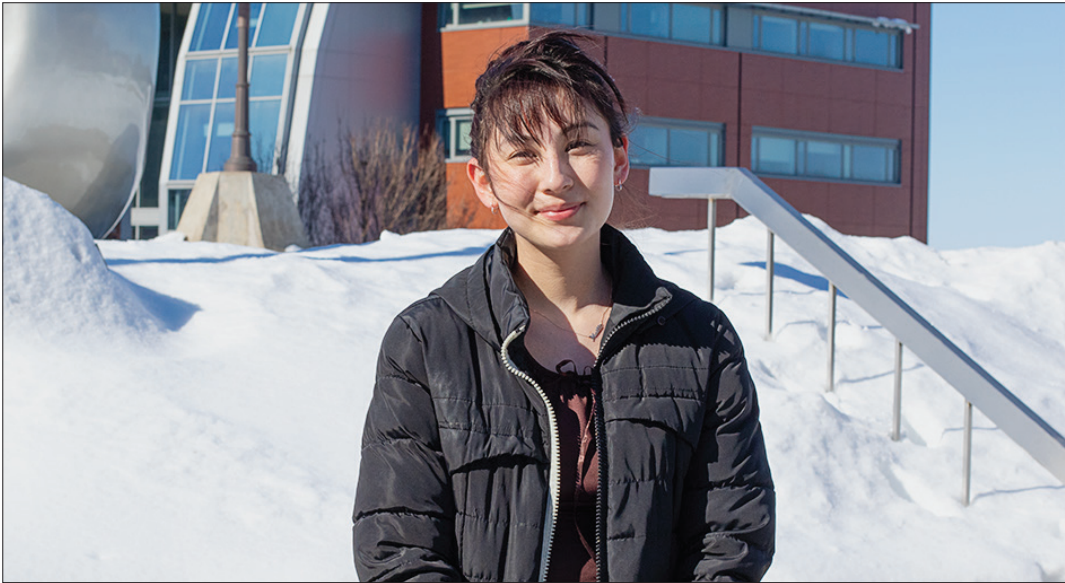
Shana Gore, executive director of Student Financial Services, said she thinks it is important for families and students to be aware of how much debt they take on. She also said that is part of the reason the college decided to freeze tuition for the 2021–22 academic year. Gore said approximately 90% of Ithaca College students receive some form of financial aid.

The SLT announced in December 2020 that tuition will remain at \$46,610, a standard double room will cost \$8,976 and a standard meal plan will cost \$6,868. The total cost of attendance is \$62,454.

“Our announcement in December of 2020 to freeze our total cost at the current level, as well as keep individual student aid awards constant, was rooted in our deep commitment to keeping students at the center and eliminating barriers to student access and success,” Koehler said via email.

Gore said college is an investment that usually has a positive outcome as students leave college with a degree in a field they want to specialize in.

Gore said that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the financial aid office has heard from more students and families about financial changes due to job losses. Gore said the college will have received three rounds of federal



Sophomore Mailli McCormack started a GoFundMe campaign Jan. 24 to help raise money for her outstanding balance at the college. She lost both of her jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

relief funding from the government once the funds from the American Rescue Plan go through. The first was from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The college received \$4,583,253 in the CARES Act. Gore said all the money allocated to students was distributed in Spring and Summer 2020. The second was from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act, from which the college received \$6,732,724, and Gore said funds are currently being distributed to students and the money for students will have been distributed by the end of Spring 2021. The third is the American Rescue Plan, and the college has not received these funds yet.

Junior Meghan Marzella said that due to the pandemic, her

father had to take a pay cut as well as take on an extra job. Marzella said she also had to take on an additional job at home in order to make money to pay for her tuition. Marzella said she had a \$10,000 scholarship grant from the college that she has almost lost a couple of times due to her siblings graduating college. Due to her change in finances, the college determined her grant was no longer necessary as it seemed she could pay tuition without it.

“We really fought really hard to have the school reconsider taking my grant away, but they still decided to take it away, unfortunately,” she said.

Marzella said that if Schumer and Warren’s plan goes through, it would be a huge weight off of her shoulders. She said that currently, she owes approximately

\$40,000 in debt that will continue to grow with interest.

Sophomore Mailli McCormack started a GoFundMe campaign Jan. 24 to help raise money for her outstanding balance at the college. She said she had to figure out her college finances herself, including filling out the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) on her own.

The FAFSA is a form students can fill out with information about their parent or guardian’s finances to determine how much federal financial aid they will receive.

“Everyone that said something to me or donated, it was so heartwarming it gives me chills,” she said.

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FROM MARIJUANA, PAGE 1

“It’s safe to say in general that Ithaca is a very liberal city,” Rendon said. “Even on the college campuses, I feel like colleges are always automatically much more liberal just because that’s the natural demographic of them. I understand that Ithaca could get deprived of federal funding, ... but everyone knows the general culture around drug usage at Ithaca College. I guess the college administration just has to catch up with that and realize that people should be able to do that at their own risk.”

The bill also expunges the records of people who had violated laws the bill now legalizes. However, at Ithaca College, students can still be judicially referred for marijuana violations. The college’s 2020 Annual Security & Fire Safety Report said that in 2019, there was



Recreational marijuana is now legal in New York state. However, private colleges like Ithaca College are maintaining their policies that do not allow it on campus.

ASH BAILLOT/THE ITHACAN

“

Everyone knows the general culture around drug usage at Ithaca College.

–Andres Rendon

”

a combined total of 387 drug-related referrals on campus and in student housing. This was a significant decrease from 600 referrals and 12 arrests in 2017 and 519 referrals and 15 arrests in 2018. Only one drug-related arrest was made in 2019. Throughout the 2020–21 academic year so far, 14 students have been referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards for offenses regarding

marijuana use, according to the college’s public safety logs.

Sophomore Ben Caruccio said that expunging marijuana records is a good way to fix the wrongs of the past. However, he said he believes that the legalization on college campuses could take a while.

“I think especially with the legalization of it I could see them changing it, but not anytime soon,” Caruccio said. “That feels like something that would be a slow process. Maybe in the next decade, but I don’t see them changing it for next year, for example.”

Despite maintaining its policy prohibiting marijuana, the college joined New York state in decriminalizing the drug in 2019. By decriminalizing it, the possession of marijuana went from being a felony or misdemeanor to being a ticketable offense.

The consequences for students that break Ithaca’s marijuana policy remain. After a first offense, students are required to take a web education course. After a second offense, they go on disciplinary probation for one year. After a third, they are removed from campus

housing. After a fourth, they face suspension.

The bill is heavy on making reparations for the war on drugs, including a 13% tax rate that will be redistributed to education, community grants and drug treatment programs. In 2019 alone, 1.5 million Americans were arrested on drug-related violations, the majority of which were for possession. Over a half million of these arrests were marijuana arrests. Additionally, despite white and Black Americans consuming marijuana at a similar rate, Black Americans are four times more likely to be arrested for possession, according to the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

Sophomore Pablo Correa-Ramirez said he hopes the legalization will make amends for the war on drugs and is disappointed that Ithaca College’s policy will not change.

“I disagree with it,” Correa-Ramirez said. “I think that if a law is passed in a state, you should be able to follow the laws of the state.”

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FROM TUITION, PAGE 1

charge. The letter states that the college will reach out to faculty and staff whose positions have been terminated when looking to fill positions but cannot guarantee that they will have preferential treatment as candidates.

Heather Brecht, lecturer in the Department of Communication Studies, has two children currently enrolled at Ithaca College. The Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee (APPIC) has recommended the communication studies major be eliminated, outlined in the “Shape of the College” document.

She said her family did not previously receive any tuition remission benefits as she was only a part-time employee, even though she has taught at the college since 1995. However, she said that both of her children do receive scholarship money from the Ithaca Heritage Grant due to her being an Ithaca College alum.

“We just get told, ‘Thanks for being here, but we’re not giving your kids any tuition,’” she said.

Heather Brecht said that the money she earns from the college goes back toward paying tuition for both of her kids and that not having that paycheck will make a difference in her family’s finances.

“I feel that I am very much in a state of limbo in terms of how to replace that income,” she said.

Freshman Brooke Brecht said her mom does a lot financially to help her and her brother, senior Paul Brecht, get through college.

“It does stress me out a little bit just to know that she is losing her source of income,” she said.

Paul Brecht said his family is lucky to have that scholarship money and is privileged financially in a sense, but his mom losing her job adds another complication to the family’s finances.

“It goes back to, we now have to figure out an extra \$40,000 plus a year to pay for it,” he said. “It changes your lifestyle.”

Claire Gleitman, women’s and gender studies coordinator, professor in the Department of English and president of the Humanities and Sciences (H&S) Faculty Senate, worked with other senate members to draft the resolution asking the college to support terminated faculty and staff. In the resolution, the senate advocated for extending tuition remission benefits to dependents of faculty and staff who are being cut.

“Expecting that their children could go to IC tuition-free might have prompted them not to put away large amounts of money for a future college education because, understandably, they did not think they needed to,” Gleitman said via email.

Junior Ana Maria Arroyo has lived in Ithaca, New York, her entire life and is now an environmental studies major at Ithaca College.

Her father, Juan Arroyo, assistant professor in the Department of Politics, started teaching at the college in 2001. His position is set to be cut.

Ana Maria Arroyo said that without the financial benefits her family receives, she most likely would have gone to a local community college instead.

“My family just doesn’t have that much more for college, so being able to stay here, live at home and get the tuition remission from my father pretty much sealed the deal,” she said.

Juan Arroyo said the loss of his salary from the college will take away about 40% of his family’s income.

“I’m sure I could find something, but nothing is going to replace this kind of full-time job with benefits,” he said.

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Enrollment causes housing changes

BY JAY BRADLEY

Lower enrollment projections at Ithaca College have resulted in the elimination of the off-campus application process for juniors for the 2021–22 academic year.

Due to reduced enrollment projections, the upcoming academic year has been anticipated to meet housing needs for freshmen, sophomores and juniors, and there will be no off-campus application process. Enrollment in Fall 2020 was 5,354, down from 6,266 in Fall 2019 and 6,517 in Fall 2018, according to the Office of Analytics and Institutional Research.

“The off-campus application process exists for the sole purpose of approving some interested students to move off campus in order to make sure there is enough housing available for our new and returning students,” a Nov. 3 announcement from the Division of Student Affairs and Campus Life stated. “If it is anticipated that there will be on-campus housing for all first-years, sophomores and juniors, an off-campus release process will not occur.”

Sophomore Mary Turner is graduating early, in May 2022, and had been hoping that her last year at the college would be as she envisioned. She wanted to live off campus with her boyfriend to save money and learn more about living on her own before leaving college.

“Essentially for myself and a few of my friends that have decided to graduate an entire year early, that opportunity to possibly apply to live off campus has been completely negated between, like, reduced enrollment and COVID, so it sucks,” Turner said.



For the 2021–22 academic year, there will be no off-campus housing offered for juniors at Ithaca College. Some juniors will be able to live in on-campus apartments like the Circle Apartments.

CAROLINE BROPHY/THE ITHACAN

“I think it’s a bit frustrating that they’re not being open-minded to the fact that some people in the Class of 2023 have decided to graduate early.”

In most years, a limited number of off-campus applications are approved for non-seniors and seniors who have not lived on campus for six semesters.

Last year, approximately 238 juniors were accepted to live off campus after 470 applied, a high volume which led to system errors. This resulted in many rising juniors speaking out against the policy.

“Because it’s a residential college, ... the bulk of a student’s time would include living on campus, and that on-campus

experience is part of the IC experience,” said Laura Davis, assistant housing director for the Office of Residential Life.

Davis said that typically students live on campus for at least their first three years, and a goal of the Office of Residential Life is to ensure students can be housed on campus for that time.

She said availability for off-campus housing is comparable to a pendulum, in which some years with higher enrollment allow more students to engage with the off-campus process and others, like this year, keep students from living off campus due to lower enrollment.

Davis said that despite being fully remote in the fall and some

students studying remotely this spring, neither will be counted against the school’s residency requirement and that those with concerns or questions should email housing@ithaca.edu.

Sophomore Andrew Tell said that while he would have enjoyed living off campus and did want to, he was not disappointed by not being able to apply.

“I was already having the mindset like, ‘OK, I already know junior year I’m going to be living on campus; I want to have my off-campus year be senior year because that’ll probably be a better time to live off campus,’” he said.

CONTACT JAY BRADLEY
jbradley@ithaca.edu

TCHD cancels vaccine day

BY ALEXIS MANORE

The Tompkins County Health Department (TCHD) has canceled the College Student Vaccination Day after a national pause in administration of the Johnson and Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine.

The vaccination day was meant to allow Ithaca College, Cornell University and Tompkins Cortland Community College students to receive the J&J vaccine April 15 at the Shops at Ithaca Mall.

However, after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New York State Department of Health called for a pause in distribution of the J&J vaccine, the day has been canceled. TCHD will continue to administer the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines at local clinics, as will state-run sites.

In an April 13 email to the college community, Ellyn Sellers-Selin, medical director for the Center for Counseling, Health and Wellness at Ithaca College, encouraged students to seek other vaccinations opportunities, like Tompkins County Vaccine Registry, New York state vaccination sites or local pharmacies.

This recommended pause in distribution of the J&J vaccine is the result of reports of rare, but dangerous, blood clots six to 13 days after administration of the vaccine. The CDC and the Food and Drug Administration will be investigating these reports.

TCHD has distributed 130 doses of the J&J vaccine to members of the Tompkins County community, the announcement stated.

The CDC has stated that adverse reactions related to the J&J vaccine appear to be rare and that those who have received it that develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain or shortness of breath within three weeks after the vaccine should contact their health care providers.

CONTACT ALEXIS MANORE
amanore@ithaca.edu

THE FACES OF AUSTERITY

BY HARRIET MALINOWITZ



1984 IN ITHACA

Rachel Fomalhaut is a lecturer in the Department of Writing and in the Women’s and Gender Studies program. She is 40, the mother of a 3-year-old and identifies as queer and Jewish. She has taught at Ithaca College for nine years.

This semester, she is completing her doctorate in English at Binghamton University with a dissertation on loss and affect in multicultural women’s fiction.

Fomalhaut chaired the Contingent Faculty Union for three and a half years and has been part of the leadership team since it was founded. She also served on the Faculty Council as the sole representative of contingent faculty on campus for three years.

She has crossed many departmental and programmatic borders, serving as a first-year resident experience associate in the Office of Residential Life, tutoring in the New York State Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program and teaching writing sections of the Ithaca Seminar.

She has also taught Introduction to Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Queer Studies.

“Women’s and gender studies, based in an intersectional framework, is my favorite thing to teach,” Fomalhaut said.

Fomalhaut’s partner lost his job in November due to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“My income was never the primary one because I’m so low-paid,” she said. “Then my income became primary. And

now, I’m fired.”

Luckily, she said, there is Medicaid and the privilege of having middle-class parents for help with the mortgage.

She said her long experience negotiating on behalf of the union has left her unsurprised about the administration’s unwillingness to collaborate with faculty.

“It’s horrible to watch IC firing so many people during a health crisis while refusing to discuss alternative options, including proposals from the union that, at little or no cost to the college, would have helped to make this process more compassionate and humane for people,” Fomalhaut said. “Especially in the wake of the Trump era, with millions of people still devoted to him, to have this college that brands itself as liberal and progressive but with no analysis of power relations talking about ‘progress’ — it feels very 1984.”



MODEL UNITED NATIONS ADVISER IS CUT

Juan Arroyo, 57, is an assistant professor in the Department of Politics. He has taught at Ithaca College for 20 years, 15 of them full-time.

Born in Spain, he came to the U.S. as a baby, and, because his father taught at Cornell University, he grew up in Ithaca. He is married to a nurse who works at the local hospital, and they have three children.

Arroyo has a Ph.D. in Comparative Politics from American University in Washington, D.C. Before coming to Ithaca

College, he spent four years directing Cornell’s study abroad program in Hamburg, Germany.

He continued working for the program when he returned to the U.S.

Arroyo said he knew he wanted to be a teacher since the age of seven and still loves it.

His courses are mostly about European politics and international organizations.

A key part of his work since 2009 has been serving as the adviser for the college’s Model United Nations team.

The students who participate in these national and international simulations are, he said, “a wonderful, eclectic group of people who are a lot of fun to work with, not just the obvious politics students. I will miss that a lot.”

He now faces a steep decline in family income and the possible loss of tuition remission for his kids.

One daughter currently attends Ithaca College now, and his son received his acceptance letter three weeks after Arroyo was notified of his termination.

“Our family has planned around this for years,” he said. “The administration still hasn’t clarified what the terms will be.”

Of his own future, Arroyo said, “It’s going to mean upheaval, but I’m not going to let this torpedo my life.”

He said he felt that the administration is making a mistake regarding the college’s future.

“A decision was made in a very quick, almost panicky way using certain parameters, data and indicators and ignoring others,” Arroyo said. “As a professor, I would grade the APP process as an incomplete. No decision of any magnitude should be made so quickly, not in our personal lives, not for IC.”

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

Ithaca College advises students about malicious phone scams

Ithaca College is warning students about malicious phone calls that make false claims about class registration.

In an April 12 email to the college community, the college stated that some students have received phone calls from an unknown number stating that the college is concerned by the number of green boxes — the to-go containers used for dining — that they are taking. The calls stated that if the boxes are not returned, the student will have a hold placed on their accounts, making them unable to register for classes. Class registration for Fall 2021 will begin April 13.

The caller left a voicemail if the recipient did not answer the phone. The college will not prevent students from registering for classes and will not place charges or holds on student accounts for failure to return the green take-out containers, the email stated.

Registrar Vikki Levine said in an email to *The Ithacan* that this is not the college’s policy, and neither the Office of the Registrar nor Dining Services have been making these calls.

Information Technology and the Office of Public Safety are investigating the source of the robocalls. If anyone has received one of these calls or has any information about them, report it to Public Safety at (607) 274-3333.

Theater arts group raises money through annual fundraising event

The 10th annual Wheels for Women benefit cabaret held Feb. 27 was a record-breaking event for the student organization. A board comprising twelve Department of Theatre Arts students, led by seniors Ronce Goldman and Teresa Gelsomini, worked diligently to face the challenges of offering a virtual cabaret.

They produced an 80-minute cabaret complete with a choral arrangement of “Fast Car” by Tracy Chapman, performances by alumni of the 10-year effort and an online auction for homemade pie. The event raised over \$15,000 to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence in Kerala, India.

The India New Express did a story on

the Cultural Academy for Peace, the organization’s partner in India, that mentions Wheels for Women. The article can be found at <https://bit.ly/3d8uz3j>.

Intervention training to be held for sexual violence prevention

The Sexual Violence Prevention Committee is hosting a Bringing in the Bystander (BITB) event at noon April 19 as part of its Sexual Assault Awareness Month programming. BITB teaches bystanders how to safely intervene in situations in which an incident may be occurring or in which there may be a risk of sexual or relationship violence.

This program uses a responsible community approach through a well-researched and tailored training program. Individuals can register at <https://bit.ly/3g5vDa2>.

IC public safety to host discussion on college community safety app

Join the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management at 12:15 April 21 to learn about the Rave Guardian App.

The Rave Guardian App is a centralized application that provides Ithaca College community members with a number of on-campus and off-campus support services and resources.

This application features push notifications, which will provide community members with timely notice in the event of an emergency, critical incident and changes to institutional operation. Attendees of the training will learn how to operate the Rave Guardian App. Individuals can register for the event at <https://bit.ly/3wMO1dO>.

Overdose prevention workshops to be held for college community

A workshop will allow participant to learn how to save the life of someone who has overdosed on an opioid like OxyContin, Vicodin or heroin. Participants will learn about symptoms of overdose, harm-reduction principles, how to administer naloxone (Narcan) to a victim of opioid overdose and the naloxone access initiative at Ithaca College.



Ducks quack for a cause at BomberTHON

Senior Laura Heppes dumps rubber ducks into a pool in Kelsey Partridge Bird Natatorium for the BomberTHON Rubber Ducky Derby. BomberTHON raised \$34,221.92 for Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital in Syracuse, New York.

LEXI DANIELSON/THE ITHACAN

The training is hosted by the Center for Health Promotion in partnership with Southern Tier AIDS Program.

This workshop will be held from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. April 15. It is free and open to all Ithaca College students, faculty and staff. Advanced registration is required. People can register at <https://bit.ly/3s7HITZ>.

Individuals can contact Nancy Reynolds, program director for the Center for Health Promotion, with any questions by email at nreynolds@ithaca.edu.

Individuals with disabilities can request accommodations by emailing Reynolds or

by calling (607) 274-7933.

Information Technology to have extended hours for registration

In support of Fall 2021 student course registration, the Information Technology Service Desk will be available to provide phone and chat support at 7:30 a.m. April 15, 20 and 22. The service desk usually opens at 8 a.m.

Individuals can contact the Information Technology Service Desk via phone at (607) 274-1000, email at servicedesk@ithaca.edu or chat at <https://ithaca.bomgarcloud.com> with any questions.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM MARCH 29 TO APRIL 5

MARCH 29

PETIT LARCENY BETWEEN \$50–\$199

LOCATION: U-Lot

SUMMARY: A caller reported that a streetlight had been pulled out of the ground. The officer determined that an unknown person stole a sign. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

LOCATION: Garden Apartments

SUMMARY: A caller reported an odor of marijuana. The officer referred one person for unlawful possession of marijuana to student conduct. Patrol Officer Joe Oppen responded.

MARCH 30

MAKING GRAFFITI NO DEGREE

LOCATION: Peggy Ryan Williams Center

SUMMARY: An officer reported that an unknown person spray painted graffiti on a building exit sign. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

MAKING GRAFFITI NO DEGREE

LOCATION: All Campus

SUMMARY: An officer reported that an unknown person spray-painted graffiti on building exit signs in multiple

buildings. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

CHECK ON THE WELFARE

LOCATION: Terrace 13

SUMMARY: A caller reported concern for a person due to not hearing from them. The officer found the person deceased and they were transported to the hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Shawn Lansing responded.

SCC COLLEGE REGULATIONS

LOCATION: A-Lot

SUMMARY: A caller reported that a group of people were playing basketball and not wearing masks. The officer reported no violations were found. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 4TH DEGREE

LOCATION: Grant Egbert Blvd. East

SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown person had glued a sign over top of an Ithaca College directory sign. Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded.

MARCH 31

ACCIDENTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Circle Apartments

SUMMARY: An officer reported that

a piece of weather stripping came off a building due to high winds. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

MAKING GRAFFITI NO DEGREE

LOCATION: Academic Quad

SUMMARY: A caller reported that a person wrote graffiti on a sidewalk. Sergeant Don Lyke responded.

SCC DRUG VIOLATIONS

LOCATION: Garden Apartments

SUMMARY: A caller reported an odor of marijuana. The officer referred two people to student conduct for a violation of the drug policy. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

APRIL 1

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Garden Apartments

SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm activation. The officer reported that the activation was caused by steam from a hot shower. Sergeant Chris Teribury responded.

APRIL 2

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS-RELATED

LOCATION: West Tower

SUMMARY: A caller reported that a person was vomiting and requested

an ambulance. The person was transported to the hospital by ambulance staff. Fire Protection Specialist Max Noble responded.

SCHEME TO DEFRAUD

LOCATION: All Other

SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown person solicited information under false pretenses. Patrol Officer John Norman responded.

CHECK ON THE WELFARE

LOCATION: East Tower

SUMMARY: A caller reported that a person indicated they were going to harm themselves. The officer determined the person was not an imminent danger to themselves. Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded.

APRIL 3

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Circle Apartments

SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by burnt food. Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded.

APRIL 4

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: Textor Circle

SUMMARY: A caller reported that a person was jumping into

traffic. The officer checked and was unable to locate anyone. Sergeant Don Lyke responded.

CHEMICAL SPILLS

LOCATION: South Side Fuel

SUMMARY: A caller reported fumes emanating from an equipment storage area. Maintenance responded and determined that diesel fuel had leaked and the area was cleaned. Patrol Officer Maura Colon responded.

IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS

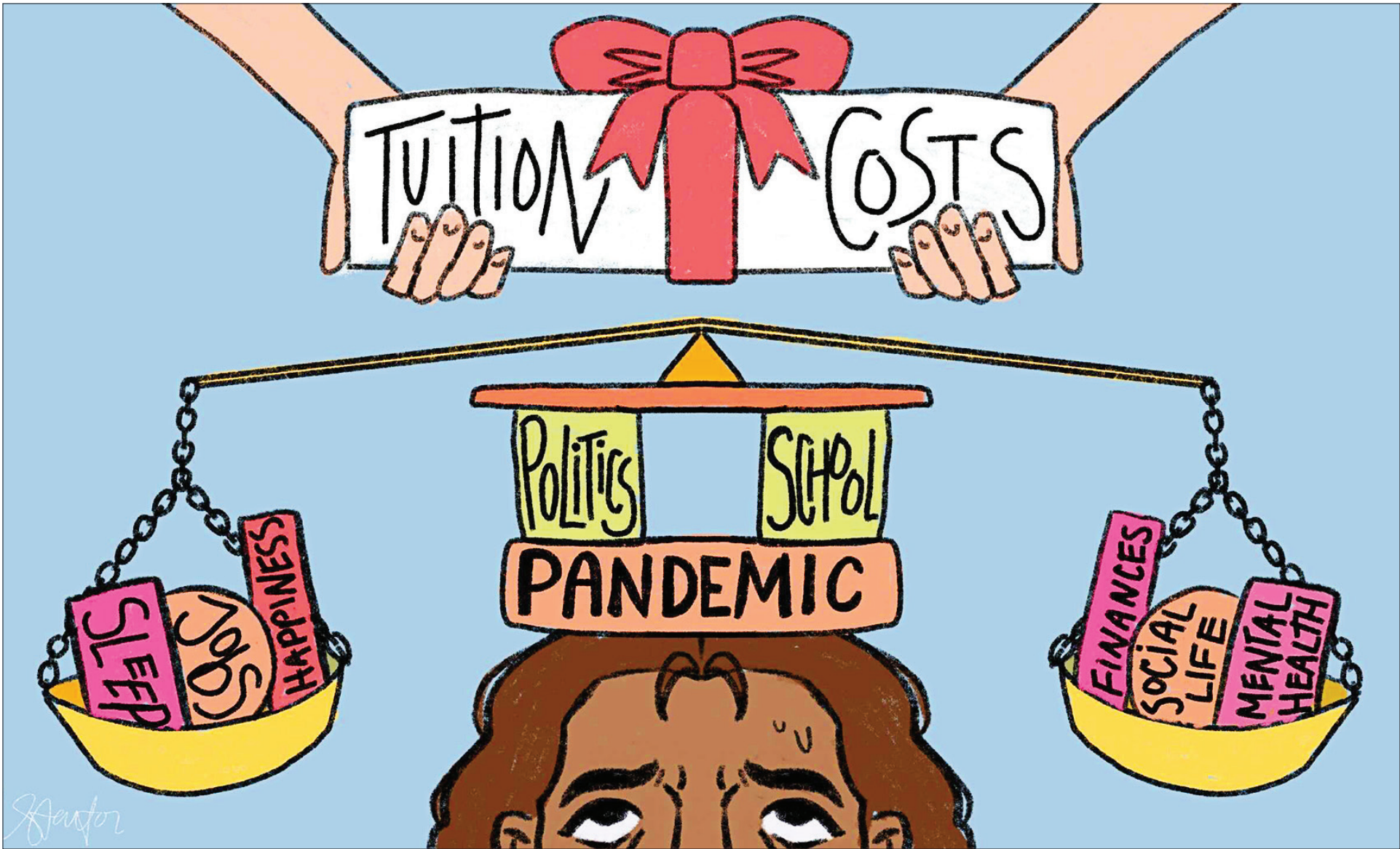
LOCATION: East Tower

SUMMARY: A caller reported that a person mistakenly entered their room and urinated on the floor. The officer referred one person to student conduct for irresponsible use of alcohol. Patrol Officer Shawn Lansing responded.

Full public safety log available online at www.theithacan.org.

KEY

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



MOLLY STANTON/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

Forgiveness of college debt needed for students now

Student debt forgiveness deserves to be higher on the national agenda. It has been a severe crisis that our government has ignored for far too long. Unfortunately, due to the society we live in, students are not offered much of a choice other than paying the cost of higher education to acquire a high paying job.

President Joe Biden's initial plan to support forgiving \$10,000 in student debt is not enough. Arguably, Senator Chuck Schumer and Senator Elizabeth Warren's campaign to forgive \$50,000 of every student's student debt is not either, though it is better than the president's proposed solution. Students are burdened with loans that can haunt them for life. Even when they enter the workforce, many still struggle to pay off the loans and interest that build up.

It is not fair to place massive debt onto students before they begin their lives and expect them to pay it off as they also embark on the other expensive financial pursuits of life, including marriage, having children and paying

mortgages. Loans provide the ability to begin life, but they do not support a healthy, happy life. Students should not have to turn to crowdfunding platforms to pursue their goals.

For the 2020–21 academic year, the cost of undergraduate attendance at Ithaca College, including tuition, room and board, and estimated book and personal expenses, is \$65,599. Even with scholarships and grants, tuition costs across the country remain steep. Whether the price tag of higher education is worth it is a question that has yet to be convincingly answered.

Some students are not afforded the privilege of relying on their parents. Nearly three in 10 American Black and Latinx college students are solely responsible for paying for all of their higher education costs, according to the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, an American nonprofit organization that attempts to help the Black college community acquire a high-quality college education at an affordable cost. Colleges can become more diverse if they are more financially accessible.

Legalization efforts must offer reparations to BIPOC

As more states across the nation usher in the legalization of marijuana and with New York celebrating the legalization of recreational use March 31, we must recognize how the war on drugs has disproportionality harmed communities of color.

The war on drugs, a global initiative led by the United States, aimed to decrease the illicit sale and use of drugs by increasing prison sentences for drug dealers and users. By design, the war on drugs targeted people of color, leaving them more likely to be stopped, searched, arrested, convicted, harshly sentenced and stuck with a lifelong criminal record. Nearly 80% of people in federal prison and about 60% of people in state prison for drug offenses are Black or Latinx. Black people and Indigenous people are more likely to be killed by law enforcement during police interactions.

Efforts to legalize marijuana are meaningless without offers of reparations. In 2020 alone, New Yorkers of color — mostly from Black and Latinx communities — made

up approximately 95% of marijuana arrests. The New York State Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act attempts to repair some of these damages by automatically expunging the records of people with previous marijuana-related charges that are no longer criminalized. Though it is too early to see its effects, expungement at the very least offers people a chance to start anew.

Marijuana convictions can be lifelong prison sentences, be it physically or mentally imprisoned. They can prevent people from job opportunities, drive them away from their families and invite them into the criminal system. For a drug that, at least on the surface, appears to be safer than alcohol, why do we so heavily criminalize it?

Drug convictions, for substances with a high potential for abuse, require rehabilitation, not inequitable criminal sentencing. The legalization of marijuana is a beginning — we must now continue the conversation to undo the suffering caused by previous legislation and build communities of support.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send to 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 or to the opinion editor 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

GUEST COMMENTARY

Warm weather doesn’t negate pandemic safety

BY FRANKIE WALLS

With temperatures in the 70s this past week, I’ve seen an increase of people hanging out outside and an increase of people not wearing masks. As the weather continues to get warmer and the pandemic begins to get further and further from your mind, I urge you to continue to care about what’s going on — if not for yourself, then for the others around you.

Who am I to tell you what you can and can’t do? Just a person who has been feeling the effects of the pandemic on a daily basis. Since March 2020, when the world started taking COVID-19 more seriously, my world has been turned upside down. I’ve lost church members, close friends and immediate family since the start of the pandemic. I’ve honestly lost track at this point of how many people it’s been. I just know that when my mom calls she has this slight inflection of her voice when she has bad news. Recently, I even had to go home for the passing of my great aunt who seemed asymptomatic when originally brought to the hospital. The first time I got to visit home since coming to Ithaca in January was for a funeral.

It seems as if every week someone in my immediate community at home is being affected by COVID-19, and if not COVID-19 directly, then with health issues that have worsened because of the virus. It’s terrifying to watch the world around you change so quickly and so drastically. My mom says that it’s just our season, and eventually, it will all be over and be someone else’s turn.

Whoever heard of a season lasting a year? It’s kind of laughable to me that I can’t remember not experiencing loss.

Now I’m not here to share my sob story with you — I have my therapist for that. However, I do think it’s important to urge young people to not be so careless when it comes to a pandemic.

It can be the smallest things that truly make a difference. I can’t tell you how many times people have looked at me strangely because I shudder when the line for the dining hall is packed, and I see five people standing on a sticker meant for one. The idea of being in that confined space with people who don’t seem to share the same level of concern as me is disheartening and jarring.

One time, I called out to a guy whose mask was hanging



Junior Frankie Walls reflects on how the pandemic has affected her life and urges college students to continue following safety regulations even as the weather improves and vaccines roll out.

MIKAYLA ELWELL/THE ITHACAN

below his nose as he shared a six feet apart sticker with his buddy. He waited until my back was turned to shove his mask back down and send my friend and me a nasty look.

People seem pretty touchy when it comes to their mask placement. Especially when they’re wearing it wrong.

That was me just asking if he could pull his mask up. Imagine if someone told him he has to (which

he does). I mean, I get the sentiment, “I can’t breathe when I wear a mask,” or “No one can hear me.” It’s rather simple though: You can breathe and you just need to talk louder. As someone who had an asthma attack so bad freshman year that they had to call the ambulance, masks are not going to hurt you or harm you if you keep them on when you aren’t in your room.

It’s easy to forget that we’re in a pandemic when the weather’s

nice and you get to play lawn games with friends. I just urge you to still follow precautions and guidelines. If not for you, then for the person across the room whose life you know nothing about. Be a little kinder when it comes to others. We’re going through a lot.

FRANKIE WALLS is a junior film, photography and visual art major and is the Community Outreach Manager at *The Ithacan*. Contact her at fwalls@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Where do demographics end and decisions begin?

BY GREG PETERSON

After hearing about the changes at Ithaca College, I didn’t understand the problems my alma mater was facing. My professors taught me to do research, and I have read through annual budgets, 990 forms and years of admissions data for IC and other colleges.

Overall, total enrollment at four-year colleges across New York has been steadily declining over the past five years. There has been a similar trend regionally. Since 2015, IC has increased the acceptance rate to maintain enrollment numbers as applications have plummeted and the yield has decreased even further. We’ve been told these decreasing numbers are part of a larger demographic trend impacting higher education, and IC must adapt. The problem is that these concerning trends might have less to do with demographics and more to do with how IC has been managed. While the total number of enrolled students has decreased in the past five years, some colleges have actually increased enrollment. If regional demographics are impacting admissions, then why are many schools not seeing the same trends in applications and enrollment as IC? Why has admission been poor the past few years at IC, and will resizing the school even address these problems?

From 2015 to 2019, total enrollment across private colleges in New York dropped 1.43%. At IC, it dropped over 7%. In 2020, there was a 4.1% drop across all private colleges in New York. At IC, it was over 17%. Why has enrollment at IC been so much worse than similar schools? What else could be the cause of such poor enrollment?

I compared IC to other regional and peer schools, examining applications received, acceptance rate, enrollment and yield (the percentage of students accepted who decide to enroll). While IC is facing some tough demographic issues, we do not see these same issues with applications, yield and acceptance rate at many other schools.

Out of 35 regional and peer private universities, 23 have had an increase in applications while 12 (including IC) have had a decrease. IC ranks 33rd.

Out of 35 schools, 16 have lowered their acceptance rate to become more competitive and 19 (including IC) have increased their acceptance rate to become more competitive.

Out of 35 schools, 16 have increased or maintained their yields while 19 schools have decreased yields. IC ranks 20th. IC is only one of four schools examined with negative trends across all categories.

One of these success stories is Alfred University in Alfred, New York. In the past five years, applications to Alfred have increased 17%. Alfred has undergone an aggressive



Greg Peterson ’09 addresses Ithaca College’s decline in student enrollment and writes that the college’s decision to resize does not solve the school’s problems.

COURTESY OF GREG PETERSON

marketing campaign at local high schools and “their own backyard.” When I asked about how they are planning to deal with dropping regional enrollment, Michael Kozlowski, the Executive Director of Marketing and Communication, said, “Two words: keep growing.” Alfred’s Vice President of Enrollment, Jonathan Kent, explained how Alfred has a plan for steady and sustained growth, and much of the conversation focused on how to improve the value of their university and the student-faculty relationship.

Why are some schools like Alfred showing such positive trends while other schools with more resources, like IC, are struggling? Have applications dropped due to the school’s reputation in the wake of President Tom Rochon and the protests? Did then hiring a president who has pleaded no contest

to sexual abuse have an impact? Have applications dropped due to recent turnover at the administrative level? More importantly, if IC has a reputation problem, or is suffering from losing key figures in the administration, how will resizing the school improve that?

In looking at the past 20 years of total applications, acceptance rates and yields at IC, 2014–15 seems to be an important pivot where all three of those trends move in negative directions and have largely continued that way. What happened then and what has continued to happen since 2014? The administration seems to have chosen to resize as the solution when we haven’t even identified the problem.

GREG PETERSON is a 2009 Ithaca College graduate. Contact him at petersongap@comcast.net.

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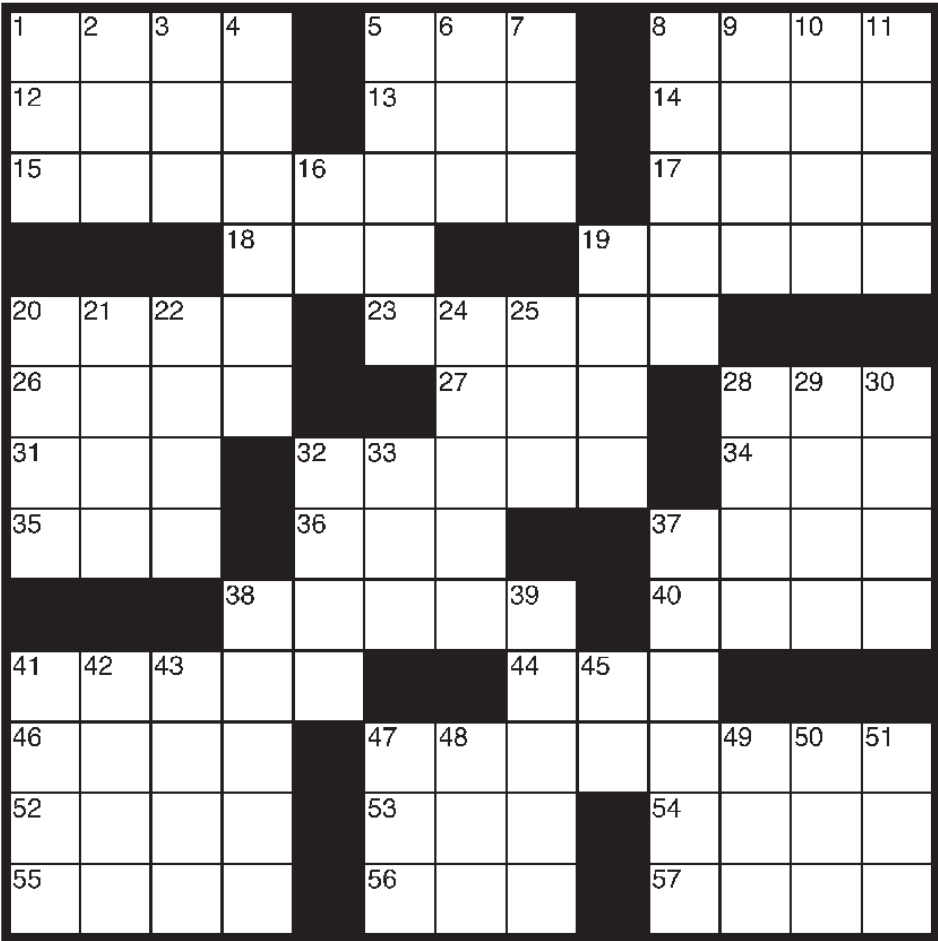
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- 1 Ax handle
5 Sofa end
8 Envelope sealer
12 State positively
13 Misery
14 O.K. Corral name
15 Suave
17 SCOTUS count
18 Memo abbr.
19 Hoodoo
20 Entice
23 Pushes to the limit
26 Inventor — Sikorsky
27 Youngster
28 However
31 Winter ailment
32 Ms. Oyl
34 Refinery shipment
35 Hurricane center
36 Tumbler's pad
37 Sleek racer
38 Port near Hong Kong
40 Pharaoh's god
41 Walkie-talkie OK
44 England's FBI
46 Reformers' targets

- 47 Grow rapidly
52 Pollen distributors
53 Old French coin
54 Peter Gunn's girl
55 Walkman brand
56 Spring mo.
57 Letter starter

- 29 Strongly advise
30 MTV watcher
32 Khayyam or Sharif
33 Resinous deposit
37 Served soup
38 Not neat
39 Take place
41 Corduroy ridges
42 Refrigerator stick
43 Hidden valley

- 45 Hawkeye st.
47 That, to Jaime
48 Use a paper towel
49 Orange or stock ending
50 Pedro's aunt
51 At all times, to Poe

DOWN

- 1 Ate for dinner
2 Wide st.
3 Watch chain
4 Reduced-price coupon
5 Be in store
6 Louis XIV, e.g.
7 Mal de —
8 Rank above species
9 Den
10 Coffee dispensers
11 Touché provoker
16 Niagara Falls st.
19 Yield territory
20 Precious thing
21 Unsightly
22 Playboy
24 Curly-tailed dog
25 Centurion's 14
28 Wrestling match

last issue's crossword answers

CUD	ZEST	SWAB
ERE	ELIA	DEPT
ABASE	TIN	LOU
SAFE	LENTIL	
EN	PRED	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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answers to last issue's sudoku:

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Senior Gavin Berger sits outside the Roy H. Park School of Communications on April 9 while filming for day 678 of his Instagram series, "Welcome to Ithaca."

ALYSSA BEEBE/THE ITHACAN

BY KATHERINE KROM

Not too many people can say that they have their entire four-year college experience documented. Senior Gavin Berger, a television radio major at Ithaca College, has done just that on his Instagram page, "Welcome to Ithaca."

Berger started the Instagram page during his freshman orientation. Berger said that when he and his friends were sitting by the Dillingham Fountains, one of his friends was filming and Berger stood up on a table and said, "Welcome to Ithaca." Since then, Berger has posted a video about Ithaca on the page almost every day.

"One of my friends was like, 'What if we did this every day,'" Berger said. "I was like, 'Oh, that would be funny. Let's see how long that lasts.'"

The account features what it is like to be an Ithaca College student, including life on campus, in the surrounding area and studying abroad. "Welcome to Ithaca" now has almost 600 followers with over 600 videos full of skits in different areas around Ithaca and information for students about events and clubs. Along with that, the

Instagram page has also featured other students and even interviews with President Shirley M. Collado.

By creating this Instagram, Berger has been able to channel his creativity.

"It pushes me to get out of my room and explore stuff but also to keep me creatively on my toes," Berger said. "Every day I am trying to figure out something to promote, or a little skit, or like coming into a room and seeing what I can do in there. It gives me an excuse to explore campus and Ithaca in general, and even Cornell's campus."

Berger starts each video in a new spot somewhere around Ithaca then introduces a new event, fact or skit, and always ends his videos with "Welcome to Ithaca." Some videos are more humorous, and others are informational. "Day 677" finds Berger sitting in a chair trying to come up with ideas for "Welcome to Ithaca." He flips on a light to show he has an idea then looks around silently as nothing comes to him. In "Day 678," Berger sits outside of the Roy H. Park School of Communications and reminds seniors to sign up for Senior Week events by April 14.

Although Berger founded the Instagram page, he has relied on his friends for help throughout the four years. Senior Skylar Eagle has helped Berger film and come up with ideas. Eagle said that if there was not anything to promote, most of the ideas were made quickly on the spot. She said that it was a collaborative process and that Berger would often take ideas from his friends.

"It makes me happy to see how involved all of our friends have been in this entire process," Eagle said. "Taking turns filming, giving him ideas and being there as a support system — it's just awesome to see someone enjoy something this much."

Senior Madelyn Jacobs is a friend of Berger who studied abroad in London

with him and helped him film videos for the page throughout the trip.

"When we were in London, those were especially fun because now I can go back and look at everything we did every single day," Jacobs said. "A lot of the time we would try and film the professors or the women who ran the London Center because they are Ithaca College employees. He would explain to them what he did and try and get the other students and professors in as much as he could."

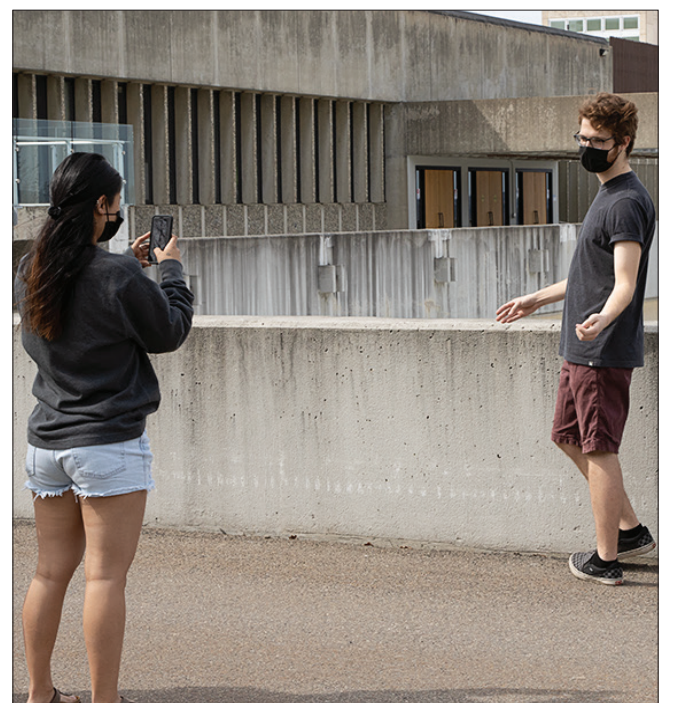
When the COVID-19 pandemic hit last spring, Berger filmed a few videos during quarantine about COVID-19 guidelines and procedures but then stopped because they were not fully about his college experience. "Welcome to Ithaca: Quarantine Edition" ran from March 23 to May 12, 2020, and included 23 videos.

"Towards the end I just felt a bunch of burnout while filming these videos," Berger said. "But then I realized that it is more about my college experience and what is going on. If it is going to be a diary about what's going on, then I should be talking about the initial part of quarantine."

During Fall 2020, Berger did not keep up his videos since he studied remotely from home. Berger returned to posting a video every day when students were allowed to return to campus Jan. 25 for Spring 2021. However, Berger said he faces new challenges while filming.

"Now [students] can't read my lips because I am wearing a mask in all of them," Berger said. "I am out of places on campus to shoot videos where I haven't been before. It is hard to stay creative with stuff."

Berger said his goal for "Welcome to Ithaca" has been to make a difference within the community but also in his own



Senior Leah Ettinger films Berger near the Dillingham Fountains to record day 676 of "Welcome to Ithaca."

ALYSSA BEEBE/THE ITHACAN

life. Berger said he wants people to connect through their love for Ithaca and the variety of activities they can take part in.

"I want people to feel motivated to do stuff ... and also to be remotely entertained," Berger said. "People have asked me why I do it or when I am going to stop doing it, but I eventually realized that I just had to do it for myself to prove to myself that I can just do it and to prove that my college experience was different. Everyone strives to be unique."

Berger said that watching older videos is great because he can see how he has grown and become more confident. It is Berger's last semester, making this the last season of "Welcome to Ithaca." Because of Berger, he and the Class of 2021 now have a memento of their entire college experience.

"It is really cool to look back sometimes and just watch those videos and remember that, and to not only see his college experience but the similar experience that we shared through those videos," Eagle said.



Berger's Instagram page, @welcometoithacaic, has 576 followers. He updates the page every day with a skit.

COURTESY OF GAVIN BERGER

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Students transform apartment into ICTV set

BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD

Being in the age of social distancing did not prevent senior Joel Liss and junior Joshua Stein from creating the web-exclusive show “Wormhole.” In this six-episode science fiction comedy show, a Garden Apartment gets completely turned upside down. Each episode follows a different zany adventure for the characters Joel, Josh and sock puppet Gilbert.

Influenced heavily by the 1960s television show “The Twilight Zone,” Liss and Stein star as themselves facing reality-warping experiences when they discover their apartment is the center of the universe. From a ravenous sock puppet to a never-ending chain of pizza delivery men, “Wormhole” covers a range of surreal plotlines that are different each episode. “Wormhole” is now in its final stages of the editing process and will premiere at 8 p.m. April 20 online with a virtual release party through the production company Slice4life.

This project was filmed entirely in quarantine with Liss, Stein and their roommates using equipment from Ithaca College Television (ICTV). Liss said the team shot its episodes on Sundays — one episode a week for six weeks. Liss said the first episode was filmed Feb. 21 and wrapped March 28.

The concept for “Wormhole” came about after Stein and Liss decided to create a show that they could work on together despite the complication of COVID-19 guidelines. Liss said the pair had a long history of writing together, and the

pandemic allowed them to work together again. Liss and Stein kept “Wormhole” in mind when selecting roommates for this semester in order to create their bubble for filming.

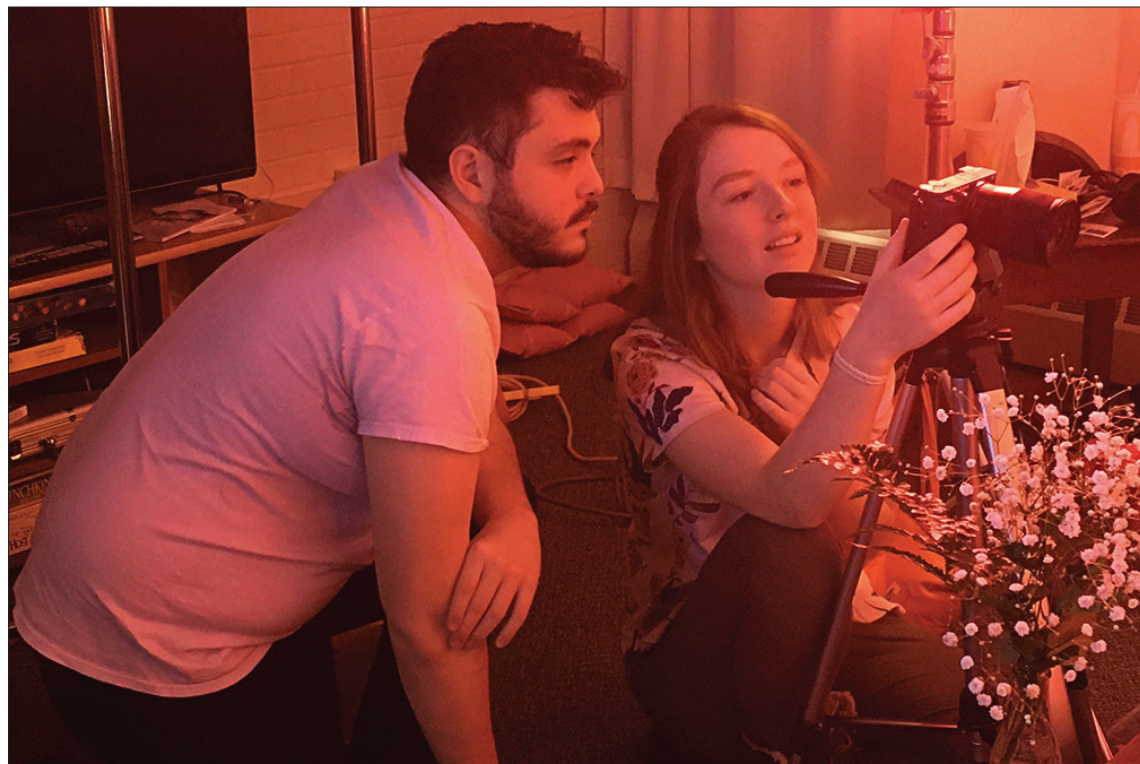
“We are more built from COVID rather than adapting to COVID,” Stein said.

Compared to the typical 20-person crew for student projects, the series left its six crew members juggling a great deal of tasks. Liss and Stein, along with their roommates, seniors Clara Montague, Julia Corcoran and Chris Tolve and junior Manuel Sanchez, all had to take on multiple jobs throughout the filming process.

Liss said Sanchez was the line producer and also helped by acting and doing tasks on set. Montague was another producer and also ran audio. Tolve helped by writing an episode, assisting with the filming on set and acting in an episode. Corcoran was director of photography. During this unique production phase of being isolated, Stein said one of the biggest obstacles they faced was the limitation of people because they weren’t able to focus on just one job.

Liss said that producing this show has taught him about the necessity of people as a resource. Liss said he feels that film is the most collaborative art form that there is and that producing is a more positive experience with more people participating.

Both Liss and Stein said that working in close quarters also proved to be a difficult task. Liss said their apartment became more



From left, seniors Joel Liss and Julia Corcoran film promotional material for their six-episode show “Wormhole” on Feb. 14. All episodes of “Wormhole” were shot in Liss and Corcoran’s apartment.

COURTESY OF MANUEL SANCHEZ

of a workplace than a home while they were in the filming stages. Their open concept living room was covered in equipment on a weekly basis, making it difficult to ever step away from the project.

“I think that it never got really really stressful or bad on set, but I think in an ideal world, you shouldn’t be working with the people you live with,” Liss said. “People need to diversify who they work with, who they live with and who they spend their time with.”

Stein said that in the height of

production, the roommates would often resort to yelling to each other’s rooms about what needed to get done. He said this was good and bad in a sense because it was easy for them to work on the show but difficult to know when to stop working.

“Every week we were just, work, work, work, prepare for this episode, shoot,” Corcoran said.

Corcoran said her biggest takeaway from the project was feeling she has grown as a professional.

“This is the first [project] that I

think I felt a personal connection to the people that I was working with,” Corcoran said. “I appreciated the trust. ... I think they specifically tried to get more women on set because they realized that on all of the sets they’re on don’t have a lot of women, and I agree. It was nice to just kind of be on a set that really appreciated everybody and doesn’t talk over people at all.”

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Club finds creative ways to help Ithaca community

BY MOLLY SHEETS

Taking a break from classes and meetings, a group of Ithaca College students can be found crocheting and knitting brightly colored hats, scarves and other items on a Thursday night. Although they are separated by Zoom screens, they still chat and get feedback from each other while they work. This is a typical meeting with the recently rebranded IC Craft for a Cause club.

Craft for a Cause is a student organization where members knit and crochet items to donate to local organizations like Hearts for the Homeless and the Ithaca Pregnancy Center. Prior to the pandemic, the organization also went to the Racker Center to make crafts alongside children with disabilities. Craft for a Cause has been operating virtually this semester, with Zoom meetings at 7 p.m. every Thursday.

Senior Nina Randazzo, president of Craft for a Cause, said the direct service component is one of the most rewarding parts of the organization.

“Our main goal is to inspire creativity,” she said. “The kids really love it, and we have a really great time.”

The club was previously known as the Ithaca College chapter of Project Sunshine. Project Sunshine goes into medical settings to spend time with pediatric patients. Randazzo said Tompkins County did not have a large enough hospital or medical facility to meet the requirements of Project Sunshine’s mission.

IC Project Sunshine used to knit items and send them to the main chapter of Project Sunshine. In Spring 2020, Randazzo said that the main chapter would not take the knitted items anymore and that the club had to meet a direct service requirement to continue operating under the Project Sunshine name.

The club attempted to meet the direct service requirement by volunteering with the Racker Center, a tradition that stuck with the club. However, this semester, the club is not participating in direct service at the Racker Center because pandemic conditions were still deemed unsafe.

In the spring semester, Randazzo said the club decided that they were going to separate themselves from Project Sunshine and rebrand. The goals of the club remained similar, but Craft for a Cause focuses more on knitting and crocheting.

Sara Schneiderman ’20 acted as co-president of the club during the transition. She said there was not a drastic change with the way the club was operating but rather a difference in fundraising and donating goods.

“We still fundraise, but we kind of have more freedom as to how we fundraise and who we give it to,” she said. “We still wanted to raise money and contribute back but with less pressure.”

Schneiderman said another difference was direct service training. While working with Project Sunshine, the club had to participate in training to volunteer. In this training, club members would have to review a PowerPoint from Project Sunshine Headquarters. Once Craft for a Cause was created, the club made its own training to address what volunteering would entail. The new training is more specific to the operation and volunteering opportunities of the individual organization.

“We were always a unique chapter,” Schneiderman said. “Project Sunshine had an amazing mission that involved volunteering in hospitals, but that was something we were never able to do in Ithaca.”

There are no requirements to join the club, and the officers can teach new members



From left, Craft for a Cause members junior Taylor DeMarco, sophomore Lauren Mitchell, senior Nina Randazzo and junior Daniella Zelikman show their crafts.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

how to knit or crochet. The club also provides members with materials to knit with. Students can pick up the materials if they are on campus, but if club members are not on campus, they can request the materials to be mailed to them. The first meeting of the semester typically includes a lesson on how to knit or crochet.

Randazzo said that teaching new members online has proven to be difficult.

“Usually when I’m teaching people there’s a lot of trial and error,” she said. “I used to be able to tell someone if their stitches were too tight and if they needed to be bumped up a size and hook. It is easier to teach knitting in person rather than on a screen.”

Junior Daniella Zelikman, secretary of Craft for a Cause, was a general club member during the transition. She said the rebranding did not affect the operation of the club or her love for crocheting. Zelikman said the club meetings were a highlight of her fall semester.

“It was such a nice break from everything,”

she said. “It was so great to actually be able to talk to people from Ithaca and do something I enjoy.”

The British Journal of Occupational Therapy published a study about the personal benefits of knitting. The study included 3,400 knitters across the world and showed that there is a correlation between knitting and feeling happy. The results also showed higher cognitive functioning in adults who spend time knitting.

Randazzo said the club is much more than the items that the members knit.

“We are a community service organization, but I always say we’re a social organization as well,” she said. “We get online for an hour, we talk, we chat, we listen to music as we crochet. A lot of members, even ones who didn’t have supplies yet, just come to the meetings to talk and hangout.”

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Monster flick is full of mayhem

MOVIE REVIEW: “Godzilla vs. Kong” Warner Bros.



BY ANTHONY DE LAPÍ

“Godzilla vs. Kong” is a new monster action movie directed by Adam Wingard and is the fourth installment in Warner Bros.’ “MonsterVerse.” After acquiring the rights from Toho, the original creators of Godzilla, Warner Bros. has been attempting to create its own cinematic universe that can rival Marvel’s. “Godzilla” from 2014 is a slow drag that does a great job of building up the monster but fails to excite when it comes to the actual fight scenes. “Kong: Skull Island” from 2017 does a better job of placing the monsters in the forefront, but it falls apart with too many plotlines and cookie-cutter characters. “Godzilla: King of the Monsters” from 2019 was another attempt to revive the franchise with mixed results. The return of classic Toho monsters to the series like Mothra, Rodan and King Ghidorah creates epic moments throughout the film, but the storyline feels very cartoonish.

Now after seven years of waiting, the build-up to this fight between Godzilla and King Kong has fans on the edge of their seats. As Godzilla begins rampaging across the globe, humanity has to recruit Kong to stop the unstoppable titan. Kong and his human protectors go on a perilous journey to the Hollow Earth, a hidden world in Earth’s core where monsters roam freely. There, they must find the power source that the technology organization Apex is

trying to obtain for its own sinister reasons in order to combat Godzilla. As mysteries and conspiracies are revealed throughout the film, a new threat emerges that puts the world in a state of jeopardy — one that may end the reign of the monsters. The main problem with these types of movies is trying to form connections between the human characters and monsters. Unlike Marvel or DC, in which the superheroes can talk to each other, monsters like Godzilla and Kong tower over the other characters, making it impossible for a dramatic connection to form between a human and a nearly 400-foot tall lizard. Kong befriends a young deaf girl, Jia (Kaylee Hottle), who is able to communicate with Kong through sign language. Hottle is deaf in real life, and this movie highlights people with hearing disabilities in a positive light. The main characters in this movie are cookie-cutter tropes that have been seen in previous installments. Even though the actors try their best with the flat script, the characters are as hollow as the hidden world they discover in the film. Main protagonists like good-guy scientists Dr. Nathan Lind (Alexander Skarsgård) and Ilene Andrews (Rebecca Hall) are forgettable. The movie feels like an homage to the cheesy and high-paced monster films that Toho made in the 60s. The fight scenes are the highlight of the movie. The main problem with the other films in this franchise is that the



“Godzilla vs. Kong” is the latest addition to the Warner Bros.’ MonsterVerse and is the most fun film in the franchise yet. COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

monsters were either barely in the films, or the fight scenes were so blurry in the dark or rain that they couldn’t be seen. In this movie, Godzilla and Kong are fighting right out in the daylight, and when they do fight at night, they are highlighted by gleaming neon lights in Hong Kong. Do not expect the emotional drama from a Marvel movie or the deep narrative found in “Zack Snyder’s Justice League.” It has classic kaiju movie tropes, including seedy organizations

and the exploration of new lands dominated by titans who will be familiar to fans of the franchise. The film is a simple, fun monster movie. A movie like this is aimed at the hardcore fans of the Godzilla franchise, and it doesn’t ask much from its audience. It’s a quick popcorn flick, reminiscent of a B-movie, that requires the viewer to turn off their brain in order to get the full experience.

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LGBTQ+ artists change hip-hop

BY EVA SALZMAN

Hip-hop has long been known for its deep-rooted culture of keeping it real. Since its origins, the genre has been highlighted by anecdotes of the Black experience. However, despite authenticity being the foundation of hip-hop, the genre still manages to lack representation. As the hip-hop scene evolved, there grew ideas of an ideal man that is portrayed within hip-hop. With some of the most successful early hip-hop artists embodying a hypermasculine stereotype, themes including violence and the oversexualization of women came to the forefront of the genre’s content. Only in the late 2010s — over 40 years after hip-hop’s “birth” — did we see the rise of openly queer hip-hop artists. Rap group BROCKHAMPTON has been praised as a pioneer in normalizing LGBTQ+ artists. “I have to exist in a homophobic space in order to make change and that homophobic space would be the hip-hop community,” said Kevin Abstract, BROCKHAMPTON member and openly gay rap artist. Fortunately, that’s exactly what BROCKHAMPTON and Abstract have done alongside other artists like Tyler, The Creator and Frank Ocean — both artists whose music references their attraction to men and women. Queer female hip-hop artists like Young M.A and The Internet’s Syd have started on the even longer path to representation of queer women in hip-hop.

However, even with these artists’ content, the difference was still drastic in how sexuality was portrayed. Straight male rappers were making sexually explicit music videos in which the majority of the footage is naked women dancing around the artist. But Tyga didn’t face much controversy for his 2012 “Make It Nasty” video, other than a lawsuit from the women who were exploited in it. Why? Because it fit the mold of what hip-hop artists were expected to do. There really wasn’t an equivalent video on the other side of the spectrum to this display of heteronormativity. LGBTQ+ hip-hop artists had yet to create something that shamelessly displayed their sexuality in the way that it was expected for heterosexual hip-hop artists to do. That is, until Lil Nas X, the rising gay hip-hop star — most well-known, until now, for his hit “Old Town Road” — released the music video for his latest release, “MONTERO (Call Me By Your Name).” The highly scrutinized music video, released in March, has wound up critics for a few different reasons. The video begins with Lil Nas X trying to get into heaven. It is implied that because he is a gay man, he is not allowed in, but he doesn’t care. So, dressed in traditionally feminine clothes and high heels, he pole dances his way down to hell and lap dances on the devil. This has received hate from the Christian right for the video’s satanic themes, but that isn’t the point. It has also received criticism because it’s a gay man expressing his sexuality without watering it down. The depiction and expression of homosexuality in Lil Nas X’s video is the dramatic declaration that queer hip-hop needed. The video does not attempt to censor or sanitize queerness. In choosing to go to hell, Lil Nas X embraces the demonization of queerness rather than attempting to be accepted into the space of heteronormativity.

POPPED CULTURE is a weekly column, written by Life & Culture staff writers, that analyzes pop culture events. Eva Salzman is a sophomore journalism major. Contact her at esalzman@ithaca.edu.

Artist shares her struggles

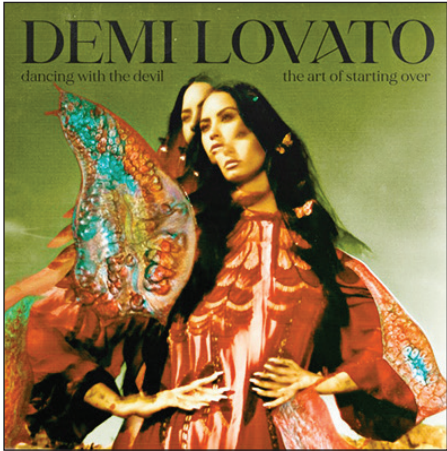
MUSIC REVIEW: “Dancing With The Devil...The Art of Starting Over” Island Records



BY GABRIELLE TOPPING

Demi Lovato’s seventh studio album, “Dancing With The Devil...The Art of Starting Over,” details her life after her 2018 overdose on heroin and fentanyl-laced oxycodone, which caused her to suffer from three strokes and a heart attack. It gives listeners an inside look at her experience with addiction, eating disorders, mental health advocacy and sobriety. The expanded edition includes 23 powerful songs that capture Lovato’s gorgeous vocals and beautifully honest lyrics. Lovato doesn’t hold back when claiming the narrative of her story, which is what makes the album feel so genuine. Her signature pop sound is familiar, but the lyrics are poetic, creating vivid and engaging imagery. In “Dancing with the Devil,” Lovato sings, “It’s just a little white line, I’ll be fine / But soon, that little white line is a little glass pipe.” She recognizes the lies she was telling herself and turns her pain into a lesson by truthfully setting the record straight about what she experienced. In addition to her album, Lovato released a docuseries with the same title, “Dancing with the Devil,” in which she shares intimate details of her life with commentary from her friends and family. The series promotes seeking help for those who are struggling and provides resources to do so. The vulnerability that Lovato expresses

throughout the album is admirable. In the track “Melon Cake,” Lovato explains how she was “starving for attention” while battling an eating disorder, and that she was “living as a prisoner” inside of her own mind. She reveals that she has found freedom on the other side of recovery. In the track “I Love Me,” she discusses never feeling good enough. Lovato questions, “Oh, why do I compare myself to everyone? / And I always got my finger on the self-destruct.” These lyrics bring comfort to the listener, humanizing Lovato and showing that celebrities have insecurities, too. A highlight of the album is Lovato’s collaborations. She features Ariana Grande, Sam Fischer, Noah Cyrus, Saweetie, Sam Smith and Marshmello across six songs. Lovato admits that she was dealing with her pain in unhealthy ways and hiding her drug use from her family and friends. Through these songs, she proves that she has entered a healthier phase of life and that she is able to rebuild her bonds with friends and share the joy of creating music with other artists. Lovato’s collaborations with the featured artists are some of the best songs on the album, the most notable being with Grande. “Met Him Last Night,” featuring Grande, explores the temptations and deceptions of the devil disguised as alcohol and drugs. Grande’s lyrics are executed beautifully, and the duo’s voices blend effortlessly together. The power that both artists radiate in their



Demi Lovato shares her experience with addiction in “Dancing With The Devil.” COURTESY OF ISLAND RECORDS

performances is inspiring. Lovato’s emotional growth is heard loud and clear in the track “Butterfly,” in which she emphasizes forgiveness. She expresses forgiveness toward her father and their rocky relationship and forgiveness toward herself for her unhealthy coping mechanisms. She sings, “forgiveness is the hardest truth” and “this is something I deal with my whole life.” Lovato accepts her past, although painful, and uses it to further her growth. “Dancing with the Devil” proves that Lovato practices what she preaches — she took a hiatus from performing to focus on her health and returned stronger than ever. Her sincerity in sharing her story publicly is a testament to her ability to create art from agony. Through this album, Lovato expresses the deepest parts of her soul with authenticity while delivering a groundbreaking performance.

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NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

Freshman lacrosse player scores impressive start to career

BY CONNOR GLUNT

Freshmen typically require some game experience to adjust from high school lacrosse to the speed and skill of the collegiate level. However, that has not been the case with freshman John Sramac.

The 6'2", left-handed attackman has started the season with 15 goals and four assists through his first five games, helping the Bombers achieve a 3-2 record. Sramac was also named Liberty League Rookie of the Week on March 29. Sramac began the season as a bench player and was going to be used in moderation as an offensive specialist, but he said he did not envision having this start to his college career. Now, he is looking ahead and not coasting off of his early success.

"Honestly, I try not to think about anything too much," Sramac said. "I try to control what I can control and work as hard as I possibly can. I don't really think about my impact all that much."

What Sramac did control was his training and preparation. Although it was difficult with gyms closed, Sramac said the time off allowed him to focus on his fitness. Since there was nothing to do, he did not have any distractions and was able to physically prepare his body for the leap to college lacrosse.

When Sramac has the ball, he uses his

size and athleticism to get around defenders and create his own shot or find an open teammate. Those skills are aspects of his game that have carried over from high school. Before he came to Ithaca, Sramac scored over 100 goals in three seasons and was named his team's MVP in 2018. At the collegiate level, he said that improving his mentality is the next step in his progression as a player.

"I had a good nervousness before the [first] game, and I think after the first goal, I got to ease into it and stop worrying about everything else," Sramac said. "It's a lot harder to play well when you have a lot going on in your head. I think I'm at my best when I'm keeping things simple and playing with confidence, just kind of trusting my skills."

Sramac's mature mindset was noticeable from the start, senior Connor Till said. Till was not in Sramac's practice pod when the team began training together, but when the offensive starters were grouped together, Till said it was evident that Sramac was going to stand out this season.

"Once he started to play, we knew he was going to be nasty," Till said. "Because of the way he's built, he's a strong kid, you can tell he works hard in the weight room. Watching how well he handles himself on the field, he doesn't really get rattled. A lot of freshmen do. It's hard, mentally, for them to play. [Sramac] just goes out there and plays well."

When Till and the rest of the team got to know Sramac better, it helped them understand Sramac on and off the field. Till and his teammates know that the freshman is going to compete as hard as he can. Whether it is in a friendly contest of NBA 2K21 or in a critical moment of a lacrosse game, it has helped Sramac gain the trust and respect of his peers quickly.

"I thought he was quiet at first, but he's a freshman," Till said. "Once you get him to open up, he's one of the most competitive kids on the team. I think that just stems from being an ultra-competitive person even outside of lacrosse, which is good. That translates to how good he plays."

While Till and the rest of the team got to know Sramac better

on and off the field, senior Connor Brumfield has known Sramac dating back to his high school days. Brumfield and Sramac both attended Mount Lebanon High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Brumfield said he and Sramac have gotten in workouts together before Sramac committed to the college. In addition to being committed on the lacrosse field, Brumfield said Sramac works just as hard in the classroom. He is currently in the exploratory program.

"He's definitely one of the hardest working players on the team now, and it wasn't any different in high school," Brumfield said. "Despite the difficult situation we were in over the summer and fall, finding time and space to work out, John got it done and went above and beyond to prepare for this season."

“

Once he started to play, we knew he was going to be nasty.

– Connor Till

”

When the team's coaches were planning the lineups and what roles certain players would have, head coach Jeff Long knew Sramac would get playing time but was not sure how consistent it would be. Long said it is tough to predict how fast players will develop, but he had confidence Sramac would be able to adjust and perform quickly.

"[Sramac plays well with] pretty much everyone on the roster," Long said. "John is a go-to, do-it-all guy who can carry, dodge, cut, shoot and feed."

Long said that Sramac is an extremely coachable player and that he has many qualities and traits that make him easy to work with. He said Sramac is confident but not cocky, a supportive leader and loves to run through defenders.

Some valuable facets of Sramac's game are his versatility in the

offensive zone and having a dominant left hand. During his high school days, he started by playing on the crease and then moved to behind the net and the wings as he improved as a dodger. Sramac said it is similar now, as he is playing with the ball on the perimeter more often.

After playing baseball and hockey with his left hand, Sramac picked up a lacrosse stick similarly. Having both right-handed and left-handed attackmen makes it trickier for defenses to stop the Bombers, which allows Sramac to create his own scoring chances. However, Sramac wants to make his game more well-rounded.

"I'm trying to get better with my off hand and trying to be able to shoot with my off hand as well," Sramac said. "I think I have made some freshman mistakes in practice. I'm just picking stuff up and trying to learn as much as possible from my mistakes, whether it's just little nuances in the offense or other things."

Even though Sramac is second on the team in shots and first in goals, Long said he wants the freshman to shoot more. Sramac said that he thinks his shooting ability is his best skill and that he is anticipating extra attention from opponents now that he has put the Liberty League on notice.

"In high school, I made players around me better by creating scoring opportunities, but I think that has changed since I've gotten here," Sramac said. "I try to keep things as simple as possible. I didn't really think anything after the first three games, but maybe at this point, I might start to see [other teams' defense play me] differently."



Freshman attack John Sramac has tallied 15 goals in five games and is locked in the starting lineup.

ABBIE LONDON/THE ITHACAN



Sramac has already proven himself as a scoring threat for the Bombers after just five games at the college.

ABBIE LONDON/THE ITHACAN

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Running club plans virtual races

BY ARLA DAVIS

After several months of planning over the summer, the Ithaca College Running Club will be hosting a virtual meet against the Syracuse University Running Club.

Senior Laura Kenny, who serves as the college's club's workout coordinator, said the meet will consist of six running events: a 100-meter dash, a 200-meter dash, a 400-meter run, a 1,600-meter run, a 4x400 meter relay and a 5-kilometer race. Junior running club co-president Mark Gregory said the college's club members will compete on the outdoor track at Butterfield Stadium, while Syracuse will compete on its campus. He also said the club plans to livestream the races on the club's Instagram for people to watch.

Runners' times will be recorded through Strava, a running app that Gregory said the club uses for its workouts. The app keeps track of runners' times, elevation and mileage. Syracuse will use a different app for its results, but both will submit their data to each other to decide who will place first, second and third in the given event along with an overall team score.

Gregory said the app has helped the club stay connected throughout the entire pandemic.

"Strava is like the Facebook for runners where you can literally post your runs every single day,"



Freshmen Katie Dawe and Emily Polanish and sophomore Jillian Conlon run in a scavenger hunt with the Ithaca College Running Club on March 17 at the Peggy Ryan Williams Center.

COURTESY OF ITHACA COLLEGE RUNNING CLUB

he said. "During the fall, we would post challenges and even fun things, like post a picture of you running in funny socks or run with a family member. We can keep it as casual or competitive as people want it to be, and that's the main thing we tend to focus on."

Gregory said the 5-kilometer race will be different from the other five events because it will include students who are not on campus this semester. Remote students can record their times on Strava and submit them as well.

Sophomore Hannah Wheeler serves as the secretary for the club despite completing the semester

remotely. She said not being on campus has given her a unique perspective in preparing for the event.

"I think a really big component of races and 5ks are coming together and just having that team feeling," Wheeler said. "[The club] is trying to cultivate that team feeling in a safe way. It's one thing to just run a 5k, but it's another to have people on the sideline cheering you on."

Kenny said she is most looking forward to seeing her time with the running club come full circle with the virtual track meet. She has been a member since her freshman year, but this is her first

semester on the executive board.

"After COVID, being able to do something and still being able to be a part of this greater running community — because it's with Syracuse even though it's virtual — it's just really nice to be able to keep that connection with those people but also do something for the club," Kenny said. "I've never been on the board before this semester, but I've been in running club since my first day of freshman year, so it's kind of just giving back and being able to do something as a community again."

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OUT OF BOUNDS

EMILY ADAMS

Anti-LGBTQ+ policy must stop

The 2021 men's NCAA basketball tournament was an event defined by big upsets, and none was bigger than Oral Roberts University, a 15 seed, conquering two top squads to make it to the Sweet 16. However, the team and school hide disturbing discrimination behind the glow of their so-called Cinderella story.

Oral Roberts' homophobic policies came to light after the team became a fan-favorite underdog on social media. The institution's student code of conduct explicitly states that "any homosexual behavior" is "expressly prohibited in Scripture, and therefore should be avoided by members of the University community." Transgender student-athletes face even more discrimination. According to Athlete Ally, only 10 of the 65 member institutions of the Power Five conferences have publicly adopted the NCAA's guidance for transgender participation in collegiate athletics. In fact, only 8% of institutions even have a publicly available policy for transgender inclusion.

In the NCAA's requirements for member institutions, section 20.9.1.9 outlines the importance of a "commitment to diversity and inclusion," so it is incredibly confusing that the organization is allowing so many schools to compete that do not uphold this standard. Its failure to foster accountability is evident, and athletes are bearing the brunt of advocacy efforts. Recently, a duo of track and field athletes at the University of Washington wrote a letter to the organization signed by more than 500 other student-athletes requesting that states with anti-trans legislation be banned from hosting NCAA championship events. The NCAA released an announcement April 12 that stated its support for including transgender athletes in competition but did not directly address the letter. "When determining where championships are held, NCAA policy directs that only locations where hosts can commit to providing an environment that is safe, healthy and free of discrimination should be selected," the NCAA stated. "We will continue to closely monitor these situations to determine whether NCAA championships can be conducted in ways that are welcoming and respectful of all participants."

While moving championships out of states with discriminatory policies is a good first step, it does not address the deeply-rooted homophobia and transphobia within the NCAA and member schools. If the organization is truly committed to diversity and inclusion, it should ban any school with explicitly anti-LGBTQ+ policies from participating in NCAA-sanctioned events. Despite questions about religious freedom, it could certainly make a strong case to critics on the basis that excluding queer athletes is a violation of its own policies as a private organization. In a time when social justice has become inextricable from sports and when more people are coming out as LGBTQ+ than ever before, the NCAA must protect all of the athletes who it claims to support.

OUT OF BOUNDS covers sports beyond the playing field. EMILY ADAMS is a senior journalism major. Contact her at eadams3@ithaca.edu.

Lacrosse team climbs national ranks

BY EMMA KERSTING

The Ithaca College women's lacrosse team is ranked seventh in the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLC) poll and is off to the best start in program history since 1983.

The Bombers are currently undefeated seven games into the season and have defeated ranked teams like SUNY Cortland, The College at Brockport and William Smith College. The South Hill squad started the season ranked at 15, and they now trail six undefeated teams in the rankings. However, the rankings do not affect the team's placement in the NCAA championships. Since there is no at-large bid this season, they will need to win the Liberty League in order to make it to the playoffs.

Senior midfielder Jacqui Hallack said she believes the team's high ranking is a testament to the players' commitment to the team. Since the team started practicing later than usual with their fall training being canceled, Hallack said she is proud of the early success of the team.

"Us being seventh in the nation just shows our hard work and all the dedication that we put in the preseason to follow the COVID guidelines and continue to play now," Hallack said. "All of the hard work that we have put in this far in the season is paying off, and we are being recognized as a top 10 team."

Head coach Karrie Moore, who is currently in her sixth season with the women's lacrosse team, said she is excited to see her team succeed. The team has won 14 consecutive regular season games dating back to the 2019 season. At the same time, she said she is not surprised at its success this season since the team trained extensively, both remotely and as a team in person, leading up to the season and continues to put in work.



The Ithaca College women's lacrosse team has a 7-0 start for the season. This is the Bombers' best start in program history since going 8-0 in the 1983 campaign.

FRANKIE WALLS/THE ITHACAN

"I think for us, it's where we expect to be," Moore said. "We want to be a national contender. The rankings don't mean a whole lot to us other than just a reflection of how hard the girls are working."

Senior attacker Alexa Ritchie said there has been a shift in culture over the last two seasons. After the 2020 season ended so abruptly and there was uncertainty about having a season this year, the team is grateful to be on the field playing again.

"We're super connected, we have each other's back," Ritchie said. "It's a team connection that I've never even felt on a team before these last two years. It's insane to be a part of."

The Bombers are currently first in the Liberty League standings, but one team that Ritchie said could threaten them is William Smith College, who is ranked 19th in the IWLC poll. The Bombers defeated the Herons twice this season, winning by a combined score of 22-14. Looking forward to the rest of the season,

Ritchie, Hallack and Moore have set goals to continue their success. All three of them said their main goals would be to complete the first undefeated season in program history, win the Liberty League and get as far as they can in the NCAA championships.

"We like to set small milestones each week so that we can focus on each game individually," Hallack said. "A Liberty League championship and a tournament run are always in the back of our heads, but we can't get there if we don't handle the games in front of us."

The Bombers are scheduled to play University of Rochester, which is 2-3 and not ranked, and Vassar College, which is 2-1 and not ranked as well, each two more times to conclude their regular season. The Liberty League Championships begin April 28.

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Senior pitcher Beth Fleming throws a strike during a double header against Union College on April 10 at Kostrinsky Field. Fleming had 28 strikeouts this season, five coming from the double header against Union. The Bombers won 7-1 in the first game and 3-1 in the second, making them 6-0 in the Liberty League and 8-2 overall.

ABBIE LONDON/THE ITHACAN