

Students worried by class decreases

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BY SYD PIERRE

Sophomore Molly Danieli had planned to take Digital Recording and Editing — a class required for her major — in Fall 2021. However, she was shocked to find that the course would not be offered in the fall. Danieli, who planned to study abroad during Spring 2022, said she was told the course would be offered then.

“I’m going to end up having to push it to my senior spring, which is a little annoying, but it definitely was a difficult thing to figure out,” Danieli said. “I had to send a lot of emails to a lot of people.”

Some students and faculty at Ithaca College are finding that low enrollment and faculty and program cuts made as a result of the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process have affected course registration for Fall 2021.

Course registration for the fall began April 13 and goes through April 22 for continuing students.

Registration opens July 26 for incoming freshmen and deferred students.

According to the Office of the Registrar,

in Fall 2020, the college offered 2,560 sections — multiple offerings of a course, which include labs, drills, recitations and other non-credit bearing sections — for students to take. In Spring 2021, there were 2,631 sections offered.

According to HomerConnect, as of April 21, the Fall 2021 semester is offering 1,969 sections for students, 591 fewer sections than Fall 2020 and 662 fewer sections than Spring 2021.

The fall semester starts August 23. Registrar Vikki Levine said registration will stay open through August 29.

“There are some courses that are high demand, and there are also courses that are very low demand, and you have to have a certain amount of students per course to be successful,” Levine said. “We’ll add classes, we’ll cancel classes, faculty will shift around. That’s just the nature of the course schedule in any semester.”

Levine said she has not seen increased concern from students and faculty about the course offerings but said the decrease could

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College warns students against attending Kendall Day party

BY ASHLEY STALNECKER

Ithaca is finally experiencing sunny days, and normally the warmer weather paired with the end of the spring semester results in student festivities like Kendall Day.

In an email sent to students April 14, Rosanna Ferro, vice president for student affairs and campus life, reminded the Ithaca College community that mass gatherings are prohibited, according to the Ithaca College Community Agreement. Instead of participating in end-of-the-year gatherings like Kendall Day, the college is encouraging smaller gatherings with a student’s “Bomber Bubble” — or the small group a student has been interacting with throughout the semester.

Usually, the weekend before finals, students gather on Kendall Avenue, off of Pennsylvania Avenue, at large outdoor house parties. Police officers patrol the streets to keep students in check but do not prevent the event from happening. This year, the event would fall on May 8.

A few consequences of a



Ithaca College is discouraging students from participating in the annual Kendall Day. Typically, students gather on Kendall Avenue.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

COVID-19 outbreak related to a mass gathering could be a cancellation of an in-person commencement or senior week, delayed move out at the end of the semester, a potential to overwhelm the health care systems and student conduct violations rising to the level of suspension, Ferro said in the email.

An Intercom announcement posted April 16 by Eileen Harrington Roth, off-campus community coordinator, calls for volunteers to patrol Pennsylvania Avenue and Kendall Avenue May 8 in two-hour-long shifts. Volunteers will be required to attend

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SLT and SGC discuss racism and violence

BY SYD PIERRE

The Ithaca College Student Governance Council (SGC) held a discussion surrounding the violence toward the Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) community and the Asian Americans and Pacific Islander (APPI) community at its April 19 meeting.

The SGC held an open discussion for campus community members during its community session portion of the meeting. It also met with President Shirley M. Collado and Rosanna Ferro, vice president for student affairs and campus life, to discuss Fall 2021, and passed one bill at its meeting.

Senior Abigail Murtha, senate chair, said the violence against communities of color is happening not just across the country, but also at the college.

“I myself have talked about this with specific members of the community, and they’ve honestly been shocked to hear that it does happen on our campus,” Murtha said. “And that’s just pretty alarming because it is happening all around us, in [the] Park school, in the musical theater department, but also

everywhere on campus.”

Senior Yetunde Smalls, vice president of campus affairs, said she would like to see the SGC create legislation based on the webinar it held with the Students of Color Coalition (SOCC) in the fall semester.

Sophomore Paige D’Encarnacao, Class of 2023 senator, said she is the only Asian person in some of her courses and feels hurt when her professors do not acknowledge what is happening in the world.

“Even though there is one person of color, I still think that professors should be saying these things — even if there’s no people of color — in their classrooms,” D’Encarnacao said. “Because these issues on TV, on the news and in the world were affecting me and were affecting my studies, ... I just wished that they kind of understood what some students are going through ... and supported a little bit more, rather than nothing.”

Senior SOCC co-chair Alex Paredes-Ruiz brought up a racial and political trauma initiative created by the University of California San Francisco as an example of an

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NEEDED BEFORE
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FRESHMEN MAKE
QUICK IMPACT
IN FIRST SEASON

College resumes in-person tours

BY MAKAYLA CAROZZOLO

Prospective students are once again able to visit the Ithaca College campus as the college resumes in-person campus tours.

The college began hosting tours of the campus in person again April 10. The tours are offered to accepted students who have received an invitation to tour the college, Nicole Eversley Bradwell, executive director of admission, said. Prior to going on the tour, visitors must complete an electronic screening for COVID-19 symptoms and exposure and comply with the New York State Travel Advisory. The campus was previously only open to current students, faculty and staff as outlined in the “Return to Campus” plan.

Junior Tsedale Forbes, a co-chair of the President’s Host Committee, said accepted students are allowed to bring one supporting visitor for their tour. They said each tour is limited to four families and one tour guide, and everyone is required to wear a mask and stay distant from others throughout the tour.

Abby Bertrum, an accepted high school senior from Edina, Minnesota, toured the college earlier this month. She said she received an invitation for a tour during an accepted students day event.

“My overall experience was fantastic, and just being on campus really made me want to come here in the fall even more,” Bertrum said.

Forbes said all tours now take the same route — unlike how they were conducted prior to the pandemic — and are staggered throughout the day so that no tours cross paths.

Although campus tours are currently only available for accepted high school seniors, there are options for online engagement located on the college’s website. Forbes said the Office of Admission offers virtual Q&A webinars and panels for prospective students. Bradwell said over 1,760 prospective students attended the Accepted Students Day programs, which include financial aid sessions, an academic and student services fair and social events.

Forbes said that as an extrovert, she enjoys engaging with visitors



Junior Stephanie Krauss, a tour guide on the President’s Host Committee, leads a tour for prospective students. The college began offering in-person campus tours April 10 for invited accepted students.

ALYSSA BEEBE/THE ITHACAN

again, and the Office of Admission is ecstatic to be able to invite visitors on campus again.

“A lot of planning went on behind the scenes to make this happen, and if any of it would have caused harm to our campus community, the public health and emergency preparedness team would not have approved our proposal,” Forbes said.

Bradwell said the Office of Admission is excited to be welcoming prospective students to campus and

will continue to assess its engagement opportunities as COVID-19 guidelines change.

“Our President’s Hosts and admission team members have enjoyed every moment of welcoming our accepted students to South Hill to see for themselves why Ithaca College is a place we call home,” Bradwell said.

Junior Emma Robinson, a tour guide on the President’s Host Committee, said she is grateful that the committee has found a safe way to

conduct tours that prioritizes health and connection.

“It’s been such a long time of just webinars and blank video boxes, but to connect with students going through such a difficult time and being able to help them even a little bit is so energizing and a great reminder to me of why I’m in college and what I’m working toward,” Robinson said.

CONTACT MAKAYLA CAROZZOLO
MCAROZZOLO@ITHACA.EDU

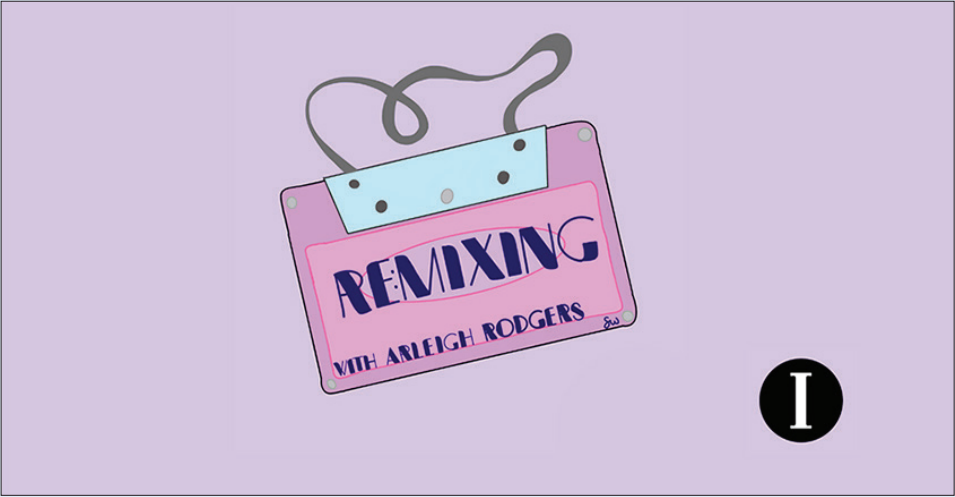
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Year in Review Preview

Meet our Year in Review editors and learn more about the magazine before it comes out May 3.



“Music as Biography” with Russell Posegate

Host Arleigh Rodgers sits down with Russell Posegate, instructor in the Department of Music Theory, History and Composition, to discuss his biographical playlist.

THE ITHACAN

220 ROY H. PARK HALL,
ITHACA COLLEGE, ITHACA, NY 14850
(607) 274-1376 • ITHACAN@ITHACA.EDU
WWW.THEITHACAN.ORG

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
MANAGING EDITOR
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COPY EDITORS

Liz Bierly, Jessica Elman, Elizabeth Henning, Grace Huether, Ilana Krebs,
Emily Lussier, Evan Miller, Kate Miller, Syd Pierre, Alli Reynolds

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ithacannews@gmail.com or 274-3208

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The Ithacan

Park and H&S partnership approved

BY JILLIAN BLEIER

A new preapproved double major was finalized between the Documentary Studies and Production B.A. in the Roy H. Park School of Communications and three departments in the School of Humanities and Sciences (H&S).

This collaboration allows students accepted into a major in the Departments of Politics, Environmental Studies and Sciences, and Modern Languages and Literatures in H&S to be automatically preapproved for a double major in documentary studies. Likewise, students accepted into documentary studies are preapproved to double major in a major in one of these three departments.

In the past, the documentary studies program would not accept new students until reviewing one semester of grades, said John Scott, associate professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies and director of the documentary studies and production program.

The preapproval allows students in these three departments in H&S to add documentary studies as a major before they register for classes, allowing them to start both majors simultaneously their first semester.

For now, prospective students can still only apply for one major and must be accepted and enrolled to request the double major. However, this may change



Junior Lesley Paredes Hernandez is an assistant director for a film directed by senior Eden Strachan. She is double majoring in documentary studies and production and politics.

COURTESY OF LESLEY PAREDES HERNANDEZ

in the future, Scott said.

Scott reached out to these departments in H&S in February 2021 after noticing that many documentary students were already minoring in these areas. Students in this major are required to have a minor outside of the Park School.

“We’re not really changing what people take,” he said. “We’re just saying, ‘Hey look, if you want to do this, we’ll preapprove you for a double major.’”

Even though they will be automatically approved, students in documentary studies or in one of these three H&S departments are not required to double major. There are

currently six students in documentary studies and production who have a double major, and two are double majoring in politics: juniors Julien Sobel and Lesley Paredes Hernandez.

“What this program really does and makes easier is sort of being able to get this without having to go through all of that bureaucratic wrangling,” Sobel said.

Sobel directed and released a documentary last year called “Home is Here,” which follows an undocumented farmworker and raises awareness about the daily struggles of immigrants. He worked with both Scott and Patricia Rodriguez, associate

professor and chair of the Department of Politics, to create the film with a student team.

Paredes Hernandez came to the college as a politics major and declared her double major during her second semester.

“There was always a part of me that had a really creative side, but I wanted to find a way to embody that while also keeping my drive for wanting to do something big and impactful in terms of politics,” she said. “So, I figured that the perfect way to do that was documentary film.”

CONTACT JILLIAN BLEIER
JBLEIER@ITHACA.EDU

Senior council election starts

BY ALYSHIA KORBA

Ithaca College senior class council elections will now be held separately from the Student Governance Council (SGC) elections.

The only team running for senior class council is IC Us Together. IC Us Together is composed of juniors Reed Pollard as president, Anna Costa as vice president, Mark Scaglione as chief of staff, Jill Choinski as director of finance, Cat Fox as director of marketing and Erika Liberati as director of communications. Voting for the senior council elections will be held April 21 and 22 on Engage.

In previous years, senior council elections were included in the SGC spring semester elections. This meant the SGC executive board would provide funding for the senior council campaigning budget, senior Connor Shea, president of the SGC, said. The SGC Organizational Review Committee decided to discontinue this partnership and funding when amending the SGC Elections Act.

“Other than facilitating elections and financially supporting their tickets, we are two separate organizations and decided to update our policy to allow for both organizations to facilitate their own elections,” Shea said.

The SGC held platform presentations April 12 for the prospective SGC executive board and senate for the 2021–22 academic year. IC Revival is the only group running for the incoming SGC executive board. SGC elections for the incoming executive board and senate will be held from April 23 to 24 on IC Engage.

Ali Kelley, Class of 2021 president, said she fought to keep the elections together to make it easier for students to vote for both elections.

“Since I was made aware of this decision late into the academic year, forcing us to reinvent our elections process, I made sure to work closely with Patti Banfield, senior class adviser, and Brittany Watros, the Office of Student Engagement administrative assistant, to ensure a fair, unbiased elections process for the senior class executive board,” Kelley said via email.

Pollard said IC Us Together’s goals are to create a normal senior year experience while being mindful of the COVID-19 pandemic, ensure that seniors’ voices are heard and appreciated and encourage the senior class to continue to contribute to the college community.

“Our main concerns center around the current state of the world and its health,” Pollard said via email. “We are extremely proud that IC is mandating students to have the vaccine to return to school this upcoming year. With this, as well as ordinances from the state, we hope to bring back elements of normalcy to the school and events that are geared towards seniors.”

The team formed over the past few weeks, but Pollard, Costa and Scaglione have been talking about running for council since their freshman year, Pollard said.

Pollard said he wants to help students be more engaged at the college following the COVID-19 pandemic if he is elected to the council.

“What truly inspired me was the fact that IC students need engagement with the campus and are missing out on some of the things that are unique to a traditional Ithaca College experience,” Pollard said via email. “I hope, as president, to be able to build bridges with students and the campus once again and help facilitate a memorable and exciting senior year.”

Voting will be held on Engage, and all students who are in the Class of 2022 are able to vote.

Editor’s note: Anna Costa is the managing editor of The Ithacan.

CONTACT ALYSHIA KORBA
AKORBA@ITHACA.EDU

Faculty to vote on final ICC revisions

BY SYD PIERRE

Ithaca College’s Provost’s Task Force on Integrative Core Curriculum (ICC) Revision has revised and finalized its proposal on the ICC. The Committee for College-Wide Requirements (CCR) will be holding a faculty vote on the proposal.

The revised proposal recommends six revisions to the current ICC curriculum: eliminating the current e-portfolio and complementary liberal arts (CLA) requirements; adding a new one-course integrative engagement (IE) requirement; allowing departments and degree programs the option to specify one of the perspectives — creative arts, humanities, social sciences or natural sciences — as being covered within a major; separating themes from perspectives, a separation that allows students to take courses outside their designated themes and have them count for the themes and perspectives requirements; and adjusting requirements for courses to be designated as an ICC capstone course. The proposal also recommends adding a “Pathways” experience, which comprises the Ithaca Seminar, one IE course and the ICC capstone course.

The original proposal called for two IE courses for the “Pathways” experience, which was decreased to one following feedback the task force received, said Brooks Miner, CCR co-chair and assistant professor in the Department of Biology.

If passed, the recommendations would go into effect in Fall 2022, starting with the Class of 2026.

The ICC currently includes six themes for students to choose from, an introductory



Members of the Provost’s Task Force on Integrative Core Curriculum (ICC) Revision speak at a meeting for the task force Nov. 12, 2019. The ICC is currently under revision.

CHLOE GIBSON/THE ITHACAN

seminar for freshmen, an e-portfolio required for graduation and complementary liberal arts requirements that are defined by major programs at each school.

The task force first submitted its draft proposal to the CCR on Nov. 9 and received feedback throughout November and early December. The task force made revisions based on the feedback and submitted the final proposal to the CCR on April 6.

Miner said the bulk of the revisions were providing clarity about elements in the proposal.

He said the CCR received a lot of questions from groups providing feedback asking for clarification of elements in the proposal.

“We sort of grouped those questions into a couple different areas, and then in our feedback to the task force, we said, ‘These are things that we’ve got a lot of questions about, and it’s a little bit unclear to us from reading the proposal,’” Miner said. “And so they clarified a lot of explanations in the proposal.”

The CCR will conduct a faculty advisory vote on the proposed revisions.

According to an Intercom post, the faculty vote will be conducted from April 22 to 30 on Qualtrics.

CONTACT SYD PIERRE
SPIERRE@ITHACA.EDU

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be attributed to lower enrollment at the college.

“It would make sense to me, just from an outsider perspective looking in, we do have less students, so we probably wouldn’t be offering the same amount of seats,” Levine said.

According to previous reporting from *The Ithacan*, Laurie Koehler, vice president for marketing and enrollment strategy, said enrollment numbers for Fall 2021 could be released late in the summer.

Some of the most heavily affected departments and majors include the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences, which is offering 35 fewer sections in Fall 2021 compared to Fall 2020, according to HomerConnect. The Department of Writing is offering 23 fewer sections. The Department of English and Department of Computer Science are both offering 16 fewer sections.

Some students are finding that the decrease in course offerings has impacted their course registration, leading them to shift around their schedules to fulfill requirements.

Junior Maia Finkel said she plans to student teach during the fall semester and has been struggling to find enough Block I courses to take in order to qualify as a full-time student.

Students need to be full time in order to receive financial aid.

Currently, there are 59 Block I sections offered for Fall 2021, 12 fewer than the 71 sections offered in Fall 2020.

“I think just on top of there being fewer offerings, the classes that are being offered, there are fewer sections,” Finkel said. “Also, degree-required classes that normally have two or three sections only have one.”

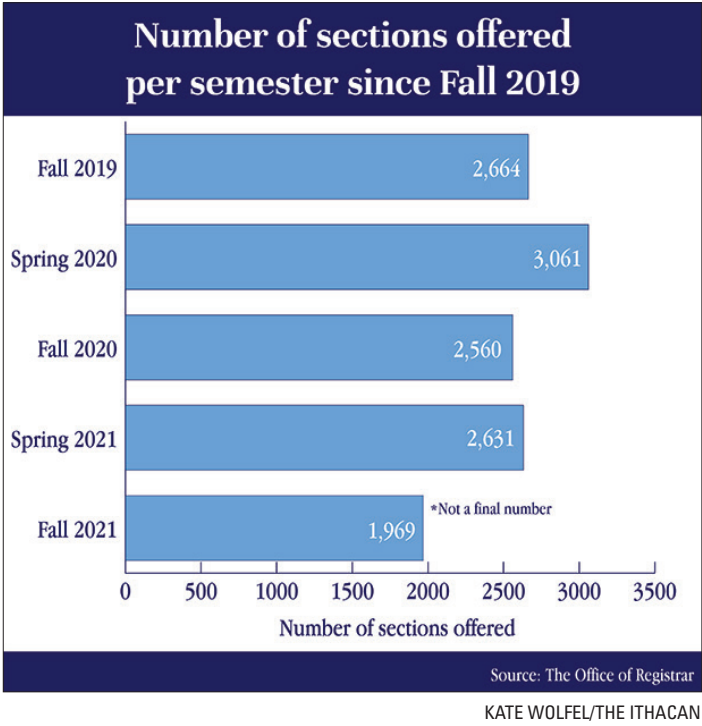
Freshman Alexa Johnson said she is worried about meeting her communication management and design major requirements if there continues to be fewer courses offered at the college.

“Two of the six classes I needed to register for were either already filled or conflicted with my other classes,” Johnson said via email. “What’s so frustrating about less sections of courses being offered is that it doesn’t allow me to take required classes that I need for my major.”

David Brown, chair and professor in the Department of Mathematics, said the number of sections has decreased due to the expected enrollment of the Class of 2025 and the number of faculty whose positions are being cut. The department offered 42 sections of courses in Fall 2020, 43 in Spring 2021 and is offering 28 in Fall 2021.

Brown said some students have expressed frustration about the lack of choice of courses, but could fulfill their requirements.

He said he is more concerned about the 2022–23 academic year, when the department will lose its



non-tenure eligible faculty.

“I don’t know what it’s going to look like two years from now,” Brown said.

The Department of Communication Studies and the major in communication studies have been slated for elimination. The department also houses the Culture and Communication (CLTC) major, which the APP recommends be retained.

Robert Sullivan, professor and chair of the Department of Communication Studies and coordinator of the CLTC major, said he expects the department to be eliminated no earlier than August 2022. He said the department is set to be cut because it did not have enough faculty.

“In the future, we’re going to

have three faculty,” Sullivan said.

“So we can’t do two majors and our minor with three faculty.”

He said the department has stopped admitting new students and will be offering 10 sections of courses in the fall, with only one upper-level course. The department offered 26 sections of courses in Fall 2020 and 29 in Spring 2021.

Sophomore Queline Meadows said that after hearing about the future of the department, she decided to switch majors.

“Even though the APPIC document says that the Culture and Communication major is being retained, there’s a very limited course selection,” Meadows said.

CONTACT SYD PIERRE
SPIERRE@ITHACA.EDU

FROM PARTIES, PAGE 1

training a week prior to the event. They are asked to engage with students who appear to be headed toward any Kendall Day celebrations and inform them the event is not happening.

“We want students to still, as much as possible, have a normal senior experience while also balancing that we do need to maintain low numbers in Tompkins County and not overwhelm our hospitals,” Roth said.

As of April 21, Tompkins County has 63 active COVID-19 cases. Active cases in the county have been below 100 since April 7.

Students will be encouraged to head back to their on-campus residence or apartment. Volunteers will encourage participation in alternate activities on campus and in the local area.

Roth said the college is advertising a Celebrate Smart campaign on the off-campus Instagram page. One post recommends that students rent a bike from Ithaca Bike Rental, hike local trails or get a celebration dinner on Aurora Street.

Senior Jocelyn Pawcio, who lives on Pennsylvania Avenue, said the restrictions ensure the safety of the school and the community.

“While, yes, we do have people getting vaccinated, and already fully vaccinated, they still have to remain vigilant about all the public health measures,” she said.

Off-campus students were invited to a meeting at 6 p.m. April 20 to go over physical distancing in an outdoor space and safe alternatives to a mass gathering. The meeting provided information on how to limit uninvited outside visitors at one’s residence and who to contact if unwanted visitors refuse to leave one’s residence.

Pawcio said she understands the public health perspective as a Student Health Emergency Liaison but can see the student perspective as well.

“We’ve had so much taken away from us and this is something to be social and celebrate, but I think there’s also a safe way to go about it,” Pawcio said.

Senior Jackson Gallati, who lives on Coddington Road, said that he does not want to see commencement or senior week events canceled but that the college could be a bit more lenient.

He said there is a safe way to celebrate Kendall Day, citing New York State Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s allowance of residential gatherings of up to 25 people and an increase in vaccinated individuals.

Starting April 19, every state expanded vaccine eligibility to anyone 16 and older. As of April 21, 37% of residents in Tompkins County have been fully vaccinated. This includes 75% of adults over 65 who have been fully vaccinated and 44% of people between 18 and 65 who have been fully vaccinated.

“College, I think, should be a space where you can safely experiment,” Gallati said. “That’s one of the biggest advantages of college, and I think that colleges should be catering to students having those experiences.”

Senior Dan Capodilupo, who lives on Kendall Avenue, said he is frustrated by the college’s restrictions.

“I just think it’s an overreach by them, and I don’t think they’re allowed to tell us how to do anything that isn’t on school property,” Capodilupo said. “I don’t pay the school to live on Kendall. I pay my landlord to live here, and my backyard, for the time being, is my property, so they don’t have the right to tell me to do anything.”

Roth said the college wants to support students to help them successfully celebrate the conclusion of the semester without posing a health risk.

CONTACT ASHLEY STALNECKER
ASTALNECKER@ITHACA.EDU

FROM SGC, PAGE 1

institutional plan that Ithaca College could follow. The protocol details points of contact, an initiation timeline following regional, national or sociopolitical trauma, a 24-hour communication response plan and a post-protocol monitoring timeline.

The SGC also spoke with Collado and Ferro about COVID-19 protocols for Fall 2021 and student involvement in the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process.

Sophomore Austin Ruffino, senator-at-large, asked what major differences could students expect to see in Fall 2021 compared to typical semesters in terms of COVID-19 guidelines.

Ferro said having more in-person instruction in the fall would depend on multiple factors, including vaccination rates and national guidelines.

“If, let’s say, even though we’re vaccinated and we’re in a good place, but there’s some other things happening, we’re going to take a measured approach similar to what we did with this semester,” Ferro said. “We might start a little bit more restrictive, just to make sure that we get the campus back and that we’re safe, and then loosen up as things happen.”

D’Encarnacao asked if the administration had any plans to form a group of Senior Leadership Team (SLT) members and students of color to work on statements released in the future regarding events occurring across the county. She said she was disappointed with the statement the college released following the March 16 mass shooting where six victims were Asian women.

Collado said the statement was updated based on the feedback she had received.

“We’re always not going to get them perfectly, and we need to state where the college stands,” Collado said. “I think right now we are pained by the fact that there are multiple things to speak out about, there are multiple



Ithaca College President Shirley M. Collado speaks at a 2019 Student Governance Council meeting. She and the SGC discussed racial violence at an April 19, 2021, meeting.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

things to take action on. And I don’t want to dilute the importance of any of those things.”

She added that the college does not have a group or plans to create a group to write statements, but said the SLT is always open to feedback.

Collado made a statement to the college community April 20 following the conviction of Derek Chauvin for murdering George Floyd. Chauvin was found guilty of third-degree murder, second-degree unintentional murder and second-degree manslaughter.

“This conviction cannot erase the sadness, pain, and anger of George Floyd’s needless death — or even begin to alleviate our outrage at the recent killings of Daunte Wright and Adam Toledo,” Collado said in the statement. “Nor can it erase the recent acts of hatred and violence directed at Black, AAPI, Sikh, and Latinx communities, or our nation’s appalling history of persecution and discrimination related to race, ethnicity, gender, LGBTQ+ status, and religion. While it is easy to become numbed by the relentlessness of this violence,

we must never become complacent.”

The college will hold a space for students to reflect and discuss 12:10–1:05 p.m. April 22.

Junior Sebastian Chavez, SOCC senator, asked about representation for students of color regarding executive decisions made at the college.

“Where do these students fit in in these executive decisions?” Chavez asked. “Because we always feel like we’re getting the end of the stick. We’re always hearing about these decisions that are being made without any of our constituents or anything.”

Collado said she has received questions regarding the APP process and how community members could get involved in the next stages of reorganization.

She said the executive decisions are happening at the departmental level with deans and faculty members.

CONTACT SYD PIERRE
SPIERRE@ITHACA.EDU

Intern offers LGBTQ+ sex education workshops

BY ELIZABETH KHARABADZE

Ithaca College’s Center for LGBT Education, Outreach and Services is offering workshops on topics relating to sex education in an LGBTQ+ inclusive setting.

Hilary Wermers is a graduate student at Widener University studying human sexuality. She said she came to Ithaca College as part of an internship with the college’s LGBT Center to provide resources relating to sex and sexuality in the LGBTQ+ community. Wermers said she made the decision to cancel her initial presentations, Sex Ed Tea Time, due to low participation.

She said approximately seven people attended the programs before they were canceled. Despite setbacks, Wermers is continuing to engage with the campus community by creating presentations for student organizations.

Wermers said her presentations aimed to fill in the gap in general sexual education, which often excludes topics pertaining to the LGBTQ+ community.

The presentations addressed subjects like sex and sexual identity.

According to the Center for American Progress, disparities in standards for sex education account for the lack of understanding on LGBTQ+ sex education topics. Sex education and/or HIV education is legally mandated in 39 states and Washington, D.C., but only 11 states and Washington, D.C. require inclusive content with regard to sexual orientation. Six states require only negative information to be provided on homosexuality, according to the Guttmacher Institute.

“I think in a lot of sex ed, you learn about puberty, pregnancy, contraception and STIs,” Wermers said. “But especially the focus on

pregnancy and pregnancy prevention excludes the main reason why people are having sex, which is pleasure.”

Wermers also said she already had an interest in supporting LGBTQ+ students in higher education, which helped inspire her capstone project.

“For me, I wanted people to know that queer sex ed is just sex ed,” Wermers said.

Wermers said she presented on topics relating to LGBTQ+ sex education for PRISM and Spectrum, student organizations focusing on the LGBTQ+ community.

Senior Grayson Stevens, co-president of Spectrum, said Wermers attended the group’s weekly meeting to present on sex items and gender-affirming sex items. He said that approximately 15 people attended the meeting and that the presentation provided space for individuals to share their own experiences with the topic.

Stevens said he believes creating safe spaces for LGBTQ+ sex education is incredibly important. He said that offering resources that address the LGBTQ+ community is vital for a young person’s wellbeing.

“When sex education only includes information for cisgender, heterosexual students, those who are LGBTQ+ get left behind,” Stevens said.

Stevens also said the lack of comprehensive sex education for contributes to health concerns, like HIV, STIs and teen pregnancy.

“With all of this in mind, reforming the U.S. approach to sex education in schools is crucial for students’ physical, social, and emotional development — whether they are LGBTQ+ or not,” Stevens said.

Senior Timothy Kennedy, president of PRISM, said Wermers



Hilary Wermers, intern in the Ithaca College Center for LGBT Education, Outreach and Services, has provided LGBTQ+ sex education presentations to campus organizations like Spectrum and PRISM.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

also shared the same lesson on sex items.

However, Kennedy said the meeting was attended by only five people, on account of Zoom fatigue — a feeling of exhaustion or burnout resulting from prolonged time spent working on Zoom. Despite this, Kennedy said he still had a positive experience with Wermers’ presentation.

“It was super casual, starting off with a presentation and then discussing things people had questions about,” Kennedy said. “We then played a game of sorts where she gave us links to different sex toys and had us ‘sell’ the products to each other, discussing whether or not they were safe for use for certain acts.”

Kennedy also said he believes there should be more discussion of sex education topics that are inclusive of the LGBTQ+ community. Much of Kennedy’s knowledge of sexual education growing up was limited — restricted to pregnancy and STD prevention alone. Kennedy said much of what he knows now is information he learned on his own.

“If I had known half of what I do now, I would have been much safer and also not felt like a weirdo,” Kennedy said. “When people don’t talk about us, it feels like we’re alone.”

Luca Maurer, director of the Center for LGBT Education, Outreach and Services, said he believes there is a future for further discussion and education on LGBTQ+ sex education at the college.

Despite low turnouts on Zoom, Maurer said the sex education workshops held by the center have received positive reactions from students, faculty and staff.

As a result of the pandemic,

the center had to quickly adapt to online instruction, shifting its many educational programs for students, faculty and staff online. Maurer said the shift provided more accessibility for students to attend programs of their interest and to meet with him one-on-one.

Maurer said the center has held some programs that addressed sex education in the past. However, since Maurer is the only one who works at the center, he said resources are limited.

“As we shift to face-to-face operations, we want to figure out, how can we keep all of the things that made it easier for folks in place while also allowing students to be able to return to a new sense of normal?” Maurer said.

CONTACT ELIZABETH KHARABADZE
EKHARABADZE@ITHACA.EDU

THE FACES OF AUSTERITY

BY ALYSHIA KORBA



THE FACE BEHIND
IC’S PORTRAITS OF GRIEF

Harriet Malinowitz, 66, is a lecturer in the Department of Writing and the Women’s and Gender Studies program and the author of the “Faces of Austerity” series. She has been teaching for 43 years and spent the past seven years at Ithaca College, where she has created courses at the college like Queerness in Writing and Palestine in Literature and Film. Malinowitz has a Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Composition from New York University.

Malinowitz has written a variety of media, including a play, stand-up comedy routines and her 1995 book, “Textual Orientations: Lesbian and Gay Students and the Making of Discourse Communities.”

“The thing I care more about than anything in the world is writing,” Malinowitz said. “It’s writing, writing and writing.”

For the past eight weeks, she has applied her passion for writing to show the human loss resulting from the Academic Program Prioritization (APP). Malinowitz said “Faces of Austerity” was inspired by the New York Times’ “Portraits of Grief” and the “Af-

ghan Portraits of Grief” created by Peaceful Tomorrows following 9/11.

“I wanted people to see what we were losing and how cavalier the administration was being,” Malinowitz said.

Malinowitz identifies as a queer, Jewish anti-Zionist woman and was the faculty adviser to the college’s chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine.

She said she will miss being a part of an academic community but plans to continue to write after finishing her work at Ithaca College in Spring 2021. She has been researching and writing a second book with the working title, “Sometimes Something is True: Zionism, Propaganda and the Uses of Hasbara.”

Malinowitz said students in her classes often analyze propaganda, and this semester she has asked students to study the college’s statements about the APP.

“So far, nobody has said that they believe the administration,” she said.

Malinowitz said she tries to teach students to think critically.

“The message that comes from the leadership here is we’re supposed to teach them to submerge their critical faculties and not think too much about anything that they’re told, to just do what they’re told, accept very vague, undefined statements and terms at face value instead of pushing to ask, ‘What do they mean?’” she said.

This is the final profile in this series, which intends to put human faces on the faculty members who have been notified of their termination as a result of the APP.

Final vice president candidates to meet with IC community

BY ALEXIS MANORE

The search committee for a new vice president for finance and administration at Ithaca College will meet with semifinalists for the position and recommend finalists to meet with President Shirley M. Collado and members of the campus community by the end of April. In an April 19 announcement, Odalys Diaz Piñeiro, chief of staff in the Office of the President and chair of the search committee, stated that the committee began reviewing applications April 5.

Once the finalists have been established, they will meet with members of the Senior Leadership Team, the Division of Finance and Administration, the Institutional Effectiveness and Budget Committee (IEBC), the Faculty Council, the Staff Council, the Student Governance Council Executive Committees and other college leaders. The search committee worked with WittKieffer, an executive search firm that has partnered with the college in the past, most recently with the dean searches for the School of Music and the Roy H. Park School of Communications.

Bill Guerrero, former vice president for finance and administration, left his position for a position at Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts, on Feb. 26.

Collado stated Jan. 28 that the college will launch a search for a new vice president.

The search committee is composed of Susan Bassett, associate vice president and director of the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics; Michael Conover, trustee on

the Ithaca College Board of Trustees; Shana Gore, executive director of Student Financial Services; Marc Israel, assistant provost of finance and administrative operations; sophomore Grace Madeya, student representative on the Institutional Effectiveness and Budget Committee; Chris McNamara, clinical associate professor and clinic director in the Department of Physical Therapy and chair of the Faculty Council; and Jim Yaggie, professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and director of the Human Anatomy Laboratory in the School of Health Sciences and Human Performance.

“I take this opportunity to thank the dedicated members of the search committee, whose care and commitment I deeply value,” Piñeiro said in the statement.

Collado has stated that in Guerrero’s absence, she will not appoint an interim vice president. Rather, Tim Carey, associate vice president for facilities, is leading the executive side of the Division of Finance and Administration and is working with Dave Prunty, executive director for Auxiliary Services, and Dave Weil, associate vice president for Information Technology. Israel moved out of the provost’s office and is associate vice president for business and finance. Beth Reynolds, controller for the Office of Business and Finance, is budget director. Sean Kanazawich, director of Financial Services, assumed the position of controller.

CONTACT ALEXIS MANORE
AMANORE@ITHACA.EDU

COLLEGE BRIEFS

The Ithacan wins awards from New York State Press Association

Ithaca College's student newspaper, *The Ithacan*, has received multiple awards from the New York Press Association Better College Newspaper Competition. All awards were presented in Spring 2021 for the 2020 calendar year.

The Ithacan won best college newspaper in New York state for 2020. This is the 19th time the paper has won this award. *The Ithacan* also won best sports coverage, best use of social media, second place for general excellence, second place for editorial writing, second place for design and second place for best website.

Senior Jill Ruthauser won first place for best photography. Junior Mikayla Rovenolt won second place for best photography. Sophomore Caitlin Holtzman won second place for best news story for "Fall 2020 Enrollment Drops as Hundreds Take Leaves and Defer," published Oct. 1, 2020. Senior Ashley Stalneckner won third place for best news story for "Music Students Struggle with Demanding Culture and Courses," published Feb. 6, 2020.

Caregivers and children invited to participate in COVID-19 survey

Students in the Ithaca College Department of Psychology and Judith Pena-Schaff, professor in the Department of Psychology, are conducting a study of caregivers and their children's (ages nine to 18) experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The purpose of the study is to explore the effects of the pandemic on caregivers and their children in the United States, especially one year after the start of the pandemic. The researchers are also interested in learning about the coping strategies that different families are using to try to maintain a sense of normalcy.

The survey asks questions about people's responses and feelings to pandemic challenges, mood and emotional state, activities families are doing to cope and perceptions about how people's children are doing.

The survey also asks for consent in allowing children between the ages of nine and 18 to participate in a survey asking about their experiences over the past two months related to life changes due to the pandemic.

Participants in the survey can also enter a raffle for a \$75 Visa gift card. At the end of the survey, participants can click a link that will redirect them to the raffle site. The link to the

survey is https://ithaca.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_elDRIGmSgHpsazk.

Community members encouraged to share information on surveys

The Retention and Engagement Strategy Team (REST) is gathering information on students and faculty being surveyed.

REST is conducting an inventory to understand why and when students are being surveyed and what kind of information campus community members are gathering.

REST is creating a feedback system to analyze input on students' experiences at Ithaca College. The system will span student's college life from pre-orientation to graduation by engaging them at regular intervals that are incorporated into the college calendar.

The purpose of the inventory is to coordinate with other community members running surveys to prevent redundancy and survey fatigue among students.

REST will streamline instruments to avoid repeatedly asking the same questions, share findings with students to show that they are being heard and that action is being taken to meet their needs, and to share data with campus partners to maximize the impact of interventions and analytics.

Campus groups work to provide students with Ramadan meals

Ithaca College Dining Services and the Muslim Student Association (MSA) are working to provide students with halal-friendly Iftar meals for Ramadan.

The meals include two hot to-go boxes and one cold to-go for Suhoor and can be picked up at Kosher Korner in Terrace Dining Hall. If students do not have a meal plan the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life will cover the cost of the meals.

Students can visit @ithacamsa on Instagram and follow the link in its bio to sign up for the meals, or email Katie Stone, Terrace Dining Hall manager, at kstone@ithaca.edu.

Documentaries from five countries awarded prize at local film festival

The Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival (FLEFF) announced the Best of the Fest Programmers' Picks for 2021.

The five narrative and documentary films are from the United States, Morocco, France, Mexico and China. They deal with demolition, gentrification, migrants, narcotics, Agent Orange,



Ithaca community protests police violence

A group of approximately 15 mourners gathered at 4 p.m. April 17 at Dewitt Park to condemn police violence in response to the deaths of Daunte Wright and Adam Toledo. Pace University student Kendra Cooper-Smith holds a sign.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

toxic waste, women's friendship and more.

The titles are "Adam" by Maryam Tourani, Morocco, 2019; "Identifying Features" by Fernanda Valadez, Mexico, 2020; "One Says No" by Dayong Zhao, China, 2020; "The People vs. Agent Orange" by Alan Adelson and Kate Taverna, U.S., 2020; and "Rouge (Red Soil)" by Farid Bentoumi, France, 2020.

All of the films are available to watch at <https://watch.eventive.org/fleff>.

Office of International Programs to hold study abroad sessions

The Ithaca College Office of International Programs is continuing to offer information sessions and drop-in study abroad advising for the rest of the spring semester.

Study abroad drop-in office hours are being held at 12:10 p.m. April 22 and at 4 p.m. April 27. Students can join the Zoom waiting room during the one-hour window and will be let into the room once there is an

adviser free. Students should bring questions they want answered as the drop-in sessions are not presentation sessions. Interested students should also talk with their academic adviser.

Students can attend the Ithaca College London Center information session at 4 p.m. April 29. The session will provide students with information about studying in London either during the summer or during a semester.

The Institute for the International Education of Students (IES Abroad) is having an information session titled "IES Abroad: making the Most of Your Time Abroad" at 3 p.m. May 6. IES Abroad ambassadors, former study abroad students, and staff will discuss topics like making friends abroad, inexpensive ways to experience your host city and meeting locals.

Students can also schedule an appointment with a study abroad adviser to find the program that is right for them.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM APRIL 5 TO APRIL 11

APRIL 5

V&T LEAVING SCENE OF ACCIDENT

LOCATION: J-Lot
SUMMARY: A caller reported an unknown vehicle struck a parked vehicle and left the scene. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded.

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Circle Apartments
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The officer reported the fire alarm activation was caused by burnt food. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

ACCIDENTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Garden Apartments
SUMMARY: Maintenance requested assistance for a resident who was refusing to open a door for a water leak in the area. Residential Life staff also responded to assist. The officers gained access to the area and maintenance found the leak had caused

damage to the bathroom area. One person was referred for failure to follow college regulations. Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded.

APRIL 6

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Circle Apartments
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The officer reported the alarm activation was caused by burnt food. Fire protection specialist Max Noble responded.

PUBLIC HEALTH LAW

LOCATION: Upper Athletic Fields
SUMMARY: A caller reported individuals playing soccer were not wearing masks. The officer reported everyone was found not wearing a mask. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

APRIL 7

OFF-CAMPUS INCIDENT

LOCATION: Alumni Circle

SUMMARY: A person reported to an officer that they believed an item was stolen from their vehicle that was parked off campus. The officer instructed the person to call the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office to report the crime. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

APRIL 8

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Hill P.E. Center
SUMMARY: A caller reported a person passed out. The officer reported the person declined medical assistance. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded.

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Terrace 12
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The officer reported the fire alarm activation was caused by burnt food. Fire protection specialist Max Noble responded.

APRIL 9

ASSIST ITHACA POLICE DEPARTMENT

LOCATION: All Other
SUMMARY: Tompkins County 911 requested information about a known person involved in leaving the scene of a motor vehicle accident in the City of Ithaca. Security Officer Kevin English responded.

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Lower Quad
SUMMARY: A caller reported a person having a seizure. The officer reported the person was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded.

APRIL 10

PUBLIC HEALTH LAW

LOCATION: Academic Quad
SUMMARY: A caller reported a large group of individuals not

wearing face masks and not social distancing. The officer reported the individuals were located and no violations were observed. Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded.

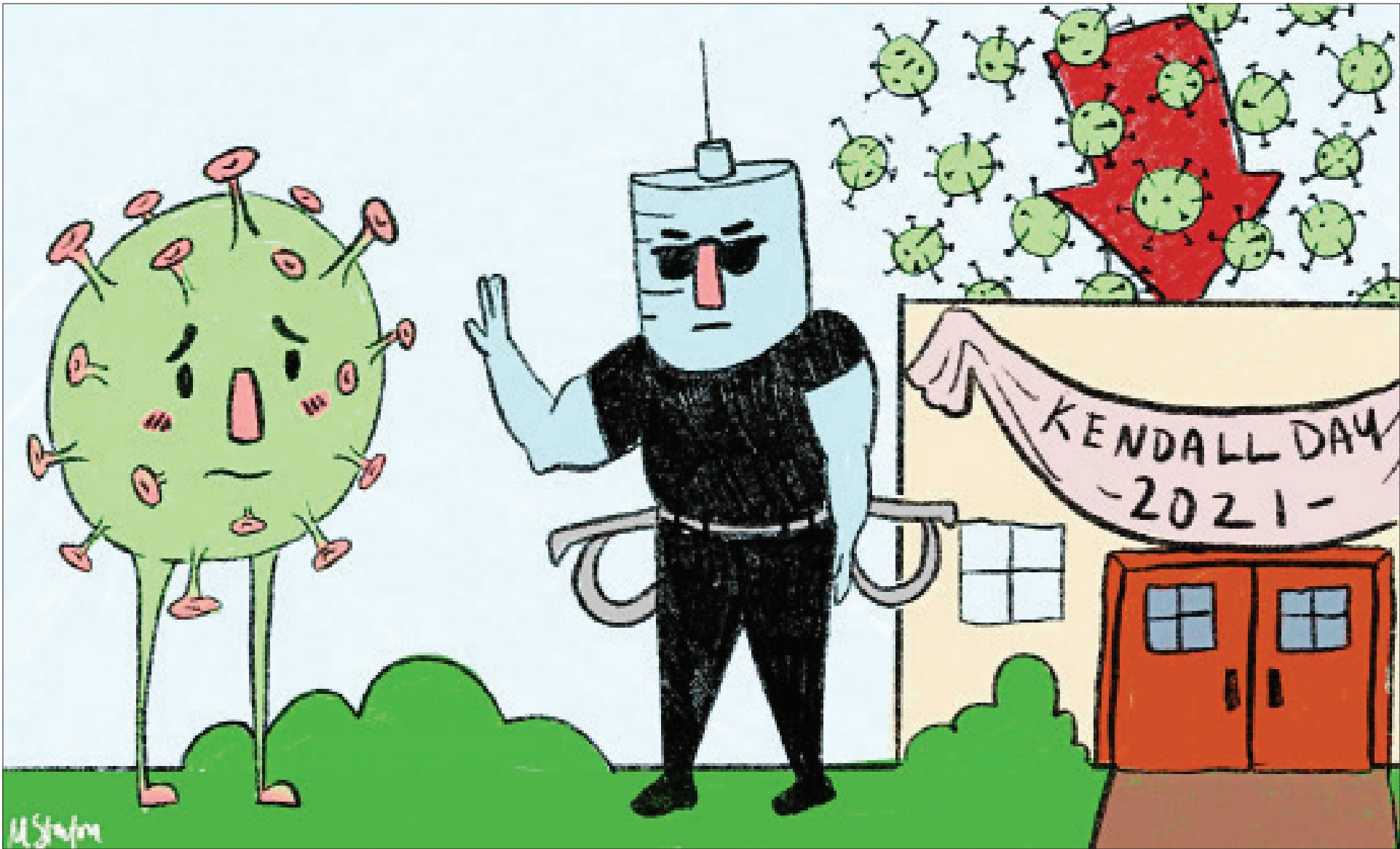
CRIMINAL TAMPERING 3RD DEGREE

LOCATION: Eastman Hall
SUMMARY: A caller reported a door on a vending machine was unsecured. The officer reported no damage was observed and the door secured. Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos 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

Campus should remain cautious as semester ends

Fully vaccinated students are no longer required to participate in surveillance testing after April 23, only a few weeks short of Kendall Day, a celebration of the end of the academic year.

In an email to students April 15, Christina Moylan, director of public health emergency preparedness, said students who are two weeks out from receiving their vaccinations are allowed to stop testing.

It certainly is a milestone to have come this far, especially after over a year of confusion, fear and exhaustion. However, although research holds that the Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech and Johnson & Johnson vaccines grant considerable immunity after proper dosage and time, all COVID-19 vaccines have only been around for a short time. It is not known exactly how long immunity lasts, and variant strains continue to pop up.

Stopping surveillance testing requirements — even for a minority — presents a threat to campus safety, especially as it comes just two weeks before Kendall Day and a month before

graduation. These events are two of the largest celebrations this year, and some may see the lack of testing as a sign to let their guards down. It is not.

Even though the college is encouraging students to not partake in Kendall Day and is offering other ways to celebrate the end of the semester, it is unlikely that everyone will heed the college's warning to celebrate safely. This is an unfortunate reality, and students still need to be cognizant of the potential negative impacts their actions can have on both the campus community and the broader Ithaca community. This isn't to say students shouldn't celebrate the end of the year — after all, this was one of the most taxing years of our lives. However, think twice before engaging in reckless behavior.

Bringing the campus back safely next fall requires commitment. Students need to continue following safety regulations, but the college should continue to reinforce these measures. Now is not the time to ease up.

Effectively fighting racism on campus is a necessity

At its April 19 meeting, the Ithaca College Student Governance Council (SGC) held a discussion surrounding the violence toward the Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) community and the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community.

The meeting, also attended by President Shirley M. Collado and Rosanna Ferro, vice president for student affairs and campus life, began a conversation to address racism at the college, but it did nothing to attempt to resolve or repair these issues.

These conversations need to be consistent and in spaces where students have no choice but to engage with them. Although it is beneficial that the SGC made this space available to students, time and time again there is a lack of participation on behalf of the student body with topics like these. The next step should be including culturally relevant teaching in every classroom.

The next day, Derek Chauvin was found guilty of murdering George Floyd. Posting

about injustices on social media and then moving on as though all is well is not an effective way to communicate and address the singular issues these communities face.

Floyd should not be martyred or used as an opportunity to “unite as one.” We need to acknowledge and educate ourselves on the ways anti-Black discrimination persists in our own communities. Chauvin's conviction was not an act of justice. It was a step toward accountability. It is not an occasion for non-Black people to celebrate. The pain and terror of Black death should never be used as a beacon of hope.

The SGC meeting began a conversation that was long overdue, but how do we move forward? BIPOC students and faculty deserve to have their experiences centered in order to attempt to bring some sort of justice to our community. We need to not only prioritize BIPOC voices, but we must make the college environment a place that supports and uplifts BIPOC individuals and acknowledges and respects their individual realities.

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



We must end cancel culture

In John 7:53–8:11, you’ll find the story of the woman who was accused of committing adultery. The Pharisees brought the woman to Jesus, said she was caught committing adultery and that, according to the law of Moses, she should be stoned for the act. Jesus replied, saying that whoever is without sin should be the first to throw the stone. No one was able to throw a stone at the woman because they had all sinned at least once in life. Nowadays, everyone seems to be throwing stones instead of assessing their own faults.

I use this Bible verse as an example because it still applies today. In late March, Alexi McCammond, a Black woman, resigned from her new position as editor-in-chief of Teen Vogue when anti-Asian and homophobic tweets resurfaced. McCammond posted these nearly a decade ago when she was a teenager. Although she had previously apologized about the tweets, Teen Vogue got so much backlash that McCammond essentially had no other option but to resign. Has cancel culture completely eliminated redemption?

We’ve created a hierarchy of wrongs. Even after McCammond took accountability and apologized for her bigotry, she was still scrutinized for a past she could not change. Yes, we should all be held accountable, but we should also be awarded forgiveness.

Cancel culture is dangerous — the precedent for what is too problematic and just problematic enough is left to interpretation. There seems to be some bias as to who should be canceled and who should be given forgiveness. It’s very easy to cancel a woman of color, but when it comes to those who hold structural power, there tends to be more grace.

Even the worst of the worst should have the chance for redemption. I stand by this. No one is so far gone that they cannot be redeemed. This is not to say they should not be held accountable, but if they have truly changed, their past should not be held over their heads like a dark cloud. This includes racists, thieves, murderers and more. You and I are no better and are not qualified to judge them.

Canceling an individual does nothing but make us feel better about ourselves. We tell ourselves, “At least I’m not as bad as them,” but none of us are any better than each other.

Instead of cancel culture, let’s create a culture of redemption. Instead of shunning people for making mistakes, let’s give them the tools to do better. Instead of writing people off, let’s show them the forgiveness we would want to be awarded. In reality, we’re all one mistake away from being canceled.

SEEKING JUSTICE is a column that examines race and cultural competency. **JOHN TURNER** is a junior journalism major. Contact him at jturner3@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

AIDS & COVID-19 are incomparable

BY CONNOR WATSON

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in the beginning, my social media was crowded with lots of folks, young and old alike, making comparisons between the COVID-19 pandemic and the AIDS epidemic that swept through the United States during the 1980s and beyond. To this day, there still is no “cure” for AIDS, or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome.

As more and more people tried to highlight the parallels, I realized how significant a number of the younger generations — specifically younger gay folks — know so little about the AIDS epidemic and the effect it has had on our community.

One similarity between AIDS and COVID-19 is the inept and complacent leadership at the helm of the country at the time of their respective outbreaks. President Ronald Reagan ignored the AIDS epidemic, similar to how President Donald J. Trump ignored the COVID-19 pandemic as it began to sweep across the country. But there’s one stark difference between the two health crises: Many people did not care about AIDS. As far as much of the United States was concerned, it was a “gay cancer” that only affected sexually promiscuous homosexual men.

The first cases of a rare “gay cancer,” [AIDS] were reported in 1981. Do those reading this know when President Reagan first made any public mention of AIDS?

1985. Four years and too many deaths after the first reported cases by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) in 1981.

Readers: are you aware of the first time President Reagan gave a public speech on AIDS — and solely on AIDS? 1987.

Throughout all of Reagan’s time as President of the United States, not once was AIDS mentioned in any of his State of the Union addresses.

AIDS and COVID-19, as horrible as each have been in the United States, are not of comparable standards. There were not widespread calls for help and compliance across the globe during the AIDS epidemic. Some even believe it was “God’s punishment” — gay men dying of AIDS — for living an “unnatural” lifestyle. There was very little sympathy paid to these AIDS victims. Very little.

The only comparison between COVID-19 and AIDS is that both occurred under an inept presidential administration that downplayed the severity of the crisis until it could no longer be blatantly ignored. Only then, when the pressure was on, did these men address the severe killer that lay right beneath their noses in the land they swore to



Sophomore Connor Watson compares how the U.S. government responded to the AIDS epidemic versus the COVID-19 pandemic. COURTESY OF CONNOR WATSON

protect and serve.

More young people in the queer community need to take the time to sit down and learn about AIDS and how it has affected the LGBT community in the long run. A whole generation of individuals — beautiful individuals with families and stories and lovers and personalities — was wiped from our community because of ignorance. What else? The stigmatization and fear of the gay community was significantly heightened and exacerbated because a fool of a president refused to break free from the grip of those evangelicals lining his pockets for his campaigns. There’s more to the story than what meets the eye, and if our generation — Generation Z — doesn’t take more time to learn about what our community has been through, we risk losing all firsthand accounts of the atrociousness of that time period in our history.

Find older gays in the community. Older LGBT-identifying individuals. Talk to them. Ask them about their stories with AIDS. Learn as much as you can. Time is a precious gift, and if AIDS and COVID-19 have taught us anything, it’s that time should never be taken for granted.

CONNOR WATSON is a sophomore theater arts management major. Contact him at cwatson3@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Pandemic affects LGBTQ+ students

BY MAGGIE MCADEN

When I was abroad in Dublin, Ireland, in March 2020, I came home two months early as a result of the spread of COVID-19 in Europe. My family was living in Wellington, New Zealand, at the time and did not want me to fly all the way across the world if I had another option.

This left me scrambling. Where was I supposed to go? Where would I feel “at home” for what would be an indeterminate amount of time? Although my grandparents offered to let me stay with them in North Carolina or Virginia, I did not feel comfortable potentially exposing them to COVID-19 if I contracted it on the plane or in the airport. I also identify as queer, and I knew that in a time of unpredictability, living long term with people who weren’t aware of that part of my identity could potentially make an already stressful situation even more complicated. With little information available, and limited time, I booked a one-way ticket to Boston, where I lived with my girlfriend and her parents — and grumpy dog — in total lockdown for three months.

Many do not have the privilege of unwavering support from their immediate families that my girlfriend and I experienced.

COVID-19 created unique circumstances in which LGBTQ college students, for whom school was a refuge, had to return home. Many re-entered toxic environments that were homophobic or transphobic, which had significant impacts on their mental health.



Senior Maggie McAden reflects on how COVID-19 has affected her and other LGBTQ+ students. The pandemic left them especially vulnerable after displacing students. BEC LEGATO/THE ITHACAN

One study conducted by Vanderbilt University researchers surveyed 477 college students across 254 college campuses and found that 45.7% of students were not out to or supported by their immediate families, whom they were living with during quarantine, and 60% of them were experiencing “psychological distress, anxiety and depression.”

The effects of the pandemic on the LGBTQ+ community can also not be discussed without highlighting how trans women, and specifically trans women of color, have been disproportionately impacted in all areas of life. Twenty-six percent of transgender people of color lost their jobs during the pandemic, compared to 12% of the general population. These impacts also extend to violence. In 2020 alone, 44 trans people were murdered: the worst recorded year of transphobic violence on record.

I am lucky that who I love, or what gender I may or may not identify with, has not ended my life, nor worsened my mental health during a time in which everything around me is unraveling. I was able to live with my partner — while across the world from my family — during some of the most difficult times we have ever faced.

But this story is not shared by all. The experiences of LGBTQ+ college students during COVID-19, and the unique stressors we experience, are often left out of the conversation.

MAGGIE MCADEN is a senior communication management and design major. Contact her at mmcaden@ithaca.edu.

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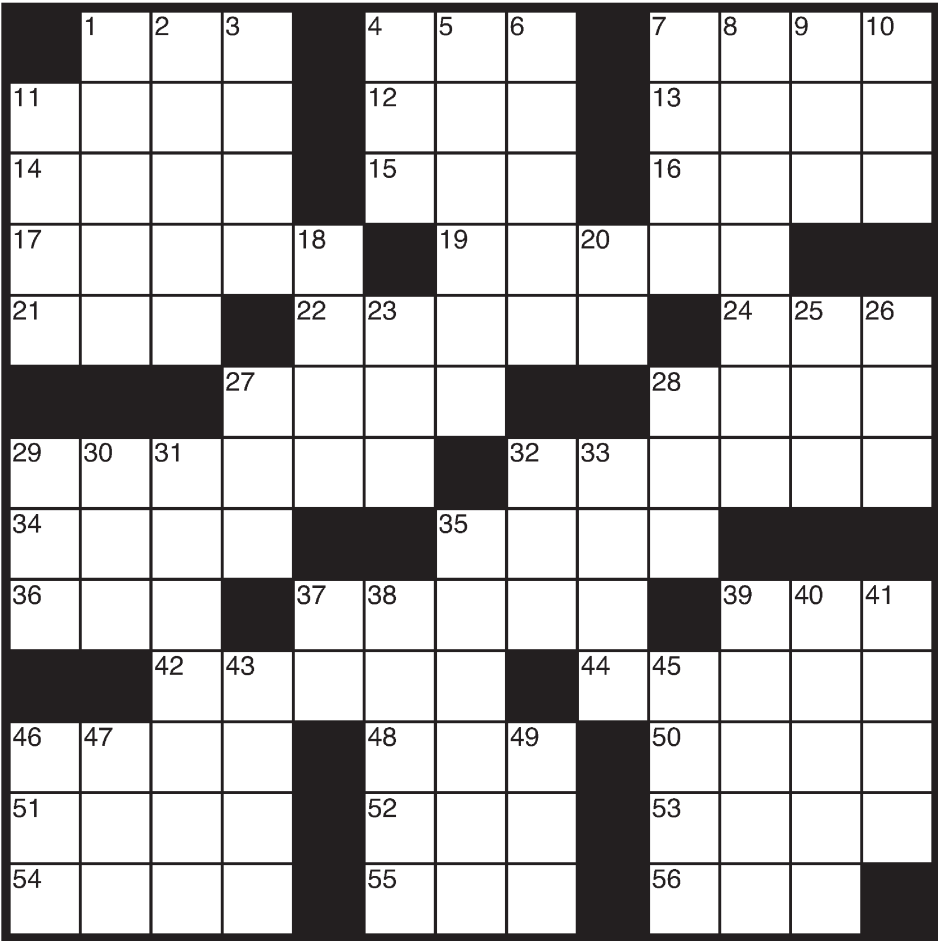
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- 51 Under the covers
- 52 Slugger Mel —
- 53 Forearm bone
- 54 Lean and sinewy
- 55 Route
- 56 Go out with

- 30 Slangy pal
- 31 Less certain
- 32 Fez
- 33 No sweat
- 35 Bungalow
- 37 Chem lab meas.
- 38 Finance
- 39 Writer — Zola
- 40 Founder of sci-fi

- 41 “Watermark” chanteuse
- 43 A famous 500
- 45 Green-egg layers
- 46 Beard site
- 47 Osaka sash
- 49 Pig’s digs

DOWN

- 1 Works very hard
- 2 Pizarro foes
- 3 Party cheese
- 4 Take to the slopes
- 5 Make a mistake (2 wds.)
- 6 Implied but unsaid
- 7 Had on
- 8 Racetrack near Miami
- 9 Gore and Capone
- 10 Recipe qty.
- 11 Munich Mrs.
- 18 Green pods
- 20 Egg qty.
- 23 Highland youth
- 25 Health resort
- 26 Uncomfortable seat
- 27 Crest
- 28 Decimal base
- 29 TV spots

last issue’s crossword answers

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

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sudoku

easy

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

very hard

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

answers to last issue’s sudoku:

medium

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

hard

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

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Dancing in the garden among the jungle flames

Junior crafts ethereal music video
about queer love and friendship



Junior Gaby Tola performs with her friend from home, Bianka Bermudez, and Ithaca College juniors AnnieMarie Peña-Castellanos and Seidy Bobadilla in the "Jungle Flame" video.

COURTESY OF YAEMI MATIAS

BY EVA SALZMAN

Mist and sunlight stream through the trees, and sounds of bongos and warm synths usher in the light, radiant voice of neptunemuse. A thick canopy of ferns and trees shade the bright, fiery jungle flame flower, forming a beautiful, lush paradise.

Junior Gaby Tola, artistically known as neptunemuse, sings of love, beauty and spirituality in her song "Jungle Flame," which she wrote and produced herself in June 2020. Tola said that after the Ithaca College campus shut down in March 2020, she was void of distractions and able to focus on her music.

Tola said she wanted to bring light to the terrible events, like the rising number of police brutality cases and the devastation of COVID-19, that came to a head last June. While working on a series of paintings as a personal art project, Tola said the chorus of "Jungle Flame" just came to her.

"The songwriting process for me kind of comes like divine intervention," Tola said. "I usually have to feel it in the moment. I'm not [a] sit down and write type of person. ... I was doing a series on the female body in contrast to nature, and it just so happened that I wanted to paint jungle flames coming out of a rib cage."

Tola said she has been writing songs since she was 13 but only started taking it seriously around age 17. As a writing major, Tola has experience with translating her feelings into the written word, and this semester, she said she is taking a songwriting class to improve her skills.

After releasing "Jungle Flame" as a single in December 2020, Tola wanted to push her creativity even further with an accompanying music video that came out in March 2021. Tola said that after being sent back to her hometown in Miami back in March 2020, she found peace within nature, which was the inspiration for the video. Paying homage to her Miami roots as well as the connection she has to the waterfalls in Ithaca, Tola said she decided to shoot the video at a botanical garden near her hometown.

"I was just kind of thinking about my relationship to this space, the settler space that is Miami, Florida, which is also Seminole land," Tola said. "And just thinking about the fact that nature gives me peace and that ... life is a really beautiful thing. So that was the meaning behind the song, to give myself peace, ... and I wanted to convey the same idea for the music video."

Tola said she also wanted to represent female safety and queer relationships through a dreamy, ethereal lens in the music video. She said she was drained from seeing queer love in the media only being portrayed through queer pain and trauma, so she wanted to go against that. Tola chose three of her friends to model in the video along with her and said the love in the video is an accurate depiction of their friendship. The video shows the friends freely frolicking around a field, hugging and holding hands in the warm sunlight. Tola sings, "I'll show you where my soul resides / In the garden of the divine / Amongst the jungle flame."

"I really wanted to emphasize the intention of, not only all of us being queer, but also being able to portray that real true love on the screen that my friends and I have towards each other," Tola said. "I feel like there's a lot of love there that I felt like would be conveyed on the screen. ... It was very organic."

Juniors AnnieMarie Peña-Castellanos and Seidy Bobadilla, two of Tola's best friends from Ithaca, said they went to Miami to be featured in the "Jungle Flame" music video.

Peña-Castellanos said that expressing the love that Tola wanted in the video was easy, especially since they had not seen each other since March 2020.

"All we had to do was be ourselves and embrace the scenery, the music and reconnecting with one another," Peña-Castellanos said. "The emotions and happiness on screen was real emotion and excitement to be together."

Bobadilla said that getting to see her best friend work on a passion project like this was an emotional experience. She said that being an artist, especially right now, is hard and that Tola had the time to make space for her art

Miami-based artist Yaemi Matias, who directed, produced and edited the "Jungle Flame" music video, said that while she has worked on similar projects before, Tola's vision was unique.

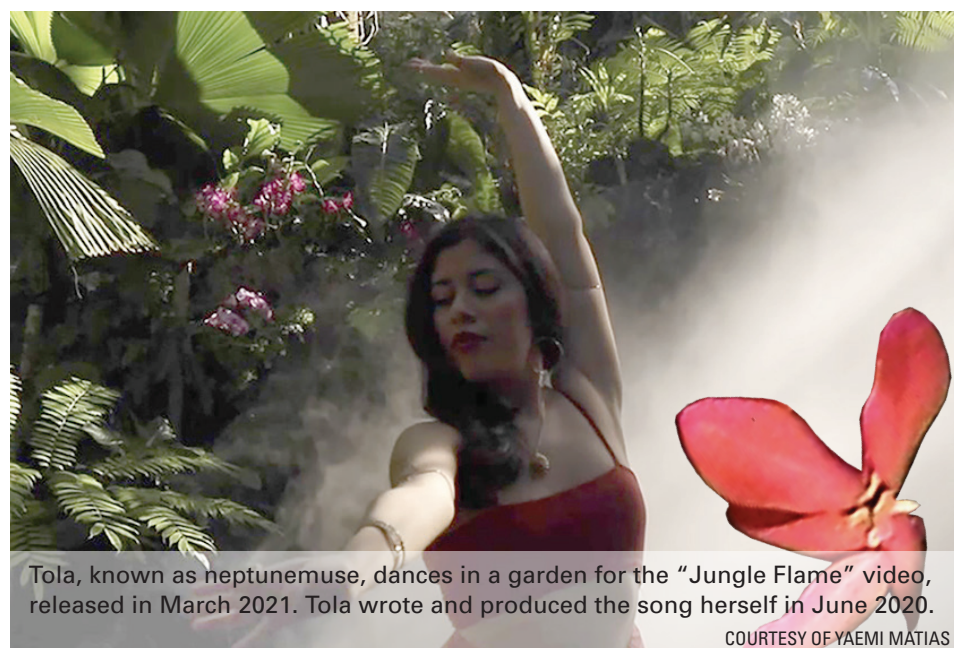
"Sitting with [Tola's] song multiple times and visualizing the elements always felt like I was immersing myself in this blissful jungle that she created in her song," Matias said via email.

Matias also said she could see the love that Tola and her friends have for each other through the camera lens.

"Bouncing back and forth with [Tola] on ideas and [inspiration] was super fun," Matias said via email. "Seeing her learn the choreography and deliver such a great performance really showed her commitment to creating a beautiful piece, and that inspired me so much! Her friends were really sweet, and you can tell that they have such a strong bond, that made everything flow so naturally."

Bobadilla said that most of all, the "Jungle Flame" video represents who Tola is as a person. She said the nature of Tola's friendships are reflected in the video.

"I really like the intimacy of the video," Bobadilla said. "I think it gives it a much better connection to Gaby as a person. Anybody who knows [Tola] knows



Tola, known as neptunemuse, dances in a garden for the "Jungle Flame" video, released in March 2021. Tola wrote and produced the song herself in June 2020.

COURTESY OF YAEMI MATIAS

when the academic year ended.

"I'm super proud of her," Bobadilla said. "This is something she's wanted to do for a while. ... It was just really nice to see one of my best friends going and actually doing something."

that she's got a tight group of friends. So I think that the video is a really good representation of her and her music and what she hopes to achieve."

CONTACT EVA SALZMAN
ESALZMAN@ITHACA.EDU

Professor documents experiences of survivors

BY MADDY MARTIN

In 2014, a fraternity at Texas Tech University made national headlines after a banner reading “No means yes and yes means anal” was hung outside its house. Jen Huemmer, assistant professor in the Department of Strategic Communication, was working on her Ph.D. at Texas Tech when the incident occurred, and it drove her to create “Good Girls Don’t Tell,” a documentary about the experience of non-reporting sexual assault survivors.

At 6 p.m. April 29 on YouTube Live, the Sexual Violence Prevention Committee will host a live screening of “Good Girls Don’t Tell” as part of its series for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. After the screening, there will be a Q&A with Huemmer and Title IX Coordinator Linda Koenig, facilitated by Title IX Deputy Coordinator Omar Stoute, about the documentary and the topic of sexual assault. Students and staff members can RSVP to the event online.

Huemmer directed “Good Girls Don’t Tell,” and her friend and fellow graduate student, Lindsey Blumell, was the executive producer. The documentary features the true stories of non-reporting sexual assault survivors, who are portrayed by actors in the film. It was released in 2015 and was first screened in Lubbock, Texas, where it was filmed.

Huemmer said she and Blumell were driven to create “Good Girls Don’t Tell” after realizing that there

was a gap in research and awareness of the experiences of non-reporting sexual assault survivors.

“I’m horrified by the amount of time it casually gets said, ‘If only they had enough courage to report or the amount of bravery to speak up,’ or the impression that it’s a passive or meek decision not to report,” Huemmer said. “These women were making sense of it in their own minds and then determining for themselves what the best course of action would be.”

Blumell said she and Huemmer tried to interview survivors from as many backgrounds as they could and spoke with women from a wide range of ethnic groups and sexualities. After interviewing survivors, Blumell said she and Huemmer translated their stories into a script, which they passed off to actors to reenact so the anonymity of survivors could be preserved. Blumell said the documentary was largely created by students volunteering as film crew and actors.

“[The documentary] is presented in such a way that if you’re speaking out against it, you’re speaking out against people’s personal experiences, and we didn’t want to create space for that,” Blumell said. “I have zero interest in giving space to someone who is going to doubt another person’s experience. Zero.”

According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), female college students ages 18–24 are three times more likely to



“Good Girls Don’t Tell” is a documentary that tells the stories of sexual assault survivors. The film is directed by Jen Huemmer, assistant professor in the Department of Strategic Communication.

COURTESY OF JEN HUEMMER

experience sexual violence than women in other age groups.

Junior Julia Ganbarg, president of Ithaca College Planned Parenthood Generation Action, said she thinks the college handles the aftermath of sexual assault well but does not do enough to prevent it. Ganbarg said that it is not enough to have students complete one online Sexual Assault Prevention Course before their freshman year and that the college should expand existing clubs and resources focused on preventing sexual assault.

“There’s a myriad of clubs that are focused on preventing sexual

assault and ending sexual assault on campus,” Ganbarg said. “Use the power as an institution to make those bigger so students are encouraged to go and actually do go and listen to these things.”

In addition to the “Good Girls Don’t Tell” screening, the Sexual Violence Prevention Committee will host other virtual events for Sexual Assault Awareness Month: “Supporting Survivors,” a discussion about the impact of COVID-19 on relationship violence, at noon April 27, “The ‘Safest’ Sex,” a discussion around the stigma surrounding masturbation and sex toys, at 7 p.m. April 28,

and “Faces of Prevention,” a panel featuring violence prevention specialists, at noon April 30.

Senior Julia Siegal, co-president of IC Strike, said IC Strike will have a representative answering questions at “Faces of Prevention.”

“We are huge on education because that is where tangible change starts,” Siegal said. “When people attend these events, we want them to leave having a new perspective or a new toolkit for grappling with similar issues.”

CONTACT MADDY MARTIN
MMARTIN5@ITHACA.EDU

Annual comic convention to be held online this year

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

This year, for the first time in its 45-year history, Ithacon, Ithaca’s comic convention, will be hosted virtually.

Hosted by the Comic Book Club of Ithaca, America’s oldest comic book club, Ithacon is a convention that is normally hosted over two days at Ithaca College’s Emerson Suites. Last year, Ithacon was canceled due to the pandemic. This year it will be hosted online from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., with extending online activities, April 24th. Throughout the one-day convention, 39 events will take place. The convention will be broken up into three Zoom rooms where attendees can attend virtual panels with workshops on illustrating and discussions about LGBTQ+ comics. Most events will be around 50 minutes long. The Virtual Dealers’ Room will feature regular Ithacon vendors giving half-hour presentations.

Attendees can also take part in gaming events, like “Batman: The Final Rogue RPG,” an hour of the popular game “Among Us” and “Kobolds Ate My Baby! RPG.” Sign-ups for gaming events are required. After the convention, two hours of virtual karaoke will happen from 10 p.m. to midnight.

While many comic book conventions have transformed into giant media events, Ithacon offers a small-scale convention experience that focuses on comic culture in the Ithaca community. The next in-person Ithacon is set to take place in April 2022.

Bill Turner, a founding member of the Comic Book Club of Ithaca, has been involved

in organizing Ithacon since its inception. Turner said that planning a virtual Ithacon has been a challenge. Part of the experience of Ithacon is being able to walk around, talking to new people and buying comic books. With a virtual convention, this cannot be done.

“A lot of our discussion has been around thinking to what extent we could replicate that personal experience if it was only online,” Turner said. “Of course, it’s very difficult, but we’re trying to make sure that we have a lot of sessions that are interactive and will allow audience comments during the session.”

Senior Julia Hurlburt, a member of the Graphic Novels Advisory Board, said she suspects that the experience of a Zoom Ithacon might miss the best part of what she believes made Ithacon great — roaming around the physical convention space.

“My favorite part was the ambiance,” Hurlburt said. “I’d like meeting the vendors and just kind of chilling out there. Like most things with cons, the joy in it is kind of just being able to be in the same space with a bunch of people who all like the same things that you do.”

Michael Watson ’13 is the writer of “Ithaca” — a Lovecraftian horror comic series with its first issue available on Watson’s website for free — and was going to appear at Ithacon for the first time in 2020 before it was canceled. Now attending his first convention as a creative, Watson will finally be a panelist. Watson will appear at the 2 p.m. panel “From Silent Films to Indie Comics: Ithaca’s Contributions to Writing, Art and Culture,” alongside Diana Riesman of The Wharton Studio Museum;



Ithacon will hold its first online convention in its 45-year history. The convention will be held on Zoom and will host 39 events from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 24.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

Stephen Frug, the creator of the photo comic “Happenstance”; and local essayist, novelist and writing teacher Leslie Daniels.

During the pandemic, Watson put on multiple livestreamed performances of the Ithaca comic over Zoom. The characters in the comic were portrayed by different people, all livestreaming from their homes.

“I’m not sure what to expect,” Watson said. “This is such an interesting format to kind of do. To go from a panel and a room full of people and live questions to a Zoom call, ... it’s obviously going to be totally different.”

Other guests will include Roger Stern, a comic book author who has written comics for Superman, Spider-Man, the Avengers and other superhero franchises since the 1970s. Additionally, Hart Seely and Tom Pey-er will represent Syracuse-based comic book

publisher Ahoy Comics at the convention.

Gabby Krogstad, an Ithaca-based photographer who runs The Dragon’s Spark, a website of photography, digital artwork and clay, will be a guest at Ithacon. Krogstad has been to three previous Ithacons. Krogstad said the variety of artists and panels that Ithacon has makes a helpful and familiar atmosphere for young artists.

“Unfortunately we have to do this amazing event online,” Krogstad said via email. “But I have to say, they are the first that I know of to do it. From everything I’ve read so far and see on their site, it’s almost like nothing is changing, it’s just going to be online; which is fantastic.”

CONTACT ELIJAH DE CASTRO
EDECASTRO@ITHACA.EDU

Ken Burns humanizes Hemingway

MOVIE REVIEW: “Hemingway” Public Broadcasting Service



BY JACKSON NOEL

From “The Civil War” to “Baseball” to “Jazz,” filmmaker Ken Burns’ body of work has cemented itself among exhaustive and essential accounts of history. Now with “Hemingway,” co-directed by frequent collaborator Lynn Novick, Burns uses his series to disentangle fact from myth. In the process, Burns crafts the definitive account of Ernest Hemingway’s fantastical life and monolithic oeuvre.

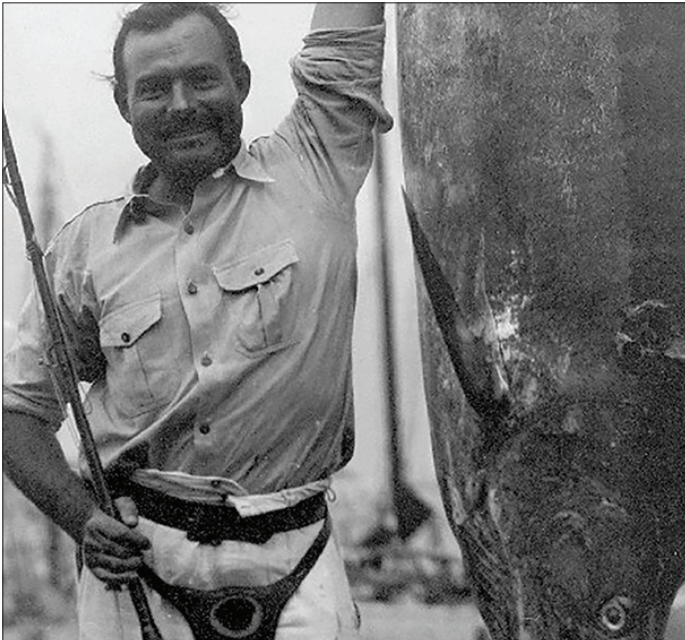
The series spans a total of six hours broken into three episodes, each concentrating on a different phase of Hemingway’s life. Hemingway’s story begins with his years growing up in Illinois before serving as an ambulance driver on the Italian front in World War I. The author’s life will eventually take him to Africa, all over Europe and lead him to direct involvement in wars. Each moment of his expansive life feels appropriately weighty, befitting the subject material.

The story emerges over archival photographs, accompanied by narration from actor Peter Coyote. Dispersed throughout are talking heads of biographers and contemporary writers, like Michael Katakis and Edna O’Brien. Occasionally, voice-over by actor Jeff Daniels provides segments of Hemingway’s writing getting

read aloud. Burns has perhaps the most easily recognizable style in documentary filmmaking. He treasures simple techniques like panning and zooming onto photographs to create movement within still images, a trick dubbed the “Ken Burns effect.” Evocative violin music underpins the narrative, always allowing the testimony to take center stage.

Almost all of Hemingway’s life appears at some point in his fictional work — like the protagonist of “A Farewell to Arms” being an ambulance driver during World War I. This means the analysis of the author’s writing plays a significant role in how audiences will eventually view the artist. Certain stories get confirmed, like Hemingway’s philandering attitude, which lasted his entire life, but what stands out more are the private accounts of Hemingway as a person. Growing up alongside his older sister Marcelline, Hemingway was often dressed in female clothes and called feminine nicknames. This instilled an androgynous nature to how he viewed gender that appears throughout his work, like “The Garden of Eden” or “The Sun Also Rises,” and in his relationship with his last wife, Mary Welsh.

“Hemingway” refuses to succumb to noncritical praise of the



Filmmaker Ken Burns continues to craft definitive historical documentaries with his recent series on Ernest Hemingway. COURTESY OF PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICE

complicated man. Hemingway’s own memoir, “A Moveable Feast,” is full of self-flattery, but this series chooses to characterize his achievements with the context of his literary contemporaries. Each character in the journey — especially each of his four wives — are given space for understanding where they stand in the larger picture of 20th century history. This includes the incredibly moving story of serious mental illnesses in his family, leading his father to take his own life and Hemingway fearing he would end up the same way. He did.

There are many sides to the story of Hemingway’s life and his place within the literary canon. Burns and Novick’s “Hemingway” touches on all of them until the author’s story becomes a difficult tragedy to reckon with. The series never attempts to name Hemingway the author of the Great American Novel, though individual interviewees come close. For posterity’s sake though, “The Great American Novel” should be “For Whom the Bell Tolls.”

CONTACT JACKSON NOEL
JNOEL1@ITHACA.EDU

Album handles dark topics

MUSIC REVIEW: “ROADRUNNER: NEW LIGHT, NEW MACHINE” RCA Question Everything



BY KHAM AUERBACH

Experimental hip-hop band BROCKHAMPTON has been on an everlasting high since it first debuted in 2014. The group claimed much fame and success following the release of its 2019 album “GINGER,” and even with the pandemic, carried that progress through unofficial song releases and its “Technical Difficulties” Twitch series last year.

There was a lot of speculation that the band was done releasing albums, a thought that was shot down when the group released its sixth album “ROADRUNNER: NEW LIGHT, NEW MACHINE” on April 9.

The conceptual record about death and struggle opens with “BUZZCUT,” an in-your-face, upbeat, catchy track that serves as one of the best songs on the record. The fast-paced instrumentals wonderfully complement featuring artist Danny Brown’s frantic flow.

Though the album starts off strong, the song that follows — “CHAIN ON” — brings the energy to a halt. The beat is almost too laid back, dragging on for longer than necessary. The chorus, sung by band member Kevin Abstract, seems to lack the heart and soul that listeners usually hear from him. This audible lack of passion, combined with the displaced

sample from Wu-Tang Clan in the remaining few seconds of the song, leaves listeners wanting more.

“COUNT ON ME” leaves listeners wanting less. This track is arguably one of the most underwhelming on the album. Although featured artist A\$AP Rocky’s voice compliments the whistled melody, the chorus is rushed and repetitive.

Despite the puzzle pieces of the album that just don’t seem to fit right, BROCKHAMPTON shines as always, with its insightful lyrics and storytelling abilities. “THE LIGHT” exhibits these classic traits and serves as an undeniable turning point on the album. The track starts with a muffled voicemail-style sample of band member Joba discussing the personal aftermath of losing his father to suicide.

“WHEN I BALL” takes on a lighter, nostalgic sound with a hint of dark undertones, highlighting band member Dom McLennon’s aspirations to do what he puts his heart into without fear. He speaks about the history of incarceration in his family.

Though the band tackles heavy themes, it has always found a way to layer heartfelt anecdotes with dense and elaborate production, like on the track “WINDOWS.” Despite the dark nature of the song, the jazzy



“ROADRUNNER” is a unique and heavy album, but not all the songs are hits. COURTESY OF RCA QUESTION EVERYTHING

components and the “Go Merlyn” chant add charm, and the chorus is wildly addictive.

The conceptual idea that runs through the album comes to a head on the closing track, “THE LIGHT PT. II,” the most emotional song on the album. It closes with Abstract and Joba, who seem to carry the greatest parts of the record. Abstract starts off reminiscing about his childhood. Joba follows with a sincere testimonial, which reflects on the impact his father’s suicide had on him.

The album leaves listeners to sit and reflect, forcing them to look back on the dark, emotional situations that the band shared with them. Though there were a few tracks that the album could have done without, BROCKHAMPTON successfully made a beautiful and unique album, giving listeners a lot to look forward in the next release.

CONTACT KHAM AUERBACH
KAUERBACH@ITHACA.EDU

POPPED CULTURE

Why fans return to awful shows

BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD

“Riverdale,” a teen drama fueled by little more than smut and thin mysteries, is currently airing its fifth season on The CW. How has this critically panned show managed to carry on so long?

The show’s first season relied heavily on association with the Archie Comics and the excitement of seeing popular characters come to life as it followed the murder mystery of a local boy. Now in season five, the show leans on far-fetched antics and soft porn to keep viewers interested. Three of the characters are in a love triangle and a literal war is being fought on the football field. I have to admit, I am invested and have embarrassingly watched all of the seasons — but why? What keeps fans coming back?

“Riverdale” is inherently a horrible show. It introduces concerning and mature themes for a teenage audience and frustratingly never resolves them. Outlandish plot points are initiated, like when Betty Cooper (Lili Reinhart) becomes a webcam girl as a minor, Veronica Lodge (Camila Mendes) operates a speak-easy and Archie Andrews (KJ Apa) has an affair with his teacher, but none of these actions ever have any full resolution.

For some, shows like “Riverdale” are comforting because viewers do not need to think while watching them. Arguably, if you did try to comprehend “Riverdale,” it might actually make the programming more confusing. Bad TV shows create a sense of comfort because they are unchallenging for viewers whose everyday lives are complicated.

Some viewers find comfort in shows about people who are worse off than they are. Security can be found in seeing characters experience similar or worse things than they do. This is what psychologists refer to as social comparison. This theory asserts that individuals gauge their own self-worth based on how they compare to others. So when some people watch “Riverdale” and see an opposing gang beat up Jughead Jones (Cole Sprouse), they can think to themselves with relief, “Yikes, well, at least I am not him.”

But this is only one side of the “Riverdale” equation. The other half of the programming is composed of steamy scenes of intimacy. It is hard to remember, but the characters of “Riverdale” are teenagers despite running drug rings and fighting in gang wars.

The fact that sex sells is nothing new. All forms of media and advertisements show this. It makes logical sense that with a plot as skewed as “Riverdale”’s, producers will hone in on what keeps the people coming back — a shirtless KJ Apa.

Despite its poor writing, “Riverdale” does not seem to be going away anytime soon. Successful bad TV has a foolproof formula that works. So on principle and out of respect for quality television programming, I vow to stop watching “Riverdale” — just as soon as I finish season five.

POPPED CULTURE is a weekly column, written by Life & Culture staff writers, that analyzes pop culture events. Sydney Brumfield is a sophomore writing for film, TV and emerging media major. Contact her at sbrumfield@ithaca.edu.



LIGHTING UP THE SCOREBOARD

Freshmen make quick debut in first season as Bombers

Freshman infielder and designated hitter Alex Barker-Hook has been a welcome addition to the Bombers' lineup. He has started 13 games while batting .243 and scoring seven runs in 37 at-bats.

ABBIE LONDON/THE ITHACAN

BY TOMMY MUMAU

The Ithaca College baseball team has seen an immediate impact from its freshman class, as 13 players have made their collegiate debuts this season.

The team welcomed 19 new players in its freshman class this year. In the shortened 2020 season, only nine freshmen played. The club typically does not play many of its freshmen, as only two made varsity appearances in 2019, and three in 2018. Head coach David Valesente said he has relied heavily on his freshmen this season to make contributions both on the plate and on the mound and has been impressed by their efforts so far.

"We've been very happy with them," Valesente said. "We're still moving guys around and learning different things about them. ... But, they're bringing energy every day. They're really excited to be out competing, and many of them have stepped up as being contributors right now at the varsity level."

Several freshmen have become pivotal players for the Bombers this season, including second baseman Louis Fabbo and infielder Alex Barker-Hook, who have started 16 and 13 games, respectively, this year.

Senior shortstop and captain Jack Lynch said he has been pleased that the freshmen have been able to make an immediate impact on the field.

"[I've been] very impressed," Lynch said. "I just remember when I was a freshman and I got thrown into a starting role. It's very tough to step up and be that leader that we're looking for. They've done everything from making plays on defense to having those big hits in the lineup."

Fabbo is one of the players who has made impacts on both sides of the ball, as he has taken on the role of being the club's leadoff hitter and second baseman. Through his first 16 games, Fabbo leads the team with a .381 batting average and 24 hits. Fabbo is also third on the team in RBIs with 14 behind seniors Garrett

Callaghan and Lynch.

Lynch has been particularly happy with Fabbo's performance on the diamond and presence in the locker room.

"Fabbo has really stepped up to the plate," Lynch said. "He's become a really solid leadoff hitter for us, getting on base, playing solid defense and really being a leader as well."

Barker-Hook has also made his presence known in his debut campaign, logging a .243 batting average with seven RBIs and 10 walks. The designated hitter and first baseman has started in all but three of the club's games.



They just get the job done, and that's what we're looking for out of those guys.

— Jack Lynch



Lynch has taken notice of the strong work ethic and competitiveness from this freshman pitching class.

"They just get the job done, and that's what we're looking for out of those guys," Lynch said. "They continue to work off the field and put in the work in the weight room. They have great attitudes and they just want to win, and that's really what we need out of them right now."

Valesente said his staff has been surprised by freshmen relievers Nate Scott, Dom Trippi and Matteo Ragusa. At the start of the season, the three freshmen were not expected to receive much playing time this year, but Valesente said that after seeing them play, he could now see these pitchers

transitioning into starting positions.

Scott's preparation has translated to solid performances on the mound, as the right-hander has notched a 2.16 ERA with 10 strikeouts in 8.1 innings of work this season. Scott said he is grateful to have the opportunity to pitch in high-leverage situations and improve his game during his first collegiate season.

"I really wasn't for sure if I was going to get any innings this year," Scott said. "I've been thrown into some pretty intense spots and performed in some, and then just really improving on some other ones. It's definitely great to get out there and be a role player on this team this year."

Trippi has also made an impact on the hill for the Bombers, striking out 12 batters in just 5.2 innings of work. He has held opponents scoreless in all but one of his appearances out of the bullpen in 2021. Trippi said his highlight of the season was when he notched his first collegiate save in the Bombers' 7-6 victory against Alfred State College on March 25. The right-hander struck out three batters to preserve the club's one-run lead and secure its fourth win of the season.

Trippi said he is grateful that the coaching staff has trusted him in key situations early in his collegiate career.

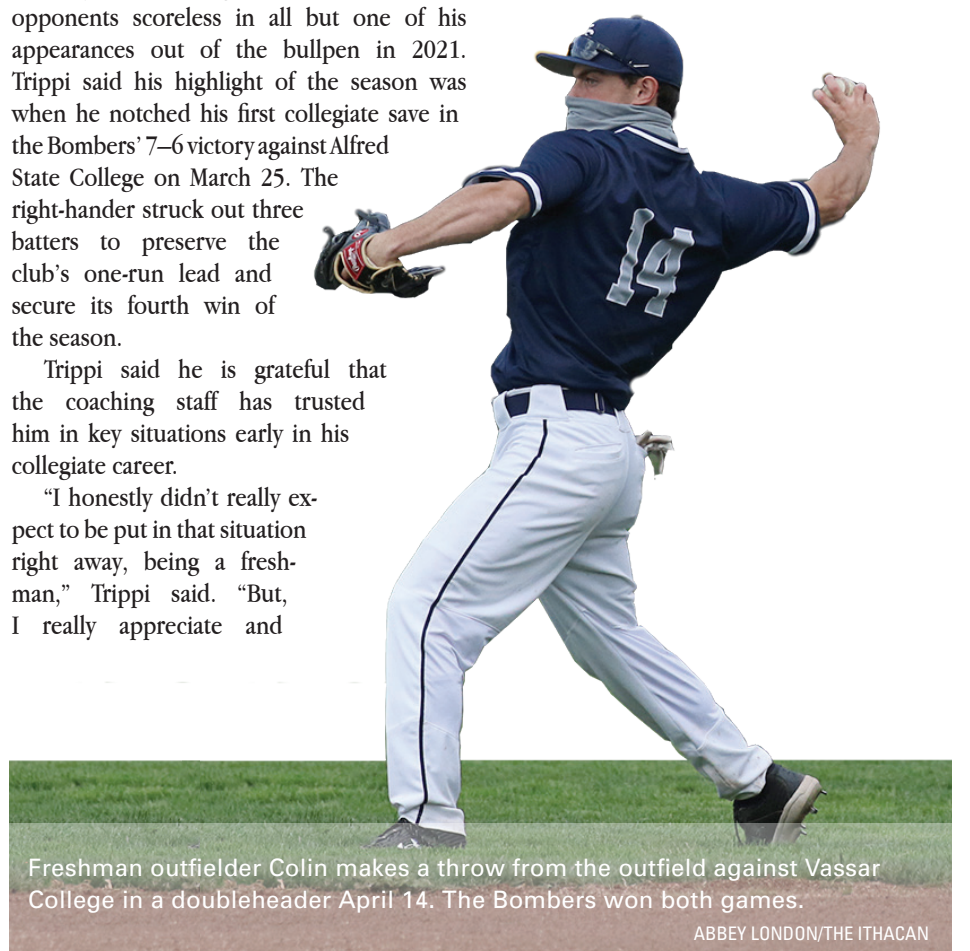
"I honestly didn't really expect to be put in that situation right away, being a freshman," Trippi said. "But, I really appreciate and

respect that they had that confidence in me to put me in those situations. Overall, I think it's been solid, being able to be put in those high-pressure situations right away and have the team know that they can count on me in those situations."

Valesente said he looks forward to what the young group has in store.

"We're excited about all our first-year guys," Valesente said. "They're up here with us, and we're calling on them at different times in a lot of different situations. The guys that are up with us now, we're really excited about, and we're happy that they're getting this experience for development and able to compete."

CONTACT TOMMY MUMAU
TMUMAU@ITHACA.EDU



Freshman outfielder Colin makes a throw from the outfield against Vassar College in a doubleheader April 14. The Bombers won both games.

ABBIE LONDON/THE ITHACAN

Men’s tennis team serves a new style on court

BY JACK MURRAY

Historically, the Ithaca College men’s tennis team has relied on outlasting its opponents in rally situations to win matches. This season, the Bombers have pumped up the power.

With an influx of freshmen with stellar serving abilities and continued development of key members of the team, the men’s tennis team has been able to start strong in 2021. The team is currently 3–2, with both losses coming from Vassar College, who is currently undefeated and got off to a 7–2 start in the pandemic-shortened 2019–20 season. Much of the Bombers’ success can be attributed to a shift in game style by the team, with a focus on highlighting the team’s newfound strength in high-velocity serves.

Head coach Chris Hayes said a tennis team’s style is reliant upon the players who are in the lineup as opposed to a traditional system that has existed for years, so the new freshmen joining the lineup changed the team’s dynamic.

“Every guy on the team has a specific kind of game style,” Hayes said. “We had a group of recruits that have a style, and then the team molded around it.”

This season’s freshmen are Anthony Villella, Deon Kraft, Eric Dubiliner, Nicolas Luis and Jacob Wachs. All five have played in at least three matches this season. Hayes said the group has extensive

experience in doubles play before arriving at South Hill, which is uncommon for underclassmen at the college level due to a youth focus on singles development. He added that this made the newcomers easy to fit into the lineup.

“All of the freshmen can play doubles,” Hayes said. “Eric, Deon, Jacob and Anthony all specialize in doubles, while Nico is developing after not playing as much doubles in high school and junior play. Serving definitely has something to do with their success, but their ability to volley is also impressive.”

In addition to the newcomers, the team’s veterans have been serving strong as well. This has led to more aces — points being earned off the opponents not being able to return the initial serve. Hayes said this has been crucial in the early success the team has had.

“We are getting more free points off our serves,” Hayes said. “We have a lot of guys with great serves. [First-year graduate student] Minos [Stavrakas] has always had a good serve, [junior] Artem [Khaybullin] has really made an improvement with getting his first serve in and getting free points, and all five of the freshmen came in with really strong serves and are able to win free points or set up the opportunity to get the point.”

Khaybullin said he worked on his serve during quarantine and has felt a difference in his play.



Freshman Anthony Villella returns a serve during practice at the Ben Wheeler Tennis Courts on April 20. He competes in both singles and doubles matches, and has two wins and four losses this year.

MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN

“Getting the first serve in is important in tennis because you only get two tries to serve, and if you miss them, you lose the point,” Khaybullin said. “Getting in the first serve builds upon your confidence for the remainder of the point, and aces give you a free point with doing minimal work.”

With this increase in accuracy, Khaybullin has been able to utilize more strategy when serving as opposed to just focusing on keeping the ball within the confines of the service box.

For Villella, serving has always been his strong suit. Villella said he was bigger than most at a

young age, so he developed the power behind his serve early on in his playing career. He is still improving his serve, but he is able to use it to force his opponents into making bad return shots mistakes.

“My approach is pretty much the same from match to match,” Villella said. “I’m just trying to be a more consistent server and get the first serve to set up second balls.”

Hayes said Villella’s serving ability somewhat contrasts with his hard-hitting teammates but is still extremely effective, especially when partnered with someone with a flat serve.

“Anthony’s serve has definitely improved as we have gotten more practice,” Hayes said. “He has more of a spin serve, which is really effective with doubles.”

As Villella gains more experience playing in doubles and perfecting his serve, he said it will add an extra element to his game.

“We’re not really looking to win points off the serve, it’s more to set up points off of them,” Villella said. “We’ll still go for [aces], just not consistently. But we’ll definitely keep that in our back pockets.”

CONTACT JACK MURRAY
JMURRAY5@ITHACA.EDU

Junior softball player hits 2021 season out of the park

BY DANIEL KING

When Ithaca College softball player junior Julia Loffredo came back to Ithaca in September 2020, she had one goal: to have her best season yet. Loffredo went to the park nearly every other day to hit with her teammates and would go to the gym between hitting sessions. After months of training on her own and with the rest of the softball team, Loffredo is gaining national recognition for her performance this season.

The softball team had a successful start to its season. The South Hill squad currently sits 12–4 overall and is 8–2 in conference play. Loffredo has been one of the Bombers’ best players this season, as she currently has a batting average of .367 with 19 RBIs and five home runs. Defensively, Loffredo has played catcher, right field and first base, and has a perfect fielding percentage.

Loffredo started the season batting 7-for-7 with eight RBIs and three home runs in the team’s opening series against Elmira College on March 24. Loffredo said she knew it was an impressive accomplishment, but her focus was on winning the series.

“I wasn’t really thinking, ‘Wow, I just pulled that off,’” Loffredo said. “I was like, ‘Wow, we just beat Elmira. We had seven home runs as a team. I was thinking more team-based than my personal success.’”

Loffredo was named Louisville Slugger/National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) DIII Player of the Week on March 31. Loffredo said the award meant a lot to her,

especially since she became the first Bomber to win the NFCA Player of the Week award since 2014. However, Loffredo is still striving for more success.

“It’s really cool, but I’m going to take it with a grain of salt,” Loffredo said. “I want that award every week.”

Loffredo came to Ithaca as a catcher, but she transitioned to playing right field and first base this year. Head coach Hannah Quintana praised Loffredo’s ability to play multiple positions and still be one of the team’s best defensive players.

“Her versatility has been super impressive,” Quintana said. “She has one of our strongest arms in the outfield. She has thrown out runners from the fence and second base. She has just been an all-around athlete on the field for us.”

When Quintana became the head coach in 2019, the team tweaked its hitting philosophy and mechanics. After not being able to see the progress last year due to the shortened season, she is now able to review how the altered technique has benefited the team, especially Loffredo.

While home during the COVID-19 pandemic, Loffredo had the opportunity to coach a travel softball team she used to play for. This experience helped Loffredo approach softball with a new perspective.

“I can predict better what the pitcher might be throwing next at me,” Loffredo said. “I got to really own my mechanics better because I had to teach people how I use my mechanics. It really made me think if



Junior Julia Loffredo is having her best collegiate season while batting .367 and tallying 19 RBIs with five home runs, helping the Bombers get to a 12-4 record.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

I’m telling my players these [fundamentals of hitting] are important, I really should embody that.”

As someone who both played and coached, Quintana said she understands how that coaching experience was valuable to Loffredo.

“Any time you’re trying to teach somebody else, you have to have a different level of understanding,” Quintana said. “Julia, with her softball mind, getting the opportunity to impart those teachings on to somebody else was very impactful to her.”

Loffredo has been able to help the Bombers beyond playing well. Junior outfielder Daniella Mulvey said she brings an energetic spirit to the field.

“[Loffredo] always has a ton of energy and a really positive attitude that lifts everyone around her up,” Mulvey said. “She works hard, loves to compete and

pushes everyone to do their best.”

Not only is Loffredo experiencing a good start to the season, but the softball team as a whole is as well. Loffredo said the team is using last season’s abrupt end as inspiration to leave it all out on the field this year.

Loffredo said she is aware of how good her season has gone so far, but it is a day-by-day battle to keep improving and performing.

“I’m not looking to have the highest batting average or the best fielding percentage,” Loffredo said. “I definitely want those things, but I just want to win. I will do anything for my teammates and coaches. The goal is to win a championship.”

CONTACT DANIEL KING
DKING2@ITHACA.EDU



Yayoi Koizumi, founder of Zero Waste Ithaca, pulls rope out of a tree stump April 17 at Stewart Park. Volunteers from Friends of Stewart Park and Zero Waste Ithaca picked up trash along the shoreline of Cayuga Lake for their annual cleanup, which was marked with greater significance as 2021 is Stewart Park's centennial year.

ABBIE LONDON/THE ITHACAN