Ithaca College students react to return to normal

BY JILLIAN BLEIER

Ithaca College has gradually returned to in-person classes and normal dining services, but reinstated mask wearing indoors for Fall 2021, sparking controversy among some students.

In order to return to campus, all students were required to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Excluding medical and religious exemptions, 99% of the student population is fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Faculty and staff are not required to be vaccinated.

In a July 30 email to the campus community, the college said mask-wearing is required indoors for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status. The college had previously relaxed its mask policy for those who submitted proof of vaccination in July.

Ithaca College is currently at alert level green. Students, faculty and staff at the college are only required to participate in surveillance testing if they are not fully vaccinated. The college has eight active student cases and five active employee cases. Any student who is vaccinated and experiencing symptoms can go to the Hammond Health Center for a COVID-19 test, said via email.

Employees who are vaccinated and experiencing symptoms should look for testing at the mall site or through their regular healthcare provider, he said via email.

Mask Reaction

Students have expressed a variety of responses to the college’s decision to reinstate its indoor mask policy for the fall semester.

“We anticipated a mixed reaction,” Swarts said via email. “Overall, the response has been mostly positive.”

Ithaca College is not currently experiencing a drastic increase in COVID-19 cases. There were 30 new positives Aug. 30 and a total of 235 active cases. Active cases rose above 100 for the first time since April on Aug. 13.

The last time the county had more than 200 active cases was between December 2020 and February 2021. Many Ithaca College students took to Twitter to express their dissatisfaction with the college’s lack of surveillance testing for COVID-19 cases rise in local community

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

Tomkins County is currently reporting a dramatic rise in COVID-19 cases. However, Ithaca College has not said if it will re-implement surveillance testing for vaccinated students, despite student concerns.

Tomkins County reported 130 new positive COVID-19 cases Aug. 31. The county also broke two COVID-related records Aug. 31.

Tomkins County recorded the most active cases and new positives in one day. There are currently 368 active cases in the county. Previously, the highest number of active cases was 350 Jan. 8 and the previous highest number of new positives in one day was 62 cases reported Aug. 28.

Ithaca College currently has eight active student cases — six residential and two off-campus students. There are five active staff cases. Cornell University reported 56 positives Aug. 29, 57 positives Aug. 28 and 44 positives Aug. 27.

Ithaca College is not currently requiring surveillance testing for vaccinated students.

The Tompkins County Health Department (TCHD) released a statement Aug. 31 regarding the increase in cases.

Frank Kruppa, Tompkins County public health director, said in the statement that the county is continuing to urge residents to wear a mask, get vaccinated for COVID-19 and get tested.

Kruppa also stated that there is a high vaccination rate at the colleges in the county. Ithaca College is reporting 99% of all students are vaccinated, Cornell University is reporting 99% of its on-campus population is vaccinated and Tompkins Cortland Community College is requiring vaccines for all students.

Kruppa said many of the new cases are coming from close contacts, which is defined as spending more than 10 minutes within six feet of a positive individual.

“As people resume their normal

Retired professor and leader of IC trombone troupe dies

BY SYD PIERRE

Harold Reynolds, recently retired trombone professor in the Department of Music Performance at Ithaca College, died unexpectedly.

Reynolds worked at the college for 33 years and served as the adviser for the Trombone Troupe, the college’s trombone choir.

The post stated that Reynolds was a beloved colleague, teacher and friend, and that the college will be offering support services for the campus community.

“Currently, work is underway with campus partners on support for students, faculty and staff who need space for feelings of loss and grief, and to honor Professor Reynolds,” the post stated. “More information will be shared as soon as it becomes available.”

Support services for students at the college are available through the Ithaca College Center for Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) by calling (607) 274-3136.

Faculty and staff at the college can access the counseling services of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) by calling 1-800-327-2255. The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life has a website dedicated to grief resources.

The post also stated that information on any funeral or memorial services will be shared with the campus community when it becomes available.
On the Quad: Ithaca College’s Masking Policy

Students express their opinions about Ithaca College’s masking policy Aug. 31.

“Ladder to the Stars” with Arleigh Rodgers

Host Eva Salzman interviews former host Arleigh Rodgers ’21 about “Ladder to the Stars,” a playlist inspired by each episode of Re:Mixing.

Deadline Day

This week’s TikTok shows the office in the morning and in the afternoon of deadline day.
Physician assistant program opens for Fall 2021

BY SYD PIERRE

Ithaca College has welcomed its inaugural cohort of students into its newly created Master of Science in Physician Assistant (PA) Studies Program for the fall semester.

Offered by the college’s School of Health Sciences and Human Performance (HSHP), the PA program was officially launched in Spring 2021 and has received provisional accreditation from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) and approval from the New York State Education Department, according to an announcement from the college.

The program is 27 months long and is designed for college graduates interested in pursuing health careers.

PAs are medical professionals who often act as a principal health-care provider in collaboration with physicians for patients, the announcement stated.

The first cohort consists of 30 students and classes will continue to expand until the program is at its full capacity of 50 students per co-hort, the announcement stated.

Dr. Susan Salahshor, assistant professor and founding program director of the PA program, said the PA program fits into Ithaca College’s vision as a liberal arts college regarding the college’s administration.

“I am personally very passionate about interprofessional education by bringing in additional members and perspectives to the teams,” Bros- stord Soost said via email. “I think the program will reinforce IC as a top destination for educating future professionals in public health and health care because of the interprofessional approach to teaching and learning.”

Tyynthia Taylor, first-year PA student, said there are many barriers that prevent Black, Indigenous and People of Color from applying to PA programs and that PA programs in general are very hard to get into.

According to a 2020 report done by the Physician Assistant Education Association (PSEA), on average, applicants to PA programs had applied for 2.2 years before being accepted.

“There is a lot more work that needs to be done in terms of increasing the number of Black and brown PAs and to dismantle the obstacles that challenge many of them to be in such positions, but our cohort is a very diverse one and we are a wonderful group of learners,” Taylor said via email.

Taylor noted that the program puts emphasis on serving minority and underserved populations, which is an area she said she is personally very passionate about.

She said the application for the program required two essays—one of which was based on the applicants’ experiences working with minority populations, the medically underserved, and rural communities.

“I’m not sure what the future holds for me, but I do know that eventually, I do want to return to my hometown in The Bronx and give back to my community and serve minority/underserved populations,” Taylor said via email.

Jacob Avery Maciel, first-year PA student, said they hope to inspire other Latinx and people of color to become PAs.

“Being a second-generation Mexican-American, this was an amazing opportunity to take part of history as being both Latinx and a Person of Color,” Avery Maciel said via email. “Additionally, I am the first in my family to attend graduate school and where I grew up it is statistically unlikely for someone to even go to college.”

Christina Minenna, first-year PA student, said she wants to focus on becoming an equitable and compassionate healthcare provider.

“To me, this involves learning how to constantly be conscious of how a person’s health may be impacted by a multitude of factors that go beyond their physiological makeup,” Minenna said via email.

Alumni make new portal for complaints

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

Ithaca College Alumni Against Austerity (ICAAA) announced Aug. 25 that it is gathering complaints against the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Ithaca College Board of Trustees regarding the way the Academ- ic Program Prioritization (APP) process has been handled.

The ICAAA was formed in response to the 116 full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty positions and 26 programs, departments and majors that were cut due to the APP process. In a post on its social media, the group stated that it is concerned with a number of issues at the college, including declining enrollment numbers and the possibility of fiscal mismanagement.

The group created an anonymous portal for current and former faculty, staff and students to submit testimony and complaints against the board of trustees and administration regarding any possible fiscal mismanagement, excessive compensation or incompetence, for example.

ICCAA also said in its post that it is looking for evidence that the board of trustees and for- mer President Shirley M. Collado engaged in wrongdoings at the college.

Collado had previously said she took a salary cut, but has declined to disclose her salary, despite multiple requests from The Ithacan.

Sara-Maria Sorentino ’08 said she and some other alumni had heard complaints regarding Collado and the board of trustees from former mentors, like professors, they knew at the col- lege regarding the college’s administration.

“Dr. Collado is poised and prepared to continue the incredible work already un- derway at the college, and we reaffirm the college’s ‘why,’” Jim Noonan ‘77, vice chairman of the Ithaca College Board of Trustees, said in a statement Oct. 25, 2019.

“I think because we’re considered some- what neutral as alumni — in terms of being disconnected from the current ongoing politics and the institution — people felt somewhat more comfortable sharing with us stories, like personal stories,” she said.

Greg Peterson ‘09 said he hopes that the portal will allow ICAAA to be able to hold the board of trustees accountable.

“It’s hard to look at the past five years and see in what ways has the board made positive decisions,” Peterson said. “I think this is a way to hold them accountable and maybe even get some fundamental structural change in how the board is selected in the future.”

Dave Malloy, director of public relations, said members of the college community should be aware of the different ways they can report alleged wrongdoings or viola- tions of college policy.

“First and foremost is the EthicsPoint portal, which provides a simple way to anonymously and confidentially report ac- tivities that may involve criminal, unethical or otherwise inappropriate activity or be-

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Cornish enters new role at IC

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

The Ithaca College Board of Trustees welcomed La Jerne Cornish to the posi- tion of interim president for the 2021–22 academic year in an Aug. 30 email to the campus community.

Cornish’s term began Aug. 30 and for- mer President Shirley M. Collado moves to the position of senior advisor to the interim president and the board of trustees. The board also thanked Collado for her four-year tenure as president.

“Dr. Cornish is poised and prepared to continue the incredible work already un- derway at the college, and we reaffirm the board’s utmost confidence in her ability to successfully and seamlessly lead IC during this academic year,” said David Lissy ’87, chair of the board of trustees, and Jim Noo- lan ’77, vice chair of the board of trustees, in the email.

In an email to the campus community Aug. 30, Cornish said the strategic plan, Itha- ca Forever, emphasized that students are the college’s “why.”

Cornish also said she understands that some changes over the past year have been difficult.

She mentioned the college’s work to re- align the size of the faculty and programs to meet the number of students at the college.

From left, Dave Lissy ’87, chair of the Ithaca College Board of Trustees and Jim Noo- lan ’77, vice chairman of the Ithaca College Board of Trustees and Jim Noo- lan ’77, vice chair of the board of trustees, in the email.

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vaccinated students. Barstool Ithaca posted July 30 following the email update asking students what they felt about the policy. The post received 73 comments from students expressing why the college should or should not require masks. Junior Advocate Robbins commented, “Getting to take off your mask as a reward for getting vaccinated wasn’t the point.” She said in an interview with The Ithacan that she was not surprised about the college’s decision given the delta variant.

Who would I want to get COVID?” she said. “Even if it’s not that bad, it still means I have to quarantine, still means I’m at risk for these long-term effects that I don’t know.”

Junior Carter Glover also commented on the post, “But like what if I don’t wear a mask. And what if you don’t too. And maybe it’s like a trend and everyone won’t wear one. I think it’s a pretty cool trend [sic].”

I personally don’t think that unvaccinated staff should have been allowed back.

— Isabella Basile

Cornell University announced that it will continue holding classes in person, despite the rise in cases. Cornell also moved its alert level from green to yellow, meaning there is moderate risk and cases are increasing.

Senior Ronan Mayock was an orientation leader who welcomed the Class of 2025 to the college Aug. 16-17. He said approximately 90% of new students wore their masks properly during orientation, and that he thinks the mask policy indoors is not a big deal.

“I just feel like I’m more immune to it and I could handle it more than, say, someone in their 40s or 50s.”

Senior Advocate Mayock said an orientation leader who welcomed the Class of 2025 to the college Aug. 16-17. He said approximately 90% of new students wore their masks properly during orientation, and that he thinks the mask policy indoors is not a big deal.

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Junior Isabella Basile tweeted, “@IthacaCollege please bring back twice-weekly mandatory testing!”

Ithaca College students working in the library. The college has relaxed some of its COVID-19 guidelines including capacity limits. However, community members still are required to wear masks when indoors.

“Obviously I’m going to Ithaca, I’m going to follow the rules, but at the same time I have an issue with my personal liberties being taken.” Glover said in an interview. “I know people say it’s just a mask, but you’re also just telling people what they can and can’t do and sometimes people don’t understand that.”

Glover said he had COVID-19 in September 2020, but did not experience any serious symptoms or side effects.

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Senior Ronan Mayock was an orientation leader who welcomed the Class of 2025 to the college Aug. 16-17. He said approximately 90% of new students wore their masks properly during orientation, and that he thinks the mask policy indoors is not a big deal.

“It’s really not that bad.” Mayock said. “Like, if people, just follow the rules, it’s easy. I wish people would just, you know, help us all out.”

The college has mostly returned to normal, there are still some guidelines in place to help keep the campus safe. The college made some changes to the ICC curriculum. The college is also still in place for the fall semester.

Dining halls on campus are back to full capacity with no social distancing requirements in line or while eating at tables. During Spring 2021, lines in the dining halls were socially distanced, some dining stations were closed and food was only served in reusable takeout containers. Scott McWilliams, director of Dining Services, and Reg.Usuario-Biggs, associate director of Dining Services, said dining halls are functioning normally again.

“We’re just excited to open up things a little more and have seating in the dining spaces and be able to provide a little better service and experience for all the students,” Briggs said.

The updated COVID-19 guidelines include allowing students to sit next to each other while eating, even if they are not masked. The college also says that students are no longer required to wear masks when in dorm rooms.

“I’m glad that students are following the rules, it’s so easy. I wish people would just, you know, help us all out.”

Junior Meredith Robbins also tweeted, “GETTING TO TAKE OFF YOUR MASK AS A REWARD FOR GETTING VACCINATED WASN’T THE POINT.”

“Like people, just get your vaccines. It’s really not that bad,” Basile said. “For me, part of my arrogance is that it really doesn’t hurt me,” he said. “I just feel like I’m more immune to it and I could handle it more than, say, someone in their 40s or 50s.”

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Commencement changes spark mixed feelings

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

Some Ithaca College students have expressed mixed feelings about recent changes made to December Commencement, which will go into effect this year.

Students planning to graduate in December will no longer be able to attend the May Commencement ceremony that was held May 23 in the Glazer Arena in the Athletics and Events (A&E) Center.

Hettich-Atkins said that in the past, the president, provost and senior class president would speak at December Commencement and graduates would receive a corsage.

She said there are approximately 1,800 December graduates every year: Hettich-Atkins said the new ceremony will take place in the Glazer Arena in the A&E Center and students will wear caps and gowns instead of formal attire, which has been worn at previous December graduation ceremonies.

Hettich-Atkins said the change came from some feedback from students who were unhappy with there being no individual recognition or walking across the stage at December Commencement.

“Early last fall, we started to have conversations — that Sakai was probably not going to be the right learning management platform for us as an institution,” Weil said.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the college transitioned to a mix of remote and hybrid learning from Spring 2020 to Spring 2021. This forced students and faculty to rely on Sakai more than past semesters.

Jenna Linskens, director for Learning and co-chair of the LMS Governance Committee, said the committee talked to other colleges that had transitioned away from Sakai and narrowed down the search to Canvas.

“Being able to come to the May Commencement ceremony would be more convenient for some people, but it also varies from person to person,” she said.

Sophomore Ryan Griswold said he thought the switch to Canvas has been difficult, because “it was costing the institution quite a significant amount of money to maintain that system and to have the staffing to support it,” Linskens said.

Students at the college also had issues with the organization and layout of Sakai.

Matt Claub, assistant professor of music education and co-chair of the LMS Governance Committee, said the committee talked to other colleges that had transitioned away from Sakai and narrowed down the search to different possibilities before deciding on Canvas in early December 2020.

Weil said the college signed a ten-year contract with Instructure, the developer and publisher of Canvas, in January 2021 and started the implementation process in the spring semester with pilot programs.

“Some institutions, you know, take longer to do the implementation, some do it in the same timeline we did — we really felt it was important to do this fairly quickly,” Weil said.

“The process of switching from Sakai to Canvas took the college approximately a year. Some campus community members are still getting used to the new learning management system.”

Erica Ramey/ITHACA EDU

Campus community adjusts to Canvas switch

BY SYD PIERRE

Some members of the campus community are still adjusting to Ithaca College’s new learning management system (LMS), Canvas, following the end of the college’s 10-year contracts with Sakai.

The process to switch LMSs at the college started approximately a year ago, Chief Information Officer, David Weil said. The team involved communication and collaboration with multiple groups across campus, including students and faculty.

Jenna Linskens, director for Learning and co-chair of the LMS Governance Committee, said Sakai limitations required a lot of help from the Department of Information Technology (IT) at the college.

“The process to switch LMSs can take on average two years, taking into account the fact that institutions consult with all stakeholders and participate in a pilot study. In addition, the migration of old materials to Canvas can take six months to a year and a half on average.”

Claub said he piloted Canvas over the summer with graduate students in the music education program and said the students found Canvas to be very user-friendly.

Senior Daisy Codallos-Silva said that this semester has been her first time using Canvas and that she has been finding the platform difficult to navigate, but is looking forward to learning more about it.

“The process of switching from Sakai to Canvas took the college approximately a year. Some campus community members are still getting used to the new learning management system.”

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“For some students, graduat- ing early is a big deal and should be celebrated, but now students must choose whether they want to walk the stage early or graduate with their friends,” he said via email.

“We get it,” he said via email. “Let’s celebrate the students graduating at every chance we get.”
Cornish welcomes IC community to campus

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

La Jerne Cornish, interim president of Ithaca College, welcomed students, faculty and staff back to campus at the All-College Gathering on Aug. 31.

Approximately 50 people attended the gathering held in the Emerson Suites during the noon hour. The gathering was also livestreamed for campus community members who were unable to attend in person. Cornish said the gathering was to prepare the campus community for the academic year. She said major updates regarding the state of the college will be provided at the State of the College Address on Oct. 5.

Speakers included Samm Swarts, assistant director of emergency preparedness in the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Management; Chris McNamara, clinical associate professor, clinic director in the Department of Physical Therapy and Faculty Council Executive Committee Chair; Clint McCartney, supervisor for Facilities Services and Staff Council Executive Committee Chair and junior December Guy, president of the Student Government Council (SGC).

She also said there will still be challenges in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, but she hopes the campus can serve as a model for how to remain safe and successful during the pandemic.

Cornish committed to this community for putting our students first and for focusing all of our collective energy on our student success as scholars and as people, Cornish said.

Swarts said 99 percent of students and 80 percent of the faculty and staff population are fully vaccinated. He said the Health and Safety Advisory Group meets twice per week to discuss the state of the pandemic.

“I’m very excited that we are going to have a very wonderful and prosperous semester ahead,” Swarts said.

Cornish thanked the campus community for working together during during Spring 2021 and to keep each other safe during the pandemic.

“I’m proud that last year, we did not have one case of COVID being transmitted in a classroom, so I need us to remember that,” she said.

She also discussed the Ithaca Forever strategic plan and how all campus community members will remain connected to the college forever. She said community members need to be present for and have mutual respect for each other.

“We dedicate ourselves to our mission to educate, engage and empower our students through theory, practice and performance,” she said.

Cornish said the college is still committed to diversity, equity and inclusion and mentioned the hiring of Shadayvia Wallace, the new director of the Martin Luther King Scholar Program and First Generation Programs. Cornish also said the college is working to stabilize enrollment as well as retaining and engaging students. She said faculty saw more students attend Zoom office hours than normal office hours in person.

“Some student resources and services for students were better attended and students felt better cared for because they were able to have Zoom meetings and so we should continue that,” Cornish said.

McNamara outlined principles that are guiding the Faculty Council this year, including: fostering engagement with the campus community, student-centered and safe learning environments, continuing to be creative and innovative, promoting a positive student experience and taking experiences from the past 18 months and using it to move forward in a way that is honest and respectful.

“We are committed to creating a community that is inclusive and authentic,” McNamara said. “We want to do that by building up in a way that is honest, trustworthy, open and respectful. And we’re going to commit to being seen and heard.”

McCartney said the Staff Council understands the importance of surrounding building a strong community between students, faculty, Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and staff.

“We are working to enhance the sense of priorities of who staff are, what staff do and the important role staff play in the success of Ithaca College,” McCartney said.

Guy reminded students that the SGC represents and will advocate for all students. He said the SGC works as a link between the SLT and students, providing feedback back to the SLT regarding issues students have.

“For everything SGC will do this year will be an effort toward reviving our campus,” he said. “That goes from the bills that we will pass, to the events that we will host and the discussions that we will partake in. We truly believe that revival is coming to our campus.”

Guy emphasized wanting students to feel like campus is their home and they should feel welcome.

IC sophomore receives inaugural Iger-Bay scholarship

Ithaca College sophomore Damani Madir is the inaugural recipient of the Iger-Bay Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship was established for incoming journalism, sports media or documentary studies students in the Roy H. Park School of Communications who demonstrate financial need and represent historically underrepresented communities.

Bob Iger ’75, former CEO of the Walt Disney Co., and his wife, Willow Bay, created the scholarship using the proceeds from Iger’s memoir, “The Ride of a Lifetime” in the honor of Shadayvia Wallace, the new director of the Martin Luther King Scholar Program and First Generation Programs. Cornish also said the college is working to stabilize enrollment as well as retaining and engaging students. She said faculty saw more students attend Zoom office hours than normal office hours in person.

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Sophomore Damani Madir received the inaugural Iger-Bay Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship is for documentary studies, journalism or sports media students with financial need.

What do you hope to get out of your college experience?

EK: What does receiving this scholarship mean to you?

DM: I honestly thought it was a prank call. I was home alone and I thought the school was calling about a tuition issue or something negative. When they told me that I was the inaugural recipient, I had to ask a few times if they were joking around. I was so happy, not just because I had won the scholarship, but because my family wouldn’t have to stress or worry about not being able to finish school for financial reasons. I am a first-generation student and this was a monumental moment for both me and my family.

EK: What does receiving this scholarship mean to you?

DM: I believe Ithaca College itself will prepare me for the next level in life. Professionalism isn’t enough to make it in the real world in such a hyper-competitive field. Ithaca College will provide me with the skills necessary to not only succeed, but be a continuously valuable asset wherever I may land. My time at Ithaca College will not only leave an impact on my professional work, but the relationships that I will share with others who will be in small and large positions alike.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021
NEWS

La Jerne Cornish, interim president of Ithaca College, speaks at the All-College Gathering Aug. 31 in the Emerson Suites. Cornish welcomed students, faculty and staff back to campus for the 2021–22 academic year.

ANKA MARAKO MIKOJSONI / THE ITHACAN

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021
College stacks up Fall Welcome events

Sophomore Anatol De Nevers plays giant gong at Wellness Day, part of the two-week long Fall Welcome. The Aug. 29 event, which was open to all students, took place on the Campus Center Quad and comprised a variety of sessions.
Questions left unanswered after All-College Gathering

This semester at the first All-College Gathering, La Jerne Cornish, interim President of Ithaca College, left many questions unanswered and barely informed the college community of the Senior Leadership Team’s (SLT) plans for the academic year. She welcomed back students, faculty and staff to the new year. While it was beneficial to hear from Cornish, it left some dissatisfied with what they heard. She discussed the strategic plan without actually discussing the next steps.

How does the college plan to search for the next president? What actions will it take to further the strategic plan?

That being said, Cornish did let the community know more updates will be provided Oct. 5 at the State of the College Address. Cornish repeatedly expressed her plans to put students first and make sure that, as a community, we continue to take precautions and stay safe.

Why has the college chosen not to have students take regular COVID-19 tests? There seem to be no strict quarantining precautions in place. Is there a plan in place if there is a severe increase in positive cases on campus? If Cornish and the SLT want the students to remain safe, why are faculty and staff not required to be vaccinated? Why does there seem to be a cutback on sanitization and cleaning of all facilities?

The previous president promised more diversity for the entire college community, but this goal was not achieved in the short time she was at the college. How will Cornish work to expand the community and educate all its members on the importance of diversity and being self-aware?

No plan was outlined to address any of the community’s concerns.

As long as there is clear communication and honesty at the State of the College Address on Oct. 5, the relationship between students and the administration could improve.

Entire campus community should be wearing masks

The majority of students at Ithaca College are willing to wear masks on campus for the sake of having in-person classes and to have a bit of normalcy as they continue to adjust to living their lives during an ongoing pandemic. With the rise of the delta variant and the continued escalation of positive COVID-19 cases in Tompkins County, it became apparent that the school needed to reinstate some restrictions on a smaller scale, for everyone’s safety and for the ability to attend in-person classes.

As a community, the college has done well adhering to the only campus restrictions, with the exception of some individuals who have taken COVID-19 restrictions lightly since the beginning. It is a privilege to only have to wear masks indoors, despite some who believe otherwise. Some members of the college community actually believe there should be more restrictions. The college has chosen not to require COVID-19 testing on campus. Whether this was the best decision for the school is debatable. Students can still contract COVID-19 and spread it to others even if they are vaccinated. Without the other restrictions, many students seem to forget the severity of COVID-19. Many students have lost or know others who have lost loved ones to this virus.

Without stricter guidelines, some students have taken advantage or gotten too comfortable with disregarding the mask policy. Understandably, students are able to attend in-person classes and events and can experience college the way they wanted to, so it can be easy to forget sometimes.

However, the community is only able to experience all these normal college memories and day-to-day routines as long as the entire community continues to wear masks so that there is not a large increase of positive cases on campus. We cannot forget the severity of COVID-19 or that everything we are able to do now can be taken away.
Traveling offers opportunity to gain broader perspectives

BY ELEANOR KAY

When I was younger, I hated flying. Not just because I had motion sickness, but because flying meant leaving people behind — my grandparents, my friends, my teachers and sometimes even my parents. Flying meant starting over from scratch. It’s so hard to enjoy the beauty of Ithaca’s campus when you can’t just turn around and say, “Hey what’s up, my name is Peter.”

I used to go out on runs during the afternoon or late at night and be able to admire the lush landscape and beautiful views from the hill. This semester, many students can be seen roaming South Hill late into the night. During the last two semesters, I never communicated much with others from my classes, but now it seems much easier to talk with classmates about anything. In Fall 2020, on a platform called Discord, I met Ithaca students that were all a part of a server. If you are unfamiliar with Discord servers, just think of them as less formal and more complex Facebook groups. Most of the people I met from this group were from outside of my major and I only shared classes with two of the people I met.

However, this semester I feel that it’s much easier to make friends in class because instead of asking for a person’s phone number or sending a message and hoping they respond, you can just turn around and say, “Hey what’s up, my name is Peter.”

I even look forward to attending my long lecture classes. However, classes like Film Aesthetics and Analysis are concerning because of the sheer amount of students packed into one auditorium. Although we still have some COVID-19 regulations that we need to abide by, they are really quite minimal and make the campus experience feel much less restrictive. The only fear I have is if positive cases start to jump up again, having everyone get reined in again may not go over very well. As long as everyone remains careful of COVID-19, things will go well. This semester seems to be starting off very well and it feels like a fresh start for many students at Ithaca, including myself.

This semester, despite it being busy, seems way more feasible for me to get a better GPA. This new semester feels like a new beginning, especially for my mental health. For me, this semester started a little rocky while adjusting to college life again, but now it’s going much better. Despite being able to gather with friends in person, last semester there were so many fears and anxieties that made enjoying time with others so much more difficult. Aggressive RA’s and the rules they had to enforce made a lounge with six people seem like a death sentence when they were making rounds.

These rules — despite being justified — made the student experience last year quite miserable and really took a toll on my mental health all around.

Not having to fear being written up for being in a room with someone has made this semester even better so far.

Junior Eleanor Kay discusses the opportunities that come with studying or going abroad. She encourages students to take advantage of the study abroad programs offered at the college.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THETHCACAN

Sophomore Peter Gillen reflects on transitioning at Ithaca College from a hybrid college experience to an all-in-person experience. He discusses the way he had to adjust to the new college normal but remains cautious.

BY PETER GILLEN

Editor’s Note: This is a guest commentary. The opinions expressed in this piece do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board.

Despite being in my second year at Ithaca College, I feel like I am just now starting to experience what college is truly like. The entirety of the last year is definitely not what college should be for anyone.

Being stuck at home while listening to clearly intelligent professors fumble around with software that they had almost no idea how to use is a painful way to experience what should be a transformative time for anyone. This semester is definitely an improvement to being hybrid or all online, but how packed the school is now in comparison to last semester is insane. It never fully registered for me that the school was at around 40% of its actual capacity.

This is the only downside for me — it’s going to be harder to enjoy the planet beauty of Ithaca’s campus. When I was two and living in Slovenia, I was surrounded by beautiful mountains while enjoying the quiet beauty of Ithaca’s campus.

But in comparison to the freedom Slovenia offered, South Africa offered adventure in a cautious way. Going to the markets with my dad after dropping my mom off at work.

I am ecstatic that I have the chance to gain broader perspectives and really take a toll on my mental health.

I am hard-pressed to find something that makes enjoying time with others so much more difficult. Aggressive RA’s and the rules they had to enforce made a lounge with six people seem like a death sentence when they were making rounds.

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Student discusses race representation in ICTV

BY JACQUELYN CHIN

Editor’s Note: This is a guest commentary. The opinions expressed in this piece do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board.

I wasn’t sure what I expected when I became Ithaca College Television’s (ICTV) Director of On-Air Promotions last semester; I didn’t think I’d even get the job.

When I started, I was thrown into the deep end to say the least. My main responsibility was organizing recruitment night. When I became Ithaca College Television’s (ICTV) Director of On-Air Promotions, I also co-direct the ICTV scripted series Fathoms Below.

Sophomore Jacquelyn Chin, director of on-air promotions for Ithaca College Television (ICTV), reflects on her experience and how her perspective on race representation in the television industry has shifted since she started working at ICTV.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Terrace 10 is crumbling and needs renovations

BY MATAN BERMAN

When I found out last March that the majority of the Class of 2023 was being forced to live on campus this year, I was cautiously optimistic. At the time, I had just finished my fall semester of freshman year, and the majority of the Class of 2023 was being forced to live on campus this year. I was overwhelmed and in way over my head, but with the support of the rest of the executive staff, recruitment night went smoothly and successfully. I would come to rely on them for more than work-related issues.

I didn’t have any answers. How was I supposed to speak on behalf of the entire Asian community of Ithaca College and represent Asians across America when I could barely speak up for myself?

At that moment, I understood how people would view me differently because of my identity as a Chinese-American woman: that being Asian would set me apart and people wouldn’t understand how I view and experience life.

I didn’t have any answers. How was I supposed to speak on behalf of the entire Asian community of Ithaca College and represent Asians across America when I could barely speak up for myself?

Thankfully, Bianca Summerville, the semester’s Director of Publicity and the only other person of color on the executive staff, spoke up. Having managed social media during summer 2020, she greatly opposed posting a simple graphic to condemn the hate crimes. She argued for actionable and effective activism over a performative post with empty words. I leaned on her for guidance and reassurance to navigate those rough times.

Progress takes time, and in my short time at ICTV I’ve seen increased diversity within the executive staff, producers, crew and cast members. Outside of my duties as Director of On-Air Promotions, I also co-direct the ICTV scripted series Fathoms Below.

While we didn’t cast characters for specific demographics, two of our four leads are people of color and the romantic interest is played by a non-binary actor.

While the film industry isn’t quite there yet in terms of diversity, I can’t help but have hope for the future.

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Once I saw the deterioration of my building, my mind immediately turned to the worst and the anxiety set in.

— Matan Berman

Senior Matan Berman expresses concern over the structural integrity of his residential hall and he urges the college to allocate funds to fix the Terraces Residence Halls that seem to be falling apart.

ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021  OPINION | 11
crossword

By Quill Driver Books

ACROSS
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10 Gulp down
14 Butter substitute
15 Upper crust
16 Nathan the patriot
17 Father of Cain
18 Land’s wear
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43 Served the meal
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63 Mr. Stowinley
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65 Egot cousin
66 Pref for “trillion”
67 Bench or hassock
68 Bird’s melody
69 Red-waxed cheese

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3 Bard’s tragic king
4 Alley habitue
5 Exited at 747
6 House addition
7 Hamm of soccer
8 Port near Carthage
9 Hired a decorator
10 Encourages (2 wds.)
11 Damage
12 Radius’s companion
13 The Bee --
21 Hydrocarbon suffix
23 Gets closer
25 Cola neighbor
26 Of the Vatican
27 Water or rust
28 So-so grade
30 Cutting instrument
31 Calculator key
32 Tinted
33 Word of comparison
37 Most sentimental
38 River mammal
39 Van — Waals force
40 Having life
42 UPS units

NEW ISSUE EVERY THURSDAY

sudoku

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History exhibit celebrates women’s suffrage centennial

“Breaking Barriers: Women’s Lives & Livelihoods” displays the contributions of suffragists from the Tompkins County area

BY GRACE AZAULA

A glass display case stands tall in the middle of an exhibit hall, proudly displaying information and pictures about women in the workforce in Tompkins County. Industries are listed in bold fonts, followed by the demographics of women who worked in those fields—a ode to the contributions of women throughout history and a commentary on the opportunities that were available to women of different identities.

This display titled, “Defying Convention: The Overlooked History of Women Working,” is part of the larger exhibit “Breaking Barriers: Women’s Lives & Livelihoods” held at the Tompkins Center for History and Culture. The exhibit highlights women from Tompkins County and explores their contributions to the community. It opened July 2, 2021 and will remain open through February 2022.

Zoe Van Nostrand, marketing and visitor experience coordinator at the History Center, said the exhibit was originally created to explore women’s suffrage because 2020 was the centennial of white women’s right to vote. Van Nostrand said the exhibit was supposed to open in June 2020 but was delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. She said she wanted the exhibit to explore different perspectives of women’s suffrage.

“When we first thought about pulling together an exhibit about suffrage, it really became apparent to us that suffrage told such a limited story of the women in Ithaca and the different community efforts and programs and the legacy and culture that they had left behind,” Van Nostrand said.

The exhibit has six physical displays at the center focusing on different areas in which women broke barriers throughout history. Each section of the exhibit is presented in a large glass display. There are also interactive elements incorporated throughout the exhibit, like touch-screen technology, videos and audio interviews with local community members including Sia Nunn, associate professor in the Department of Education at Ithaca College.

“The Haadenosauaene Influence on Women’s Rights,” and the “Passage Through Time - OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO VOTE.” Women’s Suffrage Movement in Tompkins County — One-Hundred +1 Years in the Making” displays focus on the women’s suffrage movement in Tompkins County.

The exhibit also explores women’s contributions in the fields of fashion, film, social clubs and the workforce.

Ithaca College sophomore Ananya Gambhirasapet said she likes how the exhibit focuses on stories that are not typically told.

“I think there were a lot of things and careers ... that are not discussed in history, or in textbooks in general,” she said.

Van Nostrand said the history and culture center tried to be as inclusive as possible when deciding the stories to highlight.

“We don’t necessarily consider ourselves progressive,” she said. “We think that we are trying to show an accurate and representative history of the county that we are based in. And the interesting piece is that representation has come to be interpreted as justice and progressive or progressive when really we’re trying to share stories of everyone who is here.”

Sophomore Jess Moskowitz said they liked the diverse perspectives that the exhibit offered by highlighting groups like Club Essence, an organization founded in 1975 to connect and support African American women in Tompkins County.

“I really liked how it was so intersectional talking about the experiences of women, but more specifically Black women or poor women of color,” Moskowitz said. “It really touched on all facets of Ithaca history. The timeline showed the first white settlers here but it also noted the importance of Native Americans in this land and understanding that and paying tribute to that as we understand later portions of history.”

Van Nostrand said the museum is sponsored by a number of community partners, all of which are women-owned businesses. The exhibit’s leading sponsor is Chloe Capital, a mission-driven venture capital firm that invests in women-led tech companies during the early stages of development.

Chloe Capital was founded in Ithaca and has since expanded across the country while continuing to maintain a presence in the local Ithaca area.

Co-founder and managing partner Elisa Miller-Out said she was excited to get involved with the “Breaking Barriers” exhibit because of its focus on women throughout history and its close alignment to Chloe Capital’s mission.

“I love that this is an opportunity to bring together the history of all of these diverse women achieving these political movements throughout time,” Miller-Out said. “So it ties together this historical context with sort of living history.”
CULTURED
The Life & Culture editor’s recap of current mainstream and alt culture
Compiled by Eva Salzman

SPOTLIGHT
THE MEDIA EXPLOITS KANYE WEST’S ILLNESS

The media continues to exploit Kanye West’s struggle with mental illness. Most recently, the build-up to West’s highly anticipated 10th studio album, “Donda” has been the focus of music news headlines across a multitude of outlets. Throughout the course of three listening events held in Atlanta’s Mercedes-Benz Stadium and Chicago’s Soldier Field Stadium, West has locked himself in a room for weeks straight, filed to change his name to “Ye,” set himself on fire and recreated his wedding with his ex-wife, Kim Kardashian. West has spoken out about the exploitative and manipulative nature of the media before, saying that outlets like TMZ and E! exist to put him in a box, but relentlessly, they continue. Recent articles from tabloid outlets only provide a one-dimensional look at the artists’ extreme performances and lack the understanding of his tumultuous mental state.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“It’s funny to see cis women beat their faces and not know the process behind it. But none of those women are standing up for trans women.”

TOMMY DORFMAN, when talking to InStyle about makeup trends that were started by trans women

THIS WEEK IN POP CULTURE HISTORY

August 28, 2020
One year ago this week marks one year since the death of Chadwick Boseman. The actor captivated audiences with his roles as Jackie Robinson in “42,” James Brown in “Get On Up,” Thurgood Marshall in “Marshall” and most famously as T’Challa in “Black Panther.” After these roles, Boseman quickly became a highly esteemed movie star.

At the age of 43, Boseman died from colon cancer. His death came as a shock to America and sparked widespread grief into the hearts of fans everywhere. But Boseman’s death also served as a wakeup call, bringing awareness to the disease and how it can affect seemingly healthy people. A year after Boseman’s passing, actors and fans alike are still reflecting on the inspirational legacy that the actor left.

August 30, 1968
The Beatles released “Hey Jude,” its first single under its record label, “Apple Records.” The record featured a Granny Smith apple on side-A because to Paul McCartney, a green apple symbolized creative freedom and independence from commercial control.

While John Lennon described Apple Records and its parent company, Apple Corps, as a place where artists could get proper funding for ideas, many speculate that the label avoided taxes. “As far as I can tell, the idea behind Apple was a tax dodge,” music journalist Douglas Wolk said. “The top tax rate in England at that time was enormous. And John Lennon said something to the effect of, ‘We talked to our accountants. We realized we could either give the money to the government or we could put it into a business.’”
By Eva Salzman

With all of the ensembles, acapella groups, choirs and dance companies at Ithaca College, it can be easy for students looking to get in involved in the arts to get overwhelmed.

Junior Sheila Wallis, a theatre studies and music double major, felt the same way. With so many opportunities floating around campus on flyers, bulletin boards and hallways, she did not know all of the options available to her. In order to make finding artistic organizations less overwhelming, Wallis started the Facebook page “Ithaca College Arts, Auditions and Opportunities,” which currently has 173 likes on Facebook and on Instagram, with 125 followers, to centralize the multitude of auditions and creative job opportunities offered at the college.

While students have IC Engage to look for opportunities on campus, the site displays every organization on campus, not just arts organizations. The IC Artistic Opportunities page, as the name suggests, has a specific focus and a designated target audience.

Wallis said she started the Facebook page in Spring 2020 before the college transitioned to remote learning as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Wallis said that because of this, the account never had the chance to establish a presence. With the return to campus for Fall 2021 and a season ramping up with in-person student organization meetings, Wallis started an Instagram for the page before summer 2021 began. She said she is hoping to build the accounts to reach more students at the college.

“My goal this year is to just get the attraction, to get more people to know about it,” Wallis said. “We have such a diverse artistic community here, and I wanted it to be for anything, just one unified, centralized location, just to make it simpler for everyone involved.”

Wallis said she mainly finds opportunities through different organizations’ Instagram pages and reposts them onto @ICArtisticOpportunities’s Instagram stories. She said running the pages by herself can be difficult because she has to constantly be up to date with what clubs around campus are posting.

“Right now it’s just me creating the folders, creating the highlights,” Wallis said. “Since we’re kind of entering the prime audition season for things like [Defy Dance Company] and all the acapella groups, I feel like this is like the perfect time for me to start streamlining things.”

Junior Linnea Carchedi said she has watched Wallis through the process of creating the accounts and that Wallis, despite the obstacle of the COVID-19 pandemic, has been smart and enthusiastic about building a following. “But despite this major setback, she persisted and created the Instagram account to reintroduce her idea to IC, which was very smart as many IC clubs and organizations operate on Instagram,” Carchedi said via email.

Carchedi is a co-director of Ithaca College Showchoir and said the account is beneficial to clubs and their potential participants. “Looking at the page, I knew it was going to be super special and valuable for the artistic community at IC,” Carchedi said. “As the co-director of an artistic organization that is looking for new members, Sheila’s account makes me optimistic about the possibility of getting more interest.”

Junior Sammi Fieri, president of Premium Blend, Ithaca College’s only all-female a cappella group, said the account is a great resource for organizations that are looking to publicize their audition information.

Fieri also said that with the number of people involved in the arts on campus, it can be hard to know who exactly to market opportunities to. “When trying to get the word out, it’s important to use every possible resource to do so in order to reach as many people as we can,” Fieri said via email. “The more information we have out there, the more people we get to hear sing.”

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POPPED CULTURE

The sexist culture of video gaming

BY AVERY ALEXANDER

Video games have long been associated with masculine norms. Due to this culture of perceived masculinity, women who want to break into the hobby and the industry itself face no shortage of discrimination.

The internet is littered with distasteful arguments disparaging games that are popular among women. I can’t count how many times I’ve been reminded by fellow gamers that anything other than “Halo” or “Call of Duty” is inferior.

One popular copypasta—a bits of text that have been copied and circulated around the internet as memes—does a brilliant job at poking fun at some of the misogynistic attitudes in the gaming community.

“No, you’re NOT a real gamer,” it hilariously states. “I’m so sick of all these people that think [sic] they’re gamers. No, you’re not…”

DEAR ALL WOMEN: Pokemon is not a real game. Animal Crossing is not a real game. The Sims is not a real game. Mario is not a real game. Stardew Valley is not a real game. Mobile games are not real games. Put down the baby games and play something that requires challenge and skill for once.

Obviously, this is an exaggeration. Although I don’t mind the humor, I wish that was all it was. This patronizing attitude from toxic, male gamers is very real. Twitter user @GamerIke, who runs a page called Nerdly Humor, has done a lot of work compiling, as the name implies, terrible opinions from gamers. Miraculously, a lot of the featured comments are from, you guessed it, men.

My personal favorite—take was made in response to a criticism that Ubisoft’s creative directors are disproportionately male. For reference, male writers outnumber women in the American gaming industry by 68%. A defensive gamer says, “If most gamers are men. Why would women become directors in an industry they don’t care about?”

The fallacy at play here is that the lack of representation for women in the gaming industry is somehow the fault of women themselves. They don’t play games, hence they don’t work in the industry. Instead of facing the fact that lack of representation might be a reflection of the toxicity of the industry itself, gamers like the one above would rather blame women for being oppressed.

Not only is this incredibly damaging, but the claim that ‘most gamers are men’ is inherently incorrect.

I’ve already discussed the issue of discrimination and gatekeeping in a previous column. That article was mainly about racism, but gendered stereotypes are propped up in the same way—men aren’t neurotypical, able-bodied, straight, white men who have to deal with. Similar to when white nerds become defensive when a person of color comes in. In both spaces, male gamers are also capable of becoming defensive against female gamers.

MOVIE REVIEW: “Sweet Girl”

Netflix

There is not much to say about Jason Momoa’s latest tone-deaf thriller, “Sweet Girl.” A Netflix project produced by Momoa himself, “Sweet Girl” is somewhere in between the list of action-thriller movies and C-list trash.

As lurgy and as dire as Khal Drogo, Momoa plays Ray Cooper, a widower out for blood. After his wife Amanda (Adria Arjona) dies because she was denied a life-saving cancer treatment, he targets Simon Keeley (Justin Bartha), a healthcare czar whose company, BioTime, created and stalled production of the treatment. His wife is survived by her daughter Rachel (Isabela Merced).

There is something reekingly about the concept behind “Sweet Girl,” merging the American healthcare disaster with a classic revenge story, is more timely than ever. There is a level of believability in the pitch too, because polls find most Americans live in fear of the cost of healthcare. However, “Sweet Girl” never rises above being a boilerplate action movie with stale antics, leaving behind a disappointing story over an action movie that could have been.

Perhaps action isn’t the right genre for “Sweet Girl.” Because understanding the tragedy of a man who lose his wife to the hero to revive themselves and their deceased loved one inspiring viewers that they haven’t seen in previous C-list action movies before. The cinematography is fine, action scenes fail to impress and pseudo-poetic lines of platitudinous attempts to emphasize Cooper and Rachel’s kinship.

The majority of “Sweet Girl” is fairly neutral, never creating much substance or presenting its unique concept from a unique perspective. The filmmakers use shaky cam during action set-pieces, a cheap trick to give the scene energy. They love having characters smash through tables, chairs and walls (as if the amount of broken furniture makes an action scene). These scenes are filled with numerous banalities that Cooper and Rachel go on a love course of a 110-minute epitome of defeating the antagonist.

Sweet Girl takes a respectable concept about healthcare in America but fails to give it the substance it deserves.

COURTESY OF NETFLIX

MOVIE REVIEW: “Reminiscence”

FilmNation Entertainment

In a world facing the aftermath of a vague disaster, and where the climate crisis has caused the oceans to submerge the coastlines, “Reminiscence” tells an unceasingly pleasurable tale with little substance. Directed and written by Lisa Joy, “Reminiscence” is not the environmental sci-fi film it thinks it is.

In the now completely flooded city of Miami, Nick Bannister (Hugh Jackman) runs a small firm that allows clients to revisit old memories through a pool-like device. The point is that the attorney’s office also use this poorly described technology to bait criminals into revealing their crimes through their memories. Nick is hired by the D.A. to help take down Victor Sykan (Eric Canten), one of the wealthiest men in Miami. However, things take a turn for the worst when Nick’s new girlfriend Mae (Rebecca Ferguson) vanishes without a trace. Nick hyperventilates and throws all priorities out the window as he risks it all to find Mae and learn about her desolate past with underground drug and mob dealings.

The world that “Reminiscence” takes place in is full of too many unnecessary details that describe an overwhelming past that viewers never get to see. Rising oceans are slowly covering the world, intermittent camps divide the United States again, a war between two unspecified countries still has lasting effects and the wealth gap continues to grow even larger.

This is a lot for viewers to unpack, especially when it has nothing to do with Nick’s mission to find Mae. Rather than working in tandem with the conflict, this environment muddies the plot and serves as distracting background noise.

“Reminiscence” has so many poorly structured plot points that it becomes increasingly hard to follow. The film is a missed attempt at combining the noir, sci-fi and action genres. For example, a long stretch of dramatic, expository speech is suddenly interrupted by an intense shootout scene set to “Tainted Love” by the Scorpions. Scenes like this culminate into a film that appears to be unsure about what it is.

The characters’ thin motivations are never seen or elaborated on. Characters constantly repeat phrases like “Back in the war” and “When the waves came” to explain why they act tough or brutish, which is just poor writing. The viewer is expected to accept how these characters behave based on

COURTESY OF FILMNATION ENTERTAINMENT

MOVIE REVIEW: “Sweet Girl”

Netflix

By the end of the film, Nick is still selfish and never suffers any consequences.

COURTESY OF FILMNATION ENTERTAINMENT

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COURTESY OF FILMNATION ENTERTAINMENT
Kanye pushes stylistic boundaries

**ALBUM REVIEW: “DONDA”**

BY JACKSON NOEL

Fourteen months after Kanye West first announced “Donda,” the album arrived onto streaming services at 8 a.m. Aug. 29. That second detail is an important one for the born-again Christian hip-hop artist who rarely arrives on time and seems to love deliberately provoking his fans. On “Donda,” West’s unparalled musical genius yet again gets muddled within frustrating and quite frankly irresponsible controversy.

Why “Donda” never arrived on its original release date of July 22, 2020, no one will ever know. However, since West is no stranger to delayed release dates, canceled projects and extremely prolonged rollouts, it should count as a blessing that West’s “Donda” even came out in the first place.

West also publicly toured three drastically different versions of the album across his listening parties held at Atlanta’s Mercedes-Benz Stadium — where he apparently lived until then at Chicago’s Soldier Field on Aug. 26. These two cities are crucial to West’s mythology of the album being born in Atlanta and moving to the Windy City when he was three, where he ended up falling into the city’s hip-hop scene. Named after his deceased mother, whom West was incredibly close with, “Donda” makes its entrance as a personal statement for the artist.

The release of “Donda” was impacted by a thick string of self-imposed controversies from the inclusion of blatant homophobic Dalilah on the track “Jail pt 2” and reviled rock star Marilyn Manson appearing onstage at the last listening party months after his horrific abuse allegations came to light. These controversies should not be surprising to those familiar with the numerous ordeals which followed West for his entire career. The extent to which West’s bizarre and reckless public image impacts the music itself has always been up to the listener, but either way West’s unorthodox presentation taints “Donda” from all corners.

None of this gets to what the music actually sounds like, which is to say just as boundary-pushing and avant-garde as the artist and numerous other masterpieces within West’s discography, the closest reference point for “Donda” would be his most experimental album, “The Life of Pablo.” The choir-backed “God Breathed” feels reminiscent of “Ultralight Beam” and the middle-aged braggadocio of “Off the Grid” feels in line with the harder-hitting cums off that 2016 album. However, aside from a few sonic similarities here and there alongside the vague thematic undercurrent of Christianity, “Donda” sounds like West concluding an era of his career that began with 2015’s “Ye” even as he enters into something new.

On an initial listen, the album’s sequencing sounds assembled entirely at random. Much of the first half consists of bass-heavy barn-burners like “Junny,” “Praise God” and “Hurricane,” centering around one or two instrumental ideas carrying them to their natural conclusion. Eventually, the album settles into an airtier second half with highlights that include the heavenly “Come to Life.” Rather than reaching for something different, “Donda” finds West taking stock of the tribulations around him. The work results in a product of idiosyncrasy, held back by its own ambition and musical detours.

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Lorde enters a new era with heartfelt album

**ALBUM REVIEW: “Solar Power”**

BY DARIENE SEIFERT

After four years of radio silence, Lorde has returned with her third studio album “Solar Power.” A complete departure from her previous blissfully melancholic albums, “Solar Power” expresses the complications of fame and identity through an earthy sound.

This title track encapsulates the entire album. A sense of freedom and escape through nature reverberates through the earthy instrumentals. Lorde even adds some humor in the lyrics: “Come one, come all / I’ll tell you my secrets / I’m kinda like a prettier Jesus.” The outro of the song is a burst of energy, as Lorde’s heavenly vocals echo the album’s name.

This is also Lorde’s second time collaborating with producer Jack Antonoff, whom West was incredibly close to. “Still In Love,” proves it’s a little bit of both — but mainly the latter.

The album closely out on “Ozonic Feeling,” where Lorde ponders over her past and future but remains herself to focus on the now. The track is approximately seven minutes long, but Lorde never bores while she discusses subjects like her family and career.

With twelve songs, as well as bonus tracks “Helen of Troy” and “Hold No Grudge” from the deluxe edition, “Solar Power” is a beautifully hypnotic album. While the instrumentals is fantastic, Lorde’s vocals are the true pillars. Lorde and Antonoff make an incredible team — with each song offering something extraordinarily enjoyable, whether that’s basking in the sun or being stuck in an existential, euphoric airport.

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**QUIKCKIES**

**JUSTIFIED**

Kanye Musgraves, MCA Nashville/Sony Music

Pop-country icon Kasey Musgraves sings of love and the healing process that accompanies it on her new single, “Justified.” The artist offers anecdotal wisdom in a warm musical arrangement.

**SUGAR**

Men I Trust, Independent

Dreamy synth, funky bass and ethereal vocals are what make Men I Trust, Men I Trust. If you can’t get enough of the band’s unique style, its track “Sugar” is perfect for you.

**JUSTIFIED**

Men I Trust, Independent

The age-old question returns: is it talent or is it nepotism? Jaden’s latest release, “Still In Love,” proves it’s a little bit of both — but mainly the latter.

While Gomez fans support the artist’s return to her Spanish roots after the release of her Spanish EP, there is a good chance they won’t appreciate the painfully over-the-top pitch correction on Gomez’s vocals.
INTRODUCING
OUR
PODCASTS

The Intersection with Frankie Walls
Throughout this series, Walls will connect with members of the Ithaca College community to discuss how their identities make up who they are in the world and within the community. Life experience, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and so much more shape who we are and who we wish to be in the world.

How IC Sports with Arla Davis
How IC Sports is a podcast about Ithaca College sports and student athletes. Each episode, host Arla Davis sits down with athletes across campus to discuss their experience as a student athlete.

Deja View with Sydney Brumfield
Each week, host Sydney Brumfield watches and analyzes new releases and compares them to the classic movies that influenced them.

Re:Mixing with Eva Salzman
In Re:Mixing, a music analysis and criticism podcast, host Eva Salzman asks guests to create a playlist with songs that represent some part of who they are.
BY TOMMY MUMAU

After the Liberty League’s cancellation of the Fall 2020 campaign due to the COVID-19 pandemic, teams have put a strong emphasis on offseason training. The Ithaca College volleyball team took initiative in its training this summer to ensure that it was prepared for competition. However, this summer’s competition has had a greater impact than past years by keeping the team connected despite challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Each summer the volleyball team participates in a player-coordinated exercise competition called the “lift-offs,” to keep it prepared for the season ahead. Other teams at the college have held similar competitions. Senior volleyball captain Jordyn Hyashi said she believes the competition was a good way to keep the team focused over the summer as it prepared for its return to the court. “It helps all of us stay fit over the summer,” Hayashi said. “It helps us stay conditioned, and I think it also allows us to build strength. So I definitely think that it prepared us in the sense that we all came in stronger than the year before.”

Lead coach Johan Dulfer said he was proud that his team took the initiative to maintain this routine during the summer. “During the offseason, we’re not allowed to work with them,” Dulfer said. “So, it’s just a sign of dedication on their part that they’re setting it up as a competition and they’re keeping each other accountable.”

Junior captain Jennifer Pitts said the group was divided into teams of three to four people, generally consisting of players from the sophomore, junior and senior classes, while freshmen were given a different workout program. The team completed certain exercises that the team’s strength and conditioning coach assigned on “lift cards” before the team left campus for the summer.

Pitts said the team has not yet tallied the point totals from this summer, but the group that wins the competition will not have to carry equipment when the squad travels to compete against opposing schools. The competition was completed remotely, as the team was prepared for the upcoming season from their homes throughout the summer. The players kept track of the workouts they completed by logging it on a spreadsheet document, and sending a photo of their workout in the team’s Snapchat group chat.

Pitts said this helped keep each other motivated and on task through this training process. “We use the Snapchat group chat as well, so everytime that you add something into the excel document, you also have to send a Snapchat,” Pitts said. Lyn Hayashi said these extra activities were an integral part of the competition for the players, serving as an motivating factor to both win the event and improve their game. “You want to put in extra work to win the competition, but it’s also benefiting you in the long run,” Lyn Hayashi said. “I definitely think that helps prepare us even more for this season.”

Lyn Hayashi said she thinks the competition served as a way to maintain the team’s bond during the summer. “I think this helped us in the sense that we were able to see each other’s faces through the screen as much as possible,” Lyn Hayashi said. “Every time we would finish something, we would send it into the Snapchat group chat. And also, I think that helped us because we would also communicate within our small groups to check-in and see how everyone in our small groups were doing.”

Maintaining this connection was a focus during this past offseason. The cancellation of the 2020 season prevented the team from competing together for approximately two years. This presented the team with a unique roster situation, in which its freshmen and sophomore classes have not yet competed at the collegiate level. Junior Camryn O’Leary said the team’s veterans have made a strong effort to be mindful of the challenges that the pandemic has presented to its underclassmen, and have kept in touch with their teammates throughout the offseason. “It was something that was definitely in the forefront of our mind [for] just underclassmen or returning players to really be checking on the girls that are coming in,” O’Leary said. “They’re still new, there’s still a lot we have experienced, that we have not had the full Ithaca College experience. So, just keeping that in mind and talking to them more often than we usually would.”

On the court, Lyn Hayashi said she believes the activities put the team in a position where it was better prepared to compete when they came back to South Hill in mid-August. “We all came in more conditioned than the year before,” Lyn Hayashi said. “So, I definitely think that the summer competition over the summer definitely prepared us for this season.”

Dulfer said he believes that his team’s training efforts show its desire to improve and reach its full potential when the season opened against SUNY Cortland on Sept. 1 at Ben Light Gymnasium. “It’s a sign that they’re ready for a season, a sign that they’re looking forward to it,” Dulfer said. “They want to make sure that everyone comes and comes back in shape and ready to go, so that we don’t get injured [and] we can hit the ground running.”

Pitts said she believes that the competition played an important role in helping the team stay motivated and on task for the upcoming campaign. “It just keeps our mind in the right place,” Pitts said. “It’s about making sure that we’re prepared for the upcoming season, making sure that we’re consistently staying in shape for our teammates, not just for ourselves. It just kind of serves as an anchor mentally, as to what we need to be doing to prepare for this upcoming season.”

The Ithaca College volleyball team went 20-11 in 2019 and advanced to the third round of the NCAA Tournament. The team hopes its summer training helps propel it further this year.

CONTACT TOMMY MUMAU
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The Ithaca College volleyball team prepared for the 2021 season by holding its annual lift-off competition, keeping its athletes focused during the summer. While the team holds the event every year, this summer’s training also served the purpose of keeping the players connected during the offseason, particularly after the 2020 season was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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The Ithaca College field hockey team starts its season with a win against Utica College on Sep. 1. The Bombers went 12-7 in 2019 and were 6-1 in league play.

**WOMEN’S SOCCER**

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**GOLF**

**NAME** | **ACHIEVEMENT** | **SCORE**
---|---|---
Mary Gorsec | 1st | 84
Cristea Park | 2nd | 85
Rheanna DeCrow | 3rd | 87
Caitlin McGrinder | 5th | 89
Katherine Chan | 6th | 90

**NEXT MATCH:** Time TBA Sep. 4 against St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York

**SPECTATOR POLICY**

The Liberty League and Ithaca College have released updated spectator policies prior to the start of the fall athletic season.

The Liberty League said in its policy that spectators must follow state and local guidelines, as well as institutional policies. Visiting teams will be informed of an institution’s policies before they arrive. The Liberty League also urged all spectators to look over COVID-19 policies on member websites before attending any event.

Ithaca College stated that it is operating at full capacity for both indoor and outdoor venues. For unvaccinated individuals, masks are required to be worn correctly for indoor and outdoor events, and six feet of distancing where possible for outside events. For vaccinated individuals, masks are encouraged, but not required for outside events.

No spectators are allowed to be on the field of play at any time. If they plan to meet with players or coaches, they must coordinate a time and place after the event concludes and away from the venue.
Baseball alum represents Team Israel in Olympics

BY CONNOR GLUNT

This summer, Jake Rosenberg '18 was a part of history as he played in the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo for Israel’s first Olympic baseball team.

Rosenberg started his collegiate career playing with Alvernia University in Reading, Pennsylvania, before transferring to Ithaca College for his junior year. The outfielder played baseball for the Bombers for two years before graduating.

The Israeli national baseball team spent the last two years playing in tournaments in order to qualify for the Olympic games. The team placed inside the top five in the 2019 European Baseball Championship, which gave it a spot in the 2020 Olympic qualifiers.

The team went on to win the tournament with a record of 14-1 and became one of the 16 national baseball teams at the 2020 Summer Olympics. The team ended up placing fifth in the 2020 Summer Olympics.

However, prior to joining the team and moving to Israel, Rosenberg said he did not envision himself playing baseball for Team Israel.

His friend, who works for the Jewish Federation in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, shared his connections with people who could get him in touch with Tel Aviv baseball, a club in Israel.

“I never got to travel abroad because of sports, so I knew I wanted to travel a little bit,” Rosenberg said. “I am Jewish and I’ve never been there before, so I figured that would be a pretty good spot to go. I thought I would go for a couple of months, but it turned into a multi-year long journey.”

Rosenberg said he had coaching positions lined up for youth baseball teams in Israel and was planning on only playing in a men’s league.

“This was out there, I was told about this team were they were trying to form for the Olympics,” Rosenberg said. “I felt like I would be stupid to turn that down, so I decided to get citizenship and go on the Olympic journey.”

Although Rosenberg did not plan to be involved as a player for Israel’s national team when he went to Israel, the news did not surprise his former Bombers teammate, Robby Buffis ’18.

Buffis was in the same year as Rosenberg and transferred from Alvernia with him. Buffis said he was practicing baseball or playing a casual game of pickup basketball, Rosenberg would never give anything less than his all.

“One thing you can never question about Jake is his work ethic,” Buffis said. “He puts in the time, he puts in the effort, and it’s always 100 percent. Once he went to Israel, I think he had more time to focus on that and fine tune his game. He was a solid player at Alvernia, and he was a very gifted player at Ithaca, but you can see how he refined his game and took that next step to the next level for international competition.”

Shortly after arriving in Israel, members of the Israeli national team also took notice of Rosenberg and his dedication. Dean Pelman, who graduated from University of Florida in 2017 and pitched for the Gators, said he and Rosenberg had similar personalities and styles on and off the diamond.

“The two met early into Rosenberg’s time in Israel and bonded over baseball, basketball and ping pong. Rosenberg did not speak any Hebrew, so he and Pelman grew close quickly. Pelman said Rosenberg’s involvement with Israel’s team was evidently beneficial at all levels he participated in.

“We got to coach [together] and that showed also how he was as a teammate and coach,” Pelman said. “He’s just a great role model for the kids. He does everything right and he’s a really hard worker.”

Now that the Olympics have concluded, Rosenberg is back home in Philadelphia. While Rosenberg and the team had their sights set on a medal, he said the experience was priceless.

“It was the best baseball experience I’ve ever had,” Rosenberg said. “Being able to represent your second home in Israel on a national stage is a dream come true. I made friends and memories to last a lifetime.”

Rosenberg said he is not in a rush to get back on the diamond. However, he said he is grateful for the opportunities baseball and the Israeli team have presented with him.

CONTACT CONNOR GLUNT CGLUINT@ITHACA.EDU

From left, ESPN analysts Tim Kurkjian and Jessica Mendoza, Los Angeles Angels outfilder Mike Trout and Ithaca College alumnum Karl Ravech ’87 at the Little League World Series. Ravech has covered the event since 2003.

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BY CONNOR WO0D

When the annual Little League World Series began play in Williamsport, Pennsylvania on Aug. 19, Ithaca College was well represented with two alumni covering the event.

The Little League World Series is an annual youth baseball tournament that occurs in August. In typical years, eight teams from the United States are invited, as well as eight international teams. This year, 16 teams from the United States competed and the event ran from Aug. 19 to 29 when the team from Taylor, Michigan won the championship game.

Karl Ravech ’87, who works for ESPN, broadcasted the games for the network. Emily Adams ’21 had a summer internship with USA Today Sports and traveled to Williamsport to cover the event.

Adams, a recent graduate from the college, said this was the first live sports event she had covered in two years. Due to the cancellation of the Fall 2020 sports season and spectator restrictions during the Spring 2021 sports season as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Adams had not been able to cover live sports since 2019.

“It was such a cool experience, this being the first live sports event I have covered since my sophomore year,” Adams said. “To be at this event is much more than about the game of baseball. 

“When the annual Little League World Series began play in Williamsport still amazed her. “I never got to travel abroad because of sports, so I knew I wanted to travel a little bit,” Rosenberg said. “I am Jewish and I’ve never been there before, so I figured that would be a pretty good spot to go. I thought I would go for a couple of months, but it turned into a multi-year long journey.”

Rosenberg said he had coaching positions lined up for youth baseball teams in Israel and was planning on only playing in a men’s league.

“This was out there, I was told about this team they were trying to form for the Olympics,” Rosenberg said. “I felt like I would be stupid to turn that down, so I decided to get citizenship and go on the Olympic journey.”

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IC alumni cover Little League World Series

BY CAROL FRAZER

This year, the Little League World Series featured 16 teams from the United States and only invited teams from within the United States and spectators were not allowed.

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“One thing you can never question about Jake is his work ethic,” Buffis said. “He puts in the time, he puts in the effort, and it’s always 100 percent. Once he went to Israel, I think he had more time to focus on that and fine tune his game. He was a solid player at Alvernia, and he was a very gifted player at Ithaca, but you can see how he refined his game and took that next step to the next level for international competition.”

Shortly after arriving in Israel, members of the Israeli national team also took notice of Rosenberg and his dedication. Dean Pelman, who graduated from University of Florida in 2017 and pitched for the Gators, said he and Rosenberg had similar personalities and styles on and off the diamond.

“The two met early into Rosenberg’s time in Israel and bonded over baseball, basketball and ping pong. Rosenberg did not speak any Hebrew, so he and Pelman grew close quickly. Pelman said Rosenberg’s involvement with Israel’s team was evidently beneficial at all levels he participated in.

“We got to coach [together] and that showed also how he was as a teammate and coach,” Pelman said. “He’s just a great role model for the kids. He does everything right and he’s a really hard worker.”

Now that the Olympics have concluded, Rosenberg is back home in Philadelphia. While Rosenberg and the team had their sights set on a medal, he said the experience was priceless.

“It was the best baseball experience I’ve ever had,” Rosenberg said. “Being able to represent your second home in Israel on a national stage is a dream come true. I made friends and memories to last a lifetime.”

Rosenberg said he is not in a rush to get back on the diamond. However, he said he is grateful for the opportunities baseball and the Israeli team have presented with him.

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Karl Ravech covered the event since 2003.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021
THE BUZZER
The Ithacan’s breakdown of Ithaca College’s week in sports

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
MARY GERSEC, GOLF

Gersec placed 1st in the Ithaca College golf team’s first match of the season against William Smith College on Aug. 28. She posted a score of 84 (+12) that included three pars and a birdie on the front nine holes, and added three pars on the back half of the course.

COMPETITION OF THE WEEK
SOCCER VS. ELMIRA COLLEGE

The Ithaca College women’s soccer team defeated Elmira College by a score of 5-1 on Sep. 1 at Carp Wood Field. Junior defenseman Rachel Richards led the way to victory for the Bombers, recording a total of three points with one goal scored.

EVENTS TO WATCH

FOOTBALL: 1 P.M. SEPT. 4 IN ITHACA
The Ithaca College football team kicks off its 2021 season in the team’s first matchup against Bridgewater State University in program history. The Bombers went 8-3 for the third consecutive season in 2019.

VOLLEYBALL: 4 P.M. SEPT. 4 IN ITHACA
The Ithaca College volleyball team hosts the Bomber Invitational Tournament, including a matchup against the #6 ranked Johns Hopkins University. The Bombers have a 1-3 record against the Blue Jays.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
“Making sure that we’re consistently staying in shape for our teammates, not just ourselves. It just kind of serves as an anchor mentally.”
– Jennifer Pitts
Volleyball

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN
ANA MANNARO MOORE/THE ITHACAN
ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN
ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN
EDITORIAL: For the fall semester, Ithaca College has chosen to not implement the majority of the COVID-19 regulations that were in place during the previous year. In closed spaces, unless alone or eating, masks are required.
From right, Kylie Knight, graduate physical therapy student, and sophomore Anne Culbert do guided yoga Aug. 29 on the lawn between the Athletics and Events Center and the outdoor pool as a part of the Fall Welcome program organized by the Office of New Student and Transition Programs. Fall Welcome events conclude with Fountain Fest on Sept. 5.