

ACCURACY • INDEPENDENCE • INTEGRITY

## IC examining mental health policies

### Students take issue with crisis response

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

Ithaca College senior Elizabeth Cady, a resident assistant in East Tower, said this semester she has had to respond to two mental health-related calls. Both times, she said she had to call the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management.

“Those situations were both pretty similar in that [Public Safety officers] showed up and were loud and very heavy-handed when interacting with the residents who were going through a mental health crisis,” she said.

Cady said the on-duty residence director is usually also involved in responding to mental health crises before Public Safety is called. She said when she did have to call Public Safety, she was not pleased with how the officers handled the students in distress.

“They ask a few questions, a lot of them are really straightforward like ‘Were you trying to kill yourself?’ just like that,” Cady said. “I have my opinion, which is that question should not be asked in that way, especially by [Public Safe-

ty officers] where usually, they’re almost screaming these questions.”

She said she feels like Public Safety officers know how to assess mental health crisis situations well. However, she said there needs to be someone with more training handling the social aspect of talking to students experiencing mental health crises rather than the officers.

In 2016, an external report on Public Safety found that many students believed the Office of Public Safety was not adequately equipped to respond to mental health crisis calls. The report also made over 40 recommendations for how Public Safety could improve and create a better reputation.

Brian Petersen, director of the Center for Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS), said there is currently a group of administrators that is looking at different colleges across the country to see how they are handling crisis counseling. However, he said the group is early in the process.

“IC is listening to students, getting student comments and student experience, especially

in the residence halls, that is driving this search for different ways to respond to students in distress,” he said.

Dean of Students Bonnie Prunty said the campus is currently in the process of becoming a JED campus as part of the JED Foundation. JED is a nonprofit organization that works to prevent suicide and protect mental health of teens and young adults. Prunty said the college is working with JED to look at what areas of the college’s mental health services could be improved.

“One of the areas we are looking at is what opportunities might exist to improve the support available for these students outside of regular business hours, including who initially responds to requests to check on a student’s welfare,” she said via email.

Petersen said conversations about how Public Safety handled psychological calls started because of how students were transported to Cayuga Medical Center. He said that as of Spring

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## Cortaca 2022 venue change results in varying reactions



The 77th annual Cortaca Jug game between Ithaca College and SUNY Cortland is going to be held at Yankee Stadium in November 2022.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

BY AIDAN CHARDE,  
CONNOR GLUNT AND  
TOMMY MUMAU

When the 77th annual Cortaca Jug game between Ithaca College and SUNY Cortland was held at MetLife Stadium in 2019, the game drew an audience of 45,161 — a Division III record. The game will

be held at Yankee Stadium in November 2022 and representatives from both institutions have made it clear that the goal will be to break that record.

The two schools held a joint press conference along with a representative from the New York Yankees on Sept. 21 when the

game was announced. Susan Bassett, associate vice president and athletic director for Ithaca College, said Ithaca College, SUNY Cortland and Yankee Stadium are aiming for a sellout crowd.

“We think we could break the record we set in 2019 [at MetLife Stadium], but everything has to line up just right,” Bassett said. “This is the opportunity of a lifetime for our football program, our athletic department, and the college in general.”

Although the game will not be held until 2022, talks have been going on since before the 2019 Cortaca Jug game, Mike Urtz, athletic director for SUNY Cortland, said.

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ABBEY LONDON/THE ITHACAN



# IC Hillel to address campus climate

BY OLIVIA STANZL

Ithaca College is now a part of Hillel’s International Campus Climate Initiative (CCI), which works with college administrations to make a positive environment for Jewish students, for the 2021–22 academic year.

The goal of the CCI is to create a positive campus climate in which Jewish students feel comfortable expressing their identities and values, free of antisemitism, harassment or marginalization. Hillel is the largest Jewish campus organization in the world. Its mission is to enrich the lives of Jewish students so that they may enrich the Jewish people around the world, according to Hillel International. The college has 1,000 Jewish undergrad students out of 5,852, making the Jewish population 17%.

Mark Rotenberg, vice president of university initiatives and

legal affairs for Hillel International, said Hillel International created the CCI because striking statistics showed it could not wait any longer to do something about the growing antisemitism.

The college has faced antisemitic incidents and harassment over the years. In April 2019, a student found a swastika on their dorm door in Talcott Hall.

In 2017, another student found their mezuzah — a prayer scroll — ripped from their door post. In 2019, there was one instance of damage of property in an on-campus residential housing facility that was characterized as religious bias, according to the 2021 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report.

“Most universities are focused on anti-racism, gender bias and sexual violence, all of which are very important issues,” Rotenberg said. “But, we’re raising our hand and



From left, Max Kasler, springboard innovation fellow of Hillel at Ithaca College, junior Isaac Schneider, president of Hillel, and Lauren Goldberg, executive director of Hillel, said they look forward to working with the Campus Climate Initiative.

ALYSSA BEEBE/THE ITHACAN

saying ‘Hey there’s this issue too, and Jewish students are entitled ... to have our needs listened to and respected.’”

Junior Isaac Schneider, president of Hillel at Ithaca College, said he filled out the application for the competitive spot to work with CCI the night he was given the opportunity.

He said the college partnering with CCI will give Jewish stu-

dents a sense of hope. He said he believes there is a lack of awareness within the college community on issues that the Jewish community faces.

“I think seeing this very real data from their peers within the next year is going to be very impactful for the majority of this campus, which is not Jewish,” Schneider said.

Lauren Goldberg, executive director of Hillel at Ithaca College,

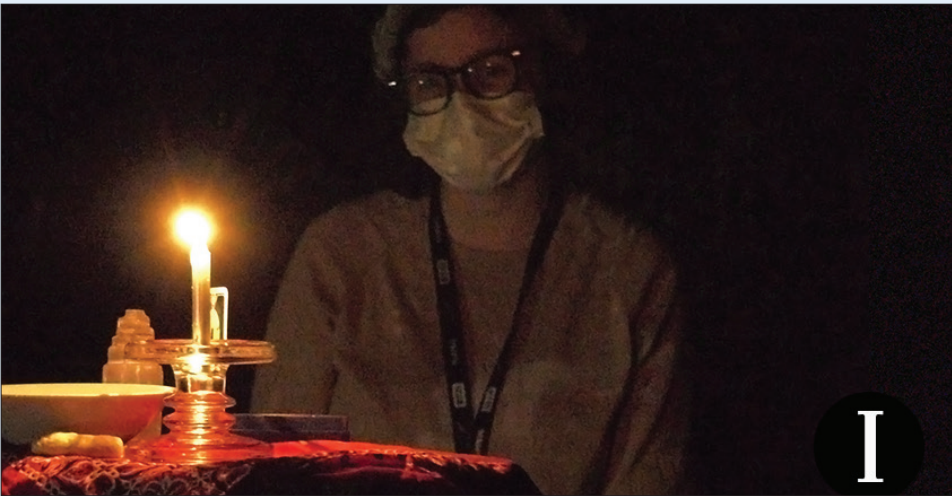
said the college’s administration has shown support to the Jewish community by helping embark on the collaboration with CCI.

“For the campus to say, ‘Let’s really examine how we’re doing right now,’ purely from a place of being proactive and not reactive is really rare these days,” Goldberg said.

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## MULTIMEDIA

THERE’S MORE MULTIMEDIA ONLINE. VISIT THEITHACAN.ORG/MULTIMEDIA



### Pagan Community Full Moon Ritual Welcomes All

The Ithaca College Pagan Community held its second Full Moon Ritual on Sept. 20 outside Muller Chapel. The club welcomes all interested.



### A Conversation with Jackson Bernhard

Host Frankie Walls sits down with senior Jackson Bernhard to discuss his experiences as a resident assistant and as a senior resident assistant.



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THE ITHACAN IS PRINTED AT BAYARD PRINTING GROUP IN WILLIAMSPORT, PA.

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# Increase in litter leads to concerns

BY JADYN DAVIS

All around the Ithaca College campus, disposable masks are flattened to the ground, soggy with rain; wrappers are tangled in bushes and plastic cups lie tipped on their sides, attracting insects. As the fall semester at the college progresses, students, staff and faculty have expressed their concerns about the increased amount of trash strewn across campus.

A primary source of concern is the number of disposable face masks and coverings that have been left on the ground on campus. The college requires all members of the campus community to wear a face covering when indoors, but vaccinated individuals do not have to wear a mask when outdoors.

Tim Carey, associate vice president of the Office of Facilities, said he was concerned about the increased amount of trash.

“To this point of the semester, there has been a discernible increase in the amount of litter on campus when juxtaposed to previous years,” Carey said via email. “It is obvious that the most prevalent form of litter is the number of face coverings that can be found scattered across the campus grounds on a daily basis.”

He said the Grounds team, which is responsible for maintaining and enhancing the area of the ground of the central



Throughout the semester, the Ithaca College campus has experienced a significant accumulation of trash on campus. A lot of the trash located on the ground consists of disposable face masks and litter.

KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

campus and off-campus location, is doing its best to address this issue by focusing on litter pickup on Monday and Friday mornings, because it is a time-consuming task that simply cannot be executed every day of the week.

Carey said in order to make things easier for the Grounds team, a few temporary trash totes have been placed in some areas outdoors where abundant numbers of masks were found piled on the ground.

Freshman Devon Jezek said she is surprised by how much trash has accumulated. She said one of the reasons she came to the college is because she was

told that it was a green school. “The school should communicate the importance of recycling,” Jezek said. “We should work more as a community because maintenance is lacking [staff].”

Sophomore Angela Russell, project coordinator for Eco Reps, said the excessive trash on campus is concerning.

Eco Reps is a student organization that is employed by the Office of Energy, Management and Sustainability that seeks to educate, empower and engage students, faculty and staff at the college.

“Eco Reps has consistently

been leading conversations with the administration about making IC a more eco-friendly campus,” Russell said via email. “Students can help by simply participating in any way they can.”

Sophomore Keenan Griebel said it is ironic that the college is a green campus when there is a lack of recycling at the college.

“Even though there is trash everywhere, everyone is collectively ignoring it,” Griebel said. “Ithaca is a beautiful place, and we live on a beautiful campus, and it’s sad to see it be so mistreated.”

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# COVID-19 cases create attendance issues

BY LORI TYNE

Ongoing positive cases of COVID-19 are not only a health concern for Ithaca College students and faculty, but also an academic concern due to how self-isolation is impacting students’ ability to attend and keep up with in-person classes.

Fall 2020 classes were held completely remotely and changed to a hybrid format for Spring 2021. Some classes are still online for Fall 2021, but the majority have shifted to in-person instruction.

Jessye Cohen-Filipic, associate professor in the Department of Psychology, said students have asked her to resume hybrid learning. She said she understands the anxiety behind that request, but feels like it is not her call to make because the college is committed to in-person learning. She said there is a lot of second-guessing herself about what the right thing to do is.

“My real frustration would be if people are being penalized for missing class when they are legitimately sick or waiting to be tested or [have been] exposed,” Cohen-Filipic said. “That really defeats the purpose of what we’re trying to do from a community perspective.”

The college’s attendance policy states that students must attend all classes and are responsible for any missed work. It also states that professors are expected to provide guidelines for any penalties that will occur from unexcused absences.

Interim Provost Melanie Stein said the attendance policy has not changed, but if the daily COVID-19 screening for students and



Students and professors struggle to adhere to the attendance policy while positive COVID-19 cases at Ithaca College are still a health and academic concern for the campus community.

ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN

faculty shows they should temporarily isolate, it will be accommodated.

“Students who must be absent from class should work directly with their faculty members to stay informed about coursework,” Stein said via email.

Freshman Emma Belsky said she was sick and absent from classes Sept. 13 to 17. She said she missed a hands-on learning opportunity in her cinema production class on how to operate a film camera.

“I was afraid of missing classes so after I got my negative [COVID-19] test results back I went to class even though I had a viral infection and was on antibiotics,” Belsky said.

Freshman Simon Ricciardi said he was absent from his classes Aug. 31, Sept. 2 and 7 due to illness and waiting on his COVID-19 test results. He said he feels conflicted about the way the college has started in-person classes back up.

“I think that it is unfortunate when they advocate for you to stay home, but there is no way to stay home and get your work done,” Ricciardi said. “If I did have COVID-19 and had to be in quarantine for two weeks, I can’t imagine where I’d be at.”

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# Artists discuss film industry

BY LUKE HAWORTH

The Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival (FLEFF) and the Park Center for Independent Media (PCIM) sponsored a Global Doc Media Series discussion about ownership in the African documentary industry.

The event, titled “Who Owns the Story? Documentary in Africa,” took place Sept. 27 and featured a roundtable with researchers, producers and filmmakers from across Africa. The panelists included Hawa Essuman, Judy Kibinge, filmmaker and founder of DOCU-BOX; Idrissou Mora-Kpai, assistant professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, and an award-winning Beninese filmmaker; Josh Mwamungu, filmmaker; Mohamed Said Ouma, executive director of Documentary Africa (DocA); and was moderated by Nyambok Onyore Austin, the current Communications Officer at DocA, and discussed issues regarding creativity, funding and ownership in Africa’s documentary industry.

Funding was one of the main topics of discussion and Kibinge said that in her prior experience, the person who pays for the creation of the film tends to have complete control over the content.

“As a filmmaker who has made a number of films, one thing became very clear: he who has the money decides who tells the story,” Kibinge said.

Kibinge later said she feels discontent with the ongoing narrative that African filmmakers need money from western countries, like the United States, to fund their projects in order to create an award-winning film.

Many of the other panelists also discussed how, because of how many African documentaries are funded by the West, people see African documentaries as nearly unrecognizable to their original product.

Mora-Kpai, a Beninese filmmaker whose films have been recognized at the Berlin, Rotterdam, Vienna, Milano, Busan, Sheffield, Cinéma du Réel and FID Marseille film festivals, said he believes that the West is altering Africa’s stories, taking away from their authenticity.

“African history has been distorted by the West and the story that we [Africans] are being told is not from our perspective,” Mora-Kpai said.

Essuman, an African filmmaker and former theater and TV drama director, went further into discussion on Western modification of African documentaries.

“What version of our story is out there that we can agree with?” Essuman asked.

One of the main points continuously mentioned throughout the discussion was Africa’s poverty and its correlation to the film industry. Mora-Kpai believes that it is not an issue of poverty, but an issue of how resources are used.

“Yesterday I was online and saw in one of the African countries a president who was just traveling within the country with 50 cars,” Mora-Kpai said. “One president with 50 cars. So how can we complain that we don’t have money?”

As the discussion segment ended, Kibinge discussed what it would take in order to fix the ongoing issues in the African documentary-making industry.

“A group that will pull together and say we need to put together a whole network of African producers and exchange information,” Kibinge said. “This conversation, this is how it begins. This is how we change things.”

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FROM HEALTH, PAGE 1

2020, students are no longer transported by Public Safety, but are instead transported in an ambulance. He said part of the reason was because of safety concerns surrounding COVID-19.

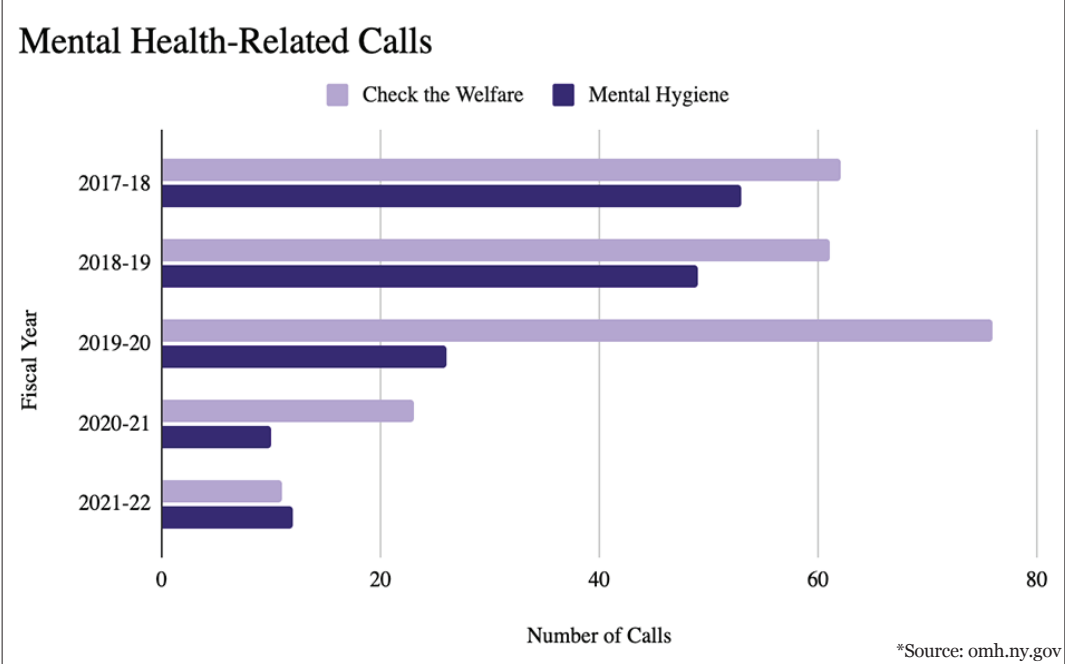
Freshman Skye Moricz said they made an appointment at CAPS early in Fall 2021 because they were not feeling well mentally. They said they were sent to Cayuga Medical Center for a week.

Moricz said there were two Public Safety officers waiting outside of CAPS when they left to be transported, which made them feel uneasy. Moricz said they were transported to the hospital via ambulance instead of being transported by the Office of Public Safety.

“CAPS and Public Safety, even though they were being very nice and very understanding about everything, they couldn’t do anything,” they said.

Moricz said they felt unsafe at Cayuga Medical Center because they are part of the gender identity. They said it was overall a very difficult week, and it made their mental state worse.

Tom Dunn, associate director and deputy chief of Patrol and Security Services, said officers determine if a student needs to be transported to the hospital by adhering to the New York state mental hygiene law and determine if the student is acting in a manner that could



ANNA MCCrackEN/THE ITHACAN

potentially pose serious risk to themselves or others.

Between July 1 and Sept. 20, Public Safety has responded to a total of 12 mental hygiene calls, meaning students experiencing a potential mental health crisis, and 11 welfare checks, where students want to check on peers who they are concerned about.

Of the 12 mental hygiene calls, 11 resulted in a student being transported to the hospital under section 9.41 of the New York state mental hygiene law, meaning an officer determined the student needed to be transported because the student was determined to be a threat to themselves or others.

One student was transported under section 9.45, meaning that a counselor decided the student needed to be transported.

Bill Kerry, executive director of Public Safety and Emergency Management, said via email that the overall goal is to reduce the number of times a Public Safety officer is the first responder to a mental health call.

“I think the public safety officers currently do a great job overall of assessing these situations and resourcing students, however, in some instances, having an officer arrive may add to the existing crisis, so we are trying to work on eliminating that to the best of our ability,” he said via email.

In 2020, 36.9% of college students said they were receiving mental health services and had also seriously considered suicide, according to Statista. In the United States, the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention reported that in 2017, 10.6 million Americans had considered suicide and 1.4 million people attempted suicide.

Petersen said many people might not know where to go to discuss suicidal thoughts, feelings and mental health in general, or people may be apprehensive about counseling.

*Students can call CAPS at (607) 274-3177 at any time to schedule an appointment or speak to the after-hours counselor or Public Safety at (607) 274-3333. Students can also call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number at (800) 273-8255 or the Trevor Project at (212) 695-8650.*

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FROM CORTACA, PAGE 1

“[Bassett] approached me several years ago about the possibility of ever playing in Yankee Stadium,” Urtz said. “It kind of went to the backburner and didn’t come to fruition, obviously. And then the whole MetLife concept started to come into play.”

Mark Holtzman, vice president of non-baseball sports events at Yankee Stadium and New Era Pinstripe Bowl, said scheduling conflicts prevented the game from happening in 2019 because the venue has a limited number of football games it can host per year.

News of the venue changedrew mixed reactions from the Ithaca College community. Matt Price ’20, said he was surprised to see the game played in another big venue so soon after it was held in MetLife Stadium.

“I thought they would do it in, like, maybe five or 10 years’ time,” Price said. “But still, to have it at a venue like [Yankee Stadium], it’s absolutely phenomenal.”

Not everyone shares Price’s optimism. Senior Julia Machlin, a member of the Open The Books coalition, a group of college community members who are calling for increased financial transparency, said the announcement was surprising for different reasons. The coalition formed because the college is in the process of eliminating 116 full-time equivalent faculty positions as part of the Academic Program Prioritization process, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic amplifying the college’s financial issues.

“It’s a big declaration to say and to make, even if it’s in two years, that a lot of money and a lot of resources will be allocated to Cortaca when there are so many people who are still feeling the effects of being laid off from the college,” Machlin said.

Tim Mirabito ’03, assistant professor in the Department of Journalism, also said the unknowns of specific financial details make the optics of the game worse.

“The contrast of having layoffs occur and then very shortly after having a football game at a professional stadium implies that there are costs that would be, you know, much more suitably applied to retaining faculty or going back into the academic budget,” Mirabito said.

Bassett said all of the travel expenses for both Ithaca College and SUNY Cortland are being covered by promoters Hudak and Bob Garone ’87. However, she declined to comment on the exact expenses of the event.

“For the college, it’s an opportunity for enormous positive publicity in the tristate area and metropolitan New York,” she said.

The college will not host a home Cortaca game at Butterfield Stadium until 2024. That means that multiple classes will go through the college without being able to experience a home Cortaca game, something that Price said is a unique experience.

The main reason the college agreed to play at Yankee Stadium shortly after the 2019 Cortaca Jug game, Bassett said, is because the venue does not have an opening other than 2022 until 2027. Holtzman said if the game goes as well as expected, there is a possibility of the game being held there again in the future.

“Certainly, if the game is as successful as we all believe it would be, we’d want to have it back here at some point in the future,” Holtzman said.

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# IC Circle Apartments see increased fire alarm activations in September

BY OLIVIA STANZL

The 2021–22 academic year at Ithaca College has started off with 19 fire alarms being set off in the Circle Apartments throughout the month of September.

In a Sept. 23 email sent to Circles residents, Megan Williams, assistant director of staff and programs in the Office of Residential Life, said that 16 out of 19 of the alarms occurred because of food being burned on the stove, in the oven or in the microwave, and that more fire alarm activations could potentially prompt the Ithaca Fire Department to launch an investigation into the college. The Circles house mostly juniors and seniors, many of whom are living on their own for the first time. The apartments are fully-furnished and have kitchens that contain full-sized electric appliances, including a dishwasher.

Junior Julia Spruance said she is in her second semester living in Circles. She said living in the apartments here has created a much more positive space for her and her roommates because they have their own kitchen, compared to living in the dorms, where they had to eat at the dining halls.

“We honestly hated the food, and two of my roommates have food allergies and found it hard to find food they could actually eat in the dining halls,” Spruance said. “So by having access to our kitchen, we are able to make really good and healthy food that wouldn’t be able to be found through the dining halls.”

Spruance and her roommates have not set off any alarms themselves, but have been woken up twice this semester by fire alarms



There have been 19 fire alarm activations in the Ithaca College Circle Apartments during the month of September. Many of the activations were because of students burning food in their kitchens.

**ALYSSA BEEBE/THE ITHACAN**

going off in their building.

“When a fire alarm goes off in any of the apartments within one building, everyone’s alarm goes off,” she said.

Junior Mercedesz Stumpf is living in Circles for the first time and said she and her roommates cook all their own meals. Stumpf has never personally set off a fire alarm but said her housemate has while cooking. Stumpf said she has been negatively affected by the fire alarms this academic year.

“The fire alarms are super stressful for my roommate and I,” Stumpf said. “She has a cat, and it’s always a struggle to rescue him because he gets scared.”

A high number of fire alarms is typical for the beginning of academic years. Tim Ryan, assistant director of Environmental Health and Safety, said that while the numbers may be up a little bit from past years, they are just about on track.

In order to learn from these mistakes, Residential Life and Environmental Health and Safety stress the importance of using the exhaust vent above the stove. The exhaust vent helps remove excess heat and smoke.

“If you’re going to cook, make sure that your vent hood is turned on and make sure that it’s functioning properly,” Ryan said. “If it’s not functioning properly, you need to file a maintenance request to get it fixed.”

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# SGC holds platform presentations

BY MEL ANDIA

The Ithaca College Student Governance Council (SGC) held platform presentations over Zoom Sept. 23 for the prospective SGC senate seats for Fall 2021, with many candidates focusing on mental health initiatives.

The SGC has 18 open senate seats: two Class of 2022 senator positions, one Class of 2023 senator, one Class of 2024 senator, two Class of 2025 senators, School of Business senator, School of Communications senator, School of Music senator, transfer senator, varsity athlete senator, club athlete senator, off-campus senator, Students of Color Coalition senator, graduate senator and three senator-at-large positions.

Seven students are currently running for four of the open seats. Freshman Vincent Tavernese is running for the School of Music senator position, junior Lauren Hitesman is running for the varsity athlete senator position and sophomore transfer student Casey Ingraham is running for the transfer senator position. Freshmen Lena Allie, Aiden Harman, Paloma La Valley and Noah Richardson are running for the Class of 2025 senator position.

Tavernese said his main goal is working towards helping music students to achieve a better



Junior senate chair Austin Ruffino gives a presentation Sept. 22 to students interested in running for open positions on the Ithaca College Student Governance Council (SGC). The SGC has 18 open senate seats.

LAUREN LEONE/THE ITHACAN

balance between classes and personal lives.

“Personally, I’m taking 11 [classes] this semester ... so it’s more difficult to balance time,” he said. “For a two-hour class we are assigned to do four hours of work outside of class. ... That’s a lot.”

Hitesman said her main goal was to extend dining hall hours and to put healthier options in the dining halls.

“One of the biggest things I noticed my freshman year was that ... I’ll get back to campus around 6:30, 7 at night, and there’d be all the activities that ...

I wanted to do,” Hitesman said. “But every time that I wanted to participate in one of these activities, I would have to stop and say to myself, ‘Ok, do I want to partake in this activity or do I want to eat dinner?’”

La Valley said she wants to work on negotiating a hybrid model for all classes for attendance purposes. She also said she wanted professors to record all classes and post them on Canvas so students who may not be able to attend in-person classes do not miss class.

“I feel like no students should be put through that, having to

jeopardize their physical health, for the sake of their grades,” La Valley said. “So I really want to fight for that hybrid model.”

She also said she wants to focus on improving the dining options and wait times, as well as improving academic resources.

Voting for SGC senate positions will open for members of the student body on Engage starting at 8 a.m. Sept. 30 and closing at 11:59 p.m. Oct. 1. Election results will be released Oct. 2.

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# County offers booster shots

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN

The Tompkins County Health Department (TCHD) announced Sept. 28 that county residents will be able to receive a booster shot of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine if eligible.

Individuals over 65 and residents of long-term care facilities who received the two-dose Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine can receive a booster shot, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced Sept. 24. The CDC also advised that individuals 50–64 with underlying medical conditions can receive a booster as long as at least six months have passed since their second Pfizer shot. Individuals who are 18–49 with underlying medical conditions can also receive a booster shot. Additionally, individuals who are 18–64 and are at an increased risk of COVID-19 exposure because of their occupational setting can also receive the Pfizer booster shot.

All booster shots should be received after at least six months from the second vaccine dose.

The TCHD said people with occupational risk include health care workers and first responders, school and daycare staff, grocery store and public transit workers and people who work in nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

Frank Kruppa, Tompkins County public health director, said in the announcement that people who fall into one of these categories should receive their booster dose as soon as they can. He also said the booster doses are effective at increasing immune responses in people who are at a higher risk of becoming seriously ill with COVID-19.

CONTACT CAITLIN HOLTZMAN  
CHOLTZMAN@ITHACA.EDU

# IC professor co-authors article on political rumors

Jonathan Ablard, professor in the Department of History at Ithaca College, has co-written an article published in the Journal of Social History (Oxford University Press).

The article “Rumors, Pescado Podrido and Disinformation in Interwar in Argentina” is a deep, speculative dive into how and why political rumors were spread by members of the Argentinian government during the interwar years and the effect those rumors had on the course of history. The article focuses on two case studies: the anti-Radical Party rumors and the more general anti-Communist rumors.

Contributing writer Cecilia Meza spoke with Ablard about his research and the content of his article.

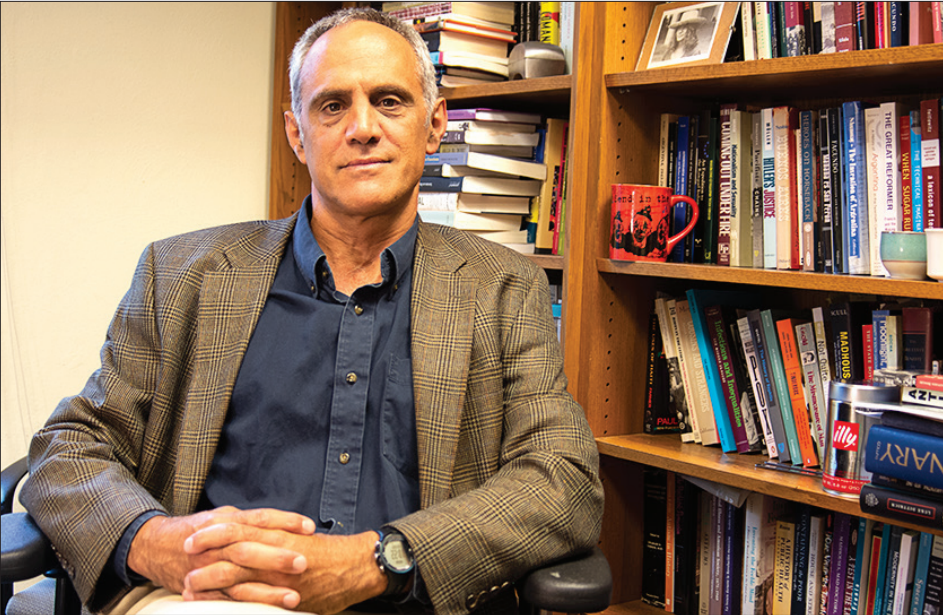
*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*

**Cecilia Meza:** Can you give a brief description of the content of the article and your research?  
**Jonathan Ablard:** Essentially what it is about is different ways that rumors and disinformation ... operated in Argentina during the 1930s, and this is a period in Argentina where the country was under different kinds of authoritarian rule, and so basically that was what we were talking about in the article. We were interested in the kind of “how and why” political rumors and disinformation got created and how it got circulated. ... My part of it was about how government agents sort of circulated information about essentially the communist threat in places like the schools and the barracks, and how much of this information was kind of exaggerated or was just outright false. My interest was also how these

false reports came about ... how those false reports then got recirculated to other people, including U.S. government employees of the State Department who would read these reports and believe that they were true. The article, in the end, is really about how disinformation and misinformation circulates and gets redigested and recirculated again.

**CM:** How did you find out this information?  
**JA:** My sources came from two different kinds of collections. One was in Argentina, documents from the Ministry of the Interior and also from the Ministry of War, what today we would call the Defense Department. I was looking at essentially letters and telegrams that were being communicated between what were like a lower-level telegraph, postal employee, back to headquarters in Buenos Aires or that were being reported by a police agent back to headquarters. Essentially, looking at official correspondence, which at the time was not available to people. The other source has been records of the U.S. State Department ... during the same time period ... I was able to connect what Argentine government officials were corresponding about with what the U.S. State Department was corresponding about.

**CM:** Are any of the courses you teach related to your article?  
**JA:** Yes, there is. The class is called A Global History of Lies: Conspiracy Theories, Rumors and Hoaxes, and it’s a 300-level class, but I’m thinking about turning it into a 200-level class. ... In that class, we start in the contemporary



Jonathan Ablard, professor in the Ithaca College Department of History, co-authored an article about political rumors spread by members of the Argentinian government during interwar years.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

moment, and we read articles by journalists and social scientists and computer scientists about how it is that we are in our particular crisis of information and mis- and disinformation and we go back to the 17th century. ... I was worried about the problem of mis- and disinformation for the past five or six years and then, sort of by accident, I started writing on the history of it, and then the two things came together and I decided that I should teach a class on it.

**CM:** What is the next step in your research? What are you going to work on next?

**JA:** I’m not really sure. ... I have an article that I am trying to finish on the Argentine army during the last dictatorship of the 1970s. ... I’m writing some little essays for websites, where I am trying to take my academic articles and digest them and make them more accessible for a wider public. ... I have toyed around with the idea of writing a book on the global history of lies, but I’m a little bit stuck on how and where to start on such an ambitious project.

CONTACT CECILIA MEZA  
CMEZA@ITHACA.EDU



# COLLEGE BRIEFS

## IC Drone Squad to provide workshops during fall semester

The Ithaca College Drone Squadron is a collective of individuals — students, faculty, staff, alumni, community members and friends of the college — who seek to use unmanned aircraft systems to help educate and provide services to the college and the greater New York community.

Since 2017, individuals affiliated with the college have had the opportunity to take a free, three-day drone workshop and then sit for the FAA 107 exam.

Passing the exam certifies the person as a licensed commercial drone pilot. Pilots have flown missions used in commercial and documentary filmmaking, aerial journalism, assisting local law enforcement, HVAC and roof inspections and real estate marketing.

The Drone Squad is holding three workshops during the fall semester. Interested individuals must attend all three days. The first workshop will be held from noon to 6 p.m. Oct. 15 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 16 and 17.

The second workshop will be held from noon to 6 p.m. Nov. 12 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 13 and 14. The dates for the December workshop are not confirmed yet, but the workshop will be held virtually.

## Community participants needed for IC greeting card campaign

Cards Across Campuses: Intergenerational Greeting Card Campaign (ICGI) is an Ithaca College–Longview Partnership program that was started in the spring semester when the pandemic shut down in-person intergenerational programming between the college and Longview.

Individuals or groups can reach out to the ICGI to request a greeting card to be sent to an identified individual at Longview.

ICGI will provide a blank greeting card assigned to a tenant or resident and participants write a personal message to the card recipient.

The card will be returned to the ICGI, which will address and mail or hand-deliver the card to Longview. Interested individuals can contact [jtaves@ithaca.edu](mailto:jtaves@ithaca.edu).

## College AI-Anon Group to hold in-person meetings for Fall 2021

The South Hill Higher Ground AI-Anon Group, which has been meeting on Zoom throughout the pandemic, is returning to in-person meetings.

Meetings will resume from noon to 12:50 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Phillips Room of Muller Chapel. Students, staff, faculty and community members are welcome. Participants must be masked and will be asked to practice social distancing.

## IC Chess Club in need of professors to participate in chess competition

For any professors who know how to play chess, the Ithaca College Chess Club is looking for professors who are interested in participating in the chess competition.

The competition will be between students and professors. It will be held at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 12 at IC Square. Interested individuals should contact [ChessClub@ithaca.edu](mailto:ChessClub@ithaca.edu).

## Applications open for staff award given to full-time eligible IC staff

The award is established through contributions from staff, faculty and friends of James J. Whalen, the college's sixth president, in honor of his 22 years of service to the college.

The award is granted to eligible staff members in a degree program at the college. The money can be used to pay for books and defray other educational costs.

Candidates for the J.J. Staff Scholar Award must be full-time staff members of the college, matriculated in a degree program, have completed at least 60 credit hours toward an undergraduate degree, or are pursuing a graduate-level degree, with a cumulative



## Students shape sushi in IC Hillel’s Sukkah

From left, juniors Jade Rynar and Francesca Infante-Meehan roll homemade sushi rolls Sept. 24 outside of Muller Chapel. Hillel at Ithaca College built a Sukkah for the Jewish harvest holiday of Sukkot and held a sushi-making event.

ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN

grade point average of 3.0 or higher. The deadline for applications is Oct. 8. The application is available online at [https://ithaca.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1ThY82ZQSBa5TZs](https://ithaca.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1ThY82ZQSBa5TZs).

## Committees to present events for domestic violence awareness

Sexual Violence Prevention Committee (SVPC), the Center for IDEAS and the Advocacy Center of Tompkins County will recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month during the month of October.

SVPC Committee and campus partners will

be hosting a number of events, both virtually and in person.

The groups will be sharing educational social media content to provide opportunities for campus community members to learn more about domestic violence prevention, bystander intervention, affirmative consent, healthy relationships and more.

The events will count as Student Leadership Institute (SLI) credit, so students can register to attend the event in order to receive SLI credits. Individuals can register for events on the SVPC Events Page or on IC Engage.

# PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM SEPTEMBER 13 TO SEPTEMBER 19

### SEPTEMBER 13

#### SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: Dillingham Center  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown person sounded distressed on the phone. The officer was unable to locate the person. Patrol Officer Joe Oppen responded.

#### FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Terrace 1  
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The alarm activation was caused by a dirty detector. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

### SEPTEMBER 14

#### SCC UNDERAGE POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL

LOCATION: Rowland Hall  
SUMMARY: Office of Student Conduct reported one person referred for underage possession of alcohol. Lieutenant Michael Nelson responded.

#### ASSIST TOMPKINS COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE

LOCATION: State Route 96B  
SUMMARY: Tompkins County 911 reported a three-vehicle personal injury motor vehicle accident. Officers and Environmental Health and Safety assisted with traffic and people involved

declined medical assistance with ambulance staff. Tompkins Sheriff's Office is investigating. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded.

### SEPTEMBER 15

#### MEDICAL ASSIST/PSYCHOLOGICAL

LOCATION: Tower Concourse  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that a person made threats to harm themselves. The person was taken into custody under New York state mental hygiene law and was transported to the hospital. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded.

#### MEDICAL ASSIST/INJURY RELATED

LOCATION: Fitness Center  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that a person was accidentally struck in the head with a barbell. The person declined medical assistance. Patrol Officer John Norman responded.

### SEPTEMBER 16

#### MEDICAL ASSIST/INJURY RELATED

LOCATION: Fitness Center  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that a person lifting weights injured their shoulder. The person declined medical assistance. Master Patrol Officer

Bryan Verzosa responded.

#### SCC DISRUPTION/EXCESSIVE NOISE

LOCATION: Terrace 6  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown person was screaming incoherently and lunging at other people. The officer determined that the person was not a threat to themselves or others. The person was referred to Student Conduct for causing a disturbance. Patrol Officer John Norman responded.

### SEPTEMBER 17

#### SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: Flora Brown Drive  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown person in a vehicle approached a pedestrian and offered them a ride. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

#### SCC DRUG VIOLATIONS

LOCATION: East Tower  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that a person was incoherent after taking marijuana edibles. The person was taken into custody under New York state mental hygiene law and was transported to the hospital. Four people were referred to the Office of Student Conduct for violation of drug policy. Master Patrol Officer

Bryan Verzosa responded.

### SEPTEMBER 18

#### MEDICAL ASSIST/INJURY RELATED

LOCATION: Wood Field (Soccer)  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that a person playing soccer (NCAA event) sustained a concussion and was experiencing double vision. The caller requested an ambulance. The person was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded.

#### MEDICAL ASSIST/PSYCHOLOGICAL

LOCATION: Tower Concourse  
SUMMARY: A person reported being depressed and wanted to speak with a professional. The person was taken into custody under the New York state mental hygiene law and was transported to the hospital. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

#### SCC RESPONSIBILITY OF GUESTS

LOCATION: Landon Hall  
SUMMARY: A caller reported an odor of marijuana. The officer located the odor but not the people responsible. The officer warned the residents about being

responsible for their guests. Patrol Officer Shawn Lansing responded.

### SEPTEMBER 19

#### SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUG

LOCATION: Terrace 10  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that a person may have been drugged. The officer determined the person was not drugged but intoxicated. The person declined medical assistance and was referred for irresponsible use of alcohol. Patrol Officer Daniel Redder responded.

#### PETIT LARCENY UNDER \$50

LOCATION: Campus Center Quad  
SUMMARY: An officer reported people taking and moving chairs and tables. The officer warned people about stealing and tampering with property. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

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

### KEY

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





MOLLY STANTON/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

## Increased amount of litter on campus is disrespectful

Ithaca College is a beautiful campus, and, as its inhabitants, we have a responsibility to treat the campus with respect. Masks, food wrappers and empty coffee cups are littered across campus at an unprecedented level, and the college is unable to keep up a constant service of picking up everyone’s trash every day. The college has always been a top environmentally sustainable college; it is known for its beautiful grounds and vast acres of natural land. The amount of trash strewn across campus is abnormal and disrespectful. When leaving any building, it’s easy to be caught up in feeling free from wearing a mask and dropping it or letting it fall out of a back pocket. There are trash cans located across campus, and it does not take anything away from someone to hold onto their trash until they can find a trash can indoors.

Even so, as you look around campus, in the more open areas on campus further away from Campus Center there is a sparsity of

trash cans. The college needs to look into placing more trash cans throughout campus. The college is understaffed all around, and the Office of Facilities grounds team cannot keep up with the rising amount of litter and dumped masks around campus.

Staff members cannot go around picking up every individual used mask, crumpled wrapper and empty cup on the whole campus every day. This is our community and our campus, and, out of respect for the beautiful campus and grounds staff members, this job falls on every member of this community. It is a matter of respect for the workers themselves and for what they do for us, which deserves recognition. When you eat outside, take another glance around for anything you’re leaving behind. If you take off your mask outside and need to toss it, just hold onto it for a few more feet until you can find a trash can. Ithaca is gorgeous, with vibrant acres of land and an abundance of wildlife surrounding us; let’s try to keep it that way.

## IC mental health policies are changing for the better

Ithaca College’s current policies for responding to mental health crises do not fulfill the needs of each individual student and need to be reassessed. These concerns arose after students had to witness their peers being escorted to Cayuga Medical Center by Public Safety, sometimes in handcuffs, if deemed a danger to themselves or others. These policies are changing — students are now transported to Cayuga Medical Center via ambulance rather than in a Public Safety vehicle. This change is commendable, but it cannot heal the traumatic experiences that countless students have suffered at the hands of Public Safety officers.

While officers should remain a part of the response team to mental health calls, Public Safety officers should not always be the first responders in a situation in which a student is experiencing a mental health crisis. Oftentimes, when a student is feeling extreme mental anguish, having Public Safety of-

ficers yell at them through their doors can push them into a further state of mental distress. It can be intimidating, and there should be a trained mental health professional who can attend to the emotional needs of each individual in that moment. The college is adhering to the New York state mental hygiene law with its procedures, like that which allows students to be restrained, primarily with handcuffs, when they are determined to be of “high risk” when they are being transported to Cayuga Medical Center. Every scenario is different and requires less force and more educated and trained professionals. The current response to a call may — and have seemingly already — force students to remain silent about their suicidal thoughts or force students to hesitate before reporting someone they believe may need help. Students should feel reassured and safe when they are approached about their own mental health. They should not fear being forced to leave their room or support systems.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

ALL LETTERS MUST:

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

### GUEST COMMENTARY

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

ALL COMMENTARIES MUST:

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



GUEST COMMENTARY

# First-person shooter games are vital for diversity

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

At 15 year-old, in season two of “Overwatch”, a team-based, first-person shooter (FPS) game, I was able to climb to the Platinum rank.

When many hear “FPS game,” they think of violence, blood splattering everywhere and guns. “Overwatch” took a different approach to this standard. Mercy, Mei, and D.VA are some of the many characters in the game that do not use guns as their weapon. As a 20-year-old college student, I am not allowed to play any “shooter” games competitively within Ithaca College Esports due to a fear of gun violence. Fear of gun violence and the association of FPS games is a perspective I understand but is outdated in competitive esports.

I am frustrated that our organization has provided multiple studies reporting little to no connection between aggressive behaviors and violent video games. Even with reports showcasing video game spending per capita in relation to gun-related murders,

our demands for these games are brushed aside.

Without a safe, competitive platform, students are unable to efficiently develop these skills when playing games alone in their dorm rooms. One of the beautiful aspects of gaming is that the “physical barriers” often brought up in sports are eliminated. But that doesn’t change the fact that I will be harassed for being a woman playing video games. If I have a more “feminine” username, I receive threatening messages from both enemies and allies. If I unmute my microphone, I am told to “shut up” or “play support” because I sound feminine. Instead of making important calls, I would type in the chat, which is like texting a teammate during a match.

Collegiate esports have zero tolerance for that behavior and let us play without being harassed. On Sept. 23, Version1 announced an all-female competitive “Valorant” roster.

Other colleges, like SUNY Canton and The College of Saint Rose, offer “Overwatch” or “Valorant” through a competitive platform and have female competitive players. I am not saying we should get rid of



Senior Mary Turner urges the college to reconsider allowing the esports club to participate in first-person shooter games because they allow a safer and more diverse environment for female or female-identifying players.

ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN

these other games due to their lack of diversity, but we should offer more competitive platforms for an accurate representation of our student population. This isn’t just an esports problem — equal representation is discussed across all fields.

But when we offer a solution to

representation in our organization and are shut down because of misunderstandings surrounding video games, it is hard to understand why we are being denied.

Being allowed to play these games on campus would give me and other female-identifying gamers the

opportunity to make friendships and play with the support of each other instead of the constant harassment we typically face.

**MARY TURNER** is a senior television-radio major. Contact her at mturner@ithaca.edu

GUEST COMMENTARY

# Trans and nonbinary stories need to be told accurately

**BY JULIA STITELY**

“Wait, so we actually want a nonbinary actor to play Robin?”

It was a usual Friday night meeting for “Fathoms Below” — the ICTV show I helped create and produce, following a college student, Kai, who hides the secret that she is a mermaid. Her love interest is Robin, a non-binary biology major whose mentor, Professor Hawthorn, is trying to find Kai. I turn from the person next to me who asked the question to the only other nonbinary person in the room.

Our eyes widen together at the same time, our open mouths unable to be seen underneath our masks. I whipped my head back to the person next to me and responded in a raised tone, “Yes!” with no explanation. At the time, it was the beginning of me identifying as nonbinary.

I never liked the idea of “coming out” because it causes my anxiety to get high. However, I left clues that would make it clear I was nonbinary without stopping a conversation and saying it. I had put my pronouns in Zoom classes as a mixture of she and they pronouns, discussed with people about my views

on gender and talked about my anguish when the discussion was prompted about a non-binary character in our show being played by a cisgendered person.

Sadly, it is a common trend in media for transgender roles to be played by cis people. Two Oscar-winning roles of trans characters have been played by cis people: Hilary Swank and Jared Leto. Recently, Lauren Patten won a Tony for her portrayal of Jo in “Jagged Little Pill,” who she originally played in the A.R.T. run as nonbinary, but the character became cisgender when the musical went to Broadway.

If anything, most trans stories are told from a cis perspective. Trans acceptability is too often based on how easily interpretable their gender is to a cis person. It is important that the media, presenting a certain community, is in a correct and positive light because this may be the only way the viewer knows of this group. That is what makes it important to put those people not just in front of the screen, but behind the camera.

My mission is to create characters and stories I want to see on screen. For “Fathoms Below,” I wanted a show where the majority of



Sophomore Julia Stitely is a co-creator and co-producer of the ICTV show “Fathoms Below.” They give their perspective on the portrayal of the trans and non-binary community in media.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

the characters are queer but don’t turn to the camera, telling the audience directly. I wanted a show where it’s not a fully white cast. I wanted a show where a man and a woman could have a platonic relationship.

I wanted a show to highlight a trusting bond between two main leading women. I wanted a show where a trans person is not used as a plot twist and is flawed with goals

and aspirations. I wanted a show where that trans person is desired by the main character for who they are.

I wanted to show that we fall in love, we exist and we are real.

**JULIA STITELY** is a sophomore writing for film, TV and emerging media major. Contact them at jstitely1@ithaca.edu.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor — The most recent issue of *The Ithacan* had a story about the terrible staffing shortages the college faces, with more cuts to the faculty to come. Full retirement contributions have yet to be restored and may not be for a long time, if ever. We are in year two of a salary freeze (at a time when inflation is at a two decades high). And we’re supposed to be excited about a football game at Yankee Stadium that will surely cost the college a fortune? IC’s athletic department and development office have never made public the amount of the supposed bonanza of alumni

giving that resulted from the Cortaca game in 2019. At the very least, many of us would like to see those numbers in order not to feel like Cortaca at Yankee Stadium is yet another financial blunder on the part of the institution, one that the employees and students will end up paying for.

Sincerely,  
Michael Smith, Professor in the Department of History



# What I Wish I Knew...

This week, our seniors responded to the prompt, “What is your experience with dating at IC?”



When given the prompt on dating and relationships, I was unsure how to approach writing this. I wondered how I could write about my experiences without embarrassing myself, but then I realized that dating can be embarrassing, so I figured I'd go for it. Going into college, I told myself I would try to step out of my comfort zone and put myself out there. I have taken some baby steps to become that bold person that I wanted to be, but as most of my friends can attest, my face's ability to turn bright red at even the first sign of embarrassment doesn't exude confidence. Beyond my easily flustered personality, there are several other reasons that I have found dating to be a struggle in college. I hate dating apps. Dating apps are the most common way people meet nowadays. My greatest struggle with these apps is that I am a verbal communicator. Messaging on the apps stresses me out because I overthink my texts and run out of witty things to say. Yet, despite my hatred for all the texting, every few months I find myself swiping through, just seeing who is out there. At the end of the day, fear is what holds me back. I could figure out a way to make dating apps work for me or find another means of meeting people. The first step, however, is telling that voice in my head to stop getting in my way. Maybe this will be my rom-com moment, where after writing about the woes of dating for a newspaper column, I bump into someone as I walk the college campus. We lock our eyes and there is an instant spark between us. But if I have learned anything over the past four years, it's that dating is not like it is in the movies.

Dating and romance in their many forms are as quintessential to the archetypal college experience as prom is to high school or commutes are to an office job. As with any other college experience, the number of different expectations is the same as the number of people entering school each year. People come in expecting everything from “Animal House”-style sexual revelry to idyllic, long-term, serious relationships they see older friends from high school announcing on Facebook. In reality, it can be daunting, it can be exciting, it can be disappointing, it can be heartbreaking, it can happen a lot, it can not happen at all, it can capture your whole experience, or just be a small part. I know some people who have been together since college and got married, some who kept their high school relationships going strong, some with broken hearts, some who aren't interested and some who are more into short-term flings. For me, my high school romance eventually collapsed due to long-term challenges. I dated a bit then realized I wasn't ready yet, leading to a tough breakup. I later had feelings that were hard to put in the right place or act on due to the pandemic and other life circumstances. College romance isn't one thing. It's transitional flings and long-term true love. It's heartbreaks and triumphs. It's what you make of it and where you find yourself, and I wish you the best of luck getting what you're looking for.



STEPHANIE  
FINE

ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN



JAY BRADLEY

COURTESY OF JAY BRADLEY

This may come as a shock or no surprise depending on who you are and your relation to me, but I have never been on a date in my life. I have no dating experience; in fact, I have no game. Many people say my friendliness comes off as flirtation, but I honestly don't know the difference. If someone were to confess their undying love for me after this blog post, I would simply combust because of my obliviousness, but also awkwardly say thank you. What else could I do? I have no idea how to react in situations like that. This could stem from my awkward teen phase continuing too long and the fact that no one has ever been interested in me (that I know of), but there is nothing that I could account for being my dating “experience.” I live vicariously through my friends who had high school relationships until very recently. Or my friend who had an awkward Tinder date where the man brought out his childhood blanket and stuffed animal. Or even that one time where a man aggressively made out with my friend and caused her lips to bruise blue. I know. Yikes. Now don't get me wrong, there are people who love being in a relationship. I know a lot of people who are in very happy, healthy and committed relationships. A lot of people make you think you should be in a long-term, committed relationship before you graduate. Dating was just never something I wanted. For so long, I thought there was something wrong with me because of this. Don't feel pressured to be in a relationship. Dating is overrated, friends. I'm not missing anything, so I'm fine with whatever.

To read the rest of the blog entries head to  
[TheIthacan.org](http://TheIthacan.org).



FRANKIE  
WALLS

ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN

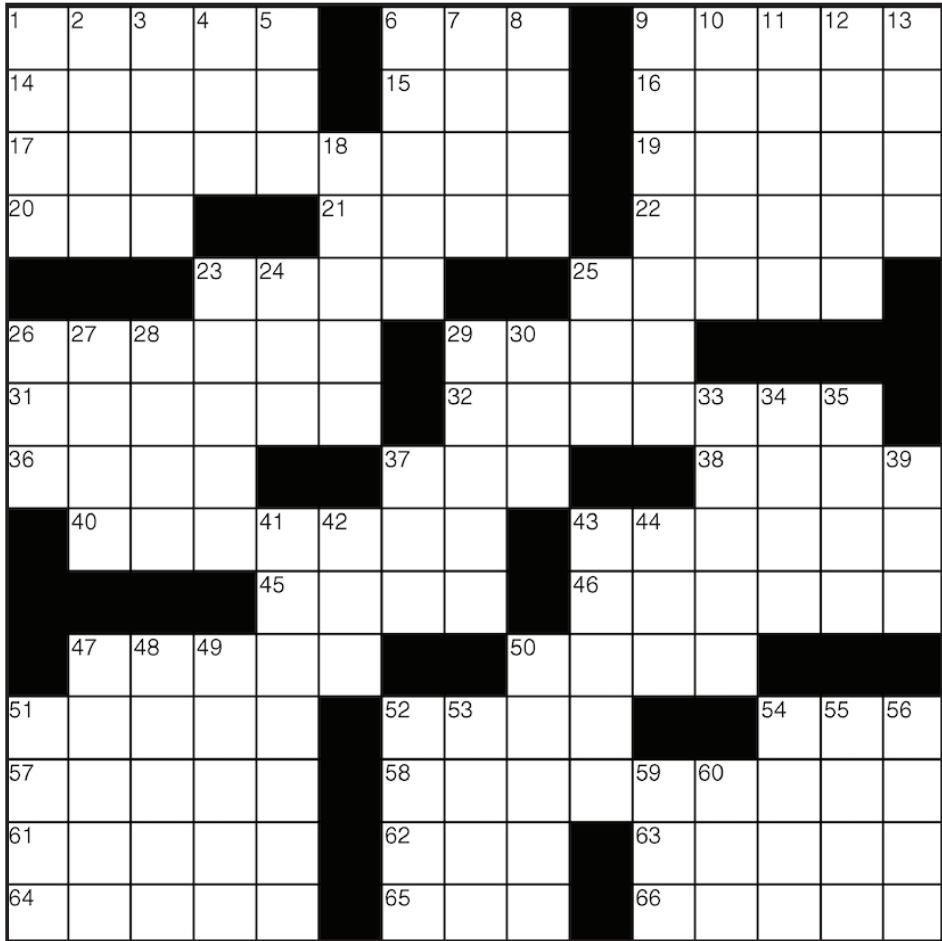
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# DIVERSIONS

## crossword

By Quill Driver Books



### ACROSS

- 1 Strong-arm  
6 "Early Start" ailer  
9 Reckon  
14 Holstein's home  
15 Furrow maker  
16 Hoarded  
17 Radical  
19 Snooped  
20 Family nickname  
21 Fiesta shouts  
22 Tall and slender  
23 Warehouse pallet  
25 Not neat  
26 Cream puff  
29 Friendly country  
31 Not brunette  
32 Popular seafood  
36 Tree trunk  
37 Catchall abbr.  
38 Flag down  
40 Gridiron gain  
43 Himalayan guide  
45 Garbage bin output  
46 Twisted out of shapes  
47 Honeycomb units  
50 Do a slow burn  
51 Physically weak  
52 Speckled horse  
54 Wear and tear  
57 Hartford

### DOWN

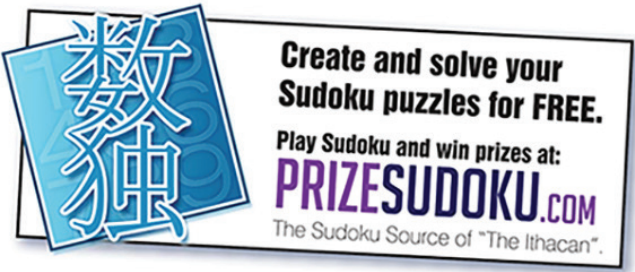
- 1 Bad day for Caesar  
2 Coat length  
3 Dents  
4 Slip up  
5 Drain cleaner  
6 Youngster  
7 Plane tip  
8 Party fabrics  
9 Fish hawks  
10 Removes the peel  
11 Wall climbers  
12 Strapped for cash  
13 Whirlpool  
18 Ripple pattern  
23 More reasonable  
24 Grade-schooler  
25 Sammy Sosa's org.  
26 Subside  
27 Sate  
28 Falana or Montez  
29 Change

- 30 --- cit. (footnote abbr.)  
33 In that place  
34 Lawman Wyatt ---  
35 Mellow  
37 Self-importance  
39 Aberdeen boy  
41 Wallet stuffers  
42 Want ---  
43 Wielded a bat  
44 Radio enthusiast  
47 Knossos site

- 48 Down the hatch  
49 Like a tablet  
50 Goes kaput  
51 Eat no food  
52 Make turbid  
53 Clay pot  
54 Stanford rival  
55 Wedge  
56 Storm centers  
59 Delts' neighbors  
60 Aunt or bro.

### last issue's crossword answers

P	I	L	A	F		S	P	A	S	M		R	O	E
B	R	A	V	O		C	A	P	R	I		E	P	A
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### answers to last issue's

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## CHECK OUR STATUS

### PRINT

In print every Thursday

### ONLINE

Online daily at [www.theithacan.org](http://www.theithacan.org)





In March 2020, then-Ithaca College junior Ben Basem began filming the struggles that his mother was facing as an essential worker in a Chicago hospital. A year and a half later, Basem turned the 500 hours of footage he filmed into a 30-minute experimental documentary that has won two grants worth \$6,000 and is slated to be screened at multiple film festivals.

COURTESY OF BEN BASEM



To create his thesis "Conversations Between Shifts," Ben Basem '21 filmed over 500 hours of footage over approximately one year.

COURTESY OF BEN BASEM

## BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ben Basem '21 did not expect to emerge from it as an award-nominated filmmaker. However, when Basem was sent home in March 2020, he began to film the experience that his mother had as a nurse in a Chicago hospital. Now, a year and a half later, Basem and his crew are bringing their half-hour experimental documentary called "Conversations Between Shifts" to festivals.

"Conversations Between Shifts" is an official selection at the Workers Unite Film Festival, which will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 14, 2021 at the Cinema Village Theater in New York City. It also received \$6,000 across two Pendleton grants and was used as Basem's thesis film.

Basem said he was inspired to film a few

work, and the next day, and the next day."

Basem kept filming the life of his mother, using additional footage she filmed at her shifts inside the hospital. The long shifts, lack of personal protective equipment and emotions surrounding death and fear are all depicted in the documentary. Basem's mother is shown at the Illinois Nurses Association strike, giving the documentary a personal and national perspective. Basem said after filming from March 2020 to February 2021, he ended up with about 500 hours of footage. Basem said he was able to finance the film through unemployment checks after he lost his job in the recession.

"In March 2020 I was employed at Ithaca College," Basem said. "I was tuning pianos as a piano technician in Whalen. When we were sent back, I was unemployed, so I applied for New York state unemployment,

and I was approved. I was getting checks every week in the mail, and I was using those checks to fund my movie. We didn't have any grant money at the time, nothing."

Eventually, Basem had editor Yeshim Kayim-Yanko '21 join the team behind the project. Yanko said Basem's vision was that the project would lean into being experimental. So, Kayim-Yanko created sequences that are dream-like for the film's beginning and end.

"From the beginning, Ben made sure that we knew that he didn't want it to be just like any old documentary," Kayim-Yanko said. "He was very clear that he wanted it to be an experimental documentary, so we went into it with that attitude."

Basem's mother, Jeanette Alvarez-Basem is the subject of the film. Alvarez-Basem said as the emotions in the hospital increased, fear, grief and honesty began to pour out onto camera. In a scene of a nurse talking about a patient who recently died, the friendly conversation quickly turns into an honest, unfiltered portrayal of pandemic-era grief.

"People say very truthful things when they're in pain," Alvarez-Basem said. "When I realized there was truth coming out [in the documentary] I was comfortable with it."

Alvarez-Basem hopes that the film will be a beacon of hope for the unvaccinated and a reminder of the sacrifice of essential workers.

"I hope that through this film people realize the aberration this pandemic of COVID-19

is and the hope that you can have now that we didn't have before by getting vaccinated," Alvarez-Basem said. "Back then we didn't have a vaccine — we just had a pandemic. And we lost so many. But to lose that same amount



Jeanette Alvarez-Basem is a nurse in a hospital in Chicago and is the subject of "Conversations Between Shifts."

COURTESY OF BEN BASEM

because [the unvaccinated] people do not believe that there is hope ... I hope that if and when they watch this film they may reconsider the true hope that a vaccine can give because we didn't have it back then. There was no hope back then. There is now."

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# CULTURED

The Life & Culture editor’s recap of current mainstream and alt culture

Compiled by Eva Salzman



## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“In a world that entices us to browse through the lives of others to help us better determine how we feel about ourselves. ... Do not be afraid to disappear, from it, from us, for a while and see what comes to you in the silence. I dedicate this story to every single survivor of sexual assault.”

MICHAELA COEL, after winning an Emmy for outstanding writing in her series “I May Destroy You”

## SPOTLIGHT

Fugees perform together for first time in 15 years

Twenty-five years after its 1996 album, “The Score,” the Fugees are back on tour. As the group celebrates the milestone on its final album, Lauryn Hill, Wyclef Jean and Pras Michel reunited Sept. 22 in New York City for the Fugees’ first performance together in 15 years, which was taped as part of the 24-hour livestream for Global Citizen Live on Sept. 25. The group performed fan favorites like “Killing Me Softly” and “Ready or Not,” garnering anticipation for its 12-city, international tour. Formerly known as the Tranzlator Crew, the Fugees debuted in the early ‘90s, releasing its debut album “Blunted on Reality” in 1994. “The Score” was the group’s second and final album, going seven-time platinum as one of the best-selling albums in the world with two Grammy Awards. While the group was only together for five years, it is one of the most influential hip-hop acts worldwide. It last reunited in 2005 for its single “Take It Easy.”



## THIS WEEK IN POP CULTURE HISTORY

Sept. 28, 1963

“Whaam!,” the iconic pop-art piece painted by Roy Lichtenstein was first exhibited at the Leo Castelli Gallery in New York City on Sept. 28, 1963.

Three years later, it was purchased by the Tate Gallery in London and has been on permanent display at Tate Modern since 2006. Lichtenstein studied art before and after serving in the United States Army during World War II, and his painting themes focused on romance and war — but “Whaam!” is said to be inspired by several comic book panels.

Like many other pop artists, Lichtenstein drew on popular imagery in American culture to celebrate objects and people of everyday life in an attempt to elevate pop culture to the level of fine art.



Sept. 25, 2020

On Sept. 25, 2020, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was laid in state after dying Sept. 18. It marked the first time that a woman had

been laid in state in history. Ginsburg was known for her strong fortitude and steadfast defenses of women’s rights and civil rights. Her legacy is honored in the 2018 documentary “RBG,” and the 2018 film “On the Basis of Sex,” where actress Felicity Jones plays Ginsburg. Due to her fiery liberal dissents, Ginsburg is known informally as “Notorious RBG,” a reference to rapper Biggie Smalls, who was also known as “Notorious B.I.G.” When asked, Ginsburg said the comparison was accurate, as both hail from Brooklyn, New York.





# Excitement is ripe for fall-favorite Apple Fest

**BY SARAH MARSH**

Amid the busy and bustling sights and sounds of the Ithaca Farmers Market, vendors pour cup after cup of hot apple cider for eager patrons, steam rising off every drink. Their local, Ithaca-based farms are busy with preparations for an upcoming town event widely anticipated by residents and visitors alike — the Annual Apple Harvest Festival.

The 39th Annual Apple Harvest Festival — or Apple Fest, for short — is a long-standing tradition in Ithaca. The festival will be held from noon to 6 p.m. Oct. 1 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Oct. 2 and 3 on The Commons and promises a weekend full of fresh apples and apple-based treats, food trucks, live music and artisan goods. Organized by the Downtown Ithaca Alliance (DIA), Apple Fest is about to round out its fourth decade of operation.

The event is making a return to its traditional, large-scale format after a modified version of the festival, Apple Festive, was presented in 2020. To comply with social distancing and COVID-19 safety policies, Apple Festive featured an open-air market and apple and cider trail, but presented fewer vendors and activities.

Allison Graffin, the marketing director for the DIA, said this year the DIA is aiming to bring Apple Fest back to the strength of previous years. Graffin said Apple Fest is important to apple farmers and vendors due to the crowd that it draws and the esteem it is held to.

“The whole community has had to change,” Graffin said. “It’s an optimistic sign that we can have this as a large gathering for both the farmers that are selling produce and our craft vendors.”

Amara Steinkraus, co-owner of family-run Littletree Orchards, said she is all too familiar with the struggles the COVID-19 pandemic has posed for the festival.

“In its incarnation, [Apple Fest] was really started to kind of bring local farms downtown, bring business downtown. And I think the COVID pandemic has really been a struggle for a lot of small businesses,” said Steinkraus, whose mother was a part of the original committee that founded Apple Fest in 1985.

Similarly, the return of Apple Fest for the 2021 season has been long-awaited by Ithaca College students. Upperclassmen are eager to return to a fall-favorite and freshmen are ready to experience an Ithaca classic for the first time. Junior Alex Stewart said she’s excited to return to the festival for the lively atmosphere and apple slushies.

“I’m definitely looking forward to buying a ton of different food because everything there was so good,” Stewart said. “I’m also excited to just walk around the festival because it gives off good vibes.”

The festival is a popular event for many students across campus. For this year’s freshman and sophomore classes however, Apple Fest is a brand-new experience. Sophomore Emma Rockey said she is nervous,



The Apple Harvest Festival has not had a full capacity festival since 2019. This year’s Apple Harvest Festival will take place from Oct. 1 to 3 on The Commons and feature a variety of apple farmers and food vendors.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

but eager to attend the festival for the first time, because this is only her second semester on campus.

“I’ve never been,” Rockey said. “I’ve heard great things about it though. I’m looking forward to some fresh apples. We have apple farms at home and my family goes and gets some each year.”

Amid all the excitement for the festival, Rockey said she is concerned about how a large event at full-capacity will affect COVID-19 case rates.

“My main concern is crowds with

delta variant cases rising,” Rockey said. “I worry about people traveling in for Apple Fest and spreading COVID into this community, especially when they likely won’t be wearing masks outside.”

With COVID-19 cases rising in the county, others share the same sentiment. Junior Claire Thompson said part of preparing for the fun of Apple Fest is also planning to stay safe.

“I really hope people will be conscious of the health of themselves and others and be tested for

COVID before and after attending,” Thompson said. “I would hate for Apple Fest to go down as a super-spreader event. I am hopeful people will be wise and considerate and that the organizers have taken precautions. From what I remember, most of it was outdoors anyway, which is a great way to keep safe and enjoy the last of the sun and warmth in Ithaca.”

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# Environmentalism culture grows at Ithaca College

**BY ALLIE RICHTER**

The culture of environmentalism and sustainability has seeped into every aspect of life at Ithaca College — from the aesthetic of the clothes students wear and the water bottles they use, to the clubs they join and the jobs they hold.

The college was named in the Princeton Review’s “Guide to Green Colleges” and was given a Green Rating of 98/99 for its sustainable initiatives in 2018. On campus, there are several organizations and offices dedicated to sustainability like Eco Reps, Environmentalists of IC, IC Impact and the Office of Sustainability and Energy Management. The college has also banned the use of plastic straws and plastic bags, but increased its use of plastic silverware as a COVID-19 precaution.

Senior Alex Rutkowski is the current president of Environmentalists of IC and said she is excited to start getting to work on campus and start some projects. Environmentalists of IC has hosted events in the past like environmentally friendly DIYS, clothing swaps and other events focused on being environmentally friendly.

“We always have the goal of education and activism,” Rutkowski said. “We want students to recognize behaviors that benefit the environment and have them implement that in their lives as they see fit.”

Junior Katharine Downey is the Eco Reps program manager and shares similar

goals to Rutkowski.

Eco Reps has many notable projects currently in the works. In every bathroom on campus, the infographic on the doors are created and distributed by Eco Reps to spread awareness on important environmental issues like the harm of meat consumption.

Eco Reps is also heading the composting initiative at both the Garden and Circle Apartments. Downey said there are currently 57 apartments who are actively composting.

Eco Reps also runs the Take It Or Leave It room in the basement of Clarke Hall, a free thrift store open for all students.

“I see a lot of people going thrifting and getting really cool pieces,” Downey said. Everyone is wearing something different and cool and half the time they get it from a thrift shop.”

Junior Petar Odazhiev is an intern at the Office of Sustainability and Energy Management. Odazhiev helps with editing the sustainability website.

The Office of Sustainability and Energy Management is working on projects and trying to eliminate all single-use plastic on campus by 2024.

“It’s an exciting, difficult project that is in its early stages,” Odazhiev said. “So far, we have talked to multiple key faculty members and have gotten initial approval. The next steps are to research where the plastics are coming in from and how much they cost. We want to save the college money



Junior Katharine Downey, program manager for Ithaca College Eco Reps, collects compost from students’ compost bins with other members of Eco Reps on Sept. 26 outside the Circle Apartments.

ABBIE LONDON/THE ITHACAN

long-term by getting facilities managers to invest in reusable alternatives.”

Volunteers are needed to help clubs be successful and complete their goals. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the ability for students to be involved, but being back on campus has helped the work of this office and clubs succeed and accomplish more.

“I have seen more volunteers doing services for Eco Reps than ever before,” Odazhiev said. “People who were interested in the cause showed their support in droves on the Eco Reps social media platforms when we

went online. Later, they volunteered once we came back to campus.”

Odazhiev said it is common to feel overwhelmed when helping the environment.

“When it comes to the environment, take the blame off yourself and realize you are not the primary problem,” Odazhiev said. “Treat others with kindness, and the world will heal itself.”

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# Studios overuse Cinderella tale

BY AVERY ALEXANDER

While watching the recent “Cinderella” film starring Camila Cabello, I couldn’t shake the feeling that the movie seemed eerily familiar. Perhaps it was just a case of *deja vu*, or, more likely, it was because Cinderella is one of the most culturally relevant fairy tales of all time.

Audiences are obsessed with the fairy tale. There are over 700 different written versions of Cinderella from all over the world, including countless modern versions. In September, there were two Cinderella adaptations — Cabello’s and a modernized stage musical in London.

When it comes to modern movie adaptations, there is an obvious pattern: The films implement current cultural context like politics and popular music, and they often cast a wildly popular female icon in the titular role.

Cabello’s “Cinderella” fits into this pattern freakishly well. Other Cinderella movies that fall into this pattern include the 1997 Disney “Cinderella” starring Brandy, Hillary Duff’s “A Cinderella Story” from 2004 and the 1957 “Cinderella” starring Julie Andrews.

There are several distinct “eras” of Disney, one of which is the Wartime Era (1943–49). During the Wartime Era, there were fewer resources for filmmaking, so Disney couldn’t produce feature-length films. Instead, this time was characterized by anthology films — movies like “The Three Caballeros” (1944) and “The Adventures of Ichabod and Mister Toad” (1949).

When Disney’s animated version of “Cinderella” came out in 1950, it ushered Disney into the Silver Age and reestablished the company’s place as a major production company.

The widespread popularity of this film, and Cinderella in general, during the 1950s is likely due to the Western world’s fascination with the idea of “rags to riches.” In general, people just love a good story of hardship that then leads to success, even when it comes to real-life celebrities.

The 1950s were a time of recovery, and stories of hope and prosperity like “Cinderella” were what audiences needed. While it feels a little ridiculous that we got two Cinderella adaptations in the same month, it’s not surprising. We’re in crisis and reports of anxiety and depression have skyrocketed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It’s not a big jump to assume that, like back in the 1950s, we’re all searching for hope.

This timing of the 1950 “Cinderella” also explains why other Disney princess movies didn’t attract the same widespread fascination. The perfect example of this is “Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.” It was the first feature-length animated film that Disney ever produced yet audiences hardly give Snow as much love as Cindy.

Knowing that audiences are vulnerable at this moment, it makes sense that people would start trying to monopolize on the stories that have, in the past, been successful with

**POPPED CULTURE** is a weekly column, written by Life & Culture staff writers, that analyzes pop culture events. Avery Alexander is a senior writing major. Contact her at [aalexander2@ithaca.edu](mailto:aalexander2@ithaca.edu).

# Drama captures the little moments

MOVIE REVIEW: “Blue Bayou” Focus Features



BY M MINTON

When Justin Chon’s film “Blue Bayou” premiered at the Cannes Film Festival, it was greeted with a well-deserved standing ovation. The film, which Chon wrote, directed and starred in, is a passion project that finds humanity and life amid everything falling apart.

“Blue Bayou” tells the story of Antonio LeBlanc (Justin Chon), a loving, kind father chasing the American dream. LeBlanc was born in Korea and eventually was adopted by white parents. However, because his parents didn’t properly file his paperwork, LeBlanc faces possible deportation due to a legal loophole. If LeBlanc wants any chance of staying with his family in Louisiana — including his wife, Kathy LeBlanc (Alicia Vikander) and daughter, Jessie (Sydney Kowalske) — he must fight the bureaucracy of the immigration system.

The last thing “Blue Bayou” could be called is subtle, and that’s exactly the point. It is emotionally relentless from start to finish, as the audience witnesses the reality of an immigrant trying to escape deportation while his life simultaneously falls apart. Antonio being ridiculed and beaten by police, as well as navigating a system that is designed to keep immigrants down, proves a tragic viewing experience. Chon’s choice to not shy away from the harsh reality of an immigrant’s life is all very much intentional

to make the viewer understand how flawed the legal system is. For the most part, it works.

“Blue Bayou” is a film that works best in its most human and tender moments where the cast is allowed to perform the quiet moments in life. Watching LeBlanc interact with his wife and daughter in simple, everyday moments and conversations allows the audience to feel and connect with them. In the opening scene, Antonio is applying for a job and is asked where he is from, and he says the United States. The audience can feel Antonio’s pain and hesitation to answer as the interviewer inquires where he is “really from,” knowing his immigrant status will likely keep him from securing the job. Vikander complements Chon’s performance wonderfully while conveying Kathy’s own individual humanity and pain. In the best scene of the film, Chon chooses to have a tight close-up on Vikander as she sings a rendition of “Blue Bayou,” conveying the hope she is holding onto for Antonio to stay.

The music and the cinematography heighten the emotional impact of the film. Roger Suen’s score oozes with emotion and beauty through beautiful orchestral compositions that convey the love that the couple has for each other.

Chon tackles heavy questions of identity, culture, the immigration system and modern



Justin Chon’s new film “Blue Bayou” is a hard-hitting and emotional drama about the plights of an U.S. immigrant from Korea.

COURTESY OF METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER

policing. Some of these themes stick the landing better than others, especially as the third act tries to squeeze as much emotion as it can into every story beat, often to the point of pretentiousness. A subplot involving a police officer attempts to redeem him into a character that audiences empathize with, but ends up drawing away from the film’s core themes. It also raises some questions as viewers are suddenly supposed to feel sympathy for a deeply unlikeable and flawed character.

Ultimately, “Blue Bayou” is

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# Clint Eastwood returns in new film “Cry Macho”

MOVIE REVIEW: “Cry Macho” Warner Bros. Pictures



BY JACKSON NOEL

The Western genre in the second half of the 20th century is defined by the image of one man: Clint Eastwood. His furrowed brow and wanton violence hidden behind a nearly silent persona have influenced the aesthetics of the cowboy opera for decades. In 1992, Eastwood released his then-final statement on the Western in “Unforgiven,” but now with “Cry Macho,” he returns to the world of arid deserts and wild horses that made him an icon.

Based on the 1975 novel by N. Richard Nash, “Cry Macho” sees aging rodeo star Mike Milo (Eastwood) hired by his boss (Dwight Yoakam) to retrieve his son, Rafo (Eduardo Minetti), from Mexico. The simple retrieval narrative gives way to an episodic structure revelling in the moments of their road trip. On their trip back to Texas, they get caught up in cockfighting rings, police pursuits and horse training. Nothing about the film commands attention, instead focusing on an uncomplicated story of male bonding and

life’s ordinary adventures — a far cry from the excess of a young Eastwood in films like “A Fistful of Dollars” or “High Plains Drifter.”

Directed, produced and starring Eastwood, “Cry Macho” echoes the lush naturalism of classic Westerns like John Ford’s “My Darling Clementine.” Eastwood rightfully treasures the wide shot, allowing the Mexican vistas in sunset to paint the story.

The lack of complexity in “Cry Macho” is also its biggest strength. All of the characters found along the journey seem to live in an authentic, inhabited world; none of the conflict comes from high-stakes gunslinging or moral debauchery like a typical Western. The film alternatively chooses a quiet and pensive introspection on the topics of friendship and masculinity. Hanging over “Cry Macho” is a genuine kindness that is nearly absent in Eastwood’s filmography.

At 91, Eastwood’s age remains the elephant in the room for the film’s duration. He hobbles through the frame and even throws a few weak punches when the script calls for him to appear intimidating. For the first



In his new film “Cry Macho,” Clint Eastwood returns to the genre that brought him to fame.

COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

time, Eastwood looks his age on screen and unfortunately cannot hide his frailty when this role calls for physicality. Luckily, his gruff charisma remains intact as a constant reminder that this is still the same Eastwood.

After “Unforgiven,” Eastwood said nothing was left for him in the Western. “Cry Macho” proves that statement wrong. Leaving behind the violence, he embraces the persona of a quiet, pensive cowboy. In his old age, Eastwood accepts the deconstruction of his image, putting the movie star image of himself in the past and display an aged masculinity. “Cry Macho” feels like an epilogue for the nonagenarian filmmaker, but knowing Eastwood’s stubborn nature, he has plenty more films to come.

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# Lil Nas X debut sizzles with hits

ALBUM REVIEW: “MONTERO” Columbia Records



**BY CHARLIE BECHT**

Lil Nas X has shed his recent baby bump following the birth of the artist’s debut album, “MONTERO.” The 15-track album is brimming with hits that annihilate any lingering “one hit wonder” speculations.

To discuss the album without mentioning its promotional cycle would be a disservice to Lil Nas X’s unforgettable year. The debut single “MONTERO (Call Me By Your Name)” set the album’s precedent with its embrace of queerness and inviting dance beat. Its video, which featured Lil Nas X giving a lap dance to Satan, sent the public into a frenzy. He faced a lawsuit from Nike, a wardrobe malfunction during his Saturday Night Live performance and homophobic shock for his BET Awards Show kiss, yet he never lost steam. While his second single “SUN GOES DOWN” hinted at the album’s more intimate themes, “INDUSTRY BABY (feat. Jack Harlow)” packed a punch with a queer, quality video to match. The aforementioned pregnancy has just been the latest in Lil Nas X’s clear aptitude for capturing the attention of audience members.

In addition to Harlow, the album boasts big-name collaborations. Doja Cat, Elton John,

Megan Thee Stallion and Miley Cyrus all contribute their classic sparks to ignite their respective tracks. On the standout song “SCOOP,” Doja rides the rhythm with ease and playful lyricism, sure to leave listeners wishing for a longer verse. Closer “AM I DREAMING” offers a melancholic duet in which Cyrus and Lil Nas X’s voices blend for a soothing listen. The lineup is an impressive feat, especially for a debut album. However, with a Grammy-winning EP and the record-smashing hit “Old Town Road” in his discography, Lil Nas X is far from the typical singer in their album debut era.

Rather, Lil Nas X proves to be a groundbreaking new artist with “MONTERO” serving to cement this status. Lil Nas X unabashedly centers his homosexuality prominently within his music, a subject that has rarely been championed within rap. For Lil Nas X, there’s no reading between the lines with his music: his sexuality commands at the forefront. One such example is his latest track to get the music video treatment, “THAT’S WHAT I WANT,” which centers on his desires for a lover. Packed with pride, Lil Nas X proves himself to be a queer icon who also hails from within the queer community.

The second half of the album



Lil Nas X touts big-name collaborations and a ripe embrace of queerness on “Montero,” his long-awaited debut album.

COURTESY OF COLUMBIA RECORDS

strays away from Lil Nas X’s classic upbeat songs, instead depicting a more personal side to the artist. “VOID” can be interpreted as a reflective note-to-self as Lil Nas X details his anxieties over stardom. On “TALES OF DOMINICA,” Lil Nas X verbalizes the self-doubt anyone with an opposition has faced. The album wildly succeeds at granting listeners a journey through his highs and lows.

Anything that involves Lil

Nas X is sure to possess a creative flair like never before and “MONTERO” isn’t any different. Though the instrumentations range in hip-hop, rock, pop and R&B influences, Lil Nas X’s crisp vocals are a constant. Although “MONTERO” has just been birthed, the album signals impeccable growth and longevity for Lil Nas X.

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# Latest Nick Cage disaster features disturbing scenes

MOVIE REVIEW: “Prisoners of the Ghostland” RLJE Films



**BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD**

Looking for the next big movie to simultaneously induce feelings of disgust and boredom? Look no further than “Prisoners of the Ghostland.”

“Prisoners of the Ghostland” is an action-horror-thriller directed by Sion Sono that tells the story of a criminal named Hero (Nicholas Cage) who is forced by the Governor (Bill Moseley) — the most powerful man in Samurai Town, Japan — to bring back his missing granddaughter Bernice (Sofia Boutella). Dressed in a suit composed of strategically placed explosive devices to ensure his cooperation, Hero searches the radioactive wasteland to save his life and gain his freedom. Despite having an out-of-this-world premise, “Prisoners of the Ghostland” offers little actual substance to keep the audience engaged.

A lot of the film is poorly-executed gore. The largest source of gore is the suit of explosives Hero wears. The explosives detonate when they sense danger is being inflicted upon a woman, to prevent him from violently assaulting Bernice. There are multiple scenes where the audience watches Hero grow more brutally disfigured due

to the explosives. The most disturbing and unsettling of these is when Hero becomes violently aroused by Bernice, thus causing one of the explosive devices located on his netherregions to explode in graphic and disturbing detail. This scene doesn’t serve as an obstacle for Hero, thus making it feel even more senseless. Other deeply upsetting scenes include the use of violence against women as nothing more than a dramatic time filler and lazy action sequences.

It is easy to create fully-formed female characters. Film history shows that movies do it all the time for male characters. So the fact that the female characters in “Prisoners of the Ghostland” have no motives, goals, obstacles, agency or arcs is beyond disappointing. Bernice’s motivations, goals and characterization are nonexistent. Her only purpose is as the unobtainable object for the male protagonist to chase after.

While the female characters are trivial, the male characters aren’t much better. Both Hero and the Governor are violent misogynists brought to life by lazy performances by the actors. The world of “Prisoners of the Ghostland” has endless possibilities for creating conflict throughout the plot. Yet Sono rarely engages with it, and



Actor Nick Cage continues his never-ending quest to embarrass himself with this film.

COURTESY OF RLJE FILMS

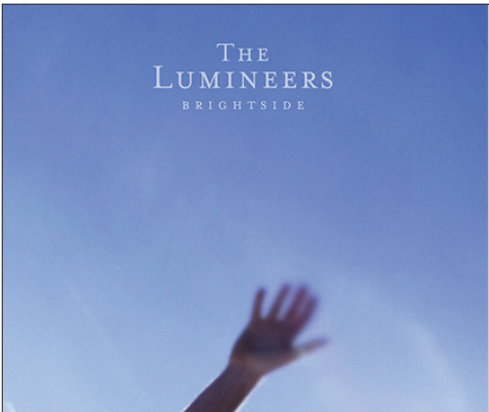
instead spends screen time focusing on lazily crafted characters and the plot about Hero returning Bernice to the Governor.

Upon finishing the film, the audience is left simmering in the glorification of Cage’s chauvinist character instead of being left with a deep reflection of societal issues. Hero is neither a flawed protagonist or a compelling anti-hero. He cares little for the well-being of others and has an inferred history of violence against women. Instead of having an arc, the audience gets to watch Hero save the day and walk away.

Despite having promising material, the film is poorly executed. Other than teasing audiences along on a meaningless and empty journey that attempts to convey poorly established themes of inequality, “Prisoners of the Ghostland” offers absolutely nothing worth watching.

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# QUICKIES



COURTESY OF DUALTONE, DECCA RECORDS

“BRIGHTSIDE”  
The Lumineers

“BRIGHTSIDE” is more likely to be the song to end a pretentious indie movie than be the rhythmic mix of grunge and folk it thinks it is. The song flirts with rising above mediocrity, but to no avail. Props to the Pink Floyd reference, though.



COURTESY OF CANVASBACK/INFECTIOUS MUSIC

“U&ME”  
alt-j

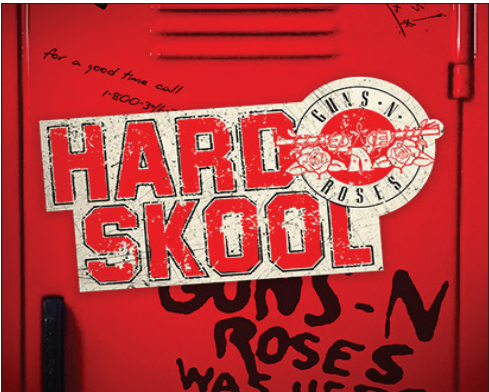
The first half of alt-j’s “U&ME” never fully presents itself. However, once the rough synths kick in by the second half, “U&ME” gives off an existential edge that is neither over-the-top nor distant, despite somewhat repetitive lyrics.



COURTESY OF INTERSCOPE RECORDS

“AFTER ALL”  
Elton John & Charlie Puth

Pop-rock legend Elton John collaborates with sellout Charlie Puth on “After All,” a weird techno-pop fusion that is neither impressive in its sound nor intriguing in its lyrics.



COURTESY OF GEFREN RECORDS

“HARD SKOOL”  
Guns N’ Roses

Ironic, loud and obnoxious, “Hard Skool” won’t make the infamous hard-rock group Guns N’ Roses any new fans. However, with a shamelessly metallic and abrasive guitar, the song serves as a fun albeit over-the-top single to satisfy the ravenous appetite of the group’s fans.



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The Moon  
Rises Too



The Intersection.  
With Freddie Wells



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By Caitlin Hottelmann | Aug 26, 2021



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# 'BOURNE TO RUN YEAR-ROUND

## Athlete excels on track and gridiron

MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN

BY RYAN MEDEIROS

As the Ithaca College football team returned to competition in a game against Bridgewater State University on Sept. 4 at Butterfield Stadium, sophomore running back Jalen Leonard-Osbourne walked on the field hoping for the first big play of his collegiate football career after a successful freshman season in another varsity sport.

In addition to playing for the football team, Leonard-Osbourne is also a sprinter on the track and field team. He set the school record for the 60-meter dash with 6.92 seconds at the Nazareth Invitational and also racked up accolades like Liberty League Honor Roll and Liberty League Track Performer of the Week. He was also named to All-Region teams by the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. Leading up to his first season with the football team, Leonard-Osbourne wanted to make a similar impact this fall.

In his debut, Leonard-Osbourne found a clear lane to rush, turning up the field, making defenders miss their tackles and using his blazing speed to score a 62-yard rushing touchdown.

The South Hill squad went on to win the contest by a final score of 52–20. For some, the day was made all the sweeter by the commanding victory, but Leonard-Osbourne said the greatest joy for him was having an opportunity to play meaningful football again.

"It felt good getting back on the field," Leonard-Osbourne said.

Through his first two games of the year, Leonard-Osbourne tallied 136 rushing yards in just 10 attempts. Football team head coach Dan Swanstrom said that while Leonard-Osbourne has just begun his collegiate football career, he believes that he has the skills to be a key contributor to the Bombers' offense.

"He's got a great skill set, and he's obviously a guy that we've worked into the rotation early this year," Swanstrom said. "But I think the cool part is he's got a lot to learn, and he can be way better."

After Leonard-Osbourne lost the spring track season of his senior year of high school due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he said he was looking forward to getting back to competing with the Bombers' football program. However, the cancellation of fall sports delayed his debut.

"I was so disappointed, as I had been training and working so hard for [the 2020 football season]," Leonard-Osbourne said. "That's why I ran track, to stay in shape and be able to compete. I love competition."

Leonard-Osbourne said he was going to run track in college, and he found instant success in both sports. After breaking a program record in the 60-meter dash in his first collegiate event last year, he said it did not

the 100- and 200-meter dashes and posted a silver-medal performance at the 2019 New York State Championships.

The numerous accolades in both sports garnered lots of interest from colleges, but Leonard-Osbourne said he ultimately had his heart set on one program.

"I had the Division I options for track and football," Leonard-Osbourne said. "But I just fell in love with Ithaca and the campus and coaches."

Leonard-Osbourne's competitive drive led him to early success when the college's athletics resumed in February 2021. After setting the 60-meter dash program record, the short-sprint specialist went on to record four consecutive victories in the 100-meter dash



Leonard-Osbourne scored a 62-yard rushing touchdown on his first collegiate carry Sept. 4.

COURTESY OF ITHACA COLLEGE ATHLETICS



Sophomore Jalen Leonard-Osbourne is on both the college's football and track and field teams. At Ardsley High School, he won a silver medal at the 2019 New York State Championships in track.

ABBEY LONDON, ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

surprise him.

"I sort of expected it," Osbourne said. "I am a hard worker, and the times that I ran in high school were faster than [Ithaca's school record] so I knew I was going to break it."

Leonard-Osbourne said he has had someone to push him in training his entire life. His older brother, Glenmour, is a sprinter for the University of Louisville men's track and field team. He said they help to better one another for competition.

Before bringing his talents to South Hill, Leonard-Osbourne shined in both football and track at Ardsley High School in Westchester County, about 20 miles north of Manhattan. He led the football program to its first two New York State Public High School Athletic Association Section 1 titles in 2018 and 2019 as a running back and cornerback. On the track, he was named a first-team Westchester/Putnam all-star in both

from April 12 to May 1, including a season-best mark of 10.78 seconds at the RIT Tri-Meet on April 23. Osbourne also contributed to four 4x100-meter relay victories over that span.

Unfortunately, the budding superstar's first season came to a grinding halt after he contracted an illness and was forced to return home for the rest of the semester. Roosevelt Lee, Ithaca College men's track sprinting coach, said the sickness put a damper on what could have been a historic season for Leonard-Osbourne.

"[Leonard-Osbourne] definitely could have been a national champion last year for outdoor [track]," Lee said. "I am hoping to coordinate things better this year to get him there."

With Leonard-Osbourne in the midst of his breakout season with the football team, Lee said he hopes it will help his performance on the track.

"The correlation between track and football is the ability to move at any given moment," Lee said. "The strength aspect translates over to track because you have to be explosive and have power."

Senior Luke Tobia, who throws for the track and field team and is a former linebacker for the football team, said he has not been surprised by Leonard-Osbourne's immediate domination on the football field. Once the season ends, Tobia said he believes Leonard-Osbourne's success will carry over to the track.

"He came in immediately and was having a pretty big impact," Tobia said. "He's earning his touches now, and he's getting right on the football field. I hope to see him make another big impact there as well."

A focal point of Leonard-Osbourne's commitment to the college was the opportunity to play football while continuing to run track. He said he believes that each sport positively translates to his performance in the other.

"Track definitely helps with football because when I first came to camp [this past fall], I was so in shape," Leonard-Osbourne said. "Football correlates [to track] because I am in shape the whole year-round."

Tobia said even though he believes Leonard-Osbourne is a talented athlete, it is no easy feat playing two sports during college.

"It's a lot of work, you have to be a pretty committed athlete to be able to handle the workload of both sports," Tobia said. "You have to have good time management skills, especially with classes. It's a lot of fun if you can handle it."

Moving forward, Leonard-Osbourne will look to continue to prove that athletic excellence can be achieved in multiple sports at the collegiate level.

"I am trying to win the national championship in the 60-meter dash this winter," he said. "And in football, I would like to win a conference championship and see how far we go."

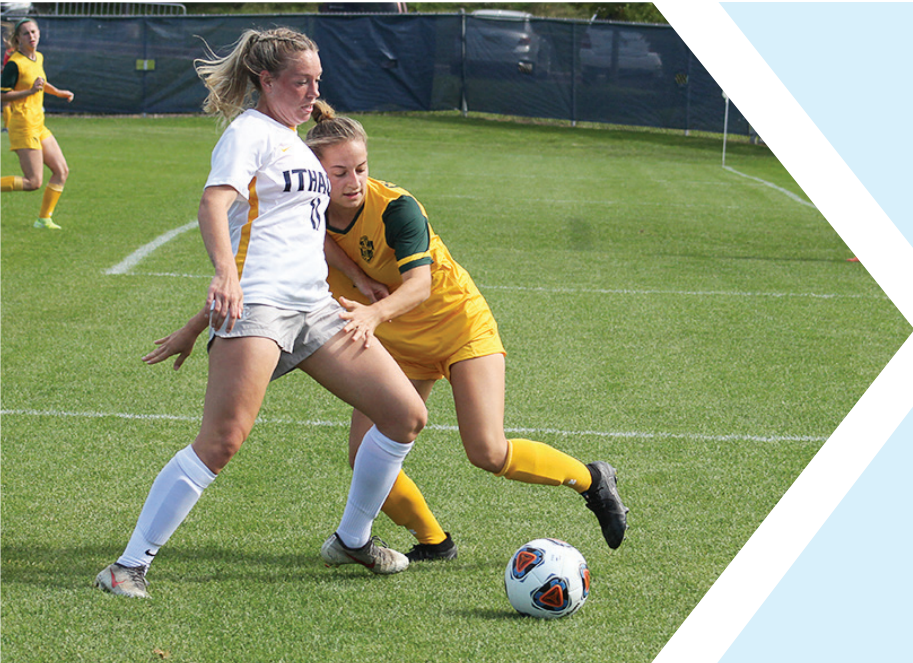
*Sports Editor Connor Glunt and Assistant Sports Editor Tommy Mumau contributed reporting to this story.*



Sophomore Jalen Leonard-Osbourne set the program record for the 60-meter dash March 6.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN





# THE BOMBERS ROUNDUP

The Ithacan provides statistical updates on all the Bombers' varsity squads during the season

Junior forward Delaney Rutan protects the ball in the Bombers' 3-1 victory over Clarkson University on Sept. 25. The Ithaca College women's soccer team will take on St. Lawrence at 3 p.m. Oct. 2.

MIKAYLA ELWELL/THE ITHACAN





## VOLLEYBALL

	3-1 W			3-0 W	
ITHACA	SEPT. 22	GENESEO	ITHACA	SEPT. 25	CLARKSON
<hr/>					
	3-1 W				
ITHACA	SEPT. 24	ST. LAWRENCE			
RECORD: 8-6					

## MEN'S SOCCER

	1-1 T			1-0 W	
ITHACA	SEPT. 21	HAMILTON	ITHACA	SEPT. 25	CLARKSON
RECORD: 3-4-3					

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

	3-1 W			3-1 W	
ITHACA	SEPT. 21	ST. JOHN FISHER	ITHACA	SEPT. 25	CLARKSON
RECORD: 6-1					





## GOLF

NAME	PLACE	SCORE
Mary Gersec	T2nd	+12
Cristea Park	T2nd	+12
Rheanna DeCrow	16th	+22
Katherine Chan	T23rd	+29
Caitlin McGrinder	T32nd	+35

Cortaca Northeast Invitational

**NEXT MATCH:** Noon on Sept. 26 Williams Invitational in Williamstown, Massachusetts

## FIELD HOCKEY

	2-0 W			5-1 W	
ITHACA	SEPT. 22	BROCKPORT	ITHACA	SEPT. 25	UNION
RECORD: 6-2					

## MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

NAME	PLACE	TIME
Danny Jagoe	4th	25:54.9
Ben Tiber	12th	26:14.9
Patrick Bierach	16th	26:49.2
James Hughes	18th	27:00.4
Ryan Medeiros	19th	27:12.4

RPI Saratoga Invitational

**NEXT RACE:** Noon on Oct. 2 Mike Woods Invitational at Letchworth State Park in Mt. Morris, New York

## WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

NAME	PLACE	TIME
Jillian Shea	5th	24:24.1
Lindsay Scott	6th	24:38.1
Lauren Lobdell	11th	24:53.6
Julia Tomanovich	13th	25:02.8
Rachel Rose	17th	25:17.2

RPI Saratoga Invitational

**NEXT RACE:** Noon on Oct. 2 Mike Woods Invitational at Letchworth State Park in Mt. Morris, New York



From left, Ithaca College seniors Jaelyn Hershberger and Jordyn Lyn Hayashi prepare to return the ball in the Bombers' 3-1 victory in their match against SUNY Geneseo on Sept. 22.

MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN



# Women’s soccer graduate students lead team

**BY ROCCO DIMAIOLO**

From starting their collegiate careers as part of a large freshman group, living with each other and playing through a pandemic, the graduate students on this year’s Ithaca College women’s soccer team are considered the “core four.”

The college’s women’s soccer program has had just one graduate student on its roster in the past 10 years, leaving it up to the seniors to set the example for the younger players. However, the 2021 roster has four graduate students: Alex Epifani, Kelsey Espenhorst, Kate Kohler and Rebecca Jackson.

All four players are no strangers to the pitch as Epifani was named an All-American in 2018 and 2019. Espenhorst has started in every game this season so far and started in all but one of the college’s games in 2019. Kohler has started 51 games and counting in her college career, including each game this year. Jackson has seen action in each game so far this season, starting five contests for the Bombers.

Kohler, who is a graduate defender and 2018 Liberty League All-Academic team member, shares a tight-knit connection with the other fifth-year players, noting that Espenhorst was her roommate during their freshman year. She said the team’s chemistry helps translate to success on the field.

“On a leadership aspect, it made it really easy to go from that

friendship mentality into holding each other accountable on the field,” Kohler said. “We trust each other with our lives. It makes it all go smooth, and it’s so much fun playing with your best friends.”

Kohler said she and the team will strive to bring a conference championship back to South Hill this season. The team is currently off to an exceptional start with a record of 6–1 as of Sept. 25.

Espenhorst said she has enjoyed the positive presence that the 10 freshmen have brought to the team.

“I tend to think that the graduate students are more removed from the team than the first-years,” Espenhorst said. “They seem to sort of jump right in, and sometimes I feel more like the outsider. ... We’re both on the opposite ends of the spectrum. So I think it almost creates a similarity between us and this cool dynamic.”

Jackson said she hopes she will leave a lasting impression on the freshman and sophomore athletes, considering neither of the two classes have played in a collegiate game coming into the season.

“We can instill the culture that we pride ourselves on to the team to the younger ones,” Jackson said. “It’s good to help develop them with our experience.”

This year marks Mindy Quigg’s 28th season as the head coach of the program. While not having graduate student-athletes on her team as often, she said she shares a strong



From left, graduate students Kelsey Espenhorst and Kate Kohler and junior Jessica Bredin advance the ball against Nazareth College on Sept. 18. There are four graduate students on the college’s women’s soccer team this year.

ABBEY LONDON/THE ITHACAN

connection with those four players and feels the veteran presence has an impact on the team’s dynamic.

Quigg also said she looks at her team’s leadership differently because of the leadership styles the graduate students learned from their former teammates, highlighting how important honesty and connectivity are with each class.

“I think it’s natural to have an extra connection when you spend more time with somebody,” Quigg said. “It still allows the seniors a leadership role, but it gives them

a sense of empowerment because of the compatibility between the two classes.”

Junior defender Rachel Richards said experience plays a key role in the dynamic the four veterans set for the squad.

“I think it sets a good tone because they are coming back, they’re coming with experience and they’re coming in with a lot of minutes,” Richards said. “Whenever you have a conversation with them, soccer-wise, you’re going to listen.”

Freshman defender Carolina

Cedraschi said the team’s veteran presence has a positive impact on her development and that she does not let the larger age gap affect her relationships with them.

“I definitely looked up to Kate [Kohler] especially because she has given me a lot of advice as a defensive player,” she said. “They might be intimidating at first, but as you get comfortable on the field, I think it’s a really good environment to be in as they are very welcoming.”

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# IC rower makes an impact in the boat and on campus

The Ithaca College sculling team opened its season Sept. 26 with a first-place finish in the Cayuga Sprints. As the fall season begins, junior Lauren Hitesman, a member of the sculling team and women’s crew will be a part of the team competing for a grand final appearance at the NCAA Regatta next spring.

Hitesman is currently in her third season competing with the teams after her sophomore sculling season was canceled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During her freshman crew season in Spring 2020, Hitesman impressed by helping post a second-place finish as a three seat in the novice eight in a scrimmage against Catholic University.

Along with her athletic success, she is also striving to make a difference on campus by running for the varsity athlete senator position on the Student Governance Council.

Contributing writer Ori Grady spoke with Lauren to discuss her experience as a crew member and her ambitions outside of athletics.

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

**Ori Grady:** You were a swimmer in high school, but what made you interested in joining the Division III, nationally-ranked Ithaca College crew?

**Lauren Hitesman:** Honestly, when I joined the team, I didn’t realize it was a nationally-ranked team. I just wanted to make friends and challenge myself in a sport that

I never tried before, especially with a sport I knew nothing about at the time.

**OG:** What about being a crew member at the college do you enjoy most?

**LH:** I really enjoy the team culture and making new friends and constantly being in an environment that feels supportive and challenging, with people who challenge me to be my best.

**OG:** How do you like where the team stands as the season begins?

**LH:** I think we have a good shot at winning all of our races for the sculling team. We had our first race, and we won all the categories except for one. I’m really excited to see how the sweep team does this upcoming season.

**OG:** You saw the varsity eight team place first at the Liberty League last spring and third at the NCAA Championships. What are the expectations going into this season for both the sculling team and the crew?

**LH:** Our expectations are to show up to practice 100% prepared, be 15 minutes early, be ready to get in the boat, be ready to work hard, think about the pieces we are doing and put the muscle behind what we need to do.

**OG:** How do you feel like you individually can help both teams reach their highest potential?



From left, senior Izzy Ozkurt and junior Lauren Hitesman row in the Cayuga Sprints on Sept. 26. Hitesman is in her third season with both the sculling team and women’s crew.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

**LH:** I think the best thing I can do is to come to practice prepared and to create a positive environment for the team, so no one feels threatened or unsafe. One thing I can do in the spring when everyone comes together to row is to welcome-in people and try to teach them the rules and what this team is about.

**OG:** What is the preparation process for a rower before a regatta?

**LH:** Usually, during the week we lift twice on Tuesday and Thursday, get assigned a boat partner or for rowing a single, we get assigned a boat. We’re also asked to do different drills throughout the week. Depending on how well we do those drills or how well the coach thinks we’re doing, we’ll either keep those

drills or change them up depending on what the coach thinks.

**OG:** What would you like the Ithaca community to know about you as a person?

**LH:** I want the Ithaca community to know that I work very hard at practice and [I] am committed to making this team great. I also want them to know that I am currently running for student government varsity athlete senator. One of my biggest goals there is to extend dining hall hours, reduce student food insecurity across campus and add healthier options in the dining halls across campus so all the athletes can stay healthy.

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Senior Owen Romano, film chair for the Student Activities Board (SAB), runs through a bounce house obstacle course at SAB's field day Sept. 24 on the Campus Center Quad. Activities offered at the field day included tie dye, lawn games and snacks. Ithaca College Pinky Swear organized a card-making table for students to make cards for children with cancer.

ABBY BRADY/THE ITHACAN