

## Ithaca’s trickle-down development is felt by students native to the city

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

After sophomore Spencer Whitmore graduates from Ithaca College, he plans to move to a small town in Washington. Whitmore would rather spend his life in Ithaca, the town where he was born and raised. However, the city’s rising rent, increasing number of upper-class housing developments and declining flavor have made Whitmore and many of the college’s students who are native to Ithaca feel isolated and distant from their home.

“I absolutely love this town,” Whitmore said. “There is nowhere else I want to be. But with this whole process, it’s just not fun to be here anymore.”

The process that Whitmore is referring to is gentrification, where a city or neighborhood gets transformed over time when more affluent residents move in. On paper, gentrification appears to be beneficial — the process brings in temporary jobs, new tax revenue and an increase in housing value. However, gentrification leads to higher rent, changing culture and physical displacement for the residents who are from the area. In Downtown Ithaca, the effects of gentrification can be felt the most in the changing scenery of The Commons. Additionally, gentrification has priced out and displaced lower-income Ithacans — like those living in Ithaca’s Southside,



Clockwise from left, Ithaca College sophomore Spencer Whitmore stands in front of Harold's Square, the construction site for Asteri Ithaca, the Commons pictured from Hudson Street and construction behind a new building in western Ithaca.

ELIJAH DE CASTRO/THE ITHACAN

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## Successful campus reopening keeps COVID-19 infections low

BY LORIEN TYNE

Following a dramatic increase in COVID-19 cases in December 2021, Ithaca College has cautiously yet optimistically welcomed back its students, faculty and staff for Spring 2022.

As students prepared to leave the college for winter break in December 2021, a surge of COVID-19 cases hit the area. The rise in case numbers was attributed to Santacon, a large, unmasked holiday gathering Dec. 11 that the college warned students not to go to. The college shifted to an “Orange: Moderate Risk” alert status and 123 active student cases were reported Dec. 15 as well as four employee cases. Since the beginning of the spring semester, COVID-19 cases within the student body have remained low, resulting in the college changing its COVID-19 operating status to a “Green: Lower Risk” transmission level Feb. 4. As of Feb. 8, there are seven active student COVID-19 cases and nine active employee cases.

Samm Swarts, director of Emergency Preparedness and Response, said there was uncertainty of what



From left, freshman Alexia Michitti, junior Ben Gutches and freshman Helen Adair wait for their test results for COVID-19.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

to expect coming back. He said the decision to start Spring 2022 in a “Yellow: Low to Moderate Risk” alert status was because the college ended Fall 2021 at a higher risk for contracting COVID-19. He said the surge of cases in the winter also urged the college to revise the process of students returning to campus.

“We had no idea what campus was going to look like as soon as we started receiving students back to campus,” Swarts said.

On Jan. 7, the college alerted the campus community of the revised plans for Spring 2022.

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## Two swastikas found drawn on IC campus

BY LORIEN TYNE

Since Feb. 3, two separate swastikas have been found drawn inside buildings on the Ithaca College campus. The first swastika was found Feb. 3 drawn on the condensation of a window in Baker Walkway. The second swastika was found Feb. 8 on a poster in the James J. Whalen Center for Music. Both have active investigations — one as a potential vandalism hate crime.

Following the discovery of the first swastika in Baker Walkway, Interim President La Jerne Cornish sent an email to the campus community condemning the symbol Feb. 4. After the second swastika was found in Whalen, the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management sent out an alert Feb. 8 to the campus community. The drawing had been scratched onto a poster in a practice room and is now under investigation as a vandalism hate crime, but the suspect is not known yet. Public Safety said the second swastika was reported in the afternoon of Feb. 8, but the incident occurred between the morning of Feb. 2 and 8. While

it is unknown if the two incidents are connected, Baker Walkway connects Whalen and the Towers parking lot (J-Lot).

Junior Alexa Chalnack, a Jewish student at the college, found the first swastika when she was walking through Baker Walkway with her friend Feb. 3.

“Immediately after seeing [the swastika] my heart dropped,” Chalnack said. “I got all hot and flushed and I said goodbye to my friend ... so then I was alone, sort of just going back to Terraces, and I was crying. I was so upset. I could not understand why anyone would think that that was okay.”

Antisemitic and racist incidents are not new to the college. In April 2019, swastikas were found on the doors to dorm rooms. In 2019, a student wrote a commentary for *The Ithacan* saying they had found their mezuzah — a prayer scroll with Hebrew verses from the Torah — ripped from their door. According to previous reports by *The Ithacan*, in May 2013, someone found antisemitic graffiti and in April 2014, a swastika was drawn in a residential hall. In the 2015–16 academic year, two swastikas were drawn in

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# IC Faculty Council talks retention

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

At its Feb. 8 meeting, the Ithaca College Faculty Council discussed strategies to increase the college’s retention rate, raise levels of student engagement, and make decisions regarding the normalization of remote learning instead of snow days.

During the council’s meeting, Elizabeth Bleicher, interim director of Student Success and Retention Strategy, gave a presentation about how part of the college’s financial strategy should be to increase the retention rates of its students.

In addition to struggling with lower enrollment rates than in years past, the college has also needed to focus on keeping current students enrolled in the college.

The third-semester retention rate of the college has stayed relatively consistent throughout the years — in both 2011 and 2020 the third-semester retention rate

was 84.2%, according to a graph Bleicher presented. However, as the college’s enrollment numbers drop, the college needs to find ways to keep current students to maintain its revenue base.

Bleicher said one of the issues that the college faces is connecting with the sophomore class, which began college virtually in Fall 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Bleicher noted that the college’s sophomores are the only class at the school that did not have an in-person orientation week.

“Students are not finding ways to make Ithaca College their academic home,” Bleicher said.

Bleicher also discussed the student retention rate of schools within the college. Bleicher said the School of Business had the lowest student retention rate — 75.3% — and the School of Music had the highest — 90.5%.

Aaron Weinberg, professor in the Department of Mathematics, has



Picture above taken in 2017. At the Feb. 8, 2022 meeting, the Faculty Council discussed issues the college is facing like lack of student engagement. The council strategized how to connect with students.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

formed Tools for Student Success and Retention, a website that contains strategies for professors and faculty to use to deepen the connection of students to the college. Weinberg said the website is finished and will be made public soon.

“This [the website] is a place to go as an individual, department or program if you would like to do something about student success and retention if you aren’t sure what

to do,” Weinberg said.

Weinberg said in Spring 2021, the Retention and Engagement Strategy Team (REST) visited other colleges to see their tactics for improving retention rates. Afterward, the REST came up with strategies for faculty to use to increase student success and engagement.

“What we’ve done now [with the website] is we’ve tried to put everything into a place that is

easier to access,” Weinberg said. “There are retention strategies you can use instead of just doing sort of a one-off thing with one particular student. Instead, you can try to influence the retention and success of many students with yourself or your department.”

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## MULTIMEDIA

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### Martin Luther King Jr. Honor Concert

Held Feb. 7 in the Glazer Area, the MLK Jr. Honor Concert was an open event that featured musical and spoken performances.



### IC Creatives: The Tree Tribe’s Album Release

Senior Autumn Michels and her cousin Gavin Macintosh released their first album, “The Back 40,” under the name “The Tree Tribe.”

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The Ithacan



# Inflation eats up students' savings

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

As inflation raises the cost of kitchen-table items like gas, food and rent, Ithaca College students have begun to feel its effects in their wallets.

Since early 2021, the United States economy has ben experiencing a surge in inflation, creating an increase in the costs of goods and services and decreasing purchasing power. The United States' inflation rate grew from 1.4% in January 2021 to 7% by December 2021, according to Statista. The causes of this ongoing surge are the global supply-chain crisis and corporate price gouging.

Junior Nick Mattera said the rising cost of food has been a growing problem for him.

"I was really struggling just in general with getting food last semester," Mattera said. "I couldn't really justify spending like \$40 to get one entree delivered to my house through GrubHub. It was killing my wallet."

Steven Novakovic, instructor in the Department of Finance and International Business, said that while inflation does make items more expensive for the average consumer, some inflation is the sign of a healthy economy.

"Going back a couple months ago, most perspectives were that it was temporary," Novakovic said. "Now more and more people are starting to say 'Well we might need to just suggest that this is the new normal.'"



Freshman JemTaylor Minier gets groceries from Walmart during a time of rising food prices. College students have been hit particularly hard by inflation, especially with student loans.

KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

Kevin Adelman '14 is the co-owner of Bickering Twins, a Latin American restaurant on The Commons that is popular among college students. Adelman said the ongoing inflation surge has increased the costs of items that the restaurant needs day-to-day.

"Chicken thighs almost doubled," Adelman said. "They were historically cheap, like \$1.25 a pound, we used to get a really good price on them."

Novakovic said for Ithaca College students, the effects of inflation will be felt particularly on the increase in tuition. In October, the Ithaca College Board of Trustees approved a tuition

increase of \$1,515, bringing the cost of tuition to \$64,060. This is higher than any of the college's increases in tuition after 2014.

In addition to loans and food, the cost of gas has been increasing significantly. In May 2021, gas prices passed \$3 per gallon on average and by December hit \$3.28 per gallon.

Junior Abby Schroeder said inflation has increased the cost of gas for her significantly, as she lives in Buffalo, New York and drives home frequently.

"It used to be pretty cheap," Schroeder said. "I never used to ask my friends 'Hey, can you send me gas money?' because I

didn't care ... It's increased 10 or 15 bucks for me to fill my whole tank."

Mattera said the cost of items increased so significantly that he has asked himself if he needs to pick up a new job.

"I lifeguard in the summer so that I can coast on that money throughout the rest of the school year," Mattera said. "I've definitely noticed that it's not as easy as it was freshman year when I could just spend whatever and then go back to work in the summer."

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# Ithaca community welcomes refugees

BY OLIVIA STANZL

Diana Ayubi arrived in Ithaca months after escaping from Afghanistan as the Taliban gained control of the country in 2021. Ayubi expected to end up in Bangladesh, but after multiple diversions was placed in the United States. She is a part of nine Afghan refugees who are attending Cornell University for Spring 2022 after arriving in Ithaca in late 2021. Ithaca College housed some of the students last semester, due to lack of space at Cornell.

After the United States ended its 20-year occupation of Afghanistan in August 2021, the Taliban took control and the country plunged into economic despair.

Ayubi said that when her plan to flee to Bangladesh was ruined it was only the first of many redirections in her journey.

Days of waiting and traveling passed and Ayubi ended up in the U.S. at a military base in Wisconsin. After three months, Ayubi was informed she would be studying at Cornell University.

Ayubi and her classmates were assisted in their escape by the Asian University for Women (AUW), an independent regional institution that is located in Bangladesh.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, AUW was closed for in-person classes for almost two years and sent their students back to their home countries, including about 150 students who were from Afghanistan.

Tim DeVoogd, a psychology professor at Cornell has been on the AUW Board of Trustees for about two years. After hearing that the Afghan students were displaced by the ending of the war, DeVoogd



From left, Tamana Ahmadi, Sepehra Azami, Diana Ayubi and Simah Sahnosh are attending Cornell University for Spring 2022 after fleeing Afghanistan in August 2021.

JASON KOSKI/CORNELL UNIVERSITY

notified Cornell that the woman would be looking for places to stay in the U.S.

"I think Cornell specifically and Ithaca, in general, have been amazingly welcoming," DeVoogd said. "There's been a whole lot of people in Ithaca who have volunteered meals or potential homestays if they were needed."

Ithaca College housed some of the refugees, including Ayubi. Ayubi said the staff was helpful and kind throughout her stay at the college.

"It was out of my expectations," Ayubi said. "Even though I'm in Cornell it's still sometimes I really miss Ithaca College."

Ithaca Welcomes Refugees (IWR), an organization that is volunteer based, worked with

the refugees to help them sign-up for necessities like public health benefits.

Casey Verderosa, executive director of IWR, said the organization works with the community to get the women what they need.

"It's wonderful how the community, including the major educational institutions and just regular people, really gathered around to support this group of women," Verderosa said. "I think it is really affirming of the goodness of the human spirit."

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# Alumni in math speak at panel

BY JILLIAN BLEIER

Ithaca College senior Lucy Loukes said this was her second time attending Women in Math Day at the college as a volunteer, the first being in 2021. Loukes is a math major and said she decided to volunteer and speak with high school and middle school participants because she first saw the event during her freshman year at the college.

"I thought it was really cool because I know when I was in high school, I was a little lost, and although I did like math a lot and it was my favorite subject, I wasn't really sure if it was something I could pursue in college as a career," Loukes said.

Women in Math Day was held from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Feb. 5 remotely through Zoom. This is the second year that the free event has been held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Approximately 30 participants attended the event, including three professors in the Department of Mathematics, four career panelists, seven Ithaca College student volunteers majoring in math, and high school and middle school students, mainly from local schools. The panel consisted of alumni Melissa McGahan '18, Noelle Sullivan '19 and Caitlin Wormsley '16, and Tulia Plumettaz, director of machine learning at Wayfair. Students were able to ask questions and hear about what it is like to major in math in college and pursue a career in the field of mathematics. The first Women in Math Day at the college was in 2018, Megan Martinez, associate professor in the Department of Mathematics, said.

Martinez said she has been the main organizer of the event and her main role is putting together the career panel and acting as an emcee on the day of the event.

"There's all sorts of things that people do with a math degree and when you're just in high school all you've seen of math is, you know, some algebra," Martinez said. "It's actually a major that allows you to go to tons of places and I think that's not always clear."

Senior Emma Anderson said she accidentally applied to the college in the math program, thinking it was actually the accounting major, but then realized ... that she was excited to be majoring in math and wanted to become a teacher. She also served as a volunteer at the event.

"I think it's really important that we keep like enforcing that women should be enough because I think there's a lot of, like there's this sort of implicit understanding that math is like a boys and men subject," Anderson said.

Women make up only 27% of STEM workers as of 2019 despite making up 48% of the total workforce, according to the United States Census Bureau.

The college offers both a Bachelors of Science and a Bachelors of Arts in mathematics. In Fall 2017, there were 13 men and 18 women enrolled in the Bachelors of Arts and two men enrolled in the Bachelors of Science, compared to five men and four women enrolled in the Bachelors of Arts and five men and 10 women enrolled in the Bachelors of Science in Fall 2021, according to the college's Office of Analytics and Institutional Research.

Loukes said she thinks Women in Math Day will continue to be beneficial in years to come.

"Allowing for younger people to kind of see that it's not impossible to do things that might seem a little more difficult from the outside view and knowing that there is a community out there for you, for whatever you do, is important," Loukes said.

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One of the biggest problems in the City of Ithaca is affordable housing. While some improvements have been made, demand is far higher than the city’s supply.

ELIJAH DE CASTRO/THE ITHACAN

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a historically Black neighborhood — into the surrounding areas.

In 2009, the City of Ithaca began its six-year renovation of The Commons, redoing the pavement and infrastructure of the two-block pedestrian mall into something entirely new. In April 2013, the old Commons — an open community walkway with an aging, European-style layout — was destroyed and by 2015 was replaced by a more photogenic, business-friendly space. During this transformation, the median rent in the City of Ithaca quietly increased from \$574 per month in 2000 to \$1,072 per month in 2020 for a one bedroom apartment, according to The Ithaca Voice. Since 2010, the percentage of Tompkins County renters who are cost burdened — spend more than 30% of their income on housing — has risen to 55%.

Stephen Sweet, Dana professor in the Department of Sociology, said gentrification is an old sociological concept that has been explored in studies of communities and urban environments. Sweet said that while gentrification upfront is an economic issue, its effects can be felt among the networks of a community experiencing it.

“All of a sudden everything becomes more valuable and people start getting priced out,” Sweet said. “And then they no longer fit in the very neighborhoods in which they grew up ... If they don’t lose their own property, what happens is they lose the social connections that tied them to their neighbors ... It’s a twofold economic and social concern.”

Since the reconstruction of The Commons, the downtown area surrounding it has been a construction free-for-all, dominating small businesses that have thrived in the city’s brick-and-mortar buildings for decades. City Centre, The Ithacan: Luxury Living, Harold’s Square and Asteri Ithaca are three

major apartment complex business centers on The Commons in different stages of development. Each building has or will have minimalist architecture towering high above the skyline of the old Commons.

Whitmore said he remembers how when he was a child, The Commons existed as a community space for small businesses and Ithacans. Now, he says, it feels like The Commons has transformed to appeal to those outside the city, like wealthy students at Cornell University and Ithaca College as well as large, profitable businesses.

“It feels like the energy has been sucked out of The Commons,” Whitmore said. “They’re taking away all those little stores that people like to go to and then [there are] those big buildings that just no one has any interest in. [Now] we’re just staying home and not going to what made The Commons feel so special.”

This gentrification is not just limited to The Commons. Throughout Ithaca, other construction projects have been underway in neighborhoods where Ithaca’s families live.

Junior Kalena Yearwood grew up near Dryden but attended Beverly J. Martin Elementary in Downtown Ithaca as a child. Yearwood said she has noticed new developments near her childhood school that she views as out of place for the neighborhood and for the City of Ithaca. She believes Ithaca’s culture and values around environmentalism are put at odds when the city races to construct new buildings.

“For me, it’s kind of sad watching all the buildings come into play, especially since Ithaca has always been advertised as a city in which we value nature and the importance of natural light,” Yearwood said. “Just seeing the way ... we prioritize economics and haven’t made this place more economical for families has made me angry.”

In 2019, City Centre was completed,



City Centre is a recently constructed building complex in Ithaca that gives a home to Chase Bank, the largest investment bank in America that manages \$3.19 trillion.

ELIJAH DE CASTRO/THE ITHACAN

creating eight stories of luxury apartments priced at over \$2,000 a month. City Centre also gives a new home to Chase Bank, which manages \$3.19 trillion in assets and is the largest bank in America. The bank is only two blocks away from an affordable housing unit located on Ithaca’s Southside. Additionally, City Centre absorbed Collegetown Bagels and Ithaca Ale House, which each used to be located in respective brick buildings on Aurora Street, which is next to The Commons.

Freshman Rae Hesler grew up in Ithaca and said the construction of City Centre was happening while she was attending Ithaca High School. Hesler said the conversation among Ithacans at the time was based around a fear of big business influencing a degradation of Ithaca’s character.

“This isn’t Ithaca,” Heler said. “This is so modern. Ithaca has all this old, beautiful architecture. It’s not going to be affordable, and it’s going to obstruct Ithaca. I remember ... when they were building [City Centre], it came and it was there and it just really made it real.”

Sweet said that in discussions of Ithaca’s gentrification, one must take into account how historically, communities of color and poor people have been segregated to different areas of the city. A report co-authored by sociologist Barbara H. Chasin and anthropologist Richard W. Franke found that the Black population on Ithaca’s southern side had a small exodus between 2000 and 2010. Between those years, the Black population in the City of Ithaca declined by 3%, while the Black population in the surrounding Town of Ithaca increased by 41%, indicating likely movement out of the city.

“If we actually look at the history of towns like Ithaca, they are characterized by exclusion, they’re characterized by segregation and you can see that by the racial makeup

and distribution within Ithaca,” Sweet said. “I think the big question is whether people have a sense of connection and hope within the community. Not necessarily to the whole community but to social networks within that community.”

Svante Myrick — Ithaca’s mayor of 10 years — resigned from his position, effective Feb. 6. Councilwoman Laura Lewis has taken over as acting mayor, with an upcoming election for a new mayor slated for November 2022. Yearwood said she hopes that change will come with a new mayor, and that the local government can focus on issues facing Ithaca’s families rather than appealing to those who live outside the city. One of these issues is the city’s supply of affordable housing, which is significantly below demand. Although Asteri Ithaca will offer affordable housing units when completed, it will not be enough for Ithacans cost burdened by housing.

“I’m genuinely afraid for Ithaca’s future if I’m being honest,” Yearwood said. “We’re just building and building and building. I think this will get out of control. I just don’t think that [all] the building ... is going to be helpful for the future of this city.”

When Whitmore moves to Washington, he wants to find a place to live that reminds him of the Ithaca he grew up in. Whitmore said the transformation of Ithaca has become a weekly discussion for his family, with them joking about how Ithaca is trying to become a mini version of New York City.

“I grew up poor always so it [the increase in expensive housing] is not really a big difference to me,” Whitmore said. “But it was a very frustrating thing for my family because my family has lived in Ithaca for three or four generations.”

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As more affluent residents and business interests move into the Ithaca city area, the skyline has changed away from 19th century scenery that used to define it.

ELIJAH DE CASTRO/THE ITHACAN



Apart from Ithaca’s downtown area, new construction projects have popped up throughout the city. Many are for exterior businesses rather than native Ithacans.

ELIJAH DE CASTRO/THE ITHACAN



# IC Center for IDEAS finds new director

Since January 2022, Angélica Carrington has been working as the new director for the Center for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Social Change (IDEAS) at Ithaca College.

According to an announcement made by the college in November 2021, Carrington is the first woman to lead the Center for IDEAS since its founding in 2018. Carrington is also the third permanent director in the center’s history. She succeeds RahK Lash, the former director for IDEAS who left the college in March 2021.

Contributing writer Riley Garand spoke to Carrington about her life and her new role at the Center for IDEAS.

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

**Riley Garand:** Can you tell me a little bit about yourself and your background?

**Angélica Carrington:** So I’m originally from Laredo. It’s a border city in South Texas. I’m Mexican American and so I grew up on the U.S. side, however, my mother’s family, they’re from Mexico ... I went to college at Texas State University ... I originally wanted to be a lawyer and then realized after I interned at one of the only Spanish-speaking firms in Austin, it’s not what I wanted to do. So, I spoke to my

mentors and they were like, “We have been telling you about the Student Affairs program,” and I signed up the week it was due, made it work, got everything in and it was the best decision I ever made.

**RG:** What gravitated you towards choosing IC and the Ithaca College community as well as the IC Center for IDEAS?

**AC:** Honestly, this position is my dream job ... It’s smaller, it’s more collaborative, it’s less siloed, which is very much my jam because I collaborate a lot ... It just aligned with what I wanted to do, which is to create spaces that are more inclusive, advocate for services and resources that are more equitable for the students to navigate.

**RG:** Who are and were some of your biggest inspirations and influences in your work?

**AC:** I don’t even know if they know that they influenced my life as a professional special in higher ed, is Michael Benitez Jr. He is the VP of D&I [Office of Diversity and Inclusion] at Metro State University of Denver ... seeing his career jet after he finished his doctorate, hearing him speak, how he speaks, has always just been so influential.

**RG:** What does it mean for you to be the director for the IC



The Center for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Social Change has been led by Angelica Carrington since January 2022.  
BROOKE VOGEL/THE ITHACAN

Center for IDEAS?

**AC:** Being the director for the Center of IDEAS is kind of the dream. Being in a space where I have some resources to get the work [for the job] done, have a phenomenal team with me on this journey and amazing students who are a part of the office as well ... [It’s] a place for students ... [to] feel validated when things aren’t going the way that they hoped at the institution. To feel heard.

**RG:** What are some of your goals

in the next few months and in the long term?

**AC:** It’s like trying to piece together the previous leadership and the direction they were taking the space ... I am very honest in listening to that [others] because I have a lot of ideas. However, if I don’t listen to needs of students and what our collaborators see as opportunities, then I’m not doing the space justice.

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## FROM SWASTIKAS, PAGE 1

East Tower. In December 2016, a report was made after an antisemitic slur was written in Bogart Hall.

Tom Dunn, director for the Office of Public Safety, said two swastikas were found in 2018, one in Terrace 9 and one in West Tower. Dunn said the most recent incident on Feb. 3 is the first reported image of a swastika since a 2019 report in Talcott Hall.

Dunn cannot comment on any details involving the two swastikas because both investigations are still open; however, Public Safety should be contacted at 617-274-3333 with any information regarding the incidents.

The Clery Act defines a hate crime as a criminal offense in which the perpetrator selects a target victim or group based on personal bias. Under this definition, drawings of swastikas are not normally considered hate crimes because it must be proven the act was committed to target someone because they are Jewish.

Elyse Nepa, Clery Act and crime prevention coordinator for Public Safety, said there are many factors to consider when classifying a crime.

“That was one of the things we took into consideration last night, when we were making the determination to issue a public safety alert,” Nepa said. “Having two swastikas on our campus in a matter of a week is a cause for concern for the safety of the members of our community, mentally and physically.”

Dunn said safety measures in times like this include directing officer patrolling to a certain area when there is evidence to believe that it needs special attention.

Nepa also mentioned an event that had been planned before the recent swastika reports came to light. She said Public Safety is facilitating an emergency preparedness and response training in Muller



On Feb. 3, a swastika was drawn onto the condensation on a window in Baker Hallway. This is not the first time that the college has had swastikas drawn around campus.  
BRENDAN IANNUCCI/THE ITHACAN

Chapel at 2 p.m. Feb. 11.

Freshman Rachel Lubell, a Jewish student, said in Fall 2021, someone had drawn a swastika on one of the doors in her dorm hall.

“At this point, I’ve become so numb to this kind of stuff because like, obviously it’s sad, but it’s become common,” Lubell said. “It doesn’t shock me anymore because it’s so deeply ingrained into our society and I think a lot of that has to do with lack of education.”

In a Feb. 8 interview before the second swastika was found, Lauren Goldberg, executive director of Hillel at Ithaca College and interim director for the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, said the college’s swift condemnation of the drawing and antisemitism as a whole is the kind of leadership that allows for Jewish students to feel supported and seen. Goldberg said witnessing acts of antisemitism, especially in one’s hometown, is always scary.

“Our people have suffered so much under what the symbol of a swastika stands for,” Goldberg said.

The incidents come during a time of rising antisemitic incidents throughout the Western world. The American Defamation League found that 2020 was the third-highest year since 1979 for antisemitic incidents. On Jan. 22, Hillel and other religious groups held a gathering in the Bernie Milton Pavillion to mourn a hostage standoff at a synagogue in Colleyville, Texas.

Matt Price ’20 was part of Hillel all four years of his time at the college. He said he wants the person or people responsible to be disciplined and counseled so they can understand the impact of their actions.

“For these symbols to pop up, especially in a place that I call my second home, Ithaca College, it’s just sad,” Price said. “It makes me upset, heartbroken, frustrated ... I mean, [the swastika] last week was shocking, but [the swastika] this week was definitely shocking.”

**CONTACT LORIEN TYNE**  
LTYNE@ITHACA.EDU

## FROM REOPENING, PAGE 1

During the week of Jan. 24–28 classes were held remotely in order to allow for residential students to move in between Jan. 18–30. Students were required to take COVID-19 tests before moving in and upon returning to campus had to participate in a check-in process with a rapid antigen test at the Athletics & Events Center.

At the All-College Gathering on Feb. 2, Swarts reported that during the move-in process, only 18 positive student COVID-19 cases were detected.

Junior Wren Perchlik said he contracted COVID-19 after he checked into campus and quarantined in Emerson Hall between Feb. 1 and 6. He said he was glad when he learned of the revised plan for coming back to campus. He said he did not mind having a week of on-line classes and that it was for the best.

“There’s been more [COVID-19 cases] since [the All-College Gathering],” Perchlik said. “I am a bit worried that me getting COVID right away is representative of a larger trend on campus ... It seems like, you know, Omicron, it’s very contagious.”

The Omicron variant is much more contagious than the original virus and the Delta variant, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC states that while the vaccine greatly reduces the severity of symptoms, even vaccinated and asymptomatic people can spread the virus.

The student vaccination rate is 99%. As of August 2021, 78% of faculty and staff were fully vaccinated and Swarts said the vaccination rate has increased since then with about 90% of employees being fully vaccinated coming into the spring semester. He said requiring employee vaccination and boosters would not have a big enough impact to justify a mandate.

“I think people really saw the Omicron variant take shape and be very problematic for us in the fall,” Swarts said. “A lot of folks chose from an employee perspective to be vaccinated over the winter break. So that’s really great news.”

The deadline for students to get their required booster shot for COVID-19 is Feb. 15. While Swarts said there will not be a booster clinic on campus, he said the suggestion is to use local pharmacies which have appointments available.

Freshman Nyx Bhatt quarantined in Emerson Hall between Feb. 1 and 6 after contracting COVID-19 while traveling to campus from Bangalore, India. Bhatt said she has not gotten the booster yet. However, she said unlike her friends who have gotten the booster shot, she experienced flu symptoms. Bhatt also said she thinks the extended move-in process reduced the amount of positive cases.

“A pandemic is like a huge cause of just anxiety and depression among students,” Bhatt said. “If you’re someone that’s prone to that, I would want to be surrounded by optimism, so I like that they’re [the college] being positive about it.”

David Gondek, associate professor in the Department of Biology, is on the college’s Health Safety Advisory Group and said that looking at past pandemics is a good way to understand the trajectory of COVID-19.

He said the 1918 influenza pandemic was majorly destructive, killing a total of 50 million people worldwide, according to the CDC. However, influenza eventually became the circulating flu for 40 years. So far, the COVID-19 pandemic has killed about 5.7 million people worldwide. Gondek said that this has all happened before with the respiratory syncytial virus which is now the common cold.

“I think we will take our masks off this summer for sure,” Gondek said. “We may put masks on again next flu season, but I think that will be it. So by the flu season after that it’s just going to be part of society.”

**CONTACT LORIEN TYNE**  
LTYNE@ITHACA.EDU



# COLLEGE BRIEFS

## Student art exhibition to be held with displays of different styles

All members of the campus community are invited to an art exhibition and reception from 3:30–5 p.m. Feb. 15. The event is located on the third floor of the Peggy Ryan Williams Center. Attendees will have the opportunity to speak with the artists about their work. Individuals who require accommodations can contact the Provost's Office at 607-274-7918.

## Speakers for graduation needed to submit applications by Feb. 18.

Ithaca College's commencement committee will be accepting applications for the May 2022 ceremony. Students must submit a one- to two-minute video explaining why they are interested, as well as an excerpt of a speech. Seniors with a graduation date from October 2021–December 2022 are eligible to apply and must have 60 credits from the college.

Applications are due by Feb. 18. Any individuals that require accommodations should contact Doreen Hettich-Atkins, executive director for the Division of Student Affairs and Campus Life, at 607-274-1168 or email her at dhettichatkins@ithaca.edu.

## IC professor publishes a review of four musical theatre textbooks

Deborah Rifkin, professor in the Department of Music Theory, History and Composition at Ithaca College, published a review of four textbooks in the Journal of Music Theory Pedagogy. The textbooks that were reviewed are all geared specifically towards musical-theatre students. Rifkin co-authored the review with Nathan Beary Blustein and Elizabeth Gerbi.

## Summer scholar program open for application submissions

The School of Humanities and Sciences has a summer scholar program that pays students to engage in research, scholarship and creative inquiry projects with a H&S faculty mentor. The school is considering projects that can be done remotely or in person. Full-time work would begin June 1 and students would be compensated \$4,224 for eight weeks of work.

Applications can be found on the H&S

Summer Scholars webpage and must be submitted no later than 4 p.m. Feb. 28. Zoom information meetings have already been held but students with accommodation requests can email hsadmin@ithaca.edu or call 607-274-3102.

## Fall 2022 course schedule to open for student viewing in March

HomerConnect and Degree Works will have the Fall 2022 course schedule available to be viewed by noon March 28. Students will also be able to view their registration status, which tells students what day and time they can register March 28. Registration status is determined by the number of credits a student has earned and does not include in-progress Spring 2022 credits. Students can see the number of credits they have earned by going to HomerConnect and viewing their total hours.

The registration dates and times are: April 12, for special populations and undergraduate students with 90 or more credit hours; April 13 for graduate students; April 14 for undergraduate students with 60–89.9 credits; April 19 for undergraduate students with 30–59.9 credits; and April 21 for undergraduate students with under 30 credits.

## Student leadership position open for an engagement consultant

The Office of Student Engagement (OSE) is looking to hire students who have a variety of skills and experiences. OSE is aiming to create a team of student leadership consultants for the 2022–23 academic year.

The position requires 10–15 work hours per week and multiple responsibilities like coordinating events, consulting with students, marketing programs, running the Student Activities Center and more. Students will earn \$13.35 per hour. Applications are due by Feb. 28.

## Majors and Minors Fair to be held by the IC Exploratory Program

The Ithaca College Exploratory Program is hosting the Spring 2022 Majors and Minors Fair from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Feb. 15 in the Emerson Suites.

Students will have the opportunity to



## IC students open for poetry performance

Spoken-word artist Ashlee Haze gave a poetry performance following an opening from two student-poets Feb. 8 in IC Square. The event was hosted by the Black Student Union, Sister 2 Sister and the Student Activities Board.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

speak with faculty from all the schools as well as staff who can provide information about topics like career services, financial services and studying abroad. When students register for the event on IC Engage they will be automatically entered into a special raffle contest.

There will also be free food and snacks. For accommodations or questions, students can contact mdifrancesco@ithaca.edu.

## Bystander program open to all for virtual intervention training

The Advocacy Center of Tompkins County will be hosting a virtual bystander intervention training between 5–6:30 p.m. Feb. 15. The Bringing in the Bystander Program teaches people how to safely and effectively intervene in a possible incident of sexual or relationship violence.

To register for the training visit IC Engage. Attendees should reach out and contact leadership@ithaca.edu if requiring accommodations or if they have questions.

## IC to host London Center event discussing major program topics

For students interested in learning more about the opportunity to spend a semester or summer at the Ithaca College London Center, there will be an information session from 12:10–1:05 p.m. Feb. 15. The session will cover topics like applying to the program, traveling to the UK, housing, academics and internships.

Interested students must register on IC Engage so they can be emailed the Zoom link. Students requiring accommodations can contact studyabroad@ithaca.edu.

# PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM JAN. 23 TO JAN. 30

## JANUARY 23

### INJURY RELATED ASSISTANCE

LOCATION: 288 Lyceum Drive  
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person had injured their leg while dancing Jan. 22. The responding officer reported that the person declined medical assistance. Master Patrol Officer Waylon Degraw responded.

### ASSISTED WELFARE CHECK

LOCATION: East of 134 Grant Egbert Blvd.  
SUMMARY: Tompkins County dispatch reported an unknown person called and reported feeling unwell but then hung up. An officer spoke with the caller and determined assistance was not needed. Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded.

## JANUARY 24

### ILLNESS RELATED ASSISTANCE

LOCATION: 334 Grant Egbert Blvd.  
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person passed out after taking an illegal substance. An officer reported the person declined medical attention.

Sergeant Jon Elmore responded.

### SUSPICIOUS PERSON REPORT

LOCATION: Roadway Alumni Circle  
SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person approached them and asked personal questions. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon checked the area and was unable to find the person.

### MEDICAL ASSIST/ ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: 123 Tower Skyline Drive  
SUMMARY: Bangs Ambulance reported person having a seizure. Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos reported the person declined medical assistance.

## JANUARY 25

### MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT/ PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: College Circle  
SUMMARY: The Office of Environmental Health and Safety reported observing a vehicle strike another vehicle while attempting to park. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded.

### ACCIDENTAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

LOCATION: 150 Lyceum Drive  
SUMMARY: A caller reported there

was damage to custodial equipment. Seargent Bryan Verzosa reported damage appeared to be accidental.

## JANUARY 27

### ACCIDENTAL FIRE ALARM

LOCATION: 412 Grant Egbert Blvd.  
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. An officer reported the alarm was accidental due to custodial staff cleaning in the area. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded.

### ACCIDENTAL FIRE ALARM

LOCATION: 150 Lyceum Drive  
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm had been set off. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety reported the cause was from a broken sprinkler head that was releasing water. Sergeant Don Lyke responded.

## JANUARY 28

### MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT/ PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: 122 Farm Pond Road  
SUMMARY: The responding officer reported a two-car property damage motor vehicle accident in which one

vehicle left the area. Officers located the vehicle and a report was taken. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded.

### 2ND DEGREE HARASSMENT

LOCATION: All other/ other  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that a person was sending unwanted harassing messages to them. Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded.

## JANUARY 29

### 2ND DEGREE HARASSMENT

LOCATION: 119 Tower Skyline Drive  
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person in possession of drug paraphernalia. Master Patrol Officer Joseph Oppen reported no person was found.

### SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: 334 Grant Egbert Blvd.  
SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person had turned furniture upside down causing an inconvenience. Sergeant Jon Elmore responded.

### CRIMINAL MISCHIEF OF THE 4TH DEGREE

LOCATION: Bogart Hall / 334 Grant Egbert Blvd.  
SUMMARY: Officer reported damage

to a door window. Sergeant Jon Elmore was the responding officer.

## JANUARY 30

### BURGLARY NO FORCE 2ND DEGREE

LOCATION: 110 College Circle  
SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person stole their television.

### IRRESPONSIBLE ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE

LOCATION: 143 Tower Skyline Drive  
SUMMARY: Caller reported an odor of marijuana. An officer referred two people for violation of the college's drug policy. Lieutenant Michael Nelson responded to the scene.

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



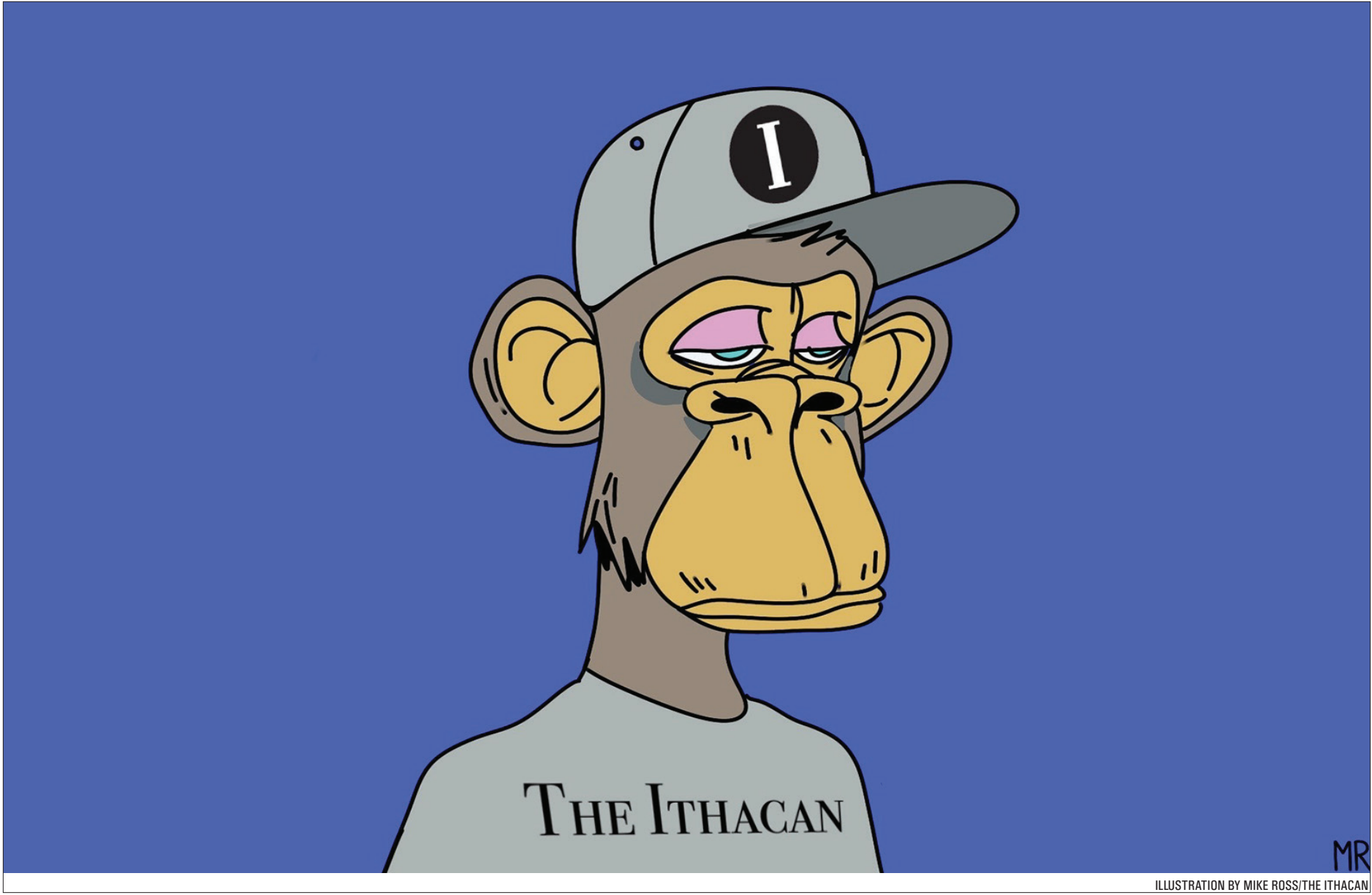


ILLUSTRATION BY MIKE ROSS/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

Negative long-term effects of NFTs outweigh benefits

In 2014, the experimental era of non-fungible tokens (NFTs) began. 2021 was the year of the NFT explosion, making any digital image available for purchase. Moving from the obscure internet into the mainstream, 2022 projects us into the future of NFTs — the blockchain movement is here. However, the path forward is twofold. On the one hand, the future of NFTs provides an opportunity to the otherwise ordinary individual to be a part of something and experience financial success in ways which were never accessible before — this is the bright, hopeful, even abundant side. The more glum, corrupt and arguably realistic side results in financial instability for those who do not have the knowledge it takes to succeed in this rapidly growing market: 21st-century artists getting ripped off rather than protected, allowing a place for global tycoons to take refuge and environmental harm due to the sheer amount of energy that is required. The degree of

environmental damage is not yet known and not worth finding out. The pressure to know every detail and absorb every understanding of NFTs feels ever present, yet it is a nearly impossible and futile feat. With this limited understanding of the NFT comes a limited understanding of what is to come. In other words, the naive glorification of the short-term benefits negates its long-term effects. While the solution is not to wish for days of an internet-free world, as we would miss the comforts we are afforded effortlessly today, a solution is neither found with hopeful projections into an uncertain future — nostalgia is dangerous when dwelling on the past. It is also dangerous when projecting into a future of possibilities unknown. Have we not been down this road before? Haven't we read many a cautionary tale of such exponential progress resulting in a halting crash?

Impacts of gentrification should not be ignored

It's sneaky and quiet yet extremely visible and loud. It gently creeps up and makes an appearance but there is nothing gentle about it. It disguises itself as an economic issue but its effects are personal and felt both individually and communally. Gentrification is a complex beast that we need to continue to learn about. This now buzzword, which is synonymous with young folks moving into neighborhoods of Brooklyn, New York (i.e. Williamsburg, Bushwick, Bed-Stuy), and many other transforming cities, is often negated as wrong and harmful in the name of wokeness. But the conversation of gentrification should not and does not stop there. Acknowledging that gentrification is wrong does not equate to an understanding of why gentrification is in fact "bad." Unless you have experienced gentrification firsthand, how can it be known how deep the effects truly go, what devastation really feels like, what it's like to lose your home, your

community, your livelihood, and your culture in the name of the shiny and new. True: all that glitters is not gold. The question then becomes how can we most effectively learn about gentrification and its many harrowing stories? A possible solution is to continue encountering stories of such displacement and investing the time to listen. Listening requires encountering. Encountering equates to knowing. Stories are the most powerful tool we have in understanding what is not known. The root to understanding the true effects of gentrification is by investing in the stories of gentrification which exist today and tomorrow. How one chooses to act after encountering such a story is entirely up to the individual. Once you know someone's story of devastation and personal erasure of identity, you cannot say you would have lived your life differently if only you had known, if only you had the knowledge.

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 [zsandhu@ithaca.edu](mailto:zsandhu@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

IC’s response to swastikas shows lack of awareness

BY JULIEN SOBEL

Last Thursday, a swastika was found drawn into the condensation on the windows of Ithaca College’s Baker Hallway, connecting the James J. Whalen Center for Music and the Towers parking lot (J-Lot). This comes after four years of increased antisemitic acts in the United States, tied to a general increase in far right and white supremacist action in the country. A second swastika in Whalen was also found scratched onto a poster Feb. 8

Upon the discovery of the first swastika, the Ithaca College administration swung into action, with Interim President La Jerne Cornish delivering a email denouncing the Baker Hallway swastika assuring us that, “[W]e are proud that we have been selected for Hillel International’s Campus Climate Initiative cohort for the 2021–22 academic year, an effort that gives us tools for best practices in creating a positive and inclusive campus community.”

This email as well as Hillel at Ithaca College’s own follow-up email praising the response, shows how, frankly, ridiculous this entire situation is. Symbols, like the swastika etched into . . . dew . . . or paper, are only the surface of a broader history of violent hate in the United States. Such a response turns this into an individual act rather than the result of the systematic rejection of difference we’ve seen for the past few years in the United States. If condensation and paper-scratched swastikas were the full extent of what the Jewish community was facing, then we would be in a far better place than we now are.

Such a response turns this into an individual act rather than the result of the systematic rejection of difference we’ve seen for the past few years in the United States. If condensation and paper-scratched swastikas were the full extent of what the Jewish community was facing, then we would be in a far better place than we now are.

This is by no means an attempt to downplay what hate symbols indicate, but they are only the surface. Going after individual acts avoids asking bigger questions about the way the U.S. has dealt with the rejection of difference, not only for Jews but for all minority groups. There is history attached to this.

The U.S. has presented itself for years as the heroes in defeating the Holocaust of the 1930s. This understanding of events often downplays how prevalent — if not accepted — ideologies like naziism were in the U.S. at the time. The fact that this history has never fully been addressed as a part of the U.S.’s heritage is part of why antisemitism remains, latent, in this country.

These symbols accompanied the killing of many in my family. They were burned into my grandparents’ lawn. The symbols are not the problem itself, however — as any student of history can tell you — marking these symbols as individual acts with “no place at Ithaca College or anywhere” acts only as repression of broader concealed problems which will continue to haunt us for as long as they remain unaddressed.

This response ends up being an almost choreographed, self-congratulatory dance in which the college is able to avoid and



Senior Julien Sobel shares his perspective on Ithaca College’s response to the discovery of swastikas found drawn in two locations on campus Feb. 3 and 8.

COURTESY OF JULIEN SOBEL

redirect attention away from the broader legacy of violence in our country. In these formulaic emails, the school affirms a vague, immaterial “wokeness” while redirecting from the very real sentiments underlying these acts. By focusing on superficial symbols, the school avoids substantive discussion about the deep-seated history of violent hate against Jews as well as other minority groups.

The self-congratulatory and largely meaningless content of the school’s response makes this into a predatory and dishonest use of a very real and life-threatening (as history and recent events shows us) crisis, all so the college can pat itself on the back.

Instead, we could respond to these acts with calls for education, calls for greater dialogue on the origin of hate in the United

States (and the West as a whole) rather than the symbols themselves. If our response to these acts of hate is limited to these individual acts, we will never address the core causes of this explosion in hateful acts.

We need a more systemic approach to hate focused on a genuine effort to understand the history and the underlying causes of violence. If the response is instead to performatively repress all expressions of such symbols, we’re avoiding the real problem. Hate is a violent, systemic issue, not an individual act. If we only go after the individual expression of hate, we’re never going to seriously address it.

**JULIEN SOBEL** (he/him) is a senior politics and documentary studies & production major. Contact him at [jsobel@ithaca.edu](mailto:jsobel@ithaca.edu).

GUEST COMMENTARY

Student in integrative studies emphasizes value of program

BY CYEPRESS RITE

The integrative studies program is one of Ithaca College’s hidden gems — emphasis on hidden. When asked about my major, I usually respond with “I’m in the integrative studies program; I created my major.” If I were to simply say, “I’m an integrative studies major,” as it shows in my Degree Works, most students reach for their nearest frame of reference and ask, “That’s in the Roy H. Park School of Communications, right?” (thinking about integrated marketing communications) or give me a blank stare. Only a handful affirm “That’s when you create your major, right?” Thus, I got used to offering that information from the start. More times than I think it should be, after I state this, their response is “I didn’t even know IC had that,” or “I wish I did that.”

Academics tend to take comfort in their disciplines. To an extent, it’s understandable. It’s easier to have discourse when people are operating from the same word-board. But what if discourse was not the goal? What if we wanted to have a dialogue? In the course, Scholarship of/by Women of Color — which I am taking with Belisa Gonzalez,

associate professor of sociology and director of the Center for the Study of Culture Race and Ethnicity at the college — we opened the semester with an article titled “Finding a Shared Meaning” in which the interviewee, Linda Teurfs, states, “In dialogue, we no longer come from a place of wanting to convince or inform. We come with the intention of understanding.” She goes on to say, “Dialogue is about seeing our personal issues as part of the larger community in which we take part.” Disciplines are effective in convincing not only students, but faculty alike that “the larger community” is other academics in one’s field, rather than the global community we live in. Much like the alternate definition of “discipline,” academic disciplines train us to obey set rules, to use set jargon, essentially to get in line.

If not, one risks the punishment of their credibility being denied if they cross the fabricated barriers that define knowledge. An interdisciplinary approach helps us move from knowledge acquisition and assertion to meaningful collaboration and understanding.

Our contemporary times call for authentic dialogues now more than

ever as we face increasing polarization and many of us are daring to imagine something beyond white supremacist, patriarchal capitalism. Something that reaches beyond the essentializing culture that says “You are what I say you are. All that you are is readable from your physical appearance. I only see you as a source of labor (unless you are a rich, white, Christian, cisgender heterosexual man.)” Dialogue is a vital tool in liberation struggles, vital as in necessary and vital as in life-bringing. Dialogue will help us bring forth the life we’re trying to imagine. Dialogue “bring[s] in the implicit. [Through dialogue] we discover what’s trying to happen here between us, so we can break new ground, so we don’t keep seeing something the same old way.”

Many of the integrative studies majors, especially the classes of ’21 and ’22 study resistance, social justice and liberatory struggles in some capacity. I don’t think it’s a coincidence that those of us who are dedicated to liberation have rooted ourselves in an interdisciplinary approach to learning.

Complex problems require complex solutions. Something that made itself clear to me when I took Integration: Connecting Across



Senior Cyepress Rite writes about their experience as an integrative studies major and hopes that the program gets better resources.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

Disciplines as required for integrative studies majors, a course that is included in the Ithaca College Integrated Curriculum program that is being discontinued, is that disciplines are only as relevant as we make them.

The very nature of learning is interdisciplinary. This is acknowledged in the college’s strategic plan, as goal two is to “structurally support and value collaboration, interdisciplinarity, curricular flexibility, and shared governance.” Within this context, it is my hope that the integrative studies program not only continues but

is better resourced. The program does not have a budget nor a designated space on campus.

It is overseen by one coordinator, rather than an interdisciplinary committee, which is ironic and a disservice not only to the program but also to the faculty that takes on the position without adequate compensation for the extra work it entails. There is much potential in this program and equally as many generalizable lessons.

**CYEPRESS RITE** (they/them) is a senior integrative studies major. Contact them at [crite@ithaca.edu](mailto:crite@ithaca.edu).



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ACROSS

1 Gravy no-no  
5 Intern  
10 Little America founder  
14 Akron’s state  
15 Tijuana  
16 Luke Skywalker’s sister  
17 Innovative  
19 Creep along  
20 Sweater letter  
21 Advice  
23 Clean water org.  
25 Unsalted  
26 Milky Way unit  
29 Iceberg  
31 Panorama  
35 Kind of artist  
36 Shaving mishap  
37 Heston Oscar-winner (hyph.)  
38 Clumsy  
40 Outlaw  
41 Experience once more  
42 “The Mammoth Hunters” author  
43 Tolstoy’s name  
44 Ms. Verdugo  
45 Jane Austen title  
46 “Quo Vadis” co-

star  
47 Intone  
49 Daisy — Yokum  
51 Climber’s need  
54 Swagger  
58 Asian mountains  
59 Authoritative  
63 European capital  
64 Japanese verse  
65 Connect up  
66 Birdcall  
67 Pistol-packing  
68 “What — can I say?”

DOWN

1 Barn area  
2 “No way!” (hyph.)  
3 Trifling amount  
4 Type of pigeon  
5 1, 101, in old Rome  
6 Codgers’ queries  
7 Telegraph signal  
8 Winter sight  
9 Winter warmer  
10 Too bright  
11 Sudden urges  
12 Grocery buy  
13 Kids’ writer Roald —

18 Chat, slangily  
22 Disclose  
24 Blazing up  
25 — choy  
26 Alarm  
27 Sunbather’s need  
28 Leg part  
30 Digital watch readout, briefly  
32 Sedimentary rock  
33 Piano technician  
34 Burning desire  
36 Southwestern tribe  
37 Sunfish

39 Hoisting  
40 Shiftless one  
42 CPA’s sum  
45 Win over  
46 Large pot  
48 Sweater letter  
50 Viper  
51 Indent keys  
52 Muffin spread  
53 Bring in  
55 Churn up  
56 Vases with feet  
57 Little kid  
60 Basketball hoop  
61 Be very frugal  
62 Wet dirt


last issue’s crossword answers

EDGE		CLIP		GAPED
LIEN		AUDI		OLIVE
SERF		SNAG		OAKEN
AMMONIA		SPIDERS		
		RETRO		RED
CHACHA		COURIERS		
LAGER		ATON		NAIL
UTA		UNFAZED		TVA
CHIA		URGE		WHEAT
KANGAROO		PEARLS		
		ONS		NULLS
SPONGED		HALTERS		
PUPIL		IRAN		EPEE
AMAZE		ROUE		NINA
MALES		KILT		SCOT

WE’VE GOT MULTIMEDIA



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sudoku

medium

							3	
5				9	7		4	6
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	7	4			5	6		3
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hard

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8					9			1
				3				
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			7	9		6		8
1			6			4		

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answers to last issue’s

easy

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

medium

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





BY MIKE ROSS

When Chris Washburn '08 was made aware of non-fungible tokens (NFTs) in summer 2021, he was skeptical and critical. He wondered at first why any intelligent person would spend so much money on some pixel art or a cartoon character. Despite the speculation, Washburn decided to take the risk and purchase his first NFT from the “Shiboshi” NFT collection. Now, he’s deeply involved with the growing NFT community and is working on creating a collection of his own.

Washburn, better known by his stage name DJ Washburn, is a DJ at Moonies Bar & Nightclub on The Commons and founder of Washburn Entertainment.

Washburn was first exposed to cryptocurrency and NFTs through his favorite pastime: poker.

The high-risk high-reward nature of cryptocurrency made it a popular phenomenon in the poker community, their similarities being what drove Washburn to roll the dice and invest in crypto.

“I had a friend who was playing poker professionally, going around the world and playing online,” Washburn said. “He was big into Bitcoin and cryptocurrency, and in 2016, he told me, ‘Hey, I made a lot of money through this, you should check it out.’”

Cryptocurrency has a long and complicated history dating back to the 1980s, though the phenomena truly gained

recognition after the launch of Bitcoin in January 2009.

From there, hundreds of different coins have entered the market with varying levels of success and recognition, and the price of Bitcoin has gone from \$1 in 2011 to \$36,850.10 in 2022.

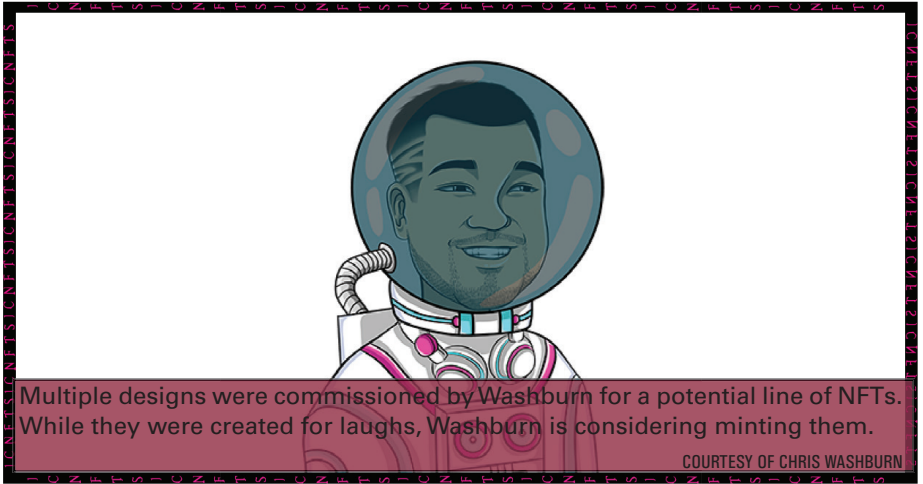
NFTs are the latest trend in the cryptocurrency world and have gained massive attention in the last year. NFTs use the blockchain, a system used to record the transaction and authenticity of cryptocurrency, to authenticate the ownership of unique digital media. Mark Volkov, a senior computer science major at Ithaca College, explained the range of what can be made into an NFT.

“NFTs are not considered a currency but are non-fungible tokenized digital assets that can be minted, bought, sold and transferred,” Volkov said. “The scope of NFTs, as defined by the Ethereum Foundation, is anything that is unique that needs provable ownership.”

Moonies posted an image to Instagram on Jan. 20 of two potential designs for a DJ Washburn NFT. Both depict DJ Washburn in an “Ithaca is Moonies” t-shirt and have since seen more new variations on Washburn’s personal Instagram.

While the NFTs were originally created as a joke, Washburn has been considering selling them alongside exclusive benefits at the club.

“There’s no utility or functionality of them yet, however, I have thought about how they could be applicable to Moonies,”



Washburn said. “Maybe whoever buys a \$10 or \$20 NFT could skip the line or get a special discount on something.”

Junior Kristen Stefanick is one of countless college students who has developed an interest in NFTs.

“I first heard about NFTs through my brother who invested in them over the summer,” Stefanick said. “I was very skeptical, and I thought he would lose all of his money. Since then, he’s made 10 times his initial investment.”

Washburn’s interest in NFTs stems not from where they stand currently, but rather where they are headed. Washburn believes NFTs will play a larger role in the metaverse and our digital society and will serve a different purpose.

“You know, it isn’t just about the artwork — it’s about what they come with,” Washburn said. “It could be a membership or special access to an event or collection of media.”

Stefanick agrees that the potential of NFTs has yet to reach its climax, explaining what she believes is to come of the tokens in the near future.

“There’s so much potential it’s ridiculous,” Stefanick said. “Maybe we’ll all receive an NFT for graduating Ithaca [College]. There’s just so much that goes beyond the NFTs themselves.”

Washburn has already implemented crypto-based payment services into his business: Washburn Entertainment.

Customers can use crypto as a form of payment for Washburn’s services.

“I started to think, ‘How can I make my company innovative?’” Washburn said. “We

started taking cryptocurrency a few years ago as a form of payment for weddings and such ... I tell people we take cryptocurrency, their eyes light up because it’s a cool and innovative thing.”

NFTs and cryptocurrency are often criticized for being environmentally harmful. According to Investopedia.com, 30 kilotons of electronic waste are produced annually as a result of Bitcoin mining.

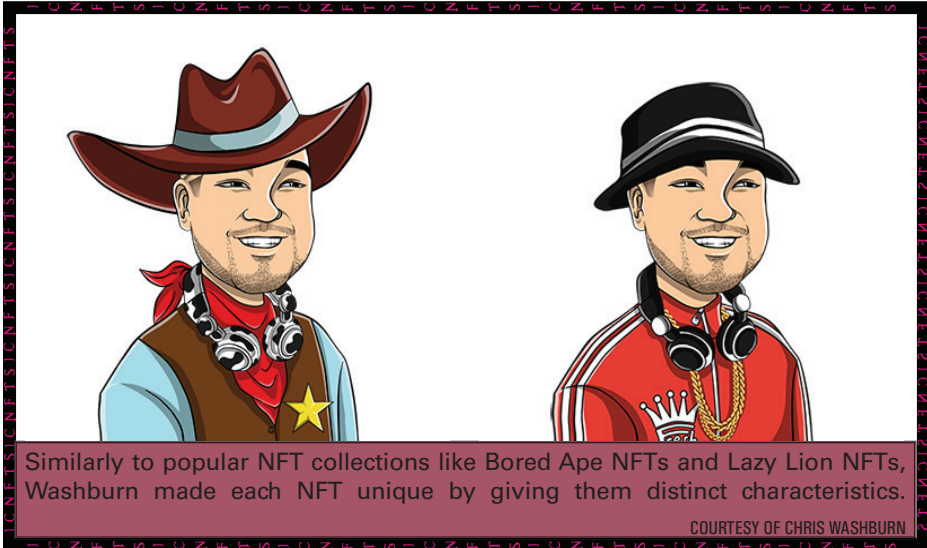
Susan Allen, Ithaca College professor of environmental toxicology and environmental technologies, says the harm caused by crypto isn’t worth it when considering the final product.

“Crypto mining is very energy intensive, as it takes massive computing power,” Allen said. “...[NFTs] are just a way to make and lose money.”

Another criticism of NFTs is the impact they’ve had on the art community. Anyone can make an NFT out of any piece of digital media, hence why many artists who post content online have had their work stolen and sold as an NFT.

Whether or not NFTs will triumph as the future of finance or become a delicate fad, Washburn said that in the end, most people buy and share NFTs simply to be involved in something new.

“It’s the same reason someone would spend \$200,000 on a Rolex rather than \$20 on a Timex,” Washburn said. “You’re gonna buy these NFTs for a certain amount of money because it’s cool.”





# Park students decide to go global on Instagram

BY NATALIE TRIBIANO

After study abroad programs were unavailable for the 2020–21 academic year, Ithaca College students enthusiastically began to study abroad again.

In order to help promote these opportunities that are available, students within the Roy H. Park School of Communications are documenting their abroad experiences on the Park School’s social media accounts.

Park Goes Global is a project started by Mickie Quinn, director of Park Promotions, and will be put into action by Park Promotions, an organization that creates promotional material for the Park School.

Quinn came up with the idea for Park Goes Global after she realized that more than half of the students in the organization will be studying abroad this semester.

She said she took what seemed to be a challenge and turned it into an opportunity to highlight the college’s study abroad programs.

“You know, turning lemons into lemonade,” Quinn said.

Park students who wanted to submit content expressed their interest to Quinn. So far, 27 students want to participate. Some of the locations submitted so far are the Ithaca College London Center and the Ithaca College Los Angeles (ICLA) program in Los Angeles, California, which are both affiliated with the college.

From these locations, Park students will document their abroad experiences through photos and

videos as well as a written caption, and will submit their work to Quinn via email. For content submissions, students are encouraged to document an image of themselves in their location, their internship experiences, special trips they go on, or even food they’ve eaten.

Sophomore Cate Middleton is a co-manager of Park Promotions’ social media and said Instagram is the ideal platform for their target audience: current college students and prospective students.

The hope is that the Park Goes Global posts will act as a resource for students to go to if they want to learn more about the abroad programs, making it easier for students to understand what going abroad is actually like.

“This way it’s all in one place,” Middleton said. “Now you have something as easy and accessible as Instagram to go to.”

Senior Jade Rynar is a Park Promotions member and is currently studying in Los Angeles. She also has an internship with Talent X Entertainment, which is a talent management agency that works with digital talent.

Rynar believes that Park Goes Global will be able to educate prospective and current students on the benefits of pursuing an education outside Ithaca.

“It’s such a cool opportunity and a highlight of our school,” Rynar said. “And it’s something that should be advertised.”

Rynar has been in LA for two weeks, but said she has been enjoying the sunny weather and



Senior Jade Rynar is a television-radio major and is currently completing her final semester at Ithaca College by studying in Los Angeles, California with the Ithaca College Los Angeles program. COURTESY OF MICKIE QUINN

being able to get work experience through her internship.

“It’s so fun to explore LA and leave the Ithaca bubble,” Rynar said. “But still get the comfort of having Ithaca people with you.”

Senior Emma Herbst said she is also studying in LA. She is the head social media manager for Park Promotions and a writing for film, TV and emerging media major.

She also has an internship at the Intellectual Property Company, a boutique literary management company that represents authors as well as screenwriters.

Having lived near Ithaca most

of her life, Herbst found herself feeling anxious to study in LA. One thing Herbst hopes to highlight in the Park Goes Global posts is that there is a community of both staff and students offering support.

An example of the community in the LA program is the James B. Pendleton Center, which is where courses are held. Herbst said students are open and communicative, sharing their internship experiences with one another.

She explained how talking with students and faculty at the center helped ease her transition, and feels that it’s important to share.

“Social media is a space where you see community,” Herbst said. “And just by having information about it will be helpful.”

Quinn and the Park Promotions team hope to maintain a channel for students to share their abroad experiences every semester.

“We can get a glimpse at their [Park students] lives doing Park things in other places,” Quinn said. “We want it to be successful and we hope students find it in their time and to take a moment and share.”

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# IC students keep warm with handmade beanies

BY LAURA ILIOAEI

Ithaca College sophomore Kayla Markwardt took up the hobby of crocheting early on in the COVID-19 pandemic. However, when one day the supervisor at her job brought in a loom, Markwardt had the idea to begin making hats. When her friends and classmates recognized her talent, they persuaded her to create a business — Ithaca Baked Beanies.

“[My friends] were like, ‘You can’t keep giving these away for free!’” Markwardt said. “So basically, my friend Sam Stys made an Instagram account and was like ‘You’re going to start selling these.’”

One of the distinguishing aspects of Ithaca Baked Beanies is how partnerships based on close friendship was integral in its foundation. Markwardt’s friends recognized where her skill could take her entrepreneurially.

Sophomore Samuel Stys was one of these friends, and he was responsible for giving Ithaca Baked Beanies a social media presence on Instagram.

“When we started [Ithaca Baked Beanies], Kayla wasn’t super concerned with getting it out there or anything, but in realizing how talented she was with these and how many people really liked them, I was like ‘Well, they deserve to be seen,’ and so I started the Instagram account as a way of getting the word out there,” Stys said.

The business’s Instagram is whimsical and lighthearted, displaying pictures of grinning beanie-wearers at an elevated angle as to feature beanies in their lush,

vibrantly-colored glory.

The hats themselves come in about three different varieties: solids, two-tones and custom-made designs. The hats also have names that encapsulate the characteristics of the hat featured. Take the mint chip greenie beanie — layered with green, white and brown. Every hat is handmade, either crocheted or made on a loom. Prices for the hats range from \$15–\$30.

Though the business has no other virtual presence apart from an Instagram page, word-of-mouth has remained its most effective form of advertising. Initially, only Ithaca College students were wearing the beanies, but as they traveled off campus, it attracted the attention of others with no affiliation to the college.

“We have gotten quite a lot of orders from New York City because one person saw an IC student wear multiple Baked Beanies in the city,” Markwardt said. “People were asking her where she got them from. It’s nice to keep it local, but I’m interested in branching out to shipping orders, too.”

While the ownership and logistics of Ithaca Baked Beanies is managed by multiple students, Markwardt said there are difficulties that come along with balancing a business and academic life.

“I never intended this to turn into a business,” Markwardt said. “And so, it really took off at the end of last semester. I remember feeling pretty stressed during finals week. I was like, ‘People are leaving soon, and they really want their beanies before they leave.’ How was I going to get all these beanies



From left, sophomores Kayla Markwardt and Lydia Brandt create hats for Ithaca Baked Beanies. Brandt will be accepting beanie orders through the business’s Instagram. NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

done, and get my schoolwork done?”

On the other hand, the repetitive, mechanical motions of beanie-making are therapeutic to many members of the team responsible for production.

“I don’t think it ever really ever interfered with my schoolwork because hat-making was something I was excited to be doing, so it didn’t bother me that I was losing sleep to do it,” Stys said. “For me, it was also a motivator: I needed to get my homework done during the day so that I would be able to go make hats later. It was able to give me a balance.”

Markwardt is an outdoor adventure leadership major and has to take an immersion semester to develop outdoor-related skills, so she has temporarily entrusted the management of Ithaca Baked Beanies to sophomore Lydia Brandt.

“We’ve definitely considered selling at

the farmers market,” Brandt said. “However, we’re lacking in hat makers, so we just don’t see ourselves doing that right now. But in the future when there’s more time and more people to make hats, we would definitely love to do that, and even start a website ... But those are all ideas that haven’t been followed through.”

Most importantly, involvement in Ithaca Baked Beanies has been very intrinsically rewarding for employees, Brandt said.

“It’s really cool to see people you know ... walk around campus wearing a hat that you made, and just seeing this business grow,” Brandt said. It started out casually, and it still is casual, but it has expanded into something bigger, which I think we’re all very proud of.”

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# ‘The Fallout’ tackles loss beautifully

MOVIE REVIEW: “The Fallout” New Line Cinema



BY M MINTON

When it comes to depicting traumatic acts of violence, the entertainment industry often goes to lengths to exploit and glamorize these events. Thankfully, “The Fallout” is an example of how to make a very good film out of an extremely difficult subject matter while treating its victims with respect.

Directed and written by Megan Park, “The Fallout” follows high school student Vada (Jenna Ortega) as she forms a bond with popular high schooler Mia (Maddie Ziegler) in the aftermath of surviving a school shooting together. Following Vada as she navigates the many relationships in her life and tries to make sense of what she has just lived through, “The Fallout” is a beautifully written and emotional look at tragedy and the grief that follows.

By choosing not to show any physical acts of violence and instead focus on how the shooting affects those who lived mostly through dialogue, “The Fallout” allows the audience to connect with the characters as they try to move on in their daily lives. The conversations between the main characters in the film feel extremely real. The audience ends up caring about the characters and empathizing with them.

Ortega gives an excellent performance that carries the film, portraying Vada’s healing journey with such care through

deliberate choices that humanize her. Ortega doesn’t allow Vada’s emotional withdrawal from the world around her to lose the audience’s attachment to her character. Ziegler as Mia makes the unlikely connection that forms between her and Vada feel not only believable, but undeniable.

There are scenes that showcase text conversations between Vada and the other characters in the film. Instead of taking away from the connection shown between two actors physically in a room together, Park effectively frames these shots to focus on both the actors and the texts. This framing choice emphasizes the loneliness the characters feel and the hope they seek in connecting with others.

As the film shows Vada growing distant from the people in her life — particularly her sister Amelia (Lumi Pollack) and close friend Nick (Will Ropp) — the audience is able to empathize with Vada’s pain and understand how living through a traumatic event can have significant, life-altering impacts on even the deepest relationships in one’s life.

Where “The Fallout” falters is in the middle of the film when the audience watches Vada start to become reliant on drugs, moving away from the core connection between Vada and Mia. While it is completely believable that Vada would start to become addicted to drugs as a coping mechanism, this part of



Maddie Ziegler and Jenna Ortega give great performances which make up the most influential portions of the film.

COURTESY OF NEW LINE CINEMA

the film isolates Vada from the other characters and becomes a bit boring. Although this was clearly an intentional choice for the story, the audience loses interest in the film as a result.

“The Fallout” reaches its most powerful point when it focuses more on Vada’s connection with the people in her life and the different ways everyone deals with grief.

Ultimately, “The Fallout” is a great film that finds a sense

of humanity in its most quiet and calm moments between the characters that are just trying to make it through the night. Whether it’s a conversation between Vada and Mia or a scene between Vada and her younger sister reconnecting, Park avoids sensationalization and instead finds the human story in the face of life-altering events.

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# Kyle’s album isn’t so bad, but it isn’t so good either

ALBUM REVIEW: “It’s Not So Bad” Kyle



BY MIKE ROSS

Los Angeles-born singer and rapper Kyle is often cited as a modern one-hit-wonder. He’s best known for his single “iSpy,” which reached #4 on the Billboard Hot 100 in December 2016. While Kyle still has a decent sized fan base since his big break, it is clear that he’ll never reach “iSpy” levels of success again.

Since his rise to fame, Kyle has put out three albums, his latest being “It’s Not So Bad.” The production on this record shows Kyle attempting to keep up with what kinds of songs make the Billboard Hot 100 nowadays. The style of the music isn’t consistent, outside of every track sounding like it could be heard playing at an Urban Outfitters. Kyle seemingly spent time making each song transition into the other seamlessly, which was a pleasant surprise until it’s realized that cohesive transitions don’t make for cohesive songs.

The problem with this approach to cover all the ground of popular music styles lies in Kyle’s struggle to define his own music. “iSpy” blew up not because it was catchy but because it was unique. While his voice

is somewhat recognizable by the slight lisp present in his singing, Kyle doesn’t have much setting him apart from other artists. Kyle’s strategy to make poppy music with a mainstream appeal isn’t interesting.

Kyle’s 2018 record “Light of Mine” didn’t struggle with this nearly as much, with songs from that project like “Ups & Downs” actually hinting at the potential of an approachable new voice. “It’s Not So Bad” doesn’t follow up on this potential.

Of course, this imitation of popular music does mean many of the songs have some appeal. “Optimistic” and “Thumb Thru” have some pretty satisfying productions, reminiscent of artists like Wizkid and Don Toliver. The strengths of “Optimistic” are also present on the track “Eternity.” While none of the songs on “It’s Not So Bad” exactly stand out, “Optimistic” and “Eternity” do express Kyle’s apparent strong suit: Afro-pop production. The strongest moments on this record are the ones with instrumental influences from Afro-Caribbean dance music. Unlike the majority of the Bieber-esque attempts at chart-topping pop, these songs suit Kyle’s voice somewhat well.



The album copies popular music tropes, making it a boring and insignificant listen.

COURTESY OF VIRGIN MUSIC LABEL

Unfortunately, Kyle continues the same pop music rip-off formula in his lyrics. The song “Sunday” had decent enough production, though its lyrics were nearly unbearable. The chorus of “Sunday” just rhymes the days of the week, making it sound like Kyle’s lazy attempt at scoring a popular audio on TikTok.

Looking at the history of Kyle’s career, it’s understandable why he’d want to make music that’s as approachable as possible. However, unfortunately for Kyle, there are already artists making that music. I genuinely believe Kyle could have a chance at a comeback if he assessed what was successful in his older work and added something new. That effort is not present on this latest record, making “It’s Not So Bad” not so great.

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# It’s time to ditch cringe culture

BY AVERY ALEXANDER

If you interact with the internet in any way, you’ve probably stumbled upon the terms cringe, cringy, cringe culture, or something similar. Since 2004, Google searches for the term have been steadily increasing. In 2021, worldwide Google searches for the term “cringe” were at an all time high. In fact, there is an entire subreddit dedicated to it titled “r/cringe.” The page boasts over 1.3 million members and features the tagline, “When it just hurts to watch.”

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, cringe means, “To contract the muscles of the body, usually involuntarily; to shrink into a bent or crooked position; to cower. Also (of a part of the body): to flinch; to contract.” Over the years, this word has taken on a whole new meaning in modern internet culture. According to Urban Dictionary, the modern meaning of cringe is, “When someone acts/or is so embarrassing or awkward, it makes you feel extremely ashamed and/or embarrassed.”

As the Urban Dictionary definition demonstrates, modern cringe is inherently tied to shame. Unfortunately, that’s what cringe culture has become — a display of public shaming. Sometimes, cringe is used to poke fun at individuals who use their personal beliefs as an excuse to hurt other people or cause others general inconvenience.

Admittedly, I don’t really mind people “cringing” at someone who is actually harming others. It becomes an issue when it is used to police those who are simply living their lives.

I have some personal experience with cringe, mainly because I’m a cosplayer. There are countless TikTok cosplay cringe compilations circulating around YouTube. Because of the stigma and stereotypes surrounding cosplayers, we are perfect cringe-culture fodder.

Cringe is often used to target LGBTQ+ folks, fat people, people of color, neurodivergent people and anyone else who doesn’t quite fit into society as a whole — almost a way to keep these people who don’t fit into the perceived status quo in check.

As the blog “The Autisticats,” made by autistic people for autistic people, states, “Cringe culture on the internet is centered around the ostracizing and cyberbullying of people who are seen as having socially unacceptable habits, interests, and appearances. ... They won’t let [autistic people] be friends with them, but they don’t like it when we’re happily engaging with our special interests in ways that don’t involve [neurotypical] people at all.”

These bullies see atypical individuals as threats to their perceived notions of society. Ultimately, othering people who don’t fit in is a ploy to try to keep things from changing. So, next time we find ourselves laughing at something or someone for being cringe, we should seriously consider why.

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



## FROM THE BRONX TO SOUTH HILL



BY CONNOR GLUNT

It is not common for a Division III program to secure an athlete with Division I talent, but when the Ithaca College men's basketball team landed senior forward Luka Radovich, the Bombers added a star to their starting lineup.

After spending two seasons playing college basketball at the Division I level, the forward transferred from Fordham University to Ithaca College and has transitioned smoothly into a prominent role on South Hill. Radovich, who spent his first two years of eligibility in New York City with the Rams, has played in 15 games and started 14, shooting 49.5% from the field and leading the team with 16.3 points per game. The six-foot-six-inch forward only saw playing time in three games at Fordham — a prominent factor in his decision to choose Ithaca College — before transferring to the college and has logged at least 20 minutes of playing time in all but two games he has appeared in.

When he was in high school, Radovich said he was weighing options between offers from Division III schools or walking on to a Division I program. Radovich's Amateur Athletic Union basketball coach played at Fordham University, and he said he helped him during his decision.

"I remember my coach told me, 'You can always go from Division I back to Division III, but you're never going to have this opportunity again,'" Radovich said. "So I took it and ran with it. I don't regret going or anything,

and the experiences were unmatched. I just wanted to get back on the court and play."

May 15, 2020, Radovich officially decided to transfer from Fordham University to Ithaca College. However, he had to wait until Nov. 12, 2021, to make his debut for the Bombers because the 2020–21 season was canceled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Radovich said he was not nervous to perform well in his first game with his new teammates, but there were some nerves since it had been a while since he started a game.

"It was my first full game starting, with [referees] and a crowd and everything, in four years since my senior year of high school," Radovich said. "Hearing my name called in the starting lineup before the game gave me the chills."

Those chills quickly wore off as Radovich dropped a season-best 36 points in the South Hill squad's 75–72 season-opening loss to Alfred University.

Radovich typically plays in the paint for the Bombers on both ends of the court, using his quickness to maneuver around slower, bigger opponents to get to the hoop, but still possesses the skill and finesse to shoot from range and create plays. On the defensive side of the game, he uses his physicality to hold his ground against the other team's biggest player on the court.

Radovich quickly settled into his role on the court and into life on South Hill. One of the factors that persuaded him to come to the college was the Roy H. Park School of Communications. Radovich, a sports media

major, said the college had the perfect balance between basketball and academics, especially compared with the workload at his former university. Instead of long weekdays starting with team lifts at 7 a.m. and ending with a night class at Fordham, Radovich has a typical course schedule and a team lift before each practice.

Another reason Radovich decided to join the South Hill squad was his childhood friend and current teammate, senior guard George Sikoryak III. When Radovich began to look into transfer opportunities, he talked to Sikoryak and realized he had a chance to play with his longtime friend.

The pair is from Cresskill, New Jersey, and have known each other since their preschool days. Sikoryak said it has been fun going from hopping fences to get to each other's childhood homes, playing together in high school, and now being reunited as teammates once more.

"It's been an awesome feeling reliving old memories. It's awesome to play with him. He's a great player, and he's a fun guy to play with, so I was stoked to have him back," Sikoryak said.

Radovich transferred to the college before Farid was hired as the head coach for the team, so Farid did not know much about the senior. Since Radovich had some time to get to know his teammates prior to Farid's arrival, Farid said leaders on the team like Sikoryak and senior guard Skylar Sinon said they thought highly of Radovich, and Farid was impressed once he saw Radovich

take the court.

"To be honest, I didn't know much about him," Farid said. "There were some guys on the team that were high on the new transfer, but once I got here and got access to some of the practice footage from last year ... It wasn't until those first couple weeks of practices where I realized what a special talent he actually is when you see [him] face-to-face, in person on a daily basis."

During the first half of the season, Farid said he has observed Radovich as more of a quiet leader. Though he is not afraid to be vocal to his teammates, he prefers to let his play do the talking and lead by example.

"He's got a very high confidence level, and I think that rubs off on the guys," Farid said. "When he's playing really well, that inspires and motivates [the team] to get the other guys fired up."

With only a handful of games left in the regular season before the Liberty League tournament, Radovich said he feels comfortable and confident with his new team. He has been able to showcase all areas of his game throughout the season and is ready to make an impact for the Bombers down the stretch.

"I think we really got the ball rolling," Radovich said. "Guys are stepping up big time, they're finding their roles and they're doing what they're capable of doing. So I think everyone's locked in and committed, and this team can really achieve something special."

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Senior Luka Radovich said he got chills when he heard his name announced in the starting lineup during the team's season debut against Alfred University.

MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN



Radovich shoots over a defender during the Bombers' 81–76 overtime loss to the University of Rochester on Dec. 7. Radovich scored 14 points in 38 minutes.

MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN



# Two student-athletes attend NCAA convention

BY TOBIAH ZBORAY

Two Ithaca College students attended the 2022 NCAA convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, and participated in the NCAA Division III Student Immersion Program, making them the first students from the college to attend the event since it began in 2015.

The convention, which took place from Jan. 19 to 22, aims to increase diversity in Division III athletics by creating a skilled and accomplished group of ethnic minority student-athletes who are interested in coaching and administration. Senior track and field runner Katelyn Hutchison, and freshman softball player Dylan Delaney, who are both women of color, represented the college at the event. The athletes had the opportunity to make connections, learn about personal branding and be present at discussions about key issues in college athletics.

Before attending the event, the students were nominated to apply to the convention by Erienne Roberts, associate director of Intercollegiate Athletics and senior women's administrator, and Ellen Staurowsky, professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies at the college.

"[The nomination process] was really easy and seamless," Roberts said. "Ellen and I collaborate on a lot of different leadership programs for students,

especially those that are interested in athletics as a career in some capacity. So it was more of just a conversation between her and I, who we felt was really excelling in the classroom."

Jennifer Potter, women's track and field head coach, said she encouraged Hutchison to attend because she believed it would provide her with an opportunity to connect with different people in college athletics.

"I think not only is it super educational, but the contacts that you make, the people that you meet, it's usually all sports and all levels," Potter said.

Staurowsky said the choice to nominate both students came from her belief that both students would not only benefit from the experience of attending the conference, but that both would serve as good representatives of the college.

"At a professional event like an NCAA convention, I was very confident in both of them that they were going to be outstanding ambassadors for Ithaca College," Staurowsky said. "So to have an abundance of talented students who inspire such confidence, I think we're really fortunate to have the caliber of students that we have in our program."

Once the students arrived at the convention, their days became filled with meetings and lectures on how to grow their image. Delaney said one of the themes she picked up on was the regarding



From left, freshman softball player Dylan Delaney and Katelyn Hutchison, senior track and field runner, are the first Ithaca College student-athletes to go to the NCAA Division III Student Immersion Program.

BROOKE VOGEL/THE ITHACAN

the importance of creating a brand centered around the athlete. Hutchison said her time at the convention included being present at debates on the NCAA and the new constitution it proposed.

"The NCAA just voted on a new constitution, and I was literally in the room while that was going on," Hutchison said. "So to kind of be in that atmosphere and that dynamic was really crazy."

While both of the athletes had different experiences in terms of specific events, the omnipresent topic throughout the whole convention was that of making connections with other people

both attending the convention and helping to run it.

"We had networking and business sessions with all these administrators from all these different schools, and a majority of the kids were seniors and juniors," Delaney said. "I learned a lot from them just being there for that short amount of time."

By the end of the convention, the opportunity it had provided helped both students in figuring out their next steps after returning to the college. Hutchison said it gave her a better idea of what she wants to do when she graduates this spring.

"I want to be the person at conventions that encourages athletes to go as far as they want with their athletic and academic career," Hutchison said. "I've seen what it's been like when people actually put time and effort into athletes who don't seem like they're going to do good in the future, but if you actually give them time and effort and put faith in them, then they become those athletes who were good out the gate."

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# Graduate students lead IC women's basketball

BY ROCCO DI MAIOLO

As the Ithaca College women's basketball team continues its dominant 17-3 start to the season, the leadership off the court from the team's graduate students has played an important part in the team's success.

Graduate students Kelly Lamarre, Megan Yawman and Grace Cannon decided to come back for another year of basketball on South Hill. This season marks the first since the 2018-19 campaign that a graduate student was listed on the team's roster, with current assistant coach Jordan Beers '18 being the lone graduate student that season.

Each of the graduate students have contributed to the program's recent success, being a part of the teams that won Liberty League Championships in 2019 and 2020. Yawman has started in every game this year. Lamarre has appeared in 20 games in her tenure and was named to the Liberty League All-Academic team in the 2020-21 season. Cannon also recently became the 15th player in program history to record 1,000 career points, in the Bombers' 67-44 victory against Clarkson University Jan. 15.

She said she dedicates this accomplishment to coaches who helped her and trusted her along the way.

"I wouldn't have scored those thousand points without any of them," Cannon said. "My coaches have trusted me since I was a freshman, being able to give me significant minutes that he usually doesn't give freshman."

Cannon also gave credit to her former teammates, saying she is particularly grateful to her teammates during the 2018-19 team that went on an NCAA tournament run.

"They trusted me that I would deliver and produce when we made it, when we went to the Elite Eight," she said. "Overall, just the trust and having those people trust me, it just builds my confidence even more, and I think that's what has really increased as I've gotten older and gone through the program."

Lamarre said that she admires the tight-knit connection among the team and that there is a focus on creating a family environment regardless of class year.

"We came back, yes, because we wanted to pursue more from an academic standpoint, but we also wanted to play together again," Lamarre said. "So I think that's just kind of a testament of how close we really are."

Although Yawman tends to play one of the more vocal roles on the team, she said she wanted to take a step back and let more voices be heard to make sure everyone felt like a part of the team.

"I feel I've been able to lead in every way I wanted to," Yawman said. "I feel I kind of took a step back before our season started and allowed people to kind of find themselves as leaders and then, once our season started, I feel I just, kind of, did what I felt like I needed to do for the team which is definitely be more vocal and lead-by-example leadership style."

Yawman's commitment to the game was shown by her choice to play one more season



From left, graduate students Grace Cannon, Megan Yawman and Kelly Lamarre have returned to the Ithaca College women's basketball team for a fifth year.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

for the Bombers. She said she made the decision to pursue a master's degree in sports psychology last March and did not want to make the workload an excuse for her not to play anymore.

This year marks Dan Raymond's 22nd season as the head coach of the program. With the strong leadership and experience amongst the graduate students on the team, he feels they have added great value to the program and its success this season.

"Having Kelly, Grace and Megan back has been invaluable," Raymond said. "It's really hard to put a finger on exactly how much value they brought in regards to leadership because they're the ones that have the experience."

Junior Camryn Coffey showed admiration for their love of the game and the program itself. Knowing that coming back for one more year was not something they had to do, she said she is inspired by their dedication to the team's success thus far this season.

"It just goes to show how much they care about the program and even beyond the personal level of wanting to finish out your career," Coffey said. "I think sticking around for the program was really great that they did that, and I think they do play with a little bit more of inspiration to help the program since they decided to stick around."

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The Ithaca College Chorus and Concert band and Dorothy Cotton Jubilee singers, directed by Baruch J. Whitehead, associate professor of music education, perform at the concert in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. on Feb 7. in the Athletics and Events Center, hosted by the Ithaca College School of Music and the Department of Theatre Arts.

MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN