

# IC students working at Starbucks brew up a hot cup of solidarity



Illustration by Malik Clement

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

Joining in solidarity with the other workers defining the 21st century labor movement, Ithaca College junior Gillian Rossbach and sophomore Alyssa Salerno, who work at Starbucks, have signed a petition for a vote to form a union at Ithaca’s Meadow Street Starbucks. So far, 26 workers at the three different Starbucks locations in Ithaca — Meadow Street, College Avenue and The Commons — have signed the petition. Roughly 65% of each location has signed, which is well above the 30% requirement needed to get a vote, according to the Ithaca Times. The workers were inspired when a Starbucks in Buffalo, New York, voted 19–8 in favor of creating the only unionized store out of the over 8,000 Starbucks locations in America. These union efforts are taking place during a mid-pandemic American labor movement. Since 2021, labor strikes and efforts to form unions have exploded throughout the American workforce. Concurrently, an ongoing mass resignation has caused the quitting of nearly 70 million jobs and as a result has brought labor-related issues — the minimum wage, benefits and job quality — to national attention. Rossbach has worked at multiple Starbucks branches since 2017. Recently, Rossbach has been working at the Starbucks on Meadow Street, which opened in January 2022. Rossbach said that for a few months, talks of unionizing began among workers at the Collegetown Starbucks location on College Avenue. Workers between Ithaca’s three Starbucks branches had been communicating about ideas for forming a union. However, fear of getting fired made them hesitant, as Starbucks has previously fired workers attempting to unionize.

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SOLIDARITY, PAGE 4

# Trustee asked to step down

BY ALYSHIA KORBA  
AND ELIJAH DE CASTRO

For two years, Anjanette Brown has been filing complaints against her ex-husband Luvelle Brown — superintendent of the Ithaca City School District (ICSD) and member of the Ithaca College Board of Trustees — for abuse of power, to little success. In response to the lack of meaningful action by the ICSD, the board of trustees and the New York State Department of Education, a new petition started by Ithaca College Alumni Against Austerity is demanding that Luvelle Brown step down. Anjanette, with the assistance of Peyi Soyinka-Airewele, professor in the Department of Politics, filed a petition with ICSD on Nov. 23, 2020. The complaints included failure to supply adequate educational resources for their son who has special needs, abuse of power as superintendent, limiting Anjanette Brown’s involvement in her children’s education, unethical hiring practices and interference with a Child Protective Services (CPS) investigation following Luvelle Brown’s alleged physical assault of their son. In February 2020, CPS began an investigation regarding a physical injury that Luvelle Brown’s 8-year-old son sustained Feb. 23, 2020, which included several bruises. The Cayuga Medical Center report of these injuries states, “I asked him how it happened and told me his father grabbed him and scratched him and squeezed his neck [sic].”

The petition on Change.org has gotten 87 signatures. In addition to the allegations of child abuse, the petition cites unethical conflicts of interest that Luvelle Brown has engaged in during his time as ICSD superintendent. One of these includes hiring Erica Keuffer as his administrative assistant in 2015 because she was the paralegal for the law guardian appointed to advocate for their children during their divorce process. Keuffer admitted in a deposition to having a romantic relationship with Luvelle Brown beginning two months after she was hired at ICSD. The board of trustees did not respond to multiple requests to comment. “It is disgraceful to normalize Dr. Luvelle Brown’s behavior and not hold him accountable for the ways in which his behavior has disrupted both his family and the lives of numerous members of our community,” the petition states. Stella Rivera ’19 is one of the signers of the petition calling for Luvelle Brown’s resignation from the board of trustees. Rivera said one of the reasons she signed the petition is because she believes enabling abusers by keeping them in positions of power puts both the Ithaca community and the campus community at risk. “It’s really reckless to give someone like that such a huge position of power,” Rivera said. “I don’t understand why we don’t

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# Environmental efforts at Ithaca College fall apart after administration’s job cuts

BY LORIEN TYNE

Environmental efforts at Ithaca College are deteriorating, according to community members who have seen a lack of staffing support in campus-sustainability efforts. The college has been named one of the most environmentally responsible colleges in the country according to The Princeton Review for 2022. However, campus members are concerned because of job cuts, lack of staffing and the college’s focus on reducing carbon emissions, other aspects of sustainability are decreasing. Gregory Lischke, former director for the Office of Energy Management and Sustainability (OEMS), who oversaw many of the college’s environmental initiatives, resigned Nov. 15, 2021. Dave Maley, director of Public Relations, said the college is actively finding a replacement. Rebecca Evans, former campus sustainability coordinator in OEMS, said the college eliminated her position at the end of Spring 2022 because of budget cuts. Jake Brenner, associate professor and chair of the Department of Environmental Studies and Science, said he cannot tell if environmental sustainability is still a priority for the college. “There’s been no change in [the Senior Leadership Team’s] talk about [sustainability],” Brenner said. “But as I look around, the people that used to be in charge of these programs are no longer here. ... it’s hard to really ascertain if they’re still even going on.” Maley said when Lischke resigned, the Student Eco Reps, a student-led campus organization created to engage the community in sustainability efforts, transitioned from reporting to OEMS to be overseen by the Center for Civic Engagement (CCE). “Because the nature of the work that these students do is similar to other on- and off-campus student community service activities, being part of the Center is a natural fit,” Maley said via email. Maley said David Harker, the director for CCE — who is on temporary leave until April 4 — met with Eco Reps prior to starting his leave to strategize for Fall 2022. Junior Petar Odazhiev said he quit OEMS



Junior Petar Odazhiev quit from his position as an intern at the Ithaca College Office of Energy Management and Sustainability because there is no longer leadership in the office. KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

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# Board of Trustees listens to concerns

BY OLIVIA STANZL

Members of the Ithaca College Board of Trustees discussed retention, the presidential search and Luvelle Brown, member of the board of trustees and superintendent of the Ithaca City School District (ICSD), who has been accused of misusing his power, at a Feb. 14 open meeting for community members.

The virtual open-conversation session was led by David Lissy '87, chair of the board of trustees, and James Nolan '77, vice chair of the board of trustees.

Lissy said one of the main issues discussed at the winter meeting was the college's retention rate.

"As important as it is to put our best foot forward and attract students, you know, if we can't keep them here once they're here, then of course, that becomes an even bigger challenge," Lissy said.

Kelly Stern, the director of

enrollment marketing in the Creative and Marketing Group said she feels the college is in a crisis because of the number of changes it has experienced in the past few years.

"As a community over the past five or more years, we have endured zero-based budgeting, the blue sky event and aftermath, student sit-ins in the Peggy Ryan Williams Center, an 18-month interlude while we awaited a presidential resignation, a sea change in leadership, — starting with a new presidential inauguration — a new strategic plan," Stern said.

Lissy said that he understands the present state of the college is not sustainable, but that he said he believes in the college's future.

"I'm not going to stop doing the work that I do tirelessly to try to affect the best possible future for IC," Lissy said.

Stella Rivera '19 said she is hesitant to recommend and endorse the college to interested



Picture above taken in 2019. Dave Lissy '87, chairman of the Ithaca College Board of Trustees, and Jim Nolan '77, vice chairman of the board of trustees, held a virtual open conversation via Zoom on Feb.14.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

applicants because Brown, who has allegations of domestic violence against him, continues to hold his position on the board of trustees as well as superintendent.

"I don't feel comfortable sending vulnerable 18-year-olds to IC knowing that someone on the board of trustees has been accused of such egregious abuse," Rivera said. "I don't really under-

stand, is there something that's keeping you guys from talking about it?"

Lissy said he engages with prospective students and recommends the college. Lissy said he is unable to make comments regarding Brown.

The college is in the later stages of the presidential search process.

"I think we need someone who

is going to do the hard work of bringing the community together," Lissy said. "I mean not just the faculty [members,] but also the alumni. We're all united in the success of Ithaca College, and we need someone who can inspire that."

CONTACT OLIVIA STANZL  
OSTANZL@ITHACA.EDU

## MULTIMEDIA

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



### Students Connect Through Poetry

On Feb. 8 in IC Square, spoken-word artist Ashlee Haze gave a poetry performance following an opening from two student-poets.



### LGBTQ Valentine's Celebration

The LGBT Center held a Valentine's gathering for LGBTQ+ students to celebrate with each other Feb. 14 in Towers Concourse 110.

## THE ITHACAN

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

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# TVR major gets a name change

BY OLIVIA STANZL

For decades, Ithaca College students have graduated with a degree in television-radio (TVR), but in Fall 2022, current and incoming TVR students will now be studying under the name ‘television & digital media production’ (TVDM).

The TVR degree offers courses in different areas of media like video, audio and writing. The college’s TVR degree will be called TVDM to better reflect the curriculum and the job market, according to an email from Steven Gordon, associate professor and TVR program director.

“Our name better reflects our up-to-date curriculum and how we prepare students for the ‘exploding’ job market in digital story-telling,” Gordon said.

Jack Powers, interim dean for the Roy H. Park School of Communications, said changing the name of TVR has been a topic of discussion among faculty for years.

Powers said the main reason for changing the name of the major is that it will be a more appropriate descriptor of what the degree offers.

“TVR is one of the degrees that always graduates more students than come in, because nobody knows what it is coming in, and then they figure it out and cross over,” Powers said.

Gordon said changing the name of the title has the potential to help students land jobs after



Junior Connor Hibbard works at WICB, the award-winning Ithaca College radio station, as station manager. Hibbard has been working at the radio station since his freshman year at the college.

BROOKE VOGEL/THE ITHACAN

graduation. From 2020–30 media and communication occupations are projected to grow 14% according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“In any marketplace from Portland, to New York, to Los Angeles to Seattle, wherever it is, probably 70% or more of the jobs are called digital content or digital producers,” Gordon said. “That’s the term today for making media, so we felt that we really needed to come up to that level and have that in our title.”

Powers said that while using the term “radio” is currently becoming outdated, streaming radio, or online radio, is gaining

lots of popularity.

“Things like Spotify and podcasts, that’s radio, but we don’t call it radio today, that’s digital,” Powers said.

Junior Connor Hibbard is the station manager for WICB and a TVR major. Hibbard said he is not in favor of the name change because it pushes radio to the background.

“WICB and VIC are both incredible, award-winning institutions and they will absolutely stay that way,” Hibbard said. “I don’t anticipate us losing any resources or support or anything and we’re going to continue to be the best college radio stations

in the country,” Hibbard said. “But, it does start to bury that for new people coming in.”

Powers said the new name encompasses all forms of broadcast, rather than just traditional radio broadcasting.

“It’s important, especially in a world of media that is ever changing for the Park School to change with it,” Powers said. And I think this is exactly what programs should be doing, is examining their curriculum, examining their name, and making sure that what they do is appropriately described.”

CONTACT OLIVIA STANZL  
OSTANZL@ITHACA.EDU

# College offers new health app

BY CAROLINE GRASS

In an effort to respond to students’ concerns and needs regarding mental-health services, Ithaca College has partnered with the mindfulness app Sanvello and is offering a free, premium-level version of the app to everyone at the college.

The college is a Jed Foundation (JED) campus, which is a four-year partnership that the college started in 2020. The campus is assessed on its student mental-health offerings and JED helps the college improve and increase services. Sanvello works to combat stress, anxiety and depression with guided journeys, meditations and a daily mood tracker.

Michelle Goode, program director for the Center for Counseling, Health and Wellness, said one of JED’s recommendations was to provide more opportunities for students to build coping skills which is where the app comes in.

“We don’t want to replace counseling, because that’s not what the application is intended for,” Goode said. “To me, the phone application is a really awesome way that theoretically, every single person on campus could access at any time at their fingertips, the tools that they need to manage stress or whatever they’re experiencing at that moment.”

The college has workshops like the “Building Your Anxiety Toolbox” group students can attend through the Center for Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS), but Goode said she thinks that students are often too busy to attend them.

The app initiative was paid for through funds raised during Giving Tuesday Fall 2021 which raised \$22,287 and 73 donors directly gave to the initiative, raising \$6,807.

Senior Michelle Pei, president of Active Minds, a student organization that focuses on promoting mental health on campus said she thought the app cannot hurt the campus community, but that more pressure on students to seek help alone might not be good.

“What [Sanvello is] doing is super cool,” Pei said. “Like any therapy meditation via your phone, the issue that I take with it is really putting the therapy and help seeking on you rather than providing resources or lightening the burden.”

Pei also said she thinks funds could be better used on CAPS services since she knows students who have struggled to get appointments in a timely manner. In 2015, a group of students on campus formed the campaign #getCAPSready to push the college to increase CAPS services.

“I have also heard that CAPS has been a difficult process for many people in which they’ve had to be on waitlist for weeks, which is not an ideal situation for somebody who is trying to reach out and get help,” Pei said.

Freshman Miriam Schatz said she had not heard of the Sanvello partnership but was interested in downloading the app and trying it out.

“For me I could probably reach out to CAPS, but I just don’t because it’s a big process, but I feel an app is an easy one-and-done,” Schatz said.

Pei said she hopes the college still focuses on fostering interpersonal connections.

“I just don’t think it would be smart to have your technological device be the thing that hosts all of your workload, all of your therapies, all of your entertainment. It’s just too much centering around that and not enough of human relations,” Pei said.

CONTACT CAROLINE GRASS  
CGRASS@ITHACA.EDU

# Speaker lectures on equity in education

BY ELIZABETH KHARABADZE

Raja Gopal Bhattar, a diversity, equity and belonging strategist and an inaugural Racial Equity Fellow with InterFaith Youth Core’s Interfaith America initiative, spoke to members of the Ithaca College community about incorporating equity, inclusion and belonging into learning environments.

The event, held Feb. 14, was part of the Difficult Dialogues: Cultivating Cultures of Belonging Symposium. Bhattar’s work combines qualitative and quantitative approaches to intersectional identity.

Interim Provost Melanie Stein gave the introduction, noting the relevance of the conversation as educators grapple with the after-effects of COVID-19 on classroom learning.

“Our campus commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is reflected squarely in our strategic plan and is one of the priorities identified by the Senior Leadership Team this academic year,” Stein said. “Recent events on campus and nationally illustrate that inclusivity is not yet embraced by all. As educators, our classrooms remain one of our most powerful tools to advocate DEI [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion].”

The conversation comes following the discovery of two swastikas drawn inside buildings on campus.

Bhattar said it was important for colleges to educate people on the history behind issues of importance — like the swastika — allowing growth, opportunity and progress to take place.

“What is the actual history of the symbol and other symbols that we use, and how



Raja Gopal Bhattar spoke to members of the Ithaca College community Feb. 14 as a part of the Difficult Dialogues: Cultivating Cultures of Belonging Symposium.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

[does] that actually transform and make people feel uncomfortable?” Bhattar said.

Bhattar also said that while diversity is a baseline for colleges, equity is a choice that requires intentional work to ensure that it can be met.

“I believe that we have to be equity-minded ... and be willing to challenge the status quo of everyone gets the same thing,” Bhattar said.

One audience member commented on the need to provide more critical resources for students to embrace equity.

“So much of what we see in classrooms is the difference between first-generation versus multi-generational learners,” they said.

Bhattar left the audience with several key questions to consider in academic work: asking whose perspectives are not at the table, what is your own framework, and how can you foster a community guided by an equity framework?

“As we think about what it means to engage in this work ... I believe that leading with intention that aligns as closely as possible with impact — impact is not always what the intention is — that does not deny the impact nor the intention, but it is the mixing of both,” Bhattar said.

CONTACT ELIZABETH KHARABADZE  
EKHARABADZE@ITHACA.EDU



FROM SOLIDARITY, PAGE 1

A spokesperson for Starbucks’ media relations department said that while the company will respect the unionization process, it believes direct discussions between management and workers is better for the company.

“We continue to believe a union is not necessary at Starbucks,” the spokesperson said. “We believe direct communication between our partners has made us the company we are today.”

However, Rossbach said one of the biggest reasons she signed the petition for a vote to unionize was because she believes Starbucks fails to communicate with its workers. It was only when Rossbach and her coworkers began unionizing that Starbucks began to listen to them and give them resources to deal with in-store issues like understaffing, poor sanitation and grueling long work schedules.

“After we got the petition signed, corporate came swarming in the next day almost,” Rossbach said. “They are helpful. ... But the help we are getting is because we are doing the unionizing efforts. They’ll claim it’s not the reason.”

Like other corporations, Starbucks has met unionizing efforts with worker intimidation and a firehose of cash being spent on anti-union propaganda and corporate lawyers. As the movement to unionize gets out of the company’s control, it has stepped up its union-busting efforts. At a store in Memphis, Tennessee, workers had to file a federal complaint after they said Starbucks illegally fired seven pro-union employees.

Despite this, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) — which is in charge of facilitating union elections — is strengthening protections for workers trying to unionize. A spokesperson for the NLRB said the NLRB is beginning an initiative to stop coercive conduct by employers during organizing campaigns. The spokesperson said the NLRB has received the union election petitions for all three of Ithaca’s Starbucks branches and

will hold a hearing for those cases Feb. 22.

“Staff in the NLRB work to efficiently process union election petitions,” the spokesperson said via email. “Elections are up 30% in the first quarter of FY2022.”

Salerno has worked at the Starbucks on The Commons since December 2019. Salerno said Starbucks has kept its stores open and asked her to work multiple times when it was not safe, like during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic or periods of extreme weather.

“In the snow, sometimes I’d be scheduled to open at 5 a.m. and I’d have to get up at like 3 a.m. ... get ready and then clear all the snow off my car,” Salerno said.

After recent changes, Starbucks’ minimum wage will become \$15 an hour. However, the company has engaged in wage theft, holding money that it owes its workers. Additionally, the company’s lowest-paid American baristas have an annual salary of \$18,231, which is within federal poverty lines. The company’s founder, Howard Shultz, is worth \$4.3 billion, according to Forbes.

Rossbach said the pay that Starbucks workers receive is not equivalent to the hours that they work and the company does not have adequate seniority pay.

“One of my coworkers has been working as a shift supervisor for upward of six years and has opened a bunch of different stores,” Rossbach said. “He makes \$1 [per hour] more than I do, and I just got my position.”

Salerno said that working at Starbucks is tiring, takes large amounts of energy and the stores are frequently understaffed. As a result, Salerno and her coworkers take on more tasks than one person can handle.

“I always say that being a barista at Starbucks is like having one and a half jobs,” Salerno said. “When you take into account things like bathroom breaks and drinking water — that just doesn’t happen at Starbucks. I don’t drink water. We’re not allowed to have it on the floor with us.”

Rossbach said in addition to improving



From left, Caspar Ward York and junior Gillian Rossbach are workers at Ithaca’s Meadow Street Starbucks. They both have signed a petition to unionize the store.

KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

communication, forming a union would help her and her coworkers combat harassment from customers and coworkers. Starbucks, which has a workforce of 71% women and 48% people of color, has a history of failing to take meaningful action against sexual harassment and racism that its workers have faced. Rossbach said that when she worked at Starbucks’ College Avenue location, the branch’s management would not ban a regular customer that frequently catcalled the workers. Rossbach said part of the union contract that she and the co-signers of the petition are fighting for would grant them the ability to ban customers that make them feel unsafe.

“We need to be able to ban people [customers] that make us uncomfortable,” Rossbach said. “The management was expecting this barista who was extremely uncomfortable to serve that man [who was catcalling the workers] ... Part of our

[union] contract would be that we can ban who we want when they make us uncomfortable. We don’t have the power to do that.”

Hope Liepe is a barista at the Meadow Street Starbucks who is on the Ithaca Starbucks’ union organization committee and is in charge of filing the petitions with the National Labor Relations Board. Liepe said one of the benefits of unionizing in Ithaca is the town’s strong support for labor unions.

“That really helped us as employees because when we introduced it to other people who work there and not just the people on the organizing committee, they received that really well,” Liepe said. “I’ve had multiple customers tell us that they’ve never been to Starbucks but came by just to show their solidarity.”

CONTACT ELIJAH DE CASTRO  
EDECASTRO@ITHACA.EDU

FROM PETITION, PAGE 1

hold people to all have the same standards, especially when it involves children and when it involves vulnerable young adults. It seems very inconsistent to me [that] the ICSD knows that the superintendent literally abused his children and [he] still has a job.”

Senior Kellie Swensen is a member of Open the Books, a coalition of students, faculty and alumni who have been calling for increased financial transparency from the college. Swensen said the petition sends a message to the administration about its complacency.

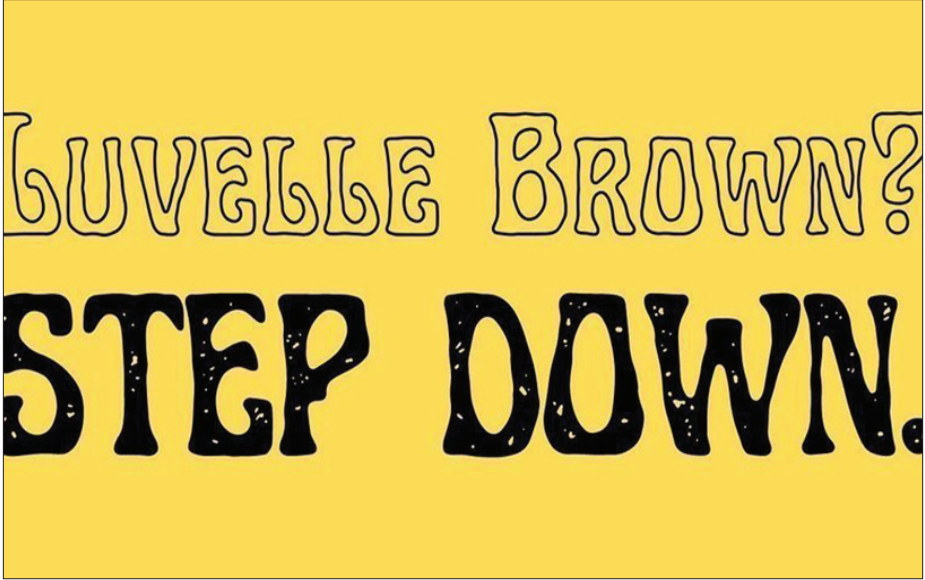
“With the petition, that’s one of the few ways that we can say to the leadership that we know what’s happening and it is disgusting,” Swensen said. “It is unacceptable, especially when we have spoken to members of the board of trustees and they refuse — we are not sure why — to say anything about it other than that.”

Luvell Brown’s term on the board of trustees began in 2018 and will end in 2022. He is the co-chair of the Academic & Student Affairs and is on the Governance & Compensation/Assessment Committee at the college. He also serves on the board of directors for the United Way of Tompkins County and Tompkins County Area Development. Rivera said another reason she signed the petition is because the college has a history of enabling abusers in positions of power.

“The college has set a precedent of putting these people who have been accused of abuse where there’s evidence against them,” Rivera said. “It’s not like these are just baseless accusations.”

Swensen said the purpose of the petition is to begin to address a larger systematic issue within college and societal leadership.

“Their failure to take Dr. Brown’s abuses seriously undermines any efforts to



A new petition on Change.org asks Luvell Brown, superintendent of the Ithaca City School District and member of the Ithaca College Board of Trustees, to step down.

COURTESY OF STELLA RIVERA

campus to hold abusers accountable,” Swensen said. “Whether they recognize that or not, they’re sending the message that in certain circumstances, abuse is acceptable and inconsequential.”

In 2018, Shirley M. Collado — the college’s former president — admitted to living with a patient while she was their therapist. Additionally, Collado was accused by the patient of sexual abuse, which Collado denied. After the allegations were made public, Collado remained in her position as president until she resigned in 2021. Swensen said the fact that both Collado and Luvell Brown kept their jobs at the college despite abuse allegations points to a frightening complacency on behalf of the administration towards abuse and abusers.

“We’re witnessing a normalization of abuse that is going to affect all of us, not only at IC, but in Ithaca and even more broadly,” Swensen said. “It’s awful and I think it’s just very clear that the college wants to

pat themselves on the back for having so much faith in Title IX and then, at the same time, doing absolutely nothing to address abuses committed.”

On top of caring for her children and working on these petitions, Anjanette Brown said she has made sure that her children do not know about the ongoing court proceedings and the dispute between her and Luvell Brown.

“As a mom, you want to shield your kids from the things that they just don’t need to be in,” Anjanette said. “I mean, you’re only a kid once. ... No matter how tired I was to the point of exhaustion in tears, I put on a brave face so that when we were having our cereal in the morning, and we were getting up, and I was driving them to school, they just had no idea I had been up all night doing the work.”

CONTACT ALYSHIA KORBA  
AKORBA@ITHACA.EDU  
CONTACT ELIJAH DE CASTRO  
EDECASTRO@ITHACA.EDU

FROM SUSTAINABILITY, PAGE 1

because the office no longer had leadership. He said Evans was the bridge between students and staff and the inconsistency of leadership positions because of staffing cuts and unfilled positions may be at fault for the deterioration of a broader campus culture of environmentalism.

“We certainly don’t deserve applause for [sustainability] right now,” Odazhiev said. “We definitely did three months ago. I think [Evans] was the most crucial piece that was really the glue of everything, and once her position was terminated, [campus sustainability] started falling apart.”

In 2019, the college cut its carbon footprint by 50% as part of its goal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. The college gets 109% of its energy from renewable resources, meaning it buys and produces more renewable energy than actually used on campus.

Brenner said financial survival often has negative trade-offs for the environment.

“What has mostly happened is the shift has been from environmentalism to economics,” Brenner said. “There is just not the institutional support for the other dimensions of sustainability.”

Ernie McClatchie, executive director in the Department of Facilities and Ground Transportation, said there is a lack of community accountability which has resulted in excess littering. McClatchie said there are currently four unfilled staff positions for ground maintenance, making it hard to pick up after students.

“People were intentionally dropping [masks outside],” McClatchie said. “I think the sense of community is very much lacking from what it would normally be.”

CONTACT LORIEN TYNE  
LTYNE@ITHACA.EDU



# SGC discusses COVID-19 policies

BY RILEY GARAND

The Ithaca College Student Governance Council (SGC) talked with Samm Swarts, assistant director of Emergency Preparedness and Response, to discuss COVID-19 updates at its Feb. 14 meeting.

The SGC approved two new senators: junior Harley Grossman as senator for the School of Humanities and Sciences and junior Himadri Seth as the international senator. Junior Lila Weiser also began as the new chief of staff after being appointed Jan. 31. Previously she held the position of senator-at-large.

**COVID-19 Update**

On Feb. 4, Swarts announced the shift to Green: Lower Risk operating status which indicates current cases of COVID-19 are infrequent and there is low risk of transmission on campus. Swarts said the campus will be business as usual. If there is an uptick in cases, the operating status could be changed. As of Feb. 15, there are 11 active student cases.

**Booster Shots**

Swarts said there was a text campaign that was sent out to students who had not submitted their vaccine boosters, which were due Feb. 15.

“Currently, where we are at, at the end of today, with the numbers we received, we are doing really, really good,” Swarts said. “We actually had over 500



At its Feb. 14 meeting, the Student Governance Council discussed the college’s policies for COVID-19 with Samm Swarts, assistant director of Emergency Preparedness and Response.

MALIK CLEMENT/ THE ITHACAN

submissions over the weekend. So that’s fantastic news.”

A student asked if the college could create a booster clinic.

Swarts said the Hammond Health Center is not licensed to administer the vaccines.

**Face Mask Policies and Surveillance Testing**

Freshman Noah Richardson, Class of 2025 senator, expressed his constituents’ concerns with the mask policies.

“Will there be any increase in enforcing masks?” Richardson

said. “Some people are associating us being within zone green as in it being a mask-free area.”

Swarts said the mask policy will be the same as last semester, despite low cases. Additionally, surveillance testing will continue, with around 300 students, faculty and staff chosen weekly.

Weiser said there are student concerns that reports of case numbers are not accurate, as the school focuses on testing people who are symptomatic and not

those who are asymptomatic.

“People who are randomly tested ... for surveillance testing who are asymptomatic aren’t going to put in the effort to go to Emerson or Peggy Ryan Williams Center which means we are not accurately tracing our cases,” Weiser said.

Swarts said he will consider the suggestion and that he appreciates the feedback.

CONTACT RILEY GARAND  
RGARAND@ITHACA.EDU

# IC continues mask mandate

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

Despite New York Gov. Kathy Hochul lifting New York’s mask mandate, Ithaca College students and Ithacans will continue wearing masks in businesses and public places both on and off campus.

On Feb. 9, Hochul announced that the state would be lifting its mask mandate the following day. Later that day, the Tompkins County Health Department (TCHD) announced that the mandate would stay in place for the county.

These announcements follow an enormous decline in reported COVID-19 cases for the state and the county. On Jan. 9, 2022, New York had a seven-day average of 74,182 new cases, while Tompkins County had a 7-day average of 214 new cases, according to The New York Times. Now, the 7-day average for the state is 4,744 new cases and in Tompkins County, it is 41 new cases. At the college, there are 11 active student cases.

In a Feb. 10 email to the campus community, Samm Swarts, assistant director of Emergency Preparedness and Response, clarified that the college would continue its policy requiring face masks to be worn.

“It is important for us to remain vigilant,” Swarts said in the email. “We must be strategic on what policies and procedures we have in place to always prioritize the collective health ... of our community.”

The TCHD said it would continue requiring face masks because Tompkins County has over 100 cases per 100,000 people, which is what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines as a high-transmission area.

CONTACT ELIJAH DE CASTRO  
EDECASTRO@ITHACA.EDU

# Q&A: IC gets new director for Student Health Services

Jennifer Metzgar has been appointed as the new director for Student Health Services at Ithaca College and is taking the place of Elyn Selin-Sellers, former director for Student Health Services. Metzgar graduated from SUNY Health Science Center in Syracuse, New York in 1999 and has worked in primary care ever since. She came to Ithaca College 10 years ago and has been working with students as a nurse practitioner at the Hammond Health Center.

Staff writer Caroline Grass spoke with Metzgar about her experience in health services and what she hopes to bring to her new position.

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

**Caroline Grass:** Where are you from and can you tell me about how you started your career?

**Jennifer Metzgar:** Yeah, so I’m actually local. I was raised in a very small town called McGraw, which is probably 30 miles from here. I started my career in medicine really at the age of 15. I worked in a nursing home as a nurse’s aide, that’s kind of how this all started.

**CG:** What inspires you or who were some of your biggest influences in the health field?

**JM:** I’ve always been fortunate to have great mentors along the way. From instructors that I’ve worked with to special colleagues that I’ve worked with, it’s really been a lot of nice personal experiences ... I worked with Dr. Vivian Lorenzo. She and I worked together at the VA [Veterans Administration], that’s

12 years ago now. And she kept saying, “Do you have any interest in college health?” And I’m like, ... “I’ll think about it.” So this went on for years and then I finally did come on over to college health and I’m so thankful that she brought me.

**CG:** How does college health differ from other health fields?

**JM:** The unique thing about college health is that I really just take so much satisfaction in working with young adults. It’s a different age group and often sometimes it’s simple, sometimes people just want to come in and have their sore throat treated, ... but other times there’s opportunities to help students learn about their bodies, learn about the medical system, learn and gain confidence around seeking medical care for the first time maybe without their parents being involved. I also have empathy towards parents who maybe their child may be at school and encountering health or illness problems all on their own for the first time. So I really love kind of filling that gap between the student and the parents to help facilitate some of that.

**CG:** Do you have main goals to continue to improve or expand services available to students?

**JM:** Yeah, I would love to explore some creative ways to deliver service, some thinking outside the box. In the past, I did pioneer an STI [sexually transmitted infections] express clinic for students. But that’s an example of just how we can have more care for more people with less kind of bureaucracy around



Jennifer Metzgar is Ithaca College’s new director for Student Health Services. Prior to her current position, Metzgar was a nurse in the Hammond Health Center.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

medicine. Right now we’re unable to run a clinic because of COVID and its social distancing restrictions, but that’s an example of ways that I’d like to think about providing care.

**CG:** For the director position, did the college come to you with the offer or was the opening something you saw and felt like you really wanted to step into this position?

**JM:** So a little bit of both. It really began as a conversation. Having spent my entire life being immersed in medicine, I began to see areas that systems could help make the work

easier for both the staff and for the student or for the patient. ... I think just one other thing I wanted to share with you about myself and why this has been a good fit for me career wise, I have a very science-focused mind so there’s enough intellectual stimulation in medicine, but I’m also a caretaker. I’m very empathetic, I have a knack for connecting with people. So I think for me medicine has been kind of that perfect marriage of science and heart.

CONTACT CAROLINE GRASS  
CGRASS@ITHACA.EDU



# COLLEGE BRIEFS

## LGBT Center wins history award from the GLBT Historical Society

The Ithaca College LGBT Center's Ithaca History Tour has been awarded the Allan Bérubé Prize for outstanding work in public or community-based lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer history. The American Historical Association Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History granted the college with the award. The prize is underwritten by the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GLBT) Historical Society in San Francisco, California.

## Student wins jazz contest prize with music piece called Fireflies

Fireflies of Kobayashi by Masaya Taniguchi of Miyazaki City, Japan was named the winner for the 2021–22 David P. '60 and Susan W. Wohlhueter Jazz Ensemble Composition contest at Ithaca College. Taniguchi won \$1000 and is going to have their piece performed at 8:15 p.m. March 5 by Camille Thurman, guest saxophonist and vocalist, as well as the IC Jazz Ensemble.

## Leadership workshops to begin in March for women in college

The Women Leaders Series is a program that teaches a wide range of personal and professional development workshops for the college's women leaders throughout the month of March.

The program is run by the Office of Student Engagement. The leadership series is offering 13 different programs throughout March and students can register now on IC Engage. Students will get Student Leadership Institute credit after attending the workshops. The workshops offered by the women leadership program include: I Hate Networking; Thinking and Feeling: Gender Differences in the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator; Women in Sport Trivia; Starting a Podcast with Purpose; College Women are Stressed Out and Totally Exhausted; Flipping the Perspective on Self-Care; Closing the Gender Pay Gap; an Introduction to Salary Negotiation; A Binge-Worthy Laugh and Learn Comedy Special; What Are You Calling Toxic? Creating and

Maintaining Friendships; and Know your competencies. The programs are free and are open to all current students at Ithaca College.

## Leadership proposals due Feb. 21 for ideas regarding workshops

The Office of Student Engagement is looking for students, faculty or staff to submit proposals for presentations they would like to give included in leadership workshops. Presenters are able to pick a date and time for their workshop which will run 45–60 minutes long and decide if they would like to run it in person or virtually.

Those who are interested must fill out a student leadership institute proposal form by Feb. 21. All workshops must fall under one of four categories: leading self, leading others, leading in a diverse world or leading at Ithaca College. For more information, faculty or staff can contact leadership@ithaca.edu.

## Students come second in contest for sport management study cup

Students in Ithaca College sport management and in the School of Business took second place in the 2022 Commission on Sport Management Accreditation case study cup.

It was held Feb. 2–4 at the University of Houston. The IC Sport Management team was advised by Wonyul Bae, associate professor of sport management, and consisted of juniors Andrew Guerra and Tyler Ruck and sophomore Hudson Hassler. Guerra was the team captain.

The competition involved developing a philanthropy plan for Houston area professional teams — Texans, Astros, Rockets and the Dynamos — and had to focus on improving an aspect of the team's community relations in the Houston area.

The group also presented to a panel about how the Houston teams could capitalize on their assets to benefit their community.

## Clothing drive taking donations for Southside Community Center

The Physician Assistant (PA) Program Class of 2023 is holding a winter comfort clothing drive now through March 1. Anyone who is interested in donating can drop



## RAs sweeten up Valentine's Day at IC

From left, senior Mackenzie Farrar, freshman Alexander Ordonez and sophomore Olivia Costa, let sophomore Tom Crowley pick out some Valentine's Day treats at a Residence Hall Association event in IC Square.

KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

off clothes at three locations: the PA program suite in Smiddy Hall on the third floor, Orangetheory Fitness and Scrubs 'R' Us.

All sizes, kids to adult are needed and all donations will be given to the Southside Community Center for further distribution.

## Artist to speak at virtual lecture series held by IC art department

Molly Zuckerman-Hartung will be speaking at an art lecture held virtually at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 17. It is a part of Ithaca College's Department of Art visiting artist lecture series. Zuckerman-Hartung is the recipient of multiple awards and fellowships. Her work can be found at the Aspen Museum of Art; DePaul University Art Museum; the Museum of Contemporary Art; the Booth School of

Business at the University of Chicago and the Walker Art Center.

## Park student writing award open for submissions or nominations

The Roy H. Park School of Communications is seeking submissions for the 2022 Park School Student Writing Awards. Submissions of scholarly or creative writing will be accepted for consideration.

The deadline for submissions is March 4. To be eligible one must be a current Park student for the 2021–22 academic year. Students can submit their work but entries can also be submitted by a Park faculty member or student media director. Students must submit a statement explaining which course or organization they wrote their submission work for.

# PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM JAN.31 TO FEB.6

## JANUARY 31

### SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: 113 Campus Center Way  
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person used a college-issued ID without permission. An officer determined the person used the ID accidentally. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded.

### WELFARE CHECK

LOCATION: 341 College Circle Lane  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that another person had sent alarming text messages. The responding officer located the person and reported that the person was determined not to be a threat to themselves or others. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded to the call.

## FEBRUARY 1

### PETIT LARCENY UNDER \$50

LOCATION: South of 143-151 Tower Skyline Drive  
SUMMARY: Caller reported that an unknown person stole a parking sign. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded to the scene.

### MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

LOCATION: 286 Lyceum Drive  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that a person was vomiting. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded and the person declined assistance.

## FEBRUARY 2

### MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

LOCATION: South of 143-151 Tower Skyline Drive  
SUMMARY: Caller reported that a person had a seizure. The person was transported to a hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded to the scene.

### UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

LOCATION: 150 Lyceum Drive  
SUMMARY: Caller reported people were smoking marijuana on a balcony. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa referred one person for possession.

## FEBRUARY 3

### ACCIDENTAL FIRE ALARM

LOCATION: 412 Grant Egbert Blvd.  
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire

alarm was activated. An officer reported alarm activation was caused by room being too warm. Sergeant Jon Elmore responded.

### FIRST-DEGREE AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT

LOCATION: 146 Conservatory Drive  
SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person drew a swastika on the window. Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded.

## FEBRUARY 4

### SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: 318 Grant Egbert Blvd.  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that people took chairs out of a building. Officer reported area checked and was unable to locate any people in the area. Officer returned the chair to the building. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded to the scene.

### MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT

LOCATION: Conservatory Drive  
SUMMARY: A caller notified an officer of a two-car property damage motor vehicle accident. Sergeant Don Lyke responded to the accident scene.

## FEBRUARY 5

### CRIMINAL TRESPASS OF THE THIRD DEGREE

LOCATION: 326 Grant Egbert Blvd.  
SUMMARY: Caller reported that a person had walked into another resident's room and passed out in a bed. Officer reported the person was transported to a hospital by ambulance and referred for irresponsible use of alcohol. Master Patrol Officer Joseph Oppen responded.

### IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/ DRUGS

LOCATION: 284 Lyceum Drive  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that there was an intoxicated person in the bathroom. Officer reported that the person was brought to a hospital by ambulance and was referred for irresponsible use of alcohol. Master Patrol Officer Jon Elmore responded.

## FEBRUARY 6

### LICENSE VIOLATIONS (ALL)

LOCATION: 122 Farm Pond Road  
SUMMARY: Several fictitious licenses were located inside a wallet that was

given to the Office of Public Safety. Sergeant Jon Elmore responded.

### MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/ PSYCHOLOGICAL

LOCATION: 151 College Circle  
SUMMARY: Caller reported that a person made threats to harm themselves. The person was taken into custody under New York state's Mental Hygiene Law and transported to a hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Bruce Hall responded.

### ACCIDENTAL FIRE ALARM

LOCATION: 151 College Circle  
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Officer reported alarm was caused by burnt food. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

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

## KEY

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





ILLUSTRATION BY ANANYA GAMBHIRAOPET

EDITORIALS

Importance of union action needs to be taken seriously

In the age of pestilence, death and sorrow, the most serious danger arises not from the loss of human life but the loss of what makes us human. In these times — times of crisis — we risk being divided by fear; fear induced by those in power, where the wealthy have no sympathy for the poor, and greed becomes a symptom of survival. Fear and greed weaken our social capital and drive our communities apart. It rips open what was already broken in our society: the mistreatment of U.S. laborers and the system that allows for their exploitation. Thus, it brings to light the importance of unionization; the rich cannot escape what the poor must endure.

Those who endure or reject this lack of humanity turn inward to more familiar bonding connections: assistance, reciprocity, information transparency, compassion and trust. This is the making of strong social capital where the working class unites. There is a reason 2021 saw an explosion of

unionization efforts and labor strikes. The mid-pandemic American labor movement is a result of what can no longer be ignored in this country, and when we are forced to face our fears, movement occurs. Ithaca is currently a hub of such movement with a petition to form a labor union at the Meadow Street Starbucks location underway.

Unions promote higher wages and better benefits: workers deserve a good quality of life. Unions provide protection: workers should not be fired because they want to unionize. Unions stand up for women: workers on the line shouldn't be forced to serve their stalkers. The time to support Starbucks workers and labor unions is now. As students at Ithaca College, we must remember we are not, and will not always remain, just a student. We are participants in the economic world. A majority of us are already members of the workforce. We must care that our basic rights are met because when we don't, we risk losing what makes us human.

The focus on sustainability at IC continues to decrease

True: Ithaca, New York is the first city to begin 100% decarbonization of all buildings by 2030. But what must fail for this plan to thrive? With Ithaca College's focus on reducing carbon emissions, other aspects of sustainability are decreasing. The Academic Program Prioritization (APP) was responsible for the elimination of a number of programs, recent job cuts and resignations. Sandra Steingraber, former distinguished scholar in residence in the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences, left the college following the finalization of the faculty cuts, resulting in the loss of the proposed Ithaca College Center for Climate Justice.

The problem with a lack of staffing is glaring and has trickled into the Office of Energy Management and Sustainability (OEMS), rendering it nearly non-existent. Currently, the college does not have a director of OEMS, and the position of campus sustainability coordinator was terminated due to

budget cuts. The decisions made by the college for financial survival are negatively and directly affecting the environment. Institutional survival once again takes precedence over environmental initiatives.

This swift shift from environmentalism to economics is harmful to overall campus sustainability but not shocking. With a lack of financial backing from the college, inconsistency of leadership positions and the non-prioritization of sustainability staff, we can no longer applaud ourselves for our sustainability efforts.

Community members and students cannot become lazy or discouraged by the college's lack of prioritization to important sustainability efforts. There has been an increase in excessive litter across campus. This is unfair to 1) the staff members in the Department of Facilities and Ground Transportation who have to pick up what is not theirs to throw away and 2) the environment. The college community must care for the environment from the ground up.

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





**BETWEEN THE SHEETS**  
GREEN-EYED EX-GIRLFRIEND

## TikTok glorifies online sex work

Caught in the perfect storm of a global pandemic, online school, encouragement from TikTok and being freshly 19, I decided to start an OnlyFans.

The appeal of the not safe for work (NSFW) site comes from its differences to traditional porn. While Big Porn is notoriously exploitative of women, OnlyFans allows creators to control the content they post, with creators receiving 80% of the profits while the platform takes 20%. But the magic doesn't stop there. Because of the control that OnlyFans allows creators, becoming a creator has been marketed as an “empowering” way for women to take control of and monetize their sexuality.

Unless you’ve experienced it, you may not believe in the pipeline from TikTok to OnlyFans. I heard the saying “it’s not what you can do about the patriarchy, it’s what the patriarchy can do for you,” on TikTok and was semi-inspired to start my account. But when I saw a creator who was my age telling her TikTok audience exactly how to make an OnlyFans, how to market their content, how much money she made and why they should do it too, I was hooked.

I was excited by the prospect of using creepy men behind computer screens to fill my pockets. I was a broke college student and as a 19-year-old woman, I knew how much my society valued my sexuality. Everyone knows that sex sells — and as porn statistics have taught us, the closer to underage, the better.

After getting my account approved, I spent hours taking pictures and messaging my fans. Everything was fine until my “biggest fan” (a friend of a friend) got a little unfriendly, asking me to send pictures and videos that I had told them I didn’t want to send. When I didn’t, they called me a whore, a tease and a slut, aggressively reminding me that they were the customer and I was the creator who signed up to cater to them. I blew it off because they were my highest-paying subscriber. It wasn’t until they began insistently asking for the real thing and my personal (and legal) boundaries were crossed, that I had had enough.

I stopped going on the account and eventually shut it down. But recently I realized how disturbing it is that I was encouraged to start the account by a creator on TikTok. OnlyFans was marketed to me as a get-rich-quick and empowering job, feeding into “what the patriarchy can do for you” feminism that appeals to younger women. It focuses on rebellion and empowerment rather than the systematic oppression that the patriarchy causes.

I believe OnlyFans is a better platform for NSFW creators than in-person sets for porn companies. OnlyFans can be safer and can provide a better source of income for creators, but its marketing to barely-legal young women is an uncomfortable, dangerous and slippery slope.

**BETWEEN THE SHEETS** is an anonymous sex column of stories from Ithaca College students. Contact *The Ithacan* at [ithacan@ithaca.edu](mailto:ithacan@ithaca.edu).

### GUEST COMMENTARY

# Account uses art to help heal trauma

BY WREN VERGA

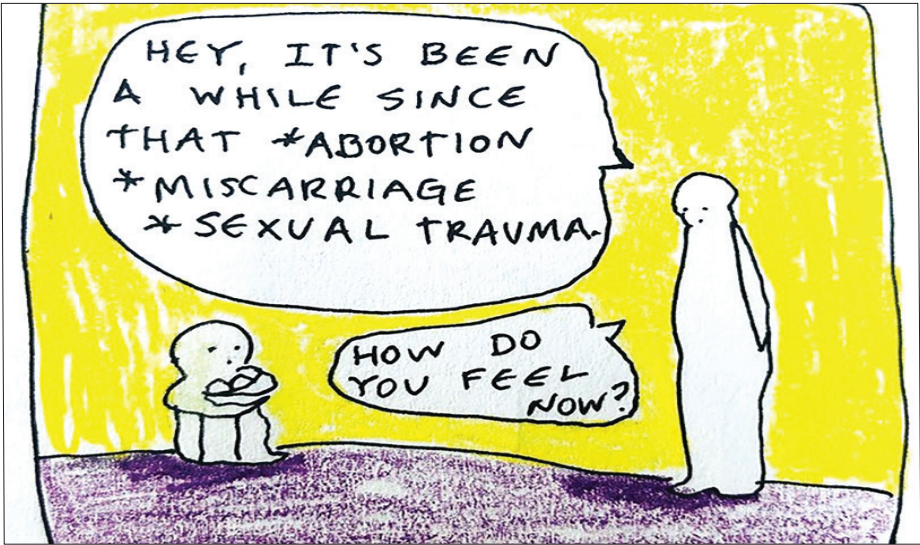
@\_here4you\_ is an Instagram community built around collective, shame-free healing from trauma through art and dialogue. In its origin, a sleepy and poignant January evening, Here 4 You was a deep attempt to find a hand to hold through personal pain.

Here 4 You was created to be the digital safe space someone could find on their own scavenger for peace and belonging.

It is an Instagram page that discusses what are considered to be heavily-stigmatized topics like abortion, miscarriage, post-partum depression, sexual assault, chronic pain and sex through mostly comic-style art. The space is sex-positive, pro-choice, anti-shame, gender neutral and anti-white supremacy. I didn’t know who or what I would find on the other side of sharing such content.

My thoughts surrounding these topics were inconclusive and shrouded in question marks to which I could not provide true answers. The Here 4 You page was, and still is, my gallant attempt to unearth these questions and feelings that have kept many of us silent and riddled with shame, embarrassment and deep pain.

That we have been made to feel shameful and silenced about our experiences with abortion, miscarriage, sexual assault and abuse is not an accident. We’ve been taught to shove it down, to get over it, to keep on



An Instagram account @\_here4you\_ uses digital art and dialogue to create a shame-free, gender neutral safe space for people healing from sexual trauma.  
COURTESY OF @\_HERE4YOU\_

and let it go. It is only to the benefit of those in power that we hold in our pain and trauma. This makes it easier to be controlled, continuing to feed and provide to their capitalist and exploitative systems, so we may not put up a fight in the ongoing and immense siege on our bodies.

After 13 months, the page feels like a home; something I never imagined could be felt on social media. It is a small and wonderful community that is full of kindness and love and support.

The comics themselves address the hard-to-talk-about topics in the hopes of making them feel more approachable and

comfortable to discuss.

Especially as we live through a time in which reproductive health and choice are again at great risk, having these conversations feels especially important.

Since the creation of Here 4 You, many people have reached out to share their stories. People who have commented, shared or messaged have truly confirmed that we are all longing for these spaces to heal through our honesty, vulnerability and pain.

**WREN VERGA** is a former IC student. Contact them on Instagram via direct message @\_here4you\_.

### GUEST COMMENTARY

# Ice at IC creates unsafe walking conditions

BY NOA RAN-RESSLER

It was a chilly evening, and I was on my way to the Athletics and Events Center to go to rugby practice. I had just opened my bottle of water prior to the beginning of fitness. As I stepped out the back doors on the first floor of Lyon Hall, my foot caught on absolutely nothing, no friction at all. I fell. This was not just any slip. This was a cartoon person slipping on a banana peel but even more exaggerated. People pointed and laughed, and I thought to myself, “I can never show my face on this campus again.” I looked at my left hand, and there was my open water bottle, completely full. Not a drop had spilled. I share this mostly to brag about my fantastic balancing skills, but I also share this to make other students that have fallen feel less alone.

On top of the below-freezing temperatures, college students now have a new barrier to face:

the ground. On a walk to class or the dining hall on any given day after snow or rain, tens of students can be seen slipping on the ice that cakes our sidewalks and roads. The injury and damage that can come from ice skating to class has me shaking in my heavy-tread boots.

I write this article so that all of the weather’s victims can feel heard and to ask Ithaca College to do something. I have my issues with salt. It harms the plants around campus, it hurts the paws of all walks of life without the fortune of wearing shoes and it costs money and time for the college. And while it is true, the grounds and facilities crew are understaffed, salting will continue to happen and the mounds of salt in unhelpful places will continue to be a danger to students.

The college will salt roads regardless of its impact, so instead of waiting days after a snowstorm to even plow the



Freshman Noa Ran-Ressler discusses the lack of care for students’ safety on icy pathways across campus.  
KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

walkways and streets, perhaps we can save a few scraped knees and elbows with the proper preparation for a predictable storm (thank you, modern technology).

Of course, by now the snow has somewhat cleared on the roads, and you can almost

taste the tall mountains of salt around campus. However, we must remember a time when walking to rugby practice in Crocs was a death wish.

**NOA RAN-RESSLER** (she/her) is a freshman journalism major. Contact her at [nranressler@ithaca.edu](mailto:nranressler@ithaca.edu).

### OPEN LETTER

I am writing you today to urge the Committee to consider strongly and seriously announcing Interim President La Jerne Terry Cornish as Ithaca College’s next President. At this time of upheaval and unrest at the College, our students need consistency ... All of these changes are weighing on our IC students and community and to announce more change — someone different, someone who isn’t at-tune to our campus dynamic, just sounds to myself and many others

as a selfish decision on the part of the Committee.

It’s bad enough we don’t have enough student representation on the search committee ... Interim President Cornish is ... someone who knows how our institution fundamentally operates. I urge the Committee to remove the title “interim” and instead make it known that La Jerne Terry Cornish is the next president of Ithaca College.

-Connor Watson, junior at Ithaca College



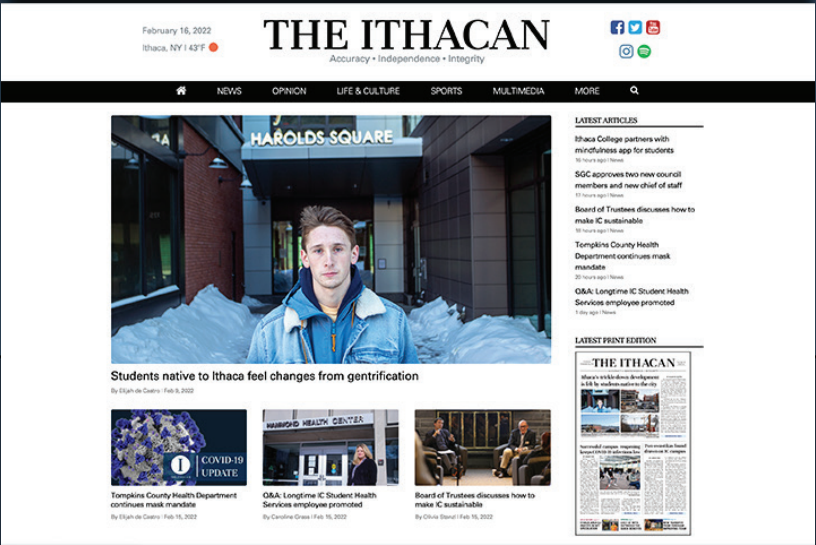
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crossword

By Quill Driver Books

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
17				18						19				
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54	55								56					
57						58	59	60				61		
62						63						64		
65						66						67		

- ACROSS
- 1

Freddy Krueger’s street
- 4

Copy a drawing
- 9

Do a grammar task
- 14

Baseball’s — Piniella
- 15

Happen again
- 16

Queen of the Misty Isles
- 17

Terrible
- 18

Stage direction
- 19

Exploding stars
- 20

Weirdest
- 22

Convenience
- 24

Oasis features
- 25

Tapers
- 27

“Gidget” actress
- 28

Respiratory ills
- 29

Angers
- 32

Vises
- 34

Eschew
- 36

Prepared flour
- 39

Buys
- 40

Tie a turkey
- 41

Motion detector
- 44

Orange tuber
- 45

Captured again
- 46

Doze off
- 49

Chided
- 52

Restaurants
- 54

Malady
- 56

Vote
- 57

Stubborn
- 58

Cabinet post
- 61

Conquistador’s quest
- 62

Fileted
- 63

Pour out lava
- 64

Purpose
- 65

Piqueted
- 66

Hair tint
- 67

Faucet
- DOWN
- 1

Macaroni shape
- 2

Burdened
- 3

Confuse
- 4

Long lock
- 5

Pulled apart
- 6

Not delay
- 7

Stage signal
- 8

Quick trips
- 9

Jury
- 10

Like a hermit
- 11

Editor’s chore
- 12

Sports fig.
- 13

Not hard
- 21

Votes in
- 23

Rx givers
- 25

End of some URLs
- 26

High mountain

- 28

Scoundrel
- 30

Unburdened
- 31

Mag. staffers
- 32

Fridge raider
- 33

Guitarist — Paul
- 34

RGI address
- 35

Springlike
- 36

Animal shelter
- 37

401(k) cousin
- 38

Groping about
- 39

Common ID
- 41

Pioneer
- 42

Lamb’s parent
- 43

Doze
- 45

Took part in a 10K
- 47

Not sinking
- 48

“Will it play in — ?”
- 50

Glowing coal
- 51

Very grassy
- 52

— blanche
- 53

Crush grapes
- 54

“Dancing Queen” group
- 55

Do a laundry
- 59

Uris hero
- 60

Roll


last issue’s crossword answers

LUMP		MEDIC		BYRD
OHIO		CHICO		LEIA
FUTURISTIC				INCH
THETA				COUNSEL
	EPA		BLAND	
STAR		FLOE		VISTA
CON		NICK		BENHUR
AWKWARD			BRIGAND	
RELIVE		AUEL		LEO
ELENA		EMMA		KERR
	CHANT		MAE	
TOEHOLD				STRUT
ALAI		PEREMPTORY		
BERN		HAIKU		LINK
SONG		ARMED		ELSE

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sudoku

medium

4					7	2	5	
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hard

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+

PRINT

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I

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answers to last issue’s sudoku:

medium

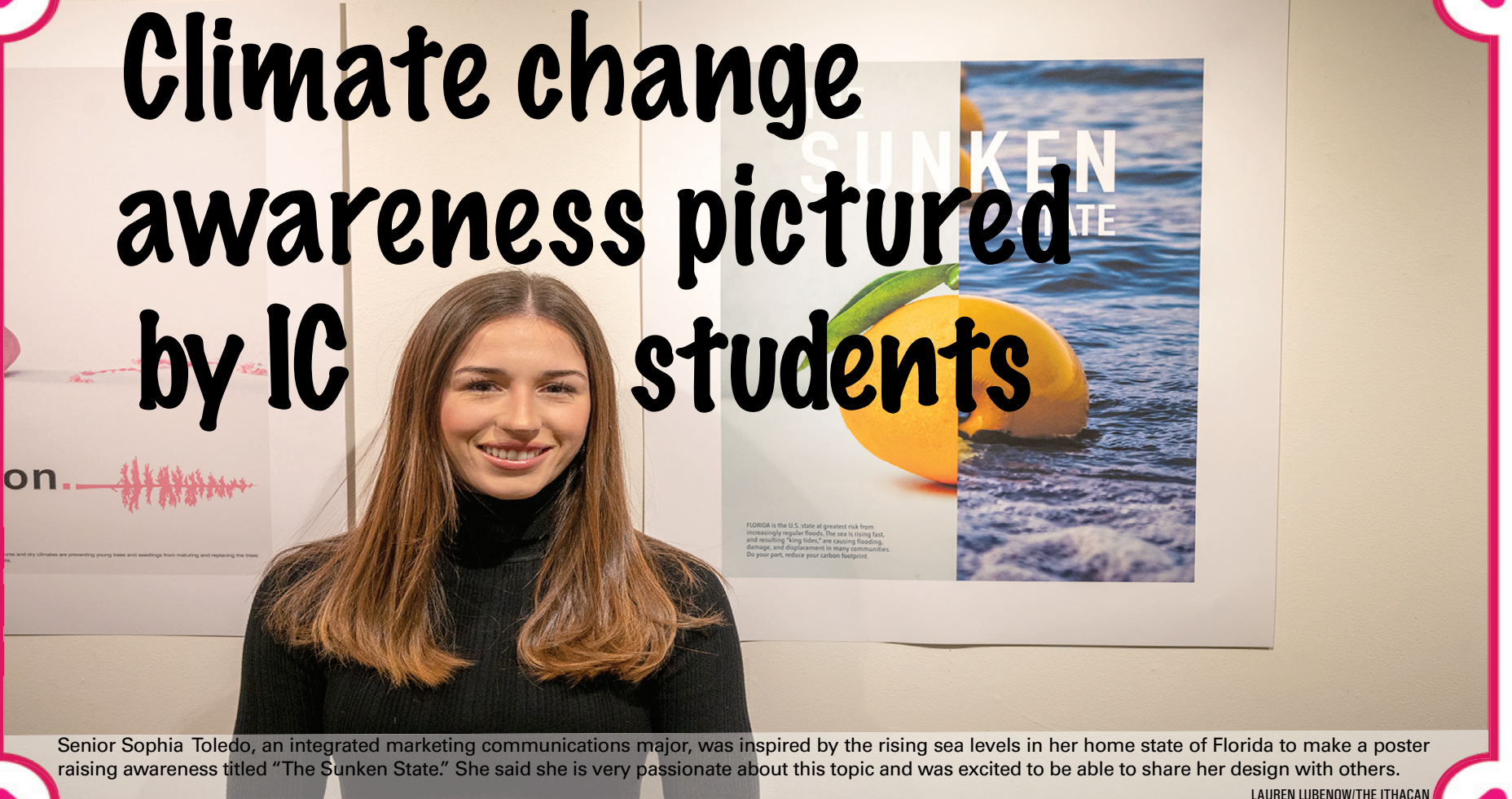
hard

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

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



## Climate change awareness pictured by IC students



Senior Sophia Toledo, an integrated marketing communications major, was inspired by the rising sea levels in her home state of Florida to make a poster raising awareness titled "The Sunken State." She said she is very passionate about this topic and was excited to be able to share her design with others.

LAUREN LUBENOW/THE ITHACAN

BY M MINTON

For the final project for her Graphic Design II classes, Patti Capaldi, assistant professor in the Department of Art, wanted to end the course with a project that would give students the opportunity to be able to voice their opinions.

"It wasn't just [about] global warming," Capaldi said. "I wanted it to be more about extreme weather and the crisis of the climate."

The results of this project were "the climate will determine the green of the future forests" exhibition, which is a set of graphic design posters that feature raster- and vector-based imagery and abstract depictions of environmental issues created by Ithaca College students.

The exhibition had its opening reception Feb. 11 at the Community School of Music and Arts and is open to the public until March 25. The work of 12 current students and alumni are all represented with their posters.

When Capaldi first introduced the project to the students, the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference was taking place in Glasgow, Scotland. Capaldi said none of the students knew what the conference was when she mentioned it.

"A few students in the beginning wanted to just recycle plastic," Capaldi said. "You

know, we've been seeing those posters about recycled plastic for 15 years ... how do we make something feel fresh and new?"

Adam Thacker, a senior emerging media major, said Capaldi was looking for students to use all of the knowledge that they had learned in Graphic Design II to make a poster that would push beyond the basic designs they were doing before.

"She really wanted us to try to use something physical," Thacker said. "So either photos or other ways to manipulate things ... more like stuff that we ourselves would create instead of just using the internet."

Thacker said he wanted to discuss the environmental cost of even proposed green technology through his design.

"I specifically wanted to go after something that was a little less talked about," Thacker said. "Electric cars still require a lot of lithium that is taken from countries in the Global South that usually use either slave labor or pay terrible wages."

Thacker's poster features large letters saying, "Wake up and smell the ashes," with the bottom few words cut off and falling to the bottom of the poster.

"It was challenging in the way that it was kind of the first graphic work I've done that is purely photography based," Thacker said. "I had to design it digitally and then translate that out."

Capaldi said it was very important for

students to be up to date with climate change in order keep topics relevant to today's current climate issues.

"We really tried to think about turning things around," Capaldi said. "How can we have a little bit of hope ... we just didn't want to be grotesque in our imagery."

Senior Austin Zhang, is an environmental studies major and said his creation depicts oil rigs in different states across the United States, turning the rig into an insect through anthropomorphism to show how annoying and inconvenient they are. Zhang's poster prominently features a large image of an oil rig with the definition of fracking written out along with the states California, Pennsylvania and Wyoming inscribed inside the oil rig.

"I'm really deeply rooted in environmental issues and problems and love talking about them," Zhang said. "In the United States, [oil rigs] cause many problems like erosion. They pollute the water and destroy the land."

Fracking is the process of drilling into the earth, putting wastewater into the ground and using explosives to get oil that is later used for natural gas, oil and petroleum.

"Exploiting the ground, you expect a lot of issues coming from it," Zhang said. "That connects directly to my field of environmental studies, where I take a look at these problems, the pros and cons of them, and what environmental damage they caused."

Senior integrated marketing communications major Sophia Toledo said her origins in Florida gave her the inspiration to focus on rising sea levels in her poster, which features an image of a



Senior environmental studies major Austin Zhang showcases the negative effects of oil rigs and fracking through his poster.

LAUREN LUBENOW/THE ITHACAN

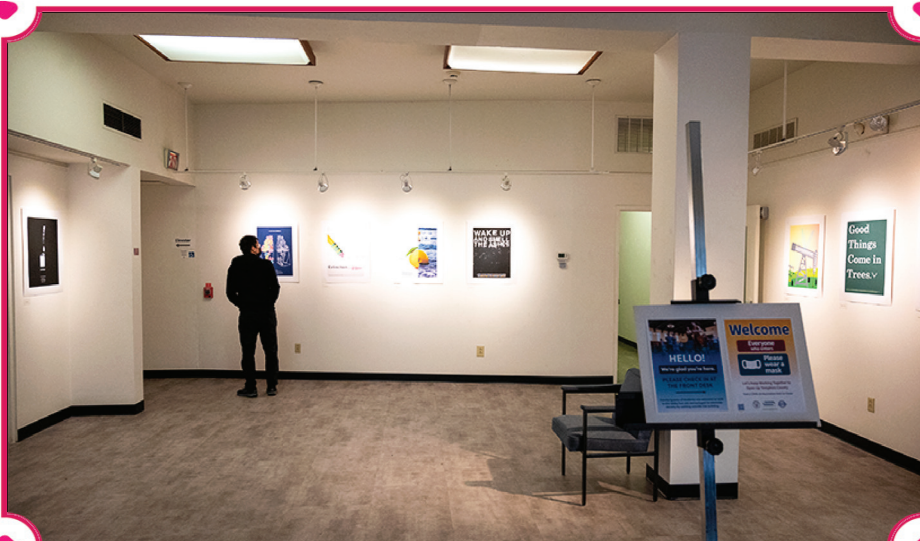
Florida orange front and center with the title "The Sunken State." One side of the poster has a plain background with the fruit while the other side depicts an orange object in a flood.

"There's a lot of articles about Miami sinking," Toledo said. "I've participated in beach cleanups, so I feel like I do value that issue specifically. ... I wanted to highlight that instead of global warming in general. Making it more personal."

Toledo said everybody's posters in the class are conceptual, relying on visuals rather than trying to catch the audience's attention.

Capaldi said she wanted the posters to represent a good cause and show her students that design can be a powerful force for change.

"It's really a cross between how graphic design works with social and ethical issues," Capaldi said. "You have an image that should really be powerful, should really draw the person, the viewer, in a little closer."



The Community School of Music and Arts hosts the exhibition show displaying students' work on climate change and will be open from Feb. 11 to March 25.

LAUREN LUBENOW/THE ITHACAN

CONTACT M MINTON  
MMINTON@ITHACA.EDU



# Student-led cabaret supports victims of abuse

BY EMMA KERSTING

In 2010, Kathleen Mulligan, professor in the Department of Theatre Arts, went to Kerala, India on a Fulbright project. During her time there, Mulligan worked with women who were victims of domestic violence, focusing on empowering the women through voice.

After speaking to the director of the women's shelter, Mulligan and her husband discovered that the program needed a vehicle to rescue women and their children in the night. The Mulligans raised the funds for an auto-rickshaw with the help of actors at the Hope Summer Repertory Theatre in Holland, Michigan, marking the first Wheels for Women Cabaret.

On Feb. 5, the Ithaca College Wheels for Women organization held its 11th annual cabaret, produced by the students in the Department of Theatre Arts. The cabaret took place over Zoom this year and featured performances by members of the senior class in the Department of Theatre Arts as well as Voicestream and Black Artists United.

The funds raised by Wheels for Women support job training for shelter residents, assisting them in gaining financial independence and the ability to move away from their abusers. The goal for this year's fundraiser is to contribute to funding the building of a permanent refuge for women and their children.

While the cabaret has ended, it is only the beginning of the

fundraiser. While the fundraiser has already raised over \$7,500 with 121 supporters, the donation page is still up and accepting donations in order to reach the \$40,000 goal.

Senior Will DeVary, Wheels for Women co-president, has been involved with Wheels for Women since he was a freshman. DeVary sees the organization as an opportunity to grow as a leader and develop a sense of community and team-building in the theater department.

"It's helped me meet some of my closest friends, and it's helped instill a sense of service in the community as well as team-building and leadership skills," DeVary said. "It's about being part of something bigger than yourself within the Dillingham community, which is a really beautiful, heartening thing."

Originally, the cabaret was meant to be an in-person event, but plans were interrupted as the fall semester came to a close when Ithaca College's COVID-19 infection risk status moved into stage Orange: Low to Moderate Risk. While the campus is now back in the Green: Low Risk status, the Wheels for Women board made the decision to change the event to an online format over the winter break out of an abundance of caution.

Senior Christina Johns, a stage management major, is treasurer of the Wheels for Women organization and acted as stage manager for the cabaret. Like many student members of the organization, Johns holds this cause close to their heart.

"Domestic and sexual abuse is



The Wheels for Women cabaret included performances from seniors in the Department of Theatre Arts, Voicestream and Black Artists United. This year's cabaret took place virtually via Zoom.

COURTESY OF WILLIAM DEVARY

such a big problem everywhere, and to be able to help women get out of that and find safety and make a living is really special," Johns said. "It means a lot that I have any small part in helping with that."

Johns and DeVary commented on some of the advantages to the online cabaret. Last year when the cabaret was online, Wheels for Women raised more money than it had made in any other year, with donations totalling to \$10,401, surpassing the \$10,000 goal. The online format of the event also made attending more accessible, with people from outside the Itha-

ca area attending. Some students attended the cabaret from the Ithaca College London Center.

Funds raised came from donations by patrons as well as raffle ticket sales and an auction during intermission, where DeVary acted as auctioneer.

An item that has been auctioned off for the last several years at the event is a homemade pie from Mulligan herself, which was sold for \$550 this year, breaking the record for how much the pie has gone for in the past.

"[The pie] tradition has taken on a life of its own," Mulligan

said. "This year, I think about 20 students chipped in. Believe me, I'll make sure there's enough pie for all!"

After 12 years of the Wheels for Women cabaret, Mulligan says seeing the concrete results of the performers' hard work is always greatly rewarding.

"Seeing how our students in the department devote their energies to changing the lives of women they don't know, that never ceases to move me," Mulligan said.

CONTACT EMMA KERSTING  
EKERSTING@ITHACA.EDU

# New IC course explores principles of Buddhism

BY INBAAYINI ANBARASAN

Housing the North American Seat of the Personal Monastery of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Ithaca's South Hill is no stranger to Buddhism. Also located on South Hill, Ithaca College has introduced a new course, titled Seeking the Buddha in an effort to educate its students about Buddhism.

The course has been approved for the Integrative Core Curriculum (ICC) Diversity credit at the college. The class, taught by Eric Steinschneider, assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion, explores the historical evolution and lived experience of Buddhist religious traditions by studying how people have tried to search for, understand and discover the Buddha.

"[The class] remains an introduction to Buddhist traditions, from the ancient times right down to the present and around the world, both in Asia and also in the West," Steinschneider said. "This idea of seeking the Buddha, it's a sort of an active way of imagining what Buddhism is."

Senior Thu Thu Hlaing, a practicing Buddhist, said she is looking forward to taking the class.

"I've never been able to properly learn a lot of the academic side of Buddhism, so, coming from the practicing side, I'm really eager to learn more," Hlaing said.

Steinschneider said this class is an opportunity for students to get an insight into Buddhism and its presence in Asia. He also said the class will look at Buddhism as both

a philosophy and a religion. While religion is based on beliefs that pertain to the supernatural, philosophy discusses the moral truths about humanity and causes humanity to launch a quest into understanding the truth of the world.

"People in America probably think that Buddhism is a philosophy and not a religion," Steinschneider said. "I really want my students to think about what we are doing when we call something a philosophy and not a religion, and why we don't like the term religion here."

The religious studies major offers students the opportunity to cultivate critical reading, writing and thinking skills, according to the Department of Philosophy and Religion.

Faculty members in the Department of Philosophy and Religion have introduced new courses and restructured many existing courses, like the Seeking the Buddha course, which was previously titled Introduction to Buddhism.

Junior Chloe Gibson, majoring in documentary studies and religious studies at the college, said the class also talked about establishing the definition of the word religion as a whole.

Gibson said the class discussed the idea of religion being a Western academic study that is on the terms of people in Western academia.

"We started by acknowledging that religion itself isn't really a term that other people would associate what we would consider their religious practices with,"



Eric Steinschneider, assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion, instructs a course that challenges his students' preconceptions of Buddhism.

BRENDAN IANNUCCI/THE ITHACAN

Gibson said. "Kind of framing the idea that Buddhism is not something that you are, but something that you say and do."

Gibson also said the title "Seeking the Buddha" was in an effort to remind people that the course is not something that encompasses the entirety of Buddhism in itself.

"Adding the terminology of 'seeking' piques student interest," Gibson said. "Finding the Buddha is something that not everyone who associates with or practices Buddhism achieves. It's a common goal, but it would be naive to say it's a goal for every Buddhist."

Sophomore communication and design major Lisandra Espiritusanto is enrolled in the course to fulfill her ICC credit. Espiritusanto originally picked up the course because it fit her schedule, and was soon intrigued by the course material.

"... These ideals and we'll be studying in class are things you can use in real life," Espiritusanto said. "Those ideals can help you become a more adaptable and open-minded person."

CONTACT INBAAYINI ANBARASAN  
IANBARASAN@ITHACA.EDU



# ‘Moonfall’ is a ridiculous waste of time

MOVIE REVIEW: “MOONFALL” LIONSGATE



**BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD**

With the title “Moonfall,” little is left to the imagination about what audiences will painfully experience for its two hour and ten minute runtime. Written and directed by Roland Emmerich, “Moonfall” — with horrendous special effects and poorly-done CGI action sequences — documents the hypothetical undoing that could occur if the moon were to literally fall into the earth.

Attempting to explain the awful plot of “Moonfall” should come with an honorary degree. The film is structured horribly and expects viewers to suspend their disbelief to insane lengths to accept the premise of the film. In its simplest form, “Moonfall” follows Brian Harper (Patrick Wilson), a disgraced astronaut who — after being fired from NASA due to a mission failing under mysterious circumstances — has spent the last 11 years drinking and working on his vintage car.

Suddenly, K. C. Houseman (John Bradley) announces to the internet that the moon will make contact with the earth in a matter of weeks. Brian is brought out of retirement by his former partner and current head of NASA, Jocinda ‘Jo’ Fowler (Halle Berry) to assist her with one last mission to save the world.

The plot of “Moonfall” is both utterly confusing and uninteresting because there is little believable suspense that can be built from this abundantly on-the-nose premise of the moon falling. The audience expects that the moon will crash into the earth and then watches the destruction as the moon crashes into the earth.

In disaster films where the outcome of natural destruction is pretty predictable, compelling and engaging characters keep viewers invested in the events of the film. “Moonfall” does so little to make viewers care about the characters that having the primary characters die actually sounds appealing. The audience knows nothing about the characters and has no reason to care for them. When the film does try to rely on something of substance about the characters, it is delivered in the most heavy-handed dialogue.

“Moonfall” isn’t even visually stimulating. All of the action sequences and special effects appear as though they were made over the course of a long weekend.

At times, “Moonfall” stunt scenes even feel like forced, mediocre Lexus commercials which completely yank viewers out of the movie watching experience — even if it is an unpleasant one. The character



Between the obnoxiously obvious premise, awful CGI and shameless product placement, “Moonfall” is a failure.

COURTESY OF LIONSGATE

Tom Lopez (Michael Peña) plays a Lexus car salesman and is the embodiment of luxury.

The third act involves a nearly five-minute car chase scene where Tom’s shiny new Lexus must navigate the collapsing environment while in a chase sequence against antagonists who were trying to rob the protagonist. In these scenes, the film shows Tom literally switching the car into sport mode in order to quickly

maneuver away from the perpetrators, but in reality it is to highlight this super effective Lexus car feature.

If the creative minds behind “Moonfall” cared about creating even a subpar final product, it doesn’t show. There is nothing to gain or experience from watching “Moonfall” other than the sensation of wasting time.

CONTACT SYDNEY BRUMFIELD  
SBRUMFIELD@ITHACA.EDU

# Mitski uses ‘Laurel Hell’ as a heartfelt departure

ALBUM REVIEW: “Laurel Hell” Dead Oceans



BY EVA SALZMAN

After she announced an indefinite hiatus in 2019, Mitski fans thought they’d heard the last of the singer-songwriter. But following the release of four promotional singles, it appears Mitski is stepping back into the spotlight — and into the shadows — with the release of her sixth studio album, “Laurel Hell.”

Known for her vulnerable, mature, cutting lyrics, it sounds like Mitski is using “Laurel Hell” to give music one last shot — expressing the lifelong ache of an internal battle between success and happiness.

Opening with the ambient, dissociative track, “Texas, Valentine,” Mitski declares herself as stepping “carefully into the dark,” and what follows is a beautiful, drawn-out goodbye.

“Working for the Knife,” the first of the promotional singles released for the album, is the epitome of the overall feeling of “Laurel Hell.” Accompanied by jarring electro-industrial instrumentals, Mitski confesses years of struggle with sharp, gut-wrenching lyrics about a dream she chased for her entire life, only to feel like she killed herself in the process of achieving it. Similarly, on the eerily powerful “Everyone,” she weeps about what the in-

dustry has taken from her, leaving listeners to ponder her hiatus with the lyrics: “Sometimes I think I am free / until I find I’m back in line again.”

“I was thinking this was the last show I would perform ever, and then I would quit and find another life,” Mitski told Rolling Stone in December 2021 regarding her 2019 Summerstage performance. Whether her fans want her to or not, tracks like “There’s Nothing Left Here for You” and “I Guess” suggest that quitting and finding a new life is exactly what Mitski intends on doing. The track “There’s Nothing Left Here for You” mimics the life of a star and is an album standout for its instrumental storytelling.

Mitski tells herself that there is nothing left for her in the music industry, that it’s time for her to “find a new you.” But around the midpoint of the track, the instrumentals explode for a few beats until they burn back out into a calm mist of dazzling exhaustion.

Though Mitski expresses a clear disdain for the constant visibility that accompanies fame and the music industry’s effect on creative work, “Laurel Hell” features some of her most commercialized sounding work. “The Only Heartbreaker” revives 1980s pop synths, flashy enough to fill a stadium. But



“Laurel Hell” acts as Mitski’s bittersweet farewell to the burden of her success.

COURTESY OF DEAD OCEANS

the following track, “Love Me More,” suggests a veil of self-awareness. Embellished with similar racing instrumentals, “Love Me More” is a detailing of how Mitski’s time in the spotlight has given her an insatiable appetite for validation. Though the tracks are unbelievably catchy, the instrumentals feel significantly out of place on “Laurel Hell.”

Mitski wears her heart on her sleeve, she always has, and — whether she was contractually obligated or not — “Laurel Hell” suggests that she might leave it out for just a little bit longer before it stops beating entirely.

Above all, “Laurel Hell” sounds like growth, like learning how to give up. And even among the energetic, impassioned tracks on the album, Mitski sounds like she’s breathing her last breath into her music career.

CONTACT EVA SALZMAN  
ESALZMAN@ITHACA.EDU

## QUICKIES



COURTESY OF KEMOSABE RECORDS/RCA RECORDS

“CELEBRITY SKIN”  
Doja Cat

Doja Cat breaks away from pop-rap with a cover of Hole’s 1998 track of the same name. Doja puts her own spin on the grunge classic — changing a few lyrics and adding a brighter, poppier flare.



COURTESY OF PERPETUAL NOVICE

“BILLIONS”  
Caroline Polacheck

Opening with a warped drum beat and glassy, reflective synths, Caroline Polacheck’s producer talents shine in “Billions.” The track is a blend of filtered vocals and sound effects, creating a surprisingly relaxing electronica.



COURTESY OF 4AD

“RED MOON”  
Big Thief

Big Thief embraces a new sound on its latest track “Red Moon.” Featuring a scratchy violin and country-twanged vocals, “Red Moon” broadens horizons for the band with a warm, folksy sound.



COURTESY OF ICY/WARNER RECORDS

“CLOSER (FEAT. H.E.R.)”  
Saweetie

If Doja Cat only knew what she was doing when she brought ‘70s sound to women-fronted pop-rap. Saweetie and H.E.R.’s “Closer” is a glimmery, ‘70s-funk inspired dance track with an infectious four-on-the-floor beat.



BREAKING THE ICE THROUGH SPORT



Freshman August Choder moves the puck down the ice during the Ithaca College club hockey team’s practice at The Rink on Feb. 8.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN



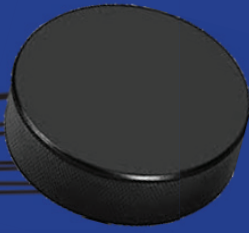
Junior Luke Pohlman competes during one of the team’s practices. The team typically practices twice and plays a game each week.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN



CLUB ICE HOCKEY FACES OFF WITH LOCAL COLLEGES

Illustration by Malik Clement



BY AIDAN CHARDE

Club ice hockey is just one of 40 club sports offered by Ithaca College, which can make it easy to get overlooked. But for the players on the team, it can be a good way of getting involved with a sport that the college does not offer at the varsity level.

Senior Harrison Fried, president and team captain, said he has been playing ice hockey since before he was 10 and though he did not want to play Division I in college, he knew he wanted to keep playing after high school.

“I always knew hockey was going to be part of my life,” Fried said. “[I decided] club would be a really good option for me, so I could pursue my career and hockey could still be a part of my life.”

But even though Fried was able to find it prior to coming to the college, he knows it is not the most well-known club on campus.

“I can’t tell you how many times people have come up to me and said, ‘Ithaca [College] has an ice hockey team?’” Fried said. “It’s definitely, I think, a hidden gem.”

Sophomore Lauren Sieber is one of the people working with the club on trying to grow its social media presence and helping the team from behind the scenes. Sieber said she first wanted to play for the team because she had played in high school, but decided against it. While the team is co-ed and includes two women on the roster, Sieber said the physical difference in men’s and women’s hockey deterred her from joining.

“I saw that we’re playing against other guys, and I didn’t really want to be chunked

into the boards,” Sieber said. “Harry [Fried] gives us the option to play, but ... I didn’t want to get hurt, potentially.”

The team practices twice a week and plays home games at The Rink in Ithaca, about 15 minutes from the college. It plays 10–15 games per season in the Upstate New York Club Hockey League (UNYCHL).

Sieber said the players have to carpool to get to games and practices. The home games are easy, but away games can force the team to travel three hours or more. For the most part, though, she said they play against teams closer to the college, like Cornell University, SUNY Cortland and Binghamton University.

Despite all the challenges that come with being a part of and running the club, Fried and Sieber both said the whole team loves playing the sport.

“Everyone’s there because they want to be there,” Fried said. “There’s a lot of energy on this team and a lot of excitement. ... It’s honestly inspiring, and it motivates me every day. We got a great group of people this season.”

Junior Dylan McCrink said he joined the team because he played hockey for a lot of his life, but other sports took priority for him in high school. He said the club team has helped him get back into the sport.

“I kind of rediscovered my passion for hockey a little bit in college,” McCrink said. “I was always pretty good, but didn’t think I could play Division III or anything. So I found the club team, and then it kind of just went from there.”

Senior captain Alex Butler said he is also happy that the club gives him a way of

continuing his athletic career. He added that athletics are an important part of his identity, so club hockey has been a great way of getting to keep that as a part of his life.

“I think [club sports] are super important,” Butler said. “I’ve been an athlete my entire life and it’s something that’s a part of my identity. I love playing sports, and being able to play a club sport where I might not have been able to play a varsity sport, it’s just very nice to have.”

As captain, Fried has a large role in practices and during games. However, because each club team needs an official coach, he said Josh Bonnetta, associate professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, is the volunteer acting coach.

“It’s [Bonnetta’s] first year coaching with us and he’s, you know, getting to know the team,” Fried said. “He’s a fantastic guy. We’re very happy to have him on board.”

But while Fried and Bonnetta help foster a serious atmosphere, Butler said the commitment is not too much.

“It’s not crazy serious. Our team knows that academics come first and that this is a club,” Butler said. “But when we get in there, everyone is taking it very seriously, trying to win. We do what we can to win.”

McCrink said the team is trying to win, but has had a hard start to the season in the fall. For starters, it played without an experienced goalkeeper for several games, and when it found a permanent one, McCrink said it took him time to get into rhythm. Now that the pieces are starting to fall into place, he said he thinks that the team could be much more

competitive this spring.

Bonnetta had high praise for the team’s mentality, especially the new goalkeeper. He said he knows the season has been hard, but the club is pushing through.

“This season has been challenging, and it’s not down to the team’s organization or skillset,” Bonnetta said in an email. “I’ve been impressed by their positive spirit despite the tough losses. I think the [sophomore] goaltender Jack [Forrestel] ... should be commended.”

Bonnetta also said the team does not have a lot of players, which has contributed to their difficulties. But he added that, because the team advertises to students mostly by word-of-mouth, he is impressed with the caliber of players it has right now.

“There could be a better way to reach students,” Bonnetta said in the email. “Even teams with smaller student populations like Le Moyne, for example, have a much deeper roster than we do.”

Most importantly, Fried said he just wants people to have fun and play hockey. He said the club is open to whoever wants to join, no experience necessary, because it is all about the energy and enjoyment.

“If you want to give it a shot and be a part of the team, that’s all we can ask for,” Fried said. “[People who are new to hockey] bring a ton of character to the locker rooms and practices, on gameday and in team dinners. ... We love growing the game.”

CONTACT AIDAN CHARDE  
ACHARDE@ITHACA.EDU



The Ithaca College club ice hockey team practices and plays each of its home games at The Rink in Ithaca.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN



From left, juniors Drew Hyland, Luke Pohlman, Mike Bueti and sophomore Jack Forrestel at practice.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN



The club also travels around the state to play other teams in the league, totalling 10–15 games each winter.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN



# Bombers compete in Rumble and Tumble meet

BY EMMA KERSTING

The Ithaca College wrestling and gymnastics teams faced off against the SUNY Cortland Red Dragons in the fifth annual Rumble and Tumble event for the first time in two years Feb. 16.

The rivals squared off against each other at Whitney T. Corey Gymnasium in the first Rumble and Tumble meet in two years because the Liberty League canceled the 2020–21 winter season as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the event, both the wrestling and gymnastics teams competed at the same time. To junior gymnast Nya Pauldon, the meet is an anticipated event each season.

“I think a really cool part of it is that you have people coming to watch the gymnastics or people coming to watch the wrestling,” Pauldon said. “And while they’re there, they get exposed to another sport that they probably didn’t know much about.”

Pauldon said she and her teammates struggled returning to the mat this season because of the time missed from the canceled season. Although the team was able to get together to practice for Spring 2021, she said part of being on a gymnastics team is competing and setting goals for higher scores in each event.

“Gymnastics is a lot about goal orientation and having a set timeline to get there,” Pauldon said. “I think we felt a little lost at first

... but we were thankful to get back into the gym together and start getting new skills, making new bonds and just being able to train.”

Gymnastics head coach Rick Suddaby said the yearly meet has a special significance as a SUNY Cortland alum. He said each year he looks forward to the event as an opportunity to connect with past friends and colleagues.

“It’s always fun to compete with Cortland, and it’s fun to mix the crowds in that, and so we have a lot of fans at either one that hosts,” Suddaby said. “When we go to Cortland, I see people that I know who I’ve worked with or studied with.”

The Bombers posted a solid effort in the last Rumble and Tumble meet, taking home a strong victory in wrestling by a score of 31–9 but falling just short in gymnastics with a final score of 188.150–185.550 at Ben Light Gymnasium.

On the wrestling team, senior Eze Chukwuezi said he enjoys the annual event as well. He was a key contributor to the Bombers’ victory in the 2020 event, defeating Kevin Morgans 14–2 by major decision.

Chukwuezi said the high energy from the crowd that is coming to see either competition adds extra excitement. Even though the Rumble and Tumble is an important rivalry event, Chukwuezi said he does not let the magnitude of the contest intimidate him. Over the years, the two colleges have developed a rivalry through athletics, with their campuses being located



From left, junior Red Dragon Chandler Merwin faces off against junior Bombers’ wrestler Matthew Beyer, and junior Bombers’ gymnast Zoe Kyriakopoulos competes on the balance beam Feb. 16.

BRENDAN IANNUCCI, NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN



just 23 miles away from each other.

“I treat it about the same as any other match, but the day of is definitely a little more exciting than the other ones,” Chukwuezi said. “Cortland is always a fun event whenever we wrestle them, so there’s a little bit more fire under us, but nothing really changes in preparation.”

Entering the event, Chukwuezi said he hoped to pull a full sweep against Cortland during the Rumble and Tumble. The Red Dragons had a 6–1 record, while the Bombers stood at 10–4 entering the event. At

the New York State Championship in November 2021, the Bombers placed second while the Red Dragons placed fourth.

Wrestling head coach Marty Nichols said he enjoys the atmosphere at the event and believes that this environment can help his wrestlers moving forward.

“The nice thing about it is that with the gymnastics going on at the same time, it’s pretty loud in there, which is great because it really gives you a chance to focus in,” Nichols said. “You’ve got to really listen, you’ve got to really be tuned in on

what you’re doing. It’s good practice for the regional tournament.”

Suddaby said the event is a turning point in the season to continue to grow at a consistent rate.

The Rumble and Tumble meet concluded the 2021-22 regular season for the wrestling team, while the gymnastics program will close out the campaign March 6 against Springfield College.

Staff writer Rocco Di Maiolo contributed reporting to this story.

CONTACT EMMA KERSTING  
EKERSTING@ITHACA.EDU

# Sprinter sets new mark in the 60-meter dash

BY ORI JORDAAN-GRADY

Sophomore track and field runner Jalen Leonard-Osbourne holds the Ithaca College program record for the 60-meter dash at 6.78 seconds, which is now tied for first in the country for Division III this season.

He broke his own record in three consecutive weeks against Moravian University at the Nazareth Indoor Conference Challenge Cup and the Bomber Invitational on Feb. 5. During the stretch, he has improved his time by 0.14 seconds. The difference may be small, but his previous program record of 6.92 seconds would not be enough to even put him in the top 20 fastest times this season. Leonard-Osbourne has been scorching the track as of late, but success and competition aren’t new grounds for the record-breaker.

Leonard-Osbourne expects nothing less than success, which is why he has no expectations for slowing down after tying for the fastest 60-meter dash in the country. He is used to breaking records.

“I expected it and I just keep trying to get better and keep progressing over time,” Leonard-Osbourne said. “My peak isn’t here.”

He knows that he has had to put in the work to achieve the new record and is soaking in the recent achievement. He is now already looking forward to what’s next and is hungry for more.

“These next couple of meets are stepping stones for me to reach my goals at nationals,” Leonard-Osbourne said. “I’m just proud of myself honestly.”

He said running the 60-meter dash was

an easy decision and transition from playing football. During the 2021 season, however, he injured his left wrist, which caused him to miss time in the football season. Since then, Leonard-Osbourne has spent a lot of time in the gym working on lower- and upper-body strength with fellow sprinter and football teammate, junior Daniel Hutchinson.

“I’ve noticed in the weight room that he’s always trying to get back to where he was and even higher,” Hutchinson said. “That motivates me to even do better in the weight room.”

Leonard-Osbourne said his time in the weight room has kept him in prime shape, but the process of recovering from a broken wrist hasn’t been all smooth. He said his success is not just from the amount of hard work he puts into preparing his body and studying the sport. In fact, a lot of his success comes from his extremely competitive and confident spirit. In the three meets he has raced in this season, Leonard-Osbourne has won the 60-meter dash each time.

“[Setting another program record] feels great,” Leonard-Osbourne said. “I put in all the work, so I expect nothing less.”

Leonard-Osbourne’s strong indoor season so far has played a part in bringing the Bombers to being ranked 15th in the country among NCAA Division III teams.

Jim Nichols, men’s track and field head coach, also said he is impressed with the sprinter’s work ethic and his drive to be the best version of himself. He said he is proud of all the success Leonard-Osbourne is having.



Sophomore sprinter Jalen Leonard-Osbourne broke his own program record for the fourth time in the 60-meter dash Feb. 5 with a time of 6.78 seconds.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

“Jalen has a gift, as far as an athlete with talent, but he’s also working hard at trying to be the best that he can be,” Nichols said. “He’s got a great personality.”

Leonard-Osbourne said his goals are to finish the season as strong as he started. The team has two more meets before the regular season ends, and he wants to go all the way.

“I’m going to try to win the Liberty League 60-meter dash, after that then the All-Atlantic,” Leonard-Osbourne said. “After that, hopefully take it to nationals and see how that goes.”

If Leonard-Osbourne can make it to nationals, he might go face-to-face with Jaylen Grant, a sprinter from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Grant is the runner

currently tied with Leonard-Osbourne for the fastest time in the country, running a 6.78 in December 2021 and matching it Jan. 28 and Feb. 12. Grant said he is just looking to get his best time possible, but he likes the competition with Leonard-Osbourne.

“[Leonard-Osbourne] is doing his thing over there [in Ithaca],” Grant said. “And I’m excited to compete against someone when that time presents itself.”

With just under a month to go before the indoor season ends at the Division III Championships, Leonard-Osbourne still has plenty more time to break his record again.

CONTACT ORI JORDAAN-GRADY  
OJORDAANGRADY@ITHACA.EDU





From left, Monica Arambulo, facilities attendant in the Facilities Services Acad I, and senior Charlotte Povey meditate. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the noon hour at the Muller Chapel, meditation sessions are offered by The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life and Mindful IC for all students, staff and faculty.

LEILA MARCILLO-GOMEZ/THE ITHACAN