As tuition costs continue to climb, IC students fall further into debt

**Net Cost of Private New York Colleges After Financial Aid:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost (in $)</th>
<th>Ithaca College</th>
<th>Union College</th>
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<tr>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>$29,103</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

ILLUSTRATION BY BRIANNA TOVAR

**Student Debt Crisis Reveals Systemic Issue**

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

After the Ithaca College Board of Trustees raised the price of tuition by 3.25% for the 2022–23 school year, sophomore Bianca Sessegolo called it quits and decided to transfer to Rutgers University in Fall 2022. where she will be paying cheaper, in-state tuition.

“I’m paying pretty much entirely in loans in my name or in my parents’ name,” Sessegolo said. “Especially since I’m a first-gen student going into college, we didn’t know how to do any of it or how it works, especially in this country… I don’t know anybody who’s not at least a little bit concerned about their financial future.”

Out of the college’s $65,527 annual cost of attendance, $46,610 is for tuition. While the college’s tuition is $8,425 higher than the average $38,185 price tag for American private colleges, the issue is not unique to the college. Americans now carry a collective $1.86 trillion in student debt.

During the 2020 presidential election cycle, candidates Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren popularized a policy idea of canceling federal student loan debt. Then-candidate Joe Biden joined Sanders and Warren and pledged to wipe out $50,000 in debt for students from families making less than $125,000 and $10,000 for all students.

**Beloved used-clothing store to close its doors**

**BY CLARE SHANAHAN**

A used-clothing store on The Commons, Trader K’s, has curated a sense of community for its customers and employees alike over the past 26 years and has become an Ithaca staple. When owners Karen and Jay Sciarabba announced the store’s closing Feb. 15, the news shocked and saddened residents surrounding towns and communities.

Karen Sciarabba said in recent years, construction of two neighboring buildings has limited Trader K’s ability to take in clothing and supplies. “Everybody turned and goes as they feel because they’re building a new building,” she said.

This used-clothing store occupies over 4,000 square feet on The Commons and has been putting out 500 to 1,000 pieces of clothing daily, according to its website. Karen Sciarabba said the store’s size drew customers from surrounding towns and communities. She said there was immediate feedback from downtown, “All the construction that’s going on has really put a damper, even since they re-did the whole Commons.”

The City of Ithaca renovated and reconstructed the Commons between 2009 and 2015, as previously reported by The Ithacan, and construction in the area has continued since.

Karen Sciarabba said that the decision to close was made at the end of February, “It’s just been really stressful, not just with that parking lot but dealing with construction workers.” Karen Sciarabba said, “Everybody turned and goes as they feel because they’re building a new building.”

Karen and Jay Sciarabba opened the store 26 years ago and have been running it since. When owners Karen and Jay Sciarabba announced the store’s closing Feb. 15, the news shocked and saddened residents surrounding towns and communities.

Karen Sciarabba said that the decision to close resulted from complications like construction of surrounding buildings, inadequate policing and particularly of shoplifting and life changes for the store owners.

Karen and Jay Sciarabba opened the store 26 years ago and have been running it since. The owners are well-known to frequent customers. Ithaca College senior Brianna Lowe, a Trader K’s employee, said, “I’ve been going there since I was a little kid.”

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New archive team preserves history

BY LORIEN TYNE

After an abrupt closure and months of uncertainty, the Ithaca College Library will once again be taking requests to view the college’s archives — a collection of thousands of digital and physical records that preserve the ongoing history of the college.

Interim College Librarian Karin Wikoff announced Jan. 18 that the Ithaca College Archives and Special Collections would be open to limited services for Spring 2022. For the entirety of Fall 2021 the archives were shut down after the elimination of the archivist position. Wikoff said the archives team will not be taking on any long-term research projects and they are limiting the service to two or three archive requests a week.

For 33 years, Bridget Bower served as the college’s first and only college archivist. In June 2021, the college eliminated the archivist position. Now, there is a three-person archivist team: Rachel Gay, cataloging and receiving specialist; Kate Payne, electronic resources and serials coordinator; and Terri Ann Coronel, electronic resources librarian.

Gay currently works on the archives two days a week trying to organize the boxes of backlogged physical copies.

“At this point, we’re creating a plan if we don’t get an archivist, but the hope is that sooner than later we’ll have somebody who’s employed for this position,” Gay said.

Gay said she is handling all the work for the physical archives while Payne is focusing on the digital archives. Coronel has taken on the job of running the Digital Commons, which is an online platform that features work like pre-prints, working papers, peer-reviewed journal articles, student honors papers, conference proceedings, data sets, presentations, film productions and images.

At the current staff, work Wikoff said Bower did everything for the archives by herself — work Wikoff said accounted for more than a full-time job — until the college eliminated Bower’s position and she retired. As of July 5, 2021, the college Archives and Special Collections reported to have around 2,300 boxes — all different kinds of records related to the college like recorded sports games, photos, event flyers and protest signs.

“We’ve just been sort of winging it ever since [Bower left], you know, whatever we can do to continue to preserve and make things take time to get the archives processes running smoothly. “It’s really a way to keep track of the history of the college itself,” Michael said. “So, remembering the faculty, remembering the programs, collecting some of the documents and ephemera.”

CONTACT LORIEN TYNE
LTYNE@ITHACA.EDU
Mayor brings new era to Ithaca

BY LOREN TYNE AND OLIVIA STANZEL

Local government officials in the City of Ithaca are confident that the community initiatives started by former mayor Svante Myrick will continue following his Feb. 6 resignation.

Myrick resigned after 10 years as mayor and assigned Common Council Representa- tive Laura Lewis as acting mayor. Lewis will be retaining her role and seat on the Common Coun- cil as the Fifth Ward alderperson. Lewis had expressed interest in running in the November 2022 general election and has repeatedly expressed her support for affordable housing, the Ithaca Green New Deal and the Reimagine Public Safety initiative.

While Myrick initiated a number of initiatives like Reimagine Public Safety and the Ithaca Green New Deal, Lewis said the Common Council had to approve and endorse them.

“There has been a budgetary support behind initiatives that may have stemmed initially from Mayor Myrick, but these are initiatives that have my full support and that most certainly are continuing with city staff and Common Council effort,” Lewis said.

The Ithaca Green New Deal was adopted by the Common Council in June 2019 and has two goals: to achieve complete carbon-neutrality by 2030 and share the benefits equally.

Sibbenhall Hall is the Ithaca hub coordinator for the Sunrise Movement, an organization that advocates for political action on climate change. Hull said the Ithaca Green New Deal needs someone to be an advocate for the program like Myrick was.

“I am concerned that the act- ing mayor currently does not have a history of being a large climate proponent,” Hull said. “I do worry about the Common Council’s general reluctance to implement the Ithaca Green New Deal. As the Ithaca Green New Deal currently stands, it is more of a promise than actual policy measures.”

Sophomore Nick Viggiani, Class of 2024 senator for the Ithaca College Student Gover- nance Council, said there may be a full in progress on projects while Lewis gets settled but that no drastic change in policies will result from Myrick’s resignation.

Viggiani said he hopes Lewis will prioritize affordable housing.

“As a college student, I con- sider living off campus and I feel like getting affordable housing is really key,” Viggiani said. “It would be really beneficial for a large demographic.”

Lewis will only serve until the November 2022 general election. The winning candidate will then finish the last year of Myrick’s four-year term and at the end of 2023, there will be an election for the next full term.

Aldersonperson Cynthia Brock said how initiatives proceed is dependent on council members and that is always changing.

“Every time a council chang- es, of course that council has a new voice in how programs that were started previously will con- tinue,” Brock said. “It’s hard to tell what the future may bring.”

Viggiani said he hopes Lewis will continue,” Brock said. “It’s hard to tell what the future may bring.”

Viggiani said he hopes Lewis will continue to prioritize affordable housing and support network. The more people support to a community in need.

“Don’t give up,” Raymond said. “You’re basically quieting down that side of the brain … and shutting that off, and forcing them to use the side that is involved.” Scott said.

“I really wanted to provide some kind of opportunity where students could actually engage in the intervention itself. [Then they can] use the intervention to de- velop knowledge, develop skills, enhance their confidence and in being able to implement that … be more apt to use it in practice.”

The students used modified CIMT, in which the participant’s unaffected arm and hand were re- strained. The students then had them do activities that focused on using that affected arm. Other activities focused more on everyday skills, like making meals, painting and cleaning.

Mitchell Raymond, who partici- pated in the bootcamp, suffered a hemorrhagic stroke at age six that disabled him from opening his hand. A physical therapist himself, he was able to benefit from the treatment and help the students.

“I personally, as a stroke sur- vivor, would hop on board every time they provide [the bootcamp],” Raymond said. “Both for my teach- ing of the students involved as well as my own benefit from use of my right upper extremity.”

Rachel Valentino is one of the graduate students that participated in the program. She said it was re- ally valuable because of how real it felt, making her and the other OT students think on the spot.

“Specifically for my client, after the first day, his wife or girlfriend came back and was like, ‘oh my god, you guys worked him so well, he feels like he’s actually getting progress and reaching his goals and everything,” Valentino said.

“So, obviously we wish we had a longer time with them, but I think everyone enjoyed it.”

Having gone into the field to help those who had suffered strokes, she said that she hopes the program evolves as time goes on.

“I hope in the future, it becomes a bigger thing,” Valentino said.

“People deserve it.”

This is what Scott is hoping to see too. She said the weekend and the data gathered from its sur- veys, feedback and observations will help the department with how it decides to facilitate programming in the future.

For individuals like Raymond, the hope is that the program is undeniable; they offer invaluable support to a community in need.

“Don’t give up,” Raymond said. “Keep fighting and you could give to a support network. The more people are alone post-stroke, the less likely they are to help.”
from the community when the store announced closing. The secondhand industry has become very popular in recent years, increasing in annual profits by $11 billion between 2020 and 2021, according to the ThreadUp and Global Data’s 2021 Resale report.

Shopping from thrift stores like Trader K’s is likely rising in popularity as an alternative to fast fashion, according to Good On You, an organization that advocates for ethical shopping. Its buying secondhand, consumers bypass the use of new resources in the production process. The fashion industry is responsible for 8–10% of global carbon emissions, according to a 2019 United Nations press release.

Paula Turkon, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences, said the decision of one person to reduce consumption by buying clothes has a small impact on the environment, but it is important to raise public consciousness.

Turkon said in Ithaca, thrift stores seem especially successful because people that live here are constantly moving into and out of a college town, generating clothes and other items for donation. Thrift stores like Plato’s Closet, the Salvation Army and the Ithaca ReUse Center will remain, but Turkon said the loss of Trader K’s really shows the changes taking place on The Commons.

“Trader K’s was the first [secondhand store in Ithaca], maybe Salvation Army has always been there, but Trader K’s made it more fashionable,” Turkon said. “Trader K’s was such an icon and I think it’s a trendsetter.”

Junior Kathryn Koszak is a journalism major who has written pieces on sustainable fashion and incorporates sustainable fashion into her own life. She said she was surprised to hear of the store’s closing because pro-sustainability was generally supportive of sustainability efforts.

There are many local groups and organizations in Ithaca that promote environmental sustainability, including Sunrise Ithaca, the Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative, Ecovillage Ithaca and many others.

“I think that it’s kind of going to be a bit of a culture shock to not have so many thrift stores, especially for college students,” Koszak said. “I feel like one of the first things that I heard coming in here was a fresher—’it was that you’ve got to go to Trader K’s.’”

Lowe said she has been working at the store since her sophomore year and currently works there along with three other students that go to the college as well.

“I wanted to start working here sophomore year because I just loved the store, and I loved that it was women-owned and run,” Lowe said. “I felt so lucky to have been part of the Trader K’s legacy and to see it through. I’ve seen a lot of people come and go from Trader K’s just in the past year. I’ve seen at least a dozen people come and go. But the people that I’ve worked with have been some of the nicest people—isn’t it even just like a thrift store. It’s a place where bonds are made.”

Senior Brianna Lowe first started working at Trader K’s during her sophomore year at the college. Lowe said she is sad to see the used-clothing store close after 26 years.

“I feel so lucky to have been part of Trader K’s legacy. It’s a place where bonds are made.”

— Senior Brianna Lowe

Senior Will Hugonnet has had to take out loans from both private and public lenders to pay tuition at Ithaca College.

Former Student Financial Services website, three private student loan companies are recommended for students — Citizens Bank, Discover and Sallie Mae. All three of these corporations have reached settlements with the U.S. government after using illegal banking practices. Sallie Mae’s loan servicing operation is carried out by Navient, one of the most common private student loan companies in America. In a January 2022 settlement, Navient canceled $1.9 billion in student loans after it was alleged the corporation intentionally lent subprime loans it knew would fail to American college students.

“You have to watch out for predatory businesses that are going to try to take advantage of this situation,” Kolberg said. “Some sort of cap on interest rates needs to be done to protect students in what is a pretty scary market.”

Buried deep in the college’s Student Financial Services website, three private student loan companies are recommended for students — Citizens Bank, Discover and Sallie Mae. All three of these corporations have reached settlements with the U.S. government after using illegal banking practices. Sallie Mae’s loan servicing operation is carried out by Navient, one of the most common private student loan companies in America. In a January 2022 settlement, Navient canceled $1.9 billion in student loans after it was alleged the corporation intentionally lent subprime loans it knew would fail to American college students.

It’s really stressful,” Hugonnet said. “I don’t like thinking about it. … I know you can defer them until you’re working, so I think I have one more year before I have to get started [paying]. But it’s daunting because you get out of school and you get a very basic, entry-level job, which doesn’t pay that much as is.”

Staff writer Jaden Davis contributed reporting.

Irene Lipper said that when she came back from winter break, she brought rapid tests that she had bought at home with her for free use. However, when she tested to her friends, Lipper wanted to use the USPS program to get more tests for herself. However, she encountered this issue when she tried to order.

“When I first put in our address at Circle Apartments, they said that it couldn’t be delivered,” Lipper said. “It said that a someone had already ordered.”

It was only when Lipper changed her address to the college’s official address — 953 Danby Road — that she was able to place the order. However, despite being able to pass that hurdle, Lipper has still not received her tests. Lipper’s friend, junior Calin Zadravec, also had this issue when ordering some tests from USPS. Like Lipper, Zadravec’s order has also not been delivered.

“I know that there are [Rapid Antigen] tests,” Colleen Foy, assistant director for Emergency Preparedness and Response, said that while testing is critical to the college’s COVID-19 response, the fact that they have been so hard to get makes it not a usable or reliable method of testing for students both on and off campus.

“It’s a great program to offer testing to citizens, the American people, but at the end of the day, it makes it challenging and difficult for us to work with the general delay it takes to be able to receive them,” Swarts said.

Swarts said the USPS program is not enough for students both on and off campus to get tested for COVID-19 regardless of if they are symptomatic or asymptomatic. However, having rapid tests available for students to get quicker results and get tested outside the scheduled hours of Emison Hall, Zadravec said it would be a quick and more convenient way for her to get tested because the Circle Apartments are a mile away from Emison Hall.

“I just wanted to get some more tests,” Zadravec said. “I’ve said that I’ve heard Emison is getting more lastly and not helpful. I would rather have tests on hand. It’s just a useful thing. I can do one [test] quickly and get a result back quicker than if I were to go to Emison.”

On Feb. 18, Tompkins County distributed free rapid COVID-19 tests at the Tompkins County Library from 1 to 5 p.m. with a maximum of six tests per household. A worker said hundreds of people had lined up outside the library by the state of New York. Additionally, Tompkins County purchased 250,000 KN95 masks that are now being distributed for free.

Swarts said it is a possibility that the college could distribute rapid tests to students. However, the way the college crowders tests needs to be able to distribute them on an individual basis.

“We get a box of test kits that has 40 test kits in it and one bottle of reagent in it,” Swarts said. “It’s no way to break up that bottle to have it administered individually.”
SGC discusses Title IX protocols

BY LORIEN TYNE

At its Feb. 21 meeting the Student Governance Council (SGC) spoke with representatives from Ithaca College’s Title IX Office about resources and the process cases go through.

At the SGC’s meeting it talked with Linda Koenig, Title IX coordinator and Leonardo Wise, Title IX investigator and prevention specialist, about some of the nuances of the legal process. Koenig explained some of the basic processes following a report to the office. She said all students that go through the intake process are introduced to campus resources like the Center for Counseling and Psychiatric Services and the LGBT Center. After a report, common accommodations for the parties involved often include seating, housing and safety arrangements.

In response to a question proposed by junior SGC senate chair Austin Ruffino, Koenig explained that the office does not follow up with survivors after the case is closed.

“When you’re trauma informed, we try not to engage the parties,” Koenig said. “In an effort to not remind or re-traumatize.”

The concern of academic flexibility in accommodations that are available to students during the legal process of Title IX was brought up by senior LeTicia Guibunda, vice president of campus affairs.

“I was wondering how flexible is the school in providing those accommodations in a way that doesn’t harm the student’s progress?” Guibunda said.

Koenig said the flexibility of accommodations rely heavily on what is available.

“What we do is we work with a faculty member and we come up with a plan based on some direction of the person who’s requesting the interim measure,” Koenig said. “What I have experienced in this position is that faculty are really interested in being supportive.”

Guibunda brought the council’s attention to the college’s outdated websites and reported she had begun reaching out to different offices.

“If you guys run across any resources that are outdated or likely wrong, please feel free to either reach out to them [the offices] or let me know,” Guibunda said.

In an email to The Ithacan, sophomore James Zampetti, vice president of communications, said SGC is the sole representative body for the Ithaca College student community.

“SGC works with the student community to implement change on campus and improve student life,” Zampetti said. “SGC is always looking for student feedback, please don’t hesitate to contact us at sgc@ithaca.edu.”

Remote instruction replaces snow days

BY JOSHUA PANTANO

On Feb. 3, a snowstorm brought over 10 inches of snow to Tompkins County, forcing many schools to briefly shut down. On Feb. 5 and 4, Ithaca College chose to hold remote instruction and students did not receive a typical snow day.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, instruction over Zoom has become a common alternative to in-person instruction. But students have shared their concerns over this.

While some students and professors could operate normally online, the sudden transition proved to be difficult for many. Freshman Ryan Harmon, a television-radio major said the remote day presented challenges with hands-on engagement.

“I’m currently in Introduction to Audio, so a lot of that is in the classroom,” Harmon said. “It helps when you can have everything that you need. Last semester, I had Introduction to TV Studio. Same thing. We were in the classroom filming stuff every day, so it was hard to believe I’m in a room, it’s kind of difficult.”

Communications students were not most adversely affected by the remote instruction. Students of the School of Music had difficulties with remote organization. Instructor Bea Trisca, a voice major, said having remote classes lowers the quality of her education.

“No one likes being in their room,” Trisca said. “Singing into a mic doesn’t sound like singing into a full space, like a choir hall or something, and that’s what is crucial to all of us.”

Although Trisca is primarily a vocalist, many of her classes still require physical instruments like percussion kits and keyboards, most of which are located in her locker in the music school. This is the case for many music students.

Russell Posegate, instructor of Music Theory and History Composition, said vocal classes presented difficulties over Zoom.

“So much of the class is, All right, everyone, let’s sing this together, and there’s no way to do that on Zoom,” Posegate said. “I’m trusting that they’re singing along with me. If something goes wrong in class, I can listen to 20 people singing and I can be like, ‘Oh, okay. Someone is singing this note wrong.’

Let’s just practice this together. But on Zoom, that’s really hard.”

Tria said the remote instruction during the snow days was reminiscent of remote instruction in Fall 2020, which she was not fond of.

“Snow days are things you look forward to,” Tria said. “When they happen, you’re happy, but it’s not a thing anymore. And if anything, now when a snow day happens, you’re just dreading going to class.”

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With the COVID-19 pandemic, instruction over Zoom has become a common alternative to in-person instruction. But students have shared their concerns over this.

While some students and professors could operate normally online, the sudden transition proved to be difficult for many. Freshman Ryan Harmon, a television-radio major said the remote day presented challenges with hands-on engagement.

“I’m currently in Introduction to Audio, so a lot of that is in the classroom,” Harmon said. “It helps when you can have everything that you need. Last semester, I had Introduction to TV Studio. Same thing. We were in the classroom filming stuff every day, so it was hard to believe I’m in a room, it’s kind of difficult.”

Communications students were not most adversely affected by the remote instruction. Students of the School of Music had difficulties with remote organization. Instructor Bea Trisca, a voice major, said having remote classes lowers the quality of her education.

“No one likes being in their room,” Trisca said. “Singing into a mic doesn’t sound like singing into a full space, like a choir hall or something, and that’s what is crucial to all of us.”

Although Trisca is primarily a vocalist, many of her classes still require physical instruments like percussion kits and keyboards, most of which are located in her locker in the music school. This is the case for many music students.

Russell Posegate, instructor of Music Theory and History Composition, said vocal classes presented difficulties over Zoom.

“So much of the class is, All right, everyone, let’s sing this together, and there’s no way to do that on Zoom,” Posegate said. “I’m trusting that they’re singing along with me. If something goes wrong in class, I can listen to 20 people singing and I can be like, ‘Oh, okay. Someone is singing this note wrong.’

Let’s just practice this together. But on Zoom, that’s really hard.”

Tria said the remote instruction during the snow days was reminiscent of remote instruction in Fall 2020, which she was not fond of.

“Snow days are things you look forward to,” Tria said. “When they happen, you’re happy, but it’s not a thing anymore. And if anything, now when a snow day happens, you’re just dreading going to class.”
College says farewell to director of student health with an event

The campus community is invited to say their goodbyes to Ellyn Sellens-Selin, director of student health in the Center for Counseling, Health and Wellness, who announced in November 2021 that she planned to leave the college in February 2022. The farewell event for Sellens-Selin will be held from 5:30-5 p.m. March 1 at the Athletics and Events Center VIP Room. The event will supply card-making materials for individu- als who would like to leave Sellens-Selin a personal note. Those who are unable to attend the event can send notes to the Division of Student Affairs and Campus Life, which is hosting the event. Community members interested in contributing a farewell gift can drop off a donation to Karen Walls, executive assistant of Student Affairs and Campus Life in the Student Affairs office or can send it through Venmo to @Kayrin-Walls.

Campus award applications due for upcoming graduating seniors

Applications for The Campus Life Awards are due before 11:59 p.m. March 21. The Campus Life Awards are given to a select group of graduating seniors at the college as a way to recognize their outstanding contributions to the college community. Applicants must have two references submit a statement of support which are due March 25. Seniors graduating in December 2021, May 2022 or August 2022 are encouraged to apply. For more information contact the Office of Student Engagement by calling 607-274-3222 or by emailing owca@ithaca.edu.

Mini-grants available for requests to support any full-time faculty

Full-time faculty members can request up to $50–$199 per academic year to support scholarship, teaching and advising. The mini-grants are offered by the Office of the Provost. Interested faculty can direct their questions to Brad Hougham, associate provost of faculty affairs, at bhougham@ithaca.edu.

Clinic to provide free treatment to anyone in the performing arts

The Occupational and Physical Therapy Clinic at Ithaca College is currently offering a performing arts walk-in clinic from 10–11:50 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. The last walk-in for each day will be accepted at 11:30 a.m. The clinic is located in the Center for Health Sciences Building in Room 401. Any musician or dancer who is experiencing pain or a disability is able to get assessed at this clinic.

This service is completely free for performing arts students. The therapist will also discuss with patients if further treatment is necessary. Musicians must bring their instrument to the clinic. All walk-in clients will be asked to show their green COVID-19 screening badge.

ic women leaders award open for faculty and staff nominations

Nominations for current faculty or staff for the 2022 Ithaca College Women of Distinction awards are now open. The Women Leaders se- ries recognizes up to three women who exhibit leadership, serve as role models and are committed to advancing women. The recipients must have given back to the col- lege’s campus community through their time, talents and resources. Recipients of the award will be recognized March 31. Nominations are due March 1. This event is part of the 10th an- nual Women Leaders Series, a full month of programs for Ithaca College’s women leaders.

Study-abroad applications due for students going to London

The application deadline to study abroad in London during Summer 2022 and Fall 2022 is March 1. Spring 2023 applications are due no later than Sept. 15, 2022. Students are recom- mended to submit early applications if they plan to apply to go abroad during spring semes- ters because of the high demand to go abroad in the spring time slot. Students looking for more information can schedule an appointment with a study abroad adviser or contact the Office of International Programs and Extended Studies at the email studyabroad@ithaca.edu. Students are asked to meet with their academic adviser before speaking with a study-abroad adviser to discuss courses and needed credits.

ic searches for alumni volunteers for class reunions and Cortaca ’22

The college is searching for alumni to volun- teer for IC in the City: Reunion and Cortaca ’22. Any alumni who are celebrating their 10th, 25th or 50th graduation reunion from Ithaca College this year are encouraged to be a volunteer. Fac- ulty and staff are encouraged to ask alumni to volunteer for their reunion.

Alumni who are interested in volunteering can reach out to Bree Peltier-Amborn, associ- ate director of Reunions and Homecoming, at bpeltieramborn@ithaca.edu.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM FEB. 7 TO FEB. 13

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF/FOURTH DEGREE
LOCATION: 288 Ithaca Drive
SUMMARY: The Office of Environmental Health and Safety reported that an unknown person damaged an exit sign. Patrol Officer Kevin Mc- Gill responded to the scene.

AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT/FIRST DEGREE
LOCATION: 146 Conservatory Drive
SUMMARY: Caller reported that an unknown person had scratched a swastika on a poster. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

PETIT LARCENY BETWEEN $50–$199
LOCATION: 43 Tower Skyline Drive
SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person signed and took delivery for groceries that belonged to the caller. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones re- sponded to the scene.

ITHACA POLICE ASSIST
LOCATION: All Other
SUMMARY: The Ithaca Police Department requested contact information for owners of vehicles involved in an off-campus incident. Master Security Officer Wendy Lewis responded.

COLLEGE STUDENT CONDUCT CODE VIOLATIONS
LOCATION: 135 Vetter Circle
SUMMARY: Caller reported know- ing third-hand information that a person drew an offensive image in class. The responding officer re- ported that the person was referred for violation of the college’s Student Conduct Code. Patrol Officer Myra Colon responded to the call.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE FIRE SAFETY VIOLATIONS
LOCATION: 122 Ithaca Brown Drive
SUMMARY: The Office of Environmental Health and Safety reported a smoke detector was found during a fire alarm drill that was covered. Multiple residents were referred for tampering with fire alarm equipment. Charlie Sherman, fire and building safety coordinator, responded to the report of the covered detector.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
LOCATION: 287 Ithaca Drive
SUMMARY: Caller reported person made threats to harm themselves. Officer located the person and the person was taken into custody under New York state’s Mental Hygiene Law and transported to hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Bruce Hall responded to the scene.

ACCIDENTAL FIRE ALARM
LOCATION: 134 Conservatory Drive
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Officer concluded burnt food caused the alarm activation. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

INOPPORTUNE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS
LOCATION: 334 Grant Egan Blvd.
SUMMARY: A caller reported an un- responsive person. Officer reported

the person was intoxicated and had declined medical assistance. Master Patrol Officer Waylon Degraw re- ferred the person to student conduct.

CRIMINAL TAMPERING/THIRD DEGREE
LOCATION: 122 Farm Pond Road
SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person threw eggs at a resi- dence. Master Patrol Officer Waylon Degraw responded.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT
LOCATION: South of 143-151 Tower Skyline Drive
SUMMARY: Caller reported knowing third-hand information of a motor vehicle accident. Sergeant Don Lyke responded to the accident report.

For more information contact the Office of Student Engagement by calling 607-274-3222 or by emailing owca@ithaca.edu.

IC events for alumni volunteers for class reunions and Cortaca ’22

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Alumni who are interested in volunteering can reach out to Bree Peltier-Amborn, associ- ate director of Reunions and Homecoming, at bpeltieramborn@ithaca.edu.

KEY

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022

COLLEGE BRIEFS

Comedy gig gets IC students giggling

Bryan Morris, up-and-coming New York comedian, performs on stage at IC Square for an audience of students Feb. 22. The Student Activities Board hosted the performance and all students were welcome to attend the event.

LEILA MARCELLO-GOMEZ/ITHACA COLLEGE
Student debt conversations continue to stunt progress

One thing U.S. citizens continue to be bonded by is the concern for our individual financial future. We seek stability, crude comfort and experience anxiety when confronted with uncertainty. We are ruled by the economic marketplace, beholden to capital and material goods, and the market makes sure to discipline those who step out of line. In this world, money is a means to life, and if you do not have it, social or biological death (or both) is the result. We have invented scholarships, financial aid, loans, etc. as a result of tuition increases, crippling student debt and the absurdity which is the U.S. — the most expensive place to go to college in the world.

Students at Ithaca College are well aware of increasing tuition, student debt and financial instability as the college’s tuition rate is now $8,425 higher than the average $38,185 price tag for American private colleges. Conversations around these stressors have been occurring for quite some time now. They occasionally occur in classrooms, in the privacy of your home, over coffee at a cafe, on the phone with some institution, but mostly they reside in our subconscious — always and at all times. The conversation remains stagnant while the anxiety builds until it has bubbled up to a place where we can no longer afford to be so redundant. Enter: the movement to cancel student debt.

The idea of canceling federal student loan debt felt like a tangible possibility during the 2020 presidential election cycle. Now, as we impatiently wait for President Biden to enact the executive order to cancel all student debt, we are left feeling like this once tangible idea is nothing but an afterthought. So, the conversation restarts, and we continue to ask the same questions: if we can fund the military billions of dollars, why can’t they invest some in educational funding? Will we ever stop worrying about our financial futures? Will tuition increases and student debts ever be a thing of the past?

Snow days allow students mental breaks they need

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about many changes. For students, the most obvious one being the use of Zoom: classes, meetings and virtually anything can happen from anywhere via Zoom (especially fatigue). Online instruction has become the common, and now obvious, alternative if in-person instruction cannot occur. However, this accessible reality renders itself problematic, a reality students at Ithaca College, and everywhere, are growing concerned about.

Recent changes have allowed us to connect and continue to learn from the comfort of our homes. Modernity is wonderful for this reason — we are smarter and globally connected humans. But what is the line we must draw when this exponential growth and never-ending connectivity starts to impede on what once was? When does our gratitude for modern technology start to wear thin? These questions came into consideration Feb. 3 and 4, when a snowstorm brought over 10 inches of snow to Tompkins County, and the college chose to hold remote instruction and students did not receive a typical snow day. Some things need to remain unchanged, like canceling classes during snow days. Snow days give students a break, and we students certainly need a break.

By attending college during a global pandemic, students’ well-being is greatly at risk. The college administration should be doing everything to mitigate such inner turmoil for students, staff and faculty while celebrating moments of normalcy, and letting snow days remain snow days is something we can do. As the college is back to hosting classes fully in person, the sudden transition and shifts from online to in-person instruction feels like whiplash. If the college is upholding in-person instruction, we should continue to uphold all that comes with what was once typical and safe of such instruction: snow days need to stay.
BY JADE GREER

Honesty, it was very unlikely that I would go to college after high school. Sure, I excelled in all of my classes, did a million extracurricular activities, did well on the ACT, worked during the weekends, and did community service; but the chances that I would attend college were still small.

For as long as I can remember, my family lived paycheck to paycheck, sometimes not even being able to spend more than $20 for a week’s worth of groceries. I knew what was within my family’s reach and college was simply not in range without the help of both financial aid and scholarships.

I applied to several scholarships in my community and online, ultimately, the fate of whether or not I would attend college rested in the institutions’ hands.

In my senior year of high school, I applied to nine public and private colleges, hoping that my local state school would provide me with a lower cost of tuition. I got one deferral, five waitlists and three acceptances. Of those three, only two offered any aid. The first acceptance I received awarded me $26,000 over the course of four years, leaving my family to pay about $25,000 a year. To some, this doesn’t seem that bad. But I knew my family’s circumstances and I knew that there was no way we could afford it. So for the months of the college application process, I was convinced that I wouldn’t go to college.

Though I was still waiting for other decisions to be released, there was little to no hope that I’d hear otherwise. Until I received my letter from Ithaca College.

Even though I had worked every weekend and every school break since I was 14, I wasn’t able to even make a dent in that. I was barely covering the cost of my own life, let alone the cost of a degree.

The answer became simple: fill every semester with as many credits as I can to graduate early while simultaneously working a part-time job.

Since then, nearly every semester has been filled with 18 credits on top of my afternoons and weekends being spent working at least one minimum-wage job.

If I’m not in class, I’m working.

If I’m not working, I’m sleeping. Everything I do, every aspect of my life is with money in mind.

Does this class fill a requirement? Can I graduate early? If I take off work during finals week, how much money will I lose? My life is about money.

And here’s the kicker — I’m not even poor! I never qualified for reduced-price school lunches, for Medicaid, for subsidized housing, etc. It didn’t matter how many times we could barely afford groceries or how many times we paid our rent late; to the world around me, I was middle-class.

Although awareness about the cost of higher education is certainly growing, we often forget about the struggles that middle-class families go through to simply make ends meet.

I may not pay in tuition, but I do pay in stress, in nights feeling overwhelmed by my coursework, in lost time with friends, in missing half of my college experience.

I am immensely grateful to the college for providing me with my only chance to pursue higher education, and although it may have offered to cover the cost of my tuition, the personal cost I have paid for it remains the same.

JADE GREER is a senior politics major at Ithaca College. Contact her at jgreer@ithaca.edu.

An episodic release schedule can make it easier to be healthier ... and process these increasingly complex narratives. – Vedant Akhauri

U.S. Media Consumption Report, the percentage of streamers who binge over five hours of content decreased from 25.9% in 2020 to 12.4% in 2021.

BY VEDANT AKHAURI

After Netflix’s 2013 release of “House of Cards,” binge-watching became the norm for streaming platforms, but as the years moved forward, viewing habits have slipped backward. Hulu’s “A Teacher” mostly aired on a weekly schedule, so did Paramount’s “iCarly,” Marvel’s “WandaVision,” and season 4 of “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel,” breaking from its tradition of full-season releases. As for Netflix, its stock plummeted 21%, despite “Squid Game” dropping a full season for Netflix, its stock plummeted 21%, de-

Disney focuses on weekly releases (Marvel seasonal gaps, lasting around a year. As Disney+ is expected to surpass Netflix by 2026. An obvious reason is Disney’s stronger brand recognition, but another reason is that Disney focuses on weekly releases (Marvel content, “The Mandalorian”). Meanwhile, Netflix focuses on binge-releases — full or half seasons. A consistent release sched-

Unfortunately, I compare binge shows to a flash in the pan. In that same podcast episode on binge-watching, Lynch explained that “We, as Americans, have this consumer culture where we always want the next best. Whenever we watch television, it’s the same thing.” This seems true with “Squid Game.” It became Netflix’s most viewed show, but people seem to have moved onto the next big show, leaving it behind in the dust. It’s also getting a season 2, which could suffer from the long release gap. I was an avid viewer of “Orange Is The Next Black,” but I quit the show because the storylines became progressively harder to remember during the seasonal gaps, lasting around a year. As streaming narratives become increasingly complex, the inconsistent fan discussions and episodic distribution will be a major disadvantage against the binge-watching model. If Netflix doesn’t experiment more with weekly releases, it could spend millions on these binge-shows that will immedi-

Senior Jade Greer opens up about the hardships she has faced paying for higher education. She works both off and on campus and expresses the many sacrifices she has made to be where she is today.

Vedant Akhauri ’21 writes about the problems of streaming services releasing entire series worth of episodes at once because binge-watching can detract from the show.

GUEST COMMENTARY

The binge-watching model disrupts viewing pleasure

GUEST COMMENTARY

Cost of higher education heavily burdens students

MICHAEL SERGIO/THE ITHACAN

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022

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United States of America

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022

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8 | OPINION
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ACROSS
1 Broad valley
5 Weakness
10 Proof word
14 French state
15 Item in a quiver
16 Title type
17 Pay dirt
18 Wiggly dessert
19 Demolish
20 Xerxes ruled here
22 Billy
24 Filbert
25 “Futureworld” name
26 Camel kin
29 Olympics contestant
33 Eric Clapton tune
34 Boat front
36 Cutting tools
37 Showery mo.
38 Vat
41 Nurse a drink
42 Mother of Horus
44 Show of anger
45 Nail-groomer
47 Map out again
49 Dismay
51 Yale
52 Careless
53 Goblet
57 Like tears
60 Cargo space
61 Radio-tune gas
63 Wine press residue
66 Brother’s daughter
67 Salt lake state
68 Peaky plant
69 Tries to find
70 Tiny particle

DOWN
1 Computer key
2 On the summit
3 Put cargo abroad
4 Without end
5 Tex-Mex wrap
6 Local
7 Web add.
8 Monteaz or Falana
9 Painlessly (hyph.)
10 Matriculates
11 Look a long time
12 Candid
13 Tannin source
14 “That’s obvious!”
15 Yalie
16 Upper limit
17 Pay dirt
18 Wiggly dessert
19 Demolish
20 Xerxes ruled here
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61 Radio-tune gas
63 Wine press residue
66 Brother’s daughter
67 Salt lake state
68 Peaky plant
69 Tries to find
70 Tiny particle

answers to last issue’s sudoku:

medium

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

hard

9 7 8 6 5 3 1 4 2
3 1 5 2 4 7 9 6 8
6 2 4 9 8 1 7 3 5
8 4 7 5 9 2 6 1 3
5 3 9 1 6 8 4 2 7
2 6 1 7 3 4 8 5 9
7 8 3 4 2 6 5 9 1
1 5 6 3 7 9 2 8 4
4 9 2 8 1 5 3 7 6
Last Saturday night, the Center for Health Sciences (CHS) turned into a battleground. “Are you all ready?” sophomore Ian Volk, the vice president of the Ithaca College Humans vs. Zombies Social Club, yelled to two opposing teams with their backs to the wall, armed with Nerf blasters and foam shields and swords.

A countdown starts, fast-paced music plays from a glowing rainbow speaker on the ground floor, and the teams are off running up staircases and darting behind pillars to avoid being struck down.

The Super Hearts Day Nerf War took place from 7 to 10 p.m. Feb. 12 and was the Human vs. Zombies Social Club’s first event of the semester. The event was held for seasoned Humans vs. Zombies members and newcomers. Three different play modes were played over the course of the event including team vs. team, mafia, and cupid, a new elimination game recently created by junior Brittany Hope, the club president.

In cupid, players are paired up based on who they hit first. Humans vs. zombies, the game the club is named for, is reserved for outdoor events when the weather is cold. The game is open for outdoor events when the weather is warm in spring and fall. While保留 for indoor events when the weather is cold, the team plays other games often have explosive starts, mafia starts much quieter with the players being able to be a little nerdy with this.”

Sophomore Gabrielle Moran joined Humans vs. Zombies last semester and Super Hearts Nerf War was her second event with the club. She said the Nerf wars felt like a real-life video game. “It’s a real adrenaline rush but in a safe environment,” Moran said. “What I really like is being able to be a little nerdy with this.”

The first game of the night was team vs. team, in which the players are split into two teams, one marked with bandanas, the other not. Each player got three chances to get hit with a dart, and the last team left standing won.

After a short break, where all the players wandered all three floors picking up Nerf darts, the first ever game of cupid began.

In cupid, the first person a player hits becomes their partner, and they work together as a team until there’s only one team left. “I like that I get to be an absolute child and no one makes fun of me,” Hope said. “We’re kids in college and they’re foam darts. We can’t be taken seriously at all and it’s so much fun.”

The ace of spades is the detective who watches them do it.

The first Brown of Hearts Nerf War was the first Humans vs. Zombies event for junior Caroline Peyron and sophomore David Klos. “It’s pretty fun and a little chaotic,” Peyron said. “I saw a custodian walk by during the last game and I felt a little bad for him because he’s probably like ‘what’s going on these floors?’ I like it.”

Klos joined the Humans vs. Zombies club last semester, but didn’t get a chance to participate due to a busy schedule.

“Nerf was a big part of childhood,” Klos said. “A lot of my friends and I would have Nerf wars like this in middle school and high school but we tettered off because we all got busy.”

The last game of the night was mafia. At the start of the game all the players circle up and draw cards from a deck. Red numbers are mafia members and a red king is a drunk mafia who doesn’t know who the other mafia players are.

The ace of spades is the detective who can eliminate players who role they were, the king of spades is a doctor who can heal eliminated players and black numbers are civilians.

The two jokers are civil friends who know each other are not in the mafia. The game ends when the mafia has eliminated all the civilians or the civilians have eliminated all the mafia.

Once all the roles are assigned, the players head their separate directions. But while other games often have explosive starts, mafia starts much quieter with the players being careful about who they eliminate and who watches them do it.

When a player is hit playing mafia, they must sit down in the location where they were taken out until the game ends or they are healed by the doctor.

During a game of mafia last semester, Moran said, a group of players were all hit in the elevator while trying to ambush another group. They ended up being stuck in it, and were forced to ride it up and down until the end of the game.

Humans vs. Zombies plans on holding other events like Super Hearts Day later in the semester that will be open for anyone to join.

“It’s a good way to get energy out if you’re stressed,” Hope said. “Maybe bring a friend, take your anger out on them. Just have fun.”
One of the last things junior Alexa Chalnick expected while sitting in her car waiting for her allergy appointment was to be an iHeartRadio award nominee. What started as simply posting singing videos to TikTok has led to an opportunity to be a part of a nationally recognized award show.

A couple weeks prior to the nomination, iHeartRadio, a radio station that is part of the largest radio broadcast company in the United States, messaged Chalnick on Instagram asking her to email a photo of her singing. Not having the slightest idea what it was for, Chalnick sent iHeartRadio a headshot. Then Jan. 27, she learned about her nomination for Best TikTok songwriter through an Instagram post.

"I was absolutely shocked," Chalnick said. "Past Alexa worked really hard during the quarantine and she was pushing so much content out."

Pursuing a Bachelor of Music with a focus on voice in the Ithaca College School of Music, Chalnick has gone all in this year by following over 990,000 through her unique songwriting challenges, skits and singing videos.

"I'm a mother and a music teacher," Sheri Chalnick, was beamng with pride after finding out about her daughter's nomination. Chalnick was the one who called her when she received a call from Alexa Chalnick and placed her on speakerphone to announce her iHeartRadio award nomination. This led to the whole family being so excited.

"I remember her saying how she was comfortable [singing] classic and golden age musical theater… but during the pandemic she really was a lot more comfortable being her. Lemon said. "I think the coolest thing is seeing her create music to a whole different level."

While scrolling through TikTok, Chalnick saw a video of someone singing a musical but would leave certain words out for someone to duet and fill in the blanks. This inspired Chalnick to make a singing duet challenge, but instead of it being a musical song, it would be an original piece she wrote.

"I've learned," Hamburg said. "When I did a whole revamp of my website, after [my graphic design class], I actually went in [and originally] had my logo in the middle. Like we learned, I put it in the top left because that's where you're going to grab attention."

"Junior Kristen Hamberg used her painting skills to start a business catering to many pet lovers. She learned how to market her business through her college courses.

CONTACT M MINTON
MMINTON@ITHACA.EDU

Hand-painted pets spark new business for student

BY M MINTON

Junior Kristen Hamberg, an integrated marketing communications student at Ithaca College, has always been an artistic person. Hamberg picked up a hobby of painting during the pandemic, starting with her dog. Before long, she started painting portraits of other people’s animals because of her love for her own dog, Sadie. This led her to a market of pet lovers to whom she could sell her products.

"I knew that that’s something that I personally love," Hamberg said. "I know that other people love their animals too. You need people to want what you’re making. I was like, I can’t just make random paintings. I need to have a specific market to go to."

Sophomore Lauren Sieber said she is familiar with Hamberg’s business through the classes they took together. Sieber said that if she had a pet, she would definitely buy Hamberg’s artwork.

“I know she is a very talented individual with her hand-painted pieces," Sieber said. “She captures every little detail that the pet has and makes the piece personal and memorable.”

Kneeling to the Ithaca area, Hamberg said that living in the area gives her opportunities to showcase her work. Hamberg displayed during Ithaca Festival in May 2019, a yearly music and arts festival allowing members from the community to showcase their talents.

After Hamberg transferred to Ithaca College in Fall 2021 from Tompkins Cortland Community College, she said she took classes in Strategic Communication and Graphic Design for her major. Hamberg said they have helped her business by teaching her the actual basis and rules of marketing that she can use in promoting her artwork.

“I’ve actually implemented a lot of things that I’ve learned," Hamburg said. "When I did a whole revamp of my website, after [my graphic design class], I actually went in and [originally] had my logo in the middle. Like we learned, I put it in the top left because that’s where you’re going to grab attention."

One of Hamberg’s customers is Lindsey Allen, a Tompkins Cortland Community College student. Allen praised Hamberg for her ability to so artistically portray her chocolate lab’s unique features, rather than painting any dog of the same breed.

“it’s a wooden canvas with a lavender background and a beautiful replication of my dog," Allen said. "I love how I can look at my painting and not only see a chocolate lab, but I can tell that it’s a painting of my lab."

Hamberg said that through her business, she has been able to emotionally connect with people through the artwork she creates as she too has a strong connection to pets. "It’s cool to be able to take someone’s pet that they obviously adore and put it into a painting because there’s just so much personality in every pet," Hamberg said.

CONTACT M MINTON
MMINTON@ITHACA.EDU
to shine through. The first half of "Tall Girl" found ways for their on-screen chemistry (Griffin Gluck). The pair also genuinely Jodi and her boyfriend Jack Dunkleman and cringy with the interactions between tumultuous love life.

After the events of the first film to audition about her height, feels confident enough this film is not a straightforward adaptation in the least. One of the largest creative liberties is the casting of Holland, who plays a much younger and inexperienced Nate than the adult version fans know.

Luckily, Tom Holland does a more suitable job in the role, staying faithful to the original character's charm and personality while also finding ways to make Nate his own. Holland truly threw himself into this role and proves—quite possibly even more than in the "Spider-Man" films—that he is a capable action star.

Aside from the film's shoddy direction, another particular element that is mostly lacking is its background noise. "Tall Girl 2" is obnoxious: it makes better sense of the conversations surrounding the main character, Jodi doesn't quite get it right.

"Tall Girl 2" isn't great, but it's not the worst Netflix Original of the lot. This movie isn't trying to be anything it's not and can definitely serve as some much needed background noise.

"Uncharted" is another entry on the long list of those that don't quite live up to the hype. Though they are entertaining, the film doesn't do anything to try to reinvent the wheel of the action genre. While it does include a few iconic sequences, the storylines of the games, they don't quite live up to their potential.

When it comes to video game adaptations, "Uncharted" is another entry on the long list of those that don't quite get it right. Nonetheless, it doesn't completely miss the mark, which provides fans with just enough to keep them invested in this new take on the franchise but gives those who have had no prior experience with the "Uncharted" games an entertaining introduction to the property.

The substance of "Tall Girl 2" is extremely shallow the majority of the time. Jodi's primary conflict is her underlying struggle with self acceptance. While this is an important message for many viewers, the problem with it is that no tangible solutions are offered to viewers on how to resolve their own self-doubt or insecurities. Jodi just does it with no explanation aside from ignoring the little voice in her head.

"Tall Girl 2" is a comfortable film to watch and the film leaves nothing to the imagination. "Tall Girl 2" isn't great, but it's not the worst Netflix Original of the lot. This movie isn't trying to be anything it's not and can definitely serve as some much needed background noise.
After the 2019 season ended, many Ithaca College football players were saddened to learn that Michael Toerper, the coach who recruited them, was departing for a new position. However, these same players erupted with excitement when they learned Toerper was returning to South Hill as the head coach of the program.

A Feb. 18 announcement from the college stated that Toerper is returning to South Hill as the 11th head coach in the history of the program. He will officially start this role March 1. Toerper previously served as the defensive coordinator for the college from 2017 to 2019, under former head coach Dan Swanstrom, who announced his departure from the program Jan. 24. As the defensive coordinator for the Bombers, Toerper helped lead the team to a 24-9 record in three years.

"It means everything to me and my family," Toerper said. "I feel honored and very grateful to be the next head coach here at Ithaca [College]."

Toerper has spent the past two years as the safeties coach at the College of the Holy Cross. Before he was first hired on South Hill, he spent seven seasons at Johns Hopkins University, where he worked with Swanstrom as a wide receivers coach and special teams coordinator. He also spent his stint on South Hill.

TO SOUTH HILL

BACK HOME

RETURNING

TO SOUTH HILL

ILLUSTRATION BY MALIK CLEMENT

SPORTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022

From left, Michael Toerper, recently hired Ithaca College head football coach and Khiry Brown ’21 celebrate at the 61st annual Cortaca Jug game Nov. 16, 2019.

ABBY LINDON/THE ITHACAN

BY TOMMY MUMAU AND AIDAN CHARDE

Athletics at Ithaca College, said she and the other members of the selection process were impressed by Toerper’s plans for the future of the team and believe that he is the best choice to guide the program.

“We ran an intensive, comprehensive interview process and he proved to be an effective communicator of his vision and leadership for Ithaca College football,” Bassett said. “Together with his demonstrated success as a coach at each of his coaching opportunities, but most importantly while with us at Ithaca [College], there was unanimous support from the alumni search committee, the on-campus search committee and every one who interviewed him when he was a finalist on campus.”

Bassett said the college received more than 85 applications for the position. The search committee was composed of athletics administrators, coaches, faculty and eight former Bombers football players.

"What was most impactful was Susan Bassett allowing the team leaders to meet the coaching candidates before anyone was hired." Bassett said she was thankful that Bassett allowed the team leaders to be a part of the process,” Garcia said. “I really respect Susan for that.”

"I think I built a strong bond with these players, especially the ones that I coached and the people that are here, and I believe that the future is so bright for this program,” Toerper said. “Obviously my time here before really just fueled my excitement for the opportunity. And that’s really because of the people here at Ithaca [College].”

"As the Bombers’ defensive coordinator, Toerper recruited many members of the current squad to South Hill. Roumes, a senior defense back, said he is thrilled to have another chance to work with Toerper.

"When he left here, it was very hard for me just because he recruited me and was my position coach," Roumes said. “He’s one of my favorite coaches and one of the best coaches I’ve ever had. So to have him come back, it’s just really exciting.”

Toerper also recruited Robinson and said the announcement was a full-circle moment for him. He said he believes Toerper’s effectiveness as a coach can be attributed to his ability to communicate with his team.

"His greatest skill is being personable," Robinson said. “He’s able to form relationships that not only carried through football, but outside of football, and I think that matters most.

Toerper said his primary focus on the field will be to help the team reach its full potential and enjoy the process of competing.

"I don’t like to use the word ‘pursuits,’" Toerper said. “We’re going to pursue being the best we possibly can be and enjoying the journey together one day at a time.”

In 2022, the team’s sights will be set on making its first appearance in the NCAA Championships since 2014. Wingfield, the starting quarterback, said he and the team believe Toerper will be able to lead the team and help it make a run in the postseason.

"There couldn’t be a more perfect candidate in [the team’s] opinion," Wingfield said. “I truly trust in [Toerper] to take us to that next level and get us in the playoffs. I really think he’s the guy for it.”
BY ROCCO DI MAIOLO

As the Ithaca College wrestling team gets set for the NCAA Regional Tournament in 2022, it has been recognized for being the third-best Division III program nationwide by Rofkin Wrestling, a subscription-based website that publishes wrestling content.

With three NCAA Division III championships, 12 All-Americans, and 12 NCAA team finishes at the national tournament, the Bombers’ wrestling program has had a decorated run in the past decade. The college came behind Wartburg College and Augsburg University on the list.

Some of the latest and greatest Bombers to be named by Rofkin Wrestling include Sam Schneidman ’21, Seth Ecker ’12, Nicholas Bombers to be named by Rofkin Wrestling.

This year marks the 26th year for the college’s wrestling alum and three-time NCAA champions.

2012, and current assistant coach Ricardo Gomez ’14. The college has had 28 wrestlers this season. As a former wrestler for the Bombers, he too knows what expectations he has for the team. He says, “We’re there to close any gaps and allow the wrestlers to help them have a successful career on the mat and in the classroom.”

The alumni presence does not stop there because Gomez, a Bombers wrestling alum, has served as an assistant coach for the program since the 2013–14 season. He won the NCAA Division III national championship at 125 pounds in 2013. Gomez said he feels the team has been led by former wrestlers who have served as leaders, as well as the current coaching staff and their abilities that have helped develop the tradition of leadership and success.

As a former wrestler for the Bombers, he said, “I have things using their own sense of knowledge and accountability.”

“The team looks for ‘well-rounded’ athletes who want to continue to be successful in addition to the team accounts,” Lutes said.

The Bombers are set to compete for the NCAA Regionals on Feb. 26 and 27 before heading to the national championships March 11.

This is the second time Sinon has reached the 1,000 point mark, as he also achieved the milestone during his junior year at Byram Hills High School. During his collegiate career, Sinon reached the milestone in just three college seasons because his junior campaign was canceled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sinon said he enjoyed the process of achieving this mark and takes pride in joining the exclusive group.

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Creative media named a co-curricular

BY AIDAN CHARDE

In a small room in Roy H. Park Hall, currently marked by a piece of notebook paper written on in Sharpie, sits the office of the Creative Media Team, Ithaca College’s newest co-curricular activity.

The temporary sign does a good job of showing just how new the team is. It was recognized as a co-curricular at the beginning of the semester and moved into the office Jan. 27. While students had been employed by the Athletic Communications Office to create content for the sports teams previously, junior Peter Rader, manager of the Creative Media Team, said the official creation of the team gives it a better opportunity to recruit new members and communicate with each other.

“A big change to the team [social media accounts] and the [Ithaca College athletics social media] account is to help build their brands,” Rader said.

“Anyone who works in any of our [co-curriculars] that require access to PPECs knows that equipment can be hard to come by… [now] they’ll always have access,” Powers said.

Justin Lutes, associate director of Athletics Communications at the college and adviser to the Creative Media Team, said he thinks this will help the athletes at the college gain more exposure in addition to being a great opportunity for students to create content.

“It’s having [the wrestlers] who are heavily involved have a great vision and will continue to build creative media into a recognizable group,” Lutes said via email.

“Luckily I’ve played with amazing guys that make you feel like you can just send me what I want and we’ll do it. We’ll do it in a way that meets the expectations he has for the team.”

“I have a lot of people that are interested but don’t have the experience,” Rader said.

Sinon reached the milestone in the 67–44 win against Clarkson University Jan. 15. The guard was a key contributor to the team’s 67–44 win against Clarkson University and is a member of the 1,000-point club, ” Sinon said.

The guard reached the mark in the 82–70 win over Rochester Institute of Technology Feb. 15. The guard was a key contributor to the team’s 67–44 win against Clarkson University Jan. 15.

Sinon’s career point total currently sits at 1,189 as the team enters postsea-son play with its first game of the Liberty League Championships set for Feb. 26. The guard was a key contributor to the Bombers also during the winter, helping lead the squad to a 17–7 record and a second-place finish in the regular season.

“Skylar has a really unique game, he attacks the game in so many ways, not just scoring,” Farid said. “But being able to do so many things really adds a lot of value to our team.”

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guard reaches 1,000 points

BY TOMMY MUMAU

Senior Skylar Sinon, guard for the Ithaca College men’s basketball team, has made history by becoming the 29th player in program history to score 1,000 career points.

The guard reached the mark in the Bombers’ 106–95 victory against the Rochester Institute of Technology Feb. 15 in Clarkson Gymnasium. Sinon secured the milestone by knocking down a jump shot, giving the South Hill squad a 93–82 lead with 6:29 remaining in the contest. Senior Sebastian Alderete, current student-athlete success coach, was last on the program to join this exclusive club Jan. 24, 2020.

“It’s obviously an amazing honor to be mentioned with those other 28 members of the 1,000-point club,” Sinon said.

“Luckily I’ve played with amazing guys that make you feel like you can just send me what I want and we’ll do it. We’ll do it in a way that meets the expectations he has for the team.”

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Senior Sara Boschwitz works on a friendship bracelet at the Calming Crafting event Feb. 21 in Williams Hall 222. The event was hosted by the Health and Happiness club, where students can relax and create crafts like rock paintings and friendship bracelets. Attendees also received Health and Happiness pins as well as stickers.