

## IC event educates on antisemitism



On Feb. 28, Max Kasler and Omega Hollies discussed the history of 20th-century Judaism and its cultural impact.  
LEILA MARCILLO-GOMEZ/THE ITHACAN



Students and faculty discuss prejudice at the Feb. 28 IC Day of Learning event, which was hosted by Hillel at Ithaca College.  
LEILA MARCILLO-GOMEZ/THE ITHACAN

### BY CAROLINE GRASS

In between classes, members of the Ithaca College community gathered while organizers handed out blue wristbands printed with the words "Humans against antisemitism, bigotry and hate." Throughout the day, the campus community engaged in an open

dialogue about antisemitism in response to multiple symbols of hate found on campus.

Hillel at Ithaca College, the Center for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Social Change (IDEAS) and the college's senior leadership collaborated to hold the "IC Day of Learning: Grappling with Anti-semitism" mini-conference from

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Feb. 28 in Emerson Suites. Lauren Goldberg, executive director of Hillel and interim director of Religious and Spiritual Life, came up with the idea for the mini-conference as a response to the two swastikas found Feb. 3 and Feb. 8 on campus. Throughout the day, 297 students signed in to the events.

Interim President La Jerne Cornish said the college community needed to use the day of learning to work toward making an environment on campus that combats antisemitic, racist and other threatening ideologies.

"By probing the depths of the

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## Ithaca College to drop mask mandate for all, regardless of vaccination status

### BY LORIEN TYNE

Starting March 4, Ithaca College will not require face masks to be worn within any indoor locations, unless clearly stated otherwise, regardless of individual vaccination status.

In a March 1 email to the campus community, Samm Swarts, director for Emergency Preparedness and Response, announced the policy change, citing the Tompkins County Health Department (TCHD)'s Feb. 28 suspension of the mask advisory. However, the college is allowing faculty members to decide what the mask policies will be for their classrooms and is asking faculty to tell students what will be requested as soon as possible.

The Ithaca City School District has also suspended its mandate and masks are no longer required indoors, outdoors or on school buses. In the past seven days, the county reported fewer than 200 new cases for every 100,000 people and less than 10% of hospital beds in the county are occupied by patients with COVID-19.

While the college's library is following guidance to drop the mask mandate, the LGBT Center will continue to require masks for the time being. The announcement said masks will still be required in healthcare settings, like Emerson Residence Hall, Hammond Health Center and health professions clinics.

Swarts made clear in the announcement that if COVID-19 case numbers rise dramatically



Following numerous other colleges in the United States, Ithaca College will drop its face mask mandate March 4, citing the campus's low COVID-19 infections.  
ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

and there is a high rate of transmission, the campus will resort back to wearing masks regardless of TCHD guidance.

"While this new guidance is encouraging and welcomed news for many, I would like to recognize that this update might also spur some anxiety as well," the email stated. "This change will require us to recalibrate as a campus

community and be supportive of differing tolerance for the risks associated with COVID-19."

As of now, Cornell University has not dropped its mask mandate, but other colleges in the United States are. According to Inside Higher Ed, public colleges are following states like

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## Campus reacts to Ukraine war

### BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

Over 4,500 miles away from Ithaca College, the Russian military is waging a war on Ithaca College senior Yuliia Shcherbak's hometown of Kyiv, Ukraine. While Shcherbak is safe in New York, her family and friends are hiding in bomb shelters or defending their country as it gets attacked by land, sea and air.

On the morning of Feb. 24, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, beginning the first major European war in decades. Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine and Europe's sixth-largest city, has been at the center of the Russian offensive. The invasion is an enormous escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War, which began in 2014 after Russia annexed and invaded the Crimean Oblast, a Ukrainian peninsula in the Black Sea.

Shcherbak's mother and childhood friends are currently in Kyiv. Shcherbak said that on the first night of the invasion, she called one of her friends from Ukraine who stayed in Kyiv during the invasion. Her friend lives in the building next to Shcherbak's home.

"I remember that night I texted her," Shcherbak said. "I said 'Where are you? What are you doing? How are you?' and she said, 'They are bombing. We are in the bathroom. We don't know what to do.' I called her during this time. ... I remember in that moment they were not crying or anything. They were just very cold-minded and trying to survive."

The Russian invasion has created a humanitarian crisis as Ukrainians are facing famine, harsh winter weather, increased COVID-19 risk and economic destruction. Shcherbak said through tears that those who stayed — especially in Kyiv — have tried their best to tend to those in need while the Russian military continues closing in.

"My friends who stayed in Kyiv are buying food for the soldiers, for the injured, for children," Shcherbak said. "Some of them are even dying of hunger just because there is no way to go to the shops. People are not allowed to go outside because the Russians are bombing really heavily. People left their homes and so many people who I know left Ukraine already."

In a statement to *The Ithacan*, La Jerne Cornish, Ithaca College interim president, condemned the Russian invasion.

"I know that I join many members of our Ithaca College community in being both appalled by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and deeply saddened by this unnecessary violence and destruction," Cornish said. "I also know that I join many members of this community in keeping the Ukrainian people in my thoughts as they confront realities that most of us can only imagine. I pray for a humane resolution to this conflict."

Since the invasion, 830,000 Ukrainians have been forced to flee into neighboring countries like Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Moldova. The United

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AT IC REQUIRES  
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IC GYMNASTICS  
RAISES THE BAR  
WITH FRESHMEN



# Center for IDEAS holds workshops

BY OLIVIA STANZL

As a peer educator for The Center for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Social Change (IDEAS), Ithaca College junior Makiyah Adams and her coworkers use intimate workshops focusing on social justice and inclusion work to facilitate conversations between the college’s students.

The Center for IDEAS is currently employing seven IDEAS peer educators (IPEs). For Spring 2022, the IPEs are holding six different workshops: Intersectionality, Unpacking Fatphobia, Imposter Syndrome, Health Literacy Barriers to People of Color (POC), Pleasure Activism and Knowledge to Action.

Adams said it is necessary to have spaces that educate the campus community and empower marginalized students.

“If we have dedicated spaces for people to work through these ideas and to ask questions ... I

feel like we can do some work in actually unpacking those things,” Adams said.

This semester, Adams created a workshop called “Unpacking Fatphobia,” where she discusses with attendees what fatphobia is and why it gets overlooked.

“This is a space for growth,” Adams said. “I’m certainly not the student I was when I applied.”

Junior Nijha Young started last semester as an IPE and is currently co-facilitating her own workshop, “Imposter Syndrome”: a phenomenon that manifests when people feel like frauds even if they are actually capable and well-qualified, according to a 2019 study.

“We [college students] tend to underestimate our abilities,” Young said. “We end up stifling our own dreams, our own futures because we don’t feel good enough for them.”

Junior Kristin Ho has been working as a peer educator since



From left, juniors Kristin Ho, Nijha Young and Makiyah Adams, work for the Center for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Social Change as peer educators who facilitate workshops on social justice.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

the beginning of the pandemic, and is presenting a workshop she created called “Health Literacy Barriers to POC” this semester.

Ho, an occupational science and therapy major, was inspired by her coursework.

“We do a lot of healthcare access conversations in our classes,” Ho said. “And we talk a lot about discrimination and how bias

can impact POC, participating in healthcare and getting access. And so one large factor of that is health literacy.”

A study conducted by Health Services Research found that there was a 67% higher chance for there to be a primary care physician shortage in African-American zip codes.

Ho said her favorite parts about

the job are the atmosphere she works in and the people she is able to work with.

“You really get to meet people of different cultures, of different backgrounds and opinions,” Ho said. “And you really get close and get to know each other.”

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## MULTIMEDIA

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### Lunar New Year Celebration Brings Crowds

On Feb. 27, troves of students gathered in IC Square to celebrate and support Lunar New Year.



### Super Hearts Nerf Battle

The Ithaca College Humans vs. Zombies Nerf Club held a Super Bowl and Valentine’s Day combination event Feb. 13.

## THE ITHACAN

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THE ITHACAN IS PRINTED AT JOHNSON NEWSPAPER CORPORATION

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# SGC holds bill-writing workshop

BY LORIENTYNE

The Student Governance Council (SGC) is in the research phase for several bills like a bill that would extend library hours, a dining bill and an initiative to update the Improved Campus Lighting Bill.

Junior senate chair Austin Ruffino said the SGC began the process of creating the Mental Health and Wellness Committee in Fall 2019 and met for the first time Feb. 25. Members of SGC spoke about the possibility of a physical and mental health day.

“COVID[-19] hit and then everything got very difficult,” Ruffino said. “We do try to make new committees for relevant topics as well, like the Social Justice and Sustainability Committee, which is also new.”

Tessa Kurtz, senator for the School of Health Sciences and Human Performance, has been working on a bill with other SGC members since Fall 2021 to have at least one all-gender bathroom in each academic building. Currently no all-gender bathrooms exist in Phillips Hall, the Center for Natural Sciences, Friends Hall, the Hill Center, the Upper and Lower Quads and the Terraces Residence Halls.

Junior Lauren Hitesman, varsity athletes senator; junior Harley Grossman, senator for the School of Humanities and Sciences; and sophomore James Zampetti, vice president of communications are working on the



The Student Governance Council met Feb. 28 to work on writing bills and to discuss current focuses like mental health, student engagement, campus dining and all-gender bathrooms.

ATTICUS RUBOTTOM/THE ITHACAN

beginning stages of a bill that Hitesman said will hopefully extend the hours of Ithaca College’s library services. Zampetti said he spoke with student employees who want to work more.

“The beauty of recommendations is that ... you’re asking because there’s a specific need not being met,” Zampetti said. “We believe that funds should be allocated to meet that.”

Senior Letícia Guibunda, vice president of campus affairs, said she is meeting with Tim Carey, associate vice president of the Office of Facilities, to have six broken lights added to the Improved Campus Lighting Bill,

which passed in Fall 2021. The bill resulted in over 80 light fixtures being repaired on campus.

Guibunda is also one SGC member working on a bill to reevaluate the college’s meal plan options and costs. She said the idea for the bill is rooted in upperclassmen concerns about being forced to choose between the unlimited meal plan, which includes unlimited meal swipes and \$230 in Bomber Bucks for each semester, or the commuter plan, which includes five meal swipes each week and \$400 in Bomber Bucks for the semester. The other part of the bill is finding a way to have more

flexibility for students with either food-related religious needs, dietary restrictions or allergies. All students who live in residential housing — except students living in the Garden Apartments and Circle Apartments — are required to be on the college’s meal plan.

“It doesn’t necessarily make sense for somebody who doesn’t have access to most of the things that the dining hall offers to pay the same price as somebody who would be able to eat all of it,” Guibunda said.

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# Program helps to teach English

BY CAROLINE GRASS

When Ithaca College junior Arianna Hertz heard Open Doors English (ODE), a program that teaches English as a second language to adults in Ithaca and Tompkins County, was looking for volunteers, she immediately signed up.

“[The ODE students] want to help their families, they want to make a better life and I thought, well, if I can help them, why not?” Hertz said. “I think it’s wonderful that Ithaca has a program like this.”

Hertz is in Intermediate Spanish at the college and while she is not fluent, she has been taking Spanish classes since middle school.

ODE is in its third year of operation and teaches adults from the area English through Zoom classes. ODE has students taking classes from around the world, including Guatemala, Ukraine, Japan, Myanmar and Mexico.

While the majority of individuals in Tompkins County speak, read and understand English, 15% of the population speak a different language than English at home, according to the 2021 Tompkins County Limited English Proficiency Plan.

Hilary Boyer, co-director and student services coordinator of ODE, was looking for volunteers to help her students practice English and coordinated with Annette Levine, associate professor in the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at the college, to connect with college students learning Spanish. Levine told her classes about the opportunity and seven students signed up.

“Volunteers are really important to help the students practice what they’re learning,” Boyer said. “So if we have, say, the teacher start by teaching a lesson ... volunteers will go into a breakout with maybe two or three students and practice what was in the lesson and can correct [students] and just guide the process.”

Classes were at the First Presbyterian Church in Ithaca but now are held over Zoom. Boyer said holding classes online has been a great way to make classes more flexible, especially for people working and living in neighboring counties as farm workers and students who have traveled back to their home countries that want to continue taking classes with ODE.

“[Zoom is] a great opportunity for us because ... farm workers work 60 hours a week and it’s not easy for them to come to class,” Boyer said.

Levine said not knowing English can impact a person’s ability to get a job and be a part of the community and said that having programs where people can learn English is crucial.

“Knowing English is the difference between being isolated and being able to reside outside of one’s home,” Levine said. “This is something that I witnessed growing up with my parents, my grandmother and my brother being new immigrants to the U.S. English was key to not only their survival but also any networks, social connections and sense of belonging.”

Hertz said she thought it was important that college students interact with the broader Ithaca community and volunteering is a way to start the process.

“It’s easy to remain isolated on our little hill,” Hertz said. “But [we’re] in Ithaca, so ... why not help it grow, why not help foster everything that is happening here? ... It’s important to be part of a community, not just the school community, and build connections.”

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# Students protect pups from rock salt

BY OLIVIA STANZL

Senior Stephanie Serra was walking Adele, her yellow Labrador Retriever, on the Ithaca College campus after the first snow storm of the spring semester when she realized something was wrong.

“I was taking her to one of her sitters ... and she started limping and was really favoring one paw,” Serra said. “... Her sitter ended up finding a piece of salt that had gotten stuck in between one of her paw pads and it made it [Adele’s paw] bright red and irritated.”

Rock salt is used to de-ice roads and sidewalks, an essential safety measure in places like Ithaca, which receives an average annual snowfall of 65 inches according to U.S. Climate Data. When ingested by dogs, the melts can cause salt poisoning, which causes a range of symptoms. These include upset stomachs, seizures or, in the worst cases, death.

Guiding Eyes for the Blind is a national nonprofit organization that works to breed and train dogs that eventually become guide dogs for people with vision loss. On the college’s campus, five guiding eye dogs are currently under the care of students.

Senior Kelli Friedman, co-president of Guiding Eyes for the Blind, has been a part of the club since her freshman year. Friedman said every year after break is when club members notice the salt impacting their animals.

“Even if they’re not feeling it, it’s so important for them to be protected from even being put in contact with the salt,” Friedman said.

The college uses Cargill’s Clearance prod-



Adele, a guiding eye dog in training, wears booties to protect her paws from rock salt that is on walkways, while she trains to help people with vision loss.

KATELIN BRADLEY/THE ITHACAN

uct, which is sodium chloride that is treated with magnesium chloride. Tim Carey, associate vice president of the Office of Facilities, said the product was selected because it is more environmentally friendly.

“It would be cost-prohibitive to change to another product that could be attained in the bulk amounts that are needed,” Carey said via email.

Carey said the college switched to Cargill’s Clearance product over a decade ago.

Friedman, who is an occupational therapy major, said she understands that people benefit from the ground not being icy.

“We acknowledge that it’s something

important that they [Office of Facilities] continue to use rock salt to keep the campus community safe,” Friedman said. “We do educate ... people that work with the pups to ensure that they are educated on how to be safe.”

Preventative measures like paw wax and booties can be used to help protect the paws of the dogs.

“The booties have helped immensely,” Serra said. “She doesn’t necessarily like them, but we kind of need them.”

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A Ukrainian bridge that was destroyed in the first week of the Russian invasion. The Russian Air Force has been targeting Ukrainian infrastructure for bombing.

COURTESY OF KATERINA IGNATENKO

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Nations announced that as the war proceeds, an estimated 5 million Ukrainians could be displaced. In a March 1 press release, the Tompkins County Legislature denounced the invasion and offered support to Ukrainians fleeing the war.

“The Tompkins County Legislature stands with the people of Ukraine,” the press release said. “In Tompkins County we have a proud tradition of inviting, welcoming and including immigrants and refugees, and will continue to do so for Ukrainians as we stand with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters at this most difficult time.”

Shcherbak said she has been in daily contact with many of the people she knows from Ukraine, including people that she has previously had personal arguments with.

“We’re all united, we really support each other, even people who I haven’t talked to in a while,” Shcherbak said. “Now, I talk to them every day, a couple of times to just check in on them. I can’t even imagine — to run to those [bomb] shelters while sirens are notifying [them] about airstrikes. This is crazy.”

Jeff Cohen, former director of the Park Center for Independent Media at Ithaca College, said the American media coverage of the war in Ukraine has been unusually empathetic. Studies have proven bias in both the American and British media coverage of the Iraq War, which, like the war in Ukraine, was also an unprovoked war.

“I’ve got to say it’s wonderful to see an aggressive war where the United States media is telling the truth,” Cohen said. “The ultimate victims of modern warfare is always the civilians. I want to be clear — I’m thrilled that the victims of this war are getting the coverage that they deserve. But this is anew thing, this is a different thing. The invasion of Iraq in 2003, that was celebrated by the American media.”

Zenon Wasyliw, professor in the De-

partment of History, said that as a result of Ukraine’s bloody history, survival has become part of the country’s identity. In addition to 19th century conflicts under the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union committed genocide on Ukrainians in the early 1930s, killing 3.9 million ethnic Ukrainians in the Holodomor, a human-made famine. Ukraine was also one of the earliest locations of the Holocaust, where 1.5 million Jewish Ukrainians were killed. On March 1, the Russian Air Force bombed the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center in Kyiv, which remembers the mass execution of 33,771 Jewish Kyivians that occurred in a two-day period in September 1941.

“We often forget about the countries between Russia and Germany — Ukraine, Belarus, Poland,” Wasyliw said. “This is where a good part of the Holocaust took place, where the Nazis implemented genocide. Many in the Soviet Red Army who were killed or were taken prisoner [by the Nazis] were of Ukrainian background. So there is a legacy of survival in Ukraine.”

Since the beginning of the invasion, the Ukrainian army has put up a fierce resistance to the Russian military, holding ground in key cities like Kyiv and Kharkiv. Shcherbak credits Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s leadership for inspiring the Ukrainian people to fight to defend the country’s democracy and 30 years of independence.

“We see that he is there with his people and he is the voice of the nation,” Shcherbak said. “At this moment he is so inspiring. ... I’m very happy that he is our president. We are feeling very proud. We will not feel shame for saying we’re from Ukraine. We will say this was pride because we know that the whole world knows that this little country in Europe is fighting [Russia] for the whole world.”

In the week since the war has begun, Western powers like the European Union, the United States and Canada as well as countries in Asia have implemented sanctions against



A building in Ukraine surrounded by rubble and debris after an attack. Beyond targeting the Ukrainian military, the Russian military has also gone after civilians.

COURTESY OF ANDRIY DIBROVA

Russia in hopes of waging a nonviolent war on the Russian economy. Both the United States and the European Union have taken actions to cut Russian President Vladimir Putin and other Russian oligarchs off from the global banking system. However, the war caused a record surge in the price of oil and natural gas, one of Russia’s largest exports.

Stephan Wasylo is a Ukrainian American from Binghamton, New York, who served as the Senior Commercial Officer in the U.S. Department of Commerce from 1977–2010. During the fall of the Soviet Union, Wasylo was the Senior Commercial Officer in Ukraine from 1992–95 and held that same position in Russia from 2000–03 during Putin’s leadership. Wasylo said that during his time in Russia, he witnessed the democratic backsliding of the country. Wasylo believes that Putin’s invasion is a part of larger territorial ambitions.

“I think the whole world knows this has been an unprovoked attack, an invasion of Ukraine,” Wasylo said. “Ukraine and Russia have had a storied history for 300 plus years ... From 2000 to 2003 was just when Putin came to office ... When I was there, whatever little democracy existed in Russia, he immediately started to undermine that.”

Wasylo said the ongoing sanctions by Western powers are effective methods of punishing Russia economically. Wasylo noted that as a result of the recent sanctions, the Russian ruble is now worth less than one cent in comparison to the US dollar.

“The sanctions are very, very important because they will cripple the Russian economy,” Wasylo said. “While the sanctions are coming late and they’re not as complete as they could be, this is really the only means that we have to help Ukraine and fight Putin. The more painful they become, the more pressure he will have domestically.”

Shcherbak’s boyfriend, who grew up in Donetsk in eastern Ukraine during the war, helped Shcherbak organize a

list of fundraisers that members of the college community can donate to. The funds support humanitarian aid like medical equipment for Ukrainian hospitals, psychological services and support for children fleeing the war.

In her statement, Cornish encouraged the campus community to attend a special session on the war in Ukraine at 12:10 p.m. March 3 in Williams Hall 323 and on Zoom. The event will be hosted by the Department of History and will feature Wasyliw, Shcherbak and junior Daria Karpenko — another Ukrainian student at the college — as guest speakers.

Shcherbak encouraged members of the college community to refrain from using euphemisms when discussing the war, as it minimizes the lived experience of Ukrainians.

“Stop calling it [the] ‘Ukrainian crisis,’” Shcherbak said. “It’s the Ukrainian War. I was in class and my professor said ‘Ukrainian crisis.’ This is not a crisis. That is such a gentle word for this. People need to understand that this is important to us. This really, really hurts.”

Shcherbak said it has been extremely difficult for her and her boyfriend to go about their days and attend classes while their families and friends are under attack, as she feels there is not enough she can do to help.

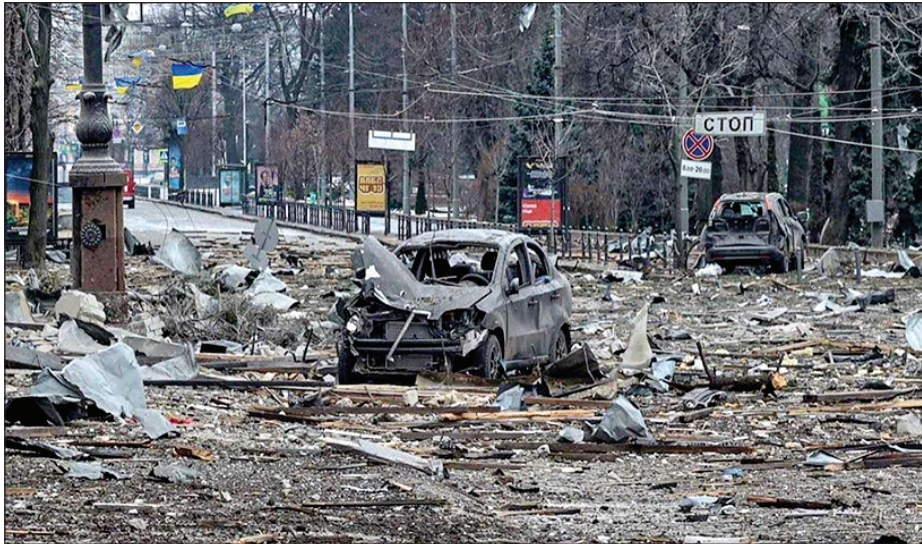
“If somebody wants to know more, they can reach out to us,” Shcherbak said. “This is not a joke. This is what’s happening in our lives right now. We truly believe this is worth your attention. If everybody at Ithaca College donated \$3 that they would spend on buying a coffee, this would help us buy so much humanitarian aid for those soldiers and for my family who are serving. ... We’re very, very, very concerned about them.”

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An apartment complex in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine after being bombed. Kyiv is the sixth-largest city in Europe and has been bombed heavily in the past week.

COURTESY OF NASTYA KOLESNIK



The streets of Kyiv, which were bustling with Ukrainians just weeks ago, are now silent and covered in debris from the bombing campaign by the Russian military.

COURTESY OF VITALIY EVSUKOV



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ideas that deal with antisemitism by grasping not just the history of it, but also its many contemporary manifestations, we will have the tools we need to identify it and reject it,” Cornish said.

Goldberg compared the spreading of antisemitic hate to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We talk a lot these days about the significance of being symptomatic and asymptomatic,” Goldberg said. “The swastikas that appeared on our campus were the symptomatic representation of this rising spread of hate.”

During the 2020–21 academic year, college students around the country reported 244 antisemitic incidents to an Anti-Demafation League (ADL) Hillel website initiative, which was an all-time high.

Aviva Snyder, campus support director at Hillel International, presented the first event, “Antisemitism 101 — Defining Our Terms.”

“There is a long history of misappropriating that Jews or greedy Jews are money-hoarding, things like that,” Snyder said. “That we’re dishonest, that we’re secretly hiding an identity. . . . These are tropes you may see or have heard.”

The audience discussed the idea of race as a social construction that changes over time and space. Hollies said that even though race is constructed, it is still real.

“So race is something that you might have an intrinsic feeling about yourself, how you view yourself,” Hollies said. “But it doesn’t always mean that feeling is going to match



Erin Schrode, a Jewish activist, speaks Feb. 28 about her experience as a Jewish woman. Schrode was invited by Hillel at Ithaca College to discuss combating hate on campus.

ATTICUS RUBOTTOM/THE ITHACAN

how other people feel. It’s a conversation between two people, right?”

Junior Isaac Schneider, president of Hillel at Ithaca College, said he has seen questions circling campus about what a swastika means.

Schneider said that it is important to acknowledge how emotional the symbol is for many people and that he was thankful for all the students and faculty that attended the event learned how students are affected by antisemitism on campus.

“I’m the grandchild of Holocaust survivors, not the great-grandchild, [it’s] not some ancient generation,” Schneider said. “So it’s not a far removed thing. . . . It still affects our students directly.”

Erin Schrode, activist and social entrepreneur, said she had never seen a college mobilize a symposium as quickly as the college did.

“For me, that shows that this campus is taking students seriously . . . and is committed to educating the whole student body,” Schrode said. “I thought they did a really beautiful job . . . in what they put together in terms of diversity and perspectives and speakers’ voices.”

Freshman Matthew Scott said he came to the event because he was with junior Alexa Chalnack when she found the first swastika drawn in condensation on Baker Walkway.

“I kind of was dismissive of [the swastika] . . . but when [Chalnack]

addressed what it meant to her and to our Jewish peers, I realized the significance of the issue,” Scott said.

Schneider said Jewish students have been asking for activism like this event on campus for years. He said he felt like students were finally being heard by the college and he was hopeful for the future where events like this can be hosted again.

“You know, this doesn’t end in one day,” Schneider said. “I’m really truly hopeful that this [Day of Learning] is the start of a bigger movement.”

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# London Center announces new director

BY LORIEN TYNE

The search for a new director for the Ithaca College London Center (ICLC) has concluded after several leadership changes in recent years.

On March 1, the college announced through Intercom that Meghan Callahan, art historian and experienced study-abroad professional, will be the new director for ICLC starting April 18.

The search first began in November 2021 while Catherine Weidner, chair of the Department of Theatre Arts, served as interim director for the 2021–22 academic year. Callahan plans to work with Weidner up until summer 2022 so Callahan can become more familiar with the program.

Weidner became the interim director after former director, Thorunn Lonsdale, retired in October 2020 and then died in November 2021.

Since becoming established in 1972, the ICLC has offered classes, internships and other academic opportunities in London to the college’s students. Additionally, the program gives students the opportunity to immerse themselves in British and European culture while studying.

From March 2020 until Fall 2021, the ICLC was not open to students because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In Fall 2021, ICLC cautiously reopened and students have been going to school in London throughout the 2021–22 academic year.

Callahan is leaving the Syracuse University London Program to join ICLC. From 2014–16, Callahan worked at the Cornell-Brown-Penn UK program and in 2016 began at the Syracuse University London program.

She spent her time at Syracuse University developing curriculum, managing faculty



Meghan Callahan, art historian and study-abroad professional, will become the new director for the Ithaca College London Center after several recent leadership changes.

COURTESY OF MEGHAN CALLAHAN

positions, instructing faculty in online learning techniques, evaluating teaching and supporting students in London. Callahan has also taught courses like Makers and Markets: Italian Art in Britain as well as Women and Art: London and the UK.

She served as a non-voting member for the executive board of the Association of American Study Abroad Programmes/UK where she helped to improve access and support for LGBTQ+, first-generation, minority and disabled students while they spent time doing a study abroad program.

In the college’s announcement, Rachel Gould, director of study abroad in the Office of International Programs and Extended Studies, introduced and welcomed Callahan to the college community.

“Please join us in giving Dr. Callahan a

warm welcome to the Ithaca College London Center and to the Ithaca College community,” the announcement said. “We look forward to working with her and are excited to see the contributions she will make to the ICLC.”

From 2009–10, Callahan was a lecturer at the Workers’ Educational Association in London. It was there she taught a course called Avant-garde Art in Europe and America, 1895–1945.

In Spring 2013, she covered for a professor during their maternity leave as an associate lecturer at Birkbeck College, University of London, where she co-taught Art and Architecture in Europe 1250–1400 alongside another lecturer.

CONTACT LORIEN TYNE  
LTYNE@ITHACA.EDU

FROM MASKS, PAGE 1

California, Connecticut, Delaware, Nevada, New Jersey, New York and Oregon that are changing mask mandates.

Junior Cali Trainor said that when she heard that the college’s mask mandate would be dropped, she felt anxious and angry.

“I myself am immunocompromised,” Trainor said. “I am just concerned that the campus is not going to be doing anything to protect other immunocompromised and at-risk people like myself. A lot of the reason I felt comfortable coming on campus this semester was that almost everyone has to be vaccinated.”

Trainor said now that the mandate has been dropped, she will have to make more difficult decisions regarding her health.

“It’s putting us in a really uncomfortable situation because now I have to decide between my health and well-being and my grades potentially,” Trainor said.

The Ithaca College COVID-19 risk level has been at “Green: Lower Risk” since Feb. 4. As of March 2, there are currently 20 active student COVID-19 cases and five active employee cases according to the COVID-19 dashboard. There are 13 rooms being utilized to quarantine in Emerson Hall for students who tested positive.

Other members of the campus community like junior Noah Schwartz are excited to see changes that show the world is beginning to recover from COVID-19. Schwartz said he has been extremely vigilant with COVID-19 safety the past two years but feels like if the county is saying masks are no longer necessary, then it is time to end the mandate on campus.

“I’m just happy that we’re going to move past it and we can just have our open faces again, and hopefully that kind of brings some normalcy back to the campus,” Schwartz said. “I think we can take these steps and then backtrack if we need to, but I’m hoping this is the start of something positive pushing us forward.”

When the TCHD announced that it would drop its mask advisory, it attributed the county’s drop in positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations — bringing the county into the “Low” category for COVID-19 risk under the CDC measuring framework.

Stewart Auyash, associate professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Physical Education, said he will continue to wear a mask and have his students wear them too.

“They didn’t do enough to remind people that there is still a significant number of people who are elderly, or below five years old, or who can’t get vaccinated because of their immune systems,” Auyash said. “Support should have been mentioned for those who still want to wear masks and have to wear masks.”

Swarts confirmed surveillance testing will continue to be offered for now and testing protocols for returning from spring break will be announced next week.

Spring break is from March 12–20 and Auyash said he feels the college could have waited until after break had concluded to drop the mask mandate so that students — but especially faculty — could have enough time to plan for it. Auyash said this has the potential to put a significant amount of pressure on faculty to make decisions about their students’ health and safety which they may be uncomfortable with.

While Swarts did acknowledge general nervousness and concern surrounding the change, he said he did not think faculty were given any more responsibility than usual.

“Professors have the autonomy to make decisions about what is and what is not allowed in their class as it relates to a variety of things,” Swarts said via email. “Allowing them to make these decisions about masking is no different.”

*News editor Elijah de Castro contributed reporting to this article.*

CONTACT LORIEN TYNE  
LTYNE@ITHACA.EDU



# COLLEGE BRIEFS

## Scholarship open for students of color with high-achievements

The Center for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Social Change (IDEAS) has two scholarships available for students of color for the 2022–23 academic school year. The Rashad G. Richardson “I Can Achieve” Memorial Scholarship is worth \$3,000 and was created as a way to recognize a high-achieving student of color at Ithaca College. The ideal candidate will have made significant contributions toward helping improve the quality of life for youth of color in the Tompkins County community.

The African-Latino Society Memorial Scholarship is worth \$1,200 and is awarded to a student of color at the college who has made significant contributions to the campus. This scholarship aims to honor a student who has worked to influence and promote the academic, political, social, economic and cultural welfare of students of color at the college and the greater community. Submissions are due March 23. Only students who are returning for the 2022–23 academic year are eligible.

Questions regarding financial aid packages can be directed to the Office of Student Financial Services. Other questions can be directed to Angélica Carrington, director for the Center for IDEAS, at [acarrington@ithaca.edu](mailto:acarrington@ithaca.edu), 607-274-7777 or by meeting with her in Suite 339 of Campus Center in Egbert Hall.

## Student tutor for IC promoted to program’s head learning coach

Junior Austin Ruffino has been promoted to head learning coach in the Tutoring and Academic Enrichment Services (TAES) office. His new role requires him to contribute to the vision and strategic plan for TAES, supervise peers and contribute to training and development. Ruffino will be involved with recruiting and hiring the next class of learning coaches for the 2022–23 academic year.

## Student scholarships available for the 2022–23 academic year

The Office of Student Engagement is offering scholarships that are available to all Ithaca College students for the 2022–23 academic year. Most of the scholarships require campus

involvement and community service during the applicants’ collegiate careers. The priority deadline for students to fill out their Free Application for Federal Student Aid was March 1, and the college’s scholarship applications are due no later than 11:59 p.m. March 21. Questions about service, campus involvement or the application process can be directed to the Office of Student Engagement at [ose@ithaca.edu](mailto:ose@ithaca.edu).

## Student trustee position open for 2022–24 term applications

The application for the 2022–24 student trustee position is open. The student trustee member is a full voting member of the Ithaca College Board of Trustees, the governing body for the college.

The student trustee member also serves as an ex-officio member of the Student Governance Council, the sole representative body for the college’s student community. To be eligible, students must be a full- or part-time student at the college and must have good judicial and academic standing. Students applying must remain at the college during the two-year position. The application opened Feb. 20 and will close at 11:59 p.m. March 20. Questions regarding the position can be directed to junior Kalena Yearwood, current student trustee, at [kyearwood1@ithaca.edu](mailto:kyearwood1@ithaca.edu).

## Advisers to hold office hours for study abroad conversations

Study abroad advisers are holding open virtual office hours for students with questions. The times available are: 3–4 p.m. March 2, 12:10–1:05 p.m. March 8 and 12:10–1:05 p.m. March 24. Individuals requiring accommodations to participate in the virtual office hours can email [studyabroad@ithaca.edu](mailto:studyabroad@ithaca.edu).

## IT looking for student feedback and members for committee

The new Student Technology Advisory Council (STAC) was created by Information Technology (IT) to provide feedback, guidance and advice on technology used at the college. Members of STAC will meet monthly with IT leadership to provide feedback on services like ResNet, Canvas, IT



## Students branch out and learn to track

Senior Ana Maria Arroyo, an environmental studies major, leads a wildlife tracking walk Feb. 27 in the Ithaca College Natural Lands. Students were able to spend time outside and learn how to identify the tracks left by local wildlife.

ATTICUS RUBOTTOM/THE ITHACAN

support services, WiFi issues, information security, data privacy, use of student data, innovative technology development and exploration and related topics.

Students who join STAC will serve on the council for the remainder of this academic year as well as the next academic year. Meetings will be held from 5–6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month. Applications are due at 5 p.m. March 11.

## College to hold jazz performance in celebration of music contest

The Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble will be performing in collaboration with guest artist Camille Thurman to celebrate the culmination of the annual Susan W. Wohlhueter Jazz Ensemble Composition Contest. The concert is

at 8:15 p.m. March 5 in Ford Hall in the James J. Whalen Center for Music. The concert is free and open to the public. Any guests must wear masks for the entirety of the concert.

Thurman is a renowned saxophonist as well as vocalist and will be playing some pieces submitted to the composition contest including the winning piece: “Fireflies of Kobayashi” by Japanese composer Masaya Taniguchi.

Any guests with disabilities who require accommodations to attend the concert are asked to contact Michael Titlebaum, associate professor in the Department of Music Performance. Titlebaum can be reached at his email, [mtitlebaum@ithaca.edu](mailto:mtitlebaum@ithaca.edu), or at 607-274-1283.

The college requests that any individuals in need of accommodations contact Titlebaum as soon as possible in preparation for the concert.

# PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM FEB. 14 TO FEB. 20

### FEBRUARY 14

#### MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

LOCATION: 412 Grant Egbert Blvd.  
SUMMARY: Caller reported that a person made alarming statements to harm themselves. The person was taken into custody under New York state’s Mental Hygiene Law and was transported to a hospital by ambulance. Sergeant Don Lyke responded.

#### PETIT LARCENY BETWEEN \$50–\$199

LOCATION: 147 Tower Skyline Drive  
SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person stole a bench. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

### FEBRUARY 15

#### FORCIBLE TOUCHING

LOCATION: 113 Campus Center Way  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that they had knowledge of third-hand information that one person had groped another person while they were walking. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded to the information.

### SAFETY HAZARD

LOCATION: 116 Flora Brown Drive  
SUMMARY: Caller reported that a vehicle was leaking hydraulic fluid. Staff from the Office of Environmental Health and Safety reported the vehicle was removed and the area was cleaned. Charlie Sherman, fire and building safety coordinator, responded to the call.

### FEBRUARY 16

#### CRIMINAL TRESPASS/THIRD DEGREE

LOCATION: 692 Third Street  
SUMMARY: Officer reported two unknown people were attempting to break into a storage shed and that they fled the area. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded.

#### LEAVING THE SCENE/VEHICLE ACCIDENT

LOCATION: Grant Egbert Blvd.  
SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown vehicle had damaged a parked vehicle and left the scene. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

### FEBRUARY 17

#### ACCIDENTAL FIRE ALARM

LOCATION: 151 College Circle  
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm activation. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain determined the activation was caused by burnt food.

#### POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

LOCATION: 98 Flora Brown Drive  
SUMMARY: The Office of Public Safety received a narcans cabinet alert activation. An officer found no one in need of medical assistance and referred one person for unlawful possession of marijuana, underage possession of alcohol and responsibility of their guests. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded.

### FEBRUARY 18

#### OFF CAMPUS INCIDENT

LOCATION: All other/other  
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person separated from a group who could not be located. The Ithaca Police Department had also been notified with

the person’s last known location. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded.

#### CHANGE IN CASE STATUS

LOCATION: 171 College Circle  
SUMMARY: Ithaca Police Department reported a location for a missing person. An officer from Ithaca College responded to that location and confirmed the person was safe and that they needed no further assistance. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded.

### FEBRUARY 19

#### CRIMINAL TAMPERING/THIRD DEGREE

LOCATION: 110 Flora Brown Drive  
SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person maliciously discharged a fire extinguisher. Master Patrol Officer Waylon Degraw responded.

#### MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: 919 Danby Road  
SUMMARY: A caller reported falling on ice but reported no injuries. The person declined medical assistance. Sergeant Don Lyke responded.

### FEBRUARY 20

#### MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

LOCATION: 280 Lyceum Drive  
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person fell and hit their head. The person had struck their head on a shelf next to their bed when they sat up. The person declined medical assistance from ambulance staff. Patrol Officer Bruce Hall responded.

#### ACCIDENTAL DAMAGE OF PROPERTY

LOCATION: 143 Textor Circle  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that water had flooded the lower portion of a room, causing damage. Master Patrol Officer Waylon Degraw 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



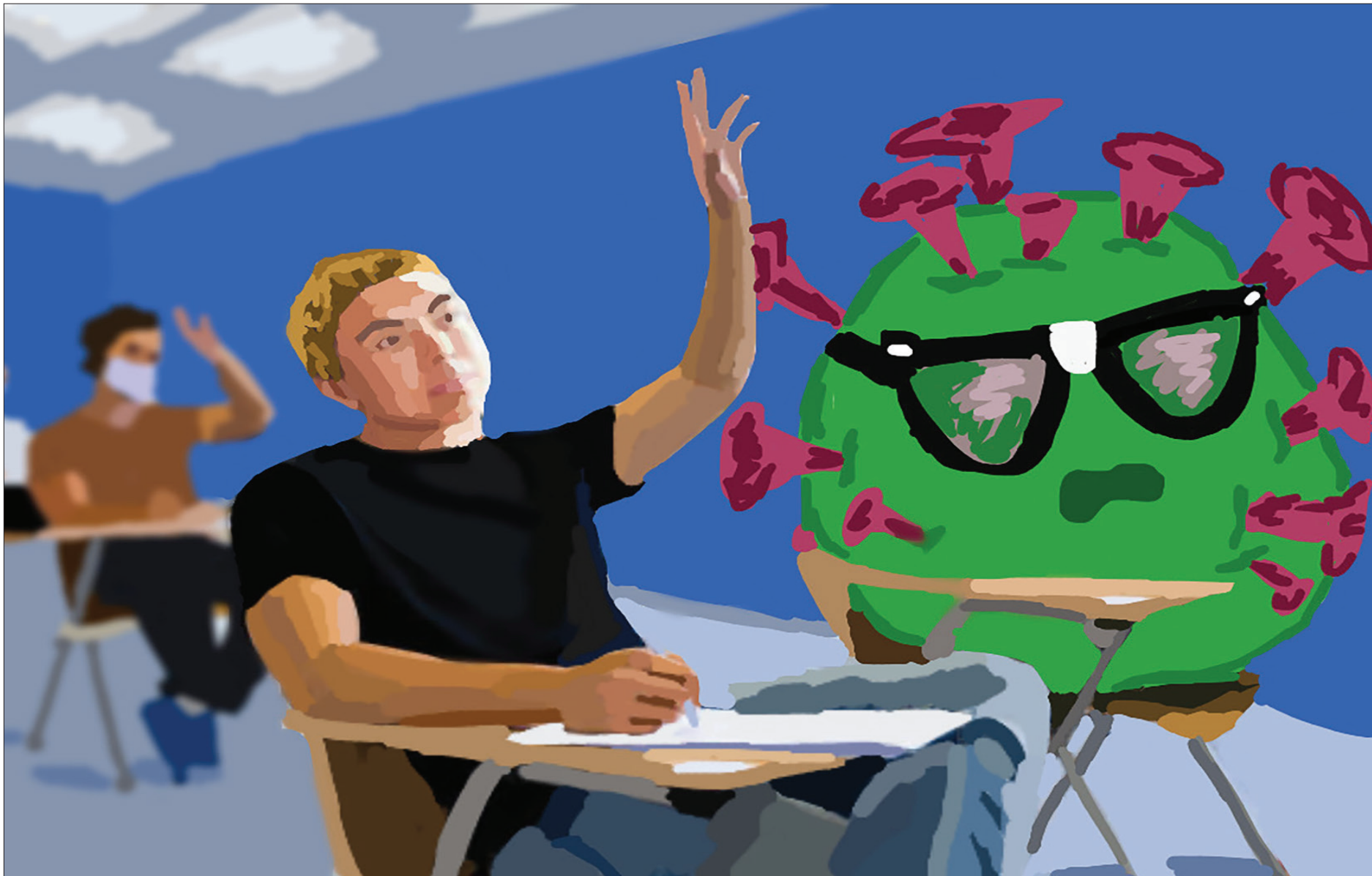


ILLUSTRATION BY ANNA MCCRACKEN

## EDITORIALS

### Learning about the history of antisemitism is needed

One of the most human things we can do is encounter and challenge ourselves to understand other human histories. This kind of encounter combats an erasure of history, culture, language, and most importantly, people. Within this process we fulfill the task of not forgetting true-to-life stories and the painful gravity they may hold. On Feb. 28 Hillel at Ithaca College, the Center for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Social Change (IDEAS) and the college’s senior leadership followed through with this idea by holding the “IC Day of Learning: Grappling with Antisemitism.”

Initiatives like this mini-conference in response to the two swastikas found Feb. 3 and 8 on campus are a truer reflection of the college — held in the spirit of unity by learning others’ histories. We must call attention to all implicit and explicit tropes Jewish people face daily. We must actively combat the many hateful conspiracy

theories and reject antisemitic jabs we have become numb to.

Interim President La Jerne Cornish said it well at the Day of Learning gathering: “By probing the depths of the ideas that deal with antisemitism by grasping not just the history of it, but also its many contemporary manifestations, we will have the tools we need to identify it and reject it.”

Moments to celebrate our oneness and acknowledge displays of hatred toward difference is necessary for our morale at the college. The college needs to continue to condemn all future acts of hatred.

This message extends into all aspects of life. We cannot forget to give this energy to all groups facing hate for their differences. We must integrate this change into every avenue, inventing new ways to travel along the way. Changing the way we view the mundane dialogue and activating our consciousness is the only way forward. Change is mandatory for extraordinary results and overcoming hatred.

### Removal of mask mandate is rushed and too early

The new mask advisory for Tompkins County has lifted, and Ithaca College is not requiring all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, to wear face coverings in indoor locations. The new school policy leaves it up to the discretion of our professors to administer their individualized face covering policy per classroom.

This is a messy approach to the overall campus safety, places an unfair burden upon all professors and ignores the immunocompromised individuals in our community: the number of people who are elderly, below 5 years old or who can’t get vaccinated because of their immune systems is still significant. While not wearing a mask indoors may feel like a breath of fresh air, the air is not COVID-free yet. The Ithaca College administration has failed by not offering support for those who still want to wear masks or have to wear one. This announcement was a rushed effort that ignores the many

concerns that come with an ongoing, deadly virus. Glossing over important reminders about public health is dangerous for everyone in the community. The college needs to be proactive, clear and responsive when addressing the protocols for returning from spring break. Dropping this new mask mandate in haste does not allow faculty the time to plan, inform their students of their individual policy methodically, and adds undue stress to another atypical COVID semester.

Humans are creators of our own Franksteins: we are overzealous with our goals of productivity, so we forget to proceed with caution. We now find ourselves existing in the middle of a pandemic and fumbling with new mask mandates and poorly thought out policies. We remain smart and remember that respecting and protecting our peers, professors, staff, community and ourselves is a full-time job. The good news is we have control over our actions. We must continue wearing a mask and making it a mandatory task.

## 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  
THE ACE OF CAKES

Asexual people are LGBTQ+

People say that someday young people start experiencing powerful new “urges.” That’s just a veiled way of saying that every person on this planet will eventually want sex. I waited years for that little switch to activate in my brain.

I told myself that I was just confused, a late bloomer. But when I realized that my friends’ experiences were entirely different from mine, I started to suspect that something might be wrong with me.

I felt broken, unlovable. I never dared to date anyone because I didn’t even know what I wanted. What do you do when the idea of having sex, even with the person you’ve been crushing on for years, makes you feel like throwing up? It wasn’t until senior year high school, after several anxious, sleepless nights of research and sexuality quizzes, that I realized — I’m asexual.

Some asexuals are OK with sex because it feels good. Others, like myself, are sex-repulsed. For me, thinking about sex leaves me feeling dizzy and uncomfortable.

Even after realizing that I was asexual, I lived the next two years of my life still terrified of getting involved with anyone romantically. A common misconception about asexuality is that none of us want romantic relationships. While there’s a good chunk of people on the asexual spectrum, or ace-spec, who identify as aromantic, I identify as masc-attracted. Not necessarily heteroromantic, and I definitely don’t identify as straight, but I’m romantically attracted to masculine-presenting individuals, regardless of gender identity.

When I met my boyfriend, I overcame that terrifying hump. At the start of our relationship, he identified as allosexual, meaning a person with sexual attraction. I commenced our talking stage by warning him that I can’t give him sex. He told me that it was OK. The idea that somebody could like me without needing sex from me absolutely blew my mind.

Another thing that I didn’t expect is that our relationship would also help his journey exploring his asexuality. A few months in, he came out as asexual as well. While my partner being asexual isn’t a requirement, it did help alleviate some of the lingering fears that I had. No matter how much he told me he didn’t care, I never let myself fully believe. Ever since I came out, I’ve been told that no allosexual person would be OK with having a sexless relationship.

Now, you’d think that I’d be OK. But it’s not all roses and rainbows. To some in the LGBTQ+ community, we’re not queer enough. People intrude incessantly on asexual relationships, demanding answers for our existence, and I’m sick of it. I am so proud of how far I’ve come, and getting here felt impossible four years ago. The fact that people still refuse to accept me, disregarding how broken I always felt, continues to eat me up inside.

**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

The importance of diverse friendships

BY RAYAA ANGLADA

Think back to your first year of college for a moment. Think about the kinds of people you gravitated toward. Did they look just like you? For most people, the answer is yes. While this is probably subconscious, it is still something you should question. I am multiracial, so I’m used to not looking like anyone in the same room as me. I talk to people of different ethnicities all the time, and while I do not mind, I am always left wondering why others don’t tend to do the same.

This stems from early in our childhood. Perhaps we didn’t grow up in a neighborhood with lots of diversity. Perhaps on our first day of preschool, we felt nervous to talk to the kid who looked nothing like us, and so we never did. We grew up, and this felt normal. We got comfortable in this habit of looking to those who we view as the same as us. We don’t even think twice about it now. That is the scariest part of all of this to me. Avoiding those who we perceive as different should not feel natural.

Many people think it is good enough to just believe in equality. They are fine with other races and ethnicities, but they do not see a need to incorporate them into their lives. I, for one, have a diverse group of close friends. I have learned so many things from all of them and their cultures that I would never have known otherwise. Knowing them, I am a more empathetic, understanding human being who enjoys



Junior Rayaa Anglada discusses her multiracial identity and what it is like to see people with homogenous friend groups. She urges people to form diverse friendships.  
KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

learning about cultures other than my own.

These last few years have shown me that many problems could be solved through acceptance. We make all these assumptions about people we have never even talked to. We don’t understand their culture, so we feel that things they do are weird or wrong. We make judgments based on things we don’t understand. Even though none of this is intentional, it doesn’t mean we can’t change it.

The way to a more accepting society is through interracial friendships. To understand other cultures, you have to talk to them, befriend them and learn from them. The more we do this, the more we’ll

appreciate our differences rather than shy away from them. Instead of thinking of all the myths and stereotypes we’ve heard throughout the years, we will actually see people for who they really are. Acceptance is more than just saying you don’t have a problem with other ethnicities; it’s showing it. The next time you are in a new situation, consider stepping out of your comfort zone and talking to the person who looks different than you. They may just be your next best friend.

**RAYAA ANGLADA** (she/her) is a junior integrated marketing and communications major. Contact her at [ranglada@ithaca.edu](mailto:ranglada@ithaca.edu).

GUEST COMMENTARY

Keeping the library open later is essential

BY HARLEY GROSSMAN

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ithaca College has largely limited its hours of operations for many different services. The operating hours of the dining halls, the retail dining services, the campus store and the library are just some examples of adjusted service hours; this is causing a massive amount of dissatisfaction within the student body. As an institution with the purpose of providing a nurturing environment to help cultivate the success of its students, providing study spaces is a top priority that has been neglected and students are dealing with the consequences.

In 2019, the library was open 24/5. This provided a space for students with a heavy workload to do their work in a peaceful environment. Pulling the infamous all-nighter is no stranger to most college students, and while it’s not always a fun experience, sometimes it’s necessary. This semester, the library is only open until midnight most days, occasionally until 2 a.m., but sometimes it even closes as early as 5 or 8 p.m.! These hours aren’t sufficient or consistent enough for students to be able to finish their assigned work in a quiet space where they can focus.

Some students don’t have the option to study in their room. Considering that a large number of students on campus have roommates, it’s important to understand that someone’s room is not necessarily a private space. As the senator for the School of Humanities and Sciences, I can say that there have been many students who have come to the Student Governance Council (SGC) with this issue. One of the most common problems is if a roommate is inconsiderate when it comes to maintaining a quiet study environment, or if someone’s roommate goes to bed early and needs the lights in the room to be off. These are both scenarios that would make studying in someone’s room impossible. Even when studying and doing work within a dorm is a viable option for some, students deserve the ability to separate out a productive work space from a place of rest and free time. When the separation of school and personal life is not an option, it can quickly become a distracting with increased procrastination and more difficulty completing assignments.

Lounges could be used as a study space for some, but they are also offered as a place for peers to connect and hangout. Some students can’t utilize their dorm lounges for academic purposes either due to fellow



Junior Harley Grossman, School of Humanities and Sciences senator for the Student Governance Council, wants to extend library hours.  
RICHIE MORRIS/THE ITHACAN

students disrespecting quiet hours or using the space to engage in group activities. Students who are put in these situations where their own rooms and the lounges are not an option are left with nowhere to focus on their work, which can massively impact performance in classes.

Every student at the college is paying to attend this institution, and every student wants to excel, but students can’t be expected to succeed and do their best work if they aren’t even offered a quiet place to get their work done. Having personally gone through adjusting to these hours and having felt the impacts of the limited hours, I am

eager to address this issue.

As a senator of the SGC, I am drafting a bill recommending that the school take action to keep the library open later to provide students with the resources to survive and thrive throughout their college experience. At this point, we are still in the research phase of this process.

Keeping the library open later is essential for the success of the student body and, as a part of the SGC, I am making this issue a top priority.

**HARLEY GROSSMAN** (she/her) is a junior psychology major. Contact her at [hgrossman@ithaca.edu](mailto:hgrossman@ithaca.edu).



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NET COST OF PRIVATE NEW YORK COLLEGES AFTER FINANCIAL AID:

College	Net Cost
Union College	\$29,103
Pace University	\$30,572
State University of New York at Binghamton	\$32,886
Syracuse University	\$34,011
Ithaca College	\$35,904
Yeshiva University	\$37,630

Source: CollegeInsider.com

As tuition continues to rise, IC students go deeper into debt

By Eliph-de Castro | Feb 23, 2022

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As tuition costs continue to climb, IC students go deeper into debt

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# DIVERSIONS

## crossword

By Quill Driver Books

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6 Wind-driven mist  
10 Mouse cousin  
14 Breakfast sizzler  
15 Scottish philosopher  
16 Qatar ruler  
17 Hound’s track  
18 Fast horse  
19 Nevada town  
20 Feasible  
22 Tattered  
24 Eurasian mountains  
25 Refreshing drink  
26 Merchant  
29 Leisure  
30 TV’s Hawkeye  
31 “Da” opposite  
33 Sugar variety  
38 Larait  
40 Have being  
41 Condor nest  
42 Domesticates  
43 Cablegram  
45 Season  
46 Glazier’s unit  
48 Hexes  
50 Youth lodgings  
54 Sincere  
55 Gasoline rating
- 56 Boring voice  
60 Click-on item  
61 500 sheets  
63 Above the horizon  
64 Carried a tune  
65 Canvas cover  
66 Mosaic  
67 Three-spot  
68 Of this kind  
69 Where Aesop shopped
- DOWN
- 1 Cough syrup meas.  
2 Baylor University site  
3 Frozen desserts  
4 Foreign office  
5 Whole  
6 “— We Dance?”  
7 Smoke ham  
8 “Pulp Fiction” name  
9 Broken remains  
10 Border on  
11 Plato’s last letter  
12 Wrinkled  
13 Wash away  
21 Cows’ home  
23 One-called

- animal (var.)  
25 After a while  
26 Pub throw  
27 Director — Kazan  
28 Sandler or West  
29 Paranormal, to some  
32 Bored responses  
34 Feeling bitter  
35 Unwritten test  
36 Mental power  
37 Butterfly catchers  
39 Colorado tree  
44 Cable channel  
47 Police bulletins
- 49 Bradley University site  
50 Derrick or crane  
51 Happen  
52 Cherry center  
53 Tart  
54 Pep  
56 Winepress residue  
57 Ibsens’s home  
58 In the vicinity  
59 One-named singer  
62 Water, in Montreal


### last issue’s crossword answers

DALE		FAULT		ERGO
ETAT		ARROW		NEAP
LODE		JELLO		RAZE
PERSIA		ABDOMEN		
	NUT		YUL	
LLAMAS		ATHLETE		
LAYLA		PROW		SAWS
APR		CALDRON		SIP
ISIS		FIST		EMERY
RECHART		APPALL		
	ELI		LAX	
CHALICE		SALINE		
HULL		ARGON		MARC
OGEE		NIECE		UTAH
WEED		SEEKS		MOTE

WE’VE GOT MULTIMEDIA



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## sudoku medium

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

### very hard

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

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## answers to last issue’s sudoku:

medium

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

hard

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



# LIFE & CULTURE

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022

11



Ajamu X's section of the "On Our Backs: The Revolutionary Art of Queer Sex Work" exhibition in the Handwerker Gallery showcases queer literature as a part of its display. Ajamu X is a mixed-media artist who focuses on Black LGBTQ+ pleasure and his section of the exhibition also features paintings, photos and videos.

LEILA MARCILLO-GOMEZ/THE ITHACAN

BY EVA SALZMAN

Step into the Handwerker Gallery to explore moments in the history of queer and people of color sex work frozen in time alongside education on current social-justice dilemmas — all underneath the vibrant glow of neon signs and the poppy rhythms of disco music.

From now to March 11, the Handwerker Gallery is displaying "On Our Backs: The Revolutionary Art of Queer Sex Work," curated by Alexis Heller. The exhibition explores first-person sex-worker narratives through a display of videos, photographs, paintings, sculptures artifacts and even an interactive video game.

As acknowledged by the Handwerker Gallery's website, sex work is often misrepresented and misunderstood, especially in the media. So as a result, sex workers face stigmatization and censorship on top of the dangers that their work brings, especially within marginalized communities.

Heller said she wanted to bring the collection to college campuses to educate students on histories that they may not get to hear in the classroom. She said she hopes the exhibition can inspire activism in students to not only educate on the subject's history, but also inform on current issues

that sex workers face.

"Sex workers are still really struggling to this day to get even just basic rights," Heller said. "Particularly in law with [The Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act and Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (SESTA/FOSTA)] ... which can cause a lot of online sex workers to lose their platforms. ... And so, I also think that it's an exciting opportunity to engage students in activism that's happening now."

The 2018 SESTA/FOSTA bill was created in an attempt to shut down websites that facilitate sex trafficking, but as the sex-work world has migrated into the digital realm, it has had a devastating effect on the online sex-work economy.

In the exhibition, artists Lena Chen and Maggie Oates give gallery-goers a first-person account of this law's effects in their video game "OnlyBans," a play on the popular online sex-work site, OnlyFans. The game lets players act as an online sex worker where they post nude photos to earn a living. As a player will quickly realize, however, the game isn't so easy — it barely lets users post one photo without shadow-banning or removing their account.

M. Nicole Horsley, assistant professor in the Center for Study in Race, Culture and Ethnicity, brought the students in her Black



Senior Gaby Tola plays "OnlyBans," a video game created by artists Lena Chen and Maggie Oates. It educates players on laws about online sex work.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

Sexualities course to see the exhibition. She said hosting "On Our Backs" at a predominantly white institution (PWI) like Ithaca College is impactful because it displays elements of Black sexuality that aren't normally portrayed in mainstream media.

"I think that the realities [of a PWI] become very apparent for students when they go into [the gallery]," Horsley said. "It's a different kind of engagement ... because there's a Black body on display for white people. And then what is the engagement around that? ... because the majority of the people who are going to see this aren't going to be people of color, it's going to be white people because we are at a PWI."

Senior Gaby Tola is a student in Horsley's Black Sexualities course and visited the exhibit with her classmates. She said hosting this exhibition at a PWI is especially powerful in the ways that the collection goes beyond what students might learn in queer and race theory classes.

"In a lot of theory classes, you'll read about oppression in political ways that don't necessarily center on the actual idea of pleasure," Tola said. "So pleasure tends to get dragged out a lot of these conversations and things that we do. ... So I think that beyond just talking about sex, placing nudity, queer bodies, Black and brown bodies, on a PWI sparks that conversation."

Junior Justin Foster also visited the exhibition with Horsley's Black Sexualities

course and said he was glad to see a more accurate portrayal of people of color sex work because of the way white sex work is often glamorized in mainstream media.

"I thought it was fascinating to see sex work, especially POC [people of color] sex work in a PWI," Foster said. "Because it's one thing to see the same images of the sex work that's very whitewashed and glamorized. But seeing what I felt to be a more authentic portrayal of sex work and sexuality on a campus like Ithaca was very powerful and something that I didn't think Ithaca could pull off."

Horsley said that she is pleased with the way that she's seen people respond to the exhibition so far and that the gallery has sparked an educational conversation on the campus around race and sexuality.

"Because this is an educational institution, it should educate, it should expose, it should bring people to these other kinds of engagements," Horsley said. "And I commend us for being able to have these kinds of conversations and it not be a problem, that people aren't out there picketing and boycotting, but actually celebrating and enjoying and asking critical questions, as we should, as a community be asking around race around sex and sexuality."



From left, a painting by Tamara Santibañez, a photo by Ajamu X and a sculpture by Xandra Ibarra hang on the walls next to the entrance to the Handwerker Gallery.

LEILA MARCILLO-GOMEZ/THE ITHACAN

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# Environmental film festival celebrates 25th year

BY CLARE SHANAHAN

The Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival (FLEFF), primarily sponsored by Ithaca College, will return for its 25th year in March, centering on the theme of entanglements. FLEFF will run from March 21 to April 10 and will feature over 65 events and films both online and in person. In addition to films, the festival programming includes discussions with experts and scholars, concerts and presentations. All the festival's events will be connected to the entanglement theme, which refers to the interaction and blending of concepts like environment, culture and economics.

In addition to the new content at this year's festival, in celebration of the 25th anniversary, members of the FLEFF team organized a "25 for 25" project. The project consists of a compilation of stories from past FLEFF contributors sharing the festival's impact.

Patricia Zimmermann, Charles A. Dana professor of screen studies at the college, served as co-director of FLEFF from 2004 to 2021 with Thomas Shevory, retired professor in the Department of Politics. Zimmermann is the sole director for the 2022 festival.

Zimmerman said the festival's programming covers topics relating to every school on the college's campus.

"One thing that I've enjoyed about being the director of FLEFF for 20 years is the incredible dynamic intellectual energy," Zim-

mermann said. "The way I think of it is it's like a combustion engine, you know, bringing all these pieces together." Since the festival moved from Cornell University to the college in 2003, a theme has been chosen annually to connect the material and to reinforce that the festival is education-based rather than commercial.

To find a theme for each year's festival, Zimmermann said she researches environmental, political and human rights issues to find a theme that is appropriate but abstract enough to curate work in many subject areas.

"The [theme] that really popped out was this term 'entanglements,'" Zimmermann said. "It's a term from environmental studies and it's a term from environmental media theory, and it felt like during COVID-19 it's the perfect topic because you can't think of COVID-19 as just something that makes you sick."

Junior Taylor Cliff served as an intern for FLEFF in 2021 and is returning as an assistant to the producers. In this role, Cliff and other students will work with FLEFF producers Ann Michael and Phil Wilde who organize festival programming. She said the broadness of the theme is interesting and she can already see the connection to some FLEFF 2022 content.

"It can mean so many things and be interpreted so many different ways," Cliff said. "I just love to see how people put their work into that little one-word title but make so many different things."



From left, sophomore Stephanie Tokasz, assistant to the producers, and Patricia Zimmermann, Charles A. Dana professor of screen studies, stand with the Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival website.

BRENDAN IANNUCCI/THE ITHACAN

This year, FLEFF has 19 partners, from local to global. Zimmermann said this is the first year these partners have been announced on a partners page rather than attached to specific events. This was done to recognize everything partners have contributed to FLEFF. Partners provide contributions like financial support, films and streaming locations.

The Center for the Study of Globalization and Cultures (CSGC) is a center at Hong Kong University dedicated to supporting research on cultural change.

Although it is its first year

as a partner, this is the second year that the CSGC will be involved with FLEFF. Gina Marchetti, CSGC director, said CSGC will be hosting two panels on Chinese-language filmmakers at this year's festival.

"We've been really delighted to be able to particularly work with FLEFF on their programming involving Chinese-language film and the cultural component of environmental and ecocritical developments in this part of the world," Marchetti said.

Zimmermann said there has been an increase in partners this

year, likely as a result of last year's virtual festival.

Zimmermann said people of many ages, professions and individuals from over 35 countries attended last year's festival.

"I think this is the next phase of film festivals," Marchetti said. "I think the next phase is going to be more in terms of digital and global connections for film festivals, and then I think for environmental festivals, that's important because environment is a global issue."

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## IC professor guest hosts novel analysis podcast

Chris Holmes, associate professor and chair of the Department of Literatures in English, recently appeared as a guest speaker on a podcast titled "Novel Dialogue."

The podcast was created by John Plotz, professor of humanities at Brandeis University, as well as Aarthi Vadde, associate professor of English at Duke University. Plotz and Vadde created the podcast for the Society for Novel Studies, an international academic organization of people who study and discuss the novel.

Additionally, junior Connor Hibbard, a television-radio major, will be the audio editor for "Novel Dialogue" in Fall 2022. Holmes himself recommended Hibbard for the position.

Currently in its third season, "Novel Dialogue" invites a novelist and a literary critic to analyze novels from the perspectives of readers, the author themselves, publishers and others.

Staff writer Jadyn Davis spoke with Holmes regarding his role and involvement in the podcast.

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

**Jadyn Davis:** How did you get involved with "Novel Dialogue"?

**Chris Holmes:** I created a podcast called "Burned by Books" during lockdown, and it was a literary interview podcast. An academic who is one of the founders of "Novel Dialogue," Aarthi Vadde, reached out to me and asked if I would be interested in becoming a

guest host. At that point, I've done probably 30 or 40 episodes of my own podcast, so at that point it made sense to me that I knew enough about my own podcast to come on board. ... "Novel Dialogue" is a pretty unique podcast because it features a host and a critic in conversation with a novelist. ... I just posted the episode that I'm hosting for this season, which is with Damon Galgut, who won the Booker Prize this year. He's a South African writer.

**JD:** Who has been your favorite guest that you either interviewed or listened to?

**CH:** Before I was a guest host, there was an interview with Jennifer Egan. She is a Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, and I thought she was amazing. Obviously the episode that I just did with Damon Galgut is one of my favorites as well because he is one of my favorite South African writers.

**JD:** As a guest host, what is your role as a member of the podcast?

**CH:** So my job as guest host is to work with the featured critic ahead of time and come up with a set of questions to ask the novelist. I then ask follow-up questions and basically keep the conversational flow, so I'm sort of like a director as much as I'm a part of the interview. After the interview, I became part of the editorial process.

**JD:** Could you walk us through the editorial process?

**CH:** The main editor, which will soon be



From left, Chris Holmes, associate professor in the department of Literatures in English, and junior Connor Hibbard recently joined the podcast "Novel Dialogue" together.

KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

Connor, will send me an initial sound edit of the recording, and I'd go through and listen and make cuts to content that we could get rid of, or content I didn't think needed to be there. I'd find funny vocal takes or moments with background noise, and I'd give those notes to the editor. Then, multiple people listen and make cuts to get the episode down to around 40 minutes.

**JD:** Why did you recommend the job of audio editor to Connor?

**CH:** I really admire Connor's multiple podcasts, and they were a good model

to me regarding how to do a compact, discussion-based show.

**JD:** What has been the best part of working on "Novel Dialogue"?

**CH:** A whole team is working on every episode. That's so different from my own podcast, where I do everything and all of the work that I do is my own fault or problem. Working with a group is really fun, being a part of that team is a satisfying part of my job.

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# ‘Euphoria’ writing takes a big hit

TV REVIEW: “Euphoria” HBO Max



BY EVA SALZMAN

After a two-and-a-half-year gap since its first season ended and only two special episodes in January 2021, new episodes of “Euphoria” returned to screens Jan. 9, 2022 and aired every Sunday until Feb. 27. Garnering more than double the number of viewers than its first season premiere had, the second season premiere broke HBO Max’s streaming record with 2.4 million viewers and became a very popular topic of discussion on social media.

The gritty, dark teen drama makes its intentions clear from the bat — it wanted to be shocking. From drug overdoses, to fist fights, to shoot-outs, to soft-core porn, “Euphoria” did everything but beg for a callout from the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program. Though D.A.R.E.’s claims may have had more validity in the first season, season two brought an onslaught of consequences for the main characters’ consistent risk-taking behaviors, exposing viewers to the disturbing truths of addiction.

Of course, taking viewers to rock bottom alongside the characters is made possible by standout performances from just about every actor. Episode after episode, Zendaya delivered tear-jerking performances as Rue Bennett while Sydney Sweeney transformed into a woman-gone-mad as Cassie Howard — which might score

her a best supporting actress Emmy nomination. Other supporting actors like Maude Apatow (Lexi Howard) and Angus Cloud (Fezco) proved that they deserved their increased screen time and more developed plot lines. On top of that, characters’ family members like Cal Jacobs (Eric Dane), Fez’s grandmother (Brynda Mattox) and Fez’s brother, Ashtray (Javon “Wanna” Walton), were given full background stories like the main characters were in season one.

Just like season one, season two’s visual aesthetics and perfect soundtrack are enough to draw viewers in. From swooping crane shots to extended, handheld chase scenes, the camera moves as swiftly as youth itself. The colors and lighting are intoxicating, the songs are enchanting and every scene, no matter how mundane, is cinematically unflawed, powerful and beautifully moving.

However, in the midst its favored characters, Sam Levinson, “Euphoria” creator, main director and sole writer, seemed to have gotten lost in the mansion that he built himself. As the season progressed, every episode got more chaotic while each plot-line stretched a little bit further in opposite directions. Though the pure shock value of the episodes was more than entertaining, the first half of the season focused on the secret relationship between Cassie and Nate Jacobs (Jacob Elordi). As a result of this, the despised



Though the writing suffered in season two of “Euphoria,” the acting, soundtrack and visual elements make it worth the watch. COURTESY OF HBO MAX

couple got a large cut of the screen time while others got pushed to the side. Kat Hernandez (Barbie Ferreira) was reduced to an overdone trope after her screen time and lines were cut. Though what she struggles with is an important topic to portray in teen media, to boil down the show’s only plus-sized character into the “girl who hates her body” archetype is an incredibly reductive decision.

Levinson has a lot of plates to spin at once, and though he’s only dropped a few, the effects were felt this season. Luckily, he has an eye for talent and a flair for the dramatic. Thanks to exceptional performances and stunning cinematography, “Euphoria” season two took a heavy hit but was nowhere near a disappointment.

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# New Beach House album offers nothing new to fans

ALBUM REVIEW: “Once Twice Melody” Sub Pop Records



BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD

With its latest album “Once Twice Melody,” the musical duo Beach House provides its fans with an elaborate listening experience. Made up of lead singer/multi-instrumentalist Victoria Legrand and guitarist/multi-instrumentalist Alex Scally, Beach House has crafted a sturdy dream-pop, psychedelic album.

With the songs “Superstar” and “Pink Funeral,” Beach House establishes a trend throughout the album of having another instrumental line amplified over Legrand’s vocal melody line. In “Superstar,” the most prominent feature is the guitar line, while the vocals remain tame and monotone. Truthfully, Legrand’s voice is completely drowned out to the point where listeners can’t really understand or make much of the lyrics.

“ESP” is the first song on “Once Twice Melody” where Legrand’s vocal lines have the focus. But the song sticks with its developed style of airy, edited vocals, so listeners still cannot make out the actual words that are sung. This does not subtract from the quality, though; it shows that the duo has

mastered the ability to utilize autotune and vocal effects to create a unique, ambient vocal sound through editing.

Beach House successfully experiments on variations of synth and keyboard instrumental sounds in tracks like “Pink Funeral,” where it creates a haunting ambiance with changes in key and tempo. This is an entrancing change compared to the energized sound of its other song, “Through Me.” “Pink Funeral” serves as a change of pace on “Once Twice Melody” without breaking away from the typical dream-pop sound of the duo.

“Once Twice Melody”’s tracks serve as a reminder to fans that Beach House relies heavily on the repetition of patterns and layering. The musical duo does this so often that it may come across as annoying to sober listeners rather than musically complex. This is the case in the track “Runaway,” where the first minute and a half of the song is borderline unbearable because of the repetition of a higher frequency generated on the keyboard.

The tracks “Over and Over” and “Sunset” are the most expertly crafted songs on “Once Twice Melody.” “Over and Over” is the



Beach House creates another collection of dream-pop, ethereal-sounding songs. COURTESY OF SUB POP RECORDS

biggest spectacle song. Packed with powerful chords, the song builds momentum rather than remaining static like the majority of tracks on the album.

“Sunset” sticks out because it genuinely sounds nothing like the rest of the album. Unfortunately, it does quickly begin to sound like any other Beach House song with airy, experimental vocals and a repetitive guitar pattern. The track’s only difference to the Beach House discography is an expansive string line that comes in about halfway through the song.

Despite these shortcomings, “Once Twice Melody” is a solid album. Beach House delivers a consistent and successful collection of its wispy vocals — listeners just need to be in the right headspace to enjoy it.

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# Awards lack representation

BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD

Of the fifteen nominees across the categories of Best Director, Writing (Adapted Screenplay) and Writing (Original Screenplay) for the 2022 Oscars, a staggering three were women — all of them white.

This is surreal when you consider that this year over 350 films came out that were directed by women including “Candyman” (Nia DaCosta), “I’m Your Man” (Maria Schrader) and “Titane” (Julia Ducournau). Despite the widespread critical acclaim and mainstream success of many of these female-directed films, it may come as a surprise to some that they have received zero nominations.

It is not new information that the entertainment industry is predominantly populated by cisgender white men, but I, like many others, had been living with the illusion that inclusion and diversity was getting better.

I believe this came to fruition especially when media outlets claimed “Parasite” (2019) winning best picture at the 2020 Oscars marked a huge step towards more inclusivity.

It feels as though the primary narrative that is being portrayed in the media is that the industry is making these great strides in representation and including diverse stories, but in reality, improvements in diversity have become stagnant or decreased in the industry.

The percentage of women directors has decreased in 2021. This last year of the top films released, 12.7% of the directors were women, which is down from the reported 15% of directors being women in 2020.

This stagnant or seemingly nonexistent progression of the amount of diverse voices in the media combined with diverse filmmakers that are in the industry getting zero academy recognition sends a clear and harmful message to those passionate about creating film. The media wants our narratives but not us.

What I mean is we are seeing more of cisgender white men who are already prominent in the industry producing stories about women, LGBTQ+ people and BI-POC to profit off increasingly more diverse audiences. But these same industry professionals won’t actually hire us to tell these stories authentically ourselves.

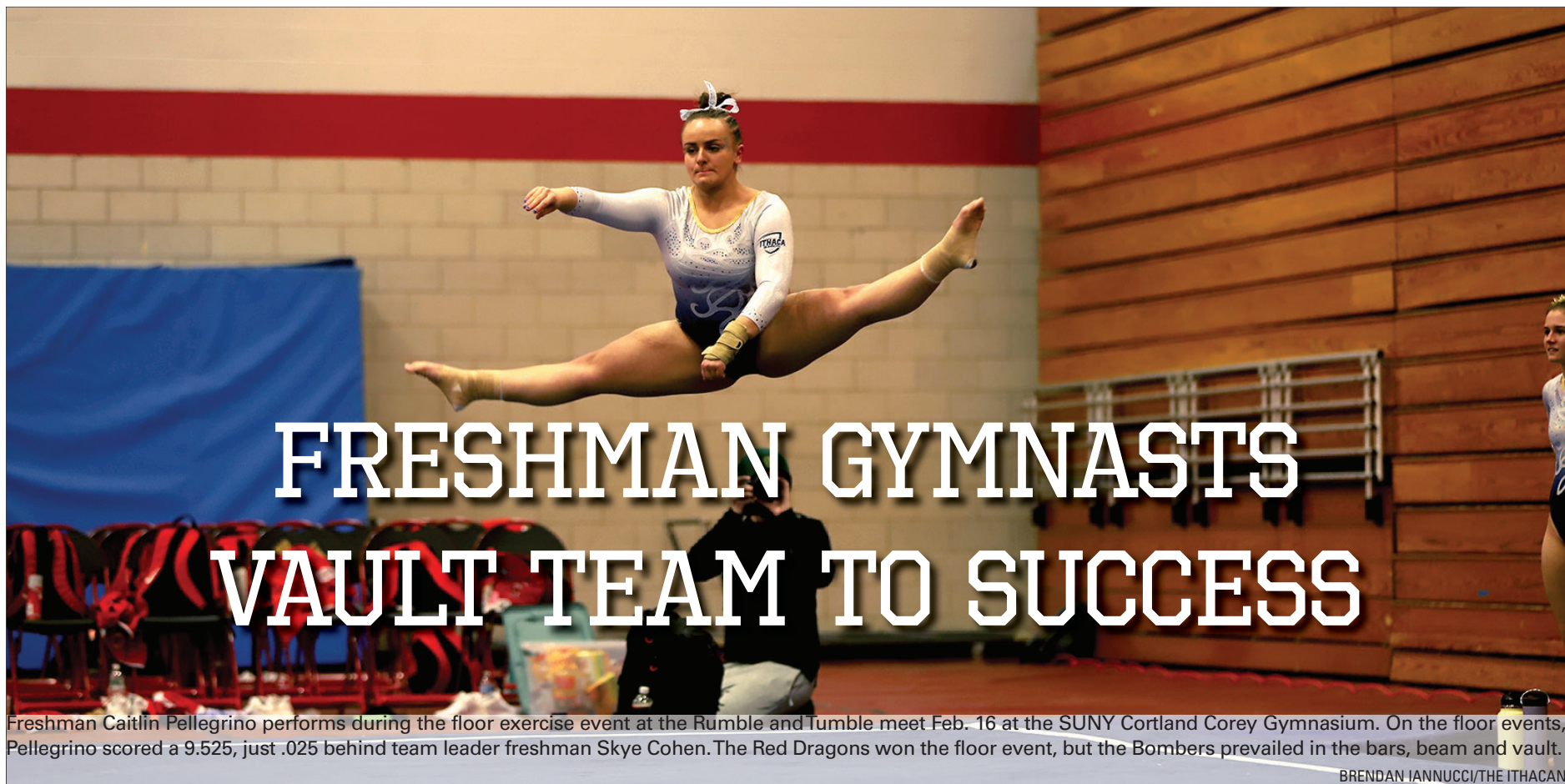
As depressing as it sounds, we cannot blindly accept the narrative that is being given to us that the industry is making these encompassing moves to be more inclusive and diverse. Nor can we be satisfied with what little representation has been offered to marginalized groups.

I for one will not be satisfied until in these leading categories there comes a time when we see all women, all BIPOC and all LGBTQ+ nominees.

The more viewers can educate themselves about these pressing issues and recognize that we do not have to settle for the scraps of recognition we are receiving, we may see lasting change yet.

POPPED CULTURE is a weekly column, written by Life & Culture staff writers, that analyzes pop culture events. Sydney Brumfield is a junior writing for film, TV and emerging media major. Contact her at sbrumfield@ithaca.edu.





## FRESHMAN GYMNASTS VAULT TEAM TO SUCCESS

Freshman Caitlin Pellegrino performs during the floor exercise event at the Rumble and Tumble meet Feb. 16 at the SUNY Cortland Corey Gymnasium. On the floor events, Pellegrino scored a 9.525, just .025 behind team leader freshman Skye Cohen. The Red Dragons won the floor event, but the Bombers prevailed in the bars, beam and vault.

BRENDAN IANNUCCI/THE ITHACAN

BY TOBIAH ZBORAY

During the beginning of the 2022 winter sports season, the Ithaca College gymnastics team has benefited from several strong performances of its freshman class, with the young players taking a large step forward on the team and cementing their place on the roster for upcoming seasons.

Head coach Rick Suddaby said that while the team usually sees production from its freshman athletes, the current class took a big step in competition compared to previous classes. He said it was something the team needed after having four upperclassmen graduate during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Quite often you'll get kids that will see action and be competitive right away," Suddaby said. "But we had so many freshmen and we had lost so many to graduations and COVID that we really needed them to step-up and they really have. And so it's been really good. So they're ahead of a normal freshman class."

The roster carries 23 gymnasts in total, with 12 of the women being freshmen. Suddaby said he was confident before the season that the new gymnasts joining the team would stand out from other freshman classes.

"Coming in, I had looked at video and that sort of thing, I could see where they were at and it was just a matter of projecting how ready we could get them," Suddaby said. "We were able to get them ready, but we have quite a few standouts. Jillian [Freyman] stands out, Nicole [Lonski] stands out. She's been in and out of an injury. And so

she's making her come back, but we really missed her when she was gone. Caitlin Pellegrino has been a really solid performer on the floor. And Marlena [Bailey] is solid on bars. So Marlena and Nicole, they're really building our bar team."

The freshman class has shown its ability in competition throughout the season. Skye Cohen was selected as the All-Around Gymnast of the Week Feb. 14 for her performance in the Cornell Quad Meet, where she set a Division III season best score of 37.9000 points. The score was just .325 away from the program record, set by Lindsey Mazer in 1998.

Lonski scored a 9.750 on the uneven bars at the Rumble and Tumble meet Feb. 16 – the highest score by all gymnasts. She said that despite an ankle injury she sustained at the end of January that limited her ability to compete, she found important growth in her competition through the strong connection the team has in practices.

"I definitely think working with my teammates has been very helpful, all of us building each other up," Lonski said. "I also think that our practices are very fun and fun to go to and work out. So it's very motivating to have all these girls at practice."

Freyman said she also found confidence coming into the season by gaining support from the upperclassmen of the team, from running routines with them to the moral support they provided the freshmen with during the season.

"There are a few girls that I usually practice balance beam with," Freyman said. "They make sure that everyone feels encouraged



Freshman Jillian Freyman at the Rumble and Tumble meet Feb. 16. Freyman scored 8.675 on the uneven bars, 9.475 on the floor routine and 9.775 on the beam.

BRENDAN IANNUCCI/THE ITHACAN

and supported regardless of the day that they're having or that regardless of the day that the rest of the team is having. They really try and uplift us every single day that we're in the gym."

Freyman is no stranger to leading the Bombers in events, outscoring her teammates nine times this season.

For Suddaby, the goal of working hard with his players in practice, on top of getting them ready for competition, is to condition the freshmen to take leadership roles on the team so they can better lead both their class and future classes.

"We teach leadership to all levels, anywhere from the freshmen to the seniors," Suddaby said. "So when these kids train with the other kids in their class, or even the upperclassmen, they train like them and they all succeed."

Freshman Dallas Rachal, who dealt with a knee injury earlier this season, said Suddaby was instrumental in her return to competition, pushing her to do a little more every day until she was ready to return.

"He definitely had a big role because I was very nervous about coming back," Rachal said. "So he helped me with steps on what I should do ... he's definitely been a key factor, asking me 'Hey, are you feeling good? Hey, let's try this and let's see if we can push a little harder. If you can take it, let's go a little further.'"

Lonski also talked about the importance that Suddaby has with the team, working with the team during practices and making sure that everybody is doing their best to get

ready for competition. The coach's guidance helped the team post a 9–7 regular season record this winter.

"Coach Suddaby has been very helpful with motivating us," Lonski said. "He definitely brings life into the gym and it's a lot more exciting to go to practice every day."

Freyman said the senior leadership has helped her to better acclimate to college gymnastics, where competition is more focused around the team rather than individual performance, and made her more comfortable with her role on the team.

"It gave me a lot [of confidence]," Freyman said. "I was definitely really nervous coming into college just because it's a lot different than the gymnastics I grew up doing. But ... I'm really confident in the season that we're having right now, and the seasons that we're going to have."

By seeing how this freshman class stayed competitive this season, Suddaby is looking ahead to the future. The team will graduate just two seniors after the season, but both have been strong contributors to the program. Suddaby believes that the freshman class can continue its growth to be the base of a strong team. He thinks they can help the team to become a powerful program soon.

"I'm confident," Suddaby said. "This is my 35th team, so I know we're going places. It's kind of a question of how quickly we do it. We're gonna see All-Americans. We're going to push [to be] the top team in the league."



Freshman Skye Cohen competes on the uneven bars at the Rumble and Tumble meet Feb. 16, where the Bombers defeated SUNY Cortland 187.900–184.475.

BRENDAN IANNUCCI/THE ITHACAN

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# IC student covers Olympics with NBC

Junior Rachel Paskowitz, station manager for ICTV, had the opportunity to intern at the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics. Paskowitz, who is majoring in television-radio with minors in journalism and sports studies, worked at the NBC Sports Group Headquarters in Stamford, Connecticut, as a production intern from Jan. 30 to Feb. 20. NBC usually organizes an internship program through the college but did not this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, prompting Paskowitz to apply directly with NBC.

Paskowitz has been heavily involved with the college's student-run television station since the fall of 2019, her first semester at Ithaca College. Since then, she has held many positions that have given her the abilities and experience that she needed for this internship.

Contributing writer Liam Shields spoke with Paskowitz about what the internship was like, what she learned and how ICTV prepared her for it.

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

**Liam Shields:** What are some of the positions that you have held at ICTV?

**Rachel Paskowitz:** When I first started out, I was working as a camera operator and I was also working in the control room, whether that was chyron or



Junior Rachel Paskowitz interned with NBC from Jan. 30 to Feb. 20 during the 2022 Olympics, working as a production intern for the network's curling broadcasts throughout the event.

COURTESY OF RACHEL PASKOWITZ

stillstore. I really found that I was more interested in technical directing and directing ... also the engineering aspect of everything. ... After that, I applied to be on the executive staff for master control. From there, I started working more heavily in the sports department. Now I'm the station manager and I work as a student engineer.

**LS:** What did you enjoy most about working at the Olympics?

**RP:** I'd say just the people and the product we were putting out. It was just very cool to see how it all tied together after hours of tireless work. ... I liked the team that I worked with, so that made the long hours better.

**LS:** What were some of your responsibilities during the event?

**RP:** I was a production intern for curling. I'd say my internship was a little bit more unique compared to most interns. ... I had no experience with and had no knowledge of it before. I kind of came into it just ready to learn. I feel like with most interns, they were either runners or they were assigned to logging. With mine, it was just very open-ended. It was more just what the producers wanted me to do, so it was more of a production assistant [job]. It really depended on the day. A lot of the time I was inserting graphics. I was also doing time codes, so you could

send segments to primetime TV, so they know when stuff happens within the games and if they want to pull it into their show. ... It was a very cool experience.

**LS:** What did you learn from working at the Olympics?

**RP:** I learned a lot of networking skills. ... Just understanding interpersonal relationships at work and how to navigate that and not be a bother for people. I'd say also the technical skills because I think every major company has their own software and systems. ... Learning that was a challenge, but I think I overcame that.

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# Official releases mask statement

BY AIDAN CHARDE

On Feb. 18, the official Twitter account for the Ithaca College football team posted a video of Susan Bassett, associate vice president and director of the Office of Intercollegiate Athletics at the college, announcing Michael Toerper as the new head coach of the program. Both Bassett and Toerper were maskless in the video. At the time of the video, the college still required all individuals to wear masks indoors, but announced March 1 that masks will no longer be mandated indoors on campus starting March 4.

In a Feb. 25 statement, Bassett said she had removed her mask to make the announcement so she could be heard by all the students and Toerper had removed his for the same reason. Bassett is shown holding a mask in her hand in the video, but Toerper did not appear to be. She said both herself and Toerper forgot about the mandate when the students swarmed Toerper as soon as he entered the room.

"[Toerper] had his face covering on in the corridor while waiting for his introduction and similarly removed his mask to greet the team," Bassett said in the statement. "Neither of us expected the overt reaction of joy from our student-athletes, which distracted us from the appropriate compliance with wearing a face covering while indoors on our campus."

Bassett added that she is committed to keeping the college safe, saying the situation was made worse by how viral the video went.

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# Junior football kicker creates new 'Snow Club'

BY TOMMY MUMAU

As snow continues to fall this winter, many members of the Ithaca College community are hitting the slopes to go skiing and snowboarding. Junior football kicker Nick Bahamonde has made an effort to bring these students together by starting the "Snow Club."

The group is not affiliated with the college and started as a way to connect students who have a passion for these winter sports. The club began operation this winter and has already gained a rather large following, with about 50 people in its GroupMe chat and around 60 people on the email list. Senior Grace Ziehnert, field hockey midfielder, said the group does not practice or compete but meets up to ski and snowboard when members have the opportunity.

"It is just a group of kids that like to snowboard or ski and can get together on college night to go to Greek Peak or take trips on the weekend to go skiing," Ziehnert said. "[It is] a fun environment for people that like to do the same things to hang out and meet each other."

The club traditionally attends "college night" at Greek Peak Mountain Resort in Cortland each Wednesday. The resort's weekly promotion provides students with a \$19 night lift ticket if the ticket is purchased online and participants have a valid college ID, according to its website.

The group also took a trip to Killington Mountain in Vermont from Feb. 4 to 6, a weekend in which Bahamonde said the mountain got 17 inches of snow. Snow also piled up on South Hill during this time, prompting the college to transition to

remote instruction Feb. 3 and 4.

Bahamonde said 10 members of the club went on the trip and rented an Airbnb near the mountain. The club initially had plans to go to Mount Snow in Vermont that weekend but switched locations when it learned Killington had more snowfall.

The Snow Club has also found ways to participate on the college's campus, occasionally skiing down the hill next to Boothroyd Hall. Members will also send messages in the group chat asking others to join if they decide to go skiing or snowboarding throughout the week.

Junior Kiley Mabus helped start the club with Bahamonde and said their primary goal is to provide an enjoyable and inclusive atmosphere for those that participate.

"Snow Club is about creating a fun community with like-minded people who just enjoy skiing or snowboarding," Mabus said. "Basically, we made it so people can meet new people that are like-minded."

Bahamonde said he was initially inspired to start the club because his friends are members of the Snow Club at Virginia Tech University, which he said has around 500 members. Bahamonde said he would consider making it an official club if the group was still able to maintain its relaxed environment. He said by not being an affiliated club, the group can manage its own activities, which he said the group believes is more efficient. He also noted that currently, the club is simply just a group of people who go skiing and snowboarding with each other and he would rather have the group become a student organization than a club sport, if anything.

While this group is not an official club, the college does offer students the opportunity



From left, juniors Tenjing Sherpa and Enzo Martellucci, and sophomore Ryan Bluemmel on Killington Mountain during the Snow Club's recent trip.

COURTESY OF SHANE MCCONKEY

nity to ski competitively through the Ithaca College Ski Racing Club. This affiliated club has both a men's and women's team and competes in five meets each winter. Senior Sophie Lester, club president, said both of the teams in the club have qualified for this winter's regional competition.

Lester said that other colleges the teams compete against have groups that are similar to Snow Club, and that she would be interested in working with the new group.

"We are happy that there is more interest on the Ithaca [College] campus for skiing and snowboarding," Lester said via email. "We would definitely like to combine or work with the other club so we can expand. We can offer the club deals with season passes and have a long relationship with the school. Hopefully, if we ski at Greek Peak next year,

we would be able to work together. Many other teams that we compete against have similar programs."

Bahamonde said moving forward, he wants the club to continue gaining members and grow the culture of skiing and snowboarding on South Hill. He also said he wants to plan more trips for the group including a potential outing to Montana during next year's break between the fall and spring semesters.

"I think this is like the perfect club for Ithaca [College]," Bahamonde said. "I want to pass it down and keep going and be here for hopefully long after [I graduate]."

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Graduate student Megan Yawman hoists up the Liberty League Women's Basketball Championship plaque after the Bombers defeated St. Lawrence University 70–58 Feb. 27 at the Ben Light Gymnasium. The women's basketball team finished the season with a 24–3 record and will now advance into the NCAA tournament.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN