

Survivors detail Title IX failures

Members of the Ithaca College community who survive sexual violence face an uphill fight for protections that federal Title IX legislation claims to guarantee



BRENDAN IANNUCCI/THE ITHACAN

BY LORIENTYNE

Emma Taylor '21 said that while they were a sophomore at Ithaca College, they were sexually assaulted. When Taylor went to the Title IX office, an arduous process unfolded that resulted in their alleged assaulter being found not guilty, despite the Title IX office having evidence of text messages where he confesses.

Title IX is a federal law passed in 1972 that aims to ensure that all educational programs and activities that receive federal funding are free from discrimination on the basis of sex. One piece of the law regulates how schools handle cases of sexual misconduct.

Taylor is one of many students who have gone to Title IX looking for protection and a way to feel safe while finishing their education. If a respondent wins the hearing, accommodations can be made like removing the accused from classes they share with the survivor or altering housing assignments. Taylor is also one of many students who never won their hearing, never received protection and feels that the collegiate justice system has failed them. Title IX Coordinator Linda Koenig said

there are currently six open investigations.

Taylor sent *The Ithacan* a screenshot of a text conversation they had Oct. 7, 2019 with the student who Taylor said assaulted them. In the

“

I'm terrified of the idea of people looking at me. I do not feel comfortable in the career that I got a f----- four-year degree in.

-Emma Taylor '21

”

conversation, he admitted to wrongdoing. Taylor sent the text messages to the Title IX office during the investigation, but said the accused never verbally confessed to Title IX.

“I feel like I assaulted you in some way for sure but I don't even understand it you know,” the accused said in the text to Taylor. “But I really f----- up I know that.”

Taylor received a letter from the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards on May 4, 2020, detailing that the accused was found not guilty because there was a lack of evidence that the interaction was not consensual.

After struggling to finish their education at the college, Taylor graduated with a degree in theater arts but now works as a nanny because they said they were diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), making an acting career impossible.

“I'm terrified of the idea of people looking at me,” Taylor said. “I don't feel comfortable in the career that I got a f----- four-year degree in. ... I am trying to do therapy and trying to not be dissociated all the time, but it's pretty tough. So yeah, I'm not in theater right now. I wish I could be.”

Katie Newcomb, assistant director for the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, said any evidence collected during an investigation would be considered.

“I can't really speak to hypotheticals because every case is so different that it would be extremely challenging to say why one piece of evidence may or may not have an impact on an outcome,” Newcomb said. “There's a lot of factors that come into play in these hearing processes. And so it's not just one message that's sent. It's looking at the totality of all the evidence that has been presented during the hearing.”

As a law, Title IX is

subject to change based on who is leading the United States Department of Education (DOE). In 2017, Betsy DeVos, former Secretary of Education — appointed by former president Donald Trump — began to undo guidance made by Arne Duncan, secretary of the DOE from 2009–16, and John King Jr., secretary of the DOE from 2016–17, which had strengthened protections for survivors of sexual misconduct.

Sexual harassment was defined as “unwelcome conduct of sexual nature. It includes unwelcome advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal, nonverbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature,” according to the 2011 “Dear Colleague” letter. Under DeVos, what is considered sexual harassment by Title IX was narrowed and is currently defined as “unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would find so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it denies a person equal educational access.”

The new regulations enacted by DeVos also discouraged reporting, minimized the responsibility of schools to respond to reports and implemented procedures

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Police report shots fired

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

At 1:09 a.m. April 24, the Ithaca Police Department (IPD) responded to a multiple shots fired incident on South Hill according to an IPD press release. The press release said the shots had been heard around 12:30 a.m., about a half-hour before the IPD responded. The IPD responded at the 100 Block of Hudson Street and its intersection with Giles Street.

Responding officers found evidence of one vehicle being struck by gunfire, however, no injuries were reported. The press release also said witnesses reported a dark colored sedan at the scene. The location where officers responded is less than a mile from Ithaca College's campus and two blocks from The Commons. The college alerted students of the incident via Intercom at 1:02 p.m. April 25. The press release encouraged cooperation with the IPD.

“If anyone has information about the incident or resides in the area and has surveillance systems that may have recorded the incident, they are asked to contact the Ithaca Police Department at the below methods,” the release said. “The investigation is ongoing.”

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Masks at IC stay optional

BY LORIENTYNE

Ithaca College is not reinstating its mask policy despite new guidance from the Tompkins County Health Department (TCHD) to wear masks again following an increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

On the morning of April 27, the TCHD released a public health advisory asking residents to once again wear masks indoors and around others in public settings, despite vaccination status. According to April 27 data from TCHD, there are 81 new positive COVID-19 cases in the county.

Samm Swarts, director of Emergency Preparedness and Response, said that at this time, there will be no requirements for face coverings or health badges at the college.

“Our numbers continue to remain at a level that allows us to maintain our Green: Lower Risk operating status, and our current public health policies and protocols therefore remain unchanged,” Swarts said in an email statement. “I ask that we all exercise heightened caution and care during this time of elevated risk for our ... community.”

According to the college's COVID-19 Dashboard, as of April 27 there are nine active COVID-19 cases among the college's students, eight active staff cases and two active faculty cases.

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FAILURES REVEAL
SYSTEMIC ISSUE



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GOALKEEPER FOR
AMPUTEE TEAM

Candidates speak at open sessions

BY JOSHUA PANTANO

In an effort to find a new dean, the School of Business hosted open meetings with the four finalist candidates from April 25 to 28.

Sean Reid, former dean of the business school, left the School of Business in 2020 to become provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs at Providence College. Reid served as dean from 2015 to 2020. Alka Bramhandkar has served as interim dean of the School of Business for two years.

The first candidate, Murli Rajan, associate dean at the Kania School of Management at the University of Scranton, emphasized his focus on student and alumni connections and an international mindset at the April 25 open session.

“[A dean should] figure out ways to connect students to alumni,” Rajan said. “To me, that’s critical.”

Students from the School of Business also asked Rajan about

increasing student enrollment. Rajan said the goal should be to keep enrollment at the business school above 500. The School of Business currently has 565 undergraduate students enrolled.

The second candidate, William Lamb, is dean for Graduate and Adult Learner Recruitment at EAB, Inc., which stands for “Education Advisory Board.” The company is a provider of consulting services to over 2,100 colleges and universities. Lamb also served as dean of the LaPenta School of Business at Iona College, murata dean of the F. W. Olin Graduate School of Business at Babson College and an associate dean at Ohio University.

During Lamb’s open session April 26, he said he wants to help return the college to a state of normalcy amid the COVID-19 pandemic. He questioned the role of the pandemic amid decreasing business school enrollment. In the 2019–20 academic year, the



Since Sean Reid stepped down from position of dean of School of Business in 2020, Alka Bramhandkar has served as interim dean. During the week of April 24, the college held open sessions with candidates.

ATTICUS RUBOTTOM/THE ITHACAN

business school had 652 enrolled undergraduate students.

“It’s hard to know because of the pandemic how much of this is a temporary issue,” Lamb said.

The third candidate, Michael Johnson-Cramer, is currently a professor of management at Bentley University. He served as dean of business at the McCallum Graduate School of Business at Bentley from

2019 to 2020. Johnson-Cramer also served as the associate dean of faculty at the College of Arts and Sciences at Bucknell University.

When *The Ithacan* asked Johnson-Cramer about his strategies for connecting with alumni, he said he wanted to prioritize alumni networks.

“I think alumni need to be a part of the learning process,”

Johnson-Cramer said. “We’re selling [them] a membership in a community of people who are learning their whole lives.”

A fourth candidate will be introduced April 28. The story will be updated with coverage of the fourth candidate’s open session.

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‘Re:Mixing’ – ‘me when’

In this episode of ‘Re:Mixing,’ host Eva Salzman sits down with juniors Noah Falk and Rufus Mullhaupt to discuss their playlist “me when.”



Planned Parenthood Generation Action Promotes Sex Education on Campus

Planned Parenthood Generation Action hosted its ‘Lets Talk About Sex’ party to educate and encourage discussion around the topics of sex.

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The Ithacan

IC alum produces video for NYT

BY LORIENTYNE

Adam B. Ellick '99, director and executive producer of Opinion Video at The New York Times, has traveled the world reporting on award-winning stories and started the Opinion Video team in 2018, which he now leads.

Ellick previously worked as a senior international video correspondent and print reporter covering human rights for The New York Times. He brought Malala Yousafzai's story to the world for the first time, among many other projects. Recently his Opinion Video team won an Oscar.

During his time at Ithaca College, Ellick worked at *The Ithacan*, ICTV and WICB before graduating with a degree in journalism.

Assistant news editor Lorientyne spoke with Ellick about his career in journalism and what values have guided him to the work he does now.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Lorientyne: I'm curious about what project you have done that you're most proud of or honored to have been a part of.

Adam Ellick: Well, there'll be some recency bias in my answer, but I made a film a couple years ago called "Operation InfeKtion" during the Trump era. It's about the history of Russian disinformation. ... In this film, we dissect the playbook of Russian disinformation and how it's been used



Adam B. Ellick '99, director and executive producer of Opinion Video at The New York Times, previously covered human rights before creating the Opinion Video team in 2018.

COURTESY OF ADAM B. ELICK

against the West for decades. That same playbook is being used hour by hour in the digital landscape right now in the war in Ukraine. I think the film is probably more illuminating today than it was when it was published. ... So, I think that's a pretty special project and it was nominated for two Emmys, which was nice at the time, but I think the true award or reward is the continued relevance of a big project.

LT: What is the one true thing that guides you in your journalism and in your life?

AE: I would say curiosity, caring about — when I say caring, I mean empathy and the desire to seek

knowledge — people who are not like me and people who are in different situations that might not affect me, but still wanting to understand their joy and suffering and pain is a big part of being a journalist. And when I say a journalist, I mean the DNA of a journalist ... the passion and the thing that you worry about when you go to bed and the thing that wakes you up early in the morning.

LT: You've talked about getting your first major scoop while writing for *The Ithacan*. I was wondering how those beginning moments of journalism have impacted your career.

AE: Well, I would say that the stories I broke when I was a student at Ithaca created a conversation that didn't exist on campus. That ... provided a very stark lesson to me that the power of publishing can change the public conversation. When you have a public conversation, then there's the possibility of different outcomes and actions. So it gave me a taste or a foretaste of the power of publishing and accountability journalism and it was also really fun. And I was like, "I think I'd like to do this for a lot more years."

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New business minor offered

BY JILLIAN BLEIER

Ithaca College has announced a new minor in the School of Business — the entrepreneurship and innovation minor. Entrepreneurship and innovation gives all students, regardless of major, the opportunity to explore entrepreneurship classes, skill sets and networking opportunities.

Students were first given the opportunity to declare the minor starting Fall 2021, and the Class of 2022 will be the first class with students graduating with the minor. The minor is retroactive, meaning that students who have previously taken classes that fit in the minor can apply them toward the minor now that it has been finalized.

There are currently 18 students enrolled in the minor as of Spring 2022 and there were five enrolled during Fall 2021, according to the Office of Analytics and Institutional Research. Brad Treat, instructor in the Department of Management, said the idea for the entrepreneurship minor came from several discussions with administration and faculty in the School of Business. He said that he has been teaching entrepreneurship since May 2011 at the college and that he noticed about half of the students in his classes came from outside the School of Business.

"I said, 'Well, hey, we're already getting entrepreneurship students from outside the School of Business taking entrepreneurship classes; that's a natural fit for a program that could be cross-campus,'" Treat said.

The main goal of the minor, which comprises 18 credits, is to fuel students' passion for entrepreneurship and teach them entrepreneurial skills, like product development and different types of management. Students can choose two entrepreneurship classes from a list of eight, and there are four required classes for the minor: Hidden Entrepreneurs, Startup Tactics, Entrepreneurial Innovation and Ideas into Action.

Ed Catto, instructor in the Department of Management, said he thinks the minor was needed because it teaches entrepreneurial traits that are important for all walks of life.

"I think, as a society, we really shifted to embracing this notion of the 'can-do' attitude that entrepreneurs bring to the table, and it doesn't mean that everyone has to go start their own business; it doesn't mean that everyone has to go on 'Shark Tank'," Catto said. "All the skills and all the opportunities ... I think are just fantastic and translatable to so many different things."

Entrepreneurship and student-run businesses have become increasingly popular at the college. Senior Olivia Carpenter runs Via's Cookies, a successful cookie business. During the COVID-19 pandemic, junior Kirsten Hamberg began a business of painting other people's pets, called Paw Print Paintings. In 2021, senior Sam Williams opened his startup called Electric City Axe Throwing, an ax-throwing business located in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

Junior Robert Zweesaardt said that he declared the minor last semester and that he has a major in integrated marketing communications in the Roy H. Park School of Communications. Zweesaardt said he has been exploring the idea of entrepreneurship since high school because of his interest in business.

"I definitely like doing things that are new or haven't been done before, that type of idea," Zweesaardt said. "I also like helping others a lot, it's a big thing with me, and I think entrepreneurship allows me to do that and that's kind of why I first got into it."

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Students create new residential community

BY CLARE SHANAHAN

Transgender and nonbinary students have been offered a chance to come together and build community in the new Open Pages Residential Learning Community (RLC) starting in Fall 2022.

When applying for Fall 2022 housing, Ithaca College students going into their sophomore year and above had the opportunity to request placement in the new Open Pages RLC.

Open Pages will be located in West Tower in close proximity to the Center for LGBT Education, Outreach and Services, located in the Towers Concourse. Luca Maurer, director of the LGBT Center, said Open Pages, created by sophomores Jay Barrett, Gwyneth Cole and Cecil Decker, is the first RLC created specifically for non-cisgender-identifying students.

"I'm so excited about this, not just as the LGBT Center director, but remembering myself as a person in college who would have really benefited from this kind of an RLC, but nothing like that existed," Maurer said. "I don't think my peers and I would have been able to even imagine something like this."

Maurer said the idea and the majority of the work that went into the creation of the RLC came from the student team.

Barrett said West Tower was chosen largely for its entirely gender-neutral restrooms and elevator accessibility for disabled students interested in the RLC.

Barrett said the name Open Pages is two-fold; it references a metaphor to writing one's own story, while also being discreet for students who may not be comfortable



From left, sophomores Jay Barrett, Gwyneth Cole and Cecil Decker are the creators of the Open Pages residential community for transgender and nonbinary students.

XIAOYI ZHANG/THE ITHACAN

with family members knowing their gender identities. Decker said the RLC will make it easier for transgender and nonbinary students to function on the college campus.

"[Being non-cisgender] can impact so many simple things, like how comfortable you are leaving your dorm and what you decide to wear to go out and get water, ... how you handle showering," Decker said.

According to a 2021 report by the Williams Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles, 1.2 million LGBTQ+ people in the U.S. identify as nonbinary, and 76% of nonbinary adults are between 18 and 29. According to a 2016 report by the organization, 1.4 million adults in the U.S. identify as

transgender and of the population surveyed, adults between 18 and 24 were the most likely age group to identify as transgender.

Cole said the students hosted a meet and greet for Fall 2022 residents and said they were enthusiastic about the turnout.

"The dream for this floor is we're going to be hanging out nightly regardless of events," Barrett said. "[It is] actually forming a tight-knit community that isn't only coming together once a month to watch a bad movie but actually with each other and supporting each other."

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FROM TITLE IX, PAGE 1

that could be distressing, according to the National Women’s Law Center. Students like sophomore Sophia Testani feel impacted by the limitations of Title IX.

Testani wrote a commentary for *The Ithacan* in February after her alleged harassers were found not guilty in her case hearing. Testani suffered a decline in mental health and said she stayed in the Guthrie Cortland Medical Center emergency room overnight in October 2021 because of a mental health crisis.

Now, after an official investigation and a hearing, Testani said she must remove herself from educational opportunities at times in order to avoid having to see the defendants and is in a class with one of their friends.

“[Title IX] flipped my entire life upside down,” Testani said. “I barely heard from them throughout the whole investigative process and leading up to the hearing, which caused a lot of stress and anxiety for me.”

After Testani’s commentary was published, College Counselor Emily Rockett contacted Testani. Testani asked why she was told she did not need a lawyer but at her hearing found out both the respondents had lawyers. Testani shared with *The Ithacan* a voice recording she took of the conversation they had during an in-person meeting.

“Each party is entitled to bring an adviser of their choice,” Rockett said in the recording. “I will share with you that, for the type of allegations that were an issue in your case, it is highly unusual for

respondents to bring an attorney.”

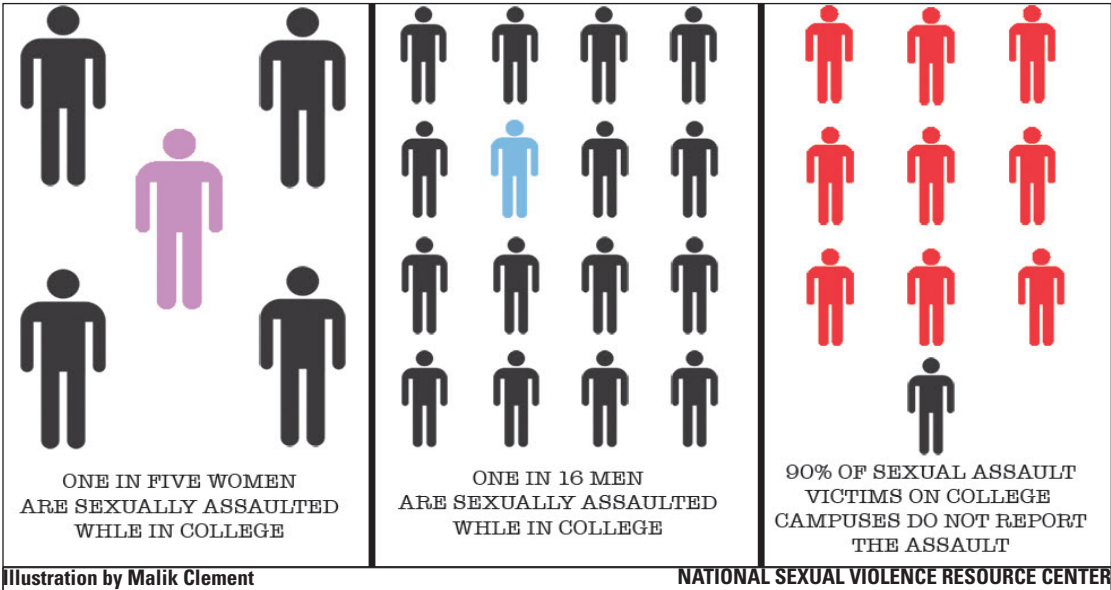
Title IX is not a criminal process. Therefore, if either a respondent or complainant hired an attorney, they would act as an adviser, not as a lawyer. Koenig said any party involved in a Title IX case can choose to have an adviser like a parent, friend, college-trained adviser or lawyer, but none are required.

In July 2021, a federal district judge annulled a rule enacted by DeVos that required colleges to exclude all testimony made by any party or witness who did not participate during the live hearing. If a survivor could not or did not want to attend their hearing, no evidence — including text messages, emails, rape kits and police reports — would be considered. If the respondent confessed during investigation but refused to be cross-examined, it would also be excluded as evidence. The college notified the campus community Dec. 10, 2021, that from then on, all evidence could be considered during a live hearing whether or not a party or witness is absent.

After junior Lillian Hosken reported in November 2021 what they felt was rape, Hosken said the Title IX office told her the experience was not considered rape under Title IX.

“If [Hosken’s former partner] asked to have sex and I said no, they’d either get visibly really sad, or they’d get really angry with me,” Hosken said. “They would pressure me into sex the same way they would pressure me into doing pretty much anything they wanted me to do.”

Despite increasing awareness



of the widespread issue of sexual violence, the college has had increasing numbers of Violence Against Women Acts (VAWA) reported to Title IX recently. According to the AFSR, the college recorded 11 reports of on-campus rape in 2017, 13 in 2018, 14 in 2019, 10 in 2020 while students were on campus between Jan. 21 and March 6, 2020.

The LGBTQ+ community is one example of groups excluded from survivor advocacy initiatives. For every Black woman who reports rape, at least 15 Black women do not report, according to the National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community.

Freshman Lily Stevens said a Title IX investigation was opened after a rumor started falsely blaming a peer for sexually assaulting Stevens and another female student. Stevens said no incident of sexual assault or other misconduct occurred and the accused was wrongly investigated

without her knowledge.

“The fact that we were never told anything about it is concerning on Title IX’s part because if it had actually happened, we wouldn’t have been contacted or anything,” Stevens said.

When asked by *The Ithacan* to comment on students’ frustration with Title IX, President La Jerne Cornish said via email that she trusts Title IX to support students.

“I first need to emphasize that the safety and well-being of our students is always our number one priority,” Cornish said in the statement. “That being said, I fully acknowledge the pain, confusion and disappointment that some students may feel as they go through the Title IX process. While that process is bound by a legal and regulatory framework, I have every confidence that our Title IX team treats every student with dignity and respect, centering the institutional values of empathy, equity and

accountability in the work they do.”

Understanding why so many students feel dissatisfied with the Title IX process is something Sarah Brown, editor at *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, said she has thought much about while reporting on Title IX in higher education.

“It kind of feels like the system isn’t working for anyone as it is set up now,” Brown said. “Even if the Title IX office is saying ‘we have model policies, we are taking these cases seriously, we have a great staff and great resources,’ it still doesn’t seem to create an environment where students are feeling satisfied about the process.”

To receive confidential support regarding domestic or sexual violence, individuals can contact the Tompkins County Advocacy Center at 607-277-5000.

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Ithaca College Giving Day rakes in record cash

BY CLARE SHANAHAN

The Ithaca College community expressed mixed reactions to the annual 24-hour Giving Day fundraiser April 26. Some were frustrated by promotional materials like spam emails, while others enjoyed the opportunity to support specific organizations they care about at the college.

This is the college’s third time hosting the fundraising event and over \$2.2 million was raised from 4,794 donors, the highest amount raised by the college in one day. Wendy Kobler, vice president in the Division of Philanthropy and Engagement, said Giving Day received a 39% increase in donors and a 20% increase in donations over last year’s \$1.8 million raised. Donors were able to select how their money would be allocated among departments and programs across the college, including athletic teams, academic programs, financial aid and the more general annual fund.

Kobler said the 24-hour Giving Day campaign is used rather than a long-term fundraiser because it unites the campus community. Throughout the day, events were held across campus to promote Giving Day, including student performances and distribution of food to students.

“It is something that resonates extremely well with our alumni, our families, our friends and our parents,” Kobler said. “It’s an opportunity for everyone to come together on one day and celebrate engagement and philanthropy at Ithaca College.”

The college held the first ever Giving Day in 2015. In 2021, another Giving Day was held and many community members chose not to donate because they did not support

faculty cuts being made as part of the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process, while others saw it as reason to donate.

In a tweet, the Ithaca College Library said it would use funds raised on Giving Day to have longer hours at the library. The library raised \$20,001 from 43 donors.

Jennifer Hochberg Toller ’97 said she received nine emails on Giving Day asking her to donate, which she said was excessive and insensitive to alumni like herself facing financial struggles.

“There’s a lot of people hurting and I think it’s important for the development of-ice to realize that,” Hochberg Toller said. “I know, yes, they have a job to do, but I feel nine emails and from various parties was excessive and it’s a turn off.”

Hochberg Toller said she feels the aggressive email campaign is an ineffective marketing choice, especially in addition to other requests for donations alumni receive throughout the year.

Nate March ’11 said he also received nine emails and found the amount of communication overwhelming. March said he currently works in the Department of Communications and Marketing at a different institute of higher education and knows there are better ways to motivate donors.

“I work very closely with our foundation and we talk strategy with them, we would never recommend quite so heavy-handed an ask of that sort,” March said. “[Social media] grassroots outreach I think appeals much more than doing something with production value and things like the canned e-blasts.”

The college did promote Giving Day across social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. Many community



The 2022 Ithaca College Giving Day set the Giving Day record, bringing in over \$2.2 million after being advertised heavily. The campus community had mixed reactions.

COURTESY OF ITHACA COLLEGE DIVISION OF PHILANTHROPY AND ENGAGEMENT

members and campus groups did as well.

March also said the college is not transparent in its financial situation, especially with recent cuts as a part of the APP, and that discouraged him from donating.

“I think that they should be painting a more transparent picture for those of us who have a stake in the future of the college to kind of know, where’s all the money going?” March said.

The college’s athletics department raised the most money out of all the organizations participating with a total amount of \$1 million raised from 3,631 donors.

Sophomore James Collishaw donated to the fundraiser to support the men’s swimming and diving team and received the STAT Student Prize that awards an additional \$500 to five randomly-selected

student donors. Collishaw said he was surprised and felt extremely lucky to receive the bonus donation.

Collishaw said he enjoyed raising money, and his team raised over \$20,000 for the event. The men’s swimming and diving team plan to use the money to reduce the costs of a future team-training trip and to buy more swimsuits and gear.

“A big part [of raising money] was a lot of people got their friends and family involved and relatives, siblings, cousins, everything just helped tremendously,” Collishaw said. “Friends and family played a huge role because we’re only college students, we don’t have too much money to spare.”

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Award honors dissident journalism

BY OLIVIA STANZL

The Park Center for Independent Media (PCIM) held its 14th annual Izzy Award ceremony April 26 via Zoom where independent media outlets and journalists were honored for their work.

The PCIM awarded journalists Greg B. Smith and Jenni Monet, newsrooms Better Government Association and Block Club Chicago, and journalism group The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. About 140 attendees were present at the ceremony.

Jeff Cohen, founding and former director for the PCIM, introduced Smith, who exposed 5,000 public housing apartments that contained lead paint, even though the buildings were previously cleared of contamination. Smith’s work allowed New York City’s Housing Authority to receive millions of dollars to address the health and safety emergencies the management was causing, including ones caused by lead paint.

“His series was horrifying, not just in the harm that it exposed, the harm to children, to families from lead paint of those living in public housing,” Cohen said, “but the harm caused by the deceptions and cover-ups of the New York City Housing Authority. And also horrifying is that this neglect persisted for years, even generations.”

In 2012, Smith began an



From left, Greg B. Smith, reporter at The City, and Jenni Monet, author of the weekly newsletter, Indigenously, are two of this year’s Izzy Award recipients for their work.

COURTESY OF BEN FRACTENBERG/THE CITY, COURTESY OF JENNI MONET

investigation which focused on the management of public housing. His work led him to uncover many cases of neglect. During his investigation, he began to work at The City.

“If I had continued to stay in mainstream media ... I would never have been able to write that story,” Smith said. “It would never have seen the light of day, no way. ... Right now, in New York City, the presence of The City and nonprofit local news organizations is critical because there has been a serious drop

in the number of reporters who cover this stuff.”

Jenni Monet, tribal citizen of the Pueblo of Laguna, which is a federally recognized native nation in New Mexico and direct descendant of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa in North Dakota, created her own weekly newsletter Indigenously, which covers Native American communities within the U.S. Monet said that throughout her career she has struggled to get support from editors for the stories she pitched.

“I’ve always covered the lands and communities that I know well, the ones that I’ve grown up in, Indian country, it’s been a struggle, and I’m not sugarcoating it when I say as an Indigenous woman, it’s challenging to go into newsrooms, commercial or otherwise, and work on stories that should be getting covered, and only recently have started to be accepted as real news,” Monet said.

CONTACT OLIVIA STANZL
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IC names new college librarian

BY OLIVIA STANZL

In an April 20 Intercom post, Ithaca College announced that beginning July 1, Michelle Millet will be working as the college’s librarian.

For the 2021–22 academic year, the position was held temporarily by Interim College Librarian Karin Wikoff. Millet’s hiring follows the retirement of Lis Chabot, who held her position from August 2003 to May 2021.

Millet was the director of Grasselli Library and Breen Learning Center at John Carroll University (JCU) since 2012. During her time at JCU, Millet increased usage of the library building by 200% and increased usage in print, multimedia and electronic library materials. Millet led board approval of a \$25 million library renovation plan at JCU, which will begin construction December 2022.

Millet previously held positions with in libraries at The University of Texas at San Antonio and Trinity University, the post stated.

The search committee held open sessions and consisted of Jonathan Ablard, professor in the Department of History; Patricia Zimmermann, Charles A. Dana, professor of screen studies; Sarah Shank, interlibrary loan borrowing coordinator; Jenna Linskens, director of Learning and Innovative Technologies; and Brad Hougham, associate provost of Faculty Affairs.

“Please stop by the library and introduce yourself to Michelle after she begins her work with us on July 1, 2022,” the post said.

CONTACT OLIVIA STANZL
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SGC and VP of finance discuss college’s financial system

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

At the Ithaca College Student Governance Council’s (SGC) April 26 meeting, Tim Downs, vice president for Finance and Administration, spoke to the council about the college’s financial health.

Declining enrollment and retention rates have led the college to rethink its financial system and put a higher emphasis on income diversity as means to prevent tuition hikes. At the April 25 meeting, Downs gave a five-slide presentation to the SGC on the financial situation of the college.

“The questions [I get] are very common to what I get all the time,” Downs said. “My job is to try and take something very complicated and make it so it’s digestible.”

Enrollment and Tuition Revenue

Downs began by explaining how the pandemic affected enrollment. The first full academic year of the pandemic — 2020–21 — saw the college’s freshman class dip below 1,000 students for the first time in years. Downs said that the college will continue to see declining class numbers and that many other colleges have seen decreases in enrollment due to the pandemic. By January 2022, one million less students were enrolled in college in the U.S. than before the pandemic, according to NPR.

“We know for the next two years we’re going to dip down before the enrollment starts to come up,” Downs said. “But what we’re really trying to figure out as well as higher education is what happens beyond that ... That’s where we’re looking for the next few years.”

Despite the Class of 2025 being larger than the Class of 2024, tuition revenue

has continued to fall: 2018–19 saw tuition revenue at \$149,868,870, 2019–20 at \$142,202,961, 2020–21 at \$125,050,482 and 2021–22 at \$121,942,403. Downs said the college is looking elsewhere to diversify its revenue streams.

Fossil Fuel Divestments

Sophomore James Zampetti, vice president of communications, asked Downs about the Ithaca College Green New Deal, which the SGC passed in Spring 2021.

“One of the goals of that bill was to ask or recommend that the Senior Leadership Team divest from fossil fuels,” Zampetti said. “I’m wondering what your goals and the Senior Leadership Team’s to become carbon neutral as early as 2030.”

Downs said his approach to divestment from fossil fuels aims to be as strategic as possible.

“There are a lot of companies in fossil fuel that are making investments in renewables,” Downs said. “That, to me, is very important when we want to divest.”

College Credit Rating

Junior Senate Chair Austin Ruffino asked about the college’s credit rating. Downs said Moody’s — a financial services company and credit rating agency — has given the college an A2 credit rating. Downs said he will be calling a rater from Moody’s during the week to discuss credit ratings.

“We are in really good shape,” Downs said. “I will tell you — I’m going to watch out over the next few years because as our operating budget goes down, we’re going to look at our metrics to make sure [that if] we are going into debt, does borrowing hurt us?”

However, the accuracy of credit ratings from Moody’s are to be questioned. In 2017,



Tim Downs, vice president for Finance and Administration at Ithaca College, gives the Student Governance Council a presentation on the college’s finances April 25.

BROOKE VOGEL/THE ITHACAN

Moody’s paid a \$864 million penalty to the United States Department of Justice for knowingly giving high credit ratings to risky securities in the lead up to the 2008 financial crisis. Downs also said the college is a customer of Moody’s loan department. This could be a conflict of interest for Moody’s and an issue for the college, as it is purchasing both credit ratings and loans from the same company.

Prioritization of Majors

Freshman Noah Richardson, legal studies major and Class of 2025 senator, asked Downs about how different majors will be affected by oncoming financial changes. Richardson said students in majors with lower registration rates are concerned their major might be more impacted financially

compared to majors with more students.

“The student perception — especially with the freshmen — is that there is a little bit of a bias in favor of the majors in physical therapy and communications and basically everything that’s in Park,” Richardson said.

Downs said that regardless of actual bias, student perception needs to be addressed.

“I appreciate that because whether it’s right or wrong, it doesn’t matter, that’s the perception,” Downs said. “That being said, what I will say is the programs that are growing are going to get the resources. That’s just the reality ... we have to be invested in those areas that are growing.”

CONTACT ELIJAH DE CASTRO
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COLLEGE BRIEFS

College hosts awards ceremony for presentations of all media

Over 242 Ithaca College students presented between April 11 and 12 at the 25th anniversary of the James J. Whalen Academic Symposium.

Students presented their work through multiple forms, like performances, talks and poster presentations. Within two days, 10 students were recognized as award winners between two categories: oral presentation and poster presentation.

The oral presentation winners for the first day of the symposium were junior Melanie Sepulveda-Rosado: Fad Fashion: Overconsumption of the Fashion Industry Through Interdisciplinary Thought; senior Cyepress Rite: Past our House: Reclaiming the Role of Vodun in Black Liberation; and seniors Vera Crabtree, Sean Blackford and Sam Edelstein: Porchfest: Mobile App Design and Development to Support Local Music Discovery. Poster presentation winners for the first day were senior Michelle Pei and juniors Camryn O'Leary and Isaac Perez: Resilience and Optimism: Gender and Race.

The second day oral presentation winners were senior Camryn Gessner: The Benefits of Aquatic Therapy in Conjunction with Land-Based Physical Therapy for Rehabilitation after Total Knee Arthroplasty: A Case Series; and seniors Megan O'Reilly and Alison Lipton: BMI – Not a Risk Factor for Medial Tibial Stress Syndrome? A Critically Appraised Topic. The poster presentation winners were seniors Haley Ashton: Effect of Interdisciplinary Rehabilitation on Return to Driving in the Outpatient Setting: A Case Study; Marissa Holske: Cardiorespiratory Fitness and Strengthening Rehabilitation of a Long COVID-19 Patient: A Case Report; and Miranda Lape: Deaf Music Engagement.

College to offer awareness course about autism for fall semester

The Understanding Disability (RLS 12500) course is being offered Fall 2022 by the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies. The course covers a wide spectrum of intellectual, physical and emotional impairments within the autism spectrum disorder.

The course also discusses self-advocacy, historical and current barriers, family perspectives and current trends in educational

and community service for people who have disabilities.

The coursework will include interactive speakers. Individuals with questions can contact Jessie Kanowitz Tonjes, assistant professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, at jkanowitz@ithaca.edu.

Two associate provosts hired to start new positions in July

Stacia Zabusky will become the associate provost for academic programs and Brendan Murday will become the associate provost for faculty affairs July 1.

Zabusky is the current senior associate dean for curriculum and undergraduate programs in the School of Humanities and Sciences. Murday is the current associate dean for the School of Humanities and Sciences.

College offers a class on sports during the summer semester

The International Sport (SMGT 21000) course covers topics like the Olympics, global soccer and why sports are popular in different parts of the world. It completes the social sciences requirement for the identities theme and the Integrative Core Curriculum diversity credits.

The course will be held May 31 to July 1 and it will be asynchronous. Individuals with questions can contact Rachel Madsen, associate professor in the Department of Sport Management, at rmadsen@ithaca.edu.

De-stress week relaxes students before final exam period starts

Stop and Breathe Week, a JED Campus initiative, highlights de-stress campus programs from April 30 to May 6. The initiative will have a table set up in the Campus Center during Stop and Breathe Week.

Programs who are interested in being named in the lineup or have questions can email Brittany Watros, administrative assistant in the Office of Student Engagement, at bwatros@ithaca.edu.

Event to honor LGBTQ+ seniors and allies scheduled for April 29

The Rainbow Reception, an event to celebrate the college's LGBTQ+ and allied graduating seniors and graduate students,



First-gen seniors enjoy final celebration

From left, Geselle Dominguez, the program coordinator for the Center for Inclusion Diversity Equity and Social Change, and junior Laura Avila, vice president of the First Generation Organization, celebrate first-generation seniors.

ARIANA GONZALEZ/THE ITHACAN

will be held at 5 p.m. April 29 in Emerson Suites in the Campus Center.

Students will receive rainbow honor cords for graduation but must RSVP. Students who are unable to attend the reception can reserve their cords. Individuals requiring accommodations can contact Luca Maurer, interim executive director of Student Equity and Belonging and the director for the Center of LGBT Education, Outreach and Services, at lmaurer@ithaca.edu.

Course in May explores dialects for stage and film performances

The course called Performing Dialects: Understanding Characters Through Language (THEA 13800-01) is being offered by the college during the May summer session. The course introduces students to the study and practice of different linguistic dialects in social

and cultural contexts.

The course focuses on the role of dialect in the formation of identity and character within theatre, film and television performance. Individuals with questions can contact Kathleen Mulligan, professor in the Department of Theatre Arts, at kmulligan@ithaca.edu.

Fall move-in volunteers needed to register online by May 20

The college is recruiting faculty and staff to assist with student move-in for Fall 2022 from August 14 to 19. Volunteers will greet students and assist them in moving belongings from students' vehicles to their dorms. All faculty and staff have been asked to assist with the move-in process. Individuals with questions can contact Karen Walls, executive assistant in the Office of Student Affairs and Campus Life, at kwalls@ithaca.edu.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM APRIL 11 TO APRIL 17

APRIL 11

SAFETY RELATED OFFENSES

LOCATION: Terraces/ general area
Flora Brown Drive

SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person placed a plastic bag over a sprinkler head. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety reported the area checked and with no violations found. Enoch Perkins, fire protection specialist in the Office of Environmental Health and Safety, responded.

CHANGE IN CASE STATUS

LOCATION: 143 Tower Skyline Drive

SUMMARY: Laundry that was reported stolen April 10 was recovered. The complainant reported laundry was taken in error and not stolen. Sergeant Don Lyke responded.

WELFARE CHECK

LOCATION: Terrace 6

SUMMARY: Caller requested a check on the welfare for a person that they had not had contact with for over a week. Officer reported the person was located and was advised to

contact the caller. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded.

APRIL 12

MEDICAL ASSIST/ PSYCHOLOGICAL

LOCATION: 406 Grant Egbert Blvd.

SUMMARY: Caller reported having suicidal ideations. Sergeant Don Lyke reported a person was taken into custody under New York state's Mental Hygiene Law and transported to the hospital by ambulance.

APRIL 13

MEDICAL ASSIST/ ILLNESS

LOCATION: 326 Grant Egbert Blvd.

SUMMARY: Caller reported having an allergic reaction. Officer reported the caller was transported by ambulance to hospital. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded to the call.

APRIL 14

SUSPICIOUS PERSON

LOCATION: 117 Alumni Circle

SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person in a building after

hours. Officer reported the area was checked and unable to locate anyone. Patrol Officer Bruce Hall responded.

LARCENY FOURTH DEGREE/ OVER \$1000

LOCATION: 100 Block Lyceum Drive

SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person stole a catalytic converter from a vehicle. Patrol Officer Bruce Hall responded.

APRIL 15

SCC SEX OFFENSES

LOCATION: 146 Conservatory Drive

SUMMARY: Officer reported that during the course of an investigation, a person reported third-hand information of possible sexual harassment. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded to the information.

SCC HARASSMENT/ INTIMIDATION/ ENDANGERING

LOCATION: College Circle Lot 2

SUMMARY: Caller reported a group of individuals were throwing glass bottles at the caller's vehicle and spitting on the vehicle after individuals were denied Uber service. The

officer reported five people were referred for SCC harassment. Patrol Officer Bruce Hall responded to the scene.

SCC SEX OFFENSES

LOCATION: 146 Conservatory Drive

SUMMARY: Sergeant Bryan Verzosa reported an individual involved in a harassment case and was referred to the Office of Student Conduct for bullying April 14.

APRIL 16

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF/ FOURTH DEGREE

LOCATION: 416 Grant Egbert Blvd.

SUMMARY: Caller reported a person actively damaging Ithaca College's property in a person's room. Officer reported the person was referred to the Office of Student Conduct for criminal mischief. Patrol Officer Bruce Hall responded.

LARCENY FOURTH DEGREE/ VIA EXTORTION

LOCATION: 406 Grant Egbert Blvd.

SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person had extorted money

from the caller through social media. Sergeant Jon Elmore responded.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF/ FOURTH DEGREE

LOCATION: 416 Grant Egbert Blvd.

SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person damaged a toilet paper dispenser. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded.

APRIL 17

FIRE SAFETY OFFENSES

LOCATION: 98 Flora Brown Drive

SUMMARY: Simplex reported trouble with the fire alarm system. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa reported a verbal warning was issued to the person for tampering with the fire alarm.

Full public safety log available online at www.theithacan.org.

KEY

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

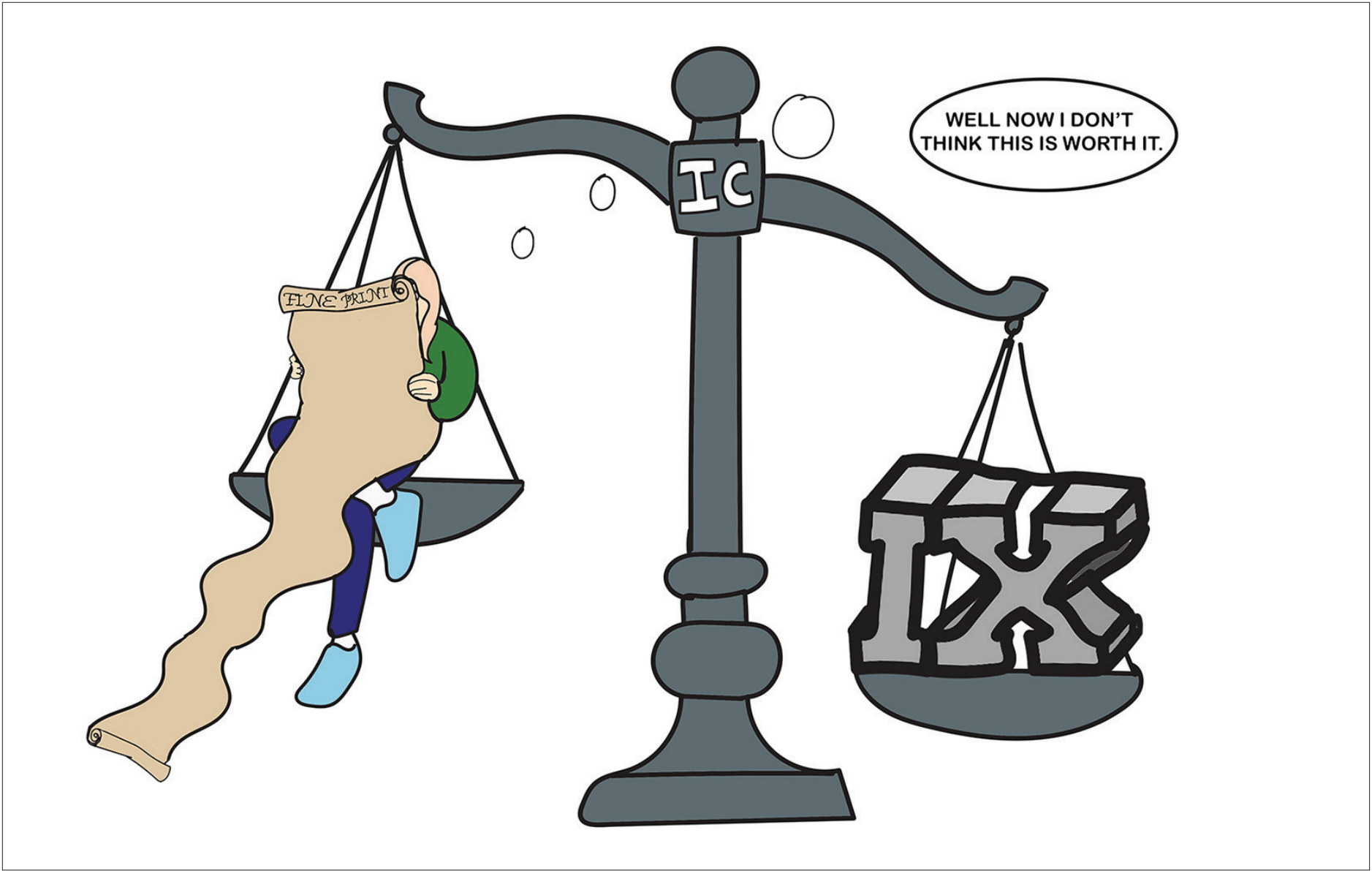


ILLUSTRATION BY MALIK CLEMENT

EDITORIAL

Students must weigh limitations of Title IX policies

The collegiate justice system continues to fail students as non-comprehensive policy succeeds and supportive representation from the Title IX office remains in question.

Failure is an inherent part of seeking justice within the legal system. However, when it comes to the benefits and limitations Title IX can afford students, critical evaluation of their needs and possible options must be heavily considered. When dealing with matters of non-consensual events, the inability to comprehend and consent to legal policies due to a lack of understanding lays bare the contradiction within our legal systems.

While the Title IX office does try to offer support for all students across campus, it may not be the support desired or required for every student and their individual experience. The option to have Title IX policies should remain intact, but the speed at which students decide to use them must be slowed and properly understood. Whether students choose to use them or not is up to the student. Whether the student decides for their story to be a recorded number for an

institutional statistic should be their choice. Before approaching the Title IX office with such delicate, intimate matters, students who experience sexual violence must ask themselves, “Will this help or hurt my situation? Am I mentally strong enough for potential legal action, reliving trauma, gathering sufficient evidence of sexual misconduct and the possibility of not winning my hearing? Is the courtroom the best place for me to heal?” Survivors should never be made to feel victim to the reality of a police investigation and unsupportive policies.

The Title IX office currently has only two main staff members — Title IX Coordinator Linda Koenig and Leonardo Wise, Title IX investigator and prevention specialist — and the demand for educational opportunities remains high. A larger Title IX staff would allow the office to facilitate more dialogues on campus as demystifying sexual violence against all bodies is essential to survivor advocacy. Creating room for the LGBTQ+ community and communities of color at the same rate as their cisgender, straight or white peers, will enhance levels of comfort and confidence when engaging in the taboo.

While educational opportunities for understanding that many experiences outside the typical definition of sexual assault exist, the conversation doesn’t stop at what counts as sexual misconduct and to whom it occurs.

All Title IX policies are made available to the public, but the college does little to promote visibility around these policies. Section 2.1.4 Reporting Sexual Misconduct of the Title IX policy manual states: Officials With Authority (OWA) as defined by Title IX, are required to report incidents to the Title IX coordinator. OWAs include the Title IX office, Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, Office of Public Safety, Office of Residential Life, Office of Student Affairs and Campus Life and the Ithaca College Senior Leadership Team. While this information is publicly available, it not easy to locate. A student who is in distress after experiencing sexual violence may not always be in the right mental state to decode the policy manual or scour the college’s website, and could easily disclose their experience to an OWA, who would have to report to Title IX against the student’s will.

Students who face the unfortunate reality

of reporting or being required to report an act of sexual misconduct deserve the space and time to process and heal their current reality versus the reality of what legal proceedings would mean to their individual experience. The college must do better so survivors can have a comprehensive understanding of their choices. Afterall, failure of choice and consenting without full understanding is at the center of each Title IX case — inaction to educate on policy is a cruel way to exacerbate what should have never occurred in the first place.

The failures of Title IX are the fault of the system it must operate within. Legal jargon and a formal environment are not conducive to supporting students. And when looking toward alternative options based on restorative justice to humanize the process, the restrictive space federal regulations place on Title IX becomes a barrier. Perhaps there will never be a perfect way to handle sexual assault cases within Title IX and the legal system. Students should continue to find support from services like the advocacy forging community outside the constraints of institutional powers and its limitations.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send to 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 or to the opinion editor zsandhu@ithaca.edu.

ALL COMMENTARIES MUST:

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

GUEST COMMENTARY

In times of war and COVID-19, reflection of support is vital

BY MICHAEL TROTTI

Two things I love about Ithaca College: my faculty colleagues — so dedicated to their students, so accomplished and so caring of each other. I am humbled to be among them. And our students, bringing goodwill and hard work and a collaborative spirit to our classrooms, labs and performance spaces. There is a reason the locals, even many working at that other institution on that other hill, see the college as “their” school: our students are a joy to have in the community. (Just last week a local said this to me, and it was not the first time.) I feel privileged to be here. Yet it has been a hell of a few years to be in this community.

COVID-19 — sheesh, what a thing. Professors are strategizing with each other (as are staff!) about how best to help students cope, rebound from the difficulties that online learning forced the world into, and more. And Ukraine, and political fragmentation with its deficits in civil discourse. And echo chambers like no human society has ever before created, feeding that fragmentation and building a pandemic of anxiety, left, right and center. And our own community’s painful need to resize the college

and balance our budget, with all the confusion and fear that comes with any such change.

The world, after all, is not inherently just or fair; we must work to make it so. Each of us will have crises in our families and lives as well as wonders in them; so will communities; so will schools; so will nations and the world.

So, what do we do now?

On the wall of an orphanage in Calcutta (then called) were these words, written by a woman now considered a saint in the Catholic church. Perhaps her thoughts offer us something too, as our community wrestles with a world a bit mad, a rough couple of years in our own community and, of course, all the “normal” problems of life, family, and community. Mother Teresa urges us to build:

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.



Michael Trotti, associate professor in the Department of History, feels this year’s events weighing heavily on all and offers up a supportive reflection urging the campus community to continue building meaningful connections.

BRENDAN IANNUCCI/THE ITHACAN

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.

If she were with us in 2022,

she might have added something like: “Your echo chamber might tell you it is hopeless, bleak, and you should respond with outrage. Turn down the volume on that echo chamber and build your community anyway.”

If this quote is not for you, find the one that is and put it somewhere you’ll see it. Just remember that we have 6,000 people in this community trying to find our way

through the messiness of 2022, and there is a wellspring of goodwill and hope and support around you, and the more you share, the more you have. In exactly the same way, but in the other direction, so are fear and distrust. We can choose to share either. Let’s pick goodwill.

MICHAEL TROTTI (he/him) is an associate professor in the Department of History. Contact him at mtrotti@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

The creation story behind ‘Black Girls Don’t Get Love’

BY EDEN STRACHAN

“Turn silence into language because your silence will not protect you.”

I read these words by Audre Lorde my sophomore year of college as part of an assigned reading for my Black Feminist Theory class. Little did I know, these words would change my life.

They would change the way I saw myself and my perspective on the experiences of Black women and girls, who are largely overlooked in society. At the time of reading Lorde’s writings, I had yet to learn about the criminalization and adultification of Black girlhood or have an understanding of harmful societal structures that reinforce the oppression of women of color. These works taught me the language that I needed to articulate the challenges that Black women and girls face in society.

They also gave me the confidence to believe that studying and building work around the Black female experience was legitimate and necessary.

In the coming months, after reflecting on the things I learned, I coined the title, “Black Girls Don’t Get Love.” It was always my intention to let these words stand on their own, but as I have learned, context matters.

Typically, in conversations about Black mental health, Black women are often focused on due to recent societal efforts to dissect the “strong Black woman” trope that has plagued society for decades.

While this work has been pivotal to the dialogue on race in America, the experiences of Black girls have largely been overlooked in the conversation. Using a multimedia approach, “Black Girls Don’t Get Love” addresses the erasure of Black

girlhood by providing the opportunity for Black girls to come of age and process the experiences they have by consuming authentic stories made for and by a Black girl.

“

The goal of “Black Girls Don’t Get Love” is to use storytelling to foster community among women and girls of color.

– Eden Strachan

”

On Valentine’s Day, February 2022, “Black Girls Don’t Get Love” was released as a children’s book on Amazon, made for middle-school and high school-age students. Zoe, the book’s main character is used to represent and magnify the shared experiences of Black girls across the country who regularly face microaggressions and other defining moments that force them to become the “strong Black woman” the world so wrongly admires.

The goal of “Black Girls Don’t Get Love” is to use storytelling to foster community among women and girls of color. Prior to the book’s release, the “Black Girls Don’t Get Love” team did this through a photo series and used social media to document the stories of young ladies of color, many of them from the Ithaca College community.

The “Black Girls Don’t Get Love” team also hosted a book launch party presented by the IC Ujima Black Student Union where



Eden Strachan ’21 is an author, national award-winning journalist, filmmaker and creator of the Instagram page @blackgirlsdontgetlove which fosters community through storytelling.

COURTESY OF EDEN STRACHAN

over 70 people, including young girls from the Southside Community Center Black Alchemist group, listened to a staged reading of the “Black Girls Don’t Get Love” book, performed by actors from the Ithaca College Department of Theatre Arts.

Upon the arrival of the Black Alchemist group, my team and I honored the girls with roses and tiaras to make sure they felt seen and celebrated at our event.

Right now, our team is working with the PGR Foundation, Inc. in Syracuse to plan the “Black Girls Don’t Get Love” Prom, a formal event that is specifically designed to celebrate and acknowledge girls of color. We want this to be a night to remember for Black girls, where they feel special, not because of who asked them to the event, but because of who they are. We are building the “Black

Girls Don’t Get Love” brand to be about an experience, so every time women and girls of color interact with our community, they feel seen and celebrated for the skin they’re in.

In addition to creating a safe space for women and girls of color, we are also intentional about fostering dialogue with our non-Black, Indigenous people of color-identifying community members because we believe to be most effective in our work, we must all grow and heal together.

We have a lot of work to do, but are proud of the community we are building and are grateful for those who are a part of it. Working together, we’re hopeful that someday soon, #blackgirlswillgetlove.

EDEN STRACHAN (she/her) is an Ithaca College alum. Contact her at info@blackgirlsdontgetlove.com.

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I

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April 21, 2022
Ithaca, NY | 53°F

THE ITHACAN

Accuracy • Independence • Integrity

NEWS OPINION LIFE & CULTURE SPORTS MULTIMEDIA MORE

EMERGENCY OPIOID OVERDOSE STATION NALOXONE

Call 911 to report the location of the emergency. NALOXONE: Opening 911 calls alerts public safety.

IC offers educational opportunities amid national opioid crisis

Cornell's Starbucks workers strike after grease trap failure

IC Theater presents 'Fun Home' musical

Investigation open for forcible touching incident

LATEST ARTICLES

Commentary: Lack of tenure-track faculty is a detriment

Editorial: Harm reduction education is needed across campus

Commentary: Video games help increase motivation

LATEST PRINT EDITION

THE ITHACAN

WE'VE GOT
PODCASTS

I

THE ITHACAN

DEJA VIEW

The Moon Rises Too

REMIXING
WITH EVA SALZMAN

STAY IN THE KNOW
WHILE ON THE GO

I

THE ITHACAN

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PEGGY RYAN WILLIAMS CENTER • ROY H. PARK HALL • JAMES J. WHALEN CENTER OF MUSIC
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FRIDAY, APRIL 29

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crossword

By Quill Driver Books

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5 Hard wood
8 Lazy one
13 Gluck of opera
14 Clean the deck
16 Sporty car
17 Hop
18 Polynesian carving
19 Show host
20 Physics unit
21 Welds
22 Delighted in
23 Furtiveness
25 Large family
27 Bring action
28 Postponed game
31 Stray calf
34 Fooled with
35 Young lady, slangily
37 Annexes
38 Came upon
39 “Hawkeye” Pierce
40 Yale grad
41 Extinguish
42 Wood nymph
43 Lack
45 Shake a finger
46 Hiker’s trail


47 Flew
51 Bitter
54 Pointless
56 Sonnet kin
57 Rains ice pellets
58 Robin’s domain
59 Quite similar
60 Walk slowly
61 Attendance
62 Jiffies
63 — nova
64 Golf terms
65 Gambling stake

DOWN
1 Dells
2 Warn
3 Picture
4 Swimmer’s unit
5 Discerning
6 Rustle
7 Ocean
8 Reykjavik’s nation
9 Hooded cloak
10 Fortune
11 Fencer’s blade
12 Tall grass
15 Miami’s — Bay
21 Chimney pipe
24 Defects and all (2 wds.)
26 Told a whopper

28 Shake awake
29 Not pretty
30 Mock fanfare (hyph.)
31 Joey or Kiki
32 Earthen pot
33 Smooth-tongued
34 Handling
36 Schoolboy
38 Typeface
39 Medea sailed on her
41 — — Scrolls
42 Broad valley
44 Tanker mishaps
45 Snowy period

last issue’s crossword answers
OLAF PING NAB
PALI SCOOT HOBO
ABCS YOUTH ORBS
LEOS CNN ESSAYS
LAUGHS FORT
ROE NURSERY
ADIEU CORE DIOR
CAT TWOSOME FDA
TILL AVER TITAN
SLEETED ENS
ATEN AVALON
TEASER OLE AHM
EIRE ELGIN NAPE
ENID DELVE DRAW
MEA SEED SELL

WE’VE GOT
MULTIMEDIA



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数独

Create and solve your
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The Sudoku Source of “The Ithacan”.

sudoku

easy

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

medium

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

answers to last issue’s sudoku:

medium

very hard

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

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



Comic fans assemble at the 45th Ithacon

The 45th annual Ithacon was held for two days in the Campus Center.

LEILA MARCILLO-GOMEZ/THE ITHACAN

BY JADYN DAVIS

The lights dim and spotlights are on the front of the Emerson Suites. As the song “Party Rock Anthem” by LMFAO starts to play, three boys, all wearing Spider-Man costumes, walk across the floor, kicking off the Ithacon Cosplay Runway. Following the boys is a family that cosplayed as the characters from “Danny Phantom” and Chica from “Five Nights at Freddy’s,” along with other DC and

students in red shirts with the Ithacon logo spent several hours selling tickets, hosting panels, directing guests and assisting wherever help was needed. However, this work was not voluntary but part of a class titled ITHACON: Promoting and Managing Conventions. This class is taught by Ed Catto, instructor in the Department of Management, and allows students from all majors to gain hands-on experience by building the annual comic convention.

This class allows students from all majors to promote, manage, analyze and run the convention from the ground up.

Catto said the work students do in

Students enrolled in the Ithacon: Promoting and Managing Conventions course wore matching red shirts at the event.

ALYSSA BEEBE/THE ITHACAN



LEILA MARCILLO-GOMEZ/THE ITHACAN

Marvel characters.

Cosplayers, artists and comic book enthusiasts from across the country joined forces from April 23 to 24 to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of Ithacon. Ithacon is a two-day annual comic book convention that was created by the The Comic Book Club of Ithaca, the longest-running comic book club in the country. The club first started as a school comic book club, which in time grew and was formally established as a community organization in 1975. The first Ithacon took place in 1976 and featured two guests. Even though the show has grown considerably since then, the goal has always been to run a convention that is fun for fans, guests and vendors alike.

Throughout the day,

his class mimics how major convention companies run.

“We run a show that’s highly professional, so the demands are high,” Catto said. “All the work that students have been doing is surprising and it’s also very rewarding.”

Tickets for adults were \$20 for both days, while tickets for students and faculty were only \$10 for both days. In addition, tickets for children ages 7–12 were \$5, while children 6 years old and under were allowed free admission. All attendees that purchased tickets prior to April 20 were awarded a “swag bag,” which included free comics and stickers.

This was the first time in two years that Ithacon was held in person. Ithacon 2020 was canceled due to COVID-19, and Ithacon 2021 was held via Zoom.

“We had a huge reach beyond people who could physically come and a lot of the fans really wanted to experience the conversations and activities that we had,” Catto said.

Fantasy Comics is a small comic book retailer based in Albany, New York. It is owned by comic book enthusiast Brett Putnam. Putnam said he has been going to Ithacon since 1982 and said it is nice to be back and see everyone after a year off.

“I’m reconnecting with my old friend Bill Turner, who is the original organizer of the show, and he and I go way back to the ’70s,” Putnam said. “That’s the most special thing, but it’s been a great show with lots of good guests and lots of different vendors.”

The convention took place in different areas of the Campus Center. Both Klingenstein and Clarke lounges held panels where comic book writers and editors spoke about their careers and gave advice about the comic book industry.



From left, Ithacon visitors Luka Vanscoyk, Owen Moskal and Carter Presutti point to one another in reference to a popular meme featuring three Spider-Men.

LEILA MARCILLO-GOMEZ/THE ITHACAN

Don Simpson is best known as the creator of the super hero series “Megaton Man” for Kitchen Sink Press and Image Comics.

In a panel moderated by junior Joshua Rothbaum, Simpson said it took a while for him to find his own style, but he was influenced by Marvel Comics and artists like Gil Kane and Jack Kirby when he entered high school.

“I was trying to master all these techniques and find my own voice as a young person,” Simpson said.

from Washburn Entertainment, the Cosplay Runway is a non-competitive event where cosplayers can strut across Emerson Suites, showing off their costumes.

Cosplayers were allowed to walk alone or in a group.

Vee said her favorite part about hosting the Cosplay Runway is seeing all of the creativity behind everyone’s costumes.

“This has grown so much,” Vee said. “There’s so much cool stuff. So it’s awesome to see it grow over the years.”

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Illustrator Kevin Delgado attended Ithacon as a vendor, selling prints of his art.

LEILA MARCILLO-GOMEZ/THE ITHACAN



The convention welcomed Will Dennis ’89 as Ithacon’s guest of honor.

Since graduating from Ithaca College, Dennis has served as a group editor for Warner Bros.’ DC Vertigo division and, over the years, has edited some of its most acclaimed titles, including “100 Bullets,” “Scalped,” “Joker” and many more. In a panel moderated by junior Nick Lapinig, Dennis spoke about his career and what it is like to be back at the college for Ithacon.

“It’s nice to go to Ithacon because it’s smaller and it’s more about comics,” Dennis said. “I’m used to going to lots of big shows in San Diego and Chicago. So, it’s kind of fun to go to a small show and being an Ithaca native allows for a nice combination of a trip to see family that still live here.”

All of the main action took place in the Emerson Suites. The room was filled wall-to-wall with vendors selling items from old school Marvel and DC comics to wands and potions from the Craft Fox and special edition Pokémon cards.

At noon, Ithacon staff told people to make a pathway for the highly anticipated Cosplay Runway.

Presented and hosted by DJ Tori Vee

A life-sized replica of Star Wars’ R2-D2 provided by Astromech.net roamed the convention.

ALYSSA BEEBE/THE ITHACAN



VIC Radio hosts 50-Hour Marathon for charity

BY CHELSEA COICHY

This past weekend VIC hosted its 35th annual 50-Hour Marathon. Four DJs from the station stayed up for 50 hours straight, raising \$4,790 in donations for this year’s beneficiary, Southside Community Center.

Running from April 22 to 24, the non-stop 50-Hour Marathon took place in VIC’s studio, located in Roy H. Park Hall. Seniors Michael Memis and Trisha Curtin, junior Arlo Catanzaro and sophomore Gus Genova acted as the event’s DJs, staying on air to host the event.

The marathon was hosted on VIC’s YouTube channel as well as VICradio.org. The Marathon featured specialty shows just like sophomore DJ Gus Genova’s “Rock Out!,” “The Hippie Hour,” “Songs Your Dad Likes,” “Jar of Jam” and others. It also included live bands like Ithaca College’s own Library of Egress and the Ithaca-native rock group X Ambassadors, interviews with special guests and Genova shaving his head in honor of reaching the initial \$4,000 goal.

Sophomore Keenan Griebel coordinated this year’s event. A member of VIC since freshman year, Griebel wanted to become the 50-Hour coordinator to feel closer to Ithaca’s community.

“In the times that we are living in, it’s important to support not only them but the Black community of Ithaca in general,” Griebel said.

To prepare for the marathon,

the DJs, alongside Griebel, took a trip to Southside Community Center, located on S. Plain Street in Ithaca to bond with community members and to see the value Southside brings to Ithaca.

Griebel said that while there, they were welcomed with open arms and received a tour of the facility. The building featured murals of Black activists and leaders along with photographs from Southside’s history.

“It’s nice to feel closer to the community; it’s easy to get isolated up on South Hill,” Catanzaro said. “I’m trying to help out the community that housed me when I attended college.”

Local businesses and organizations that sponsored this year’s event included the Alley Cat Cafe, Buffalo Street Books, ICTV Executive Staff, Dewitt Mall and IC Sports Media, to name a few.

Genova said the mission of the 50-Hour Marathon is not only to provide grants for nonprofits but to show what Ithaca truly has to offer, as well as to create an event that brings people together.

Southside Deputy Director Kayla Mathos said Southside Community Center has been an active part of the Ithaca community for 88 years. It was founded in 1934 by the Frances Harpers Women’s Club after the Ku Klux Klan marched through Ithaca. The women wanted to create a safe space where the Black residents of Ithaca could feel at home.

Originally, Southside Community Center offered Black residents



From left, junior Arlo Catanzaro, seniors Trisha Curtin and Michael Memis and sophomore Gus Genova host the VIC Radio 50-Hour Marathon fundraiser to benefit the Southside Community Center.

THOMAS KERRIGAN/THE ITHACAN

healthcare services, a recycled bike program, a school, a barbershop and apartments within its facility. As time passed, it developed other initiatives and different programs to fit the community’s current needs but has stuck to its origin of being a multipurpose organization.

Today, Southside Community Center offers after-school programs, summer camps, educational guest speakers, girls groups and a food pantry and hosts annual events like the Harriet Tubman Freedom Ride, Argentine Festival and Juneteenth celebrations.

Mathos said the bulk of the money donated from the marathon will go toward Southside childcare programs. These programs are provided free of charge for children and their families.

The afterschool program provides children with healthy snacks and dinner, help with their school work, science workshops to broaden their knowledge and martial arts classes to teach them the value of self-control.

During the summer, Southside Community Center operates two different camps. In the general day

camp, kids go on field trips to state parks, water parks and the science center and participate in engaging extracurricular activities.

“I hoped [this event] raised more recognition for the Southside Community Center and gets more people engaged in the local community around us,” Curtin said. “I really appreciate the opportunity to get to know the people who work there and the people who come there.”

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Brittany Broski visits IC campus for student Q&A

BY M MINTON

Students excitedly line up in front of Emerson Suites with tickets in hand. Once they enter the room, seats begin to fill up to full capacity until the show finally begins. Fans chant and scream in anticipation for Brittany Broski as she takes the stage, happily greeting the audience.

On April 19, Ithaca College’s Student Activities Board (SAB) presented TikTok and social media sensation Brittany Broski in an hour-long Q&A and late night talk-show-type presentation. Broski currently holds 6.8 million followers on TikTok and 960K followers on Instagram. Giveaways for meet and greets on SAB’s Instagram were also given along with opportunities to ask Broski questions by messaging the Instagram.

Broski came to fame for her short and humorous TikTok videos, largely due to her video tasting kombucha for the first time, which was posted in August 2019. This coined her the nickname “Kombucha Girl” and is just one of numerous viral videos that have made Broski internet famous.

Following her video, Broski was fired from her job as her content went viral on Twitter with many people responding with explicit captions, leading to her boss becoming concerned. Following this, Broski started to create more videos with accents, impressions and skits that grew her outreach and helped to pay her bills rather than staying a one-trick wonder.

Throughout the evening, Broski answered questions about her comedy, social media presence, upbringing, beliefs and more, leading to a night full of laughter and smiles from

across the audience. Sophomore Annalese Winegard, co-president of SAB, and social media chair Ben Berkowitz interviewed her and moderated the Q&A.

At one point, Broski answered a question regarding her mental health, saying that she doesn’t take care of it. However, she encouraged students to take care of themselves and follow their passions, expressing enthusiasm for their enrollment in college.

Freshman Mackenzie Ward said one of Broski’s responses that stood out to her the most was when she mentioned how students should really cherish their time in college because it will go by quickly.

“It was a really nice reminder as to how fun and interesting college can be,” Ward said. “We should always try and make the best of it.”

Another topic of discussion with Broski was the evolution of TikTok. Berkowitz asked Broski whether she misses the old TikTok or whether she likes the new direction the platform is going in. Broski said she misses the old TikTok when the platform was mainly for users.

“It was only from the ages of 15 to 25 really,” Broski said. “And then we saw this transition around December of 2019 when Charli [D’Amelio] and Addison [Rae] and Dixie [D’Amelio] and all these people got super viral. Then we see brands come in, celebrities, record labels pushing their songs.”

Senior Becca Feeney is the chair of the special events committee for SAB. She said that after holding events like plate smashing and drag queen bingo this past semester, SAB knew they wanted to do something big for their comedy event. As a proud alum of



From left, sophomore Annalese Winegard, junior Benjamin Berkowitz and TikTok personality Brittany Broski hold a Q&A session April 19 in Emerson Suites.

LEILA MARCILLO-GOMEZ/THE ITHACAN

Texas A&M University, Broski has also visited other colleges, like the University of Miami, St. Lawrence University and Georgia State University.

“We contributed more money to [this event] and when we were given the list of acts, Brittany Broski was the one that stuck out,” Feeney said.

Winegard said Broski keeps everything authentic and real, which makes her a valuable presence on social media.

“I love that her content is very real and vulnerable, it’s refreshing to see someone with a platform who doesn’t just go

after views and followers and money,” Winegard said.

Ward said she felt that the event went really well and enjoyed the atmosphere surrounding it.

“I enjoyed listening to [Broski] talk about her experiences with social media and also just moments where she was being goofy,” Ward said. “Everyone there seemed to be enjoying themselves and it was really fun but laid back at the same time.”

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Pedro Pascal shines in new buddy film

MOVIE REVIEW: “The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent” Lionsgate ★★★★★

BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD

Guns, car chases, cliff jumping, the CIA, Nicolas Cage and ... Pedro Pascal? “The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent,” written and directed by Tom Gormican, follows Cage and Pascal as they join forces on the big screen, creating a fun take on the buddy film trope.

“The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent” follows Cage playing, well, himself, as he is unable to find his next big break. After another tough rejection from the role of a lifetime, Cage gets an offer to attend Javi Gutierrez’s (Pascal) birthday party for \$1 million.

For Javi, a massive fan of Cage, having him attend his party and read his script is the opportunity of a lifetime and a chance to live out his lifelong dream of getting to know Nicolas Cage. What neither of the two predict is that this trip may just turn them into the best of friends.

This film relies heavily on the talent involved in it, specifically Pascal, as he carries every scene he is in. Had this project been done with lesser actors it would have been a colossal waste of time.

But Pascal is brilliant. Legitimately, all the funny moments are the result of Pascal’s perfect comedy chops. His comedic timing is superb. Pascal brought

depth and complexity to a character that could have been completely one-dimensional.

Pascal masters both the delivery of humorous dialogue as well as the slapstick elements of the film. His performance cemented Pascal as an actor who really can do it all.

Cage does a solid job as well. Unfortunately, the character is written in a way that gets old after a while. Cage — the character — is obnoxious, narcissistic and very flat.

Cage is the center of conflict for most of the film, his own actions serving heavily as the propelling force behind the plot, but this grows tiresome to watch.

There is a brief moment at the end of the film where Cage’s acting genuinely shines through in a touching scene with his on-screen daughter.

Touching scenes like this add to film, and it is disappointing that this did not occur more frequently. Cage was typically the punchline of jokes rather than the one delivering them.

The rest of the film’s elements are fine, but not much to write home about. Drudging on at a snail’s pace, the first act is a little slow to get into; its comedy involves a great deal of set up.

There are certain running gags that are overdone in the film — like a CGI younger



Nicolas Cage and Pedro Pascal deliver a solid comedy that successfully creates a refreshing take on the buddy film trope.

COURTESY OF LIONSGATE

Nic Cage who exists in the imagination of the older Nic Cage — who serves as a meta internal instigator for Cage to continue to chase roles and attempt to be the best. CGI Nic Cage does this by screaming, slapping and bullying real Cage, which is funny the first couple of times but is heavily overdone.

The female characters are pathetic. They lack goals, agency and complexities. The women exist solely to propel

the plot forward and act as objects to the leading men. While this is disappointing, it is not exactly shocking.

Though it has its shortcomings, if viewers are looking for a fun, crowd-pleasing movie, “The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent” is just the one to go see. Even if it is just so they can admire the unbearable weight of Pedro Pascal’s massive talent.

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Lyrical legend Pusha T cooks up a solid project

ALBUM REVIEW: “It’s Almost Dry” G.O.O.D Music ★★★★★

BY MIKE ROSS

While many hip-hop fans are knowledgeable enough to label Pusha T as one of hip-hop’s greatest lyricists, most aren’t too familiar with the rapper’s solo discography, having primarily known Pusha T from his features. His new album “It’s Almost Dry” is a reminder to the hip-hop community why Kanye West and Pharrell Williams, some of Pusha’s earliest collaborators, still love working with him after all these years.

“It’s Almost Dry” has received much anticipation because of its shared production by West and Williams. Each artist has signature styles, which could’ve made the album lose its cohesiveness. Luckily, the two legendary producers made it clear that they are still creating beats for a reason. The two artists cooked-up a collection of instrumentals that give Pusha T the room he needs to experiment with his bars.

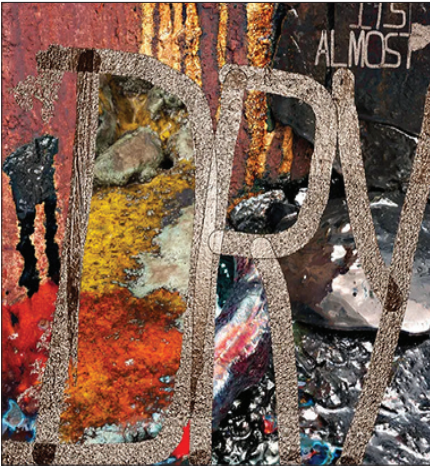
Songs like “Diet Coke” and “Dreamin Of The Past” provide the record with an old-school edge that both Pusha and the two producers excel on, while “Scrape It Off” gives the album a brighter, more modern edge. While none of the record’s 12 tracks particularly stand out, West and Williams never disappoint on a Pusha T project.

Pusha T’s verses remain in the spotlight,

as if the producers knew to make beats that wouldn’t outperform the album’s creator. The lyrical quality of the project is obvious considering Pusha’s status as a rhymesmith. Listening to Pusha T rap is a really engaging experience. He’s an astounding storyteller, always finding an interesting way to get points across while firing shots and giving expert advice along the way.

Pusha T is no stranger to throwing shade, the most notable example being “The Story of Adidon,” his brutal Drake diss track from 2018 in which he took the liberty of revealing the identity of Drake’s son to the world. Luckily, Pusha chooses peace for the majority of the record while still keeping the younger generation in their place with bars like “Seein’ you rappers apply for the stimulus / Livin’ a lie but die for your images.”

“Neck & Wrist” and “I Pray For You” are the album’s standout tracks, as they seem to be the most realized on the album. “Neck & Wrist” features Jay-Z, who has a hard time messing up any tracks he appears on. Like Pusha, Jay’s raps are engaging as usual, reminiscing on his status in music and his relationship with The Notorious B.I.G. “I Pray For You” features Labrinth, the artist most notable for his work on the soundtrack of HBO’s “Euphoria.” The song, which functions as the album’s closer,



Pusha T returns with more impressive wordsmithing and fitting production.

COURTESY OF G.O.O.D MUSIC

features the same powerful atmosphere as the music from the show.

Pusha T has clearly put much energy into this project. Complex named Pusha T the best rapper of all time after the release of his 2018 album “Daytona” (which Complex also named Album of the Year), and Pusha claimed in an interview that “It’s Almost Dry” surpasses even that record.

Between press, social media presence and attention to detail, “It’s Almost Dry” is Pusha T’s big comeback. But it feels like it’s missing something. Outside of its standout tracks, the replay value of “It’s Almost Dry” feels significantly low. While still enjoyable, many of tracks are worthy of wanting more or listening to again. Even so, Pusha T’s latest project excels in everything it needs to and further cements the artist’s status.

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QUICKIES



COURTESY OF 300 ENTERTAINMENT

“PLAN B ”
Megan Thee Stallion

Megan Thee Stallion proves her talent as a rapper in her new track, “Plan B.” Sampling the 1995 Jodeci track, “Freek ‘N You,” “Plan B” is the perfect balance of nostalgic sound and personal lyrics.



COURTESY OF ATLANTIC RECORDS

“M.I.A”
Ravyn Lenae

Alternative R&B singer Ravyn Lenae is back with her latest single, “M.I.A.” Lenae’s unique, breathy vocals over ethereal instrumentals and a pulsing, danceable beat make the track a standout in her discography.



COURTESY OF REPUBLIC RECORDS

“PLEASE DO NOT LEAN”
Daniel Caesar ft. BADBADNOTGOOD

Daniel Caesar teams up with BADBADNOTGOOD for “Please Do Not Lean.” The track is emotional and poetic, but this repetition does not detract from the song’s quality.



COURTESY OF GETTING OUT OUR DREAMS INC.

“SKIN AND BONES”
070 Shake

070 Shake puts listeners in a trance with her new track, “Skin and Bones.” Hypnotic synths drone underneath 070 Shake’s pulsing vocals for the majority of the track before switching the pace where it picks up a brighter tone in the synths and an intensity in the vocals.

SOCCER PLAYER BECOMES VOICE FOR PROGRESS IN PARASPORTS

BY DUSTIN TERRY

When freshman Alexia Michitti was in seventh grade, she was cut from her middle school basketball team. It was the first time that Michitti — who was born without her right hand — had been told she could not do something because of her upper limb difference before.

Michitti said her parents did not expect for her to be born without a hand, but she felt that she and her parents had the option to feel sorry or attack the world.

“During my mom’s pregnancy, they didn’t see anything that needed to be brought to attention,” Michitti said. “When I came out, I rocked the world, which is the way I like to put it.”

Since then, Michitti, who is on the Ithaca College women’s soccer team, has become a voice for athletes with disabilities and has had the opportunity to work with the U.S. National Amputee Soccer Team. In Fall 2021, she was introduced to adaptive sports, also referred to as parasports. Adaptive sports are sports played by athletes who have different types of disabilities with many established leagues and organizations representing these athletes, like the Paralympic Games.

Ellen Staurowsky ’79, professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences, and Studies, connected Michitti with the world of adaptive sports. Staurowsky began working with disability in sports when she was in high school, where she worked with a local Special Olympics group. Through her work in parasports and through her students, she has maintained connections during her career.

“The experiences of trying to learn how to best serve [students with disabilities] has been something that has been a lifelong work for me,” Staurowsky said. “Our students come in with so many different experiences and different ways of living, so that has always been a part of consciousness.”

Michitti spoke at an event as an athlete for U.S. Disability Soccer Month in December 2021. After speaking, she received a direct message from Eric Lamberg ’96, head coach and president of the U.S. National Amputee Soccer Team.

Lamberg graduated from the college with

a bachelor’s degree in health and science and earned his master’s in the physical therapy program where he took an interest in prosthetics and orthotics. He brought together his passion for soccer with his career work to become a driving force for the growth of amputee soccer.

“[Amputee soccer] is meant to allow for these people who are living with limb difference and limb loss to play in an environment that lets them excel,” Lamberg said. “When this sport was created, it was formalized and it was more of a recreational piece and a lot of players had trouble making it for a half, but now we’re seeing the endurance level has changed.”

After discussions with her parents and support from her team, Michitti, a native of Vestal, New York, joined the Metro New York Amputee Soccer Team, where she has been training over the past few months.

On April 2, Michitti had the chance to play at Gillette Stadium at halftime of the New England Revolution versus New York Red Bulls game in Foxborough, Massachusetts. Michitti and her team wore the Red Bulls jerseys as they played the New England amputee team.

“When she started talking to [the team] about it, she just lit up,” head women’s soccer coach Mindy Quigg said. “We were just thrilled that she had that opportunity and she went out and competed, represented herself and our program.”

For amputee soccer, the players on the field play with one leg on crutches, while the goalies play with one arm. Although Michitti plays forward in college, she plays goalie for the Metro New York Amputee Soccer Team, tucking her right arm into her jersey.

New England won the game by a score of 3–2. Despite the loss, Michitti said the experience of the game was still positive, being an 18-year-old woman playing with and against adult men.

“I was the only woman on the field, which was awesome,” Michitti said. “I



Freshman Alexia Michitti, a member of the Ithaca College women’s soccer team, was born without her right hand and has played sports throughout her life.

ASH BAILOT/THE ITHACAN

had 35-year-old men shooting at me. Although they have one leg, you would be amazed at how strong their shots are.”

The national team will travel to Turkey to play in the Amputee Football World Cup this fall, but Michitti will not go, having just joined the team in December. Currently, the team is for both men and women, but a new women’s team is being developed, and Michitti plans to be the goalkeeper.

Lamberg said Michitti has been part of the movement spearheading the creation of the women’s national team. He said that as the sport has grown over the past decade, women were not being included to the same degree as men, so it has become more important to start a specific women’s team.

“We need to get our women’s game going and have [made] an effort to find people living with limb loss and get them engaged,” Lamberg said. “[Michitti] sees that there’s a huge opportunity to be a trailblazer and represent her country on a national stage.”

Staurowsky said she is glad Michitti has been able to be an active part of the team and the future growth of the sport. For a figure like that to attend the college makes it even more special for Staurowsky.

“I don’t think there can be anyone who is a better representative and someone who is a better spokeswoman on behalf of women athletes with disabilities than her,” Staurowsky said. “We’re very fortunate to have her as a student to contribute her voice and her sensibility about how to make change.”

Outside of her sport, Michitti works with the Lucky Fin Project, supporting and giving resources to people with limb disabilities. She hopes to inspire others by being herself and showing people that they can push themselves beyond their perceived limitations.

“When you push yourself, you really realize the strength you have had the whole time,” Michitti said.

Michitti said she strives to help end inequalities that are present between athletes with and without disabilities. Although not all athletes with disabilities can be integrated into mainstream sports, she said she knows

the opportunities are there.

“My ultimate goal in life is to break the divide between athletes with and without disabilities, like the Olympics and Paralympics, kind of meshing them together,” Michitti said. “Seeing what’s limiting people from reaching their full potential and get to the level of competing with those who don’t necessarily have a disability.”

Michitti sees herself doing that now in college, playing mostly alongside athletes without disabilities as she always has. One of her biggest challenges in collegiate soccer was strength training. But with the assistance of new prosthetics and strength coaches, she has learned to bench press and do pull-ups — things she could not do before college without the prosthetics.

“She has made tremendous strides in her game and has gotten a lot stronger now that she is able to lift differently than she ever has been,” Quigg said. “It’s making big improvements to her game and it’s exciting to see that progress.”

Quigg said Michitti shows personality and hard work when she is with the team. She takes full advantage of every opportunity and is very focused in everything she does, both on and off the field.

Michitti is enjoying her time at the college, majoring in sport management. Though she is unclear of the exact route she wants to take, she said she wants to be involved at the Olympic and Paralympic level to break some of the divide between athletes with and without disabilities.

“What [amputee soccer] demonstrates is that when people watch this game, it’s not people playing soccer with disabilities, it’s people playing soccer with different ability,” Lamberg said.

Michitti said she is unsure where her career may go, but she plans to continue playing amputee soccer and breaking barriers in the world of sports to become an advocate for others.

“There is no challenge that she has faced that she has not addressed head-on,” Staurowsky said. “[She’s] just been so committed to making life better for other people.”



Michitti was the only woman on the field when she played with the U.S. national amputee team April 2 at Gillette Stadium as part of an exhibition match.

COURTESY OF ALEXIA MICHITTI

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Junior goalie makes the most of opportunity

BY AIDAN CHARDE

For nearly three years, junior Ryan LaForty, goalkeeper for the Ithaca College men's lacrosse team, did not start a game in the net. But after a midseason switch March 2, LaForty got the opportunity he was waiting for.

LaForty filled in for senior goalkeeper Connor Thornton, who started every game in 2021, after Thornton let in 10 goals in the first quarter of a Feb. 26 game against St. John Fisher College. In that game, which was the first time he had seen action since April 2021, LaForty played three quarters and let in just 10 more goals against the No. 7 ranked team in the country.

For head coach Jeff Long, that performance was enough to convince him that LaForty deserved a chance to start, which he did four days later against Lycoming College. Long said the decision to bench Thornton against St. John Fisher was not difficult, given the score, but the coaching staff put more thought into deciding who would take the starting job.

LaForty said it was a good feeling to step back onto the field in February, even if it was not the situation a goalie wants to be in. When he entered the game, the college was down 10–1 after just one frame, so he had work to do to keep the Bombers in the game.

"When you have to put in your backup goalie, your team's not in a very good situation," LaForty said.

"So from that point of view, it was kind of rough that we had to get back in the game, but it was exciting for me to get an opportunity to step on the field and show what I've been working on all these years."

Since then, LaForty has not looked back. The team won seven straight games after the loss to St. John Fisher, and through 14 games so far this season, he has saved more shots than he allowed in in all but four games, with all four being ranked opponents.

LaForty said the win streak helped build his confidence while still getting used to his new role. Though the streak eventually ended in a close game to St. Lawrence University, he said it helped him feel ready for the rest of the season.

"My first start, getting a win was very nice," LaForty said. "Keeping that going for those seven games was a very good feeling, but it was definitely hard to keep it going."

Joe Solomon, an assistant coach for the team who works with the goalkeepers, said the position is hard not just because of the job on the field, but because there can only be one starter. But he said that the players know the business of the sport and that the coaches will make changes in order to field the best possible team.

"There's only one spot, everybody else has three," Solomon said. "It's very competitive. But when it comes to practice or game day, they're very supportive. ... They want each other to do well and,



Junior Ryan LaForty, who has started 12 games at goalie for the Ithaca College men's lacrosse team this season, warms up for a game against Nazareth College on March 23 at Higgins Stadium.

ABBY BRADY/THE ITHACAN

ultimately, whoever plays in the game, they just want the team to do well."

Thornton said he has no hard feelings toward his teammate. He said that losing his spot was a difficult situation to get through, but he is still good friends with LaForty and wants to see him succeed.

"I can't lie, it's not easy," Thornton said. "I've had to mentally reconcile that a lot and just deal with it, and also at the same time be really supportive. At the end of the day, it's a team sport, and I love [LaForty] to death. He's a great kid."

Long credited Thornton and sophomore Charlie Paras, the other two goalkeepers on the roster, for being motivating presences to LaForty. Long said LaForty could have easily been the one in the game to let in 10 goals in one quarter, so he hopes his goalies know either of the backups could take over.

"Without guys breathing down your back, you're going to get very complacent," Long said. "You can't get complacent in goal, or you're not going to be in there much longer."

LaForty and the rest of the team have just one more regular-season game that will decide their playoff fate. The team is currently tied in Liberty League standings with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, so the winner of their matchup April 30 will decide who keeps playing.

Regardless of how many more games the team plays, Long said he has been impressed with how LaForty has played this season.

"I don't think he's had a bad game," Long said. "He sees a lot of shots, makes some really great saves, so I think he's making up for a lot of lost time."

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IC football team sponsors bone marrow drive

BY DANIEL KING

On April 22, several members of the Ithaca College football team walked around the Campus Center and attempted to recruit members of the campus community to get their cheeks swabbed for the Be The Match Bone Marrow Drive hosted by the football program.

Be The Match and the Andy Talley Bone Marrow Foundation partner with football programs around the country to help raise awareness to recruit blood stem cell donors. Having a wide pool of stem cell donations are important because matches for individuals are usually found within their own ethnic group, so the more people that take the swab means the chance of finding a donor goes up. Stem cells are used to help fight cancers and blood-related diseases. If a person is a match, bone marrow will then be taken from them and then given to the person in need of this form of treatment.

The event took place in the Emerson Suites and was run by a rotating shift of players over the course of four hours. Over 80 of the 137 players on Ithaca's roster attended and swabbed themselves for the cause. The last time the program hosted a bone marrow registry event was in 2019, before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to that, the football program held this event annually, dating back to April 2011.

"Our players understood the gravity and the power of something like this, how it can affect someone even if you just don't know who it's going to be," head coach Michael Toerper said. "But somebody's going to have a direct effect on someone else's life. You really can't ask for a better opportunity, as a citizen, as a human being."

Toerper, who the college announced as the team's new head coach Feb. 18, first experienced Be The Match when he was a coach at John Hopkins University, where he registered himself for the bone marrow registry. Ithaca College also hosted the event during his stint as defensive coordinator from 2017 to 2019.

"It's gonna be very rare for you actually to be a match," Toerper said. "But if you are, what an opportunity for you and for that person. In your life, you really can't ask for a better opportunity, as a human being."

Now two years removed from its last event, the team was excited to once again work with the organization. Mike Hatcher, who was promoted to be the team's associate head coach for the 2022 season April 21, said the event has been in the planning process since earlier this year.

"They contacted us in February about setting up an event later in the spring, and we were able to lock that date and that time in," Hatcher said. "From there begin the process of informing and educating our players what the foundation is."

Junior defensive back Mikey Porter was one of the members of the foot patrol team that helped raise awareness for the event by walking around the Campus Center and talking with individuals about the event taking place. Porter said the team was excited to help run this event and possibly make a difference in the life of someone they may never even meet.

"We're here to play football, but we're also here to make a difference on campus and in our community," Porter said. "That's what it's all about."

Around the noon rush, the event started to receive an influx of people. Attendees



Michael Toerper, head coach of the Ithaca College football team, along with over 80 football players, hosted a bone marrow drive April 22 in the Emerson Suites.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

would scan a QR code to quicken the registration process and quickly swab themselves to ship for testing. One of the attendees, senior Mia Potamianos, knew this procedure, which is so simple for the donor, had the potential to make a huge impact on someone's life if it was a match.

"It feels like an act of good karma," Potamianos said. "It was quick and easy, and I feel good knowing I could be the difference."

Hatcher and Toerper made it a point to explain to their players the importance of being active in the community and being a force of good.

"This is an opportunity for us to be men of action," Hatcher said. "That's something when Coach Toerper got here. We talked a lot about that with the players and really having this holistic approach to our program where our guys are engaging in community service opportunities, which is one of the premier opportunities to do that."

Sophomore defensive lineman Gio Fabi echoed the statements of his coach, understanding the impact of giving back to the community that gives so much to the program. Though it is only his second season with the team, he acknowledged his position at the college and the need for him and his teammates to be role models to others by holding events like this.

"[The community members] come out and support us every Saturday," Fabi said. "So, I think it's only fair that we support them in any way that we can."

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From front, junior Meg Siergiey and members of Ithaca College’s Defy Dance Company dance during their performance “Flair,” which was held at 8 p.m. April 22 in the Emerson Suites. The company, which was created in Fall 2016, has a repertoire that includes ballet, jazz, hip-hop and contemporary dance routines.

THOMAS KERRIGAN/THE ITHACAN