

IC trustee continues to hold power despite credible abuse allegations

BY ALYSHIA KORBA

Luvelle Brown, superintendent of the Ithaca City School District (ICSD) and member of the Ithaca College Board of Trustees, is facing pressure from the Ithaca community to step down from these positions after allegedly abusing his son and misusing his power as superintendent.

Brown has been superintendent of ICSD since 2011 and has been a member of the college's board of trustees since 2018. His term on the board ends May 31, 2022, but he may be re-elected for up to two additional three-year terms as per the board of trustees' bylaws.

The board of trustees holds immense power at the college. It is responsible for hiring the college's president, approving the college's budget — which includes tuition and fees — monitoring the college's finances, authorizing proposed changes to academic programs and major initiatives, committing to philanthropy at the college, and approving faculty appointment, promotion or tenure policies. Along with making decisions that impact 5,400 students and 646 faculty members at the college, Luvelle Brown also oversees the education of about 5,000 students in the ICSD.

Luvelle Brown did not respond to a request from *The Ithacan* for an interview.

Anjanette Brown, who shares two children with Luvelle Brown and is his ex-wife, having initiated divorce proceedings in 2013, and Peyi Soyinka-Airewele, professor in the Department of Politics at the college, have been working to ensure that Luvelle Brown is held accountable for his alleged abuses and to ensure the privacy and safety of the Browns' school-age children.

Leadership at the college has been made aware of Luvelle Brown's alleged abuses, yet he has remained in his position. This is indicative of a pattern of overlooking allegations of abuse leveled against high-level members of the college's administration.

In 2001, former President Shirley M. Collado pleaded no contest to a sexual abuse charge after a patient whom she had been living with while she was their therapist accused her of



Since December 2020, current and former members of the Ithaca College administration have been aware of abuse allegations against Luvelle Brown, a member of the board of trustees.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRENDAN IANNUCCI AND MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN

sexual abuse. Collado has denied having any sexual contact with the patient. The board of trustees and the Presidential Search Committee were aware of the accusations against Collado and her no-contest plea when they appointed her to the presidency.

Collado served as president from February 2017 to August 2021, when she resigned. Collado stayed at the college until January 2022 to serve as senior

“

Childhood is such a protected space of life, and that space of life goes with you for the rest of your life.

-Anjanette Brown

”

adviser to the president and board. She then left to become president and CEO of College Track, an organization that helps students who face systemic barriers earn bachelor's degrees. After *The Ithacan* published an article surrounding Collado's

no-contest plea in 2018, many members of the campus community voiced their support for Collado.

Luvelle Brown was elected to the board during Collado's tenure. Soyinka-Airewele and Anjanette Brown reached out to Collado to make her aware of the allegations leveled against Luvelle Brown on Dec. 7, 2020. Collado responded to Soyinka-Airewele and Anjanette Brown, but Luvelle Brown remained in his position. Collado did not respond to a request for comment.

Additionally, Ithaca College President La Jerne Cornish declined to comment.

Child Abuse Allegations

In February 2020, Child Protective Services (CPS) began an investigation regarding a physical injury that Luvelle Brown's 8-year-old son sustained Feb. 23, 2020, which included several bruises and pain in the throat.

The injuries occurred after a church service when Luvelle Brown was picking up his two children from Anjanette Brown at the Shops at Ithaca Mall. Security camera footage obtained by *The Ithacan* shows both children as being reluctant to go with him, and when his son attempts to run back to Anjanette Brown, Luvelle Brown grabs the boy and struggles with

him for a moment before carrying him out to the car. Luvelle Brown then uses the boy's body to push open two sets of doors. The Cayuga Medical Center report of these injuries states, "I asked him how it happened a [sic] told me his father grabbed him and scratched him and squeezed his neck."

The CPS investigation determined the allegations were unfounded, but Anjanette Brown said this is because of unethical actions on the part of Luvelle Brown and CPS. Anjanette Brown claims the social worker investigating the case was instructed by superiors to inform Luvelle Brown of the investigation before speaking to the children. Sources in the school, including Principal Liddy Coyle, told Anjanette Brown that Luvelle Brown pulled the children from the classroom to talk to them before they were interviewed by CPS. According to a recorded conversation between Anjanette Brown and her son that was obtained by *The Ithacan*, the son tells Anjanette Brown that in this conversation with Luvelle, he first reminded the child of the toys he bought him the day of the alleged physical assault and then told him that people were spreading lies

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ICC changes to take effect

BY CAROLINE GRASS

After five years of reviewing Ithaca College's Integrative Core Curriculum (ICC), the college has decided that it will be implementing changes in an attempt to address student and faculty concerns and streamline the ICC.

Students who are enrolled for Fall 2022 and after will no longer have to pick an ICC theme, create an electronic portfolio (e-portfolio) or complete Complementary Liberal Arts coursework (CLA) through the ICC. Current students — the Class of 2022 through 2025 — will still have their theme, an e-portfolio and CLA coursework, as changes to curriculum cannot be made retroactively. However, accommodations and reductions to requirements have been made for current students to ease the process.

The college created the ICC in 2013 because it did not offer students general education requirements. Susan Adams Delaney, director of the ICC and associate professor in the Department of Writing, said the ICC was formed so students could make connections across schools rather than studying in only

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IC abandons health survey

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

Starting Monday, April 11, Ithaca College students will no longer have to fill out daily COVID-19 health screenings and show their IC Health Badge.

Samm Swarts, assistant director for Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Department of Public Safety and Emergency Management, announced the changes to the college's COVID-19 policy in an April 4 email to the campus community. Previously, the college required students to use the badges to enter spaces on campus like the dining halls.

In the email, Swarts attributed the community's public health practices to the college's low case numbers. The health badges are another example of the college scaling back on safety protocols. The indoor mask mandate ended March 4 for all students regardless of vaccination status.

"Your dedication to responsible actions, diligent use of testing, and making good public health practices a priority has played a huge part in helping us maintain low incidence of COVID-19 within our IC community," Swarts said in the email.

Currently, the college is at a "Green: Lower Risk" COVID-19 operating status.

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A CAPELLA GROUP COMMEMORATES 25 YEARS AT IC



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LUELLE BROWN MUST RESIGN FROM POSITIONS



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ULTIMATE FRISBEE TEAMS FLY INTO NATIONAL RANKS

Visiting professor presents on abuse

BY OLIVIA STANZL

The Department of Politics hosted a presentation April 4 to bring awareness to abuse found in faith-based higher education in Africa, specifically Nigeria.

Lady Ajayi, visiting assistant professor in the Department of Politics and a 2021–22 American Association of University Women International Fellow, created the presentation on research around faith-based abuse in Nigeria.

1-in-3 women globally will experience sexual or physical violence from an intimate partner or sexual violence from a non-partner, according to a 2021 World Health Organization study.

“Daily, there have been several stories of abuse and death in the media,” Ajayi said. “Numerous studies have examined the underlying causes of high rates of violence against women and girls, and one of the factors that has stood out for

me in most of the findings is the role of religion and faith.”

Ajayi said that for decades cases of sexual violence have been linked to the Catholic Church, not only in Nigeria, but all over the world.

“I discovered that these institutions provide a controlling cultural and patriarchal framework that influences students, faculty and staff,” Ajayi said.

Ajayi said social media has been a great tool to unite survivors of sexual assault and violence all across the world.

“The #MeToo Movement spread like wildfire globally,” Ajayi said. “It showed victims and survivors of sexual abuse ... how the social media platform could serve as a safe space.”

After the presentation audience members were invited to ask questions. Peyi Soyinka-Airewele, professor in the Department of Politics, said social media can also be used against survivors.



Lady Ajayi, visiting assistant professor in the Department of Politics and a 2021–22 American Association of University Women International Fellow, held a presentation on religious abuse April 4.

MAGGIE BRYAN/THE ITHACAN

“At the same time, we see this pushback, very often there’s this mobilization by many of the ... institutions,” Soyinka-Airewele said. “And so when somebody speaks up, there’s an intensity of a very vicious cancel culture that comes against the individual.”

Ajayi said male dominance is an intersection found within faith, power and abuse.

“Patriarchy finds its expression in faith and religion, where there are deeply-rooted theological constructs of religious ... and supreme beings as males,” Ajayi said.

Sumru Atuk, assistant professor in the Department of Politics, said during discussions on violence people often conclude that religion is the motivation behind the violence.

“What I find is if you use religion and gender-based violence in the same sentence, then ... they conclude that it’s just only really religious and [that] institutions and structural issues have nothing to do with that [the violence,” Atuk said.

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Ithacappella Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Ithacappella, Ithaca College’s only all-male identifying a capella group, held its 25th Anniversary Concert April 1 in the Emerson Suites.



‘Re:Mixing’ - “Mysteries and High Places”

In this episode of Re:Mixing, host Eva Salzman sits down with Luke Keller, professor of physics and astronomy at Ithaca College.

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Corrections

Correction: In the previous issue of *The Ithacan*, an article titled “Resolution seeks sovereignty for local Gayogqohó:’no’ Nation” and editorial titled, “Ithaca College must uplift Indigenous Sovereignty”, stated that members of the Gayogqohó:’no’ Nation worked with allies to draft the resolution. The allies created the resolution in alignment with the Gayogqohó:’no’ citizens. Additionally, a previous version of the article stated that the resolution aimed to restore the Gayogqohó:’no’ Nation’s sovereignty. Rather, it aims for the government to recognize the nation’s sovereignty. The correction has been made to the online publication of the article.

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IC reacts to Supreme Court pick

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

With Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson on the verge of becoming the first Black woman and public defender on the Supreme Court, law students and civil rights groups at Ithaca College are watching closely as the historic nomination is underway.

After former Justice Stephen Breyer announced his resignation in February, President Joe Biden announced Jackson as the nominee that would fill Breyer's place. If confirmed, Jackson will be on a court that has a 6–3 lean in favor of conservatives despite Americans supporting progressive legislation. The hearings for Jackson's appointment began March 21 and the vote to confirm her will be sometime in mid-April.

Senior Alyssa Spady is a journalism major with minors in politics and legal studies. Spady said she is pleased that Biden kept his campaign promise to nominate a Black woman to the Supreme Court.

"I love it," Spady said. "It's nice to see him follow through on one of those campaign promises that he made. She's one of the most qualified, if not the most qualified, Supreme Court Justice that we've ever had."

Brown Jackson is a graduate of Harvard University and Harvard Law School who clerked for Breyer when he was on the Supreme Court. While at Harvard, Brown Jackson was a supervising editor of the



Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is President Joe Biden's first Supreme Court pick. If confirmed, she would be the first Black woman and public defendant to serve on the Supreme Court.

YURI GRIPAS/ABACA PRESS/TNS

Harvard Law Review. Jackson was also a public defender — lawyers who are appointed by the government to defend those who cannot afford a lawyer — for 2 1/2 years.

IC Strike is a student organization on campus that focuses on educating others and activism surrounding sexual assault and violence. Title IX, which prohibits sex-based discrimination, is one of the most important pieces of civil rights legislation for IC Strike.

Sophomore Krista Sullivan is the communication coordinator for IC Strike and said the group hopes that Brown Jackson will be a defender of Title IX if it were

to come to the Supreme Court.

"I'm also hoping, since she is a Black woman, she's going to be a good representation for Black women who are victims of sexual assault because they're often overlooked," Sullivan said.

Freshman Camden Olson is a legal studies major who said Brown Jackson's history as a public defender and spoken support for civil rights makes her a historic nomination.

"She has an undeniable depth of experience in the legal system," Olson said. "She has a really good understanding of the law. What is really interesting about her is that she is the first public defender who would be

on the Supreme Court."

Spady noted the significance of Jackson's nomination has for bringing women of color into the justice system. Black women and Latinas make up less than 1% of partners at U.S. law firms.

"[During the confirmation hearings,] her daughters were sitting behind her," Spady said. "Seeing the overall happiness and proud feelings that they had toward their mom for being in that position, and the fact that it's a Black woman in that position — there's really no words to describe it."

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CAPS services offered abroad

BY ELEANOR KAY

After Ithaca College reopened its study abroad programs, 150 students are studying abroad around the world in Spring 2022. The Let's Talk program in the Center for Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) has helped students transition to their new environments.

Let's Talk is a drop-in consultation service that allows students to meet with a CAPS counselor for an informal and confidential session. Let's Talk has had more student usage since CAPS began offering virtual services at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, there have been 116 Let's Talk requests with 24 of those being from students who are studying abroad, said Ron Dow, a social worker with CAPS and Let's Talk coordinator.

CAPS is not allowed to offer counseling services to students outside of states that the counselors are licensed in. During the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, some state licensing laws allowed for exceptions to the normal state restrictions, which allowed CAPS to offer telehealth services to students in some states.

Let's Talk was rolled out to the college community in Spring 2019. Dow said he has also focused on streamlining the Let's Talk process to remove any obstacles students might face.

"We've seen a decrease in students seeking traditional counseling services," Dow said. "We're continuing to focus on what the barriers are, what are ways that we can either minimize or eliminate certain barriers to allow people to talk. When someone fills out the form [for Let's Talk] — which takes about 30 to 40 seconds — they could be talking to someone within a couple minutes."

CAPS director Brian Petersen has been working with the Let's Talk program since he first arrived at the college in Fall 2019.

"Part of the goal of Let's Talk was to invite students into a space where they didn't have the stigma or expectations or weight of counseling," Petersen said.

Junior Mandy Myers started regular virtual counseling sessions with CAPS in Spring 2021. Myers is currently studying abroad in Barcelona, Spain, and has used Let's Talk as a way to help her transition to life abroad.

"It was really difficult to reestablish a support system and the transition wasn't immediate," Myers said. "It's also an ongoing transition, not a one and done situation."

Junior Julia DiGeronimo is studying in Ireland and was able to set up consultation times with her counselor from CAPS while she has been studying abroad.

"For me, at least, I wasn't aware of my options abroad; I didn't know what Let's Talk was and I didn't know that I'd be able to talk to other counselors abroad," DiGeronimo said.

DiGeronimo said she almost did not go abroad because she was very anxious about moving overseas and transitioning to a new lifestyle. The month prior to her departure, she and her counselor discussed how she was going to handle her new environment.

Petersen hopes to continue to set up more resources for students who are studying abroad.

"I don't think people realize how mentally draining going abroad is," DiGeronimo said. "I thought I was the only one that was having an awful time for a little while, but I know my other friends were having trouble adapting too and I think using CAPS would be a really good way to make that transition easier."

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Kosher Korner gains halal certification

BY LORIEN TYNE

Muslim students at Ithaca College who practice Islamic law and eat halal now have access to halal-certified food after years of having to make do with whatever campus dining served.

Halal is an Arabic word that translates to "permissible" in Islam. In terms of food, halal is the dietary standard outlined in the Shari'ah, or Islamic law. Having certified halal food on campus has been a multi-year process and a collaborative effort between members of the campus community as well as some exterior organizations like Star K, the college's kosher provider, and Etimad Halal, which is the agency that certified the Kosher Korner.

The halal certification ensures that the food will be made strictly in one designated kitchen. Everything from the kitchen will be also labeled halal and can be guaranteed that it follows the dietary restrictions associated with Islamic law. Kosher and halal food is made and served out of the kitchen in Terrace Dining Hall. Food from the kitchen is also labeled and put into retail locations and in the fridge in Campus Center Dining Hall.

Senior Kinza Ceesay is the president of the Muslim Student Association (MSA) and had a hand in the final preparations of the halal certification.

"We are a small population, but we are getting the representation and accommodations that we need on campus," Ceesay said. "It just shows how much they care and how much they're putting in the work to make sure that every single student on campus counts. And that personally meant a



Kosher and halal food is made from the kitchen in Terrace Dining Hall. The food is labeled and put into retail locations and in the Campus Center Dining Hall fridge.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

lot to me."

Samah Choudhury, assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion, is the new adviser for MSA.

"For Muslim students at Ithaca College, this is particularly meaningful because for so long these types of accommodations just weren't there," Choudhury said. "People who are already minoritized frequently don't feel they can ask for things on top of what is already available to them."

As part of the certification and improvements to dining, the college has invested in boneless, skinless, halal-certified chicken that can be found in campus locations like Terrace Dining Hall, Campus Center Dining

Hall, Towers Marketplace, Ithaca Bakery and the Food Court.

Lauren Goldberg, interim director for the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, said her predecessor, Hieraal Osorto, was a big part of starting this initiative.

"One of the pillars of the strategic plan that we're in the middle of implementing is a real focus on diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives," Goldberg said. "And this is a perfect example of what we would call living into those values through these structural changes ... the campus is making."

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about him. The children were interviewed by CPS in the principal’s office and they did not disclose anything about the physical abuse, but during a second interview outside of school, they told the same social worker that Luvelle Brown had inflicted the injuries on the son. Soyinka-Airewele said she was at the church with Anjanette Brown and others when the alleged physical assault occurred, and she witnessed the struggle to get the kids to leave with Luvelle Brown. Despite this, nobody from the group, including Soyinka-Airewele, was interviewed by CPS, and the case was dismissed.

Following the alleged incident of physical abuse against the son, a judge ordered Luvelle Brown to not contact his children at school in any manner outside of his role as superintendent. Despite this, Caren Arnold — who was the boy’s teacher at the time — said Luvelle Brown entered his classroom Feb. 28, 2020, five days after the alleged physical assault, to give his son a bag of candy, which was in violation of the court order. This caused emotional distress for the boy, who then attempted to hide, according to a recorded conversation between Anjanette Brown and Arnold.

Emails obtained by *The Ithacan* between Anjanette Brown and the children’s court-appointed law guardian show that Coyle was aware of the court order. However, in her February 2021 affidavit, Coyle claims that she was not informed of the directive.

Furthermore, texts and phone conversations between Coyle and Anjanette Brown show that Coyle supported Anjanette Brown and leveled a harsh critique of Luvelle Brown and the ICSD Board of Education. After Luvelle Brown announced that he planned to step down as superintendent, Coyle and Anjanette Brown had the following text conversation Jan. 12, 2021:

“And the board has to be accountable,” Anjanette Brown said in her message. “Our community kids can’t continue to suffer this. I am just shocked.”

“I don’t know if that will ever happen but they all need to resign,” Coyle said in her message.

“I agree but it happened and thank you for having my back!!!!!!” Anjanette said.

“Yes indeed,” Coyle said. “YOU made this happen thank you!”

However, in Coyle’s Feb. 10, 2021 affidavit, which was obtained by *The Ithacan*, Coyle denied having knowledge of several issues that she had spoken about with Anjanette Brown. It is unclear what may have happened to cause Coyle to backtrack and deny knowledge of these issues, but she had previously acknowledged in conversations with Soyinka-Airewele that she may face consequences like losing her job for supporting Anjanette Brown.

Coyle declined to comment.

Anjanette Brown also said her son received minimal assistance in his education despite doctors recommending that he

receive additional services, and as a result he did not show progress in improving his skills and his performance in school. She said Luvelle Brown specifically refused to have an Individualized Education Program implemented despite a doctor’s recommendations, according to a recorded conversation between Anjanette and Luvelle Brown and the son’s doctor obtained by *The Ithacan*. Luvelle Brown allowed his son’s teachers to let him use voice-to-text devices instead of encouraging him to practice writing, which was one of his primary challenges academically. Anjanette Brown said this was one of the reasons why she had her children transfer to a local private school. Her son has shown significant progress in his education now that he has adequate resources like an occupational therapist.

“When I changed the kids’ school, they were just so happy,” Anjanette Brown said. “They had such a hard time at ICSD and both of my kids said, ‘We just get to be ourselves here, it doesn’t matter who we are.’ That coming out of their mouth was so good to hear.”

Anjanette Brown also said she was kept out of meetings regarding her children’s education, and Deputy Superintendent Lily Talcott, along with other school staff, prevented her from picking up her children from school despite having joint custody at the time. While Luvelle Brown had final decision-making authority regarding the children’s education, during this time as per the custody agreement, Anjanette Brown maintained the right to be involved in the children’s education including access to all meetings. Coyle informed Anjanette Brown that she was instructed to keep her out of meetings regarding her children’s education, Anjanette Brown said. Coyle told this to Anjanette Brown before her affidavit was released, but she denies this in the affidavit.

Unethical Business Practices

Anjanette Brown also accused Luvelle Brown of making an unethical decision in hiring Erica Keuffer as his administrative assistant in 2015 because she was the paralegal for the law guardian appointed to advocate for their children during their divorce process. Keuffer was still in this position when she applied for the job at ICSD. Keuffer admitted in her deposition to having a romantic relationship with Luvelle beginning two months after she was hired at ICSD, and she claimed she and Luvelle Brown never discussed his children’s custody case. She also recalls interacting with Luvelle Brown during her time as a paralegal, but Luvelle Brown states in his affidavit that he had never spoken to Keuffer before she was interviewed for the job at ICSD.

ICSD Board of Education dismissed the petition Dec. 24, 2020, writing, “Following a thorough review, the Board of Education has determined that these concerns relate to an ongoing family dispute between you and your former husband and are therefore outside of the Board of Education’s purview.”

Sean Eversley Bradwell, assistant



Luvelle Brown, Ithaca College trustee and superintendent for the Ithaca City School District, remains in power despite facing credible allegations of abuse.

PHOTO BY CASEY MARTIN/COURTESY OF ITHACA TIMES

professor in the Department of Education at the college and vice president of the ICSD Board of Education, was involved in the dismissal of this petition. Eversley Bradwell did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Anjanette Brown then appealed to the New York State Education Department (NYSED) on Jan. 31, 2021 with the same complaints. The NYSED did not review the complaints against Luvelle Brown or the appeal to have him and others removed from their position because the petition was not served within 30 days of the acts complained of. This is required in compliance with Section 275.16 of NYSED’s Regulations of the Commissioner.

Anjanette Brown has been representing herself in this matter with the help of Soyinka-Airewele and she said this has made it difficult for her to be successful in her petitions. Two pro-bono lawyers have attempted to help with the case, but Anjanette Brown said it was difficult to coordinate their schedules and is not able to afford a lawyer. She has also faced resistance from the ICSD Board of Education, with Robert Ainslie, president of the board of education, refusing to accept the service of official documents. A video shows him throwing the documents in the snow.

Luvelle Brown and the ICSD Board of Education also ignored a cease-and-desist from Soyinka-Airewele and Anjanette Brown after Lily Talcott, deputy superintendent of ICSD, released personal information about Brown’s children in her affidavit, which is publicly available. This included photos of the children and information about the children’s behavior at school. This is not a violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) because these are not educational records, and they were released as part of a court proceeding. However, this personal information about both children is now publicly available despite Anjanette Brown’s objection.

Community Concerns

Activism organizations at the college like the Open the Books coalition and IC Alumni Against Austerity have been working with Anjanette Brown and Soyinka-Airewele to make the college community aware of Luvelle Brown’s alleged abuse and to demand his resignation. A petition created in February 2022 by IC Alumni Against Austerity is demanding for Luvelle Brown to step down. It has received 268 signatures as of April 6.

When *The Ithacan* reached out to the board of trustees for a comment regarding the allegations against Luvelle Brown, Dave Lissy ’87, chair of the board of trustees, said the board does not comment on personal matters. In a town hall with the chairs of the board held in February 2022, Lissy said he cannot comment on Brown when asked about the allegations.

“As I stated when asked about this in the open conversation with the campus community held on February 14, the board is aware that allegations have been made regarding

private family and personal matters, but we don’t comment on family and personal matters,” Lissy said via email.

However, the NYSED determined that the issue is not solely a personal matter. This was said in its decision regarding the ICSD Board of Education’s response to complaints filed against Luvelle Brown.

“I acknowledge, as petitioner asserts, that respondent board’s characterization of her complaints as ‘relat[ing] to an ongoing family dispute’ improperly minimizes the nature and extent of her allegations,” the decision states.

On Jan. 5, 2021, Soyinka-Airewele sent a letter to Betty Rosa, New York state Commissioner of Education, which detailed the allegations of abuse leveled against Luvelle Brown and expressed concern about the ICSD Board of Education’s refusal to conduct an investigation into the accusations that have been made about Luvelle Brown’s conduct.

Shortly after, Luvelle Brown announced his intentions to step down as superintendent in order to serve as head of diversity, equity and inclusion for Discovery Education. Luvelle Brown said that his resignation had nothing to do with the letter and that his resignation had been in the works for about a year. Later in January, Luvelle Brown reversed his decision to step down and said he will remain as superintendent indefinitely.

In January, Eversley Bradwell told the Ithaca Times that the ICSD Board of Education had conducted an investigation but found that many of the claims were not of merit or that they were out of the influence of the school district.

In February 2021, 121 Ithaca community members signed a letter to Robert Ainslie, president of the ICSD Board of Education, outlining Luvelle Brown’s alleged abuses and demanded an investigation into both Luvelle Brown and the ICSD Board of Education.

Despite this, Luvelle Brown has been praised for his work as superintendent. He has received the Dr. Effie H. Jones Humanitarian Award from the School Superintendents Association. This award honors superintendents who are committed to creating an equitable educational environment for vulnerable children and to the advancement of women and minorities in leadership. Effie H. Jones, for whom the award was named after, created spaces where the differing needs of children could be addressed.

On top of caring for her children and working on these petitions, Anjanette Brown said she has tried to make sure that her children do not know about these proceedings and the dispute between their parents.

“Childhood is such a protected space of life, and that space of life goes with you for the rest of your life,” Anjanette Brown said. “As a mental health counselor, I see it all the time with clients, so I really wanted to be careful to not bring that into them.”



From left, David Lissy, chair of the Ithaca College Board of Trustees; President La Jerne Cornish and James Nolan, vice chair of the board attend a March 7 event.

ASH BAILOTT/THE ITHACAN

Council discusses bylaw changes

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO

At the April 5 Ithaca College Faculty Council meeting, members of the council discussed the structure of shared governance, the college’s bylaws and representation of faculty on the council with Emily Rockett, the college counsel in the Division of Legal Affairs.

While the faculty council makes its recommendations on college policy to the provost and vice president for Educational Affairs, the Ithaca College Board of Trustees is the chief legal entity of the college. This means that amendments to the Ithaca College Policy Manual — including Volume IV, the Faculty Handbook — must go through the board of trustees.

During the meeting’s discussion of shared governance, professor and chair in the Department of Mathematics, Thomas Pfaff, professor and chair in the Department of Mathematics, voiced support for bylaw preambles to set expectations for shared governance.

“I personally think it’s important for us to state expectations somewhere quasi-official where people can point and say ‘We voted on it and it is what we think of as expectations’ [for shared governance],” Pfaff said.

In recent years, shared governance has been an important part of discussions about how the college’s administration conducts business with the faculty.



Picture taken in 2017. At the April 5 Ithaca College Faculty Council meeting, council members discussed issues like shared governance, the college’s bylaws and faculty representation.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

Rockett responded to Pfaff by saying there is nothing that would prevent the implementation of a preamble, but the idea would not be an effective method at achieving the goal.

“It’s not prohibited but it does go to the question of what bylaws are for,” Rockett said. “In my opinion, it wouldn’t be effective and it wouldn’t really do anything, but I suppose it’s not prohibited.”

Rockett said if members of the Faculty Council want to change the scope of what shared

governance means, that would mean changing the bylaws of the institution. This means a faculty member wishing to change bylaws would have to bring their recommendation to the board of trustees, which is the governing body of the college and can change bylaws.

Pfaff said one of the problems with this is that the board of trustees can then decide to ignore faculty voices by simply refusing to listen or consider faculty recommendations.

“One of the fundamental

problems we have is [that] the administration could ignore our bylaws without any consequences,” Pfaff said. “If they don’t feel like coming to a recommendation, they don’t have to. That’s part of the problem — in some sense, the faculty really don’t have any power here. If the administration wants to ignore bylaws, they can just simply ignore bylaws because there are no consequences.”

CONTACT ELIJAH DE CASTRO
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Izzy awards announced

BY LORIEN TYNE

Ithaca College’s Park Center for Independent Media has announced its 2022 Izzy Award winners including journalists Greg B. Smith and Jenni Monet, in company with publications the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), Better Government Association (BGA) and Block Club Chicago (BCC).

The Izzy’s are awarded for outstanding achievement in independent media and are given to journalists and independent news outlets across the country. The awards ceremony will be held at the end of April to recognize the work of the winners. The Izzy Award is named after I. F. “Izzy” Stone, who exposed government deception, racial bigotry and McCarthyism in 1953 in I. F. Stone’s Weekly.

Smith uncovered that 5,000 public housing apartments in New York City contained lead paint despite being cleared of contamination. This investigation was published by THE CITY, a nonprofit newsroom based in the city, and exposed the city’s failure to ensure the wellbeing of its residents.

Jenni Monet reports on the history of violence and injustice against Native Americans for Indigenously.

Monet has a newsletter that addresses issues like the disproportionate deaths and disappearances of Native women that larger media fails to address as a constant experience for the community.

ICIJ investigated the systems allowing the upper class to dodge taxes, specifically exposing tax havens within the United States.

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FROM ICC, PAGE 1

one area.

“Creating [those] opportunities for students to practice [integrative learning and reflection] explicitly and work on it is so important to what we do,” Adams Delaney said.

The Provost’s Task Force on ICC Revision was a 19-member committee that included members of the college’s staff, faculty and students. The task force reviewed, evaluated and developed proposals for the changes to the ICC.

David Gondek, associate professor in the college’s Department of Biology, who was a member of the task force, said he got involved with the ICC when he taught a capstone class in 2017 with the first class of students who had the ICC during all four years of their undergraduate education.

“They [the students] had a lot of really good feedback,” Gondek said. “I was like, ‘We should try to implement that feedback.’ ... It took five years from that point to implement that and sort of bring together different teams of people in order to make new things happen.”

There are currently six themes in the ICC that are offered to students. These themes mean students are required to take classes in four different perspectives within the chosen theme: creative arts, humanities, natural sciences and social sciences.

Starting in Fall 2022, incoming freshmen will no longer have

to choose one theme to complete their four perspectives under. The themes will still exist if students want to follow them, but Gondek said student and faculty surveys found that students were experiencing frustration by the college’s limitations of having to choose one.

“What [will] change is some of the structural requirements,” Gondek said. “The program was unbalanced, and it was structurally unbalanced from the very beginning.”

A department can now determine if it wants itself to align with a perspective. This means majoring in a program could count for one out of the four perspectives, which would require students to take classes in just three perspectives.

Students who still have a theme can fill out a Petition for ICC Designation Exception to make a class outside of their theme count for their ICC perspectives requirements before or after they take the course. Adams Delaney said previously students would have to email her to request exceptions, but the form is more convenient.

Sophomore Jude Butler said they did not know that the form was available.

“I’ve had classes that I feel could fit under Identities, but it’s under Mind, Body, Spirit or something like that,” Butler said. “And I want to take it [the class] but I don’t have room for it. I think it’s [ICC] good to have students get a well-rounded approach to their academics, but I



From left, faculty members Dave Brown and Tatiana Patrone as well as Stacia Zabusky, senior associate dean for curriculum and undergraduate programs, were members of the ICC task force in 2019.

CHLOE GIBSON/THE ITHACAN

think there’s probably a better way to do that.”

The ICC requires that students take 12 additional credits of CLA coursework. While these will still be required for current students, they will no longer be a requirement for incoming students.

Gondek said these specific classes could be completed through a second major or minor and some majors already had outside coursework that was built into the major’s requirements.

“If you’re in some of the professional schools, [CLA coursework] is actually built into the major and they told you, ‘you’re going to take these four courses,’” Gondek said. “That was less exploratory and more dictating, so it defeated the

purpose of doing the CLA. So that’s partly why the CLA went away, because four out of five schools didn’t embrace it and what the intent was there.”

The e-portfolio used to require an artifact and reflection from every ICC class. Now, current rising sophomores to graduating seniors just need an artifact and reflection for the CLA and Capstone requirements. Adams Delaney said making sure students have a space for reflection will be an important method to help embed into curriculums for incoming students.

Gondek said less than 30% of faculty were offering any commentary or help with the e-portfolio.

“Students didn’t do it, and they would wait until senior

year to get their capstone or worse and not realize that this is a graduation requirement and then have to reach back to find artifacts over those four years,” Gondek said.

Senior Leo Baumbach said the e-portfolio doesn’t make sense to him because he feels he has already documented and reflected on his learning during classes.

“I don’t know why it needs to be a documented thing,” Baumbach said. “I don’t know why I have to prove that I’ve learned things except to a professor, [which I already] proved in the class that I’ve passed.”

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COLLEGE BRIEFS

College measures interest in trip to NYC during Cortaca Jug 2022

Ithaca College has released a survey in an effort to measure student interest in a trip to New York City centered around the 2022 Cortaca Jug game at Yankee Stadium. Survey responses will be collected up until April 15. The results of the survey will determine if the Cortaca 2022 Planning Committee will move forward with planning this sponsored weekend trip. The survey has eight questions to find what activities interested students would like to have included in the trip. The questions will also help determine a realistic price point that would make the trip affordable. The link to the survey can be found on Intercom or on the social media accounts of the planning committee.

Professor holds vocal workshop to teach vocal impression basics

The Center for Faculty Excellence hosts many trainings and workshops for faculty. Kathleen Mulligan, professor in the Department of Theatre Arts, is facilitating a short workshop to teach the basics of healthy vocal production, including breath support, tonal focus and optimal pitch. The workshop will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. April 19 in 316 Gannett Hall. The workshop is designed to improve attendee’s vocal impressions, which have a lasting effect on interactions with others. A positive vocal image can also build self-confidence and reduce fatigue. Those with questions or accommodation requests regarding this event are asked to contact cfe@ithaca.edu.

Events raise assault awareness with education and discussions

April is sexual assault awareness month. The college’s Sexual Violence Prevention Committee (SVPC) has planned events and programs during this time to educate and raise awareness on sexual violence. So far, two events have been held: a community art project and a Q&A discussion with Jen Huemmer, assistant professor in the Department of Strategic Communication and creator of the “Good Girls Don’t Tell” documentary. The Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management is hosting a learning

session about the Rave Guardian app on April 11 and again April 25. The app provides campus community members with many on-campus and off-campus support services and resources. The training will help attendees to learn how to operate the Rave Guardian app. Elyse Nepa can be contacted with any questions or requests for accommodations at enepa@ithaca.edu. During lunch April 12 SVPC will host a showing of the documentary “Miss Representation” as well as a discussion afterward on the movie’s content. This documentary explores the underrepresentation of women in positions of power and influence in America. The documentary challenges the media’s portrayal of powerful women. Individuals with any questions or requests for accommodations for this event can contact svpc@ithaca.edu.

Bassist and pianist to come to IC as part of residency opportunity

The Angela and William Haines Young Concert Artists Residency supports the college’s in-residence teaching opportunities for the School of Music with recital performances, master classes, lectures, coaching, mentoring and feedback sessions. As part of this residency, the college is hosting celebrated double bass player Xavier Foley, accompanied by Kelly Lin on piano. This performance is free and open to the public. The concert is scheduled to begin at 8:15 p.m. April 6 in the Hockett Family Recital Hall of the James J. Whalen Center for Music. Masks will be required in the concert hall. Foley plans to play several of his own works as well as pieces by Bach, Bottesini and Vivaldi. For his music compositions, Foley was co-commissioned by Carnegie Hall and the Sphinx Organization for a new work titled “For Justice and Peace,” which was recently performed at venues including Carnegie Hall as part of a program intended to promote social justice. Lin is a collaborative pianist who has made regular appearances in New York at Carnegie Hall. Among many other accomplishments, Lin has served on the jury of the Steinway Society Competition and has been staff accompanist at Rutgers



Hypnotist event mesmerizes IC students

Noah Sonie, a magician, mentalist and hypnotist, entertained a crowd of Ithaca College students at 8 p.m. April 5 in the Emerson Suites. Sonie gathered students to come up on stage, where they were enchanted by his mystifying skills.

ATTICUS RUBOTTOM/THE ITHACAN

University. She is a pianist at the Juilliard School, the New School, Manhattan School of Music and Columbia University.

Student board members needed for the Student Conduct Board

The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards is seeking student board members for the 2022–23 academic year. The student board member role is a one-year volunteer position. Selected students will take turns sitting in on hearing boards composed of faculty and staff board members. During the hearings, cases of alleged academic and non-academic misconduct will be reviewed. Board members are notified beforehand of when hearings are to take place and can participate based on individual availability. Typically, a student board member serves

1–3 times per semester. Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards at 607-274-3375 or email conduct@ithaca.edu.

College offers summer internship to work for progressive media

The Park Center for Independent Media has a summer internship program that gives students the opportunity to work at some of the best independent and progressive media institutions and advocacy nonprofits in the country. In past summers, students have worked at organizations like FAIR, Democracy Now! and Mother Jones. The college awards financial stipends of up to \$3,000 to help offset any costs that may come up during the internship, like food or transportation.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM MARCH 21 TO MARCH 27

MARCH 21
MEDICAL ASSIST/ INJURY
LOCATION: 98 Flora Brown Drive
SUMMARY: Tompkins County dispatch advised a person with severe leg cramps. Officer reported that the person declined medical assistance from ambulance staff. Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded.

MARCH 22
SCC UNDERAGE POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL
LOCATION: 416 Grant Egbert Blvd.
SUMMARY: The Office of Student Conduct reported that two people were referred for underage possession of alcohol. Lieutenant Michael Nelson responded.

MEDICAL ASSIST/ PSYCHOLOGICAL
LOCATION: 132 Grant Egbert Blvd.
SUMMARY: Caller reported receiving alarming text messages that someone wanted to harm themselves. Officer reported the person was taken into custody under New York state’s

Mental Hygiene Law and transported to a hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded.

MARCH 23
SCC DISRUPTIVE NOISE
LOCATION: Flora Brown Drive
SUMMARY: Caller reported receiving a voicemail that contained vulgar language. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded to the call.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT
LOCATION: 150 Lyceum Drive
SUMMARY: Caller reported an event spectator was shoved by another spectator. Officer reported the incident was verbal only. All involved parties were separated, cooperative and did not wish further action. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded.

MARCH 25
MEDICAL ASSIST/ INJURY
LOCATION: 117 Alumni Circle
SUMMARY: Caller reported person passed out and hit their head. Officer reported the person was transported

to the Health Center. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded.

SCC DRUG VIOLATIONS
LOCATION: 282 Lyceum Drive
SUMMARY: The Office of Residential Life reported finding drug paraphernalia after breaking up a party. Officer reported one person was issued a conduct referral for violation of the college’s drug policy. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded.

MARCH 26
MISSING PERSON
LOCATION: All other/ other
SUMMARY: Caller reported receiving a phone call that individuals were lost on nature trails. Officer reported the natural area checked and was unable to locate the group. Sergeant Jon Elmore responded.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON
LOCATION: 130 College Circle
SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person sitting outside of their door. Officer reported the person was lost and was transported back to the location where he was visiting.

Patrol Officer Bruce Hall responded.

MEDICAL ASSIST/ INJURY
LOCATION: All other/ other
SUMMARY: Caller reported person tripped over raised patio tile and injured their knee. Officer reported that the person declined medical assistance. Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded to the call.

MARCH 27
SCC UNDERAGE POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL
LOCATION: 326 Grant Egbert Blvd.
SUMMARY: A caller reported an unresponsive person in bathroom. Officer reported that the person declined medical assistance and was referred to the Office of Student Conduct for irresponsible use of alcohol and underage possession of alcohol. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded to the scene.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF FOURTH DEGREE
LOCATION: 282 Lyceum Drive
SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person damaged ceiling tiles and six

lounge window screens. Sergeant Don Lyke responded.

ACCIDENTAL FIRE ALARM
LOCATION: 181 College Circle
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Officer reported the alarm was caused by burnt food. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF FOURTH DEGREE
LOCATION: 98 Flora Brown Drive
SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person tore down and damaged paper from bulletin board and placed unknown substance on the door handles of several rooms. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded.

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

Luvelle Brown must step down from positions of power

All eyes should be pointed at the Ithaca College Board of Trustees' complacency with news regarding Luvelle Brown, board of trustees member and superintendent of the Ithaca City School District (ICSD). Luvelle Brown has been petitioned by his ex-wife Anjanette Brown with the help of Peyi Soyinka-Airewele, professor in the Department of Politics at the college, with complaints including inadequate educational resources for their son, abuse of power as superintendent to have more time with the children outside of the custodial agreement, limiting Anjanette Brown's involvement in her children's education, unethical hiring practices and interference with a Child Protective Services (CPS) investigation following Luvelle Brown's alleged physical assault of their son.

Brown is facing pressure from the Ithaca community to step down from these positions he currently holds after allegations of abusing his son and leveraging his power as superintendent over others to cover up heinous acts. And frankly, more pressure is needed. The board of trustees holds

immense power at the college, as it is responsible for governing policies that affect the livelihoods of 5,400 students and 646 faculty members. As a trustee, Luvelle Brown is in a position to wield great power over the college, plus he is responsible for the education and betterment of about 5,000 students in ICSD. Yet a petition created on change.org by IC Alumni Against Austerity in February demanding Luvelle Brown resign has received only 268 signatures as of April 6. This number of signatures is nowhere close to even half of the Ithaca College community. And while the message of one organization may be hard for the entirety of the campus to receive, it is our job not to become desensitized to the systems of power enabling abuse that we are existing within.

Dave Lissy '87, chair of the board of trustees, said the board does not comment on personal matters: "The board is aware that allegations have been made regarding private family and personal matters, but we don't comment on family and personal matters."

However, for the board of trustees to harp on closed-off family affairs and write this situation off as private when Anjanette

Brown is publicly spearheading Luvelle Brown's removal is baseless and embarrassing for the board. Hiding behind the facade of personal matters and dodging questions of action is the very problem as no accountability is being taken; the failure to take Luvelle Brown's abuses seriously undermines any efforts on campus to hold abusers accountable. This is personal to the entirety of the Ithaca College's community as this extends far beyond family matters. We must remember what is at stake: children and their lives. This is alleged child abuse and deep-seated corruption — we must care. The board of trustees is right by implying the impersonal way of conducting business is easier and better, but it is only easier because it is not the full truth. The full truth to the proceedings of Luvelle Brown is shameful — the unraveling details to this story are not better, they're horrific. Keeping corrupted leaders in positions of power is injurious and puts the whole campus community at risk by normalizing abuse. This is dangerous not only to the general community of Ithaca but even more broadly as this perpetuates the message that in certain circumstances, abuse is acceptable

and inconsequential. The college has a history of enabling abusers, and the time to do better is far past due. We must make this personal and think of the lives of Anjanette Brown and her children. The injury of policy — the hours of paperwork to no avail, reliving the trauma, the convoluted interpersonal stories the public doesn't often understand, the twisting of words, the lack of the personal within a sterile courtroom, the harm to the children — is often worse than the initial injury itself. There is only one ethical way for the college to move forward and that is taking a stand against Luvelle Brown.

Luvelle Brown has been superintendent of ICSD since 2011 and has been a member of the college's board of trustees since 2018. His term on the board ends May 31, but he may be reelected for up to two additional consecutive three-year terms as per the board of trustees' bylaws. We, as students and the Ithaca community, cannot allow this to happen. Our apathy is hurting us now and will continue to hurt others, for remaining complacent on this issue is to uphold abuses of power and remain neutral on allegations of child abuse.

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



BETWEEN THE SHEETS
SKY

Sex education and sugaring

I didn't have a class that openly discussed gender, sexuality and race in the context of sex until I came to Ithaca College. In my first year, I began to understand so much more about my intersectional identities and how these experiences affected the way I viewed sex. I began going to workshops about sexual abuse, self-love, informative workshops on sex work and queer sex education. I grew to appreciate having ownership over my body and began to unlearn how a white, cisnet society taught me to see my worth and beauty. I was growing up in a space away from home, a space where I felt comfortable exploring my desires and boundaries without judgment and questioning.

Unfortunately, we were sent home because of the lockdown and, like many others, quarantine made us look at ourselves with a deeper lens — a lens that helped me see things with distorted clarity and realism. My reality existed around the decline of my mental health. With being in lockdown after just experiencing the freedom of fluid expression, it felt like I needed to have grander experiences to compensate for my lost time in college. I also needed money. So I began looking at ways to make money without having to work for \$10.10 an hour during a pandemic, and I found it. I became a sugar baby. It was an unexpected reality, one people don't often discuss.

I began seeing the growth of wealth and popularity within my community. The process of sugaring was one that was liberating to me — I could dictate my pay and hours and it was all consensual. This feeling of liberation may ring true to many sex workers, however, there is always opposition. Understanding that sex education rarely includes intersectional identity politics and dialogue surrounding sex beyond sex is where I began to see my experiences objectively.

While I was sugaring, I began noticing the microaggressive comments and fetishized "compliments" of my race, gender and sexuality. I originally felt this sense of liberation and freedom when I was able to pay my bills on time, but not when I was told I looked like a "cute little anime girl." These comments began to impact the way I viewed my worth and, as time progressed, I've done a lot of searching within myself to understand that this was not the field for me.

I was lucky and privileged enough to say that this wasn't something I could continue and leave, but this isn't always a choice for sex workers. For many, this is a field that requires high risks — intersectional risks that aren't emphasized for queer, Black, Indigenous and people of color. To be someone who can sustain their happiness, worth and boundaries in this field, you have to communicate and be honest with yourself. We aren't always taught about sex from varying perspectives, however, it doesn't mean we can't further educate ourselves and others on respecting and normalizing sex education.

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

GUEST COMMENTARY

Attempting to attend class from isolation

BY IAN ACHTERBERG

Upon receiving my positive COVID-19 test, I earned a prestigious spot on the top floor of Emerson Hall until the end of the week. I had one hour to return to my dorm and pick up the supplies I would need to survive from a typical Tuesday to Friday morning. My new abode greeted me with forms to fill out and emails to read. Besides this reading, I realized I would have to find a solution to attend class.

Every student treats attendance and their health differently, but I am of the belief that if I am spending thousands a week to attend classes at Ithaca College, I am going to attend. So I took to my inbox to alert my professors that I could not attend classes for the rest of the week and asked if I could attend virtually. To my surprise, I was greeted with only one Zoom link out of three responses from my professors throughout my quarantine.

It shocks me that students in isolation are not given the option to attend classes virtually. For a school that has "equity" among its core values, it does not give students in quarantine a fair shake when it comes to attending class. Attending the one class virtually, I was able to feel engaged with the material and get my work done diligently. But in the classes I missed, I had to guess what we were being taught in lectures based on PowerPoints and homework in the remaining classes on my schedule. If a student is placed in isolation for longer than three days, I cannot see a reasonable way for them to remain in line with the rest of their peers.



Junior Ian Achterberg, who was recently in isolation, discusses college students' inability to attend class and succeed given the few resources allotted by the college.

ARIANA GONZALEZ/THE ITHACAN

I have very few complaints about how I was treated by the staff at Emerson Hall. However, there was no guidance regarding what should be done with class attendance. "Outside time" was scheduled during my classes, implying that I had to choose the classes I was paying for or the few minutes outside that I was allotted per day. I care about my education and I care about my future, yet if I am affected by a disease I had no choice in catching, my education gets put on hold. For something as out of our control as COVID-19, the policies and support system

that is very much in the college's control regarding COVID-19 fails on many fronts. The inability to attend classes only drags isolated students' mental health downward, adding to boredom and classwork struggles. I cannot see any downsides to allowing all students, regardless of location and health, to attend class remotely and get the education they deserve.

IAN ACHTERBERG (he/him) is a junior integrated marketing communications major. Contact him at iachterberg@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Unpaid internships enforce white privilege

BY MARIANA BATISTA

College graduates are entering an increasingly competitive job market. Especially in the field of communications, employers are looking for two to three years of experience for an entry-level position. As a result, pressure is put on students to acquire an internship while still in college to stand out. It is no secret that companies are more likely to hire someone with experience working in their industry over someone who only has grocery store jobs or camp counselor experience on their resume. According to a research report by Zippia, in the first few years after graduation, former interns are 15% less likely to be unemployed and earn 6% more than students who did not intern.

This statistically puts those who have completed internships ahead of those who have not. In this sense, internships have no longer become optional. They have become an essential factor in finding a job. Despite this truth, many internships available to students are unpaid. The competition for unpaid internships is already high, and the competition for paid internships is even higher. Many students are considered fortunate if they are able to secure a paid internship position. What many people fail to

realize is that having an unpaid internship is backed by privilege.

Unpaid internships can range from 10 to 40 hours per week. Lower-income individuals cannot afford to dedicate that amount of time and not get compensated for their work. Whether it be to support their families, pay rent or save for the insane amount of student loan debt they will have after college, many students need to work a paid job on the side to financially support themselves. This results in even less time available to dedicate free labor to a company. Additionally, many summer internships require relocation. The students who can afford to pay rent out of pocket for an internship and, in return, receive not a single dollar from the company are likely the students who are fortunate enough to receive financial support from parents or family members. This disproportionately affects Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC). Our society's history of systemic racism has made it difficult for BIPOC to move up the financial and corporate ladders.

The white privilege hidden in unpaid internships is yet another barrier. Too many companies praise themselves on diversity initiatives despite the fact that in 2019, a Zippia study reported that 58.55% of interns were white, 17.9% were Hispanic or Latino, and 10.4% were Black or



Senior Mariana Batista addresses the complex topic of unpaid internships through the lens of hidden systems of white privilege.

ALYSSA BEEBE/THE ITHACAN

African American. Due to these disparities, many companies are making efforts to hire more BIPOC students for internships, but by still only offering unpaid internships, they are creating a barrier for a whole group of BIPOC students with lower incomes who can't even consider applying to these positions. Companies fail to notice that the students they are hiring often are already privileged enough to be unpaid interns. Thus, the privileged students continue to take advantage of these opportunities and the others continue to fall further behind. As a white student who has had unpaid internships, I recognize that I

have benefited from this system. These are the people who will eventually work their way up to becoming the next CEOs. If we want more diversity in corporate leadership, it starts from the bottom with the interns. Unpaid internships reinforce the cycle of white supremacy in the professional space. It is the responsibility of companies to offer fair internship opportunities for all students, regardless of financial capabilities and race, and this begins with a paycheck.

MARIANA BATISTA (she/her) is a senior integrated marketing communications major. Contact her at mbatista@ithaca.edu.

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42			43			44				45			
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			50			51		52					
53	54	55			56		57		58		59	60	61
62					63			64		65			
66					67					68			
69					70					71			

ACROSS

1 Get better

5 Gnaw

9 USC rival

13 — Spumante

14 Kiwi language

15 Circuit

16 Pipe handle

17 Complete reversal (hyph.)

18 Radiate

19 Falls apart

21 Staff

22 Curious

23 Friar of legend

25 Noisy disputes

27 Resided

30 Belt sites

34 Mortarboard wearer

35 Thrust-and-parry sword

37 Lie dormant

38 Bumbler

39 Depleting (2 wds.)

41 Reporter’s question

42 Sonnet stanza

44 Endorse

45 Sugar source

46 Pertaining to

mail

48 Find the size

50 Melville captain

52 Cameron — of films

53 King of gorillas

56 Kettle

58 Doughnut orders

62 Reed instrument

63 Packaging cord

65 Come to a halt

66 Estate recipient

67 Greasy

68 Pinnacle

69 Ancient harp

70 Seeger of folk music

71 Relieved sigh

Alvarez

12 Affected

14 Pecs and abs

20 — -de-sac

24 Military caps

26 Stinging insect

27 Big Dipper neighbor

28 Blows gently

29 Durable fabric

31 City conduit

32 Giggle (hyph.)

33 Location

34 Gunk

36 Urged on

39 Provo’s state

40 Without help

43 Knickknack

stand

45 Lumber cutter (2 wds.)

47 Portable computer

49 — Paulo

51 Type of knife

53 Eyelid darkener

54 Not resist

55 Roulette color

57 Arcade foul

59 Draw on glass

60 Alaskan seaport


61 Pour out violently

64 Once called

last issue’s crossword answers

ASKED		AMOR		YAMS
CHILI		CAME		OBIE
HALLELUJAH				YELL
EGO		TAT		REMODEL
		NAMES		ALE
BAKERS		WORLDLY		
LEERY		CEASE		YOM
EGAD		BLAKE		HIDE
WIN		SOARS		DINER
		SUCCUMB		MINGLE
		OAR		YEAST
MARIMBA		KIM		DNA
ASAN		ORDINATION		
TINE		NEON		YUKON
SAID		SANG		STENO

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数独

Create and solve your Sudoku puzzles for FREE.
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The Sudoku Source of "The Ithacan".

sudoku

easy

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

medium

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

answers to last issue’s sudoku:

medium

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

very hard

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



Ithaca College alumni returned to campus this past weekend to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Ithacappella, the college's first a cappella performance group. Current student performers were given the opportunity to sing alongside veteran members, and selected alumni were inducted into the group's hall of fame. **NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN**

BY MIKE ROSS

The James J. Whalen Center for Music's Ford Hall's stage is filled wall-to-wall by performers in blue blazers. Whether they're planning to graduate in 2025 or have been out of school since 1997, every performer on stage knows how to end the show. Twenty-five years of Ithacappella performers begin to harmonize and sing the iconic closing song, "Goodbye, My Coney Island Baby."

Ithaca College's first ever a cappella group met in celebration of its 25th anniversary from April 1 to 3.

The three-day event honored the award-winning group's history with performances and appearances from alumni members, many of whom were inducted into the Ithacappella Hall of Fame at the end of the weekend. The 25th anniversary of Ithacappella was last year, though the community is celebrating now as COVID-19 conditions become less harsh.

Ithacappella has seen massive success in the performance world since its founding in 1997. The group performed in the finals of the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella back-to-back in 2008 and 2009. The group is also often recognized for its high-quality studio recordings.

The event began with its current members at its Block IV Concert in Emerson Suites on April 1, where the group showcased performances members had been working on over the past few weeks. The event boasted a high

attendance with an excited energy. Members of the group performed a few songs they'd debuted at earlier concerts, like "Accidentally in Love" by Counting Crows and "Lay Me Down" by Sam Smith.

Freshman Jaiden Collier performed Gnarl's Barkley's 2006 song "Crazy" as a solo during the Block IV concert.

"The week before the performance was actually very exhausting," Collier said. "Actually singing it with the boys made it all worth it, there's nothing like singing with friends and making people happy."

Alumni members of the group were invited on stage toward the end of the show to debut an original song by Jacob Kerzner '18 titled "We'll Be Here." The performance of an original composition was unique for Ithacappella, as the majority of the group's music consists of song covers.

Sophomore Ben Stroud is a member of Ithacappella and found the return of past alumni to be a unique experience for the group.

"All the alumni came up and sang Jacob Kerzner's new song with us," Stroud said. "It was admittedly a little chaotic at first but still super cool to have multiple generations of Ithacappella singing all together during one of our concerts."

Following Friday's show, the Ithacappella community met once again in Ford Hall for another concert, during which two members from each "generation" of Ithacappella gave speeches about their time in the group.



Junior Massimo Giacona is joined by his fellow teammates at Ithacappella's Block IV Concert in Emerson Suites on April 1. The event attracted a high attendance. **NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN**

This event didn't draw in nearly as many spectators as the first, functioning more as a private and personal opportunity for alumni to perform more music with Ithacappella's current members. The event's calmer, casual energy was reflected through the music that alumni and students performed together, which focused more on choral music in favor of the high-energy pop tunes Ithacappella tends to sing at its usual concerts.

"The second concert was more lowkey, with alumni performing most of the time," Stroud said. "It was really cool to meet a lot of the older guys and hear their Ithacappella stories from 10, 15, even 20 years ago."

The 25th anniversary celebration was made possible by Ithacappella's alumni association, which was founded in 2009 by Greg Harris '07. Since then, the group has continuously supported the current members each year.

Don Ferlazzo '05, alumni and Ithacappella Hall of Fame inductee, has been an active member of the alumni association since its creation in 2009. Ferlazzo said what started as a small group visit back to Ithaca became a hugely involved association.

"The biggest point was our 20th anniversary," Ferlazzo said. "We had the original founding members come and inducted them into the hall of fame."

Caleb Wheldon '03 is one of the alumni recently inducted into the Ithacappella

Hall of Fame. Wheldon agreed that the 20th anniversary marked a turning point in alumni involvement.

"The biggest interaction I've had with past alums was five years ago, when we celebrated the 20th anniversary," Wheldon said. "[Ferlazzo] is good at camaraderie and getting people excited about coming back. At this point a lot of alums have gotten to know each other, which is really great."

The weekend's closing event brought festivities to the Hotel Ithaca, where selected alumni were inducted into the Ithacappella Hall of Fame during a private banquet. The Hall of Fame was created by the Ithacappella Alumni Association in 2016 during their 20th anniversary celebration for the purpose of celebrating alumni achievements.

Ferlazzo, Wheldon, Harris and Anthony Maiese '01 received the honor in the presence of the current group of performers. 25 alumni in total visited Ithaca for the event.

Wheldon said he was surprised and appreciative of his induction and that being recognized by both past and present members of the group is really exciting.

"I've been telling everyone I know I've been inducted into the Hall of Fame!" Wheldon said. "I love being here, and I think it's important for a group that's been around for so long to honor its past."



Alex Kosick '19 takes center stage to perform alongside Ithacappella members and returning alumni on the James J. Whalen Center for Music's Ford Hall stage. **BRENDAN IANNUCCI/THE ITHACAN**

Students create an analog horror YouTube show

BY MADDY MARTIN

The year is 1998. Uncle Quizno sits in his office on the phone with a cigarette between his fingers. He is wearing a Hawaiian shirt and a patchy beard covers the lower half of his face. He takes notice of the camera, hangs up the phone and the music begins.

This is the beginning of Luxury Station's most recent video, "Quiznos Employee Training Rap (1998)," released in January 2022. Luxury Station is an analog horror YouTube channel created by freshman Joseph Perleoni in August 2020 that tells the story of Uncle Quizno, a fictional Quiznos executive, and his slow descent into madness. Uncle Quizno's story is told through a series of parody Quiznos commercials, news reports and training videos set between 1990 and 2004.

Perleoni said he and his high school friends, Matt and Tim Finn, were inspired to create the channel's first video, "Wario Apparition REAL FOOTAGE 1996," from the Wario apparition meme that was making the rounds at the time. After they made this video, which isn't connected to the main plot of Luxury Station, Perleoni came up with the idea of making a series of parody Quiznos commercials, inspired by the bizarre commercials the restaurant ran in the 2000s, with video game characters. From there, the character of Uncle Quizno was created and an ongoing plot began to form.

"After the first two or three

commercials, we wanted to make a backstory," Perleoni said. "So we wrote up a story about Quiznos marketing being crazy at the time and made up characters and a whole alternate-universe Quiznos."

Luxury Station is currently producing its second season. Each season consists of three commercials and one news flash.

Luxury Station also produced a video game to accompany its videos, called "Quiznos Training Game," which appeared in "Quiznos Employee Training Rap (1998)" and was released alongside it in January. Freshman Brett Beemer joined Luxury Station after meeting Perleoni at orientation and began working on the game with Perleoni shortly after. Beemer said the game was inspired by a Nintendo DS game McDonald's used to train its employees in Japan.

Perleoni and Beemer showed off a demo of the game at TooManyGames 2021, a video and board game convention in Philadelphia in October 2021. Beemer said he and Perleoni worked on the game until the last second and were finishing it up on the car ride to Philadelphia.

"I started to get really car sick because I was staring at a computer screen for an hour and a half," Beemer said. "I had the window open and I had my head out like a dog. I didn't throw up, though, which was good. [TooManyGames] was a really fun experience."

"People really loved it at TooManyGames," Perleoni said. "There's a mission where you have to kill a subway employee and



From left, freshmen Brett Beemer, Joseph Perleoni, junior Matt Finn and senior Tim Finn make videos for Luxury Station, which produces a variety of content for over 2,000 subscribers on YouTube.

KEVIN YU / THE ITHACAN

that's the humor of the game."

Every Luxury Station video looks like it comes from the 1990s. The videos are grainy with saturated colors and everything looks like there is a yellow filter over it. In order to give an authentic VHS tape look to the videos, Perleoni said he burns every video to a DVD, puts it in a DVD player connected to a VHS recorder, records it onto a VHS tape, and then uploads back onto his computer with a VHS player.

"It's a pretty convoluted process," Perleoni said.

Matt Finn did the voice of Sonic

in "Quiznos: 'Sonic Pepsi Soup' 1994" and helped create props used in the videos, including the Sonic head and Crash Bandicoot puppet featured in "Quiznos: 'Wumpa Fruit Smoothie' Ad 1996." Finn said the Crash Bandicoot puppet was particularly hard to build.

"We used a lot of felt and a lot of weird wacky materials like an exoskeleton and a plastic skull. But that's the whole charm of the Quiznos thing," Finn said. "It's supposed to be weird and outlandish."

Luxury Station does not reuse any actors besides Perleoni, who

plays Uncle Quizno. Due to this, in early March, Perleoni and Beemer began putting up flyers around campus to find potential actors. Perleoni said he's met 50 people interested in the project since then.

"We can never have enough actors for the span of this project," Perleoni said. "We got to work with as many people as we can work and get as much talent involved as we can to fully pump out the story we're trying to tell."

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IC Theatre Lab presents production of 'Grease'

BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD

With black raised curtains, a simple lighting rig and red, shimmering tinsel, IC Theatre Lab transformed the James J. Whalen Center's Presser Hall into a makeshift stage for its production of "Grease." The performance hall was full of excitement as the show was sold out.

This production of "Grease," put on by the IC Theatre Lab, was the product of the organization's more experimental take on theater. The president of IC Theatre Lab, senior Julia Shuman, explained that contrary to the more mainstream theater productions, there are two types of shows that the student-run organization puts on.

"IC Theatre Lab normally does two different types of shows per semester," Shuman said. "It does a one-time challenge show and then one show that runs rehearsals for about two months."

For this semester's time challenge, the ensemble only had one week to practice and get "Grease" ready for its grand premiere.

"Learning-our-music day is on Sunday and then for the rest of the week from Monday to Friday, we have rehearsals every day, usually from around six to ten or eleven at night," Shuman said. "We have one run-through on Friday, then our show's on Saturday and that's it."

This added time constraint can add many new twists and turns in the rehearsal phase of a musical. Freshman musical director Sam Wurdemann said that in order to get this

production up and running, they had to pre-record a great deal of vocal tracks in advance to best help people get familiar with the songs before rehearsals even began.

"Before we run scenes and everything, I made sure to teach them all their individual parts and run through the music with them and the pit band," Wurdemann said. "And just made sure that everything they need to know musically is in tip-top shape before they actually learn the on-stage material."

Due to IC Theatre Lab not being one of the official Dillingham Theater organizations, freshman technical director Jamie Correll explained that the group does not get access to the facilities or resources like the other official theater ensembles on campus.

"We don't get to use the nice lights in the theaters and stuff that are in Dillingham," Correll said. "We are working out of Presser Hall in Whalen, so we have to try to work around other people's schedules who also use this space."

Shuman agreed, saying this semester, IC Theatre Lab greatly struggled with finding space on campus to hold its practices and even host the final performance.

"This year, we had a really, really hard time trying to find a space for the second week of 'Grease,'" Sherman said. "We actually had to go talk to the president of Ithaca College and the president was able to get us Emerson Suites, which is really exciting, so our second production of 'Grease' will be on a real stage with lights and sound, which is so cool, we've never had that."



Theatre Lab performed a production of "Grease" April 2 in Presser Hall in the James J. Whalen Center for Music. The group will perform the show again April 9.

KEVIN YU / THE ITHACAN

As a whole, all three members of the IC Theatre Lab agree that the time challenge show is physically, emotionally and mentally draining.

"One of the hardest parts of it is that you're just tired," Shuman said.

Despite the show facing many struggles due to the nature of it being a time challenge, there are still many exciting and enticing elements.

"I'm definitely most excited about seeing the Emerson Suites show and just how it comes together with the stage," Shuman said. "We've never ever worked with that before,

we are so grateful that they are letting us do this, so hopefully now all of our shows will be on stage."

Freshman Alecia Solorzano said she attended the show to support her many friends in the show and also because she had participated in Theatre Lab productions in the past.

"This was an amazing performance," Solorzano said. "My favorite part was that everyone was just having a lot of fun with it."

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Rom-com revival boasts strong leads

MOVIE REVIEW: “The Lost City” Paramount



BY EVAN MILLER

After years of being relegated to streaming services, the theatrically-released romantic comedy is back with Aaron and Adam Nee’s “The Lost City,” a film that pays homage to action and adventure romance films of the past through its familiar plot and characters. Although it isn’t as memorable as some of the classics like “Romancing the Stone” that inspired it, “The Lost City” is a fun ride with two impeccably-matched leads.

In “The Lost City,” archaeologist turned world-famous romance novelist Loretta Sage (Sandra Bullock) is kidnapped by an obsessed billionaire (Daniel Radcliffe) who believes that Sage can help him track down a real-life ancient treasure that she wrote about in her latest book. Her only rescue comes in the form of Alan (Channing Tatum), a cover model who isn’t nearly as heroic as the fictional character he famously poses as on the covers of Sage’s novels.

The element that “The Lost City” utilizes to perfection is the comedic chemistry between Bullock and Tatum. Bullock brings the same strong comedic energy that she’s brought to films like “The Heat” and “The Proposal.”

Tatum plays to his strengths as a comedic actor in a role that is very similar to his dumb yet lovable character in the “Jump Street” films. Together, the two

stars are unstoppable. Their chemistry is a bright spot in “The Lost City” and makes for several hysterical moments throughout the film.

“The Lost City” is also bolstered by a decent supporting cast, which includes a particularly fantastic extended cameo from Brad Pitt. For the short amount of time that he’s in the film, Pitt creates a brilliant dynamic with Tatum and Bullock’s characters that will most certainly leave audiences wanting more.

While his abrupt appearance and exit are hilarious and highlights of the film, his presence is missed as the film continues on and begins to focus on some of the other, less interesting supporting characters.

Radcliffe gives an energetic performance as Abigail Fairfax and certainly tries to make the most of his role. Unfortunately, he is unable to overcome the fact that Fairfax is simply an uninteresting character with extremely lackluster motivations. He has no real attachment to the treasure that he seeks and is simply some rich jerk who is desperate for his father’s approval.

Whenever the film focuses on Fairfax or on Sage’s publicist Beth (Da’Vine Joy Randolph), it almost completely grinds to a halt and loses the momentum that it’s been able to maintain whenever its two main leads are on screen. Beth is a likable char-



Despite a few minor plot-based inconsistencies, “The Lost City” delivers a fun and engaging adventure film thanks to its stars.
COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT

acter, but the situations that she finds herself in throughout the film feel out of place and are infinitely less interesting than everything else that is happening with Sage and Alan. The film too often pauses to focus on what she’s doing to help Sage. What was done in several scenes with her character could have been done in one or two and the film would’ve been absolutely no different.

The “Lost City” is a fun ride that depends on the chemistry

between its two stars. Luckily, they deliver well in so many delightful moments that it almost makes up for the rest of the film. The adventure the characters find themselves on isn’t as exciting as it could have been, however, the journey that they go on as their relationship develops is endearing with its message of not being afraid to live out a great adventure.

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Book banning’s harmful return

BY MADDY MARTIN

In Fall 2021 there were 330 “book challenges” in public schools across the United States, a sharp increase from previous years. On Jan. 10, a Tennessee school board pulled Art Spiegelman’s “Maus,” a Pulitzer prize-winning graphic novel about Spiegelman’s father’s experiences during the Holocaust, from the curriculum for profanity and nudity. “All Boys Aren’t Blue” by George M. Johnson, a memoir about the author’s experiences as a queer Black man, is currently being challenged in school districts and libraries in more than a dozen states. And the crusade continues.

The American Library Association has been holding Banned Book Week every September since 1982 and the history goes back much further than that. Book banning is most often a grassroots effort put on by raging conservative parents worried that certain books will turn their children into sexual delinquents, and in many cases they still are, but recently Republican politicians have stuck their hands in the anti-freedom of speech pot. I know, ironic.

Governor Glenn Youngkin (R) won the Virginia state election in November after highlighting concerns from parents that Toni Morrison’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel “Beloved” was too explicit and violent to be taught in schools during his campaign. Several state legislators are also lobbying to punish teachers and librarians for distributing materials they see as harmful to minors. This is all happening around the same time as Florida signs its “Don’t Say Gay Bill” into law, which prohibits discussion about gender and sexuality in classrooms for grades K–3. Six other states are contemplating similar legislation.

Unsurprisingly, a majority of the books being challenged right now discuss LGBTQ+ themes or the Black experience, including “The Bluest Eye” by Morrison, “Fallen Angels” by Walter Dean Myers and “Heather Has Two Mommies” by Lesléa Newman. All these books were removed for being too “violent” or “sexual,” but I think the real reason they’re being removed can be easily deduced.

In the past year libraries across the country have made efforts to diversify their content to include more books written by Black and LGBTQ+ authors. Many of the books being removed were new inclusions to libraries; “Not All Boys Are Blue” came out in 2020. These book bannings are Republicans’ responses to seeing a window into a more diverse world. Frankly it’s just pathetic. How dare libraries update their books.

Books and stories are one of the most powerful tools for empathy we have. They expose our blind spots and push us into worlds we would otherwise not be able to access or may not notice in our day-to-day lives.

But of course, politicians have shown time and time again that they lack empathy. Maybe they should have read more books.

POPPED CULTURE is a weekly column, written by Life & Culture staff writers, that analyzes pop culture events. Maddy Martin is a senior writing major. Contact her at mmartin5@ithaca.edu.

New Denzel Curry album opts for honest jazz-rap

ALBUM REVIEW: “Melt My Eyez See Your Future” Denzel Curry



BY JACKSON NOEL

In 2022, no one would question the abilities of XXL freshman alum and rapper extraordinaire Denzel Curry, especially after a spectacular run of projects that includes “Ta13oo” and “Unlocked.” The artist’s sound combines Southern hip-hop inflections with forward-thinking trap production and an intense attention to sonic detail — and for Curry to prove his hardcore roots it would take less than a Rage Against the Machine cover, but luckily, he has that too.

However, on the lead single “Walkin,” for Curry’s new album, “Melt My Eyez See Your Future,” everything seemed to change. Curry stripped himself of his typical aggressive persona, choosing instead to speak directly from his heart, creating an honest and impactful jazz-rap album that is full of introspection and enough motivational mantras to fill a manifesto.

On the album’s opening track, “Melt Session #1,” Curry repeats the refrain “I keep walkin’” as a verifiable mission statement for “Melt My Eyez See Your Future” and the key to the album’s entire worldview. The imagery in music videos and promotion

leading up to the release depicts Curry as a western-style lone gunman with his back to the world; the titles of tracks like “John Wayne,” “Sanjuro” and “Zatoichi” further an ethos of singular men fighting for their place in the world.

Throughout the album Curry often returns to the concept of “just keep walkin’” as shorthand for forging his own way through life, using lyrical reflections on spirituality or past mistakes as steps along the path.

Curry finds a new path with the music as well, significantly mellowing his sound and focusing on jazz-heavy production. Occasional appearances from Robert Glasper on piano, Karriem Riggins on drums and Thundercat on bass each work to provide a heavenly texture running through the whole project.

The cumulative effect is a progressive hip-hop album unbound by genre constraints with dips into psychedelia and jazz at every turn.

With a title like “Melt My Eyez See Your Future,” Curry uses the album primarily as a journey, recognizing the way music can be used to tell an emotional story.

“Melt My Eyez See Your Future” marks a



On his latest LP, Denzel Curry delivers his most raw and down-to-earth music yet.
COURTESY OF LOMA VISTA RECORDINGS

change in Curry’s sound and likewise comes with some growing pains. Despite being one of his longest albums at 45 minutes, the project feels like it’s lacking a strong connecting tissue between songs.

Most tracks end before the three-minute mark, leaving most feeling like it needs something more. However, in each tune Curry’s infectious personality stands head and shoulders above any shortcomings.

The album as a whole reveals a brand new side of Curry that is equally as powerful as some of his most aggressive tunes. No one can predict the next inevitable left turn down the road for Curry, but listeners can guarantee it will come with the same passion and energy found on “Melt My Eyez See Your Future.”

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SOARING TO THE TOP OF THE SPORT



The men's club ultimate frisbee team, Nawshus Ultimate, is currently ranked No. 13 in the country according to Ultiworld.

LAUREN LUBENOW/THE ITHACAN

IC CLUBS REACH NATIONAL RANKINGS

BY TOMMY MUMAU

The tradition of ultimate frisbee on South Hill has grown over the years, providing students with an opportunity to connect and compete in a fun environment. This inclusive atmosphere has translated to success on the field, leading to both of the Ithaca College men's and women's club teams to reach the national rankings for the first time in their history.

The first Division III men's and women's power rankings for Spring 2022 were released by Ultiworld March 11, with both of the college's teams landing spots in the top 25. This recognition came after the Bring the Huckus tournament Feb. 27, in which the men's team, Nawshus Ultimate, defeated The Army University 12-4 and posted a 7-1 record in the event. The women's team, Kweezy Ultimate, finished in seventh place, recording an 11-2 victory over The College of New Jersey. As the rankings have been updated weekly since initially reaching the top 25, the men's team currently sits at No. 13 in the nation and the women's team is no longer ranked, but it was ranked as high as No. 22.

The team name Nawshus comes from a story in which a former team captain told a referee that he was feeling nauseous in response to mishearing their question about what the team's name was, sophomore Ian Donahue said via email. The women's team name, Kweezy, is in response to the joke.



Senior practice captain Lydia Lepinski gets set to throw in a practice at Higgins Stadium.

LAUREN LUBENOW/THE ITHACAN

captain Lydia Lepinski said she is proud of the women's team's efforts this season to gain this recognition.

"We've been working really hard the last couple of months," Lepinski said. "To be nationally ranked is super exciting and really rewarding."

While this is the first time the teams have appeared in the rankings, the squads have been competitive in the past. Nawshus competed for a national title in Spring 2019, posting a second-place finish in the sectional tournament. The club also finished seventh at Metro East DIII College Men's Regionals. Kweezy made an appearance in the USA Ultimate Division I Regional Championships in Spring 2012.

Junior practice captain Luke Pohlman said he is impressed with the way the men's team has played thus far. He said the team's accolades are a product of the collaborative effort by several members of the team, prompting the country to take notice.

"The entire team has been contributing to get us to this point," Pohlman said. "We have some exceptionally talented guys on the roster, but everybody's doing their part, both on the field and on the sideline, which has brought us success that we haven't had before."

Pohlman shares the practice captain duties with senior Stephen Welsh, as the duo is responsible for coaching the team and running its practices. Donahue said he has been pleased with the effort the team has been putting in to achieve this milestone.

"At practice, we're always working on our skills and improving," Donahue said. "We're going over drills, over what we can do better ... [At tournaments], we're constantly communicating with one another, we're adapting to what the other team is doing."

The teams compete in both the fall and spring, and also practices during the winter months. This spring, the teams competed in two tournaments prior to postseason play beginning in April.

Pohlman said the team has around 50 members, but it averages around 18 people per practice. He said the team's top performers include seniors Eli Robinson, Jack McShane and Justin Juchnewich, junior Elliot Mintz, and freshmen Nadav Berkman and Owen Young. Pohlman said the experience the team's veterans bring to the table has elevated its performance on the field.

"Our more experienced players have been

stepping up and helping coach up the younger guys, as well as kind of dictate play on the field," Pohlman said. "That drastic increase in communication has just led to more success for the team."

When the national rankings were first released March 11, the men's team was ranked No. 23 but has since climbed to No. 13 with a victory in the New York Invite tournament March 26 and 27. Nawshus dominated at the event, sweeping the competition with a 4-0 record.

The squad entered the tournament as the top seed to earn a bye in the play-in round before the group defeated Skidmore College and the University of Vermont in the quarterfinals and semifinals. Nawshus secured the tournament victory by posting a 13-1 victory over the University of Rochester in the championship game.

The women's team also impressed in the tournament, winning a pair of games before losing to Skidmore College 13-6 in the championship round. Kweezy defeated Cornell University 13-3 in the play-in round and the University of New Hampshire 7-6 in the semifinals.

Lepinski is one of Kweezy's two practice captains, along with senior Jaye Kayne. Lepinski said the women's team practices three nights a week, a factor that has played a pivotal role in the team being ranked.

Lepinski said the team has a variety of impact players that each bring something different to the table. Kweezy's key contributors include graduate student Emily Mildner, sophomore Amelia Myers and freshmen Joe Mukamal and Grace Wang.

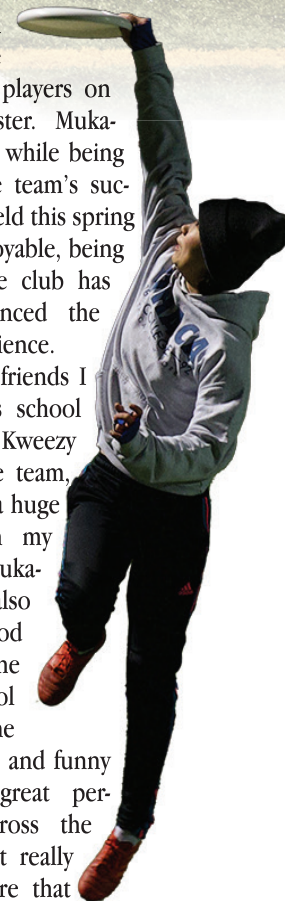
"We have a lot of players who are well-rounded and can play any position," Lepinski said. "We have players who are really strong defensive players and are also good at offense. ... Then we have a handful of players who can play any position really well, and I think together we make a very cohesive team."

Along with the team's talent on the field, its players have also developed a bond outside of the sport. Kayne said the team has an encouraging environment, which has helped contribute to its success.

"[Our] greatest strength is just the team chemistry that we have together," Kayne said. "So like trusting in one another and supporting one another and keeping each other in just a positive state of mind."

Lepinski said there are currently 17 players on Kweezy's roster. Mukamal said that while being a part of the team's success on the field this spring has been enjoyable, being a part of the club has greatly enhanced the college experience.

"The first friends I made in this school were from Kweezy and from the team, which made a huge difference in my own life," Mukamal said. "It also gave me a good idea of how the whole school was. Everyone was very nice and funny and [had] great personalities across the board. And it really made me sure that



Senior practice captain Jaye Kayne leaps to make a catch during a recent practice.

LAUREN LUBENOW/THE ITHACAN

this was a school that I wanted to be at."

While the teams are primarily run by the practice captains, the club's adviser is Matthew Klemm, associate professor and interim chair in the Department of History. Klemm said he played ultimate frisbee when he was in college and is proud of the team's accomplishments this season. He said he attended one of Nawshus's games in the fall and was impressed by the group's camaraderie.

"One thing that really impressed me about them ... [was] the spirit of the team," Klemm said. "[They were] really encouraging to everybody, I think it's really paid off for them to be ranked like this."

Both teams will look to build on this positive energy and solid momentum as postseason play approaches. The sectional round of the playoffs will be held April 9 and 10 in Churchville, New York, leading up to the Division III College Championships on May 21 to 23 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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Ithaca College baseball team starts season strong

BY DAVID SCHURTER

The Ithaca College baseball team has posted an impressive record of 15–5 to begin the season. The strong performance has been bolstered by solid team chemistry which should play an important role throughout the season.

The Bombers began the season Feb. 25 and won four of its first five games. Also winning six out of seven on the spring break trip to Florida, including an impressive 3–2 win over No. 11 Wheaton College. The Bombers’ strong play in Florida led the team to a 10–2 record in their first 12 games, and the club currently sits at 15–5. Head coach David Valesente said he has been impressed with the early season success that the team has seen and how well the team is getting along.

“We’ve preached our day-to-day work ethic and commitment to excellence on the field,” Valesente said. “I’m happy with how our training has gone. Our guys are happy about where our chemistry and comradery are, and the togetherness that our guys are showing is amazing.”

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bombers are glad to have a full season again after having the last two seasons shortened. With games against teams from other regions and conferences returning to the schedule, this gave the South Hill squad extra time to prepare for Liberty League play.

“I’m excited that we have played as many games as we have, especially a few pre-spring break trips,” Valesente said. “I’m happy that the guys have gotten the opportunity to get back on these trips as the last few years have been challenging.”

In 2020, the Bombers had a 1–6 record before the remainder of the season was canceled by the pandemic. The team bounced back in 2021, finishing with a 16–12–1 record, losing to Union College in the Liberty League semifinal game by a score of 18–9.

This season, the club welcomed 10 freshmen players to the roster, including first baseman Nick Cutaia, who is hitting .354 and is a part of a starting lineup featuring seven Bombers with a batting average of .300 or above. Cutaia said his transition to the team was smooth thanks to the upperclassmen helping him feel welcome.

“I was really nervous going in not knowing what to expect,” Cutaia said. “The seniors have been more than welcoming, and they are so passionate to have me and the other freshmen on the team, as they welcomed us all with open arms.”

The leadership displayed by this year’s senior class shows its commitment to this team and its future. Going along with his development, Cutaia said the seniors’ roles were important to the team’s success, as well as what they have meant to the group of freshmen players.

“The senior class is huge to our



Junior pitcher Garrett Bell allowed three earned runs and struck out eight batters over seven innings pitched in the Bombers’ 13–7 win over Hamilton College April 5, giving the team a record of 15–5.

RYAN PILLION/THE ITHACAN

success both on and off the field,” Cutaia said. “Guys like [senior Buzz Shirley], a big veteran on the team, as well as more role players where they just show us the passion. They’re so important to our team and we need them for our success.”

Senior pitcher Kyle Lambert, who transferred from Hudson Valley Community College to Ithaca College last year, also said the team chemistry has made him feel welcome since he first stepped on campus.

“Joining the team last year, I immediately felt welcomed,” Lambert said. “Now I’m one of the older guys on the team and I’ve taken my role on.”

Lambert has started six games,

pitched 40.1 innings and currently holds a 2–1 record and an earned run average of 1.56 to lead the starting rotation. With Lambert leading the pitching staff, the team has a 4.84 earned run average, allowing a total of 93 earned runs in 173 innings pitched, as well as allowing 164 hits with 177 strikeouts. Lambert said he is pleased with how the team has performed so far this season, mentioning their hard work going back to the fall.

“I’m really happy with how we’ve performed,” Lambert said. “We’ve been working hard since the fall and seeing that hard work pay off and finally seeing the results on the field is great.”

As the season rolls on, Valesente

said the competition will continue to improve, and it is important to play at a higher level. The Bombers know what they are chasing come the end of the season, and continuing to get better going forward is crucial toward reaching their goal.

As the Bombers have begun Liberty League play, they currently sit in first in the Liberty League West division standings with a 3–2 conference record as well as a 2–1 division record. The club trails the University of Rochester, who is 15–4, and Skidmore College, who is 15–2–1, in overall conference record so far.

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IC pole vault coach earns national recognition

BY AIDAN CHARDE

Matt Scheffler, assistant coach for the Ithaca College men’s and women’s track and field teams, never thought he was going to coach pole vaulting at the collegiate level. He enjoyed working with high school athletes, but never thought he would move to being a college coach.

But after persistence from the head coaches of the men’s and women’s track and field teams, Scheffler agreed to work with the college part time. In 2022, following an indoor season that saw three Bombers finish in the top 10 at women’s nationals, Scheffler was honored with the United States Track & Field and Cross-Country College Association (USTFCCCA) National Women’s Assistant Coach of the Year award.

For Scheffler, an award like this is very humbling because he knows the other coaches around the country who also could have won it. He said he just does his best to make the athletes perform their best.

“It’s not something that was ever expected or anything I was ever working toward,” Scheffler said. “I just go [to Ithaca College] to coach and do the best I can for the athletes, and they do a great job. . . . To get something without ever thinking about getting something is rewarding.”

While Scheffler does work with the men’s and women’s pole vaulters at the college, he also works as a physical education teacher in Lansing, New York, and runs the Tompkins County Pole Vault Club.

But even with all the other work he does, Scheffler still helps each athlete at the college be successful. At the indoor nationals, senior Meghan Matheny took first place for her second national title and sophomore

Sara Altonen finished in third. Junior Martha Kemp-Neilson also landed in 10th.

Matheny said Scheffler’s coaching style is all about the individual athlete, not the sport as a whole. She said her jump technique is different from Altonen’s and Kemp-Neilson’s, which means Scheffler will have to customize his coaching for each of the athletes if they really want to succeed.

“He doesn’t blanket-coach,” Matheny said. “He coaches to each individual athlete’s strengths and weaknesses . . . and he is also really good at being in-tune with how you’re feeling, not just physically but mentally.”

Scheffler’s coaching style has led him to much success over his 16-year career with the college. He has been named the Regional Women’s Assistant Coach of the Year three times in 2016, 2017 and 2021. He was also named the Collegiate Coach of the Year in 2018 at the National Pole Vault Summit after coaching Katherine Pitman ’18 to one of the greatest women’s pole vault seasons in Division III history.

Pitman currently owns seven of the top 10 highest jumps in the division. But despite the success she saw at the college, Pitman was a walk-on with the team in her sophomore season who had never done the event before and credits Scheffler for her dominance.

“I think Matt saw something in me that I never saw in myself or even imagined in myself,” Pitman said. “I don’t think you’ll find someone that’s a more knowledgeable individual about pole vault.”

For all the talk about his coaching style, it might come as a surprise to some that Scheffler was self-taught in the event. While he jumped in high school and college at SUNY Brockport, he mostly learned the sport on his own. But he said he thinks his history of



Matt Scheffler, assistant coach for the Ithaca College track and field teams, coached three pole vaulters in the women’s team to top-10 finishes nationally this season.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

trial and error and self-reflection are what makes him a better coach because he knows what not to waste time on.

“You learn while doing [for] a lot of things,” Scheffler said. “You learn what works, and you learn no two athletes are the same ever, but there are a lot of similarities and things, so you can apply things that you’ve learned from other athletes to your current athletes.”

Altonen said the other thing that makes Scheffler great is his belief in all his athletes. If she has a bad practice or competition, Scheffler will always find a way to give her a confidence boost and make her believe she can do better next time.

“During the beginning of the season, I wasn’t jumping so well,” Altonen said. “And he said something as simple as ‘I know

you can do this. I know you can qualify for nationals.’ . . . If he believes I can do it, I definitely can do it.”

All of Scheffler’s athletes credit him with helping them, but Scheffler said they have helped him become better as a coach and teacher. While the recent programs have had success for men and women, he said he knows it would not have happened without the work put in by past teams.

“Everything that I’ve learned as a coach has come from all those athletes prior,” Scheffler said. “They might not have had all the glory that the recent ones have, but that glory is definitely a result of how they did in the past.”

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Senior Marley Schwarz sings a duet of the song “Therapy” from the highly acclaimed movie and musical “Tick,Tick... Boom!” during the Ithaca College Showchoir Spring 2022 showcase “The Revival” April 3 in the Emerson Suites. Multiple other songs were performed from “Anastasia,” “Hercules,” “Hadestown” and much more.

BROOKE VOGEL/THE ITHACAN