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 6,646 faculty members, Luvelle Brown also oversees the education of about 5,000 students in 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 Peri Sovinka-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 Brown’s school-age children. Leadership at the college has 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 sexual abuse charges after a patient whom she had been living with while she was their therapist accused her of 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 advisor 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. Sovinka-Airewele and Anjanette Brown reached out to Collado to make her aware of the allegations levied against Luvelle Brown on Dec. 7, 2020. Collado responded to Sovinka-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 denied to comment to The Ithacan about 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 Lid- dley Goyle, 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 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 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 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 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 Luvelle Brown pulled the children from the classroom to talk to them before they were interviewed by CPS.

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/THETH ITHACAN

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 1 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 campus’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.

Contact Elijah De Castro
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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.

“At the same time, we see 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.

“Parityarchy 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.

Ithacappella Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Ithacappella, Ithaca College’s only all-male identifying a cappella 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.
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.

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 do with whatever campus dining served.

Halal is an Arabic word that translates to “pure” in Islam. In terms of food, halal is the dietary standard outlined in the Shari’a, or Islamic law. Having certified halal food on campus has been a multi-year practice Islamic law and eat halal now have access to halal-certified food after years of having to do with whatever campus dining served.

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“Kosher Korner is an important step toward making the campus more inclusive and accommodating for students with different dietary needs,” said Lauren Goldberg, interim director for the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life.

The shift to halal-certified food comes after a year-long effort to secure certification.

“I’m really proud of the work that went into making this happen,” Goldberg said. “It’s a reflection of the college’s commitment to diversity and inclusion.”

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.

“Seeing the overall happiness and pride 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.”

**CONTACT ELEANOR KAY**

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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.

Biden announced Jackson as the judicial pick on March 21 and the vote to confirm her will be sometime in mid-April.

Senior Alyssa Spady is a four-termer major with minors in politics and legal studies. Spady said she is pleased that Biden kept his 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 Law School who clerked for Breyer when he was on the Supreme Court. While at Harvard, Brown Jackson was a supervising editor of the 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 she were to come to the Supreme Court.

“I am 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’s an undeniable force — one of the most powerful people in the world. If confirmed, she will be the first woman in the history of the Supreme Court.”

Spady noted the significance of Jackson’s nomination 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.

“Seeing the overall happiness and pride 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 Ithaca College 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 sessions with 150 students from students who are studying abroad, said Ron Dow, a social worker with CAPS and Let’s Talk coordinator.

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 program 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 I was studying abroad and I was going to do it — which takes about 50 to 40 seconds — they could be talking to someone within a couple of 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 for my sisters. It was also an engaging transition, not a one and done situation.”

Junior Julia DiGeronimo is studying in Ireland and was able to set up confidential 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 transitioning to a new life. The monthly prior 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. “There’s a lot of weight and responsibility on your shoulders and mentally it 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 food on campus counts. And that personally meant a lot to me.**

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

“More students at Ithaca College, this is particularly meaningful because for so long these types of accommodations just were something that were overlooked,” 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 locations like Terrace Dining Hall, Campus Center Dining Hall, Towers Marketplace, Ithaca Bakery and the Food Court.

“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.”

KAUSTA DONAGHY ROBINSON/ITHACA COLLEGE
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 gave the same story about the same 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 happened. The children were interviewed by CPS, and she was removed from their care.

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 Luvelle'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 guardians in 2021 show that Coyle was aware of the court order. However, in February 2021 affidavit, Coyle claims that she was not informed of the directive.

The court order mandated that no conversations between Coyle and Anjanette Brown and levied 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.”

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 if she loses her job for supporting Anjanette Brown.

Coyle declined to comment.

Anjanette Brown also said she received additional services, and as a result she 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 recommendation that he receive special education services. This refusal is documented in a recorded conversation between Anjanette and Luvelle Brown that the son’s doctor obtained by The Ithacan. Luvelle Brown allowed his son’s teachers to use voice-activated 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. She 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. “I had a really hard time at ICSD and both of my kids, we just get to be ourselves here, it doesn’t matter who we are.”

That coming out of their mouth was so good for their skills and his performance in school.

It was during this time as per the custody agreement, Anjanette Brown claims that Luvelle Brown explicitly told her that he was the child’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 Keffer 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. Keffer was still in this position when she applied for the job at ICSD. Keffer admitted in her deposition to having a romantic relationship with Luvelle beginning roughly six months after their divorce and, she claimed she and Luvelle Brown never discussed his 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 Keffer 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 there exists clear evidence to an ongoing family dispute between you and your former husband and are therefore outside of the Board of Education’s purview.”

Sear Eversley Bradwell, assistant 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) and the NYSED 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 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. In February 2022 by IC Alumni Against Austerity is demanding for Luvelle Brown to step down. It has received 288 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 Linz, 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, Linz 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 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

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

private family and personal matters, but we don’t comment on family and personal matters,” Linz 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.

Shortly after, Anjanette 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 released a statement that he will remain as superintendent indefinitely.

“The Ithacan Times that the ICSD Board of Education had conducted an investigation but found that many of the claims were not meritorious or that they were out of the influence of the employees.”

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 demanding 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 J. 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 J. 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.

“That 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.

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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 council 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 authority 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.

“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.

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 consequenc- es,” 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 administra- tion wants to ignore bylaws, they can just simply ignore bylaws because there are no consequences.”

During the meeting’s discussion of shared governance, professor and chair in the Department of Biology, who was a member of the ICC when he taught a course in four different perspectives. These themes mean that four classes in just three perspectives would prevent the implementa- tion of a new curriculum.

“I’ve had classes that I feel could fit under Identities, but it’s under Mind, Body, Spirit or something like that.” Butler said. “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 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 graduation requirement and faculty were offering any commen- tary 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.”

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

“I don’t know why it needs to be a documented thing.” Baum- bach 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.”
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 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 improvisation basics

The Center for Faculty Excellence hosts many trainings and workshops for faculty. Kathleen Mulligan, professor of Theatre and Dance and Department of Theatre Arts, is facilitating a short workshop to teach the basics of healthy vocal practice, including breath support, tonal focus and optimal pitch.

The workshop will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. April 19 in 56C Green Hall.

The workshop is designed to improve attendee’s vocal impressions, which have a positive 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 cle@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 assault.

So far, two events have been held: a community art project and a Q&A discussion with Jen Huemmer, associate director of the Department of Strategic Communication and creator of the ‘Good Girls Don’t Tell’ documentary.

The SVPC has planned events and two events have been held: a community art project and a Q&A discussion with Jen Huemmer, associate director of the Department of Strategic Communication and creator of the ‘Good Girls Don’t Tell’ documentary.

Those with questions or accommodation requests regarding this event are asked to contact cle@ITHACA.edu.

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

The American Composers Concert Artists Residency supports the college’s in-residence teaching opportunities with renowned musicians. 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. Mask protocol required in the recital 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 Sphera 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 pianist at Hunter College Management is hosting a learning session about the Rare Guardian app on April 11 and again April 25. The app provides campus community members with training on-campus and off-campus support services and resources.

The training will help attendees to learn how to operate the Rare Guardian app. Elsey Nega can be contacted with any questions or requests for accommodations at enega@ITHACA.edu.

During lunch April 12, SVP 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 svp@ITHACA.edu.

Hypnotist event mesmerizes IC students

Noah Sonie, a magician, mentalist and hypnotist, entertained a crowd of Ithaca College students at 8 p.m. April 6 in the Emerson Suites. Sonie gathered students to come up on stage, where they were enchanted by his mystifying skills.

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

Student board members needed for 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 hearings 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 decline to 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 607-274-3575 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 offers financial stipends of up to $3,800 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: A caller reported receiving a phone call that individuals were at the natural area checked and was lost on nature trails. Officer reported that the person defeated medical assistance and was inclined medical assistance and was transported to the Health Center. Patrol Officer Myra Colon responded.

MARCH 23

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

MARCH 24

DISORDERLY CONDUCT
LOCATION: 150 Ithaca Eberly Blvd. SUMMARY: Caller reported an event supervision was shown by another supervisor. Officer reported the inquestionable. The event only occurred parties were separated, cooperative and did not wish further action. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded.

MARCH 25

MEDICAL ASSIST/ PSYCHOLOGICAL
LOCATION: 416 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 26

MISSING PERSON
LOCATION: Other: all 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: 180 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.

MARCH 27

SSC 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
LOCATION: 262 Ithaca Eberly 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.
Luvelle Brown must step down from positions of power

IIeys 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. Anjanette Brown with the help of Peyi Soyinka-Airewele, professor in the Department of Politics at the college, 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 truth. The full truth to the proceedings of Luvelle Brown is shameful — the unraveling details to this story are not better, they’re worse. 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 months 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 ithcan@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 ithcan@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

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EDITORIAL
Luvelle Brown must step down from positions of power

Luvelle 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 truth. The full truth to the proceedings of Luvelle Brown is shameful — the unraveling details to this story are not better, they’re worse. 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 months 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.

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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 assault and I attended workshops on sex work and queer sex education. I grew to appreciate having ownership over my body and began to learn how a white, cisgender, straight woman was taught to see her body 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 pressure.

Unfortunately, we were sent home because of the lockdown and, like many others, we were made to 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 sugar had a process 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, and it was all consensual. This feeling of liberation for paid internships is yet another barrier for a whole group of BIPOC students with lower incomes who can’t even consider applying to these positions. Thus, the responsibility of companies to offer fair internship opportunities to students is considered fortunate if they are able to secure a paid internship position. Many students are considered fortunate if they are able to secure a paid internship position. Many people feel that this is very much that is considered fortunate in the college’s control regarding COVID-19.

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 year, 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 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 are in place are not enough.

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 animal.” These comments began to impact the way I viewed my worth and beauty. I care about my education and I care about my future, yet 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 are in place are not enough.

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answers to last issue’s sudoku:

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check our status

Online daily at www.theithacan.org
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 event 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.

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The event began with its current members and returning alumni on the James J. Whalen Center for Music’s Ford Hall stage. Freshman Jaiden Stroud performed 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.

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 Ferrazzo ’95, alumni and Ithacappella Hall of Fame inductee, has been an active member of the alumni association since its creation in 2009. Ferrazzo said what started as a small group visit back to Ithaca became a hugely involved association.

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

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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 Game (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” from the Wario app game 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.

“As soon as we set a base, we were already thinking about the next video,” Perleoni said.

“A lot of it was just ake a cool, we’ve never had that,” Shuman said. “So we wrote up a story about Quiznos marketing being crazy at the time and made another character, the Quiznos executive, 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 “Quizmos Training Game,” which appeared in “Quiznos Employee Training Game (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 October 2021. Beemer said he and Perleoni worked on the game until the second week of February, the week that was set up on the car ride to Philadelphia.

“I started to get really car sick because I was starting 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 don’t think I could have done it any worse, 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 that’s the humor of the game.”

Every Luxury Station video looks like it comes from the 1990s, including the Sonic head and Crash Bandicoot puppet featured in “Quiznos: Wumpa Fruit Smoothie” Ad 96.”

“Sonic was their game and we made a game that was pretty close to the Sonic head and Crash Bandicoot puppet in its style and execution,” Perleoni said.

Finn said the Crash Bandicoot puppet was particularly hard to build.

“We used a lot of felt and a lot of weird fabrics and stuff 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 authentically bad.”

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.”

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.

CONTACT MADDY MARTIN
NMAARTIN@ITHACA.EDU

IC Theatre Lab presents production of ‘Grease’

BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD

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.

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

“Everyone was just a fan of the project when they were starting,” said senior Matt Finn, who played the role of Danny Zuko.

“Even now, we’re still excited to do it and we’re really happy with how it’s coming together,” said Finn.

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

“One of the hardest parts of it is that we’re just tired,” Shuman said.

Despite all the work and stress that comes with a project like this, the theatre lab is just having fun.

“The best thing about it is that you’re just having fun,” Shuman said.

CONTACT SYDNEY BRUMFIELD
SBRUMFIELD@ITHACA.EDU

CONTACT KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022

LIFE & CULTURE

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022

LIFE & CULTURE
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 Adam Neé’s "The Lost City," a film that pays homage to action and adventure romances of the past with 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 (Danny Devito) and begins to focus on some of the other, less interesting supporting characters.

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 on the covers of Sage's novels. 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 Bullock's characters that will most certainly leave audiences wanting more.

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

Despite a few minor plot-based inconsistencies, "The Lost City" delivers a fun and engaging adventure film thanks to its stars.

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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 extraordinary Denzel Curry, especially after a spectacular run of projects that includes "Ido" 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.

In his latest LP, Denzel Curry delivers his most raw and down-to-earth music yet. "Melt My Eyez See Your Future" marks a change in Curry's sound and likewise comes with some growing pains. Despite being one of his longest albums at 15 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.

On his latest LP Denzel Curry delivers his most raw and down-to-earth music yet. His perspective, choosing instead to speak directly from his heart, creating an honest and impassionate jazz-rap album that is full of insight through its thoughtful and motivational lyrics to fill a manifesto.

In the opening track, "Walkin’" Curry repeats the refrain "I keep walkin’" as a veritable 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 with 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 speed 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 Killing Floor on bass work to provide a heavy textured running through the whole project.

The cumulative effect is a progressive hip-hop album unbound by genre constrictions 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. 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 “sinsisters” or “sexual delinquents, and in many cases they have sticked their hands in the anti-freedom pot. I know, ironic.

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Book banning’s harmful return

BY MADDY MARTIN

In Fall 2021 there were 350 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 gender black, is currently being challenged in school districts and libraries in more than a dozen states. And the crusade continues.

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 in “Don’t Say Gay Bill” into law, which prohibits discussion of 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 LGBT+ themes or the Black experience, including “Blues Eye” by Morrison, “Fallen Angel” 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 collections to include more books written by Black and B+ athletics, including "Melt My Eyez See Your Future."

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New Denzel Curry album opts for honest jazz-rap

ALBUM REVIEW: "Melt My Eyez See Your Future" Denzel Curry

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However, on the lead single “Walkin’,” Curry’s sound returns to the concept of "just keep walkin’" as shorthand for forging his own way through life, using lyrical reflections on speed 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 Killing Floor on bass work to provide a heavy textured running through the whole project.

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SPORTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2022

SOARING TO THE TOP OF THE SPORT

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’s 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 on March 11, with both of the college’s teams landing in the top 25. This recognition came after the team’s success at 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 joke. This created a fun environment. This includes Kweezy’s roster. Mukamal said there are currently 17 players on the team, Mukamal said that while being a part of the team’s success on the field this spring has been enjoyable, being a part of a club has greatly enhanced the college experience.

The first friend 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 this was a school that I wanted to be at.”

While the teams are primarily run by the practice captains, the club’s advisor is Matthew Klemm, associate professor and interim chair in the Department of History. Klemm said they 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 and supportive one another and keeping everyone in a positive state of mind.”

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

LAUREN LEPINSKI/ITHACA\EDU

IL CLUBS REACH NATIONAL RANKINGS

BY TOMMY MUMAU

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LAUREN LEPINSKI/ITHACA\EDU
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 team’s early performance has been bolstered by solid team chemistry which should play an important role throughout the season.

The Bombers began their 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 the first five games has them a 10–2 record in their first 12 games, and the club currently sits at 15–5.

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 reached our day-to-day work ethic and commitment to excellence on the field,” Valesente said. “I’m happy how with our transition game. Our guys are happy about where our chemistry and camaraderie are, and the togetherness of the team. Our guys are showing is amazing.”

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bombers are glad to have had a full season again after having the last two seasons shortened. With games against teams from other regions and conference extensions, the Bombers hope to have 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 out 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 8–9.

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 feel comfortable.

“I was really nervous in not knowing what to expect,” Cutaia said. “The seniors have always been there for us, 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 to offer the group of freshmen players.

“The senior class is huge to our success both on and off the field,” Cutaia said. “Guys like [senior Buzz Shumaker], he has been amazing.”

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 95 earned runs in 173 innings pitched, as well as allowing 164 hits with 17 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, in overall conference record so far.

BY DAVID SCHURTER

IC pole vault coach earns national recognition

BY AIDAN CHARDE

Matt Schefller, 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 enjoys working with high school athletes, but never thought he would move to being a college coach.

But after persistence from the head coach of the men’s and women’s track and field teams, Schefller 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, Schefller was honored with the United States Track & Field and Cross-Country College Association (USTFCCCA) National Women’s Assistant Coach of the Year award.

For Schefller, 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,” Schefller 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 having being about getting something is rewarding.”

While Schefller does work with the men’s and women’s pole vaulters at the college, he also works with and helps out at the Lansing, New York, and runs the Tompkins County Pole Vault Club.

But even with all the other work he does, Schefller 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-Nelso also landed in 10th.

Matheny said Schefller’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-Nelson’s, which means Schefller 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.”

Schefller’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 2017, 2018 and 2021. He was also named the Collegiate Coach of the Year in 2018 at the National Pole Vault Summit at Ithaca College, earning him 38 of 101 votes in the greatest pole vaulters’ 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 her father 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 Schefller 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 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,” Schefller said. “You learn what works, and you learn no two athletes are the same even, but there are a lot of similarities and things, and so you can apply things that you’ve learned from other athletes to your current athletes.”

Altonen said the other thing that makes Schefller great is his belief in all his athletes. If she has a bad practice or competition, Schefller 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, definitely I can do it.”

All of Schefller’s athletes credit him with helping them, but Schefller 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,” Schefller 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.”

BY AIDAN CHARDE

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.

BY DAVID SCHURTER

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

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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.