

ACCURACY • INDEPENDENCE • INTEGRITY



## Ithaca residents on board with campaign for free TCAT fares

**BY NOA RAN-RESSLER**

Members of the Ithaca community have shown they are ready for free public transit. A petition was launched March 3 to make Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit (TCAT) free, which would increase accessibility and efficiency but reduce TCAT's revenue.

The petition is part of a larger campaign by the Ithaca branch of Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), called FreeCAT, that advocates for fare-free and expanded TCAT services, according to Sabrina Leddy, the chair of the FreeCAT campaign. Leddy said the petition is a tool for the campaign but is not the sole focus.

George DeFendini, interim chair of Ithaca DSA and Fourth Ward alderperson on Ithaca's Common Council, said the goal of the campaign is to bring attention to a public need and public demand. Some of the other aspects of the campaign that are carried out by Ithaca's DSA members include canvassing and speaking to TCAT riders, meeting with local government members and more, according to DeFendini.

"The issue we're trying to address with free mass transit ... drives through the issues of systemic marginalization and racism, classism, and the climate catastrophe," DeFendini said.

The campaign calls for Cornell University to foot the bill for fare-free public transportation. According to DeFendini, Cornell's tax exemption is an opportunity for them to contribute to the community financially. In 2021, Cornell contributed over \$1.4 million for fire and other municipal costs, according to the City of Ithaca's budget narrative. According to the Association of American Universities, most colleges and universities, including Cornell University, are tax-exempt as non-profit educational institutions, falling under the IRS Section 501(c)(3) exemption. Ithaca College is also part of this tax exemption.

**TCAT, PAGE 4**

XINYI QIN/THE ITHACAN

## Community gathers to mourn student who died in accident

**BY CLARE SHANAHAN**

Rain fell over the Muller Chapel on Sept. 13 as members of the Ithaca College community gathered to remember sophomore Shea Colbert, who died unexpectedly in a car accident Sept. 10.

"You have to understand, there's something magical about the skies mourning [Colbert's] passing, and now, with every drop of rain, is what's needed for new growth and vegetation," Chaplain Yasin Ahmed, director of Religious and Spiritual Life, said.

On Saturday, Sept. 10, the college community was notified in an email of Colbert's death. Colbert was a student in the School of Business.

At the memorial, which was attended by about 75 members of the campus community, Colbert's friends and college leadership spoke about how Colbert will be remembered.

Colbert's friend and roommate, sophomore Liam Whelan, said Colbert was kind and good at many things, but the most important was his ability to help



Chaplain Yasin Ahmed, director of Religious and Spiritual Life at Ithaca College, speaks at a memorial for Shea Colbert.

JASMINE SCRIVEN/THE ITHACAN

others and bring positivity to any situation.

"He loved hiking, baseball, '80s and '90s rock, snowboarding, but he'd be extremely mad at me if I didn't bring up how good he was at Super Smash Bros," Whelan said. "There was one thing he was good at without realizing, and it was helping others. When I needed him to help me move out of my dorm with less than an hour's notice, and the fact that I hadn't packed anything, he was there."

Sophomore Paige Turcotte said, like Whelan, she would

**MEMORIAL, PAGE 4**

## Queen's death elicits conflicting emotions

**BY VIVIAN ROSE**

Notifications across Ithaca College's campus in the afternoon of Sept. 8 all had the same message as professors, students and faculty opened their phones to the same headline: Queen Elizabeth II has died.

The queen died at 96 years old from a decline in health and is known as the longest reigning monarch of the British Empire, having ascended the throne in 1952, according to the Associated Press. The queen died surrounded by members of the Royal Family at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, including her son, Charles III, who is now the king, according to CNN.

The role of the Royal Family is to host and attend international and domestic events like prominent funerals and festivities and to act as diplomats for the nation's foreign ties. The Parliament has held governing power since the 18th Century and the reigning king or queen has no role as a political figure.

First-year student Indiya Bennett, an international student from Wales, said she respects the queen for being able to modernize the role

of British royalty.

"The few female monarchs that we have had in our history have made significant impacts on Britain and Her Royal Highness is no different in this," Bennett said. "She adapted to the rapid changes the world has seen in the last century and evolved the monarchy into something that will stand the test of time for at least a little longer."

Meghan Callahan, director of the Ithaca College London Center (ICLC), said she observed many Londoners flock to several of the U.K.'s palaces to pay tribute to the loss of the queen.

"There have been a variety of reactions," Callahan said. "Some people went to Buckingham Palace upon learning of the news, others have gone to Windsor and other palaces to put flowers and notes at the gates. The image of the queen is displayed on digital billboards, the Tube and all over the city."

Callahan said there are many mixed emotions among the citizens of London, as some people choose to mourn and pay their respects, while others are choosing not to.

**QUEEN'S DEATH, PAGE 4**

**LIFE & CULTURE | page 11**  
**ALUMNI FILM  
FEATURED AT  
AWARDS SHOW**



**OPINION | page 7**  
**ITHACA DESERVES  
ACCESSIBLE AND  
FREE TCAT RIDES**



**SPORTS | page 14**  
**IC MEN'S SOCCER  
WELCOMES THREE  
NEW TRANSFERS**

# Apogee flies from Texas to talk Wi-Fi with the SGC

BY LORIEN TYNE

Executives from Apogee, Ithaca College’s internet provider, traveled from Austin, Texas, to attend the Ithaca College Student Government Council’s (SGC) weekly meeting Sept. 12, accompanied by representatives from the Office of Information Technology (IT) to discuss issues with the residential Wi-Fi.

Apogee has been working with the college for the past 20 years to provide the residential hall network (ResNet). Since the start of Fall 2022, many students at the college have been upset with Apogee because of problems like not being able to connect their devices.

The Apogee executives at the SGC meeting were Client Services Manager Heather Snowman, Regional Vice President John O’Brien and Chief Operating Officer Kevin Reichle. Representatives from IT included Chief Information Officer David Weil and Casey Kendall, executive director of Applications and Infrastructure.

“We’re disappointed in how this went,” Reichle said. “... this erodes trust in Apogee. We really pride ourselves on providing an excellent experience for students.”

Snowman said Apogee usually tests all

upgrades at volunteer campuses, but Apogee did not have the full equipment ready and thought it would be OK to install just a portion of the equipment at the college. The network upgrades include a personal-area network, letting devices communicate data through connections like Bluetooth, Ethernet or Wi-Fi; single sign-on, which allows students to connect using their college credentials; and the Apogee ResNet app, a platform where students can quickly connect to the Wi-Fi, manage devices and access Apogee support in one place.

“In full transparency, Ithaca College was not consulted about [updates without testing],” Weil said. “We need a partner. We think Apogee is the way forward, there’s no question. There are struggles. As I said, we are holding them accountable.”

According to *The Ithacan*, the college considered not renewing its contract with Apogee when the term was set to end in August 2014.

Senior Senate Chair Austin Ruffino asked Apogee why there are different Wi-Fi networks in the academic buildings.

“Throughout that whole process [of setting up ResNet], I actually never had issues with the Ithaca College network,” Ruffino said.



From left, Chief Information Officer David Weil; sophomore Noah Richardson, Class of 2025 senator; and junior Nick Viggiani, Class of 2024 senator; discuss campus Wi-Fi.

MADDY TANZMAN/THE ITHACAN

Kendall said Apogee only manages ResNet and the college manages the Wi-Fi in all academic and administrative buildings.

“We connect [Apogee’s] equipment to ours to rebroadcast the Apogee network,” Kendall said. “So, while you probably were really good on the college piece, [Apogee’s] was the equipment that was changed.”

Sophomore Hannah Ahmed, Class of 2025 senator, asked Apogee if they thought the upgrades were worth the issues that followed. Snowman said there would have been a

better outcome if Apogee had waited for the full equipment upgrade to add the new services.

“But, I think now, knock on wood, that the issues have been smoothed out, hopefully you’ll be able to enjoy the new features while we’re waiting for the equipment upgrade,” Snowman said.

*Contributing writer Demanye Duncan contributed reporting.*

CONTACT LORIEN TYNE  
LTYNE@ITHACA.EDU

## MULTIMEDIA

THERE’S MORE MULTIMEDIA ONLINE. VISIT THEITHACAN.ORG/MULTIMEDIA



### IC Creatives: Matt Gerety

Junior Matt Gerety talked to *The Ithacan* about his passion for making and producing original music.



### 'Deja View' - "Pride" (2014)

Co-hosts senior Sydney Brumfield and sophomore Therese Kinirons kick off their new series focusing on queer media with "Pride" (2014).

## THE ITHACAN

220 ROY H. PARK HALL,  
ITHACA COLLEGE, ITHACA, NY 14850  
(607) 274-3208 • ITHACAN@ITHACA.EDU  
WWW.THEITHACAN.ORG

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF	CAITLIN HOLTZMAN
MANAGING EDITOR	ELEANOR KAY
COMMUNITY OUTREACH MANAGER	ZHANNZ GOMEZ
OPINION EDITOR	SEAN FISKE
NEWS EDITOR	SYD PIERRE
ASST. NEWS EDITOR	LORIEN TYNE
ASST. NEWS EDITOR	CLARE SHANAHAN
CO-LIFE & CULTURE EDITOR	ELIZABETH KHARABADZE
CO-LIFE & CULTURE EDITOR	MATT MINTON
SPORTS EDITOR	AIDAN CHARDE
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR	DANIEL KING
PHOTO EDITOR	NOLAN SAUNDERS
ASST. PHOTO EDITOR	KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON
ASST. PHOTO EDITOR	LEILA MARCILLO-GÓMEZ
CO-VIDEO EDITOR	MAGGIE BRYAN
CO-VIDEO EDITOR	MORGANA ZENDEJAS PETERSON
PODCAST EDITOR	LYLE CABAN
CHIEF COPY EDITOR	MAGGIE HAEFNER
PROOFREADER	EMILY FISCHER
ASST. PROOFREADER	LUCRETIOUS RUTKOWSKI
DESIGN EDITOR	MALIK CLEMENT
ASST. DESIGN EDITOR	ARIANA GONZALEZ VILLARREAL
WEB DIRECTOR	KEEGAN PALMO
SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER	SARAH MARBAIX
AD SALES MANAGER	SPENCER PARK
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	EVA SALZMAN
ITHACAN ADVISER	CASEY MUSARRA

### COPY EDITORS

Gracie Gallagher, Leah McLean and Ray Milburn

THE ITHACAN IS PRINTED AT JOHNSON NEWSPAPER CORPORATION

### GOT A NEWS TIP?

Contact the News Editor at  
ithacannews@gmail.com or 274-3208

SINGLE COPIES OF *THE ITHACAN* ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE FROM AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTION POINTS ON THE ITHACA COLLEGE CAMPUS AND IN THE ITHACA COMMUNITY. MULTIPLE COPIES AND MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE OFFICE OF *THE ITHACAN*. PLEASE CALL FOR RATES.



facebook.com/  
ithacanonline



@ithacanonline



The Ithacan



@ithacanonline



youtube.com/  
ithacanonline

# Pianist shortage does not play well at IC

BY AUBREN VILLASENOR

A shortage of pianists within the Ithaca College School of Music, Theatre, and Dance is causing some students frustration as they cannot meet their academic needs.

Piano accompaniment is required for the majority of musical repertoire, making it an essential service. In previous years, graduate students carried much of the accompaniment load.

Charis Dimaras, professor in the Department of Performance and Collaborative studies, said the recent suspension of the graduate programs as part of the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) is one of the catalysts for the situation.

“The recent suspension of the majority of the music graduate programs is what yielded this difficult situation in [piano] accompaniment resources,” Dimaras said. “Obviously, this is a major problem in terms of day to day functionality of the school.”

During the 2020–21 academic year, the college implemented the Academic Program Prioritization (APP) process. The APP recommended the discontinuation of four out of five masters in music programs.

Frustration with the suspension of the graduate programs is a sentiment shared by many students, including sophomore Advika Balaji.

“Upperclassmen used to take a lot more collaborations than we would and they also were a lot



Students in the Ithaca College School of Music, Theatre, and Dance are struggling to find piano players for their projects after the suspension of four out of five masters in music programs.

RAY MILBURN/THE ITHACAN

less busy,” Balaji said. “But a lot of collaborative [piano] graduates also left, so since it was their emphasis, it just reduced the range of vocalists being accompanied.”

Anne Hogan, newly inaugurated dean of the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, said she plans to have meetings with faculty and students to determine the best course of action for the future of the graduate programs.

“There will be a series of meetings to get input from students and faculty, input that will be used to assess and review the graduate programs,” Hogan said.

Some students have shared frustration with the current system. Junior vocal performance major Katherine White said she

felt a sense of disorganization in the process of finding a pianist.

“You have to go down the list [of pianists] and send a blast of emails to them all individually,” White said. “It very much feels like every man for himself.”

The majority of pianists within the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance are students who are not paid by the college.

“[Payment] is out of our own pockets,” White said. “We’re paying so much money to be here and [the school] can’t even allocate to paying for a degree-required resource.”

Ivy Walz, associate dean of the Center for Music, said a program had existed where students were able to be hired by the

college as part of their music curriculum, but it was revised to exclude payment and hiring of students. To help address the shortage, Walz updated a webpage of accompaniment resources provided by the college to include a list of staff pianists available to work with students.

White said they were hoping for more support.

“I think it’s good that they’re making resources more accessible,” White said. “But the issue remains that we just need more resources available to accommodate every single music student in the building.”

CONTACT AUBREN VILLASENOR  
AVILLASENOR@ITHACA.EDU

# Presentations held for SGC

BY LORIEN TYNE

The Ithaca College Student Governance Council (SGC) held its platform presentations Sept. 13 for candidates running in the Fall 2022 election.

The campaign period for the SGC candidates began Sept. 9. The online voting form can be found on the IC Engage website between Sept. 14 and 16.

There are nine open positions that candidates are running for, including both Class of 2026 senators, four senators-at-large, and senators for the School of Business, the School of Communications, and the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. There are nine open positions that do not have candidates running for them.

First-year student Lili Chalfant presented her platform as the only candidate for the School of Communications senator. She said she was the senior prefect at her high school, which gave her experience in communicating with administration and advocating for students — specifically about mental health needs.

First-year students Asata Rothblatt and Eleanor Paterson are running unopposed for the two Class of 2026 senator positions. Paterson was not able to attend the platform presentations. Rothblatt said her main focuses as a senator would be campus sustainability, mental health and quality food in dining halls.

Junior Utkarsh Maini, a business major with finance and international business concentration, is running for the School of Business senator. He said his goals focus on using the sustainable features in Park Center for Business and Sustainable Enterprise, reopening the School of Business Cafe and increasing engagement in the school’s clubs.

First-year student Nicole Sutera is running for the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance senator on the platform of building community after the School of Music and the Department of Theatre Arts merged to create the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance in July.

“I’m excited to begin building a tightly knit community between Dillingham and Whalen students because there could be no musicals without a pit orchestra and there could be no operas without sets, lighting and crew,” Sutera said.

First-year students Rishabh Sen, Dante Conde, Caleb Cackowski and Matthew Williams are running unopposed for four out of five senator-at-large positions. One of the topics both Sen — an international student from Malaysia — and Conde spoke about was advocating for more authentic international dishes in the dining halls.

“I know we do Indian bars and Italian bars or Chinese bars, but a little bit more authenticity to that so people, international students, actually feel at home eating those foods because I definitely don’t feel that way,” Sen said.

Cackowski said that he was upset when he learned that his classes for his screenwriting major conflicted with participating in ensembles.

“I want to interact with the Campus Affairs Committee to represent the population of IC students who similarly want to collaborate across disciplines,” Cackowski said.

Williams spoke about improving accessibility in terms of building features as well as spaces and clubs for neurodivergent students. He also said he wants to improve the SGC’s visibility on campus.

“This room doesn’t look like 5,000 people,” Williams said. “So, we need to have more than, I don’t know, 20 people in a room when we’re having meetings like this. So, I think visibility, people understanding the importance of SGC and people being able to get to SGC [meetings], is very important.”

CONTACT LORIEN TYNE  
LTYNE@ITHACA.EDU

# OTD doctoral program to begin Fall 2023

BY JADYN DAVIS

In an effort to provide more learning opportunities and further education for students at Ithaca College, the Department of Occupational Therapy (OTD) has implemented a new six-year undergraduate-plus doctoral degree program that will begin in Fall 2023.

Students that enter the OTD doctoral program will earn a Bachelor of Science degree in occupational science after four years and a doctor of occupational therapy degree after six years.

This doctorate program will replace the combined Bachelor of Science and Master of Science program that was only five years long. The rollout of applications for the program started Aug. 1 and will continue until Feb. 1, 2023.

Julie Dorsey, professor, chair and program director of the Department of Occupational Therapy, said only 50 students will be admitted to the OTD doctorate program.

According to the college’s website, some of the benefits of joining the doctoral program include clinical experiences and the eligibility to sit for the National Board for Certificate in Therapy competency exam.

Dorsey said she is most excited about the curriculum in the doctorate program because it will address occupational justice, which focuses on providing individuals with tools to be able to meet basic needs along with equal opportunities and life chances.

“Our work is to address bigger issues surrounding what is limiting people,” Dorsey said. “We really did some retentional work in our curriculum, which is really important because



Ithaca College is implementing a program that will allow students to earn both a Bachelors of Science and doctor of Occupational Therapy degree in six years.

ELIJAH CEDEÑO/THE ITHACAN

students can learn the skills that are necessary in order to go out and be the change in the profession and help improve the way we view disability.”

Linda Petrosino, dean of the School of Health Science and Human performance (HSHP), said via email that she will continue to play a role as dean in strategically aligning HSHP programs with the market.

“The students will learn how to become advocates of inclusive policies and environments to support occupational justice,” Petersino said. “I am particularly pleased that the curriculum has a focus on occupational justice which sets

us apart from many other programs.”

Senior Aliana Zabe said she is grateful for all of the opportunities the department has given and is glad that the department is implementing a doctrine program.

“I think that it makes sense as a school [that] is very forward thinking and kind of progressive in our program,” Zabe said. “The fact that the college is already prepared and already has all of their pre-approved curriculum is really exciting.”

CONTACT JADYN DAVIS  
JDAVIS@ITHACA.EDU

FROM TCAT, PAGE 1

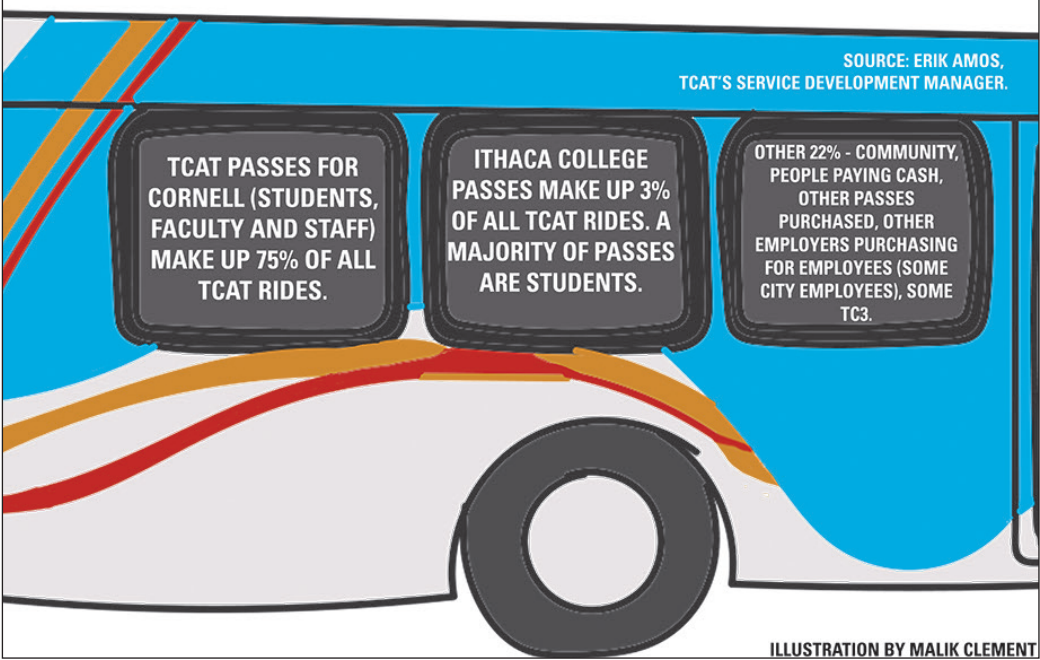
According to Leddy, it would be up to TCAT to decide what costs — like maintenance, wages, insurance and more — would need to be paid by Cornell.

“We don’t have an exact budgetary outline of what we want Cornell to pay for,” Leddy said. “It’s up to TCAT as to how they allocate those funds, based on their own assessment of efficiency and need in different areas.”

According to The Ithaca Voice, a 38.4% increase in TCAT’s operational costs could lead to a \$3.7 million deficit for TCAT in 2024. As the contract stands, each of TCAT’s underwriters — the City of Ithaca, Tompkins County and Cornell University — will have to split the cost of that deficit equally, but the contract is currently being negotiated.

Scot Vanderpool, TCAT’s general manager, said wages cost TCAT \$11.2 million per year, and fuel, parts, maintenance and insurance cost a combined \$4 million per year. He said there have been cost increases in each of those areas, and those costs will continue to rise with inflation.

Each TCAT single-ride pass costs passengers \$1.50, according to the TCAT website. Vanderpool said each ride costs TCAT \$4, while TCAT makes an average of \$1.18 per ride, including the discounted tickets. TCAT, like many other public transportation systems in the nation, is struggling with a driver shortage, Vanderpool said. According to the American Public Transportation Association, 71% of transit agencies surveyed



have had service affected by driver shortages and 92% have struggled to hire new drivers.

Vanderpool said that if the TCAT becomes fare-free, ridership will increase, which will create a need for more drivers. He said he hired a recruiter to address the issue of a driver shortage. Additionally, TCAT has a data analyst that is looking into the cost of fare-free transit.

On Sept. 6, the Ithaca College Office of Student Affairs and Campus Life announced that TCAT said Route 11 — a route that connects the college to The Commons — would be reduced because of budget and staff limitations.

“If we feel at some point in time we can go fare-free, we’ll do that,” Vanderpool said. “We’re just not quite ready.”

Senior Tatum Siegel said they take the TCAT four times per week

to work off campus. With the reduction in buses to campus, they said they have to walk from The Commons to campus at night.

“It’s particularly inconvenient for me because the buses stop at 9 p.m. on weekdays ... and I work in a movie theater, so I work [late],” Siegel said.

Senior Tony Greif said that while they rely on the TCAT to get them to The Commons each week, the trips are costly in the long run.

“Because of how frequently I use the bus, I tend to spend more than \$50 per month,” Greif said. “Cornell students ... have unlimited rides for free, ... [Ithaca College students] have to pay, which seems unfair.”

Fare-free public transportation has been implemented in around 100 cities across the globe, according to The New York Times. In Olympia, Washington, Intercity

Transit went completely fare-free Jan. 1, 2020.

Ann Freeman-Manzanares, the general manager of Intercity Transit, said there have been social, financial and environmental benefits to going fare-free.

“It removes all barriers for all people,” Freeman-Manzanares said. “It makes it more affordable, it encourages people to ride the bus [and] it reduces traffic congestion.”

Leddy said Ithaca DSA will be focusing on communicating with the public in the next few months as members continue canvassing and speaking to the local government and TCAT.

“Signing the petition is always the first step to getting involved,” Leddy said.

CONTACT NOA RAN-RESSLER  
NRANRESSLER@ITHACA.EDU

FROM MEMORIAL, PAGE 1

remember Colbert as kind, as well as outgoing and unique.

“He really was one of a kind, and he knew it,” Turcotte said. “You just could not resist at all wanting to be close to him. No matter when, where or who, Shea would insist on stopping and making random conversations with any stranger who crossed his way.”

Turcotte said she thought of Colbert as a loving person who would spread that to others and who loved to laugh.

“Shea was ready and willing for any kind of adventure,” Turcotte said. “Any time we went on a hike, he would insist that we stray from the path and find something new that people haven’t seen before. He had this ability to make every moment and every person feel special.”

Michael Johnson-Cramer, dean of the School of Business, said that although he only met Colbert a few times, his professors and advisers painted a picture of the kind of student and person Colbert was.

“He wasn’t the kid who sits in the front row [in a class], mostly in the back corner, and sometimes he didn’t show up at all,” Johnson-Cramer said. “An impressionist painting of my favorite kind of student; not, alas, the club president who needs your class to finish their third major, but the sophomore who needs, needs your class to finish becoming who they’re going to be.”

A topic discussed throughout the memorial was the support and resources students have at the college as they process the loss of Colbert. Ahmed spoke about resources and individuals students can reach out to at the college, including the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services and ICare. Ahmed said faculty who need support have access to the employee assistance program. Johnson-Cramer and President La Jerne Cornish also spoke of the support students have at the college in a time of need.

“There are 128 steps from the front door of the Park business building to my office, I counted,” Johnson-Cramer said. “If you need us, please come.”

Cornish said that as a parent, she has been thinking of Colbert’s parents and family since Saturday. However, Cornish also spoke positively of the strength of the college community to support each other after a tragedy.

“We talk about intentionality, connection, caring,” Cornish said. “I am heartened as I stand here right now because you intentionally chose to come to this space, to be there with each other and for each other. You have intentionally chosen to connect and you have intentionally chosen to care.”

Colbert’s friends, Tarcotte and Whelan, encouraged those who were grieving to not be sad for Colbert because he would not have wanted that.

“With everything in me, I can say he’d be so happy and have a big smile on his face to see you all here today to remember him,” Tarcotte said. “He was someone who loved to laugh above all, so tell every funny story you have and laugh for him, even during this tough time.”

Whelan said he is extremely grateful that the last thing he told Colbert was that he loved him, and said he encouraged everyone listening to reach out to someone they loved because you never know what may happen.

“I can sit here and be sad that we all didn’t get enough time with him, but that’s not what he would want from us,” Whelan said. “We need to remember all the good times we had with him, all those good memories.”

CONTACT CLARE SHANAHAN  
CSHANAHAN@ITHACA.EDU

FROM QUEEN’S DEATH, PAGE 1

Callahan said those that are not mourning the death of the queen dislike the Royal Family because of its history of colonialism and oppression.

As for students at the ICLC, classes are canceled for Sept. 19, the day of the queen’s funeral. Junior Becca Blacksten is at the ICLC for Fall 2022 and said via text that she has ambiguous feelings toward the death of the queen.

“Signs are up everywhere and many stores took down their window displays, but not much else,” Blacksten said via text. “You cannot tell anything is different in most of the city. There is no extra traffic in Chiswick, where I am. But go to Westminster or closer to Buckingham Palace and you can’t see a single road that isn’t stopped up.”

First-year student Cordelia Gilbert, an international student from London, said she is not mourning the death of the queen. She said many people, like herself, do not see the equity of people not having enough money to heat their homes in winter, while a large amount of government money will be used to fund the queen’s funeral. According to the British Parliament, state funerals and funerals for royal figures are paid by the British government in part from taxpayer money. The report states that the funeral cost for Princess Diana in 1998 was more than three million pounds.

“I was raised in an anti-monarchy household, and I don’t support the actions of the British monarchy, so I was not as upset as other English people may have been,” Gilbert said.

Gilbert said she was on the phone with her parents when she heard the news of the queen’s passing and had instant information about what was going on in her home city.



Queen Elizabeth II died Sept. 8 at the age of 96, surrounded by members of the Royal Family at Balmoral Castle in Scotland. She ascended the throne in 1952.

COURTESY OF PA PHOTOS/TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

“My parents told me that all the radio and TV had stopped and the only broadcasts showing were the news,” Gilbert said.

According to Bloomberg, the entire nation has paused a range of governmental functions from aspects of their economy to meetings in Parliament as the country undergoes a 10-day mourning period for the queen.

According to Politico, the London Bridge Plan is the plan detailing what will happen in the days after the queen’s death. The plan says the queen’s body will be moved to different places around the U.K., including Buckingham Palace and Westminster Hall, until her final resting spot in St. George’s Chapel at Windsor Castle.

First-year student Emma Dessureau said she feels this is an important moment in history.

“I won’t argue that she was a good person, but on the front of why people are mourning, I think that’s the

interesting thing about a monarchy versus a presidency,” Dessureau said. “We don’t care about the presidents after their term; once they’re done, they’re done. However, the British have had Queen Elizabeth as their queen for 70 years, so her passing is a big deal for Britain.”

Bennett said she thinks the queen should be mourned and respected despite people’s beliefs about the monarchy.

“I am aware that many are not sympathetic over the death of Her Majesty due to the strong colonial ties she and the royal family has,” Bennett said. “I understand these people’s frustrations, but I think it is important to note that we will never fully understand her. It is always easier to shout ‘stop’ at something troubling rather than to act upon it, and maybe Her Majesty could in fact do neither for many possible reasons.”

CONTACT VIVIAN ROSE  
VROSE@ITHACA.EDU

# Students struggle with price of gas

BY DYLAN ALBERT

Gas prices in the City of Ithaca have been consistently decreasing since June 14, 2022, according to AAA, but students and staff at Ithaca College have mixed reactions as prices have the chance of rising again.

According to AAA, as of Sept. 14, the average price per gallon of gas in Tompkins County, \$4.018, exceeds both the national average, \$3.703, and the New York average, \$3.858.

According to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authorities, all of these averages exceeded the New York average price of gas per gallon at the end of 2021, which is \$3.441. According to the Environmental Defense Fund, gas prices have been rising throughout 2022 as a result of minimal development of oil resources, sanctions imposed because of the war in Ukraine and high oil demand.

According to AAA, since June 14, gas prices have remained below the record-high national average of \$5.02 per gallon June 14. President Joe Biden’s ban on Russian oil imports may cause gas prices to rise once again.

Senior Ethan Tuomala, who has had a car at the college since his sophomore year, said high gas prices have added stress to his college experience.

“It’s already a struggle,” Tuomala said. “I work two jobs just to be able to be not insanely



Gas in Tompkins County costs an average of \$4.018 per gallon as of Sept. 14, a number that exceeds the current national average price of \$3.703 per gallon, according to AAA.

ELIJAH CEDEÑO/THE ITHACAN

broke up here.”

Tuomala is not the only student to express concerns. Sophomore Luke Kubeck said he has had his car on campus since the beginning of Fall 2022 and has already started to plan ahead on his spending.

“This affects everyone,” Kubeck said. “I have even started to cut back on certain items when shopping [that] some even could consider necessities.”

Kubeck said the consistently decreasing gas prices have made him stop wondering about how he will pay for gas.

“With prices lowering by the day, as of right now, it is a moment of peace that hopefully stays that way,” Kubeck said. “Things are finally starting to look up.”

Although students at the college expressed concerns about their money management, Ari Kissiloff, assistant professor in the Department of Strategic Communication, said people should be grateful that gas prices are not as high as they are in other locations, like in London, England, and Oslo, Norway, where according to CNN Money, gas prices are at \$5.79 and

\$6.27 per gallon respectively.

Kissiloff said he is only paying an extra dollar per gallon, which adds up to \$75 a semester and \$150 dollars a year. Kissiloff said he believes that this is not that big of a deal and that the community should not overreact.

“Hopefully our economy will be moving away from being dependent on fossil fuels, as this is the only long-term solution to this problem,” Kissiloff said.

CONTACT DYLAN ALBERT  
DALBERT@ITHACA.EDU

# Cortaca tickets are on sale now

BY SYD PIERRE

Tickets for the 2022 63rd Cortaca Jug football game at Yankee Stadium are now on sale for the Ithaca College campus community.

In a Sept. 12 email to the campus community, Bonnie Prunty, vice president for Student Affairs and Campus Life, and Susan Bassett '79, associate vice president and director of Intercollegiate Athletics, said tickets will not be sold on campus like in past years. Instead, they will only be sold electronically through the Ticketmaster website.

Tickets will be available for \$28.50 and the seats will be located in the designated college section at the stadium. The sale will only be open for members of the campus community from Sept. 12 through noon Sept. 18, when it will open to the general public.

Campus community members are able to purchase a maximum of six tickets each and the college has received a 5,000-ticket allotment.

The college will also sponsor nine coach buses, 486 total seats, for round-trip transportation for students to and from Yankee Stadium on Nov. 12.

Seats will be allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis and cost \$20. Interested students must complete the Cortaca 2022 Bus Reservation Form.

The 2022 Cortaca Jug game will take place at 1 p.m. Nov. 12 at Yankee Stadium. The college will also be hosting events including IC in the City, an alumni reunion and Cortaca '22 festivities throughout the weekend.

CONTACT SYD PIERRE  
SPIERRE@ITHACA.EDU

# Q&A: Professor co-writes winning paper on journalism

Allison Frisch, assistant professor in the Ithaca College Department of Journalism, co-wrote a paper that won first place in the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors (ISWNE) competition on the topic of “Strengthening Community Journalism.”

Frisch and Gina Gayle, assistant professor of Visual and Multimedia Storytelling at Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts, wrote the paper, which was presented in July at the ISWNE conference in Lexington, Kentucky. The paper focused on collaboration between colleges and communities to strengthen community journalism and will be published in ISWNE’s Fall 2022 edition of the Grassroots Editor.

Contributing writer Ryan Johnson spoke with Frisch about the paper, her background in community journalism and what further research she might do.

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

**Ryan Johnson:** Could you explain the core research and the conclusions of your paper?

**Allison Frisch:** This paper is part of a series of papers we plan to do to look at different ways students can collaborate with local news media or fill in for local news media where there are news deserts, which means there’s no local newspaper or news websites. This paper looked specifically at college and community collaborations as, kind of, journalism centers. We interviewed six people to specifically look at how you fund these centers in a college and what are the challenges to all of that and keeping the funding there. The core finding, really, was that you need a variety of funding sources, from small, local funding sources to maybe bigger foundations and also you have a challenge

when you have student journalists, because they should be paid what they’re worth and they’re not here year-round. There are still some challenges to overcome, but there are some solutions as well.

**RJ:** Is there anything we can do as citizens to uplift community journalism?

**AF:** Support it when we can; not everybody can afford to pay for it when it’s behind a pay-wall. So, that means only people with a good amount of money can afford it. I think by reading it as much as we can [or] by interacting with any local journalists [or] by helping them out as sources and sharing [their] stories on social media. I would never suggest that citizens who can’t afford it should have to find a way to pay to support it, that’s why I think we need new funding models for community journalism, so that it’s not simply a for-profit endeavor.

**RJ:** How did you feel when you won the ISWNE competition?

**AF:** I was super excited. The competition is for strengthening community news, and that’s why I decided to come and teach, because I think a new generation of journalists is going to strengthen community news. I feel like [winning] was a validation that said, you know, you’re onto something here.

**RJ:** What’s next for you? Are you going to keep focusing on community journalism or maybe tackle another topic?

**AF:** Yes, I am going to keep focusing on community journalism. Right now, you know, we looked at those collaborations and when we presented the paper, the editors and researchers said [they] really want [us] to dive into the funding piece a little more and find all the



Allison Frisch, assistant professor in the Ithaca College Department of Journalism, co-wrote an award-winning research paper about funding community journalism.

JADYN DAVIS/THE ITHACAN

options for funding and see how they work. That’s what we’re looking at next, we’re looking at funding. We’re also going to do research papers on, you know, students themselves. We’ll be interviewing student journalists, we’ll be interviewing funders, and I think by putting together the academics, the funders, the student journalists and the news organizations, we can get a full picture of what’s possible.

**RJ:** What inspired you and Gayle to choose this topic?

**AF:** We are both former journalists and we both worked in community news. She is a visual journalist, a photographer. I was a reporter and then I was an editor and then I ran local newsrooms. We [both] watched our local newsrooms run out of money or get bought up by big hedge

fund corporations, and that broke our hearts. Dr. Gayle went to Syracuse University at Newhouse and got her doctorate, and I went to the Rochester Institute of Technology and got a graduate degree, a master’s in business administration. We both wanted to go into an academic setting and try to find solutions for not only student journalists and early career journalists but for local news as well. We were both chosen as Innovation Fellows at the Arizona State Cronkite School of Journalism in 2019. We met at that fellowship and got really excited talking about the possibilities for student journalists to fill that gap where local news is missing.

CONTACT RYAN JOHNSON  
RJOHNSON4@ITHACA.EDU

# COLLEGE BRIEFS

## Coach buses for Cortaca offered for round trip to Yankee Stadium

Ithaca College is offering students the opportunity to ride in coach buses to the Cortaca Jug 2022 game Nov. 12 at Yankee Stadium. There will be nine buses leaving at 7:45 a.m. from the Athletics and Events Center parking lot that will arrive at Yankee Stadium at 1 p.m. and return to the college after the game.

Tickets cost \$20 and students can purchase tickets online before Oct. 15 by filling out the form on Intercom. To ride the bus, students will have to show their Ithaca College ID and have a ticket to the game, and they must also return to the college on the bus. There will be breakfast and snacks provided to students who choose to take the bus.

Students who purchase tickets are able to cancel them until Nov. 4. Students with questions or trying to cancel bus tickets should contact the Office of Student Affairs and Campus Life at [studentaffairs@ithaca.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@ithaca.edu).

## Aid available for studying abroad from international scholarship

Students planning to study abroad in winter or Spring 2023 or during the 2023-24 academic year and who are Federal Pell Grant recipients can apply for the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program.

The program will award over 3,600 scholarships of up to \$5,000 for undergraduate students who are U.S. citizens and Federal Pell Grant recipients to study abroad. Military Veterans are given preference for scholarships when other qualifications are equal between applicants. Student need and the period spent abroad will determine the amount of money an applicant may receive.

The goal of this program is to provide students with financial limitations the opportunity to study or intern abroad, which also supports historically underrepresented students in abroad education.

There are additional awards available

through the Gilman program. These are the Gilman-McCain Scholarship, awarded to students who receive Title IV or federal financial aid and are dependents of active-duty military service members, and the Critical Need Language award, which is an additional scholarship of up to \$3,000 for students studying a critical need language while abroad.

Students looking for more information can visit the Gilman Scholarship website. Students looking for information regarding study abroad opportunities while at Ithaca College can contact the Office of International Programs through email at [studyabroad@ithaca.edu](mailto:studyabroad@ithaca.edu).

## College seeks student volunteers to be on conduct review board

Ithaca College students can apply to be volunteer members of the student conduct review board in the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (SCCS). Students selected to serve on the board will hear cases of misconduct and help determine if students should be punished for what they did and if so, how. Students who want to apply should be in good standing both academically with the college and with SCCS and they should also be able to participate in a training session.

Board members will generally participate in hearings that will last one to three hours about one to three times a semester; when hearings are scheduled, board members provide their availability and only some participate.

Students can apply to the position online. Anyone requesting accommodations should contact the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards at [conduct@ithaca.edu](mailto:conduct@ithaca.edu) as soon as possible.

## Funding provided for club events hosted in the Campus Center

Student organizations can apply for funds from the Office of Student Engagement (OSE) to host events in IC Square in the Ithaca College Campus Center.

The OSE Campus Center Programming



## Students battle it out during Nerf war

From left, first-year students Zanyjah Coleman-Northern and Kara Brennan surprise Cameron Stanford during a Nerf battle Sept. 10 hosted by the Ithaca College Humans vs Zombies Social Club in the Center for Health Sciences.

KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

Team is providing up to \$1,000 in funding to campus organizations selected to work with them.

Organizations can use this money for event resources including food, supplies and prizes. Organizations that apply should also be willing to host consistent events in IC Square throughout the fall semester. Organizations can fill out an interest form online to apply for this funding and anyone with questions should contact OSE at [ose@ithaca.edu](mailto:ose@ithaca.edu).

### Creative technology center open for the year for student projects

The Ithaca College Center for Creative Technology (CCT) has opened for the 2022-23 academic year. The CCT gives

students access to many resources, including tools to create podcasts, make and edit films, laser cut wood and acrylic, sew, create jewelry, 3D print and use virtual reality technology.

All campus community members have access to these resources and CCT creative tech specialists can provide support and guidance with the technology and projects. The CCT is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday and 12:15 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The CCT room is located in Friends 102 and Job 102 and 103.

Although drop-ins are welcome for CCT equipment, students can reserve CCT resources at [ithaca.edu/cct](http://ithaca.edu/cct).

# PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM AUG. 29 TO SEPT. 4

AUGUST 29

### MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: West Tower

SUMMARY: Caller reported having severe migraine headache and vomiting. Person was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Abdallah Hassan responded.

### RAPE THIRD DEGREE

LOCATION: Unknown on-campus residential hall

SUMMARY: The Title IX Office reported third-hand information that a known person had unwanted sexual contact with another person without consent. Deputy Chief Tom Dunn responded to the report.

AUGUST 30

### PROPERTY DAMAGE/ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Terrace 1

SUMMARY: Caller reported damage to ceiling from water leak. Facilities was notified. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded to the call.

### RAPE THIRD DEGREE

LOCATION: Unknown on-campus residential hall

SUMMARY: The Title IX Office reported third-hand information that a known person had sexual intercourse with another person without consent. The person reported several violent physical acts. Lieutenant Michael Nelson responded.

AUGUST 31

### UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

LOCATION: West Tower

SUMMARY: The Office of Student Conduct reported five people were referred for unlawful possession of marijuana. Lieutenant Michael Nelson responded to the report.

### SCC UNDERAGE POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL

LOCATION: 288 Lyceum Drive

SUMMARY: The Office of Student Conduct reported seven people were referred for underage possession of alcohol. Lieutenant Michael Nelson responded to the report.

SEPTEMBER 1

### OFF-CAMPUS INCIDENT

LOCATION: All other/other

SUMMARY: Caller reported a person made alarming statements of self-harm. The IPD checked the welfare of the person and determined that person was not a threat to themselves or others. Master Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded.

### SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

LOCATION: Gannett Center

SUMMARY: A caller reported they were bleeding from their ear because of an earring being stuck. An officer reported that the bleeding was controlled and the caller requested an ambulance. Ambulance staff removed the earring and no further medical attention was required. Patrol Officer Abdallah Hassan responded.

SEPTEMBER 2

### MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/PSYCHOLOGICAL

LOCATION: Hood Hall

SUMMARY: A third-party caller reported a person was having suicidal

ideations and requested transport to the hospital. Sergeant Jon Elmore responded to the call.

### PETIT LARCENY OVER \$200

LOCATION: Terraces

SUMMARY: A caller reported that their watch had been lost or stolen Aug. 17. Sergeant Jon Elmore responded to the call.

SEPTEMBER 3

### FIRE ALARM SMOLDERING

LOCATION: Campus Center Quad

SUMMARY: A caller reported smoke coming from a cigarette receptacle. An officer reported the receptacle was doused with water to stop smoldering. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded to the call.

### SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE

LOCATION: K-Lot

SUMMARY: An officer reported a vehicle with its engine running and unoccupied by any people. The officer reported they had shut off the vehicle and made sure doors were secured. Sergeant Jon Elmore responded to the scene.

SEPTEMBER 4

### PROPERTY DAMAGE/ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: K-Lot

SUMMARY: An officer reported there had been accidental damage to a vehicle's windshield by a baseball. Sergeant Don Lyke responded to the report of damage.

### FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Facilities parking lot

SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm activation. An officer reported that the alarm activation was caused by burnt food. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded to the Simplex alarm report.

Full public safety log available online at [www.theithacan.org](http://www.theithacan.org).

KEY
SCC – Student Conduct Code
V&T – Vehicle & Transportation
IPD – Ithaca Police Department
AD – Assistant Director



ILLUSTRATION BY MADOLYN DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

Free public transportation is a necessity for Ithaca

The Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit (TCAT) system has served the Ithaca community since 1996 and has consistently found ways to adapt and upgrade to better serve its people. TCAT was one of the first bus systems in New York to adopt the front-mounted bike rack, and the bus system is on track to power all or near all of its fleet with electricity (currently 14% of the fleet), but it is falling behind other transit systems in one category: free, open and accessible ridership.

In Olympia, Washington, the city government offers their Intercity Transit bus system with zero fare to residents and visitors. Intercity Transit placed high priority on their public transportation, providing it with ample resources, time and infrastructure to enable a zero fare system, creating a thriving downtown environment. Zero fare is feasible.

Scot Vanderpool, general manager of TCAT, seems to be in agreement, but the issue of staffing must be solved first. Staffing TCAT has been an issue for some time now, and we will never

see a free TCAT without adequate staffing. To achieve a satisfactory amount of staff members, TCAT will have to improve working conditions by reducing shift hours and increasing pay, all while maintaining their paid CDL training program for new drivers. Now all TCAT needs is to entice those new drivers to apply.

With the Transit Agreement set to expire Oct. 9, something must be done quickly. The current three-way split model between the City of Ithaca, Cornell University and Tompkins County does not accurately take into account TCAT usage and organization budget. Since, according to Vanderpool, Cornell students, faculty, and staff make up approximately 75% of the TCAT ridership, it is only fair the university fronts a majority of the cost for the service.

Even if we fail to reach zero fares, we must reinstate the normal hours of operation for all routes. This will be a costly endeavor, but it will protect Ithaca students and residents from walking home past 9 p.m. in the frigid cold of our winters.

Ithaca College’s program priorities are out of tune

Ithaca College began its story Sept. 19, 1892, as a music conservatory with four students. This story has taken many twists and turns, all leading up to an ironic turn of events when the college made the final decision to cut its Masters of Music program Feb. 24, 2021. Students are now feeling the repercussions of this decision. In order to remedy this issue, we as a college must honor and fund our roots in the arts.

The School of Music, Theatre, and Dance’s problems began in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic when the college cut four of its Masters of Music graduate degrees. The hole left by the graduate accompaniment is currently being filled by overworked undergraduate students. So where should students turn to find a solution?

Communication from Anne Hogan, the newly inaugurated dean of the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, is a step in the right direction. She offers her ear as dean

through the [mtddean@ithaca.edu](mailto:mtddean@ithaca.edu) email, hoping to hear suggestions and complaints from students affected by the graduate program cut. Her communication is appreciated, but Hogan cannot rely on student advice alone to solve the problems at hand. She also mentions there will be “a series of meetings to get input from students and faculty, input that will be used to assess and review the graduate programs.” Her openness to suggestion is laudable, but students need a solution, or at least a temporary solution, as soon as possible.

This is not a simple issue to solve, as recruiting several new pianists would take a few years to pay off. To provide a reasonable workload for undergrad pianists, the college must find a way to budget professional staff when necessary. This could be done through a professional talent service or even another school. Now, as students of the college bear the burden cuts have brought on, is not the time to ignore their pleas. It is time to face the music and fund the arts.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send to [ithacan@ithaca.edu](mailto:ithacan@ithaca.edu).

ALL LETTERS MUST:

- Be 250 words or fewer
- Be emailed or dropped off by 5 p.m. Monday in Park 220

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send to [ithacan@ithaca.edu](mailto:ithacan@ithaca.edu) or to the opinion editor [sfiske@ithaca.edu](mailto:sfiske@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 650–750 words. Whether more or less space is allotted is at the discretion of the editor

GUEST COMMENTARY

Early social connections lead to collegiate success

BY MICHELE LENHART

One of the most meaningful things that happens during college is making strong connections with friends. Students who put energy into meeting new people and creating supportive, personal relationships early in their college experience will benefit in a variety of ways.

Students who make friends and form positive bonds in college are more likely to be academically successful and to ultimately graduate. It makes sense that you would feel encouraged when you have people around who check in on you when you have a project due, or empathize when you have a bad day, or want to celebrate when you accomplish a goal. That kind of support is key to helping you navigate the challenges of higher education.

When you get to college, you are growing as a person, so you might start to widen your social circles to include people who live in the same residential area as you, who are in classes or labs you are taking, or in groups that you participate in, like teams, clubs or jobs on campus. This may feel awkward at first — it takes a bit of effort along with some willingness to be vulnerable, like starting a conversation with someone you do not know yet. Asking a classmate, “what did you think about today’s

discussion topic?” might be enough to break the ice. Yes, there really is a reason for those icebreakers that you might think are cheesy — they really do allow you to get to know someone a little better.

Just ask the almost 400 students who participated in the Jumpstart program Aug. 14 and 15. First, they made a choice to move to campus early and join a group of people they did not know but quickly found they would have at least one shared interest. The Jumpstart coordinators asked them to share several stories about themselves with this group of strangers. The students who embraced the chance to talk about an amazing meal they’ve had, or why they chose their major, or even what kind of liquid they would want to have come out of their belly button on command were the ones who made new friends after spending less than 24 hours together.

Of course, those introductions are just the beginning — you need to have shared experiences to turn an acquaintance into a friend. Putting the effort in to form those friendships can help you build potential study groups, give you someone to process with when you make a mistake or help you find your sense of belonging on campus. And you can provide that same kind of support back to people in your circle of friends. Some of your college friendships will be close and



Michele Lenhart, director of the Office of Student Engagement, shares her expertise on college connections. She suggests that new students should focus on fostering relationships early in their college experience.

DAISY BOLGER/THE ITHACAN

some will be casual and some will fade or break away as you continue to grow and as you recognize who is truly supporting your wellness and life goals.

Every year, I hear from scores of students that they are worried about making new friends, so there are lots of people on campus wanting to make an authentic connection with others at Ithaca College. Students who search for a group related to their interests, and then invest some time in that organization/team/job, exponentially increase their chances of making friends. That investment part is key — finding the right balance of dedicating a few hours a week to opportunities to learn and grow outside of the classroom and staying on top of academic work, too.

That early and committed investment pays off in ways you may not imagine. The friendships you develop during your time at the college will help you be more successful, enjoy your experience now and create memories that will last a lifetime. Next time you are asked to do an icebreaker, I hope you stop yourself from rolling your eyes for a moment, then share and listen and open yourself up to connect with a potential new friend!

**Michele Lenhart (she/her)** is the director of the Office of Student Engagement. Contact her at [mlenhart@ithaca.edu](mailto:mlenhart@ithaca.edu).

GUEST COMMENTARY

Ithaca College hides behind a thin veil of equity

BY CYERRA ADAMS

For many of us, Ithaca College is one of the most forward thinking, liberal and supportive places we’ve ever lived in. Coming from Yonkers, I really appreciated the integration of different groups of people in one place and having new identities to explore was amazing. I was in the early stages of finding myself and the college was there to support the many avenues I wanted to explore, specifically when it came to my sexuality. I was never one way or the other, always blurring the lines between straight, bisexual and pansexual, but before that I was a Black woman looking to feel at home within my community like I did in Yonkers. As time went on, I began to realize something: my sexuality was becoming the forefront of what people wanted to know about me, and I was being forced to think about it more and more, even though I didn’t want to. People were being so vocal about supporting sexuality, gender and all things within the LGBTQ+ community but were rarely speaking up about the need for support of the Black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) community here at our Predominantly White Institution (PWI). More and more I felt like I was choking on my realization, too afraid to speak up for fear of backlash and being called anti-LGBTQ+ — even though I was a part of the community myself.

Before I go any further, I will say that I’ve kept my sexuality fluid and have previously identified as bisexual. Because of this, I (for a very long time) didn’t engage or participate in the LGBTQ+ community because of biphobia that I had seen and heard before I came out. However, my

participation was hindered further because it wasn’t the identity that was first in my mind; being a Black/mixed race woman was. This was the identity that I was aware of and had to deal with every day, no matter where I was. I also had to think about how to navigate the BIPOC community having its own internal issues that needed to be dealt with while still trying to feel close to people who looked like me and were culturally similar to me. I never got to remove or change the way that I looked, and I’d always be a Black woman no matter what — a fact that I am immensely proud of and grateful for.

“Looking” like the group you belong to is something that has become more popular within the LGBTQ+ community as well, as there is a rise in dressing like your sexuality — “she looks lesbian,” “he looks gay,” “they look non-binary,” et cetera. This increase in “the LGBTQ+ look” has added to an increase in reasoning for anything bad happening to someone of that community. It’s easier to say that someone wronged an LGBTQ+ community member because of the fact that the wronged person is in that community.

This gives white LGBTQ+ community members a way to minoritize themselves, sometimes escaping responsibility for their own actions. They think that making themselves a minority group will protect them from being bad people and that they can use their community as a shield for being horrible to others.

Outcry leads to things being done, right? Well, for our white LGBTQ+ community members, yes, this is true. Is this the same for our BIPOC students who have time and time again requested more



Senior Cyerra Adams provides insight as a Black woman on campus. She argues that Ithaca College must be supportive and transparent to the Black student community.

XINYI QIN/THE ITHACAN

support, more community building and less usage of our likenesses to fake diversity? No, it’s not. The voices of white students still ring louder at the college because it is historically a PWI, no matter how liberal, diverse or inclusive Ithaca College tries to make itself out to be. But it doesn’t stop there — the City of Ithaca has a history of being performatively supportive of the needs of people of color, and the people in the city are just the same. Through the past four years, Ithaca has lost 189 BIPOC-identifying students with no information on retention and graduation statistics on said students, while the percentage of white students has stayed above 70% since 1985. Personally, I know why. We’re starting to be real with incoming students about what goes on here. None of us want to lie to these students, and they know that this place isn’t what it seems because they can feel it.

Ithaca College is a beautiful place with an ugly internal system that no one ever talks about because calling out the performance makes the performers upset. Start supporting your BIPOC students with the same voracity that you support your LGBTQ+ students with — because you can’t have them without us.

**Cyerra Adams (she/they)** is a senior art history major. Contact her at [cadams@ithaca.edu](mailto:cadams@ithaca.edu).

# STUDY ABROAD FAIR

Tuesday, September 27

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Emerson Suites

All the study abroad information you need, all in one place!

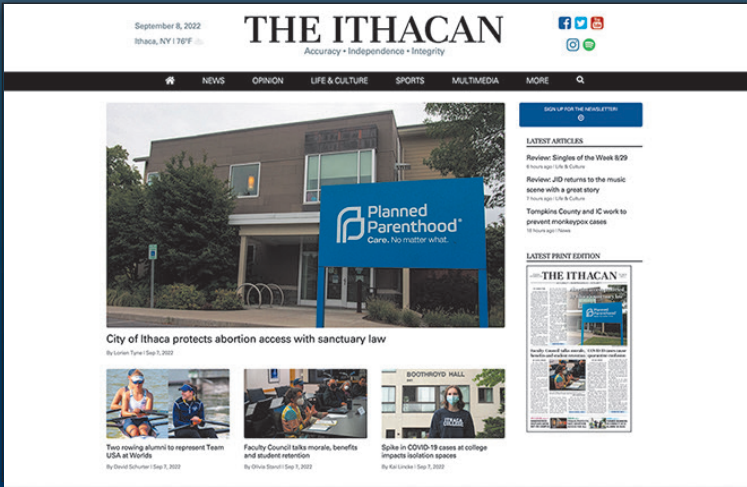
- London Center semester & summer programs
- IC summer, winter, & exchange programs
- IC study abroad partners, offering hundreds of affiliated & non-affiliated programs
- Study abroad planning assistance & peer advisers
- Raffle prizes



## NEW ISSUE EVERY THURSDAY



THE ITHACAN



## WE'VE GOT A NEWSLETTER



# STAY IN THE KNOW WHILE ON THE GO



THE ITHACAN

CAMPUS CENTER • MAC'S • TEXTOR HALL • FRIENDS HALL • ATHLETICS & EVENTS CENTER  
PEGGY RYAN WILLIAMS CENTER • ROY H. PARK HALL • JAMES J. WHALEN CENTER OF MUSIC  
DOROTHY D. AND ROY H. PARK CENTER FOR BUSINESS AND SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISE  
SMIDDY HALL • LIBRARY • TERRACES • DILLINGHAM CENTER

# DIVERSIONS

## crossword

By Quill Driver Books

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21			22			23			
			24			25		26						
27	28	29							30			31	32	33
34				35			36	37		38				
39					40				41			42		
43			44	45		46				47		48		
49					50				51			52		
			53			54		55						
56	57	58					59		60			61	62	63
64					65			66			67			
68					69						70			
71					72						73			

ACROSS

- 1 Stem's end  
5 Mme. Curie  
10 Astrologers of yore  
14 Lahore language  
15 Wry humor  
16 Word of assent  
17 Storyteller  
18 Aquarium denizen  
19 Make a salary  
20 Duds  
22 Enjoys  
24 Talks to a beat  
26 In case  
27 Solar storm  
30 Runway  
34 Literary miscellany  
35 Japanese canine  
38 Down Under denizen  
39"— take forever"  
40 Kudu cousin  
42 Kind of artist  
43 Mortgages  
46 Urged (on)  
48 Raggedy doll  
49 Mariachi wear  
51 Green science  
53 Does lacework

- 55 Rajah's wife  
56 Subordinates  
60 Racing vessels  
64 Male raccoon  
65 Alpine moppet  
67 Employ  
68 Director — Kazan  
69 Consumed  
70 Deadlocked  
71 Valley  
72 Threw  
73 Financial aid criterion

DOWN

- 1 Respite  
2 Huron neighbor  
3 A Pongerosa son  
4 Turmoils  
5 Pronounced incorrectly  
6 Couples only ship?  
7 Crowd noise  
8 PC chip maker  
9 Hole for a shoelace  
10 Baton wielder  
11 Delhi nursemaid  
12 "Breathless" star  
13 Taverns

- 21 Vine valley  
23 Meryl, in "Out of Africa"  
25 Farm gate  
27 Goes on a voyage  
28 Deal with a knot  
29 Auto safety advocate  
31 Port near Hong Kong  
32 Moving right —  
33 Shrewd  
36 Song refrain  
37 Hostility  
41 Falling into ruin

- 44 Spontaneous  
45 Extend over  
47 Lady of Spain  
50 Engraves  
52 Rock plant  
54 Walk off with  
56 Retired  
57 Give out sparingly  
58 Slammer  
59 In — (as found)  
61 Honey factory  
62 Beech or oak  
63 Dispatch  
66 Lair

last issue's crossword answers

L	A	C	E	S		C	R	A	S	H		I	D	O
A	T	A	L	L		H	E	D	G	E		N	A	P
V	E	R	S	A		A	B	S	T	I	N	E	N	T
E	N	E		C	H	I	A		F	A	R	C	E	
		T	O	K	E	N		F	R	E	T	T	E	D
B	E	A	R	E	R		A	L	E	R	T			
R	A	K	E	D		M	E	A	L		Y	O	G	A
A	V	E			J	E	R	K	Y			F	E	B
S	E	R	F		E	D	I	E		M	U	F	T	I
					O	L	L	I	E		D	E	F	E
G	R	A	N	O	L	A		C	O	L	O	R		
L	A	U	D	S		S	O	S	O		I	S	M	
U	N	T	A	I	N	T	E	D		D	U	N	C	E
E	G	O		N	I	E	C	E		I	N	G	O	T
Y	E	S		G	L	A	S	S		C	A	S	T	E

WE'VE GOT  
MULTIMEDIA



YOUTUBE.COM/  
ITHACANONLINE

数独

Create and solve your  
Sudoku puzzles for FREE.  
Play Sudoku and win prizes at:  
**PRIZESUDOKU.COM**  
The Sudoku Source of "The Ithacan".

## sudoku

very easy

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

medium

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

## answers to last issue's sudoku:

easy

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

medium

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

## Thesis film drives across the pond

### Alumni recognized in International Motor Film Awards



A group of students work on “Road Kill,” a senior thesis project produced by four Ithaca College alumni. The film is in competition at the Motor Film Awards on Sept. 21, 2022 in the category of “Best Student Film,” with other categories in the award ceremony including films like “The Batman,” “No Time to Die,” “Ambulance” and “NightTeeth.”

COURTESY OF TENZIN NAMGYEL

BY ELIZABETH KHARABADZE

“Road Kill,” a thesis project among four Ithaca College alumni, made its way across the pond to the International Motor Film Awards in London, where it will compete against other films for “Best Student Film” on Sept. 21.

The film was co-produced by Joel Liss ’22, Joshua Stein ’22, Manny Sanchez ’22 and Clara Montague ’21, all of whom had collaborated in the past on the ICTV series “Wormhole.” The Motor Film Awards highlights works of film and television with a focus on motor vehicles, culminating in a screening and awards ceremony Sept. 21 in London at the Clapham Grand. Awards for films include “Best Cinematography,” “Best Documentary Feature,” “Best Editing” and a “Grand Prix Award.”

“Road Kill” is a short film that follows a young, aspiring stand-up comedian who discovers a dark secret about her idol’s success. The film takes inspiration partially from comedian Mike Birbiglia, whom Liss said performed a stand-up routine about borrowing his parents’ car while he was trying to make it as an up-and-coming comedian. The horror element of “Road Kill” was influenced

by “Little Shop of Horrors.”

“It just struck me as this really interesting image of someone who’s desperately trying to reach a certain level in their artistic field,” Liss said. “It’s a pretty rich metaphor that I thought would be really interesting to [combine with] a ‘Little Shop of Horrors’ narrative.”

What started out as a simple idea in high school eventually evolved into a rough concept for a thesis project, which Liss said was the biggest project the group had ever done.

“What I think really convinced us was when we started writing that first draft of ‘Road Kill,’ I think we just got really excited about it,” Liss said. “And then it was really [Sanchez and Montague who said] we would rather make the car movie. It’s just a more exciting set. And that’s how we chose it.”

After reaching out to and being rejected from 14–15 film festivals, Liss said he was expecting the challenge of having “Road Kill” accepted because the film does not send strong political messages that other student films choose to explore. Liss said he was encouraged by Eduardo Sanchez, co-director of “Blair Witch Project,” while he was still in college to make films that he was passionate about instead of what the film industry expected of him.

The film’s overarching theme is that of success and how far one is willing to go. In the case of the main character Alex, she is given the option to murder her way to success or walk away from achieving her dream.

“I think ‘Road Kill’ kind of ends up [with]

was aiming for. In the end, he said they settled on a beat-up \$400 Acura Integra.

“I’ve always loved cars and I put a lot of thought into what car we’d use for the film,” Sanchez said. “I’m proud of my editing and I’m super happy that it was recognized at the



The \$400 Acura Integra, which was purchased for the film, was specifically chosen for the film to add to the creepy ‘90s look the film’s co-producers were aiming for.

COURTESY OF TENZIN NAMGYEL



A film slate is given on set before a scene for “Road Kill” is filmed Aug. 6, 2021. Joel Liss ’22 and Joshua Stein ’22 direct the second take of Scene 6DB.

COURTESY OF TENZIN NAMGYEL

a cool, ambiguous ending,” Stein said. “Alex, the main character, now knows the price of success that the main, standard comedian Charlotte has paid and [questions if she is] willing to do that? Is she going to drive off in the car and take the car or is she going to burn the car?”

Despite the film’s challenges to be recognized, Stein said he was thrilled to find out the film had been accepted to an international film awards show.

“It’s just great to hear back that we actually got into one,” Stein said. “I’m still really excited that people outside of Ithaca are gonna watch it, which is pretty amazing to me.”

The idea to use a car in the film as a plot device to further drive the horror element of a killer car came from Sanchez’s love for cars. Despite the film’s limited budget, Sanchez said he put a lot of effort into choosing a car that would suit the creepy ‘90s look the film

international level as a good film, but more selfishly as a good car film. Even though we’re just nominated for the student film category, to have my stylistic choice nominated in the same awards as the new Batmobile and Bond car is special.”

Montague encouraged students to push past their creative limits and create what they are passionate about.

“Don’t be afraid to go big for your big projects,” Montague said. “Buying a car for a thesis seems like a lot, but Road Kill wouldn’t have been the same without the Integra.”

“Road Kill” is currently in post-production and will be available to stream Oct. 31 on YouTube.

Contributing writer Chelsea Coichy contributed reporting.

CONTACT ELIZABETH KHARABADZE  
EKHARABADZE@ITHACA.EDU

# Local cat cafe featured in Netflix documentary

BY PRAKRITI PANWAR

Alley Cat Cafe, a place that prides itself on being a shared community for coffee and cat lovers of Ithaca, was used as a shoot location and set for a recent Netflix documentary “Inside the Mind of a Cat.”

The documentary, produced by Red Rock Films, was released Aug. 18 and focused on cat research conducted by scientists across the world as well as the science behind cats’ behaviors and actions.

Several action shots within the documentary were shot in the Alley Cat Cafe, located in Downtown Ithaca. It was the Red Rock Films crew that reached out to the cafe.

“In kind of brainstorming together, [the producers] thought that, you know, that the Alley Cat Cafe would be awesome,” Kornreich said. “What they’re doing is very consistent with what we’re trying to do, which is trying to provide people with really positive experiences with cats and the benefits that cats can provide.”

The documentary crew spent a significant amount of time in the cozy and aromatic shoot location, while Kornreich said he shot his clips in a local AirBnB because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

When the crew first came into the cafe, their emphasis was different, Kristin O’Scammon, owner of the Alley Cat Cafe, said. It was more focused on what she called the “cat and human connection,” or the emotional bond between the two.

The crew was initially interested in talking to someone who had

adopted a cat from the cafe — which they did get on camera, but chose not to use for the documentary, O’Scammon said. The documentary instead focused more on the science behind cats’ behaviors.

Ithaca College first-year student Paris Agiomavritis said she recently visited the cafe and had the opportunity to talk with O’Scammon about the film.

“I heard about the Netflix documentary from the owner herself and I found out some interesting details from her,” Agiomavritis said. “I guess the Netflix documentary was originally going to be totally different from what was released. It was much more centered around community service and how the cats have helped people with anxiety and depression, a much more serious documentary than what was turned out.”

Kornreich said he did not seem to mind the fact that the documentary took a more scientific turn. He said much of the research featured in the documentary, such as the experiment seeing whether a cat recognizes its name or not, investigated the human-animal bond, which was congruent to the idea of informing people about the relationship between cats and human beings.

“Well, I think it’s fine and very informative, because although they did get more into research, primarily behavioral research, much of the research was focused on how people interact with cats,” Kornreich said.

Regardless of the outcome,



The Alley Cat Cafe, featured in the recent Netflix documentary “Inside the Mind of a Cat,” is home to cats, like Emilia, drinks and food. The documentary was released Aug. 18 and focuses on cat research.

THOMAS KERRIGAN/THE ITHACAN

O’Scammon said she enjoyed the process. But at the same time, she would have liked it if the documentary focused more on educating people about fostering cats and taking care of them.

First-year student Samantha Guzman, who has two cats of her own, said she liked the accurate representation of cats in the film.

“In terms of the documentary, it’s just nice to get scenes of the cats just playing around and being their natural selves rather than getting a sad view of the cats caged in a shelter,” Guzman said. “I think

that’s what we need because cats aren’t meant to be caged, they’re meant to be roaming around free. So I’m just glad that they got a good representation or view of what cats are like.”

The cats at Alley Cat Cafe are from Browncoat Cat Rescue (BCR), a volunteer-run organization that brings adoptable kittens to the cafe. Along with BCR, the cafe hopes to foster community among like-minded people.

The cafe has “high” and “low” energy rooms that cater to what mood one is in. The high energy

room is an option for people with allergies who can watch the more social, high energy cats play from the cafe seating area.

“I was able to start off easy with cats in the low energy room that just like to sleep and then build myself up to the more playful ones,” Agiomavritis said. “So I definitely think as a person who hasn’t really had experience with cats, it’s well worth the hype and I would definitely go there again.”

CONTACT PRAKRITI PANWAR  
PPANWAR@ITHACA.EDU

# Macabre puts on ghost-themed 24 Hour Festival

BY MATT MINTON AND KY WILL

The sound of eruptious laughter and shocked moments of realization are just two of the many ways that audiences reacted in watching five new, student-written plays unfold in front of them.

The Macabre Theatre Ensemble is a student-run theater organization providing supernatural, horror, horror comedy, science fiction, avant-garde and experimental theater while working collaboratively as an ensemble. For Macabre’s 24 Hour Theatre Festival, students are given 24 hours to write, direct and act out their own shows.

Nine writers met the evening prior to the show to write their own 10-minute play following the theme Ghosts in the Eve. Once each show was completed Sept. 9, 10 actors and five directors were randomly assigned to them. Then they met the next morning to start practicing, rehearsing throughout the day to perform that night, culminating in the performance at 7 p.m. Sept. 10.

The first play of the evening, “Merry Murder,” was a comedy directed by senior Matt Reisacher, written by junior Gabby Moran and sophomore Grace Montague and featured performances from first-year student Lee Moran and sophomore Jordan Orlando, portraying the story of a true crime podcast.

The next play, “Pretty Face,” was directed by first-year student Rachel Somers, written by sophomore Connor Stanford and sophomore Meaghan Burke and starred senior Zoe Johnson, junior Gabby Moran and first-year student Teddy Heavner in a twisted, sapphic romance.

The third play, “Paper Crowns,” was

directed by senior Rynn Deegan, written by senior Bella Grassia and first-year student Julian Martin and starred first-year students Robyn Jensen and Alexander Blakely. It tells the story of Isaac, who is trying to hide his romance from his family.

The fourth play, “A Visit to the Doctor’s,” was directed by sophomore Max Campion, written by junior Liv Celenza and starred first-year student Meghan Bernardy in a story about a young woman. In this intense story, a distressed young woman comes into the doctor’s office claiming to be followed by a ghost.

Finally, “Truth,” directed by first-year student A. Levin, written by first-year students Robyn Jensen and Teddy Heavner and featuring first-year students Noelle Cook and Eloise Field, finished off the night. The performance features a ghost and a therapist who end up finding comfort together.

Deegan, the artistic consultant with Macabre and a co-producer for the 24 Hour Theatre Fest, said this is the second time Macabre has held the festival since COVID-19. In Spring 2022, the theme for the show was Love & Bones. Deegan said that putting on a show in such a short amount of time allows people who do not have time otherwise to participate in theater.

“I know a lot of us did theater for fun in high school and it can feel so serious in college,” Deegan said. “It’s a great thing that we get some new stories out there, people really get wacky with their concepts.”

Senior Rebecca Rivera, the executive producer for Macabre and a co-producer for the 24 Hour Theatre Fest, said the executive board has been doing a lot of work to expand



From left, sophomore Jordan Orlando and first-year student Lee Moran perform the first play of the evening, “Merry Murder,” featuring a dark and comedic tone.

JASMINE SCRIVEN/THE ITHACAN

what the club can stand for.

“In the past, people had this idea that Macabre just meant gory, bloody, dark humor,” Rivera said. “We’ve been working a lot to really rebrand what Macabre can entail.”

Orlando said that feeling the energy from a live audience of about 30 people is what made the experience so unique for her.

“There were definitely lines where there were only a couple of chuckles and that was a little deflating,” Orlando said. “Then there were other times where I would get a kick out of the audience and that always felt good.” After directing his second play for Ma-

cabre’s 24 Hour Theatre, along with starring in “The Rocky Horror Picture Show,” “Carrie” and “Songs of the Damned” during his first year on campus, Campion said he has gained the insight of realizing that theater does not always have to be perfect.

“Especially with 24 Hour [Theatre], sometimes you’ve got to really let your brains loose,” Campion said. “It’s a good lesson just to take it easy.”

CONTACT MATT MINTON  
MMINTON@ITHACA.EDU  
CONTACT KY WILL  
KWILL@ITHACA.EDU

# Religious satire takes viewers to church

MOVIE REVIEW: “Honk for Jesus. Save Your Soul.” Focus Features ★★★★★

BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD

“Jesus Christ was all about the shock factor,” Trinitie Childs (Regina Hall) said, and so is Adamme Ebo’s latest drama, “Honk for Jesus. Save Your Soul.” This mockumentary styled film ambitiously attempts to shed light on the hypocrisies within the Christian Community as well as entertain viewers through dark comedy.

The film follows televangelist Pastor Lee-Curtis Childs (Sterling K. Brown) and his First Lady Trinitie Childs as they work to bring the congregation back to their Southern Baptist megachurch after a scandal forces them to close. The film picks up as Lee-Curtis hires a documentary team to capture him and his wife’s glorious return to the public. Unfortunately for the Childs, the documentary team will capture every flaw and imperfection that occurs as they try to bury their scandal and open their congregation by Easter.

“Honk for Jesus. Save your Soul.” is first-rate commentary on the immense misappropriation of wealth that occurs within Christianity, specifically as it pertains to how the Childs are able to afford their excessive lifestyle. Ebo demonstrates this visually with the sheer scale of all the different places of worship

in this southern community. The Childs’ church for instance, “Wander to Greater Paths,” is colossal, complete with multiple dance studios, basketball courts and state-of-the-art audio visual capabilities for their sermons.

The narrative structure of “Honk for Jesus. Save your Soul.” is erudite as it utilizes editing to allow the plot to unravel naturally before viewers. There are brief mentions of the Childs’ needing to build themselves back from a “set back” or “problem” without the characters explicitly laying out the details of the scandal.

Ebo does a terrific job at making audience members care for the flawed characters of Lee-Curtis and Trinitie. Collectively they abuse donated funds, attempt to cover up Lee-Curtis’ scandal and care little for how their actions impact others. Even with their tragic flaws, their caricatured personalities, obscurity and over-the-top nature make viewers laugh.

This satirical effect would not have been possible without the talents of Sterling K. Brown and Regina Hall who truly breathe life into these satirical characters. Brown skillfully captures the intricacies of being a walking contradiction in the world of religion. Hall successfully captures the inner turmoil and isolation that accompanies supporting a partner until



From left, Regina Hall and Sterling K. Brown star together as televangelists who try and rebuild their church after a scandal.

COURTESY OF FOCUS FEATURES

the bitter end for better or for worse. Hall’s performance is exceptionally noteworthy as she garners both the biggest laughs and heart wrenching emotions.

Where “Honk for Jesus. Save Your Soul.” falls short is in its delivery and its tone. The film starts off strong with a clear vision in the world of commentary. Unfortunately, about halfway through, the elements of comedy vanish and the film ends feeling and looking more like a drama. This can be

exceptionally jarring to viewers and blur Ebo’s at-one-point clear critique.

“Honk for Jesus. Save Your Soul.” is an in-depth look into the world of religious contradictions and just how fragile of a rock the house of God in the United States is built on. Had it not been for key tone shifts that occur, this could have been a perfect film.

CONTACT SYDNEY BRUMFIELD  
SBRUMFIELD@ITHACA.EDU

# Self-titled album has no nuance or any real merit

ALBUM REVIEW: “YUNGBLUD” Locomotion Recordings Limited ★★☆☆☆

BY JESS WILLIAMS

YUNGBLUD is an interesting face in this new generation of edgy, commercial alt-rock stars. While not quite as shocking as Machine Gun Kelly, he’s not competent enough to reach the decency of someone like Willow. YUNGBLUD lacks defining characteristics. Despite this, it’s hard not to find the guy likable. From his personal and confessional (yet often shallow) lyricism to his seemingly genuine passion for activism that he displayed during the California George Floyd protests, where he helped administer first aid to protesters, you don’t have to look hard to find out how he has amassed an adoring fanbase.

Regardless of how easy it is to root for YUNGBLUD, it is hard to say the same thing for his music. His brand of slightly edgy rock and pop-punk is held back by exaggerated vocals, messy production and eye-roll-inducing lyrics that seem to make fun of mental illness rather than offer a meaningful perspective on it. Even so, glimmers of genius appear now and then in his catalog, like the ska-kissed “I Love You, Will You Marry Me” or the cute indietronica on the title track of 2020’s “weird!”

His self-titled third LP, “YUNGBLUD,” has a promising start with its first two tracks. “The Funeral” and “Tissues” might

be his two most tolerable songs to date, with their irresistible hooks, playful lyrics and trendy '80s synth leads. The latter especially emulates 2010s indie in the same way that Harry Styles’ “As It Was” did earlier this year. Unfortunately, after this promising first leg, the album takes a turn for the worse.

“YUNGBLUD” struggles to stay interesting, defaulting to the same generic pop-rock tropes while YUNGBLUD drives the song into the ground. His painfully scratchy vocals and shallow portrayals of relationship struggles, light drug use and mental health tarnish the mediocrity of the instrumentals. These themes belong in such a personal, emotionally charged album, but YUNGBLUD struggles to paint them in any nuanced or interesting way. “Sweet Heroine” plays out the tired “comparing a romantic interest to a drug” trope to the point of parody, and “Don’t Feel Like Feeling Sad Today” is a basic description of mental health struggles.

As with his previous two albums, there are a handful of good ideas that help treat the tedium, like the satisfying chorus on “Don’t Go” or the chipper guitar tones on “The Boy In The Black Dress.” Unfortunately, these moments are few and far between, the bulk of the album consisting mostly of half-baked attempts to capitalize on the trending sounds in pop-rock. There’s only



Alternative artist YUNGBLUD’s self-titled album struggles to stay memorable.

COURTESY OF LOCOMOTION RECORDINGS

so much indie-rock/pop-punk/emo fusion with '80s synths that can be listened to before it gets headache-inducing.

As a self-titled album, “YUNGBLUD” is more introspective and personal than any of his previous projects. The confessional lyrics have sincerity and emotion behind them, but backed by a generic sound palette and an aversive singing style, YUNGBLUD doesn’t get far on this album. This might be YUNGBLUD’s most mature album to date, but nothing on this record carries a similar punch to some of the more outside-the-box and experimental tracks on his last two efforts. Even though his previous two records are similarly poor, at least they tried to do something new. By smoothing over the quirks, YUNGBLUD loses what kept the attention of listeners in his messier, wilder era.

CONTACT JESS WILLIAMS  
JWILLIAMS16@ITHACA.EDU



# Sony re-release disrespects fans

BY EVAN MILLER

The idea of extended or director’s cuts should be to expand upon a director’s original vision for a film before a studio demands they edit it down or rework it entirely. Unfortunately, Sony’s limited theatrical re-release of “Spider-Man: No Way Home” adds nothing to the original film but a bitter taste in the mouths of fans.

A recent example of a major director’s cut of a film that was able to make a film better than its original theatrical cut is “Zack Snyder’s Justice League.” Snyder was given the opportunity to take a film that was essentially stripped from him after a personal tragedy occurred in his life and make it his again.

The leftover scenes Sony had from “Spider-Man: No Way Home” were nowhere near deserving of any sort of new version of the film, especially one that was theatrically released. Instead of making the experience of watching the film better, all these added scenes do is make it feel slower. They do not necessarily decrease the enjoyment of watching the film, but they certainly make the viewer wonder what the point of their inclusion is from an artistic point of view.

When looking into the specific details of this re-release, one could gauge that it is nothing more than a blatant cash grab by Sony, which hopes to wring out a few extra bucks from additional scenes that were not strong enough to make it into the original cut of the film.

Budgeted at \$75 million, the critically-panned “Morbius” grossed only \$163 million worldwide with only \$74 million coming from the domestic box office. It should come as a surprise to no one that the “More Fun Stuff” re-release of “No Way Home” is an effort by Sony to sway the conversation away from “Morbius” and set the narrative back in their favor ahead of the Spider-Man Universe releases they have lined up for the next couple of years.

As a “Spider-Man” fan, it is confusing how the same company in charge of teams behind the Academy Award-winning “Into the Spiderverse” cannot seem to get the property right in live-action. The logical thing for Sony to do would have been to pick and choose people from both of the teams behind these projects to work on their new Spider-Man Universe films. Instead, they have opted to hire writers and directors with lackluster track records to produce awful movies no one has ever asked for or wanted. However, it is clear that they would rather put in the least effort possible in hopes of making a quick buck.

Movie studios cannot afford to be lazy and push out one terrible film after another. With the high-caliber films Sony Pictures has produced in the past, they should be setting an industry example of how a studio can thrive. Instead, they are setting an example for all other studios of what not to do with major properties. With Sony set to eventually rip Tom Holland’s “Spider-Man” away from Marvel Studios in order to bring him into its own Spider-Man universe, the studio will be ready to destroy the franchise all over again.

POPPED CULTURE is a weekly column, written by Life & Culture staff writers, that analyzes pop culture events. Evan Miller is a junior journalism major. Contact him at emiller11@ithaca.edu.

Men’s soccer team welcomes three new transfers from Division I and II



ILLUSTRATION BY MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN

BY ROCCO DI MAIOLO

As the start of the new 2022 season opens up for the Ithaca College men’s soccer team, some new faces that have arrived on the South Hill from other collegiate soccer programs look to showcase their skills in their new colors.

The team welcomes in three new transfer students that were once recruited and played for NCAA Division I and II programs: junior defender Emmett Delesie, sophomore defender Jack Longo and junior midfielder Ian Oltman. All three players have taken their collegiate soccer pursuits to Ithaca in an effort to seek better opportunities in making impacts on the field.

Delesie hails from Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia, where his team won the NCAA Division I National

new teammates, Delesie said he wanted to make that one of the most important things on his priority list.

“I was really close with my team at Marshall, so that was a concern,” Delesie said. “This semester has been amazing. Not only do I know the freshmen very well, but I know the seniors very well and the juniors. There have been multiple guys that I have gotten along with very well. ... I’ve got a great group of friends that I can hangout with outside of soccer now.”

Romildo Sanches has coached Delesie in his home state of Florida since he was seven years old, where he established a training program called Players Club International Tour, where young American athletes exchange cultures by training, playing and interacting with future Brazilian professional athletes. Since 2009, Sanches has worked with Delesie as both a coach and a private trainer. In 2013, Sanches brought a group of kids down to his home country of Brazil to play against teams based there for two weeks, including Delesie. Sanches said he could not help but commend Delesie for his great attitude of competitiveness that he has brought on the field every time he worked under his instruction.



Junior defender Emmett Delesie came to Ithaca College from Marshall University in West Virginia before Spring 2021.

COURTESY OF MARSHALL ATHLETICS, NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

Championship in 2020. Delesie has been attending classes at Ithaca College since Spring 2021, pursuing his undergraduate degree in economics. In terms of making his way onto the soccer team, he said he was pleased by how welcoming head coach Garret Eldridge and assistant coach Austin Mansell were.

Along with his admiration for the prestigious economics program the college has to offer, it was also the aesthetics of the campus during the cold Ithaca winter Delesie loved so much that sealed the deal on his decision to make Ithaca College his new home.

“I came and visited in December [2021] when it was already cold, but there wasn’t a lot of snow on the ground and it was beautiful,” Delesie said.

When it came time to connect with his

es said. “He always allowed action to speak louder than words. He was the first one there and the last one to leave. If for some reason he didn’t quite get an exercise, we would work extra to make sure he kept up with the guys.”

Longo transferred to the South Hill from Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island, where he appeared in five games during his first year for the Division I program. He used his time training with the Bombers during the preseason to study how his new teammates played the game and how it was different from how the team played last year.

“Last year [Ithaca College’s men’s soccer team] didn’t keep the ball on the ground as much,” Longo said. “This year we play on the ground, we’re a hard-nosed team, we play the

balls through their team and pass them around. ... A mix of that is deadly.”

With the Bombers’ improved style of play, Longo feels it will be easy for him to implement his game to the team’s formation.

“I don’t like to just kick it direct,” Longo said. “I like to pass the ball around and get into the attack. Hopefully open up some scoring opportunities for the team. Then on the other side play defense, too. They’ve had a very strong defense in past years, so hopefully I can contribute to that.”

Tom Mulligan was Jack Longo’s high school soccer coach at Christian Brothers Academy in Lincroft, New Jersey, where the team saw success. As far as personal accolades, Mulligan said Longo received first-team All-Conference and was named captain his senior year, all under Mulligan’s instruction.

“You always trusted Jack Longo in the back,” Mulligan said. “I always knew I had an anchor with Jack Longo on my back line. Someone that can be trusted, that understood the game and was fully committed to the team and the process of playing the style that we wanted to play. In the halls, he’s a very polite, respectful, typical Christian Brothers student. Just a real honest, sincere young man.”

Oltman came from the Division II program at Metropolitan State University of Denver. Oltman referred to his transition to Ithaca College as a “fresh start” for his collegiate soccer career as he plans to use this opportunity to play better than he did at his first college.

“This offseason was the hardest I’ve worked in two or three years,” Oltman said. “It’s definitely a rebirth for me, that’s a good way to put it. It’s definitely my last



Sophomore defender Jack Longo transferred to Ithaca College from Bryant University in Rhode Island after one year.

COURTESY OF MIKE LANGISH, FC MONMOUTH, NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

shot, but I got two years and I’m gonna show what I got.”

With great on-field abilities must also come off-field abilities, and Eldridge said he was very pleased with who the three players were as individuals off the field.

“I think the most important thing is that they’re really good people and have certainly fit in well with the rest of our guys in terms of just characteristics that we look for in all of our guys,” Eldridge said.

Since the season has started, all three have registered minutes on the field and will look to continue their work when the Bombers host SUNY Brockport at 4 p.m. Sept. 16.

CONTACT ROCCO DI MAIOLO  
RDIMAILO@ITHACA.EDU



Junior midfielder Ian Oltman came to Ithaca College after two seasons at the Metropolitan State University of Denver.

COURTESY OF MARK AND CELEST OLTMAN, NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

# Women’s lacrosse raises funds at charity walks

BY AIDAN CHARDE

As sophomore defender Kaitlyn Russell, a member of the Ithaca College women’s lacrosse team, walked laps around Myers Park in Lansing, she started to tear up.

Along with about half her team, Russell was just one of about 100 at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention’s walk Sept. 10, an annual event that raised over \$59,000 this year. The other half of her team was at the Walk To End Alzheimers, happening at the same time at Kendal at Ithaca, a local retirement home, which raised over \$57,000 for the cause.

Russell said she was emotional because of what the walk meant to her. She said it was amazing to see how many people showed up for the event to support the cause, especially because a role model of hers took his own life.

“I lost my 10th grade English teacher to suicide,” Russell said. “I was a junior when he passed away, and he was someone who was very influential to me. He really helped me figure out what I wanted to do with my life, ... so I wanted to come and honor him here.”

Though head coach Karrie Moore was not at either event, Moore said she was happy to see her athletes take the initiative to work for two great causes and was proud of how they represented the program. She said most of the volunteer work the team does is spearheaded by the athletes

themselves, not her.

Moore also said she and the team pride themselves on working as hard as possible to raise money for a cause at any given occasion. That rang true for both walks, as the team raised nearly \$2,500 for Alzheimer’s research and around \$2,000 for suicide awareness by reaching out to their family members and posting on social media.

Just like Russell with the suicide awareness walk, junior defender Maggie Mandel had a connection to the walk she attended. Mandel said her grandmother died of Alzheimer’s before she was born, but because she is growing up in her mother’s childhood home, there are memories of her grandmother everywhere she looks.

“Everything [at my house] reminds me of my grandmother,” Mandel said. “For me, it was more about support for my mom. She’s done the Alzheimer’s walk in my hometown for I think six years now with a group of her friends.”

Mandel also said the team is incredibly supportive of each other, especially when it comes to community service. If someone cares about a cause, the team will be there for them.

“Pretty much whenever one of our teammates has something that they’re interested in supporting or hits close to home for them, we back them up,” Mandel said.

The team’s drive to do good in their community is something Moore said she respects about



The women’s lacrosse team raised money at walks for suicide prevention and Alzheimer’s awareness. The team split in half to attend both of the events, which happened at the same time Sept. 10.

RAYAHNA TRYKA/THE ITHACAN

her athletes. Although she said she could tell them to do a charity event, it is a lot more meaningful when they are the ones to take the initiative. And, she added, it is a great time for team bonding.

“I think it’s really nice for them to kind of do things together as a team,” Moore said. “I also feel, if they’re going to do community service or just be involved in the community, I want it to be because they want to do it and not because I’m mandating it.”

Russell said team bonding is really the key piece. She said it is great to be able to raise so much money for great organizations, but it is also a way of learning about her teammates and becoming better friends with them.

“Not only is it a great opportunity for us to get together outside of the lacrosse fields, but it’s a good bonding opportunity,” Russell said. “Obviously, everybody’s here or at the Alzheimer’s walk for a reason. And it’s a good opportunity to learn more about each other ... and just be together as a team outside the field.”

Although Mandel and Russell had personal connections to the organizations they were fundraising for, Mandel said she is just happy to see her teammates step up to support each other, no matter how close they were to the cause.

“The girls on my team are my sisters,” Mandel said. “They’re my best friends, I do everything with them. So to feel that support outside of the fields and outside of the locker room, in our personal lives, adds another level of complexity to our relationship that I think definitely benefits us in terms of our wins throughout the season.”

*Assistant sports editor Daniel King contributed additional reporting to this story.*

CONTACT AIDAN CHARDE  
ACHARDE@ITHACA.EDU

# First-year athletes make impact for volleyball

BY TESS FERGUSON

With a stacked schedule, including four nationally ranked teams within their first three multi-header tournaments, the Ithaca College volleyball team is ensuring that its young roster can handle the pressures of late season Liberty League play.

With two weeks of in-season competition under their belts, first-year student athletes Maddie Cox and Leila Chipeco have been able to make a lasting impression on the court. The pair has started nearly every match since their season opener against Swarthmore College on Sept. 2.

Head coach Johan Dulfer said he expects his first-year athletes to compete with the same energy as his upperclassmen.

“To have two or three contributing members from each class is a healthy expectation for a healthy program that’s continuing to grow,” Dulfer said.

Cox, a setter, has been averaging 30 assists per game while Chipeco, an opposite hitter, has averaged nine kills per game. The offensive duo appears to mesh seamlessly with their veteran teammates.

Typically, fall sports have a much shorter window for preseason practice than sports taking place in the winter or spring. The team had only been together for three weeks prior to their season opener Sept. 2. In a chemistry-oriented sport, team bonding is essential to integrating new players.

Despite the brevity, Cox said that by being with her teammates often during such a short time frame, it feels like she has known her new teammates forever.

“You’re with each other every day, every lift, every practice, every meal,” Cox said. “I don’t think I’ve ever connected with a group

of people so quickly before.”

However, in typical athlete fashion, the pair said there will always be room to grow. The more time the team spends together the closer they will become.

“Of course, the more we practice, the more we’ll improve,” Chipeco said. “But, for so early in the season, I feel like we’re in a really good spot right now.”

Senior middle hitter and captain Jennifer Pitts said preseason scrimmaging and team building events have been essential in terms of integrating first-year players into the team.

“Scrimmages have been a great opportunity for the new girls to get some game-like experience under their belts,” Pitts said. “We’ve made the best of the time we have and it’s really seemed to be working out for us.”

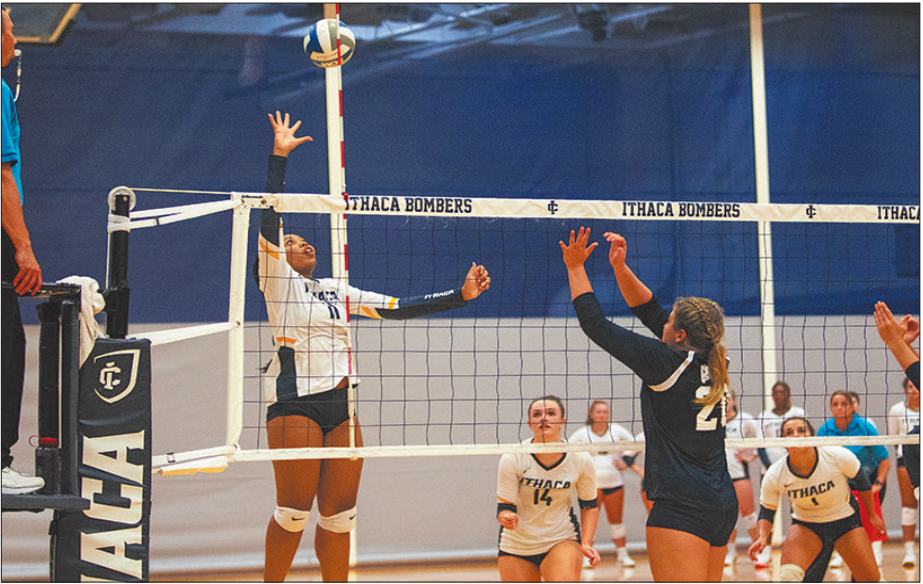
Although her team has been occupied between practice, games and spending quality time together, Pitts said she recognized that, for the first-year students, playing in a new environment so far from home can be hard.

Cox, who is from Apex, North Carolina, said her decision to make the trip upstate is one she is grateful for.

“I genuinely can’t say why I decided to move 12 hours from my home, but it’s definitely been an experience and it’s a choice that I’m glad I made,” Cox said. “I guess I just kind of wanted to experience something new. There was a lot about the opportunity that was really intriguing to me.”

Similarly, Chipeco, who is from Peoria, Arizona, said that during her recruitment process, she was willing to go anywhere if it meant she could continue to play the game she loved.

“I get asked a lot why I decided to move so far, but I just really, really wanted to play volleyball in college, you know?” Chipeco



From left, first-year student athletes Leila Chipeco and Maddie Cox of the Bombers and junior Linda Rossi of SUNY Geneseo during the teams’ match Sept. 3.

RORY CASSIDY/THE ITHACAN

said. “It’s definitely a totally different environment that I’m still getting used to, but I’m really enjoying it and I’m liking the level of play that I’m getting out of it.”

The program has had players residing from all over the country. Dulfer explained that this geographical diversity is essential when it comes to being able to compete at the national level.

“Our team is full of players who understand what it’s like to be far away from home, so the support system for each other kind of sustains itself,” Dulfer said.

As the season progresses and more in-conference competition approaches, Cox and Chipeco said they have been reflecting on the beginning of their first year in Bomber threads and what they aim to do with their time on the court this season.

“My position is easy when I’m surrounded by such amazing passers and hitters, like [Chipeco],” Cox said. “I just really hope to be able to come into my own on the court this season and get comfortable in those high pressure situations that I know we’re going to continue to face as a team.”

Similarly, Chipeco said her position grants her an amazing opportunity to continue growing as a contributing player.

“I’m really looking forward to those big tournaments and exciting games, but I just really want to try my best and help out my team as much as I can,” Chipeco said. “I want to play a part in achieving what they couldn’t last year.”

CONTACT TESS FERGUSON  
TFERGUSON1@ITHACA.EDU



Sophomore and resident assistant Bella Bonelli hosted a Pot & Paint Event on Sept. 12 in Terrace 11. Anyone who lives in the Terrace community were welcome to attend and paint succulent pots. Those who did were given a free plant and a free pot to take home. This was Bonelli's first floor event of the semester.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN