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Collado received \$172,776 payment before layoffs

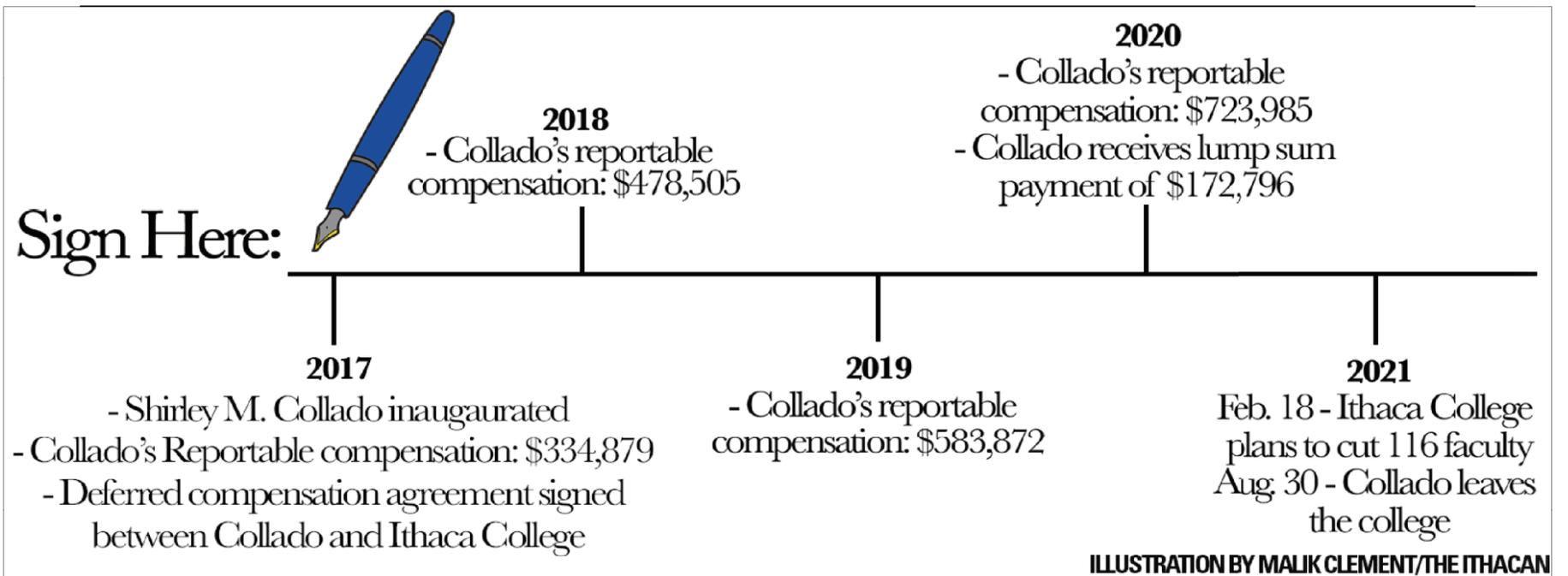


ILLUSTRATION BY MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN

BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO
SENIOR WRITER

In 2020 — the same year that former Ithaca College President Shirley M. Collado and her administration began the process of eliminating 116 faculty members — Collado's reportable compensation jumped from \$583,872 in 2019 to \$723,985.

This jump is because of a deferred compensation plan worth \$172,796 that matured in 2020 and brought her reportable

compensation to the highest amount disclosed from her four-year tenure from 2017 to 2021. Throughout 2020, the college's leadership furloughed hundreds of employees and began pushing for faculty cuts. Concurrently, they told students, faculty, *The Ithacan* and alumni that they were cutting their own compensation. While these cuts appear to have occurred, the college's leaders kept their six-figure incomes intact during the pandemic.

This information comes from the college's 2020–21 Form 990, which was released in July

2022. The Form 990 is a federal tax form that all nonprofits are required to file to the IRS each fiscal year. The most recent Form 990 reports the compensation of key employees and officers during the 2020 calendar year — Jan. 1, 2020, to Dec. 30, 2020.

Collado's base compensation

The reportable compensation of \$723,985 that Collado received during the 2020 calendar year comes from multiple places — Collado's base compensation, which is decided by the

college's Board of Trustees, and her other reportable compensation. Base compensation is the amount that an employee receives, not including most benefits or accounting for taxes, as defined by the IRS. For the 2020 calendar year, Collado's reported base compensation was \$487,303, a slight decrease from her \$487,853 base compensation in the 2019 calendar year, as listed in the 2019–20 Form 990. Other reportable compensation is the amount given

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Students create proposal for diversity curriculum

BY PRAKRITI PANWAR
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

In Fall 2022, 16 Ithaca College students created a proposal to restructure the current diversity credit requirement of the Integrated Core Curriculum (ICC) to provide a more effective diversity education for students and training for faculty.

The proposed curriculum, called the Civil Liberation Curriculum, was created by the students in their Education, Liberation and Oppression class. The proposal also suggested changes to diversity training for faculty members to make them feel more comfortable and involved, thus promoting open conversations about anti-racism and diversity among faculty.

The proposal, including the curriculum and changes to faculty diversity training, was presented to Melanie Stein, provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs;



Sophomore Noah Richardson and seniors Morgan Kingsley and Ro Scanlon-Black are three of 16 authors.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

Michael Johnson-Cramer, dean of the School of Business; and Claire Gleitman, dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences, on Dec. 14. While the students had extended their invitation to President La Jerne Cornish and the deans of all

five schools, only Stein, Johnson-Cramer and Gleitman attended it.

The ICC is the college's liberal arts and general education curriculum, which

CURRICULUM, PAGE 5

Beyond the binary: gender data gets more inclusive

BY KAI LINCKE
STAFF WRITER

Ithaca College's 2022–23 institutional data has become more inclusive after the Common Application and the college's student information platform, Homer, started recording students' gender identity in addition to sex assigned at birth.

According to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), an individual's sex is determined at birth based on their biological characteristics, including anatomy. An individual's gender is their own perception of themselves as male, female or a number of other gender identities, which can be different from their sex assigned at birth, according to the HRC.

Claire Borch, director of the Office of Analytics and Institutional Research (AIR), said via email that the Common App started to collect students' affirmed gender in addition to their sex assigned at birth during the 2021–22 admissions cycle. With this change, Homer started to record incoming students' affirmed gender. Borch said these changes allowed the Office of AIR to record that information, including non-binary, in addition to their sex assigned at birth in the 2022–23 Facts in Brief Report. The report lists 64 first-year nonbinary students.

Borch said via email that before Fall 2022, the Common App allowed students to select

only their sex assigned at birth — male or female — on their college applications. Homer gathers demographic information about the college's incoming class from the Common App, so the college only received data about students' sex assigned at birth and lacked data about students' affirmed gender.

Senior Meabh Cadigan, president of PRISM, a student-run organization that hosts community bonding activities for the LGBTQ+ community at the college, said inclusive gender data is critical to provide an accurate reflection of the college community. Cadigan said inclusive gender data can help nonbinary and transgender students applying to the college to identify schools that have a community of queer students.

"I very clearly remember the college application process because I was just coming around to this time of realizing that ... I was in some way trans, even if I hadn't exactly figured it all out yet," Cadigan said. "Being able to look into the way [colleges] talked about their student communities and the kinds of students that they represent on campus ... made a huge difference. ... Having access to those kinds of data and metrics ... can really help younger trans high school students [find] places that feel safer."

GENDER DATA, PAGE 5

Ithacan World News

Classified documents found at former vice president's home

A lawyer for former Vice President Mike Pence found 12 classified documents in a search of his Indiana home in the latest development related to the handling of secret information by officials.

Pence quickly moved to notify authorities and handed over the documents unearthed in the search, which was launched after similar searches turned up classified materials at President Joe Biden's home and office.

China confronted regarding its companies' ties to Russian war

The Biden administration has confronted China's government with evidence that suggests some Chinese, state-owned companies may be providing assistance for Russia's war effort in Ukraine as it tries to ascertain if Beijing is aware of those activities, according to people familiar with the matter.

U.S. expected to send Abrams M-1 tanks to support Ukraine

Putting aside resistance from the Pentagon and elsewhere, the Biden administration is planning to announce a decision to send Abrams M1 tanks to Ukraine, officials said Jan. 24. The tanks, long sought by

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, would provide the heaviest weaponry yet among the billions of dollars in military aid Washington has sent to Ukraine to help repel a brutal Russian invasion.

But given the sophistication, complexity and firepower of the tanks, it could be months or even more than a year before they reach the battlefield and Ukrainian fighters are trained to use the equipment.

U.S. officials are also keen to send a political message to Germany, which has been reluctant to provide its own Leopard 2 battle tanks to Ukraine unless the U.S. also offers tanks.

Florida's timeline is unclear for gender-affirming care ban

Floridians will soon get another chance to weigh in on the state's pending ban on medical treatment for transgender children diagnosed with gender dysphoria.

However, it is unlikely that the proposed restrictions will change significantly, as Governor Ron DeSantis' administration has taken aim at this issue. A public hearing has been scheduled for Feb. 10 in Tallahassee. LGBTQ+ advocates are expected to attend and oppose the restrictions, which were approved by the Florida Board of Medicine and Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine in November.



California reeling from mass shootings

As mourners were gathering the evening of Jan. 23 for a candlelight vigil in Monterey Park, California, for 11 people killed by a gunman at a dance studio, word spread of another mass shooting in Half Moon Bay, California.

ALLEN J. SCHABEN/TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FDA lays out annual COVID-19 shot plan similar to flu vaccines

Americans will get a clearer idea of how often they will roll up their sleeves for COVID-19 shots when advisers to U.S. regulators meet Jan. 26 to discuss an immunization schedule that looks more like the one used for flu. The plan would

have health officials meet each June to review which strains of the virus should be included in COVID-19 shots to be deployed no later than September of the same year, according to documents released by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

SOURCE: TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

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Naming the Unnamable

On Jan. 21, *The Ithacan* visited the Community Arts Partnership ArtSpace to explore its new exhibit: "Naming the Unnamable."



Meet *The Ithacan*: New Year's Resolutions

We asked *The Ithacan's* Spring 2023 editorial board about their New Year's resolutions.



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College tests system for student success

BY NOA RAN-RESSLER

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Ithaca College is currently testing the Student Success Dashboard, a technological tool for faculty and staff to use in identifying students who need academic assistance.

Benjamin Costello '97, executive director of Constituent Engagement Strategy, was responsible for designing the Student Success Dashboard. He said there is not a date set for the launch of the Dashboard, but it will be in time for the advising period before Fall 2023 registration.

The Dashboard is a project of the Retention and Engagement Strategy Team (REST), which is now part of the Center for Student Success and Retention.

Costello said the Dashboard pulls from multiple systems that staff and faculty have access to, like the Center for Student Success and Retention and the Office of Case Management, which is responsible for iCare.

"In some ways, it's just a convenience," Costello said. "There [are] visualizations to help show trends . . . which aren't available in other places."

Jacqueline Winslow, executive director of the Center for Student Success and Retention and one of the lead members of REST, said REST is in a research phase to make sure members are effectively helping students.

Elizabeth Bleicher, dean of the Center for Student Success and



Elizabeth Bleicher, dean of the Center for Student Success and Retention, is one of the lead members of the advisory body responsible for developing the Student Success Dashboard.

COURTESY OF COLEEN FOLEY

Retention and another lead member of REST, said there are currently 80 people testing the system, including faculty and staff.

Bleicher said the groups of people who will have access to information available on the Dashboard include students' academic advisers, professors and more. She said groups will see different information on the Dashboard depending on their role in helping the student, and information that will not be in the system includes private medical records and Title IX information.

"The only things that are in here are the things that are going

to help us help the student be successful here," Bleicher said.

Ian Moore, director of Student Accessibility Services and a beta tester for the Dashboard, said the convenience of the system has been one of the biggest benefits, and one of the current challenges with the system is deciding which semester the system should default to and at what point the semester should transition.

Moore said changes can be made even after the Dashboard goes live, but adjustments would be made during strategic times when there will be less interaction with the system.

"I imagine in the future, how it's gonna have to be done is [REST] won't make those ad hoc changes," Moore said.

Bleicher said that a week before the Dashboard goes completely live, students will be able to preview their profiles. Costello said students will be able to pick which student clubs and organizations are displayed on their profiles.

Winslow said REST is using the beta testing phase to be cautious.

"We want to ensure that we're ensuring data privacy for our students," Winslow said.

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COVID-19 risk rises in county

BY LORIEN TYNE

NEWS EDITOR

The Tompkins County COVID-19 Community Level shifted from low to medium Jan. 19 because of an increase in positive cases and hospitalizations.

As of Jan. 23, there are three active COVID-19 hospitalizations and 78 positive cases reported in the last seven days. All active cases and hospitalizations — in addition to other information — are recorded and available for public viewing on the county's COVID-19 Data Dashboard.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) use the COVID-19 Community Level of low, medium and high to classify the risk level in a specific community so individuals can then use the reported level to make informed decisions about when to employ preventative measures.

The CDC recommends that when a county is at a medium or high Community Level, high-risk individuals should wear a high-quality mask or respirator. Individuals are also suggested to test for COVID-19 before being in contact with high-risk individuals and to wear a high-quality mask when indoors with them.

A press release was sent out Jan. 20 alerting the community to the change in risk status.

"TCWH is urging caution, especially for those most at risk for severe illness, though there is no change in official guidance regarding masking at this time," the press release stated.

According to the dashboard, 29% of Tompkins County residents have received a bivalent booster shot in addition to all primary COVID-19 vaccinations.

Self-test kits and KN95 masks continue to be available in several local locations in the City of Ithaca.

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Students receive scam emails promoting employment

BY AUBREN VILLASENOR

STAFF WRITER

Sophomore Sena Namkung said she was excited after receiving an email in October 2022 claiming to be from Ithaca College offering her a high-paying job. She later discovered the offer was a phishing attempt, but not before falling prey to the scam.

"I got really excited because it's like a lot of money for the work, and my friends were like, 'I hate to tell you this, but I think this is a scam,'" Namkung said. "I already was asked to and wrote a whole full-length page paper for [the scammers]."

Namkung's experience is not unique — students' inboxes are often the target of email scams promising high-paying jobs, which recently have impersonated the college's employees. In Namkung's case, she said the email she received was from someone claiming to be a recruiter for a remote administrative assistant job in the college's Department of Biological Sciences. The Department of Biological Sciences does not exist at the college; the Department of Biology does. The scammer claimed the job paid \$350 a week and the email was signed Wenmouth Williams, claiming to be a professor and director in the department. Wenmouth Williams is a professor emeritus in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies.

Williams said he did not appreciate the scammers using his information and that it would probably be futile for them to do so.

"I hate it, there is nothing that [can] legally [be] done to stop it," Williams said via text. "I haven't been an active teacher since 2014. I doubt my name would entice someone to action."

According to CNBC, a study by information security provider SlashNext said that in 2022

there was a 61% increase since 2021 in phishing attacks, which is when people online send a realistically misleading email to obtain private information, like certain financial details, from individuals to gain entry into their computer and information systems.

According to the Better Business Bureau (BBB), impersonating the identity of an email is called spoofing. Spoofing is when scammers forge someone else's email address to send out messages. Namkung said the emails that were sent to her had a contact card claiming to be "Ithaca Remote Employment," but upon closer inspection, the emails were sent from a non-specific Gmail account. According to the screenshot of the fraudulent email provided to *The Ithacan* by Namkung, the email was sent from mmarinegandbase7@gmail.com

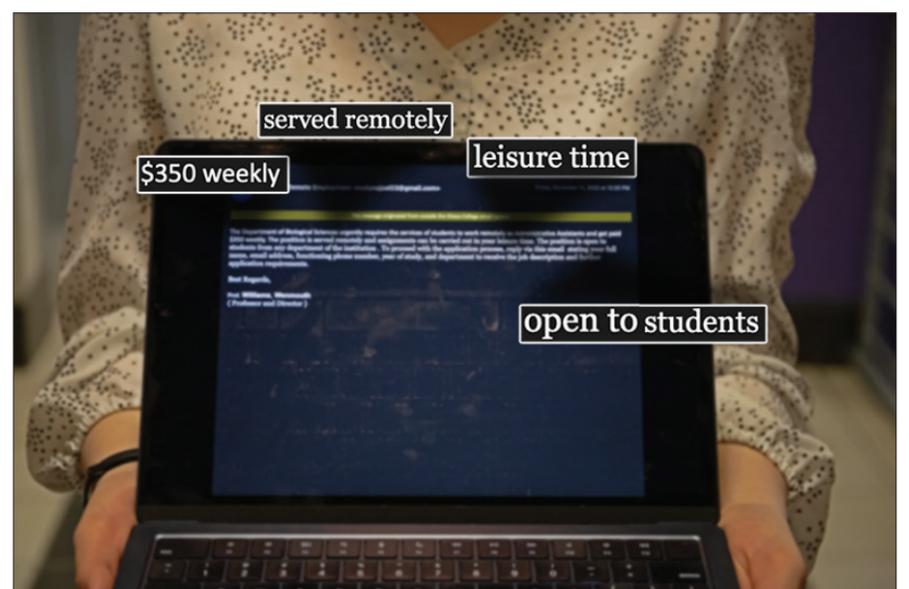
"People are impersonating [college] faculty," Namkung said. "That could be extremely consequential and dangerous for the administration. . . . Why [is the college not] taking the measures to [protect faculty]?"

Namkung said she learned that she may be getting scammed through her friends. Ultimately, she did and lost about \$30 in supplies for the remote job she was promised.

"I have a box of \$30 worth of check paper sitting in my room," Namkung said. "I don't know what to do about it. That's what they do: they'll say they'll reimburse you for the supplies."

According to the BBB, the promise of reimbursement for supplies is a common theme among employment scams, and sometimes scammers send fake checks that take weeks to detect, often when it is too late.

Mike Hanson, information security engineer in the Office of Information Security and Access Management, said via email that scammers may attempt to direct targets outside of the college's



Scammers send phishing emails to students, promoting remote employment opportunities, altering the names of actual faculty and departments at the college.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RAY MILBURN AND MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN

email system by asking for personal phone numbers to avoid being tracked.

"We believe the attackers want to move the conversation out of the IC email system to communication channels where IT is unable to detect or block future scams," Hanson said via email.

Toward the end of Fall 2022, the Office of Information Technology (IT) sent out an email and Intercom announcement to students, warning them of the employment scams.

Jason Youngers, information security officer in the Office of Information Security and Access Management, said via email that IT regularly sends alerts to the campus community about phishing attempts through Intercom and email.

"We try to send security awareness messages

to students, faculty and staff regularly enough to be helpful but not so often they become noise," Youngers said via email.

Hanson advised students to be cautious of emails requesting an urgent response or asking for personal information.

Despite emails from IT alerting the campus community to scams, students, including Namkung, feel the college should do more. Namkung said she was grateful her experience was not worse, but she wishes she had known more about the risk.

"I really do wish I was more aware of this," Namkung said. "The college definitely isn't talking about it enough."

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Form 990 shows which college leaders took salary cuts or raises in 2020

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to employees from benefits like retirement compensation, vacation pay and deferred compensation plans.

Financial Services Controller Sean Kanazawich is one of the authors of the college's Form 990. Kanazawich said the base compensation listed on Form 990 does not include pre-tax deductions like medical and dental benefits. As a result, Kanazawich said, contractual base compensation for the college's executives cannot be found without access to the college's contracts with employees, which are private.

The college has repeatedly denied *The Ithacan's* requests to view any private compensation information. Additionally, in November 2022, Collado denied a request for *The Ithacan* to view her contract with the college. In January 2023, Collado did not respond to a request for comment.

David Maley, director of Public Relations, said via email that Collado's cut occurred but does not appear on the Form 990 in full because compensation adjustments at the college occur July 1. The 2021–22 Form 990, which will be released in July 2023, will show Collado's compensation through January 2021 to August 2021.

"As announced previously by former President Collado, she and her entire Senior Leadership Team [SLT] had elected to reduce their base compensation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021," Maley said via email. "A portion of that reduction shows up in this filing, though the full reduction is not indicated because calendar year compensation is reported on Form 990, whereas the college operates on a fiscal year."

Collado's deferred compensation plan

Collado's other reportable compensation in the 2020 calendar year was \$236,682. This amount is \$140,663 more than her other reportable compensation in the 2019 calendar year, which was \$96,019.

The deferred compensation plan that Collado had was paid out in the form of a \$172,796 lump sum payment, as listed on Schedule J, Part III of the 2020–21 Form 990. Lump sum payments are a sum of money that is paid in one single payment rather than multiple payments.

Deferred compensation plans are incentives for highly compensated executives that withhold pay from the executive until a certain date of maturity. Under a deferred compensation plan, money is set aside by the employer each year until the date of maturity agreed upon in the plan's contract. On that date, the plan vests and is paid out to the employee in the form of a lump sum payment, meaning the money legally becomes the employee's all at once.

Saranna Thornton, Elliott Professor of Economics and Business at Hampden-Sydney College, is a specialist in labor economics. Thornton said via email that deferred compensation plans can be renegotiated, meaning that Collado and the Board of Trustees could have cut or reduced the size of Collado's deferred compensation plan before it vested.

"Most elements of a college president's compensation agreement can be renegotiated at any time," Thornton said via email. "If both parties (the Board of Trustees and the President) are open to renegotiate it would not be precluded."

The type of deferred compensation plan that Collado received was a 457(f) plan account for retirement, according to the Form 990. These accounts are only offered for highly paid executives and have no pay cap. Retirement plan accounts that are available for faculty are called 403(b) plan accounts and have an annual limit by the IRS. As of 2023, the IRS' limit is \$22,500.

James H. Finkelstein, professor emeritus of public policy at George Mason University, has spent two decades studying contracts that college presidents receive. Finkelstein said deferred compensation agreements were created in the private sector to retain highly paid executives. Over time, as pay for university presidents has risen, universities co-opted deferred compensation agreements for presidents.

"[Deferred compensation agreements] are a way of sort of hiding the compensation a president receives until some point in the future," Finkelstein said. "That way staff, faculty and students don't get upset every year that their presidents are making all this money. They get upset once when it's paid out."

Deferred compensation plans are common among higher education institutions. The two presidents who served prior to Collado — Tom Rochon and Peggy Ryan Williams — both had deferred compensation agreements, according to forms sent to the United States Department of Labor by the college.

A form submitted by the college's Office of Finance and Administration to the United States Department of Labor shows that Collado entered into a deferred compensation agreement with the college Feb. 22, 2017, the same day that she was announced as the new president of Ithaca College.

The deferred compensation agreement vested in 2020, the year that the COVID-19 pandemic closed down the college's campus until Spring 2021. Regardless of when in 2020 the lump sum payment vested, the college was already in a financial crisis. In January 2020, Collado announced oncoming changes that would be "uncomfortable." The crisis began with a slow decline in student enrollment in the years leading up to the pandemic and was deepened when the college sent students home in March 2020. By August 2020, the college announced an \$8 million deficit.

Compensation of other college leadership

However, the college's administration only stated that SLT members were taking salary cuts and refused to disclose the size of the cut that Collado and the SLT members were receiving. During this time period, other college presidents announced the size of their pay cuts, like Cornell University President Martha Pollack, who announced a 20% salary cut after the COVID-19 pandemic caused Cornell's revenues to decline. The administration's decision to shield the size of their salary cuts at Ithaca College from the public was criticized by



Ithaca College President La Jerne Cornish's reportable base compensation — as recorded by the 2021–22 Form 990 — rose in 2019 and dropped slightly in 2020.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MALIK CLEMENT, KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

members of the campus community as showing a lack of transparency.

Then-provost La Jerne Cornish, who became interim president after Collado left the college in July 2021 and was officially named president in March 2022, saw her base compensation fall from \$243,743 to \$237,498 between the 2019–20 and 2020–21 Form 990s. Currently, Cornish's compensation as president is unknown. It will be revealed in July 2024, following the release of the 2022–23 Form 990, which will account for the 2022 calendar year.

Fae Dremock, former assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences and Studies, had her job cut during the layoffs. Dremock said that when she was hired in 2014, she made about \$58,000 per year and at the time of the cuts, she was making about \$62,000 a year while fighting to keep students at the college.

"We worked hard to sustain the students [during the pandemic] and we were assuming that the administration was working equally hard to sustain us and to take care of the institution," Dremock said. "To find out that in looking at salaries [that] there was no attempt at that? ... It's unethical. It's a betrayal of trust. It's horrific. I could have taken all that I am and all that I have become to reach my students and teach my students about the crisis we face in climate, [but] my career, my doing that is over."

Kellie Swensen '22 was a leader of Open the Books, a coalition of students, faculty and alumni who have been calling for increased financial transparency from the college. Swensen said the most recent Form 990 confirms that many of the concerns that Open the Books had raised ended up being true, particularly in regard to Collado's reportable compensation of \$723,985.

"I'll probably never see that much money in my life," Swensen said. "I can't even fathom how much that is. I think when we get into all these conversations about numbers, I really need to stop and take a minute to actually think about how much that is."

In March 2021, Thomas Pfaff, professor and chair of the Department of Mathematics, wrote a commentary for *The Ithacan* in which he stated that the decision to keep the size of the cuts quiet allowed for "speculation that the pay cut was little to nothing." Pfaff said he believes that what he said in the March 2021 commentary holds true.

"There's nothing to be gained by not saying what they took as a paid cut unless it wasn't much of a pay cut," Pfaff said. "Now that it is out, it looks like Shirley Collado's base pay went down ... a little under 3%. ... I don't know why they would do that. I mean, given her salary, it's not like a 5% pay cut would have had her having challenges paying bills."

Between the 2019–20 and the 2020–21 Form 990, the compensation of other SLT members and top college executives either fell, rose or were not listed. The compensation of Laurie Koehler, vice president for Marketing and Enrollment Strategy, and Melanie Stein, provost and senior vice president, are only

listed in the 2020–21 Form 990 and cannot be compared to the 2019–20 Form 990. Koehler and Stein's compensation in the 2020 calendar year was \$234,453 and \$198,257, respectively. Nancy Pringle, retired vice president, secretary and legal counsel to the Board of Trustees, was compensated \$141,534 in the 2019 calendar year. Pringle retired from the college in May 2019. However, her compensation was not listed in the 2020–21 Form 990. The reportable compensation of SLT member David Weil, chief information officer, rose from \$178,193 in the 2019 calendar year to \$179,892 in the 2020 calendar year.

For the 2020–21 academic year, the median salary for a private college president was \$387,446, according to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Other benefits

Aside from Collado's deferred compensation plan, the other reportable compensation section of the Form 990 lists \$32,601 that was used for housing, a cleaning person and a leased vehicle. To cover taxes on this income, the college gave Collado a gross-up payment — additional money given to employees to offset taxes — of \$31,285, according to the 2020 Form 990. In years prior to 2020, Collado had also received these benefits. The Form 990 also shows that the college contributed \$61,500 to a Section 457(F) Supplemental Non-Qualified Retirement Plan that Collado had.

Ithaca College now costs \$64,060 to attend each year, and the college is financed almost entirely by student tuition revenue. As tuition at the college continues to rise, students at the college get pushed deeper and deeper into debt. Additionally, compensation data collected by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* shows that from 2003 to 2020, the average salary of professors at the college is lower than the national average. When adjusted for inflation, the average salary of professors at the college has remained stagnant for those 15 years.

Additionally, Swensen believes the size of the cuts that Collado and the SLT took were not proportionate to the scale of loss that professors who lost their jobs have experienced.

"If we're talking about professors — yes, they need money to survive," Swensen said. "But a lot of professors are there because it gives them some sort of deeper sense of purpose. That kind of loss isn't as tangible, that loss doesn't come in dollars and cents."

Dremock said the college should implement regulation on the salaries of its presidents for the future.

"In the future, let's decide that the person who runs the college can only make X percent more than faculty," Dremock said. "Let's build a reasonable hierarchy for salaries but make it so that it's a human version; so that the people who work here care about the school and the students [and that] they don't care about making their career and moving on."



Former Ithaca College President Shirley Collado's reportable base compensation — as recorded by the 2021–22 Form 990 — continued to rise until her departure.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MALIK CLEMENT, FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

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Students unsure what parts of proposed curriculum will be adopted

FROM CURRICULUM, PAGE 1

was introduced in 2013. The diversity requirement is an aspect of the ICC that requires students to take at least three diversity-designated credits.

Senior Morgan Kingsley, one of the authors of the proposal, said the suggested changes to faculty diversity training, like interactive diversity workshops instead of training sessions where faculty are uncomfortable sharing personal opinions or experiences, would be a medium for faculty to execute the goals of the curriculum.

Senior Morgan Kingsley, one of the authors of the proposal, said the aim of the curriculum is to create safe spaces for students inside the classroom and deepen the understanding of diversity, equity and inclusion among students of the college, which is a predominantly white institution.

"We kind of aired all our grievances in the beginning [of the class], which really created a close community and our lovely professor, [Sean Eversley Bradwell, assistant professor in the Department of Education], was like ... we can talk in circles, but like, nothing's going to happen until we take action," Kingsley said. "So that's why we thought a curriculum would be the best form of action."

According to the proposal document Kingsley provided to *The Ithacan*, if implemented, students will be required to take nine credits as a part of the curriculum, which would be embedded in their majors but will be independent of the required courses in a student's major. Three of the nine credits would have to be at a 300 or 400 level and another three credits must be obtained in an interactive, discussion-based class.

Kingsley said the proposal

document has not been published yet, but publishing is something she will be discussing with the other co-authors of the curriculum.

Kingsley said the class divided itself into four groups to construct the proposal: the Professor Group, the Student Group, the Logistics Group and the Curriculum Group. The Professor and Student Groups were in charge of reaching out to faculty members and students to get opinions. The Logistics Group communicated between the class and the President's Cabinet to schedule the proposal meeting. The Diversity and Curriculum group dealt with researching the current ICC-designated diversity credit requirements and created the outline for the curriculum.

Senior Ro Scanlon-Black, another author of the proposal, said that as a sociology major, they had taken many ICC-designated diversity classes and felt that the classes were not enough to increase awareness about diversity education.

"[The class] kind of started looking at the classes that are currently diversity credits, and I just got immediately so incredibly frustrated," Scanlon-Black said. "Half of them shouldn't be diversity credits. ... Even when there are good diversity classes, there is a level of non-engagement from those who don't really care."

Kingsley said the Professor Group sent out a formal survey to 500 professors in the college, out of which about 25% responded. Kingsley said some of the professors who did not participate in the survey pointed out that conducting a formal survey would require prior approval by the college's Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB is a governmental body that



From left, seniors Samar Nasrallah, Bryn Donovan and Mia Herr were also authors of the Civil Liberation Curriculum and worked to develop and present the proposal to college leadership.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

assesses, evaluates and approves surveys that involve the research of human beings in order to protect their rights. Most research-based institutions have their own IRBs but are not required to have one and can choose to have an external IRB.

Kingsley said this led the group to step back and assess the course of their actions with students, which resulted in them conducting informal surveys via interviews with students on campus.

Susan Adams Delaney, outgoing director of the ICC and associate professor in the Department of Writing, said that while it is possible to make the curriculum a reality sometime in the future, the logistics of it will require a significant amount of effort because of the pre-existing challenges of funding and scheduling conflicts.

Chrystyna Dail, associate professor in Department of Theater Studies, is the incoming director of the ICC and will take over summer 2023.

While Adams Delaney said she has not read the proposal and was not invited to the presentation of the proposal Dec. 14, she was interviewed by students of the class as a part of their survey and research process

"A huge challenge [for the college] was and has been that we have five separate schools, and we have a mix of liberal arts programs and professional schools [and] some of those programs already struggle to be able to satisfy all of the ICC requirements," Adams Delaney said. "Another piece of it then is something we've continued to struggle with for all of our initiatives across campus. ... That is enough investment and faculty

training and development so that faculty have a clear understanding of what they're doing and how they're doing it."

Kingsley said she speculates that the college will choose which parts of the proposal they might want to implement. However, she said she is positive about the change it will bring to the academics of the college in the future and that she hopes to have some part of the proposal executed in the next five years.

"With us outlining this, we knew things weren't going to change immediately" Kingsley said. "We outlined goals and outcomes and objectives to make it as simple as possible for professors to implement into their curriculums [in the future]."

CONTACT: PPNWAR@ITHACA.EDU

New data collection policy recognizes 64 first-year nonbinary students

FROM GENDER DATA, PAGE 1

Borch said via email that the college reports the information from Homer to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), a data collection platform for the National Center for Education Statistics.

The college includes much of the same information in its annual institutional report, Facts in Brief. Facts in Brief follows IPEDS reporting guidelines, which did not recognize sex assigned at birth until Fall 2022.

Luca Maurer, interim executive director of Student Equity and Belonging and director of the Center for LGBT Education, Outreach & Services, said the college recognized that its gender data was incomplete several years ago. Maurer said he worked with Borch to try to make the Facts in Brief gender data more inclusive, but they struggled with the limitations from Homer and IPEDS.

"From the very start of the LGBT Center, there have been many, many campus partners who want to do this better and what has gotten in our way has been some of the software and ... outside entities that ... [do not] uphold those standards of diversity, equity and inclusion and belonging," Maurer said.

Maurer said he and Borch added a note in the introduction of the 2017–18 Facts in Brief report to acknowledge that gender data was limited to male and female categories by IPEDS federal reporting guidelines and did not accurately reflect the student body.

The note explained that some students preferred not to share their gender with the college and, as recommended by IPEDS,

were sorted into the male and female categories based on the gender ratio of their primary major.

"I was not comfortable with what those outside reporting entities were asking us to do, and yet we were required to do it as an institution," Maurer said. "For me, we at least needed to be crystal clear by labeling that so people know ... what these numbers show does not accurately reflect our student body."

Borch said the 2022–23 Common Data Set report, which compiles data for college guidance publications, has added an "another gender" category.

Maurer said the college continues to use binary genders in reports that would show small numbers of nonbinary students or employees to protect their identities and their confidentiality.

Borch said the college's data collection practices will likely evolve further, especially as state and federal guidelines change.

"The college is very pleased to be able to more accurately reflect the makeup of our community, and will continue to adapt as opportunities arise," Borch said via email.

Senior Taylor Volmrich said that as a student-athlete and an exercise science student, they frequently consider data and studies, which often are not gender inclusive. They said they believe improvements to gender data collection are necessary to ensure that all individuals are accurately represented.

"There is not a lot of data in any field about people who identify outside of the gender binary," Volmrich said. "Having that information moving forward and being able to accommodate for everybody, regardless of how they

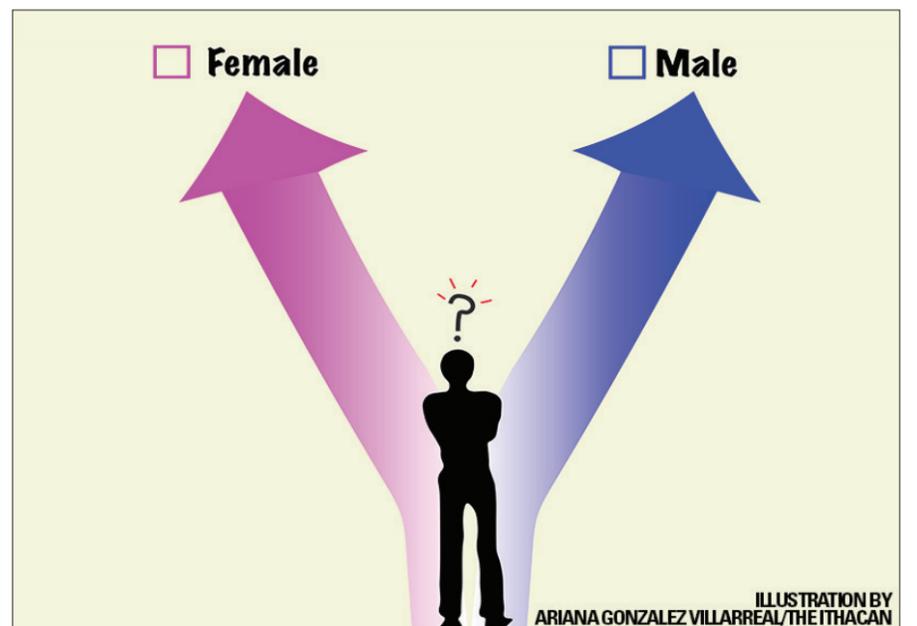


ILLUSTRATION BY ARIANA GONZALEZ VILLARREAL/THE ITHACAN

identify, is really important. I think that it's an ongoing process, [but] it's a really good start."

Because the changes to gender reporting were implemented this year, students who identify outside of the gender binary who were admitted prior to Fall 2022 are listed according to their sex assigned at birth in Homer and institutional reports. Borch said students can change their gender identity in Homer with the Update HomerConnect Profile Information form available on the Office of the Registrar's website. Maurer said the LGBT Center has resources, like The Know How Guide, to support students who want to learn more about transitioning or changing their gender or name legally or in college systems.

Volmrich said that though current students' gender identities may not be accurately reflected in college data reports, they are glad that the college is working to improve data reporting.

"If [data reporting changes are] mostly affecting first-year students now, it's going to take four or five years for that to accurately represent the entire student population at the college," Volmrich said. "I think that knowing that it's starting is really good. And having that be a part of the legacy — that upperclassmen nonbinary students may not be represented ... but it's not like we weren't at the school and didn't make a difference."

CONTACT: KLINCKE@ITHACA.EDU

COLLEGE BRIEFS

IC President's Cabinet to host in-person All-College Gathering

The first All-College Gathering of 2023 will be hosted by President La Jerne Cornish and the President's Cabinet from 12:10 to 1:05 p.m. Jan. 26 in Emerson Suites. The gathering will be in person, but anybody outside of the Ithaca area can get a livestream link by emailing president@ithaca.edu. For any questions, contact the Office of the President at president@ithaca.edu or 607-274-3111.

Women Leaders Series calls for presentation submissions

Proposals for the 11th annual Women Leaders Series are due Jan. 31. Anybody who would like to present on women and leadership topics can apply to host a 45–60-minute workshop. The Women Leaders Series will be from March 1 through March 31, with spring break being March 11–19. The series of presentations are programs intended to help with the personal and professional development of college women leaders. For any questions, contact mlenhart@ithaca.edu or 607-274-3222.

Library asks for Blind Date with a Book event suggestions

The Ithaca College Library is accepting suggestions for books or films to use for the Blind Date with a Book event. The book or film should be available from the college library. The library will be accepting suggestions until Feb. 1. To suggest a title, submit the form attached to the Intercom announcement. Individuals who will be requiring accommodations should contact Sarah Shank at 607-274-3891 or sshank@ithaca.edu.

College community to discuss pros and cons of ChatGPT

There will be a discussion about the ChatGPT artificial intelligence (AI) tool led by members of the Center for Faculty Excellence, Student Governance Council, Computer Science Department and Information Technology.

The discussion will take place from 12:10–1 p.m. Jan. 31 in Textor 102. The purpose of the discussion will be to understand the advantages and disadvantages of the AI tool. The AI site can generate responses to questions, articles and essays by replicating human language. A recorded version of the discussion will be available afterward. For anyone requiring accommodations, contact 607-274-7000 or kvandinther@ithaca.edu.

IC alum to present on study abroad scholarship opportunity

Katie Sullivan '22 and the Office of International Programs will be hosting a virtual information session with tips for the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship at 6 p.m. Jan. 31. The scholarship is for Pell Grant recipients who plan to study abroad between summer 2023 and Spring 2024. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or nationals to be eligible to apply. Award amounts range from \$100–\$8,000 and the application deadline is March 9.

Park School media to provide funding for student film project

Students can pitch film projects to Park Productions and The Studio to receive \$5,000 for production. Students interested in receiving funding should attend a meeting at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 9 in the Park Auditorium. Requirements include that films must be under 30 minutes with credits, pitches must be 3–5 minutes long and the film must be produced in Spring 2023. For any questions or accommodations, contact John Fucile at jfucile@ithaca.edu or Jaqueline Pereira at jpereira@ithaca.edu.

College food pantry reopens with new hours for Spring 2023

Ithaca College's Food Pantry is re-opening for Spring 2023 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:15–2 p.m. and 4–6 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays. The pantry is located on the ground floor of the Campus Center building and provides students, staff and faculty with groceries and other household items for free. Those accessing the pantry are only allowed to take one bag of items at a time from the pantry with them and need to bring their own bags. Those who wish to visit the pantry at another time or do not want to utilize the resource publicly can contact kwalls@ithaca.edu to schedule a convenient time.

New staff join Office of Access, Opportunity, and Achievement

Sara Dinee, Colleen Garcia and Kevin Ramos will be joining the Office of Access, Opportunity and Achievement as new staff members. Sara Dinee will be serving as the coordinator for the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) and as Campus Director for Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation Alliance. Colleen Garcia will be the Program Counselor for CSTEP and the New York State Arthur



Students enjoy cocoa, crafts and karaoke

From left, transfer student Scout Carter and Juneau Sheridan, administrative assistant in the Office of New Student and Transition Programs, drink hot chocolate and paint during new and transfer student orientation Jan. 19.

LEILA MARCILLO-GOMEZ/THE ITHACAN

O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP). Kevin Ramos will also be a Program Counselor for HEOP and CSTEP.

Center for IDEAS to host retreat for students of color at K-House

The Center for Inclusion Diversity Equity and Social Change (IDEAS) will be hosting a retreat for students of color from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 28 at K-House Karaoke Lounge and Suites in Ithaca, NY. The retreat will feature community-fostering activities and a panel of some of the college's BIPOC graduates. Transportation and food will be made available to participating students by the Center for IDEAS. Questions and concerns regarding the retreat can be addressed to ideas@ithaca.edu.

Student media groups to host Spring 2023 recruitment nights

Recruitment nights for Ithaca College's student media outlets will take place Jan. 26 and Jan. 31. The college's radio stations, WICB and VIC, will host their recruitment night at 7:15 p.m. Jan. 26 in Roy H. Park Hall. Students can sign up to get involved in news and sports casting, being

a DJ, as well as producing and creating podcasts. Students who might require accommodations can get in touch with Connor Hibbard at manager@wicb.org. Ithaca College Television (ICTV) will host its recruitment night at 7 p.m. Jan. 31 in Emerson Suites. Students can sign up to participate in shows that ICTV produces. For anyone requiring accommodations, contact Julia Davis at manager@ictv.org.

Application for J.J. Staff Scholar Award opens for eligible staff

The James J. Whalen Staff Scholar Award is accepting applications for Ithaca College staff to finance costs of textbooks and other academic needs while pursuing degrees from the college. Staff are eligible for the award only if they are full-time employees of the college and are currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program. If enrolled in an undergraduate program, they must have finished a minimum of 60 credits and if pursuing a graduate degree, staff must have a GPA of 3.0 or more. Deadline for the application is Feb. 15. For questions, contact Rachel Gould at rgould@ithaca.edu.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM JAN. 3 TO JAN. 7

JANUARY 3

PETIT LARCENY OVER \$200

LOCATION: Whalen Center for Music
SUMMARY: A caller reported an unknown person stole a backpack. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded to the call.

JANUARY 4

CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY

LOCATION: Circle Apartment 111
SUMMARY: A caller reported that a stolen road sign was found inside someone's residence. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded to the call.

JANUARY 5

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Circle Apartments 141
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire

alarm. The alarm activation was caused by the room's temperature. The alarm was accidental. Sergeant Jon Elmore responded to the call.

CHANGE IN CASE STATUS

LOCATION: Whalen Center for Music
SUMMARY: A backpack that was previously reported as stolen Jan. 3 has been located and has been determined to have not been stolen. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT/ NO DEGREE

LOCATION: Circle Apartment 211
SUMMARY: A caller reported unknown people banging on their door. An officer reported the area was checked with negative results. A report was taken by Sergeant Bryan Verzosa.

SCC DISRUPTIVE/ EXCESSIVE NOISE

LOCATION: Circle Apartment 211

SUMMARY: A caller reported a person shouting at an unreasonable level. An officer reported one person who was referred for noise to student conduct. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded to the call.

JANUARY 6

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Circle Apartment 141
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The alarm activation was caused by high room temperature. The alarm was accidental. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded to the report.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: Circle Lot 1
SUMMARY: A caller reported an unknown person placed food on a vehicle. A report was taken. Patrol Officer Thaddeus May responded to the call.

IDENTITY THEFT THIRD DEGREE

LOCATION: Other
SUMMARY: A person reported an unknown person made unauthorized purchases on an online account. Patrol Officer Thaddeus May responded to the report.

JANUARY 7

PETIT LARCENY UNDER \$50

LOCATION: East Tower
SUMMARY: An officer reported an unknown person stole a face plate off an exit sign. This is pending investigation. Master Security Officer Wendy Lewis responded to the report.

SCC HARASSMENT/ INTIMIDATION/ ENDANGERING

LOCATION: Circle Apartment 211
SUMMARY: A caller reported that a person yelled vulgar and obscene language at them. An officer

reported that one person was referred for harassment/intimidation. The person responsible was referred to student conduct. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded to the report.

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Circle Apartment 130
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. An officer reported the alarm activation was caused by burnt food. The alarm was accidental. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded to the report.

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

KEY

SCC – Student Conduct Code
V&T – Vehicle & Transportation
EH&S – Environmental Health and Safety

OPINION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023

7

ICStudent@ithaca.edu

- Free Job
- Free Cat
- Free Job
- Free Car
- Free Job
- Free Job
- Free Phone
- Free iPad

Click Here

notascam/trustmebro.net



ILLUSTRATION BY MADOLYN DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

IT should provide more security against phishing

Looking for high-paying jobs is a common part of the college lifestyle, and any given opportunity opens up doors for students to improve their economic status. However, those opportunities can be fraudulent and harm students, which is what some Ithaca College students experienced through email phishing in Fall 2022.

After these incidents, the Office of Information Technology (IT) sent out an email and posted an Intercom announcement at the end of the fall semester, notifying students about the scams. However, IT posted an Intercom announcement Aug. 16, 2022, warning students about fake job offers before the attacks started during the semester.

Students have all the right to be dissatisfied with how the college has handled protecting their security. In students' defense, the college could have put slightly more effort into protecting students' security. To protect students in the future, IT could update phishing security for the college's email similar to the University of South Carolina's email security.

The Office of Information Security and Access Management staff said the college has the latest Microsoft security technology. However, when one security protocol is not working, there must be an improvement. Phishing attacks have previously happened at the college and repetition of a similar problem is a sign of poor security technology.

An Intercom announcement was made Jul. 21, 2022, about security awareness training that supposedly would require faculty and staff to complete training four times a year. Putting this into practice could actually help students' and staff's safety by reminding them of the viable attacks. It also would inform new and transfer students about phishing and how to stay safe.

Preventing email scams completely is an impossible task. However, not trying hard enough to keep the community secure should not be accepted. The phishing issue must be taken into account seriously, and the more attention it gets the better the chances are of no student getting scammed in the future.

SLT's compensations must be disclosed and regulated

During the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, when former President Shirley M. Collado's administration announced the oncoming elimination of 130 faculty members and the college experienced an \$8 million deficit, Collado's reportable compensation increased to \$723,985 because of a deferred compensation plan. It is true that the compensation agreement was made before the COVID-19 pandemic started, however, sections of compensation agreements can be renegotiated and the campus community would not know because of the lack of financial transparency.

Other college presidents were taking pay cuts and announcing them, like Cornell University President Martha Pollack, who took a 20% cut, or the University of Oregon President Micheal Schill, who took a 12% cut. Collado never revealed her pay cut and instead told the community to refer to the Form 990. On top of that, the college uses deferred compensation agreements

that are unknown in size until the person receives the money.

Except for the lack of regulations and financial transparency, the hierarchical difference between administration and faculty is large. The college announced that there would be no contribution to staff and faculty retirements in 2020, yet administration members were the top earners after salary reductions.

There are unbelievably enormous differences between the administration's and faculty's compensations. When Collado received \$723,985 in reportable compensation, there were professors who only made \$62,000 a year. In what world is this fair? Regulations on administration's compensations must be created and financial transparency must increase on campus. Students and faculty should freely be able to see the money administrators receive because if they are not dishonest about it then there is nothing to hide. It will take a while to achieve these goals, but lobbying for them will result in something.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu.

ALL LETTERS MUST:

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

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu or to the opinion editor nhakobyan@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

Editor's Note: This is a guest commentary. The opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board.

Student debt repayment alarms senior students

BY ELLA SKINNER

SENIOR

I have always pushed back the thought of paying off my student debt. However, now that I am a senior and approaching my very last semester at Ithaca College, the reality of these payments is becoming much more pressing. I am very fortunate to be splitting the price of my private institution education with my parents. Still, I have requested upwards of \$40,000 from Citizens Bank, a private loan supplier.

What really makes this number daunting is the added interest. When I finish paying back my student loans, I will likely pay around the same amount in interest as the loan was worth in the first place, ultimately doubling the price of the loan. And unfortunately, interest rates have been on the rise since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, my student loan interest rate increased by over 3% during the last two years.

It is intimidating for me to wrap my head around how much student debt I will have when I graduate from the college in May 2023, but I am encouraged to work hard for a career within public relations or strategic communication that will help me pay it off quickly.

Another thing important to

mention is that the number of private loan funds that I expected to request during my time at the college dramatically decreased due to the pandemic. I saved quite a bit of money during the two-and-a-half semesters when I lived at home in 2020–21. This unexpected aspect of my college experience was certainly challenging, but I am now grateful for the money I saved and the personal growth I experienced during the turbulence of the last few years.

I would be interested to find out if other current college students had a similar financial experience during the pandemic. According to the latest data from the College Board, between the 2020–21 academic years, total annual per-student borrowing fell by 5%. Student debt has been a problem in our country for many decades, and it is curious how the pandemic might have altered our perception of cheaper, online classes. We also may now reconsider the process of repaying our debt, seeing as the government implemented an extended pause on student loan repayment during this recent crisis.

In fact, in November 2022, the U.S. Department of Education announced an extension of the pause on student loan repayment interest and collections. The pause could last until the summer of 2023. Nevertheless, the payments will eventually



Senior Ella Skinner talks about her experience with student debt so far. She discusses the effects COVID-19 had on the cost of student loans and wonders why the U.S. tolerates enormous student debt.

LEILA MARCILLO-GÓMEZ/THE ITHACAN

resume and student debt is still something millions of Americans struggle with financially. It makes very little sense why student debt is so much higher in the U.S. compared to other countries around the world. With the exception of the United Kingdom, U.S. student loan amounts are nearly double that of all other countries.

At this point, my experience with student debt is only the nervous anticipation of what it will be like

for me to start paying off my loans. I will have to hustle throughout my young adulthood to get ahead of the debt, but I feel motivated and ready to start.

According to recent data, 20 years after entering school, half of student borrowers still owe \$20,000 each on outstanding loan payments. I will try my best not to let that happen to me, but the time it takes many people to fully pay off their student debt can be

unfortunately very long. However, I am grateful for my college education, and if given a chance, I would choose again to attend an expensive private university. I had a great time the past four years and overall I feel prepared for my life post-graduation.

Ella Skinner (she/her) is a business administration and communication management and design double major. Contact her at eskinner@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Avoiding the truth about Palestine only causes harm

BY RICHARD MARTIN

SOPHOMORE

“From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.” These words are not just a catchy slogan but a promise. A promise made to our parents and grandparents. For me, it is a promise to my mother and grandmother, that their homeland will once again know peace. We are proud Christian Palestinians who will never stop reminding the world we exist. To many Americans, Palestine is the fantastical Holy Land that gave the world Judaism, Jesus and Christianity. To my mother, it is her birthplace and the source of who she is, as well as who my sisters and I are.

The U.S., along with other imperial powers, have defended Israel for decades, no matter what crimes it commits against the



While nearly the entire world has opened its eyes and sees what is being done to Palestinians, residents of the U.S. are determined to either ignore or justify it.

- Richard Martin



Palestinians. It did not matter that in order to create the state of Israel in 1948, the military had to ethnically cleanse 750,000 Palestinians while killing up to 15,000. The killings did not stop in 1948, however. It also did not matter when they killed 67 children in the 2021 Gaza bombings. Nearly every day I check social

media to learn that another one of my mother's people has been murdered by the apartheid regime of Israel. And make no mistake, Israel is at best an apartheid state, as said by human rights organizations and UN experts, as well as South African allies.

Some of the most horrific images I've been exposed to come straight from Palestine: the remains of children after a bombing, people shot down in the street and the results of putting someone in solitary confinement for a year straight. The most revealing part is that these horrors are so frequent that I have grown used to it; a day without a death is a pleasant surprise.

For Palestinians and our Arab and Muslim comrades, our hearts ache for a free Palestine. Keffiyehs and Palestinian flags covered the stands at the Qatar World Cup, a sign of unity among the global south in support of Palestine. While nearly the entire world has opened its eyes and sees what is being done to Palestinians, residents of the U.S. are determined to either ignore or justify it.

Experiencing ignorance comes with the territory of being Palestinian. Revealing oneself as a Palestinian is like a game of Russian roulette with four chambers loaded; will they start a discussion about Israel? Will they randomly ask me to condemn Hamas when I have nothing to do with them? Will they talk about the Palestinian Liberation Organization and terrorism? Will they ask the typical questions about being Muslim, despite the fact we are Christian Palestinians? My family and I have all encountered these, and more. The best-case scenario is they have no idea where Palestine is, and I can simply say, “It's where Jesus was from.” Unfortunately, the best-case scenario is also the rarest-case scenario, and Palestinians are seen as Arab terrorists. TSA pat-downs and random checks. 9/11 jokes. And if I hear another line



Sophomore Richard Martin feels unsettled with the community's ignorance toward the destruction of Palestine. He shares the effects this ignorance has on his identity.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

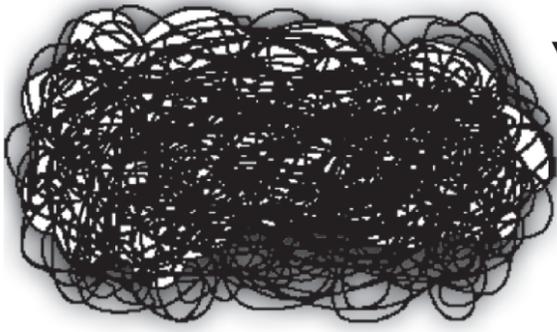
from Aladdin, I'll go insane.

The politicization of any group, be it by skin color, religion, gender identity or sexuality, is not something to be taken lightly: it is a threat. If you politicize an identity, you have exposed that identity group to the threat of erasure. Palestinian identity has been thoroughly politicized and demonized. For a time, I avoided disclosing where my mother was from because on multiple occasions, I could see professors get uneasy at the word “Palestinian.” In no way do I feel that those particular professors were revealing some personal bias against Palestinians, but rather they know the mention of it could spark a debate. I have also avoided being called a “camel jockey” or other derogatory slang and

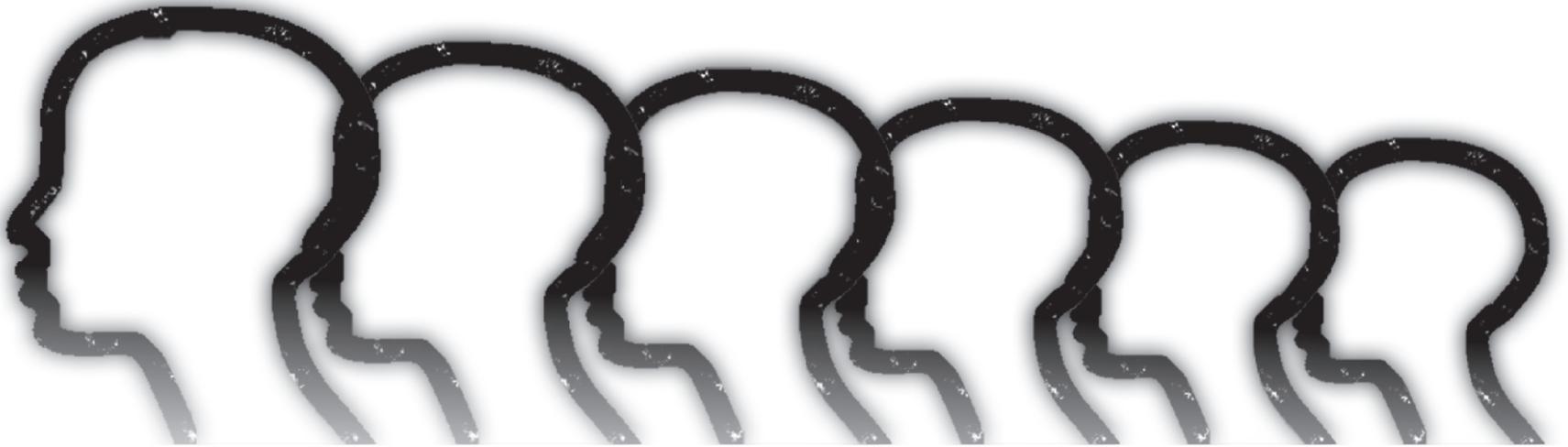
slurs, but others I know have not been so lucky.

Anti-Palestinian racism is a grossly underdiscussed issue. Our voices are constantly spoken over no matter how loud we shout. Of course, we are not alone in being overlooked. Tragically, Western Sahara also suffers from colonialism, and Armenia is constantly attacked and threatened by its neighbor. Ithaca College and our fellow Americans have some crucial self-reflection to do. Because right now, your silence tells us our lives don't matter. Do you think we matter? Then show us.

Richard Martin (he/him) is a history and politics double major. Contact him at rmartin7@ithaca.edu.



Young artists challenge mental health stigma



The exhibit, which features personal writing, short film, sound and hand-drawn art, explores 10 young artists' personal lives and their experience with mental health.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

BY MATT MINTON

CO-LIFE AND CULTURE EDITOR

After hearing a sound that made them feel anxious, Ithaca College junior Hannah Maloy could not understand why. The eventual realization that the sound reminded them of their trauma inspired the making of the piece “Trauma-Section,” one of 10 pieces in a local art exhibit.

Located in Downtown Ithaca at the Community Art Partnership’s ArtSpace, the “Naming the Unnameable Exhibit: Youth Stories of Resilience and Survival” art installation is open to the public throughout the month of January. When visitors step foot inside, the work of 10 individual artists showcases personal stories of trauma and overcoming obstacles in different forms.

Bree Barton, a local author who has experienced depression herself, curated the exhibit, which features personal writing, short films, sound and hand-drawn art. Artists in the exhibit identify as queer, people of color and neurodiverse, along with those who have experienced homelessness.

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 37% of high school students said they experienced poor mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. For an article that Barton wrote in July 2022 about mental health in youth, many of the responses reflected how young people suffered during the pandemic,

which inspired the exhibit.

“That was the hardest part, honestly,” Barton said. “It was like, ‘Tell me your most vulnerable, painful story of your mental health experience. And we’re gonna put it in a public gallery for people to see,’ which is hard. It’s a lot to ask.”

Originally, Barton said she had envisioned a solely auditory exhibit with 10 people recording their stories. After connecting with more young artists, she said she realized they all had different talents.

“We have visual art ... drawings, an essay written to a parent who’s no longer with us, films, digital collage,” Barton said. “The kind of diversity of ... expression ... is so much better than I even imagined.”

Maloy’s sound art was one of the three audio recordings in the exhibit. They said their art shows the psychological impact of trauma through sound, displaying different sounds that they associate with personal trauma. There are four movements throughout Maloy’s piece that listeners will hear: dealing with trauma surrounding domestic abuse, sexual assault, medicinal abuse and an emotionally abusive household.

“I never want the listener to expect what they’re going to be hearing,” Maloy said. “That’s part of it. Someone with trauma is always alert for any sounds that could possibly lead to danger or lead to harm. I wanted to put the listener in that experience of constantly being on edge.”

Maloy said the experience made them feel emotionally bonded with the other artists.

“When I’m able to open up to other people, I feel more empowered in my own feelings and then also vulnerable in a very good way,” Maloy said. “That’s not something I’m super used to.”

First-year Syracuse University student Rayan Mohamed created “Samir” for the exhibit, a short film that details her experience growing up in a refugee camp in Ethiopia because of the Somali Civil War. In telling her personal story through film, Mohamed said that while it was not a comfortable thing to share with people, it was a healing process.

“Not every refugee has the same experience,” Mohamed said. “Girls in refugee camps also have very different experiences than guys. So I was like, if there’s one thing I can do, and one thing I can change in people’s minds, is just to bring awareness and advocate.”

“Homage to a Best Friend Fallen,” one of local artist BERETTA’s pieces in the exhibit, is a eulogy for their friend who lived in the jungle encampments, a mostly unsanctioned place in Southwest Park where the Ithaca homeless community largely resides. BERETTA did not want to draw any negative attention to their friend’s memory because of the stigmatization surrounding homelessness.

“The one thing I don’t want is for my

friends’ memories to be lost to history,” BERETTA said. “Even with people in the homeless community dying, people don’t really recognize the loss that’s there.”

According to data from the Homeless Shelters Directory, in 2019, Tompkins County has an estimated 171 homeless people — up from 91 people in 2018.

First-year Onondaga Community College student Diamond, who chose not to give their last name for safety reasons, was inspired by sharing her story with her teacher and therapist to create an audio recording titled “My Life,” a 37-minute-long message detailing their personal struggles with depression and suicidal thoughts.

“If I didn’t share my story with my teacher, I would not be here right now,” Diamond said. “The things I do [are] the reason why I’m here.”

The way through mental illness, Barton said, is not to shove one’s feelings down and erase the words — it is about finding the words to share and learning to ask for help.

“And so the idea of naming the unnameable is ... everything in this room, right?” Barton said. “Suicide, homelessness, addiction, death, depression, self-harm, anxiety, all of it. It’s by having the courage to do what every artist in this room did, which is name it, claim it, talk about it, face it and share it with other people.”

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Local author Bree Barton was inspired to create “Naming the Unnameable Exhibit: Youth Stories of Resilience and Survival” after talking with others about mental health.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

Tom Hanks leads predictably sappy remake

MOVIE REVIEW: "A Man Called Otto" Sony Pictures



BY MATT MINTON
CO-LIFE AND CULTURE EDITOR

Tom Hanks is clearly one of the most beloved and recognizable actors working today, and the roles he typically takes on reflect how the world views him: formidable, often heroic and always relatable. But with "A Man Called Otto," Hanks assumes a very different kind of role as what may just be the grumpiest man in the U.S.

A remake of the 2015 Swedish film "A Man Called Ove," which itself was adapted from the bestselling novel by Fredrik Backman, "A Man Called Otto" follows the life of widower Otto Anderson (Hanks) as he attempts to end his life.

After meeting his new neighbor, Marisol (Mariana Treviño), the two form an unexpected friendship that ends up changing the course of Otto's life forever.

Considering that the Swedish film was nominated for two Academy Awards, perhaps it was inevitable that an American remake was going to be made. "A Man Called Otto" certainly doesn't need to exist. It is a firmly mediocre and mostly unremarkable crowd-pleaser that sets out to do exactly what one might expect: make audiences cry.

That's not to say it doesn't have its redeeming qualities, though, even if it's clear how

it's all going to play out right from the beginning.

While it's definitely not one of his best roles, the way Hanks is able to convey the sadness that Otto faces — while still showing signs of a man who deep down does truly care about people — is quite impressive.

However, the standout of the entire cast may just be Treviño, portraying a character of true light and joy in Otto's life who shows him the importance of accepting help. The story's commitment to showing how beautiful human connection can be is heartwarming and charming, if overly streamlined in its execution.

Despite the film's strengths in acting, it quickly becomes evident to the viewer that the storytelling is lacking. Audiences learn about Otto's past with his wife, Sonya (Rachel Keller), through flashbacks, which are easily the weakest part of the film. These scenes are pretty terribly written with some truly cheesy and unnatural dialogue, making it easier to laugh at the characters than to feel with them. Director Marc Foster could have found more clever and nuanced ways to convey Otto's past relationship with his lover, thereby strengthening the film's emotional weight when it tries to get the waterworks flowing toward the end.

The film and the comedic



Otto Anderson (Tom Hanks) is a depressed widower who learns valuable life lessons in the predictable story of "A Man Called Otto."

COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES

timing of its cast make for some very funny moments throughout. Tonally, though, the script could have been more impactful if it had leaned into dark comedy rather than trying to water down Otto's bleakest moments. While the story beats remain largely the same from its source material, in the process of turning this story into a mainstream American production, the story loses out on some of its nuances.

It is difficult to imagine that

any audience member will walk out of "A Man Called Otto" having their life changed in the way that Otto does. But it's hard to not be at least a little bit charmed and warmed to see Otto's development throughout the story.

Even if it doesn't go much beyond its surface-level messages about kindness and decency, sometimes the world does need to be reminded of that.

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Animated series brings back energy to 'Lupin' franchise

SHOW REVIEW: "Lupin ZERO" TMS Entertainment



BY JOSHUA PANTANO
STAFF WRITER

For a series as culturally impactful and long-lasting as "Lupin the Third," first published in *Weekly Manga Action* in 1967, nobody other than the original creator of the series, the late Kazuhiko Kat (more commonly known by his pen name "Monkey Punch"), has dared to write an origin story for the character until now.

Most audience members familiar with the "Lupin the Third" franchise know it through "Lupin the Third: The Castle of Cagliostro (1979)," which was Studio Ghibli co-founder Hayao Miyazaki's directorial debut. However, the franchise spans much further than that film and includes the original manga, eight television series, 11 movies and 27 television specials.

As for "Lupin ZERO," the animated series centers around the adolescent adventures of Lupin (Tasuku Hatanaka). The story dives into his relationships with his father (Toshio Furukawa) and grandfather (Yoshito Yasuhara), as well as his budding friendship with sharpshooter Daisuke Jigen (Shunsuke Takeuchi), his right-hand man. Seeing Lupin as a teenager is fun, especially since the episodes utilize Lupin's youthful enthusiasm and his lack of experience to craft stories packed with the familiar

wackiness of the gentleman thief's past entries. Lupin's consistent energy and teenage angst get him into trouble with nearly every adult who meets him, which is a hilarious thrill to watch.

One of the most engaging parts of the series is Lupin's dynamic with his family. In episode three, "The Grandson of the First Vies for Succession," Lupin the First brings Lupin and three others to fight for his estate. Although Lupin is eager to get into antics, he is torn between his calling as a thief and the opportunity to do something else with his life. It brings a strong dynamic to the episode.

Dedicated fans will note many similarities between "Lupin ZERO" and "Lupin the Third: Part 1," the first Lupin series, which originally aired in 1971. The art style, particularly with Lupin's expressive character design and some intentionally static animation, seeks to mimic the look of "Part 1." However, the vintage style does not hold the series back. It instead gives a distinct look that pays homage to the origins of this long-standing franchise.

For all the strengths of the series, its six-episode run length leaves more to be desired. The last two episodes are a two-parter and they ask not if Lupin will become a thief, but what the effects of that decision will be. Lupin gains the title



"Lupin ZERO" follows the adventures of Lupin (Tasuku Hatanaka), the gentleman thief.

COURTESY OF TMS ENTERTAINMENT

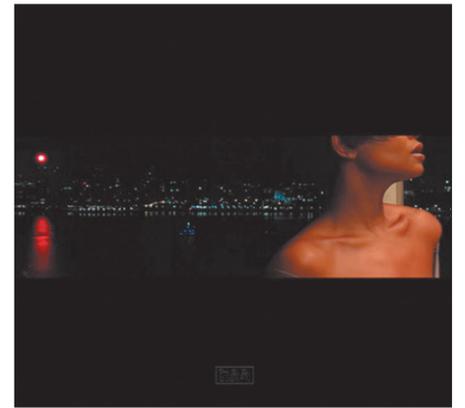
of "The Third" and finds his calling, but at what cost? The last two episodes stick the landing, bringing a satisfying end to the carefully crafted set-up of the prior four. However, with only those episodes having an ongoing story, it feels like the other four provide too much filler and not enough story content. A serialized plot for the run of the series could have given more character to Lupin and his family, as well as provided a consistent antagonist.

After the arguably weak "Part 5" and "Part 6" Lupin television series, "Lupin ZERO" brings a much-needed energy to the table. It is clear from this well-crafted series that the cast and crew are fans of the franchise and understand its characters and nuances.

With any luck, future Lupin directors, animators and voice actors will take a note from "Lupin ZERO."

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QUICKIES



COURTESY OF WARP RECORDS

"CONTACT"
Kelela

"Contact" is another terrific single from singer Kelela's upcoming album, "Raven," painting a vividly seductive portrait of the lead singer trying to get a moment with someone at a bar.



COURTESY OF INTERSCOPE RECORDS

"EMILY I'M SORRY"
boygenius

This emotionally vulnerable ballad full of pain and sorrowful regret effectively brings together the talents of Phoebe Bridgers, Lucy Dacus and Julien Baker five years after their self-titled debut LP "boygenius."



COURTESY OF TRANSGRESSIVE RECORDS LTD.

"WEIGHTLESS"
Arlo Parks

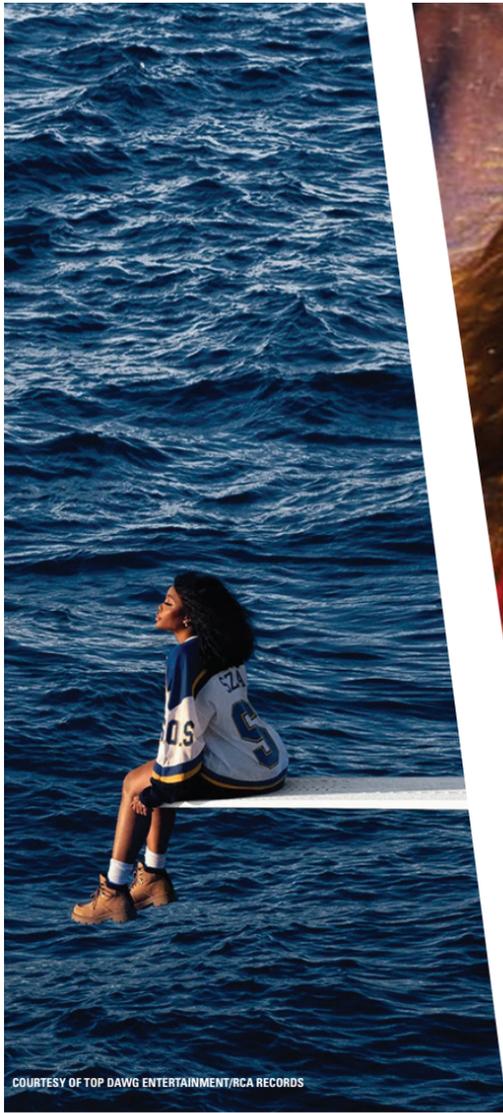
Songwriter Arlo Parks effortlessly leaves the listener in an emotional trance. The wistful atmosphere pairs well with the kind of sensual longing Parks sings about.



COURTESY OF REPUBLIC RECORDS

"BRRR"
Kim Petras

The lyrics are admittedly catchy and the chorus is a highlight, showcasing Petras' talent in spades, but the uninspired electronic instrumentation and pulsing beat quickly grow tired and annoying for the listener.



COURTESY OF TOP DAWG ENTERTAINMENT/RCA RECORDS



COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES



COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS

WINTER RELEASES REVIEWED

“SOS”



BY TESS FERGUSON

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Following a five-year hiatus from her hit sophomore album “Ctrl,” SZA returned to the music scene with the release of her highly anticipated third album, “SOS,” on Dec. 9, 2022. The ambitious 23-song collection, clocking in at just over an hour long, expands upon the familiar “sad girl” themes that SZA has explored in her earlier work: revenge, longing and insecurity.

Counter to the often melancholy messages that SZA relays in her music, her performance in “SOS” is notably looser and more confident than her cadence displayed in “Ctrl” (2017) and “Z” (2014).

SZA keeps her newest release fresh through the incorporation of an eclectic roster of genres, including R&B, pop and indie rock. The melting pot of styles works to interrogate SZA’s conflicting impulses — casual sex or lasting love, relationships or independence, revenge or forgiveness, self-questioning or self-respect — while showcasing her growing versatility.

SZA has proven that her strength as an artist lies in her sharp writing. The reiteration of such familiar themes without incorporating any notably new ideas subtracts from what could have been an undeniably original installment to SZA’s discography.

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“Babylon”



BY EVAN MILLER

STAFF WRITER

Writer and director Damien Chazelle brought 2022 to a close with a brilliantly chaotic pop in his comedic drama spectacle, “Babylon.” The film primarily centers around Manny (Diego Calva) and Nellie (Margot Robbie), two dreamers who quickly find themselves launched into the glamour-filled world of 1920s Hollywood just as it nears the end of the silent film era.

Through all of the sex, drugs and lawlessness on display, Chazelle layers an admiration of movie magic mostly through Calva’s performance as Manny. His journey from the very bottom as an elephant wrangler for Hollywood’s most extravagant parties to a major

producer is brilliant.

Robbie delivers a magnetic performance as Nellie. Viewers fall in love with her life-of-the-party personality alongside Manny.

Clocking in with a runtime of over three hours long, “Babylon” could have either been a bit shorter or some of the time that was devoted to the character Jack Conrad (Brad Pitt) could have been used to strengthen the relationship between Manny and Nellie.

“Babylon” is a display of electrifying energy made up of Chazelle’s direction, all of the film’s performances and especially Justin Hurwitz’s magnificent score. All of the talent on screen makes “Babylon” a magical experience.

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“Puss in Boots: The Last Wish”



BY JOSHUA PANTANO

STAFF WRITER

Everybody’s favorite fearless hero, Puss in Boots (Antonio Banderas), has put another gold star on Dreamworks’ film catalog.

In this stunning sequel to the famous feline’s 2011 solo film, after a fight with a giant ends in his death, Puss learns that he is down to the last of his nine lives. However, with a magic star that can grant a single wish, he might find a way to save himself — if old friends and foes don’t get in the way, that is.

One of the primary aspects of this movie that will stick with viewers is its potent themes. The story tackles the meaning of life, the fear of death and what our lives mean when they come

to an end. It is surprisingly mature and likely to engage even the most fervent opponents of animated films.

“Puss in Boots: The Last Wish” knocks it out of the park with its meticulous animation. It is fluid and a spectacle to watch. The fight scenes in particular perfectly utilize movement, not only in how the characters leap across the screen but also in how the camera follows them.

The story is predictable at parts but never enough to make it unengaging.

Overall, “Puss in Boots: The Last Wish” will be a satisfying meal for starved animation fans and a breath of hope for fans awaiting the next “Shrek” film.

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“Avatar: The Way of Water”



BY GIANCARLO MESSINA

STAFF WRITER

Director James Cameron’s love of boundary-pushing technology, large-scale special effects and aquatic life makes a return in “Avatar: The Way of Water.” The long-awaited sequel to Cameron’s “Avatar” (2009) comes out after thirteen years in the works.

The film follows Jake Sully (Sam Worthington) and Neytiri (Zoe Saldana), fourteen years after the events of the first film, as they care for their five children and are on the run from the RDA, the corrupt corporation from Earth that carries on with its plan to colonize Pandora. They end up meeting a new clan of Na’vi, located on the oceans of Pandora, and must adapt. However, the film falls into many

of the same storytelling traps as the first one, as it rehashes many of the ideas and messages that the first film sets up. There is still enough visceral action and bold scenery to keep the audience immersed in the world of Pandora for its three hours of runtime, but it would have been more satisfying if that were attached to a story that was more daring.

Another element of the film that is of note is its bold decision of filming at 48 frames per second. This was likely done to make the action scenes appear crisper. However, the film tended to alternate between both 24fps and 48fps seemingly at random.

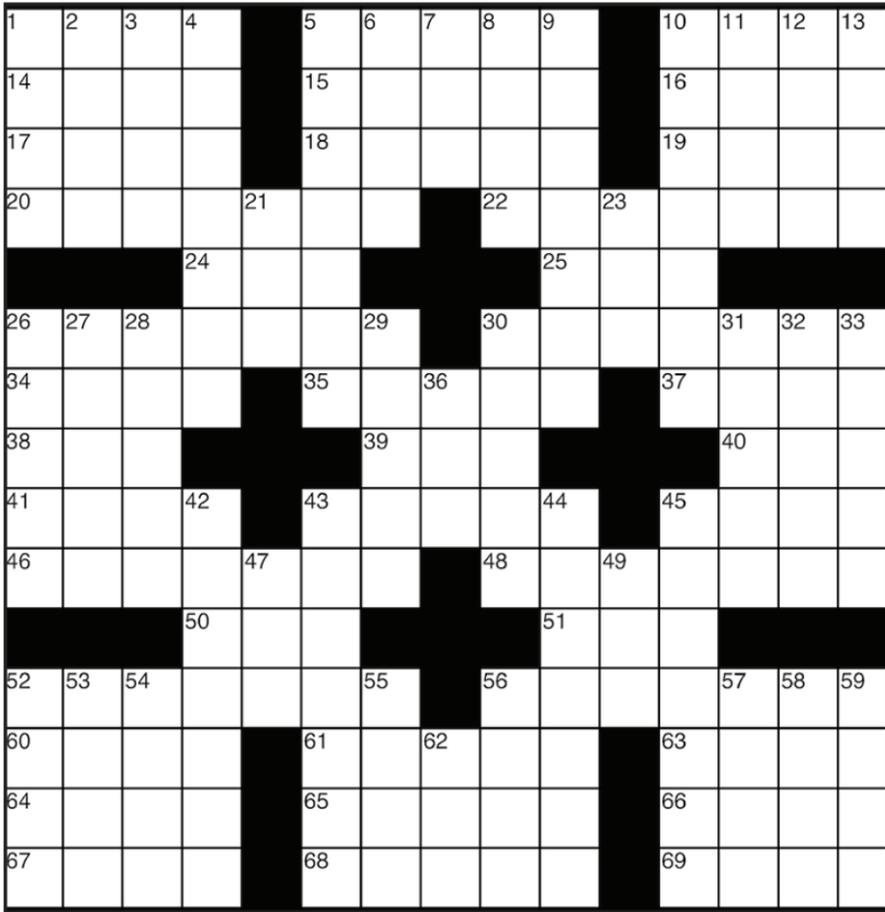
Still, “Avatar: The Way of the Water” is a technical marvel.

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DIVERSIONS

crossword

By Quill Driver Books



ACROSS

- 1 Knocks firmly
- 5 Low point
- 10 Weapon supplies
- 14 Bakery fixture
- 15 Martini extra
- 16 Luke Skywalker's sister
- 17 Bullring bull
- 18 Barn toppers
- 19 Fling a fly
- 20 Dodges
- 22 Blot
- 24 Lamprey
- 25 Cry of amazement
- 26 Hide away
- 30 Concert extenders
- 34 Swelled heads
- 35 Bond-buyer's concern
- 37 Fluid rock
- 38 Jacket part
- 39 Bit of paint
- 40 Study
- 41 Reminder
- 43 Wyoming range
- 45 Eye signal
- 46 Office gadget
- 48 City in Kansas

- 50 Soup ingredient
- 51 Kiwi's extinct cousin
- 52 Germ
- 56 Do away with
- 60 Tony's cousin
- 61 Spring month
- 63 Falco or Sedgwick
- 64 Horse docs
- 65 Rock shop curiosity
- 66 Dice toss
- 67 New singles
- 68 Storm drain
- 69 Feed the hogs

- 21 Neckline type
- 23 — cit. (footnote abbr.)
- 26 Garment parts
- 27 Marsh stalker
- 28 Punctuation mark
- 29 Northern duck
- 30 Macaroni type
- 31 Wheel spokes
- 32 Gala
- 33 Folgers rival
- 36 Raid the fridge
- 42 Treat harshly
- 43 Supermarket buy
- 44 More agile
- 45 Ahab and crew

- 47 Buscaglia or Tolstoy
- 49 Pigeon talk
- 52 Relocate
- 53 Alpine goat
- 54 Commend highly
- 55 Thrust-and-parry sword
- 56 Candy-striper
- 57 Esteemed one
- 58 Rural structure
- 59 Rescue
- 62 Tier

DOWN

- 1 Goes bad
- 2 Acknowledge
- 3 Dijon dad
- 4 Noisy sleepers
- 5 Knickknack
- 6 Melodramatic cry
- 7 Racket
- 8 Noted lithographer
- 9 Speak up
- 10 Germ killer
- 11 Protein source
- 12 Var. topics
- 13 Four-letter word

last issue's crossword answers

PIKE	FRUIT	MURK
AHEM	AISLE	AKIN
NORA	SPEED	NEMO
SPRINTERS	ASSET	
LIE	LII	
ALGEBRA	SAMOVAR	
BIRDS	AVEC	NICE
ONE	WHACK	SRA
VEAL	RENT	TOTED
ENTICED	SURPASS	
VON	NEO	
VOWEL	TRICKSTER	
AVON	DIANA	SERE
TAKE	UNZIP	URGE
SLED	BEETS	MASK

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sudoku medium

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

hard

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

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answers to last issue's sudoku:

easy

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

hard

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

SPORTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023

13

CLUB SKI TEAM HITS THE SLOPES FOR NEW SEASON



Members of the Ithaca College Ski Racing Club pose for a photo in front of the Greek Peak Mountain Resort racing lodge. The team, which practices at Greek Peak two to three times a week during the racing season, arrives at the college a week before the spring semester begins for skiing, team bonding and training.

AIDAN CHARDE/THE ITHACAN



BY AIDAN CHARDE

SPORTS EDITOR

On a rainy day in the middle of January, members of the Ithaca College Ski Racing Club can be spotted speeding down Greek Peak Mountain Resort in nearby Cortland.

The conditions may not be nice — around 35 degrees, rainy and little to no snow coverage on most of the mountain — but it is “ski week” for the club, the time when all the members get back on the slopes to prepare for their season.

Like most club sports, the ski team has a wide range of skill levels among its members. Some, like senior club president Carley Randall, have grown up racing. Others, like senior Lilly Ries, grew up skiing but never tried their hand at racing until college.

Randall said she knows that most people do not have her experience, but she hopes the club can draw in people from the campus community who just want an excuse to go out skiing on weekends. The team can have as many racers ski as it wants to, but only five men and five women can have their times count toward the team’s score.

“The thing is, we’re a club team,” Randall said. “A lot of our racers have a variety of experience ... and that’s totally fine. We don’t care! Everybody just wants to ski, and learning to race is super fun. It makes you a better skier.”

Once the season gets going, the team trains two or three days a week, Mondays and Tuesdays, with a few Thursday practices

as well. On the weekends, Ries said the team travels to the mountain where they compete against nearby clubs like Binghamton University, Alfred University and Colgate University.

Senior Isabella Greason also has experience racing and said she knew she wanted to be on the ski team at the college. She said that part of what she loves about the team is the variety of skill levels and how laid back everyone is about the sport.

“[We have] good-quality people, all genuine, no cockiness,” Greason said. “We’re all really close. We do a lot of team bonding. Like last night, we did a team talent show.”

Ries said she knows she will not be able to compete against the more experienced skiers, some of whom have been racing since before high school, simply because she has only been doing the sport for four years. But she added there are other reasons why it can be hard to get into the sport later in life.

“Money-wise, racing is super expensive,” Ries said. “I don’t have all the shin guards or the pole guards to smack the poles [on the way down].”

The team competes in two disciplines: slalom and giant slalom. Both involve weaving back and forth between gates as the skiers speed down the mountain, with the fastest time after two runs winning.

In order to have the straightest line down the course, skiers will often try to cut as close as possible to the gates, knocking them out of the way with their ski poles or shins as they turn, making protective gear a necessity.

In addition, skiers wear speed suits, which



From left, first-year student Bodhi Ames and senior Carley Randall ski down the Odyssey run at Greek Peak on Jan. 20 during a day of free skiing for the team.

AIDAN CHARDE/THE ITHACAN

the college provides. The suits are thin fabric, typically marked with the team colors and logos, that make the skiers as aerodynamic as possible. Randall said gear can be an issue — the team only receives the suits from the college — but she and other members with experience are more than happy to share their equipment with everyone on the team.

“My siblings all race as well, so I will, like, bring their gear and share it [with] whoever needs it,” Randall said. “Some kid’s skis broke, and my dad was coming the next day, so I was like, ‘Oh, can you bring [extra] skis?’”

As far as why the team is skiing in the less-than-ideal conditions in mid-January, it is because their season is about to begin and many members have yet to practice. So, Randall said, the team comes back to campus a week early to get out on the slopes and be ready for its first competition Jan. 28.

The team spends ski week together, meeting the new members of the club and getting close. Randall said the team does activities as a group and has team dinners. Along with bonding and warming up for the season, Randall said ski week provides her a chance to see which skiers are the best and should be competing for points at races.

“When we have the ski week, we’ll have people training and I’ll be able to watch them,” Randall said. “We know who’s fastest after the first race.”

First-year student Jack Butler, who, like Ries, is an experienced skier who has not raced before, said he knew there was a club that went skiing but did not know they raced

until he got to the college. Although he is confident on his skis, Butler said his racing knowledge is pretty low.

“I know you go in between the poles ... and then you go around the flags,” Butler said. “And it’s like, yeah, seems fun if I had the chance. And now I have a chance!”

The team did get the chance to practice on the course at Greek Peak, which operates as its home mountain, but Randall said everyone wanted to get back on their skis, so getting out for a day of free skiing was a good way to get started.

First-year student Bodhi Ames is also just learning to race, and he said he has set a solid goal for himself for this season.

“I’m just hoping to make it to the bottom,” Ames said, laughing. “I want to figure out slalom. ... In giant slalom, you carry more speed; it’s more fun.”

Following the six-week season, Randall said the team usually qualifies for Regionals, which includes teams from across New York State. If it performs well enough at Regionals, the team can qualify for Nationals — but Randall and Ries said it is not quite there yet, partially because of the pandemic.

No matter how the season goes, Ries said the fun of the team is being able to ski, not necessarily winning — although learning to improve is always a good time.

“I know I’m not going to be Lindsey Vonn,” Ries said. “But it would be nicer to go down faster!”



From left, Ithaca College seniors Lilly Ries, Isabella Greason, Syracuse University senior Jake Long and Ithaca College sophomore Kevin Conover ride up a lift.

AIDAN CHARDE/THE ITHACAN

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Offensive lineman earns All-American honors

BY DAVID SCHURTER

STAFF WRITER

Following a successful 2022 season for the Ithaca College football team, senior offensive lineman Jake Villanueva earned an Associated Press Second Team All-America selection, marking the second straight season in which Villanueva has earned the honor.

The historic season saw the Bombers finish undefeated in the regular season for the first time since 1986, as well as clinch their first Liberty League Championship. On top of that, the team made the NCAA tournament and reached the National Quarterfinals for the first time since 2003 before falling to the No. 1 North Central College Cardinals, 48–7.

Since joining the program in 2018, Villanueva has powered the college to a 36–9 record. With his commitment, Villanueva became the 153rd all-time All-American selection for the football program and the first to earn back-to-back selections by the Associated Press since Daegan Gray '90 in 1987 and 1988.

"I'm honored, man, that's really all I can say," Villanueva said. "It was awesome to play for such a well-renowned program in Ithaca. With our coaching staff, teammates and supportive staff, all five of my years at Ithaca were a great experience that I'll cherish for the rest of my life."

Villanueva added that he could not have been an All-American alone — he needed the help and teamwork

of everyone else in the program.

"I'm nothing without my coaches and my teammates," Villanueva said. "They're constantly pushing me to be the best that I can, supporting me whether I play really good or bad. They've just helped keep me grounded."

Offensive coordinator and offensive line coach Sean Reeder said Villanueva's commitment to the program is unmatched and that he will leave a big hole with his departure.

"Jake has had a huge impact on the program," Reeder said. "He was a part of my first recruiting class in 2017 and he's really been indoctrinated into everything we strive for as a program. It's been really rewarding to see his growth all the way through the process."

Reeder also said Villanueva's work ethic is what the program strives to model itself off, and it is not about how you get the job done, but that you get it done.

"He has been instrumental in setting the tone for the culture, as well as the rest of the senior class," Reeder said. "Modeling that behavior is vital to what we do."

Another player from Reeder's first recruiting class was fellow offensive lineman, graduate student Brendan Martin. Martin said he and Villanueva have been close since their first practice in 2018 and working alongside Villanueva was one of the best experiences of his career.

"We've spent a lot of time together, our offensive line position group is close-knit and really has been these last five years," Martin said. "We were



From left, graduate student offensive lineman Brendan Martin, senior quarterback A.J. Wingfield and senior offensive lineman Jake Villanueva await a snap against SUNY Brockport on Sept. 10.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

roommates and we've been great friends since our freshmen years."

Martin also said playing beside Villanueva removed much pressure from own his game, allowing him to play the way he does best.

"Playing next to him has made my job so much easier," Martin said. "When we play next to each other, our great friendship has led to great communication on the field to run our plays. Since we have that great chemistry and communication, we've done really well on the right side."

Villanueva was not the only athlete who received honors for their

excellent play. Senior linebacker Matt DeSimpliciis was nominated for the All-America Second Team and he, Villanueva and senior kicker Nicholas Bahamonde all earned All-Region First Team honors. Senior quarterback A.J. Wingfield secured a spot on the All-Region Second Team, with senior wide receiver Anthony D'Addetta was on the All-Region Third Team.

Finishing his final season, Villanueva said there are several key memories he will cherish.

"The Cortaca Jug Game in 2019 was definitely one of the craziest experiences of my life when we

broke the Division III attendance record," Villanueva said. "Winning the Liberty League Championship this year was something that we had been working for since our freshmen years."

Above all, Villanueva said he will remember the time he spent with his teammates the most, allowing him to have an enjoyable experience as a football player in college.

"I had a great experience overall playing and you don't hear that too often with college football players nowadays," Villanueva said.

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Basketball teams resume season in new year

BY TOBIAH ZBORAY

STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 2, the Ithaca College men's and women's basketball teams played the Hamilton College Continentals as both teams resumed their respective seasons while the majority of the college's population was away from the campus on winter break.

Before the teams could return to campus however, they also took time to rest. Men's head coach Waleed Farid said that after the team's 4–4 start to the season, which began Nov. 8, he encouraged his team to take some time over break to relax and recover.

"After we played our last game against [University of] Rochester, we actually talked to the guys a little bit about taking a few days away from the game," Farid said. "We didn't want them spending too much time thinking about our record and all that stuff. So I took a few days and just didn't watch the film and sat back. And then we talked about it after taking a couple of days off, getting back to work and trying to do our best to stay in as good shape as possible."

The women's assistant coach Mary Mazzella said her team, who had entered the break with a 6–2 record, used their 20 days off from classes to focus on strategy and try new plays in comparison to those they had been using during the fall.

"We talked a little bit about a different look on defense," Mazzella said. "We worked on throwing in some new sets and shaking some things up to give opponents a different look than maybe what they'd seen in that fall semester."

Another benefit that the teams had over the break was the ability to set more flexible

schedules. Farid said not having to worry about working practice hours around academic schedules was a great help to the staff, both in team activities and at home.

"I think it's great for a variety of reasons," Farid said. "We're able to get the guys in here in the afternoon at, like, 1:30 p.m. so that guys still get to rest and sleep in. And the guys get to be together in the evenings, whether they're having team dinners or just dinners on the road."

Having the flexible schedule also allowed for the coaching staff to spend more time away from practices. Farid said he spent the time with his kids, something he does not always get the opportunity to do during the season.

"For me and the coaching staff, it's nice to be able to get home and spend time with my family," Farid said. "To be home in time for my two kids to go to bed, that's the kind of thing which we lose a little bit once we get back into the grind. So there are a lot of benefits."

Both teams won their games against the Continentals upon returning to campus, sparking a streak of combined success over winter break thanks in part to the ability of the teams to control their schedules, giving them time to make changes, Farid said.

Although winter break let the teams control their schedules, women's junior guard Hannah Polce said she is glad to resume a normal academic schedule.

"I'm definitely ready for some normalcy," Polce said. "Winter break was fun, but basketball kind of feels almost like a job for a little bit. You wake up, you go to practice, you eat, you nap, you go to practice again, you eat and you sleep. So that on repeat is fun at first, but it becomes really repetitive toward the end."

For the teams, senior forward Jack Stern



From left, graduate student guard Cara Volpe defends against Clarkson University sophomore guard Veronica Tache on Jan. 14 in the Ben Light Gymnasium.

ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN

of the men's team said the lack of fans during the break presents playing home games as a different challenge.

"It's a huge change," Stern said. "I know, for me and a lot of the guys who get a lot of minutes, it really changes how we play based off of the energy in the building. Especially with basketball, where people are right on the edge of the court yelling at you, cheering for you, it brings your energy up."

Stern said that when there are not many students in the bleachers at games, it becomes particularly important for the team to support each other internally.

"It's really tough to look up in the crowd and none of your friends are there," Stern said. "So we need to replace those fans that aren't here anymore. We need to cheer extra loud,

be there for our teammates."

As the teams exit the winter break and resume play during the spring semester, they do not want the momentum of the break or what the teams worked on to be lost during the year. Stern said that the men's team wants to carry the energy from break into the rest of the season despite the changing atmosphere.

"Our motto of 'do what we do,' I think that that's something that really clicked over break," Stern said. "It's something that we don't want to lose when the fans come back. ... But that doesn't mean that when we're on the bench we shouldn't be as loud as we have been for the past couple of weeks. That's something that we need to carry over."

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THE BUZZER

The Ithacan's breakdown of Ithaca College's week in sports



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK HANNAH POLCE

Junior guard Hannah Polce notched a career-high 18 points to lead the Bombers to a 50–39 win over Union College on Jan. 21. Polce shot 6-of-13 from the field and added five rebounds and two steals to help the Bombers win their eighth straight game.

RORY CASSIDY/THE ITHACAN



COMPETITION OF THE WEEK MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Junior Dom Mikula's pole vault win — breaking a school record and moving him to second place nationally — highlighted the men's and women's track and field quad meet Jan. 21 in the Glazer Arena. The two teams combined for 11 event wins.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

EVENTS TO WATCH

5:30 P.M. JAN. 27 VS. HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH

The men's and women's basketball teams take on Hobart and William Smith Colleges on Jan. 27. The women look to extend their win streak to nine at 5:30 p.m. against the Herons before the men face off against the Statesmen at 7:30 p.m. Both games are at Ben Light Gymnasium.



ITHACA

VS.



HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES



2 P.M. JAN. 28 VS. RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

For the second day in a row, the men's and women's basketball teams will be in action against the RPI Engineers. The women play at 2 p.m. with the men following at 4 p.m. The men have not won at home against RPI since 2019. Both games will also take place at Ben Light Gymnasium.



ITHACA

VS.



RPI

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



"It's really tough to look up in the crowd and none of your friends are there. ... We need to cheer extra loud, be there for our teammates when no one else is."

- JACK STERN

Senior Forward/Men's Basketball



Recruitment Night

The Ithacan

News, Sports, Opinion
Life and Culture, Photo
Copy editing, Video
Advertising, Design
Social Media, Podcast, Proof

6 p.m.
Park
Auditorium

Jan. 26

No experience necessary
All majors welcome

