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Artificial turf creates environmental concerns



MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN

**BY ELIJAH DE CASTRO
AIDAN CHARDE**

SENIOR WRITER
SPORTS EDITOR

This article is part of a two-part series on the installation of an artificial turf field at Bertino Field at Butterfield Stadium and its impacts on the campus community. The second part will be in the next edition of The Ithacan.

Despite Ithaca College's stated commitments to public health, the environment and cutting carbon emissions, the college is building a new artificial football field that will expose athletes to cancer-causing chemicals, pollute ecosystems and increase greenhouse gas emissions, according to multiple scientists *The Ithacan* spoke to.

On Nov. 29, 2022, the college announced that Monica Bertino Wooden '81 — whose brother, John Bertino '80, was a part of the 1979 National Championship football team — had donated \$3 million to replace the college's natural grass in Butterfield Stadium with a new artificial turf. The field, which is in Butterfield Stadium, will also be renamed as Bertino Field.

The donation came after the college's football team had its best season since 1986, going undefeated in the regular season and reaching the national quarterfinals. In the announcement, the college told the campus community that replacing the artificial turf would have environmental benefits.

BUTTERFIELD, PAGE 13

IC students find belonging through inclusive housing

BY RYAN JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

At Ithaca College, there are many resources for transgender and queer students to receive housing that is accommodating to their needs, but some students and staff at the college agree that there are still improvements to be made.

In order to receive desired housing accommodations, students who identify as transgender and nonbinary must fill out the Trans and Non-Binary Housing Request or call the Office of Residential Life to request accommodations.

The housing request asks students about which dorm they are most comfortable living in, allows students to choose single, double or triple dorms and asks if students would be more comfortable living on a male, female or co-ed floor.

Open Pages is a Residential Learning Community (RLC) that was founded in Fall 2022 and is located in West Tower. It provides housing accommodations and community to transgender and nonbinary students.

Recently, the RLC has garnered national media attention, with multiple news outlets, including Fox News and InsideHigherEd, highlighting their effort.

Junior Jay Barrett, co-founder of Open

Pages, said the housing request met his needs as a transgender student, but his previous housing did not give him the sense of community that he wanted before living in the RLC.

"Everyone was very chill, [they were] allies, but it still made me a little nervous," Barrett said. "Even walking back and forth to the shower I was always on edge, and so with Open Pages, I was looking to help create a community where [people] didn't have to worry about what their peers are thinking and that they can live in a space where they feel comfortable and understood."

Luca Maurer, interim executive director of Student Equity and Belonging and director of LGBT Education, Outreach and Services, said the housing accommodations at the college are a good start but that there is more to be done in terms of inclusivity.

"When I first started [at the college], none of the options that we have now existed," Maurer said. "It was general housing for everybody, but it didn't meet everybody's needs. If you take a long view, we have put things in place at Ithaca College that represent some of what LGBTQ students need, and in some cases [we] have really set the standard that other colleges aspire to."

HOUSING, PAGE 4

Faculty Council hash out Title IX report controversy

BY NOA RAN-RESSLER
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Feb. 7 Faculty Council meeting discussed heavy topics, including the trust issues between Ithaca College faculty and the administration, shared governance responsibilities and a controversial Title IX report.

Ellen Staurowsky, professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, is no longer chair of the council but remains a member-at-large. Charis Dimaras, professor in the Department of Music Performance and former vice-chair of the council, is the new chair.

Melanie Stein, provost and vice president of academic affairs, started the open session with the Provost's Report. At the last meeting Dec. 7, Stein said she would not stay at council meetings after giving the



Melanie Stein, provost and vice president of academic affairs, stayed at the meeting after giving her report.

KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

Provost's Report. However, at the Feb. 7 meeting, she remained in the room for the duration of the council meeting and participated in discussions.

As part of her report, Stein shared updates about curriculum changes. She said that in January, nine new programs were passed through the Academic

Policies Committee, which has the responsible of improving the college's curriculum.

One of the curriculum changes would transition more three-credit classes into four credits. Stein said she met with the Student Governance Council

FACULTY COUNCIL, PAGE 4



Nation & World News

Flow of migrants drop across the border of Texas and Mexico

A month after President Joe Biden’s administration said it was expanding its humanitarian parole program for migrants from certain countries, Mexican officials warn it is too early to claim success, even as the number of migrants reaching the border has plummeted.

In an interview with The Dallas Morning News, Roberto Velasco, a top diplomat and chief of the North America bureau at the Mexican Foreign Ministry, highlighted the drastic drop — as much as a 97% decline — in the number of migrants journeying through Mexico from Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua and Haiti.

Former foreign minister places first in Cyprus presidential vote

Cypriots will return to the ballot box Feb. 12 to choose a leader who can oversee the Mediterranean island’s economic recovery as the fallout from the war in Ukraine continues to pose a threat.

Nicos Christodoulides, 49, an independent candidate, will face Andreas Mavroyiannis, 66, in the runoff with more than 99% of the vote counted.

He captured 32% of the vote Feb. 5 compared to 29.6% for Mavroyiannis, who’s also standing as an independent

candidate and is backed by the leftist Akel party, according to Cypriot Interior Ministry figures.

End of public health emergency causes a cascade of changes

The Biden administration’s plan to unwind the public health emergency tied to the COVID-19 pandemic will spur a whirlwind of changes related to telehealth, Medicaid, pharmaceuticals and other priorities.

Many Republicans have said the May 11 end date announced Monday is not soon enough, with the House voting this week on a bill to roll back that and three other pandemic policies immediately. Democrats have said the time is needed to weigh which flexibilities and funding may need to continue.

Arctic air mass sweeps across Northeast in record-setting cold

New Yorkers were hunkering down and hiding from the cold for a second straight day as temperatures across the city dipped below zero Feb. 4.

More than 20 million people in New York and across the Northeast continued to endure what meteorologists expect to be a brief, though potentially life-threatening, blast of cold.



Russia and Ukraine exchange prisoners

Ukrainians gather Dec. 8, 2022, at Mykhailivs’ka Square in Kyiv, Ukraine, demanding the liberation of their loved ones in a prisoner exchange with Russia. Russia got back 63 servicemen and Ukraine received 116 prisoners Feb. 4.

JEFF J MITCHELL/TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

US downs alleged Chinese spy balloon that lingered for days

The U.S. shot down an alleged Chinese surveillance balloon off the South Carolina coast Feb. 4, capping days of waiting as it traversed the country and injected new tension into relations with China.

President Joe Biden said he ordered

the Pentagon on Feb. 1 to down the balloon as soon as possible “without doing damage to anyone on the ground.” The military decided the best window was Feb. 4 while it was over the Atlantic within U.S. territorial waters.

SOURCE: TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MULTIMEDIA

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



Ithaca College Hits the Mario Kart Track

On Feb. 4, *The Ithacan* rolled up to Emerson Suites for Ithaca College’s annual Mario Kart tournament filled with video games, virtual reality and Monster energy drinks.



COURTESY OF BAYVIEW ENTERTAINMENT

‘Deja View’ - “Skinamarink” (2022)

Host sophomore Therese Kinirons and guest sophomore Nathan Kakim kick off the new season of *Deja View* focusing on horror films with the experimental film “*Skinamarink*” (2022).



Corrections:

In “Cantelmo gets a running start with mayoral campaign” published in the Feb. 2 issue of *The Ithacan*, a photo was said to be Alderperson Ducson Nguyen but was found to be Phuong Nguyen, former assistant professor at Ithaca College.
In “Use of Twitter questioned in college town stress study” the article said Franklin University and Wabash College are in West Lafayette, Indiana, but Franklin College is in Franklin, Indiana, and Wabash College is in , Indiana.

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Starbucks workers continue union fight in court

BY AUBREN VILLASENOR
STAFF WRITER

Starbucks workers across New York State are complaining of continued retaliation and coercion by management in an attempt to stop unionization efforts, resulting in lawsuits against the company.

Across the country, employees of Starbucks echo those same allegations. In reaction to worker complaints, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) announced a lawsuit in June 2022, requesting a nationwide cease and desist order against the Starbucks Corporation to stop anti-union efforts.

Dominico Farrell, former shift supervisor at a Starbucks location in Farmingville, New York, said that his manager created a hostile work environment.

Farrell said he, along with several other coworkers, went to Starbucks' Human Resources with complaints of sexual harassment, verbal abuse and more.

"[There were] allegations from people before I even worked there, about just him being either creepy physically, touching people and abusing people verbally," Farrell said. "So, overall, it just wasn't a good situation."

Donald Beachler, associate professor in the Department of Politics at Ithaca College, said that even if the union were to win the lawsuits against the company, the penalties for violating labor laws are not substantial enough.

"The penalties are small enough that employers are happy



Starbucks closed its location in Collegetown in June 2022. In November 2022, the National Labor Relations Board began seeking an order to reopen the Starbucks location.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MALIK CLEMENT, VAN HOANG, NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

to take the risk of the penalty," Beachler said.

Westlake said via text that Starbucks has resorted to coercion in its attempt to stop the unionization drive.

"I think that Starbucks' goal is to make people too scared to make things better," Westlake said via text.

The high turnover rates of the service industry make service worker unions weaker compared to others, like unions in the automotive industry.

Beachler said Starbucks is likely using this to its advantage, with hopes the movement will

"fizzle out," something Farrell also acknowledged.

"The struggle is we have the union now [and] we just can't do anything with it, because [Starbucks] is just willing to take X amount of fines," Farrell said.

The Starbucks Corporation closed its Ithaca Collegetown location two months after all three Starbucks locations in the City of Ithaca voted to unionize. According to the Ithaca Voice, in June 2022, the union filed charges with the NLRB against the company claiming coercion and retaliation tactics against employees within Ithaca, which the NLRB found

merit in, in November 2022, a finding that resulted in the NLRB seeking an order to have the company reopen in Collegetown.

Beachler said the current labor laws are tilted in favor of management and would require substantial changes in order to better protect workers.

Beachler said the odds of the union succeeding in the end are slim.

"[The Union] has an uphill battle ahead [but] not impossible," Beachler said. "If I were betting, it wouldn't be on the union."

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Mpox worries fade over time

BY KAI LINCKE
STAFF WRITER

Ithaca College added resources for students to mitigate the spread of the mpox virus, formerly known as monkeypox, in summer 2022, but as case numbers have fallen, some students' concern for the virus has decreased.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), mpox is a viral infection that causes flu-like illness and a rash on the face, chest, hands, mouth, genitals or feet. Mpox is spread through contact with an infected person's lesions, bodily fluids or close face-to-face contact.

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services declared the mpox outbreak a public health emergency in August 2022 because of the virus's rapid spread. The press release said the government would continue to track cases and invited at-risk individuals to receive a free vaccine. Senior Sophia Roy said she was originally concerned that mpox would become a pandemic like COVID-19, but she has not thought about mpox since cases first started to increase in the summer.

"I haven't heard [about] it in class or the college, or not even people that I know," Roy said. "No one is really talking about it. ... I kind of forgot about it."

First-year student Hope Oliveira said she has not heard about mpox since her seminar professor mentioned the increase in mpox cases in class during Fall 2022.

"[My professor] mentioned it, it was like an uptick," Oliveira said. "That day, I was like, 'Oh, maybe I should wipe down my stuff,' but then I feel like after that I ... wasn't too worried."

The World Health Organization announced in November 2022 that it planned to phase out the name "monkeypox" within the next year and relabel the virus as "mpox" to reduce potential racism and discrimination. As of Feb. 8, Tompkins County has recorded four mpox cases since July 2022, according to the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). Samm Swarts, assistant director of Emergency Preparedness and Response, said via email that Tompkins County Whole Health meets weekly with administrators from Ithaca College, Cornell University and Tompkins Cortland Community College to provide updates on health topics like mpox.

"We take every public health concern seriously and we actively monitor the latest information to make informed decisions," Swarts said.

The first mpox case was reported in the United States in May 2022, according to the CDC. Mpox case numbers rose gradually through June. The United States reached a peak of 624 cases Aug. 1. There was an average of 3–5 cases recorded in the U.S. each day in January 2023.

The drop in mpox cases has been attributed to behavioral changes and increased distribution of the two-dose Jynneos vaccine. The CDC identified men who have sex with men as the primary group at risk of contracting mpox. The CDC recommended that men who have sex with men should receive either the Jynneos vaccine or ACAM2000 vaccine.

In October 2022, Hammond Health Center started offering the Jynneos vaccine for all students. Jennifer Metzgar, director of Student Health Services, said the college received enough vaccine doses from the NYSDOH to vaccinate 50 students. The mpox vaccine is free and the vaccine administration fee is charged to students' private insurance or health care plans. Metzgar said 25 students have received the at Hammond Health Center since October.

"I actually have enough vaccine ... for an additional 25 students to receive two doses," Metzgar said. "I think after that, it would kind of be dependent on the need or the requests from students."

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'Fresh 15' addresses college weight-gain myth

BY LIAM MCDERMOTT
STAFF WRITER

Four Ithaca College students created a social media campaign called The Fresh 15 to bust the myth that students gain 15 pounds in their first year of college and to identify other aspects of college to focus on.

Sophomores Julia Freitor, Jaime von Bartheld, Katie Miller and junior Roxanne Palladino needed a campaign subject for their Introduction to Public Relations class in Fall 2022. That was when they created The Fresh 15 and continued their campaign after the class ended. The group teamed up with a production class to release a Public Service Announcement on Youtube and created social media posts on their Instagram and TikTok, to divert students' attention to other experiences, like extracurricular activities and friendships.

"We wanted [people] to have a positive mindset," von Bartheld said. "Everyone knew what you were talking about if you mentioned [freshman 15] and we went into it trying to reframe it."

Jen Huemmer, associate professor in the Department of Strategic Communication, taught the class. Huemmer said that at the beginning of the semester, she asked the groups to come up with a PR plan for a campaign. Huemmer asked the groups to do some research and create social media posts to promote their campaign. When the group started their research, they quickly learned that the freshman 15 does not exist. The general consensus from studies is that while weight gain may occur, it is not in unhealthy amounts.

Freitor said students' fear that they will gain weight in their first year at college is something the campaign works to de-stigmatize. Palladino said students are



From left, sophomore Jaime von Bartheld, junior Roxanne Palladino and sophomores Katie Miller and Julia Freitor fight the myth of the freshman 15.

COURTESY OF JULIA FREITOR; KATIE MILLER; JAIME VON BARTHELD; PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

already dealing with a host of changes and the societal pressure to maintain a certain weight only exacerbates that stress.

"That kind of blew our minds because of how pervasive that idea [of the freshman 15] is and it's not even a real thing," Palladino said.

The group traced the beginning of the myth back to 1981 when The New York Times published an article that featured a young celebrity, Jodie Foster, who was described as gaining the "freshman 10" in her first few weeks of college.

The negative outlook on small amounts of weight gain continues to show up online, often in blog posts and social media as well as websites like Healthline and WebMD contribute.

Von Bartheld said the awareness of the freshman 15 can start out even sooner than

students' first year of college. Freitor said the campaign on Instagram even led to a high school senior from Freitor's hometown reaching out to Freitor and thanking her.

"[The worry] was taking a toll on her," Freitor said. "It proved that this is something that people are really concerned with but also this is something we can truly tackle."

When deciding on a logo for the campaign, Miller said the group wanted something that would be symbolic of a fresh start.

"Our logo is a butterfly, which we feel represents ... new, positive beginnings," Miller said. "It is a chance for people to kind of grow and feel more comfortable."

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Open Pages RLC will accept first-year applicants for Fall 2023

FROM HOUSING, PAGE 1

Maurer said something specific he wants to see the college do is create a system that would help transgender and queer students find roommate matches that fit their needs.

“A few years ago, our orientation process used to be in the summer, so students would come in June or July for orientation to sign up for classes and that was a great way for queer and trans students to meet each other,” Maurer said. “I’d love for us to figure out some additional ways for queer and trans students to meet additional roommate matches before they get [to campus].”

Junior Gwyneth Cole, a co-founder of Open Pages, is a Residence Assistant (RA) for the RLC and said they feel much more comfortable being an RA to transgender and nonbinary residents.

“College dorms are super gendered regardless,” Cole said. “I used to live in quads and there was a boys’ side of the floor and a girls’ side of the floor and communal bathrooms. In some of the terraces, there are multi-stall bathrooms with a gender-neutral plaque on it and it’s not really accessible for trans students.”

First-year student August Culhane said they would be interested in joining the RLC, but most of their classes will be at the Roy H. Park School of Communications, and from West Tower it would be a far walk, especially in more extreme weather conditions.

“The idea of being a part of a

community of like-minded individuals with a shared background and different experiences [is that] you can learn from each other and have that access right there all the time,” Culhane said. “My friends from other colleges don’t have anything like that. It’s really unique that we have it here.”

Culhane said gendered dorms can be isolating to people who identify outside of the binary.

“Since I live on the guys’ side but I do not identify as a guy, it can be a little bit isolating when you’re surrounded by so much [masculinity],” Culhane said.

For many people who are transgender and nonbinary, public restrooms are a cause of anxiety and discomfort. According to a 2013 study by the Williams Institute that surveyed transgender and gender non-conforming people’s experience in public restrooms in Washington D.C., 18% of participants reported that they were denied access to a gendered bathroom and 68% reported at least one instance of verbal harassment in bathrooms.

The college posts all the available gender-neutral bathroom on campus and in residence halls on its website, providing resources for students to find the bathrooms they are most comfortable using.

Most student residence halls are equipped with at least one all-gender restroom, but some, including most of the Upper and Lower Quads, only have gendered communal restrooms.

Maurer said he would love for

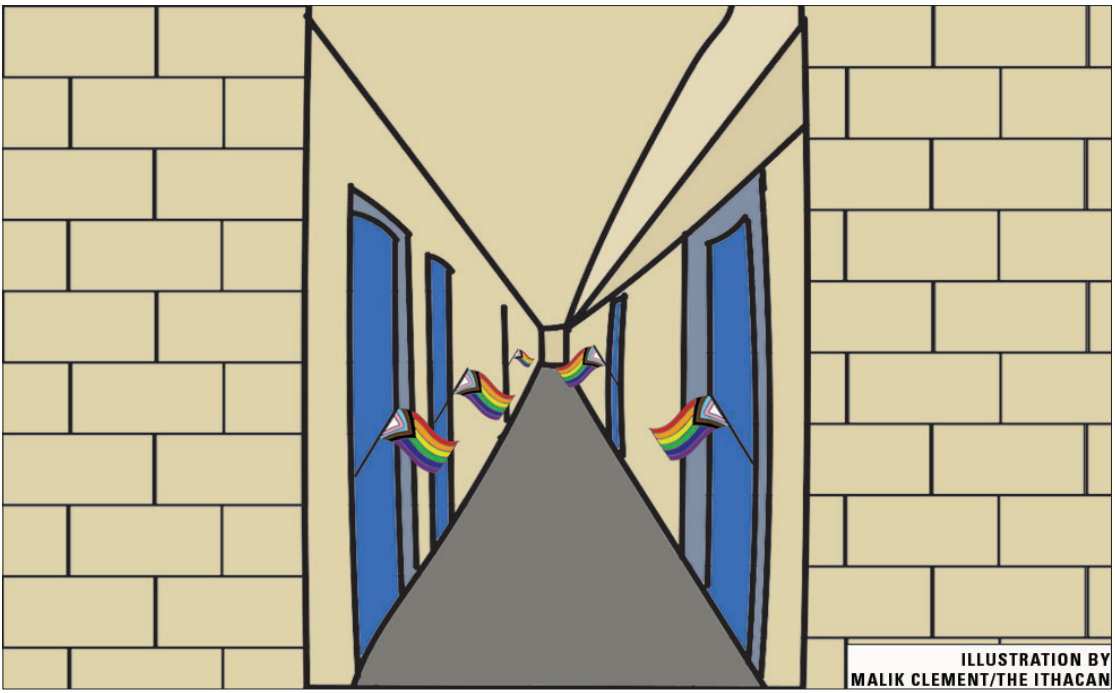


ILLUSTRATION BY MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN

the college to invest in upgrades to single-occupancy restrooms in residence halls for all students so the bathrooms would be more like what students have in their homes.

Cole said that the first semester of Open Pages ran smoothly and that the RLC is so popular there is a waitlist. Cole also said via email that the RLC will be open to first-year students starting in Fall 2023.

Because of the demand from incoming first-year applicants and the people already on the waitlist, the RLC was approved for a second floor in West Tower starting in Fall 2023. Cole said the goal next year is to keep the first-year students together on the same floor to give them the experience of a first-year dorm.

“We don’t necessarily have

events that are trans oriented, but we went mini golfing,” Cole said. “People just walk into the lounge and hang out and do homework [together] and it just really has a community feel.”

Barrett said the RLC keeps a record of applicants and considers their applications by how well the applicants answer the application questions and what applicants can contribute to the community of the RLC.

The RLC considers waitlisted applicants at the start of each semester when space opens up from students who study abroad, graduate or leave the college.

“Something we emphasize on our application is what Open Pages can do for you,” Barrett said. “A lot of applicants talk about their

safety and their own well-being. Something that we take into consideration is if the student is going to be okay if they are not on the floor.”

Barrett said that during the events he feels more comfortable being himself and that Open Pages allows him to not constantly think about gender.

“When I am hanging out with a bunch of queer or transgender people it’s like I don’t constantly have to be on guard,” Barrett said. “I don’t have to constantly be thinking about gender and processing it and [be] thinking about how other people think about it. It’s just like, we’re all cool, we’re all queer, we can just hang out and have fun.”

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Provost reports taking steps toward more effective shared governance

FROM FACULTY COUNCIL, PAGE 1

and the executive committee of the Staff Council to discuss the issues of trust between faculty and administration.

Jen Huemmer, assistant professor in the Department of Strategic Communication, said the council and faculty need to consider their goals for communication in order to be effective.

“Communication for the sake of communication can become very emotional, very hyperbolic, and spin us around in circles,” Huemmer said.

Belisa Gonzalez, associate professor in the Department of Sociology and director of the Center for the Study of Culture, Race, and Ethnicity, said one factor creating issues in communication is the separation between academic departments and the separation between faculty and administration.

“What I ... suggest is that we show up for each other,” Gonzalez said. “It’s meaningful when I see other faculty, certainly students and administrators, show up at events that people have worked really hard to put on.”

After tabling the discussion, Dimaras brought up a report conducted by the college’s Title IX Office, led by Title IX Coordinator Linda Koenig in May 2021.

The report surveyed 21 faculty in the then-School of Music — now the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. Dimaras said he was told that ultimately all schools would get similar reports, but the then-School of Music was the first.

Dimaras said he received the results of the report at a Feb. 1 meeting with the faculty in his school after asking for it over a year ago. He said the report

highlighted three main themes that contributed to tension among faculty: the power differential between tenured and non-tenured faculty, race and gender and the working environment.

Dimaras said the report itself, which he received later that day, had a different tone from the presentation.

“[The report was] rather accusatory, rather aggressive, and, in my opinion, had nothing to do with what was presented [at the meeting],” Dimaras said.

Stein said the provost’s office at the time asked for the survey to be conducted, although she had no direct involvement until after the survey had ended.

She said that the goal of the survey was to provide a confidential safe space for faculty to share their concerns on the school’s climate and that the presentation accurately reflected the tensions that the surveyed faculty brought up.

Stein said Koenig attempted to share the results of the report with the then-School of Music but was not well-received, and that was when Stein got involved in the report.

“[Koenig] came to me and said, ‘I tried to go back to the [School of Music] and I was told I couldn’t talk to the school until I had talked to some leadership committee,’” Stein said. “She says she was greeted with such resistance that, in the meeting, she was unable to get to the themes.”

Vadim Serebryany, associate professor in the Department of Music Performance, said he was in the leadership committee meeting that Stein was referring to and said the decision to not continue with the surveys was the correct one.

“[The report] very specifically singles out white male faculty ... as being the



The results of the climate study conducted in the then-School of Music caused disagreement over the methods of research and presentation of the results. KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

root of the problem,” Serebryany said. “A couple of [my constituents have expressed to me that they are seriously considering speeding up their retirement as a result of this [report].”

Stein said that after the Feb. 1 meeting, the faculty asked to see the report, and after checking with Koenig and the college’s legal team, it was determined that the report could be shared.

“There was a request from the faculty to see the report,” Stein said. “We all said it’s fine [that] we share the report.”

When asked after the council meeting, Stein declined to share the report with *The Ithacan*.

Stein said the report, though intended

to be conducted throughout all the schools in the college, will not continue because of understaffing issues and said nobody has the capacity to continue with the survey.

Gonzalez said she recommends bringing in an outside perspective to discuss the climate survey and its results and said she could look at it and help interpret what it means.

“To receive this information in this format, it seems very pointed in the direction of dismissing the experiences of the minoritized faculty in the then-School of Music,” Gonzalez said. “I can’t — I don’t accept that.”

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SGC speaks with IC pride fellow

BY DOMINICK PETRUCCI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Ithaca College’s Student Governance Council (SGC) met with Grace Dosdall, the inaugural Ithaca College LGBTQ pride fellow, to discuss resources and services students have available through the fellowship and the LGBT Center.

Dosdall was appointed as the fellow in August 2022 to obtain experience working in a higher-level learning environment and to expand campus LGBTQ+ resources. The Pride Fellowship offers counseling, assistance for legal name change and other ways to make students feel comfortable and accepted on campus. Dosdall, and all future fellows, will hold this position for two years.

Dosdall started by explaining how the LGBT Center has moved locations from Hammond Health Center to Towers Concourse. This location change comes from the Pride Fellowship and Dosdall wanting to create a more comforting environment, something they believe the Towers Concourse is providing.

“Before COVID, we were in the basement of the Hammond Health Center,” Dosdall said. “It was dark, it was dingy, it was sad.”

First-year student Rishabh Sen, vice president of campus affairs, questioned the change.

“I feel like a lot of [students in] lower campus don’t go to Towers,” Sen said. “Maybe Campus Center, where there is a lot of foot traffic,



Grace Dosdall, the college’s inaugural LGBTQ pride fellow, spoke to SGC about their goals to expand the LGBT Center’s outreach and how to make the center’s resources more accessible.

RAY MILBURN/THE ITHACAN

will allow people to see the center a lot more.”

Dosdall is focusing on events, resources and other activities to engage and educate students. She also said a goal of hers is to make sure students are aware of the expansion of the Transgender and Non-Binary Residential Learning Community (RLC).

Senior Maxwell Powers, who had resigned last semester as vice president of business and finance for the SGC, held a platform for becoming senator-at-large for the SGC. Powers said an important

topic for him is accessibility on campus. Powers also campaigned to return to the Appropriations Committee to make sure clubs are also being as inclusive and open to accessibility as possible.

“The senator’s role is working more on how we can improve accessibility on campus, not only if you are disabled or differently abled,” Powers said. “That’s really what the main thing was with the project, which was literally just going through what buildings are accessible and what are not. ... Some of the inclines are actually

not ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act] approved.”

Finally, during officer and senator reports, senior Grace Madeya, president of the student body, said that previously clubs needed to attend an in-person workshop that taught them the basics of acquiring funding, types of budgets and how to request a budget.

Madeya explained that this program is now completely virtual, and clubs looking to gain a budget can now do it asynchronously.

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Vacant position on council filled

BY LORIEN TYNE
NEWS EDITOR

The Ithaca Common Council unanimously voted Feb. 1 to have Kris Haines-Sharp fill the vacant 5th Ward council seat.

The seat has been vacant since Mayor Laura Lewis, the former 5th Ward alderperson, was elected in November 2022. Haines-Sharp’s position will still expire Dec. 31 with the rest of the Common Council positions, which will all be up for election during the November 2023 general election.

Haines-Sharp was one of eight candidates for the position who had each been reviewed by the Vacancy Committee that, for this instance, was comprised of the 5th Ward Alderperson Robert Cantelmo, 3rd Ward Alderperson Rob Gearhart and Lewis.

Each interview conducted by the Vacancy Council with the candidates is posted on the city of Ithaca’s website.

In Haines-Sharp’s interview, Lewis asked Haines-Sharp what she thinks are the biggest challenges facing the city currently and how she would address them.

“I think there is a need for trust building, transparency and collaboration,” Haines-Sharp said in the interview. “I think that would be what I would be bringing to Common Council; an intention to communicate well, to work with Common Council members and the constituents I represent as well as all the other offices and committees that we are charged to work with.”

According to The Ithaca Voice, Robert Cantelmo, the other 5th Ward alderperson, is planning to introduce legislation that would alter the selection process in the case of a Common Council vacancy.

CONTACT: LTYNE@ITHACA.EDU

Q&A: Associate professor will publish her first book

Jennifer Spitzer, associate professor in the Department of Literatures in English with a specialization in late 19th and 20th-century literature, modernist texts that originated in Europe and came to the U.S., and gender and sexuality, has written a book that will be released in February.

Her book, “Secret Sharers: The Intimate Rivalries of Modernism and Psychoanalysis,” highlights Sigmund Freud’s psychoanalytic thought through the lens of modernists and authors. Staff writer Vivian Rose spoke with Spitzer to discuss the process and experience of writing “Secret Sharers.”

This article has been edited for length and clarity.

Vivian Rose: What was your experience writing this book?

Jennifer Spitzer: I would say it’s as much a product of my Ph.D. years as it is of my time as a teacher in the classroom, working with students and teaching classes in modernism, but also just having students ... express interest in helping me research. I had one Ithaca College student who helped me with research. One Ithaca College student helped me with footnotes. Another Ithaca College student helped me with editing. So that has also been a major part of the process.

VR: What does this accomplishment mean to you?

JS: It feels like the conclusion of something that’s taken years and I very much am aware that it’s a collaborative effort as much as a single author is credited with

the book. Not only have students helped me with research and editing, but I’ve had so many colleagues in the [college’s] Department of Literatures in English. Many colleagues and friends from other institutions read parts of it, edited it and it really has felt like a community project. ... And then of course it ended up differently than I had conceived of it when I was a doctoral student. So it’s exciting to see how the idea changed over time.

VR: How does this book connect to what you teach at Ithaca College?

JS: Part of my ongoing writing about Woolf inspired my 400-level Virginia Woolf seminar, which I’m teaching for the first time, and while that’s a bit more expansive in terms of its discussions of Woolf, in the class I talk with my students about how she was both interested in the new experiments ... [and] how those new ideas about human psychology impacted her writing.

VR: What is your writing process?

JS: [My process was] a lot of haphazardly trying to slip in writing time between teaching courses and parenting, and I would say the single best habit I’ve developed in terms of writing has been to have writing groups. ... I have a weekly writing group, kind of an accountability group. That really helps me set deadlines. I think with this book, especially in the last few years, having a number of different writing groups in which I both read other people’s writing and respond to theirs and have deadlines for my own, [has been] the most helpful practice I’ve established over the



Jennifer Spitzer, associate professor in the college’s Department of Literatures in English, said her Ph.D. research and writing inspired her seminar on Virginia Woolf.

DAISY BOLGER/THE ITHACAN

last few years. ... I would say breaks and summers are the most productive for me in terms of writing.

VR: What do you hope people gain from reading your book?

JS: I’m interested in how literary modernism was in conversation with other movements, including psychoanalysis. ... What’s also interesting is how these literary experiments in the first half of the 20th century came from freely associated writing and stream of consciousness prose, and how we’re heavily impacted by developments in psychology and psychoanalysis. The friction between these movements helped propel modernist

experiments, which were an entangled set of movements of how authors were reading and not reading and publishing and practicing psychoanalysis themselves.

VR: Are you in the process of writing a second book? If so, what would the book focus on?

JS: My second book is an attempt to write a hybrid, scholarly and creative nonfiction [piece] that talks about grief in the time of pandemics. It does so by examining my own personal experience of loss during the pandemic through rereading Virginia Woolf, who wrote about loss during ... the influenza pandemic of 1918.

CONTACT: VROSE@ITHACA.EDU

COLLEGE BRIEFS

Math department to celebrate Women in Math Day on Zoom

There will be a free virtual event for female high school students and their families to celebrate Women in Math Day. The event will be from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Feb. 11 on Zoom. Students in grades 7–12 are invited to meet with current Ithaca College students studying math and women with jobs that utilize math. Students and family members can ask questions and participate in remote activities.

The event will begin in small groups, where students and family members can introduce themselves to math majors at the college. There will then be a career panel, including college alumni. The event will conclude with discussions in small groups with the panelists.

A registration form is available on the Department of Mathematics’ website. For any questions, contact Ted Galanthay at tgalanthay@ithaca.edu.

Wellness Clinic to host habit formation and goal workshops

Exercise Behavior Coaches at the Ithaca College Wellness Clinic will host a workshop to help people form habits and reach their goals. There will be three sessions, and each session has two different sections at different times for people to choose from.

All sessions will be held in the Wellness Clinic, located in the Center for Health Sciences, room 302. The first session will be held at 8–8:45 a.m. or at 3–3:45 a.m. Feb. 10. Participants can choose one time to attend. The second session will be Feb. 17 at the same times. The third session will be Feb. 24 at the same times. For individuals requiring accommodations, contact Kelly Robichaud at krobich1@ithaca.edu or 607-274-5173.

Women’s Mentoring Network invites Cornell guest speaker

The Women’s Mentoring Network invited Debra Howell, director of Information Technology Operations for Cornell University’s libraries, to discuss finding balance among work responsibilities, family commitments and more. The discussion will be 12–1 p.m. Feb. 9 in the Library Classroom, Gannett 319.

Howell will talk about how to manage responsibilities in different aspects of individuals’ lives while also focusing on one’s own well-being. For individuals requiring accommodations, contact

Sam Elebiary at selebiary@ithaca.edu or 607-274-5728.

IC Office of Admission seeking regional student ambassadors

The Ithaca College Office of Admission has opened applications for a Spring 2023 regional admission student ambassador for the areas of D.C., Maryland and Virginia. The role requires students to assist the office with recruitment in those areas.

Current students with first-year, sophomore and junior standing and who are from those areas are eligible to apply. For any students interested, an application and resume can be submitted through the HR Cloud. Applications are due Feb. 10.

Campus community to discuss ChatGPT and AI in small groups

There will be six small group discussions about ChatGPT and other artificial intelligence (AI) tools, facilitated by the Center for Faculty Excellence. The discussion sessions will be between Feb. 7 and 24, and will be available in person in Gannett 316 or via Zoom. Dates and times for each individual session are available on IC Engage.

Participants are not required to register ahead of time but pre-registration is encouraged. To participate in the sessions virtually, participants need to fill out a form to access the IC Teach group in Microsoft Teams. The form is available on Intercom.

Questions can be submitted ahead of time by adding them to a collaborative document, with a link also available on Intercom. Some current questions include: How will AI affect online classes? How can citations be made for any products created by AI? How does AI-generated art impact creativity?

Ithaca College Alumni Awards seeking nominations for 2023

The 2023 Alumni Awards are accepting nominations until Feb. 17. Alumni as well as non-alumni like faculty, staff and mentors are eligible to be nominated. The awards are for anyone who has made an impact on their community or has demonstrated excellence in their career, community service and more.

There are seven categories for awards, including one for recent alumni, one for volunteer service, one for people in or retired from careers of over 40 years and a humanitarian category. People cannot nominate themselves for any of the awards. Some awards are only for alumni, some are



Music fraternity hosts a cozy craft night

Junior Gwyneth Cole works on a crochet project during a craft night held by Sigma Alpha Iota on Feb. 5 in the Terrace nine lounge. The Epsilon chapter for the international music fraternity for women is located in the same building.

AMINATTA IMRANA JALLOW/THE ITHACAN

only for non-alumni and some are available for both alumni and non-alumni.

A nomination form is available on alumni.ithaca.edu. For anybody with questions, reach out to Bree Peltier-Amborn at bpeltieramborn@ithaca.edu.

Exploratory Program seeks new Peer Ambassadors and Leaders

Ithaca College’s Exploratory Program is looking for Peer Ambassadors and Leaders (PALs). PALs are expected to contribute in organizing events and guiding future and current students enrolled in the Exploratory Program.

Interested students must send their resumes and cover letters to Ellen Chapman at exploratory@ithaca.edu. PALs must be available to attend a minimum of two events during a semester, should be familiar with the Exploratory Program’s systems and structures, capable of engaging students and well acquainted with the college’s learning management system, Homer.

Past PALs have participated in include De-Stress Fest, Registration Night, Mapping

Help and Ithaca Today.

OT toy lab looks for volunteer participants between ages 2–5

Occupation Therapy Toy Lab is looking for participants between the ages of 2 and 5 for a Pediatric Evaluation and Intervention course, and the lab is not being used for a research study.

The labs will be 10–11 a.m. and 1:30–2:30 p.m. Feb. 15 in the Center for Health Sciences, rooms 208 and 212.

Children can participate in one or both of the sessions. Parents or legal guardians need to accompany their children in the lab for the entire time of the session, and participants will get a \$20 Amazon gift card for each session they attend.

There is a maximum of 24 participants allowed and the first people to sign up will get priority. The lab is being led by Amie Germain and Ashley Mason, assistant professors in the Department of Occupational Therapy.

For questions, contact otgrad@ithaca.edu. For individuals requiring accommodations, contact otgrad@ithaca.edu.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM JAN. 23 TO 29

JANUARY 23

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT/PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: College Circle Drive
SUMMARY: A caller reported that a two-car property damage motor vehicle incident occurred. A report was taken. Patrol Officer Steven Hutchison responded to the call.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF FOURTH DEGREE

LOCATION: Eastman Hall
SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown person had damaged a toilet. This is pending investigation. Master Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded to the call.

JANUARY 24

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: Academic Quad
SUMMARY: A caller reported a person sitting in a vehicle, appearing to be slumped over the steering wheel. Officers determined that the person

was not in distress. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded to the call.

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS

LOCATION: Bogart Hall
SUMMARY: A caller reported a person with a high fever. The person was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded to the call.

JANUARY 25

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS

LOCATION: East Tower
SUMMARY: A caller reported having a panic attack. The caller declined medical assistance. A report was taken. Patrol Officer Abdullah Hassan responded to the call.

SCC HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/ENDANGERING

LOCATION: Rowland Hall
SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown people made alarming statements on social media. This is a pending investigation. Patrol Officer Steven

Hutchison responded to the call.

JANUARY 26

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS

LOCATION: East Tower
SUMMARY: A caller reported that they were having a panic attack. The caller declined medical assistance. A report was taken. Patrol Officer Abdullah Hassan responded to the call.

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS

LOCATION: East Tower
SUMMARY: A caller reported that they were having a second panic attack. The caller declined medical assistance. Patrol Officer Abdullah Hassan responded to the call.

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS

LOCATION: East Tower
SUMMARY: A caller reported that they were having a third panic attack. The caller declined medical assistance. Assistance was provided. Patrol Officer Abdullah Hassan responded to the call.

JANUARY 27

RAPE THIRD DEGREE

LOCATION: Circle Apartments general area
SUMMARY: A caller reported a person had sexual intercourse with another person without consent in December 2022. This is pending investigation. Master Patrol Officer Robert Jones responded to the call.

JANUARY 28

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Circle Apartments building 151
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by burnt food. The alarm was accidental. Patrol Officer Steven Hutchison responded to the call.

SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS

LOCATION: Tallcott Hall
SUMMARY: A caller reported an intoxicated person. The person was

taken into custody under the Mental Hygiene Law and was transported to the hospital by ambulance. The person was referred to student conduct. Patrol Officer Abdullah Hassan responded to the call.

JANUARY 29

PETIT LARCENY UNDER \$50

LOCATION: East Tower
SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown person had stolen an exit sign. This is a pending investigation. Patrol Officer Steven Hutchison responded to the call.

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

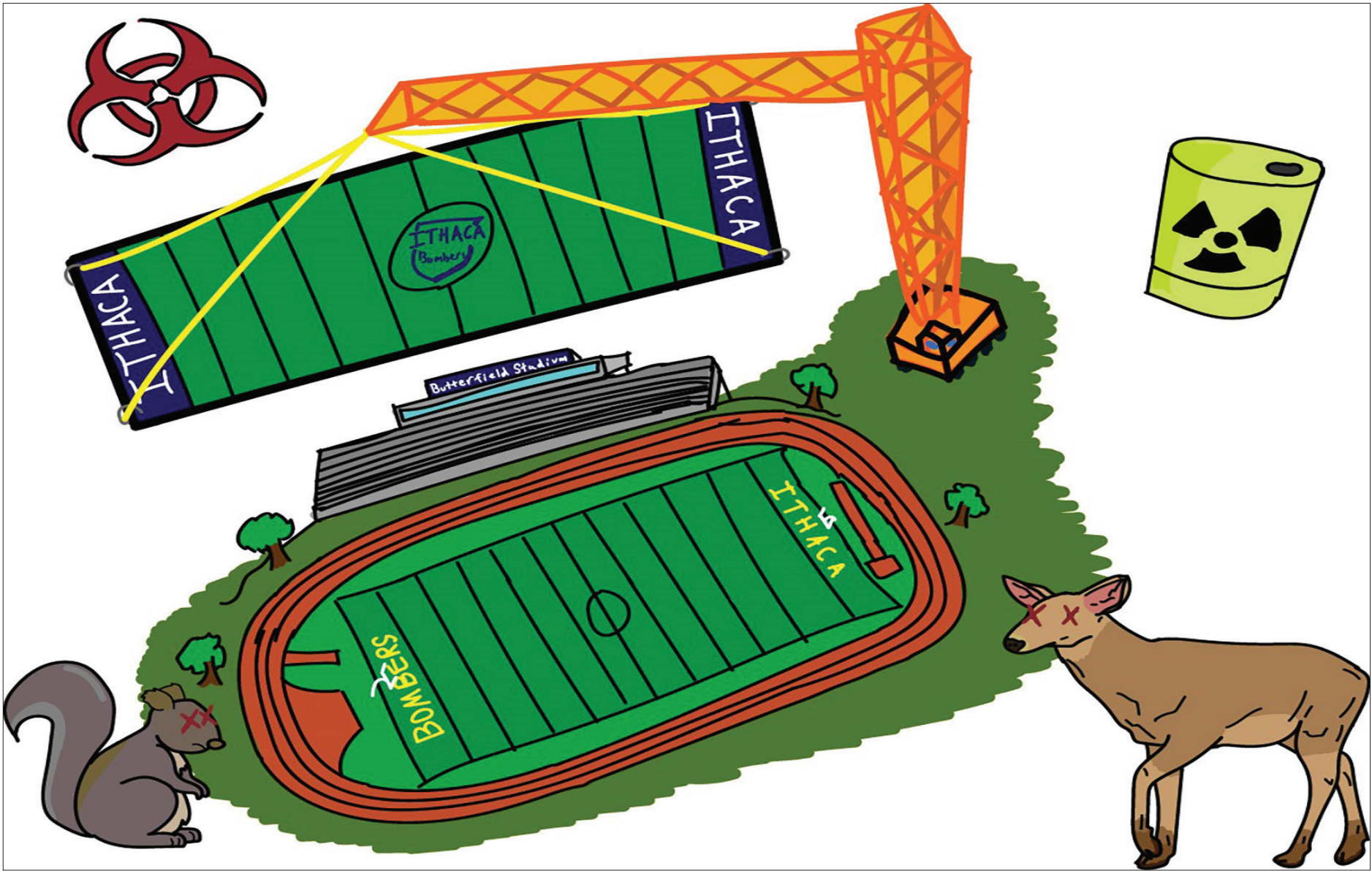


ILLUSTRATION BY BRODY SMITH/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

Artificial field will bring dreadful consequences

Ithaca “Green” College is planning to use a donation of \$3 million to build an artificial turf football field — turf that is full of toxic chemicals, is a source of pollution and increases greenhouse gas emissions. Artificial turf contains “forever chemicals” like PFAs that never break down. All known and tested PFAs are risk factors for cancer and diabetes.

The college claimed in their announcement that artificial turf is better than natural-grass turf, which requires fertilizers and pesticides. The environmental and health risks artificial turf holds are higher than the risks natural turf holds. Every phase of artificial turf’s life cycle is harmful. For natural grass, on the other hand, there are more economically feasible, fossil fuel-free fertilizers. After all, in what world is plastic considered better than natural?

Not only is artificial turf unbelievably harmful, but its industry is the one pushing the idea of artificial turf being better for the environment. They make these claims without citing

scientific research. These industries greenwash society for their own income while harming the planet and bringing all of us closer to catastrophic climate disaster.

The artificial turf industry is not the only one that shows no scientific research background, but the college, too, admitted to never speaking to an outside environmental scientist about this decision.

The college made this decision in order to expand athletes’ play time in outdoor field sports and to have similar field conditions like most of its competitors. The college should ask itself if this is a rational decision, taking into account all the horrible consequences artificial turf brings.

Ithaca College’s decision to replace Butterfield Stadium with artificial turf is an act of ignorance and lacks sympathy toward the environment. The college — which is trying to be carbon neutral by 2050 — must revisit this decision and choose the correct one by listening to scientists’ advice.

Transgender students find sense of community at IC

Over the years, Ithaca College succeeded in its efforts to create a stronger community for transgender and queer students. Having this kind of community depends a great deal on housing that supports transgender and queer students’ needs.

Open Pages — a Residential Learning Community founded in Fall 2022 — provides this sense of community for students that’s better than the Trans and Non-Binary Housing Request, which provides desired housing accommodations. Creating a community where students feel safe and welcomed is much different than simply providing housing that satisfies the basic needs of students. Seeing this improvement at the college is very fulfilling and promising for future changes.

Not only is the Office of Residential Life improving its resources, but the college has various services for transgender and queer students. There are gender-neutral bathrooms around campus and the Ithaca area

that soon can be tracked with the Pee in Peace app. The LGBT Center on campus provides resources for legal name change processes and any other name and gender marker changes on identity documents. the college is one of the few that has a Voice and Communication Modification Program, which is dedicated to helping transgender people develop voice, articulation, non-verbal communication, language, voice-related quality of life changes and self-perception.

All these resources and services create an overall safe space for transgender and queer students. Ithaca College has also been ranked as one of the top 10 trans-friendly colleges in the United States thanks to all the provided services.

These improvements are praiseworthy and need to be discussed in a larger manner so other colleges and communities can follow our example. Certainly, improvements should not end and the college must keep innovating for a better and stronger future.

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

Changes in COVID-19 policy negatively affect students

BY BANEET PUKHRAMBAM
FIRST-YEAR

Spring 2023 started the new year with a barrage of changes for Ithaca College: the closure of the substation route from Towers to Boothroyd Hall, the reopening of the Towers Marketplace as Towers Eatery and the change of the college’s COVID-19 and Health Policy.

At the All Student and Family Gathering that took place two weeks before the semester officially began, students and their family members were told that the college would be significantly scaling back its COVID-19 infrastructure when it comes to resources for the campus community, ending the requirement for anyone who tested positive with the virus to isolate in Boothroyd Hall. All Resident Assistants were asked to convey the same message to the residents on their floors. While it may seem like the ideal next step as more people get vaccinated, boosted and the treatment duration decreases, the stigma around the virus and its symptoms have yet to vanish from the public’s memories.

On a random Wednesday afternoon, my roommate texted me that he had tested positive for COVID-19 and that I should get tested too. By this time, most people know how the panic goes: that anxiety before receiving the test results, the countless thoughts and

scenarios that run through your head about how the rest of your week, or longer, is going to be impacted by the result of that test.

I was fortunate enough to get only a single line on my test, but little did I know it was only the onset of my troubles. The word COVID-19 exposes a certain reaction in people that the flu or common cold stopped attracting years ago.

My biggest concern was finding a place to sleep. As per the Office of Residential Life, I was informed that I could still stay in my room, the same room my roommate was self-isolating in. I do not consider myself an expert on the topic of virus transmissions, or even the current state of COVID-19. However, the idea of spending a night in the same room as someone who has been recorded to be carrying the virus seemed unappealing, to say the least.

As someone who holds multiple on-campus jobs, is fairly active in student clubs and interacts with a plethora of people on campus daily, the proposition of exposing myself to more of the virus for an extended period of time is not fair to my friends, coworkers, classmates or professors, many of whom could be considered high-risk for the virus. If I were to choose to join my roommate in self-isolation for the required duration,



First-year student Baneet Pukhrambam shares his experience with COVID-19 after the health policy changes at Ithaca College. He believes that the COVID-19 virus should not be treated like the flu yet.

LEILA MARCILLO-GÓMEZ/THE ITHACAN

the burden of falling behind on academics and unearned income will linger on, especially as an international, first-generation student who relies on my on-campus work to earn “pocket money.”

There needs to be better planning and solution making for those diagnosed with COVID-19 virus and their roommates, particularly in a residential college like Ithaca College that requires its students to live on campus until their senior year. The goal of placing this virus in the same box as the flu and common cold cannot be achieved at a time when our community is still reeling from the pain and loss of the past two years. The

social elements of the virus’ effect on day-to-day life cannot be ignored in decisions that dictate the lives of more than 5,000 students.

As it turned pitch black and wind chills set in, I still needed to figure out where I planned on sleeping. Do I go back to my room and risk exposure? Try to convince a friend to let me stay with them? Test my chances of sleeping in the common lounge? I did not have the answers to those questions yet.

At the end of the day when my body would not let me stay awake for much longer, I ultimately decided to go back to my room. I wore a mask inside, only removing it to sleep so that I could breathe. My

situation was still a pretty fortunate one, my roommate did not show any severe symptoms and was asymptomatic for the majority of the time. But not everybody’s situation will be like mine. For those who happen to be suffering from or exposed to more extreme symptoms, options seem much more limited.

All aspects of a student’s physical, mental and social well-being should be taken into account in Ithaca College’s Health Policy as the pandemic is still a way away from reaching its conclusion.

Baneet Pukhrambam (he/him) is a Cinema and Photography major. Contact him at bpukhrambam@ithaca.edu.

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Historical theaters join forces for support

BY ELIZABETH KHARABADZE
CO-LIFE AND CULTURE EDITOR

For almost 100 years, the State Theatre of Ithaca has stood in the heart of Downtown Ithaca, welcoming performers and guests alike through its doors for concerts, dance performances and movie screenings. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic put a halt to that. Almost three years after the outbreak, historical theaters are still feeling the impact. To offset the negative impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on live events, 13 performing arts centers in Upstate New York joined forces in 2023 to create the Alive Downtowns! coalition, an affiliate corporation of the Upstate Theater Coalition. The primary goal of the coalition is to seek an ongoing \$20 million in operating support from the New York State government.

“We’re more powerful as an archipelago than we are as 13 islands by ourselves. ... We are a critical piece of the story of upstate cities.”

- Philip Morris

The State Theatre is among the 13 historic theaters seeking additional support from the state.

By December 2021, the nonprofit performing arts industry lost over an estimated \$3.2 billion, according to SMU Date Arts. The State Theatre is no stranger to hard times — the theater was nearly demolished in the mid-90s, but community volunteerism helped raise money to keep the theater open. However, Ithaca College alum Doug Levine '98, executive director of the State Theatre, said the pandemic has left a lasting impact on the theater.

“During a normal year, we’re drawing over 50,000 people to our theater,” Levine said. “That’s 50,000 people that are coming down, [people that are] staying in hotels, they’re eating at our restaurants, getting gas, buying drinks after the show. I mean, it’s a huge boom to the economy. And when theaters are struggling, the rest of the cities can struggle too, so we can really use that extra support.”

As a musical theatre major, junior Dexter Conlin said that seeing the effect the pandemic had on theater and live shows caused him to feel discouraged at times.

“All of live performance was really affected by the pandemic,” Conlin said. “I know, as a student, it was difficult to see and feel like I couldn’t connect to our form because I was like, ‘What am I even doing this for?’ If there’s nothing to even

perform, there’s nowhere to go. There are no venues that are safe.”

While there are no specific plans for federal relief for historical theaters in the New York State budget for fiscal year 2023, the New York State Council of the Arts was awarded \$45 million in grants to help support over 1,200 arts organizations in New York State return to their pre-pandemic capacity levels. Alive Downtowns! is hoping to specifically advocate for aid to contribute directly to the support of its member’s historic buildings.

Philip Morris, CEO of Proctor’s Collaborative, an alliance of art organizations in Saratoga, Albany and Schenectady, New York, is one of the driving forces behind Alive Downtowns!. After realizing that many theaters were struggling to keep afloat during the pandemic, Morris said he decided to bring together a group of directors from many theaters across Upstate New York — which grew into Alive Downtowns!. Part of the issue, Morris said, was the rapid adjustment theaters were forced to undertake as fewer people went out to see live events.

“I don’t think any of us think we’re going to look like 2019 again,” Morris said. “That doesn’t mean that our buildings aren’t supposed to be and won’t become very, very busy, but it may [look different] because of [streaming and working from home]. ... It doesn’t mean our core program is different because people want to hear and see live events, but it does mean a lot of supplemental support things have to adjust for the reality that people might choose to stay home for something rather than go to a public space.”

While the coalition is still in the early stages of working to get lawmakers to provide



The State Theatre of Ithaca is joining the Alive Downtowns! theater coalition along with 13 other historical theaters to seek additional financial support from the state.

KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

additional support, Levine said he is hoping to continue to build up support for an integral part of Downtown Ithaca’s history.

“There’s still a lot of negotiation that happens between now and when it’s voted on for a final time,” Levine said. “So we’re gonna keep lobbying, keep pushing, keep getting support for it. But, you know, when organizations like museums and zoos get support from the New York City budget because they’re tourist draws, I mean, we are an even bigger tourist draw than those organizations and we feel like we deserve this.”

The coalition, Levine said, offers other

theater directors the opportunity to connect with one another and rally together toward a common goal: protecting and preserving the theater.

“It’s been really great to strengthen our relationships with other theaters,” Levine said. “I mean, you can see theater and you know where we stand alone in Ithaca. There’s not any other theater like us. So it’s nice to talk to other directors. ... They might be two, three, four hours away, but they’re dealing with a lot of the same issues that I deal with, so it’s kind of like a brotherhood ... or sisterhood ... just like to have some similar issues that we all bounce off each other.”

By joining forces with other theaters, Morris similarly said he is hoping to influence the state to offer more aid.

“We’re more powerful as an archipelago than we are as 13 islands by ourselves,” Morris said. “I can’t imagine 13 of us could successfully go after the state individually to get operating support. They would laugh. ... We are a critical piece of the story of upstate cities. We’re all about 100 years old. We’re all the last thing standing of our kind in our cities. And if we lose them, we lose in many ways the core of the downtown that so much money and effort has been spent over the last 20 years trying to keep lively ... not just functional, but as a defining feature of the larger [part] of each of our communities.”

More than anything, Conlin said he wants to see the theater industry bounce back and offer more support for those within the industry.

“The more that can be done to really help keep artists safe, keep artists employed, is great, because it’s not just a hobby or pastime or something on the side,” Conlin said. “It’s what we’re dedicating our lives [to].”



The State Theatre of Ithaca has been in operation for almost 100 years. The theater offers live concerts, dance performances and movies to the Ithaca community.

KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

CONTACT: EKHARABADZE@ITHACA.EDU

Regal Theater calls it wraps at Shops at Ithaca Mall

BY MATT MINTON

CO-LIFE AND CULTURE EDITOR

Located at the Shops at Ithaca Mall, the Regal Ithaca Mall has been home to many of Hollywood’s newest blockbusters, independent films and the usual buttery scent of freshly popped popcorn. But on a typical day, audiences who walk in to watch a movie may be surprised to see that the theater, like the mall itself, is nearly empty.

It was announced Jan. 19 by Business Insider that the Ithaca Regal theater will soon be shutting its doors — just one of 39 Regal theaters closing in the country after Cineworld, Regal’s parent company, declared bankruptcy in September 2022. Along with the more mainstream programming provided by the Regal theater, the independent theater Cinemapolis and Cornell Cinema are a large part of the local film scene in Ithaca. Cinemapolis frequently plays recent arthouse films while Cornell Cinema offers specialized programming of both classic and newer films, typically after their initial theatrical run.

Ithaca College first-year student Brendan Noone said he has always been drawn to different stories and getting to experience them in the theater with less distractions.

“I wanted to go a couple more times [to the Regal theater] this semester,” Noone said. “People won’t be able to see blockbusters with their friends now.”

The influx of streaming services, along with theaters shutting down during the COVID-19 pandemic, has

posed many challenges for the film industry at large. According to data that was recently released by Statista surveying viewer preferences from November 2018 to June 2020, the number of people who prefer streaming increased from 15% up to 36%. Conversely, the number of people who strongly prefer theaters decreased from 28% to 14%.

For first-year student Julian Martin, who has been interested in filmmaking since fourth grade, the human connection of going to the movies is important to them.

“COVID was really rough that I couldn’t see anything,” Martin said. “So the year after, I believe I saw something like 30 movies in theaters. I try to make a point to go see [movies] in theaters so I can support [them].”

During his time at the college, senior Dylan Clark and many of his friends split time between attending Regal and Cinemapolis.

“I think [the theater experience] provides the perfect technical atmosphere,” Clark said. “You’re getting the perfect picture experience, audio experience. And then I think under the right circumstances, the audience experience can really elevate as well.”

Molly Ryan, director of Cornell Cinema, was hired in her role in September 2022. Cornell Cinema’s programming is open to the general public, inviting the Ithaca community to come in and watch movies.

“One of the reasons I was really excited to come here was that there is such a vibrant film community here with students making films



Business Insider announced Jan. 19 that the Ithaca Regal theater will be closing its doors. The closure is just one of 39 across the country after Cineworld, Regal’s parent company, declared bankruptcy.

BRENDAN IANNUCCI/THE ITHACAN

both here at Cornell and at Ithaca College,” Ryan said. “I think the closing of Regal is just a real loss for ... Ithaca.”

Ryan said she is hoping to start conversations with the new director of Cinemapolis about how to create access to films that the Regal theater usually screens.

Data from the Morning Consult in May 2022 reported that 50% of respondents said high costs of tickets were a major reason why they do not regularly go to the movies, while 55% of people said they are more interested in watching

movies at home.

The question of whether audiences will continue to go to the movie theaters, Ryan said, has been a perpetual problem throughout the history of cinema.

“I think cinemas have and will continue to lean into the experience of being in the distraction-free space,” Ryan said. “So it’s a really sad thing to lose the [Regal] in a town like Ithaca. But I’m hopeful that people will continue to find ways to go to the movies.”

One thing Clark said he noticed is that a huge drive for people to go

out and watch a movie in theaters is if it feels like an event.

“I think when you stepped into [Regal] and there was a premiere ... it feels like that’s the only time that you’d actually see that place fill up,” Clark said. “Because [other times], it frequently felt like maybe 10 other people [were] in your theater.”

Martin said it is important for people to support theaters — both independent and larger chain ones.

“All theaters need our help right now,” Martin said.

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Soulful gospel music returns to Ithaca after 40 years

BY JESS WILLIAMS

STAFF WRITER

The Ithaca College Amani Gospel Singers was a prominent choir on campus until they stopped performing four years ago for reasons unknown to the current executive board. Now the group is back under new leadership — ready to continue the group’s near 40 years of legacy.

As the colleges’ only gospel choir, the Amani Gospel Singers are open to students of all faiths and denominations without requiring auditions. The history of the Amani Gospel Singers traces back to the creation of the African-Latino Society (ALS) more than 50 years ago at the college. Junior Alexa Rahman, the group’s secretary, said the choir was one of the first groups founded under ALS, and because of its extensive history and connection to ALS, the Amani Gospel Singers have a deep alumni network.

“They still get together and sing sometimes, which is really great,” Rahman said. “The outreach that this organization has is just really impressive, so that’s the most important thing about it.”

Part of the group’s mission statement is to make the choir open to all religious backgrounds, even though gospel is traditionally rooted in Christianity. Junior Dwayne Lewis, the group’s music director, said the Amani Gospel Singers focus on learning and loving the culture of gospel music.

“My role as president was to kind of reinstate the gospel choir and be able to ... kind of recreate a new idea of what Amani gospel represents,” Lewis said.

The choir reformed in Spring 2022 and performed for the first time since 2018 at the

Spirit of IC concert in December 2022.

Junior Marcelo Ranghelli-Duran, the Amani Gospel Singers’s treasurer, said that getting the group started up again was difficult, but interest built up quickly following its December 2022 performance at the Spirit of IC concert.

“There were really only four of us as members, and we were really close to actually just dropping the whole thing,” Duran said. “But really we were just like, ‘What’s the harm in just trying a little longer?’”

Rahman said the group will be opening up membership within the next few weeks and will start to hold rehearsals to prepare for upcoming shows. The Amani Gospel Singers are planning a showcase for sometime in the spring semester.

“We’re just hoping to perform a lot and get more members,” Rahman said.

The group receives advising support from Baruch Whitehead, associate professor in the Department of Music Education, and founding director of the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers — an Ithaca-based choir dedicated to preserving the tradition of African American spirituals, which came from West African musical tradition and the enslaved experiences of Black people. Spirituals led to the formation of gospel music, as well as blues and jazz, according to the New York Times. The Amani Gospel Singers have been working with the Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers and will be the opening act for some of their concerts.

Rahman, a vocal major, said that adding gospel music to her repertoire has helped her grow as a musician.

“It’s a very strong and soulful sound, so it really helps to tap into the emotional aspects



Members of the Amani Gospel Singers perform for the first time at the Spirit of IC concert in December 2022. The performance is the group’s first appearance since its hiatus in 2018.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

of music,” Rahman said. “So I think that’s probably one of the most important things that it brings, for me at least, and probably most people, that the emotional aspect of it is just really, really powerful.”

Duran said the choir gives him a way to work with Black musicians, which is an experience he feels he is missing as a music student at the college. Duran is a jazz studies major, and jazz is a historically Black genre of music, but he feels that it has become white-washed or gentrified, especially at colleges.

When Duran was approached by Rahman about joining the revived Amani Gospel Choir, he said he felt inclined to join.

“It’s a Black genre of music that has really stood its ground, socially and culturally,” Duran said. “Gospel was a means of bringing together ... POC ... who love music.”

The group meets every Friday from 5 to 6 p.m. in the James J. Whalen Center for Music room 3301, and is open to everyone, regardless of musical experience or faith.

“I don’t audition,” Lewis said. “If you can sing, you can sing, and if you like it, just come be a part. It’s open and welcoming ... and it’s not about religion, it’s just about the love for music.”

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Horror set-up drowned out by lack of depth

MOVIE REVIEW: “Infinity Pool” Elevation Pictures



BY GIANCARLO MESSINA
STAFF WRITER

If one thing is clear after watching director Brandon Cronenberg’s newest feature film, it is that he, like his father David Cronenberg, has a strong desire to make the audience as uncomfortable as possible through the use of shocking imagery and body horror. Still, visually speaking, he has been able to create his own unique voice that differs from the legendary work of his father. He showcased a lot of his cunning visual prowess in his last film, “Possessor” (2020), a film with a semi-thin plot and thematic elements that felt half-baked but still displayed a massive amount of potential. Sadly, it seems this potential was mostly wasted on his newest film, “Infinity Pool.”

Going to the theater and supporting a smaller film like “Infinity Pool” is always a rewarding experience because Brandon Cronenberg is definitely a director with a strong voice, and it is always great to see a movie with a fresh and original vision. The story follows a novelist named James Foster (Alexander Skarsgård) and his well-off wife Em (Cleopatra Coleman) as they spend their summer vacation at an island resort. This island is run by a corrupt government and is riddled with crime,

which means that none of the tourists are allowed off the resort. It is not until they meet another couple, Gabi (Mia Goth) and Alban (Jalil Lespert), that they decide to spend the day off the resort. This is when disaster strikes.

The first half of the film sets up interesting sci-fi concepts relating to cloning and executes some great horror sequences. Specifically, the scene where James first goes into the cloning machine was done masterfully; as he steps into a pool of red goo, his mind begins to warp and the scene quickly turns into a hallucinatory nightmare that is impossible to look away from.

There is also the film’s striking score, which was done by Canadian sound artist Tim Hecker, that fits the mood of the film very well. After the shocking cloning element is revealed, the film really could have gone anywhere, but this is the point where the film began to lose its momentum.

Seeing James’ descent into the depravity and crude behavior that is relayed from the extremely wealthy group of tourists should have been handled more carefully, as it would have led to a more rewarding conclusion. Instead, most of the runtime of the film is spent watching wealthy people engage in reckless behavior while avoiding any repercussions.



James Foster (Alexander Skarsgård) ventures outside of his resort, despite being told not to. The consequences quickly become clear.

COURTESY OF ELEVATION PICTURES

The satirical portrait of the opulent lifestyle of the upper class has been a pretty common theme as of late (with “Triangle of Sadness” and “Glass Onion” being prime examples) and “Infinity Pool” takes a pretty surface-level approach to this topic. The film often uses its grotesque imagery as a way to mask its lack of narrative depth. This would not have been as big of an issue if the film was more tonally consistent. Many of the more satirical and comedic moments take away from the

stark horror sequences. There is definitely a lot to appreciate about “Infinity Pool,” even if most of the story feels like a huge wasted opportunity. Still, with his latest film, Brandon Cronenberg shows that he has the potential and the filmmaking chops to make something truly special. Hopefully, with a better and more balanced script, he can create something that feels less like a complete mess.

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Sam Smith sings their inner heart out in moving record

ALBUM REVIEW: “Gloria” EMI Records



BY JADYN DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

Sam Smith’s latest album, “Gloria,” not only shows Smith’s progression as an artist but how many risks they are willing to take in order to deliver an album that impacts many listeners. In an interview with the Rolling Stone, Smith described “Gloria” as a “queer love hymn” to themselves and Gloria, which they described as their inner voice.

Since their debut album, “In the Lonely Hour,” (2014) Smith has been a prominent figure in the music industry and has represented the LGBTQ+ community with their music. “Gloria” infuses pop, techno and gospel music, making it multidimensional.

The album starts off with “Love Me More,” an empowering track showcasing Smith’s self-love journey and challenges along the way. The track is accompanied by a pipe organ that follows behind a slow beat. The lyrics, “Have you ever felt like being somebody else / Feeling like the mirror isn’t good for your health / Every day I’m trying not to hate myself / But lately, it’s not hurtin’ like it did before / Maybe I am learning how to love me more,” allow the listeners to relate to Smith.

The repetition of the lyrics, “Just a little bit (love me more),” along with Smith’s

vocal layering and adlibs, magnifies the song’s message about self-love.

Despite “Lose You” being about a break-up, the electro-dance track will have listeners on their feet. The powerful lyrics match the intensity of the song as Smith puts their heart out.

“Gloria” features the artist Jessie Reyez on “Perfect” and “Gimme.” While some listeners might be concerned about repetition, the two songs completely contrast each other in style and themes. “Perfect” is similar to “Love Me More,” in regard to the theme of self-acceptance. The lyrics, “You like them crazy, do you / I’m crazy through and through / I wear my flaws like jewelry / And I’m dripping,” show Smith’s acceptance of their imperfections, which can inspire listeners to do the same. Reyez’s voice blends well with Smith and her adlibs do not take away from the song. However, her verse could have been stronger as it was just a repeat of Smith’s verse with a tiny bit of variation.

The second song, “Gimme,” has a fun reggae beat with Koffee’s clean verse being the cherry on top. While the track allows for all three artists to shine in their own way, Reyez does a great job of leading this song. Her voice can be addicting as she repeats “Gimme” throughout the song.

“How To Cry” is a ballad reminiscent of



“Gloria” sees Sam Smith embrace who they are, emotionally connecting with listeners.

COURTESY OF EMI RECORDS

Smith’s earlier songs, like “Lay Me Down” and “Stay With Me.” The song, accompanied by the guitar and Smith’s powerful voice, makes this track another highlight. The lyrics, “I keep secrets from my friends at home / So embarrassed, I’ve been so alone / God, I’m over me protecting you,” clearly show how upset Smith was by this person’s lack of emotional awareness.

While only a minute and 50 seconds long, the song “Gloria” does a great job of taking the listener out of the album to enjoy a vocal masterpiece. Smith does not appear until the last 50 seconds of the song, but when they do, they easily blend in with the rest of the vocals.

“Gloria” allows listeners to see different sides of Smith. The album takes a few risks but does not stray too far away from Smith’s usual work.

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QUICKIES



COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL MUSIC OPERATIONS LIMITED

“LIKE A SAVIOUR”
Ellie Goulding

A textbook example of what a fine, average, modern pop song sounds like in the 21st century. The chorus is certainly catchy but overall, musically there just isn’t much that sticks out.



COURTESY OF CMG/INTERSCOPE RECORDS

“INTERNET TROLLS”
GloRilla

GloRilla’s strong musical voice shines through in this entertaining and playful new track, even if the lyrics themselves critiquing internet culture are not as clever or unique as they really think they are.



COURTESY OF HARBOUR ARTISTS & MUSIC / AWAL

“HOLD ON (FROM “DEAR EDWARD”)
Lizzy McAlpine

A nice, emotional ballad that lulls the listener in slowly and surely to the human desire for connection. Lizzy McAlpine’s crisp and clean vocals complement the lyrics.



COURTESY OF MAJOR TOMS / ASYLUM RECORDS

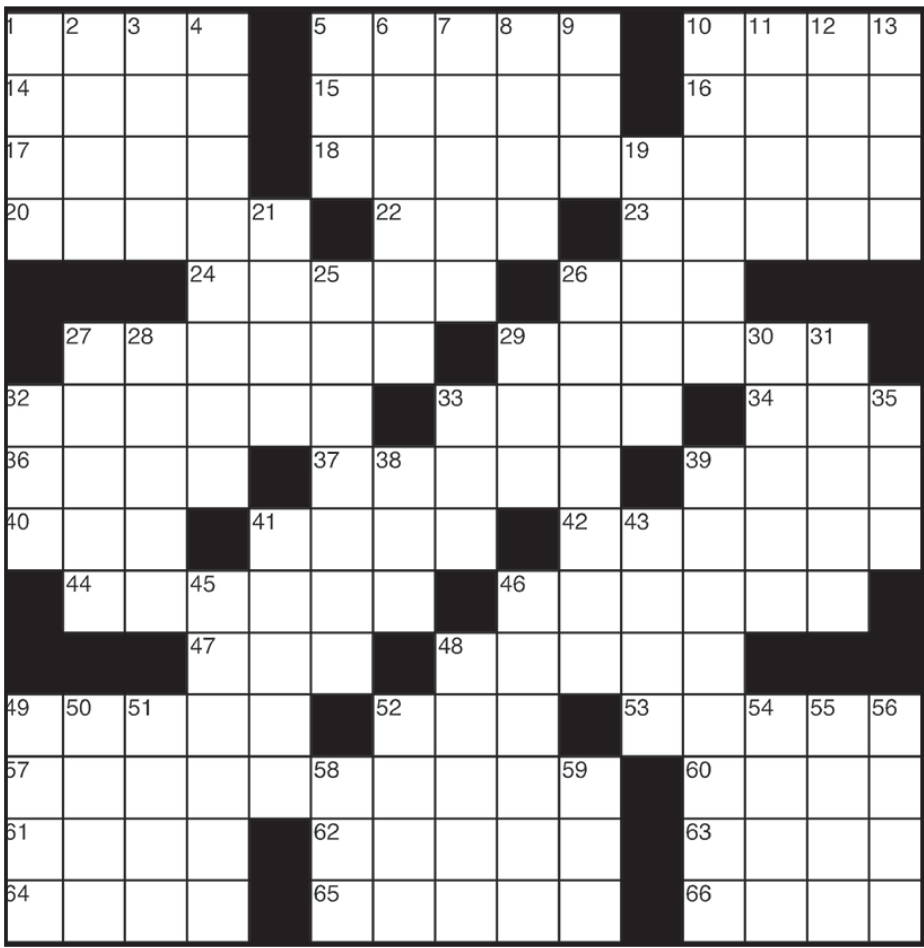
“SAD BITCH”
Anne-Marie

The irony of Anne-Marie opening with “This ain’t another sad girl anthem” is not lost on the listener when that’s exactly what this uninspired, generic pop dud tries to be — and fails spectacularly at.

DIVERSIONS

crossword

By Quill Driver Books



ACROSS

- 1 Sing loudly
5 Enliven the punch
10 Guitarist Clapton
14 Ersatz butter
15 Incendiarism
16 Change decor
17 Aileron site
18 Cast down
20 Puts cargo on board
22 — -de-sac
23 Hymn of praise
24 Low dice roll
26 “Ctrl” neighbor
27 Bounced back
29 Young pigeons
32 Lurch
33 Frau’s adobe
34 Hagen of “The Other”
36 Thickening agent
37 Fridge maker
39 Pedestal support
40 Countdown start
41 Cease
42 Diagonal patterns
44 Consequence
46 Wild T-shirt (hyph.)
47 Land parcel

DOWN

- 1 Soup container
2 Lamb’s pen name
3 Allow to use
4 At the same time
5 Like some excuses
6 Set a market value
7 Newsstand buy
8 Eyeshadow
9 Flight dir.
10 Misprints
11 Nerve network
12 Sudden thought
13 NE state
19 Top grade (hyph.)
21 Boot or sandal

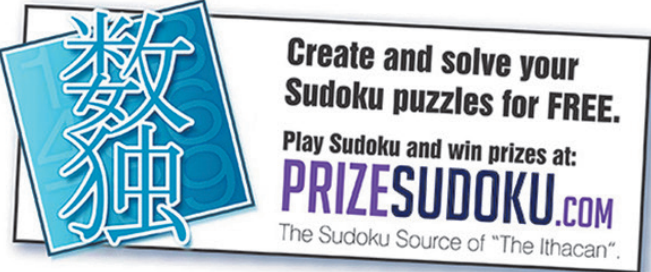
25 French

- automaker
26 Like fish
27 Far from indifferent
28 Heron
29 — Bernardino
30 Schoolyard heavy
31 Lacking originality
32 Popular pet
33 Fez
35 Pecs’ partners
38 Cambridge univ.
39 Crabwise
41 Bartlett’s entry

43 Join a certain

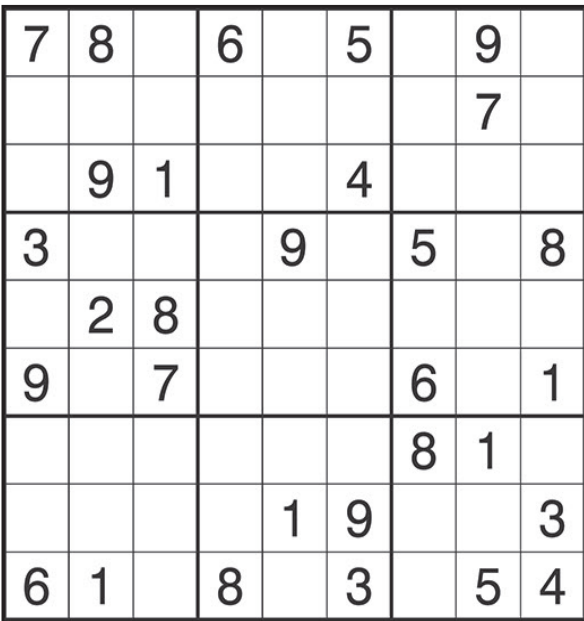
- way
45 Half-frozen
46 Mogul
48 Adorable one
49 Pet-adoption org.
50 Marched along
51 Rights activist
52 Knot in wood
54 Toward shelter
55 Chestnut or bay
56 Celebration
58 Gear tooth
59 Hosp. staffers

last issue’s crossword answers

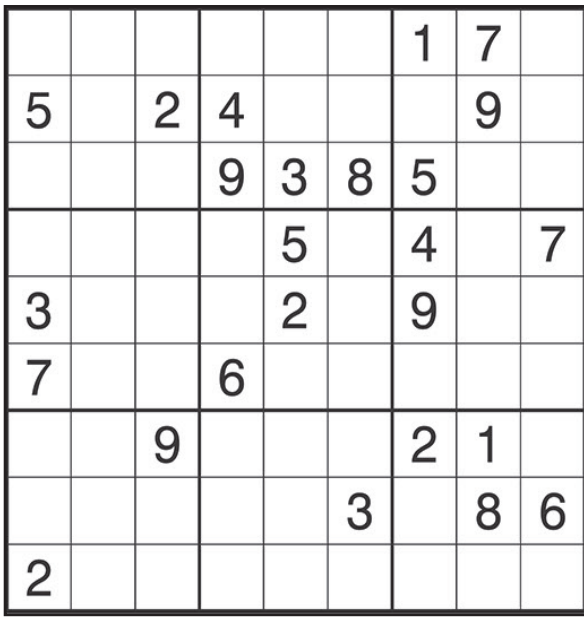


sudoku

easy

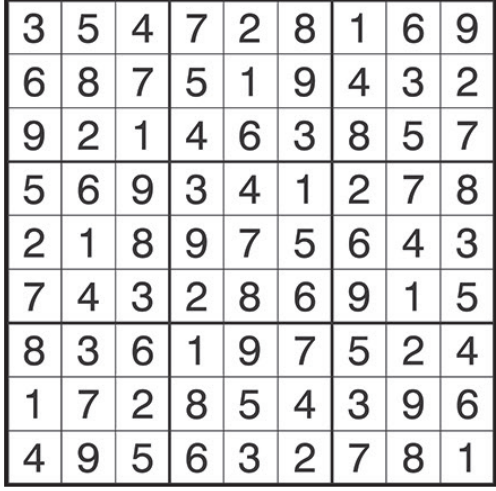


hard

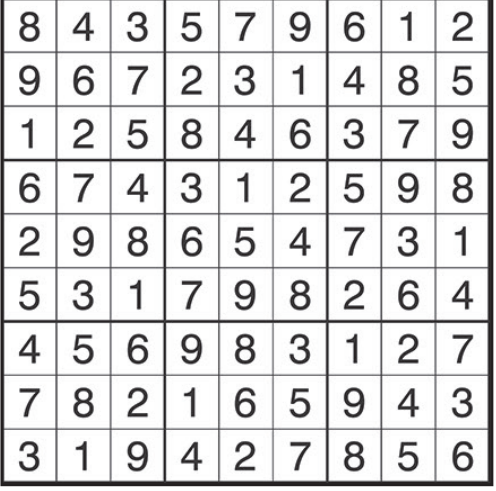


answers to last issue’s sudoku:

very easy



medium



Microplastics in turf linked with health risks

FROM BUTTERFIELD, PAGE 1

"The project is expected to bring positive environmental and economic benefits," the announcement said. "Synthetic turf fields conserve water since irrigation is not needed, and the stormwater runoff is cleaner since it will not include the fertilizers and pesticides required for natural-grass fields."

However, according to oceanographers, ecologists and environmental policy experts, the artificial turf fields have detrimental effects on human health and the environment. These risks are higher than those from natural turf, even when adjusted to take into consideration the fertilizers, pesticides and paint that a natural grass turf requires.

Environmental effects of artificial turf

Sarah-Jeanne Royer is an oceanographer and scholar at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography where she specializes in how the degradation of plastics affects the environment. In 2018, Royer co-authored a study on the life cycle of plastic in the environment. The study concluded that polyethylene — the type of plastic used for artificial turf — emits greenhouse gasses, ethylene, propylene and methane into the atmosphere as it breaks down.

Royer and other scientists concluded that because of its composition and surface area, artificial turf has a large contribution to climate change in comparison to other plastics.

"All different types of plastics emit greenhouse gasses when they are exposed to [ultraviolet] light," Royer said. "Synthetic turf is mostly made out of polyethylene and has a huge surface area with all of the [grass] blades. [Synthetic turf] is millions and millions of times larger than a flat surface; it's crazy."

Both Scott Doyle, director of Energy Management and Sustainability, and Susan Bassett '79, associate vice president and director of Intercollegiate Athletics, said they did not speak to scientists independent of the college or the synthetic turf industry.

"I spoke with our local resources and experts and read the materials too, but I haven't connected with folks from other institutions," Doyle said.

Kyla Bennett is the director of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility and a former wetlands enforcement coordinator for the Environmental Protection Agency. Bennett said that artificial turf contains many different toxic chemicals that put the health of athletes in danger.

"There are PAHs [a class of chemicals that occur naturally in fossil fuels] and all sorts of metals, particularly lead," Bennett said. "There are volatile organic compounds, carbon black, which is incredibly scary, styrene, [and] all sorts of carcinogens and flame retardants. The blades themselves have very, very toxic chemicals."

To help hold the blades in place, most artificial turf fields are filled with 100 to 120 tons of crumb rubber. Bennett said crumb rubber contains manufactured "forever chemicals" like perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (called PFAs) that never break down. PFAs have adverse effects on human health, put athletes at risk of getting cancer and diabetes and interfere with natural hormones.

Megan Wolff is a public health historian and the policy director of Beyond Plastics, a group of scientists and policy experts aiming to end plastic pollution. Wolff said the construction of a fake turf compromises the college's commitment of going carbon neutral by 2050.

"Not only is [building an artificial turf] in contradiction to net-zero goals, it is so much worse than you could ever imagine," Wolff said. "It's made out of a petrochemical feedstock that will last forever and is infused with chemicals. Every single phase of the lifecycle of plastic grass is an environmental problem."

Wolff said artificial turf also creates enormous amounts of microplastics, small pieces of plastic less than 5 mm in length. This is because of rain runoff, the breakdown of the fake grass and pulverization by athletes on the field.

Claims of environmental benefits

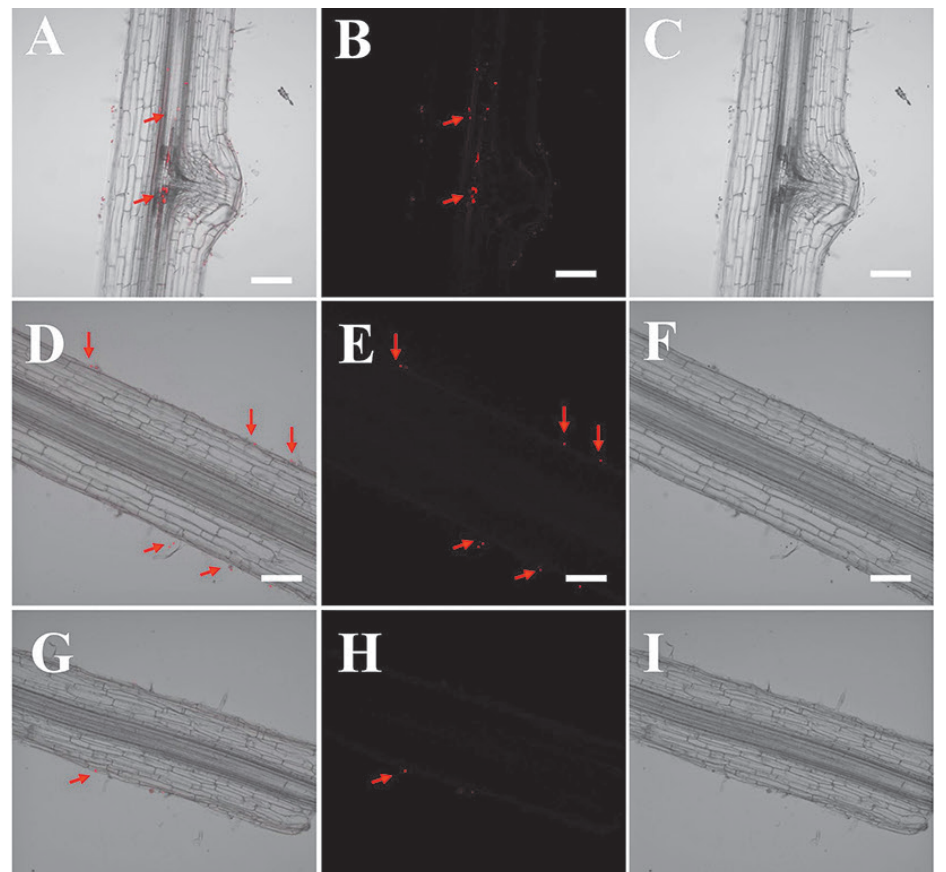
In the college's initial December announcement, it claimed that artificial turf is beneficial to the environment. However, in interviews, officials at the college had conflicting messaging.

In a statement to *The Ithacan* on behalf of the college's leadership, Timothy Downs, chief financial officer and vice president for Finance and Administration, said the college had frequent discussions with industry experts before choosing an artificial turf.

"College leadership is very comfortable with the installation of artificial turf ... which includes the use of an innovative product and a proven installation process that maximizes environmental friendliness," the statement said.

In contrast, Ernie McClatchie, associate vice president in the Office of Facilities, said there are risks to artificial turf, but the college believes it has made the safest decision.

"There's some trade-offs," McClatchie said. "Artificial turf has negatives to it, natural turf



Confocal images of the root apex of wheat. The red dots show sections of the root in which polystyrene microbeads — a type of microplastics — were found.

LI, LIANZHEN, ET AL. "CONFOCAL MEASUREMENT OF MICROPLASTICS UPTAKE BY PLANTS." *METHODSX*, 2020.

has negatives to it. ... We definitely focused on making sure we got the best turf we could get."

Bassett said she knows of the links between PFAs and cancer. However, she said it was important to note that Bertino Field at Butterfield Stadium will not be the first artificial field on campus, and the majority of surfaces athletes play on are synthetic turf as well.

"We are aware of it and obviously concerned about all relevant safety and environmental impact, and we're confident we can mitigate those risks," Bassett said. "[The athletes] have grown up with it and worked on it and competed on it, probably through their whole athletic careers."

Doyle said that using artificial turf will reduce the college's Scope 1 carbon emissions — direct emissions from stationary sources like boilers and water heaters. Since artificial turf does not require lawn maintenance, carbon emissions are reduced. However, natural grass fields absorb carbon dioxide and artificial turfs require carbon to be made and have carbon in the blades that gets released into the environment as the blades break down.

"I felt like there were a lot of things that would help us move forward environmentally speaking," Doyle said. "I have a great deal of concerns about microplastics too. ... I think that's a very valid, real concern about introducing plastics in the environment. But I think in this case we're striving to manage that as effectively as we can."

In 2011, Higgins Stadium was installed and is used by the field hockey and lacrosse teams for their regular season, but is also the only surface available for intramural, club or other varsity sports if the weather does not allow practice on one of the natural grass fields. So, Bassett said, a benefit of the synthetic surface is that Butterfield will now be usable for the entire year instead of just the five or six home games the football team plays each season.

Artificial turf industry

The college's new artificial turf field and the stadium improvements will be serviced by Clark Companies. The manufacturing and installation will be done by Chenango Contracting.

Chris White '07 is the marketing manager of Chenango Contracting. White said the college will be using a FieldTurf brand of turf,

which contains filtration systems and a concrete curb, both of which White claimed help contain hazardous components of artificial turf.

"There's literally no way for sand and rubber to get through the turf itself and get into the base stone, let alone get into the drainage pipe, let alone get kicked out whatever water system you're connecting to," White said.

However, Bennett said that while a filter will help prevent larger plastics from entering water systems, it is not possible for filters to remove smaller microplastics, as well as PFAs.

The artificial turf industry, which was worth \$2.7 billion in 2019, has pushed the idea that artificial turf is better for the environment. Many artificial turf companies make claims online that it is good for the environment without citing scientific research, or cite scientists who have worked for the industry.

"Over and over, in towns across the country, we see the same industry playbook," Bennett said. "It's really very frustrating. ... They refuse to admit that there [are] PFAs in the turf."

While White said there will be PFAs in the turf that the college receives, he said they were a type of PFAs that are safe for humans. However, according to Bennett, there are thousands of different types of PFAs, and most remain untested and the types that have been tested are known to cause cancer. Additionally, the industry has made claims that natural grass fields are not environmentally friendly because they require fertilizer, pesticides and irrigation. Most fertilizers used on natural grass fields are made with fossil fuels and contain nitrous oxide.

However, Wolff said fossil fuel-free fertilizers that do not contain nitrous oxide are becoming economically feasible, and environmental damage from artificial turf is far larger than that of natural grass.

Every scientist *The Ithacan* interviewed said the college's goal to be carbon neutral by 2050 is at odds with its announced construction of a plastic turf.

"Plastic grass is the farthest thing from sustainable that you can get, seriously," Wolff said. "This is the worst thing Ithaca College can do for the environment."

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Ithaca College already has one artificial turf field. Higgins Stadium, which was installed in 2011, is home to field hockey and men's and women's lacrosse.

BRENDAN IANNUCCI/THE ITHACAN

Bombers cap off undefeated season

BY DAVID SCHURTER
STAFF WRITER

Following a dominant 248–42 victory on Senior Day on Jan. 21 over Alfred University, the Ithaca College women’s swimming and diving program finished off the regular season by winning its last dual meet of the season Jan. 28 over Union College, 238–52. The win secured a 10–0 record and an undefeated season.

Head coach Kevin Markwardt said that he is thrilled with the season the team has had so far and that they are powering through adversity.

“They’ve had a great season to this point,” Markwardt said. “We went undefeated and for this group that’s a huge accomplishment. We’ve had some issues with nagging injuries this year but the athletes have worked through it.”

Markwardt said the success of this season has come from the countless displays of hard work at practice every day, despite a long season spanning six months.

“I would just say consistency,” Markwardt said. “It’s a long season and it’s really tough. It can get pretty overwhelming and we had our struggles, but the consistency of the athletes willing to do what we’re asking them to do, that’s gotten them to the success we’ve had.”

Senior diver Karalyn Pawcio said that everyone is an important



Senior diver Karalyn Pawcio begins her dive at the Geneca Diving Invitational on Feb. 4. Pawcio won the 3-meter boards at the meet and came in third for the 1-meter boards.

part of the team’s success and that sticking to the basics will be crucial down the stretch.

“Everyone plays a big role in the comradery of the team and to help have a common goal as one,” Pawcio said.

A five-time Liberty League Diver of the Week and Fall 2022 Athlete of the Month selection for November, Pawcio said the team needs to stay focused and believe in each other in order to win another Liberty League title.

“We need to keep trusting our bodies and our coaches, as well as working together as a team,” Pawcio said. “Remember ... that you’ve put in the work,

trusting the process.”

Senior Jane Pfeufer, a freestyle, backstroke and butterfly swimmer, said all of the hard work in practice has propelled the team to new heights this season.

“The team’s performance has been amazing,” Pfeufer said. “Pushing ourselves in a lot of hard practices, that’s one huge reason why we’ve won every meet.”

With the Liberty League Championships quickly approaching — from Feb. 15 to 18 — Markwardt said the team has to be prepared, but his No. 1 priority is staying healthy.

“[Injuries are] one thing as a coach you’re scared to death

of,” Markwardt said. “When we get to that championship meet, they’re going to be successful. We just have to make sure they are healthy, rested and ready to go.”

Going into what could be her final competition, Pfeufer said she is most excited to push her teammates towards success and that that is where she achieves her personal success from.

“I’m looking forward to enjoying what’s happening on the pool deck and watching my teammates succeed,” Pfeufer said. “That is what motivates me the most to succeed personally.”

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IC pentathlete lands atop D-III

BY AIDAN CHARDE
SPORTS EDITOR

At the Bomber Invitational on Feb. 4 and 5, graduate student Logan Bruce highlighted the second day of competition after setting a new school record in the pentathlon.

Bruce’s score of 3722 beat the previous program record of 3674, set by Emma Dewart ’12 in 2012. In addition, Bruce’s score put her at the top of the Division III rankings in the event this season, besting the previous top score by 42 points. The score also puts her into ninth place all-time.

Bruce said she has been chasing the program record since her first year as a Bomber. In terms of the national and all-time rankings, Bruce said she did not expect to score high enough to land where she did on those lists — in fact, she did not even know there was an all-time leaderboard to keep track of.

“I guess I didn’t think that was ever something that I could achieve; it was never really on my radar,” Bruce said. “It’s really cool to be able to get my name and get Ithaca’s name on that board and in those records. It makes me really proud to be able to represent them.”

Though she is the current top scorer in the nation for D-III, Bruce said she does not want to let it get to her head.

“I guess I’ll take it cautiously,” Bruce said. “It’s giving me a little bit of confidence going into [the] postseason. ... [But] it really doesn’t mean anything in the grand scheme of things. I still have to perform well in the Championships in order to get a medal.”

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Q&A: Senior thrower beats 40-year-old record

As the Ithaca College winter sports teams have resumed the second half of their seasons in the new year, many of them have seen stellar performances from stand-out athletes. Notably on that list is senior thrower Justin Showstead of the men’s track and field team.

On Jan. 28, Showstead set a new program record in the shot put at the Nazareth Conference Challenge Cup by 2.5” with a throw of 15.39 meters, or 50’ 6”. The previous record had not been broken since 1983.

Even in his earlier meets this season, Showstead continued to top the leaderboards, earning first place in the shot put at 15.15 meters (49’ 8.5”) to win by nearly three feet and running-up in the weight throw with a top mark of 15.78 meters (51’ 9.25”) at the college’s quad meet Jan. 21.

Following the completion of this interview, Showstead proceeded to take first place and reset his own school record in the shot put with a throw of 15.67 meters, or 51’ 5”, at the Bomber Invitational on Feb. 4.

Assistant sports editor Tess Ferguson sat down with Showstead to talk about his individual accolades with the track and field team and his progression through his career in throwing events.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Tess Ferguson: Can you walk me through how you got involved with field events, throwing in particular?

Justin Showstead: I actually started in high school. I started out as a sprinter, but I was that kid who would pretend to tie his shoes during the laps. I switched to throwing my freshman year [of high school] and I just kind of stuck with it heading into college.

TF: As a senior this year, how do you think you’ve seen yourself change as an athlete from your first year to now?

JS: I’ve definitely been trying to be more positive and relax a little bit more because I used to be super hard on myself when I didn’t do as well as I would’ve wanted to. Now, I feel like I’m just trying to enjoy it as much as I can because you only have so much eligibility and I’m kind of on the tail-end of that.

TF: Do you think that positive mindset has helped your performance at all?

JS: Knowing that I’m almost done definitely adds a little bit of pressure, but being more positive has definitely helped with that. With the field events, you’re kind of on an island by yourself. Our mental performance coach has been helping us with this, but you have minutes in between each throw where all you can do is think about how your next throw is going to go. Trying not to care as much and stay[ing] more positive has been really important.

TF: I know track and field is pretty individual in nature, but many of the athletes on your team have had really successful seasons so far. What are some of your goals as a group?

JS: Honestly, just trying to send as many people to Nationals as possible and trying to reclaim our Liberty League title because we couldn’t defend that last year. We’re kind of a smaller team this year, so I think a large part of those performances is attributed to our voices being heard, being a loud team and cheering and supporting each other.

TF: As a senior on the team, how has it been taking on a leadership role in your events?

JS: I try to be as much of a leader as I can.



Senior thrower Justin Showstead broke a 40-year-old program record in shot put Jan. 28, which lasted one week until he broke it again by nearly a full foot.

GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN

I’m not really one of those guys who [are] really vocal, but I definitely try to do my thing from the back and lead by example. We don’t have any [first-year students], but we do have an athlete who’s never thrown before, so we’re always working together and progressing together.

TF: As for yourself, what kind of expectations do you have in terms of your individual performance for the rest of the season?

JS: Honestly, I feel like it can only go up from here. I’m right there in the top 20 to qualify for Nationals, and every personal best that I throw now will be a new school record, so I’m really looking forward to that.

TF: That, of course, leads me to the question

of the day. How does it feel for you to have broken a 40-year-standing program record?

JS: I mean, it feels pretty good. I came up just about a centimeter short of the record last year, and it’s even better because the rest of my throws were all pretty terrible that day. Having that one throw that was just far enough to push the record was some pretty good redemption.

TF: And now that you’ve checked that off your list, what’s next for you this season?

JS: I’d like to just qualify for Nationals in both of the events that I do indoors, but we’re still working on that. We’ve always got some work to do.

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THE BUZZER

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

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK LUKA RADOVICH/MEN'S BASKETBALL



From left, graduate student Bomber forward Luka Radovich drives past sophomore Skidmore College guard/forward Alexei Downie. Radovich notched consecutive double-doubles over the weekend, combining for 40 points and 25 rebounds in two wins.

BRENDAN IANNUCCI/THE ITHACAN

COMPETITION OF THE WEEK WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. SKIDMORE



From left, Bombers' senior guard Natalie Smith fights for the ball with Thoroughbred first-year student center/forward Jazlin Chen during a 52–49 Bomber victory Feb. 4. Smith's free throw with one second left iced the game in a decisive conference matchup.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

EVENT TO WATCH



ITHACA

VS.



SUNY
CORTLAND

6:30 P.M. FEB. 15 IN THE BEN LIGHT GYMNASIUM

The Ithaca College wrestling and gymnastics teams host the SUNY Cortland Red Dragons for the sixth annual Rumble and Tumble meet Feb. 15, where both programs will compete in the Ben Light Gymnasium at the same time. At last year's meet, hosted by SUNY Cortland, the Bombers came out on top in both sports. The gymnastics team won 187.90–184.475, while the wrestling team took a 24–21 victory. The last times the Bombers hosted, wrestling posted a dominant 31–9 victory while the Red Dragons earned a narrow win in gymnastics, 188.150–185.550.

NOTABLE UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD: 10 a.m. Feb. 10–11 at Boston University Valentine Invitational in Boston.

MEN'S BASKETBALL: 7:30 p.m. Feb. 10 at Clarkson University, 4 p.m. Feb. 11 at St. Lawrence University.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: 5:30 p.m. Feb. 10 at Clarkson University, 2 p.m. Feb. 11 at St. Lawrence University.

GYMNASTICS: 1 p.m. Feb. 12 at Cornell Invitational

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING: Hosting the Liberty League Championships Feb. 15–18.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



"When we get to that championship meet, they're going to be successful. We just have to make sure they are healthy, rested and ready to go."

- KEVIN MARKWARDT

Men's and women's swimming and diving head coach on the women's undefeated season.





From left, first-year students Gabriella Baiano and Mia Emmi decorate wooden hearts during WinterFest, hosted by the Office of New Student and Transition Programs on Feb. 2 in Emerson Suites. The event also offered food, arts and crafts, karaoke, a corn hole tournament, virtual reality painting, board games and various gift card prizes.

LEILA MARCILLO-GÓMEZ/THE ITHACAN