

ACCURACY • INDEPENDENCE • INTEGRITY

SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW ON PAGE A1

County wants oversight of anti-abortion centers

BY LORIEN TYNE
NEWS EDITOR

Activists and leaders in Tompkins County are working to draft legislation that, if passed, would regulate anti-abortion centers that, among other services, counsel clients on their pregnancy options.

Veronica Pillar, Tompkins County state legislator, said that in states like New York where abortion remains legal, the fight for reproductive justice has shifted to making sure anti-abortion centers or “crisis pregnancy centers” are not fostering misinformation. Anti-abortion centers are often religiously-affiliated organizations that provide important services but may provide inaccurate information about abortion or use language that instills fear or shame around the topic. Pillar is working to draft county legislation regarding anti-abortion centers in collaboration with End Abortion Stigma, a local grassroots organization, and Robert Cantelmo, 5th Ward alderperson and mayoral candidate for the 2023 election in Ithaca.

“There’s lots of examples of municipal ordinances and things mainly against deceptive advertising,” Pillar said. “I’m in sort of the early-mid stages learning how [anti-abortion centers] work and what can be done about them, but it’s been encouraging to see that this is a piece of the reproductive health care access fight that seems like, in this realm, local

governments have a lot of power.”

Joan Adler, member of End Abortion Stigma, was a former pregnancy options and reproductive health counselor for the Ithaca Planned Parenthood for 30 years. Adler said that because these anti-abortion centers are not designated as health clinics, there is no oversight or regulation by local or state governments.

“I honestly don’t understand why New York State [and] the country are not auditing and reviewing [anti-abortion centers] services and looking at the personnel,” Adler said. “At Planned Parenthood, we’re audited every single year, by a number of organizations, they go through our files meticulously [and] they look at our equipment.”

Cantelmo — who drafted the abortion sanctuary city ordinance that was implemented July 6, 2022 — said he has also been looking toward Seattle’s legislation as another possibility for intervention. Seattle passed a law that prohibits anti-abortion centers from providing untrue statements or omitting information about the services they offer and is enforced by the Department of Finance and Administrative Services’ Consumer Protection Division. Cantelmo said legislation at the city level would be discussed if the county legislation is not passed or as strong as the Ithaca community would like it to be.

“We are prepared to do what we need,” Cantelmo said. “I would hope that my colleagues would tackle this issue this year. In my mind, there’s no reason to wait.”

ABORTION, PAGE 4

Student creates menstrual product that fights stigma

BY KAI LINCKE
STAFF WRITER

After presenting her idea at Startup Business Demo Day in Fall 2022, Ithaca College sophomore Hadil Khodji is working on a menstrual care product prototype that will serve as an alternative to tampons for underwater use.

Khodji presented an idea for a product that would seal the vaginal area and prevent water from entering at the Fall 2022 Demo Day on Nov. 9, 2022.

Brad Treat, instructor in the Department of Management, said Demo Day is an opportunity for students from across the college’s five schools to receive funding for their business ideas. Senior Shevori Gene said he worked with Treat and Ed Catto, instructor in the Department of Management, to plan the event. Students apply to present to Demo Day, and if accepted, they present a four-minute pitch to a panel of judges. The judges supply prize money, which they divide between Demo Day participants to advance their ideas.

Khodji is an international student from Morocco and she said she knew from her own experience that tampons are not popular in Islamic society. Khodji said many girls in Islamic

society are concerned that tampons break their hymens and lead to impurity.

“It’s something that came from grandmas and grandpas,” Khodji said. “And it’s not like we don’t want to use tampons, but it’s more like, ‘Well, my mother told me not to.’”

Khodji said menstruation is seen as shameful and is not frequently discussed in Morocco.

Rachel Wagner, professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion and coordinator of the Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies program, said via email that women’s bodies have historically been seen as impure, especially during menstruation, in conservative religious societies. Wagner said via email that men have tried to control women’s bodies and reproduction to exert control over society as a whole. They have limited discussion about reproduction and menstruation. Wagner said via email that these societal norms have been passed through generations.

“I also think that allowing these discussions to remain hushed contributes to the longstanding myth that women’s bodies are ‘impure’ in some way,” Wagner said via email. “Once examined, this presumption falls apart. ... Indeed, an argument might be made that it has more to do with the history of men’s attempts to control women’s bodies than it has to do with women’s bodies themselves. What makes blood impure, anyway?”

A 2018 study commissioned by period wear company Thinx showed that about 60% of women feel embarrassed while on their periods.

Khodji said she realized that there are limited menstrual

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MALIK CLEMENT
PRAKRITI PANWAR/THE ITHACAN

Nation & World News

Turkey detains 184 residents because of collapsed buildings

At least 184 people, mostly contractors, have been detained in Turkey over alleged negligence concerning collapsed buildings following the devastating earthquakes in the country's south, Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag said Feb. 25.

The mayor of Gaziantep province's Nurdagi district was also detained, state news agency Anadolu reported.

Southern California gets snow as storm system passes through

A storm system for the ages passed through Southern California on Feb. 25, dumping piles of snow in lower-elevation communities and closing key roads.

The frigid conditions dropped the snow level to 1,500 or less Feb. 25, enough for the unusual sight of foothills covered with a white dusting. Mountain communities were slammed by intense snowfall.

Norfolk Southern told to pause Ohio train debris removal by EPA

Norfolk Southern Corp. was ordered by federal officials to pause waste removal at the site of the East Palestine, Ohio, train derailment to ensure safe disposal subject to Environmental Protection Agency approval, a regional EPA administrator said Feb. 25.

On Feb. 23, Norfolk Southern provided the EPA's Ohio branch with a list of sites it was using and "had been solely responsible for the disposal of waste."

Kansas Democratic party elects first Black woman as state chair

Kansas Democrats elected Jeanna Re-pass state chair Feb. 25, making her the first Black woman to lead the party.

The Overland Park Democrat is a political newcomer who earned the chair position with the support of the party heavyweights, who are Gov. Laura Kelly and Rep. Sharice Davids, despite questions raised about her credentials and alleged non-payment of campaign staff during her unsuccessful run for Kansas secretary of state.

Seven were shot in Strawberry Mansion district in Philadelphia

Seven people, including a 2-year-old girl and five teenagers, were wounded in a shooting Feb. 23 near a school in the city's Strawberry Mansion section, police said.

The gunfire erupted just after 5:50 p.m. on the northeast corner of 31st and Norris Streets in front of a beer distributor, police said. Later that night, police said they were looking for three shooters and a gray Hyundai Elantra with a Pennsylvania



Death toll rises in mine accident in China

The death toll in a serious mine accident in northern China has risen to six, state news agency Xinhua reported Feb. 24. 47 people are still missing from the coal mine in Inner Mongolia, which partially collapsed Feb. 22.

AFF/GETTY IMAGES/TNS

license plate. Police said it was not immediately clear what led to the shooting.

Nigerian opposition parties call for release of election results

Nigerian opposition parties urged the nation's election commission to immediately release results from a Feb. 25 poll to

reduce the chances of the outcome being compromised. Polling stations were supposed to transmit the counts as soon as they were tallied, but the Independent National Electoral Commission had published results from less than a quarter of them.

SOURCE: TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MULTIMEDIA

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Ithacan Tries: en garde with Leila and Nane

On Feb. 23, sophomores Leila Marcillo-Gómez and Nane Hakobyan lunged into the sport of fencing. *The Ithacan's* assistant photo editor and opinion editor honed their skills at the IC Fencing Club.



Rate My 'Rate My Professors' Ep. 2

Kari Brossard Stoos, associate chair and associate professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Physical Education, and Tatiana Patrone, associate professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion, read and rate reviews from their old students.



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Debate team's memory lives on after cuts

BY LORIEN TYNE

NEWS EDITOR

Since the Ithaca College Speech and Debate Team coach was forced to retire as a result of the Academic Program Prioritization process, the team has been unable to operate as students struggle to find a new adviser.

The official name for the debate team is the Forensics Program, and it has been at the college since its founding in 1932. Scott Thomson, retired assistant professor in the eliminated Department of Communication Studies, said he was hired in 2000 to be the debate coach as well as teach. At the end of the 2021–22 academic year, the college eliminated the department as part of the APP process. Thomson said that because he was not tenured, he was forced to leave but was able to retire. This left the debate team in a precarious place, dependent on a volunteer to keep it going.

"The provost assured us, assured students, that the debate team would continue," Thomson said. "They did find a [new adviser]. ... But she decided then that she didn't want to do it. So that left the team sort of high and dry."

Melanie Stein, provost and senior vice president of academic affairs, said the debate team has not had an adviser who was paid to be the coach.

"The model has been to have a faculty member who expresses interest serve as an advisor," Stein



The debate team won tournament trophies before the team dissolved because the adviser, Scott Thomson, former assistant professor at the college, was forced to retire.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

said via email.

Thomson said the adviser position was paid and required traveling to over a dozen tournaments each academic year.

"No one in their right mind would volunteer to direct a forensics program," Thomson said via email. "If they rely on volunteers — there will never be a team."

In a 2004 contract-renewal review of Thomson's position given to *The Ithacan*, the memorandum stated that Thomson accepted the position, which entailed a 10-credit teaching load each semester and directorship of the Forensics Program.

"S/he [a tenure eligible faculty member] would have less time and energy to devote to building a bridge between the academic discipline and the competitive enterprise of intercollegiate debate," the memorandum stated. "In our judgment, a five-year, non-tenure eligible position (with possibility of renewal) would be most appropriate to recruit and keep an effective forensics director."

Junior Skyler Cepek was the president of the debate team when Thomson was cut from his position and said she tried to find someone to continue his work.

"We needed a faculty member or faculty adviser in order for the team to run and so I asked around and couldn't get anyone to do it. And when I went to the dean, her answer to me was, 'Come back in two years, we're hiring new people in two years,'" Cepek said.

Sean Themea '16 said he was part of the debate team from 2013 to 2015, and that it still impacts him.

"I use the skills from the debate team ... every day to try and make the impact that I want to make on the world," Themea said.

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SGC tours and talks with OPS

BY NOA RAN-RESSLER

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Ithaca College Student Governance Council met with members of the Office of Public Safety and Energy Management and received a tour of the facilities at its Feb. 27 meeting.

Bill Kerry, executive director of the Office of Public Safety and Energy Management, started a pre-tour conversation by welcoming the SGC to the OPS building.

Kerry said the OPS started inviting the SGC for annual events about five years ago in order to be more transparent about public safety.

"Quite frankly, it's a way to say thank you," Kerry said. "I'm not in your work every day but have communicated with [this SGC] and many priors ... and we've collaborated on some really cool stuff."

Elyse Nepa, assistant director of Clery Act and Prevention Education within the OPS, said she focuses on working with students to raise awareness on how to prevent emergency situations as much as possible.

Nepa presented on bystander intervention training. She talked about the bystander intervention program, IC Responsibility, a certification program for students to learn different skills, like first responder training.

"We wanted to do just something a little bit more because we started to notice that we have students here on our campus ... that are experiencing cyberbullying and harassment," Nepa said.

After the tour, Senate Chair senior Austin Ruffino began the official meeting with senator reports.

Junior Utkarsh Maini, School of Business senator, discussed his meeting with Michael Johnson-Cramer, dean of the School of Business, where they discussed curriculum changes and how they will impact current and future students.

Sophomore Cameron Small, Class of 2025 senator, said he met with members of the Center for LGBT Education, Outreach and Services on campus to discuss ways of creating safe spaces for queer people of color.

Senior Tessa Kurtz, vice president of academic affairs, said she met with Melanie Stein, provost and senior vice president of academic affairs, on Feb. 24 to discuss the School of Humanities and Sciences and the Roy H. Park School of Communications adding their own versions of exploratory programs. She said H&S will have two exploratory programs, one for social sciences and arts and one for natural sciences and math. During officer reports, Ruffino said he is starting an Organizational Review Committee, which would allow members of the SGC to discuss changes to its function and structure.

"If there is anything that you like or don't like about how SGC works in general, please let me know," Ruffino said. "There are some possibly very big changes that might be happening."

Student Trustee junior Alexa Rahman talked about the February Board of Trustees meetings. Rahman said the board discussed enrollment strategies, marketing, dining services and diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging. "Everyone's really excited that it seems like the dynamic of the campus is changing a little bit," Rahman said. "It's starting to be more hopeful than the last few years."

The SGC is the sole representative body for the Ithaca College student community. The SGC can be contacted at sgc@ithaca.edu.

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City updates building sustainability goals

BY VIVIAN ROSE

STAFF WRITER

The City of Ithaca plans to improve the sustainability of buildings in 2023, as well as provide more electric vehicle charging stations to certify the city as a healthy and energy efficient community.

The resolution for the original Green New Deal proposal was unanimously adopted by Ithaca's Common Council in June 2019. One goal of the Green New Deal is for the city to be able to produce 100% renewable electricity by 2025.

Ithaca College senior Gus Dunn-Hindle currently works as an intern for the City of Ithaca's Office of Sustainability Planning. Dunn-Hindle said his role is to write policy proposals and is currently focusing on making the deconstruction of buildings more sustainable.

"You have to figure out where to put the money you do have and how to bring in outside investment," Dunn-Hindle said.

On Feb. 1, Rebecca Evans, acting director of sustainability, gave an update on the city's Green New Deal to the Common Council. During the meeting, Evans spoke about obtaining LEED certification for Ithaca. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and certifies that a building within a city or the city itself is fully energy efficient and sustainable.

Ithaca College has LEED certified buildings, like the Dorothy D. and Roy H. Park Center for Business and Sustainable Enterprise and the Peggy Ryan Williams Center. The City of Ithaca also has several LEED certified buildings, like the Stone Quarry



The Common Council received updates on the City of Ithaca's Green New Deal on Feb. 1, which focused on making all 6,000 buildings in the city energy efficient.

ELEANOR KAY/THE ITHACAN

apartments in Downtown Ithaca.

Evans said one of the strategies to achieve the city's sustainability goals has been to purchase renewable energy credits, meaning the city will tap into renewable energy sources like wind or solar generated elsewhere.

A downside to renewable energy credits is that they are unreliable and can cause equity issues, yet the city is currently purchasing them. Evans said fewer renewable energy sites, like wind or solar farms and geothermal heat pumps, are located in communities of Black, Indigenous, people of color and low-income communities than in predominantly white communities.

"This means that this state of the grid

and these [BIPOC and low-income communities] still continue to have dirty energy sources," Evans said.

In 2022, Evans said the Sustainability and Climate Justice Advisory Commission launched a program called Electrify Ithaca to electrify all 6,000 buildings in the City of Ithaca.

Beth Clark, professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, who teaches a course in sustainability, said tax incentives will motivate people to invest more in renewable energies.

"There's a need for embracing these incentives, embracing these goals and getting the word out," Clark said.

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County calls for accurate abortion counseling

FROM ABORTION, PAGE 1

In 1973 the Supreme Court passed *Roe v. Wade*. Then, in 1968, Birthright was founded in Canada, creating the first network of anti-abortion centers which still operate today, including Birthright of Ithaca. In 1975, the Christian Action Council formed — now Care Net, a large umbrella organization for many anti-abortion centers.

The Cortland and Ithaca Pregnancy Centers, founded in 1988, are a member center of both Care Net and the National Institute of Family Life Advocates, which are faith-based, anti-abortion groups.

CIPC is a non-profit, funded by private donors, grants and churches. The center operates in Cortland and Ithaca, providing a range of cost-free services like options counseling, pregnancy tests and ultrasounds, and parenting classes. According to its website, CIPC does not recommend, provide or refer for abortion or contraceptives for single women.

All ultrasounds are conducted in an exam room by nurses with oversight by Dr. Kathleen Gardner, a medical director who works at OB-GYN & Midwifery Associates of Ithaca. CIPC Director Lynne Merchant-Pryor said people confuse CIPC as a medical facility, but it does not provide internal health services, which Merchant-Pryor said is why additional oversight is not needed. Merchant-Pryor said that while the center does not give referrals for

abortion or to clinics that provide abortion services, CIPC helps clients understand all their options.

"If you're pregnant, you're looking at either adoption, abortion or parenting," Merchant-Pryor said. "We go through all of their options with them, and we make sure they leave here with information that they need. ... But we're not here to try to convince them one way or the other what they should choose. That's not our role. ... But we're not going to give referrals to an organization that is providing a service that we see women hurting from continuously."

Sira, an anti-abortion center in Florida, published an article saying that a study found, "44% of respondents regretted their decision to get an abortion." Yet, further context was omitted as the study was based on letters from 45 women all within a specifically selected population group with "a known bias against abortion and only negative experiences were solicited."

Wider investigations, like a study from Social Science and Medicine published in 2020, have been conducted with consideration of short-term negative emotions that can be experienced after abortion stemming from the difficulty of the decision and abortion stigma.

To understand the impacts on people post-abortion in a deeper way, the study followed willing patients for five years after their abortion. The study found that out of 956 women, after five years



End Abortion Stigma, Planned Parenthood and Ithaca Murals collaborated to decorate an electrical box in Downtown Ithaca.

ELLA TUNIS/THE ITHACAN

post-abortion, 99% felt they had made the right decision.

Jessica Pieklo, senior vice president and executive editor at Rewire News Group, has extensive experience in legal journalism and covering topics on reproductive justice and as a litigator for commercial disputes and health law. Pieklo said anti-abortion centers are built on the presumption that abortion hurts people.

"They're pushing aside

evidence and replacing it with anecdotes that advance a particular agenda and this is consistent in what the anti-choice movement does," Pieklo said. "If we are going to continue to allow the deception that there is not an agenda at play to go on then the only thing that happens is that people really truly lose access to not just health care, but education and social services."

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IC utilizes tech to expand reach

BY OLIVIA STANZL

STAFF WRITER

With technology rapidly expanding and student enrollment in higher education declining, institutions like Ithaca College are investing more resources in social media and internet advertising.

Melissa Marchese, executive director of Marketing Strategy, said the college works with a professional third-party media buying firm that negotiates and secures the best possible market rate for ads.

The college funds advertisements on many social media platforms, like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and TikTok, while also budgeting for sponsored listings on Google and other search engines. Additionally, the college uses retargeting campaigns that display ads on other sites after someone has visited the college's webpage.

"All the supplemental things that we're doing in both marketing communications and on the admissions side is to reach ... students and to complement their journey," Marchese said.

Marchese said the college will look at data from different regions to see where it has the largest reach, like New York; this also helps it to decide where to target its advertising more.

"From there we try to have an 'always on' approach where we are doing something in the market all year long," Marchese said.

Sophomore Lincoln Truesdale said the college's promotion of the Roy H. Park School of Communications on social media helped him make a decision about enrolling at the college.

"I definitely remember when I started searching up the website, I saw more targeted ads on my feed and I think that's kind of around the time that I made a decision," Truesdale said.

Truesdale said that while he felt uncomfortable the first time he found out about targeted advertisements, he has come to terms with the practice.

"I feel like I've just become so used to so many different organizations doing that, that I've kind of just forgotten about how I used to feel and I've just kind of accepted it at this point," Truesdale said.

Nicole Eversley Bradwell, executive director of the Office of Admission, said digital and social media are tools that the Office of Admission uses within its comprehensive strategy to engage with its students and adapt to the changing technology.

"The last five years are much more robust," Eversley Bradwell said. "And the tools available to not just our organization, but the planet are much more robust."

Data from the Office of Analytics and Institutional Research shows that in 2022, the college received 12,446 applications, while 9,359 were admitted and 1,309 students enrolled. Applications peaked in 2014, with 18,207 applicants of which 10,763 were admitted and 1,560 students enrolled. Eversley Bradwell said the college has had paid partnerships with college search tools. Colleges are able to pay to advertise to specific groups of students based on factors like potential majors, race and geographic location.

Marchese said the college also does lots of organic advertising like encouraging accepted students to use the #icmyfuture, which allows the college to interact with the students and students to interact with each other by seeing their personal posts through the hashtag.

"Some of it's also just about participation and having fun," Marchese said.

Assistant News Editors Prakriti Panwar and Noa Ran-Ressler contributed reporting.

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Prototype provides swim alternative to tampons

FROM INVENTION, PAGE 1

product options that work underwater when she was taking a lifeguarding class in 2022.

"I am not very comfortable with using any hygienic products under water," Khodji said. "I found that there's a lack in feminine products that will take care of your periods when you're trying to swim. ... And I was extremely embarrassed when going to my professor and telling him ... I was not able to swim."

Khodji said she began asking other people who menstruate, particularly members of the women's swimming and diving team, about their experiences with swimming while menstruating. She said she discovered that some people who menstruate were also not comfortable with using tampons or menstrual cups, the feminine hygiene products recommended for underwater use. They can be uncomfortable, ineffective and cause concerns about toxic shock syndrome, which can occur if menstrual products are left in for too long. Khodji said this problem inspired her to create her prototype for a menstrual product that seals the vaginal area from water, which would allow people who menstruate who do not like using tampons to swim while menstruating. Khodji said her current target group for her product is swimmers in the United States. However, she hopes that eventually she can release the product in Eastern markets.

Khodji's prototype won the Audience Choice Award and \$1,200 from the judges panel to use toward her product development at the Fall 2022 Demo Day. Treat said Khodji's prototype has gained positive attention because she understood her customers.

"I find what appeals to the audience is an entrepreneur that can really connect with the need of the customer and tell that



Sophomore Hadil Khodji created a menstrual care product prototype that will serve as an alternative to tampons for underwater use, with the main audience being swimmers in the U.S.

KAI LINCKE/THE ITHACAN

story," Treat said. "Hadil did an excellent job identifying, 'Hey, here's a problem that my customer has, or my potential customer has. ... I have an idea for an elegant solution.'"

Gene said entrepreneurial development is challenging while taking college courses, but Khodji's work shows that college students can create successful products.

"[Entrepreneurship] requires time, commitment and dedication," Gene said. "I think that [Khodji's] prototype embodies the true nature of a student taking entrepreneurship [courses] to go into entrepreneurship in college. ... I think that what Hadil is doing is amazing, and it just shows the possibilities."

Khodji said she is still refining the specifics of her prototype and she hopes to conduct medical research to ensure that the prototype is safe and effective. She said she

wants to keep the prototype design a surprise until she unveils her developed product at the Spring 2023 Demo Day on April 26.

Khodji said the long development period is worthwhile to ensure that her product works and improves on the menstruation products that are currently available. Khodji said she hopes that her prototype will be more than just a business proposition and encourage menstruators to rethink menstruation and their menstrual care products.

"I would love to make it possible for any girl to swim, even during her periods," Khodji said. "You don't have to stop yourself from having fun or going with your friends out or enjoying your summer because of your periods. I want to make periods normalized."

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Park alum gives career tips and advice

BY VIVIAN ROSE

STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 27, Ithaca College's chapter of the New York Film & Television Student Alliance invited Amanda Cerruti '19, who currently works for Access Hollywood — a celebrity and event news network — to speak with student members about the trials, tribulations and successes of networking and finding a job in communications.

The college's chapter of NYFTSA offers opportunities, like free headshots, a trip to New York City for the NYFTSA summit to help students network and meet professionals in the communications industry, and networking opportunities with well-known Roy H. Park School of Communications alumni and professionals in the top communications corporations in the country.

Cerruti spoke about working in the news section of Access Hollywood and said her biggest piece of advice for anyone looking to work in the news industry or as an interviewer is to be professional at all times.

Cerruti said her first job was as a runner for Access Hollywood, which is typically to supply coffee, tea, snacks and assist anywhere so that production runs smoothly.

She said that although these duties were not what she hoped to be doing, she encouraged students to take every task



First-year student Jonah Hawthorne spoke with Amanda Cerruti '19 in a meeting hosted by Ithaca College's chapter of the New York Film & Television Student Alliance on Feb. 27.

DAISY BOLGER/THE ITHACAN

and do it as well as they can.

"Show interest," Cerruti said. "Talk to the people who have been at the job for years and ask, 'Can I shadow you?' The more interest you show, the more likely you are to be given an opportunity to help out with things. If you have the guts to go out and connect with the people in your field, people will notice."

First-year student Brendan Noone, a member of NYFTSA, said he recently joined but has already learned multiple

valuable lessons from NYFTSA meetings. Noone also added that he looks forward to hearing more from other professionals in the industry.

"I'm hoping just to get more knowledge on how to successfully network and how to be a good intern and how to be a good production assistant," Noone said. "I'm excited to understand more about how the industry works."

Melanie Kardos, co-president of the college's chapter of NYFTSA, said NYFTSA provides

student members with long-lasting and meaningful connections with professionals in the industry.

"I think it's a great thing for students because networking is so important," Kardos said. "Every time we have a guest come and talk to us, they're always so happy at the end to share contact information and chat more with students and say, 'Hey, if you're ever in my city, I'd love to meet you.'"

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New dashboard launched by IC

BY NOA RAN-RESSLER

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

On Feb. 23, Ithaca College released its Student Success Dashboard for students to view. The dashboard is a tool meant to help with student success and retention.

The dashboard combines the college's different information systems into one view. In an email to students, the Student Success Team said that students can access their dashboard through a link on apps.ithaca.edu.

The college has released access to the dashboard software in waves. From Feb. 23–26, students were able to view their dashboard to make adjustments to the visibility of select information. On Feb. 27, the dashboard was opened to select faculty and staff.

In another email to students, sent Feb. 26, the Student Success Team reminded students to review their information before access expands. Faculty and staff had to go through training to understand how to appropriately use the dashboard.

"Faculty and staff are told: 'When in doubt, leave it out: If you aren't sure if a colleague is allowed to have that information, don't share it,'" the instructions said.

Deans, academic service coordinators, the Office of the Registrar, the Office of the Provost, members of iCare and Center for Student Success and Retention staff can see every piece of information on the Student Success Dashboard.

Students have some control over which student organizations and which interests of theirs can be seen by all other viewers.

CONTACT: NRANRESSLER@ITHACA.EDU

Q&A: Music student connects to roots through recital

On Feb. 18, Ithaca College senior Stephanie Monteiro performed in her senior recital in Hockett Family Recital Hall, where she used her performance to celebrate her Brazilian heritage, as well as shed light on the historical oppression of Brazilian people.

Monteiro is a music major with an outside field in voice. She said she attended a summer program in Barcelona after her first year at the college that helped her connect her Brazilian heritage to her passion for musical performance. She said she decided to use her senior recital as an opportunity to share Latin-American music with the college community.

One topic Monteiro addressed in her recital was the 1964 Brazilian coup d'état, in which the U.S. supported and funded the overthrow of Brazilian President João Goulart. The successful military coup against the leftist and alleged communist president led to a 20-year military dictatorship. Contributing writer Maddy Vogel spoke with Monteiro about how she uses music as a way to connect with her heritage and speak out against social injustices.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Maddy Vogel: What were the inspirations behind your performance?

Stephanie Monteiro: My parents are both Brazilian immigrants and I'm from Marlborough, Massachusetts. My parents would talk about their time growing up in Brazil, but there are a lot of details that they left out, or that they didn't want to talk about, even when I would ask because they were growing up in a dictatorship. At the

beginning of my time in Ithaca, I worked with a lot of classical music. I thought these artists were the geniuses, the foundation of all music, and that definitely all just stemmed from white supremacy and elitism. I learned through a summer program in Barcelona that Europe was not the only place making music. Of course, it existed, it's just that nobody ever talks about it ever. The woman who started the program was just such a huge inspiration to me and helped me discover more Latin-American music. The rhythm and the feel and the poetry of this music, it really just connected with me. It felt like it was a part of me.

MV: How did you bring your ideas for the performance to life?

SM: I became friends with ... a lot more people who were doing not just classical music. I wanted this recital to be something special. This is my last semester here, and I just didn't want to leave college, only having done classical music because it is just the tiniest fraction of all the music that's in the world. I found artists that my family recommended to me that I really connected with and discovered songs by them that actually wrote about the Brazilian dictatorship under the veil of religion because talking about the government was illegal at the time. I found artists at Cornell who would perform with me and I asked my friends and peers for advice on background vocals. I had to just kind of throw myself into it and do my best, and I struggled, but luckily, I had my friends around me that helped me.

MV: How did you speak on Brazilian



Senior Stephanie Monteiro performed her senior recital Feb. 18, addressing her Brazilian heritage and love for Latin-American music through her own music.

AMINATTA IMRANA JALLOW/THE ITHACAN

oppression through your performance?

SM: In one of my journalism classes, I'm learning about how the U.S. really wanted to turn mixed economies across the world, but especially Latin America and Central America, into a completely free market. The U.S. wanted to tear other countries down in order to be an empire, but it was also about money. It was just about getting the rich even richer. I wanted to talk about how the U.S. and the CIA funded and supported this. I spoke about this to the audience during my performance. I gave my audience a book that they could read if they were interested in learning about it more. I also performed some of the songs that wrote about the Brazilian dictatorship under the veil of religion.

MV: How do you hope your performance connected with your audience?

SM: I just wanted my audience to know that in this country, we don't learn about the U.S. role in foreign dictatorships at all. In all other countries in the world ... they learn about what happened in these dictatorships, and they learn that the U.S. played a massive part in it. I'm really into activism and this is a big part of who I am. And I know the fear that my family, their parents and all of those innocent people were living in, was just completely undeserved. And it was all for money. People just need to know.

CONTACT: MVOGEL@ITHACA.EDU

COLLEGE BRIEFS

Student Leadership Consultant applications open for Fall 2023

The Office of Student Engagement is accepting applications for the position of Student Leadership Consultant for Fall 2023. SLCs help OSE with facilitating the organization of events, working on outreach and marketing and running the operations of the Student Activities Center, which is located on the third floor of the Campus Center. SLCs are paid \$14.35 per hour and receive constant on-the-job training.

To apply, applicants must complete the application, which is available on IC Engage. The OSE also has online resources like a YouTube video called "Skills SLCs gain from this position" and hosted an event called The Recipe to Become an SLC.

Applicants are also encouraged to review SLC Application Tips, which are available on OSE's website. For questions, contact ose@ithaca.edu or 607-274-3222.

JED Campus Initiative calls for features for Stop & Breathe week

The JED Campus Initiative is inviting Ithaca College's academic departments and student organizations to participate in Stop & Breathe week, which will run from March 4 to 9. Stop & Breathe week is a campaign that will highlight the mental health and wellness resources that the college offers. During the week, JED will feature the work and resources of departments and clubs by tabling on campus and will spread the word through communication channels.

To sign up, departments and student organizations must fill out a Google form with details of the events they are hosting, describing how it relates to mental health and wellness and providing promotional digital content to be shared.

All questions must be directed toward Cathy Michael, JED Mental Health Awareness Subcommittee co-chair and communications librarian, at cmichael@ithaca.edu or sophomore Rachel Ng at rng2@ithaca.edu.

Faculty nominations for award worth \$5,000 open to candidates

Nominations for the President Shirley M. Collado Faculty Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Ithaca College Community are now open. The award is worth \$5,000 and will be awarded to faculty who demonstrate using inclusive practices in their classroom, research or leadership roles.

Awardees will also have to present a talk that is in the Provost's Colloquium. Eligible

candidates for the award include faculty that are associate professors at the college and are not required to be tenured.

Faculty can either nominate themselves or can be nominated by other faculty. Self-nominated applicants must submit a minimum of five letters of support and one of them should be written by a professional who is not working at the college.

The letters must outline how the nominee has incorporated inclusive practices in educational settings. Nominees must also submit a CV and a written statement, not more than 250 words, outlining their qualifications. The award is funded by Gloria Hobbs, an honorary alum and trustee of the college, as a gift. Faculty that wish to nominate candidates must also follow the same process and are not required to submit letters of support, but can if they wish to. Nominations are due April 1.

Nominations for Faculty Athletic Representative open to faculty

Nominations for the position of Faculty Athletic Representative are now open. Self-nominations are welcome. The position of FAR is one of four official positions at the college that the NCAA recognizes. The other three positions include the president, the director of athletics and senior woman administrator.

An FAR will be appointed by President La Jerne Cornish for a term of four years and might be able to renew the four year term in the future.

An FAR is expected to oversee the technicalities and logistics of the athletics program, affairs of student athletes and work with administration and the director of athletics.

To apply, nominees must write a letter of consideration for the position and can send it to provost@ithaca.edu. Eligible nominees include tenured faculty or non-tenured continuing faculty by March 22. The selected FAR will begin their term July 1.

Process for annual employee performance reviews to begin

The Annual Performance Review process will begin from March 10 to May 5. The process is meant to review Ithaca College employees' professional performance and provide feedback on areas of growth and development.

Between March 20 and 31, self assessments must be completed while supervisor reviews must be completed between April 1 and 21. Between April 22 and May 5, review meetings and feedback should take place.



Residents leave their mark on Landon Hall

Sophomore resident assistant Taylor Hagquist paints on one of the boards in the hallway outside the Landon Hall lounge Feb. 26. The event was hosted by senior RA Alexis Danielson, and free snacks were provided to residents who attended.

GABRIEL BIENNAS/THE ITHACAN

Employees and their supervisors can complete the performance review process via IC HR Cloud. Workshops regarding the process will also be organized and employees and supervisors will receive emails regarding the same. All questions and concerns must be directed to specific HR Business Partners.

Panelists to discuss women's sports coverage in the media

A panel about the coverage of women's sports in the media will be taking place 1-2:30 p.m. March 7 via Zoom. The panel will discuss the challenges of women's sports coverage by the media, rethinking these challenges and solutions and future opportunities in the field.

The panel will be welcomed by Amy Falkner, dean of the Roy H. Park School of Communications, and will be moderated by senior Arla Davis.

Panelists include Carol Stiff, founder and president of Stiff Sports Media Consulting and chairperson of the Women's Sports Network Advisory Board; Deborah Stroman, director of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Research Program

and Carolina Sport Business Club at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill; and Dunja Antunovic, assistant professor of sports sociology at the University of Minnesota.

All questions can be directed to Ellen Staurowsky, professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, at staurows@ithaca.edu or 607-274-1021.

Ithaca College Red Cross Club to host blood donation drive

The American Red Cross Club is hosting a blood drive from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 2 in Emerson Suites.

Interested individuals can RSVP on IC Engage but must also schedule a time to donate blood via the link available on the website.

Upon scheduling, individuals will receive a prepaid \$10 visa card and will be entered in a raffle to potentially win a prize worth \$3,000. Volunteers are welcome to sign up for tabling as well.

Interested volunteers and individuals with accommodations must contact junior Mel Perez at mperez@ithaca.edu.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM FEB. 13 TO 19

FEBRUARY 13

SCC UNDERAGE POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL

LOCATION: Lyceum Drive
SUMMARY: The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards reported one person who was referred to student conduct for underage possession of alcohol.

MEDICAL ASSIST/ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Conservatory Drive
SUMMARY: A caller reported a person cut their thumb while working on a project. The person was escorted to the health center for assistance.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT/PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Farm Pond Road
SUMMARY: An officer reported that there was vehicle/atv property damage because of a motor vehicle accident.

FEBRUARY 14

OFF CAMPUS INCIDENT

LOCATION: Other
SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown person sent them an annoying text message. This is a pending investigation.

ACCIDENTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Grant Egbert Boulevard
SUMMARY: A caller reported a clothes dryer overheated. The officer reported the machine was placed out of order.

FEBRUARY 15

SAFETY HAZARD

LOCATION: Grant Egbert Boulevard
SUMMARY: A caller reported a person climbed onto a balcony. Officer reported a verbal warning for violation of student conduct code. The person(s) responsible were warned

for violation of law or conduct code.

WELFARE CHECK

LOCATION: Flora Brown Drive
SUMMARY: Caller requested a welfare check for a person that made alarming comments by text.

FEBRUARY 16

SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS

LOCATION: Flora Brown Drive
SUMMARY: Caller reported an intoxicated person. Person was referred to student conduct for irresponsible use of alcohol. The person(s) responsible were referred to student conduct.

SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS

LOCATION: Grant Egbert Blvd.
SUMMARY: A caller reported a person having a seizure, possibly due to ingestion of edible marijuana. The person was transported to hospital by

ambulance and was referred to student conduct for irresponsible use of drugs.

FEBRUARY 17

SCC DISRUPTIVE/EXCESSIVE NOISE

LOCATION: Flora Brown Drive
SUMMARY: A caller reported an unknown person repeatedly knocked on a door.

FEBRUARY 18

SAFETY HAZARD/ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD

LOCATION: Conservatory Drive
SUMMARY: An officer reported a vehicle leaked oil. Officer reported the spill was contained and cleaned.

FEBRUARY 19

MEDICAL ASSIST/INJURY RELATED

LOCATION: Grant Egbert Boulevard

SUMMARY: A caller reported that a person was having a seizure after they were hit in the head with a soccer ball. The officer reported that the person was transported to the hospital by ambulance.

HARASSMENT/SECOND DEGREE

LOCATION: Tower Skyline Drive
SUMMARY: A caller reported that there were multiple people involved in a physical altercation. One person was transported to the hospital for evaluation. One person was referred to student conduct for harassment.

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

KEY

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

OPINION

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023

7

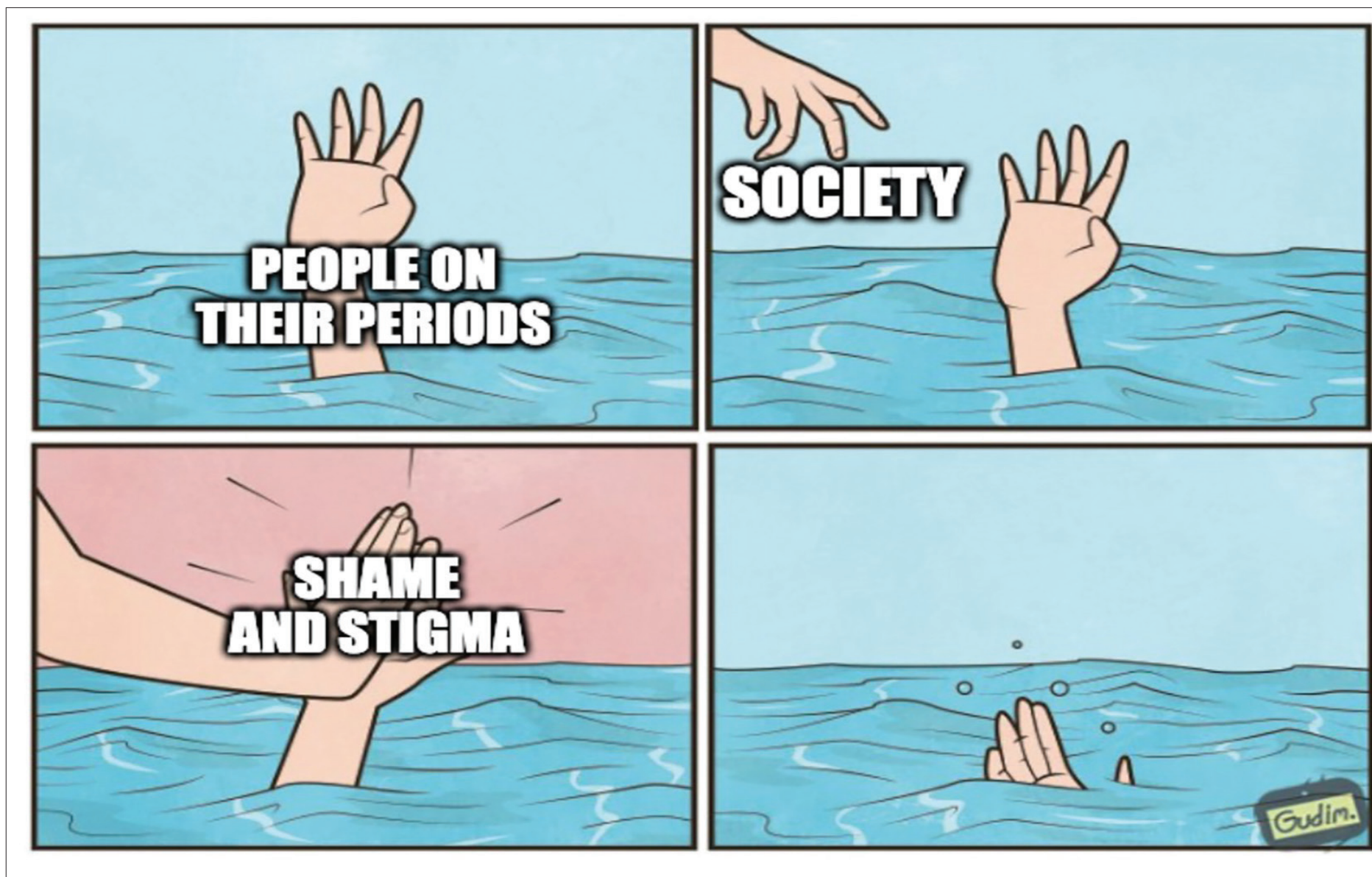


ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF GUDIM

EDITORIALS

People need to talk not around but about periods

Menstruation is viewed as a taboo around the world that stigmatizes people who menstruate. Societal stigmas, like silencing and shaming period talks, criticizing certain period products and isolating people during their periods, create a negative connotation of menstruation. By this, society pressures women into cornering a beautiful, natural process and, unfortunately, it starts on a family level. When sharing information about menstruation, mothers usually specify only three things: menstrual products, usually pads in many cultures because of the myth that anything inserted in the vagina is harmful; periods being a symbol of marriage and a child; and the need for period secrecy. And this cycle, not the menstrual one, continues through generations. Mothers do not educate their children enough on menstruation because of their parents' lack of input on the topic. Men, on the other hand, are typically not introduced to menstruation

until they figure it out themselves when they are older. They receive incomplete knowledge about menstruation, usually through their male peers, social media or sometimes from their women friends and partners.

Women are quiet about their menstruation cycle, not by choice. Women wear pads instead of tampons or other products, not by choice. Women speak negatively about their period experiences, not by choice. Women have little access to menstrual products, not by choice. These are results of a societal taboo on menstruation. The stigma and shame of menstruation must not be silenced. Society must have great knowledge and speak openly about periods. Schools must provide stronger education about menstruation and sex. Parents must inform their children about menstruation, even if the child is non-menstruating. Everyone should openly speak about menstruation with no shame. This will allow people who menstruate to have a choice and not live by chance.

Abortion rights must not be up for religious debate

Conservative republicans prefer less federal intervention and a small government because it gives them more power. When looking at this from the side of the abortion debate, it becomes evident that conservatives' preference for less federal intervention would allow more social services through faith-based organizations. When the federal government does not provide social services, in this case for abortion clinics, it becomes up to clinics to form and regulate themselves. This allows religious-affiliated institutions to increase their anti-abortion centers — “crisis pregnancy centers” usually established to persuade women against having an abortion.

Inadequately, religious institutions seem to find ways around the Constitution's protection of free speech and practice of religion free from government intervention to justify getting government support. Churches ask for state money for property reimbursement — which comes from the people's taxes — and receive

it without this being considered a First Amendment violation. But does the church use that money to fix a building, or does it end up funding other religious projects? Almost \$89 million dollars of tax money has been given to anti-abortion clinics across a dozen states in the 2022 fiscal year and it still is somehow justified by the law.

Another way the federal government created free practice of anti-abortion clinics is by striking down the California FACT Act in the name of it being a violation of free speech. Eliminating this law got rid of the requirements for licensed pregnancy centers, which required organizations to post information about affordable abortion and contraception services offered by the state.

This shows how religion and government are immensely involved in an individual's life. Abortion must be considered a fundamental right and it should not be up to the government nor the church to find loopholes around the law just to force anti-abortion views on people.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu.

ALL LETTERS MUST:

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

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

ALL COMMENTARIES MUST:

- Convey a clear message
- Be written by an individual or group who has an educated opinion or is an authority on a specific subject
- Be between 650–750 words. Whether more or less space is allotted is at the discretion of the editor

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

Banning books is a futile practice serving no deed

BY DEREK ADAMS

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Last March, I was invited by Christine Pearl '11 to facilitate a book club session on my second favorite Toni Morrison novel, "Beloved." The session was an extension of the efforts of the nonprofit organization Red Wine & Blue, whose mission is to empower and educate suburban women to fight back against book bans across the U.S. These women set aside important obligations, sacrificing time and making space to grapple with a profound, complicated novel that centers our collective reckoning with the enduring ramifications of enslavement on the enslaved. Their enthusiasm and commitment to do this work as part of a book club makes me wonder why anyone would attempt to ban such an important work of literature. The novel is demanding of readers; we all could have shied away and claimed to have better things to do. Not one of us chose to. Proponents of book bans fail to understand a paradox that censorship creates: Attempting to restrict access to any book has the potential to set ablaze an even greater interest in it.

Recently, Florida's "Don't Say Gay" law and other similar efforts at

all levels of government to restrict access to LGBTQ+ stories in schools have continued the decades-long effort to diminish those whose lives do not conform to cultural norms around gender and sexuality. One oft-cited argument is that exposure to such stories will turn the children reading them gay. To be clear, reading LGBTQ+ stories has not, and will not ever, be what turns someone gay, queer or trans. No story has ever had such power.

LGBTQ+ stories give us a much more holistic account of the human experience, which lies at the heart of why we read stories.

Cisgender heterosexuality is in everything we do, including the language we use to communicate. Yet, it is only one story of identity we are privileging when there are so many others for us to know.

I am a cis-(mostly)hetero man who reads and teaches several texts with LGBTQ+ characters and storylines, primarily because they bring me joy. These works also provide me a window into the lives of people who identify differently than I do, which I sincerely believe continues to grow my capacity for empathy. In opening myself to the works of James Baldwin, Carmen Maria Machado, Audre Lorde,



Derek Adams, associate professor in the Department of Literatures in English, considers book bans unethical and talks about its myths. He points out the importance of books of all kinds.

LEILA MARCILLO-GÓMEZ/THE ITHACAN

Akwaeke Emezi and dozens of others, I have learned how writers different from me understand, center and articulate the humanity of the characters they imagine into existence. Immersing in their "banned" books is personally transformative. It should go without saying that a restriction of available choices never serves as protection of the

right to choose. What we know for certain is that reading a book only makes one a reader. To think otherwise is to view reading passively, as something the writer does to a reader through their book. Rather, reading is something done actively; readers and books work in tandem to explore the nuances of being human. Reading is a foundational element of my relationship with my two sons. We read

LGBTQ+ books together because they illustrate stories of people they may become, people they may love or befriend and people they may never meet. Each is as important as the other.

Derek Adams (he/him) is an associate professor in the Department of Literatures in English. Contact him at dadams@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

Citizens United gives the wealthy unrestricted power

BY SARAH GERMONPREZ

LECTURER

Ever heard of the U.S. Supreme Court case *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*? The case made headlines when it was decided more than a dozen years ago, and because of its corrosive effect on our elections, it still makes headlines. One example is the news that recently emerged about disgraced crypto CEO Sam Bankman-Fried secretly giving \$1 million in 2020 to republican-backed election campaigns under the cover *Citizens United* created. In *Citizens United*, the Court, by the narrowest 5-4 margin possible, struck down bi-partisan campaign finance laws and gave a green light to the unlimited campaign contributions from corporations and billionaires we see today. *Citizens United* also paved the way for dark money, contributions meant to influence an election outcome without disclosing its source.

In the case of *Citizens United*, the ones cheering were extremely wealthy individuals and corporations that aimed to influence elections. They cheered because five out of nine justices agreed that corporations have free speech rights, equivalent to a flesh and blood human, and were protected by the First Amendment. So, having characterized corporate campaign spending as a



Sarah Germonprez, lecturer in the Department of Accounting and Business Law, talks about the effects of the United States Supreme Court case *Citizens United* on politics.

ANA GAVILANES/THE ITHACAN

highly-protected fundamental right under the Constitution, the Court did, and in the future is likely to, strike down laws attempting to restrict that right.

Today, this leaves us with almost totally unrestricted ad buying and other "electioneering activity" during election cycles. "Unrestricted"

means that not only is the amount unlimited, but the source is undisclosed. These unrestricted contributions cannot be made directly to the candidate's campaign. Instead, the money must go to so-called "outside groups," for example Super PACs.

The creation of shell corporations and use

of the 501(C) structure allows the donor's identity to remain a secret, though the candidate recipient often knows. Wealthy individuals and interest groups are able to covertly pay to play. Even foreign nationals have used shell companies to funnel money into U.S. elections. Our election laws were not always as unregulated as this. The Tillman Act of 1907 was the first legislation in the U.S. prohibiting corporate contributions to national political campaigns. First Amendment challenges to that law and others failed in the decades prior to *Citizens United*.

Looking forward, both Congress and state legislatures are proposing laws, like the DISCLOSE Act, to rein in outside spending and dark money. Alternatively, as the makeup of the Supreme Court changes over time, so will its take on campaign finance restrictions. Laws that are unconstitutional today can turn out to be constitutional tomorrow, as we just witnessed with abortion bans. All of these changes require informed and active citizens. So, arm yourself with knowledge, and make your case.

Sarah Germonprez (she/her) is a lecturer in the Department of Accounting and Business Law. Contact her at sgermonprez@ithaca.edu.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dr. Fae Dremock's essay, "The lives that IC administration chainsaw massacred," is a sad tale — and cautionary, if anyone is paying attention. It's way too late for the 116 non-tenure-track faculty members like Professor Dremock and the countless unprotected temporary, adjunct, lecturer and other so-called "contingent" faculty members, as well as the hundreds of staff members who were fired without cause in the last few years. Those who remain have been forced to pick up more work and remain vulnerable. Morale on South Hill must be lower than ever.

Preposterously, Ithaca College also thought it was a good idea at this critical time in human history to eliminate the faculty and programs focused on environmental and social justice as well as climate

change understanding, mitigation and adaptation. Instead of being a nurturing, community-minded institution, Ithaca College has clearly decided to model itself after some of the worst businesses on Wall Street. It aims to attract and churn out graduates who will become indentured, because of their massive student debt, to those very businesses. This perpetuates a vicious cycle. But it does not need to be like this. There are alternatives, which can be found in Ecoverities' information on caring and forward-thinking education models.

Maura Stephens

Retired Associate Director, Park Center for Independent Media, Journalism

ITHACA JOINS THE YIKYAK HERD



Comment Share

Students open their phones to post on YikYak. The app offers users the ability to interact with others within a five-mile radius of their location.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ARIANA GONZALEZ VILLARREAL, LEILA MARCILLO-GOMEZ/THE ITHACAN

BY PATRICK MAZZELLA

STAFF WRITER

No Names. No Faces. No Hate. YikYak's ideology is slowly becoming the mantra for college students online, and the culture of the platform is hard to decipher, much less explain.

According to the New York Times, YikYak was one of the go-to social media platforms for college students in the mid-2010s. The app was originally marketed exclusively to college students, launching at Georgia Institute of Technology, then spreading throughout NCAA, ACC and SEC schools, mainly in the South. The platform debuted on iOS and Android app stores in 2013 and quickly became one of the most downloaded apps of the year. At its peak, in August 2014, the app received over 100,000 downloads per day and millions of monthly users. The concept was simple and a recipe for success — at least according to the app's creators, Tyler Droll and Brooks Buffington, who revealed to the *Towson Towerlight* that they both put plans for their futures on hold to pursue the development of YikYak full time. An anonymous, community-based platform seems like a million-dollar idea, at least on paper, and it was, but only for a little while. After a dwindling user base and growing criticism because of the bigotry and hate speech on the platform, YikYak shut down prior to the 2017–18 academic year.

Following an anonymous acquisition in February 2021, the app relaunched just in time for the 2021–22 academic year, and it is taking Ithaca College by storm. In the 18 months since its relaunch, the use of the platform has remained strong. It is hard to pin down exact user numbers from after the re-launch since everyone is by default anonymous on the app, but its users can be found just about everywhere on campus. It is safe to say that YikYak is a strange place, it always has been, and users certainly recognize that. Sophomore Jamie Correll said many frequent posters begin to create characters out of their existence on

YikYak. She said that because of the anonymity, the app feels like a fantasy world in which its users can escape the harsh roles and responsibilities of people's real lives.

First-year student Maddie Clarke is one of these people. She said she often uses the app, mostly to post — or “yak” — funny things her friends say that she thinks the community needs to hear. But that is just one



Comment Share

Sophomore Gabi Coronel scrolls through YikYak. The app was relaunched in February 2021 after shutting down in 2017 because of hate speech found on the platform.

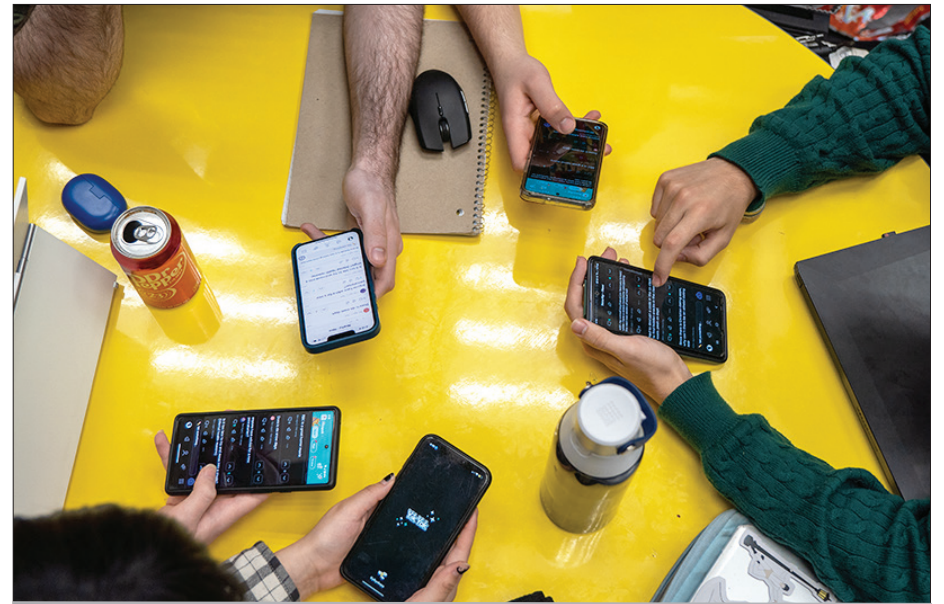
KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

of many uses for the app. Clarke said that when she is not posting her friends' greatest hits, she is often times looking for new information from the “herd” (users in the same five-mile radius).

Some students, including Clarke, feel that the app has a sort of innate chaotic nature to it. Clarke said she finds it funny that people are posting about so many different things all at the same time. She said she has come to the realization that when she opens the app she has to face the possibility that anything could be waiting for her as she scrolls.

“It's really jarring,” Clarke said. “I mean really; it goes from the most mundane post to the freakiest thing you've seen all day, and it's usually way too early for that.”

Just because students use the app,



Comment Share

A group of students uses the YikYak app. The app allows users to make anonymous posts on day-to-day happenings and other random ideas.

LEILA MARCILLO-GOMEZ/THE ITHACAN

does not always mean they understand all the aspects behind it. Sophomore Gabi Coronel said she is still just as confused about the inner workings of her fellow users as she was when she first downloaded it. Besides earning “yakarma,” or points that users garner based on the number of upvotes their posts and comments received, users seem to only post for the sake

thing. Whether it is a new event happening on campus, pop culture news or everyone piggybacking off the same joke, the “herd” of Ithaca's YikYak users, which includes Ithaca College students, Cornell University students and Ithaca locals, seem to be on the same wavelength.

Eckerlin, however, chooses not to subscribe to the YikYak craze anymore.

At the peak of his use, he said he would check the app up to 10 times a day and post semi-frequently — mostly about things he was interested in, like TV shows or movies he would watch. But over time, he said that using the app, especially as much as he did, added a feeling of anxiety he did not need. He said after using the app for over a year, he finally decided to delete it.

“The whole culture just isn't the best,” Eckerlin said. “I honestly didn't get any enjoyment out of it anymore.”

Even some people who still use it are very aware of the potential for harm on the platform. Senior Megan Handley, who said checking the app is a nightly ritual for her, wants fellow users to be more aware of what they take in on the app. She said that although it is entertaining, it is also important to take posts with a grain of salt.

“I think we just need to be [more] careful of how we interpret posts on YikYak,” Handley said. “It's a fun app, but everyone needs to think [more critically] about the kinds of things they post, comment on or like. It's an anonymous app, but it can still cause harm.”

Questionable motivations and posts that have way too much information aside, users are all on the same platform together, posting about their favorite clubs and shows, bowel movements and most annoying classmates, with no names, no faces and no hate.

“I really see it as the voice of the student population,” Clarke said. “Everyone is [always] speaking their mind on basically anything, so no matter what information you need, YikYak is the place to go.”

Students take leap of faith with Blind Dates with a Book

BY EVAN MILLER

STAFF WRITER

In February, leading up to Valentine's Day, Ithaca College students were invited to cozy up and maybe even fall in love with a book or film from the Ithaca College Library. However, the catch is that they did not know what book or film it was that they were borrowing as part of the library's Blind Date with a Book program.

Blind Date with a Book has been a college favorite for eight years and this year, it ran from Feb. 8 to 22. As part of the program, students were greeted as they entered the library by a line of sweetly decorated and wrapped books and films chosen by staff and student employees. They were not given the title of the book or film, but rather the subject of the material, along with a brief synopsis or quote to provide a hint as to what it could be.

Senior Ellen Chapman participated in Blind Date With a Book during her first year. She said she appreciates the mystery element of the program most.

"I think it's just perfect because, you know, there's the saying, 'Never judge a book by its cover,' but I judge every single book I read by its cover," Chapman said.

As a student employee at the library, Chapman said she enjoyed checking the books and films out for students and faculty and finding out what it was they grabbed as it appeared in the library's system, whether it be "Hyperbole and a Half," written by Allie Brosh, or



Sarah Shank, interlibrary loan borrowing coordinator at the Ithaca College Library, sets up a display for the Blind Date with a Book program. The program invites students to find new books and films.

MARI KODAMA/THE ITHACAN

"The Princess Bride" (1987), directed by Rob Reiner.

Cathy Michael, communications librarian, has been involved with the program since the beginning, helping spearhead it after a student recommended it take place in 2013. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, she has been slightly less involved than Sarah Shank, interlibrary loan borrowing coordinator, who led the effort in running the program.

"I think there was maybe a dedication to keeping some tradition alive and sense of regularity or connection, so that was very nice

of her," Michael said. "I remember thinking, 'She's going to do all of that on her own.' But I knew she could juggle a lot, so hats off to her for doing that."

This year, Michael contributed to Blind Date With a Book by promoting it across campus through Intercom and selecting works by some of her favorite authors, like Jane Austin and E.M. Forster, to include in the program.

Contrarily, when the program initially began, Shank had not been involved as much besides helping wrap selected books. During the

COVID-19 pandemic, she said she wanted to continue the program as a way of helping make things feel more normal by including cookbooks and games in the program, along with the normal books and films that students had come to expect.

Shank said one of the most difficult aspects of Blind Date With a Book is finding books from a wide range of genres like comedy, drama, romance, fiction, nonfiction and more to include in the selection.

"I think it's fun to be reminded how many different things we have

in the library," Shank said.

Senior Allison True, a student manager at the library, worked with Shank to help prepare. At one point during the process, Shank allowed True to pick out an assortment of books to include for this year. True said she enjoyed seeing some of the library's patrons pick up some of the books she chose, like "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr and a collection of "Winnie the Pooh" stories by A.A. Milne.

"Seeing the same students and seeing what they've checked out before and what they grabbed and I know what's inside, I feel a little bit like Santa Claus," True said.

True's enthusiasm is part of the charm for Michael, who said she enjoys displaying materials that make people happy.

"I think that books can bring, even if they're not romantic in nature, a lot of love and happy feelings to people," Michael said.

Although Blind Date With a Book has concluded for this year, Michael said the library has various upcoming events throughout the remainder of the semester for students to look forward to. Besides a National Poetry Month display that will occupy the library in April, there will also be a version of Book Talk coming sooner in March. books as well in which she wishes to include student suggestions.

"If people have ideas for [what] they would like to see at the library, they can always send an email to iclibrary@ithaca.edu," Shank said.

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Former faculty emphasizes inclusion in pop culture

BY MILA VENTURA RODRIGUEZ

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

RaKim 'RahK' Lash, former assistant director for Multicultural Affairs and director for the Center for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Social Change at Ithaca College, has a secret he is sharing with the college. He is a Black cosplayer, a hobby that he wishes to share with others. Lash received the space to do so with his panel "We Are Black Cosplay: Creation Amplified Through a Community that Cares" on Feb. 23 in the Taughannock Falls Room.

Lash said it was the responsibility of the person to find community and participate in creating that relationship in the first place.

Lash asked the audience, a mix of students and faculty, what they know about cosplay. In the very literal sense, it is a portmanteau of "costume" and "play." There were many responses, repeating the idea of "connection" and "expression." Lash gave his own answer, one that highlighted what he considered to be the fundamental piece of the hobby: It is a communal performance.

Lash said his upbringing was one that was full of love, but also one that ingrained into him a mindset of putting away the parts of him that were rejected by others.

As a kid, Lash said he played pretend as the superhero team Power Rangers with his white peers. When he showed a picture of the Power Rangers, he pointed out to the audience the two people of color on the team: an Asian girl, the Yellow Ranger, and a Black boy, the Black Ranger. The Red Ranger, the team leader, was the one he most identified with, but he was made to be the Black Ranger every time.

"There are notions of, 'You can't be this, because you're not that.'" Lash said. "And a word that a lot of people would throw around is that I'm a 'purist.' If Superman is white, Superman should be white. 'I'm not racist, I'm just a purist.'"

Racebending, the reworking of characters from one ethnicity to another, has been a topic of debate among pop culture fans. In 2022, actress Leah Jeffries was the target of racist remarks after failing to match the description of character Annabeth Chase in "Percy Jackson and the Olympians." Actor Ismael Cruz Córdova was similarly a target of online harassment for his portrayal of Arondir in the "Lord of the Rings" spinoff "Rings of Power."

Lash said he had a hard time finding community until he came to Ithaca. He recounted a lesson he learned from a student in his first year as an assistant director after joking to them about the lack of Black people at Ithaca College.

"The student looked at me and said, 'That's a very disrespectful thing to say,'" he said. "They were like, 'Whether you have sought out that community, there's probably community here. There was a community that's been here before you, there's probably a community that's going to be here after you choose to leave.'"

That comment stuck with him, and after wanting to build community for himself, he said he decided to finally reach out to the group he had admired from afar for years: Black cosplayers.

When sophomore Ryan Carty, who attended the panel, asked how Lash was able to build community after years of being hurt, Lash said it was a necessary process of



RaKim Lash, former assistant director for Multicultural Affairs at the college, hosted the "We Are Black Cosplay" talk Feb. 23 to promote inclusion in pop culture communities.

AMINATTA IMRANA JALLOW/THE ITHACAN

acknowledging that pain.

"I haven't been around Black cosplayers in person," Carty said. "The only way I see them is through TikTok and then I fantasize that I'm in a group with them but I never get that chance to walk up, mostly because I'm shy or I feel as if I'm not ready to step into that field."

Sophomore Ariana Clark was already a cosplay fan, having done it as a hobby for several years. She had even made a dagger out of pasta boxes for a costume based on an anime character, Mikaela Hyakuya from "Owari no Seraph." She said that for her, even attending the event was a step to find

people like herself.

"I'm an introvert, so even coming to this event was kind of overwhelming, but I'm glad that I came and I think I'm going to try to go out more," Clark said.

During a trip with the college's Martin Luther King Scholars to Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, Lash said he learned a song that has stuck with him on his journey.

"It's me, it's we, it's us who build community," Lash said. "That word community. That's something to explore and that I'm still learning."

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Third 'Ant-Man' shrinks its potential

MOVIE REVIEW: "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" Marvel Studios



BY EVAN MILLER

STAFF WRITER

During the last two years, Marvel Studios has released nearly triple the amount of projects that they put out between 2018 and 2019. It has never been more clear than in "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" that the studio has sacrificed quality for quantity.

"Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" sees the titular Marvel heroes along with the rest of the ant family getting trapped inside the Quantum Realm where they cross paths with the menacing Kang the Conqueror (Jonathan Majors) in their pursuit of escape.

To say "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" is a mixed bag is putting it lightly. It is easily one of Marvel's most inconsistent films ever. Tonally, it is often unable to decide whether it wants to be as funny and lighthearted as the two previous "Ant-Man" movies or as serious as the important Avengers-level epic it was billed as — thanks to screenplay writer Jeff Loveness.

There are multiple sequences that are on par with some of Marvel's best comedic gags, like a sequence that sees Scott Lang (Paul Rudd) interacting with an endless amount of versions of himself. However, there are also moments that are laughably bad, like whenever the character M.O.D.O.K. (Corey

Stoll) appears on the screen. M.O.D.O.K. will often make viewers question whether they are laughing at how poorly he looks or at how terribly his character is written.

What Loveness misses in the consistency of tone, he often makes up for in charm and strong character work outside of M.O.D.O.K. Although "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" is notably missing some of the franchise's most charming and hilarious supporting characters, like Luis (Michael Peña), the relationship between Scott and his daughter Cassie (Kathryn Newton) successfully fills some of the voids that were left by their absences. The father-daughter relationship between Cassie and Scott is the heart of the film just as it was in the previous two. The development of Cassie's character and her having to grow up without Scott, which was explored briefly in "Avengers: Endgame," only strengthened their relationship.

The clear standout is Majors, who at times carries "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" on his back through a formidable performance. The film succeeds in its main goal of introducing Kang the Conqueror as the next major Avengers villain. Thanks entirely to Majors, by the film's end, audiences recognize that Kang should be feared.

The same praise cannot be given to the rest of the cast, which



From left, Hope van Dyne (Evangeline Lilly) and Scott Lang (Paul Rudd) get trapped inside the Quantum Realm.

COURTESY OF MARVEL STUDIOS

includes wooden performances from Janet van Dyne (Michelle Pfeiffer), Hank Pym (Michael Douglas) and Hope van Dyne (Evangeline Lilly). The passionless work being put in by these actors is practically laughable at best.

While "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" had the opportunity to introduce viewers to an exciting new world, the Quantum Realm itself is, for the most part, uninteresting, both visually and thematically.

What is clear through director Peyton Reed's imagination is that there were attempts to create something interesting in the space the characters inhabit, these attempts often come across as utterly nonsensical and contradictory to what the franchise has set up in the past.

The film's impact immediately begins to shrink in viewers' minds once the credits roll.

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POPPED CULTURE

Cancellation of shows is unfair

BY LILY LIPKA

STAFF WRITER

Television has been around since the early 20th century, but the traditional format of serialized television has vastly changed since the beginning of its existence. The introduction of streaming has played a significant role in how we consume media and the varying shapes that said media now takes.

Streaming has also provided a place for shows to be made that may otherwise not have been able to exist. The sheer amount of television shows that are available to stream is so high that ones with a lesser-known cast and creative team can easily get buried. Even shows like "Genera+ion," which was wonderfully written and acted and garnered a decent fanbase during its time on HBO Max from March 2021 to August 2022, did not have the big names and massive amount of viewers that now seem to be necessary to be renewed.

Cable television is a whole other beast. Procedurals like "Law & Order" and its many spin-off shows can go on for years and years with no end in sight and certainly no fear of cancellation. Even with a dip in cable viewership, the shows will still continue. This is unheard of in streaming unless the show is a wild, unexpected success like "Stranger Things." Netflix would gladly milk "Stranger Things" for all it is worth and spend millions upon millions of dollars producing new seasons as long as they can while at the same time canceling other shows before their stories are over. So what's changed if streaming services have been canceling shows before their stories are fully over for years? Well, plenty, actually.

Some of the most recent phenomenons in streaming are renewal reversal and, most importantly, streaming services removing their own original content from their platforms. A prominent example of this is the HBO Max Original Series "Minx." The show was relatively successful and well-liked when it first debuted on the streaming platform in March 2022 and was renewed for a second season in May, about a month after the final episode of the first season became available to watch.

The ultimate question now is: Why are these large media corporations deleting their own projects? The answer to that would be money. In removing their own content, they save money on residual checks to actors and creatives. These shows can also then become tax write-offs for the streaming services' parent companies. While money has long been the primary motivation in decisions about media by conglomerates like Disney and Warner Bros., this trend has wildly harmful implications for the future of television.

Streaming is the future, which is why this is so concerning for many who work in the industry or would like to pursue a career. It takes agency away from the artists who worked diligently to produce these shows. For their work to be scrapped or no longer able to be viewed by the public for the sake of these already insanely rich companies saving money is disheartening, to say the least, and discouraging to all those who hope to create streaming content in the future.

POPPED CULTURE is a column, written by Life & Culture staff writers, that analyzes pop culture events. Lily Lipka is a sophomore television and digital media major. Contact her at llipka@ithaca.edu.

New Skrillex album is fun but overstays its welcome

ALBUM REVIEW: "Quest for Fire" Owsla and Atlantic Records



BY ANDREW TELL

STAFF WRITER

Dubstep is an often misunderstood genre. It is an icon of the early 2010s zeitgeist; it is clunky and wild, in your face, and most importantly, energized.

The late 2000s and early 2010s represented a peak of dance music in the U.S. and dubstep was the next step in that journey. And the one who is most synonymous with this time is the DJ Skrillex. He was the face of dubstep, and, to many, still is.

Long after the height of dubstep, Skrillex emerged from the woods with two new albums: the lackluster "Don't Get Too Close," which came out one day after the subject of this review, "Quest for Fire."

To start, this album has everything. Missy Elliott, bass house, The Legend of Zelda samples, future trap, Hilary Duff samples, clips of Pete Wentz from 2005, a song in Arabic and Swae Lee. "Quest for Fire" seems less like an album and more like a carnival, or so Skrillex tries.

The tunes here aren't cranked to 11, which is unexpected for a Skrillex project. Instead, there is more bass music; more reminiscent of JOYRYDE than the Skrillex of the past. But songs like "A Street I Know" are trying to get the listener up

and moving but don't give the listener anything worth grooving to.

Eventually, there will be a point while listening to the album where the listener will realize that the songs feel longer than they actually are.

But there are plenty of highlights on this LP. "RATATA" is a formulaic Skrillex song (interesting vocal sample or feature plus a beat that sounds like it's from a '90s video game plus the drop—a Skrillex song) that didn't get repetitive after the first 60 seconds. The Missy Elliott feature is ... slay.

The remix of "Supersonic" sounds like a trap remix circa 2016 in the best way possible.

The main problem that holds this album back is Skrillex getting in his own way.

"Still Here (with the ones that I came with)" at five minutes is the longest song on the album and it always feels longer. It sounds like half a song that Skrillex just tossed onto the end of the album because he could.

"Inhale Exhale" is as exciting as sitting on a bench. "Hazel Theme" is an attempt to make a more ambient intro to "Still Here (with the ones that I came with)," but it sounds hollow and uninteresting. And some of the features



To many fans, Skrillex is still the face of Dubstep, an often misunderstood genre.

COURTESY OF OWSLA AND ATLANTIC RECORDS

sound wonky, looking specifically at Flodan on "Hydrate."

These issues do stop "Quest for Fire" from being a great album, but the rest ranges from solid to pretty good. "Butterflies" has a boiler-room-type beat that curates a grimey atmosphere, even if the lyrics sound like Starrah is copying Cascada's homework.

"XENA" uses a vocal sample of the Nai Barghouti song "Ghandara" as the center of the track to great effect, even if the drop is a tad mid. And "Rumble" and "TOO BIZARRE (joked)" are great party anthems that Skrillex excels at.

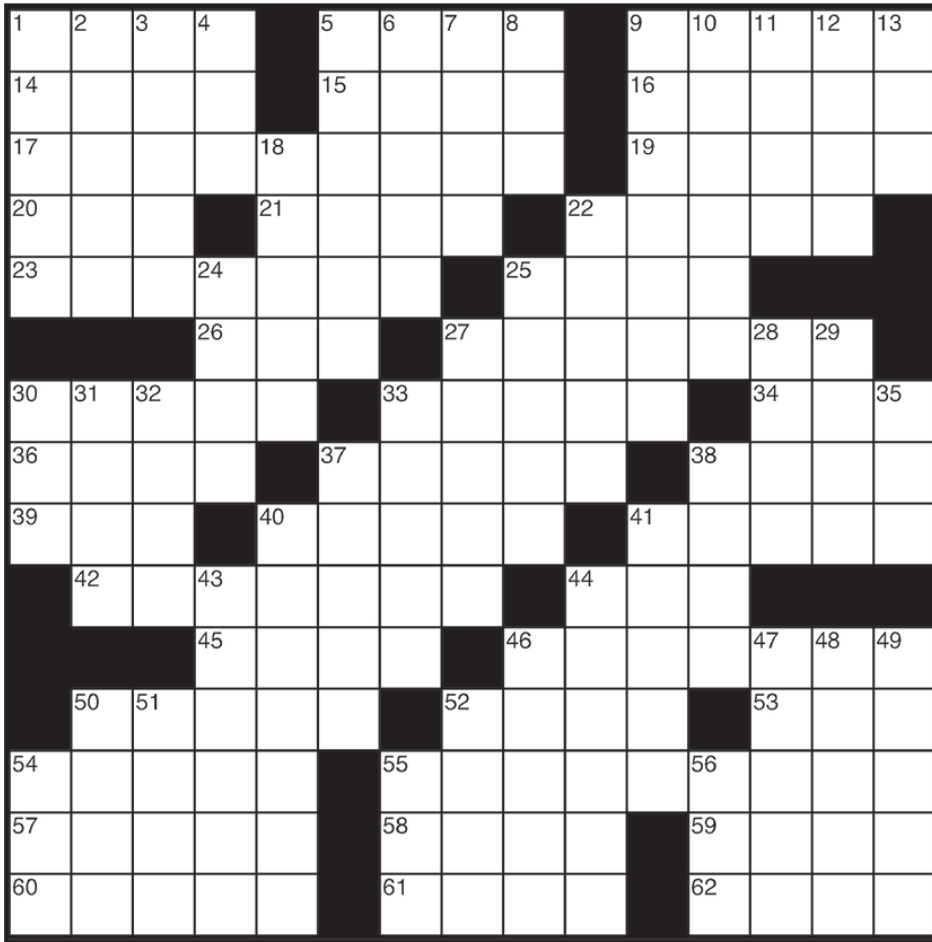
Overall, this album overstays its welcome, lacking a coherent direction that would allow Skrillex to stay on course. "Quest for Fire" is a solid return for this electronic artist, but was anyone really asking for more Skrillex in 2023?

CONTACT: ATELL@ITHACA.EDU

DIVERSIONS

crossword

By Quill Driver Books



ACROSS

- 1 Preminger of filmdom
- 5 Pet adoption org.
- 9 Reason out
- 14 Has regrets
- 15 OPEC country
- 16 Egypt's capital
- 17 Silliness
- 19 Common abrasive
- 20 Do lacework
- 21 Porter and stout
- 22 Urchins
- 23 Made a try
- 25 Give autographs
- 26 Physique
- 27 Against the rules
- 30 "Peer Gynt" dramatist
- 33 Trudges
- 34 "— Sera, Sera"
- 36 Bright-colored
- 37 Squawk
- 38 Coastal flyer
- 39 Computer key
- 40 Abraham's wife
- 41 Kingdom
- 42 Took the risk
- 44 13th Hebrew letter
- 45 Exclamations of encouragement
- 46 Horse-drawn cabs
- 50 Don Diego masked
- 52 Christie's Miss Marple
- 53 "Snow" veggie
- 54 Courteous
- 55 In a stern manner
- 57 Fend off
- 58 Not for
- 59 Crafts' partner
- 60 Installed ceramic
- 61 Weeds
- 62 El —, Texas

DOWN

- 11 Medieval holding
- 12 Makes a faux pas
- 13 Orbison or Rogers
- 18 Polyester partner
- 22 Playwright Oscar—
- 24 Still snoozing
- 25 Enjoy a puddle
- 27 Helen of Troy's story
- 28 Water
- 29 Quiet time
- 30 Notre Dame sight
- 31 Pear variety
- 32 Of that kind
- 33 Sponge features
- 35 House shader
- 37 Cheese type
- 38 Mineral finds
- 40 Tangled
- 41 "Walk Away—" insect
- 43 Show up
- 44 "Praying" insect
- 46 Swiftness
- 47 Creative work
- 48 Thaws
- 49 Right to decide (hyph.)
- 50 Tubular pasta
- 51 Ellipse
- 52 Roman Hera
- 54 St. Louis time
- 55 Contented sigh
- 56 Hit sharply

last issue's crossword answers



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answers to last issue's sudoku:

very easy

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

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

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hard

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CHECK OUR STATUS ONLINE **NEWSLETTER**

From beams to boards: Former gymnasts navigate the transition to the Ithaca College women's diving team

BY DAVID SCHURTER

STAFF WRITER

The Ithaca College gymnastics team has been known to be extremely selective with its recruits. Unfortunately, the team does not have enough space to keep everyone on the roster, causing head coach Rick Suddaby to make cuts. However, a number of those who were cut from the gymnastics team have found another home at the college, in particular, the women's swimming and diving team.

There are plenty of similarities between gymnastics and diving. According to Gymnastics123, one of them is the focus on mechanics when in the air. Another area of focus for these athletes is the aspect of take offs and landings. Some of these attributes make the transition to diving much easier for ex-gymnasts.

Diving coach Chris Griffin said there are currently 12 divers on the team that were previously on the gymnastics team at the college. One of those divers, graduate student Abby Marraccino, has been on the swim and dive team since her first year after originally being recruited for gymnastics.

"I started looking at Ithaca my sophomore year and had been in contact with the coaches early on," Marraccino said. "I was definitely under the impression that after tryouts I would make the team, but unfortunately I was cut right away."

Marraccino said that after being cut from the gymnastics team during her first year, she looked for another sport to join, trying to fill that gap as athletics has been an important part of her life.

"I've been an athlete my whole life and I knew I had to find something to put all of my passion behind," Marraccino said. "I was looking at anything; club swimming, rowing, until another gymnast who was cut reached out to me and recommended I join the diving team. Originally, I thought there was no way I would join the diving team, but I was able to build off my foundational skills from gymnastics and I joined and hoped for the best."

Sophomore Natalie Soloway, who was also recruited to be on the gymnastics team, saw her first season riddled with injuries before being cut at the beginning of her sophomore year.

"My senior year of high school, the coach

offered me a spot on the team and the next day I tore my achilles," Soloway said. "I was still on the team last year but I did not compete as I was still recovering. Once tryouts rolled around this year, I was cut and was never fully back to where I was before I tore my achilles."

Soloway, like Marraccino, had been an athlete her entire life. Committed to gymnastics, Soloway had a hard transition joining the diving team after being cut from gymnastics, but she found a new home as a diver.

"I've always wanted to dive but I've never had any time to try other sports because of gymnastics," Soloway said. "Coming in, it was one of the hardest things I've ever done with this transformation."

Soloway gives credit for her success to Griffin, who has had a number of former gymnasts join the team during his time as a coach.

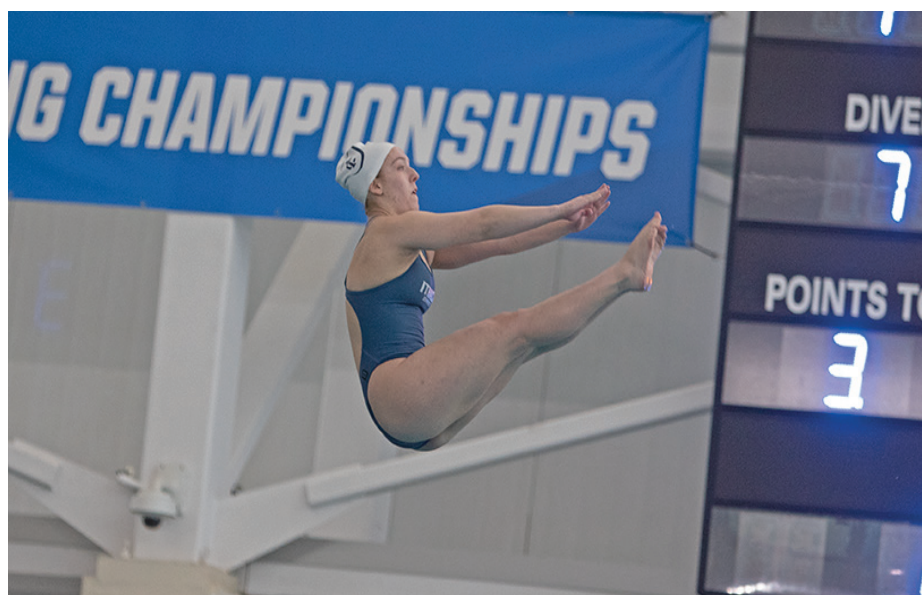
"The progress I've made is mind-blowing to me and it's all because of my coach," Soloway said.

Sophomore Natalie Soloway
KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

"It's so crazy to think that I knew nothing about this sport coming in and now I'm a part of such a successful team."

— Abby Marraccino
Senior diver

"He has coached so many successful divers, especially ex-gymnasts, and transformed them into strong divers. He's a huge reason why I love swimming and diving so much and



Sophomore Natalie Soloway performs a dive at the NCAA Regional Championships on Feb. 24 and 25. She participated in both the 1- and 3-meter boards at the meet.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

the team too, as everyone is so supportive."

Soloway also said her teammates have helped her find success, fighting through the adversity of trying a new sport for the first time.

"[Senior diver Karolyn Pawcio], Abby, and [senior diver] Rachel Lange all came from gymnastics too and they knew my position," Soloway said. "They all knew exactly what to tell me and looking at them and seeing how successful they were, I knew it was possible for me to do it, too."

Soloway finished in 19th and 20th in the 1- and 3-meter dives, respectively, at the NCAA Regional Diving Championships on Feb. 24 and 25. At the Geneca Diving Invitational on Feb. 4, Soloway set career bests in both the 1- and 3-meter boards with 414.50 and 404.45, respectively.

Griffin said what he loves about his job most is how he helps his athletes grow and succeed, especially in finding their strides, whether or not they are new to the sport.

"I think it's fantastic and is one of the wonderful things I am able to do as a coach," Griffin said. "As coaches, we take a look at where our athletes can grow and not, and we have to make choices. I think it's fantastic we can help these athletes find a new home and family and allow those athletes to excel in

a new environment."

Griffin recently coached graduate student Ava Lowell '22, who was also originally recruited for the gymnastics team, to an individual National Championship in the 3-meter boards in 2022.

Marraccino said she gives her teammates credit for her development, as well as Griffin, saying the team has been extremely motivating and supportive over the years.

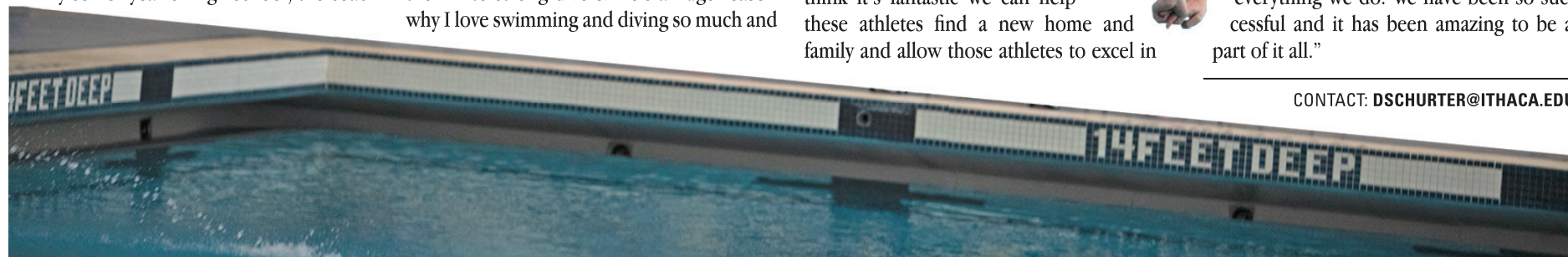
"I think it took a whole team and my coach taught me literally everything I know about diving," Marraccino said. "Joining a team that has had and currently has so many amazing divers led me to become a successful diver, too. I've been in an environment with so many talented divers, the expectation to succeed and push each other on has helped me on the way."

Marraccino also competed at the NCAA Regional Diving Championships, finishing second in the 3-meter dive with a score of 457.40, as well as fifth in the 1-meter, tallying a score of 447.30.

In her final season on the team, Marraccino said it is unbelievable to look back on her transformation as a diver, considering she was unfamiliar with the sport when she first joined the team.

"It's so crazy to think that I knew nothing about this sport coming in and now I'm a part of such a successful team," Marraccino said. "It's so rewarding, seeing all of my teammates put so much hard work and passion behind everything we do. We have been so successful and it has been amazing to be a part of it all."

Senior Abby Marraccino
KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN



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Club sports voice issues with lack of communication

BY TOBIAH ZBORAY

STAFF WRITER

At the beginning of the semester, as club sports were beginning to get ready for another season of action, updated enforcement of club sports policies changed the plans for many clubs as they started the spring.

While not all of the policy changes affected each club, the one that was set across the board was that at least three members of a club sports team have to be CPR certified. Sophomore Julia Freitor, secretary of ICircus, Ithaca College's circus club, said the course cost \$40, lasted five hours and was only offered by the college during the first two weeks of classes.

That policy, according to Sean Reilley, associate director of Recreational Sports, had already been in place before this semester but is just now being enforced by his office.

"[The CPR requirement] was actually just us being a little behind on checking off the administrative boxes," Reilley said. "The CPR certification requirement has been in place for club sports for longer than I've worked here. Normally that's something we focus on early in the fall, but we just got behind this year."

The changes in enforcement, along with the timing of the changes, were not received well by the students in club sports. Freitor said the changes were communicated with members of club sports via a Zoom meeting, which students were only alerted to in an email during the first week of classes. The meeting was at 8 p.m. the next night and all

executive board members were required to attend. Freitor said she was frustrated by the lack of communication between the Office of Campus Recreation and the clubs during the winter break when these new enforcements were announced.

"If they would be really transparent with club sports and be like, 'We know we've never ever implemented this in the past, but the college is forcing us to step up, you have to do these things, here's ample time for you to get them done,' that would have been OK," Freitor said.

Another club facing new accommodations is the men's and women's club ultimate frisbee teams. Senior men's captain Elliot Mintz said the regulations specific to club ultimate have been that alumni are no longer allowed to participate in tournaments that the team hosts and that the club cannot play against non-college associated teams in tournament play.

Mintz said that while the regulations have been tough for the club, important communications between recreational sports and the club was lacking as a whole during the fall.

"I think we found out about three weeks before the tournament that alumni would not be able to participate," Mintz said. "We thought it was more of an issue with ... not having alumni play on our fields."

Talking about the new changes, Reilley said his office has been trying to bring the standards of club sports up to the standards of the rest of the college while also focusing on the safety of those participating.

But for the club ultimate team, the



From left, senior Elliot Mintz and first-year student Thomas Cronin run a drill during a practice for the Ithaca College Men's Club Ultimate Frisbee Team on Feb. 23 at Higgins Stadium.

KEVIN YU/THE ITHACAN

previous changes were not the only ones with more enforcement this year. The policy states that any club that is traveling over 90 miles away from campus cannot use personal vehicles. Mintz said the policy had been in place for a while, but it was not enforced until this year, which has forced the club to charter buses for tournaments, costing the team between \$2,500 and \$3,500 per trip.

"The actual policy says that travelers will utilize the most economical mode of transportation necessary for their trip," Mintz said. "So another option is to take rental cars, or Ithaca has a fleet of vehicles that clubs are

supposed to be able to take. When we brought this up to club sports ... they said no."

Because of the cost to the club, Reilley said club sports has nearly doubled the funding to the ultimate team to help offset the travel costs.

Going forward, one thing that club sports officials will be focused on is timing. Reilley said that much of the office catching COVID-19 forced a rushed enforcement of regulations, but that in the future he would like to give more notice on policy changes.

"So we sent an email out detailing the new policy changes, and that was right before the start of the semester,"

Reilley said. "And honestly, the timing on that was not great. ... That was something we could have done better with."

But with the delays in sending out the email, Freitor said that she feels like the college has been letting club sports down.

"It just feels like we're not being thought of as a priority," Freitor said. "If they had thought of these things at least before winter break, they would have given us all time. ... But dropping it on us last-minute during the first week of classes was crazy."

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Four wrestlers punch tickets to national tournament

BY DUSTIN TERRY

STAFF WRITER

The Ithaca College wrestling team took second place in the NCAA Division III Mid-East Regional, hosting the tournament Feb. 24 and 25 in the Glazer Arena.

Sophomore Wenchard Pierre-Louis and graduate student Eze Chukwuezi each won the Mid-East title at 157 pounds and 197 pounds, respectively, advancing to the NCAA Championships in Roanoke, Virginia, on March 10 and 11. Senior Matt Beyer and first-year student Isaias Torres took second in the 149-pound and 133-pound weight classes, respectively, and will also advance, while four other Bombers placed in the top eight of their weight classes.

The Bombers hosted the meet after a dominant 14-3 season in dual matches and a strong lineup with 11 wrestlers reaching double-digit win totals in the regular season. Chukwuezi, Torres and sophomore Jackson Gray each finished the regular season over the 20-win mark. Head coach Marty Nichols said the depth up and down the lineup is pushing the team as a whole in every practice and every match.

"The guys that aren't your starters all the time have gotten so much better," Nichols said. "Everyone's been doing what they need to do; it's not one person."

After the first day of the Regional tournament, the Bombers came in second of 21 in the team standings, trailing only The College of New Jersey and leading the No. 24 Rochester Institute of Technology. With eight of its 10 competing wrestlers in consideration for spots on the podium, the college had the most of any team heading to the second day.

At 133 pounds, Torres set the tone with a dominant 17-1 tech fall in his first match of the day and continued his great start with a 7-2

decision to advance to the semifinals.

Beyer and Pierre-Louis both earned spots in Saturday's semifinals after going 2-0 on the day, but the Bombers' most dominant wrestler of the day was Chukwuezi. Chukwuezi spent just over six minutes and 30 seconds on the mat, pinning all three of his opponents to move into the semifinal. His most notable pin came in at just 30 seconds.

"I achieved my goals [today]," Chukwuezi said. "Kind of dominate, get bonus points and try to work toward the team title."

In the first semifinal match for a Bomber, Torres won a tight 4-2 decision. He came up in the final against No. 12 Jayden Cardena from SUNY Cortland, falling in a highly-contested match between two strong competitors.

Beyer and Pierre-Louis both claimed 3-2 decisions over their opponents. Pierre-Louis faced off against No. 14 Dorian Gonzalez of Elizabethtown College, holding the upper hand to come out victorious. As he did during the season, Beyer earned a late comeback win to cement his spot in the finals.

Beyer took on No. 4 Thomas Monn of McDaniel College in his final. Beyer rallied late but was unable to secure points. He still took a second-place finish, which was enough to earn him a qualification for the NCAA Championships.

Pierre-Louis entered his 157-pound final against No. 9 Matt Sacco of The College of New Jersey. Pierre-Louis found himself in a neck-and-neck battle with Sacco heading into the third period where he turned the heat up, taking down his opponent twice to bring the Bomber faithful to their feet with the team's first title of the tournament.

Pierre-Louis proudly carried his title around with a big smile, cheering on his teammates still competing. After facing injuries in 2022, Pierre-Louis — who goes by "Winnie" — is



Sophomore Wenchard Pierre-Louis wrestles his opponent, senior Matt Sacco from The College of New Jersey, during the NCAA D-III Regional Mid-East meet Feb. 25.

SPENCER PARK/THE ITHACAN

motivated to showcase his talent at Nationals.

"They know who Wenchard is, but not Winnie," Pierre-Louis said. "The job's not done and Nationals is up next."

Pierre-Louis was thankful for his coaches and teammate senior Travis Jones who had a crazy tournament, wrestling in seven matches over the tournament — the most of any Bomber. "This is for [Jones], honestly," Pierre-Louis said. "I appreciate him putting me through a tough, tough week. ... It all happened in the room before it happened out here."

The last semifinal bout for the Bombers was Chukwuezi. Chukwuezi secured a 3-0 decision to advance to the final, where SUNY Cortland's Demetrius Henry had a medical forfeit. Chukwuezi is now a three-time Mid-East Regional Champion and earned the Most Outstanding Wrestler honor in the tournament.

Chukwuezi said he was disappointed to not have his final match in front of the home crowd but is determined to work toward becoming a National Champion with his teammates.

"We're looking good and we're prepared," Chukwuezi said. "That talent is there and we're ready."

The Bombers did not accumulate enough points on the final day to surpass The College of New Jersey, holding on to secure a second-place finish for the second consecutive year.

The Bombers, however, finished the tournament with the most wrestlers on the podium and tallied four national qualifiers. Chukwuezi, Pierre-Louis, Beyer and Torres will all advance to the NCAA Championships in Roanoke, Virginia, on March 10 and 11.

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THE BUZZER

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

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK KARALYN PAWCIO/WOMEN'S DIVING



Senior diver Karalyn Pawcio performs a dive during the NCAA Regional Diving Championships on Feb. 24, hosted by Ithaca College. Pawcio took the top spot on the 1-meter boards at the competition and third place on the 3-meter boards.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

COMPETITION OF THE WEEK WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. SKIDMORE



From left, Ithaca College senior forward Emily Dorn shoots over Skidmore College sophomore Amelia Medolla. In a thrilling game to decide the Liberty League Championship, Skidmore held on to win 54-52 and end the Bombers' streak of conference titles.

ABBY BRADY/THE ITHACAN

EVENT TO WATCH



ITHACA

VS.



LA ROCHE

7:30 P.M. MARCH 3 VS. LA ROCHE UNIVERSITY

The Ithaca College women's basketball team fell in the Liberty League title game but still earned the right to host the first and second rounds of the NCAA Tournament in the Ben Light Gymnasium. The Bombers welcome La Roche University, Marietta College and Eastern Connecticut State University on March 3 and 4. Marietta and ECSU take the court at 5 p.m. March 3, while the Bombers face La Roche at 7:30 p.m. that night. The winners will face off in the second round at 7:15 p.m. March 4. All three games will take place in the Ben Light Gymnasium, regardless of if the Bombers advance.

NOTABLE UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD: 10 a.m. March 3 and 4 at AARTFC Championships.

MEN'S LACROSSE: Noon March 4 vs. SUNY Geneseo at Higgins Stadium, 4 p.m. March 8 at Nazareth College.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE: 3 p.m. March 4 vs. FDU-Florham at Higgins Stadium, 4 p.m. March 8 at University of Scranton.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS: 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. March 4 at Skidmore College.

GYMNASTICS: 1 p.m. March 5 vs. Springfield College

QUOTE OF THE WEEK



"At the end of the day, I think the guys like to work hard and they like to make boats go fast. So that's what we focus on when we're at the boathouse."

- JUSTIN STANGEL
Head coach of the Ithaca College men's rowing team





Cornell University first-year student Jocie Chen performs as a part of the Cornell Amber Dance Troupe during the Lunar New Year Festival on Feb. 24 in Emerson Suites. The festival was hosted by the Ithaca College Chinese Students and Scholars Association, with several games and performances to celebrate the Year of the Rabbit.

JADYN DAVIS/THE ITHACAN