THE ITHACAN

VOLUME 90 ISSUE 22

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Cultural review exposes tension among faculty and staff

"Some faculty shared that they got approached by senior faculty who encourage them to 'vote' a specific way to further the senior faculty's

BY NOA RAN-RESSLER

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

As a first step in preventing discriminatory behavior at Ithaca College, a climate review of the then-School of Music was conducted in summer 2021 that identified three main sources of tension among faculty and staff: tenure, the school's environment, and race and gender.

The cultural review in ...

Music — now the Center for Music in uncomposition of Music, Theatre and Dance — was conducted by Title IX Coordinator Linda Koenig; Omar Stoute, former deputy Title IX coordinator; and Keith Kaiser, former dean of the School of Music Education of Music Education of Music Educativately

**The cultural review in ...

Many faculty**

They of College and Considering Shared Possibly Higher**

Provided High Possibly

**Provided High Possibl Music; experiences and comfort in the School of Music; relationships and group dynamics; discrimination and bullying; opportunities and professional growth; and representation.

TITLE IX, PAGE 4

contacting you on behalf of the Title IX Office to inform you that the Title IX Office is conducting a climate review"

"This change has been accompanied by a struggle with acceptance of difference and in part point to the dominance of male white faculty"

"The feeling of being silenced was referenced by several faculty working on curriculum development'

"Faculty noted that the process to earning tenure highlights power differentials between colleagues resulting in junior faculty seeking tenure to feel as they cannot express their own opinions"

"Junior faculty and faculty of color report a fear of retaliation in the industry if they speak up about the bullying they experience at the hand of senior faculty"

> "During interviews, some faculty expressed their own racist and sexist ideas, seemingly unaware of their own bias'

"There is a small, yet vocal group of white male senior faculty who express fear of change"

ILLUSTRATION BY MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN SOURCE: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF TITLE IX CULTURAL REVIEW

Ithaca expands bikeshare project to roll back car use

BY VIVIAN ROSE

STAFF WRITER

Since its launch Nov. 9, 2022, Ithaca Bikeshare has provided nearly 13,179 rides on public bikes. Now, the local organization plans to add more parking hubs and raise the costs of bike use.

Ithaca Bikeshare is a non-profit organization that works to get residents of the City of Ithaca to travel more by bike than by car. The organization created these rides using half as many bikes as the bike-share service Lime, a bike, moped and scooter-sharing company that ended service to several of its cities and was used in Ithaca between 2018 to 2020.

Jeff Goodmark, director of micromobility for the City of Ithaca, said via email that public bike sharing is necessary in Ithaca in order to get cars off the road. Goodmark works with the city to manage how more transportation can happen through biking and walking rather than cars. Goodmark is working with the city to organize the initiative after Lime ended its services in Ithaca.

"The overall reliance on cars is causing many major issues such as pollution, reliance on fossil fuels, and wasted city space for parking," Goodmark said via email. "All of this ties



Ithaca Bikeshare, a non-profit that works to get residents of the City of Ithaca to travel more by bike, plans on adding more parking hubs and raising costs of bike use.

in with Ithaca's Green New Deal goals."

He said that if residents feel a sense of responsibility toward the bikes, since the program is local, rather than Lime, which was a nationwide company, then residents will make an extra effort to treat the new bikes better and park them in bike hubs

located around the city.

The hubs' locations are visible on the Ithaca Bikeshare app and serve as a safe way to organize parked bikes where they are accessible to other riders. Hubs are not marked physically and are spaced about one to two blocks away from each other.

Goodmark said the interface of the new Ithaca Bikeshare app is similar to that of Lime's but will now offer more hubs than Lime did.

Although Goodmark said he does not know the number of parking hubs Lime had, it was similar to those of Ithaca Bikeshare. Goodmark said he hopes to increase the number of hubs around the city by the end of the year, which will add to the 79 hubs the organization has currently.

Goodmark said the necessity of parking hubs is so people can locate bikes faster and so bikes can be found by using the app.

"The idea of parking hubs is to give people the flexibility to ride wherever they want but also provide some form of predictability in terms of where people can find bikes," Goodmark said.

Other changes include getting rid of the \$1 credit to riders for parking in a hub. Instead of a \$1 credit, riders will be charged a \$1 fee if they do not park in a hub.

Previously, unlocking a bike cost \$1 and \$0.15 per minute to ride. Goodmark said that pricing will increase to \$0.20 per minute and unlocking a bike will now cost \$1.50.

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Nation & World News

Russia and Ukraine renew the Black Sea Grain deal last minute

Russia and Ukraine have agreed to renew the crucial Black Sea Grain Deal, which was due to expire within hours, officials from all sides said March 18, following last-minute talks, but there was no confirmation as to how long it would be extended.

The Black Sea Grain Initiative frees millions of tons of grain and other foods that would otherwise be stuck in Ukraine because of Russia's invasion and blockade. It allows for shipments via three Black Sea ports, with Turkey playing a coordinating role.

Exiled Chinese tycoon charged with billion-dollar fraud in US

Chinese billionaire Guo Wengui, the exiled businessman and vocal critic of Beijing with ties to former President Donald Trump adviser Steve Bannon, was charged with fraud after the U.S. seized \$634 million linked to his alleged crimes. Arrested at 6:24 a.m. March 15 by FBI agents at his luxury apartment in Manhattan's Sherry-Netherland hotel, Guo was later brought before a judge over the alleged billion-dollar fraud.

Pakistan court defers indictment on Imran Khan's state gifts case

A Pakistan court deferred an indictment on former Prime Minister Imran Khan for not disclosing income from selling state gifts as his supporters and the police clashed in Islamabad. The hearing will now be March 30, Khan's lawyer Khawaja Harris said.

Khan's supporters pelted police with stones after security officials tried to prevent them from entering the court's premises along with their leader. Police fired tear gas shells as their vehicles were set ablaze by protesters.

Nine policemen were wounded and more than 25 vehicles were burnt, according to Islamabad police spokesperson Taqi Jawad.

Michigan Senate approves gun control bills after mass shootings

The Michigan Senate responded March 16 to the deadly shooting at Michigan State University that occurred Feb. 13, by approving bills that would expand background check requirements for firearm purchases and allow guns to be taken from those deemed a risk to themselves or others.

The main proposals in the 11-bill package, which also includes measures to require guns to be secured if they are kept in homes where children are present, passed along party lines in votes of 20–17 with Democrats in support and Republicans in opposition.



Iran's police arrest 110 over poisoning case

Activists from an Iranian women's rights group attend a rally condemning the mass poisoning of Iranian female students March 11 in New York. The poisonings affected over 5,000 pupils since November, according to Iranian authorities.

ED JONES/AFP/GETTY IMAGES/TNS

Warrant issued for Putin against alleged war crimes in Ukraine

The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin and one of his government ministers March 17. The warrants, the first issued in connection with the year-old Ukraine conflict, cites alleged involvement by Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova, Russia's commissioner for children's rights, in the deportations and transfer of thousands of Ukrainian children from Russian-occupied parts of Ukraine in the wake of the February 2022 invasion.

SOURCE: TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

MULTIMEDIA

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On the Quad: Students discuss ICRiseUp

The Ithacan asked students to share their thoughts on the recent actions by ICRiseUp on March 21 on the quad.



'How IC Sports' - Men's Track & Field Shaun Herlihy

Host sophomore Luke Cammarata kicks off this season of "How IC Sports" by learning about sophomore Shaun Herlihy's experience as a pole vaulter.



















THE ITHACAN

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THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023 NEWS | 3

SGC discusses plans for rest of semester | COVID vaccine

BY DOMINICK PETRUCCI

STAFF WRITER

At Ithaca College Student Governance Council's March 20 meeting, senators and officials discussed the SGC's schedule for the rest of the semester and prepared for discussing an upcoming bill.

Most students expected a meeting at President La Jerne Cornish's residence for dinner during this meeting. Senate Chair senior Austin Ruffino said the meeting was postponed because of miscommunication about when the event would be held.

"At the moment, we have not been given [more information]," Ruffino said.

Senior Grace Madeya, president of the student body, held a personal meeting with Cornish to discuss IC Rise Up. One topic brought up was IC Rise Up and Cornish's ongoing goal of finding a satisfactory conclusion between IC Rise Up and the college.

"[Cornish] did mention she went to the walkout and that she did talk to six members who are a part of IC Rise Up," Madeya said. "They are going to come to her with a list of demands."

Cornish's idea at the March 6 SGC meeting was to have listening sessions to properly get students' input directly to faculty. Although IC Rise Up said at its March 8 walkout that it would boycott Cornish's focused sessions to listen to students discussed in the printed statements, Madeya said



From left, senior Grace Madeya, president of the student body, and first-year student Rishabh Sen, vice president of campus affairs, discuss updates to their bills and respective committees.

RAY MILBURN/THE ITHACAN

the events will be well attended.

"[Cornish] has the next three listening sessions with the provost where thirty people have signed up," Madeya said.

Senior Maya Scriven, vice president of communications, followed up on several topics previously discussed at prior meetings. The SGC tried to see if issues it is discussing are already in the process of being handled by the college, but Scriven said she is not getting answers.

"I want answers on stuff such as the vending machines and other things," Scriven said. "I've sent a lot of Gmails but haven't gotten a lot of responses back. . . . A lot of people don't answer over break."

First-year student Rishabh Sen, vice president of campus affairs, announced IC After Dark's upcoming event, the Spring Fair. Madeya said she sees this event as a chance for the SGC to have a panel and further connect with students. Madeya said she does not yet know if a panel will happen or what one would look like.

Madeya said the Code of Conduct amendment is now in the SGC's constitution. Any members wanting to join must first read and agree to this amendment.

Finally, as previously discussed

in the bill-writing workshop that was held during the Feb. 27 meeting, Madeya continued to push her bill to add more seats to the SGC.

"This bill is about adding an Ex-Officio Member for the Student of Color Coalition and a First Generation Student seat on the council," Madeya said. "It's important they have representation specifically related to their own college experience ... just to ensure we are hearing all voices and listening to what student of color organizations need."

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Q&A: IC alum talks election campaign

Caleb Slater '18 is running for the New York State Senate District 48, which represents Onondaga and Cayuga County. Slater credits his time at Ithaca College for his interest and skill sets in politics.

Slater is a 26-year-old Republican candidate with three main political focuses: education, energy and crime. During his education at the college, Slater was on the debate team, the president of IC Republicans, vice president of the IC Young Americans for Liberty chapter and the treasurer of the IC Students for Life chapter.

News Editor Lorien Tyne spoke with Slater about his political ideology and what he wants to focus on if he is elected to office.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Lorien Tyne: Can you tell me about your experience at Ithaca College and how that has gotten you where you are today?

Caleb Slater: I have empathy for both sides of the argument because I've made friends with people who are on both sides of these arguments. Especially through debate, there were times when I had to argue liberal perspectives and progressive perspectives; I had to research all the different perspectives. And being able to do that and be quick on my feet and understand arguments is what's given me the ability to have those skills that I needed to run for office.

LT: What is your perspective on education? CS: Again, coming down to maximizing freedom and choices in the marketplace. ... [Governor of New York] Kathy Hochul ... requested a raise in the caps of charter



Caleb Slater '18 is running for the New York State Senate District 48. Slater said his time at Ithaca College sparked his interest in politics and helped hone his skills.

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schools in New York. I think that's a good thing. ... But I also recognize that we need to reallocate the funds that our schools are getting right now. We're seeing all these administrators getting this money that should be going to improving the quality of our education for our teachers and students.

LT: Where do you stand with crime and what solutions do you want to see?

CS: A lot of people talk about bail reform. This idea that someone who is committing a non-violent offense, they don't have to pay bail ... and then they're back out on the streets and we do see them committing crimes again. ... The second thing is more local judicial discretion. I mean, the

officers that are working with these criminals have a much better understanding of what the penalty should be than some bureaucrat. ... The third and final thing I would say is the raised age legislation in Syracuse, specifically, a lot of the crimes that are being committed by 13-,14-, 15-year-old kids, but New York state [makes it] very hard to detain somebody under [18]. ... There's a whole argument that a lot of the progressives bring up, which is the school-to-prison pipeline, and I think that's a very interesting pathway to take. ... There is no one-size-fits-all solution. Every person is different. Every crime is different."

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COVID vaccine mandate axed

BY LORIEN TYNE

NEWS EDITOR

Ithaca College will not require students to receive the primary series of COVID-19 vaccinations beginning in the 2023–24 academic year.

Samm Swarts, assistant director of Emergency Preparedness and Response, alerted the campus community of this change in an email March 22. The college is still strongly encouraging the campus community to stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations despite ending the requirement.

"[I] urge members of our IC community to continue your commitment to making proactive good public health behaviors and practices," Swarts said.

Senior Cali Trainor said her first thought after seeing the announcement was that she is glad she is graduating this year. Trainor is immunocompromised and said she also has many friends on campus who are as well.

"If vaccines aren't required, what [is the college] doing to protect us because it kind of feels like there's nothing now," Trainor said.

Whole Health Commissioner Frank Kruppa said the necessity for requiring vaccines is lower than at the beginning of the pandemic.

"Throughout the pandemic, we've worked closely with all of our higher education partners, including Ithaca College, related to [COVID-19] decision-making," Kruppa said.

On Dec. 23, the college ended the use of Boothroyd Hall as an isolation space and students were told to isolate in their residence rooms. Also on that day, the college discontinued the COVID-19 Dashboard, which was implemented at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to track case numbers. The COVID-19 absence status for employees ended Jan. 2, which means if employees of the college tested positive for COVID-19, they would need to use their allotted paid time away. Employees no longer have to complete a self-reporting form with documentation of a positive test either. On Feb. 6, testing for COVID-19 moved to Muller Faculty Center and continues to be the location for those seeking testing services.

All current policies are posted on the COVID Health & Safety page on the college's website.

Sophomore Abigail Jones said via text that while she was initially concerned, the process the college took to make the decision about vaccination requirements eased her worries.

"I think I was a bit worried about the COVID vaccine mandate being lifted at first because getting the first round of vaccines is very important," Jones said. "Mandates had to be in place for a long time for everyone's safety and to lessen symptoms. Although I'm not an expert myself, I also realize some time has passed and the rationale given in the email makes sense to me. I also understand the decision was made with the Tompkins County Health Department, which makes me feel a bit better."

Swarts also provided a list of factors that contributed to the decision in the email announcement. The email stated that because of vaccinations or previously contracting COVID-19, the majority of the campus community has some immunity. The email from Swarts also said the current strains of the virus that are most common have symptoms that are milder. The status of COVID-19 as a national emergency and public health emergency is set to expire May 11.

"Please note that the decision to remove the COVID-19 vaccine requirement for students is another important milestone for our campus as we continue to strategically transition our college operations to pre-pandemic standards," Swarts said.

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Music faculty raise concerns over privacy and transparency

FROM TITLE IX, PAGE 1

The summary was shared Feb. 1, 2023, with music faculty and staff, and participants remained unnamed. In the summary, faculty and staff without tenure expressed feeling silenced by senior faculty.

Participants said that in the building's common areas, they felt fearful of confrontations with senior faculty and reported fearing retaliation if they spoke up about being bullied. Participants also said they faced challenges while enacting curricular changes because of the dominance of white, male faculty in the school and the music industry.

Faculty and staff reported that conversations addressing sexism and racism create tension and fear, and a small, but vocal, group of white, male, senior faculty expressed fear of change. The summary said faculty and staff of color described feeling like outsiders and considered leaving higher education as a result. The summary also noted that some participants expressed their own racist and sexist views.

The executive summary was created by Koenig and Ivy Walz, former dean of the School of Music and current associate dean of the School of MTD, on Feb. 8, 2022. A year later, Feb. 1, themes from the review were presented by Koenig and Walz at a Center for Music faculty meeting. At the Feb. 7 Faculty Council meeting, the cultural review was presented.

Baruch Whitehead, associate professor in the Department of Music Education and head of the Anti-Racism Committee in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, said he was one of the faculty members interviewed. Whitehead said one issue he found with the review was the lack of specific information about what led to the identification of the themes.

"I just thought the report should be distributed with the data ... and not just give us the themes," Whitehead said. "[How] people really feel, I felt like that was important for the whole community to hear. ... Overall, I think the community really wants to do the right thing, but how we get to the right thing is the process that we have to go through."

A non-white faculty member in the Center for Music, who wished to remain anonymous out of fear of retaliation, was concerned with the delay in sharing the summary. The interviews with faculty and staff were conducted in summer 2021, but the results were not presented to all music faculty until Feb. 1, 2023.

"There's a lack of transparency," the faculty member said. "If there's discrimination, there's cases of racism in the School of Music; those need to be addressed, but they need to be addressed in a timely manner. We don't need to wait two years for a report to come up."

While the email asking for music faculty to participate in the review said this review would be part of a wider climate review of other schools, the review process halted with the School of Music. At the Feb. 7 Faculty Council meeting, Melanie Stein, provost and senior vice president of academic affairs, said the college did not continue the review across campus because nobody at the college has the capacity to continue this work. Stein said cultural reviews like the one conducted in the School of Music are not the responsibility of Title IX coordinators but fall under human resources jurisdiction.

"There is a conversation ongoing at the upper levels of the college about how ... there were no resources in human resources," Stein said. "That sounds ridiculous, but the [Office of] Human Resources was a little



Baruch Whitehead, associate professor in the Department of Music Education, was one of the faculty members interviewed and said the cultural review is helpful but that real change must be made.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

understaffed and so they didn't have the capacity to do such a [review]."

In April 2021, there were three executive positions in the Office of Human Resources, one staffer in Employee Relations, Development, and Engagement, and one staffer in Human Resources Information Systems. There were 12 staffers in total, including executive positions. As of Spring 2023 — and position titles have since changed — there are five staffers in Human Resources Operations and 12 in the office overall.

Koenig said one of those resources includes people who would transcribe interviews and identify themes from the interviews. She said her office of two people only has the time to work on a review like this in the summer, but it is hard for faculty to volunteer to participate outside

of contracted hours.

At the Feb. 7 Faculty Council meeting, Rachel Schutz, assistant professor in the Department of Music Performance, said that although there may be issues with the process of conducting the review, creating spaces for faculty to speak about their experiences is important for faculty to feel comfortable sharing their perspectives on discrimination and bias.

"It's not maybe perfectly representative, but I think it was helpful to hear from faculty," Schutz said at the meeting. "I don't think it's the report that's making certain claims. [The report is] trying to summarize what faculty themselves said."

Walz said the review can help open people's eyes to the systems within the music industry that contribute to the issues described by the interviewed faculty.

"As a musician, it's a system I was raised in," Walz said. "I was blinded to these [issues] until I started to learn. It's up to all of us to continue to learn and listen to each other so that we can understand the system and see the things in place that are not contributing [positively] to the work environment."

Whitehead said he suggested that the School of MTD bring in an expert who has dealt with similar issues in other institutions.

"Getting this report, it's a step in the right direction for us to unpack and to make some changes, and not just progress," Whitehead said. "We need to make change, not progress. Progress is great. Change is better."

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IC and Cornell not yet included in bikeshare hub locations

FROM BIKESHARE, PAGE 1

Day passes will stay the same price at \$20 per day, as will monthly and yearly passes, which are \$45 and \$150, respectively.

Goodmark said the reason for the changes was that only 10% of Ithaca Bikeshare riders complied with the parking hubs. He said other cities, like New Orleans, that charge \$1 for not parking in a hub experienced a 50–60% increase in riders properly using hubs.

Goodmark said the Ithaca Bikeshare bikes can make traveling through the City of Ithaca easy and efficient while also helping to improve the city's sustainability goals by decreasing the number of cars on Ithaca's roads. Goodmark said Ithaca Bikeshare does not yet have the funds to increase its fleet, which is not known at the time because of bikes going missing or damaged.

"The way Ithaca is laid out for many places downtown, it's less than two miles, which is ideal for a bike ride, especially for an electric bike ride which goes a lot faster and requires less effort," Goodmark said.

Fernando de Aragón, director of the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council, said the council, which is a regional agency that is mandated by the federal government, aims to get less people traveling by car.

"Our primary goals and objectives are to get people to drive less, particularly to drive alone less," de Aragón said. "To reach that goal, we promote alternatives to driving alone like transit, ride-sharing and then things like car sharing and bike sharing, [as well as] walking and biking in general."

There are no parking hubs on Cornell University or Ithaca College's campuses yet, but Goodmark said he hopes that Ithaca Bikeshare will soon be approved by each college and begin digitally marking parking hubs on both college campuses.

"When we look at our data maps of where bikes are flowing and where bike trips start and end, there truly is a massive amount of trips on Cornell campus in particular, Ithaca College as well," Goodmark said.

Some students feel that bikes on campus would make traveling across campus much easier and quicker. First-year student Jacob Healt said via email that since people ride their bikes, skateboards and electric skateboards already through campus, the public bikes should be allowed on campus as well.

"I think this could mean greater ease of transportation from one place to another," Healt said. "For example, if you lived in Circle Apartments, Garden Apartments or even Emerson Hall, you're quite far away from most of the main campus. Having access to bikes that you could ride to class would be so much better for the environment and easier for the students."

De Aragón said an important factor to get more people onto bikes is to let residents know the bikes are safe for use. He said the Ithaca Bikeshare bikes are a much better product than Lime's bikes. De Aragón said Lime bikes have a history of not being as



There are many Ithaca Bikeshare hubs in Downtown Ithaca, but currently none exist on Ithaca College's campus, although there is one by Pennsylvania Avenue.

ILLUSTRATION BY MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN

supportive as the new Ithaca Bikeshare bikes and were known to rattle.

"We had bikes [from Lime] that were just not working well," De Aragón said. "Safety has many components. One of them is the vehicle itself, but the others have to deal with [the user]. [It depends on] if you're a safe rider and it also depends on the infrastructure [like if] riders have bike lanes or have the choice to ride on a trail versus on the street."

Goodmark said all the bikes are electric and are class-1, meaning they all assist with pedaling but do not have any throttle. Goodmark said a rider can access the help of the

bike's motor by starting to pedal and that the motor can help the bike get up to a maximum speed of 16 miles per hour.

Although the bikes do need to be charged by the team for the electric pedal assist, using these bikes do not emit as much carbon as using a car.

"For every bike ride, there are several less car rides and less emissions into the air," Goodmark said. "You can't save the world that way, but if every city does it, it makes a difference."

COLLEGE BRIEFS

Ithaca College Web Team offers virtual office hours for support

The Ithaca College Web Team is offering office hours in the upcoming weeks of the semester. The first one will be offered from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 23 via Zoom. The next three sessions will be from 1–3 p.m. April 5, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 20 and 1-3 p.m. May 3. Offered office hours are meant to help the campus community with any questions regarding web management, content and development. To attend office hours, interested attendees must book an appointment at least 24 hours prior through the Microsoft Bookings Page. Attendees will receive a Zoom link for the online office hours session. All questions and concerns regarding alternate consultation timings can be directed to web@ithaca.edu.

Park alum to facilitate 'Why Media Matters' workshop for all

Luke Harbur '18, a strategic communication and entertainment professional, will be hosting a "Why Media Matters" workshop from 12-1 p.m. March 23 in Room 223 of the Roy H. Park School of Communications. In the workshop, Harbur will talk about his personal and professional experiences in the media industry.

The workshop is open to all students, faculty and staff and does not require prior registration. During his time at Ithaca College, Harbur was involved with Ithacapella, the college's all-male-identifying a capella group, The Ithacan and IC Beatbox, a self-started, vocal and performance-based initiative.

All accommodation requests must be made by email to jrada@ithaca.edu or via phone at 607-274-3637.

Survey seeks feedback to better meet faculty needs in classes

The Center for Faculty Excellence and Center for Student Success and Retention are collecting responses for a survey assessing needs of faculty until March 24. The survey is based on concerns that faculty put forward in listening sessions with Melanie Stein, provost and senior vice president of academic affairs. The survey specifically aims to understand faculty's observations in their post-COVID-19 classrooms.

Faculty discussion sessions about student involvement and engagement will also take place in the future. More events can be found at the CFE Faculty Resource Hub. All questions regarding the survey must be directed to success@ithaca.edu.

Park to host session about NBC Sports' career opportunities

An information session about career opportunities at the Editorial Division of NBC Sports will take place from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. April 3 in Park Auditorium. The session will be hosted by NBC professionals, including Brandon Glass '15, and will discuss topics like career development and future opportunities for students to be involved in the Olympics that will take place in 2024 in Paris. On April 4, the editorial team will be conducting interviews for listed positions.

Some examples of these positions are Time Researcher for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Time Writer for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Time Statistician for the Olympic Games, Sports Researcher, Digital Writer or Content Editor and Ticker Researcher.

Eligible applicants have to be juniors or seniors with a journalism or communications background and at least a 3.0 GPA. Applicants are also encouraged to have above-average writing skills. Students interested in interviewing can do so through Handshake. On the day of the interview, students must carry with them writing samples and copies of their resumes. Interviewees must also be present at the Office of the Dean in the Roy H. Park School of Communications five minutes before their scheduled time in order to be led to their interview location. All questions regarding the general session and career opportunities must be directed to April Johanns, coordinator of student and external relations, at ajohanns@ithaca.edu.

Panel discussion about gaming and mental health to be hosted

The Roy H. Park School of Communications will be organizing a panel discussion about wellness in online gaming from 6 to 7 p.m. March 30 via Zoom. The panel will include Brian Terwilliger '03, '18; Christie St. Martin, vice president of marketing at MGE Digital Gaming; and Justin Joseph '99. The panel will be moderated by Alex Estabrook, instructor in the department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies. Panelists will discuss the effect of video and digital games on the daily lives of gamers and will address audience's questions toward the end of the discussion. The panel discussion is open to all students, faculty, staff and alumni and interested attendees can register through Intercom. All questions and accommodation requisitions must be directed to Estabrook at aestabr1@ithaca.edu or 607-274-1459.



Students put their brainpower to the test

From left, sophomores Zoe Williams, February Schneck and Riley Marie Fortin deliberate and confer over answers, hoping to win prizes while raising money for the JED Foundation during Ithaca College Hillel Trivia Night on March 21.

ABBY LI/THE ITHACAN

H&S curriculum committee to host course design workshop

The School of Humanities and Sciences Curriculum Committee will be organizing a workshop about the design of four credit classes for faculty from 4 to 5:30 p.m. March 27 in Williams 222. The workshop is meant to help faculty plan their transition from teaching three to four credit courses and will allow them to begin thinking about courses for Fall 2023. Representatives from the committee will share their observations, after which faculty will engage in question-answer and planning sessions. Accommodation requests must be made to David Brown, associate dean in the office of the dean of H&S, at dabrown@ithaca.edu or at 607-274-7375.

The writing center is accepting Fall 2023 peer tutor applications

The Ithaca College Writing Center is hiring peer tutors for Fall 2023. Interested students must apply for the position by midnight on March 26. Peer tutors are required to dedicate approximately 10 hours per week to the position and are also expected to be representatives of the Writing Center at admission and orientation events. They will also contribute to creating content for the center's online writing lab.

To apply, students must submit a cover letter, a resume, two writing samples of expository essays and an unofficial copy of their transcripts. Students can apply through the IC HR Cloud's job database and if selected, have to take a two-credit course in the first block of Fall 2023 called Writing Center Pedagogy.

SGC offers two leadership and academic based scholarships

Ithaca College's Student Governance Council is accepting applications for the SGC Scholarship and the Margaret Reid Memorial Scholarship until 11:59 p.m. April 3. They are meant to award those students who have demonstrated academic and leadership excellence at the college. For more information, interested students can visit the SGC scholarships page. Students can apply through IC Engage and should contact sgcacademicaffairs@ithaca.edu with any questions or concerns.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM FEB. 27 TO MARCH 12

FEBRUARY 27

HARASSMENT SECOND DEGREE

LOCATION: Terrace Dining Hall SUMMARY: A caller reported that a person made an alarming statement. Patrol Officer Steven Hutchison responded to the call. This investigation is pending.

FEBRUARY 28

LARCENY CREDIT CARD

LOCATION: 113 Campus Center Way SUMMARY: Caller reported that an unknown person stole a wallet. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded to the call. This is a pending investigation.

MARCH 1

OFF-CAMPUS INCIDENT

LOCATION: All Other / Other SUMMARY: A caller reported sending money to a person under false pretenses. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded to the call. determined that the goose was se- The persons left area prior to SUMMARY: Tompkins County 911

MARCH 2

UNAUTHORIZED SOLICITATION

LOCATION: 113 Campus Center Way SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown people posted unauthorized flyers. Sergeant Jon Elmore responded to the call. This is a pending investigation.

MARCH 3

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: 151 College Circle SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Activation was caused by a burnt plastic cup. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded to the call.

MARCH 5

ANIMAL COMPLAINT

LOCATION: Allen Field SUMMARY: A caller reported concern for an injured goose. The officer

This is a pending investigation. verely injured and was euthanized. Officer arrival. Patrol Officer Thad-reported person passed out. One The task was completed. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded to the call.

MARCH 6

SCC HARASSMENT/ INTIMIDATION/ **ENDANGERING**

LOCATION:130 College Circle SUMMARY: Caller reported a verbal dispute and persons actions made them feel unsafe. Officer referred one person to student conduct for SCC harassment. Patrol Officer Thaddeus May responded to the call. The person(s) responsible were referred to student conduct.

MARCH 7

SUSPICIOUS PERSON

LOCATION: Academic Quad SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown group approached them.

deus May responded to the call. This is a pending investigation.

MARCH 8

RAPE THIRD DEGREE

LOCATION: General Area Danby Road SUMMARY: Title IX reported that one person had sexual intercourse with another without consent. Deputy Chief Tom Dunn responded.

MEDICAL ASSIST/ **ILLNESS RELATED**

LOCATION: Terrace 3 SUMMARY: Caller reported a person cut themselves while shaving. The person declined medical assistance. Patrol Officer Steven Hutchison responded to the call.

MARCH 9

MEDICAL/ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: West Tower

person was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded to the call.

MARCH 11

FIRE ALARM/ **CARBON DIOXIDE ALARM**

LOCATION: 160 College Circle SUMMARY: Simplex reported a carbon dioxide alarm. No odor was detected and it was possibly a faulty detector. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded.

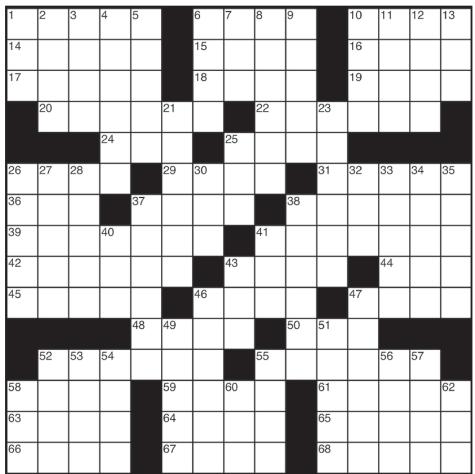
Full public safety log available online at www.theithacan.org.

KEY

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

crossword

By Quill Driver Books



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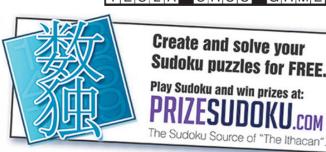
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CLASSIFIED

F1B Mini Goldendoodles for sale. Ready to go home at the end of March. Family raised, dewormed, first shots, vet checked. \$1800-\$2000. (585) 626-8409 or fetchdoodles88@gmail.com



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answers to last issue's sudokus:

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CHECK OUR STATUS

NEWSLETTER

ONLINE



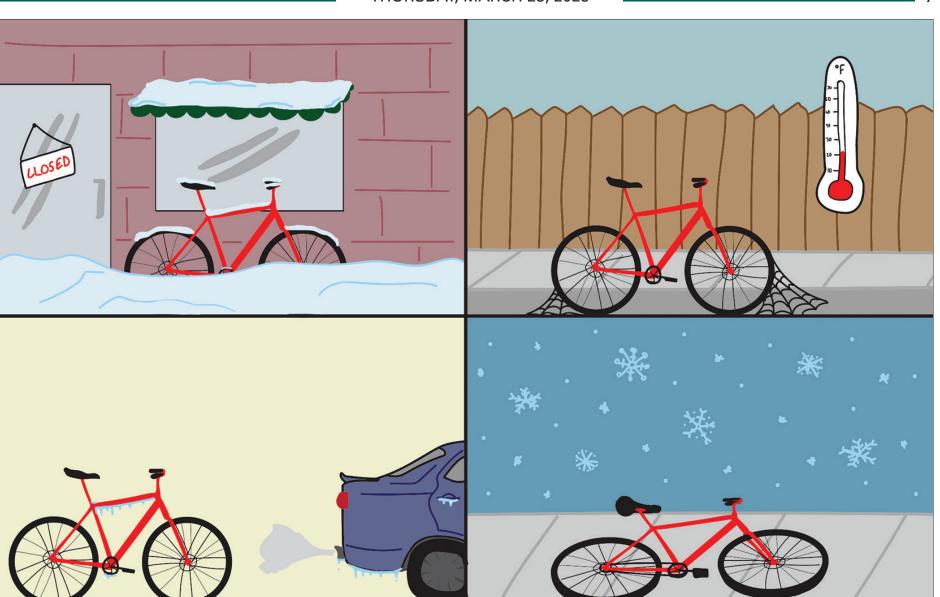


ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

Bikeshare is only one cycle of green transportation Campus climate surveys are essential for a change of green transportation

non-profit organization called Ithaca Bikeshare is adding more parking hubs around the Ithaca area with the goal to reduce car use. It is also raising the cost of the per-minute ride, unlocking the bikes and charging riders a \$1 fee for not parking in a hub. The reason for these changes is to encourage Bikeshare riders to use the hubs properly and make sure the bikes are appealing for use. The intentions of Ithaca Bikeshare are solely to bring more local and environmentally friendly involvement in the city.

Bike sharing has improved environmentally friendly transportation modes and decreased fuel use and the cost of transportation. While bike sharing is a good invention against the environmental crisis, it does not improve the global problem much. Using bikes during cold weather is not something most people prefer to do, especially when they have cars. So, with Ithaca and any other location with long and

freezing winters, it is hard to believe that many people would make such a sacrifice. Unfortunately, bike companies cannot do much to change this factor because it is up to people to give up their comfort for the sake of saving the Earth. In addition to the weather downside, people in the United States commute longer distances, which, again, is easier done using cars. Some norms need to change if we are trying to make a bigger impact. People should use bike sharing as a complete alternative to driving alone.

Bike sharing should not be a getaway from holding fossil fuel companies accountable. Biking might make many people feel fulfilled with their investment in ceasing the climate disaster, however, it is the least any person can do to reduce carbon emissions. So, while it is great to have a bike-sharing organization in Ithaca, the community should completely switch to environmentally friendly transportation while working toward regulating fossil fuel companies.

Campus climate surveys are meant to review the atmosphere of a particular college by providing an opportunity for campus community members to voice their opinions. The survey is supposed to mainly cover the Title IX Coordinator's role, how to report violence and abuse, available resources and the definition of affirmative consent. However, these surveys are easier said than done. Because of the little information out there about climate surveys and the repercussions for their lack of occurrence, some colleges do not give the survey much importance. Ithaca College had its last survey done in 2016 despite the fact that the federal law requires at least an every-other-year occurrence. Not continuously conducting the survey does not allow for progress to be noticed, thus disallowing for change to be made.

Another drawback that climate surveys face is the lack of diverse voices in predominantly white institutions. The questions and

formatting of the survey are left to each college to design, which leaves a huge window for PWIs to do whatever they wish with the survey. The anonymity of the climate surveys is another silencing tool. Even though it is for safety reasons, the anonymity reduces the viable speech of campus community members. In order to stay anonymous, many members will have to hide their identities in their answers.

Similar issues raised in climate surveys are noticed all around the country. So, even though it is up to each college to make a change, the problem must be viewed as a national matter. The law of survey tactics needs improvements too, like broader viewpoints, which will allow campus members to raise their concerns more openly and fearlessly. Climate surveys could potentially have a successful impact if surveys were regulated and served the goal of seriously improving the concerns raised by campus communities all around the country.

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

8 | OPINION THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023



FIGURE OF SOUL

NINJIN TUMURBAT

Meditating out of modernity

My friend recently showed me a quote she found on the internet: "Ships sink because of the holes water gets through. Do not let what is happening around you get inside you and weigh you down." She then asked me, "How is it possible to maintain such a meditative state that you protect your freedom from everything, even yourself? There are so many distractions now in our lives trying to steal our attention and interrupt the life we want to live, starting from money, social media and this whole society. Could it be possible?"

Before all the insanity social media created, human beings used to move, wonder and breathe! Yes, breathe! Around 1.8 million years ago, we used to fight, flee or freeze. We used all of our senses to the fullest to learn about the world. It seems like we constantly meditated. Human beings were aware of the fact that this "routine" breathing would stop at any moment.

However, nowadays, it has become hard to meditate "all the time" in a world that is supposed to be better than before. It is alarming to note that the youth are more likely to be burned out than members of older generations, who predate digital technologies. Reading this, do you think meditation is possible for us? It must be. How, though?

The lifestyle described earlier is encoded in us. So, my suggestion would be to pick up some habits from our ancestry to balance our current life routine. The root "med" in meditation could be interpreted as "healing" or "to ponder about the medium:" The medium between life and death. Meditation brings peace and it heals us. While we are running for our social roles and statuses, we could also include meditation to heal from those activities that wear us out once in a while. Go out! Be in nature! Go for a hike! Look at the moon, the sun and the stars! Hug a tree! Run! Read! Cook for yourself and your loved ones! Breathe! Meditate! And when you master that, you may realize you are already meditating the whole time, even when you are studying and working.

Our life should be a meditation being breathed in oceanic waves — not attached to the ups or downs or even the middle. Meditating is feeling and observing all of these waves when they come, not judging them for arriving and letting them go when it is time without attachments. Meditation is like embracing the flow of life the way it is and the first thing to learn how to do so is "Be in nature!" By practicing meditation, we can avoid the pitfalls of clinging too tightly to the good times or becoming overwhelmed by difficult times. Instead, we can learn to ride the waves of life with gratitude, observing each experience as it arises and letting it go when the time is right.

This practice of non-attachment does not mean that we should become detached from the world around us. Rather, it is about embracing life fully while recognizing that everything is impermanent and subject to change. As a result, we can enjoy the beauty of each wave as it comes and goes.

FIGURE OF SOUL is a column written by first-year psychology major Ninjin Tumurbat (she/her) that analyzes metaphors. Contact her at ntumurbat@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

Regulations must be placed on landlords

BY SAM CHANEY

SENIOR

Most students that attend Ithaca College will at some point find themselves living off campus. Because of the college's strict rules on housing, living off campus can only occur during a student's senior year. The streets surrounding Ithaca College are filled with houses that may appear to be safe and adequate from the outside, but the inside is a different story. Landlords and property managers in the Ithaca area are not being held accountable by any governing body for the quality and safety of their properties. Off-campus housing needs improvement.

Housing prices off campus are more affordable than on campus, but this deduction in price does not always make up for the condition of the house. More often than not, the houses are unclean, and sometimes there are issues with infestations, broken and uneven floors, damaged walls and doors, serious malfunctions with heating systems and lack of general upkeep that should be expected from the landlords or property managers. While regulations on landlords are already fairly strict in the state of New York, there is a lack of the



Senior Sam Chaney raises concerns about unregulated off-campus housing and dreadful living conditions. He believes that landlords need to be held accountable and provide better housing.

MARI KODAMA/THE ITHACAN

governing body checking properties to ensure that landlords are following current regulations. Instead of landlords being the main party responsible for checking the quality of the properties, Ithaca could implement a program that sends certified officials to inspect the properties more frequently.

While there are numerous solutions to this problem, the essence

of the issue can be addressed with good ethics. Landlords need to be held accountable for providing housing to their tenants. Ithaca needs to apply stricter regulations to landlords. It is my hope for future students who are planning to live off campus that conditions are safer, cleaner and up to date. Relationships between landlords and tenants need to be rooted in

trust, honesty and good ethics. I am very close to the issue at hand as a student who lives off campus. Sometimes I even question the safety of homes. Something needs to be done for future Ithaca College students.

Sam Chaney (he/him) is a senior architectural studies major. Contact him at schaney@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

Adapting the past for a radical future

BY ALEXANDER PAREDES-RUIZ

ALUM

In November 2015, POC at IC released an open letter calling for former President Tom Rochon's removal after staging a campus-wide walkout and demanding institutional change. In December 2019, students in the former Department of Theatre Arts displayed "A Manifesto of Visibility" across the halls of Dillingham Center in response to a racially-charged classroom incident. In October 2020, the Student Governance Council and the former Students of Color Coalition held a campus-wide "Stand for Justice" webinar to address the racial inequities on campus, including the experiences documented by a letter released by Ithaca College Department of Theatre Arts Black, Indigenous and People of Color. In March 2023, IC Rise Up released a series of statements online alongside printed accounts of the experiences of students of color on campus, highlighting discriminatory and racist incidents.

Students are at the crux of the college- the driving force behind the institution's desire to "educate, engage and empower" the next generation of scholars, professionals and artists. Yet, its student-centered mission and values, similarly to other predominantly white academic institutions, fall short of the realities of campus life. It is vital that student activism uses past efforts by students of color to inform their tactics of the present to ensure a radically different future. When I served as the co-chair for the former Students of Color Coalition, I was told by a former mentor that my efforts in organizing and solidarity work rested on "the shoulders of those that came before." I was forced to reckon with a stark reality: I may never experience that change I desperately desired throughout my four years at the college. I understood that the only way



Alexander Paredes-Ruiz talks about the continuous equality battle in education. He draws attention to IC Rise Up and other student missions that try to make a change.

COURTESY OF ALEXANDER PAREDES-RUIZ

to organize further was to think about what was demanded by students of color of the past and how the groundwork could be laid for something that I wanted new generations to experience

I see the recent activist efforts by IC Rise Up as a reawakening of racial consciousness that is following similar paths as other student activist movements of the past. I urge these students of color to be reflexive and look back each time they take a step forward, asking themselves: What can I do for those that come next?

French philosopher and literary critic Michel Foucault once posited, "Where there is power, there is resistance." The continuous resistance to change by the college rests on the desire to maintain the status quo — a status quo that facilitates generations of harm and

trauma against its students of color. It is critical to remember that they only resist because they recognize the power of student movements.

Broadly, students of color protest movements at the college are part of a more extensive line of historic student activist movements in the United States. From the creation of HBCUs in the 19th century to the development of ethnic and area studies in the 1960s, each of these moments in time has always been rooted in crafting a future that can be cultivated by reconciling with the past, sustaining momentum and radicalizing tactics that address the institution head-on.

Alexander Paredes-Ruiz (he/him/él) '21 majored in theater arts management and history. Contact him at aparedesruiz@ithaca.edu.

Alum works to empower Black girls

BY ELIZABETH KHARABADZE

CO-LIFE AND CULTURE EDITOR

Slumber parties, roses, tiaras, sugar, spice and everything nice. What started from a class at Ithaca College has evolved into a multimedia organization with a central message: Black girls deserve love.

Black Girls Don't Get Love was founded by Eden Strachan '21 in February 2022 after Strachan became inspired by the work of Audre Lorde, an American writer and feminist, during a Black feminist theory class she took during her time at the college. The ideas she learned in that class, Strachan said, inspired a short film while she was a student — which itself served as the inspiration for Black Girls Don't Get Love. The organization is a non-profit, multimedia coming-of-age brand dedicated to supporting girls of color by using media to influence the way Black women and girls are perceived in society.

In February 2022. Strachan released "Black Girls Don't Get Love" as a children's book. A book launch party was hosted by the Ujima Black Student Union to celebrate the book's release. About 70 people, including girls from the Southside Community Center Black Alchemist group, attended a live reading of the book.

Part of the experience, Strachan said, is hosting events for Black girls to participate in. In July 2022, the organization hosted the Black Girls Don't Get Love Prom where young girls from across Central New York gathered in Syracuse for an evening of tiaras, gowns, live music and dancing. With over \$8,000 in sponsorships from organizations like The Gifford Foundation, Ninety-Two and Becca's Closet, the Black Girls Don't Get Love team was able to provide free dresses to girls to ensure that cost would not be a barrier to attending.

"Just allowing the everyday Black girl to feel special and doing that on a very personal level, we give girls roses, tiaras, pajamas, things that sometimes people don't find important," Strachan said. "That's the thing that we're prioritizing."

Emphasizing the mundane, everyday life experiences that are otherwise not represented in traditional media is part of the organization's focus. Strachan said she has experienced many moments where the girls and their families who attended an event inspire and remind her of the importance of her work in building community and support for Black girls.

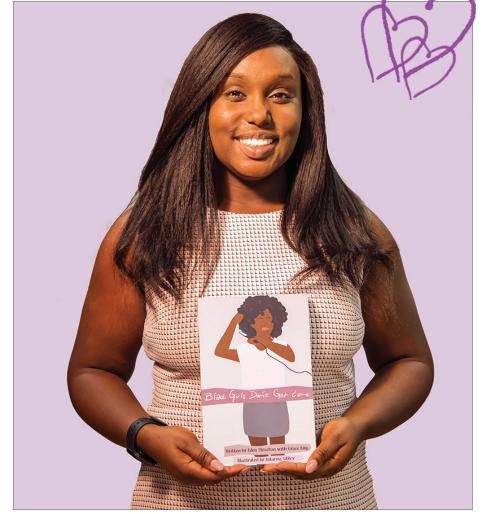
"It's not that it solves the world's problems, but it at least gives people some courage and some confidence and support," Strachan said.

Junior Kiara Valera said she initially heard of Black Girls Don't Get Love through Instagram and was excited to know that there was an organization meant to celebrate young women of color.

"I think especially in an area like Ithaca, it's actually really important to have, knowing that we're in such a predominantly white neighborhood," Valera said. "I don't want to say it doesn't celebrate the successes of Black women and girls, but I don't think it really prioritizes them as much as they should."

First-year student Noeline Luyindula said she often found little representation of dark-skinned Black women in the media. Anytime they were depicted, Luyindula said their character was often treated as a joke.

"We deserve to be the love interest," Luyindula said. "When you watch most of these



Eden Strachan '21, author and founder of Black Girls Don't Get Love, poses with her book, "Black Girls Don't Get Love." Strachan hopes to empower Black girls.

COURTESY OF BLACK GIRLS DON'T GET LOVE

shows, Black girls tend to just be there. One of my favorite shows was 'Good Luck Charlie,' and if you look at Teddy's best friend [Ivy Wentz] ... she was just there for the joke. ... It was never her getting love, never her getting flowers from somebody she likes, it was never her going to prom."

According to a study conducted by the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media in 2019, representation of Black women and girls has increased in recent years. The study found that 6.1% of all characters in family films were Black girls or women -Black women and girls make up 6.5% of the U.S. population. However, the study also found that Black women (22.7%) were less likely to be depicted in romantic relationships than white women (27.2%) or other women of color (25.9%).

Further delving into the coming-of-age developing her book into a feature film. Along with the film, Black Girls Don't Get Love is also holding a Feature Film Training Program for girls of color, which is a paid

designated to give girls hands-on experience in the film production process.

Valera similarly said she would love to see more positive representations of Black girls in the media that do not rely on stereotypes.

"It's always still so difficult knowing that we're in 2023 and still struggle with the idea that Black women still can't be the main characters," Valera said. "And while there are more shows, it still feels like a lot of them are ... not fully fleshed out and they're not getting the proper attention and writing they should have."

Despite this, Valera said she is hopeful that organizations like Black Girls Don't Get Love can continue to create dialogue and remind the world that Black girls deserve

"[Black girls and women] are beautiful," Valera said. "They are love, they are important and even though things are [still being] set in motion, our time is coming up and I hope they find the love that they deserve."



Ruby Blount, Black Girls Don't Get Love Parent Ambassador, poses during a behind-the-scenes shoot for the Black Girls Don't Get Love Feature Film project.

enre, Strachan said she is working toward



10 | LIFE & CULTURE THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023

Recital posters highlight the spirit of the performers

BY NOELLE COOK

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Ithaca College was originally founded as a conservatory of music in 1892. Students who are music majors or minors take classes in the James J. Whalen Center for Music and are required at some point in their college career to hold a recital.

Recitals are supportive and uplifting atmospheres not meant to critique. This is somewhat different from concerts, which are often done by paid professionals and a group of musicians, for an audience of supporters and critics alike.

Many students in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance put a spin on strict concert culture, often through the use of fun and artistic recital posters that highlight the interests of the students.

Junior Dexter Conlin has a vocal performance recital March 26 in Hockett Recital Hall. It is called "Picture of You" and will be a blend of musical theater, jazz, folk, audience connection and will include the accompaniment of a larger band. This is Conlin's first recital, which will take an unconventional approach through blending genres as well as talking with the audience between songs.

"I wanted to use a lot of different mediums to express the main vision behind the recital, which is how we're all made up of different parts ... given to us by other people," Conlin said.

Conlin said the theme of his recital is based on human connection and how it influences people.



Junior Sarah Flynn hangs up a flyer for her recital, "The High C's." The poster was created to highlight Flynn's interest in marine biology and sea life while also reflecting her personality.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JASMINE SCRIVEN/THE ITHACAN

Conlin's poster shows this through a collage-type feel.

"I don't want it to just feel like a recital," Conlin said. "I want it to feel like something a little more personal than that ... sort of safe and homey. Which is why I decided to use a film photo for a nostalgic feel. ... That's why I see my recital leaning more toward a cabaret feel than a [traditional] recital feel."

Conlin added that this picture holds a lot of meaning for him. It was taken in Utah on a trip that he associates with people who shaped his identity. He even cross-stitched parts of the photo, the scarf and the hat, to add to the homey feel.

Junior Sarah Flynn, a trumpet performance major, showcased her March 3 recital with a cartoon animated poster of herself and a cat underwater in scuba suits. The title of this recital was called "The High Cs." Flynn has an April Fools themed recital April 1 that is elective, meaning it is not required for her major. The art for her posters is all done by sophomore Dylan Krukowski, a music performance education major at the college.

"The reason I chose an animated

scene over a headshot is because I wanted something that fits me as a person, a little silly but still cute," Flynn said. "I chose an ocean scene because ... if I didn't become a musician, [I wanted] to become a marine biologist."

Flynn wanted a happy medium for her recital, not too professional but not too boring.

"I would say in Whalen it is a very professional vibe," Flynn said. "That's what they kind of push for; it definitely plays into the western classical thing where you have to be quiet during performances and only clap at certain times. I think the cool thing about being in college and having the leeway to do these kinds of creative things is that it's a way of finding yourself through the music that you play. The recital poster is kind of like, 'This is my recital in a nutshell condensed onto a piece of paper"

Senior Aaron Suttle, a trombone performance major, has a senior recital titled "Iridescence" happening April 13 — part of his capstone project. The poster that he advertised is a self-portrait done in the style of fauvism, since colors are the main theme and the highlight of his recital.

"I have synesthesia, which means I can basically see sound," Suttle said. "So I really wanted to emphasize that by playing a piece that's actually based on the synesthesia. It's completely improv and is just, 'Play this color.' The main piece is called 'Color,' and it's four movements — each is a different color. ... The synesthesia color will remain a secret until the performance itself."

Walking through Whalen, there is a range of hopes, dreams and aspirations hanging up on lockers in a labor of love for performance.

"I just hope that, you know, this gets people excited," Conlin said. "I hope that people will see the work we've put in and come experience it with us. There is such a beauty to recital culture, it feels like a sacred space. You put your soul on display."

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TikTok offers small glimpse into daily college life

BY PATRICK MAZZELLA

STAFF WRITER

TikTok is having its moment in the cycle of online social platforms. One of its core user bases is current and future college students who depend on it for all sorts of things. Ithaca College students are no exception to the quick integration of TikTok into their everyday lives.

One of the most used features of the platform is the in-app search engine, which is increasingly becoming the first place many young people go to for answers to their questions, according to the New York Times. Things like dorm tours and days in the life of a college student have been popular for years. But in the 2020s, people will find most of the newest college videos on TikTok.

College life content has been a major focus in media. College students are on the cutting edge of technology and what is in and what is out; they are constantly adapting to newer platforms. Despite YouTube's reign lasting over a decade as the most popular social video platform, TikTok is now the most popular entertainment app on the Apple App Store, and it seems to be where college students are posting about their day-to-day lives.

The transition from high school to college has always been difficult. While moving away from family and friends, students are also moving into a totally unknown space that some see for the very first time on move-in day. But YouTube and other internet platforms changed this process entirely. Current students' personal video blog-style content allow prospective students a look at the college life that the Office of Admissions might not say in an official tour.

The few Ithaca College dorm tours on YouTube range from nine to 30 minutes, but TikTok currently restricts users' videos to a maximum of three minutes. This makes it harder and harder for viewers to get all the information they want and for creators to fit all there is to say within one video. First-year student Tyler Long has posted multiple videos on TikTok about his life at the college. He said his main goal is just to have fun with it all; he never assumed prospective students would see his videos.

"I really just make them to sort of romanticize my life," Long said. "I think I just want people to be entertained by the videos and see some of the good in the world."

Originally, Long's videos were sent to a private group chat where his friends told him to post them on TikTok. The day-in-the-life videos he has posted were made to capture the good things throughout the day, whether that be a nice sunset, a moment with friends or a satisfying-looking sheet of notes from class.

These videos can be important for some prospective students. First-year student Chike Nezianya said he was not able to tour campus prior to move-in day, and the only way he was able to learn about the college from reliable sources was to watch videos from students. He said there were not very many to watch on YouTube, so he turned to TikTok, where there is more Ithaca College focused content, similar to Long's. But he did not plan on staying for long. After having been through the cycle of deleting and redownloading social media apps over and over he found that he feels like TikTok is more of a waste of time than anything.

"It lulls people into this false sense of



First-year student Tyler Long sets up his phone to film a TikTok. Long occasionally uses the app to post mini day-in-the-life videos about his time at Ithaca College.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIEL BIENNAS/THE ITHACAN

interaction, I think," Nezianya said. "It's easy to give and get that validation through likes, but I feel like every time I open the app, I get sucked in and waste 30 minutes of my life. I don't feel like I've accomplished anything."

Nezianya said he was a more active TikTok user before his college search. He said he used to post dance videos, but eventually he stopped posting. Since cutting down his use of the platform, he has noticed a split between online personas and real-life ones and does not want to bring that to college with him.

Sophomore Sydney Terfloth is also unsure about the application of TikTok in students'

daily lives. They said they had the app for multiple years and found the app's content essential when preparing for college, along with other platforms like YouTube and Pinterest. Ultimately, they also ended up deleting the app because it was a waste of time and had a negative impact on their mood.

"Being able to send your friend a video that reminds you of them ... is a really nice feeling, but spending all that just made me feel alone," Terfloth said. "It really does feel like on the internet we're all alone together, right? Maybe that's just what college is."

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Video game adaptation lives up to hype

SHOW REVIEW: "The Last of Us" HBO



BY NOLAN SAUNDERS

PHOTO EDITOR

Impactful characters, evocative storytelling and clickers—these are the elements that fans of Naughty Dog's 2013 hit video game "The Last of Us" were hoping for when HBO Max announced a show adaptation in June 2020. Nearly three years later, showrunners Craig Mazin and Neil Druckmann have delivered one of the greatest video game adaptations in television history.

"The Last of Us" tells the story of a broken man, Joel Miller (Pedro Pascal), and his trans-continental journey with a young girl named Ellie (Bella Ramsey), twenty years after the Cordyceps fungus started to infect humans and nearly ended all of civilization. Ellie is immune to Cordyceps, and in an effort to potentially save humankind, Firefly leader Marlene (Merle Dandridge) tasks Joel with escorting Ellie to a safe house just outside of the quarantine zone. What starts as a simple drop-off mission for the two turns into a dangerous trek across the country where Joel and Ellie need to survive against raiders, cult leaders and, of course, the infected.

As with any adaptation, Mazin and Druckmann had the difficult task of trying to stay loyal to the original story while still incorporating new methods better suited for television. Druckmann, co-president of Naughty Dog and one of the original creators of the video game, masterfully treaded this thin line with Mazin. While not exactly a carbon copy of the game, the show does exactly what every video game adaptation should do: it captures the heart and essence of the story while expanding upon certain aspects inadequately developed in the source material.

A prime example of Mazin and Druckmann's brilliant craftsmanship comes during episode three, "Long, Long Time," directed by Peter Hoar. The episode tells the story of two lovers, Bill (Nick Offerman) and Frank (Murray Bartlett), who meet by chance after Cordyceps has shut down the world. In the video game, players will meet Bill and follow him to get a truck, and that's essentially the only experience players have with Bill. However, in the show, Mazin and Druckmann took this opportunity to explore the characters of Bill and Frank and delve deep into their relationship throughout the apocalypse. This episode is perhaps when "The Last of Us" is at its best, depicting the visceral beauty of love and relationships when the world has fallen apart.

The star of the show would have to be Ramsey's portrayal of Ellie. From the very first episode, Ramsey brilliantly portrays the seemingly-abrasive Ellie with



From left, Ellie (Bella Ramsey) and Joel (Pedro Pascal) find themselves fighting for their survival after a fungal outbreak.

COURTESY OF HBO

subtle nuances that draw the audience in. The eighth episode, "When We Are in Need," directed by Ali Abbasi, is when Ramsey shines as the perfect casting for Ellie. After Joel is temporarily taken out, Ellie now needs to fend for herself while ensuring Joel's safety, a task nearly impossible for a 14-year-old, let alone during the apocalypse while being hunted by a nefarious and vile cult leader. Ramsey delivers a truly groundbreaking performance as a young child

forced to suddenly and drastically mature under extreme circumstances. The growth of Joel and Ellie's relationship over the course of the season is a true marvel.

At its core, "The Last of Us" is a very simple story about love and how it can trump any and all rationalities. The story of Joel and Ellie depicts the extreme lengths that one can go to for the sake of love.

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POPPED GULTURE

The 95th Oscars make history

BY LILY LIPKA

STAFF WRITER

The Oscars: the night movie lovers eagerly wait for all year. A celebration of cinema, behind and in front of the camera. Yet, for such a bold display of love for films and the artists who make them, the Academy Awards are perhaps not all they are cracked up to be.

This year, the 95th Annual Academy Awards aired March 12. Taking home the gold statue in seven of 23 categories was "Everything Everywhere All at Once," directed by The Daniels. "All Quiet On The Western Front," the German war film based on the novel of the same name, followed with four awards by the end of the night. The most notable wins were certainly the acting wins. While Brendan Fraser won Best Actor for his performance in "The Whale," the other three awards went to performances in "Everything Everywhere All at Once." It has become the third film ever to win three acting awards, joining "A Streetcar Named Desire" (1951) and "Network" (1976).

Jamie Lee Curtis was the first actor to claim their prize and, one could say, the most questionable of all of the four winners. While there is no doubt that Curtis has been a working actor for a long time, to give her what is essentially a career award under the guise of awarding her for her performance feels rather disrespectful to the other nominees. This is especially true in regard to Angela Bassett, who has been acting for just as long but did not have the famous parents Curtis had to help boost her into stardom.

Despite all of this, the greatest triumphs of the night were Ke Huy Quan's and Michelle Yeoh's wins. Despite his stint as a child actor in "Indiana Jones" and "The Goonies," Quan found it difficult to find work as he got older and eventually left acting. He worked behind the scenes in films for 20 years before returning to acting with "Everything Everywhere All at Once." Quan, who won Best Supporting Actor, gave an incredibly emotional speech in which he encouraged those watching to keep fighting for their dreams. Yeoh stated that her win is "a beacon of hope and possibilities" to all the young children who look like her. She emphasized the importance of her historic win while also thanking her mother and dedicating the award to mothers across the world. Halle Berry, the first woman of color to be awarded Best Actress in 2002, presented the Oscar to Yeoh. Yeoh is only the second woman of color and the first Asian woman to win the award.

In terms of the event itself, three-time Academy Awards host Jimmy Kimmel put on a decent show. The Best Song nominee performances were mostly enjoyable. "Naatu Naatu" from "RRR" brought the house down and ended up winning the award later that night, being the first song from an Indian film to receive it.

Overall, the Academy as an institution is still clearly a bit stuck, but it is still worth celebrating the wins of brilliant artists Yeoh, Sarah Polley, The Daniels and more. This was a historic night for film and will certainly be talked about for years to come.

New 'Scream' installment stabs its fans in the back

MOVIE REVIEW: "Scream VI" Paramount Pictures



BY EVAN MILLER

STAFF WRITER

Last year, the "Scream" franchise was revitalized for a new generation of slasher fans with a majorly successful fifth installment. With how well "Scream" (2022) did in making the series feel fresh while also playing to its strengths, "Scream VI" had a lot to live up to. Although its tagline, "New York. New rules." promises to continue the trend of evolving "Scream" as a property in part because of its brand new exciting location, "Scream VI" just barely delivers.

After narrowly surviving the events of the last film, friends Sam (Melissa Barrera), Tara (Jenna Ortega), Chad (Mason Gooding) and Mindy (Jasmin Savoy Brown) move from Woodsboro, California, to New York City to regain control of their lives and start fresh. Unfortunately for them, it is not long into their stay in the Big Apple that a new slew of Ghostface killings throws a wrench in their plans.

A strong opening filled with multiple smart twists immediately sets the audience up for a plot that will mix up the tried and true formula. Throughout the remainder of the film, the exciting prospect that anything can happen begins to quickly unravel, especially during a weak final act.

"Scream VI" does many things right in

its first half, one of which is reaffirming the strong dynamic between the "core four" survivors of the last film, as they are dubbed here in what is a fan-favorite "Scream" trademark of incredible meta humor. Their genuine family dynamic feels refreshing and the audience cares about their survival because of how clear it is that they care for one another.

Furthering the audience's interest in these new characters was important for the film to nail considering that "Scream VI" largely lacks fan-favorite characters. The core four proves in "Scream VI," after a promising introduction in "Scream" (2022), that they have what it takes to carry the franchise forward. However, they are not completely on their own this time around as legacy characters Gale Weathers (Courteney Cox) and Kirby Reed (Hayden Panettiere) are featured prominently.

The number of characters to care about in "Scream VI" should have raised the stakes significantly. However, by the third act, viewers will quickly realize that there truly are no reasons to fear for the lives of any of the film's major characters.

Although the Ghostface sequences in "Scream VI" are more intense, vicious, gory and creative than ever, they often ask the audience to suspend their disbelief and think of the characters as superhumans



Ghostface makes the move to continue terrorizing in the sixth "Scream" film.

COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

rather than real people. More than any of the previous entries in the saga, characters take deep, fatal stab wounds like mere punches in the face.

With the sheer level of unrealism on display, one can at least hope that the killer's reveal and motive this time around are worth all the meaningless bloodshed. While "Scream VI" sets up extremely interesting ideas about how past trauma can turn people into the thing they most fear and constantly hints that this theme plays into Ghostface's motive, the actual reveal is significantly less interesting.

"Scream VI" had an incredible amount of potential. Regardless of the genuinely blood-pumping thrills it provides, it ultimately squanders its core themes in what feels like a step backward. It may very well leave even the most diehard "Scream" fans feeling stabbed in the back.

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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 them at Ilipka1@ithaca.edu.

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Natasha Lyonne leads a new whodunnit | QUICKIES |

SHOW REVIEW: "Poker Face" Peacock



BY LILY LIPKA

STAFF WRITER

"Poker Face" stars Natasha Lyonne as Charlie Cale, a casino waitress-turned-drifter with a gift for sniffing out lies. When Charlie's hankering for the truth results in her sticking her nose where it doesn't belong, she finds herself running from Cliff LeGrand (Benjamin Bratt), the head of security of a powerful casino mafia. She drives cross-country in her trusty 1969 Plymouth Barracuda, working all kinds of odd jobs, meeting fascinating new characters and solving murder mysteries along

It is the latest crime comedy from director Rian Johnson, best known for "Knives Out" (2019) and "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery" (2022). Johnson created and executive-produced the series, which he also wrote two episodes and directed three episodes for. Perhaps the greatest thing about him is that he knows what he is good at and is able to consistently succeed at it. "Poker Face" is no exception to that.

Each episode begins by following new characters, giving their backstory leading up to a murder. Then the narrative switches focus to Charlie, often finding her working a new job or in some way involved with or in the same place as those involved with the murder. "Poker Face" certainly borrows

from its predecessors of the genre, but centering its story on the unconventional civilian crime-solver of Charlie Cale rather than a detective or private investigator makes the show truly stand out on its own.

Part of what makes the series so enjoyable to watch is the guest actors in each episode. In episode two, 2023 Oscar nominee Hong Chau plays Marge, a truck driver and new friend of Charlie's who is falsely accused of murder. Chloë Sevigny leads episode six as Ruby Ruin, a washed-up heavy metal frontwoman looking to make a comeback by any means necessary. While the witty dialogue is enough to make the show great, these stars make it incredible. It is nothing short of thrilling to watch brilliant actors bounce off Lyonne's benevolent and eccentric Charlie as she befriends them, calls them out for lying or accuses them of murder.

"Poker Face" thrives in its comedic moments. Charlie often finds herself in hilarious situations, like when she runs through a museum wearing a giant horse head. Although "Poker Face" takes a lighter tone at times, there is still an always present darkness that threads through each episode. This feels most prominent toward the end of the season, particularly in episode nine, perhaps the darkest episode of all. Johnson's directing shines through in this



Charlie Cale (Natasha Lyonne) has a gift for sniffing out lies, leading her to solve crime in Rian Johnson's "Poker Face." **COURTESY OF PEACOCK**

intense, high-stakes story of life and death

While the episode follows the same basic structure as prior episodes, the risks are much greater for our beloved main character, to the point where the viewer begins to question whether she will make it out alive. Supporting turns from Joseph Gordon-Levitt, David Castañeda and Stephanie Hsu help to elevate the already impeccable script.

Without giving away too much, the finale provides a satisfying conclusion for Charlie's year-long road trip. Yet, Johnson does not let anyone revel in this for too long. Charlie finds herself needing to be on the run again, perfectly setting up the second season.

With a lovable main character and an episodic story structure that allows for each episode to still be incredibly unique, "Poker Face" has already established itself as one of the best shows of the year.

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COURTESY OF POLYDOR / INTERSCOPE RECORDS

"THE GRANTS" **Lana Del Rey**

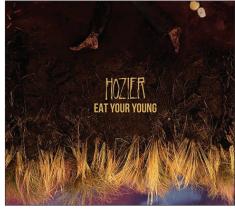
Lana Del Rey gives her devoted fans exactly what they want here, with carefully painted lyrics about preserving the memories of those closest to her even after death.



COURTESY OF ATLANTIC RECORDS CORPORATION

"DEATH" Melanie Martinez

Mysteriously toeing the line between life and death and reality and dreams with the swooning edge of a deranged Iullaby, Melanie Martinez manages to portray some beautiful truths about love and rebirth.



COURTESY OF RUBYWORKS LTD.

"EAT YOUR YOUNG"

Featuring some of Hozier's most creative and unsettling lyrics in years, this unique track is clearly inspired by Dante's Inferno, depicting a world of salvage.



COURTESY OF GAMMA

"GLU" Usher

Right from the first few seconds, "GLU" feels like a beautiful return to the era of 2000s R&B. Think "Love in this Club." Usher does what he does best in his first single in three years: a sexy, irresistible beat that plays effectively to his upper vocal strengths.

Miley Cyrus takes fans on a summer vacation

ALBUM REVIEW: "Endless Summer Vacation" Columbia Records



BY SARAH PAYNE

STAFF WRITER

Miley Cyrus developed a musical teleportation machine in her new album "Endless Summer Vacation," taking listeners to a beach house on a summer day.

Cyrus' album is full of atmospheric production with hints of '70s and '80s disco influence that make listeners want to dance around their house. The production, the apex of the album's quality, is full of instrumentation, yet it's so light, smooth and breezy. It consistently accentuates Cyrus' raspy vocals that are especially powerful when Cyrus uses her lower octave.

The strong sense of confidence and self-assurance that Cyrus emulates on this album starts right off the bat with "Flowers." "Jaded" has a funky, lively production full of synths and drums.

Unfortunately, after such a compelling and intriguing start, the album falls into a four-track-rut of mediocrity and awkward clashes between varying degrees of successful vocal performances.

The first (and worst) of these offenses, and the most shoddy track on the entire project, is "Thousand Miles." The track has a more country-style twang to it and while Cyrus has been successful in meshing genres together on past projects, this song feels out of place. The production is choppy and during the post chorus, there is a beat break that seems immature and underdeveloped. The lyrics are sweetly sentimental but sound more reminiscent of something Cyrus would have sung during her Disney days. "Thousand Miles" has a feature with Brandi Carlile and her vocals harmonize nicely with Cyrus' but did not add much to the song.

The album finds its footing again with the bold track "Violet Chemistry" in which she's asking a potential lover to take the jump and to take a chance: "Stay a while, don't deny the violet chemistry." Cyrus sounds confident and her lower register is the star of this track.

Alongside the louder, fast-paced dance tracks, the album features an array of calmer, relaxed songs that someone could turn on during a road trip. "Wildcard" and "Island" both serve to place a spotlight on the peaceful, soft elements of the album's production but are unique in their own ways.

"Island" is slower and minimalistic with its production and instrumentation. Contrarily, "Wildcard" is passionate and louder in nature. Cyrus' emotive vocal performance on this track is similar to her performance on her 2020 song "Midnight Sky." While neither are the most memorable, they are nice additions to the track list and help the



"Endless Summer Vacation" emulates Cyrus' confidence in her artistic talent.

"Wonder Woman" is the album at its lyrical best, shedding light on the pressures women face to seem put-together and prioritize others over themselves. Cyrus'

project transition nicely into the final tracks.

past as a child star and celebrity adds even more interesting layers to this song's already emotional lyrics, especially in a social media-based world that fosters parasocial relationships with celebrities.

"Endless Summer Vacation" provides 43 minutes of pure escapism that lives up to what its name promised. The production is fun and playful, and Cyrus sounds self-assured throughout the album. The bumps in listening to this otherwise smooth album are noticeable, but the consistently superb production prevents listeners from being removed from the moment or

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SPORTS



Six current members of the Ithaca College men's lacrosse team, along with three former members, live together off-campus in addition to being teammates. According to a 2015 study by the NCAA, 43% of men and 36% of women who are student-athletes choose to live exclusively with other student-athletes. KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

Teammates build chemistry with off-campus housing

BY TESS FERGUSON

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Nestled among rows of charming houses and tree-lined streets in Downtown Ithaca, a vibrant energy pulses from one particular residence. Inside lives some old furniture, sports memorabilia and the constant hum of competition and camaraderie.

For six members of the Ithaca College men's lacrosse team, sharing bonds on the field was not quite enough. Alongside three former teammates, the band of nine has shared an off-campus duplex home since August 2022.

Senior midfielder Andrew Tinnesz said that since they are always together on campus, the group's decision to live together is one that went unspoken.

"To be honest, we all kind of knew we wanted to live together without saying anything," Tinnesz said. "When we became seniors, we wanted a big backyard and a lot of space, so the easiest way to do that was to find a house together."

Tinnesz said that because he and his teammates are all on the same schedule, living together throughout the year has reaped some interesting benefits on and off the field.

We're all in similar majors and we can only take classes at the same times, so homework and studying is something we all do together," Tinnesz said. "Of course, we always talk about practice or games as soon as we walk in the door so the space really gives us

a chance to handle our academic and athletic commitments together."

Tinnesz's living arrangement, however, is not a unique one; a 2015 study by the NCAA found that 43% of men and 36% of women who were student-athletes were more likely to live exclusively with other student-athletes. At the Division III level, it was 33% of men and 22% of women.

At the college, many groups of athletes make the decision to live off campus as soon as they are eligible to do so for their senior year. Just around the corner, five members of the college's football team shared the same idea.

Senior quarterback Max Perry said it was his junior-year roommates who influenced his decision to move off campus.

"It all started last year in [the Circle Apartments]," Perry said. "We're a really close team, so it could have been anybody, but it just so happened that me and four of my teammates really enjoyed living together. We didn't have any problems."

Perry said that making the decision to live with his teammates has brought the group closer together, which shows on the field.

"When we're home, we always talk about how we can play better and what more we can be doing," Perry said. "They're already my best friends, but living together has really strengthened those connections."

Between practice, games, strength and nditioning training and film sessions many athletes already spend the majority of their time with their teammates. Perry said that although it can sometimes be overwhelming, he values his living arrangement more than anything.

"Personally, if I live with someone for a long time, the little stuff can start to get on my nerves," Perry said. "Luckily, though, we're all so close and understanding that nothing has ever broken our chemistry. If anything, those little fights and arguments help us get closer."

Tinnesz said that having a shared space among a group of seniors has even aided his team in terms of leadership.

"All three captains live together on the same side [of the duplex]," Tinnesz said. "If there are any conflicts or any problems, we're always the first to know and we can sort it out right there."

Similarly, senior swimmer Lauren Brady who lives next door to Perry with four of her teammates from the swimming and diving teams — said that fostering leadership in her house has helped to navigate any tension within her team.

"One of my roommates is a captain on the team, so sometimes she'll come to us for advice and input on how to handle a situation," Brady said. "Having a lot of our team's leaders working together in one spot has really helped us avoid some unnecessary drama."

Brady said that as her connections with er teammates grew within the house it has

become much easier for her to provide constructive feedback during practice knowing that there is already a deep sense of trust.

"I definitely have gotten more comfortable speaking up around my teammates at practice," Brady said. "As a senior and a leader on the team, I don't always vocalize things, but around [my roommates], it's easier to do so because I know they'll be there to support me."

In parallel, Perry said that because of the trust and camaraderie he and his teammates have built within their home, he has a deeper understanding of what they need on and off the field.

When you live together, you know how your teammates act under pressure and how they're going to respond in certain situations," Perry said. "You know how to calm them down and how to handle when they're not being themselves. Everything we build here only benefits us; it doesn't hurt us at all."

As it is his final season in Bomber threads, Tinnesz said that while reflecting on living with his teammates, he is largely grateful to be able to work, play and spend time with them

We all truly want the best for one another on and off the field," Tinnesz said. "All of us are going to be lifelong friends regardless, so being able to go to battle for one another on the field just means that much more."

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From left, senior swimmer Lauren Brady and senior diver Karolyn Pawcio live with three other members of the Ithaca College swimming and diving teams.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN



From left, seniors JoJo Puckey, Julien Deumaga and Max Perry are three of five members of the Ithaca College football team who live in the same house.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

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Pair of pole vaulters leap to the podium at Nationals

BY BILLY WOOD

STAFF WRITER

At the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships on March 10, two Bomber pole vaulters won as more than just teammates - their connection stems back to a local group.

Senior Dom Mikula and graduate student Meghan Matheny dominated for the Ithaca College pole vaulting squad in the National Championships in Birmingham, Alabama. Mikula and Matheny also competed and knew each other throughout high school thanks to the Tompkins County Pole Vault Club, ran by Matt Scheffler, assistant coach for the Ithaca College men's and women's track and field teams.

Matheny has been an elite competitor ever since joining the team her first year at the college. She recorded a runner-up finish in Birmingham at 3.95 meters. This finish follows her two National Championships, with an outdoor title in 2021 and an indoor title in 2022.

Matheny said she would have loved to earn a third National Championship, but believes this season is an example of how much she has worked to remain at such a high level.

"Obviously there is still that small part of me where I'm like, 'I was so close to winning my third title' and I can have that thought all day, but I'm proud of how I finished this indoor season," Matheny said. "Being able to be so successful over the past three years meant a lot to me and it's been a testament to how much work I've put in and being able to jump at that level while continuing to be successful."

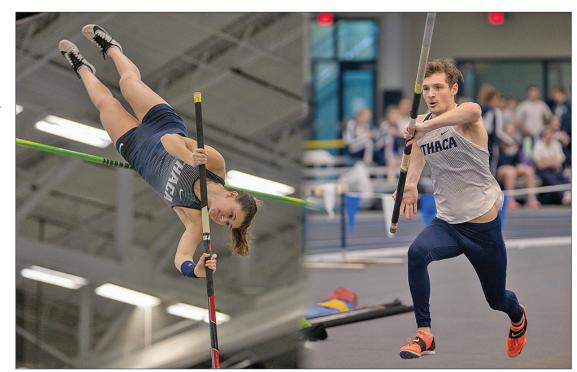
Not only does Matheny's performance come from her own hard work, but she said she also gives credit to Scheffler, who was the 2022 National Women's Assistant Coach of the Year and has coached the Bombers for 17 years.

"I think my performance is also a really good indicator of how amazing a coach [Scheffler] is," Matheny said. "Coaching me, but then also my teammates who have had a lot of success too. [Mikula], [junior] Brendan Sheehan, [senior] Martha Kemp-Neilson and [junior] Sara Altonen all were at Nationals and all of us have placed at Regionals and Liberty Leagues. It's really a testament to his coaching ability above anything else."

Mikula has also been very dominant on the men's side of things. He finished runner-up in Birmingham with a mark of 4.95 meters. Mikula also made the National Championships the prior two seasons and finished fourth in 2022 while finishing runner-up in 2021.

Mikula also credits his consistent dominance to the teachings and guidance of Scheffler. Scheffler coached Mikula throughout high school and has been a big part of Mikula's career.

"Trusting what he has for us in store, but also kind of doing the little things outside of practice [has been important]," Mikula said. "Coach likes to say the 22 hours outside of practice matter way more than the two hours that you're in practice, so just doing the little things consistently throughout my years here on



From left, graduate student pole vaulter Meghan Matheny and senior pole vaulter Dom Mikula both finished in second place at the NCAA Division III Indoor Championships on March 10 and 11.

GRACE VANDERVEER AND NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

the team has led me to stand ahead of many other people who won't do those things."

Scheffler believes the camaraderie and consistency are helped by the team's prior relationships.

"Having a group that's already established, that can accept others in, it really works well," Scheffler said. "They've already cheered for each other, seeing their careers developed throughout the years, and a lot of times I'll have kids that have come from other pole vault clubs."

Scheffler's close relationship with Mikula and Matheny has allowed him to see their growth as pole vaulters from a young age, especially on the mental side of their game.

"I think they're very strong competitors," Scheffler said. "They come to win and I think that was very apparent based on how [Mikula] had the number one mark going into Nationals this year and he was the highest jumper in Division III. No one has jumped as high as he did this year, even though he ended up second at the meet itself. [Matheny] has produced many high jumps consistently throughout the year. When it came down to competition time, it was just like she had done in the past and she produced."

Mikula and Matheny have certainly had great careers with more to come during the outdoor season, but their relationship with their teammates and coach makes it even easier to reach that success.

"When we were in high school, we saw each other over the summer and in the winter when Scheffler hosted his clinic," Matheny said. "They're all great people. ... I can't say enough good things about them, the same way I can't say enough good things about Scheffler. They're the reason that we're all so successful."

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Athletics victory song makes dreams come true

BY AIDAN CHARDE

SPORTS EDITOR

When the clock hit zero in the Ithaca College women's basketball team's 78-46 win over the Rochester Institute of Technology on Feb. 7, an unmistakable keyboard riff blared out over the speakers before Daryl Hall began the first line of the Hall & Oates hit song "You Make My Dreams

The same thing happened at the men's basketball team's victory over RIT later that night, during the football team's Cortaca Jug victory at Yankee Stadium on Nov. 12 and the volleyball team's win against SUNY Geneseo on Sept. 3. In fact, the same could be said about every home Bomber victory since 2015.

While "You Make My Dreams (Come True)" is far from a traditional victory song, Will Rothermel, former associate director of Athletics, said the energetic intro made it the perfect celebration song.

"Andy [Davenport, former facilities and operations assistant], mentioned the song and we listened to it," Rothermel said. "And we were like, 'This is perfect.' It's timeless, it's upbeat, it's fun and you can see people dancing to it after we win games."

Although the song never talks about winning or competing, Davenport said he liked the song because it talked about making dreams come true, something athletes do every time

"Only the athletes can know the blood, sweat and tears that go into [games] ... [but] I wanted the kids to be able to show up to the game and just be able to play," Davenport said. "Being able to have a fun song with just the opening couple of notes of that song — it's just such a fun little beat that makes you want to wiggle your hips."

Davenport said the perfect example of the impact the song can have on the teams happened just a few weeks into the first season of the tradition. He said the women's soccer team had just finished a game, but because the press box was understaffed, it took a little bit for the song to start.

"I'm walking off the sideline and [head women's soccer coach] Mindy Quigg ... is standing next to me and she's like, 'Where's my victory song?" Davenport said. "It had been maybe a minute, and she wanted it right away. ... And it was like, we're a week or two in and this clearly means something to her."

Senior Jack Stern, who is on the men's basketball team, said that having one song for every team helps build camaraderie between the sports and provides common ground for players in different sports and seasons.

"Since I've been recruited here, through all my four years playing here, one thing that not only Susan Bassett [associate vice president and director of Intercollegiate Athletics] but Will Rothermel and many of the other coaches and head staff have told us is we're one team," Stern said. "This is just another one of those things that build on that and show that this isn't just something that we say. We do what we preach."

Rothermel said that bringing together the teams is the goal of every department-wide decision like this one.

"It puts another dimension of connectivity between the teams besides wearing the same uniforms and gear," Rothermel said. "It's a different representation of the cohesion and unity of the department."

As for bringing the department together, junior Jamie Koopman, who is on the volleyball team, said she was never told it was the victory song, but has noticed it at her games and others.

"We kind of don't really talk about that stuff,"



From left, senior Grace Isaksen, first-year student Amanda Zweifler, sophomore Peyton Miller and senior Jennifer Pitts celebrate a point for the volleyball team.

RAYAHNA TRYKA/THE ITHACAN

Koopman said. "The fact that that song plays after all the songs every game, you just kind of expect it. ... I just kind of assumed it was an Ithaca thing."

Stern said it was the perfect song for a postgame celebration, which is why he and his teammates always anticipate it when the clock winds down in a game that looks like a win.

"On the bench, I hear guys all the time saying ... 'Hey, play that song!'" Stern said. "When we hear it, I know everyone gets that extra tingly feeling, like, 'Yeah, that was a great win."

While Rothermel said athletes were polled on the victory song when it was originally being implemented, all of the student-athletes at the college have graduated or moved on since then, meaning no athlete at the college has had a say in the song. However, he said that is what has given the tradition its staying power.

"This is what we've done, and it's a positive thing," Rothermel said. "People get used to it and then it's cool because you hear it at your game when you win. And you go to a basketball game in the winter and a lacrosse game in the spring, and you're all hearing the same songs."

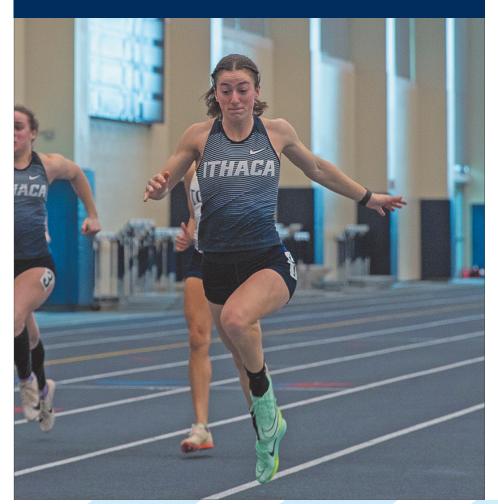
Davenport said he did not know the song was still being used by the college eight years later, but even though he left the college in December 2015, he was happy to hear he still had a little bit of a lasting impact on the Bombers.

"I was a big believer in athletics and all the positives that can come through lessons you learn on the field," Davenport said. "So, to know that I still in some very small way am playing a part in the success of their athletics is a cool feeling."

THE BUZZER

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

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK LOGAN BRUCE/WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD



Graduate student pentathlete Logan Bruce was the national runner-up in the pentathalon at the NCAA Division III Indoor Championships on March 11. She also earned second place in the 60-meter hurdles, solidifying her sixth All-American honor.

COMPETITION OF THE WEEK BASEBALL VS. WISCONSIN-STEVENS POINT



Sophomore shortstop Connor Pedersen fields a ball against the University of Scranton on March 22. The Ithaca College baseball team upset No. 3 University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point 4–1 during its spring break trip to Auburndale, Florida.

AIDAN CHARDE/THE ITHACAN

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN



4 P.M. MARCH 24 AT HIGGINS STADIUM

EVENT TO WATCH

The No. 13 Ithaca College women's lacrosse team will look to preserve its undefeated conference record upon welcoming the No. 22 St. Lawrence University Saints to Higgins Stadium. During the 2022 season, the Saints were the first to test the Bombers, marking their first loss early in the season. However, when the two met again in the Liberty League Semifinal, the Bombers fired on all cylinders to earn their redemption with an 18–9 victory. The competition will mark the second of an eight-game slate of in-conference matchups for the Bombers.

NOTABLE UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

BASEBALL: 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. March 25 vs. the University of Rochester on Valesente Diamond at Freeman Field.

MEN'S LACROSSE: Noon March 25 vs. Clarkson University and 4 p.m. March 29 vs. Misericordia University at Higgins Stadium. **WOMEN'S LACROSSE**: 3 p.m. March 25 vs. Clarkson University at Higgins Stadium.

MEN'S TENNIS: 10 a.m. March 26 vs. SUNY Oneonta at Wheeler Outdoor Courts.

WOMEN'S TENNIS: 1 p.m. March 25 vs. SUNY New Paltz and 2 p.m. March 26 vs. SUNY Oneonta at Wheeler Outdoor Courts.



"We all truly want the best for one another on and off the field. All of us are going to be lifelong friends regardless, so being able to go to battle for one another on the field just means that much more."

- ANDREWTINNESZ
Senior midfielder on living with his
teammates on men's lacrosse



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From left, sophomores Wayman Carrasquillo, Matthew Malespina and Lincoln Truesdale play a three-on-three pick up game of basketball during the spring equinox March 20 at the Lower Quads tennis courts. After returning from spring break, students enjoyed a warm day outside after a winter storm passed through Ithaca.

MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN