THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023

# THE ITHACAN

**VOLUME 90** ISSUE 21

ACCURACY • INDEPENDENCE • INTEGRITY

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OPINION | page 7 **BIPOC STUDENTS SPEAK UP ABOUT CAMPUS RACISM** 



SPORTS | page 13 **ROWING TEAMS FIND SUCCESS WITH WALK-ONS** 

# New meal plan options refresh stale swipes



The college will introduce an exchange system where a student can "exchange" a meal swipe for a meal of equal value at various eateries on campus. The Food Court, Chick-N-Bap and the Ithaca Bakery are not included in the exchange system. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JADYN DAVIS/THE ITHACAN

BY RYAN JOHNSON

STAFF WRITER

Changes have been proposed to how dining at Ithaca College will operate in the 2023-24 academic year with the inclusion of new meal plans and a new exchange system.

The changes were announced in the "Dollars and Sense" presentation Feb. 17 by Jeff Golden, associate vice president of Auxiliary Services. Golden said the college is planning to introduce an exchange system where a student can "exchange" a meal swipe for a meal of equal value at various eateries on campus, including the Towers Eatery and any cafe on campus. The Food Court, Chick-N-Bap and the Ithaca Bakery are not included in the exchange system.

"The exchange piece is really important," Golden said during the presentation. "You can use your meal plan wherever you are. ... If you choose as a student that you don't really want to ever go to the dining hall, then you can."

Golden said the college is planning to introduce three new meal plans for residential students. Each meal plan comes with 24 meals a week, but the number of exchanges varies. The options are: seven exchanges per week at \$6,870 per year, 14 exchanges per week at \$7,300 per year and 21 exchanges per week at \$7,800 per year. The current residential plan costs \$6,868 a year and offers unlimited swipes.

All of the plans come with 200 Bomber

**MEAL PLANS, PAGE 4** 

# IC project globalizes media | Faculty Council shares new literacy despite disasters

BY RYAN JOHNSON

STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 6, Asli Sezgin, visiting postdoctoral researcher and associate professor at Cukurova University, was sitting at an airport gate at the Adana Sakirpasa Airport in Adana, Turkey. She was waiting to board a plane that would take her to Syracuse, New York, then Ithaca, where she would start her postdoctoral research with Project Look Sharp, a non-profit organization started at Ithaca College, which focuses on media literacy in education.

While waiting for the airplane, a 7.8-magnitude Earthquake hit southern Turkey and Syria, causing more than 9,100 aftershocks. As of March 7, more than 52,000 people have died and the quake has caused more than 100 billion dollars in damage.

Sezgin and other passengers were rushed to board



Asli Sezgin, visiting postdoctoral researcher, was drawn to Ithaca College specifically for Project Look Sharp. **GABRIEL BIENNAS/THE ITHACAN** 

their planes after the earthquake hit as airport officials tried to get people out of Turkey to safer countries.

"Those were [the] worst moments of my life," Sezgin said. "I left behind a huge family and friends who stayed in the earthquake zone. In the first days I came [to Ithaca], I was only interested in hearing from my family and my friends and

my loved ones."

Cyndy Scheibe, executive director and founder of Project Look Sharp, said that when she saw the news of the earthquake, she contacted Chris Sperry, director of Curriculum and Staff Development, to check and see if the earthquake hit the area where Sezgin was from.

**LOOK SHARP, PAGE 4** 

# policies impacting faculty

**BY NOA RAN-RESSLER** 

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The March 7 Ithaca College Faculty Council meeting began with an announcement from Jen Huemmer, associate professor in the Department of Strategic Communication, acknowledging the statements posted by IC Rise Up, highlighting the perspectives and experiences of students of color on campus.

"[There are] discussions happening on campus right now, led by students of color on their experiences in our classrooms,"

Melanie Stein, provost and senior vice president of academic affairs, then gave her report. Stein said faculty have come to her with issues adapting to teaching the current generation of students who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The pandemic has had an effect on their education, so they are coming into college in a different way," Stein said. "A lot of faculty [are] voicing, 'They're different. They have different needs. We're struggling to support them."

Stein said that as a solution, the Center for Faculty Excellence and the Center for Student Success and Retention are collaborating to provide resources and support for faculty. Stein said a survey is open for faculty to

fill out in order to understand what faculty members need.

Brendan Murday, associate provost of faculty affairs in the Office of the Provost and Academic Affairs, spoke to the council about an amendment to syllabus policies. Murday provided a revision to the policy for cross-listed courses, which has not been updated since 2012. The revision clarifies what can be designated as a cross-listed course and adds the word "inter-departmental" to the policy.

Murday also proposed a revision to syllabus requirements to provide information in a course's syllabus stating the non-contractual amount of hours students can expect to spend on a course outside of time in class and labs. Both the cross-listing policy and syllabus revisions were passed.

Murday also discussed diversity advocates on faculty search committees. He said diversity advocates are members of faculty search committees who still perform all the same tasks as other committee members but also evaluate committee members' bias when searching for future faculty members.

"The function of [the diversity advocate] ... is to keep in mind the ways in which implicit or unconscious bias might creep into the search process," Murday said.

**FACULTY COUNCIL, PAGE 4** 

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# Nation & World News

### A second Norfolk Southern train derails in Ohio within a month

A Norfolk Southern Corp. train derailed in Springfield, Ohio, about a month after an earlier crash in the state that shone a spotlight on rail safety.

Around 20 cars of a 212-car train derailed while traveling southbound near Springfield in the evening of March 4, the company said in an emailed statement. No hazardous materials were involved and there were no reported injuries, it said.

### Iran states agreement to closer inspections of nuclear facilities

Iran will allow international inspectors to carry out closer inspections of its nuclear facilities, according to a joint statement by the International Atomic Energy Agency and Iran's Atomic Energy Organization on March 4.

Details of the inspections still need to be clarified, the two organizations said in their statement.

### China wants reunification with Taiwan according to key report

China largely kept its language regarding Taiwan the same in an annual report to the nation's legislature, suggesting that President Xi Jinping is maintaining its policy toward the self-ruled island even as

global tensions increase.

"We should promote the peaceful development of cross-Strait relations and advance the process of China's peaceful reunification," Premier Li Keqiang said in a work report to the National People's Congress, which kicked off in Beijing on March 5.

### Environmentalists and activists protest training center building

Opponents of a plan to build a police training center on an 85-acre wooded property in DeKalb County gathered March 4 to kick off a week of protests and festivities aimed at stopping the project from moving forward.

"What did we come here to do?" Matthew Johnson, an event organizer, yelled to the crowd that gathered around him in a giant circle as the event began.

### Zelenskyy to pursue closer ties with EU following plans to join

Ukraine will work to ramp up its cooperation with European institutions this year, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said March 4 after meeting European Parliament President Roberta Metsola who traveled to Ukraine.

"The task is to actively prepare everything for our country's membership in



### **US defense secretary visits Philippines**

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, right, walks past military guards during arrival honors at the Department of National Defense on Feb. 2 in Quezon City, Manila, Philippines. The visit is an effort to boost bilateral ties between the two countries.

ROLEX DELAPENA/POOL/GETTY IMAGES/TNS

the European Union, increase arms deliveries to Ukraine and strengthen sanctions against Russia," Zelenskyy said in his daily video address.

### Long COVID linked to increased risk of death and health issues

According to a new study, individuals

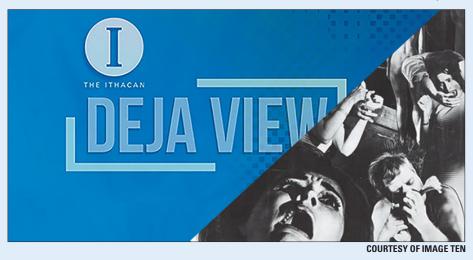
who experience long COVID-19 are at a higher risk for cardiovascular and other health issues.

The findings showed that the chance of patients dying was doubled in those who experienced lingering symptoms.

SOURCE: TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

### **MULTIMEDIA**

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



#### 'Deja View' - 'Night of the Living Dead' (1968)

Host sophomore Therese Kinirons and guest sophomore Alex Benowitz talk practical effects and zombies with 'Night of the Living Dead.'



## Enjoy sugar, spice and everything nice at Ithaca's 25th Annual Chili Cook-Off

On March 4, The Commons heated up with excitement for Ithaca's 25th Annual Chili Cook-Off. Over 40 local restaurants served up their best chilis, featuring ingredients from brisket to chocolate.



















### THE ITHACAN

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## New April break among series of changes to IC calendar

#### BY PRAKRITI PANWAR

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

In an Intercom message posted Feb. 19, Registrar Vikki Levine announced updates to Ithaca College's academic calendar, which will be in effect from Fall 2023 onward.

#### Changes to the fall semester

According to the Intercom post, classes for the Fall 2023 semester will commence Wednesday Aug. 23 instead of that Monday, which is when classes usually begin. Block I classes will end Oct. 16, after fall break. As a result, Block II classes will begin Oct. 18, two days later than they were originally scheduled.

Instead of Dec. 13, final exams will end Dec. 15 and final grades will be posted by 5 p.m. Dec. 21. According to Intercom, this will allow faculty to engage in orientation, Convocation and other related activities by adding five extra business days to their schedule prior to the beginning of classes in the fall. There will not be a reading day in Fall 2024 because of a weekend that falls between the first and last two days that finals are conducted. The Spring 2024 semester dates will remain the same.

Levine said the Academic Calendar Committee decided to make changes to the academic calendar to better cater to student and faculty needs. Levine said that according to New York state law, colleges must ensure that each semester follows a 15-week calendar.

"The goal of the academic calendar committee is to make sure that

we are creating a calendar that adheres to all the regulations that we need to follow," Levine said. "We realized that some of the things that we were doing and trying to shorten the calendar was not working for our students or our faculty, so we collectively made that shift."

#### Changes to the spring semester

Spring 2024 will have a new break in April with two days off on April 8 and 9, which Levine said is meant to imitate the fall break. According to the Intercom post, there will not be an April break in Spring 2025. Levine said this is because Martin Luther King Day falls on Jan. 20, 2025, which is a Monday.

"Everyone that's in the academic calendar committee thought it was a really positive recommendation, [which] was, 'How do we ... [model] the fall break ... [in the] spring to offer that wellness time for students?" Levine said. "I think the wellness group is a great collaborative example ... [of] student and faculty and staff mental health and how to tie that into the calendar."

Brian Petersen, director of the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services, said the recommendation was made to the Office of the Registrar by a subcommittee within the college's JED Campus Initiative, based on the Healthy Minds Survey.

Petersen said the survey helped the college to create subcommittees targeted at planning specialized initiatives to tackle short falls that were highlighted in the survey results.

Petersen said previous initiatives

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26	27	28	29	30	31	1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22

Starting in Spring 2024, Ithaca College will have an April break that is meant to match fall break in October. In Spring 2025, there will be no April break because the semester will start on a Tuesday.

ILLUSTRATION BY GRACIE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN

that have been implemented based on the results of the survey include Stop and Breathe week and, most recently, anxiety screening sessions.

Petersen said the next survey will take place in Spring 2025 and will help assess the effectiveness of JED initiatives. Petersen said that while the academic calendar was not a shortcoming that emerged in the survey results, it was an active initiative subcommittees wanted to work on.

"I don't think it was a deficit," Petersen said. "I think it was just something that we noticed. ... If the message is that we're going to create these pockets of stress relief or downtime ... that would sort of balance the semesters in terms of thinking actively about mental health and wellness and distress management."

First-year student Duda Formoso said that she looks forward to the April break and that she can see it positively impact her academic career. Formoso is an international student and said she arrived on campus two weeks late because of visa issues, missing orientation and the first week of classes. Formoso said that the fall break helped her catch up and that the April break should have a similar effect.

"From my experience last

semester — my first semester here — until fall break, I was, like, dying," Formoso said. "I think from my own experience, I know how it's important to have a break to maintain our academic standard."

Petersen said the timing of the break will help students cope better with academics.

"Especially as we come into April, everybody is beginning to think about finals and the seniors are thinking about graduation and there's a lot of anxiety floating around," Petersen said. "I think that, in general, it'll be well received."

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# Business school opens accessible Bloomberg Terminal

BY KAI LINCKE

STAFF WRITER

The Ithaca College School of Business opened a Bloomberg Terminal on Feb. 15 in the college's library to make the terminal's resources more accessible to all students in a central location with longer hours.

According to the Bloomberg website, the Bloomberg Terminal compiles real-time financial news and data and research reports about markets, companies and industries. The terminal's information can be used for some social and natural science fields in addition to business.

Business Librarian Jim Bondra said via email that Information Technology moved a Bloomberg Terminal from the Dorothy and Roy H. Park Center for Business and Sustainable Enterprise to the library.

Mejda Bahlous-Boldi, associate professor in the Department of Finance and International Business, said the college has nine Bloomberg Terminals in the School of Business's Trading Room. Bahlous-Boldi said her students often need to work with the Bloomberg Terminals outside of class to complete long-term projects. According to the college's website, the Trading Room is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on weekdays. Finance students can receive special permission to work in the Trading Room after hours, but the Dorothy and Roy H. Park Center for Business and Sustainable Enterprise closes at 11 p.m. and is not open on weekends.

Bahlous-Boldi said she recognized that the Trading Room's hours are limited, especially during weekends and breaks, which can make it challenging for students to



The Ithaca College School of Business installed a Bloomberg Terminal, which puts together real-time financial news and data, in the college's library with longer hours.

use the terminals.

"One student came to me who was here during the Thanksgiving week," Bahlous-Boldi said. "He was here on campus during that whole week and couldn't access ... the Trading Room because everything was [in the Center for Business]. ... At that time, I said we have to find a solution for the students who want to work after hours or want to work during the weekend."

Bahlous-Boldi said she suggested to Michael Johnson-Cramer, dean of the School of Business, that a terminal should be installed in the library, which stays open until 2 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, because the location is more convenient.

"It is an effort actually from us to democratize the Bloomberg Terminals and the information that is there," Bahlous-Boldi said. "This is a very, very valuable facility that we have and it's a very valuable platform because they give you a lot of information at any time, real-time. Anyone who's interested in finance should be able to access and get the information at any time, day or night."

Bondra said he reviewed other colleges' Bloomberg guides to compile a guide on the library website to help students use the terminal. Bondra said his office is next to the terminal and he is available to help students with questions. Bahlous-Boldi said students can take the

free Bloomberg Market Concepts training to gain experience with the platform and become Bloomberg certified. Bondra said the course allows students to become more familiar with the platform and the certification is a good resume builder.

"The Bloomberg program/software is somewhat intuitive and menu-based, but to really take advantage of it, I would recommend taking the 8-hour Bloomberg Market Concepts training, which introduces [students] to how markets and the economy works," Bondra said. "It is a self-paced video tutorial that can be viewed and analyzed within Bloomberg. You can complete the training, pass several quizzes and get an email acknowledgment and be Bloomberg certified." Senior Calvin Carmichael, president of the Core Trading Consultants investing club, said he has used Bloomberg Terminals extensively for business classes, his personal research and CTC research. Carmichael said he hopes the terminal in the library will encourage students with majors outside of the School of Business to conduct their own research and follow the news using the terminal's live news feeds.

"It's a really, really good source of information for current events [and] getting news from every single outlet kind of compiled in an easily digestible format," Carmichael said. "This could be applicable not only to finance or business but people who are studying economics, even mathematics because there's plenty of coverage of all sorts of news. ... I think a lot of students will be able to get a lot of use out of that."

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### New meal plans provide alternative financing

#### FROM MEAL PLANS, PAGE 1

Bucks, 30 less than what was offered in the previous residential plan. Reginald Briggs, associate director and interim head of Dining, said the exchange program offers more opportunities to eat at different places on campus.

"Even though the number [of Bomber Bucks] comes down slightly, the value of your meal plan in theory went up a lot," Briggs said.

Briggs said the unlimited on-campus meal plan that is currently offered to students will not be available for purchase for the 2023–24 academic year.

Students who live off campus or in the Circles or Gardens Apartments can also choose from four other meal plans if they do not want to purchase a full meal plan. The options are: five swipes per week at \$2,020 per year, 10 swipes per week at \$3,500 a year and 14 swipes per week at \$4,500 a year. Students can also buy "blocks" of 50 meals for \$750.

The swipes can be used anywhere in dining halls and at any eatery or cafe on campus that offers exchanges. The only current commuter plan comes with five meal swipes a week and \$400 worth of Bomber Bucks at \$1,010 per semester.

Golden said during the presentation that one of the reasons for the exchange system was to decrease the number of people in the Campus Center Dining Hall.

### **On-Campus Meal Plans Per Year**

First Plan Seven swipes: \$6,870 Second Plan 14 swipes: \$7,300 Third Plan 21 swipes: \$7,800

## **Commuter Meal Plans per Year**

First Plan Five swipes per week: \$2,020 Second Plan 10 swipes per week: \$3,500 Third Plan 14 swipes per week: \$4,500 Fourth Plan Block of 50 meals: \$750

According to a Fall 2022 chart shown in the presentation, 59.24% of all meal swipes were used at the Campus Center Dining Hall, compared to 36.94% used at Terrace Dining Hall and 3.82% in the Campus Center Cafe.

Timothy Downs, vice president of Finance and Administration and chief financial officer, said he is still unsure about the financial effects the exchange plan will have on the college and the goal is to test the new system out and see what works and what does not.

Downs said the meal plan

requirement works very well for people who live on campus because it is a part of the residential college experience, but for people who commute to the college or live off campus, the exchange plan could be a better option.

"Being able to do the exchanges and eat at multiple locations multiple times per day may ... improve that student experience," Downs said.

First-year student Sydra Minkoff works at the library cafe. She said that as a student, she likes the exchange system a lot better than the meal plan and Bomber Bucks system because the food is better at the cafes, but as a worker, she has concerns about the increased foot traffic the exchanges would bring to cafes.

"My biggest concern with this [system] is that [cafes are] a very small space to handle a large student body," Minkoff said.

Despite Minkoff's concerns, she is still excited about the new exchange system and said she will use it between classes.

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# Three new plan options have been introduced in Fall 2023 for students living on campus and four options for students off campus with varying options to exchange swipes for retail cafe meals. ILLUSTRATION BY MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN worked on during the pandemic months and the goal was to determine the project of the meal plan and Bomber Bucks. According to a Fall 2022 chart requirement works very well for the meal plan and Bomber Bucks in the project acceptance of the study with us." Sezgin said the project she and the project she are t

### Faculty Council revisits Title IX cultural review

#### FROM FACULTY COUNCIL, PAGE 1

Murday said diversity advocates have to go through a training session with Belisa Gonzalez, professor and director of the Center for the Study of Culture, Race and Ethnicity.

"The information that's covered in the diversity advocate [training] is more specific language ... basically about different types of bias and how to mitigate them," Gonzalez said.

The meeting ended with a discussion of the then-School of Music climate review that was discussed at the Feb. 7 meeting.

To remedy a procedural issue, Gondek was the temporary facilitator for this meeting's conversation in lieu of a parliamentarian — someone who ensures procedures are followed.

Gondek asked how the council can help faculty to work on the issues expressed in the summary of the review. Huemmer said that if the review had been done in other schools and groups on campus, similar findings would have been found.

Huemmer read from a letter of support for BIPOC faculty and staff, released by the council in 2020, following the murder of George Floyd. The letter said all members of the campus community need to challenge unconscious biases and complicity in the system of oppression that harms minority students, faculty and staff.

"I would love to be part of the council that found a way to do that," Huemmer said.

Rachel Schutz, assistant professor in the Department of Music Performance, said that having the conversation about the results of the cultural review is just the beginning of the work that needs to be done.

"We need to become more comfortable with being uncomfortable and learning



From left, David Gondek, associate professor in the Department of Biology, facilitated and Susan Salahshor, director of the Physician Assistant Program, participated in discussion of the review.

KEVIN YU/THE ITHACA

how to talk to one another," Schutz said. "A continued discussion around this and improving our discussion is one of the ways we can [help]. Hopefully, this becomes more on our radar when we are in our individual [departments]; then we become better at engaging these conversations."

Steve Gordon, associate professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, said the council needs help from an expert to learn how to listen to experiences of discrimination.

"If there's any money we can possibly come up with for that, that would be it," Gordon said.

Gonzalez said it is important to create spaces where people feel they can have conversations about diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.

"There's great value in asking folks from the outside. ... It shows a mirror, things we can't see ourselves, and sometimes that can work from one department to another ... and other times it takes someone from outside of the institution," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said she can share readings and conduct a 15-minute training session at the beginning of the next Faculty Council meeting to help members of the council understand the language around their conversations about discrimination on campus.

"Clarification helps so many conversations," Gonzalez said. "If you have ideas about how to support and have these conversations, or specific issues raised by our students, please let me know."

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### Project expands media literacy

#### **LOOK SHARP, PAGE 1**

Project Look Sharp was founded in 1996 by Scheibe and Sperry. The project originally focused on providing media literacy education to institutions in upstate New York. Since then, Project Look Sharp's influence has expanded to more than 160 countries and the organization provides over 500 lessons on media literacy throughout different levels of education.

Sperry said that the first time he met Sezgin was in Turkey in 2019, when Project Look Sharp was brought by the U.S. State Department to implement media literacy into the curriculum.

"[Sezgin] was very moved by Project Look Sharp's approach to media literacy integration and thought it had great implications for Turkey," Sperry said. "[She] wrote a fellowship proposal that got accepted for her to study with us."

Sezgin said the project she and Sperry worked on during the pandemic lasted nine months and the goal was to determine the status of the media literacy level in Turkey. Sezgin said the conclusion of the project was that Turkey needed a higher amount of media literacy education, especially in rural areas.

Sezgin said she wants to see media literacy be integrated at every level of education in Turkey, not just in post-secondary education. Sezgin said she is working with Project Look Sharp's effort to provide media literacy training to librarians in K-12 education. In September 2021, the organization received a \$270,000 grant from the Booth-Ferris Foundation, a foundation that provides grants to charitable non-profit organizations, in order to integrate the training in schools across New York state.

"This is a very important example of media literacy education that has been put into practice [and] I think that similar examples are needed in Turkey," Sezgin said.

Scheibe said Sezgin brings a new, international perspective to Project Look Sharp's goal of integrating media literacy in education and is contributing to the project's goal of spreading the implementation of media literacy around the world.

"If [Sezgin] could develop a model that could work in Turkey, it might be something that we can tinker with and find people to work with in other [countries]," Scheibe said.

Junior Birsen Gürkaynak is an international student from Cyprus, a country 40 miles south of Turkey, who works as an office assistant in International Student and Scholar Services in the Office of International Programs.

Gürkaynak said she was able to communicate with Sezgin in Turkish, which helped her adapt to her new surroundings. Gürkaynak also said she showed Sezgin different stores in Ithaca so it would be easier for Sezgin to get acquainted with her new surroundings.

"It was really important for us to assist her with every step," Gürkaynak said. "[I was like], 'Oh, let's go to Panera [Bread], they have really great bread and soup.' I showed her they have the Mediterranean bowl, which is very close to [our] home food."

Gürkaynak said that while her home was not damaged by the earthquakes, the aftershocks still affect her family.

Sezgin said she is very thankful for the support and awareness the college has given to the people of Turkey during their time of crisis

"[I am grateful] to all the sensitive people at the college," Sezgin said.

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# SGC discusses IC Rise Up with Cornish IC's students of

BY DOMINICK PETRUCCI

STAFF WRITER

Student Governance Council held a meeting with Ithaca College President La Jerne Cornish to discuss recent events that have occurred on campus, including IC Rise Up's written statements. The SGC also confirmed new senators and reported on senators' work.

The meeting began with a discussion about IC Rise Up's printed statements hung across campus March 2 and 3, which shared testimony from students' of color about experiences of discrimination, othering and racism.

Cornish paused for almost 30 seconds before discussing her perspective on the statements.

"It was hard to read, hard to see, hard to know that some of our students of color are experiencing these things on our campus," Cornish said. "We need to acknowledge [that] these things have been experienced and then we need to have an honest conversation about what it means to be a student of color on our campus."

Cornish addressed the confusion about why the statements were taken down in the first place.

"[College personnel] were not directed to take them down, it was just procedure," Cornish said. "We said we would leave them up. ... People felt like they were being silenced because they were being taken down. ... We didn't want to silence students."

Cornish said that, from her perspective, people have not reported



President La Jerne Cornish attended the March 6 Student Governance Council meeting where the council asked questions and raised concerns about instances of racism at the college. RAY MILBURN/THE ITHACAN

incidents of discrimination.

"No one has come to me to have a conversation." Cornish said. "I know what my cabinet does, I know how responsive we are. ... People refuse to talk to us."

First-year student Hannah Ahmed, Class of 2025 Senator, mentioned how this unwillingness to reach out to campus resources may come from students feeling uncomfortable and distrustful of the college's ability to address students' concerns.

"I agree with everything you're

saying," Ahmed said to Cornish. "I think the only issue is that's not communicated to students. That's how you feel, but people from IC Rise Up don't want to speak to you because they feel like conversations that have already been reported ... haven't seen any changes."

Sophomore Tatyana Rubio ran for an open senator-at-large seat and the Appropriations Committee. Rubio has served on the executive boards of many clubs, including the Bureau of Concerts,

Sister 2 Sister and PODER: Latinx Student Association

Her platform focuses on improving mental health, expanding food options, expanding private study options and providing better transportation. The SGC unanimously voted her into the position.

"I would love to be a voice for my fellow peers," Rubio said. "I will not stop talking, especially if I feel strongly about something."

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# color speak out

**BY PRAKRITI PANWAR** 

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Printed statements appeared across the Ithaca College campus March 2 and 3, highlighting personal accounts from students of color about experiences of microaggressions, racism and discrimination.

These written statements were collected, printed and posted by IC Rise Up, a student group that primarily functions through its Instagram page. Students were encouraged by IC Rise Up to take pictures of these statements and tag @icriseup on their Instagram stories.

The original statements were quickly taken down by the college March 2 because the anonymous group did not get approval from the college. On March 3, the statements appeared again across campus and were not taken down. Dave Maley, director of Public Relations, said the statements posted March 3 will be allowed to stay up but did not specify until when.

In a video posted by IC Rise Up, college personnel were recorded removing the statements distributed on campus at about 3:30 a.m. March 2 because they were following procedure.

According to the college's Policy Manual, neither on-campus groups nor off-campus groups can distribute advertisements or other materials in locations on campus outside of designated areas.

In the afternoon, March 8, the group organized a walkout that was open to all students, faculty and staff at the college. About 150 people attended the walkout and were given an open platform to voice their experiences and concerns.

CONTACT: PPANWAR@ITHACA.EDU

# College recognized for producing Fulbright Scholars

BY NOA RAN-RESSLER

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Ithaca College has a long history of sending students and faculty abroad on Fulbright scholarships, to the point of being recognized by the Fulbright Program for the college's continued commitment to academic achievement abroad.

In the past decade, 14 faculty members at the college have received awards, including two this year. The college announced Feb. 14 that it had received recognition as a top producer of Fulbright U.S. Scholars, which are Fulbright awards for faculty.

Faculty Fulbright awards are opportunities for faculty members to travel abroad to over 135 countries for year- or semester-long research or teaching projects.

Faculty also have the flexibility of picking a country before picking a research project or traveling to a country for research in multiple short-term trips.

Anna Larsen, professor in the Department of Chemistry and a Fulbright liaison, said faculty apply for Fulbrights independently but can use their institutions for support and guidance as well.

Kathleen Mulligan, professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance Performance, said via email that she left for Amritsar, India, on Dec. 12, 2022, to complete her Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowship research, her second time traveling to India on a Fulbright scholarship.

Her first trip to India on a Fulbright was in 2009 and she worked with the Rajagiri College of Social Sciences in Kochi.

Mulligan said that this time, she is working with students at two institutions in Amritsar: Khalsa College and Sant Singh Sukha Singh

College of Commerce for Women.

"I am much more prepared [than in 2010] for the inevitable challenges of living in another culture," Mulligan said. "My previous experiences in India and Pakistan, combined with personal work I have done on cultural literacy and awareness, have allowed me to enter this experience with more sensitivity and understanding.'

Mulligan said her current research is a continuation of research she did during her 2015 sabbatical. The original research was based in Pakistan and led to the production of an original theatrical work, "Voices of Partition," based on the stories of survivors of the 1947 partition between India and Pakistan.

"I was profoundly moved by the project, and it remains the piece of work I am most proud of in my career," Mulligan said. "But that project told only one side of the story with accounts from one side of the border. It was important to me to complete the project with stories from the other side of the border in India."

While in Amritsar, Mulligan said she is continuing to facilitate interviews with survivors of the partition and how the partition still impacts people today.

"I cannot understand [the survivors'] language, so I rely on the students and faculty with me to hear their stories and relay them to me later," Mulligan said. "Just being in their presence is deeply moving to me."

According to the IC News announcement, Alka Bramhandkar, professor in the Department of Finance and the Department of International Business, is also abroad on a faculty Fulbright scholarship.

Larsen said she found out about faculty Fulbright awards because of a workshop that the college hosted. In 2010, Larsen and her



Kathleen Mulligan, professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance Performance, traveled to Amritsar and Kochi, India, twice through her Fulbright Scholarship.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

family went to Buenos Aires, Argentina, on her faculty Fulbright award.

"My children got to live in Buenos Aires for six months, which was really cool for them," Larsen said. "In general, it's very useful for people ... to live in foreign country, just to see that there is more to this world than just [their] house and [their] school."

In the past, the college has also received recognition as a top producer of Fulbright U.S. students but did not this year.

Hugh Egan, professor in the Department of Literatures in English and faculty liaison for students seeking external grants and awards, said the college did not have any students accepted for Fulbright awards in the 2022-23 academic year.

Egan assists students with the Fulbright application process. Egan said student Fulbright awards are the most common for him to handle compared to other external awards, and the college has seen 20 students receive Fulbright awards in the past decade. "My job is to help the students with their

application, look over drafts of their application [and] make sure that they get everything in on time," Egan said.

Larsen said via email that students pursuing Fulbright scholarships can use faculty recipients from the college as resources.

"Even though [the] student Fulbright program is different from the faculty one, the students may still gain useful insight from the faculty with experience with Fulbright programs," Larsen said.

CONTACT: NRANRESSLER@ITHACA.EDU

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### **COLLEGE BRIEFS**

#### Professor appointed to Television **Academy Foundation committee**

The Television Academy Foundation's archive selection committee has appointed Stephen Tropiano, professor in and director of the JB Pendleton Center in Los Angeles, for a three-year term to serve on the committee. The Academy's archive is a source of archival footage, including interviews with professionals in the television industry, from the past 25 years. The archive has 900 oral interviews specializing in a range of topics. The archive is accessible to the public through interviews.televisionacademy.com.

#### Provost's Colloquium to share faculty research and creativity

From 4 to 5:30 p.m. March 9 in Clark Lounge in the Campus Center, Melanie Stein, provost and vice president for academic affairs, will highlight research or creative pursuits by the college's faculty done during their respective sabbaticals. Luke Keller, professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, will facilitate the presentations. The colloquium is organized by the Center for Faculty Excellence.

Evgenia Ilieva, associate professor in the Department of Politics, will present research on anti-colonial sentiment during the mid-1900s that served as inspiration for activists like Angela Davis, Martin Luther King, Jr, and W.E.B. Du Bois.

Pearl Ponce, professor in the Department of History, will present research on the formation of limited, self-governed democracies in the pre-Civil War territories of Kansas, Utah and Washington.

Kari Brossard Stoos, associate professor in and associate chair of the Department of Health Promotion and Physical Education, will present research on monitoring the presence of the bacteria Vibrio parahaemolyticus, which can cause illness in people consuming contaminated seafood, in coastal waters.

Light refreshments will be provided at the event. To request accommodations, contact Colette Matisco at cfe@ithaca.edu or 607-274-3734.

#### **First Generation Center to hand** out 'I am First Gen' postcards

The First Generation Center at Ithaca College will distribute "I am First Gen" postcards from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 9 on the second floor of Campus Center. All members of the campus community — including students, faculty and staff — are invited to highlight their identities as first-generation college students through the postcards. For any questions and to request accommodations, contact Shadayvia Wallace at firstgen@ithaca.edu or 607-274-7756.

#### **Center for IDEAS opens Seniors** of Color award nominations

The Center for Inclusion Diversity Equity and Social Change is now accepting applications and nominations for the Seniors of Color Leadership Awards. The application window closes at 11:55 p.m. March 13. Recipients will be honored at a ceremony hosted by the Center for IDEAS on May 20. The ceremony takes place every year.

There are five different categories of awards that recognize different accomplishments by students of color on campus.

The Gloria L. Hobbs Award is presented to students who support their peers with empathy and selfless aid.

The Du Bois/Mandela Award is presented to students with a 3.5 GPA or higher who have demonstrated extensive community service and civic engagement.

The Chung/Thorpe Award is presented to students who are leaders on campus and amplify communities of color.

The Chawla/Ochoa Award is presented to students with a 3.3 GPA or higher who have engaged in research and published or presented their work.

The Chávez/Lorde Award is presented to students who have involved themselves with projects and initiatives that bring positive social change to the community, both on campus and in the local community.

Students can be nominated or apply for anywhere between one and five categories of awards. For accommodation requests, contact Angélica Carrington at ideas@ithaca.edu or 607-274-7777.

#### Scholarships are now available for students involved on campus

The Office of Student Engagement offers scholarships for students who demonstrate strong engagement on campus. The OSE Service and Involvement Scholarship application, which qualifies students for multiple scholarships all in one form, closes at 11:59 p.m. March 15.

Each scholarship has different requirements depending on each student's graduation year, involvement on campus and financial need. There are 14 scholarships and award amounts range from \$300 to \$4,000 per scholarship. Eleven of the scholarships require students to demonstrate financial need. Students need



#### Students build a fluffy zoo of new friends

Sophomore Mo de Poortere fills a stuffed sloth during the "Build a Buddy" event hosted by the Student Activities Board on March 3. It was a drop-in event for any student to build an animal free of charge while supplies lasted.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

to show this financial need through the submission of financial aid documents like the FAFSA. For any questions about demonstrated financial need, contact the Office of Student Financial Services at sfs@ithaca.edu. For any questions about student involvement and the application process, contact the Office of Student Engagement at ose@ithaca.edu.

#### Career Caravan to stop at the library for peer career advising

The Center for Career Exploration and Development will be in the Ithaca College Library from 2 to 5 p.m. March 9 for drop-in career advising. This is part of the Career Caravan series where students can connect with career advisers from different locations on campus, not just the career services office. Students can get help with resumes, cover letters, searching for jobs and internships, networking, finding potential future careers and more.

Students do not need to come in with a topic to discuss. They can meet with an adviser to discuss options and learn more about different services the center offers.

For questions and accommodations, contact the Center for Career Exploration and Development at careeers@ithaca.edu.

#### IC associate professor presents about business sustainability

Margaret Shackell, associate professor in the Department of Accounting and Business Law, presented at the inaugural American Accounting Association Sustainability Conference.

Shackell presented with Shari Littan, director of Research and Thought-Leadership at the Institute of Management Accountants, and Kristine Brands, assistant professor in the Department of Management at the United States Air Force Academy.

The presentation was called "Management Accountants' Role in Sustainable Business Strategy: A Guide to Reducing a Carbon Footprint," which was about managing emissions and assessing risk to minimize negative effects on the environment. Shackell also discussed two research papers and served on the conference's Steering Committee.

### PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

#### SELECTED ENTRIES FROM FEB. 20 TO 25

FEBRUARY 20

#### **MEDICAL ASSIST/ PSYCHOLOGICAL**

LOCATION: 117 Campus Center Way SUMMARY: A person was taken into custody under the mental hygiene law and was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded.

#### **MEDICAL ASSIST/ INJURY RELATED**

LOCATION: 420 Grant Egbert Blvd. SUMMARY: A caller reported a person injured their shoulder. Prior to officer arrival, the person was transported to the hospital. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

FEBRUARY 21

#### TRESPASS NO DEGREE

LOCATION: 125 Textor Circle SUMMARY: A caller reported unknown people in the building after Officer Thaddeus May responded.

#### **WELFARE CHECK**

LOCATION: 123 Tower Skyline Drive SUMMARY: A caller reported a person was crying. The officer was unable to locate the person. Master Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

#### **WELFARE CHECK**

LOCATION: 334 Grant Egbert Blvd. SUMMARY: A caller reported a person had made alarming statements of harming themselves Feb. 18. The officer determined that the person was not an imminent danger. Sergeant Don Lyke responded.

FEBRUARY 22

#### **PETIT LARCENY BETWEEN** \$50-\$199

LOCATION: 148 Conservatory Drive SUMMARY: A caller reported that an

hours. The officer was unable to unknown person stole a sign. This is locate the people responsible. Patrol a pending investigation. Patrol Offi- CORRESPONDENCE cer Kevin McClain responded

#### FEBRUARY 23

#### **SCC FIRE SAFETY OFFENSES**

LOCATION: 175 College Circle SUMMARY: During a health and safety inspection, a person reported finding drug paraphernalia and hazardous substances. The person responsible was referred to student conduct. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded.

#### FEBRUARY 24

#### **MEDICAL ASSIST/ INJURY RELATED**

LOCATION: 113 Campus Center Way SUMMARY: A caller reported that a person had fallen because of slippery conditions and injured their leg. The person declined medical assistance. Patrol Officer Kevin Jones responded.

### SUSPICIOUS LETTER/E-MAIL/

LOCATION: 125 Conservatory Drive SUMMARY: A caller reported an unknown person sent a correspondence. Master Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded.

#### FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: 98 Flora Brown Drive SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Activation was caused by burnt food. George Whitmore, fire protection specialist in the Office of Environmental Health and Safety, responded.

#### FEBRUARY 25

#### **WELFARE CHECK**

LOCATION: 143 Tower Skyline Drive SUMMARY: A caller reported a person sent some concerning text messages. The officer determined that the person was not an imminent danger to themselves. Patrol Officer Kevin Noterfonzo responded.

#### **WELFARE CHECK**

LOCATION: 130 College Circle SUMMARY: A caller reported a person was not answering the phone after they had fallen the previous day. The officer located the person and they declined medical assistance. Patrol Officer Steven Hutchison responded.

#### **FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL**

LOCATION: 181 College Circle SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Activation was caused by steam from a shower. Patrol Officer Steven Hutchison 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

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023

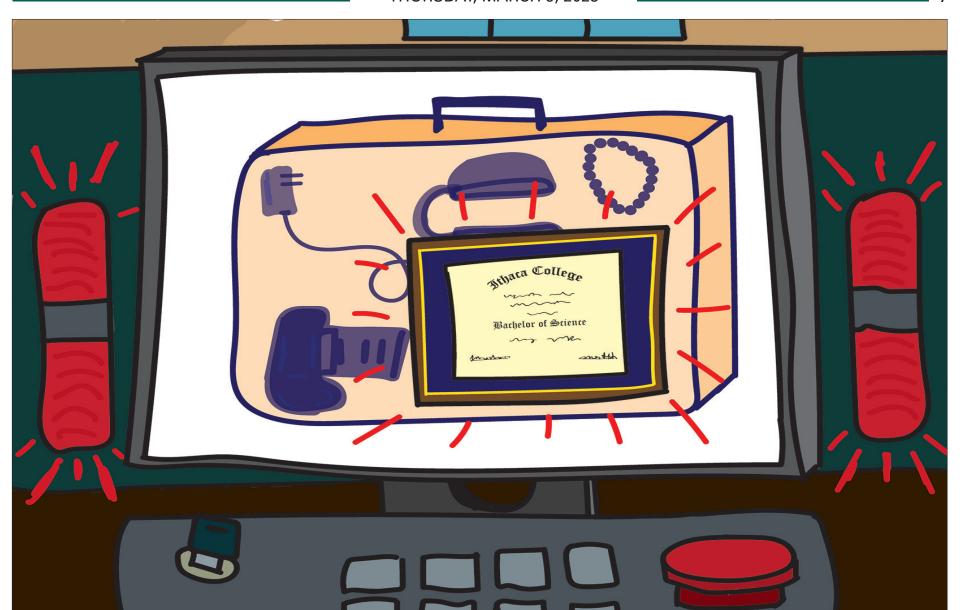


ILLUSTRATION BY BRODY SMITH/THE ITHACAN

#### **EDITORIALS**

# Strict visa regulations are BIPOC students are rising

ociety views visas as a normal requirement to travel around the world, however, the double standards, educational harms and risks visas create are often unnoticed. Loki Mulholland '23 was one of the victims of visa restrictions when trying to return to Ithaca College from his fall semester in Russia in 1993. His visa expired and he could not get back on time for the spring semester at the college. Thus, he did not graduate in time and only after 30 years was a chance given to Mulholland to finally earn his degree. Fate and hard work found a way to get Mulholland back on track. Unfortunately, fate is not generous to everyone.

For many students, there are no visa expiration issues because they did not even get a chance to move abroad in the first place. Chinese students were getting their visas rejected in 2021 because of U.S. discriminatory immigration laws, like 212(f), which gives the president authority to suspend or restrict the entry of internationals for whatever reason

they want. A high volume of students from Africa have been denied visas to Canada.

The scale of visa regulations differs in every country but most of them harm someone out there and destroy goals and dreams. Visa restrictions occur for multiple reasons, like the economic standing of the person, two countries' relations and a consular officer's doubts about a student not returning home. However, it seems that discrimination against non-citizens is the core problem. Having a world without any discriminatory immigration laws would be ideal, yet it is not possible. What is possible, though, is looser and double-standard-free laws that would not hold students back from achieving their dreams. No student should be denied a visa because the consular officer did not like how the student phrased their sentence - it creates doubts. Allowing students to explore the world and try things they are capable of comes with no harm; only a more educated society that learns about other cultures and respects one another.

# hindering peoples' dreams up against discrimination

n March 2 and 3, Ithaca College students of color rose up to share their voices. An Instagram account called IC Rise Up collected personal statements about racism, micro-aggressions and discrimination encounters around the college. IC Rise Up then printed and shared students' experiences around campus, which later were taken down by college personnel, according to a post on IC Rise Up's Instagram. The statements appeared around campus a second time and are standing strong as of now, even though some of them were initially taken down by facilities. The question still stands: why did the college try to silence these voices the first time?

The college's policy does not allow any non-college-approved groups' materials to be distributed around campus - a silencing excuse. In reality, all this policy did to many BIPOC students who shared the racist encounters in college was wound them after they spoke up. It takes courage to share personal experiences and having your college rip down your experience like it is nothing cannot be any more devastating.

Discrimination on Ithaca College's campus came to the surface thanks to shared experiences from BIPOC students. Seeing the amount of harm caused to BIPOC students in a college that "stands against" and educates about micro-aggressions and racism is trust-breaking. These revealed secrets make one wonder if a safe space exists anywhere at all when it does not on a college campus — a place that is supposed to shape moral and people's identities, to make one feel at home.

Enough is enough and no BIPOC student should face micro-aggressions and exclusion, especially while being taught about it on a daily basis. Ithaca College failed its students of color and it must not be excused. Every member of Ithaca College must come together and stand up against discrimination.

#### **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

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#### **GUEST COMMENTARY**

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

## The original goal of Title IX is shadowed under stigmas

**BY JADENA WILLIAMS** 

**JUNIOR** 

Before joining the Demand IX fellowship by WomanX in September 2022, I had never heard of Title IX, or my insufficiency of knowledge led me to my obliviousness of conversations around Title IX. After learning extensively about Title IX from WomanX, I realized that several college students lack awareness of what it is, and those who are aware live under the assumption that it merely prohibits and protects against sexual assault. For example, I overheard a conversation between two girls. One of the girls mentioned her Title IX case, and the other girl responded, "Is that the rape stuff?"

As Title IX is more widely known for its sexual assault portion, there is a stigma whenever it is uttered. Students quickly conclude that a person is either a victim of sexual assault or an abuser if they are associated with Title IX. However, that is not always the case. The immediate goal of Title IX in 1972 was to allow women equal access to academic and extracurricular activities and opportunities by preventing educational institutions and programs that receive federal funding from discriminating on the

Today, Title IX has grown to

incorporate more than providing women equal access to academic and extracurricular activities and opportunities. For example, in 2011, under the Obama Administration, sexual harassment became the most pressing issue associated with Title IX. As a result, the Office for Civil Rights in the Department of Education laid out detailed sexual assault rules, like mandating schools to dispense access to sex-segregated facilities like bathrooms, showers and dorms based on students gender identity rather than their biological sex. This was later overturned under the Trump administration. Title IX regulation changes from 2022 include students receiving appropriate support in accessing all aspects of education and strengthening protections for LGBTQ+ students who face discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Additionally, Title IX's definition of sex discrimination has grown to include prejudice based on pregnancy, sexual orientation and gender identity rather than only discrimination against women.

Before the establishment of Title IX, it was proposed that Title VII, which prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex and national origin, should extend protection to sex discrimination. However, the Black



Junior Jadena Wiliams discusses Title IX's sexual assault stigma overshadowing its goals. She gives background on Title IX's creation and thinks that colleges should create awareness about its original goal.

KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

American community rebutted the proposal because it would create a distraction from racial discrimination in the workplace. Today, Title IX's extensions have constructed a distraction from the statute's primary goal of providing women equal access to federally funded educational activities and programs. Title IX has continuously shied away from eradicating institutional obstacles to educational opportunities for

women and toward the much more ambitious project of transforming the way we think about sex differences, gender roles and sexuality in general.

Title IX should have maintained its focus on providing women equal access to federally funded activities and programs. If Title IX focuses on its original goal, giving women equal access, discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity would create its own protection.

This way, all these issues can receive the direct and specific attention they deserve. Since Title IX has already created these extensions, colleges and universities are obligated to generate awareness around the entire flesh of Title IX so that the original goal is not forgotten.

**Jadena Williams (she/her**) is a junior Politics major. Contact her at jwilliams13@ithaca.edu.

#### **GUEST COMMENTARY**

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

## Exceptional guest speakers create false assumptions

BY MOLLY FITZSIMONS

JUNIOR

From the beginning of my time at Ithaca College, I have been in classes, clubs and even Zoom calls that have brought in Ithaca College alumni guest speakers. We are shown people like David Muir and Bob Iger, faces that are recognized across the nation, and told that the greatness of Ithaca College is what allowed these alumni to thrive. I was absolutely smitten with the idea of even getting close to living up to the standards that have been set before me as a student in the Roy H. Park School of Communications, but as I continue to work through my college education, I have noticed that the average student does not have these similar experiences.

Ithaca College has a habit of showcasing its previous students who have gone above



I have also fallen victim to the reality that is the internship search.

- Molly Fitzsimons



and beyond in the industry, and what college would not be proud of its famous alumni? However, it becomes damaging when internship and job hunting for students begins.

We have seen all of these alumni who worked with massive companies right out of



Junior Molly Fitzsimons believes that solely showcasing the most successful alumni as guest speakers gives a false impression to students about the reality of job hunting.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

the gate, and the expectation that everyone can work for a company like Disney without experience in other internships has already been set

I have also fallen victim to the reality that is the internship search. Last year in preparation for the summer, I applied to every big company I could even think of — Disney, WarnerMedia, Sony, NBCUniversal, etc. Did I have experience levels even close to what was needed? Absolutely not, and I was entirely defeated because I thought that being a student at the Roy H. Park School of Communications and not having a massive internship right away showed that I had a lack of dedication and success in what I was studying.

The reality is not that I am a bad student or bad at my major, it is that my understanding of the internship hunt was entirely skewed by the guest speakers I had been hearing from.

I can recall a guest speaker that spoke to one of my business classes and her talking about how she started working in luxury brands. She talked about how she got an internship and how her job has changed since then. Her talk with our class, along with almost every other one I attended, completely glossed over getting your first internship. Thinking back, I do not think I can name a single time that context about how these alumni found their first internships has ever been provided.

My classmates and I constantly left these talks with the same question: "OK, great, but where did you find this first internship?"

Now if you talk about this with professors or faculty, the answer is always the same; talk to alumni or work with career services, or even they will try to send you some options. It is a fine answer, but at the end of the day, these previous students were brought in to talk to us about their experiences, and still did not truly explain the hardships of finding internships and jobs

The reality of having a job lined up after college is also not addressed. Ask an average senior on campus what their plan is after they graduate and the look of panic and stress that crosses their face is unmatched.

Most people must go home for quite a while to job hunt — they do not just have a top-notch, six-figure job in New York City. But, of course, Ithaca College does not want you to know that. They want to promote their networks that help people get jobs, not the fact that most students have a hard time finding one for months and even years after graduation.

I have been grateful to attend guest speakers and lecturers during my time at Ithaca College, and seeing what this college has produced in terms of alumni is absolutely something to be showcased.

However, I feel that showing diversity in internship and job-hunting processes would be highly beneficial to both the student body and also their perceptions of professional work.

Molly Fitzsimons (she/her) is a junior Integrated Marketing Communications major. Contact her at mfitzsimons@ithaca.edu.



# Short film spooks YouTube



From left, seniors Dylan Clark and Sydney Brumfield, former Ithacan staff member, discuss the film "Portrait of God." The film received 1 million views on YouTube.

**COURTESY OF LUCAS CAVANAGH** 

#### **BY JESS WILLIAMS**

STAFF WRITER

"Portrait of God" is a seven-minute short horror film with one character and a small production team that was shot in a dark studio over the course of five days. Its writer and director, Ithaca College senior Dylan Clark, uploaded the film to YouTube and it has since passed the 1 million view milestone after six months of being uploaded.

The film follows a religious person preparing for a presentation about a painting called "Portrait of God," which looks blank to most, but according to some, depicts a mysterious figure. "Portrait of God" can be found on Clark's YouTube channel, which has 50,700 subscribers. Before Clark uploaded "Portrait of God" on Aug. 28, 2022, he was at around 23,000 subscribers.

Clark said the restrictions from the lack of money, which was paid out-of-pocket, and time had an influence on the film's concept and production. He chose to film in one of the studios in the Roy H. Park School of Communications since they were available, and the projector and black curtains already in the room inspired the film. Clark had the idea of a viral image that is perceived differently by different people, which informed the general concept of the film.

"Taking things that I wanted to do and finding a way to connect them all with the resources we had was really where the idea came from," Clark said.

The film was shot during finals week in Spring 2022 over the course of five days. Editing and post-production happened over the summer, and it was released on YouTube on Aug. 28.

Clark said he has been making films since he was nine years old, making superhero films while he and his family were living in Germany.

"I was really frustrated by the fact that they sucked so bad," Clark said. "But I started watching horror stuff when I came back home to the states, and I got really into that."

Clark specifically cites the DIY approach of the 1999 low-budget "Blair Witch Project" as an inspiration when he was younger.

In 2018, he uploaded "The Pretty Thing," which was his first short film to gain a large audience on YouTube, with a now 1.3 million view count. Since then, he has made consistent uploads on his channel, including behind-the-scenes videos for some of the short films.

"Portrait of God" had a small team of seven and was not created for an assignment; it was done as a personal project. The lack of a deadline was freeing to the creative process senior Surina Belk-Gupta, assistant director and first assistant camera, said.

"When you're doing a set for class, even though they often are fun, there's a lot more pressure for everybody to know everything; it's a bit more competitive, the time is much more restrictive," Belk-Gupta said.

Since it was a more casual project, production team members got to experiment with roles they are not as practiced in. Belk-Gupta was also the special effects makeup artist. She learned how to do the makeup for the film from a YouTube video.

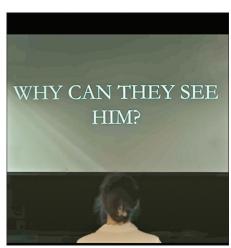
"It was a very low production project that was solely based on what we wanted to do for fun," Belk-Gupta said. "So it's very cool seeing that it went to such a far audience in such a big extent."

Clark said it was nice to see theories and analysis from viewers, as well as fan art. As of February 2023, "Portrait of God" is his third most-viewed short film on YouTube and the third to surpass 1 million views. "The Pretty Thing" and "Transfigure" (2021) are still the two most-viewed short films on his channel.



Prosthetics are applied on a hand for the short film, "Portrait of God."

**COURTESY OF SURINA BELK-GUPTA** 



Brumfield appears in a screencap of the film looking up at a screen with text.

**COURTESY OF DYLAN CLARK** 



Brumfield acts as the main character in a screencap from the film "Portrait of God." The film was filmed in five days with a small team of seven people.

**COURTESY OF DYLAN CLARK** 

Belk-Gupta said she attributes the film's positive reception in part to the lack of jumpscares, emphasizing that the plot is scary enough on its own.

"Religion is such an interesting horror concept because there's so many things engraved with religion that are so terrifying," Belk-Gupta said.

Senior Taylor Teusch, who was the director of photography for Clark's thesis film, said creatively driven projects can feel forced out when there is a deadline involved.

"You kind of have to be constantly manufacturing creativity," Teusch said. "People who take the time to make something outside of class, it's usually because that spark of creativity sort of hit them.

Clark said the COVID-19 lockdown gave him enough time to lead him to success on YouTube. It was during this time that he started uploading more consistently.

"I kind of doubled down on uploading stuff and doing smaller projects and not worrying as much about putting 1,000% of my time and money for a whole semester into one project," Clark said. "I could do a couple of projects and spend a lot of time

When Clark returned to Ithaca in Spring 2021, he said the people he met and the connections he made improved his short films.

"Ithaca allowed me to find friends and build a network of people that I could rely on to help me boost the quality of some of the films I wanted to do even if they were small," Clark said. "With 'Portrait of God,' I literally could not have done it without the small team that we had - that team was very much assembled by meeting them in classes and liking their work and

liking who they were."

Teusch said Clark's clear and focused vision in directing makes for a smoother process when shooting.

"Being on set with him, you could tell that he had spent a lot of his personal time really thinking through exactly how it was going to go," Teusch said. "It saves a lot of time when you have, like, you know, put some forethought into what's going to happen and why you want things to be a certain way."

Clark is studying in Los Angeles for Spring 2023 while working for Ghost House Pictures, a horror production company. He is looking to expand "Portrait of God" into a possible feature film.

Clark is also working on bringing his thesis short horror film through the film festival circuit. His thesis film is not on YouTube yet because of premiere restrictions placed by film festivals.

Belk-Gupta has also worked on many of her own horror films and shares a passion for them with Clark.

"It affects you more than the average movie because it really gets under your skin if it's effective," Belk-Gupta said. "It's this genre that's continuously ahead of the time and very forward thinking."

Clark said horror appeals to him as a filmmaker because of how much the genre relies on visual presentation. But Clark said his main attraction to horror as a genre is that he loves it.

"Horror is like a filmmaker's best friend as a genre," Clark said. "And as someone who loves to consume horror anyway, it's a natural pairing."

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# Students 'rizz' up vocabulary with day-to-day slang

BY NOELLE COOK

**CONTRIBUTING WRITER** 

While walking around a college campus, slang is present and can be heard in almost every single conversation. It is one of the few universal topics that exists in every culture. Most people use "slanguage" in their speech, yet many probably cannot remember when they even started using it.

Ithaca College students are no strangers to using slang in their day-to-day lives. Some of the most memorable words and phrases are yassified, let him cook, slay, purr — and the list goes on.

There is ethnic and historical slang, there is slang that has evolved over time and there is non-verbal slang. Junior Arthur Robbins-Geller said the main term he hears around campus is "slay."

"The language of slang is interesting though because there's the mode of thinking that language is just whatever Miriam Webster says, but then there's the day-to-day we actually use, and I think the truth is somewhere in between the two," Robins-Geller said.

Megan Graham, assistant professor in the Department of Writing, said many words or phrases people use as slang are just non-dominant varieties of English.

"There's this problem with the etymology of slang because we don't know when terms started being used," Graham said. Because they're being used orally. ... For example ... when people say things like, '... things be like that



Junior Arthur Robbins-Geller looks down at his phone. Slang terms are often exchanged between people through dialogue and online spaces and have evolved since the beginning of time.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN

sometimes,' that's African American [vernacular] and it gets appropriated into white culture as slang. But it isn't slang to everybody."

Most of the slang that has been appropriated from ethnic minorities is popularized on the internet, like "side-eye," which means criticism toward another person, or "let him cook," which means let someone do their thing.

"Now you can just go on [the Internet] and find people using that language originally and naturally," Graham said.

The meaning of words has also

changed over time. For example, Graham said the word "punk" has changed from the 1920s until now. In the '20s, "punk" referred to a "gay male sex worker." It then went on to mean "delinquent" in the '50s, and by the '70s, it described a countercultural music subculture until it became what it is now, Graham said.

On the sports side of the spectrum, two football players at the college, first-year student Kendal Burno and junior Sam Kline, said the team uses its own language on the field. Kline said one slang term

that gets used often is "mossed," which is said when someone catches a ball over the top of someone else's head. Usually "mossed" goes along with the physical motion of patting the top of your head.

"Another thing ... we don't say it so much on the team, but we say it on my high school team," Burno said. "When you're trying to 'decleat' somebody, the idea is that you hit them so hard on the play that you knock them out their shoes. Like, you decleat them. That's one that we used to say a lot."

Slang is often believed to be

inherently verbal, but that is not always the case. Lisa Witchey, lecturer in the Department of Speech, Language, Pathology and Audiology, said non-verbal slang exists within the Deaf community. Witchey teaches as an American Sign Language instructor in the Deaf minor program at the college.

"Because my class is not verbal, I don't hear a lot of [verbal] slang," Witchey said. "[The non-verbal] slang has been around from the very beginning. ... Someone starts a sign if they feel it's within the parameters of the language, and it spreads."

Witchey demonstrated some ASL slang. One expression meaning "true biz" is signed with the words "true" and "work" combined. It is used as a reaction or confirmation and can mean that the person is very skeptical — like, "You won \$100? True biz?"

"[Your] eyebrows are raised, you lean forward to ask the question," Witchey said. "Or, you could have that same sign, but with a different [facial] expression, and it could be a confirmation, "Yes, yes, it is true."

Whether it be verbal or nonverbal dialect, words for new gender identity signs, technology, internet culture and more are always popping up.

"People tend to think that language is done," Graham said. "Which is weird. It's constantly evolving and we're in the midle of it. We're always in the middle of the project of doing language.

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# Alum proves it is never too late to earn your degree

BY MARIANA CONTRERAS

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In 1993, Loki Mulholland '23 took a job offer as an English teacher in Dubna, Russia, after studying at Moscow State University during the summer. Originally having signed up to miss only Fall 1993 thanks to this offer, life took an unexpected turn when Mulholland's Russian visa expired and, despite having an extension, he was not allowed on his flight back home to the United States.

Mulholland is an Emmy award-winning filmmaker, activist, author and now, officially after over 30 years, an Ithaca College alum. He has worked on several films concerning issues of race and social justice, wrote a book and speaks at events all over the country to spread awareness of these issues as a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Yet, even as he continued with his career, he said he was always haunted by the thought that he had not gotten his degree at Ithaca College.

"Long story short is I didn't get home for Christmas and I finally got home before the Super Bowl, but it was too late to start that spring semester," Mulholland said. "After that, you know, life happened ... I got married and ... finally got a business degree at University of Phoenix just because I'm like, you know what? I should get a degree ... more for my kids than anything else."

While this sounds like an extremely unique experience, Bryan Roberts, associate dean of the Roy H. Park School of Communications, said he has found quite a number of similar cases where students earn credits in the major courses and then leave.

"So [he] never got a degree, but in a way, [he] finished the hardest part of the

degree," Roberts said.

The Education Data Initiative analyzed college graduation and enrollment statistics across the country from 2021 to find that only 30% of dropouts re-enroll and get their degree. Additionally, the EDI also reports that the college dropout rate in New York is lower than the national average despite there being twice as many college dropouts than undergraduates.

"We didn't do it for him — like it wasn't any special treatment or anything like that," Roberts said. "I started looking at the transcript and sure enough, when he was here, he did everything that was hard."

Mulholland was invited back to campus Sept. 28 to talk about his work. While chatting with Amy Falkner, dean of the Park School, and Roberts, he clarified how he had never gotten his diploma at Ithaca College and Falkner and Roberts helped him finally close this chapter, transferring the missing credits from different courses he had taken elsewhere and using his many works, including his documentary "The Uncomfortable Truth" (2017) as a senior film project.

"I've been in academia for 25 years, so I have seen a number of [cases like this]," Falkner said. "Maybe it's our field of communication. ... So as you progress in your career ... let's say you get an internship and then your employer says, 'You're so great, you don't need to graduate.' Why don't you start right now? And this is what happens, right?"

Nonetheless, Mulholland expanded his activism beyond just films when he started the Joan Trumpauer Mulholland foundation in 2014. Based on the goal of sharing his mother's stories with others and



Loki Mulholland '23 finished his undergraduate degree at Ithaca College after failing to return to complete his senior year during the 1993–94 academic year.

COURTESY OF LOKI MULHOLLAND

educating others on the Civil Rights Movement and anti-racism with the use of media that supply the right tools to reevaluate preconceived ideas.

"I think too often we take a look at activism as ... [something that] is my identity ... of who I am and what I do and it's every day I'm out there, in the streets or ... doing whatever and that's ... not really activism," Mulholland said. "Why would you segregate people into different pools based on your perception of what it means to be involved? ... That's literally the definition of an activist because you are activating and you are engaging."

Recently, Mulholland has worked on a short film about a 92-year-old man that goes to the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, every day. Mulholland can be found in all social media, like on TikTok where he currently has 227.1K followers and is engaging actively with the community.

"The greatest opportunity we have is in the four walls of our home and that's where we're gonna make the biggest impact in our world and so it's how you are informing ... the people that you live with," Mulholland said.

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## Action comedy gives viewers a high

MOVIE REVIEW: "Cocaine Bear" Universal Pictures



#### BY EVAN MILLER

STAFF WRITER

It is an extreme rarity for a film to promise audiences a stupid fun time at the theater and actually deliver. Luckily, for anyone who saw "Cocaine Bear"'s marketing materials and thought that the film looks like the epitome of dumb fun, they will find themselves walking away feeling higher than the coked-up bear that is its namesake.

After a drug transport goes wrong and several duffle bags filled with cocaine are dumped out of a plane into the Chattahoochee National Forest in Georgia, a 500-pound black bear gets a sniff of some of it and goes on a terrorizing rampage, brutally murdering anyone who stands in her way of obtaining more precious powder.

One of the most insane elements of "Cocaine Bear"'s incredible plot is that it is based on a true story. However, many creative liberties are taken in director Elizabeth Banks' telling of this story, as the titular bear never went on its killing spree in real life and tragically died shortly after ingesting the cocaine.

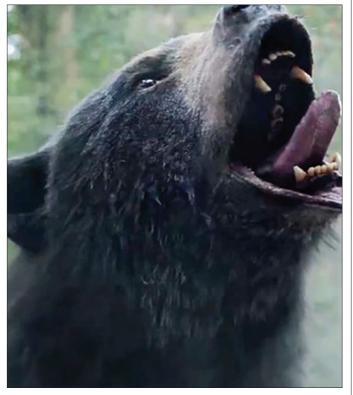
"Cocaine Bear" is at its best when it embraces its absurdity and actively gives the audience exactly what they want, which takes the form of brutal carnage, suspenseful thrills and huge laughs. While this often happens enough to make the film

well-worth seeing, there are many moments where Banks could and should have leaned further into the wacky and almost parody-like tone set from the first scene.

The film is at its slowest when it focuses on some of its poorly developed characters. Some of the weakest of the bunch is Sari (Keri Russell), her daughter Dee Dee (Brooklynn Prince) and Dee Dee's friend, Henry (Christian Convery). Whenever these characters are on screen, viewers will often find themselves rooting for the bear.

"Cocaine Bear" is much more enjoyable when it is focusing on Eddie (Alden Ehrenreich) and Daveed (O'Shea Jackson Jr.), two fixers sent to recover the remaining cocaine by drug lord Syd White (Ray Liotta). Eddie and Daveed share a fun dynamic that fits the film's tone when it is at its best, which is emphasized by Ehrenreich's and Jackson Jr.'s impeccable comedic chemistry.

Supporting standouts include Liz (Margo Martindale), a park ranger who cannot aim a gun properly for the life of her, along with Bob (Isiah Whitlock Jr.), a detective whose greatest goal in life is to own a dog that can play fetch. Liotta's final performance as Syd is equally enjoyable. There are more than a couple of characters in "Cocaine Bear" that simply did not need to be in the film. The most prominent examples of this are



Inspired by true events, "Cocaine Bear" gives the experience of watching a bear's violent rampage after taking cocaine.

**COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES** 

Olaf (Kristofer Hivju) and Elsa (Hannah Hoekstra), two hikers who are among the first to encounter the bear. Their storyline in particular feels drawn out to the point of being laughable, especially when it meets an end that literally comes out of nowhere. The film could have trimmed down upwards of five minutes off its runtime without their inclusion.

"Cocaine Bear" is a film that was made to be seen in a theater filled with people. The feeling of fun that "Cocaine Bear" generates when it is shooting at all cylinders is palpable in the theater, which is the best high any movie can provide a viewer.

Although "Cocaine Bear" will certainly not go down as one of the best films of 2023 by the year's end, it truly has a fair shot at being remembered as one of the best times people could have had at the theater in recent memory.

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# Gorillaz sets off in a new direction on vibey record

ALBUM REVIEW: "Cracker Island" Parlophone and Warner Records



#### **BY ANDREW TELL**

STAFF WRITER

The cartoon band Gorillaz takes a step off the pedal of its typically energetic sound and cruises toward a more laid-back direction with its 8th album, "Cracker Island."

The band is a collaboration between Blur frontman Damon Albarn and comic artist Jamie Hewlett. The two created a fictional band whose lineup consists of 2-D, Murdoc, Noodle, Russel and a whole slew of various musical guests that shape the Gorillaz canon.

Because of the band's fictional nature, it has not been limited to one specific genre. The band is an outlet for Albarn to experiment in genres outside of the alt-rock and Britpop he became known for. Gorillaz mixes pop, hip-hop, dub, funk and indietronica. The band exists almost as a love letter to music in all its variety and excitement.

"Cracker Island" is a cool continuation of the band's current work. "Song Machine" (2020) had a great mix of dancy beats and stylish hooks, and it's more of the same on this record. The biggest problem that has plagued previous Gorillaz albums is the features. With albums like "Humanz" (2017) or "Song Machine," the features can absorb so much of the album that it doesn't feel like a Gorillaz album: it feels more like a collab

album of the most noteworthy artists of their time. Luckily, "Cracker Island" does a great job at finding the balance between Gorillaz and other artists.

The title track lets Thundercat shine while also being a representation of Albarn's supreme ability to write catchy songs. "New Gold" does a great job of blending the psychedelic sound of Tame Impala and the smooth-like-molasses flow of Bootie Brown. "Tormenta" is Gorillaz's first reggaeton song, and it sounds like it was made specifically for Bad Bunny to dominate. However, "Oil" sounds like Stevie Nicks is hiding from the listener and "Possession Island" has Beck relegated to background vocals. "The Tired Influencer" uses Siri on the background vocals, coming off as late to the punch (10 years ago there were movies about falling in love with Siri, now they're just in the background).

The songs that don't feature any artists besides Gorillaz are much better than they have been in previous years. "Tarantula" is a beautiful track that plays into Gorillaz's strength of ear-wormy beats and stunning vocal crooning. "Skinny Ape" is very upfront about 2-Ds emotions as well as bringing some much-needed energy halfway through

This is the most personal a Gorillaz album has ever felt. There is some social



"Cracker Island" feels like a truly personal Gorillaz album, largely influenced by dreams. COURTESY OF PARI OPHONE AND WARNER RECORDS

commentary about social media stan culture, but the band seems more preoccupied with trying to curate a vibe than having something to say. Most of the songs deal with 2-D and Albarn's introspective sides as they try to find the balance between their past and future legacies. The biggest influence on this album is dreams, with songs produced to have a more surreal atmosphere attached to them. This album walks the razor's edge between fantastical whimsy and Gorillaz-type-beats to study and relax too.

As a whole, this album is just more Gorillaz. Gorillaz has been making similar music for the past six years, but nothing has crept out of the shadow of the band's 2010's career. "Cracker Island" feels like Gorillaz is correcting course as it sets off in a new direction. However, anticipating what happens next is far more exciting than a good portion of the songs here.

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# POPPED GULTURE

### **Disney layoffs** hurt reputation

**BY EVAN MILLER** 

STAFF WRITER

During a company earnings call for the year-end 2022 quarter Feb. 8, Disney CEO Bob Iger '73 announced that the company would be laying off 7,000 employees, roughly 3% of its entire workforce.

The news of these layoffs should have been the talk of the entertainment industry, if for nothing besides the unfortunate and abrupt nature of their announcement. However, it was drowned out less than one hour later during the same February earnings call when Iger announced that the studio would be developing sequels to three of some of its most popular intellectual properties: "Toy Story," "Frozen" and "Zootopia."

It is not a coincidence that Iger chose to make the sequel announcements shortly after the announcement about the layoffs during the company earnings call.

Since Disney's stock peaked in 2021, it began to only steadily decrease for a variety of reasons, most of them stemming from Bob Chapek's incompetence as CEO. Investors and the general public were beginning to lose faith in the company and resent Chapek. Even Iger communicated to people close to him that he felt as though Disney was losing its soul.

Chapek was essentially taking everything that Iger built over his 15 years as CEO and tearing it apart. All of the healthy relationships that Iger had formed with creatives were being dismantled, whether it was through the very public Scarlett Johansson lawsuit or the censoring of LGBTQ+ representation in Pixar films. No one was happy, especially not customers of Disney's theme parks, which at every turn seemed to raise their price.

Instantly upon Iger's return after the company's board of executives decided to boot Chapek from the company, he reshuffled Disney's media and entertainment division, getting rid of suits like Kareem Daniel who, under Chapek, took away much of the input that creatives at Pixar, Marvel, Lucasfilm and Disney's other studios grew accustomed to having during decision-making processes. Under Daniel, Disney's pipeline seemed to shift in prioritization from a quality-over-quantity standard to the reverse.

It was an inspired move by Iger to announce three ground-shaking projects for billion-dollar franchises at the company's earnings call to drive home the message that he has returned to the company to bring back quality and profits. However, he should have had the foresight to recognize that doing so mere moments after announcing the layoffs of thousands would seem a tad insensitive. People's livelihoods at stake are more important than the company's next big billion-dollar project. While these types of projects and their successes help keep Iger from having to make difficult decisions, like the one that he had to announce during the earnings call, he should have known better than to toss seven thousand people aside and make it feel like a victory. It is just as great a defeat for Disney as it is for every single one of the employees who are affected by the layoffs.

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023

## crossword

By Quill Driver Books

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- 9 Alpine refrain
- 15 noire
- 16 Stand for
- 17 Office assistant
- 19 Middle name of

- 26 Part of TGIF
- 27 Frightened a fly

- 37 Sea eagle 38 Without help
- 39 Baseball great
- Mel
- 43 Fish catcher
- 46 Bikini tops 47 Tea party crasher
- 50 Sprout 51 Puts into law

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Bond servant 5 Banking
- conveniences
- 14 Maintain

- 18 Tore apart
- mystery 20 Rose or violet
- 22 Rifts
- 24 Deep gorge
- 30 Hither and -
- 32 Even
- 36 Make happen
- 40 Most suggestive
- 44 The other people
- 49 Scale button

- 52 Payable 54 Drinks heartily
  - 56 Norma Jean
  - 60 Conceit
  - 64 Demand
  - 65 Salt Lake state 67 Not employed

72 Get fresh

tennis

1 Foreign car

3 Make over

5 At large

8 Hardens 9 Pleasure craft

10 Orchestra

members 11 Tumults

12 Party cheese

21 Transparent

13 Eye part

4 Pompeii art

6 Swarms with 7 Geol. formation

2 Worse than bad

**DOWN** 

73 Croquet or

- 68 Church part
- 33 Column type 69 Emcee - Parks
- 34 Put in office 35 Is overfond 70 Not far
- 71 Physicist Nikola 37 Pantvhose color
  - 41 Convent

23 Films

25 Great numbers

29 On the fringes

31 Wallet stuffers

27 "Rob Roy"

author 28 Yoga type

- 42 Steamy dance
- 45 Part of AMA

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55 Gets threadbare

56 Carnivore's diet

58 Lab animals

62 Door sound

59 Protuberances

accompaniment

57 Shaft

61 Hunch

63 Simply

66 Crumpet

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### answers to last issue's sudoku:

#### easy

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

#### hard

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

## sudoku

#### medium

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### hard

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## **NEWSLETTER**



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# **SPORTS**

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023



From left, graduate students Devi de Olivera and Allison Arndt carry a boat by the Cayuga Inlet. Arndt, a two-time All-Liberty League First Team mention, was a gymnast in high school, but is now one of many members of the Ithaca College rowing program who were not recruited to be on the team.

**NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN** 

#### BY HANNAH FICHTER

STAFF WRITER

Even at the Division III level, Ithaca College often goes above and beyond to recruit high-profile, elite athletes from all over the country. But for the men's and women's rowing teams, team building looks a little different.

The rowing teams are a mix of members that have been recruited out of high school and those that have walked on or joined the team during their time at the college. While the men's team is primarily made up of walk-ons, the women's team is almost evenly split — the number of recruits versus walk-ons in the first and second varsity eight boats is split about half and half. The significant presence of walk-ons is thanks to the team's dedicated recruiting techniques on campus, especially during move-in week.

Whether it be putting the boat on the quad or handing out flyers, the team puts itself out there to attract potential rowers. Then the athletes reach out to students they see and actively recruit them to attend the first team meeting. Becky Robinson '88, head coach of the women's rowing team, said she looks for athletes that are not playing sports or people that never tapped into their athletic ability but have potential.

"The walk-ons are what make us successful," Robinson said. "Something that is absolutely a strength of ours that has kept us successful year after year is the ability to recruit rowers from campus."

Robinson said the team advertises conin the mindset of joining a varsity sport with no experience necessary.

"We'll train to get fit and we'll teach you how to row," Robinson said. "I think it's people wanting a varsity experience, and this is an opportunity that still exists at the college level where they can walk on and still be a varsity athlete."

Graduate student Allison Arndt said that during her first week on campus, she

walked around and was approached by someone on the rowing team. She had no prior experience, but she wanted to find new friends, so she gave rowing a chance.

"I wasn't expecting to play a sport in college, but I'm really glad that I did," Arndt said. "It's been the best decision I've made in college."

Robinson said students walking onto varsity sports is less common than it should be. When athletes leave or get cut from their sport, they often go to club sports instead of joining another varsity sport.

"In terms of performance, we've had people walk onto the team that were never athletes before in their lives and went on to be some of the top performers," Robinson said.

Both the men's and women's teams offer students an opportunity to join a sport with no experience necessary. Sophomore Ashley Bailey said individuals who have never rowed before can join the team and be molded into accomplished athletes.

"We have a really close-knit team," Bailey said. "You can walk on with no experience as a freshman and get up to competing at the NCAA Tournaments ... which is pretty impressive."

Walk-ons have the opportunity to step into a good culture. Justin Stangel, the men's head coach, said that when the team welcomes walk-ons, he warns them that it will not be easy. But both coaches are huge proponents that everyone is valued and has their purpose on the team. Whether the individual is part of the boat that scores at a championship meet or not, what matters is their participation and dedication.

"I think it's really as simple as ... from the fastest guy on the team to someone that might stantly. Much of the messaging is fostered be near the bottom in terms of physiology, everyone is valued," Stangel said. "Everyone has a role within the team."

> Arndt said that, unlike most sports, it does not matter when you decide to start rowing. There is a huge physical component that involves lifting the boat into the water, making it more practical to start later.

"I think rowing is really unique in the way that you can just pick it up," Arndt said. "It's one of the best parts about it."



Sophomore Ashley Bailey rows at the Cayuga Sprints on Sept. 25. Bailey is a walk-on member of the Ithaca College sculling and women's rowing teams.

**NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN** 

Robinson said she needs both walk-ons and recruits on her team. Recruits come in with the knowledge already and can immediately start making an impact on the team. However, with walk-ons, a year is lost because they are just learning how to row.

"We allow freshmen a year to row because we know that we have to teach them the skill of rowing," Robinson said. "After all my years of coaching, I have not figured out a formula to predict who's going to be a good rower and who's not going to be good because it all comes down to work."

Bailey said there is a unique opportunity to grow quickly in the sport. Rowing is a repetitive movement that is all about learning and perfecting. The teaching starts out slow and is extremely important.

"It was easy to pick up," Bailey said. "I feel really confident on the team now and feel like I have my own place."

Junior Wesley Hoglin, a member of the men's team, said some coaches prefer walk-ons over recruits because they are like a blank slate that can be shaped into an athlete. The motion of rowing always stays the same, but the preferred technique changes depending on the coach's preference and the area the sport is being practiced in.

"Some coaches like walk-ons because then they can mold them into the technique that they want to use as their brand to make the sport," Hoglin said. "Other coaches like more experienced rowers because we already have the basic mechanics down."

Sophomore Jonah Alefantis, a member of the men's team, said he would recommend that others consider walking on to the rowing team.

"You're either going to love it or you're going to hate it because it's a lot of time dedication and it will break your body," Alefantis said. "Although the sport itself is not fun, you can have fun with it."

Recruitment is a two-way street for the teams; while the coaches do their best to recruit athletes to the college, the team does its best to recruit athletes from campus. Stangel said that although the process is unique, walk-on athletes will continue to play a pivotal role in the team's already established accomplishments.

"I'm excited for our group of walk-ons. I think we can continue to have success with them," Stangel said. "We're not going to shy away from that."

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Unlike most varsity teams at Ithaca College, the men's and women's rowing teams both include a large number of walk-on athletes. The coaches attribute this to the fact that rowing is an easier sport to pick up — especially for students who have participated in sports in the past and already have athletic ability.

ABBY BRADY/THE ITHACAN

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## Sisters team up to play for women's lacrosse program

**BY DAVID SCHURTER** 

STAFF WRITER

Being a part of a family is important. For Ithaca College women's lacrosse sophomore defender Kaitlyn Russell, she is not only a part of a family on the field, but she has actual family on the team. This season, Kaitlyn is reunited with her younger sister, first-year student defender Lauren Russell. Kaitlyn and Lauren previously played together for their high school lacrosse team, West Babylon Senior High School in Babylon, New York. There, they played side-by-side for three years.

Madison Mulligan, the college's assistant coach who primarily works with the defense, said the two sisters act like anything but siblings on the field, but they continue to help each other out as siblings.

"They play the same position but they don't take reps together all the time," Mulligan said. "They give each other feedback at practice and act like normal teammates, pushing each other on like any group of teammates would for each other."

For Kaitlyn, it was hard to think of the idea of never playing lacrosse on the same team as her sister again after their final high school game together.

"We played together growing up, starting in kindergarten and first grade, and it was not something we expected to do," Kaitlyn said. "It was really upsetting that we thought we would never have an opportunity to play together again after high school. It's really surreal that we're playing together again."

For Lauren, the bittersweet ending of her final high school game with her older sister in 2021 left her wanting more and definitely played into her college decision.

"I think [the reason I chose the college] was the chance to play together again and possibly win a championship at the college level," Lauren said. "We won a county championship together and the thought of winning in college together was very convincing."

Mulligan said that having the opportunity to coach siblings makes her job fun, but that it is hard to pick up that there are siblings on the team during matches.

"I would say on the field, you don't really notice it," Mulligan said.
"But off the field, it is definitely more evident."

Mulligan said Kaitlyn and Lauren are a great example of communication as teammates, as sometimes it is hard to find the difference between them working together as siblings or teammates.

"We always say you have to differentiate between being a friend and a teammate," Mulligan said. "It's even more difficult to separate wanting to talk to each other as a sibling or teammate and they do a great job of that."

Lauren said having Kaitlyn around has helped make her transition to college life steady, especially with the challenge of joining a new team.

"It's really nice to be together again," Lauren said. "It made my transition a lot easier, knowing that I have her here, someone who I know."

Kaitlyn said that helping Lauren



From left, sophomore defender Kaitlyn Russell and first-year student Lauren Russell swap jerseys for pregame warmups. Kaitlyn and Lauren are sisters who have reunited to play for the Bombers.

ANA MANIACI MCGOUGH/THE ITHACAN

settle into her new life has been important to her while also pushing each other to continue to grow.

"We've been really good with helping each other out," Kaitlyn said. "As a sophomore, you already have a full year of experience trying to balance academics and athletics. We worked together over winter break, doing all of our conditioning together and adjusting a little more, just in terms of being an athlete in college."

Mulligan said that she is impressed with Lauren's transition to being an athlete in college and that together, Kaitlyn and Lauren bring a level of energy to practice

that is unmatched.

"She's handled [the adjustment to college] just fine," Mulligan said. Both of them are two of the most positive kids. They both bring great attitude and intensity to practice."

In the early stages of the season, the team has a 2–1 record, with the one loss coming to No. 14 ranked SUNY Cortland. Back on the same playing field with Lauren, Kaitlyn said she has a lot she would like to accomplish with her sister and the team.

"We are looking to compete at a higher level, definitely win the Liberty League Championship and maybe a National Championship," Kaitlyn

said. "Those are repeated goals for us, take it one game at a time and win every game along the way."

Kaitlyn said the team has a bigger mindset than just individual goals, that the team's culture has been built upon trust in each other and working together, something Kaitlyn and Lauren are very familiar with.

"A really cool thing about our team is that our culture is such a big part of our success and it's more than just an individual," Kaitlyn said. "We're just lucky that we get to be a part of this culture together."

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## Q&A: Athlete reflects on electric 2022-23 season

As the Ithaca College women's basketball team wrapped up a successful 2022–23 regular season, senior forward Emily Dorn was named Liberty League Player of the Year in addition to earning a spot on the All-Liberty League First Team.

Dorn is admired as a leader and mentor on the team. She is ranked No. 8 in scoring in the Liberty League with 281 points this season, over 100 points higher than her 2021–22 season. She started in 24 out of the 26 games she played and averaged 10.8 points per game, a huge increase from her first season where she averaged 2.1 points per game. The Bombers ended their regular season as the No. 1 seed in the Liberty League playoffs.

On March 4, the team's 2022–23 season came to an end when it faced Marietta College in the second round of the NCAA Division III Tournament. The Bombers fought until the final buzzer but were unable to come away with a win, losing 44–42.

Managing editor Eleanor Kay spoke with Dorn about her final game and final season.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

**Eleanor Kay:** Can you describe a little bit about your feelings going into the game against Marietta College?

Emily Dorn: I was feeling very confident. I think I started to have some feelings from last year when we lost in the round of 32 on that buzzer-beater; that definitely haunted me. I really felt confident that we could pull away and advance to the Sweet 16. The whole team was on board with it, everyone felt confident. I think, even in the first three quarters, I was like, 'OK, we got this, we got a stable lead.' Everything changed in the fourth quarter, but I was feeling confident throughout the game.

**EK:** What was it like to be able to play in front of a home crowd in the Ben Light Gymnasium for such an important game?

**ED:** After the Liberty League Championship when we lost, it hurt a lot and I kind of realized that it could have been my last game in Ben Light. I almost feel like I didn't enjoy it as much.

... Partly because we lost, but I feel like I just didn't let it sink in, and so when we got that bid that we were hosting, it almost gave me peace. ... It kind of just helped me enjoy the moment more, knowing that I have another opportunity to play in Ben Light.

**EK:** How has it felt for you to have been part of such an amazing team for your final year?

ED: I feel very grateful that I've had a great four years here on a very successful team every single year. This year was definitely different, because not only did I have a different role on the court, but I was also a primary leader on the team. So it's kind of like balancing that and mentoring the younger girls because I know how it feels at the end of the season when you're so tired like we've been going for months, but it's also the best part of the season.

**EK:** How do you think you've seen yourself change from that first-year student position to now when it comes to taking on that leadership and mentorship role?

ED: My confidence has changed. I was a very successful basketball player coming out of high school, I was one of the top in the league, so it was definitely a change when I got here as a [first-year student] and didn't really play. I saw how our seniors, when I was a [first-year student], mentored me and encouraged me.

... Over the years, I became more confident. I improved my game, and my leadership skills definitely grew in a great way. ... It's really nice



Senior forward Emily Dorn, No. 21, rises for a rebound against the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Engineers in the Liberty League semifinals Feb. 24.

AIDAN CHARDE/THE ITHACAN

to see where I came from and where I am now.

**EK:** Season awards were announced recently and you were named Liberty League Player of the Year. What were the emotions you felt when you found this out?

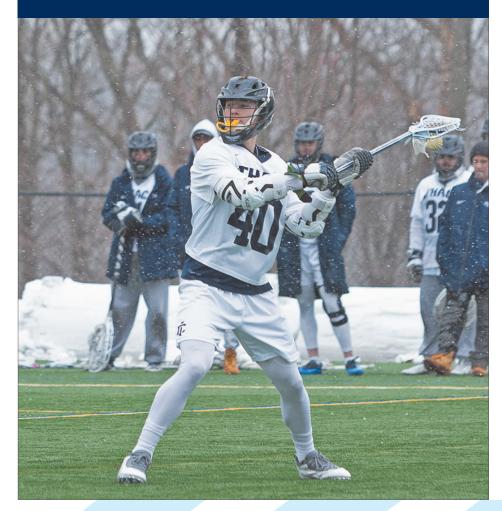
**ED:** When I found out, I was just kind of in shock because I don't really focus on my stats or anything. I used to care about that in high school because it would help me for college,

but now I just have the mentality like, 'Give it your all every game. Whatever the stats are, the stats are.' Finding that out was definitely really surprising and nice just because I feel like I worked so hard over my four years and it took a while to see the floor. So just seeing all that work paid off was really nice. That's a nice way to end my season.

# THE BUZZER

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

# ATHLETE OF THE WEEK JOHN SRAMAC/MEN'S LACROSSE



Junior attackman John Sramac shot the ball three times and scored three goals, including the game-winning shot in double overtime, in the Ithaca College men's lacrosse team's 13–12 win over SUNY Geneseo on March 4 at Higgins Stadium.

SOPHIA SOLARINO/THE ITHACAN

# COMPETITION OF THE WEEK WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. MARIETTA



From left, the Bombers' senior guard Natalie Smith defends against senior Marietta College Pioneers guard Devin Hefner. The Pioneers hit two free throws with under three seconds left to secure a 44–42 comeback victory over the Bombers.

ZHANNZ GOMEZ/THE ITHACAN

## **EVENT TO WATCH**



#### 3 P.M. MARCH 22 AT FREEMAN FIELD

The Ithaca College baseball team makes its return to Valesente Diamond at Freeman Field for the first time this season with a matchup against the University of Scranton Royals. The last time the Bombers played at home, they dropped a three-game series in the NCAA Super Regional against the Catholic University Cardinals, just one win shy of a spot in the Division III World Series. Last year, the Bombers dropped a 6–4 contest against Scranton, their first to the Royals since 1959. This year, the Bombers hope to stay on track, following a seven-game slate of spring break competitions.

#### NOTABLE UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD: 10 a.m. March 10 and 11 at the NCAA Indoor Championship in Birmingham, Alabama. WRESTLING: March 10 and 11 at the NCAA Championships in Roanoke, Virginia.

**BASEBALL**: Playing seven games March 12–18 in Auburndale, Florida, during spring break.

**SOFTBALL**: Playing 10 games March 12–17 in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, during spring break.

**MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TENNIS**: Will play five games in Orlando, Florida, during spring break.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING: March 15–18 at the NCAA Championships in Greensboro, North Carolina.





"I felt we played as a team more than we have in all my five years. It wasn't about talent, it was about playing together."

#### - CARA VOLPE

Graduate student guard about the women's basketball team's season



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Tomas Harrington, general manager of Viva Taqueria & Cantina, serves chili to customers at the 25th Annual Chili Cook-Off on March 4 in Downtown Ithaca. Over 40 restaurants participated in the festival, with Viva winning first place for Best Vegan/Vegetarian Chili. Other categories included Best Meat Chili and People's Choice.

SOPHIA SOLARINO/THE ITHACAN