Sunny weather in Ithaca encourages more students to spend time outside

BY PATRICK MAZZELLA

On the rare occasion that Ithaca sees a sunny day between the months of October and April, Ithaca College’s campus comes to life. Students often choose to do their work outside, play games on the quad or sit and have a picnic with their friends between classes. There is a noticeable difference in the number of students spending time outside on campus on days when the sun is out.

Ithaca is prone to a much colder, grayer atmosphere in the winter. The average temperature from November through February is far below freezing and much colder than the national average, according to the Northeast Regional Climate Center at Cornell University.

The presence of seasonal depression — also known as seasonal affective disorder — can also be a big factor in people who have a declining mood in the winter. And populations that are further from the equator or at a higher latitude are at higher risk of seasonal affective disorder, according to the Journal for American College Health.

In Ithaca’s distance from the ocean, mountains and its placement in the middle latitudes — the area roughly 35–65 degrees between the North and South poles — all account for unpredictable weather patterns, according to the Cornell Daily Sun.

Many students at the college have expressed their discontent at the endless gray skies for what seems to be a never-ending winter. Junior Richard Morris said he feels like the overcast sky just dampens his mood. Morris also has an emotional support dog on campus named Boodie Jack and said he often is able to go on extra long walks, often through campus and the natural lands, now that the seemingly permanent slush is off the sidewalks and roads.

“I’ll definitely take Bo for an extra long walk or two when the days are warmer and brighter,” Morris said. “It’s also way nicer now to have clean sidewalks without mud, slush and ice salt that gets in his paws.”

Morris, along with other students, finds it much easier to get active or be outside on days when the sun is out. Although a strong connection has not been made between specifically warmer weather and improved mood, when the skin absorbs more sunlight, it helps to

Weather, Page 11

Groups aid in Ramadan fasts

BY JADYN DAVIS

Every year, before the start of Ramadan, Ithaca College senior Fahsha Khan, junior president of the Muslim Student Association, submitted a petition with 1,228 signatures supporting requesting religious accommodations for all Muslim students — which is something Khan said she should not have to do.

“I feel like it’s my responsibility to advocate for myself and my fellow students,” Khan said. “Not necessarily everyone will be able to advocate for themselves or say things out loud. So, practices need to be in place to advocate for students who are not going to raise their voice and put forward the fact that they’re going to be struggling during this month because they’re literally dehydrated and starving.”

Ramadan is a month observed by Muslims to be closer to their faith by participating in rituals like fasting from sunrise to sunset, reading the Quran — which is the primary Islamic text — as well as celebrating iftar, a meal served during Ramadan following sunset each day. Additionally, Eid al-Fitr is celebrated on the final day of Ramadan and includes a large dinner that is eaten with family members.

Neighbor town debates zoning

BY PRAKRITI PANWAR

Over the past year, the Town of Caroline has been divided on the issue of zoning. In town, the arguments have publicly presented themselves as yard signs with messages like, “Grandma hates zoning” and “Caroline for responsible zoning.”

Caroline, a town neighboring the Town of Ithaca, in Tompkins County is a rural farming town of 5,600 residents that has been unzoned since its founding. Zoning is the common legal practice of dividing land into different districts, like commercial or agricultural zones. Zoning would be implemented in the town for environmental reasons, like protecting its natural resources, maintaining the rural nature of the town and promoting Caroline as a positive community to reside in, according to a 2021 document outlining the purpose of zoning in Caroline. The draft of the report divides the town into four main zones: an agricultural rural district, eight hamlets, which is a rural settlement smaller than towns or villages; a commercial district; and a water resources and floodplain overlay district, according to the map on Caroline’s website.

On March 23, residents who are against zoning submitted a petition with 1,228 signatures.
Three teenagers wounded after shooting at a Los Angeles beach
Three teenagers were wounded in a shooting at Dockweiler Beach on the night of April 7. The shooting occurred during a spring break party promoted on TikTok that drew hundreds of revelers to the shore, authorities said.

Officers responded to the 11400 block of Vista Del Mar in Playa del Rey following a report of a large crowd and gunshots around 8 p.m., said Officer J. Chavez of the Los Angeles Police Department.

When authorities arrived, they determined two men had fired multiple shots with a handgun that wounded two teen girls and a teen boy, Chavez said.

Arrests were made after South Carolina ‘skip day’ shooting
Six people were wounded in a shooting April 7 along the Isle of Palms beach as hundreds of high school students from Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties were enjoying a traditional spring break party promoted on TikTok.

Videos captured by pedestrians showed the chaos as crowds of students and beachgoers fled in panic from the picturesque beach, just north of Charleston.

First responders, some already on the scene, attempted to shield those nearby when shots rang out.

President Joe Biden’s administration has been seeking help from allies, including South Korea, in reducing the global supply chain’s dependence on China while also imposing sweeping curbs on the sale of advanced semiconductor equipment.

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THE ITHACAN

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Ithaca College consists of all-gender restrooms to buildings, which sometimes requires major renovations, so the college is exploring the option of full partitions.

BY VIVIAN ROSE
STAFF WRITER

The Downtown Ithaca Alliance is looking into the possibility of creating an intercity bus hub, a physical space that serves as a convenient waiting area for people using catching intercity buses.

BY LOYD TYNE
NEWS EDITOR

While the Ithaca College Student Governing Council has passed bills advocating for all-gender bathrooms, the Office of Facilities has implemented many changes regarding restrooms unprompted by the SGC and continues to do so.

The SGC passed in Gender Neutral Bathrooms. The bill was sponsored by SGC President Ernie McClatchie, associate vice president of the Office of Facilities, who sent the SGC a detailed response to the requests in the bill.

McClatchie also said he is in conversation with a third party to work on installing new restrooms. However, if a restroom that has four toilet fixtures was made into one all-gender restroom with a lock on the door, that restroom would only count as having one fixture.

"[A local bus hub in D.C.] was pretty well organized, so a lot of people use it. But when you get to a random spot, it's just a lot more organized than being dropped off at a random spot, standing outside of Starbuck or something in Ithaca," Marz said.

"That's why in many of these cases, it requires a lot of work to make floor-to-ceiling partitions in the stalls and the showers. McClatchie said that while the signage is a simple change, the bill's request for restrooms to be converted to all-gender bathrooms is not as easily done because the New York State Plumbing Code outlines how many restroom fixtures must be in a building.

The bill states one female and one male restroom in each academic building should be converted to two all-gender restrooms. However, if a restroom that has four toilet fixtures was made into one all-gender restroom with a lock on the door, that restroom would only count as having one fixture.

"Some of the academic buildings get a lot of traffic, so many fixture counts, you know, toilets, urinals and everything based on the size of the building. McClatchie said. "That's why in many of these cases, it requires a lot of work to make floor-to-ceiling partitions in the stalls and the showers. McClatchie said that while the signage is a simple change, the bill's request for restrooms to be converted to all-gender bathrooms is not as easily done because the New York State Plumbing Code outlines how many restroom fixtures must be in a building.

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Some colleges, like Cornell University and Columbia University, released statements about accommodating the first-time accommodations during Ramadan. However, Ithaca College has not done so.

Senior MSA President Klarkhob Jobe said that even though most of her professors have been supportive, she still feels hesitant in reaching out about religious accommodations because of how her professors might react.

The fact that people always that gap of people not knowing a lot about Islam and it’s not like I expect them to know, Jobe said. It’s a lot of life for me and it’s almost a little uncomfortable to have to explain to someone else who doesn’t necessarily understand.

Junior Sarah Dembele, vice president of MSA said that last year some of her professors did not support her when she told them that she was going to spend the last 10 days of Ramadan at home with her family in New York City.

“It was kind of hard to hear that, especially because I lost my cousin earlier that year,” Dembele said. “So I felt like it was really important for me to go home and be with family because I was going through a lot.”

Yasin Ahmed, director of the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, said he just wants the college to recognize Ramadan more by adding it to class syllabi as well as the academic calendar. Additionally, Ahmed said professors should feel comfortable asking their professors for religious accommodations.

“We self-censor ourselves for accommodations and so we don’t have the audacity to ask for the same thing or [the same] the same accommodation that everyone else naturally has,” Ahmed said. “It’s almost like they don’t feel entitled to celebrate their holiday.”

Khan said she wants people to understand the true meaning of Ramadan and why Muslims follow almost all of the traditions that are associated with the holiday. “I am very emotional talking about Ramadan. I just want to be sure that it’s been such a celebration my entire life,” Khan said. “Beyond the concept of fasting, family is so crucial in this month. We start our days together by having our first morning meal before we start our fast. We break our fast together. You are collectively being pious and you’re bringing peace and calm into your house. So when we are fasting, we’re not just fasting from food, we’re also fasting from any bad deeds. It makes you mindful and makes you respectful your food, your drink, your lifestyle even more. It makes you grateful for what you have.”

Samah Choudhury, assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion and faculty adviser for the MSA said via email that she is grateful for the work that the students in the MSA have done for Muslim students at the college despite some of the hurdles they have faced.

“This work isn’t fun or easy,” Choudhury said. “But they’re laying a foundation for Muslim students to enter a hospitable environment as soon as they arrive. The MSA has hosted multiple events for students observing Ramadan at the college to attend, including community iftar every weekend. There will be another community iftar April 14 at the Muller Chapel and a celebration for Eid al-Adha taking place April 21. Additionally, a prayer session is held at 2 p.m. every Friday at the Muller Chapel.

Choudhury said that while faculty in the Department of Philosophy and Religion are more aware of the difficulties that Muslim students face during Ramadan, she said these challenges should be acknowledged by more faculty.

“I imagine the more the administration prioritizes these things, the more willing faculty will be to follow suit,” Choudhury said.

Contact: documents@ithaca.edu
Q&A: Senior shares passion for Habitat for Humanity

Senior Carla Jones, vice president of Ithaca College’s Student Government Council, has been working with Second Wind Cottages, a housing program for unhoused individuals. Apart from being involved with Habitat for Humanity, Jones is the co-president of the college’s Student Occupational Therapy Association, a buildings and operations manager at the Innovations Center and a member of the Amara Gospel Singers choir.

Assistant News Editor Prakriti Panwar spoke with Jones about her passion for affordable housing and her experience with Habitat for Humanity, an organization that played a significant role in her personal life.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Prakriti Panwar: Is there a specific reason why you joined IC’s Habitat for Humanity, or is there a motivation behind it?

Carla Jones: I grew up in New Jersey and my mom is a single mom of four girls. And we actually lived in an area that Habitat for Humanity got to continue to contribute to, as well as continuing to get involved with builds all around the world. And so it perfectly encapsulates what our mission and vision is toward Ithaca College’s chapter specifically.

CJ: What do you see happening to Habitat for Humanity once you graduate?

PP: What has IC’s Habitat for Humanity’s greatest achievement been so far?

PP: How do you fulfill Habitat for Humanity’s mission and vision toward Ithaca College’s chapter specifically?

PP: What do you see happening to Habitat for Humanity once you graduate?

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Ithaca College announces death of Lois Butterfield at 91 years old

Ithaca College announced April 8 that Lois Butterfield, widow of Jim Butterfield, former football coach at the college from 1967 to 1994, passed away April 1 at 91 years old. The couple had been married for more than 60 years. Butterfield was a ganzel and an active member of the community.

SUMMARY: Lois Butterfield, widow of Jim Butterfield, was announced as having passed away on April 1, 2023.

MEDICAL ASSIST/PSYCHOLOGICAL

LOCATION: Elot
SUMMARY: A caller reported that a student was delusional and making alarming statements of self-harm. The student was taken into custody under conditions of the Mental Health Act.

MARCH 27

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT/PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Grant Egbert Boulevard
SUMMARY: A caller reported a car-park property damage motor vehicle accident. A report was taken. Patrol Officer Kevin McElrory responded.

MARCH 30

ACCIDENTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Tenor Circle
SUMMARY: An officer reported that the wind had damaged a tent. A report was taken. Patrol Officer Bob Jones responded.

MARCH 31

ACCIDENTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Iron Hall
SUMMARY: EHS staff reported damage to a stove because of a fire. A report was taken. Patrol Officer Chadwell responded.

MARCH 29

ACTUAL FIRE/FLAME/IGNITION

LOCATION: Circle Apartments 101
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Activation was caused by a fire in a microwave. A report was taken. Master Patrol Officer Sophia Dinkos responded.

MARCH 28

MEDICAL ASSIST/PSYCHOLOGICAL

LOCATION: Elot
SUMMARY: A caller reported that a student was delusional and making alarming statements of self-harm. The student was taken into custody under conditions of the Mental Health Act.

MARCH 27

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM MARCH 27 TO APRIL 2

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: 12 College Circle Drive
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by steam from a shower. Thaddeus May responded to the call.

WELFARE CHECK

LOCATION: Bogart Hall
SUMMARY: A caller reported that a person texted alarming messages. The officer determined that the person was not an imminent threat. A report was taken by the officer. Master Patrol Officer Sophia Dinkos responded.

KEY

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023

6 | NEWS
More assistance is needed for Muslim students’ joy

Ramadan is one of the five “pillars of Islam,” the others being daily prayer, almsgiving, declaration of faith and the pilgrimage to Mecca. It is a Muslim holiday that is celebrated around the world during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. During Ramadan, people fast and experience spiritual growth throughout a whole month, during which people do not eat, drink or participate in sexual relations from dawn until sunset. Celebration of Ramadan allows followers to be conscious of God. Resisting necessities, like water and food, for a month allows one to appreciate the value of those things. Ramadan is a chance for believers to stay away from sinful acts and be kind, forgiving and compassionate.

During Ramadan, many students may experience a lack of sympathy and understanding from people who do not identify as Muslim and have a lack of knowledge about the holiday. To make the experience more enjoyable, the college community can start with emotional support; making sure that every student is accommodated according to their needs during Ramadan would create a more welcoming experience. The accommodations might differ for every student, so there cannot be a concrete list. However, allowing students to take part in creating specific accommodations would serve the purpose well.

Not consuming food and water from dawn until sunset is one of the hardest parts of the holiday. Ithaca College must ensure that they have options for Muslim students. The Kosher Korner at the Terraces Dining Hall — a halal-certified food option open until 8:30 pm — is not quite enough. The sun usually sets between 7:30 and 8 p.m. during the months of Ramadan, which does not give students much time. However, having an all-night or late-night dining option during Ramadan would help energize students for the next day.

To be inclusive, the college must be welcoming toward religious holidays and make sure that the ones celebrating have a joyful experience.

Entertainment should not consist of stealing signs

There have been incidents of signage stealing and vandalism around Ithaca College’s campus. Exit signs, gender-neutral bathroom signs and cones disappear, and it is left up to the Office of Facilities to replace those and make sure it does not repeat. Unfortunately, the Office of Facilities does not have the power to supervise every sign around the campus, so these incidents keep occurring. On a good note, larceny and criminal mischief reports have been decreasing since Fall 2021, while in Fall 2021, there were 33 larceny and 35 criminal mischief reports and in Spring 2023, there have been only 26 larceny and 16 criminal mischief reports.

The decrease in larceny does not mean that the problems are solved. There are still many occurrences of signage stealing and the Office of Facilities cannot do anything about it except continuously replace the signs.

It is up to people who steal the signs to understand that their actions can harm others in various ways. Missing signs can create confusion among people who are trying to get to a particular location, missing cones can create a dangerous situation by allowing someone to enter a location that they should not and, also, it is somewhat insulting toward the workers of the Office of Facilities who try to make the college a welcoming place, yet some people disrespect their efforts by stealing the signs.

Some students like stealing signs to decorate their rooms. While students may steal signs as a fun activity, their actions still harm someone else, even if the original purpose was not to cause inconvenience. If decorating rooms with signs is enjoyable for students, they can buy signs online instead of stealing. Next time you approach such an activity, ask yourself if it is worth creating trouble for others.
Hug a tree for soul healing

I felt extraordinarily sad and hopeless this week and could not pinpoint what was pressuring my mind and body. It seemed like when everything else was growing inch by inch, I was stuck in one season. Whenever this nihilist side of me comes up, I usually force myself to go read or sleep. This time, I read more than I was reading. Fortunately, the small piece I read was worth sharing, especially with my future self when I feel extraordinarily sad and empty again. I also think reading always brings fortune, both at happy and sad times. So, here it is!

The poet May Sarton says, “imitate the trees. Learn to lose in order to recover, and remember that nothing stays the same for long. . . . Sit it out. It all pass.” After reading it, I thought, “How am I supposed to observe the leaves turn when it is not even bearable?” Then, I stepped back and imagined myself to be a tree—a humble elm tree that I used to pass for almost a decade near my home. It was nothing special—just a tree in a metropolitan city where the weather is strongly continental, meaning it has to survive four seasons.

It sheds and blooms leaves. It converts carbon dioxide into life-sustaining oxygen and provides shelter for birds and animals. It tries to survive the bitter cold of winter and the heat of summer, creating a space of shadow for hardworking beings. And it has been doing all of these for thousands of years and surely many more in the future. How could I see it as not special? How could I see my life as hopeless when it had been trying its best to survive for years?

As the leaves turn gold and red in the fall, we all think about is food. What turns down to mere crumbs. All you have to do is observe this invisible pain when it is not even bearable. Then, I stepped back and imagined myself to be a tree—a humble elm tree that I used to pass for almost a decade near my home. It was nothing special—just a tree in a metropolitan city where the weather is strongly continental, meaning it has to survive four seasons.

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crossword
By Quill Driver Books

ACROSS
1 Roman legion
5 Male hog
9 Grab a cookie
13 Fountain drink
14 Radiant
16 Gross
17 Peaceful
18 Camel relative
19 Swing a scythe
20 Quail
22 Confidential
24 Backspace on a PC
26 Granted a mortgage
27 European capital
30 Ziona portrayer
32 Came up
33 Gloom
34 “Sesame Street” topic
38 Harper or Majors
39 Not as robust
42 Gold, in Peru
43 Weight deduction
45 Impressive vases
46 Spoken
48 Cono-shaped tent

50 Schedule
51 Camel country
54 Playing card
56Infest
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60 Infest
62 Arrogant
63 Harsh-voiced bird
64 Aachen article
66 Beat or Ferber
67 Giving the once-over
68 Metric prefix
69 Lunch
70 Agree with
71 Elmer Fudd, e.g.

DOWN
1 Checkbook no.
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Many students choose to spend their time lounging outside on sunnier days. First-year student Elliot O'Connor does work on a blanket outside Upper Quads. From left, first-year student Owen Loiacono and junior Camille Cooke play their guitars under the shade of a tree after another long and cold Ithaca winter.

“I love to embrace the nature that surrounds campus,” Williams-Abrams said. “It’s a shame that for so much of the time we’re here as students, the weather in Ithaca is so unpredictable. I hear the summers are fantastic. I wish I could actually appreciate them.”

Second-year student Savannah O’Connor said she tries to take advantage of the plethora of activities and events on and off campus, to relieve some stress from the incoming finals season or just a much-needed stretch instead of sitting at a laptop for hours on end. “I always try to find a reason to be outside whenever we get a random nice day,” O’Connor said. “Sitting outside at one of the picnic tables, or my roommates like to take walks or watch the sunset. I just really love sunny days, to be honest.”

Sophomore Ryan Williams-Abrams said “the sun comes out, and my seasonal depression is instantly cured by the vitamin D I get.”

Junior Dylan Raisch uses chalk to draw an image on the concrete. Studies have shown that increased exposure to sunlight can help produce more serotonin.

For part of her time on campus, Witkiewicz said the club’s most attended meetings are those on nicer days where they can go outdoors. Students do not have to be a member to join the club’s walks at 4 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. Holland said anyone looking to get some more fresh air is more than welcome to come to their meetings. As Ithaca experiences more consistent warm weather, students are finally able to take advantage of the plethora of activities and events on and off campus, to relieve some stress from the incoming finals season or just a much-needed stretch instead of sitting at a laptop for hours on end.

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From left, sophomores Johanna Taickt and Claire Chesine spend time on a bench outside. More students are taking advantage of the outdoors and warm weather.

LIFe & CULTURE
THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023

From WEATHER, PAGE 1

produce more serotonin, a neurotransmitter that helps regulate mood, according to the Innovations in Clinical Neuroscience Journal. A lack of serotonin in the body can lead to depression and anxiety. So even when the weather is not 70 degrees, days with a clear and sunny sky might help improve students’ moods.

John Witkiewicz, mental health counselor in the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services, said he has emphasized the importance of getting outside to many of his clients and is trying to bring it to even more students. Since starting at CAPS in Spring 2023, he has been working to revive the Nature Rx program at the college.

Nature Rx is a program adopted from Parks Rx, a national movement by mental health professionals as well as the National Park Service, to encourage more people to be prescribed time outside, often in a park, as the name suggests, either by a medical or social professional, or by themselves. Witkiewicz said he is looking to revive this program at Ithaca College, as it has been largely dormant since the COVID-19 pandemic, and hopes to involve the partnership between Hammond Health Center and Cayuga Medical Associates. Witkiewicz has spent much of his career focused on the impact of nature and being outside on people’s mental health. As someone who spends a lot of time hiking, camping and trail running, he said he knows firsthand how powerful getting outside can be.

In college I really got into hiking and climbing,” Witkiewicz said. “I studied abroad in the Himalayas, which was a lot of things to do. But here, there’s still many ways to get active and get outside, whether it is with friends or through extracurricular clubs, like the Ithaca College Nature Club. Members of the IC Nature Club meet outside, weather permitting, to walk around and find the best landmarks, coolest rocks and prettiest flowers the campus has to offer. Founded in Fall 2022, the club aims to make people more comfortable outside and make appreciating the natural world more accessible. Senior Bethany Holland, who is the founder and president of the club, said she wants to make people realize how beautiful nature is on campus, especially now that more plants are coming into bloom.

“It’s nice to just walk around and appreciate the beauty around us, even if you’re not looking for one specific thing like how the flowers look,” Holland said. “And we really try to take advantage of all of the different places around campus, so that means going to the natural lands or next to the academic buildings and looking for things to appreciate there as well.”

Although there is still much to find and appreciate on the days without picturesque weather that the club meets the club members’ favorite days are the sunny ones. Holland said that the club’s most attended meetings are those on nicer days where they can go outdoors. Students do not have to be a member to join the club’s walks at 4 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. Holland said anyone looking to get some more fresh air is more than welcome to come to their meetings. As Ithaca experiences more consistent warm weather, students are finally able to take advantage of the plethora of activities and events on and off campus, to relieve some stress from the incoming finals season or just a much-needed stretch instead of sitting at a laptop for hours on end.

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Annual comic convention is ‘the little guy’ once more

BY ROWAN KELLER SMITH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Across the Ithaca College campus, there are posters promoting ITHACON, Ithaca’s annual comic convention. On the back of those posters is the slogan, “Proud to be the little guy,” a testament to the convention’s history and values. ITHACON will be hosting the convention from 10-5 p.m. April 22 and 11-4 p.m. April 23 in the college’s Campus Center and Williams Hall, is focused primarily on comic books, as opposed to larger comic conventions across the country.

Williams said he began watching the show Deep Cosplay, which is seen as a way of bringing together people who have grown very large. ITHACON takes great pride in being a small convention,” Catto said via email. “We have plenty of time to meet with and easily access to our guests. Big conventions just can’t offer those things. So we are proud to be the little guy.”

The team behind ITHACON, both Catto and his students, consistently demonstrates a great deal of pride and passion for the convention and the values it core.

“I think the biggest value for ITHACON is that it is a convention by fans for fans,” senior Evan Clarke said. “Everyone involved in this [is also] more likely to be a fan of pop culture and comics.”

Clarke, along with Catto, are the fans behind this “by fans for fans” convention. Students who worked in multiple ITHACONs can also act as mentors. This student involvement is one of the things that Clarke said makes ITHACON so special for both attendees and the students planning it.

“ITHACON is that it is a convention for fans of comic books are gearing up for the 46th annual ITHACON from April 22–23. The convention

Fans of comic books are gearing up for the 46th annual ITHACON from April 22–23. The convention and the students behind it pride themselves on creating a convention experience by fans, for fans.

Leila Marcolino/COMM/ITHACON

Audiences return to classic show in stage production

BY ELIZABETH KHARABADZE
CO-LIFE AND CULTURE EDITOR

Sitting in the dark as the opening is unveiled, the low hum of the cell phones in the audience begins to mesmerize. The lights come on, and the first thing you notice is the audience.bersome but familiar, fans of the band for almost a year to transcribe the scores, Rivera said she was able to work on the music so that it could be used for the orchestra.

“IT was fun and also a little challenging because there are things that happen in the cartoon that would be really impossible to do on stage,” Rivera said. “But … I think the designers had fun trying to find a way to make those stylized costumes and props that you see in the show. We love for the original work helped create solutions for some of the logistical issues the cast and crew faced. Rivera said that while she was unable to cast an actual bluebird for Beatrice, freshman student Sonora Cohen-Rider stepped up as props designer to engineer a bluebird puppet for Beatrice’s actor, senior Zoe Johnson, to use.

As the lights dim and the actors take their final bows, audience members say goodbye to the show — but the cast and crew of the production walk away with memories that will last a lifetime. “I think ‘Over the Garden Wall’ is more than just two brothers’ journey home,” Schulmeister said. “I think it’s two brothers’ journeys into each other’s lives. … And so I think watching the TV show strengthened my relationship with my brothers.”

This relationship to the show, Schulmeister said, strengthened his own bond with fellow cast members.

“I think people mostly focus on chemistry between love interests … but you have to have a very close bond when you’re playing siblings, and so Nick and I clicked very easily,” Schulmeister said. “He very much has that older brother feeling to me.”

Adapting a cartoon into a live-action theatrical production posed its fair share of problems, senior Rebecca Rivera, who directed the production, said. Rivera said she was in direct contact with The Blasting Company, the band behind the cartoon’s whimsical soundtrack. While the band had no existing sheet music for many of the songs, Rivera said she was able to work with the band for almost a year to transcribe some of the show’s music so that it could be used for the orchestra.

“It was fun and also a little challenging because there are things that happen in the cartoon that would be really impossible to do on stage,” Rivera said. “But … I think the designers had fun trying to find a way to make those stylized costumes and props that you see in the show. We love for the original work helped create solutions for some of the logistical issues the cast and crew faced. Rivera said that while she was unable to cast an actual bluebird for Beatrice, freshman student Sonora Cohen-Rider stepped up as props designer to engineer a bluebird puppet for Beatrice’s actor, senior Zoe Johnson, to use.

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“I think the most special part about this is that we all kind of became friends,” Williams said. “And that doesn’t always happen, but that doesn’t mean that ITHACON is anything less than professional. In fact, we all have very high standards for membership for children between the ages of seven and 17. The affordability and therefore accessibility of the convention has created a unique experience that makes ITHACON special for comic book and pop culture fans. The upcoming convention includes a lineup of featured comic writers, artists and editors Will Dennis, Don Simpson, Mike Gold and Roger Stern. Attendees will also have a chance to meet people like Inktop Award-winning artist and writer Jamal Igle, and ‘Star Trek: Deep Space Nine’ actor J. G. Hertzler. These guests get to be a part of this unique and important convention, bridging the gap between fans and creators.

Palladino said she sees the value in bringing fans and creators together.

“IT’s a lot of comic writers and artists coming to the show,” Palladino said. “And they’ll be right there in Emerson Suites for fans to come talk to. There really aren’t spaces like that for fans to talk face to face with creators on a personal level outside the convention circuit, and at a small show like ITHACON it adds a whole new level of almost intimacy.”

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Leila Marcolino/COMM/ITHACON

THE ITHACAN

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Contact:
Boygenius returns with a deeply love-filled album

ALBUM REVIEW: "the record"

BY ROWAN KELLER SMITH

Lucy Dacus, Phoebe Bridgers and Julien Baker, three of the best minds in modern indie music, have come together to produce a heartrending powerhouse of an album with “the record,” their first album as the band Boygenius. The group’s new release has been highly anticipated by fans, as Boygenius haven’t released music since 2018. Boygenius isn’t just a band—they are truly a supergroup. Boygenius may get roped into the trite and questions the lengths one goes to for love. The verse refers to taking a partner’s psychiatric medication as a way of truly getting into the minds of all three members of Boygenius. At its heart, “the record” highlights and questions the lengths one goes to for love. Boygenius has an immense talent for mixing lyrics with a slightly more humorous tone into their gut-wrenching music. Humorous does not mean without emotional depth, though. The tenth track, “Satanist,” is a perfect example. The playful lyrics bring listeners into the group’s lives with “Will you be a s...
‘The Super Mario Bros. Movie’ scores big numbers

The previous record held by “Frozen II” (2019) for the biggest global opening for an animated film was surpassed this past weekend with the $375.6M opening for Universal and Illumination Entertainment’s “The Super Mario Bros. Movie.” In the U.S., the highly anticipated film scored over $146.4 million on its first three days, the second highest opening domestically for an animated film behind the $182.7 million that “Incredibles 2” (2018) made. This overperformance at the box office comes after the film received mixed reviews at the box office, currently holding a 56% critic score on Rotten Tomatoes. Moviegoers were much more receptive with its 96% audience rating and “A” Cinemascore. The previously deemed video game adaptation curse has been crushed with the success of “The Super Mario Bros. Movie” and HBO’s “The Last of Us.” Will upcoming video game adaptations keep up the good streak?
Kweezy club ultimate coats into postseason with underdog mindset

Senior Mackenzie Bauer prepares to catch the disc. Kweezy is currently ranked No. 1 in the Metro East region for D-III. ABBEY LI/THE ITHACAN

Despite the team’s welcoming attitude and tight chemistry, Kweezy has experienced a drop in players from previous years. However, Menduni said the smaller roster might not be a bad thing for the team.

“The two tournaments that we’ve had this spring season, we’ve had nine and ten players, which is only two or three subs,” Menduni said. “The small team is really great for our chemistry because we’ve been playing against teams with 20–30 people. … We know how we all communicate, we know how each other plays.”

This small-team chemistry goes further than just on the field. Senior co-captain Ellen Chapman said that off the field, the team’s bond is just as strong.

“A lot of people will come in pain,” Chapman said. “It’s really nice, we’ll walk to practice together, we meet up. We all celebrated one of the other captain’s birthdays in the dining hall the other day. … We all showed up and put a bunch of tables together. It’s super fun and we make a point to see each other.”

Camaraderie is a big part of the dynamic of Kweezy and it can be seen in the team’s play style this season, which has resulted in numerous dominant wins. Senior organization captain Mackenzie Bauer said the team has been more reliant on chemistry rather than the technical parts of the game.

“I would say, last year, we were very technical and we had certain plays, but this year we’ve kind of just been going with the flow more,” Bauer said.

Chapman was not able to go to one of the tournaments this season and in her absence, senior co-captain Izzy DeVett came up with “adapt” as the team’s word of the tournament. It has stuck with the team and has become competitive and step up to these D-III teams. I think that teams are not underestimating us anymore because we’ve shown that we’re here to play and we want to play competitively.”

With such a small number of players rostered compared to other teams, Kweezy has assumed an underdog role and Chapman said if the team goes to nationals, it will embrace it.

“There’s nothing wrong with being an underdog, we’re just a second-half team,” Chapman said. “[The men’s team] went last year and they played really well, so I think the same could be said for Kweezy. It would just be a matter of taking things as they come and not taking things too personally or letting things hit too close to home.”

If Kweezy is able to maintain its grasp at the top of the Metro East until May, it will have an automatic bid for a national’s appearance, something no one on the team had had the opportunity to experience. Bauer said last season was the first time Kweezy earned a trip to regionals in around 10 years.

DeVett said that pushing for nationals is a big thing for her and the team, especially because it is her senior year, but enjoying the rest of the season with her friends is just as important.

“I think we’re just aiming to see where this goes and focus on how great we’re doing and celebrating that,” DeVett said. “If we end up at nationals, that’s awesome, but if not, we’ve played awesome this whole season and hopefully we can continue that momentum into future years.”

STAFF WRITER

“ ‘We didn’t expect you to play like that!’ ”

“But your team is so small!”

“We didn’t think that was going to happen!”

“We didn’t think that was going to happen!”

“We didn’t think that was gonna happen!”

“But your team is so small!”

“I really had no experience prior to college, that I chose to join the team because it’s such a great atmosphere.”

“We didn’t think that was gonna happen!”

“But your team is so small!”

“When joined in ultimate’s tradition of the post-match spirit circle, a team full of underdogs and fighters often take these comments in and hope to hear it all the way to nationals.

The woman’s ultimate team, also known as Kweezy – a play on the word “queasy” – has been on a productive run so far this season, despite a low number of players on its roster that have forced players into multiple different positions. The team is currently 7–0 and is ranked 21st in Division III and No. 1 in their region, the Metro East. Division III and I III teams are ranked separately but can compete against each other during the regular season.

Along with being first in its region, Kweezy and it can be seen in the team’s play style this season, which has resulted in numerous dominant wins. Senior organization captain Mackenzie Bauer said the team has been more reliant on chemistry rather than the technical parts of the game.

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Women’s lacrosse coach earns 100 career victory

BY TOBIAS ZBORAY
STAFF WRITER

The Ithaca College women’s lacrosse team’s 24-0 win against Bard College on April 7th was not too different from any other game the team might play during the season. But for head coach Karrie Moore, who signed off on focusing on coming into the season. “I knew it was gonna be sooner,” Moore said. “I wasn’t really paying attention to exactly when it was, but I knew that it would happen at some point this season.”

While Moore was not focused on the milestone, her players anticipated it. Senior goalkeeper Kylia Howley said that in the post-game huddle after the Bombers beat Bard, the players congratulated Moore on her 100th win. Howley said that shocked Moore, but left her with a smile. Graduate student defender Rachael Rosenberg said, “It was a bit of a morale breaker for them. I remember when my teammates found out – it was probably around Mary leaving, I think it was just a little bit unexpected.”

To reach 100 wins requires more than just being a good coach. Rosenberg said Moore cares about everyone on the team, which has helped build great relationships between Moore and all the players. Howley reiterated that same sentiment, saying Moore finds a way to get the very best out of everyone while at the same time building chemistry with them. “She is one of the best, if not the best, coaches that I’ve ever played under,” Howley said. “She somehow manages to really push each and every one of us, but at the same time, she always has our backs, so it’s all out love and her wanting the best for us.”

On top of what has made Moore special on the field is her connection to the team. Howley said that Moore has a bond with the team that has helped the Bombers form a more cohesive unit. Howley said that because of Moore’s outstanding coaching and team building, it does not come as a shock that Moore has reached this milestone. “She has created a culture and a team that’s never been a part of Howley’s,” said. “It’s like no other, and that’s why we have been and are as successful as we are. She knows how to bring a team in and... it’s no surprise that she has 100 wins.”

Despite the personal milestone, Moore said that her success falls not onto her shoulders, but on the play and success of the players that she has coached while with the Bombers. “I think for me, I think back to all the players who have been part of those wins,” Moore said. “I think about how they were to coach, and the teams that we put together. And for me, it becomes more about that. What that journey looked like and [all the players] who had that part in the work to get to that.”

Even with a program record on the line, Moore’s horizon — she nears the most wins in program history —

Q&A: Long season on golf team leads under sized roster

The Ithaca College golf team is using its small roster to chip away at some big ambitions. Among the team’s young three-woman roster is first-year student Annika Michel, sophomore Rhianne DeCrow and senior Cristea Park.

Park, as the team’s only upperclassman, has taken up a primary leadership role after standout senior Mary Gerse was barred from competition because of an institutional rule that keeps students from student teaching and playing a sport at the same time.

“Additionally, Park — who was named Liberty League Rookie of the Year in 2021 — has led the team with exceptional play, shooting a career-low round of 75 (+1) at the Vassar College Invitational on April 1.”

The team is one short player of being able to compete together at tournaments, the squad has competed individually throughout the fall and spring seasons and has seen some stellar performances from the entire roster.

Assistant Sports Editor Tess Ferguson spoke with Park about her time with the team and stepping into a newfound leadership role.

“This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Tess Ferguson: You’re in a really interesting position this year after losing senior Mary Gerse. How has that impacted your season so far? Does it pose any challenges?

Cristea Park: When my teammates found out about Mary, it was just a little bit of a morale breaker for them. I remember talking to my teammates about it and we were all just so shocked. Of course, Mary did everything she could to play and it was unfortunate that she wasn’t able to. I think, for me, I just needed to keep the mindset that there’s nothing we can do about it, so I’m just going to move on as much as I miss Mary, it’s unfortunately not something we can change. Rather than harping on it, it’s just better to take it as is and work with what we have.

TF: How is having such a thin roster this year something you and your team have gone about overcoming?

CP: I think we definitely make an effort to still be a team. Like, I don’t want any of my teammates to think that they’re individuals. I want them to realize that we’re still part of the team. … I don’t want anyone to think that all the pressure falls on them individually. I’d rather just keep that team environment going on. I think we do a good job of doing that and I think we still uphold the standards of being a team rather than individual players, which is key for us.

TF: On the same topic, I know that golf is just so individual in nature. What role do you think having that really strong team chemistry plays in your success?

CP: I’ve been really fortunate to have really great upperclassmen before I was a senior and, honestly, even throughout high school. I’ve personally looked at them and was like, I want to be just as good as you, you know? I really took them as inspiration. I was just very fortunate to know what a team is supposed to look like and that’s why I was so good at providing that for my friends. I found some of my best friends on this team and I’ve also learned a lot about myself because of that team aspect. Especially mentally, I almost think it’ll help you grow when you play with other people and are part of a team.

TF: On a more individual level, of course, you’re a senior this year. How do you think you’re performing and playing style have changed from your first year to now?

CP: I feel like now I’m starting to believe that I really am good and I am confident enough in myself. It sounds stupid because not a lot of people know about that. I don’t always show that, but I’m not confident as a player. I know I have good scores and I can shoot well. It’s part of being a consistent golfer and a better golfer is having that confidence to play well all the time and, when you’re not having a good day, your mental game is going to make or break you. If you can fight through [a bad day], you can think you can scrap up a pretty decent round. … This spring, I’ve been telling myself it’s not a physical fight, it’s a mental fight. I have all the capabilities physically to do what I need to do, but am I going to stay positive?

Am I going to let a bad shot hurt me or am I going to rebound from that? That’s what a good golfer does.

TF: For the rest of your final season, what kind of goals do you have in terms of your individual performance?

CP: I want to keep this momentum going. I had a great first tournament because I shot my career low, which I’m really proud of. I love to try to stay in the top 70 as much as possible, but, overall, I just want to have a good outlook, I want to look back and have no regrets about my performance. Making sure that I make it all out there so I can be able to say that I tried my best is really important to me.

CONTACT: TFERGUSON@ITHACA.EDU
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
MATT CHASE/BASEBALL

Senior pitcher Matt Chase set career highs in innings pitched and strikeouts in a 4–0 win over The Rochester Institute of Technology on April 8. Chase pitched eight innings during the game with seven strikeouts, five hits and no earned runs.

COMPETITION OF THE WEEK
WOMEN’S ROWING INVITATIONAL

All four boats for the Ithaca College women’s rowing team won as the Bombers swept their second competition of the season against the University of Rochester and the Rochester Institute of Technology on April 8 at the Cayuga Inlet.

EVENT TO WATCH

3:30 P.M. AND 5:30 P.M. APRIL 20 AT KOSTRINSKY FIELD
The Ithaca College softball team will look to upset the Cornell University Big Red when they face off in a doubleheader at home April 20. The local matchup — dating back to 1976 — is an interdivisional competition, with the Big Red competing at the Division I level. The first eight matchups from 1976–96 swung in favor of the Bombers. However, the Big Red have since reigned 30–6 over the South Hill squad. The Bombers will aim to earn their first win over the Big Red, who they last defeated in 2019 when they broke even in a doubleheader at home.

NOTABLE UPCOMING COMPETITIONS
ROWING: 11 a.m. April 15 vs. Marietta College and Skidmore College at the Cayuga Inlet.

SOFTBALL: 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. April 15 vs. Union College at Kostrinsky Field.

BASEBALL: Noon and 3 p.m. April 16 vs. Union College in Schenectady, New York.

MEN’S TENNIS: 11 a.m. April 15 vs. Vassar College at the Wheeler Outdoor Courts.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK
“There’s nothing wrong with being an underdog, we’re just a second-half team.”

- ELLEN CHAPMAN
Senior co-captain of the Ithaca College women’s club ultimate team, Kweezy, on the team’s small roster.
**THE BOMBERS ROUNDUP**

The *Ithacan* provides statistical updates on all the Bombers’ varsity squads during the season.

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**BASEBALL**

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**MEN’S TRACK & FIELD**

**APRIL 8, SUNY Cortland Red Dragon Open**

Best Track Performances

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Best Field Performances

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**WOMEN’S TRACK & FIELD**

**APRIL 8, SUNY Cortland Red Dragon Open**

Best Track Performances

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Best Field Performances

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Ithaca College sophomore midfielder Liam Lennon rushes away from Vassar College junior defender Solomon Hess during their game April 8. Ithaca defeated Vassar 13–11, propelling the team to a 7–2 record for the season and 2–1 in the Liberty League conference. Ithaca will play April 15 at Skidmore College.