Ithaca questions the Twelve Tribes

BY CAITLIN HOLTZMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It is 6 p.m. on a Friday. The sound of a shoo-far, an instrument typically made from a ram's horn, echoes throughout a large house to signal that it is time to gather for the beginning of the Sabbath. In a room with tall ceilings, a circle of wooden chairs. About 25 people, adults and children, make their way in, many sipping tea. One man standing starts playing the guitar and another sitting in the circle chimes in with a tambourine. Some take to the center of the room to join hands in song and dance. This is how members of the Twelve Tribes in Ithaca spend their Friday evenings. Founded in the 1970s during the Jesus Movement by Eugene Spriggs in Chattanooga, Tennessee, the Twelve Tribes is a religious group that has spread across the United States and the world with about 3,000 members worldwide. Some of the Twelve Tribes' communities are in Hamburg, Oneonta, Coxsackie, Oak Hill and Cambridge, New York.

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The new SGC overturned the former Election Committee's decision May 1 after the student body expressed concern about the validity of the election and the judgment to withhold the votes. The statement shows that Williams received 191 votes and the elected president, junior Carl McConnell, received 108 votes.

Candace drew platform presentations April 18 and 310 students voted on IC. Engaged between April 29 and 31. What students did not know at the time was that Williams, then-senator, and candidate for the president of the Student Governance Council, was picking up campaign violations — known as demerits — and a day after voting ended, was disqualified.

The SGC Elections Committee oversees the rules and procedures to ensure a fair election occurs, and for this election, it was comprised of seniors then-Senate Chair Austin Baldeh and Grace Madeya, then-president of the student body. Sarah Boniche, SGC adviser and associate director of student involvement in the Office of Student Engagement, does not have a say in SGC matters but was involved in discussions.

“If it’s not targeted at me, it’s simply just an unenforced election,” Williams said. “I feel as if I’ve been cheated, and cheated in the sense that I don’t think there’s been a comprehensive decision-making process that I can truly trust.”

The statement from SGC also says members will create a bill to ensure votes per candidate are released after each cycle. However, it says the disqualification will not be reversed.

During the Community Session of our meeting, we heard ardent feedback about the elections process and the publication of the results,” the statement said. The new Executive Board of SGC has heard extensively that the dements resulting in the above disqualifications were issued with no uncertainty. We uphold the firm decision of the Elections Committee, as a result of multitudinous infractions on the candidate’s part.”

Prior to this information from SGC’s statement May 2, students shared frustrations with the initial decision to keep the votes private.

SGC repeals decision to withhold votes

BY LORIEN TYNE AND DOMINICK PETRUCCI
NEWS EDITOR STAFF WRITERS

The Ithaca College Student Governance Council gave the vote counts from the Spring 2023 elections to The Ithacan on May 2, revealing that first-year Matthew Williams — who was disqualified — beat the elected president by 83 votes.

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Student blamed for scam, fired

BY LORIEN TYNE
NEWS EDITOR

Ithaca College senior Rugie Baldeh was working her shift in the electronics section at Walmart on Nov. 11, 2021, when she became a victim of a repeated scam. During her next shift, she said she was a victim of racial profiling when the Walmart's assets protection manager suspected her of aiding the scammers, then fired her and banned her from Walmart.

“I felt betrayed and hurt,” Baldeh said. “I never experienced a situation like that [before] because I felt like I was being [racially] profiled. … I didn’t even know what to think at first. I was really confused.”

This method of scamming — called a “cash-out scam” — has been done before at other Walmart locations and in other states, employees were not blamed. This same scam occurred in Ithaca, New York, and Columbia County, Georgia. The customer gives a credit card and, using different tactics, convinces the cashier and convinces them to select the “cash” option on the register, which makes the register think the purchase is being paid in cash and cancels the credit transaction, according to the Kane County Chronicle.

In Baldeh’s case, she said she was suspicious of the customer and she spoke to several managers who told her not to worry. They said if there was money missing, the items could be tracked with their serial numbers. During Baldeh’s shift Nov. 13, she said she was questioned by the assets protection manager about the events from the day before. The AP manager explained there was $4,000 missing from the electronics section. Baldeh said the AP manager began to say untrue things that the customers did not use a card, that Baldeh did not ask for payment and that Baldeh knew the customers and helped them get their items for free.

“The only thing me and these individuals had in common was our race because there would be no way that she would conclude we know each other by that footgear,” Baldeh said. Every time I tried to explain what happened, she insisted and was trying to convince me that I know these people."

Baldeh said she was told by the AP manager that this scam was grand larceny and company fraud and she would be fired. She said she was then made to sign a document banning her from the premises. Baldeh said she was accused of grand larceny, which for an individual with no record of previous crimes could result in incarceration from two to seven years, according to Illinois Law. The case was soon closed and no charges were filed.

“I can’t really discuss the case,” Ryan Card, officer at the Ithaca Police Department and lead officer on Baldeh’s case, said. “If she wants to discuss it with you, that’s totally fine. I can’t discuss it with you. All I can tell you is that the case is closed and nothing’s coming of it. … There’s no follow-up for it.”

When The Ithacan attempted to obtain Walmart’s store policy for letters of termination, a store manager said Baldeh should have
Biden issues temporary ethanol waiver to decrease price of gas

The Biden administration issued an emergency waiver April 28 to enable wide-spread sales of higher ethanol E15 gasoline this summer, following a strategy used to help pare high pump prices in 2022.

The Environmental Protection Agency’s move temporarily exempts the 15% ethanol fuel blend from volatility requirements that effectively block sales from June 1 to Sept. 15 throughout much of the country. EPA Administrator Michael Regan said the move would protect “Americans from fuel supply challenges resulting from the ongoing war in Ukraine by ensuring consumers have more choices at the pump.”

The waiver comes after weeks of lobbying by ethanol advocates, including elected officials from Midwest states that produce corn, who were frustrated by a Biden administration decision to delay another policy shift that aimed to more permanently expand summer E15 sales.

Russia denies the US embassy’s request to visit a jailed reporter

Russia rejected a request from the U.S. embassy to visit jailed Wall Street Journal reporter Evgeniy Gershkovich, saying the measure was in retaliation for a failure to issue visas to its journalists for Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov’s visit to the United Nations in New York.

Gershkovich, 31, is being held in Moscow’s Lefortovo prison on allegations of espionage after he was arrested March 29. He is the first American reporter to be detained on accusations of espionage since the Cold War, a charge that carries a 20-year maximum prison term in Russia. The Kremlin says he was caught “red-handed,” but has provided no evidence. The Wall Street Journal denies the allegations.

The US backs Philippines after a dispute over Chinese ships

The U.S. accused China of harassing Philippine ships and reaffirmed its defense commitment to the Philippines ahead of a visit to Washington by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Matthew Miller, a spokesperson from the US State Department, said the US stands with the Philippines. Miller cited a video from media reports of an incident in which two Chinese coast guard vessels blocked Philippine patrol boats in the vicinity of Ayungin shoal on April 23.

One of the ships carried out “dangerous maneuvers,” coming within 50 yards of the Southeast Asian nation’s boat, according to its coast guard, leading to a near collision.

Germany starts an affordable national public transit program

Germany started one of the most affordable public transit offers in the world May 1, setting a new benchmark to encourage consumers to ditch their cars. For just 49 euros ($54) per month, holders get unlimited travel on all city buses, subways and trams in every municipality across the country. Local and regional trains are included in the so-called Deutschland-Ticket, but not faster inter-city services, as the idea is to encourage people to re-route short-distance travel.

Two killed in a missile attack in Ukraine

Two people were killed and 10 injured in a Russian missile attack in eastern Ukraine, which led Ukrainian President Zelensky to charge Russia with using “absolutely barbaric methods” in the war. Moscow started in February 2022.

Ithaca Tries: Gracie struts into HiFashion

Assistant Proofreader senior Gracie Gallagher participated in modeling practice with HiFashion Studios on April 25. Ithaca College’s fashion club taught her how to stride down the catwalk.

'Veja View' - 'NOPE' (2022)

In the finale of ‘Deja View’’s horror season, sophomore host Therese Kinlors and sophomore guest Jackson Gruenke discuss the filmography, angel imagery and squelching in "NOPE" (2022).
Recalled seeing photos of under-gastrointestinal symptoms, she assumed that she had contracted a foodborne illness from eating at the dining halls. "I was assuming that I might have gotten a foodborne illness from something raw, like from the chickens," Perlera said.

However, Perlera said that she realized she had a stomach virus when her roommate started experiencing similar symptoms, and both of their symptoms continued for almost a week.

Reginald Briggs, associate director and interim head of Dining Services, said students often mistake inflammation of gastrointestinal symptoms as food poisoning and attribute it to any particular place or food. "It didn't taste the typical way that cooked chicken would taste," Scollio said. "I don't want to get into details, but it was multiple hours and I couldn't go to my classes."

Briggs said Dining Services is trying to implement new ways to seek student feedback, like placing feedback forms throughout the dining halls.

"We do care a lot about this and we are doing things better than we ever have. But we need the student body to understand that and be part of that process of giving us regular exposure to feedback so that we know where we stand," Briggs said.

The Ithaca College Faculty Council voted for its executive board members May 2 and reviewed student proposals regarding peer advising and faculty training.

Kevin Grant, executive chef manager of Dining Services, said food temperature is examined at multiple stages of preparation. Once food is prepared, temperatures are logged once per hour.

"I have literally had hundreds if not thousands of students that are in and from home for the first time," Briggs said. "In this setting where the menu changes every day, and you're eating different staff every day, it makes sense to me that some people would have an upset stomach every now and again."

Jennifer Metzgar, director of Student Health Services, said via email that the Hammond Health Center has not seen any cases of foodborne illness linked to campus dining in Fall 2022 or Spring 2023. Additionally, the New York State Department of Health has not found any health violations in campus dining halls in its 2022 report.

"We are seeing a few cases of vit- ral gastrointestinal illness, but they have not been clustered or linked to any particular place or food," Metzgar said via email.

Kevin Grant, executive chef manager, said Dining Services follow the temperature guidance from ServSafe, the NYSID and Tompkins County Whole Health. Sophia Ambriz Scollio said he believes he contracted a foodborne illness from campus dining halls twice. "It didn't taste the typical way that cooked chicken would taste," Scollio said. "I don't want to get into details, but it was multiple hours and I couldn't go to my classes."

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BY KAI LINCKE

Ithaca College first-year student Bianca Perlera started feeling nauseous in late March. When Perlera started vomiting and experiencing gastrointestinal symptoms, she recalled seeing photos of under-cooked meat in the campus dining halls circulating on social media.

In November 2022, Barnewall Ithaca posted an image of a piece of chicken from a campus dining hall that was cut open to reveal pink meat on the inside along with a video of a larva coming out of a burrito. Briggs said that after seeing the post, she became wary of eating meat at campus dining halls and she assumed that she had contracted a foodborne illness from eating at the dining halls.

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However, Perlera said that she realized she had a stomach virus when her roommate started experiencing similar symptoms, and both of their symptoms continued for almost a week.

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The Ithaca College Department of Edu- cation will launch a new Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies degree in fall 2023. The Department of Education currently offers seven minor in Education Studies majors. Mark Levy, associate professor and chair in the Depart- ment of Education, said the department started exploring an Education Studies major in Fall 2020. Several students said they wanted more courses.

"A lot of our minors were not interested in becoming teachers," Levy said. "[The Education Studies major] allows us to be a bit broader at the undergraduate level in thinking about what it means to learn and to teach."

The major includes 14 credits of required courses and a minimum of 24 elective credits. Out of the 24 elective credits, 12 must be ed- ucation courses with the EDUC prefix in the course catalog.

The other 12 must be culture, race and ethnicity courses with the CSST prefix or education courses, or have an Education Studies Elective attribute.

Sophomore Mikyala Velazquez, a theatre studies and education double major said she changed her Education Studies minor to the major soon after it launched.

Velazquez said she currently hopes to be in the Education Studies major to work in children's theater.

"I think it's cool to still major in education, but not necessarily [needed] to become a teach- er," Velazquez said.

Previously, the college offered individual majors in specific teaching areas, like K-12 art, 7-12 biology, 7-12 French, 7-12 mathematics, 7-12 social studies.

In Spring 2021, undergraduate teaching majors were cut as part of the Academic Pro- gram Prioritization process.

Levy said she wanted to emphasize that the Education Studies major is a completely new major that is not associated with the previous teaching options majors.

Levy said the Education Studies major alone does not provide a teaching certification, but students may still choose to apply to the Teach In Five teacher certification program. Stu- dents who pursue the Teach in Five program will be able to use Education Studies as their undergraduate advising requirement.

Levy said students can combine their Education Studies undergrad- uate degree with the Master of Science in Childhood Education. She said the Department of Education designed the Education Studies major to be flexible and interdisciplinary.

Velazquez said she appreciates the flexibil- ity of the Education Studies major because it makes it easier for her to satisfy the require- ments of both of her majors.

First-year student Hannah Woosley said she declared an Education Studies major soon after the program was announced. Woosley was an exploratory student, but she had heard ru- mors that the college was planning to introduce an Education Studies major and entered with the hope that she could later declare as an Educa- tion Studies major.

"I love working with [young] kids," Woosley said. "I've wanted to do that since I was very young, so I'm excited to have that option."

Levy said she hopes that more students will declare an Education Studies major and that even if they do not intend to become teachers, because it provides valuable instruction that can trans- late to any career.

"I think it helps empower us to understand how we get to be who we are, and how we can help kind of develop a bit more jus- tice and equity in the spaces we find ourselves in the future," Levy said.

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Delis across the world fund members’ communal expenses

In Ithaca, 25 members of the Twelve Tribes live in a house on Third Street. Families have their own rooms with adjacent spaces for children in their shared homes. There is kitchens and living spaces where members eat together.

Internationally, the Twelve Tribes run multiple businesses including the Yellow Deli and Main Factor, which have both had locations in Ithaca. The Twelve Tribes now run the deli out of the Home Dairy Building on The Commons. The Ithaca Main Factor opened in the early 2000s and closed in Ithaca in 2017 and the deli opened in the same building Jan. 1, 2023.

Gary Ferguson, executive director of the Downtown Ithaca Alliance, said the Twelve Tribes are good community partners.

Their operation seems to be well run and we don’t seem to get a lot of negative feedback about how they operate,” Ferguson said. “Occasionally someone will complain about their beliefs but, like I say, because we are apolitical and we don’t take stands on that.”

Stephan Kent, professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Alberta and cult expert, was featured in the A&E document series “Cults and Extreme Beliefs” in the episode about the Twelve Tribes. He said there is a debate in the social science world about what a cult is and said that using the term “cult” is appropriate regarding some groups.

The groups that I often call cults are ones that use undue influence to create obedience and dependency,” Kent said. “So it’s very simple: It’s groups that put a lot of pressure on people through manipulation, deception, coercion, brainwashing, sometimes through drugs — although not Twelve Tribes — excessive physical activities and so on.”

Kent said that the Twelve Tribes want to restore early Christianity and that members of the Twelve Tribes are isolated.

“One of the many reasons people are attracted to Twelve Tribes is that it seems to be a community, it seems to be loving and supportive,” Kent said. “I’ve read accounts that Twelve Tribes will feed anyone who is hungry. So, for some people, the community and the support and the regulation is really helpful, but it’s so restrictive.

In terms of restreictions, there are no TVs in the Twelve Tribes’ homes because TV is seen as a “distraction,” according to the Twelve Tribes FAQ page. Facebook and members are forbidden to leave the religion, they may not be able to because of limited contact with people outside of the Twelve Tribes. Kent also said members may not have any money that they don’t have to spend.

“Now I don’t know that the people using the term cult have a lot of background about Twelve Tribes, but if people want to call the group a cult, I’m not going to object,” Kent said.

Charles Stow, who goes by the Hebrew name Hasdai, has been a member of the Twelve Tribes since 2009. He said he found the Twelve Tribes when he was living with his cousin.

“We believe that human beings were originally created to live,” Hasdai said. “And that original pattern has kind of been memorized and shaped into what we have today, which is a system in a society that’s based on individual success, individual failure … but it’s not really a life tied together in love.”

Many of the Twelve Tribes’ beliefs differ from what is stated in the Bible. Ithaca College associate professor of philosophy Nick Daniel, said he’s heard of ward members of Ithaca College’s Cereal Ministry group, which Ithaca College’s Cereal Ministry group, which is a club dedicated to building an on-campus Christian community, went to see the movie, “Revelation” at the Cinema earth in Spring 2023. Daniel said that after the movie, two members of the Twelve Tribes were standing outside the theater crying out Byzantium.

Daniel said he spoke with the members because he wanted to know more about what they believed. He said the Twelve Tribes took a picture from the Bible that discussed the establishment of the church and how followers shared their belongings.

“They took that basis of their faith and then they expanded on it by reading out of the Christian Bible and making their memoir, which is, as a Christian, is the worst thing you can do,” Daniel said.

Hasdai said members of the Twelve Tribes believe in what the bible says, but there are many interpretations of the bible.

“But at its core, the scripture means actually doing what they say,” Hasdai said. “And that changes who we are at a fundamental level and ultimately brings us back to love, which is because we believe that God is love. And so that means for us, our life is knit together like we share what we have, we raise families together, we form almost an extended family unit.”

Senior Kamille Smith said she had been walking in the neighborhood surrounding Third Street near the Twelve Tribes’ home in early Fall 2022 with a friend when they were approached by an elderly man carrying bags.

“He asked us if we were college students and we said yes and he got really, really interested after that,” Smith said. “He started talking about his life who died and how she made all the clothes for the people that live with him.”

Smith said the man told her the group has an open dinner every Friday and invited her and her friend to the next dinner.

“I think if I hadn’t had that interaction with them before [the Yellow Deli], opened, I probably wouldn’t have tried [the deli],” Smith said. “It’s definitely uncomfortable walking through The Commons … it’s definitely not great having them established in Ithaca, I think.”

Daniel said he believes Christians and the community should steer people away from the Twelve Tribes.

“I don’t want people to think this is the truth and then their life gets turned on its head and then now we have no way of getting out,” Daniel said.

Daniel said that through his own research, he heard stories of how children and women have been mistreated inside the Twelve Tribes.

On the Twelve Tribes FAQ page is the question, “Do you spark your children?” and the response begins with, “Yes, we do.” The website states that children are spanked out of love with a “need-to-know” and spanking is done only as a way to in-life pain, not physical damage. Children are not spanked out of anger and are not hit with hands.

“We know that some people consider this aspect of our life controversial, but we have seen from experience that discipline keeps a child from becoming mean-minded and disrespectful of authority,” the website states.

The FAQ also says that this practice is not abusive and that parents are told to spank their children whenever they disobey in an effort to teach children respect and that “discipline is consistent and fair.”

Hasdai said that in terms of corporal punishment, there is times when a child will be spanked.

“That’s not like extreme beatings,” Hasdai said. “It’s just this blown out of proportion concept, which is again, totally within our legal rights. There are no active investigations into any Twelve Tribes business in New York, according to the NYSSOL.

“One time in Cambridge there was a legitimate issue that came up several years ago,” Hasdai said. “Legitimate in the sense that we technically shouldn’t have been doing what we were doing. However, it was extremely blown out of proportion.”

In 2018, hidden camera footage from Inside Edition showed young children working in the factory in Cambridge. Hasdai said that sometimes children will accompany their fathers to work for a few hours but that it is a way for them to spend time together. He said he grew up helping family members in a pizza shop—folding boxes and said this kind of interaction growing up is probably familiar to many people.

“It wasn’t like some swearword or whatever kind of crazy concept,” Hasdai said.

Hasdai said the Twelve Tribes are not trying to break any laws and scripture tell them to be law-abiding citizens.

“Whatsoever we do, it would be 100% from the heart, 100% love, and we would be careful as long as the law doesn’t go against God,” Hasdai said.

Hasdai said those who work in the deli are considered volunteers. In New York state, volunteers working at a nonprofit are not considered employees and do not have to receive payment. Profits belong to the Twelve Tribes Communities as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and is classified as a Christian (Religious-Related, Spiritual Development) group. The Twelve Tribes FAQ page says that “shared earnings” go toward paying general utilities and living expenses. The FAQ also says that some money may go to other communities that “are not us self-supporting.”

Hasdai said there are many sensational stories about the Twelve Tribes that contribute to many people’s negative feelings surrounding the group.

“Just come and talk to us, we’re not scary,” Hasdai said. “We’re nice people, we’d like to talk to people.”
SGC president elected with fewer votes because of disqualification

From SGC, page 1

“Voting results are not being released for the first time in years — if they’ve ever been withheld in the past,” Williams said April 30. “I find it kind of strange that this is the time when they would make such a big decision.”

Ruffino said she and Madyea decided in advance of the election cycle to not release vote counts. This was the first election in which board candidates could run individually instead of as a slate, and Ruffino said he and Madyea did not want the e-board to be discouraged by the number of students who voted for them. This decision was not discussed with other SGC members because there was nothing written in the constitution.

“It was kind of just one of those things where we kept doing it because it was the way things have always been done,” Ruffino said.

The newly-elected SGC led by McConnell met for the first time May 1. Ruffino, Madyea and Boniche attended, as well as 12 guests who went to demand the vote count results.

Eleanor Paterson, Chair of 2020 senator, was elected to be the senate chair and the entirety of the meeting afterward was spent discussing the elections cycle.

Junior lagioci Flanagan said votes not being released is unfair to the candidates and to the students.

“If we as a community or school understand that it’s unfair, we are wasting our time,” Flanagan said.

Senior Ruffinno Gonzalez, who permanently served on SGC as chief of staff, said he was concerned the votes will not be released despite the demands.

“They’re afraid we’re going to come here, vocalize, leave, and nothing is going to happen,” Gonzalez said. “When can that decision be made and can it be made now?”

The meeting was adjourned during an executive session and the SGC promptly left without notifying the 12 guests who were waiting.

Guests also questioned Williams’ disqualification. Among other rules, campaign materials cannot be posted on walls and doors, according to the college’s Solicitation Policy.

Williams was initially cited for eight demerits but ultimately received four more demerits after appealing his violations several times, according to email correspondence between Williams and the Elections Committee obtained by The Ithacan. If a candidate receives five or more demerits, they are disqualified from the election.

On April 21, Ruffino contacted Williams to notify him that three campaign posters were found on walls and one was found on a door — resulting in four demerits. Williams appealed the demerits, which the Elections Committee denied.

Williams said he made sure to explain to his peers who helped put up posters around campus which locations were permitted by college policy. He said most of the around 200 posters to be distributed.

“I don’t make sense to me that I’m being punished for something that I tried so hard to prevent,” Williams said. “A random individual never authorized in even touch a poster could take it, put it on a wall, take a picture and that would be it.”

Williams appealed the dements again and the Elections Committee reduced the dements to two.

However, in the same email accepting the appeal, the Elections Committee gave two more violations that were eventually reduced to one demerit total. One violation was for materials for Williams’ campaign found on digital screens. The second was for a campaign poster found on the door of I-What Hall room 339, which, in the email, was said to violate both the Solicitation Policy and the SGC’s accessibility policy.

The door for I-What 339 leads into the offices for the MLK Scholars and First-Generation Programs and the Center for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Social Change.

“Not necessarily all students would be able to access the Center [for IDES],” Ruffino said. “It is expected that you would need to have some sort of connection to that center in order to get the poster there.”

Ruffino said the Elections Committee did not confirm if college offices have the authority to post materials on their own doors.

Even if someone were to be given permission to use one of our rules, that doesn’t change the fact that the rule is there,” Ruffino said. “Regardless of whether there were any investigations [by us] for any of it … a different campus policy that says something other than ours doesn’t necessarily supersede our rules.”

On the evening of April 25, after the meeting occurred, the Elections Committee told Williams that he was disqualified. He was given two more dements for the violations mentioned April 24.

This violation brought Williams to six dements despite the campaign period already being over. He appealed the violation and it was brought to five, which is enough to still be disqualified. Additionally, because the voting period ended, the Elections Committee refused to handle further appeals.

“We put together all of these coincidences, there’s something very, very strange about it,” Williams said.

Student shares experience of being racially profiled at work

From Walmer, page 1

received one in the mail and would have to

Human Resources. However, when Baldeh

would try to do so, the line would continue to

go ringing and would never let her leave a message.

Williamson said she was followed around the store

in a racial profiling lawsuit, according to NPR.

received $4.4 million in damages from Walmart

customers, like in a 2022 case in Portland, Or-

and trespassing on private property. The store

attacked by someone with the tag “store lead”

gaged, raising provocative issues, always in

store manager at Walmart that he could not

understand that it’s unfair, we are

not being released is unfair to the

afterward was spent discussing the

campaignPoster that he could not

print around the college

locations were permitted by college

policy. He said most of the around 200 posters to be distributed.

Williams was told he could not

comment about any incident would have to be

resolved. Cerasaro said it was not company pol-

icy to follow up with complainants. In a call with

The Ithacan, Cerasaro said any information or comment about any incident would have to be requested through Walmart Media Relations.

Walmart Media Relations did not respond to a request for comment.

“[Walmart] made [Baldeh] feel less than human,” Soyinka-Airewele said to The Ithacan.

“You threw her out, embarrassed and humili-

ated her, then did the same thing to me when

I spoke on her behalf. Then you now gave me

a fraudulent apology and failed to do anything about the situation.”

Baldeh and Soyinka-Airewele are not the first to experience discrimination or employee abuse

for wrongfully firing her and racially profiling her after customer scam.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MALIK CLEMENT/ THE ITHACAN

Senior Rugia Baldeh said she is unsure if she wants to pursue legal action against Walmart for wrongly firing her and racially profiling her after customer scam.

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NEWS | 5
Grad students represent IC PA program

BY PRAKRITI PANWAR
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Ithaca College graduate students (left to right) De lois Santos, Katie Sims and Adam Hart hold up a cardboard version of a FreeCAT sign May 2 on The Commons. From left, Earl de los Santos holds up a sign while Aurora Rojer, Katie Sims and Adam Hart hold up a cardboard version of a FreeCAT May 2 on The Commons. (JORDAN DAVIS/IHTACAO.COM)

Retiring dean win medal

BY LORIEN TYNE
NEWS EDITOR

The Ithaca College Presidential Medal will be presented to Linda Petrosino ’77, who is retiring as the dean of the School of Health Sciences and Human Performance, on May 21 at the 2023 Commencement Ceremony.

Petrosino has been the dean of the School of HSSP since 2012 and has facilitated the development of programs, partnerships and strategic goals that lead to the full physical therapy program to campus, formed a program for a doctorate in occupational therapy and master’s programs in physical assistant studies and athletic training, created a remote, part-time speech-language pathology graduate program, and collaborated with the Binghamton University School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, allowing Ithaca College students to transfer into Binghamton University’s Doctor of Pharmacy program.

Petrosino’s other accolades include being named president and a fellow of the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. She also has held leadership positions on the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders, and the State of Ohio gave her the distinction of being an Exemplar of Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics.

Petrosino developed the School of HSSP’s strategic plan, which helped renovate facilities, review programs and connect academics with practical experiences.

She focused the school’s strategic goals on future sustainability and diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.

FreeCAT movement rallies to get rid of TCAT ride fare

BY AUREN VILLASENOR
STAFF WRITER

The Ithaca Democratic Socialists of America and the Ithaca Sunrise Movement hold a rally on The Commons on May 2 in support of the FreeCAT movement, which aims to remove ride fares from Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit bus services.

The FreeCAT movement began in March 2022 with an online petition posted on the Democratic Socialists of America website. The petition gained over 500 signatures in support of the movement. The FreeCAT movement’s goal is to make TCAT fares free for all riders and for the city of Ithaca to assume the responsibility of providing the service.

The rally, held on The Commons, featured speakers who discussed the benefits of fare-free transit, such as increased ridership and reduced carbon emissions. The rally also included a call to action for attendees to sign the petition and spread the word about the FreeCAT movement.

Ithaca College graduate students (left to right) De lois Santos, Katie Sims and Adam Hart hold up a cardboard version of a FreeCAT sign May 2 on The Commons. (JORDAN DAVIS/IHTACAO.COM)
Virtual Reality installation opens at Center for Creative Technology
Focal Distance, a mindfulness virtual real-
ity installation, will run at the Center for Creative Technology from May 4 to 12. The VR experience will allow users to practice mindfullness through the sights and sounds of Ithaca’s falls, gorges and natural landscape. Sign-ups for the experience can be found on the Intercom post or via QR codes on the event posters.

Open sessions with prospective Dining Services Director for IC
The college invites campus community members to open interview sessions for the Senior Director of Dining Services candi-
dates. During the sessions, candidates will deliver brief presentations and answer ques-
tions from the audience. The candidates’ resumes and interview evaluations will be available at the sessions.

College organizes IC KicksBack to celebrate end of the semester
The College organizes IC KicksBack from 3 to 7 p.m. May 5 to promote diversity and teach participants about the arts in Ithaca.

Professor organizes free dance workshop for the community
The free workshop is designed to pro-

cure diversity and teach participants easy-to-learn folk and social dances in an inclusive space. The workshop is open to all community members, regardless of age, ability or experience with dance. If there is inclement weather, the event will be moved inside the Cherry’s theater.

College organizes IC KicksBack to celebrate end of the semester
The Office of Student Engagement will collaborate with the Student Governance Council, Student Activities Board, IC, After Dark, Bureau of Conferences, Residence Hall Association, Dining Service and students in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, to hold Dance by the Water, a movement workshop for the community to open interview sessions for the first candidate will be held at 10 a.m. and at 2 p.m. May 4 in the Clark Lounge and the Taughannock Falls Room, respectively. The second can-
didate’s sessions will occur at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. May 10 in the Klingenstein Lounge. The third candidate’s sessions will oc-
cur at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. May 11 in the Klingenstein Lounge.

Public safety requests feedback about self defense programs
The Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management released a survey to the cam-
pus community to collect feedback about its self-defense programs. Currently, the OPS offers self-defense courses that cover physical self-defense techniques, risk reduction principles and simulations throughout the year. OPS/EMS asks members of the campus community to com-
plete the survey to provide feedback about how to better serve the community.

Kelsey Partridge Bird Natatorium will be closed during the summer
The pool requires additional mainte-
nance this year, so the college estimates that it will remain closed until at least mid-July or August. More updates will be posted on the college’s website as work progresses.

BOLD scholars host carnival of creativity
First-year student Victoria Hunt tie-dyes a shirt at the BOLD Carnival on April 28 on the second floor of the Campus Center. Hosted by the Ithaca College BOLD scholars, the event featured face painting, temporary tattoos and garnishes.

AbigailAitken awarded C.P. Snow Scholar Award for 2022–23 year
Senior Abigail Aitken received the 2023 C.P. Snow Scholar award, an award that recognizes a student who combines the hu-
manities and sciences in their academic and extracurricular pursuits.

Public safety logs entered from April 18 to 23

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PUBLICATION INCIDENT LOG

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PETIT LARCENY UNDER $50 LOCATION: Lotto/244-1435 Tower Skyline Drive SUMMARY: A caller reported an unknown person entered a vehi-
cle and stole money. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded. This is a pending investigation.

MEDICAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL LOCATION: Landon Hall $26 SUMMARY: A caller reported a person intentionally cut them-

selfs. The person was taken into custody and transported to the hospital by ambulance. Patrol Of-
ficer Abdallah Hassan responded. This is a pending investigation.

MEDICAL/ILLNESS RELATED LOCATION: Campus Center SUMMARY: A caller reported that a person was feeling faint. The person then declined any medical assistance. Patrol Officer Marya Co-
lon responded to the call.

PROPERTY DAMAGE LOCATION: Other SUMMARY: A caller reported a rowing shell hit a submerged log and was damaged. Patrol Officer Marya Colon responded to the call.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE LOCATION: 953 Dauny Road SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown person was making sus-
picions of windows. The person was taken into custody under the Mental Hygiene Law and the Bldg.
was transported to the hospital by ambulance. The person was referred to student conduct for improper use of alcohol. Patrol Officer Keiko Nomami-
ro responded to the call.

TRESPASS NO DEGREE LOCATION: Dillon/Burton Fountain SUMMARY: Officer reported four people in the fountain. Officer warned the responsible people for violation of the law of conduct code. Sergeant Jon Elmore responded to the call.

INCORRECT USE OF ALCOHOL LOCATION: East Tower 143 Tower Skyline Drive SUMMARY: A caller reported that an intoxicated person was making sus-
picions of windows. This investigation is pending.

SECURITY HARASSMENT LOCATION: Circle Apartments Building 190/190 College Circle SUMMARY: A caller reported a person made physical contact with another person during a verbal argument. One person was referred to student conduct for harassment. Patrol Officer Marya Colon responded to the call.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF/FOURTH DEGREE LOCATION: Terrace Bridge SUMMARY: Sergeant Jon Elmore re-

doned an unknown person damaged a window. This investigation is pending.

SECOND DEGREE HARASSMENT LOCATION: Circle Apartments Building 190/190 College Circle SUMMARY: A caller reported a person made physical contact with another person. One person was referred to student conduct for harassment. Patrol Officer Marya Colon responded to the call.

CRIMINAL TRESPASS/LOCATON: Gonnent Center SUMMARY: A caller reported being locked inside the building. Officer warned one person for being in an area after hours. Patrol Officer Abdallah Hassan responded.

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL LOCATION: Eastman Hall SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm activated by burnt food. Patrol Officer Abdallah Hassan responded.

CHECK ON THE WELFARE LOCATION: Terrace 3 98 Florida Brown Bldg SUMMARY: A caller reported a person might have been depressed. Officer deter-
mined the person was not an imminent threat to themselves and was in con-
tact with CAPS. Sergeant John Elmore responded to the call.

Full public safety log available online at www.ithaca.org.
crossword
By Quill Driver Books

ACROSS
1 Translucent mineral
5 Skin opening
9 Becoming limp
13 Garbage bin output
14 Pitcher in a basin
15 Chocolate bean
16 Unwillingness
18 Beautifully
19 Took a load off
20 Dorned recess
21 Chic
22 Go by
24 More slippery
26 Cabinet dept.
27 Stress
31 Open-air lobbies
34 Top player
35 Gift tag word
39 Fed. Property manager
41 Ginza purchase
42 “The Name of the Rose author”
43 Many August people
44 Not chic
47 Decline in status
50 Instant lawn
51 Waste
52 Polite word
56 “Whew!” feeling
59 Bluish-green
61 “My – Sal!”
62 Board mems.
63 Financial support
65 Skewers
66 They often clash
67 With, to Henri
68 Mix the salad
69 Kelly or Barry
70 Jaunty
71 Waste
72 Polite word
73 Financial support
74 Skewers
75 Often clash
76 Mix the salad
77 Kelly or Barry
78 Jaunty

DOWN
1 Telegraph code
2 Optimal
3 Terra –
4 “Exodus”
5 Chirped
6 Holds the deed
7 Voucher
8 Before, to posts
9 Nonswimmers, maybe
10 Holy image
11 Shortening
12 Broadway award
15 Gives a dam
17 Not formal
21 Row of seats
23 Frat letter
25 Rocky ledges
27 Takes at gunpoint
30 A Great Lake
31 Knighted
32 Baja fast food
33 Compartment
34 Gushes forth
38 Distant
40 Greek god of light
41 Ginza purchase
42 “The Name of the Rose author”
43 Many August people
44 Not chic
47 Decline in status
50 Instant lawn
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70 Jaunty
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72 Polite word
73 Financial support
74 Skewers
75 Often clash
76 Mix the salad
77 Kelly or Barry
78 Jaunty

sudoku

answers to last issue’s sudoku:

medium

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

very easy

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

hard

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

medium

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

Have feedback for The Ithacan? Check out our Audience Survey.
SGC’s electoral decisions subvert democratic rights

The Student Governance Council — democratically elected decision-making body at Ithaca College — recently decided to keep the final vote count of its election quiet. The voting results were shared with The Ithacan for publication, yet the SGC did not publish them itself. The SGC Elections Committee was not even the one to share the results, but the newly elected SGC members did after students raised their frustrations.

The decision to keep the voting results of an election a secret is part of larger anti-democratic trends happening around the world. The people, who in this case are the student voters at Ithaca College, have a right to know the final count of any election they vote in. This is true no matter how large or small a campaign is, from the president of the United States’ campaign to the president of the SGC’s campaign. The SGC Elections Committee’s decision to hide the results only suggests that they are hiding something, if the election was free and fair, why not release the results?

On top of this, the SGC disqualified a candidate for practicing the basics of running an electoral campaign — hanging posters. Regardless of whether or not the college allows posters to be hung in particular places, the SGC should not disqualify candidates over little technicalities. Candidates putting their names out there through posters is part of how any campaign works. This is a fact that one would hope the members of the SGC — all of whom ran campaigns to get where they are now — would understand.

The students at the college already do not trust the president, her administration and the Board of Trustees. Now, the little access students at the college had to democratic decision-making is being eroded by the SGC. The college community must stand up against these unfair and reckless decisions. Students must hold the SGC accountable for its anti-democratic actions.

Profiling workers of color leads to damaged society

Since being targeted for someone else’s crime in 2021, Ithaca College senior Rugie Baldeh has been intimidated, harassed and profiled by her bosses at Walmart. Her crime? Having the same skin color as a group of scammers.

What happened to Baldeh is part of a larger issue that has occurred throughout the history of corporate U.S. — assuming that Black workers are up to no good. The assumption that Baldeh was friends with a group of thieves that have nothing in common with her aside from skin color is a textbook example of how blue-collar workers are dehumanized and discriminated against, even in a liberal place like Ithaca. A simple Google search into Walmart cash scams shows results of scams similar to the one Baldeh was subjected to happening at Walmart stores around the country. Had management at Walmart taken the time to look into Baldeh’s situation in any capacity beyond noticing her skin tone, they would have seen this and realized that Baldeh was the victim in this situation, not the perpetrator.

What has happened to Baldeh demands reflection. As a community, we must ask ourselves how it would feel to lose a job over something you didn’t do because of a racist manager. History shows that the assumption that innocent Black people are up to no good has resulted in violence: In 2016, Charles Kinsey, a Black mental health therapist, was shot by police for the “crime” of trying to help his patient. For many Black people in U.S., discrimination in the workplace starts even before hiring. Natasha Greene, a Black woman, was repeatedly rejected when applying for jobs at Target. The company only granted her an interview when she changed the name on her application to Tori and indicated that she was mixed race.

These are just some of the many examples of Black workers being discriminated against with violent or life-altering results. These incidents take away workers’ dignity and their pride and they will continue if empty apologies come with no action.
The search for a joyous soul

It is often seen that hardships and happiness contrast each other as one relates to challenges, and the other is associated with peaceful and calm moments. However, as we expand our comfort zone through challenges and setbacks, we find more things to be grateful and joyful about. But as much as this paradox is a powerful mindset to build, it leaves me wondering how we can find joy in these hardships.

I think that when we truly find the joy that touches our souls. I asked some people who were the kind of people that made me smile in the ups and downs in my first year of college to share what brings joy to their souls. As this academic year is coming to an end, this column is dedicated to honoring those souls and showing how much power we hold to bring immense yet simple joy to each other.

I was inspired to ask this question by Dr. Nina Zinn, a professor in the Department of Education, and her own answer is “helping people discover their values.” As she listened to each and every one of her students attentively, as if we were the most important people in the world, I could feel her soul spark with such warm energy. Then, I thought, this is how joy looks like. Dr. Zinn said, a professor in the Department of Writing, said that feeling connected to other people and finding oneself unexpectedly in sync with another person when we walk or breathe at the same rate or when she thinks about someone and they show up makes her happy. Then, I thought, we are breathing together in sync. We exchange our emotions and energy with every breath we take. How amazing is that? That is how joy looks like.

Joy can also be found in actions like swimming in deep water and being in nature, as Emil Westfall, the library’s digital resources and access services manager at the library, said that playing the violin makes him joyful. Dr. Cindy Scheib, a professor in the Department of Psychology, mentioned she feels joy when hanging out with her grandchildren and when students or family members think of her and send her examples related to media literacy. These are just a few examples.

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Ducks and gnomes find homes in unexpected places

BY PATRICK MAZZELLA
STAFF WRITER

On a bustling college campus, it’s easy to hide in plain sight, whether someone is looking to hide from an annoying person or someone who wants to hide in plain sight, whether someone is looking to hide from an annoying person or someone who wants to hide for the sake of the environment, Ross decided of the items that did not sell very well. She said, “There is just so much going on at this school, and we can be the ones to bring it to the background for a little taste of competition among students.”

One of the first and most popular scavenger hunts that happened around Ithaca College’s campus in the 2022-23 academic year was the Rehome-the-Gnome campaign, held by the college’s campus store. The origins of this hunt date back to August 2022, when the current general manager of the store, Alicia Ross, started in her new position.

Ross said she felt like there was not a consistent customer base, with only some people coming in a handful of times per year. Ross said she noticed there were no regulars or people that came for the sake of the environment, and she wanted to change that.

“I want to make the campus store more involved in students’ lives on campus,” Ross said. “There is just so much going on at this school, and we can be the ones to bring it to the students.”

Ross said her first step was to get rid of all of the items that did not sell very well. She said she wanted to find creative ways to go about finding new places for all this merchandise. When it came to the large collection of Ithaca College branded gnomes, Ross decided to give them away. The scavenger hunt was a pretty simple competition. Once a day from April 1 through 24, the campus store would post a discreet picture of a location around campus featuring one of the many gnomes. Once a student found the gnome, they would get to keep it, as well as come into the campus store to redeem a prize of their choosing. Ross said she could not have anticipated just how big of a splash the scavenger hunt would become for students.

“I could not have imagined how popular it was going to be,” Ross said. “I mean, I have people just come into the store and say they would pay anything for one. It was such a surprise.”

Ross said she wanted to use the scavenger hunt to inform students of different offices or departments they may need during their time at Ithaca College. She also said she wanted to put the gnomes in more niche places on campus, rather than places like the Campus Center Dining Hall or Park Auditorium. Ross said she wanted to shine a light on places that are resources for students that do not get talked about or advertised enough.

However, the gnomes are not impossible to find. One lucky student, sophomore Lily Babcock, and her sister stumbled across one of the treasures entirely by accident, hidden on the bunny statue between Smiddy Hall and Dillingham Center.

Babcock had heard vaguely about the contest and had her suspicions confirmed when seeing the QR code on the bottom, Babcock said it was an exciting feeling, knowing she had found it despite not trying.

“It was weird finding it at first,” Babcock said. “I had only heard about the scavenger hunt through the lockers so it took me a little to remember what I was looking at when I found it.”

First-year student Mary Townsend, another student to rehome a gnome, had a story similar to Babcock’s. She said via email that she only found out about the scavenger hunt through an advertisement on the mall lockers after it had started. She did not think much of the advertisement at first and did not make a conscious decision to look for one. But, during a walk around campus on an unusually sunny day, she stumbled across one of the treasures so many were seeking, just sitting in a tree. Townsend said she knew she had to take it and make it hers.

“Of course I had to take him. His name is Richard now,” Townsend said via email. “And he’s a fantastic addition to the decor of my room.”

But students were not only searching for gnomes in need of new homes, as Spring 2023 marks the second time that the Campus Center Programming Team — a part of the Office of Student Engagement — has held their Duck Hunt around campus. Originally, the hunt was done in partnership with Wellness Week, with prizes, hints and locations directly tied to ways to improve personal wellness, but this year was a bit different.

Jess Shapiro, assistant director in the Office of Student Engagement, said this year was just about students getting to know the campus they live on. Much like the Campus Store’s hunt, the rubber ducks’ hiding places were intended to force students into new corners of the campus. Similar to the gnome scavenger hunt, students who found a duck could bring it to Campus Center to exchange it for a prize of their choosing during the week-long event.

Shapiro said she could not have done it without the Student Leadership Consultants that comprise the Programming Team. The SLCs were responsible for all of the hiding places, hints, prizes, and promotion that was done for the scavenger hunt.

Shapiro said the SLCS had no idea there would be another scavenger hunt to compete with, but Shapiro said she was excited that there were so many events going on around campus for students to participate in.

“We started planning in February, and I’m not sure when everyone else started working on their own scavenger hunts, but she said that there are multiple does not bother me,” Shapiro said. “I mean … scavenger hunts are fun, right? I’m just happy there are [so many] ways to get students [outside] and around campus.”

BY PATRICK MAZZELLA
STAFF WRITER

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One of the first and most popular scavenger hunts that happened around Ithaca College’s campus in the 2022-23 academic year was the Rehome-the-Gnome campaign, held by the college’s campus store. The origins of this hunt date back to August 2022, when the current general manager of the store, Alicia Ross, started in her new position.

Ross said she felt like there was not a consistent customer base, with only some people coming in a handful of times per year. Ross said she noticed there were no regulars or people that came for the sake of the environment, and she wanted to change that.

“I want to make the campus store more involved in students’ lives on campus,” Ross said. “There is just so much going on at this school, and we can be the ones to bring it to the students.”

Ross said her first step was to get rid of all of the items that did not sell very well. She said she wanted to find creative ways to go about finding new places for all this merchandise. When it came to the large collection of Ithaca College branded gnomes, Ross decided to give them away. The scavenger hunt was a pretty simple competition. Once a day from April 1 through 24, the campus store would post a discreet picture of a location around campus featuring one of the many gnomes. Once a student found the gnome, they would get to keep it, as well as come into the campus store to redeem a prize of their choosing. Ross said she could not have anticipated just how big of a splash the scavenger hunt would become for students.

“I could not have imagined how popular it was going to be,” Ross said. “I mean, I have people just come into the store and say they would pay anything for one. It was such a surprise.”

Ross said she wanted to use the scavenger hunt to inform students of different offices or departments they may need during their time at Ithaca College. She also said she wanted to put the gnomes in more niche places on campus, rather than places like the Campus Center Dining Hall or Park Auditorium. Ross said she wanted to shine a light on places that are resources for students that do not get talked about or advertised enough.

However, the gnomes are not impossible to find. One lucky student, sophomore Lily Babcock, and her sister stumbled across one of the treasures entirely by accident, hidden on the bunny statue between Smiddy Hall and Dillingham Center.

Babcock had heard vaguely about the contest and had her suspicions confirmed when seeing the QR code on the bottom, Babcock said it was an exciting feeling, knowing she had found it despite not trying.

“It was weird finding it at first,” Babcock said. “I had only heard about the scavenger hunt through the lockers so it took me a little to remember what I was looking at when I found it.”

First-year student Mary Townsend, another student to rehome a gnome, had a story similar to Babcock’s. She said via email that she only found out about the scavenger hunt through an advertisement on the mall lockers after it had started. She did not think much of the advertisement at first and did not make a conscious decision to look for one. But, during a walk around campus on an unusually sunny day, she stumbled across one of the treasures so many were seeking, just sitting in a tree. Townsend said she knew she had to take it and make it hers.

“Of course I had to take him. His name is Richard now,” Townsend said via email. “And he’s a fantastic addition to the decor of my room.”

But students were not only searching for gnomes in need of new homes, as Spring 2023 marks the second time that the Campus Center Programming Team — a part of the Office of Student Engagement — has held their Duck Hunt around campus. Originally, the hunt was done in partnership with Wellness Week, with prizes, hints and locations directly tied to ways to improve personal wellness, but this year was a bit different.

Jess Shapiro, assistant director in the Office of Student Engagement, said this year was just about students getting to know the campus they live on. Much like the Campus Store’s hunt, the rubber ducks’ hiding places were intended to force students into new corners of the campus. Similar to the gnome scavenger hunt, students who found a duck could bring it to Campus Center to exchange it for a prize of their choosing during the week-long event.

Shapiro said she could not have done it without the Student Leadership Consultants that comprise the Programming Team. The SLCS were responsible for all of the hiding places, hints, prizes, and promotion that was done for the scavenger hunt.

Shapiro said the SLCS had no idea there would be another scavenger hunt to compete with, but Shapiro said she was excited that there were so many events going on around campus for students to participate in.

“We started planning in February, and I’m not sure when everyone else started working on their own scavenger hunts, but she said that there are multiple does not bother me,” Shapiro said. “I mean … scavenger hunts are fun, right? I’m just happy there are [so many] ways to get students [outside] and around campus.”
Ben Mumford-Zisk, manager of the Information Technology Student Employment Program, began a public speaking club in March 2023 with the intention of helping students practice oral communication skills to better prepare for post-graduate jobs. The club meets every Thursday from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in Textor 101.

Co-Lead and Culture Editor Matt Minton spoke with Mumford-Zisk about what led to the creation of the club and the importance and application of public speaking in everyday life. “This interview has been edited for length and clarity.”

Matt Minton: What was your initiative for starting the Public Speaking Club?

Ben Mumford-Zisk: In helping students prepare, I’ve had several [people] voice a general fear of public speaking and lack of comfort with that kind of exposure. It seems to be a combination of the normal [lack of training] to do public speaking. Then we also have an entertainment culture these days and just a general social culture that is a little bit more isolated than it has been in the past. So people are getting fewer opportunities to organically practice public speaking. Obviously during the pandemic, we all got very used to interacting through screens as we are now. This was used to a level of solitude when you’re making statements or speeches, it also brings us to things that are incorrect in person. … In my knowledge coupled with just the general importance of public speaking ability prompted me to want to put together a club, or a classroom environment, where students could get together and practice in a low-stakes environment. A large part of comfort with public speaking is just being calm in front of a group and being okay with not sounding perfect or knowing exactly what’s coming next.

MM: What does the layout of a typical meeting look like?

BM-Z: I’m modeling this after Toastmasters, an international public speaking instruction club where people get together and they’re either assigned a topic or they come in with a topic. The bread and butter of Toastmasters is that you’ll … give a five-minute speech and then you will get graded on it. Not graded like pass-fail, but you said, ‘Um, I’m not great at this’ 14 times and you tend to say ‘Um’ at the beginning of paragraphs. You kept your left hand in your pocket the whole time. … It’s not about what you’re saying and how you are saying it. … It’s also going to train people how to give good feedback.

MM: Why do you think public speaking is important?

BM-Z: The big reason I think it’s so important for students as they’re about to graduate, but also specifically students in the current generation who’ve had lockdown happen, is that you’ve seen a massive uptick in certain social media technologies that result in more isolation. There’s less practice to be able to speak and communicate effectively. … Practicing public speaking allows me to be more clear with myself and also not be completely on the spot when it’s my turn to speak and therefore be able to better advocate for myself, [during] a hiring interview. I can make my case more easily.

MM: Where are you hoping the club will go moving forward?

BM-Z: I’m largely looking at my format and how students respond to it. I would like to do something that would be a regular meeting but not a required meeting for people. I want it to be something you can come to or not in a given week or two weeks so that there isn’t pressure for you to come every time. It really needs to be ongoing — semester-long or year-long.

MM: What advice would you give to students who may be apprehensive about public speaking?

BM-Z: There are a lot of opportunities for public speaking practice. … It might be one of the skills that I use the most commonly. I have a lot of social anxiety and I tell people that they’re always surprised. ‘You’re so comfortable in these places.’ And I say, ‘I’m lying.’ I have practiced this for years. … But I get so nervous in social situations, I get terrified. And this is something that will allow you to feel better in those situations.
Ari Aster’s new film bares mommy issues

BY MATT MINTON
COLLEGE AND CULTURE EDITOR

With both “Hereditary” and “Midsommar” alone, director Ari Aster made a name for himself as a confident new voice to watch in horror genre. With his third film, Aster proves that he is able to transcend the conventions of any genre in order to tell a unique and disturbing story that bends audience’s expectations to its will. If anything, he is not afraid to ruin “Always Be My Baby” by Mariah Carey in the process.

“Beau is Afraid” follows the timid and frightened Beau (Joequin Phoenix) on a life-altering trip to visit his mother (Pati LuPone). A series of obstacles come in Beau’s way at just about every turn, forcing him to confront deep anxieties and examine his troublesome relationship with his mother. Beau finds himself walking through a mystical forest of performers and an unusual family that takes him under their wing. Aster is known for his frightening imagery, bloody decapitation shots and bizarre folk stories about cults, familiars and generational trauma. “Beau is Afraid,” Aster’s most inventive, exciting and beyond fun. One sees many similarities with his previous work, with the added element of dark comedy and situational humor found in the most unexpected places.

This is especially prevalent in the first act when the audience gets introduced to Beau in his rundown apartment. He is surrounded by a mob of people — including a naked man called Birthday Boy Stacy Man — who are always waiting to pounce on Beau. Right away, Aster taps into Beau’s crisis-focused mindset, putting the viewer on edge without losing sight of how ridiculous certain situations seem.

Phoenix in the lead role holds the whole thing together with his complete commitment to Beau, who audiences find themselves rooting for in the entire time. Things just can’t seem to stop going wrong for the poor guy. As is often unfortunately true, he is not afraid to ruin “Always Be My Baby” by Mariah Carey in the process. After all, that’s what makes Aster’s films so special. Aster’s ability to control of nearly every creative aspect of the film, Aster cannot help but get in his own way at times. When there is plenty of cinematic meat in the film’s three-hour runtime, it is hard to justify each and every scene.

This problem is evident at the beginning of the film’s second act when Beau wakes up in the home of Grace (Amy Ryan) and Roger (Nathan Lane). He is mentally tormenting by his teenage daughter (Kelsie Rogers) and cannot seem to find a way out to see his mom. The frantic energy that surrounds him that comes off “Beau is Afraid” is quickly and painfully slowed to a halt in this confusing extended sequence that feels like it belongs in a different film.

In the third act, it is satisfying to witness how the relationship between Beau and his mother is resolved. This section of the film is LuPone’s time to shine as a mother trying to take those kinds of risks with her child in acclaimed director Ari Aster’s drama “Beau is Afraid.”

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FANS JEAPARDIZE RELATIONSHIPS

BY SARAH PAYNE
STAFF WRITER

There is seemingly no topic of conversation more beloved in American society than love. Although some interest in Hollywood is natural and healthy, the increase of digital access to celebrities has led to a rise in speculative-based narratives about celebrity relationships. This trend can lead to increased amounts of cyberbullying, shallow “psychology” analysis and other inappropriate behavior.

The break-up of singer-songwriter Taylor Swift and actor Joe Alwyn has been the event in the world of celebrity romance that has received the most comments on. When Entertainment Tonight first broke the story April 8, reporting on the couple’s “amicable” separation after six years, internet users went into a frenzy.

Many fans also believe that Swift was subtly adding “easter eggs” within her Eras Tour setlist to signal Alwyn of this deed. Even some news sources reported on these claims. Despite there being no concrete statements, the public court showed disdain for Alwyn across social media platforms.

Some of Swift’s tweets were made regarding Swift’s dating history, often criticizing Swift for dating men. The genuine fascination surrounding Swift, Alwyn and their love lives is a difficult time of transition. Whenever a celebrity announces a breakup or new relationship, there is bound to be speculation surrounding the updated status. This is an entire subsection of celebrity gossip that is built on the unknown, like “shipping” culture where fans cast their opinions on who they think would look good together, even if there is no proof of any romance happening between the individuals they selected.

Co-stars are often the pairs or groups that cause intrigue. “TuPhoria” star Sydney Swarovski and “Top Gun: Maverick” star Glen Powell are the recent subjects of interest in this matter. Fans began to speculate that the pair were hooking up behind the scenes, especially after the duo were seen in a video together, featuring Powell dipping Sweeney in a behind-the-scenes shot of “Anyone But You.” Although many fans simply want to feel connected to their favorite celebrities and to see them happy and in love, the act of investigating every aspect of their idol’s romantic lives and imposing their opinions onto their relationships causes emotional distress to celebrities and their partners.

In a way, celebrity’s relationships are as commodified as their work. Furthermore, the potential that these romances are based upon fosters unrealistic expectations for the general public when it comes to love.

With this reality-television type of consumption for celebrity romance, everyone loses and feels obligated to fulfill the public’s expectations of romance.

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‘Evil Dead’ reminds fans of a bloody good care

BY PATRICK MAZZELLA
STAFF WRITER

The “Evil Dead” franchise has always been about just a few things: The Book of the Dead, chainsaws and badass kills. Writer and director Lee Cronin’s blood-soaked erasure of the Dead, chainsaws and badass kills. Writ-
Students, faculty and staff from Ithaca College, Cornell University, Lehman Alternative Community School and members of the Ithaca community gathered on The Commons for the annual Take Back the Night march April 28. Started in the 1970s, the purpose of the rally is to envision an end to sexual assault and domestic violence and to create a community to support survivors. The Take Back the Night rally happens every April in Ithaca and is part of a larger international effort to reclaim the night for survivors.
Graduate student Alexa Ritchie played for the Bombers from 2018–22 before suffering a knee injury in 2022. She has since picked up running as a hobby.

By David Schurter

The transition from college to graduate life can be challenging, especially for student-athletes finding replacements for the hole previously filled by athletics. For two former Ithaca College women's lacrosse athletes — graduate student Alexa Ritchie and Megan Motkowski '22 — that replacement for lacrosse took the form of running.

Ritchie and Motkowski are training to participate in the Gorges Ithaca Half Marathon, a 13.1-mile race that will take place June 17. The race will begin at the Taughannock Falls State Park and finish at DeWitt Park, just short of the Ithaca Commons.

The pair took on the challenge not only to stay connected as friends and teammates but also to stay active after finishing out their careers on the field. Motkowski said that putting lacrosse behind her was difficult and that she felt the need to find a new passion to help fill the gap.

“It's been challenging to find a new hobby in an athletic sense,” Motkowski said. “For so long, I put everything into one sport, and so not having that anymore, you need to find a new passion and hobby. That’s where this whole signing up to run a half-marathon stemmed from — just looking to find a new passion athletically.”

Mike Motkowski, Megan's father, said sports mirror many of the demands seen in the business world over the last 10-plus years, “Unbeknownst to Megan, she has been preparing to make a smooth transition into the business world over the last 10 plus years,” Mike Motkowski said. "There are so many characteristics that athletics subconsciously teach us — such as self-discipline, teamwork, sacrifice, hard work, dedication and persistence — that translate to the business world. My role isn't changed and I continue to encourage her to pursue her goals."

Megan Motkowski said she was not surprised to see Megan sign up and train for the race, as she is always focused on working hard and accomplishing her goals.

"Few things in life are more rewarding than seeing your children achieve success and grow into young adults," Mike Motkowski said. "I'm not surprised that Megan decided to run a half-marathon. She has always been a very dedicated, goal-oriented person. It will be a very proud moment when she crosses the finish line."

Motkowski will not be alone in this race, as Ithaca, especially within the PT program," Ritchie said. "I've been taking it run-by-run, kind of self-assessing how my knee feels. I'm not really worried at all. I think by the time the race comes, I will be 10 months out of surgery, which is not a huge concern anymore. I'm just very grateful that I can get back into something." The pair created an Instagram account where they have tracked all of their progress in training for the half-marathon. Motkowski said the idea for the account stemmed from a point of discipline, but it also allowed the pair a way to keep their training fun.

Ritchie said that through her understanding of physical therapy and some additional help outside, the pair chose to follow a 14-week plan designed by Runner's World that will help keep them on pace to accomplish their goal time for the race.

"I'm a physical therapy student who knows how to train and progress workouts," Ritchie said. “I've learned a lot of different characteristics and shaped me into being a student-athlete and athlete in general.” Motkowski said. "I've gained a lot of different characteristics, such as things like time management and being able to communicate and hold a standard for myself. I've taken what I've used with my team and brought it to my current job." Looking back on her time at the college, Motkowski said her time as a student-athlete played a valuable role in how she goes about her life today.

"I've learned a lot of different characteristics and it shaped me into being a student-athlete and athlete in general," Motkowski said. "I've gained a lot of different characteristics, such as things like time management and being able to communicate and hold a standard for myself. I've taken what I've used with my team and brought it to my current job."
YEAR IN REVIEW
2022-23

CHECK OUR STATUS

NEWSLETTER

ONLINE
Women’s rowing vies for championship

BY TESSY FERGUSON
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

After wrapping up its regular season April 23, the Ithaca College women’s rowing team is looking to nail down not only its fifth consecutive Liberty League Championship but also its first national title since 2005.

The squad will travel to Saratoga Springs on May 5 where the varsity eight will compete among six other boats for the opportunity to punch a ticket to the big dance. The conference title is based on a first-place showing in the varsity eight race. However, to earn an automatic qualifier into the NCAA tournament, teams must also have a second varsity eight boat entered.

Senior captain Brenna Hanratty, a member of the second varsity eight, said she recognizes the importance of her position in the second boat and values her role in helping to secure a spot on the national stage.

“I’ve always been in the second varsity eight — I kind of hold the fort down in there,” Hanratty said. “For the national championship, you need both the 1V and the 2V to do so, so I kind of feel like how it’s the last ride for the seniors, I really examine our placement as a team.”

Head coach Elicie Robinson ‘88 said that earning the automatic bid into the tournament is valuable to her team’s performance, as it relieves some of the pressure when the team competes in the New York State Championships on May 6 and National Invitational Rowing Championships on May 12 before heading to Camden, New Jersey, for NCAA racing.

“It’s a difference between saying to a senior, ‘This is your last game, your last year, your last time playing for Ithaca unless you win today,’ and knowing that how you perform, there’s still another day,” Robinson said.

Since 2002, the Bombers have never dipped below fourth in the national rankings, most recently earning a third-place finish in 2022. Hanratty said the team wants nothing more than to secure a first-place finish once again.

“We really do have all the tools,” Hanratty said. “I’m one of three seniors in the second varsity eight while everyone else is pretty new, so it comes down to those younger girls that even though this seems huge, [winning is] within our reach.”

Senior Taylor Volmrich, a member of the first varsity eight, said the first boat is loaded with seasoned veterans. With a combination of seniors and graduate students — including two sixth-year rowers — Volmrich said the “last ride” is always on her mind during the postseason.

“We only get so many shots at an NCAA Championship,” Volmrich said. “You only get so many shots at winning a race in a boat with the people on your team right now. Focusing on here and now and what’s fulfilling versus what’s not fulfilling will be especially important for us in the postseason.”

Head coach Becky Robinson said the team understands the feeling of knowing her graduating class’s time with the program is coming to an end, and she hopes that sense of urgency can propel their team into finally reclaiming the national title.

“They all know there is an end, and they hope that sense of urgency can propel their team into finally reclaiming the national title,” Robinson said. “It’s the underdog that really determines the outcome.”

Hanratty said that earning the automatic qualifier into the NCAA tournament but also its first national title since 2005 would be an emotional moment for her and her graduating class.

“The last ride is something that’s in the back of every senior’s mind,” Hanratty said. “Especially knowing that I have walked this journey, not just with my classmates but with all the women on the team, it would be the ultimate accomplishment.”

Q&A: Senior delves into world of minor league baseball

As the academic year is coming to an end, senior sports media major Kyle DeSantis is continuing to work on his senior project — a six-article series that showcases the lives of minor league sports broadcasters.

So far, DeSantis has written two articles, the first of which goes in depth about the role of women in sports broadcasting. It discusses how sports broadcasting is a male-dominated industry while also highlighting the issues that some women face. The other two articles examine the life of a minor league broadcaster and the past experiences of minor league baseball broadcasters. In the article, DeSantis goes into detail about the different roles that are presented to minor league broadcasters during spring training and looks at their lives at work.

During this semester-long process, DeSantis has been interviewing different experts and conducting research on different subjects that take place in the minor league broadcasting industry. All of DeSantis’ information, as well as his articles, are available for view on his WordPress website.

When asked what he most enjoyed about his research process, DeSantis spoke about his process and what led him to pursue research in minor league baseball.

“This interview has been edited for length and clarity.”

Flynn Lyons: What initially inspired you to choose minor league broadcasting as the focus for your senior project?

Kyle DeSantis: I grew up going to minor league baseball games. They’re with the Yankees now, but back then they were with the Tampa Bay Rays. … That was kind of my first real taste of seeing professional baseball. And then over the years, broadcasting became something that I want to strive for.

FH: How did you conduct research for the articles and what were some of the biggest challenges that you faced during this process?

KD: It was finding people I want to talk to, to just being around the industry and doing games up here. It’s kind of understanding the questions that need to be asked, and then it goes to, ‘Alright, who do I want to talk to for this article?’ and finding their contact information and reaching out to them. I did get a very good response rate, but there were times where you reach out to someone [and] you don’t hear back and you kind of have to pivot.

FH: You mentioned including a section on women in minor league baseball broadcasting. Can you talk to the progress that has been made in terms of gender equity in this field, and any barriers that still need to be addressed?

KD: It can come down to where people have to be a little more open when it comes to that. One of the women I interviewed said there was one time she walked into a job interview and the broadcaster was there and they said, ‘Hey, ownership found out that I was interviewing a woman for this position, so they just didn’t want a woman in the booth.’ That stood out to me a lot. I did mention that in the article, but I think it comes down to people being more open about it. Again, there are women who do want to do this as a career, and it’s ultimately finding that convergence between [women who want the career and broadcasters that are open to hiring women].

FH: To bounce off that question, could you talk about any interesting stories that you came across while interviewing some of these minor league broadcasters?

KD: Going into this project, I wanted it to be as wide of a range of people I talked to. … So it was about a six-week process of emails and then Zoom phone calls. … One broadcaster that I interviewed — he’s with the Double-A White Sox team, the Birmingham Barons — he’s been with the team since the early 60s. He was the broadcaster when Michael Jordan was with the team. He was able to cover that. And he’s in his

Senior sports media major Kyle DeSantis is focusing his senior project on the work and lives of minor league baseball broadcasters in a series of six articles.
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
RHEANNA DECROW/GOLF

Sophomore golfer Rheanna DeCrow tied for fourth place during the first day of the Liberty League Championships on April 29. DeCrow has averaged a score of 79.3 in 14.5 rounds during the 2022-23 season with a career low of 74 (+2).

COMPETITION OF THE WEEK
SOFTBALL VS. CLARKSON UNIVERSITY

Sophomore pitcher Anna Cornell throws a pitch during the Ithaca College softball team’s 4–0 win over Clarkson University on April 27. Cornell closed out the second competition of the day with nine strikeouts and two walks to sweep the doubleheader.

NOTABLE UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

MEN’S AND WOMEN’S TRACK AND FIELD: Will attend the Liberty League Championships at noon May 5 in Rochester.

SOFTBALL: 2 and 4 p.m. May 5 vs. the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, 1 and 3 p.m. May 6 vs. St. Lawrence University at Kostrinsky Field.

BASEBALL: Will play in the Liberty League Crossover Series on May 5 and 6.

WOMEN’S LACROSSE: May 5 vs. Vassar College in the Liberty League Semifinals at Higgins Stadium.

ITHACA LIBERTY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

EVENT TO WATCH
8 A.M. MAY 5 AND 6 IN SARATOGA SPRINGS

After closing out their regular seasons with successful races against Hamilton College on April 29, the Ithaca College men’s and women’s rowing teams will attend the Liberty League Championships on May 5 in Saratoga Springs. While the women are looking to earn their fifth consecutive Liberty League title, the men aim to earn their first in program history. Following their fifth week of competition, the Bombers are ranked fifth nationally. The races will be shortly followed by the New York State Collegiate Championships on May 6, where the crews will each compete for a state title.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Few things in life are more rewarding than seeing your children achieve success. ... It will be a very proud moment when she crosses the finish line.”

- MIKE MOTKOWSKI

On his daughter, Megan Motkowski ‘22, training for a local half-marathon.
THE BOMBERS ROUNDUP

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

BASEBALL

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<th>PLACE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4x400-meter relay</td>
<td>0:04:45</td>
<td>0:04:50</td>
<td>SCRANTON</td>
<td>L</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MEN’S LACROSSE

<table>
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<th>TIME</th>
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<th>PLACE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pole vault</td>
<td>4.96 meters</td>
<td>4.90 meters</td>
<td>DOM MIKULA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shot put</td>
<td>15.80 meters</td>
<td>15.80 meters</td>
<td>JUSTIN SHOWSTEAD</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long jump</td>
<td>7.09 meters</td>
<td>7.09 meters</td>
<td>DANIEL HUTCHINSON</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

MEN’S TRACK & FIELD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pole vault</td>
<td>3.70 meters</td>
<td>3.70 meters</td>
<td>MEAGHAN MATHENY</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Javelin throw</td>
<td>35.24 meters</td>
<td>35.24 meters</td>
<td>LILY SEYFERT</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High jump</td>
<td>1.52 meters</td>
<td>1.52 meters</td>
<td>CHARLY SLUSSER</td>
<td>3</td>
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WOMEN’S TENNIS

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SOFTBALL

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From left, first-year student Zoe Ennis walks the runway while local Ithaca DJ Chris Washburn ’08 plays music during HiFashion Studio’s Wanderlust show May 1, presented in Emerson Suites. HiFashion Studios is a student-run organization that collectively plans, organizes and executes a themed runway show each semester.