Absence of quarantine spaces troubles students

BY KAI LINCKE
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Just weeks after they moved in, some Ithaca College students packed up their belongings again and temporarily relocated after their roommates tested positive for COVID-19. With no dedicated isolation space at the college, students could either stay in the room with their sick roommate or find their own space to live in.

The college eliminated most of its COVID-19 infrastructure, including a dedicated isolation space in Boothroyd Hall for students who test positive for COVID-19, after the CDC ended the public health emergency in May 2023.

Summ Swarts, assistant director of Emergency Preparedness and Response, said the college currently advises students who contract COVID-19 to self-isolate in their living space for five days. Swarts said that if students do not want to stay in the same space as a roommate who has COVID-19, they can stay with a friend or contact the Office of Residential Life to try and find an alternate living arrangement.

"Folks should just really be following CDC guidance at this point," Swarts said. "It's really turned over to self-management and folks trying to figure out what's best for them, just like they would any other illness."

Junior Alvin Yang is a resident assistant in Landon Hall. Yang said first-year student Andrew Marcus asked to sleep in the lounge on Yang's floor on Aug. 28 because his roommate had COVID-19.

Fizzle pops at IC with unique marketing tactic

BY SONYA MUKHINA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Fizz — a new social media app that lets college students connect with their peers by uploading anonymous posts — has made its way to the Ithaca College campus with Instagram stories, hats and free donuts.

The Fizz app was released in 2021 and is similar to Yik-Yak — another social media app that is popular at the college — but requires friends by "referring" them. Fizz is also present on other college campuses across the U.S., including Stanford University, Rice University, Dartmouth University, Arizona State University and Chapman University.

Representatives from the Fizz app hired about 20 student ambassadors from Ithaca College who had to convince students to download the app in exchange for a donut.

"They gave us all the information, basically legal stuff saying you can't work for another company," Jankowski said. "I had some family and friends look it over and they said nothing about it was alarming."

Representatives from Fizz hired about 20 student ambassadors from Ithaca College who had to convince students to download the app in exchange for a donut. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KALEIGH RANDA AND MOLLY TESKA/THE ITHACAN

With no dedicated isolation space and no COVID-19 policies at Ithaca College, students can either stay in their room or find their own space to live in. Resident assistants and students have raised concerns about the lack of accommodations.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MADDY DOMBROW/THE ITHACAN

Ithaca becomes trans safe haven

BY JACQUELYN REAVES
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The city of Ithaca’s Common Council passed new gender-affirming laws Sept. 6 to strengthen the Trans Safe Haven Resolution, officially declaring Ithaca as a sanctuary for transgender healthcare.

The Trans Safe Haven Resolution is a direct response to the new law that Governor Kathy Hochul signed on June 25 to make New York State a place of protection for members of the trans and gender non-conforming community. Ithaca’s resolution outlines new regulations that follow New York State’s safe haven legislation and ensures access to lawful medical and mental care and makes it clear that discriminating against gender identity is illegal. It comes in reaction to anti-trans laws and bills being passed in other states like Florida and Idaho.

The resolution was proposed by Fourth Ward Alderperson Jorge DeFendini, who said he believes that the lack of access to proper healthcare for many trans and gender non-conforming individuals is a detriment to their health and safety.
Biden meets Netanyahu for the first time since return to power

President Joe Biden met Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in New York Sept. 20, for the first time since the Israeli leader returned to power nine months ago. Biden suggested he would reextend on his refusal so far to invite Netanyahu to the White House, a meeting the Israeli leader has sought since forming a governing coalition with far-right political parties in 2022.

Azerbaijan launches offensive in disputed Nagorno-Karabakh area

Azerbaijan launched a new military offensive Sept. 19 in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, raising fears of another war in the Caucasus. Armenian separatists in the region said Azerbaijan was using artillery, combat aircraft and attack drones, and 25 people, including some civilians, had been killed and 80 wounded. They accused Azerbaijani forces of “trying to advance” into Karabakh.

India-Canada tensions rise with murder of pro-Khalistani leader

Relations between India and Canada nosedived as New Delhi on Tuesday firmly rejected Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s charge that Canada’s security agencies had “credible” intelligence that the Indian government was behind the June 2023 murder of a pro-Khalistan leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in British Columbia.

India also expelled a senior Canadian diplomat after Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly’s office announced the expulsion of Indian diplomat Pavan Kumar Rai, who, the Canadian authorities claimed, was the head of the Research and Analysis Wing in Canada.

United Auto Workers begin strike against three major companies

United Auto Workers members struck at the Ford Michigan Assembly Plant on Sept. 16, 2023, in Wayne, Michigan. This is the first time in history that the UAW is striking all three of the Big Three auto makers, Ford, General Motors and Stellantis, at the same time. On Sept. 19, the Biden administration continued to monitor the strike negotiations but said Tuesday that acting Labor Secretary Julie Su and White House adviser Gene Sperling would not yet be traveling to Detroit to help the two sides.

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On the
SAME PAGE

On The Same Page — Top Stories of Week 4

Join co-hosts Opinion Editor Clare Shanahan and Podcast Editor Emma Kersting as they interview reporters from The Ithacan on this week’s top stories in News, Sports and Life and Culture.
IC’s financial statement shows operating budget surplus

BY NOA RAN-RESSLER  STAFF WRITER

Besides the Form 990, an essential tool for understanding the college’s finances is the audited financial statement. Each year, Ithaca College releases its statements for the previous fiscal year. A major data point on the statement is the college’s operating revenue and expenses, which are used to calculate if the college is in an operating surplus or deficit.

On the 2022 audited financial form, the college is in an operating surplus of $7.01 million. When the college has a deficit, that means its operating revenue is less than operating expenses.

Tim Downs, chief financial officer and vice president of finance at Ithaca College, said decisions about the college’s surplus usually go back to the Board of Trustees. However, because the college is operating out of two years of deficits — fiscal years 2020 and 2021 — the surplus would be used to manage deficits.

“[In the past, finance officers] say to the board, ‘We had $10 million of surplus this year,’ and the board would say, ‘Okay, put some toward the endowment, put some toward a capital investment, put some back in cash,’” Downs said.

“Right now . . . we’re running deficits, we’re basically putting [the surplus] in and out of cash until we get back into a place where ideally we have systemic operating surpluses.”

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Bikers get into gear for Cycle September challenge

BY SASHA ROTER  CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Ithaca’s central transportation management organization GO ITHACA has partnered with social biking platform Love to Ride to promote increased bike travel in Tompkins County through its Cycle September challenge.

Scott Doyle, director of energy management, sustainability and Ithaca College, said 10% of all emissions produced by the college are connected to faculty and students commuting to campus. Doyle said that through its initiative to get more people riding, Love to Ride may be able to offer a fun means of lowering carbon emissions.

“There’s a lot of interest in programs through GO ITHACA that help to encourage multimodal trips to travel and thereby reduce your work [and] think about commuting differently,” Doyle said. “I think it’s fun — especially to encourage someone to see just how they do stand carbon impacts in their emissions and [is] also just a chance to connect with other people.”

Cycle September, Love to Ride’s yearly challenge, encourages users to ride the most miles and win prizes. The app doubles as a fitness and social media platform that encourages riders to compete in different challenges during the year.

Jane Bowman Brady, executive director of GO ITHACA, was familiar with the app from when she worked as a policy analyst for the Ministry of the Environment in New Zealand, which is where she first came across Love to Ride.

“What that program did was it encouraged me to get out and try riding a bike,” Brady said. “We’re bringing Love to Ride to Ithaca because we know there’s a lot of people who are currently getting around on bikes, but we know that there could be a lot more.”

However, because Ithaca is a hilly terrain, it can make biking a challenge and consists mostly of cardiovacular infrastructure. According to Tompkins County’s website data on the common roads needed to work, 5,418 out of Ithaca’s working population of 8,886 travel by car, truck or van. This excludes neighboring areas like Lansing and Newfield.

Michael Smith, professor in the Department of History and Environmental Science, is a daily bike commuter and said he rates Ithaca a four out of 10 with regards to navigability.

“In terms of getting around by bike to the things you need to do on a day-to-day basis — go to work, pick up groceries, whatever — it’s mostly you on the street with cars,” Smith said.

Senior Renee Madcharo is an avid biker but said there are safety concerns when it comes to biking in Ithaca, especially on roads with heavy traffic flow.

“Because it is challenging graphically and also in terms of getting around by bike to the things you need to do on a day-to-day basis — go to work, pick up groceries, whatever — it’s mostly you on the street with cars,” Smith said.

Senior Renee Madcharo is an avid biker but said there are safety concerns when it comes to biking in Ithaca, especially on roads with heavy traffic flow.

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Contact amirana.jallal@ithaca.edu

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The Trans Safe Haven Resolution was proposed by Fourth Ward Alderperson Jorge DeFendini and led to Ithaca being declared a sanctuary city for trans health-care.

CONTACT KAI LUCEK
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“From the Lavender Hill commune in the 70s, to the burgeoning LGBTQ+ movements throughout the 80s and 90s, Ithaca has a history of being a space where LGBTQ+ people can live proudly,” DaFonzo said.

This resolution is a part of a larger plan of laws that will protect the civil liberties of people who live in Ithaca. When Ilse v. Wade was overturned in 2022, Ithaca passed an abortion
SGC gets updates on campus cell service

BY MAKAI YLLANES
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Student Governance Council met on Sept. 18 to hear from the Division of Information Technology about technology improvements made at Ithaca College campuses over the summer.

The SGC met with David Weil, vice president and chief information and analytics officer; Casey Kendall, chief technology and innovation officer and senior executive director of applications and infrastructure; and Jenna Linskens, director of learning and innovative technologies for the Center for Instructional Design and Educational Technology.

The three met with the SGC in Spring 2023 and discussed how new students were struggling to navigate Canvas. In May 2023, IT held a workshop for Ithaca College Seminar faculty to discuss the module and help them navigate the resource. There is also a module in Canvas titled “Canvas Student Resources at IC” that students can refer to.

“Hopefully that will bring up some more knowledge and experience and understanding in using the system, as well as helping to build familiarity amongst faculty so that we see more and more faculty becoming more comfortable with that,” Linskens said.

Following that, Kendall said results from a survey last year found that there were cellular challenges on campus. The college contacted a Verizon representative and is working on contacting AT&T and a Verizon representative and is working on putting up new cell antennas.

The college will work with facilities to adjust the proposal, Kendall said, and then will begin construction to put up new cell antennas.

Kendall said that the residential network improvements coincide with a full replacement of access points with a full replacement of the system, as well as helping to build familiarity amongst faculty so that we see more and more faculty becoming more comfortable with that,” Linskens said.

The SGC also heard about improvements made at Ithaca College campuses over the summer and we turned on some advanced features and made some adjustments on [Sept. 14],” Kendall said. “So I’m happy to hear we’re seeing some good results based on our analytics of the wireless network.”

SGC unopposed

BY LORIETYNE
NEWS EDITOR

Six candidates ran without opposition in the Fall 2023 Student Governance Council elections and were all appointed. Voting ran from Sept. 13-16 on IC Engage, during which 110 students voted. Candidates were notified of their election Sept. 18 and were given 24 hours to accept the position.

Second-semester first-year student Ty Anderson received 103 votes and was elected as vice president of residential affairs — the only executive board position that needed to be filled. Anderson also received seven votes of no confidence. First-year student Joselyn Forcier-one was elected as Class of 2024 senator with 108 votes and 12 votes of no confidence. There are two Class of 2024 positions and with Hankinson elected, the other position remains empty. Junior Muhammad Ashraf was elected as one of two Class of 2025 senators with 18 votes and two votes of no confidence. Ashraf will join junior Cameron Small, who was elected as a Class of 2025 senator in Spring 2023.

First-year students Eva Horst and Ana Casell-Lapetina were elected as Class of 2027 senators. Casell-Lapetina received 32 votes and two votes of no confidence, while Horst received 19 votes and two votes of no confidence.

Remaining open positions include the School of Health Sciences and Human Performance senator, the varsity athlete senator, the off-campus senator, the graduate senator, four senator-at-large and the new first-semester senator position.

Six electees join SGC unopposed

Students collaborate with professor on methane study

BY KAELEIGH BANDA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Ithaca College students studying areas of science had the opportunity to work with a professor on a New York state-funded methane study. The college’s Summer Scholars Program provided an outlet for this research.

Junior Davishe Robbins and Nandini Agarwal worked with Eric Leibensperger, assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, on his research on methane in Tompkins County and throughout the state.

Robbins is a physics 3-2 engineering major and Agarwal is an environmental science major with a physics minor. Both applied for the Summer Scholars Program and got placed with Leibensperger to work on this research for eight weeks in summer 2023.

Leibensperger has been involved in methane research in New York since 2016. Initially, he worked with a collaborator from the University of Rochester and set up sites on Whiteface Mountain in the Adirondacks and in Pineola State Park, as well as other locations across the state. He has since worked with students on this research, including seniors Jacob Gooyen, Matthew Weil andUnmount Kellett.

Faculty and students from Ithaca College have worked with peers at the University of Rochester, Cornell University, the University of Cincinnati and Columbia University on this research for the state.

Weil, a senior physics major with minors in computer science and data science, said how impactful this aspect of the research is.

“Working in a collaborative setting with other students and professors at different universities and in the field is something that is unique and intricate experiences due to the unique and intricate perspectives each individual brings to the table,” Weil said.

The research is sponsored by New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and research groups from the various schools have regular meetings with NYSDA where they discuss the data they have collected.

The state wants to have a better picture of where the emissions are coming from and how much is coming from each place.

Methane is one of the most potent greenhouse gases. CO2 typically receives much attention for being a harmful greenhouse gas, however, it is actually less potent than methane. The reason for CO2’s publicity is that it stays in the atmosphere longer. According to research conducted by NASA’s Global Climate Change program, CO2 remains in the atmosphere for 300–1,000 years.

“Methane stays in the air for about a decade, so when it comes out of a tailpipe, it takes about 10 years for it to go away on average, whereas CO2 is going to be a problem for centuries,” Leibensperger said.

However this does not mean methane any less harmful. According to NYSDA studies, methane has more warming power and contributes greatly to the climate crisis. Many state governments measure methane emissions over a span of 100 years, while New York measures methane emissions over 20 years. This shorter time span allows for more accurate research.

The data collection is done through the use of various technologies. One of the devices they use is the DJI Matrice 600 Pro drone. This drone has an internal GPS that helps the researchers pinpoint the exact locations of strong plumes of methane. Agarwal worked with the drone many times, attaching the analyzer to the drone and then flying it at the different sites.

“The reason we have been using the drones is that it is a vertical platform,” Agarwal said. “If we see the peak is three meters wide on the ground, we don’t know how high it extends, so the drone will tell us the exact quantity of gas that is being emitted.”

The researchers also put on LI-COR backs packs, which had analyzers in them as well. In addition to the technology used to collect the data, there are also programs used to help compile the data. R and QGIS are forms of mapping software used to organize the data. Robbins said the software creates helpful visual maps that make data collection more organized.

“There is a color gradient on the map and a legend that shows what color corresponds with how concentrated [the methane] is,” Robbins said. “You can see when you turn on the engine of the car you can see where the plumes and the spikes are.”

Robbins, Agarwal and Weil all reflected on their Summer Scholars Program positively. Robbins said that he is very happy to hear that many students apply for the program in summer 2024.

“It was a really great experience not only for putting myself out there and getting an idea of what I would be doing outside Ithaca College, but also you get a greater sense of belonging at the college itself,” Robbins said.
IC tests emergency notification and outdoor warning system

The college will test the IC Alert Emergency Notification System (ENS) as well as the Outdoor Warning System (OWS) during the noon hour Sept. 21. The ENS shares information and instructions during an emergency through voice, e-mail and text messages. These notifications are delivered automatically to active college email accounts, student, faculty and staff phone numbers provided to the college through the Self-Service Password Reset (SSPR) system, and office telephones listed in the directory. The OWS shares emergency messages and warnings on campus with an outdoor siren and loudspeaker. The college recommends that campus community members download the free RareGuard mobile app for safety resources and use the IC Alert website to update their contact information.

Ithaca College offices to host 5K to raise awareness for campaign

Ithaca College’s Prevention Education Network and the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management will host the IC RUN Purple 5K, a cross-country run through the Natural Lands, at 9 a.m. on Oct. 7. The 5K will mark the end of a month of prevention education events, workshops and campaigns that seek to increase awareness and knowledge of domestic violence. The event proceeds and donations will be donated to the Advocacy Center of Tompkins County.

Lactation rooms open to employees

Lactation rooms, which are located near bathrooms, will be donated to the Advocacy Center of Tompkins County.

Students craft bouquets and bookmarks

First-year student Eva Leon ties together a bouquet of wildflowers on the Terrace Quad. Early Dudek, an Ithaca College Residence Director, hosted a bouquet making and DIY bookmark event to bring students together.

COLLEGE BRIEFS

COLLEGE BRIEFS

WELFARE CHECK
LOCATION: Ithaca College CUMMUNITY: Caller reported being concerned about another person. The person declined assistance. Patrol Officer Kevin Notterman responded.

SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS
LOCATION: Rowland Hall CUMMUNITY: Tompkins County 911 center received a call reporting an intoxicated person. The person declined medical assistance from the ambulance staff and was referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. Patrol Officer Dana Malcolm responded.

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL
LOCATION: 135 College Circle CUMMUNITY: SUMMARY: Caller reported a fire alarm. Patrol Officer Steven Hutchison responded and determined that the activation was caused by burnt food.

FIRE ALARM UNDETERMINED CAUSE FOR ALARM
LOCATION: Terrace 5 CUMMUNITY: SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The cause for the activation was not known by officer. Patrol Officer Jordan Bartows responded.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/ILLNESS RELATED
LOCATION: Landon Hall CUMMUNITY: SUMMARY: A caller reported tightness in their chest and difficulty breathing. The person was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Dana Malcolm responded to the call.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/ILLNESS RELATED
LOCATION: Landon Hall CUMMUNITY: SUMMARY: A caller reported a person acting strange. The activation of the alarm was caused by food that was burnt. Charlie Sherman, fire and building safety coordinator, responded to the call.

MISSING PERSON
LOCATION: Garden Apartment 26 CUMMUNITY: SUMMARY: Caller reported having not seen a person for several days. Patrol Officer Steven Hutchison located the person, who did not need assistance.

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL
LOCATION: 190 College Circle CUMMUNITY: SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Fire Protection Specialist George Whitemore determined the activation was caused by burnt food.

SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS
LOCATION: 110 College Circle CUMMUNITY: SUMMARY: Caller reported an intoxicated person gagging. They were taken into custody under the mental hygiene law, transported to the hospital and referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards for irresponsible use of alcohol. Patrol Officer Dana Malcolm responded.
Sustainable transportation should be widely available

Ithaca is a city with a range of sustainable transportation options; Ithaca Bikeshare, Ithaca Carshare and the Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit bus system all provide sustainable, accessible options for the community. Cycle September is a month-long event to promote bike use in the county; this kind of event is a fantastic way to increase the use of sustainable transportation at the college and in the wider community.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in 2021, transportation was responsible for 28% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, making it the largest producer of all the economic sectors. In other words, transportation is responsible for a significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, any steps that can be taken to reduce the impact of this sector are important.

It is refreshing to see the college providing sustainable transportation options. Since the Ithaca Bikeshare program was implemented in November 2022, the bikes have been popping up all over campus. This came only after the college allowed the vehicles to be ridden on its property. Similarly, in Fall 2023, the college reached a deal with TCAT to allow students to ride for free during the semester.

It is a strong first step for the college to incentivize sustainable transportation use and for local organizations to sponsor programs like Cycle September. However, the next step in this process must be to make the college and the city more bikeable. Currently, according to the Ithaca Bicycle Map, there are very few stretches of marked bike lanes in the city and many areas where traffic is designated as “heavy” or “very heavy,” meaning that biking is unsafe.

Events like Cycle September are an important first step in increasing sustainable transportation in Ithaca; a necessary step for the future of the college and the city. With that said, infrastructure changes are needed on and off campus to make these methods more attractive to people.

Clear COVID-19 guidance is still necessary in 2023

During Fall 2023, Ithaca College students have continued to test positive for COVID-19 but have found themselves at a loss for what to do next. The college has discontinued its quarantine housing options and support services, which is less than ideal for communal living. Although it is understandable that the college cannot have comprehensive and elaborate COVID-19 policies forever, clear and explicit guidelines should still be in place.

As of Fall 2023, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend isolating for at least five days after testing positive for COVID-19. The CDC also recommends wearing a mask for 10 days after testing positive. At the college, many students live in two-person dorm rooms or other communal living arrangements and it is not easy for them to isolate. On Sept. 13, 2023, Samm Swarts, assistant director of Emergency Preparedness and Response, instructed students via email to follow a “self-management structure” if they contract COVID-19 and isolate themselves in their residence halls. This guidance provides no consideration of the fact that isolating in a residence hall is often not possible. It is this ambiguous guidance that has left many students feeling lost. It is this reactionary measure where there should have been a precautionary plan in place.

While COVID-19 does not pose the same threat as it did two years ago for many people, it still exists and the CDC still recommends isolation and masking for individuals who test positive; the college should have clear and explicit guidance in place for students who contract the virus, as this is in the best interest of the campus community. For many people who are immunocompromised, COVID-19 still poses a significant threat to their health and safety and it is important in this communal-living environment to recognize that fact.
BY ROWAN KELLER SMITH

Sophomore

In recent years, social media has had a large impact on political activism in the U.S., especially among teenagers and young adults. In the age of the Instagram infographic, apps like Instagram, Twitter and TikTok have been important tools for young activists. These apps allow political activists to spread their messages and gain a following. But what happens when the politics and views turn harmful? How do these sites filter out bigotry? The answer: they usually don’t.

Social media sites like TikTok have an obligation to filter out this content. The developers of these apps also need to consider the role the software they develop has in spreading bigoted ideology.

From transgender/exclusionary radical feminism (TERFs) to incels, bigotry gets fed to young users by social media algorithms. According to a study done by Media Matters for America, transgender/exclusionary radical feminism (TERFs) to incels, bigotry gets fed to young users by social media algorithms.

A much broader issue that has a great deal of ramifications is the role that our media feeds. Social media exposes young people to harmful ideas that can get an education. If we want to have a society that is not raising wages for drivers in the U.S. is the general societal attitude toward jobs in the service industry. Because of this country’s individualistic approach to career and success, we do not have much respect for more demanding jobs with minimal upward momentum. This is supported by all the advertisements I scrolled past while looking at open bus driver positions that boasted “promoting” this career. School bus drivers were put at great risk of contracting COVID-19 when schools returned to in-person instruction. Factoring in that the average age of a bus driver in U.S. is 57-years-old and that the virus had caused a much more devastating impact on the older population, it is easy to see why many drivers no longer felt comfortable bussing students around post-quarantine. As I surfed the web searching for information on the bus driver shortage, I of course stumbled on interesting things. Many articles claim that there has been an increase in hourly wages, but the most of this is simply increasing the societal awareness and knowledge on the job much less appealing.

The pandemic also influenced the appeal of this career. School bus drivers were put at great risk of contracting COVID-19 when schools returned to in-person instruction. Factoring in that the average age of a bus driver in U.S. is 57-years-old and that the virus had caused a much more devastating impact on the older population, it is easy to see why many drivers no longer felt comfortable bussing students around post-quarantine. As I surfed the web searching for information on the bus driver shortage, I of course stumbled on interesting things. Many articles claim that there has been an increase in hourly wages, but the most of this is simply increasing the societal awareness and knowledge on the
IC organizations adjust to recognition process

BY JADYN DAVIS

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

With over 250 clubs at Ithaca College for students to join, the recognition process that clubs have to complete each year has raised some concerns, as organizations are facing new requirements this academic year.

Clubs have to be recognized by The Office of Student Engagement in order to properly operate. Some of the benefits that fully recognized clubs at the college receive include: being able to use the college’s name in the club’s title, a campus financial account, receiving support from OSE’s professional staff and the use of the Student Activities Center for meetings. While this applies for all recognized clubs, there are different processes for both new and returning clubs.

New clubs have to meet with the Student Leadership Consultants before being recognized. However, prior to the meeting, students must have an original club idea, have an adviser that is either a staff or faculty member, have 10 current members, have four Designated Officers, which include a President and Treasurer, and have the club’s goals and values in mind.

One of the newest clubs at the college, IC La Asociación Mexicana, is currently going through the recognition process.

Junior Jesus Noriega, president of IC La Asociación Mexicana, said that after being introduced to some of the Latino organizations at Cornell University, like Sobre Latino Dance Ensemble, he wanted to bring more Latino culture to Ithaca College.

“Mexican culture is so rich,” Noriega said. “We don’t just want to make it exclusive to those with Mexican heritage. We want to make it inclusive and pretty much be an exposure to the Ithaca campus.”

Noriega hopes the club will get recognized by the college so that they can give back to the Ithaca community by hosting events at the college and collaborating with Cornell University.

Noriega said one of the events the club plans to host is Carne asada, a traditional Mexican steak, with Mexican heritage. They also hope to host other events to bring more Mexican culture to Ithaca College.

Some clubs have had issues with retaining members, putting them on thin ice when it comes to getting recognized. Sophomore Cathy Pliga, vice president of the Disney Club, said the club first gained popularity in Spring 2021 for hosting watch parties via Zoom. However, after in-person events started to resume, less people became interested, which led to less members and resulted in the club not being recognized.

Pliga said Spring 2023 was the first time that the club gained attention since Spring 2021. With a new e-board, the club is attempting to get re-recognized.

“I was very useful last semester,” Pliga said. “We were going based purely off word of mouth and posters that we were putting up using our own pocket money to print the posters, which was expensive. And this semester, it’s more like we have an email list of 30–40 people who we send out things to and they show up.”

Pliga said she wants to expand what the club does when it gets re-recognized.

“Now that we have the treasurer and secretary, we can get recognized, we can get club funding, we want to do things like karaoke nights and game nights,” Pliga said.

Senior Dylan Rasich, the race coordinator of the Running Club, said the club has also faced problems with retaining members, which has caused issues when preparing for races.

“We have people who start saying that they’re going to run with us for the whole year and they kind of just dwindle out throughout the year,” Rasich said. “We had to cut people last year, which we weren’t really supposed to do but we had to do it anyway because those people haven’t shown up in over a year, and they haven’t filled out their club participation form.”

Some clubs have mixed views on the recognition process and all of the requirements that have to be met. Junior Preston Tompkins said that while he understands the importance of the recognition process, he feels intimidated by the amount of requirements.

“The process is tough because it’s so spread out so together,” Tompkins said. “It definitely makes you concerned about filling this stuff out and really keeps yourself on task about going through this whole process until it’s done.

At the end of this road, if you don’t have everything together, you’re left to take the IC out of the title of your club and you won’t be able to utilize Engage.”

Senior Alison Hitchens, president of the Nutrition Club, said the recognition process was much easier when she first had to do it in Fall 2021.

Hitchens said that all she had to do was fill out the IC Engage page roster and take a quiz. Now, Hitchens said she is finishing the recognition process but putting on events has been difficult.

“We’re still not done and I’ve been very on top of trying to get everything going,” Hitchens said. “For example, a quiz won’t be released until the adviser signs the form and if things like this don’t happen, then you can’t keep moving on for things that are out of your control.”

Hitchens said she understands how difficult it can be for clubs to get recognized.

“From that viewpoint, it’s been an uphill battle,” Hitchens said. “I’m sure it’s similar to clubs that took a pause and then had to get re-recognized, especially since I’m sure some people have members that aren’t consistent throughout the entire experience.”

From left to right, sophomores Bella Dandrea and Caitlyn Wagner represent the Axesmen Club, a new club at Ithaca College, at the student organization fair.

GRACE CONDON/THE ITHACAN
Fest Preview: From apples to chili, Ithaca has it all

BY GEORGIE GASSARO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

From music to apples to chili, Downtown Ithaca’s Porchfest and Chili Fest will allow you to experience the sounds and smells of Ithaca’s annual festivals, including Porchfest, Apple Harvest Festival and Chili Cook-Off Festival.

Porchfest
On Sept. 24, Ithaca residents can expect the guitar strums, brassy trombone sounds and drum beats of Ithaca’s 2023 Porch Festi- val, a day of non-stop live music, food and art vendors, rain or shine.

As the name suggests, performers use their front porches, front yards and the streets as their makeshift stages for the day. Some of this year’s nearly 150 performers include ‘60s cover band 18 Strings of Love, 12-string voice singer-songwriter Alan Rose and the Restless Elements; and the poet folk artist Blackbird.

In addition to the performers and art vendors setting up in the neighborhood, Thompson Park and Auburn Park will have food trucks representing local Ithaca businesses, like Filiné Barbeque and The Silver Spoon.

This year’s festival will mark the first ever Porchfest Makers Market. Along with the traditional musical performances, there will be more than 20 artisan vendors selling different art pieces, jewelry and more in and around the park.

Jay Street, North Aurora Street, U.S. Street and East Marshall Street are just a few of the road closures that will occur in an ef- fort to control anticipated traffic and crowds, as well as to make room for any festival activi- ties to occur in the streets. Parking on or near any of these streets is not recommended. The list of closures can be found on Porchfest’s website.

Apple Harvest Festival
As just the leaves begin to turn and the air starts to crisp, the annual Apple Harvest Festival will commence. The festival will kick off Sept. 29 and continue until Oct. 1.

During last year’s Apple Fest, the city of Ithaca’s website said there were more than 50 artisans from the New York area, making the festival a place for all interests, whether they be for crafts, photographic pieces, artisanal beauty prod- ucts or food. Past art vendors included Morning Mist Farms Soaps & Sundries, dna jewelry designs, Alchemist’s Whim and CM Goobden Photography.

Apple cider donuts, apple pastries and al- coholic and non-alcoholic ciders are among the many apple-themed treats sold during the festival. Littletree Orchards, a veteran Apple fest vendor, is the source of a wide range of apple-themed products, like their unique flavors of apple cider vinegar.

As a soapmaker for Morning Mist Farms, Lorraine Jackson attended Apple Fest for the first time in 2022 and is looking forward to returning in 2023. At last year’s festival, Jack- son said her soaps were almost completely sold out.

“The patrons were fabulous,” Jackson said. “Hopefully the weather will be perfect again this year. Apple Fest is an amazing festi- val — everyone should go at least once.”

Chili Cook-Off
Walking through The Commons during the first week of March, there will likely be tables and tents selling chili from over 40 local restaurants along with snacks and drinks offered from craft breweries, wineries and cideries of the New York region.

In 2023, the 25th annual Chili Cook-Off Festival began at noon and ran until 4:30 p.m. to the Ithaca website said that tickets were sold at a cash-only rate and were sold in mul- tiples of 10 or 20, each of which could be traded in for one 2–3 ounce sample of chili or other food/drink item.

Senior Annelese Winegard, who attended the festival for the first time last year, said that the experience was like being a Food Network judge and that she compared notes with friends about the presentation and spice level of each chili she tried.

“Everyone had very specific and the toppings that they put on were different and some just did cheese or lettuce, but some people got fancy with it and did tortilla strips or corn- bread,” Winegard said. “It was cool to see everyone’s take.”

When sophomore Aiden Robey attended Chili Fest, he said there were significant crowds but the line to buy tickets was man- ageable. Robey said he enjoyed being able to socialize with the chili chefs.

“I would say each of my events is making the argument that this community is with having gatherings and opportunities and bringing everyone together,” Robey said. “The community of Ithaca is really, really into it.”

Q&A: José Maria Morelos and the flexibility of identity

Jennifer Jolly, Dana professor in the Department of Art, Art His- tory, and Architecture, has recently published her essay “José María Morelos, Brownness, and the Visi- bility of Race in Nineteenth-Century Mexican Art” in “Estudios Mexicanos: Mexican Studies” in August 2023.

Jolly is a Dana professor who wrote her dissertation in 2022 by Ithaca College for a continued record of excellence and promise of an outstanding future. Her essay ex- plores how race has influenced the perception of significant figures in 19th Century Mexico.

Staff writer Kinsey Burr spoke with Jolly about her inspiration for the essay and what readers should expect.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Kinsey Burr: What inspired you to write this essay?

Jennifer Jolly: My last big proj- ect was a book about Pátzcuaro, which is a region in Michoacán. While I was writing that, I became very interested in the colonial period. I found it very clear that there was a really wide range of different races present in Micho- acán. Racial identities were very invisible because they kept care- ful demographic records. One of the things that has drawn me in the early 19th century with the end of the colonial period was that they outed taking racial demograph- ics, so they called it a caste system at that point, not race. I became really interested in that broader question from Mexico, which is how it was so clearly there, with prevalence throughout Mexico in the colonial period. But by the 20th century, they were largely invisible. To figure it out, I needed to start looking at the art — how to figure out and understand and enact through my looking at images was that when you’re look- ing for signs of race, you’re not really just looking at people’s bod- ies. When you’re looking for signs of race, you’re looking for signs of power structures. In this particular project, I was taking a figure that I had studied in this Pátzcuaro proj- ect. José María Morelos, who is a major independence hero of Mex- ico. What is really interesting about him is that when I was writing about him in the early 20th centu- ry, I was reading all these American sources that described him as mu- lato, which means a mix of African and European heritage. U.S. sources were very straightforward about his identity. When you read Mexican sources, some people described him as mestizo [person of mixed European and indigenous-non-European ancestry]. There were lots of different descrip- tions. When you look at his actual birth records, they describe him as Spanish. In other words, his parents were able to pass as Spanish. I be- came curious as to how this figure’s race was so flexible. That’s what led to this article because I started look- ing at his portrait for signs of how race was thought about at different moments in time.

Kinsey Burr: Are there any current events you feel the article is contributing to?

Jennifer Jolly: I’m thinking of something that I have been thinking about for a very, very long time. I think one of the key things I’m doing with this ar- ticle is making the argument that ideas about race change over time. They layer over each other. They all remain present and they all inform how we think today. For example, the word “race” originally gets used in the context of religion making differentiations between Christians and non-Christians. The morality associated with making different racial categories — that there were some people that were good and some that were sinners — that version of think- ing about race is still present in those who get criminalized in our society, but we don’t necessarily think about race as being about religion anymore. But that layer is still present and I don’t think we can fully understand the way race functions today without under- standing all these different layers and how they’ve come together.

Kinsey Burr: How is this project different from the other work you have published?

Jennifer Jolly: I would say each of my projects is connected to the one that came before. As I said, I came from a question that was raised in an earlier work I was doing. But I have found that I have to think about race and talk about race in slightly differ- ent ways in order to get at what I realized was one of the problems. It is part of a larger pro- ject I’m doing on race and representation in Mexico, but it takes me in a new direction. What’s really different is that I’m writing about the 19th century. I would have said I was a specialist in the 20th century, so it was weird for me to go earlier in that time period.

Jennifer Jolly, a Dana professor of Art, Art History, and Architecture, has an essay published in “Estudios Mexicanos: Mexican Studies.”

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From the visionary director of "Murder on the Orient Express" and "Death on The Nile" comes the next installment in Kenneth Branagh’s star-studded enclave of murder mystery thrillers. "A Haunting in Venice" was released Sept. 15. The world-renowned Belgian sleuth Hercule Poirot, played by Branagh himself, follows the death of a haunted young woman and the mysterious supernatural circumstances behind it. As the truth behind her personal relationships unfolds, more and more secrets are laid bare.

The movie opens with the daily life of Poirot, moving through the motions of a retired life. This consistent pace in his isolation comes to a halt through the introduction of Attitude Oliver (Tina Fey), who gives him information on a scance being held for the supposed suicide of Alicia Drake. This leads him and Ms. Oliver to the haunted house held responsible for Alicia’s demise, filled with spires said to have driven the girl to her end.

The plot of this movie is executed well, as it keeps a great pace throughout its hour-and-a-half minute runtime and never sacrifices character consistency. The cast provides all of the narrative thrust to keep this thriller going. Kelly Reilly stands as an example with her role as Rowena Drake. In terms of her character’s choices — on top of her standout performance where her desperation and casting nature clashes — she always delivers in moving the plot forward.

The cinematography fires on all cylinders, delivering an excellent composition of shots and angles that bring out the character's expressions and inner feelings quite well. Certain shots look down on characters at a close distance to emphasize feelings of uncertainty within the audience, promoting the aura of mystery around the film. Other notable shots show key match cuts, which are quick shots to other scenes in certain transfer pieces of information. "A Haunting in Venice" also has a great understanding of character depth through the writing of the main protagonist, Hercule Poirot. Accompanied by Branagh’s amazing performance, the detective’s struggle in defining what is real can truly be felt by the audience. Poirot, living a life of fame and sorrow, holds no belief for any spirits because of his lack of faith, driving him to disprove any sort of action or notion that spirits could exist.

Thematically, the movie explores the concepts of death and spirituality. Many different characters hold different perspectives on the afterlife, which is shown through the exchange in war experiences between Poirot and Dr. Leslie Ferriter, who is portrayed by Jerome. As far as a message, as the actions of the characters in the film demonstrate the most supported interpretation — that exulting ultimate control on an individual will lead to dramatic consequences. Alongside Branagh’s performance as Poirot, Fey delivers an excellent performance of her own as Attitude Oliver. Other renowned roles include that of Camille Cotin's role as Olga Seminoff and Michelle Yeoh’s role as Ms. Reynolds. Yeoh plays her character as a lighthearted woman that complements the genre to the fullest extent.

It’s safe to say that Branagh and Green display the workings of a dynamic duo in the production of this film, making “A Haunting in Venice” a definite recommendation for those who love a good murder mystery.
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By Quill Driver Books

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Polar Pardner
ILLUSTRATION BY JOSHUA PANTANO/THE ITHACAN

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Skill runs deep on women’s soccer team

BY DAVID SCHURTER
STAFF WRITER

The Ithaca College women’s soccer team, the defending Liberty League Champions, are off to a 4–1–1 start as of Sept. 19. The team’s success has been driven by its newfound depth across the roster and the South Hill squad is looking to build on its successful 2022 season, where they reached the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Head coach Mindy Quigg said the team is happy with the way they have performed at this point in the season, highlighting the work ethic displayed at practice and during the seven games they have played so far. “I think the women are pleased with our progress,” Quigg said. “We try to take it one day at a time as there’s still a lot we want to improve on, as it’s a long season, but we’re certainly happy with our work rate.”

Quigg said the team has put a lot of emphasis on the time spent away from practice, zeroing in on recovery and holding each other accountable. “We talk a lot about focus and maintaining focus throughout the season,” Quigg said. “If you’re not taking care of yourself, no one is going to get any better from it. It’s important for them to be resting and eating properly so that the training conduct at practice is effective.”

So far this season, 11 players have scored a goal for the Bombers, with 11 players tallying at least one point and two of those goal-scorers being defenders — sophomore defender Ali Amari being one of them.

Amari said the team’s close connection with each other and their work ethic has catapulted them to their quality start this season. “Every single practice, everyone comes to play,” Amari said. “There’s a competitive team environment where everyone’s on their A-game. Everyone is always pushing each other and it’s not just one or 10 players, it’s the entire team. Having that culture and team camaraderie really helps us and that this is a full team effort. Every player has an impact no matter what.”

Before committing to the college, all of the athletes on the team maintained contact with the coaching staff, whether that be for recruitment, important questions or decisions like admission. Javier Mejia, assistant coach and recruiting coordinator, said the recruitment process begins as early as sophomore year of high school, as it takes time for prospective student-athletes to decide on this next chapter of their lives.

“We know it’s a huge life decision for these prospective recruits that we’re speaking to and we want to give them as much time as possible to make their decision and do some research,” Mejia said.

As the recruiting coordinator, Mejia said he enjoys maintaining contact with athletes and prospective recruits because he gets to know many of the younger athletes as early as a couple of years before their time in college. “The recruiting process is fun because you get to know the prospective student-athletes pretty early,” Mejia said. “For example, [first-year midfielder Sophie White] played at the club I previously worked for, so I’ve known her for four years. You get to see them grow and mature as a person, an athlete, so that can be fun and exciting.”

Not all athletes are recruited to join their programs directly out of high school. Junior midfielder Julia Cascone is in her second season with the team after transferring from Clarkson University. Cascone, a physical therapy major, said the college was one of her top choices after her first year with the Golden Knights.

“The winter and spring of my first year, I was looking at other schools and we played Ithaca and I remembered how strong the team was,” Cascone said. “I also did more research into their academic programs. I’m a physical therapy major, so this program stood out the most and once I was accepted, I knew I had a special opportunity in front of me.”

Cascone said the team’s mentality of putting the team first over individual priorities has catapulted the program to their strong start this season. “It’s the character and the grit that’s engraved into the DNA of the women’s soccer program,” Cascone said. “From the top on down, we were taught that grittiness and just how important our composure and team-first mentality is to the team. That trickles down from the coaching staff through the upperclassmen down to the first-years. Once we hold onto that, we can rally as a team to achieve that one big goal of winning another Liberty league championship.”

Mejia said the first-year class has made an immediate impact on the program, both on and off the field with team chemistry and building relationships. “We love the fact that they have embraced ourselves, not just from a soccer perspective, but they seem to be getting along with the returners,” Mejia said. “There’s mutual respect from the older players to the younger ones and a healthy locker room is significantly more important than tactics.”

As the team heads toward Liberty League play, beginning on Sept. 27, Quigg said each of these early season games will serve as stepping stones for the team as it looks to continue its early success.

“We just need to take it one day at a time and realize each game will be harder than the next,” Quigg said. “Each game will present new challenges to grow from and as long as we keep working hard, keep our minds open and recognize that, all of this is great preparation.”

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Basketball alum sustains career on the world stage

BY ALLIEY MAGISTRO
STAFF WRITER

Travis Warech '13 was a dominant force for the Ithaca College men's basketball team in the early 2010's, but Warech has ascended where many Division III athletes never have: the pleasure of reaching the WNBA. While Warech has gone on to play professional basketball in recent years, during the 2023 NBA training camp cycle, 25 NFL teams participated in a joint practice, two more compared to 2022. Of those 25 teams, 10 participated in joint practices against multiple organizations.

The idea of joint practices is a concept that has been introduced previously by the Bombers. Graduate student Anthony D'Addetta, who plays wide receiver for the Bombers, said the team has been hosting these practices since he first joined the team in 2019. "It's a cool experience," D'Addetta said. "Going against our defense every day, seeing the starters and older teammates fight, that helps us in a way that it's kind of unique because it's the first time we're kind of going up against somebody else and being able to see different coverages." Warech said he does not want to put too much pressure on younger players. "For joint practices, the starters and older guys will rarely play the majority of the time because you don't want to risk injury," Richardson said. "But we carry ourselves in the field. Taking your guys made and the energy on the sideline brings to younger players. "Just let it rip," Toerper said. "You want to win every game, but you want to have fun in the process." Richardson said via email that while nothing will compare to the energy of a Saturday game in the fall, the team can't help but feel the heightened emotion in a joint practice.

"The energy is definitely different from a normal practice because you're normally going to run and be ready to play," Richardson said.

The Ithaca College football team visited LYC Mimics in the summer, and hosted Susquehanna University for two joint preseason practices in preparation for the 2023 season.

Football sees fresh faces during joint practice sessions

BY DANIEL KING
SENIOR WRITER

Ithaca College visited Lycoming and welcomed Susquehanna to South Hill this summer, not for a game but for a joint practice. It's an uncommon concept in college, but it has gained traction with the National Foot- ball League in recent years. Now, the Bombers are helping bring the trend to college football.

Joint practices have been on the rise in the NFL in recent years. Now, the Bombers have the idea of having joint-style practices during fall camp to the NCAA.

"The energy is definitely different from a normal practice because you're normally going to run and be ready to play," Richardson said.

"While joint practices provide a chance to get a team ready for game action, these practices also give younger players on the roster a chance to make an impression on their coaches and stand out for future opportunities. For joint practices, the starters and older guys will rarely play the majority of the time because you don't want to risk injury," Richardson said via email. "This creates a lot of opportunities for people who may not get to play a lot in games and for the young players to prove what they're capable of and try to earn their way onto the bus and being able to play on Saturdays." Toerper said he does not want to put too much pressure on the players during these environments but acknowledged the opportunity to expand their love and devotion to the game of basketball. While Zach will begin his career coaching the game he loves, Travis will be continuing his career in Israel while also taking care of his family.

"It is no surprise of their success- es and off the court," Tanous said. "They are just great people before they are great at anything else. That is the best thing I can say. They are special people that's for sure."
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Maddy Walsh and The All Star Band delivered an ethereal closing performance for the 2023 Summer Concert Series on Sept. 14 at the Bernie Milton Pavilion. Ithaca’s Summer Concert Series, which featured several live outdoor concerts, took place from June 8 until Sept. 14 and was hosted by Downtown Ithaca and CFCU Community Credit Union.