

ACCURACY • INDEPENDENCE • INTEGRITY

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ITHACA COLLEGE  
AUDITIONS ARE  
IN FULL SWING



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COLLEGES NEED  
TO WORK WITH  
LOCAL BUSINESS



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FOOTBALL PLAYER  
SHARES HIS LOVE  
FOR PERFORMING

IC buys up land on Danby to control development

915  
DANBY ROAD

919  
DANBY ROAD

FACILITIES

917  
DANBY ROAD

\$375,000

929-931  
DANBY ROAD

\$999,999

BY LORIENT TYNE  
NEWS EDITOR

Ithaca College bought two properties in July on Danby Road for over \$1 million, adding to its collection that includes four other properties on Danby Road. These purchases are made to prevent unwanted development and to provide temporary employee housing.

The college purchased 917 Danby Road for \$375,000 on July 5 and purchased 929-931 Danby Road on July 25 for \$999,999. The college already owned 907, 915, 919, 953 and 981 Danby Road. The only remaining property on the strip the college is hoping to purchase is 923 Danby Road, which is not currently for sale.

Tim Downs, vice president of finance administration and chief financial officer, oversees all real estate purchases and advises the Ithaca College Board of Trustees, which gives the final approval. Downs said

there are no plans to develop the properties on Danby and the main purpose is to prevent unwanted use because of its proximity to campus.

**917 Danby Road — residential property**

Downs said there was a private appraisal conducted on the 917 Danby Road property, which was reassessed at \$339,000. The college bid \$339,000 but put an escalator clause on its bid up to \$375,000 in \$5,000 increments. The \$5,000 incremental escalator means that the college would only have to go high enough to beat other escalator bids. The other private bidder also offered \$375,000, but the college narrowly won the sale because its offer had other elements, like a quicker closure.

“If we had bid \$1,000 less, we would not have gotten that property,” Downs said. “So that’s just how crazy difficult the market is. And this property wasn’t a splurge. We paid exactly what we needed to, to be able to

procure that property.”

The Tompkins County Department of Assessment ensures all properties in the county are assessed at an equivalent percentage of the market value so taxes are fair. According to the county’s residential assessment ratio — which is 100% of market value — assessed value is the same as market value. However, looking at the assessed price and list price of properties in the area, properties usually sell for more than they are assessed at. This is because the Department of Assessment publishes property assessments a year behind, meaning the assessment roll filed July 1, 2023, reflects 100%, fair-market value as of July 1, 2022.

Jay Franklin, director of the Department of Assessment, also said it is not accurate to look at the assessment value to see how much a property is currently worth because of changing market conditions that increase property

907  
DANBY ROAD

FREE  
TCAT

981  
DANBY ROAD

REAL ESTATE, PAGE 4

ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN

Faculty Council discusses revisions to policies

Cornell cuts ties with Starbucks

BY PRAKRITI PANWAR  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

On Sept. 5, the Ithaca College Faculty Council met for its first meeting of the Fall 2023 semester to discuss faculty search procedures, revisions to the grievance policy and future meeting times.

Two new members-at-large joined the Faculty Council Executive Committee: Music Librarian Kristina Shanton and Carly Jo Hoshbach-Cannon, associate director and graduate program chair of the Department of Speech, Language, Pathology and Audiology.

David Gondek, chair of the council and associate professor in the Department of Biology, requested members to nominate themselves for the position of council parliamentarian. Gondek said the primary role of the parliamentarian would be to assist the chair in running meetings smoothly.

Melanie Stein, provost and senior vice president of academic affairs, said as a part of her report that a volunteer group of administration and faculty created a shared governance value statement as an aid to understanding the new structure.

“That collaborative work led to [the statement], as well as ... a graphic summary of the various responsibilities of decision making in



Members of Faculty Council met on Sept. 5 for its first meeting of the Fall 2023 semester to discuss faculty searches, grievance policies and future meeting times.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

shared governance decisions,” Stein said.

Stein updated the council about the pre-registration pilot program launched for students in summer 2022. Stein said students and parents had a more positive experience during registration season this year because of the pre-registration program.

“Definitely compared to last summer, it was

much calmer in the deans’ offices,” Stein said. “They didn’t hear that same kind of agitation from parents and students. So, that’s a very good sign.”

Hilary Greenberger, professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, said that while the

BY RYAN JOHNSON  
STAFF WRITER

Cornell University announced Aug. 16 that it will not renew its contract with Starbucks and will no longer serve its products on campus after the contract expires in 2025.

The decision was made amid protests from the student body because of the closure of three unionized locations in Ithaca.

Cornell currently participates in Starbucks’ “We Proudly Serve Program,” which means that the university serves Starbucks products but can employ student workers at on-campus cafes.

On May 11, student protestors as well as members of Starbucks Workers United occupied Day Hall at Cornell. Cornell University police department warned that students would receive a referral for trespassing if they did not leave by 9 p.m., prompting students to sleep in tents outside.

Cornell sophomore Timo Isreb said there were about 40 people at the occupation.

“Without the protests, [Cornell’s decision not to renew] wouldn’t have happened,” Isreb



PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM AUG. 21 TO 27

AUGUST 21

**HARASSMENT 2ND DEGREE**  
LOCATION: Terrace 2  
SUMMARY: Caller reported that an unknown person touched them without consent Aug. 17. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded to the call.

**SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE**  
LOCATION: Gannett Center  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown person made an inappropriate comment over the phone. Patrol Officer Mayra Colon responded.

**V&T LICENSE VIOLATIONS**  
LOCATION: Circles Community Center/30 College Circle Drive  
SUMMARY: Patrol Officer Ivan Cruz reported that a fake license was found on the property.

**CHANGE IN THE CASE STATUS**  
LOCATION: Office Of Public Safety/122 Farm Pond Road  
SUMMARY: Officer followed up with a person about the fake license that was found in the Circles Community Center. Patrol Officer Brian Verzosa

referred the person who owned the fake license to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

AUGUST 22

**V&T LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT**  
LOCATION: Unknown Location  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown vehicle damaged a parked vehicle and left the scene. Patrol Officer Matthew Patire responded.

**FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL**  
LOCATION: Circle Apartments Building 111/111 College Circle  
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by burnt food. Enoch Perkins, fire protection specialist from the Office of EH&S, responded to the call.

AUGUST 23

**SCC SOLICITATION**  
LOCATION: U-Lot/N Of 113 Campus Center Way  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that there were unknown people passing out food without permission. Officers were

unable to locate the people.

**MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/ INJURY RELATED**  
LOCATION: Hood Hall  
SUMMARY: Caller reported that a shower curtain fell on their head Aug. 21. They declined medical assistance. Patrol Officer Alex Hitchcock responded to the call.

AUGUST 24

**UNLAWFUL IMPRISONMENT 2ND DEGREE**  
LOCATION: West Tower  
SUMMARY: A caller reported being pushed into a room and not being allowed to leave. Patrol Officer Alex Hitchcock responded. This investigation is pending.

**MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/ ILLNESS RELATED**  
LOCATION: Hood Hall  
SUMMARY: A caller reported a person was feeling faint. The person declined medical assistance. Enoch Perkins, fire protection specialist from the Office of EH&S, responded to the call for assistance.

AUGUST 25

**CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 4TH DEGREE**  
LOCATION: L-Lot/N Of 116 Flora Brown Drive  
SUMMARY: An unknown person damaged a parking sign. Master Patrol Officer Sophia Dimkos responded to the call.

**LARCENY 3RD DEGREE EXCEEDING \$3,000**  
LOCATION: Terrace 10/112 Flora Brown Drive  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown person stole jewelry. Patrol Officer Alex Hitchcock responded.

AUGUST 26

**SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS**  
LOCATION: Emerson Hall  
SUMMARY: Caller reported an intoxicated person. The person declined medical assistance and was referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards for the irresponsible use of alcohol. Patrol Officer Thaddeus May responded to the call.

**UNDETERMINED FIRE ALARM**  
LOCATION: Garden Apartment 25  
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Patrol Officer Thaddeus May could not find the cause of activation.

AUGUST 27

**CHANGE IN THE CASE STATUS**  
LOCATION: Terrace 10  
SUMMARY: A caller reported that the jewelry reported stolen Aug. 25 was located. Patrol Officer Alex Hitchcock responded and determined the larceny was unfounded.

**HARASSMENT 2ND DEGREE**  
LOCATION: Athletics And Events Center  
SUMMARY: Caller reported one person threatened another. Sergeant John Elmore responded to the call.

Full public safety log available online at [www.theithacan.org](http://www.theithacan.org).

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

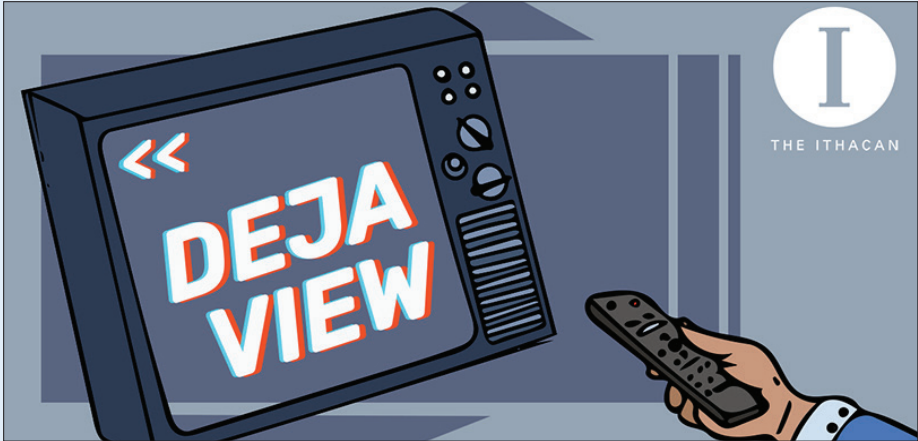
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The Ithaca Farmers Market celebrates 50 years

In a brand new series, *The Ithacan* video team explores iconic locations around the city of Ithaca. This week, Nathan Glasser discovers of one of Ithaca’s most popular destinations.



‘Deja View’ - “Puss in Boots: The Last Wish”

To start off the new season of “Deja View,” host junior Therese Kinirons and guest junior Jackson Gruenke discuss animation as a genre with “Puss in Boots: The Last Wish.”



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# BIPOC Unity Center is empowering students of color

BY LORIEN TYNE  
NEWS EDITOR

Student leaders and Angélica Carrington, director of the BIPOC Unity Center — formerly the Center for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Social Change — have led the charge to rename the center, reestablished its mission and set forth new initiatives for BIPOC students at Ithaca College.

Focus groups were held in April and May where campus members could help inform a renewed mission and name that more accurately reflected the purpose of the center.

“I know I had ideas, but my approach is ... ‘Does this match what the students are hoping for?’” Carrington said. “I know that’s always an ever-changing process and just because one group of student leaders wants something, it doesn’t always represent all the voices.”

Bonnie Prunty, vice president of Student Affairs and Campus Life, said many BIPOC students shared that they thought the Center for IDEAS was for academics.

“Obviously the office isn’t going to have the outreach and the impact we’re looking for it to have if people don’t understand what the office is intended to accomplish,” Prunty said.

Senior Ashanti Ford, peer educator for the BIPOC Unity Center and student organization liaison for culturally-based student organizations, led some of the focus groups so students could feel more comfortable.

“I want to be a resource and I want to be able to get the resources that I deserve,” Ford said. “The office has given me a voice to actually talk

about things that I feel uncomfortable about. ... I always have some type of support.”

Another facet of the conversations that occurred in the past year was a three-point proposal that student leaders created, which included a BIPOC Jumpstart Program, affinity-based housing and a mentorship program. The Jumpstart Program launched in August and Prunty said the college is hoping to have an affinity-based housing option by Fall 2024.

Prunty explained that the mentoring program would require additional staff to oversee the program and facilitate pairing and training.

“What we have talked about is ... networking opportunities with recent grads and recent alums,” Prunty said. “So, that’s kind of where the commitment is in the short term while we think about in the longer term, ‘How could we build the capacity to be able to support more formal mentoring program of some kind?’”

While a formal mentoring program does not exist yet, there are alumni on campus — like Kyla McCall ’22, operations coordinator for the Physicians Assistant Program — who regularly connect with BIPOC students and the center.

“As a staff member, I really love to be able to offer that supplemental support,” McCall said. “To have something [like the center] that’s dedicated to the advancement of our small community ... is super important.”

The population of BIPOC students at the college used to be even smaller when the African-Latino Society — the first organization for students of color on campus — first



Angélica Carrington, director of the BIPOC Unity Center, organized focus sessions in April and May to help realize a renewed mission and name that reflects its focus on community and advocacy.

KAI LINCKE/THE ITHACAN

came to be in 1969. Data from the Office of Analytics and Institutional Research only goes back to Fall 1983 when the student body was 95% white.

Tanya Hutchins ’89, a member of IC Unity and the former president of the Alumni Board, was a member of ALS in college. She said she attended focus groups and met with student leaders to discuss how to honor ALS. Hutchins is still in touch with ALS alumni despite the fact that the group dissolved from a lack of students.

“It was really about building fellowship for us and having support and we just want to make sure that current students have that same

support that we had,” Hutchins said.

Hutchins said the name is one example of how the center is working to give students a sense of belonging.

“I love that it has the word unity,” Hutchins said. “We’re always trying to find ways to bring people together. Especially on a [PWI] campus.”

First-year student Cole Jackson said he learned about the center during orientation and has since attended sessions about navigating a PWI as well as social events like the BIPOC Unity Mixer.

“It did feel a bit like culture shock coming here for the first couple of days, [but after] meeting people at the karaoke mixer ... it definitely

made me feel a little bit more comfortable and at home,” Jackson said.

First-year student Ty Anderson, an international student from London, said that moving here was an adjustment because London is more diverse. When Anderson started at the college in Spring 2023, he met the center’s staff during orientation and has been involved ever since.

“Karaoke, being at the start of the spring semester, was a really good opportunity for me,” Anderson said. “It gave me safety like, ‘Oh, there’s people that are like me, that look like me ... Everyone’s really friendly.’”

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# Students of color worry about end to affirmative action

BY JADYN DAVIS  
SENIOR WRITER

After years of debate about affirmative action’s place in higher education, the Supreme Court overruled the use of such policies June 29. While Ithaca College does not have affirmative action policies, some students have expressed concern about the court’s decision.

Enacted in 1961, affirmative action is a policy that provides equal educational and occupational opportunities to underrepresented minority groups. The Supreme Court said affirmative action is unconstitutional because it violates the Equal Protection Clause in the 14th Amendment.

Ithaca College junior Sena Namkung said it was disappointing to hear about the Supreme Court’s decision to end affirmative action because of the opportunities it has provided to BIPOC students and other populations that have historically been underrepresented.

“With the way that education has been changing around the country — especially now that many places have been skewed toward more right-leaning ideals — it’s disappointing in the way that it’s not just going to affect our generation, but generations ahead of us,” Namkung said.

After California banned affirmative action in 1996, UCLA and the University of California, Berkeley, experienced a 40% decrease of Black and Latino students in enrollment, according to NPR.

Ithaca College Junior Ares Garcia said he thinks it is impossible to increase student diversity without affirmative action.

“All you’re seeing is just a bunch of applications with nothing,” Garcia said. “If you’re not using affirmative action, you literally

cannot increase the percentage of people of color that you hire or admit without it just being totally accidental.”

Colleges do not often share their affirmative action policies, but it is less likely for there to be a policy at schools with higher acceptance rates, — like Ithaca College — according to Reuters.

Dana N. Thompson Dorsey, associate professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of South Florida, said that however individuals may feel about affirmative action, the history of racial inequity in the U.S. cannot be ignored.

“Before, you had people of color who couldn’t receive any type of education that was even close to those who were white, wealthy, protestant and heterosexual men,” Dorsey said. “Even when it became unconstitutional to discriminate, we still see discrimination.”

Dorsey said it is important for people to understand that race was not ranked above students’ GPA or test scores.

“What this decision has caused is a chilling effect,” Dorsey said. “Affirmative action was never about allowing access for students who are not as smart or capable.”

According to Ithaca College, letters of recommendation, extracurriculars, Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses are taken into account when admitting students. In 2012, the college made it optional for applicants to submit SAT and ACT scores.

On June 30, Ithaca College President La Jerne Cornish addressed the ruling. She said the college never took race into consideration when admitting students but will continue to commit to diversifying its student body.

“Providing an educational experience and fostering an environment that prepares our



With the federal ruling against affirmative action, BIPOC students question if the supports at institutions without such policies, like Ithaca College, will be enough.

ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE VANDERVEER

students for a diverse world is core to Ithaca College’s values, and we reaffirm our steadfast support for our BIPOC students,” Cornish said in an Intercom post.

BIPOC students accounted for 8.4% of the student body in Fall 2003 and 23.2% in Fall 2022, rising incrementally with each academic year, according to the Office of Analytics and Institutional Research.

Junior Richard Martin said he is frustrated for the students of color that come from underprivileged neighborhoods and wants to know what the college plans to do when deciding to admit these students. The average cost for students to attend the college is \$48,126.

There are two scholarships specifically for BIPOC students: The Rashad G. Richardson “I

Can Achieve” Memorial Scholarship and The African-Latino Society Memorial Scholarship.

Historically, the oppression of minority and underprivileged groups has created a strong intersection between race and class. In 2018, a study published by The Upshot found that, despite their upbringing, Black children, as compared to white children, are more likely to have a lower socioeconomic status as adults.

“It’s already difficult to get into college and to afford it,” Martin said. “This just makes it exponentially more difficult for kids who can’t really afford college and unfortunately, disproportionately kids who can’t afford it are students of color.”

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FROM REAL ESTATE, PAGE 1

value — also called appreciation.

“We are always playing catch up,” Franklin said. “We’re not trying to predict what something’s gonna sell for today. We’re reflecting what it would have sold for last July.”

Franklin said the median appreciation had a 12% increase from 2021 to 2022 for properties in the county, not including properties that underwent improvements.

929–931 Danby Road

The college bought 929-31 Danby Road before it was put on the open market. Downs said it was more important to procure this property than 917 Danby Road because it is commercial property, making the likelihood of developers wanting to build on it much higher.

“It was in our best interest to do [the sale] privately [by] working directly with the family and paying a rate that is reasonable, if not better than reasonable, given what a developer would do if they were able to get their hands on nearly two acres, right out our front doorstep,” Downs said.

In the most recent 2015 Campus Master Plan, one of the suggestions was to build a new entryway that would align with the traffic light at the South Hill Business Campus. However, Downs said that because there were improvements made to the existing entryway, that need decreased.

“Both from an entryway and a development standpoint, this land is a high priority for us,” Downs said. “The continuity of



Ithaca College purchased 929-931 Danby Road, a double lot commercial property, July 25 for \$999,999. The property was bought in private sale to prevent developers from flocking to it.

GABRIEL BIENNAS/THE ITHACAN

all these properties is absolutely critical so we can control what development does happen there. ... Can you imagine if the view from the fountains was blocked by a giant apartment building?”

Downs said a new Master Plan will need to be created in the near future to reassess what the best use of land and resources are.

Employee rental program

The college uses residential properties for temporary employee housing. Downs said the cap is six months but can be extended if need be. One of the more recent residents to stay in one of the houses was Anne Hogan, dean of the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. Hogan was hired in June, 2022 and moved in

August. Hogan said she stayed in the house on Danby Road for about two months.

“I feel really fortunate that it worked out that there was temporary housing available,” Hogan said. “It allowed me to really step fully into the role and then have just a little bit of time to sort out more permanent housing.”

Downs said the houses are empty more often than they are in use. The college does not rent to the public because of nonprofit restrictions and other obstacles.

Nonprofit status

As a nonprofit, the college is only tax-exempt when it comes to property that it uses for its core mission. The Danby Road properties are all on tax rolls

because offering employee housing is not essential to the college’s purpose. Franklin estimated that if the college and Cornell University were to pay full taxes on all of their properties, the average house’s tax in Ithaca would drop between 40–45%.

He said the value of property also is higher because of both of the institutions and the demand for housing.

“[The cost] is definitely a negative because we have such a housing crunch right now ... but in general, Ithaca and Tompkins County wouldn’t be what we are without those institutions,” Franklin said.

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FROM FACULTY, PAGE 1

pre-registration program resulted in smooth onboarding, it led to a lack of understanding of the process among students.

“I do want to say that I noticed that students now have no idea how to add/drop. ... They were really, really lost,” Greenberger said. “We spent quite a bit of time helping students understand that process.”

Lauren Steele, vice chair of the faculty council and assistant professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences, and Studies, suggested that faculty should be made more aware of registration resources like video tutorials to help students.

“I think it might be worth potentially sharing [available resources] at a college meeting so that knowledge gaps can be addressed, and we can better advise our students,” Steele said.

The council then went on to discuss the procedure for faculty searches. Stein said the practice of using Equity Advocates — typically members of the search committee whose role is to keep the search process equitable by keeping biases in check — was formally incorporated into the guidelines.

Teresa Moore, professor in the Department of Mathematics, then discussed revisions made by the Grievance Committee to the grievance policy of the college.

A grievance is a complaint made by a faculty member regarding faculty employment.

Moore, who served on the fact-finding subcommittee of the Grievance Committee, said the grievance policy originally required the fact-finding committee to interview involved parties and then create a determination.

Now, the fact-finding committee drafts a preliminary report which is then presented to the full Grievance Committee to decide the best course of action upon further discussion.

“We felt that was inappropriate, usurping power [and] not a good policy,” Moore said. “So, what we’ve tried to do is add an extra step ... so that everybody looks at things.”

Moore said she had some objections to the specifics of this revised procedure, like the lack of clarity regarding the timing of the preliminary and final report.

Moore said that according to the new policy, the fact-finding committee has only five days to interview parties and draft a preliminary report. However, there is no language about extending this time period.

“My personal objection to this is that we struck the bar to extend,” Moore said. “It is necessary for the committee to [be able to] extend its investigation. I think that statement needs to go back in there.”

For the rest of the meeting, members briefly discussed academic freedom policies and tried to decide on a regular meeting time for Fall 2024.

Academic freedom policies were discussed upon a request made by the School of Humanities and Sciences last year.

A subcommittee of the Faculty Council was appointed to look into the academic policies of the college.

Steele was one of the members who served on the subcommittee and said that it decided to not edit any of the policies in the faculty handbook.

“[The committee] expressed a really strong commitment to academic freedom,” Steele said. “The policy as it stands in the handbook is strong and trying to edit and make changes really serves the ability to weaken the policy rather than potentially strengthening it.”

The council accepted the motion to have meetings every first Tuesday of the month from 4 to 6 p.m.

Steele said there will always be time conflicts, but the goal should be to make it easy for as many faculty members to attend.

“I think there’s no good time to have a meeting for any of our schools,” Steele said. “What we do know is that there is a significant equity issue with who’s able to participate when it is too late.”

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FROM STARBUCKS, PAGE 1

said. “It really rose a lot of awareness because the occupation of Day Hall is obviously very big. ... What got a lot of attention was the building closed at 5 p.m., but we had refused to leave ... until certain demands were met.”

Cornell senior Evan Sunshine helped organize the Ithaca Starbucks unionization in 2022 and was involved in the protests in 2023.

The National Labor Relations Board determined July 6 that Starbucks participated in unfair labor practices by closing stores that were unionized.

“I think that heavily impacted Cornell’s decision and that it was finally really out there and true that Starbucks had broken the law in Ithaca,” Sunshine said. “[Cornell] could not continue working with [Starbucks] in good faith.”

There are many local coffee brands in the Ithaca area, including Gimme! Coffee and the Ithaca Coffee Company.

Gimme! Coffee was started in Ithaca in 2000 and currently has five cafe locations in the Ithaca area.

Since 2017, the cafe in the Business School has used Gimme! Coffee and in 2019 the cafes in the Roy H. Park School of Communications also switched from Starbucks to Gimme! Coffee. Also, in 2019, the college switched from Starbucks to using the Ithaca Coffee Company at the Library Cafe.

Following the store closures, many former Starbucks customers have started buying their coffee from Gimme! Coffee.

Colleen Anunu, co-managing director and head of product development at Gimme! Coffee, said the closure of the Collegetown Starbucks location had the biggest impact on the company’s business because it led Cornell’s students to the espresso bar.

“All of a sudden you have this population of students who pretty much stay in [the Collegetown] area that really had no access to good coffee,” Anunu said. “So we found that our



Demonstrators protested against Cornell University’s partnership with Starbucks Coffee on May 11. Cornell will not renew its Starbucks contract, which expires in 2025.

COURTESY OF CASEY MARTIN/THE ITHACA VOICE

Gates Hall cafe took on a lot of that business from Collegetown.”

In July 2022, Gimme! decided to become a worker-owned cooperative.

After a worker puts in 1,400 hours of work at the company, they can start a payment plan in which \$25 is deducted from their pay each week. This goes toward purchasing a \$1,300 share in the company. After the first \$50 is contributed, they receive voting power and a share of profits.

Anunu said that while Gimme! Coffee most likely does not have the bandwidth to serve coffee to the entire Cornell campus, the company is interested in strengthening a brand partnership with the university in the future.

“We are trying to feel out what is scalable for us in a way that won’t negatively impact workers at Gimme!,” Anunu said. “We take a much more measured approach to if this is aligning with our values as a co-op and what kind of impact [partnering with Cornell] will have on other projects that we have going on.”

Ithaca College decided to end its partnership with Starbucks over time to reduce the carbon footprint of coffee and source locally.

Reginald Briggs, senior director of dining services at the college, said Gimme! Coffee provides beans for the Park School cafe and works like a “We Proudly Serve” model.

“They help us calibrate our machines so that our drinks that we are making are consistent with the same size, shape [and] price as what [Gimme!] serves in their stores,” Briggs said.

Briggs said serving local brands like Gimme! Coffee and Ithaca Bakery on campus helps the college be a community partner in Ithaca and gives local brands more recognition to students who are not from the area.

“[The college] chose to really be more hyperlocal,” Briggs said. “We wanted to have all our partnerships be with local brands that are more well known [in the community].”

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ILLUSTRATION BY MARIAN MAHASANTIPIYA /THE ITHACAN

## EDITORIALS

### Real estate should be an investment for the future

Over the past several years, the Ithaca College administration has bought a number of properties surrounding the college. The primary interest in buying these properties is to block developers from building in lots adjacent to campus. It is understandable for the college to stop developers from creating huge properties surrounding the campus, as they may not have the best interests of the college in mind. However, administration must establish and communicate plans for the properties in order to make the investments worthwhile.

Currently, there are no clear plans for many of the properties; they were bought solely with the goal of blocking other buyers. Some of the properties have been used to temporarily house employees of the college, others hold businesses and others still remain completely unused.

As of October 2022, the college had seen a considerable decrease in enrollment of 22% between Fall 2018 and Fall 2022. The amount of students enrolling at the college is directly

related to its funding and operating budgets, meaning that these have also decreased. These properties are no small investment for the college, with some costing nearly \$1 million. That is funding the school could use for better academic resources, athletic facilities, student housing, social justice and equity programs, sustainable transportation and more.

If the college is going to be making considerable investments into local property, the properties should be used to create a better institution; perhaps they could house new labs, dorms or gyms. By building new, innovative facilities in these spaces, or at least giving them a designated purpose, the college could increase its appeal to prospective students directly and indirectly and in turn, raise its own income. Property should be an investment that not only blocks developers from ruining the view of Cayuga Lake, or otherwise building properties that would cause a nuisance to campus, but above all, betters the college and makes it a more attractive, successful institution.

### Supporting small business sets a positive example

Cornell University has announced that it will end its partnership with Starbucks when their contract is up in 2025. This decision means the college will no longer serve products from the coffee chain on campus. The decision came after three local Starbucks franchises were closed after unionizing, which sparked accusations of union busting. In response to these claims, Cornell students protested the presence of Starbucks on campus.

On the Ithaca College campus, the final locations serving Starbucks products closed in Fall 2019 when the campus switched from working with Sodexo food providers to operating its own dining programs. Since then, the college has hosted local businesses like Ithaca Bakery on campus and served local products like Purity Ice Cream and Gimme! Coffee. The college has shown how a university can and should support local businesses over national corporations when possible.

Small businesses are important for the local

economy and it is especially important to support them now. According to Nerdwallet, as of April 2022, 21.6% of small businesses reported that they were still feeling a large negative effect from the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, only 34.6% of small businesses survive past ten years of operation. Small businesses are struggling as a result of the pandemic, and by offering local dining options at the college, this market is being supported.

Colleges undeniably impact the communities they are in: they provide resources but also take up space, raise the population with flocks of often loud and irresponsible young people coming to town each fall, and bring customers as well as stress to small businesses, infrastructure and other resources. It is clear that there are many positives and negatives that colleges bring to a community, and when possible, we should strive to do more good than harm. For this reason, it is important for colleges to take every step to support locals — and this includes local businesses.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send to [ithacan@ithaca.edu](mailto:ithacan@ithaca.edu).

ALL LETTERS MUST:

- Be 250 words or fewer.
- Be emailed or dropped off by 5 p.m. Monday in Park 220.

## GUEST COMMENTARY

Send to [ithacan@ithaca.edu](mailto:ithacan@ithaca.edu) or to the opinion editor [opinion@theithacan.org](mailto:opinion@theithacan.org)  
ALL COMMENTARIES MUST:

- Convey a clear message.
- Be written by an individual or group who has an educated opinion or is an authority on a specific subject.
- Be between 650–750 words. Whether more or less space is allotted is at the discretion of the editor.





# On finding joy in the moment

BY NINJIN TUMURBAT  
OPINION COLUMNIST

“Find what makes you happy, this self-discovery course will definitely help with that! Read this New York Times best-selling book on productivity, it’s a game-changer! Never give up on your dreams — apply for this college, get interviewed by that great company and get rich! If others can do it, you can, too! Remember kids, something better is always around the corner.”

There is a concept that involves a growth mindset and a fixed mindset. It is quite similar to the nature vs. nurture problem where we talk about whether genes or experiences dominate the other and define our lives.

So, my question is: Is this how our brain, ‘nature,’ works — always striving for upgrades because we are designed to be insecure about how we authentically are? If yes, is it really a good thing that we are wired or evolved this way? Or is it caused by society, often referred to as ‘nurture,’ through its political systems that are usually constructed for economic growth?

Our basic survival instinct to secure food, safety and shelter has been fundamental to developing amazing advancements in human civilization. In other words, when we accomplish or improve ourselves, our brain rewards us with dopamine, motivating us to seek more rewards.

This rewarding system was relatively healthy, in my opinion, until the balance between reality and the positive outcomes we wished for was lost. I can only assume that our natural drive for progress has been significantly shaped by society for the sake of economic growth.

This concept was explained by author Matt Haig in this quote: “Happiness is not good for the economy. We are encouraged, continually, to be a little bit dissatisfied with ourselves. . . . To be calm becomes a kind of revolutionary act. To be happy with your own non-upgraded existence. To be comfortable with our messy, human selves would not be good for business.”

From this, we can see that our constant need to improve is influenced by both our natural tendencies and by society.

Now, you may ask, “What should we do then? It’s not something that we can change instantly.” And I agree with you.

As we continue to evolve, finding a healthier equilibrium between embracing our innate drive for progress and recognizing when it is being manipulated by external forces could be one step.

It can be manifested into reality as appreciating the feeling of fulfillment and relishing the present, even for a second.

Whether it is the nature vs. nurture problem or the growth mindset vs. the fixed mindset concept, they add colors to our lives by interacting dynamically and shaping us in the most unique, beautiful and infinite shapes.

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

## STAFF COMMENTARY

Editor’s Note: The opinions in this commentary do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board.

# Education on difficult topics is essential

BY GABE HENDERSHOT  
FIRST-YEAR STUDENT

What is education without exposure to new and potentially challenging content? This is the question that sticks with me as I learn about the recent book bans and curriculum changes happening across the country.

As you may know, legislators in many different states have taken control of public school curriculums and reading materials. Some claim that the banned books contain explicit content that is not appropriate for younger readers, while the debate about curriculums has existed for a long time.

The magic of public education is that children are able to access it, ideally despite whatever social or economic barriers they may face. Just because some students may receive guidance at home, does not mean that all will.

First, we must address the concept of vulgar or non-age-appropriate content. Though I can agree that there are certain books and curriculums that should not be shown to students until they have reached a certain age, the specifics are incredibly subjective.

It is also important to point out that these laws and bans have greatly affected authors who are part of the LGBTQ+ community and/or are people of color. When any policy disproportionately affects marginalized communities, it must be scrutinized.

Overall, it makes sense for teachers to be the ones to make decisions about what type of content students are exposed to. This is mainly



First-year student Gabe Hendershot talks about the importance of educating children on content that some may consider controversial and the role of teachers.

AMINATTA IMRANA JALLOW/THE ITHACAN

because teachers are in the classroom with their students every day.

There is a term that comes to mind when I am answering the question of whether children should be exposed to challenging content within the public school system: media literacy. Media literacy allows us to take in information and opinions while parsing out what is helpful and what is not, or what might even be harmful. In a time where children have (often unvetted) access to the internet, it is a crucial skill.

Exposure to harmful or inappropriate content now happens younger, faster and

often in ways that are harder for parents to effectively mitigate. Children should learn how to recognize and interact with this type of content when it is presented to them. I believe that the classroom is a perfect setting for this.

In the digital age, it is not a question of if students will come across harmful content, but rather when; and how will they respond? It is our school system’s responsibility to prepare them for this.

**Gabe Hendershot (he/him)** is a first-year film, photography and visual art major. Contact him at ghendershot@ithaca.edu

## GUEST COMMENTARY

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

# What happened to climate awareness?

BY MICHAEL SMITH  
PROFESSOR

Back in the 2018–19 academic year, I served on the Investment in People, Place, Planet working group during the Ithaca Forever strategic planning process. I was then on the Climate Action Team in the fall of 2019. Throughout, I advocated consistently and forcefully for climate to be central to the final strategic plan.

I argued that Ithaca College boost and sustain enrollment by pledging that every student who graduates from the college, no matter their major, would understand the contours of the climate crisis, be equipped with skills and habits that facilitate resilience and adaptation in the face of something that will only grow more consequential during their lifetimes and have the ability to be agents for addressing the crisis in whatever field they go into. What a way to distinguish ourselves as an institution!

I spent a year as a fellow at the Center for Faculty Excellence doing the preliminary work to develop climate-focused teaching and learning strategies to share with colleagues across campus. The reality is that no matter what field one works in, the climate crisis is going to have an impact. Then this program was eliminated.

In the end, climate ended

up being little more than a footnote in the final strategic plan: part B of Goal four: “Create an environmental sustainability mindset that recognizes the impact of climate change.” Since the unveiling of Ithaca Forever, the college has eliminated the sustainability coordinator position and terminated the employment of several faculty who were most committed to a climate-aware curriculum.

As a result of the cuts and the sense of insecurity produced by the cuts and austerity measures the college undertook, the newly named Department of the Environment — the department best positioned to be a leader in this work — lost 40% of its faculty in 2022.

To her credit, then President Collado centered the climate crisis at Convocation in 2019. Then Provost Cornish marched with more than 200 students to The Commons for the climate protest in September 2019. Since then, mostly silence. College leaders almost never mention the climate crisis anymore. There is no Center for Climate Justice, which once figured prominently in the strategic planning process.

Back in June, people in Ithaca (and much of the Northeast) received air quality alerts about the public health emergency produced by the fires in Canada. Slightly less severe incursions of



Michael Smith, professor in the Department of History, asks why climate change was minimized in the Ithaca Forever plan.

SOFIA STERBENK/THE ITHACAN

smoke and particulate matter in the Midwestern and Northeastern United States happened most of the summer.

The climate crisis is not in the future. It is here. It will get worse. It will continue to affect the operations of the college. And it will be one of THE most challenging issues that our students face in their lifetimes. It is simply irresponsible not to be talking about this all the time — our students should be discussing this crisis, adapting to it, and addressing it in as many classes as possible. The college leadership should be acknowledging that this anxiety-producing reality is on the minds of students,

faculty, and staff all the time. How can it not be when it has literally been in the air we are breathing?

Not centering the climate crisis in the strategic plan was a big mistake. Every other element of the strategic plan is impacted by the climate crisis. I remain astounded that the college leadership did not recognize the opportunity to build on two decades of work in sustainability and become a school of choice by virtue of climate-aware teaching and learning. It is not too late to change course.

**Michael Smith (he/him)** is a professor in the departments of History and Environmental Studies. Contact him at mismith@ithaca.edu.



## Lights, cameras, action!

### Audition season sweeps Ithaca with full force

BY VIVIAN ROSE  
MOLLY FITZSIMONS

CO-LIFE AND CULTURE EDITORS

In mid-to-late August, audition season starts in full force across Ithaca College. During the beginning of each fall semester, students prepare for auditions throughout the Dillingham Center, the Roy H. Park School of Communications and in dorms for a wide plethora of open spots in a cappella and dance groups, ICTV shows, plays and music ensembles.

#### School of Music, Theatre and Dance

Although housed between two buildings, the music school has been a part of the theater and dance school since the 2022–23 academic year. However, each discipline has separate, general auditions in order to place students into the groups and ensembles the school has to offer.

Based on how students perform in those annual auditions and their skill-level, they will be dispersed within the sub-groups of the music school's nine major ensembles, ranging from band ensembles to choral ensembles and non-music major ensembles.

For the choir, treble choir and chorus, sophomore Cordelia Gilbert said the audition process felt less casual and more competitive in a professional way.

This year, auditions for music students were held during move-in days. Gilbert said this exacerbated the stress level of the audition process.

"They took place on the Sunday morning [of move-in]," Gilbert said. "I know a lot of people were moving in that Sunday into that Monday. So that was a real problem. ... Now you can get a new audition time, but most people just had to do [the audition] in the middle of moving in."

Similarly, for actors, there is a general audition for placement in one of the three shows the Dillingham Center puts on annually during the beginning of the fall semester.

This year, sophomore Gillian DuBroff, an acting major, auditioned for the three productions: "Newsies," "The Wolves" and "X." She said her first audition for the college last year was on Zoom. This year, held in person, she said her audition felt entirely different.

"You don't have a mute button in real life," DuBroff said. "I had a much easier



Auditions for IC Unbound Dance Company, a student-led dance group, were held Aug. 3 in the Fitness Center. Students of all years came together for all styles of dance, learning the combinations just minutes before their auditions.

JADYN DAVIS/THE ITHACAN

time auditioning in person for these general auditions. ... I feel like if I were home, I would have just been sitting on my phone because I wasn't being watched by other actors and watched by the stage managers who were calling us in. I feel more present when I'm actually there to audition and not sitting in my basement."

#### Ithaca College Television

While the School of Music, Theatre and Dance may come to mind in regards to auditions, the Park School has auditioning opportunities for students through ICTV across their news, sports, entertainment and scripted departments. The process for all shows begins at ICTV Recruitment Night, which this year was held Aug. 29.

This year, ICTV's recruitment night had an estimated 550 people attend to learn about the 22 different shows, sign up for cast and crew and meet the different producers. After auditions, where at least one producer from each department is present, the "draft" starts. Jeremy Menard, manager of television and radio operations in the Park School, said

the department directors make sure as many people get a chance before they start double-casting students.

"We have a lot of students who want to be a TV news anchor and we want to provide that opportunity, but we also don't want to put them in a position where they don't feel confident in that role or they aren't ready for that role," Menard said. "We've also had people who — right from their first semester — are ready to go and have the confidence and have shined, so we have a variety of talent from first-years all the way up to seniors who are involved in every single year on the station."

Sophomore Hank Jennings is one of those auditioners. Jennings auditioned for ICTV during the Fall 2022 semester, but for his auditions this fall for "Sketch Me if you Can" and "In Other Words," he said his stress levels were about the same this time as his first auditions for ICTV.

"It was probably only intimidating this year because I have a little bit of a speech difficulty now," Jennings said. "It's a little harder to deliver lines than it was for me last time. ... It was less stressful this time since I've done it before, but I wouldn't say I was super nervous about it."

#### A Cappella & Dance Groups

IC Unbound, one of the many dance groups on campus, has a range of dance styles and dancers every year. As far as the audition process goes, anyone is allowed to audition for as many or as few dances as they are interested in.

The choreographers of a dance do a five-minute workshop with anyone interested in learning their dance and will learn one or two 8-count combinations, which are to be recorded and later used to decide who will participate in certain dances.

Senior Alyssa Carbonell, a choreographer and dancer with Unbound, said Unbound is a welcoming and low-stress environment as all of the dancers trying out will

learn the combinations at the same time. Since the material is presented merely minutes before the audition, there is less of a focus on accuracy and more of a focus on effort and energy.

"In my experience as a choreographer, I look less for accuracy in the combination that I teach and more for personality," Carbonell said via email. "I choose dancers that catch my eye because of their energy and the unique qualities that they bring to the movement that I give."

Between the five main a cappella groups on campus — Tone Cold, Voicestream, Premium Blend, Ithacappella and Pitch Please — each group seeks new students each semester but has their own process for auditions.

Junior Jackson Gruenke, Tone Cold's social media manager, said that despite the stressful and intimidating nature of the auditions, it becomes worth it to be chosen by a group, since it gave him an opportunity to create a tight bond with the other members of Tone Cold.

Gruenke said that Tone Cold made sight reading music optional in 2022 and that this is a change in values for the three-year-old club: to be more inclusive and more straightforward.

Gruenke said that if students try out and do not get into the group they auditioned for, that no matter the type of audition, the outcome does not define who they are.

"There are so many talented singers and fun people in the audition you have such a good rapport with and you want them in the group, but maybe they aren't the best singer," Gruenke said. "If you don't get into one of the groups, you should definitely try out for the other ones."



ILLUSTRATION BY MOLLY TESKA/THE ITHACAN

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# ‘Bottoms’ revives exciting, queer satire

MOVIE REVIEW: “Bottoms” Orion Pictures



BY ROWAN SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to lesbian cinema, viewers will often find themselves choosing between two genres — the trials and tribulations of coming out or two-hour-long period pieces. In recent years, films like 2019’s “Portrait of a Lady on Fire” and 2015’s “Carol” have dominated sapphic cinema. When audiences do get to see 21st-century queer women on screen, the films are often full of anxiety, with storylines focused on homophobia and coming out, like in the films “Happiest Season” and “The Miseducation of Cameron Post.”

Director Emma Seligman brings humor and pure entertainment to the modern sapphic cinematic canon with her recent film “Bottoms.” The film follows Josie (Ayo Edebiri) and her hilariously unlikable best friend, PJ (Rachel Sennott), as they create a fight club in an attempt to hook up with their popular cheerleader crushes (Havana Rose Liu and Kaia Gerber).

Seligman not only directed but also co-wrote the film with Sennott, who starred in Seligman’s debut film “Shiva Baby.” Sennott and Edebiri’s friendship shines through in their chemistry as on-screen

best friends. This chemistry is perhaps one of the best assets of the film — that and its self-aware, over-the-top satire is reminiscent of movies like the 1988 film “Heathers,” bombs included.

Viewers never see the football players out of uniform, high school rivalries lead to actual murder and middle-aged mothers shamelessly pine over — and sleep with — high school star athletes. “Bottoms” approach to high school life is like “Glee” on steroids in the best possible way.

“Bottoms” approaches sexism and homophobia in a comedic manner, following in the footsteps of the queer cult classic “But I’m A Cheerleader,” which took on conversion therapy through humor and campiness. In “Bottoms,” viewers see Josie and PJ get called “ugly, untalented gays” by their own principal (Wayne Péré).

From its tongue-in-cheek name and its frequent mention of liberal arts colleges to its soundtrack done by none other than Charli XCX, “Bottoms” gets young queer culture right on the nose. Seligman knows her audience, and she has produced what is sure to become a sapphic cult classic.

“Bottoms” one flaw may be that it doesn’t have a lot of fully fleshed-out characters,



From left to right: Ayo Edebiri, Rachel Sennott, Zamani Wilder and Summer Joy Campbell in “Bottoms.”  
COURTESY OF A24

besides Josie, PJ and perhaps their friend Hazel (Ruby Cruz). Marshawn Lynch appears as Josie and PJ’s hilariously inappropriate club adviser and history teacher; Mr. G. Lynch is an absolute scene-stealer throughout the film.

The beauty of “Bottoms” is that it doesn’t take itself too seriously. It doesn’t try to make a political statement, it doesn’t try to be overtly feminist or take on homophobia, it’s just funny. In fact, Josie and PJ themselves

frequently point out that what they’re doing isn’t feminist, it’s an attempt to get laid.

The gay, bloody, horny silliness that Seligman describes is just what lesbian cinema has been missing. “Bottoms” does not subject its viewers to solemn scenes of bigotry and queer pain, it’s 92 minutes of pure comedy. It brings back the joyous, queer satire that cinema has been missing.

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## Social media: The new virtual jury

BY SARAH PAYNE  
STAFF WRITER

Social media has granted billions of individuals the ability to cast their own judgments on events publicly. This access to discussions and information can foster beneficial change in policies and cultural norms. When public opinion turns into the public court, however, conversations can turn into threats, disinformation and the fetishization of trauma.

Some simply seem fascinated with the public spectacle, not the specifics that foster these discussions. No cultural phenomenon can capture the powerful forces of both good and evil of the virtual court more so than the court system itself, more specifically with high-profile celebrity cases.

One such trial that took the world by storm was the trial of Gwyneth Paltrow over a skiing collision with Terry Sanderson. Ultimately, Paltrow was not found responsible for the accident and won her countersuit of \$1.

In instances where a trial or a type of accusation is deemed by the court of public opinion as not being severe or that important, the humorous atmosphere surrounding it and small analyses of the case on social media often thrive.

When an accusation against a celebrity is more serious, like abuse, often the role of social media is to amplify the voices of the victims and to spread information. On the negative side, people on social media sometimes use their platform to hyper-obsess over every detail to a harmful extent and to threaten people.

On Aug. 1, Lizzo and Shirlene Quigley, Lizzo’s dance captain, were sued by three of Lizzo’s former dancers for alleged sexual harassment and body-shaming based on weight. Eventually, more people, such as filmmaker Sophia Nahli Allison, also spoke up about her bad experience with Lizzo on Instagram.

Some have taken this case as a chance to body-shame Lizzo, which indirectly body-shames other plus-size women. Furthermore, body-shaming Lizzo even in the name of calling out “hypocrisy” does not actually solve fatphobic ideals that are rampant in society.

The surge of hateful messages that are not related to a celebrity’s behavior after a lawsuit comes out highlights one problem that prevents introspective conversations from forming — certain people wait for a celebrity to have legal issues to publicly run rampant with their dislike about everything surrounding that person.

The grandeur of the celebrity world comes crumbling down when the famous are put on trial or are sued, as they become more accessible to the public and therefore easier to criticize. The conversations surrounding these trials can call out toxic behaviors and actions. However, public outcry can be pushed to such extremes that it can be harmful not just for the safety of the people involved in these situations but for everyday individuals who express an alternative view on the matter.

POPPED CULTURE is a column, written by Life & Culture staff writers, that analyzes pop culture events. Sarah Payne is a sophomore journalism major. Contact her at [spayne@ithaca.edu](mailto:spayne@ithaca.edu).

# ‘The Equalizer 3’ is a mediocre action movie

MOVIE REVIEW: “Equalizer 3” SONY Pictures



BY MILA VENTURA  
STAFF WRITER

“The Equalizer 3,” directed by Antoine Fuqua, does not tread any new ground. It doesn’t surprise. There’s no moment where the audience is unsure. The movie isn’t boring — there’s plenty of adrenaline and disgust, which keeps the viewers on the edge of their seats, but it’s not new. If that can be accepted, then it’s a serviceable use of two hours.

The film starts with the sequence most heavily shown in the trailer: an action scene turned puzzle, where the camera glides through a building in an Italian vineyard packed with dead bodies. Every death is unique, laid out in personalized tableaux. Cracked glass invites the audience to imagine the headshot and the slumping of the body that led it to be curled on the floor. A bloody decanter is shown before the reveal of a bludgeoned, nearly unidentifiable human head. Even the blood stains guide the viewer to reimagine the kills in their heads.

It’s a good first scene and a strong introduction to the intimidating Robert McCall, played with his usual skill by Denzel Washington. It takes the freedom of allowing the audience to give themselves their ideal ac-

tion scene. It’s detailed and subtle enough. The film uses one of its only moments of tension to completely solidify that Robert McCall is a terrifying, impossible force. Of course, it leaves a question that could pose a problem for investment in the rest of the movies: Why on Earth would anyone even try to fight this guy? Washington isn’t even doing much, but he doesn’t have to. Robert McCall is a titan.

There are not many action scenes, and none of them are as large scale, but it is all delightfully brutal. It is not that exciting though. There is never any tension because there’s never any question of whether or not Washington is going to lose. There is also not much leading the viewer to really want these villains dead, save for the fact they are Mafia and this is an action movie. Yes, one feels bad because the people they hurt are so nice, but there are no other personal feelings. They are just targets for Washington’s bullets and barely worth any remark beyond that. The fight scenes are not bad by any means, but there is also nothing that is going to go viral on Twitter in a few years with the caption, “There was nothing like seeing this for the first time in the theater.”

The story is a staple of action: an American former operative finds himself in an



Robert McCall (Denzel Washington) in a new action movie, “The Equalizer 3.”  
COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES

exotic village where he discovers inner peace among the working people, but a mean group of thugs threatens the peasant folk so the American is forced to come out of retirement to kill said thugs and bring back peace. It’s a simple story that requires real emotion from the audience toward the town to work. The cast of “The Equalizer 3” is small and most of them do not speak English; Denzel Washington’s character barely speaks Italian. Somehow, it works really well.

For people who miss gore in action movies, this is a watch. For couples looking to combine the tastes of a partner who likes “Mamma Mia” and a partner who likes “Saw,” this is a watch. For people looking for laughs or thrills, there are probably better movies to watch.

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# THE CENTER AT CENTER STAGE: FOOTBALL PLAYER JUGGLES PASSIONS

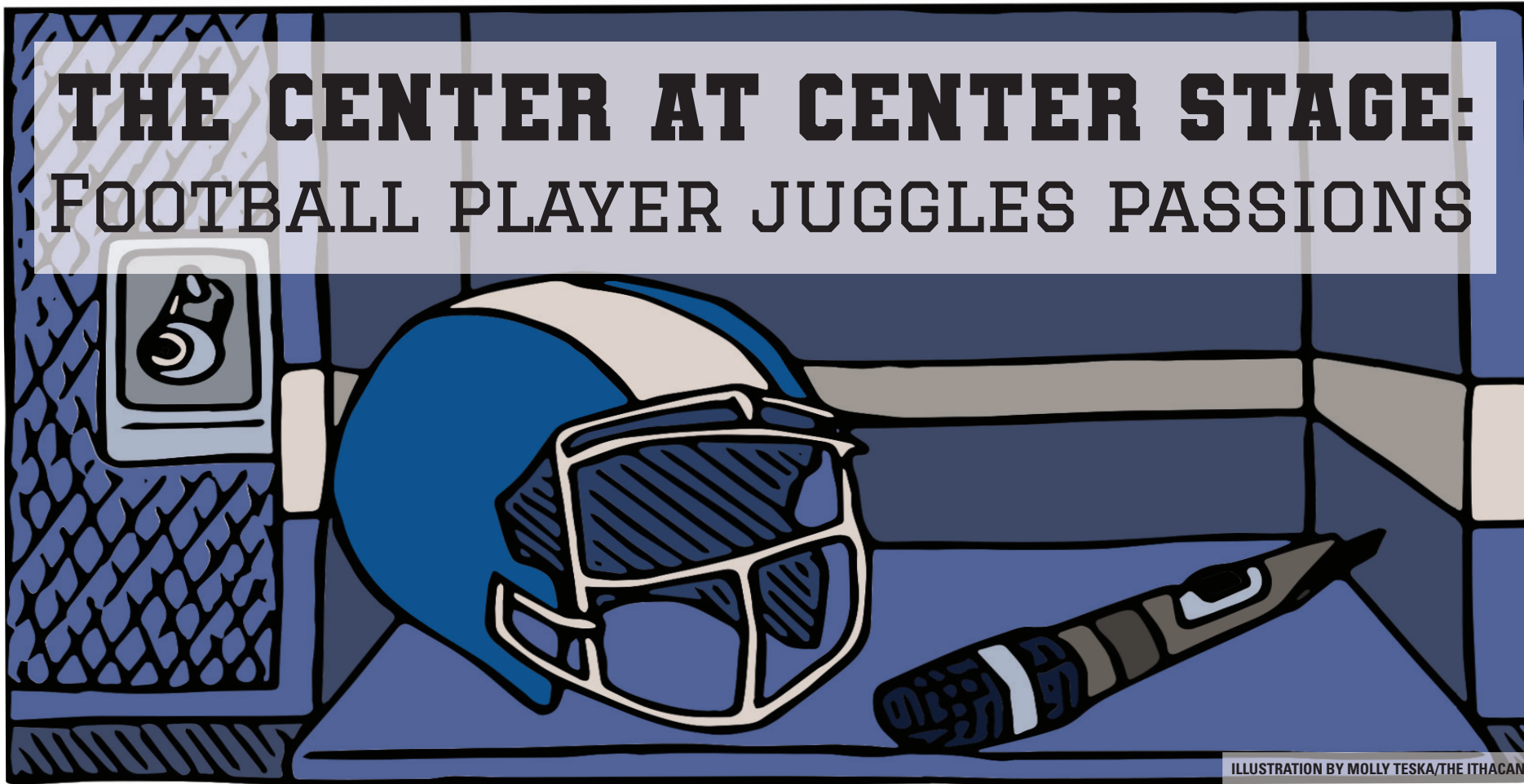


ILLUSTRATION BY MOLLY TESKA/THE ITHACAN

BY RAY MILBURN

VIDEO EDITOR

When Nick Capodilupo was a sophomore in high school, he sent a video to Fenway Park, auditioning to sing the national anthem for his home baseball team. He got no response.

In 2022, as a junior vocal performance major and offensive lineman for the Ithaca College football team, he performed the anthem at the 63rd annual Cortaca Jug in Yankee Stadium. He sang for more than 40,000 people — the second-largest crowd in Division III football history.

“I think that’s the first time Cortland fans have cheered for an Ithaca person,” Capodilupo said.

The following year, he returned to Yankee Stadium on Aug. 18 to sing again, this time in front of nearly 45,000 spectators. The Red Sox beat the Yankees 8–3 and both teams heard Capodilupo’s performance.

After his first performance at Yankee Stadium, a representative pulled him aside to say the stadium might want him to perform again. On June 8, Capodilupo got a call from the Bombers’ head football coach Michael Toerper.



A vocal performance major, Capodilupo began performing in middle school.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

Capodilupo said he remembered the call from Toerper, saying that while Toerper was on the golf course, the Yankees called to ask if they could have Capodilupo back. Toerper was more than welcome to allow Capodilupo to step away from preseason training and let him have the moment.

“[The Yankees] got in touch with me and asked if I would let [Capodilupo] out of a practice to be down there,” Toerper said. “I said, ‘Absolutely.’ You get an opportunity like that, you can’t pass it up. It was pretty special for him to go and do it at Yankee Stadium again, this time for a baseball game.”

A vocal performance major and a football player, Capodilupo can seemingly do it all, and he has been balancing his two passions for a long time.

In sixth grade, Capodilupo followed in his brother’s footsteps and auditioned for his school musical. As a sixth grader, he only appeared in one scene, but in seventh grade, he landed a supporting role as Maurice in “Beauty and the Beast.” At the same time, he was continuing his football career in Hingham, Massachusetts, after he began playing in the third grade.

His high school choral teacher, Joe Young, said Capodilupo has the most impressive natural musical instrument of any of his students. Young described hearing Capodilupo perform the national anthem in a unique way, adjusting the meter and rhythm “in service to the text.”

“He takes rhythmic liberties with the anthem that are interesting, but also remains true to the pride and perseverance that is so much a part of what the anthem conveys,” Young said.

The two halves of Capodilupo’s life rarely stayed separate. Football and music constantly intersect to create a perfect storm of his passions. Despite the differences of both, Capodilupo managed to take them in stride.

“Tuesdays were the worst day because I’d get to school at 7:20, rehearse for 40 minutes, go to classes all day, then after class, I’d go right to the drama room,” Capodilupo said. “I made a deal with the drama teacher that I would [attend rehearsal] up until the very last minute that I could.”

At 3:30, he would don his pads and run from the stage to the football field.

“I even remember one day running outside, and I didn’t stop running,” Capodilupo said. “I just kept running . . . and I literally ran to the center position and got down in my stance and



Senior offensive lineman Nick Capodilupo performed the national anthem at the 63rd annual Cortaca Jug in 2022 in front of a crowd of 40,232 spectators.

COURTESY OF PERRY BINDELGLASS

we started to play.”

After football practice, he would have a short break before attending choir rehearsals until as late as 9 p.m. Capodilupo recalled his entire high school football team attending his performance as Mary Sunshine in “Chicago.”

“Not one person wasn’t there,” Capodilupo said. “Even the coaches came. . . . People loved it. It was one of my favorite memories.”

Capodilupo received the same support from his college team, remembering that several teammates watched him perform in “Pirates of Penzance” at Dillingham Theatre in early 2023.

“My old lineman buddies were right there in the first row,” Capodilupo said. “For some of them, it was the first show they’d ever been to, but they loved it.”

Capodilupo said his passion for music and sports often reminds people of Troy Bolton, the star character of “High School Musical.”

“I’ve heard that a few different times,” Capodilupo said. “But then I always joke and say, ‘No, I’m more with Finn Hudson because I’m a football player.’ He’s from ‘Glee.’”

Despite the similarities to both characters, Capodilupo is one of a kind at the college.

“As far as I know, I’m the only football player and music student in at least the last ten years,” Capodilupo said.

Capodilupo’s unique dynamic of juggling football and musical talent set him apart from most, but it does not come without effort.

Toerper described Capodilupo as a “jack

of all trades,” saying his balancing act is a testament to his ability to organize his priorities.

“Nick is somebody that the guys have such an admiration for because of his zest for life and his passion for both football and performance,” Toerper said.

Capodilupo remembered a time that Toerper, in meticulous preparation for a game, had him perform the anthem at practice as part of the pre-game procedure. He said Toerper’s unconditional support is something he will always be grateful for.

“He was so serious about it,” Capodilupo said. “Every single time I have something music-related going on, he’s always the first one to be there to congratulate it.”

Capodilupo said, overall, it is those in his corner that deserve the acclaim for his success. If it were not for his mother’s support and motivation, Capodilupo said he would not be the player — nor the performer — that he is today.

“[My mom] is the one who deserves all the credit for everything,” Capodilupo said. “She helped me see through all my doubts and convinced me that I should keep going until I can’t go any more.”

Going until he cannot go any longer is the same mentality Capodilupo always brings to the stage, the field and — most recently — Yankee Stadium.

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# Volleyball taps talent from nationwide potential

BY EMMA KERSTING  
PODCAST EDITOR

From the Atlantic to Pacific, the Ithaca College women's volleyball team comes to the Finger Lakes region from across the country. Only two players on the 2023 roster are from New York State, and only four are from the Northeast.

Head coach Johan Dulfer said volleyball is more popular in the Midwest and in states like Florida and California, so there is a greater pool of players to recruit from in those "hubs."

"[National Collegiate Athletic Association] teams of all divisions are recruiting nationally," Dulfer said. "States like Minnesota and Nebraska are really good at volleyball — it's so much bigger there."

Since many of the players come to Ithaca from so far, Dulfer said they tend to have a greater connection with one another. Dulfer, who came to the U.S. from Holland for college, said that being far from home can be positive in team development.

"The commonality is homesickness, and homesickness is longing for a situation that no longer exists," Dulfer said. "They all have to overcome that together."

Dulfer said a majority of players are found at tournaments for club teams. Club-level volleyball programs run



from November to July each year and players will compete in multi-day tournaments. College coaches, like Dulfer, will attend these tournaments to recruit players that stick out from the pack.

"[Volleyball] is a huge scene in the Midwest and Texas. ... It's more of a lifestyle, but it's coming along in New York too," Dulfer said. "We're not just looking at those hubs. ... I just go out and [look for] the best player that we can find."

Senior right side hitter Jamie Koopman — who hails from Tampa, Florida — said she knew she wanted to go to school outside of her home state and found the college during her search process.

"For me, I wanted to go to a school for my academics," Koopman said. "I knew I wanted to study abroad, I knew I wanted smaller classrooms. ... I like to travel, I like being far from home. ... I like making friends and new connections. Ithaca [College] hits all the ticks."

Sophomore outside hitter Karina Garcia from El Paso, Texas, also heavily considered academics when looking for colleges where she could play volleyball.

"It was so hard trying to find a school that was perfect for my major and perfect for volleyball, then I got a message from Dulfer. ... I didn't consider being so far away, but the [physical therapy] program was so good and the team was super friendly and together which was super important to me," Garcia said.

Koopman said that having the team be made up of women from across the U.S. can create an environment for the players to learn from one another about different upbringings based on their home regions.

Koopman said major hubs for volleyball — like California, Texas and Florida — have different mindsets when approaching the game. She said that because there is so much competition in volleyball hubs between teammates, she feels the mental intensity is higher for her.

"Like any other sport, you all train the same way, but I think it's very much of a mental difference coming from a place where volleyball is very good and very popular," Koopman said. "In order to stand out, you have to do a little bit more. I've connected with those girls [from volleyball hubs] because it's more of a do-or-die thing. ... It's much more cutthroat in those hubs."

Similarly to Koopman, Garcia played volleyball in a hub for the sport which led to high-intensity play. Garcia said that with athletes coming from all over the country, they are able to learn more about the sport from watching each other.



Senior right side hitter Jamie Koopman spikes during the Bombers' scrimmage against Cornell on Aug. 26.  
NOA RAN-RESSLER/THE ITHACAN

"There's different play styles in every single state," Garcia said. "I think it helps because New York really isn't one of the best places for volleyball. ... In Texas, there's a bunch of good competition. I think that's why coach Dulfer is recruiting from all over because there's just so much better [volleyball] out there."

Garcia said the whole team coming to the college from far distances can help with team bonding, especially when the athletes arrive in Ithaca as first-year players.

"You have people who are in the same shoes as you," Garcia said. "They're super far away from their families and their homes, and I honestly think that brings a team closer together."

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# Gymnasts earn national recognition off of the mats

BY TOBIAH ZBORAY  
STAFF WRITER

During the 2023 season, the Ithaca College gymnastics team found great success, placing sixth at the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association championships, which made it their fourth consecutive year finishing in the top six.

Parallel to its success in competition was success in the classroom. On August 15, the Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association (WCGA) released its academic rankings for the 2022–23 school year. The Bombers finished the year with a cumulative GPA of 3.79, the fourth best out of the 84 schools that qualified for the rankings. This marked the first time the Bombers ranked in the top five.

For head coach Rick Suddaby, this ranking is a major accomplishment for the program. Suddaby said that the team has been setting standards in the classroom for years and that he was excited when the rankings came in.

"They really excel academically; they have for a long time," Suddaby said. "It's something I'm very proud of. It's something that promotes our program very well. If kids are getting a C or lower on their midterms, we'll sit down and discuss what's going on and help them with things."

That classroom atmosphere was part of the reason why some gymnasts chose to come to the college. Junior Jillian Freyman, who had a 3.97 GPA last year, said she was drawn to South Hill both by the gymnastics team and the academic programs.

"I knew that [the college] had a really great occupational therapy program and I knew that was what I wanted to go into," Freyman said. "So it was a pretty easy decision with gymnastics and then with the awesome program."

Junior Marlena Bailey, one of four Bombers

with a perfect 4.00 GPA last year, said she came to the college primarily to join the team, but the academic appeal of the college was also a major reason behind her decision.

"I mostly came for gymnastics, but I did like that at the [Division III] level you can focus on both sports and academics at the same time," Bailey said. "That's something that's also very important to me because at the end of the day, college gymnastics is gonna end and I'm gonna have to get an actual job, so it helps me balance both."

The balance of commitments at the D-III level is something the team has used to its advantage during recruiting. Freyman said D-III athletes have an advantage in the classroom because coaches at the level better understand the priorities of their student athletes than at other levels of college athletics, where student athletes may have a stronger focus on athletics versus academics.

"It's definitely a challenge, but we are kind of given some leeway by [coach Suddaby]," Freyman said. "Rick [Suddaby] really stresses how important it is for us to do well. So if we need that time to study, if we have something super important coming up, he gives us the opportunity to take the time away from the gym in order for us to be academically successful. But it's definitely hard."

The stresses of athletics schedules on students is not lost on members of the faculty. Tim Reynolds '12, an assistant professor in Exercise Science and Athletic Training, has had multiple student-athletes come through his classes. Reynolds said that when working with student-athletes, he appreciates them often being open about their schedules and trying to get ahead of work in the class.

"I try to stress the value of communication," Reynolds said. "What I try to do as a faculty



The Ithaca College gymnastics team ranked fourth out of 84 schools that qualified for the WCGA academic rankings. The ranking marks the highest in program history.  
FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

member is allow them to tell me days and times that typically work best, whether that be earlier in the week or after class ... and we just try to coordinate modifications. What I appreciate that our student-athletes do is that they're not trying to postpone that until next week, they take the initiative to take it early."

Reynolds spoke on another one of the strategies that the gymnastics team has used to get ahead in the classroom, with athletes grouping together to help each other in similar classes.

"I think that they've developed a rapport and understand how each other works best," Reynolds said. "I think that also allows for them to best optimize their practice schedule with another person going through the course. It's not like they're trying to coordinate multiple different student responsibilities. They share very similar responsibilities."

With all the work the gymnastics team has put in over the past academic year, they are proud of the ranking they received. Freyman said the team was excited to get ranked as highly as they did, as it helped validate not only the work in competition, but the work outside of competition as well.

"[It means] a whole lot," Freyman said. "Obviously the team is focused on gymnastics, but it's an amazing group of girls, and we're all so proud to have put so much work into all of our academics. We have so many different majors on the team, but we just love that we're really putting in the work and we're really making ourselves known academically."

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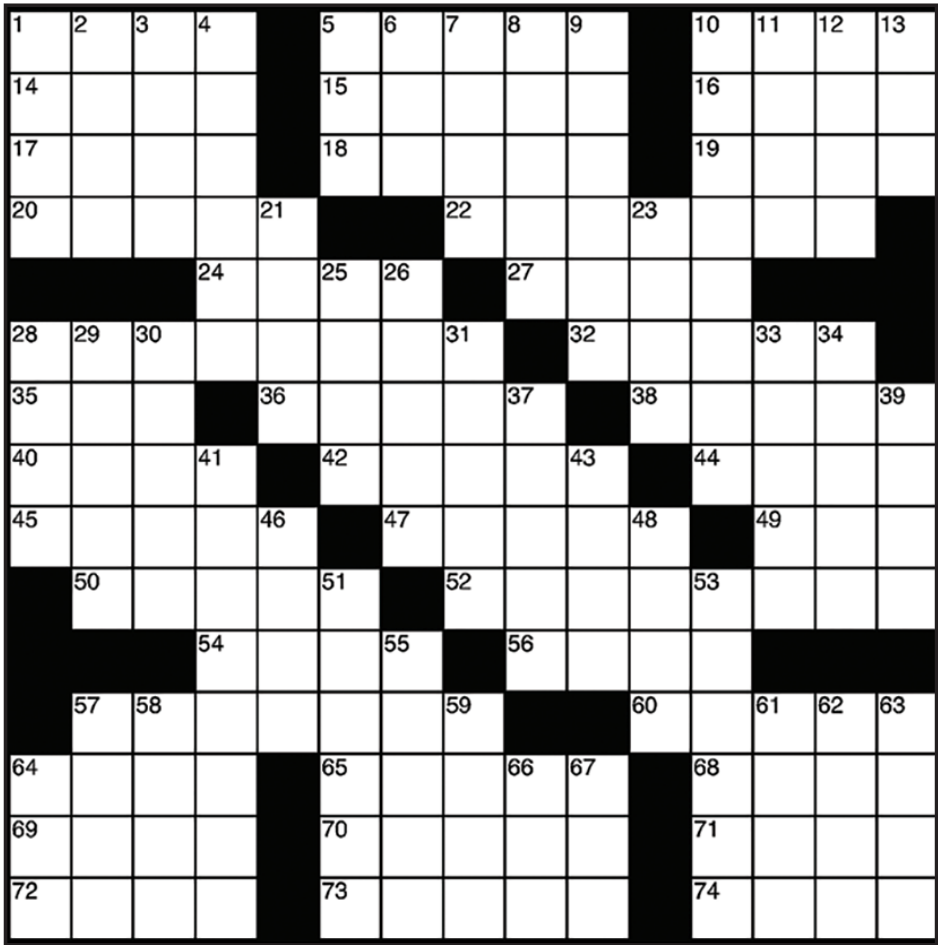


# DIVERSIONS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

## crossword

By Quill Driver Books




ACROSS

- 1 Enjoy the hammock  
5 Safari sighting  
10 Cows' mouthfuls  
14 Alpine goat  
15 Creamy color  
16 By mouth  
17 Fridge stick  
18 Cold-cuts emporiums  
19 Shade of blue  
20 Wren residences  
22 License  
24 Kinds  
27 Hatcher or Garr  
28 Rescued folk  
32 Kind of dressing  
35 Speckle  
36 Small flies  
38 Game bird  
40 Wonder Woman's friend  
42 Brook catch  
44 Prefix for "directional"  
45 Horse sound  
47 Regretful  
49 Newsroom VIPs  
50 Ice cream utensil  
52 Omit (2 wds.)
- 54 Empty, in math  
56 Bread grains  
57 Milk sources  
60 Accident reminders  
64 Quickie exam  
65 Occasion  
68 Grass skirt dance  
69 Ordered  
70 "Walk Away —"  
71 Psyche's beloved  
72 Malamute's load  
73 Car with four doors  
74 Engage in war
- DOWN
- 1 MGM mascot  
2 Efficient  
3 Alphabet enders  
4 Glamorous  
5 Kept Secret  
6 " — Got a Secret"  
7 Flag holder  
8 Computer command  
9 Seafood tidbit  
10 Bass accompaniment  
11 Mountains or river  
12 Brubeck of jazz  
13 Cagey

- 21 Hit hard  
23 Where Ur is  
25 Clark —, aka Superman  
26 Grills a steak  
28 Utopia  
29 Goes to the polls  
30 Storage place  
31 Footrest  
33 Antique brooch  
34 Krishna devotee  
37 More certain  
39 Enumerate  
41 Worried, plus  
43 Shallow container  
46 Time unit  
48 Cousteau's
- middle name  
51 They have jaws  
53 Avoid  
55 River embankment  
57 Kind of control  
58 Staff member  
59 Text message option  
61 Subtle emanation  
62 Online journal  
63 Letter encl.  
64 Brady and Mahomes  
66 Teachers' org.  
67 Playing card

last issue's crossword answers

ACID	ASTIR	KITH
VASE	DWARF	EBAY
EPIC	OILED	BIRD
RESEMBLE	BASTE	
NOEL	STUB	
SHOTS	EMISSARY	
EARLS	CLINT	VIA
TIDY	BEALE	BONN
UKE	SLATE	BRISK
PURCHASE	LODES	
LUBE	KNOT	
CROON	FAITHFUL	
ZIGS	ACORN	ELLA
ACRE	CUBAN	RAND
REED	TESTY	SWAY



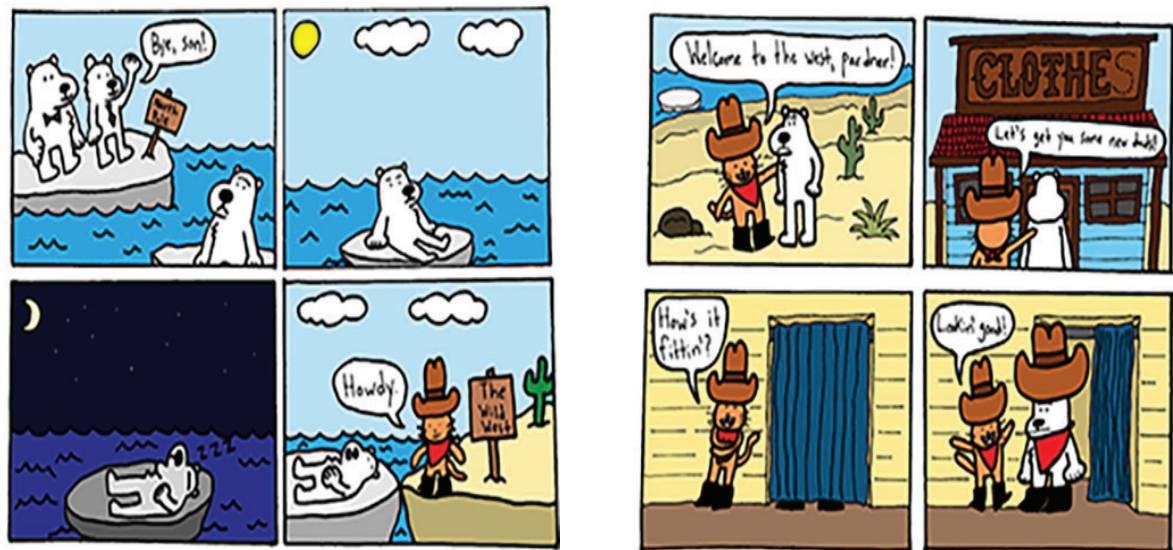
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The Sudoku Source of "The Ithacan".

## Polar Pardner

ILLUSTRATION BY JOSHUA PANTANO/THE ITHACAN



## answers to last issue's sudoku:

very easy

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

medium

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

## sudoku

easy

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

hard

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





Ithaca College a cappella group Ithacapella perform an arrangement of “Can’t Help Falling in Love With You” by Elvis Presley to Premium Blend member junior Haley Rayfield during the Fountain Fest on Sept. 3 outside Dillingham Center. This festival marks a tradition where first-year students gather to fill the fountain and enjoy the showcases.

XINYI QIN/THE ITHACAN