Cornell hosts free name change clinic for LGBTQ+ students

A free legal name change clinic is being organized by Cornell University’s LGBT Resource Center in collaboration with Cornell Law School. On Oct. 20, the clinic is offering space and time slots to Ithaca College students from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. via Zoom or in person.

Crissi Dalfonzo, director of the Center for LGBT Education, Outreach, and Services at Ithaca College, said Cornell’s LGBT Resource Center and Ithaca College’s Center for LGBT Education, Outreach, and Services have a rich history of collaboration. Dalfonzo was the assistant director of the LGBT Resource Center at Cornell prior to her role at Ithaca College.

The clinic was started in May 2019 and takes place once every semester. Dalfonzo said via email, “Programs such as this send a very clear message: everyone deserves to live their truth and have their legal documents reflect that. In a time when many local and state governments are launching and passing anti-trans bills, it is more important than ever that we offer whatever support we are able.”

The clinic was co-created by Malloy Livingston, director of the LGBTQIA Rights Program of the Volunteer Lawyers Project of Central New York and adjunct professor of law at Cornell Law School. Livingston said there are two main ways an individual can change their name in New York state: through the common law name change and by filing papers with the court.

“[Under the common law name change], you just change your name, start using a new name and stop using the old one,” Livingston said. “But that’s really hard to prove [in law]. The standard way that people do this is by filing papers with the court to demonstrate that their name change is not for any fraudulent purpose.”

For students to participate in the name change clinic, they must register for a time slot and bring a certified copy or a high-quality PDF version of their birth certificate. They are then assigned a volunteer Cornell Law student to help fill out and file the necessary paperwork on their behalf. Livingston said Cornell Law students simply act as a liaison and not as authority.

“The law students aren’t lawyers, so there has to be a supervising attorney in order to be able to file the cases with the court,” Livingston said. “We teach the law students how to do the name changes and what legal issues can be involved. For example, sometimes we might have a minor who is trans and wants to change their name and one parent supports that and another parent opposes it. … With things like this, the court is going to want certain paperwork and proof being presented before they allow the name change to go through.”

The paperwork in New York to file a name change with the court is relatively straightforward. It requires basic information about a person, like their name, date of birth, place of birth and legal and criminal history. Then they must provide the name they are changing to and the reason for changing their name. They must also state the New York county they are in and what court they will petition to.

IC reflects on shift from three- to four-credit courses

IC FIELD HOCKEY BRINGS LIGHT TO HEARTFELT CAUSES

HEARTFELT CAUSES BRINGS LIGHT TO IC FIELD HOCKEY

Ithaca College’s Fall 2023 course catalog reflects curriculum changes that have been in the works for the past few years, as many schools at the college have shifted from three- to four-credit courses.

Following recommendations in the 2021 Shape of the College plan, departments submitted curricular revisions between September 2022 and March 2023. These changes included decreasing the required quantity of credits in a major, adding options to meet major requirements and restructuring material into new courses with a different number of credits. The last of these changes were implemented in the Fall 2023 course catalog.

In a four-credit model, students could take four courses instead of five. The college said this would make class material denser and allow for students to fully invest themselves in learning about a particular subject. Professors would be expected to alter their previous three-credit courses to four-credits courses by adding more information to the courses and extending the hours that their classes meet. This means a potentially heavier course load for a single class and lengthier meeting times.

Faculty Considerations

Jason Freitag, professor in the Department of History, said the college highly encouraged the shift to four credits as departments revised their curriculum but did not enforce it. He said some faculty in the department were hesitant to alter their previously well-established courses.

“Each one of our classes needed to be reorganized for approval,” Freitag said. “There were some people that were eager and believed it would be good for faculty, good for students and allow faculty to focus more, while others believed three credits was the more optimal way.”

While discussion has been ongoing, some departments officially told professors that their courses were going to increase to four credits in May. This meant that professors had until the start of the Fall 2023 semester to adjust their courses — an amount of time that derived mixed reactions from professors.

Marcilla Feltrin-Morris, professor and chair in the Department of World Languages, Literature, and Cultures, said she observed that some professors found the four months too short to effectively overhaul a curriculum and add enough content to be worthy of four credits.

Freitag said faculty workload was also a major consideration in altering credit hours. Professors were instructed to alter their course to contain more information to support a four-credit workload. While given guidelines and offers to expand, some professors chose to add more information at the end of the curriculum.

Feltrin-Morris said that adding more information at the end of her course was a simple, seemingly effective option.

“I’ve always felt that within 50 minutes it was always hard to accomplish everything I’ve wanted to … when teaching a language class,” Feltrin-Morris said. “Because it’s longer, I’m allowed to switch activities more.”

The Ithacan is the independent student newspaper of Ithaca College.

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Israeli defense minister visits border amid war with Hamas

Israeli defense minister Yair Glick visited a joint near the Gaza border and held discussions with troops stationed in the area Oct. 15.

Israel is engaged in a war with Hamas following massive rocket fire from the Gaza Strip into Israel, intensification of gunnery into Israeli territory, massacre of civilian women and children in their homes and hostage taking of civilians and soldiers.

300,000 reservists have been deployed and the Israeli Air Force is massively bombing Gaza in preparation for the next stage of warfare.

Rep. Patrick McHenry becomes the temporary House speaker

As Republican House members failed to elect a new speaker to lead them, Rep. Patrick McHenry, 47, a Republican from North Carolina, became the House’s temporary speaker after eight Republicans and the entire Democratic conference voted to fire Speaker Kevin McCarthy from his leadership role last week.

McHenry found himself atop a secret list of potential successors McCarthy was required to keep if something were to happen to him to prevent him from fulfilling his duties as speaker.

Polish conservative party loses majority after eight years in power

Poland’s nationalist conservative Law and Justice Party (PiS) has fallen short of an absolute majority in elections after eight years in power, and three opposition parties could form a new coalition government, according to poll results released on Monday.

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki’s PiS was the strongest force with 36.1% of the vote, while the opposition liberal Civic Coalition (KO) of former prime minister Donald Tusk came second with 31%, according to the Monday afternoon forecast by polling institute Ipsos.

A tropical depression likely to form in the coming days

A tropical depression or potentially Tropical Storm Tammy is “likely to form” in the next few days from a system expected to move toward the central tropical Atlantic, National Hurricane Center forecasters said Oct. 15.

That system, which emerged off Africa on Wednesday, has a 60% chance to develop in the next two days and a 90% chance in the next seven days, according to the center’s 8 a.m. advisory.

Meanwhile, the former Tropical Storm Sean was once again a tropical depression, which was expected to fade to a remnant low Oct. 15.

Sean, located in the central tropical Atlantic, was forecast to dissipate Oct. 16. So far in this season in the Atlantic, there have been 18 named storms, six of which were hurricanes.

Of those, three were major hurricanes, meaning they were Category 3 or above.

Royal Caribbean sends rescue ship to Israel

Royal Caribbean has partnered with the U.S. Department of State to send the Rhapsody of the Seas cruise ship to Israel to rescue Americans who have not been able to leave the country.

## THE ITHACAN

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Senior uses grant to uplift women in Mali

BY SONYA MUKHINA

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the help of a grant from Projects for Peace, Ithaca College senior Saraké Dembele bought a piece of land and different seeds for Malian women in Gogui to be able to grow their own food and sell it for profit to facilitate their financial independence.

Senior Saraké Dembele bought a piece of land and different seeds for Malian women in Gogui to be able to grow their own food and sell it for profit to facilitate their financial independence.

Dembele’s father, Moussa Dembele, grew up in Gogui and traveled there with his daughter after about 15 years of living abroad. “When we made a decision that I will fly with Saraké, the whole village was very happy and excited,” Moussa said.

After driving to the village from the airport, Dembele said she met with the mayor of Gogui and Binta Wagué, president of the local women’s organization, who Dembele collaborated with. Wagué communicated with the Ithacan through a letter translated by Dembele.

“When I first heard about the project, it was like an answer to our prayers,” Wagué said. “I was overwhelmed with joy… Today, we are very proud and have no words that could express the level of gratitude we feel towards our daughter, Saraké.”

Dembele bought pieces of land that were equally split among the women in the village. Then, Dembele provided many different kinds of seeds that she and her mother bought in the U.S. Dembele’s mother, Aisse Dembele, said she thinks her daughter made a great impact on the women of the village’s quality of life.

“They were very, very grateful and they were touched by the fact that even though Saraké was not born, she still thought about them,” Aisse said.

Mary Nunn, executive assistant to the vice president for marketing and enrollment, is the college’s former liaison for Projects for Peace who helped Dembele through the process. Nunn said she worked Dembele in a very systematic, organized manner.

“The women were so enthusiastic and so wonderful to work with,” Nunn said. “She is the first student in the many years that gave me updates about how the project… in detail… is going to come together, and it’s…”

With the help of a grant from Projects for Peace, Ithaca College senior Saraké Dembele bought a piece of land and different seeds for Malian women in Gogui to be able to grow their own food and sell it for profit to facilitate their financial independence. SARAKÉ DEMBELE, JESUS LUNA/ITHACA COLLEGE

Survey assesses barriers to counseling

TAYLOR BORASH

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A team of students from the undergraduate research team in the Department of Psychology at Ithaca College released a survey to identify disparities between how students of color and their white counterparts utilize mental health services on campus.

Senior Ashanti Ford is a member of the research team and said her passion for the study came from her own mental health struggles.

“Before COVID-19, there was a whole lot of times in which I felt like I was drowning and I didn’t know where to look,” Ford said. “I wanted to know if other people felt the same and what I could do to help others overcome that.”

Pena-Shaff said there are multiple factors that contribute to this disparity, even when people “serve free of charge.”

“Personal and mental health stigma, general mistrust towards mental health services, lack of knowledge that there are services on campus and cultural factors have been cited as possible factors that affect students of color’s access to and use of mental health services on campuses,” she said.

Ithaca College’s main free mental health service is the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services, also known as CAPS. In addition to the usual biweekly therapy schedule, Ford believes that a big issue for CAPS is the ratio of counselors to students.

“It’s understaffed,” Ford said. “So how are they going to give adequate care no matter how much they try? How can we give them the adequate help that we deserve?”

Brian Peteren, director of CAPS, said he’s optimistic that the research will help to elucidate results for the mental health services on campus.

“I think what will be really valuable and interesting about this study is that it’s data from students saying this is what we need, this is what we experienced,” Peteren said. “That’s when you can start building meaningful change.”

Pena-Shaff said the results of the survey will be released sometime in December or January 2024 and will be presented by the team at the 2024 New England Psychological Association conference. The results will also be shared with other important areas of campus, like CAPS and the President’s Cabinet.

Ford said she hopes the research will lead to greater awareness of the barriers to receiving mental health care and spread a positive message to those who are struggling.

“I want people to know it’s okay to feel a certain way,” Ford said. “Other people feel the way you do and there shouldn’t be a stigma around how you feel.”
Once the clinic paperwork is completed, the Volunteer Lawyers Project of CNY officially files the paperwork with the court. Changing a name in New York State requires a notarized petition to the New York Supreme Court in the county where the recipient of the name change is and the court’s filing fee is about $200. Once filed, the court will decide on the name change in 30-60 days in most cases.

“If possible, we’d like to draft the petition right then and there,” Livingston said. “[Then] have the client approve it and then have them sign it and get it notarized right there and at that point. If we have all the necessary paperwork — which in most cases is just a certified copy of their birth certificate — we can file it through the court right away.

First-year student Clark Royandoyan, 19, said it was a matter of a resource like the clinic being made available and accessible to students.

“I think it’s great that IC and Cornell are coming together to be able to promote this service,” Royandoyan said. “Especially cause not everyone knows not to be aware that changing their name could be a more complicated process than they may realize that it might be a simpler process. So I think it’s great that this resource is available to students and I’m glad that the world is getting out there.”

Kristen Browde is the vice president of the Florida Democratic LGBTQ+ Caucus. Browde, a transgender woman, said one of the first steps for equality for trans people starts with the legal documentation of their name.

“Equality starts with equality under the law,” Browde said. “I remember what I went through when I changed my name. … Helping people to navigate this process and get them started with getting their name is just a great service.”

Browde said transgender rights are a wedge issue in politics and that all students felt like they belonged in a classroom. “I can adapt my own teaching [in the future] to determine if the courses increase student success in higher level physics classes.

On Sept. 6, the City of Ithaca became a sanctuary for transgender health care because of the passing of the Trans Safe Haven Resolution in the Common Council.

Dalfonso said that affirming the lives and rights of queer and transgender individuals needs to happen on all levels in a community: politically, legally and socially.

Programs and resolutions are just pieces of the puzzle,” Dalfonso said. “The City of Ithaca is putting many measures in place to protect queer and trans lives regardless of the national political landscape, and it’s a place I am very proud to call home.”

Over the summer, senior Emily Leach, chemistry and applied physics double major, analyzed grades from two physics courses that ran during Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 to determine if a foundations section of Physics 101 would increase student success in Physics 101 and 102.

Leach said the Department of Physics and Astronomy had previously noticed students were scoring lower in Physics 101 with different levels of math proficiency.

The department piloted an additional section of Physics 101, Foundations in Physics, for students who scored lower in math proficiency on their entry-level exams. The section ran in Fall 2022 and focused on building up students’ math skills at the same time as their physics skills. Students who scored higher on entry exams took the regular Physics 101 class.

Leach said she found Foundations in Physics 101 to be extremely helpful based on her observation and analysis of grades.

Leach’s research analyzing the trial class’s impacts was conducted as part of the Summer Scholars Program, where all students who want to conduct school-funded research in an area of their choice. Leach said her interest in curricula is because of her career goals to be a high school physics teacher.

“I can adapt my own teaching [in the future] and do this kind of research process so I can accurately analyze the data,” Leach said.

Leach was a teacher’s assistant in the Fall 2022 Foundations in Physics trial class. In Spring 2023, those students moved on to Physics 102. During the semester, she completed test scores and overall grades in Excel to understand the difference between students who took Foundations in Physics and those in Physics 102 versus students who were enrolled in Physics 101. Leach said that prior to the foundations class, on average, 2% of students would withdraw or receive a D or F for their final grade.

She said that in the 2022–23 academic year, no one failed either course. Her data showed that 75% of students who took Foundations in Physics finished Physics 102 with a B or higher.

Colleen Crounse, assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, is a physics education researcher and worked alongside Leach over the summer.

Crounse said some physics content was removed to make room for a significant amount of math content to help students improve their performance in both areas.

She said some students have not been given the chance to learn the material needed to succeed in introductory physics courses.

“I would hear these personal stories of students that would come in, sometimes in tears, feeling so much anxiety about math,” Crounse said. “We wanted to make sure that all students felt like they belonged in a physics classroom.”

For the 2022–23 academic year, the section of Physics 101, Foundations in Physics, was not being taught.

Matthew Sullivan, chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the college, said that last fall, they had to staff the class as no faculty members within the department were on sabbatical, but that it was not the case this year.

“We have to make sure that we can still teach,” Sullivan said. “Sometimes else has to give and that’s the question is whether or not, if anything we can remove in order to teach this new section.”

Crounse and Sullivan have been holding ongoing conversations about new curricular developments and logistics around staffing for the class.

“This department is a really special one in that the faculty here are incredibly invested in … keeping our students and making them feel welcome,” Crounse said. “[Leach’s research] is one factor in this sort of ongoing conversation about all these different initiatives that our department is doing.”

Physics 101 trial section improves grades

BY LIAM MCDERMOTT

Senior Emily Leach analyzed students’ grades from two foundation physics courses to determine if the courses increase student success in higher level physics classes. (MARIKIDA/ITHACA)
**BY SEBASTIAN PICKFORD**

**CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

Ithaca College senior Matt Weil, a physics major, spent eight weeks of his summer doing intensive wetland ecosystem research through the NASA Student Airborne Research Program. The program was a collaboration between various agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Naval Research Labs and the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Students primarily used resources from the NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia. The program also worked with resources from the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Dynamic Aviation and other universities and colleges across Virginia and Maryland.

Weil said that the first week of the program primarily consisted of orientation and paperwork. The next two weeks focused on a field campaign, where students would go on daily flights using the equipment to collect information that would influence their independent research projects.

"Once you have all that data, you're not dictated as to what research questions you want to ask," Weil said.

Robert Swap, associate division director for Mission Planning in the Earth Sciences at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, is the program director for SAPF.

Swap said that giving students the freedom to choose their research topic was a critical aspect of the program.

"Some internships are kind of like a paint-by-number," Swap said. "What I wanted to do was create more like an arts and crafts store."

Weil primarily built upon the research that he has done at Ithaca College with Eric Leibensperger, assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, who encouraged him to apply to SAPF.

The research they did was focused on methane emissions and how they impact the atmosphere and various ecosystems. According to NASA, methane is the second-largest contributor to global warming after carbon dioxide, but combating methane emissions can have a more immediate impact on the environment compared to other greenhouse gases.

"We really focus on methane because we're interested in near-term climate change," Leibensperger said. "What we do with methane will cause immediate changes. We really need to understand the sources of where methane is coming from and that's what Matt was doing over the summer.

Leibensperger and Weil worked together in 2022 and 2023 to locate an unidentified source of methane emissions that had not been reported by either the EPA or the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, linking it to a local mining operation. NASA reports that methane emissions can come from various sources, including landfills, agriculture, fossil fuels and wetland ecosystems, but Weil said wetlands are often not given much focus.

"It's good to get a general sense of what the wetlands are producing versus what other ecosystems and ecological processes are also producing," Weil said.

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**Q&A: Alum awarded for contribution to Ithaca College**

Jo-Linda Greene '71 has been honored with the Ithaca College Volunteer Service Award for her work giving back to the college over the years since her graduation.

She has served on several Ithaca College Alumni Associations committees, including the alumni committee, to raise funds for the Athletics and Events Center and the committee for the Class of 1971's 50th reunion.

Greene also served as the national chair of the Ithaca College National Fund. She completed her undergraduate degree in Physical Education at the college and went on to earn a master's degree in Adaptive Physical Education from S.U.N.Y. Brookville.

During her lifetime, she has worked in adaptive physical education and has helped organize events for Special Olympics New York at Ithaca College.

Contributing writer Sofia Lopez spoke with Greene about her work in adaptive physical education, her contributions to the college and her Volunteer Service Award.

**JLG:** How has your education at Ithaca College contributed to your career?

**SL:** What does this alumni award mean to you?

**JLG:** Everybody's always told me that I have... a helper gene in my body, that I like to help other people to help them have better lives.

I feel that when I get something wonderful and my life has been wonderful, mainly due to things that I've learned at Ithaca College, that I would like to be able to pass that on to other people.

So helping to raise money and letting people who can't afford to come to the college attend and get the benefits and the wonderfulness that I got from Ithaca College is very important to me. I love it there and I would like more people to get the chance to get the education that I got. I think that's why I'm thrilled to be receiving this award. I never expected to be the one that would get it.

**SL:** What are the most positive changes you've seen in Ithaca College since the time that you graduated?

**JLG:** One of the things is the fact that you no longer have to take every class in your major; now you can branch out.

I remember when I was a physical education major. We had to take everything that pertained to physical education. We were allowed one or two classes outside of that, but not much.

**SL:** Could you talk about your more recent involvement with the college?

**JLG:** One of the things that I helped raise money for was the [Athletics and Events Center] building. I was there for the opening of it and we actually have a plaque when you walk in the front door. Both of my children are now adults and [are] going to come to see me and get the award and I am looking forward to walking them through that building and showing them that, especially the swimming pool. The thing that I love about the pool is that the floor rises so there's a large area for teaching handicapped children how to swim and young children so that their feet can touch the ground at all times. I come back every five years [and] have been [doing that] since the very beginning. And then, of course, a couple of times in between when they asked me to come up for something but especially [for] a reunion, which was exciting.

We had a competition with the class of 1976 for how much money we could raise for our class gift, and I think our class won. That was especially meaningful because it was the first reunion after the pandemic that was able to be held on campus.

**CONTACT SOFIA LOPEZ**

**SLOPEZ4@ITHACA.EDU**
College Briefs

Center for Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging to host open house

The Center for Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging invites members of the college community to attend an open house from 12-1 p.m. on Oct. 24 in Jepson Hall. The open house recognizes the center’s launch July 1 as part of the college’s five-year strategic plan. Questions and requests for accommodations can be directed by email to Karen Brown at kbrown19@ithaca.edu or via phone at 607-274-1407.

Instructional Development Fund accepting proposals from faculty

The Instructional Development Fund provides funding for faculty to pursue opportunities, resources and technology that enhance or update their teaching. Faculty can submit proposals through 12 p.m. Nov. 1 for expenses that will be incurred between Nov. 15 and April 30, 2024, up to $1,500 for proposals submitted by individual faculty members and up to $5,000 for proposals submitted by multiple faculty members. The IDF Review Committee will consider proposals based on a variety of factors. Some of these factors are feasibility, alignment with college goals and its initiatives, benefits to instruction and the need for those resources that might be outside of what the schools or departments already provide.

Geriatric Education Center to host open house

The series is free and books are available if necessary. Questions and requests for accommodations can be directed to Karen Brown at kbrown19@ithaca.edu or via phone at 607-274-1407.

Student Leadership Institution organizes a voting presentation

The Student Leadership Institute presentation “Be Vote Ready!” will be held at 11 a.m. Oct. 19 in room 319 of the Gannett Center. The session is open to all students and will cover information about voting in the November state and municipality elections.

Instructional Development Fund

The IDF Review Committee will consider proposals based on a variety of factors. Some of these factors are feasibility, alignment with college goals and its initiatives, benefits to instruction and the need for those resources that might be outside of what the schools or departments already provide.

COLLEGE BRIEFS

Beloved annual book sale returns to Ithaca

Residents shop at the annual Fall 2023 Friends of the Tompkins County Public Library Book Sale. All proceeds of the sale go to the local library and the Finger Lakes Library System and donations are open until Nov. 30.

MARI KODAMA/ITHACAN

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM OCT. 2 TO 8

OCT. 2

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: 111 College Circle SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Charlie Sherman, fire and building safety coordinator, responded to the call and determined the activation was caused by burnt food.

PETIT LARCENY UNDER $50

LOCATION: Phillips Hall, room 102 SUMMARY: A caller reported a person stole a shirt. Sergeant Byran Verona responded and restricted that person from the campus. This is a pending investigation.

OCT. 3

SCC COLLEGE REGULATIONS

LOCATION: Campus Quad SUMMARY: A caller reported people were selling clothing without an official permit. Officer Matthew Patire responded to the call and advised four people of the proper procedure.

WELFARE CHECK

LOCATION: Terrace 6 SUMMARY: A caller reported that a person did not make two appointments. Sergeant Bryan Verona responded to the call and determined that the person was not an imminent threat to themselves.

OCT. 4

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: Alumni House SUMMARY: A caller reported a grocery order was delivered to the wrong address and an unknown person took them inside the building. The person took the groceries for safekeeping and they were turned over to the rightful owner. Master Patrol Officer Robert Jones responded to the call.

ACCIDENTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: 111 College Circle SUMMARY: A caller reported damag to a door and handle. Patrol Officer Dana Malcolm responded and determined the damage was accidental.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: 125 Conservatory Drive SUMMARY: Callers reported back pain and feeling faint. The person was transported to Hammond Health Center. Patrol Officer Kevin McCain responded.

OCT. 5

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: 141 College Circle SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Patrol Officer Conner McCoy responded and determined that the activation was caused by burnt food.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/ ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Taub Hall SUMMARY: The Tompkins County 911 Center reported a person with abdominal pain. The person was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Thaddeus May responded.

OCT. 6

SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS

LOCATION: 111 College Circle SUMMARY: A caller reported someone was intoxicated and did not require medical assistance. The person was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Thaddeus May responded.

ACCIDENTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: 111 College Circle SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown person damaged a vending machine and stole products. Patrol Officer Connor McCoy responded to the call. This investigation is currently pending.

OCT. 7

MSSCIRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS

LOCATION: 125 Conservatory Drive SUMMARY: Callers reported someone was intoxicated and did not require medical assistance. The person was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Thaddeus May responded.

OCT. 8

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/ ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: 125 Conservatory Drive SUMMARY: A caller reported a person had an anxiety attack. The person was transported to the hospital. Patrol Officer Dana Malcolm responded.

KEY

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

Full public safety log available online at www.ithaca.edu/psio.
College community should take advantage of local art

When people picture a small city in upstate New York, it’s likely that very few envision a thriving hub of art, music and other cultures — unless that city is Ithaca. Ithaca has a long history of supporting and fostering the arts and this creates an ideal environment that every student — but especially students focused on art, media, theater, music and other areas — should take advantage of.

Silent City Film Festival, Reproductive Justice Film Festival, Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival, Ithaca Short Film Festival and Ithaca Experimental Film Festival are just some of the festivals that have been held in Ithaca in a given year. Outside of film, local venues like Deep Dive celebrate small and indie music, the State Theatre invites musicians, comedians and performers to the city, Hangar Theatre is a venue for local theater and murals can be found on nearly every street. It is hard to go anywhere in Ithaca without encountering art and culture.

These venues also mean that there are artists, musicians, actors, filmmakers and more people in the community who are experts in often highly competitive and inaccessible fields. Students should take advantage of venues, people and events to explore their passions and build connections in the industry. With film festivals in particular, Ithaca College students are often able to show their work, which allows them to experience sharing content with a wide audience and receiving feedback from experts.

There are few places like Ithaca, where art is accessible and people want to help students make their mark on the art scene. If Ithaca were to lose this aspect of its identity, it would be a massive loss. The best way to keep things as they are and allow art to continue to flourish and grow is to maintain an audience. Not taking advantage of these opportunities would be a mistake for any student — whether they want to make art, or would simply benefit from learning about different people’s experiences through their art — and it could have a lasting impact on the community.

Community benefits from institutional collaboration

or transgender and nonbinary people, adopting a new name is one of the most important steps in affirming an identity, but it can also be a highly confusing, somewhat difficult process. Every year, Cornell University sponsors a free legal name change clinic that is open to Ithaca College students. This is a crucial resource to support LGBTQ+ students and is the kind of thing the college should be doing more of.

In New York, changing a legal name involves going to court, presenting multiple forms — one of which must be notarized — providing proof of birth and paying a fee for the change. Needless to say, this is a complicated process with numerous steps and it is likely difficult for the average person to understand. This is also just one of the many steps that people may choose to take in affirming their identity. Things like undergoing gender-affirming surgery, purchasing and wearing clothing that express an identity, hormone replacement and other steps also come with complex processes, high costs and more barriers. Therefore, any steps that can be taken to ease this process and help transgender and nonbinary people affirm their identities are worthwhile.

Ithaca College and Cornell both have wide arrays of resources at their disposal to support students; collaboration between the two universities can increase these resources and opportunities for students who need them.

The goal of the Center for LGBT Education, Outreach, and Services at the college is to best support LGBTQ+ identifying students. This is the goal of many offices at Ithaca College: to support students either broadly or of a particular identity or background. If the best way to do this is to collaborate with Cornell and utilize its many resources, Ithaca College should not shy away from this. Rather, this kind of collaboration will only foster stronger community connections and give students access to the best resources available.
Senior Robby Zweesaardt writes about the financial barriers lower-income students face beyond the cost of tuition and how the college can better support students.

No one should ever have to compromise their college experience for the sake of expensive textbooks and learning resources, yet many students have to every single semester. All of this could be solved if the college would provide sufficient financial aid to cover the costs of textbooks and additional learning resources.

College must update club information

BY PARKER FRIEDMAN

Ithaca College needs to update its clubs and organizations on IC Engage.

Participation in clubs and organizations while in college leads to a more successful postgraduate career, yet, it is getting increasingly difficult to find clubs to participate in at the college. Club offerings are a determining factor in why incoming students choose the schools they attend. There is nothing more frustrating than finding out the club you were excited about when applying to schools does not exist.

At the college, students have a couple of ways to discover clubs and organizations. First, the school hosts two organization fairs each year at the beginning of the semester. The second option is the Engage page. Students can use Engage to view a list of all the different organizations on campus. Here is where the problem starts.

The “Discover” organizations tab boasts a staggering list of over 300 opportunities at the college. In reality, the list of currently active organizations is much shorter. Some organizations list club contacts who are no longer students at the school, other organizations show no contacts at all. This means that there is no way to get in contact with those clubs to see if they are active.

Clubs and organizations provide an essential framework for a student’s success throughout higher education. Not only do students have an opportunity to learn more about themselves and others, they also get opportunities to build their resume. An Ohio State University involvement study found that college student involvement is positively related to academic performance, cognitive development, well-being, leadership and multicultural awareness.

Prior to coming up with a solution, it is important to identify why the lack of up-to-date organizations may have occurred in the first place. One big possibility is the effect COVID-19 had on college life. With students experiencing college from home, it made it very difficult for clubs to exist. Additionally, an isolated return to campus made it difficult to bring students together.

Another contributing factor is that students graduate every year. For club leaders to be active, these clubs need to be on top of their game with recruitment and finding replacement members. This puts the responsibility on the club leaders to have annual re-elections and to keep track of what officers will be graduating. The problem with this is that there is no real way for the school to enforce these re-elections other than having clubs go through the annual re-recognition process, but even after this, Engage still shows inactive clubs on their page.

Moving forward, better regulation of the active organizations would allow Engage to be an up-to-date place where prospective and current students can see what the college has to offer. This could be a great position for a student employee through the college’s Office of Student Engagement. Their role would be to monitor the groups on Engage and use the club re-recognition surveys to keep the page updated.

Ithaca College updates the accuracy of the clubs and organizations on Engage.

Junior Parker Friedman writes about the value of accurate information when it comes to student organizations.

A choice no student should have to make

BY ROBBY ZWEESAARDDT

For an institution that prides itself on accessibility and equity, Ithaca College ironically falls short of perfection in its ability to provide students with adequate learning resources. Every single year, students are bombarded by the cost of educational materials. And who is left to bear the brunt of all these costs? The same students that the college uses to promote its accessibility and equity efforts.

For those students fortunate enough to have family or other outside financial support, purchasing textbooks every semester is a carefree, routine activity. However, for those who are not quite as fortunate, purchasing textbooks becomes a dreaded process. My own textbooks this semester alone have cost me nearly enough to cover my monthly car payment. I cannot risk damaging my credit, I had to pay off my car. I was at a disadvantage starting the semester without the required readings for my courses and had to work that much harder just to stay at the same pace as my classmates.

To be completely fair, some professors are aware of this dilemma and do everything in their power to help students. While this is helpful and extremely generous, professors should not have to resort to a workaround to help struggling students. The college does provide some emergency relief funding for textbooks, but there are many barriers restricting access to this program.

Students who do not have the same degree of outside financial support as their peers are put at an extreme disadvantage. Not only might they have to make a decision between a pre-existing financial responsibility and obtaining their textbooks, but they are also forced to find a source of income. I work 15 to 18 hours a week. That is 15 to 18 hours I cannot spend searching for career opportunities or focusing on anything school-related. All of this without even mentioning the social aspect of college that adds an additional demand.

Labeling harms young students

Academically motivated students are at a different conceptual level within the confines of a single classroom is one of the biggest challenges that teachers face. One way to cope with this problem is to have sections of the school day where students are divided up based on their academic capability. This seems like a great solution. Students are able to receive more direct instruction and can be adequately challenged. There is one small problem: splitting up into smaller groups can create unhealthy ideas and relationships with school-work for young students.

When I was in third grade, I was put into an accelerated program that met a couple of times a week. Most of the time, I found this part of the day was taxing. It wasn’t very fun, I didn’t have the opportunity to learn, so this seemed like another way to do that. However, I also remember feeling an incredible amount of pressure because of it. This had to do with the environment in the classroom. We were writing and analyzing all the time. Because the class was just a few students who were all ahead, it became an incredibly competitive environment. This class felt like a race toward a goal I wasn’t sure existed.

Not only did we take notice that we were being labeled, but also in all of the same “advanced” classes as the “smart kids.” Not only did we take notice that we were being put into different classes, so did our peers who weren’t in those groups. Each time I was in a class or among my peers and I would voice my struggle with something, I would be brushed off because I was “one of the smart kids.”

This all came to a head for me when I began showing signs of ADHD. When my parents and I reached out to teachers for help, my teachers all said they saw nothing wrong with my performance. Being grouped into the “smart kids” had made everyone around me oblivious to the problems I might be facing. Even worse, it de- stroied the way I viewed myself.

Having this experience at 12 years old showed me that “smart” really doesn’t mean much. Maybe you are good at turning in assignments, maybe you are a great writer; maybe math just makes sense to you. Your strengths are things to be proud of, but they do not define you. It matters so much more who you are as a person and the effort you put into growing and learning. I know many of my peers did not understand this by the time we went to high school and some still do not understand it. These ideas about being “smart” led all students to cycles of self-loathing and depression, as it did for me. Though it is important to give students the opportunity to excel, dividing them up as such a young age creates an unhealthy view of their own success that can affect a student for the rest of their academic career.

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ithaca serves as a hub of opportunity for filmmakers as more and more film festivals come to the area, especially for film students, who can use these new up-and-coming festivals to promote their own work and begin making connections with other filmmakers. Cinemapolis has been busy hosting film festivals, each with a range of interests from reproductive rights and environmental issues to independent films, many of them in their first year and featuring films from Ithaca College alumni.

The downtown theater is known for promoting student and alumni films with other film festivals, like the Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival and the Ithaca Short Film Festival, an Ithaca College, student-only film festival, and serves as a place for young filmmakers to premier their films on a silver screen.

The Reproductive Rights Film Festival, sponsored by End Abortion Stigma (EAS), ran from Sept. 21 to Sept. 25, with two days of panels via Zoom and two days of showing films made by the organizers and alumni of the college.

Sue Perlgit was a panelist and an organizer for the film festival. Perlgit said that this is the festival’s first year and that organizing such a program is necessary for young college-aged women to learn about reproductive rights in a safe space with older women who have received abortions and understand that specific perspective.

“We were lucky in New York state when Connie Cook legalized abortion,” Perlgit said. “And then Roe v. Wade happened in 1973. So our fight kind of ended. Young people are in that fight now. You have to stand up for your rights. You have to protest, you have to do all the things that we were doing then. We’re trying to communicate that and we’re trying to give support to you to say, ‘This is unacceptable.’ It was unacceptable before Roe and it’s unacceptable now, and we want [young people] to fight for [their] rights.”

Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court case protecting the right to abortion, was overturned in June 2022. Perlgit said the inspiration for the festival was to educate young people about the overturning of the law and what media has been made in response to the historic decision made last year.

“It was an attempt to bring the issue to a broader audience,” Perlgit said. “We really wanted to reach out to younger women and college women. . . . We’re a group of older women, many of whom have had abortions. . . . We go to speak to classes at colleges and high schools. And we want to bring this to a broader audience to people we haven’t talked to. We wanted a discussion to get going.”

The “Common Ground” film festival followed a similar program that combined the discussion of four panels and a film screening of the Netflix documentary “Common Ground” from Oct. 15-19 at Cinemapolis. The panelists included Christa Foli, director of Learning Farm.org; Byland Engelhart, co-founder of Kiss the Ground; Tina Vilsen-Hodges founder and principal of New Roots Charter school; and Yao “Chacha” Foli, farmer activist educator based in Ithaca.

The area of discussion focused on regenerative agriculture, a passion held by panelist member Foli, who moved from Ghana to Ithaca five years ago. He is now looking to pursue studies in public health at Cornell University after having attended Cazenovia College in 2007.

Foli said that although the concept of regenerative agriculture may sound lofty, not much prior knowledge on the subject is necessary to understand what regenerative agriculture means for them.

“It’s reinforcing and energizing us to remember how we take care of the earth that feeds and provides for us while talking about regenerative agriculture,” Foli said. “It’s not new. It’s not something you have to have a PhD or master’s in . . . Ithaca is ethical. The idea of regenerative agriculture is not new to Ithaca. . . . If you have this all, we can make equitable decisions that benefit everyone.

Not just me and not just you.”

Foli said there is a necessity to having film festivals like the one centered around environmental issues, especially within a town with a high population of young people. He said he hopes that students who attended the film and listened to the panel left with a feeling of understanding and have a deeper consideration for the environment.

“I would like [students] to walk away with the understanding that our small ways of understanding the essence of the rule of environmental justice within our community step toward the solution to pollution,” Foli said. “By defining environmental justice practices, we can promote environmental justice farming practices in our community and promote public health. It’s for our own sake and to maintain the same resources that feed us today and reserve it for the next generation without ruining it.”

The Experimental Film Festival — also in its first year — focused on educating the Ithaca community but was centered on independent films. The Oct. 15 festival came to fruition by 21 alumni of the college Desireé Tolchin, Philip Thompson and Aidan Cronin. Cronin said Ithaca is a unique area since it serves as a place where students and other filmmakers who may be recent graduates can focus on their work. While this happens, film students can learn from and can understand the process of creating a film by having these filmmakers so close at hand.

“It was definitely open to everyone because we know Ithaca really values artistic expression,” Cronin said. “So we’re really looking forward to that and then also for the students to be exposed to some cool, unique work.”

Thompson said their overarching goal for their film festival was to be a source of encouragement for young filmmakers in Ithaca, which was why they held the festival in the fall. He said that in his own experience, he had not previously known any filmmakers aside from his professors at college. Thompson said he hopes the Experimental Film Festival will act as a place for film students to have a different experience than he did.

‘Bringing artists together, local artists, again, that’s our goal,’” Thompson said. “And if you’re a student in Ithaca or you’re a local artist, we can bring everyone together and have everyone discuss and share their work and just talk about how we can all grow and develop as artists. That is our number one goal.”

Thompson said the festival had three student ticket options and allowed for students to not only come from Ithaca College and Cornell University, but from colleges like Binghamton and Syracuse too. Essentially, the festival was geared toward informing students and getting new kinds of films in front of the eyes of the next generation of filmmakers.

“It’s kind of made for a diverse environment because we had people from town and we had students and we had filmmakers and professors — some filmmakers came in and visited,” Thompson said. “So filmmakers from all over came to this one place where the students can get exposed to different kinds of things, different kinds of films.”

The group featured several films, including short films from Ithaca College alumni Sofia Feuer ‘18 and Tyler March ‘18 who made the film “A Black Hole is A Black Hole in the Ground” as students and Crystal Kayna ‘15 film, “Rest Stop.”

Additionally, the group showed Match McBea’s, assistant professor of media arts, sciences and studies, “Civil War Surveillance: Poems Pt 1,” the first part of a seven-part feature documentary. Tolchin said showing films by alumni and professors was integral.

“It was really exciting to see a diverse group of people come together; that’s why we wanted to do this in Ithaca. When we went to school, we didn’t see it as much, so we’re really excited to bring that to the area,” Tolchin said.

KIRI HALL/THE ITHACAN

BY VIVIAN ROSE
CO-LIFE AND CULTURE EDITOR

ITHACA LIFE & CULTURE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023

Film festivals in Ithaca: Scenes on the big screen

NEW ROOTS CHARTER SCHOOL; AND YAO “CHACHA” FOLI, FARMER ACTIVIST EDUCATOR BASED IN ITHACA. THE EXPERIMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL — ALSO IN ITS FIRST YEAR — FOCUSED ON EDUCATING THE ITHACA COMMUNITY BUT WAS CENTERED ON INDEPENDENT FILMS. THE OCT. 15 FESTIVAL CAME TO FRUITION BY 21 ALUMNI OF THE COLLEGE DESIREÉ TOLCHIN, PHILIP THOMPSON AND AIDAN CRONIN. CRONIN SAID ITHACA IS A UNIQUE AREA SINCE IT SERVES AS A PLACE WHERE STUDENTS AND OTHER FILMMAKERS WHO MAY BE RECENT GRADUATES CAN FOCUS ON THEIR WORK. WHILE THIS HAPPENS, FILM STUDENTS CAN LEARN FROM AND CAN UNDERSTAND THE PROCESS OF CREATING A FILM BY HAVING THESE FILMMAKERS SO CLOSE AT HAND.

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POPPED CULTURE

Music from an artificial voice

BY JADYN DAVIS
SENIOR WRITER

Imagine scrolling through TikTok, Instagram or YouTube and coming across a video that features the song “Blinding Lights” by The Weeknd. However, instead of hearing The Weeknd’s voice, the voice of the late Michael Jackson shocks many listeners. The main culprit and reason for this unusual experience is because of two words: artificial intelligence.

Manufactured music is nothing new, as songs from the 1950s and 1960s have some use of AI technology involved in the process, like a beat-making tool or, more notably, autotune. However, the main concern surrounding AI is its power, as it is becoming a tool that even though AI has had a prominent place in academia with tools like Grammarly and ChatGPT, tools like Boomy and Soundful have moved from streaming platforms, like Apple Music and Spotify.

The Motown era, which was from the 1960s–1970s, is defined as one of the most memorable eras in music. This is because of timeless songs like “My Girl” by The Temptations and “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough” by Marvin Gaye are still being played in 2023. Some might say that AI is a good thing because it could potentially speed up the process of making music, which means the time that artists spend writing, producing and recording can be cut in half. Even though there was evidence of AI in the 1950s through Alan Turing’s music-making machine, artists had to use their natural musical abilities to produce some of these songs.

One of the most popular uses of AI in 2023 is replicating an artist’s voice on a completely different song. The most prominent example of this is when TikToker Ghostwriter77 made an AI-generated song called “Heart on My Sleeve” that featured artist Drake and The Weeknd’s vocals in April 2023. Despite the song’s popularity, Universal Music Group took action and, eventually, the song was removed from streaming platforms, like Apple Music and Spotify.

It was confirmed that Ghostwriter77 did submit the song for a Grammy in the best rap song category and song of the year categories. However, the song was rejected.

Recording Academy CEO Harvey Mason Jr. said that even though the work Ghostwriter77 had to use their natural musical abilities to produce some of these songs.

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A night of comedy and community

BY MOLLY FITZSIMONS
CO-LIFE AND CULTURE EDITOR

Ithaca College hosted a laugh-filled, fun night featuring Dan Ahdoth on Oct. 16 in Emerson Suites.

Ahdoth came on stage with a bang, making jokes about stealing bones, referring to more serious moments with Lauren Goldberg, executive director of Hillel at Ithaca College, about joining the National Bone Marrow Registry in order to donate and provide bone marrow to people across the globe. At the end of the event, attendees were invited to swab their cheeks to begin the process of donation.

“I’m just going to tell you the world sucks, give me your bones!” Ahdoth said.

“We’re all going to die, give me your bones!” Ahdoth added about the song “Blinding Lights” by The Weeknd, which was rejected.

Another interesting element to the event was curiosity of what the comediennes would come up with for the evening but also through a common identity.

Senior Noah Kamens attended the event because of curiosity of what the comediennes would come up with for the evening but also through a common identity.

“For me, he’s a friend, I watched him work and think he’s funny,” Kamens said. “I didn’t really know what he would be doing, but I was really curious to see if he would do … an entire sketch comedy show as Falafel Phil, or would he try to ignore it!”

There was evidence of AI in the 1950s through a common identity. As it stands, it feels like it was going to be back to our lives, with sorrow in our heart. It’s also hard not to think about the greater potential for more creative portrayals of digital procedural dramas.

“The Burial” is just another courtroom drama

BY MATT MINTON
SENIOR WRITER

There’s a similar energy when watching lawyer Willie Gary (Jaime Foxx) in Amazon Prime’s original film “The Burial.”

In fact, Willie hasn’t lost a case in 12 years. He’s also never worked for a white client before. When Life magazine’s director Maggie Beets does a terrific job at capturing the magnificently entertaining film but doesn’t quite bring their story of a white lawyer taking on the medical establishment.

Maggie Beets does a terrific job at capturing the magnificently entertaining film but doesn’t quite bring their story of a white lawyer taking on the medical establishment.

“I’m Jewish, he’s Jewish, I watched him going up against his most...”

Almost of AI is still unknown and much will eventually be revealed. But for now, any should be protected no matter what form it is in.

POPPED CULTURE is a culture, written by Lydia Chang, @lydiachang_colleague, and edited by Jorina Miller. Jorina Miller is a senior journalism major. Contact her at jorina@ithaca.edu.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023

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Taylor Swift enters her movie producer era in style

BY GEORGIE GASSARO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Before Taylor Swift embarked on her new trajectory as a singer and songwriter, her fanbase was primarily composed of fans who were already established. However, with the release of her latest album, “The Eras Tour,” she has ventured into the role of a movie producer. 

“Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour” is a concert movie that provides fans around the globe with the chance to experience the concert in a unique way. The movie features live performances, audience reactions, and behind-the-scenes footage, offering a behind-the-scenes look at Swift’s concert tour.

The movie opens with Swift in a private show just for that day, which is later revealed to be a private show just for that day. The film then cuts to a private show just for that day, with Swift and her band performing in front of a live audience. The atmosphere is electric as Swift and her band play their hits from various albums, including “Shake It Off,” “Blank Space,” and “Cardigan.” The audience is captured in a variety of settings, from the stadium to the arena, as they react to Swift’s performance.

The Eras Tour broke AMC’s record for global revenue sales and Cinemark Theatre’s record for global revenue sales. It also set new records for global revenue sales and Cinemark Theatre’s record for global revenue sales.

Taylor Swift’s concert movie, “Taylor Swift: The Eras Movie,” was a success for the singer-songwriter as well as movie theaters. The film captures the energy and excitement of a Taylor Swift concert, providing fans with a new way to experience her music.

CONTACT:
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Taylor Swift enters her movie producer era in style

A difference from the live show is the absence of songs that did not make the final editing cut, like the hit “cardigan,” “The Archer” and “Willow.” The songs that made the final cut are all from her “1989” era, which is to be released in 2019. Given the extent of the setlist, the songs were barely missed.

Swift has been known to have an amazing stage presence. Swift’s fanbase is the product of 17 years of music and therefore covers a wide range of ages and perspectives. As viewers sink into their reclining theater chairs, there is the illusion that Swift truly is there, performing a private show just for that theater. This element of showmanship, combined with the many shots of starry-eyed fans of all ages, with “The Eras Tour” on their hands and friendship bracelets covering their wrists, makes it abundantly clear that even though she is, Swift is a performance powerhouse.

None other than Swift’s music was heard through the theater lobby by speakers. The concession line extended the entire room as fans waited to score an AMC exclusive souvenir popcorn tin and/or soda cup. Everyone was decked out in Swift’s Eras Tour merchandise.

This film proves that Swift truly is the media’s current “mastermind” who shows no signs of slowing down. In a single day, “Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour” broke AMC’s record for global revenue sales and Cinemark reported, “domestic pre-sale records are more than 10 times higher pre-sales than any other cinema engagement event.” This is remarkable given how movie theater attendance has declined in the past years. However, Swift’s Eras Tour has managed to bring back the magic.

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Boyggenius eclipses the sad-girl music stereotype

BY KINSEY BURR
STAFF WRITER

While on the international tour of their debut album, “the record,” indie-rock, all-girl band Boygenius released an EP titled “the rest” on Oct. 15. In these four tracks, Julien Baker, Phoebe Bridgers and Lucy Dacus rely on cryptic, emotion-inducing lyricism infused with passionate symbolism that transcends the sad-girl music stereotype, producing emotive poetry.

On opening track “Drunk In Love,” Baker in the rain adoring a black hole that seems to create stars rather than consume them in “Black Hole” — a track that Baker said she wrote in a NASA article about the galactic phenomena that explores unexpectedly beautiful aspects of destruction. Bridgers and Dacus harmonize as they recall a relationship that tested her boundaries over blunt guitar chords and a faint siren’s song that builds throughout the last verse, and the way Dacus recalls a relationship that tested her mental health. “Each Other” is a track that Baker said was inspired by a NASA article about the importance of astrobiology, emphasizing the idea that there might be life in unexplored places.

As the song ends, Bridgers is alone, looking back on her past from a place of comfort as she confesses, “But I never imagined a dot quite as pale or as blue / You took it from me, but I would’ve given it to you,” with Baker and Dacus harmonizing beside her. Although, Bridgers is able to see the relationship offered nothing of substance, having at one point consumed her and spit her out with a new sense of wisdom that will guide her future voyages into relationships.

The EP opens with Baker in the rain adhering to a theme woven throughout the EP of relationships and relationships and how they affect one’s life. The EP closes with Bridgers and Dacus harmonizing to a theme of destruction. Bridgers and Dacus harmonize to a theme of destruction. Bridgers and Dacus harmonize as they remember the sad-girl music stereotype, producing emotive simplicity demonstrates the clarity that the majority of the song as she describes her lonely past using vivid imagery of exploration in lyrics to demonstrate her search for meaning in her life. While on the international tour of their debut album, “the record,” indie-rock, all-girl band Boygenius released an EP titled “the rest” on Oct. 15. While on the international tour of their debut album, “the record,” indie-rock, all-girl band Boygenius released an EP titled “the rest” on Oct. 15.
Polar Pardner
ILLUSTRATION BY JOSHUA PANTANO/THE ITHACAN

answers to last issue’s sudoku:

very easy
3 5 6 4 9 7 8 1 2
4 1 8 5 3 2 9 6 7
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The Sudoku Source of “The Ithacan”
BY TESS FERGUSON
SPORTS EDITOR

Since 2021, the Ithaca College field hockey team has been playing for something bigger than victories.

For the past two years, the team has chosen three games each season to dedicate to an important cause — whether it be athletic mental health, chronic illness or equity and inclusion. This season, the team showed its support for the KyleCares Foundation on Sept. 13, LGBTQ Pride Month on Sept. 27 and multiple sclerosis research Oct. 7.

Head coach Kathryn Wahila said the tradition originated from the Ithaca University squash lacrosse team, which hosts similar dedication games each spring. Wahila said she adopted the initiative as a way to still stay involved in community service while underwriting a rigorous season schedule.

“We decided that, in season, to host three awareness games and, out of season, to actually use our hands and get into the community and do some good,” Wahila said.

In the fall, the team is divided into three committees that organize the awareness games in their entirety. The operation consists of choosing an organization to support, deciding which matchup to host the ceremony on and writing an explanatory blurb to be announced just prior to the starting lineups.

Wahila said the coaching staff has minimal involvement in organizing the games and that letting her athletes take the lead is what makes the projects so important.

Junior striker Emma Garver spearheaded the team’s awareness game for the KyleCares Foundation — a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting open communication about the mental health challenges experienced by teenagers and young adults.

Garver said the idea to support the organization can be credited to first-year student striker Caroline Folan, who grew up in the school district that KyleCares originated in. Folan said that organizing the project was a valuable experience in leadership, especially for new athletes on the team.

“It’s such a good learning experience, especially for our [first-year] students,” Garver said. “They came to college and our coaches are present with us an opportunity to organize this ourselves and collaborate with each other to work toward a great cause. It’s great practice for all of us.”

Prior to the first which of the KyleCares awareness game, Garver’s committee offered strips of green tape for the Bombers to wrap on their sticks — a constant reminder of the cause they are supporting.

Garver said her favorite part of the game was offering the same tape to the opposing team as well, the SUNY Cortland Red Dragons.

“Sometimes people think it’s weird to involve the other team, especially because it was our Cortland game, but it was nice to give them that and know that we both working toward the same goal,” Garver said. “Supporting such a great cause on top of it being a big rivalry game gave us that extra push because we knew we were playing for something bigger.”

In similar fashion to the KyleCares committee, junior midfielder Meara Bury took the lead on the multiple sclerosis awareness game with her family and teammates in mind.

More commonly known as MS, multiple sclerosis is a chronic disease of the central nervous system that, in progressed stages, can result in vision and mobility loss. Not only is the cause close to Bury’s heart — as her father has lived with MS for many years — it is also especially close to the heart of the team. Earlier this semester, first-year student striker Brady Sullivan was diagnosed with MS as well.

Bury said she organized the awareness game in hopes that the team’s spectators and opponents might walk away with more knowledge on a disease that she thinks is often overlooked.

“There are so many different types of this disease and so many progressions of it,” Bury said. “There are some people, like Brady, who can still play the sport they love and their lifestyle hasn’t changed much, whereas in my dad’s situation, he’s had the disease for a lot longer and a more progressed version of it. He’s in a wheelchair, so all those physical aspects of his life were kind of taken away from him. I hope it educates some people that the disease is out there and it looks different for everyone.”

Sullivan said that when Bury approached her to make sure she was comfortable with the idea, she was immediately on board and eager to help in any way she could.

“It was really a no-brainer,” Sullivan said. “A huge part of my journey so far has kind of been figuring out what my purpose is. I know that going through something like this at this age, there has to be somebody out there that is going through the same thing that I can potentially advocate for and help through it.”

During the awareness game, the Bombers all sported orange ribbon temporary tattoos to symbolize the cause they were playing for.

Sullivan said the atmosphere of the MS game was particularly electric, as the cause amplified the team’s already strong sense of camaraderie.

“That day, I felt incredibly rallied behind and lifted up,” Sullivan said. “It reminded us that we’re a family and that we’re all supporting each other through all of the hard things we go through. Yes, it was a specific day that we were raising awareness for MS, but every game has a purpose. By letting her team organize awareness games each year, Wahila said she hopes her athletes can continue to recognize the importance of community service and getting involved beyond the playing field.

“Ultimately, I hope they’re able to carry the momentum and the lessons we’ve learned to their own teams and use it to spread awareness,” Wahila said. “I hope every moment they can make a difference, whether it’s helping people in need or inspiring others to support causes that are important to them.”

Junior striker Emma Garver transitions the ball upfield during the Bombers’ KyleCares Foundation awareness game Sept. 13.

Junior striker Natalie Descalzo dodges past sophomore defender Keira Lamb during the team’s PRIDE awareness game Sept. 27.

Junior striker Natalie Descalzo dodges past sophomore defender Keira Lamb during the team’s PRIDE awareness game Sept. 27.

First-year student midfielder Audrey McMahon runs down the starting lineup wearing an orange ribbon in honor of the team’s multiple sclerosis awareness game against St. Lawrence University.

Wahila said that since she started the tradition in 2021, she has always made a point to pull her athletes together and remind them what they are playing for that day. Whether it be mental health, inclusivity or family — whatever the cause may be — it is the reason the Bombers play this season.

(ANA GAVILANES/THE ITHACAN)
Cheer team raises money to compete at national level

BY JADYN DAVIS
SENIOR WRITER

From 2014 to 2019, the Ithaca College cheerleading team competed annually in the NCAA Collegiate Nationals in Daytona Beach, Florida. However, after being unable to attend the competition for the past four years because of funding issues, the team’s fundraising efforts in 2023 might allow it to represent the college once again at the biggest stage in Spring 2024.

Founded in 2001, the team has been competing at a variety of the college’s sporting games—most notably football games like the annual Cortaca Jug game against SUNY Cortland. While they occupy a niche position at the college, the team’s status as a club sport has made it difficult to raise enough money to compete in nationals for the past four years because the team is primarily self-funded.

Junior Audrey (Betsy) Brody, who has been a part of the team since her first year, said the main reason the team has been struggling financially is because of the expenses that go into uniforms, travel and making sure the coaches get paid, something she said was a major concern for the team. Brody said the team’s head coach, Kristin Egel, was hired by the college, while the two assistant coaches—physical therapy graduate students Summer Stevens and Alex DeSantis—were part of the team during their undergraduate years.

“Cheer is a really expensive sport,” Brody said. “We compete against varsity-level teams who have funding from their schools. So we kind of have to make the price that they all pay but we don’t get that funding.”

Brody said the team needs close to $15,000–$20,000 to get to Daytona and is doing well toward that goal.

Brody said money from the Office of Campus Recreation is allocated throughout club sports teams every academic year. However, Brody said the amount of money the teams receive has decreased since the COVID-19 pandemic, which has made it more difficult for the team to compete in nationals.

In 2021, the club sports program’s budget saw a significant decrease from $90,625 to just $50,000.

Sean Riley, associate director for Campus Recreation, said via email that the money allocated to the recreational teams depends on the team’s schedule and needs like league memberships, facility rentals and travel cost.

Riley also said that even though the Office of Campus Recreation is able to offset 25–30% of funds for club sports, it is important for teams to continue fundraising in addition to the funding from the office is not always guaranteed.

“Our office offers some guidance to club sports on where fundraisers have been successful in the past and we help and new alternativa and fundraisers opportunities, but most of the work of raising money is the responsibility of individual club sports,” Riley said via email.

The team has hosted multiple events to raise money, including car washes and selling popcorn and Krispy Kreme donuts.

Senior Men’s lacrosse team.

“I liked health and science in high school and I always knew I wanted to be involved in a career that helps people physically and mentally, so it’s important that I know the physical and mental demands that they are going through,” Reynolds said. Student-athletes studying health sciences might have an edge in the field given that they see the course material in action every day on the playing field.

“They’ve been practicing on the field and they finally get a chance to really see how the human body works and learn about it,” Reynolds said. “Seeing the lightbulb effect when they begin to learn the names of the muscles in the body and figure out the different bones and joints in the body is something I really appreciate because they get to learn about their own craft and learn the academic side of it all.”

Junior Juliana Valli is one of 13 students on the Ithaca College field hockey team who are pursuing degrees in health sciences.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MELISSA TESKA, NOLAN SANDERS/THE ITHACAN

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Junior striker Emma Garver embraces senior striker Avery Moses as they celebrate with their teammates after Moses’ game-winning goal in overtime against the University of Rochester on Oct. 15 at Higgins Stadium. The Bombers improved to 11-4 on the season after their win during their senior recognition game.