

ACCURACY • INDEPENDENCE • INTEGRITY

LIFE & CULTURE | page 9

BOOKSTORES IN ITHACA PROMOTE DIVERSE TEXTS



OPINION | page 7

VACANCIES NEED TO BE FILLED FOR IC TO SUCCEED



SPORTS | page 13

LACROSSE TRICK OR TREATS FOR A CHARITABLE CAUSE

Ithaca feels the social and cultural impacts of the Israel-Hamas war



A picture taken from Israel's southern city of Sderot shows smoke rising during Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip on Sunday Oct. 29. Israel's retaliation of Hamas' Oct. 7 attack started Oct. 13 with airstrikes, ground forces and blockades.

COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**BY VIVIAN ROSE,
LORIEN TYNE**

CO-LIFE AND CULTURE EDITOR,
NEWS EDITOR

The Ithaca College community — like many communities around the world — has felt the impacts of the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine, especially following the current war. After Hamas led an attack in Israel on Oct. 7, killing hundreds of civilians, Israel began retaliation Oct. 13, which is ongoing and has shut down Gaza.

This is the fifth and most deadly war for both Israel and Gaza since the beginning of the conflict in 1948. The attack on Israel occurred on Simchat Torah, a Jewish holiday, and at least 199 people were taken hostage by Hamas, some of whom are children, according to reports from the Israeli government. The previous wars took place in 2008, 2012, 2014 and 2021.

The Palestinian Health Ministry has reported at least 8,600 Palestinians killed and over 20,000 wounded in Gaza and the West Bank. More than 1,400 Israelis have been killed, most in the Oct. 7 attack, according to Nov. 1 reports from the Associated Press. Both Hamas and the Israeli military have reported that Hamas is holding about 240 hostages. Airstrikes continue to hit Gaza in residential

areas, where most of Hamas' military infrastructure is located. Hospitals in Gaza are anticipating to run out of fuel Nov. 2, which means essential medical equipment will be useless. In addition to fuel, Israel has also cut off access to clean water, according to AP News.

Mohammed Deif, leader of Hamas' military, said the attack was in response to raids inside the West Bank; Israel's blockade of Gaza; violence at the Al-Aqsa Mosque; increasing Jewish settlers on Palestinian land; and a rising number of attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinians.

While students cope with the war from afar, Hillel at Ithaca College hosted a pop-up therapeutic art studio Oct. 18–27 for students who needed to take a step back from the news and social media coverage of the war. D. Gershon Lewental, 2003 graduate of Cornell University and associate editor at the Journal of Persianate Studies, said mental health support is the key resource that colleges should be offering to students right now. Lewental is currently based in Israel and is an alumnus of Cornell's Club of Israel.

“Colleges should also be focusing on mental health for both Israeli and Palestinian students as well as others who might be affected,” Lewental said. “Another thing would be strong statements

by university administration. ... I think that that was a very important step because it says there are red lines, there are things which are unacceptable.”

Written threats were made against Jewish students on Cornell University's Greekrank forums Oct. 29. One post made to the Greek life platform threatened a shooting at 104West!, which is the location of Cornell's Center for Jewish Living and the kosher dining hall. Cornell University junior Patrick Dai was arrested Oct. 31 for posting threats of violence against the Jewish community at Cornell and stayed in Broome County jail overnight, where he will remain for the time being. He appeared in federal court Nov. 1 in Syracuse, New York, and was charged with Interstate Communications. Dai will appear in court again for a preliminary hearing Nov. 15.

“The threats from Patrick Dai, calling for threatening acts against Jewish people in Ithaca, was a major wake up call,” Ethan Beer, a Jewish student at Ithaca College, said via email. “We can no longer think ‘this could not happen here’ because it has. ... We need everyone to speak up, not just Jews, but the Ithaca community as a whole to make sure we do not repeat history.”

In 2022, eight swastikas were

found on Ithaca College's campus. While no known threats have been made to anyone at the college during this semester, security was increased after the shooting threat at 104West!. Ithaca College President La Jerne Cornish sent a message to the campus community Oct. 10 in which she encouraged everyone who is not directly affected by the war to offer compassion and empathy to those who are.

“As always, my thoughts are with the members of our campus community, along with our families, friends, and colleagues, many of whom are directly affected,” Cornish said. “Like all people, we deserve to live in a world without violence, especially against civilians, including innocent children.”

Junior Richard Martin is Palestinian on his mother's side and said he has been consuming media related to the conflict since 2018. Martin said he has received support from people around him but that the institutional response from the college has been disappointing. He said that when Cornish sent the original response to the war Oct. 10, he was not surprised that there was only one brief mention of people in Gaza.

“I read through it, and we were essentially a footnote,” Martin said. “People love to default to

Vacancies boost budget surplus

BY NOA RAN-RESSLER

ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

As Ithaca College advertises for open positions in faculty, staff and administration and experiences high turnover rates, it is important to examine how the vacancies impact the college community.

Kirra Franzese, associate vice president and chief human resources officer in the Division of Human Resources, said via email that the number of vacancies at the college varies day-to-day because people come and go often.

Each fiscal year, the college forms an operating budget, taking into account operating revenue and operating expenses. One of the considerations for expenses is paying for the college's employee salaries.

For the 2024 fiscal year — July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024 — the college has budgeted \$6 million for position vacancies across the college, including faculty, staff and administration, according to Tim Downs, chief financial officer and vice president in the Division of Finance and Administration, at the Sept. 21 Dollars and Sense presentation.

“We've already accounted for \$6 million of [vacancies],” Downs said during his presentation. “So we've reduced ... the salary benefits for our budget for everybody, and then we counted in a vacancy factor.”

VACANCIES, PAGE 4

FAFSA release in December

BY KAI LINCKE

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The 2024–25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid will be released on an unspecified date in December 2023 with several updates outlined in the U.S. Department of Education's FAFSA Simplification Act.

The act was passed in 2021 and outlined several changes to the form and processes that the government uses to determine federal student aid. Changes will be full implemented for the 2024–25 FAFSA form, which include restructuring the methodology used to calculate aid and expanding eligibility for the Pell Grant, which are intended to remove barriers and increase access to financial aid. The FAFSA form has been available by Oct. 1 since 2016, but because of the simplification, the 2024–25 FAFSA form will now be released in December.

Students complete the FAFSA form each year to apply for federal student aid — including Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, direct subsidized loans, federal work-study and the federal Pell Grant — to pay for the cost of college for that year. The FAFSA also informs states and schools about how much aid a student should receive.

Shana Gore, interim associate vice

WAR, PAGE 4

FAFSA, PAGE 4

Nation & World News

Maine shooting kills 18, injures 13 and shooter dies by suicide

The shooter who killed 18 people at a Lewiston bowling alley and bar in Maine on Oct. 25 believed those businesses were broadcasting online that he was a pedophile, according to documents released by the Maine State Police.

Another 13 people were injured between the two sites of the mass shooting, which amounted to the deadliest such incident in the U.S. this year and the deadliest in Maine's modern history. After a two-day manhunt, the shooter, 40-year-old Army reservist Robert R. Card II, was found dead Friday from a self-inflicted gunshot.

Gov. Hochul directs \$75 million toward anti-hate policing in NY

Gov. Kathy Hochul declared in a rare address on Tuesday that New York State has "zero tolerance" for hate, outlining new anti-hate police investments appealing to New Yorkers' sense of shared community and seeking to soothe Jewish and Muslim New Yorkers who have been rattled by threats as a bloody war rages in Israel and Gaza.

"We cannot let the fervor and passion of our beliefs devolve into a blind righteousness that cannot see different viewpoints," Hochul said. "And the safety and security of New Yorkers cannot — and will not — be

threatened without consequences."

In remarks from Manhattan, Hochul laid out a series of steps she said the state would take to root out hate — directing \$75 million toward the prevention of hate crimes, expanding the state police unit that monitors threats on social media, and ordering for a comprehensive review of anti-discrimination policies at the City University of New York.

Kamala Harris set to unveil \$200 million AI fund from foundations

Vice President Kamala Harris is poised to announce an investment of more than \$200 million from philanthropic foundations to finance artificial intelligence advancements as part of the White House's effort to guide the quickly developing technology, according to an administration official.

The investment aligns with the Biden administration's broader goals of promoting AI innovation that protects consumers and supporting international rules for the nascent technology. The funders are also prioritizing initiatives focused on safeguarding democracy, assisting workers facing AI-driven changes and improving the transparency around AI.

'Friends' star found dead in hot tub, cause of death unknown

Actor Matthew Perry's body was not waterlogged when paramedics found him dead



Experts say Earth is in 'uncharted territory'

Massive wildfires in Canada, Greece and Hawaii; hurricanes like the one that devastated Acapulco last week; and record heat waves. Many vital signs of the Earth's health like gas emissions are at record environmentally harmful levels.

COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

in his hot tub Oct. 21. Perry's assistant, whom he'd sent on an errand after he played pickleball earlier that day, arrived at the residence to find him unresponsive. An official cause of death has not yet been determined.

While a toxicology report will not be ready for a minimum of six weeks, no illegal substances were found at the residence of

the five-time Emmy nominee, who had been candid about his history with alcoholism and substance abuse. Authorities did discover prescription anti-anxiety and anti-depressant drugs, as well as a medication for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

SOURCE: TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

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On the blood-red carpet at the 54th Annual Golden Doorknob Awards

The Roy H. Park School of Communications celebrates the 54th Annual Golden Doorknob Awards during Alumni Weekend to celebrate the talent of Ithaca College film students.



'Popcorn Premieres' - "Killers of the Flower Moon" (2023)

Join host first-year student Logan Thompson with guests Lily Ashman and Anthony Vicendese. The three discuss pacing, drama and the actors' performances as they dive into the details of the plot.

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Bomber Entrepreneurship Network holds first event

BY KAELEIGH BANDA

STAFF WRITER

Ithaca College's new Bomber Entrepreneurship Network hosted its inaugural event Oct. 12 at the Harvard Club in Boston. Panelists spoke about their experiences in their perspective fields as entrepreneurs and advised students.

The Bomber Entrepreneurship Network was created in a partnership with Michael Johnson-Cramer, dean of the School of Business; Quincy Davidson, associate vice president of engagement; and Brett Bossard, executive director of alumni and family engagement.

Johnson-Cramer said they wanted to create a space where aspiring entrepreneurs and experienced mentors could come together and network. The program was made possible by a donation of an undisclosed amount from Tom Grape '80. The students paid \$100 each for the trip, but the event was also combined with another event called "Meet the Firms." The "Meet the Firms" trip was three days long and consisted of a visit to the Cambridge Innovation Center, an alumni dinner and meetings with successful entrepreneurs throughout Boston.

"The idea is really to access and activate the entrepreneurial community in each of the geographies that we have significant alumni bases," Johnson-Cramer said.

Faculty, staff, alumni and 14 students attended the event. Johnson-Cramer said the students had to submit an application and resume to be considered and only a few were



Ithaca College's School of Business created the new Bomber Entrepreneurship Network, which held its inaugural event Oct. 12 in Boston where students interacted with alumni in a variety of industries.

COURTESY OF JONATHAN CHALMERS

selected. The event provided students with the opportunity to gain experience networking and listen to professionals from different industries. They were able to have conversations with panelists and gain feedback on some of their ideas.

Johnson-Cramer said the Bomber Entrepreneurship Network is a first step toward enhancing the range of professional networks available, which can continue to add value throughout an alumnus' life. He said he wanted to create a program that further connected aspiring entrepreneurs with experienced mentors.

"That kind of cross-fertilization across generations is such a neat part of the idea of creating lifelong learning," Johnson-Cramer said.

One of the panelists was Joshua Milne '96, who is the co-founder and COO of Boston Sports Partners, a sports and entertainment marketing agency, and the founder of Joshua Milne PR.

Milne spoke highly of his experiences in the sports information and communications program. This major no longer exists, but it has melded into the current sports media major. He said professors helped create a

network for him that got him where he is today.

"In the sports world in particular, it's not what you know, it's who you know," Milne said. "So because of the relationships that those professors in the school have created, and because of how well-received Ithaca College students are within the industry, it's been a lot easier to get my foot in the door."

Chris Palmieri '96, president and CEO of Commonwealth Care Alliance, was another panelist. Commonwealth Care Alliance provides individualized healthcare to people

in severe need. His company also has other businesses, including Winter Street Ventures, which invests in entrepreneurial ideas.

"As I was a graduating senior, many alumni were reaching out to me to interview me and give me opportunities," Palmieri said. "That was really important to me that I had both. First of all, the academic opportunity to get real-life experience, but then also the potential to get employed through others who have gone through the programs that I went through years prior."

The connections the alumni network provides have paved the way for countless student careers. Senior Miles Olivetti said he was able to make valuable connections at the networking event.

"It felt like the business owners wanted Ithaca students to work for their companies, which felt good," Olivetti said. "It felt like we were needed."

Milne advised students to not give up after rejection and not take failures personally.

"At some point, you just kind of have to jump in and kind of be willing to be flexible and pivot as the business grows," Milne said.

Junior Nina Kiria also said she had a rewarding experience at the event, as she was able to have one-on-one conversations with alumni.

"It makes me motivated to have them as an example," Kiria said. "If they could achieve it, I could achieve it too because they also were in my position at some point."

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Ithaca Carshare makes comeback after NY legislation

BY KADEN SHAE

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Ithaca Carshare Program, a membership-based nonprofit that offers 24/7 access to vehicles for members, has announced it will reopen services starting in March 2024 after a bill was passed allowing the nonprofit to acquire auto insurance.

The program was put on pause back in May due to a loss of car insurance. The Carshare previously received insurance through an out-of-state company, but the agreement ended May 22. A state regulation prevented nonprofits from receiving insurance through out-of-state risk retention groups, which are insurance companies owned by their members.

State Senator Lea Webb introduced bill number S05959 to allow nonprofits throughout the state of New York to receive insurance through risk retention groups. Ithaca Carshare faced the threat of permanent closure if the bill did not pass.

The bill was signed into law by New York Governor Kathy Hochul on Sept. 15 following a unanimous vote by the Legislature. Webb and Assembly member Anna Kelles held a press conference on the same day and thanked Hochul for signing the bill.

"Ithaca Carshare has served the City of Ithaca and its surrounding communities for over 15 years, providing an equitable and sustainable means of transportation to over 1,500 Ithacans who utilize the service and who eagerly await its return," Webb said at the press conference.

Webb said Ithaca Carshare makes transportation accessible for Ithaca locals who cannot afford to own a car or who choose not to own one to reduce their environmental impact.

Daniel Keough, a former graduate student



The New York State Legislature passed a bill in September that will allow Ithaca Carshare to obtain auto insurance, meaning the carshare can reopen in March 2024.

COURTESY OF ITHACA TIMES

at Cornell University, said via email that he used the carshare while he was studying at Cornell. Keough said he feels that the carshare provides a critical service to the Ithaca community.

"Having an option to have a car, or a pickup truck for short trips when you need one where you don't have to pay hundreds of dollars per month for car payments, insurance, hassle with moving it or getting tickets, especially during snowy times of year, is really great," Keough said.

Individuals can register for the carshare program by completing an online application through the Ithaca Carshare website. Individuals must be 18 years or older and have a clean driving record of at least two years to qualify. Those who qualify can expect to start driving in between 1-3 business days.

The Carshare has an initial \$20 applicant fee followed by two payment levels, those for people who use the cars less than six hours a month and those who do not. The price is \$7.50 a month or \$35 a month, respectively, or \$75 and \$355 for yearly payments.

Liz Field, director of the Ithaca Carshare Program, said the program has suffered financial and physical losses as a result of the pause, which has lasted for more than five months.

Field sent an email Nov. 1 to members of the Ithaca community to ask for donations. In the email, Field said the carshare has lost \$470,000 since the pause started in May. The carshare has furloughed most staff members, sold its four oldest cars and received \$75,000 in grants, but currently has a more than \$100,000 budget

gap. Field asked people to donate to help the carshare reach its \$10,000 donation goal by the end of 2023. Field said this will cover the cost of inspections, oil changes, registrations and repairs to help prepare the cars for use.

Fernando de Aragon, director of the Tompkins County Transportation Council, said the carshare program is part of the Center For Community Transportation and they will work together to ensure the program has as smooth a return as possible.

"We are different entities, but we're going to help any way we can," De Aragon said. "We can usually be a good intermediary with state agencies, so we're going to offer support when they need it."

The Transportation Council works with several different programs to ensure that Tompkins County is properly served for available transportation, including but not limited to the Carshare, TCAT and Ithaca Bike Rental.

De Aragon also said the Carshare program received immense support at the State Legislature from the community.

"There were close to a thousand bills passed in the last session of the legislature, and we heard from a governor's staffer that it had become the most contentious bill of them all," De Aragon said. "They had plenty of people calling to ask why the bill hadn't been passed yet."

Field said she hopes that the carshare can move past the shutdown and pursue more innovation after reopening.

"We had expansion plans last year but obviously had to put those on pause, but hopefully, come 2024-25, we'll have the grants to expand and purchase electric vehicles," Field said.

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FROM WAR, PAGE 1

defending the state instead of just mourning lives lost. . . . There's at least two of us [Palestinians]. So, I get it, we're not a very present force, but you shouldn't have to have pressure from a student population to say the right thing."

Zainab Al Ahmad, a first-year international student, is from the borders between Lebanon and Palestine. She said she has felt supported by her friends and professors on campus but wishes there was more aid for Gazans.

"I'm not happy with Israelis being killed because humans have lives and dreams," Al Ahmad said. "I think the best way is to end the war because [Israel] is not stopping bombing people."

Al Ahmad said her family is safe where they are now, but there is fear in not knowing what will happen next.

"It's really sad and distressing, and I cannot do anything because I'm away from home," Al Ahmad said. "So I cannot do anything, just watching news every day."

Beer said he has been finding it especially hard to see incorrect reporting about the war because he knows people directly impacted. Beer attended the United Synagogue Youth group and went to the Leffell School, a private Jewish high school in New York. He said one person he knew in the USY community, Omer Neutra, joined the Israeli military and is currently being held hostage by Hamas,



Cornell University students and members of the community gathered to protest in support of Palestine and the citizens of Gaza and the West Bank on Oct. 25 on the Arts Quad at Cornell.

MING DEMERS/THE CORNELL DAILY SUN

according to Israeli officials.

"[Hamas] is not discriminating against who they're taking hostage," Beer said. "It's not like they're just taking IDF troops hostage, they're holding innocent civilians from multiple different countries, including America, which . . . really hurts me, knowing that some people are going to be like, 'This is a good thing.' No, there are other ways to revolt that don't involve harming anyone."

Martin said he thinks many people in the U.S. do not fully understand the conflict in the Middle East or the racism and

antisemitism in the U.S. that have risen as a result.

"The other part that kind of frustrates me is when I do see antisemitic comments around this issue, a lot of times, people automatically assume it's us [Palestinians] and usually it turns out it's some white supremacist Nazis taking advantage of the opportunity and they don't care about us," Martin said. "They're not 'free Palestine' people."

Lewental said this is a hard moment for students — especially for those who are Israeli or Palestinian. He said some students

are made to feel responsible for the actions of nations at war, when in reality, they are disconnected from the war. In order to slow tensions, Lewental suggested that having open discussions, perhaps moderated by faculty, would help students listen to each other. He said this type of conversation should be available at colleges and universities across the country.

"It is possible to have educated discussions about the political situation," Lewental said. "But I also think that empathy is needed."

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FROM FASFA, PAGE 1

president of Enrollment and Student Success at Ithaca College, said that if the form is released after winter break starts Dec. 16, it will be more difficult to help students.

"We do plan to have people answering, monitoring email and things [during break,] but I won't have the level of staff that we normally have," Gore said.

Gore said all students who applied early decision and some students who applied early action in previous years received their financial aid packages from the college in December or January.

Gore said the college will provide an estimated financial aid package for students accepted for Fall 2024, but the college cannot provide a four-year financial forecast as it did for incoming students in Fall 2022 and 2023 until it has the FAFSA information. In previous years, the information that students record on the FAFSA form has been used to calculate the Expected Family Contribution. The EFC is a number that considers students and their parents' ability to pay for college and eligibility for financial aid. Colleges must start using a Student Aid Index for the 2024–25 form, instead. Gore said the EFC was lowered for students with siblings who were attending college at the same time. The SAI will not consider this any longer.

Pell Grant Changes

The Pell Grant is federal grant aid, which typically does not have to be repaid, for students who demonstrate significant financial need. Pell Grant eligibility will be calculated based on the student's family size and their families' Adjusted Gross Income compared to the federal poverty levels.

Junior Nathan Zakim said that he receives subsidized and unsubsidized federal loans and that he has four jobs on campus to earn money to repay the loans. He said he is glad the Pell Grant eligibility requirements expanded but thinks the calculations do not accurately reflect a student's ability to pay.

"My parents have bills and they have car payments and mortgages and insurance payments," Zakim said. "Even if it's a standard and it's mathematical government procedure, it doesn't account for individual experiences."

Accessibility

Sophomore Kendra Atstupenas is a first-generation college student who receives subsidized loans and a Pell Grant. Atstupenas said she submitted the FAFSA late before her first year at the college because the requirements were unclear.

"This whole process was new to me," Atstupenas said. "My parents didn't fill out FAFSA so . . . filling out the FAFSA was a huge stressful thing because I didn't know how to do it."

Atstupenas said she just started to understand the process to complete the form after doing her own research and is concerned that the format and requirements are changing again. She said she hopes that the Department of Education will provide clear guidance about the changes.

The Brookings Institute reported that the FAFSA's complexity and students' lack of understanding of the cost of college and their options for financial aid have acted as barriers to applying for or attending college. Federal Student Aid's 2024–25 FAFSA Roadmap states that the FAFSA simplification process should make the process easier overall, as some questions will be cut and simplified.

Gore said the college is trying to provide as much information as possible for prospective and continuing students as they wait for the FAFSA information and will post all updates about the process to the 2024–25 FAFSA Simplification website page.

"This is a year where things are kind of developing and changing as we move," Gore said. "Anytime that they have questions or concerns when it comes to the financial aid piece . . . [they should] reach out and have a conversation, share their concerns."

FROM VACANCIES, PAGE 1

Downs said \$4 million of the total is how much the college is saving by not paying those salaries, and \$2 million is how much the college is saving by not paying the benefits associated with those salaries.

Marc Israel, associate vice president in the Division of Finance and Administration, said that in order to calculate the 2024 budget, the college looked at past years to calculate how much to expect to pay for employee salaries.

Israel said that in the past, the college has calculated its budget assuming all positions will be filled. For the current fiscal year, calculations were made looking back three to four years before COVID-19 affected how many people were working in person.

"We just look over time and there's a factor of percentage and it changes each year," Israel said. "The students are factored in there too. So we really do it from a global perspective. . . . And that's gotten us pretty close, with last year being tricky worldwide, where it was a struggle to sell dining positions and some facilities positions."

Israel said the college has seen increased hires in dining services positions, which are the most common vacancies.

Michelle Hammond, senior director of human resources operations, said the college managed to fill many dining positions because of part-time casual dining hires who do not have full-time contracts and are hired on a rolling basis. She said the college also increased recruitment efforts through job fairs.

"These part-time casual [dining positions] . . . can be a great sort of introduction to folks working, and if they are doing well and want to continue in an ongoing capacity," Hammond said. "So, as we have those openings, we're able to hire people into those openings."

Franzese said the college has a comprehensive advertising plan for promoting open positions. She said the college posts on the Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside Higher Ed, HigherEdJobs.com and Upstate New York Higher Education Recruitment Consortium.

"Additional strategies include [making]



Ithaca College is saving \$6 million total as a result of vacancies, but the impacts of the missing employees are straining students, staff and faculty in the institution.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

personal contacts, reaching out to graduate programs in the field of study [and] seeking recommendations of candidates from groups that are underrepresented in the department," Franzese said via email.

Impact of vacancies on an institution

Manya Whitaker, executive vice president and chief of staff at Colorado College, writes regular columns for The Chronicle of Higher Education about career-related trends in higher education.

Whitaker said the impact of vacancies, especially in administrative roles, can cause distrust among college employees and misalignment with overall strategic goals.

"Even when the positions aren't vacant for a long time, if there's lots of turnover [and] a new VP, a new president comes in and they steer the vision of the institution in a slightly different direction," Whitaker said. "So it can actually create a lot of mistrust, and just a lot of inefficiencies."

Whitaker said that when there are vacant positions in the president's cabinet, like vice president positions or equivalents, the college's leadership may have trouble implementing the vision and goals of the college.

"[Vacancies] can be really hard on the people who work within that division, but it's equally as hard on the president and on the rest of the cabinet members because you're missing a teammate," Whitaker said. "When you're having college-wide strategic conversations, if you don't have somebody there representing that position, it's hard."

Franzese said the process for hiring faculty looks different in the short term compared to the long term. When a full-time faculty member leaves their position, the teaching needs are filled by contingent faculty who are hired temporarily or by continuing faculty in the short term. In the long term, the annual position allocation process, led by the Teaching Resources Allocation Committee, looks for continuing faculty to fill the faculty positions permanently.

"Not all positions will be replaced if it is determined that we already have the coverage we need before filling that need," Franzese said. "Both staff and faculty vacancies are reviewed each year when forecasting our salary budget for the upcoming fiscal year."

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Q&A: Alum shares steps to career success

Rob Flaherty '13, deputy campaign manager for President Joe Biden, was awarded the Outstanding Young Alumni award from Ithaca College.

Flaherty graduated from the college with a dual degree in politics and television-radio and has overseen Biden's digital campaign since 2019. He was the first White House director of digital strategy to serve at the assistant to the president level. Before working under the Biden Administration, he also worked for Beto O'Rourke, Hillary Clinton, Terry McAuliffe and Svante Myrick, the former mayor of Ithaca.

Contributing writer Reese Schenkel spoke with Flaherty about his steps to success and his work in the White House.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Reese Schenkel: What are common misconceptions about working at the White House?

Rob Flaherty: People think it's like the "West Wing," but it's really like a bunch of "Veep" characters who think they're on "House of Cards." You work with some of the best and brightest and fastest thinking people in

the world and some of the silliest, most ridiculous things also happen.

RS: How do you take on such a large position? What are your steps to create a digital strategy?

RF: I mean, the most important thing is the candidate, and you have to run a program that reflects the authentic sort of vibe of who the person is. I've been lucky to work with the President now for about five years, and we try to run a program that's authentic to him. And then from there, you think about who it is that you need to reach ... and how to sort of translate his value set.

RS: How did Ithaca College prepare you for your career?

RF: The thing that is so great about Ithaca [College] is you don't need to wait a long time in classrooms to go out and try stuff. ... That sort of hands-on experience mixed with good teaching leads to you being really ready when you graduate.

RS: What steps were most helpful to you?

RF: While I was in school, I was working for Mayor Myrick's race. So that was a pretty big one — like actually working on campaigns. I did an internship at the Democratic



Rob Flaherty '13, deputy campaign manager for President Joe Biden, spoke about his time at Ithaca College and his work in the White House.

COURTESY OF ROB FLAHERTY

National Committee. I met some people who helped me get some of my first jobs, so I think that was another one that was really influential. Being able to actually go do things in the wild was really helpful for me. I think it helped sharpen my political instincts even at that point, so that was

super, super clarifying and super helpful.

RS: What's some advice you would give to college students aspiring for a position like yours?

RF: Do an internship, just get your hands dirty as soon as possible. ... [Also] remember that when people like me talk about my career, it always

sounds really linear, like I did this, I did this, I did this, I did this. But at no moment does it ever feel linear. It's not clear what the path is next. So it's important to hold yourself up by your own standards and not other people's.

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Room buyouts return to IC

BY SHEELAGH DOE

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Ithaca College's Office of Residential Life introduced room buyouts in an email to the campus community Oct. 9. This will allow students to purchase a vacancy in their double room in any residential building for either the spring or current fall semester or both.

Room buyouts are only available to those already in a double room without a roommate who wish to keep the vacancy. Buyouts for single rooms in apartments are unavailable. Students will have access to the entire room and its contents.

The college has offered this before, most recently during Spring 2022 as a result of low enrollment following the COVID-19 pandemic. Ryan McCarty, housing specialist at Residential Life's Central Office, clarified information about buyouts.

"There are a large number of vacancies on campus due to class size," McCarty said via email. "We expect class sizes to grow as the last 'Covid Class' will be graduating this upcoming May."

Once a buyout has been approved, the billing can happen at any point during the spring or fall semester, and if both semesters were purchased, there will be separate billing for each one. Fall semester buyouts will cost \$330, and spring semester buyouts will cost \$660. A buyout for both semesters would cost \$990. The Room Buyout Request Form is available on the college's housing portal where students can select the term they would like to purchase a buyout for. There is no deadline for purchasing a room buyout and IC Housing will process requests on a weekly basis.

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'Career Corner' podcast hosts industry professionals

BY LIAM MCDERMOTT

STAFF WRITER

The Center for Career Exploration and Development at Ithaca College released a new podcast titled "Career Corner" on Oct. 19 to give advice to students on how to take their career paths to another level.

"Career Corner" launches a new episode each Thursday on Spotify and Youtube, with guests from a variety of industries who share their experiences and provide guidance for students to navigate their future after college.

Samantha Elebiary, associate director of career engagement and education, said the Center for Career Exploration and Development started working on the podcast in Spring 2023 and began searching for someone to host the podcast.

"The podcast is something that the Career Center team has been talking about for a couple of years now and have wanted to bring it to fruition," Elebiary said.

Senior Kaitlyn Coffey, the producer for "Career Corner," said she applied to join the podcast team because she saw the listing as the perfect opportunity to build her resume. Coffey said she wants to be a producer in the future.

"It's a number of factors," Coffey said. "When I saw the [Center for Career Exploration and Development] was looking for a producer, that really appealed to me."

Elebiary said the position for the podcast host was originally supposed to be hosted by one person. However, Elebiary said she quickly realized that she should involve multiple people with the podcast.

"As it's grown and as we've met a couple

of other students who have interests, we realized that they all bring something really important and special and unique to the team," Elebiary said.

Junior Lukas Kauffman is the host of "Career Corner." He said he wanted to help other students start up their careers.

"I thought it would be a really great opportunity for myself," Kauffman said. "But I also really like the sound of the project and what it would help students with."

Kauffman said he has worked very closely with Coffey to create the script as well as draft the questions they will ask the interviewees.

"I take a look at those questions, tweak them to what I think might make up the best interview, and then add some of my own to kind of expand the kind of baseline," Kauffman said.

With the production side of the podcast figured out, all the team needed now was to get the word out to the college community. That was when they hired junior Kylie Shultz as their marketing and media strategist.

Shultz said she has experience with promoting video but not so much with audio. She said she had to rethink how to make the audio aspect more compelling with the absence of video.

"This is definitely a challenge on my end," Shultz said. "I'm kind of stripping the aspect of video away to just try to make that excitement through the audio."

However, Shultz said she feels good about how the podcast has gone so far.

"So far it's been really exciting and really successful," Shultz said. "I have a lot of high hopes on that end."

"Career Corner" will also feature interviews with alumni about their time at the college as



From left, juniors Lukas Kauffman and Kylie Shultz and senior Kaitlyn Coffey begin, new podcast through the Center for Career Exploration and Development.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

well as their work out in their respective fields.

"We've got some really awesome people on," Coffey said. "I think we've done a good job of booking guests that complement each other."

Shultz even hinted that the podcast might have a high-profile guest on in the future.

"We're trying to keep it a little hush hush because things are still in the works," Shultz said. "But let's say there might be a major member from the IC theater community coming in to make an appearance on a podcast."

So far, the podcast has released four episodes, with guests like Olivia Carpenter '22, founder and owner of Via's Cookies, and Eden Strachan '21, filmmaker and founder of Black Girls Don't Get Love.

Shultz said that she was very optimistic about the launch of the podcast and that people were showing interest in it.

"I think it's a really good track," Shultz said. "Just for students to have an option to just listen in and feel like they can connect to something once a week just to know that they're on the right track and they're doing something right."

Elebiary said she would love to see the podcast run for the foreseeable future.

"We want to be really successful with this podcast and have it run for multiple years," Elebiary said. "We would love to touch on all the different majors."

CONTACT: LMCDERMOTT@ITHACA.EDU

COLLEGE BRIEFS

New members to be inducted into Phi Kappa Phi at ceremony

The Fall 2023 Phi Kappa Phi awards and induction ceremony will be held from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Nov. 9 in the Haines Forum, which is located on the second floor of the Peggy Ryan Williams Building. Phi Kappa Phi is a national honor society that recognizes scholarship in higher education. The following students will be honored at the event: senior Emily Leach will be honored with the John Bernard Award, senior Amanda Lewis will be honored with the Shirley Hockett Award, senior Jess Moskowitz will be honored with the John Harcourt Award, senior and Tommy Zieger will be honored with the Raquib Zaman Award. Kari Brossard Stoops, associate professor in the Department of Health Sciences and Public Health, and Laura Gras, professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, are the faculty who will be honored. Individuals seeking accommodations should send their requests via email to provost@ithaca.edu or via call to 607-274-7918.

College seeks faculty to teach pre-college summer courses

Ithaca College is looking for faculty who are interested in teaching a three-week pre-college summer 2024 course to high school students. The pre-college program will run from July 14 to Aug. 2, 2024, and classes will be held in-person. Students attending the program will either be juniors or seniors in high school.

Faculty who teach the courses will be compensated with \$5653.53 and classes will either be held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Faculty will also receive a Teacher's Assistant for whatever course they are teaching and will receive an extra stipend for class trips and activities. Interested faculty must email jbreton@ithaca.edu by Nov. 17 with a title and brief description of their course, along with the number of credits they would like to offer it for.

'Religion' and 'The Simpsons' to be studied in Winter 2024 course

The virtual course Religion and Rhetoric in America will use the U.S.'s longest running sitcom, "The Simpsons," to examine the portrayal of religion and gender in animated shows. Students will learn about rhetoric by considering how the signs in "The Simpsons" and other television impact viewers. The course will be held during Winter Session Two from Jan. 2 to Jan. 19.

The course fulfills Humanities and Liberal Arts ICC requirements and the Identities theme. Students can look for RLST 12200 to register for the course on Homer Connect.

IT Service Desk extends hours to provide support for registration

The Information Technology Service Desk will provide expanded Spring 2024 registration support in-person or through live chat services, email or the IC service portal. From Nov. 1 to Nov. 9, the desk will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Over the weekend the desk will be open from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays. After Nov. 9, the service desk will go back to its usual schedule, which is from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays.

Two faculty members appointed as new co-directors of FLEFF

Michael Richardson, professor and director of the Screen Cultures Program in the Department of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures, and Andrew Utterson, associate professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences and Studies, have been appointed as co-directors of the Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival. This change comes after the passing of Patricia Zimmerman, who was the director of FLEFF and a Charles A. Dana Professor in the Department of Screen Studies, Media Arts, Sciences and Studies. FLEFF is an annual film festival that features filmmakers and guests from across the world to participate in interdisciplinary debate and discussion.

College will offer four slow read courses during Spring 2024

In Spring 2024, the college will offer four slow read courses, which focus on reading and closely analyzing one large text through the course of a semester. The slow read courses hold one class session each week for one credit and are open to all students, as there are no prerequisites. Students can register for more than one slow read course during the same semester.

Juan Arroyo, assistant professor in the Department of Politics, will teach a slow read course on "Laudato Si", Pope Francis' letter about the environment that was addressed to bishops of the Roman Catholic Church. The course, which is listed as POLT-21000, will meet from 4 to 4:30 p.m. on Mondays and



Faith group invites students into spirituality

First-year student Abigail Mast shuffles her tarot cards before her reading at the Seance Halloween Party hosted by IC Pagans at Muller Chapel on Oct. 30. Students also wore costumes and enjoyed s'mores and candy.

JOHN HENRY DOWNES/THE ITHACAN

will explore the environmental and theological dimensions of the text.

Kasia Bartoszynska, assistant professor in the Department of Literatures in English and coordinator of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality studies program, will offer a slow read course on "Middlemarch" by English author George Eliot. The novel describes a provincial English life through a time of significant technological and social change. The course, ENGL 29400-01, will be held from 2 to 3:15 p.m. on Fridays.

The HIST-20001 course will be taught by Michael Smith, professor in the Department of History, and will explore "Freedom's Dominion: A Saga of White Resistance to Federal Power" by Jefferson Cowie. Cowie won the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for the book, which considers how the opposition to the Civil Rights Movement predicted the current climate of political polarization. Cowie will meet with students enrolled in the course during a campus visit in the spring. The course will meet from 2:35 to 3:50 p.m. on Thursdays.

The final slow read course will be taught by Robert Sullivan, professor in the Department of Literatures in English, and will explore

the Roman epic poem "The Aeneid" by Virgil. The epic poem was written in the style of Greek epic works "Iliad" and "Odyssey" and details how Trojan War survivors founded Rome. The course, ENGL 29400-02 will meet from 4 to 4:15 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Study abroad virtual drop-in sessions to be offered weekly

The Office of International Programs holds weekly drop-in Zoom office hours during the noon hour on Tuesdays or Thursdays, in addition to scheduled appointments. Students who would like more information about finding a study abroad program or exploring study abroad options are welcome to attend, and should bring specific questions to ask an adviser. Students who join the session will either be immediately connected with an adviser or placed in the waiting room until the adviser is ready. Open hours will be held from 12:10 to 1:05 p.m. Nov. 2, Nov. 7, Nov. 16, Nov. 30 and Dec. 5. Students should register for the sessions using the link in the Intercom post and email studyabroad@ithaca.edu with questions or requests for accommodations.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM OCT. 16 TO 23

OCT. 16

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Whalen Center For Music / 146 Conservatory Drive
SUMMARY: Caller reported that a person had blurry vision and was unable to hear. The person was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Jordan Bartolis responded.

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Circle Apartments Building 120 / 120 College Circle
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Patrol Officer Steven Hutchison responded and determined the activation was caused by burnt food.

OCT. 17

FIRE ACTUAL FIRE / FLAME / IGNITION

LOCATION: Circle Apartments

Building 185 / 185 College Circle
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. A pot holder caught fire prior to the officer's arrival. The fire was extinguished. Charlie Sherman, fire and building safety coordinator, responded.

OCT. 18

WELFARE CHECK

LOCATION: Bogart Hall / 334 Grant Egbert Blvd.
SUMMARY: Caller reported third-hand information that a person had made a statement possibly relating to self-harm. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded and determined the person was not an imminent threat to themselves.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Roy H. Park School of Communications
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person

was having an allergic reaction. The person was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Master Patrol Officer Robert Jones responded.

OCT. 19

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Lyon Hall / 412 Grant Egbert Blvd.
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person with back pain was vomiting. The person was transported to the hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Matthew Patire responded.

OCT. 20

PETIT LARCENY UNDER \$50

LOCATION: J-Lot / south Of 143-151 Tower Skyline Drive
SUMMARY: Person reported an unknown person entered a vehicle and stole a parking permit. Patrol Officer Matthew Patire responded.

This is a pending investigation.

OCT. 21

SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS

LOCATION: Terrace 3
SUMMARY: Caller reported an intoxicated person. The person was taken into custody under the mental hygiene law, transported to the hospital by ambulance and referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. Patrol Officer Kevin Noterfonzo responded.

OCT. 22

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Roy H. Park School of Communications
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person had passed out. The person declined medical assistance with ambulance staff. Patrol Officer Connor McCoy responded to the call.

WELFARE CHECK

LOCATION: Garden Apartment 25
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person was upset that other parties would not contact them. Patrol Officer Jordan Bartolis determined the parties were in contact.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / PSYCHOLOGICAL

LOCATION: Hammond Health Center
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person was taken into custody under mental hygiene law and transported to the hospital by ambulance. Patrol Officer Jordan Bartolis responded.

Full public safety log available online at www.theithacan.org.

KEY

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

OPINION

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

7

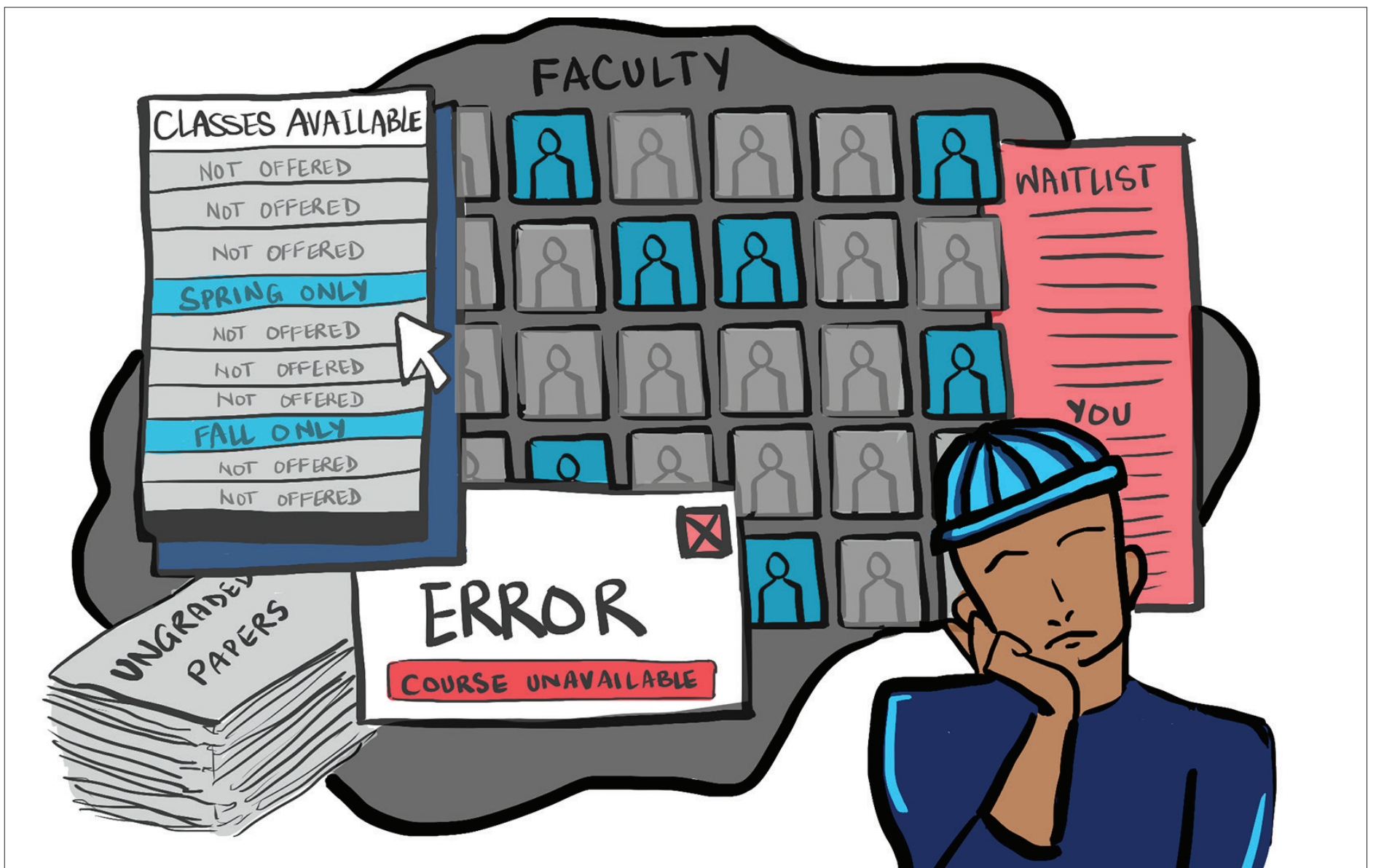


ILLUSTRATION BY ANANYA GAMBHIRAOPET/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

College must fill vacancies sooner rather than later

Position vacancies have been increasingly obvious at Ithaca College and are impacting the experiences of students, faculty and staff alike. It is past time that the college fills these vacancies, as the absence of professors and administration is reaching a point of fundamentally altering students' educations.

For the 2024 fiscal year, the college has dedicated a considerable budget to fill vacancies at the college, which is an important step in the right direction. However, the college has been dealing with these vacancies for multiple years and has yet to fill them.

For students, this has meant that classes they want to take or must take to meet graduation requirements are being offered less frequently or not at all. Students are being forced to waive courses or take substitution classes that may be entirely unrelated to their major. Not only is this a tedious process, but it prohibits students

from taking crucial courses for their own professional development, career trajectories and even enjoyment.

For faculty, this means taking on larger workloads to pick up the slack in open positions, including teaching more classes and overseeing more advisees. This prohibits faculty from giving each student the support they need and deserve and dedicating as much time as they would like to each of their classes.

In administration, this has meant departments and offices going without leadership and crucial resources for students, faculty and staff lacking guidance. These vacancies have impacts that trickle down to the entire college.

It is understandable that the hiring process takes time and due diligence is needed to find the right people. However, the longer that positions remain open, the less stability the college sees. This means that key resources and opportunities cannot be offered to the college community.

Local bookstores uniquely support community needs

Books are a critical tool for educating people on diverse experiences and perspectives, promoting representation and informing critical conversations. Increasingly though, the most important and representative books are being challenged and banned in the U.S. Local independent bookstores are the key to keeping important books in the community.

Independent bookstores serve as a community resource in many ways; they are able to stock books that directly align with local needs and serve as a hub for the community through their events and initiatives. This might mean supporting local authors and publishers or selling books with characters or themes that align with the identities of community members. Chain bookstores that sell on a national level cannot do this in the same way. Additionally, locally-owned businesses keep money in the community and allow customers to support their friends and neighbors.

In 2023, promoting books on diverse topics — and, similarly, the booksellers who

distribute these books — has become increasingly important. Between Jan. 1 and Aug. 31, 2023, the American Library Association saw a 20% increase in book challenges compared to the same period in 2022, which had the largest number of reported book bans since the ALA started compiling this data 20 years ago. These books were largely written by or about BIPOC people or members of the LGBTQ+ community. Attacks on literature by and about diverse people are dramatically on the rise. One way to stop this is to shop at independent booksellers and support BIPOC and LGBTQ+ authors.

Independent bookstores have seen a resurgence since the COVID-19 pandemic with the American Booksellers Association membership growing over the past two years, reaching its highest numbers in 20 years. As of 2022, the ABA has 300 more members than it did in 2019, despite making membership requirements stricter. People must support independent booksellers so that this trend can continue in the interest of both supporting the community and promoting diverse voices.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send to 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 or to the opinion editor 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.



AMINATTA IMRANA JALLOW/THE ITHACAN

PENCILS DOWN

GABE HENDERSHOT

Experiences for students differ

For many students, graduating high school is a given. After all, the process is often spelled out for them and most have a support system to help along the way. In the eyes of these students, the academic standards required by many high schools in order to receive a diploma are not a roadblock. There is also a large portion of students who struggle immensely with these requirements who deserve consideration.

The validity and importance of standardized testing has been brought into question over the last several years. It is important to ensure that teachers are effectively educating students. However, these tests can put undue stress on students and teachers alike.

The presence of a physical or learning disability could easily prevent a student from reaching specific math and reading standards before they can graduate. This is especially true in cases where students are not receiving the proper accommodations for these disabilities.

Even if a student is not dealing with any sort of disability, they may have been raised in an environment that does not value education. Many may be the only ones in their families that have worked toward a high school diploma. Students who are already skeptical about their need for a high school diploma will only be discouraged by these academic standards.

The driving force behind this discussion is the necessity of a high school degree. Most entry-level jobs, trade careers and education programs require a high school diploma. Suppose a student wants to pursue higher education years after they dropped out of high school or have found a career that requires a diploma; they will have to acquire a GED certificate.

A GED is a General Education Development test that assesses much the same topics and areas of study as the standardized tests that are used for high school students. A student who struggled in these areas while trying to get a diploma is likely to struggle as much when trying to acquire a GED certificate independently. Students experiencing emotional or financial stress at home or who have physical or learning disabilities that impede their education are going to have an even harder time. Students who drop out of high school that decide later in life to pursue higher education will have to go through the GED process, possibly years after being taught those subjects in school.

Facing challenges during your education is important for personal and academic growth. It must be considered, though, that a high school diploma is not just a piece of paper that symbolizes personal achievement. It is a key that unlocks a majority of academic and career opportunities. It may even be the thing standing between a student and the ability to afford food or a place to live. Young people should not be held back from achieving the things that they want and need just because they did not meet specific math or literacy benchmarks.

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

AI deserves a seat in every classroom

BY COLIN SHASHATY

SENIOR



Artificial intelligence is here to stay. Companies across the globe are finding ways to incorporate it as a valuable tool. Why are we labeling a beneficial tool used in the professional setting as a threat in the academic environment? If I go into the workforce without knowing how to use AI to my advantage, the Park School of Communications would have failed to prepare me for success.

Companies from various industries are already investing in AI. In February 2023, Coca-Cola partnered with consultants Bain & Company and OpenAI to enhance their marketing strategy by using AI to create personalized ads, messages and pictures. It's genius! In the education industry, Udacity uses ChatGPT to create virtual tutors. Not only are these investments enhancing the product, but they are also cost-effective. Companies have realized how many jobs they don't need because of these advancements.

I've heard of many students and faculty at Ithaca College debate about where the direction of AI tools is heading in the future. According to Statista, the global AI market size will fall just below 2 trillion U.S. dollars by 2030. In 2014, Elon Musk described the growth rate as "the pace of progress in artificial intelligence (I'm not referring to narrow AI) is incredibly fast. Unless you have direct exposure to groups like Deepmind,



Senior Colin Shashaty writes about the importance of embracing and learning about artificial intelligence in the academic setting to better prepare students for success.

PARINPIX - STOCK.ADOBE.COM

you have no idea how fast — it is growing at a pace close to exponential."

Many people feel that AI will massively disrupt our culture if we don't stay up to speed with its development. We're in a bad spot if we don't train the younger minds to learn how to use these tools.

Instead of running from this reality, higher education needs to put us in a position to succeed with this technology and this starts in the classroom. We should be encouraged to use AI tools to jumpstart essays or develop project ideas. We need to learn how to fact-check AI, as it's still developing through glitches.

We must put our students in real-world situations and not hide them from these tools. If society is counting on the younger generation to "change the world," then we must learn about the pros and cons of AI. Together, we can harness the power of AI to solve complex problems, drive innovation and create a world that benefits all.

Colin Shashaty (he/him) is a senior sports media major. Contact him at cshashaty@ithaca.edu.

Portrait by Aminatta Imrana Jallow/The Ithacan

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

Greek organizations must be regulated

BY SK APTACY

SENIOR

"You joined a frat? You know frats and sororities are historically classist, elitist and racist, right? Like inherently so."

Those were my older sister's first words to me when I told her I joined a music fraternity on campus last spring, Sigma Alpha Iota, Chapter Epsilon (SAI). I asked her to explain further.

She started with a story from her anthropology class back at the University of Washington. Her anthropology professor on the first day of class stated, "For those of you who are in frats or sororities on campus, you should know they are a part of institutionalized racism." This professor explained that historically fraternities have been monetarily exclusive and socially exclusive. This is not even mentioning how sexism comes into play; the unsafe environment of many frat parties for women, some hazing practices or even sexist selection processes to get into a sorority.

The next day, half of her class was gone.

After hearing this, I understood better why frats and sororities defend and even promote discrimination in the U.S. It's not too hard to find evidence of this either.

Cornell University had to suspend frat parties about 11 months

ago because of drugged drinks and sexual harassment.

Here at Ithaca College, a decision was made years ago to end affiliated fraternities and sororities on campus because of the overwhelming concern for student safety. Except, three music fraternities were officially allowed to stay. A couple of unaffiliated social ones can still be found as well.

Could professional fraternities give into racist or elitist systems and ways of thinking?

Professional or social, affiliated or unaffiliated, music-based or not, Greek life on campus today still has serious issues and is quite unchecked by the administration. Overall, the system with Greek life at the college has severe flaws that could lead to irreversible damages. Some of the issues are with Greek national organizations, but some are Ithaca College-based.

These flaws include insufficient reporting procedures, incomplete definition of hazing and a lack of communication and connection between Greek life, the Office of Student Engagement and the college administration. Furthermore, there is nothing holding student organizations accountable for creating unsafe spaces and failing to report discrimination to the appropriate administrative bodies.

A safety net with substantial holes in it doesn't make for much of a safety net at all.



Senior SK Aptacy writes about the discriminatory history of fraternities and sororities and the need for regulations.

PRAKRITI PANWAR/THE ITHACAN

There has been racism, discrimination and negligence in the music fraternity SAI this past year. The executive board failed to hold people accountable for hurtful actions and to report incidents to the SAI National board, to the Council of Music Fraternities and to the school.

Executive members of SAI did not act in the way they should have, and some denied the severity of the situation, and even their negligent actions as part of the discrimination.

Now, personally, having talked to a few administrators, a policy framework is more visible to me, but to even search, define and

comprehend current policies was tedious. And what was to be understood? Policies only connected to Greek life by a few dots and overstretching, winding lines. It was and still is baffling to me.

It is obvious that more clear, direct and complete policies need to be in place between music Greek life, the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance and the college overall. This should even include other professional fraternities and their representing schools, as well as unaffiliated groups.

SK Aptacy (she/her) is a senior economics major. Contact her at saptacy@ithaca.edu.

Bookstores in Ithaca create inclusive spaces

BY **KAELEIGH BANDA**
STAFF WRITER

Independent bookstores in Downtown Ithaca are selling diverse literature and creating inclusive spaces for community members to explore a variety of perspectives amid the rise of online shopping and an increase in book banning.

Odyssey Bookstore and Buffalo Street Books are two indie bookstores downtown. Both stores value diversity when choosing what books to sell and their company websites share this intention to make customers aware of their inclusivity. The general manager and lead buyer of Buffalo Street Books, Lisa Swayze, said she wants the store to be a safe place for everyone who walks through the doors.

"We are deliberate in our choices to carry books for the specific community that is Ithaca," Swayze said. "We curate to include a diversity of voices and experiences so everyone in our community can see themselves in the books on our shelves."

Book bans across the world in libraries and schools have caused access to books about diverse topics to be limited. Books that contain content about people of color or mention the LGBTQ+ community are commonly banned. Some parents want to ban books that talk about characters in these communities because they deem them "inappropriate."

To help stand up to this, Swayze said she highlights books that have been banned on the recommended shelf in the store.

"Books reveal shared experiences and offer hope during transitions and difficult times," Swayze said. "Books can be life-saving; why would anyone want to stop that?"

Ithaca's community is naturally diverse because of the large number of students from all over the world attending Ithaca College and Cornell University. Students who come from places where book banning is prominent now can have access to books they never got to read at home.

Owner of Odyssey Bookstore Laura Larson said she makes sure her store is a welcoming place. She said anyone who walks through the doors is immediately greeted and given personalized assistance if requested.

"We greet every single person so anyone who walks through the door can feel seen and engaged," Larson said. "We're welcoming people into our space and letting them know that we're here to connect with them."

PBS annual reports states that systemic racism continues to negatively impact people of color in the United States today and the American Civil Liberties Union also explained that in the beginning of 2023, there were 124



Buffalo Street Books is an indie bookstore in Downtown Ithaca that values diversity and intends for their customers to be aware of this inclusivity, as well as make the store a safe space for anyone who decides to enter the establishment.

KAELEIGH BANDA/THE ITHACAN

bills introduced that negatively targeted the LGBTQ+ community. Book bans, according to the NAACP, represent acts of policy violence that continue to promote anti-blackness in the U.S.

We Need Diverse Books said that understanding the perspectives of the marginalized groups through diverse books can spark more empathy and therefore support as a result.

Through the lens of a book, readers experience many different lives and connect to the stories. This builds a bond between anyone who has read the book or understands that experience.

"I think books are a wonderful way to bring people together and show them what they have in common when, in my opinion, too much of life is focused on what we don't have in common," Larson said.

While books can help readers understand about different perspectives, they can also help readers understand more about their own identity. By learning about lives different from their own, readers envision what they want their lives to look like. According to "Why Diverse Books Matter: Mirrors and Windows" by iColorin Colorado!, having a selection of books by diverse

authors that cover a wide range of subject matter and that cater to any type of reader allows a bookstore to be accessible.

This ensures that anyone who steps in the store can find a book they can see themselves in or discover more about something they never knew existed.

"By having a diverse selection of books on my shelf, I'm helping people find doorways to other perspectives that they may not have access to," Larson said.

Other difficulties that bookstores have, aside from book bans, have been trying to support their small business through the challenges that online shopping poses. The convenience of clicking a button in the comfort of one's own home is appealing to many shoppers, but this means fewer people are going out to shop at local businesses.

"It would be great if more people understood how hard it is to keep an indie bookstore afloat these days," Swayze said. "Our industry is seriously threatened by the Amazon monopoly."

Odyssey Bookstore has a personalized subscription service where customers can share their preferences and get custom books picked out for them. Larson said they only carry one copy of each book they sell to show that every

book deserves to be read, not just the commercially popular ones.

Buffalo Street Books creates a sense of personal community in other ways. The store hosts events and rents out its reading room as a place for people to gather and read books together, hear from authors, learn from lecturers or for a personal event.

For example, one event that they hosted recently was "How to Have Anti-Racist Conversations" with Roxy Manning and Martha Lasley. Roxy Manning is the author of "How to Have Antiracist Conversations: Embracing Our Full Humanity to Challenge White Supremacy." She spoke with facilitator Martha Lasley, a partner at the Authentic Communication Group, and attendees were able to learn more about her work.

Odyssey Bookstore customer Jennifer Chapman said she prefers to support the local bookstore as opposed to Barnes & Noble. Since downtown has many small businesses, if a customer wants a coffee and a book, they can support two local shops at once.

"Here, it gives you an opportunity to support local businesses because there's a local coffee shop and bookstore," Chapman said.

Odyssey Bookstore also has a unique ambiance. The store is sectioned into small rooms with seating and warm lights. Chapman said she likes settling into a seat just to read and stay a while.

"I like the cozy atmosphere and the people are nice," Chapman said. "It also gives me an opportunity to embrace local businesses."

Indie bookstores strengthen communities across the world. Larson said she likes that her store is a place where people can stop and connect for a moment.

"I feel the conversations have ended up being an unintended beautiful consequence," Larson said. "These casual conversations that we get to have all the time and that people sometimes have with each other."

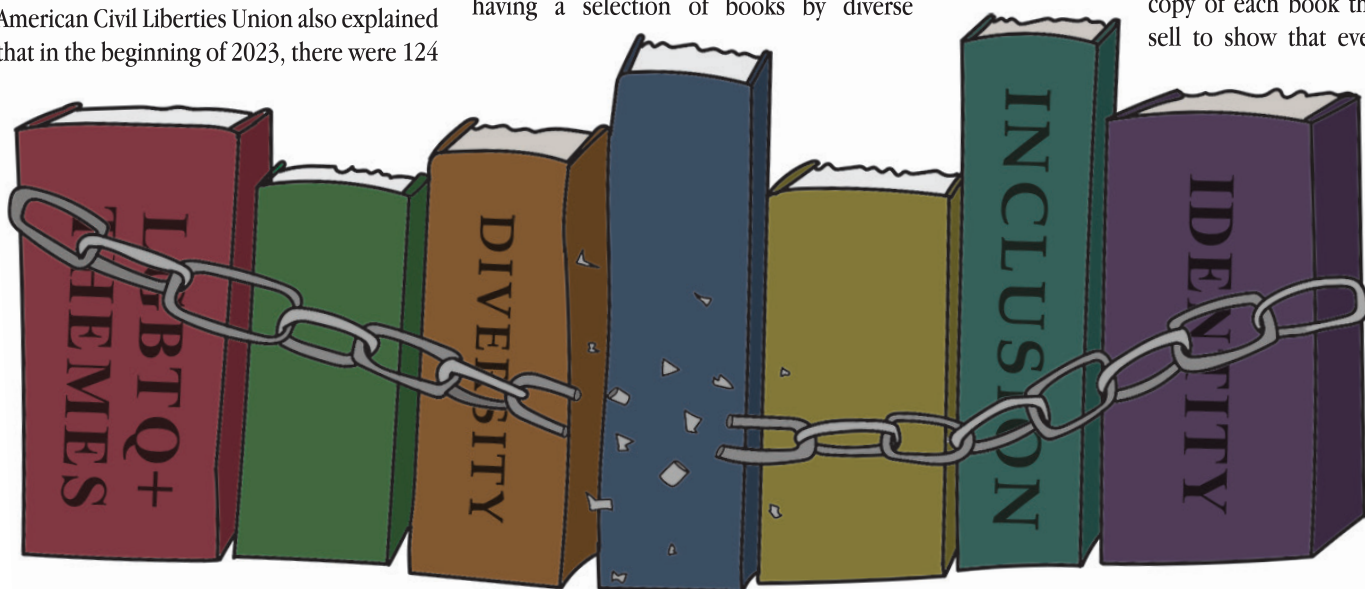


ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN

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Lyrics reflect harmful love

BY GRACE AZAULA

STAFF WRITER

Needing someone. Owning someone. Watching someone. While these disturbing expressions may sound like themes common in horror movies, they can also be used to describe a host of famous “love songs.” Across genres and decades, musicians have sung about love in a way that borders on obsession, thus normalizing a dangerous depiction of what love should look like.

“Every Breath You Take” by The Police is a textbook example of these themes, Sting sings, “Every breath you take / And every move you make / Every bond you break / Every step you take / I’ll be watching you.” These lyrics portray someone who is so infatuated with a person that they are exhibiting stalker-like behaviors. These unsettling words, coupled with repetitive rhythms and instrumental loops, create a song that both lyrically and sonically feels like obsession.

“Run for Your Life” by The Beatles is another song that depicts toxic, possessive behaviors to the extreme. The very first line of the song is, “Well, I’d rather see you dead, little girl / Than to be with another man.” As the song progresses, the lyrics only get more violent and gruesome, thus creating a terrifying persona of someone who prioritizes possession.

A more current song that exemplifies this same idea of wanting ownership over someone else is “Kill Bill” by SZA. While SZA is known for expressing honest emotions, this song depicts levels of anger and obsession that end up in multiple murders. The story is not one of love, but of an infatuation and obsession with the idea of someone.

Similar themes of violence manifest in songs depicting codependency. While these may not seem as terrifying as songs about people watching over strangers, they still contribute to a conversation that normalizes unhealthy attachments in relationships.

In “Grenade,” Bruno Mars tells the story of a person who would die for his romantic interest, even if they do not love him back. There is a host of violent imagery in lines like, “Oh oh, I would go through all this pain / Take a bullet straight through my brain / Yes, I would die for ya, baby / But you won’t do the same.” Similarly, in “Die For You,” The Weeknd sings lines like, “Keep it real with you, I would kill for you, my baby.” The lyrics in both of these songs express love as something that comes in tandem with self-harm and self-sacrifice.

Unhealthy desires, obsession and infatuation are all emotions that can be stirred up when feeling lustful or in love. Music and art have the power to express feelings that people do not want to admit out loud. However, even more important is the normalization of healthy love. While songs like “Run For Your Life” and “Kill Bill” may feel exciting, the actuality of being in a possessive, toxic relationship is not. Having music that normalizes these themes of violence, ownership and unhealthy attachments can lead to a misunderstanding of what love can look like.

LISTENING FOR LOVE is a column that analyzes love through media-related lenses. Grace Azaula is a senior communication management and design major. Contact her at gazaula@ithaca.edu.

Former professor is fellowship finalist

Carla Stetson, former associate professor of arts and chair of the art department, was a finalist for the Printmaking/Drawing/Book Arts discipline in the 2023 New York State Council on the Arts/New York Foundation for the Arts Artist Fellowship.

After retiring from Ithaca College in 2019, she has been working full time in her studio. Prior grants awarded to Stetson include those from the Minnesota State Arts Board, the Puffin Foundation and the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council.

Staff writer Mariana Contreras sat down with Stetson and spoke about her recent award as a finalist for the NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Mariana Contreras: Can you tell me how you felt when you found out you were selected as a NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship Finalist in the drawing category?

Carla Stetson: When I first found out, you apply for so many things and a lot of times you’re rejected. And so this time, I was so happy to get this announcement that I’d been selected, and I was really honored because I know that there’s a large group of artists living in New York State, New York City. There were quite a lot of people ... so to be selected as one of the group was very nice for me. I felt happy, because having a jury of peers acknowledged that my work was valuable.

MC: What inspired you to pursue a career in the arts?

CS: I was thinking back, I almost can’t remember a time where I didn’t want to be an artist. Pretty much as soon as I knew there were artists, I wanted to be one. When I was a kid, I loved drawing and illustrating. Of course, a lot of children love drawing, but it just stayed with me. I started out in sculpture and photography. That was my focus as an undergraduate. I was always drawing, but



Carla Stetson, former associate professor of arts and chair of the art department, was recently a finalist for the Printmaking/Drawing/Book Arts discipline.

MARI KODAMA/THE ITHACAN

at that point, it was a means to the end. It was drawing to figure out the sculpture or drawing to figure out the installation of the sculptures. It wasn’t really until I came to Ithaca that I started drawing and the drawings actually became the end product. Drawing, it’s so primal. You make a mark ... and that becomes the thing. I think teaching drawing was very inspiring for me because you see what kind of emotions [students] could create through mark making. It’s very moving and that’s why I wanted it to be my thing in the end.

MC: Could you share some challenges you face as an artist in this particular field? And how have you overcome them?

CS: I think one of the challenges is that the general culture doesn’t support the visual arts that well. When you’re a young artist, it takes a long time to develop your voice and you need to be in the studio a lot, but you

[have other activities] that takes time away from your studio work. It’s a really delicate balancing act. They can’t just start, become famous and get money. I think it’s one of the reasons why a strong art program is really important for a student to find a community of other people ... and possibly professors who can help them. As far as challenges for me, in my undergraduate art college there was only one female professor, and all the rest were male and so as a young female student, I had almost zero role models. ... I think that things have gotten a lot better these days, but artists that identify as female still have a lot of obstacles in front of them. They’re underrepresented in museums and galleries. Things are ... moving in the right direction.

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Rachel Yoder discusses her debut novel

BY MATT MINTON

SENIOR WRITER

Within the cozy, warm atmosphere found at Buffalo Street Books is the opportunity for locals in Ithaca to hear from visiting authors all around the world. With a newly renovated backdrop of painted butterflies in the background and nearly every seat in the house taken, author Rachel Yoder sparked conversations about motherhood, taking risks in fiction and what it’s like to see your work adapted for the big screen.

On Oct. 28, Yoder visited Buffalo Street Books to discuss her debut novel, “Nightbitch.” The book follows a struggling mother who starts to suspect that she is turning into a dog, a thought that her frequently out-of-town husband dismisses as mere fantasy.

Around 30 people attended the event. The conversation was moderated by author Melanie Conroy-Goldman, professor of English at Hobart and William Smith Colleges and owner at Buffalo Street Books. After reading “Nightbitch” for the first time and being completely enchanted with it, Conroy-Goldman reached out to Yoder to be the writer in residency at her college.

“This is a book with beautiful sentences and ambitious ideas, but it also crosses genres and

plays around with horror,” Conroy-Goldman said. “It’s humorous and it’s a book about art. It’s hard to pin down and I like that about it. It makes it open, rich and original.”

The event kicked off with Yoder reading an excerpt from an early section of her novel where strange things begin happening to the protagonist. The audience listened carefully, laughing along to Yoder’s sharply written prose. After Yoder finished, Conroy-Goldman led a moderated discussion, asking questions that dove deep into Yoder’s inspiration and writing process.

For Yoder, who holds MEAs from the University of Arizona and the University of Iowa, coming up with “Nightbitch” felt like she was writing the things she was not supposed to do.

“It’s a messy, confrontational, angry book about motherhood, which seemed like another bad idea,” Yoder said. “I hadn’t read that book. All of the books about motherhood have been very measured, ironic and intelligent. So I think the idea of a feral motherhood book was really appealing to me. It felt rebellious.”

The event concluded by giving space for audience members to ask questions, ranging from conversations about the book’s cover and the pushback Yoder received from editors on the title,



From left to right, Melanie Conroy-Goldman and Rachel Yoder discussed Yoder’s novel “Nightbitch” at Buffalo Street Books.

VAN HOANG/THE ITHACAN

to what it was like seeing her story made into a film.

Nora Marcus-Hecht ’23, events and outreach coordinator at Buffalo Street Books, said more authors have been interested in coming into the bookstore recently. One of the renovations the store has undertaken is repainting the event space.

“We’ve always wanted this to be a nice, cozy space where people feel like they can sit down with a book and a cup of tea,” Marcus-Hecht said. “Even though the mural isn’t finished, I think it was still really great to see the blossoming of something behind her as she was talking.”

While the book has ultimately

resonated with many people for its depiction of a female creator struggling to raise a child while not giving up the artistic part of herself, Yoder said her goals when starting out were not so lofty.

“It started as a place where I could tell the truth about everything I’d ever felt and I never had to show it to anyone,” Yoder said. “I really needed that outlet. In a lot of ways, especially the first part of the book, it wasn’t about contributing to a larger conversation. It was like, ‘I am performing an exorcism and getting this thing out of my body for myself.’”

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‘Five Nights at Freddy’s’ frightens and enthralls

MOVIE REVIEW: “Five Nights at Freddy’s” Universal Pictures



BY LUCRETIOUS RUTKOWSKI
PROOFREADER

Ever since the success of the first Five Nights at Freddy’s game, created in 2014, the idea of a movie has been a running gag in the community for almost a decade. Rumors of its production and it being stuck in “development hell” were spread until Blumhouse Productions and the games’ creator Scott Cawthon started posting teasers online about its gradual development. Released in theaters Oct. 27 almost nine years later, there is finally a “Five Nights at Freddy’s” movie.

It’s questioned why anyone would stay five whole nights in an old pizzeria occupied by murderous animatronics, but “Five Nights at Freddy’s” explains this through Mike Schmidt (Josh Hutcherson), who is a mess and a half. He has a horrible track record of getting fired from jobs, a traumatized past he forces himself to relive each night through dreams, and a little sister, Abby (Piper Rubio), to take care of. And now, Mike is in desperate need to look good for Family Court when his aunt Jane (Mary Stuart Masterson) attempts to gain custody of Abby. Mike is adamant about keeping his little sister safe, even if that means taking the night shift at a near-abandoned restaurant — offered to him by job counselor Steve Raglan (Matthew Lillard).

The animatronics themselves are the obvious stars of the film and exist as much more than villains. The movie does a good job of walking the fine line between making the animatronics violent and, at the heart of it, the children they used to be before they were killed. However, for a PG-13 movie, “Five Nights at Freddy’s” has some pretty gruesome

deaths. The security cameras are implemented to great effect when aunt Jane hires intruders to trash the place under Mike’s watch, and said intruders are all hilariously, brutally picked off in fashions reminiscent of the game.

But where the movie falls just slightly short is, ironically, in its antagonists. Much time is necessarily spent on the other villains, like aunt Jane and the mysterious, blonde-haired ghost boy (Grant Feely), whose actor wonderfully portrays a hurt yet sinister child with his own intentions. Regardless, William Afton, the man behind the slaughter of the ghostly children, really needed a larger presence. He appears at the start to counsel Mike, but for those unfamiliar with the story prior to the movie — or even those familiar — he doesn’t haunt the narrative enough for the climactic end to hit its mark.

Furthermore, there is the shaky character of Vanessa Shelly (Elizabeth Lail), a local police officer who takes an overenthusiastic interest in Mike and Abby’s lives. She is a wrench thrown awkwardly into a well-oiled machine and the initial impression she makes is less than stellar. It may have gone over better if there was more of a focus on Vanessa being a reluctant villain herself.

When it comes to fans, both the new and the old are rewarded for looking closer. There are so many callbacks to the games that they infuse themselves into the atmosphere of the movie and become more than nostalgia. The small “It’s me” messages in the background, the Balloon Boy jumpscare, a hidden dog animatronic suit in the back room; these things all combine with the amazing ‘80s arcade set and real animatronic suits to make an immersive world that’s both entertaining and creepy.



From left to right: Bonnie, Freddy Fazbear and Chica, the terrifying animatronics haunting the old pizzeria, in the game-turned-movie “Five Nights at Freddy’s.”

COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

The plot isn’t lost by the wayside in favor of catering to the fandom, either, because Mike’s emotional arc as he learns to communicate with Abby and the missing children is nicely executed. Hutcherson sells a character who is flawed and obsessive, but also compassionate and deeply protective.

People talk about replayability when it comes to video games, but “Five Nights at

Freddy’s,” the movie, has plenty of good reasons to watch it again, if for the unique ambience alone. It may not stand out particularly for people who aren’t aware of the source material, but it’s a solid experience — for kids and grown-ups alike, where frights and fun have come to life.

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‘Jenny from Thebes’ makes her return appearance

ALBUM REVIEW: “Jenny from Thebes” Merge Records



BY ROWAN KELLER-SMITH
STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 27, The Mountain Goats released their newest album, “Jenny From Thebes.” The album is a sequel to their 2002 album, “All Hail West Texas,” which was just as narratively complex. The character of “Jenny” first appears in “All Hail West Texas,” along with songs such as “Night Light,” “Straight Six” and “Source Decay.” As a character, she is the embodiment of the desire to get on the road and leave everything behind. Now, she is back.

Frontman John Darnielle creates characters in every album he writes. “Jenny From Thebes” shows how much of a master storyteller he is. When Jenny first appears in the album “All Hail West Texas,” she is taking the narrator of the song “Jenny” away on her motorcycle. She continues to appear in The Mountain Goats Discography. In “Night Light” and “Straight Six,” she can be found talking to the narrator on the phone. And in “Source Decay,” she is sending him postcards. The listener never gets to know her in these songs; she is simply an instrument for the narrator.

The storytelling is what makes “Jenny From Thebes” such a wonderful feat. The Mountain Goats

have lore spanning decades, and the beauty of the group is that exact lore that they have managed to build up over the years. Throughout their discography, The Mountain Goats have introduced Jenny, her motorcycle, a fictional death metal band and a divorcing couple, among a larger cast of characters since their founding in the ‘90s. Listening to any album by the band feels akin to reading an epic poem or some mythology-filled tragedy.

The album, at its core, is a folk-rock opera, though leaning a little away from The Mountain Goats’ classic folk sound and into the theatrical with piano, horns and even backup vocals by The Go-Go’s bassist, Kathy Valentine.

There’s a pop and show tune influence that somewhat brings the heartfelness of the album down. Not that pop music can’t have soul and depth, but its use in “Jenny From Thebes” has a harsh contrast to the amazing grit that Darnielle has in his past work. Darnielle’s vocals often sound like a mix of Lou Reed and Bruce Springsteen and suit a much more acoustic sound.

The album opens with the song “Clean Slate,” a stand-out track of the album. It sets the scene for the musical journey ahead with its vivid lyrics. It depicts the struggle of

leaving home with the lyrics, “Leave home feeling empty, change planes in Taipei / Stay awake the whole time, end up several worlds away / The house was almost full that day, they made a space for you.” Each track on the album feels deeply personal and deeply introspective.

Narratively, the album is impeccable, simply from the magic of Darnielle’s storytelling capabilities. The songs themselves pull the listener into the moment through their detailed lyrics and cinematic instrumentals. Another notable track off the album is “Cleaning Crew.” The song opens with, “You were passed out on the sofa / Cigarette burns and coffee stains / Loose change in your pocket / Naltrexone in your veins.” Darnielle’s writing, especially with the second person point of view he uses in many of the songs, puts the listener right there in the scene he is crafting. From cigarette burns to the Naltrexone, a drug used in the treatment of substance abuse, a full picture is painted.

“Jenny” has existed in prior albums by The Mountain Goats as an instrument for Darnielle’s other characters. But now, we get a clear image of who she is. In “Jenny III,” Darnielle sings, “Jenny was a warrior / Jenny was a thief / Jenny hit the



The Mountain Goats’ newest release, “Jenny From Thebes,” combines indie-folk songwriting with and epic poetry style.

COURTESY OF MERGE RECORDS

corner clinic / Begging for relief / Never thought we’d see the day / When she wiggled free / But she did / Long before we did.” Jenny is her own person now, and that is a perfect descriptor for this album. “Jenny From Thebes” is about leaving home, about finding yourself; it’s about overcoming hardship. Darnielle and his band have created a meditation on leaving home,

longing for and finding a home. “Jenny From Thebes” has a fully formed narrative, something akin to Homer-level epic poetry mixed with indie-folk songwriting. While at times its pop-esque instrumental falls flat, the lyricism prevails. The Mountain Goats have created a work of art worthy of recognition.

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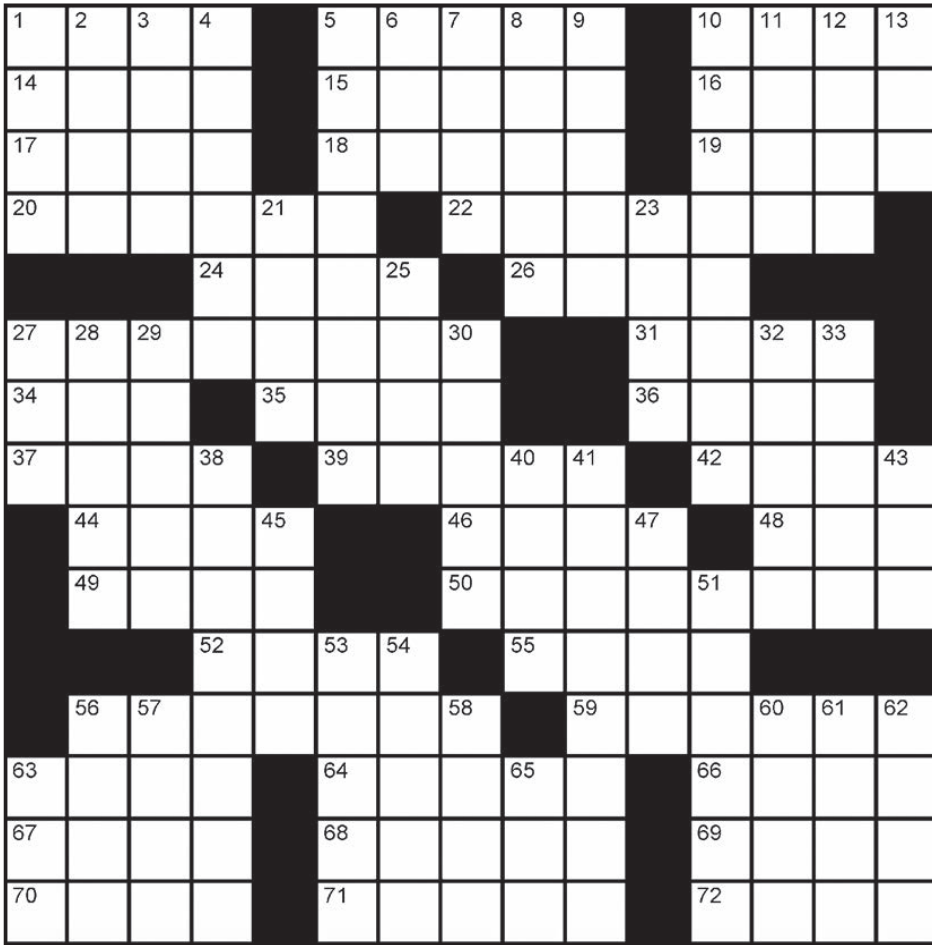
DIVERSIONS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

12

crossword

By Quill Driver Books



ACROSS

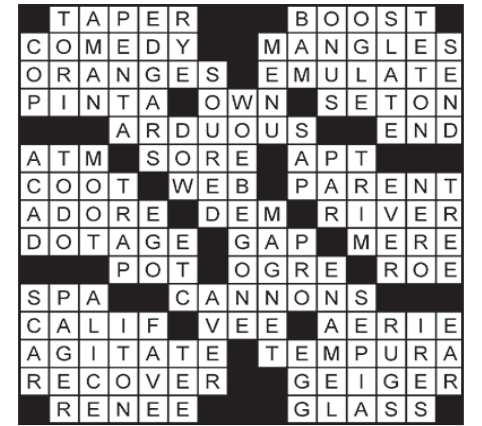
- 1 False shows
- 5 Innocents
- 10 Barley used in brewing
- 14 Fellow
- 15 Hebrew letter
- 16 - vera
- 17 TV's "What's My -?"
- 18 kind of salami
- 19 Name in Genesis
- 20 Maintenance
- 22 Make clear
- 24 Fall in drops
- 26 Twelve months
- 27 Remains (2 wds.)
- 31 Go aimlessly
- 34 Samovar
- 35 Twisting and turning
- 36 Pineapple brand
- 37 Chinese Dynasty
- 39 "Yes, -!"
- 42 World's longest river
- 44 Heap
- 46 Hotel Chain
- 48 Poet's "always"
- 49 Burn superficially
- 50 Eavesdropper
- 52 Towering structure
- 55 In that case
- 56 Talk over
- 59 Convertible car
- 63 Part of speech, briefly
- 64 Bay of Naples island
- 66 Pakistani language
- 67 Arm bone
- 68 "Here we go -!"
- 69 Big feline
- 70 Farm tool
- 71 Wool fabric
- 72 Bliss or Knox

DOWN

- 1 Rights org.
- 2 SIM card
- 3 Cistern
- 4 Cartoon Character - Gonazales
- 5 Droning instruments
- 6 Rural festival
- 7 Nota -
- 8 Strong adhesive
- 9 Outline
- 10 Chewy cookie
- 11 Jai -
- 12 Cut of beef

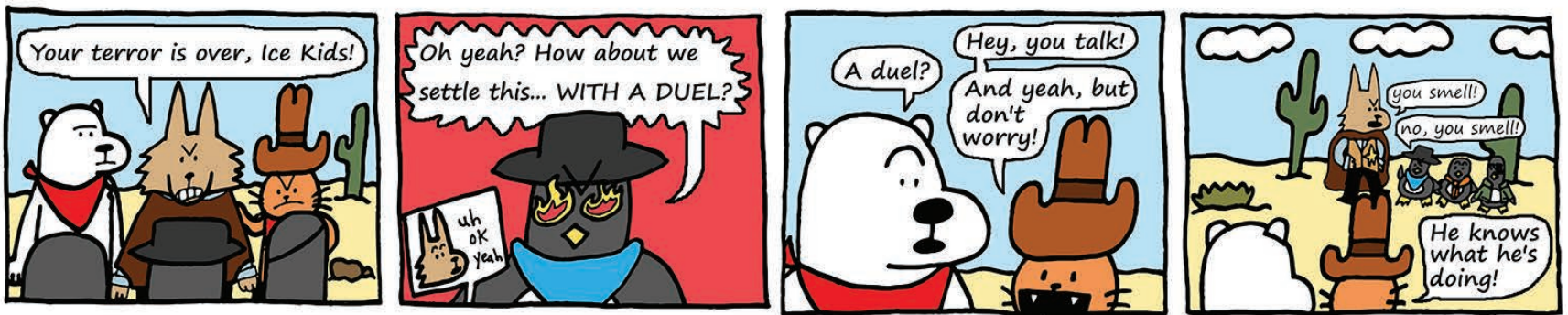
- 13 Rating scale max
- 21 Irish Gaelic
- 23 Shortening option
- 25 Hungarian dog breed
- 27 "Cogito ergo -"
- 28 Treks
- 29 "- Get your Gun"
- 30 Alpine region
- 32 Man from mars
- 33 Fracas
- 38 Handicap for a boxer (2 wds.)
- 40 Release
- 41 Hold Sacred
- 43 "To - is human..."
- 45 Rock's - Clapton
- 47 Virginia willow
- 51 Overwhelm
- 53 "Star Wars" director
- 54 Kind of orange
- 56 Raggedy Ann
- 57 "I'm -- Hurry"
- 58 Pole on a ship
- 60 Smallish ensemble
- 61 Perceived quality
- 62 Kick
- 63 Recipe measure
- 65 Tractor-trailer

last issue's crossword answers



Polar Pardner

ILLUSTRATION BY JOSHUA PANTANO/THE ITHACAN



数独

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answers to last issue's sudoku:

easy

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

hard

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

sudoku

medium

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

hard

1			4	7				
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SPO RTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

13



BY BILLY WOOD

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The Ithaca College women's lacrosse team set out into the night this Halloween, collecting canned food for a local community center and bringing their caring attitudes along the way.

The women's lacrosse team has had a long history of service to the community, especially during the Halloween season. In 2022, then-sophomore midfielder Hayley Armstrong and then-sophomore defender Kaitlyn Russell came together with an idea to collect canned food and donate it to a local pantry. The two brought the idea to the team and were immediately astonished by the amount of support their teammates provided them.

Armstrong reiterated the immense support of her teammates and said the group coming together for one cause so quickly was an example of the type of people the team rosters.

"If I was like, 'Hey, we are gonna go to a neighborhood and hand out flyers tonight' to a group of people who were not my teammates, they'd be like, 'Really?' but my teammates were like, 'Awesome, perfect, how can I help? Do you need any help? I'm so excited,'" Armstrong said. "It definitely speaks to the character of our team; wanting to make a positive impact and give back. That's the culture of our team."

During the previous year's drive, the team donated to No Mas Lagrimas, which is a nonprofit operating out of the Henry Saint John Building in Ithaca providing free food, youth programs and support for the community. Armstrong said last year's event went extremely well, gathering great support from the community in Fall Creek.

"We had no idea how much we were going to get," Armstrong said. "We were just going to hope for the best, see what happens, walk around the neighborhood wearing our Ithaca stuff, being like, 'Hey, remember us? We gave you the fliers, you got anything for us?' [Our coach] parked her truck there and we went around and got the cans and brought them back and then emptied our bags into her truck. We ended up filling her entire bed of her truck, the entire back seat and the entire front seat just of nonperishable stuff. We didn't count it, but we know that it was basically a truck-full."

This year with Russell abroad, Armstrong was left to organize the drive on her own, but she still had her full team's backing, with the drive now supporting the Southside Community Center. Southside focuses on

education, collecting food for the greater Ithaca community that serves around 75 families per month and even runs its own pet clinic. Southside has been serving Ithaca since 1934 and, according to their website, looks to "empower and foster the development of self-pride among the Black American residents of greater Ithaca." The team found similar success with Southside, collecting roughly 30 bags of canned goods with 27 team members participating in the event.

Deputy Director of Southside Kayla Matos said student organizations from the college and Cornell University have been working with Southside in helping run events like children's community programs for a while and that she looks forward to expanded involvement.

"I love to see these relationships continue to grow and get nurtured," Matos said. "I would love to continue to work with more student organizations in Ithaca College as well as Cornell University in order to provide these experiences."

Recently, Southside has been going through their own struggles, narrowly avoiding a city budget amendment that would have cut the nonprofit's budget by nearly 40%. The amendment was withdrawn as tremendous support was shown by community members to keep the budget in place. There could not be a better time for the team to be corresponding with the center.

Matos recapped the support shown by the community at the budget proposal meeting Oct. 25 and said community support like that shown by the team is more important than ever to Southside.

"Community supporters came and the administration spoke about the importance of the Southside Community Center so that we can really show the city that, yes, we are nonprofit, but we are more than just the nonprofit providing services," Matos said. "We are a historical pillar and we are a staple organization in the community and we are helping our disenfranchised communities day in and day out."

Armstrong described the process of the drive and said that working with Southside has been very easy and rewarding.

"[Friday, Oct. 27] at 4:30, we are going down to Fall Creek to spread the word," Armstrong said. "We got 200 fliers that we are going to put in mailboxes and on the telephone poles and whatever and just let people know — then they have until Tuesday. I just had to call Southside and be like, 'Hey, do you want our help?'"

The Halloween can drive is not the only thing that the team volunteers for. Everyone on the team has the opportunity to bring something they are passionate about to the team. Senior defender and team

TRICK OR TREATING FOR THE COMMUNITY; WOMEN'S LACROSSE GIVES BACK IN THEIR OWN WAY



From left, sophomore defender Lauren Russell, senior goalkeeper Lexi Held and senior attacker Chloe Nordyke hand canned goods to head coach Karrie Moore.

EMMA KERSTING/THE ITHACAN

captain Maggie Mandel organized the team to participate in an Alzheimer's walk last year and said the team bonds over embracing each other's important, charitable passions.

"My favorite part about the team is that if we have something we're passionate about, we bring it to coach Moore, we bring to the captains — which is me, [senior] Caroline Wise and [senior] Sydney Phillips — and we are all on board," Mandel said. "Last year, we did a suicide prevention walk and I did the Alzheimer's walk, which were really close and personal to us and the entire team had our back. For me, it's about having our team behind us to support us in something that we're passionate about and making a difference."

Mandel said these events show that the people on the team are more than just athletes.

"I think it just shows how much of a part of the community of Ithaca we really are," Mandel said. "We are not just some team that exists and plays games and whatnot, we really get involved. In the past, we've done Goblin Games, which is a little kids' tournament for lacrosse, and we volunteer and help coach. It's just nice to be involved and I think it shows us life is not just about school and athletics, you do have to be a person as well as you are a student-athlete."

Mandel said that with everyone opening up to each other about causes they are passionate about, it's easier to be in sync with teammates.

"It gives a sense of vulnerability of who we are because, at least for me, like last year with the Alzheimer's walk, my grandmother died of Alzheimer's, so that's something super personal to me," Mandel said. "I told the team my experience with it and it's definitely something that's a little bit vulnerable and it's nice to be, received in that way from the team like, 'Alright, let's do this, let's help you, let's support you.' It makes it easier to be vulnerable on the field and trust they have your back no matter what."

Head coach Karrie Moore tends to let the players on her team choose charitable causes on their own and when they bring their ideas to her, she tries to support them in any way she can. Moore spoke highly of the independent nature of her players and spoke to the finalization of what they are passionate about.

"I think the people who really spearhead the community service projects for us are highly empathetic, caring, mature people. Hayley certainly is," Moore said. "I think that they are organized and responsible and I think one of the biggest things is follow through. There's plenty of people with nice ideas, but there's not as many people who follow through on them. So I think the people on our team who were kind of spearheading this kind of stuff are the people who really can come up with a plan and then actually follow through on it."

With the team sharing such care for their own individual causes, Armstrong said she feels a sort of obligation to impact the communities she is a part of in any way she can. She aims to do it again with this year's Halloween can drive and the team will look to continue their efforts into the future.

"I can say personally that we're so privileged in our position of being college students and of being athletes," Armstrong said. "Personally, I feel like it's my responsibility to give back to any community that I'm in. Whether I'm at home, or at school, finding ways to give back to the community and also leave an impact that is positive rather than no impact at all."

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Overtime wins display field hockey's composure

BY TESS FERGUSON

SPORTS EDITOR

On Oct. 10 at Higgins Stadium, the regulation clock expired during a matchup between the Ithaca College field hockey team and the SUNY New Paltz Hawks. The scoreboard read 1-1 as an overtime period commenced under the lights.

The game would mark the team's third overtime competition of the 2023 season. After eight minutes of fast-paced play, junior striker Natalie Descalso released a drive from the arc that deflected off the stick of junior midfielder Meara Bury, ultimately securing the Bombers' victory.

"It's like a wave rushes over your body — an indescribable feeling," Descalso said. "As soon as you hear the ball hit the backboard and you know the game is over — it's just so rewarding."

The Bombers would go on to play in one more overtime-bound competition, managing to come out with another win, 1-0, over the University of Rochester on Oct. 15. The victory improved the team's post-regulation record to a perfect 4-0; the first time the team has ever gone undefeated during extra time in program history.

Head coach Kaitlyn Wahila said the team began practicing overtime strategy in early September by working on formation and penalty corner plays, but the real game experience became increasingly valuable.

"We haven't had to practice it much in the later part of our season because we've pretty regularly been put into those high pressure game

situations," Wahila said. "I give them one or two sound bites during the huddle, but they know exactly what we should be doing."

In field hockey, regulation is played 11-on-11 for four 15-minute quarters. If the game ends in a draw, however, the field shifts to 7-on-7 for a maximum of two 10-minute periods. If there is no change in score by the end of the second period, the game will resort to a 1-on-1, best of five shootout.

On Sept. 30, the team competed in its first shootout since 2018 against the Skidmore College Thoroughbreds. The Bombers dominated the period, securing a 3-2 in-conference victory.

Descalso said she continues to learn something new every time she steps on the field.

"Last season, we went into overtime quite a bit, so I learn from my experience every time," Descalso said. "As soon as the clock is running down in the fourth quarter and I know we're going into overtime, I tell myself to take a deep breath and forget those four quarters."

Wahila said this season's squad has never shied away from overtime.

"They're so into it and we can be coaching, but they'll be looking at us like, 'Yeah, just get us on the field. We've got this,'" Wahila said. "I think that's what separates this team."

This season, senior goalkeeper Alex Clough took over the position in the cage after the team graduated Macy Brandwein '23. Clough's position allows her a front row seat to the action of overtime, but she said it is



The Ithaca College field hockey team has won all four of its overtime games this season, marking the first time in school history the team has gone undefeated in post-regulation play.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

her teammates off the field who truly make all the difference.

"Having that big of a sideline is so electric, I don't even know how to describe it," Clough said. "For the past few years, I've been the goalie on the sideline and all the heart that sideline puts into overtime makes such a difference."

With zero goals allowed in post-regulation, Clough said she keeps a clear head by reminding herself that her job is the same regardless of what the scoreboard says.

"Like, yeah, maybe I let in some

goals and that's why we're tied, but I need to erase all of that and focus on what's ahead," Clough said.

Despite being on the opposite side of the field, Descalso said many of the team's offensive opportunities begin with Clough.

"I may have scored the goal, but I got the pass from someone else playing defense," Descalso said. "It's really a full team effort."

The Bombers will soon enter postseason play as the top seed in the Liberty League. They will get their first taste of postseason action against

Vassar College in the Liberty League semifinal game Nov. 3.

With valuable experience under their belts and more high-stakes games approaching, Descalso said she and her teammates are prepared to face whatever the remainder of the season throws at them.

"We've been in that situation so many times that there's no reason to be afraid anymore," Descalso said. "As soon as that whistle blows, we're ready."

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Goalkeeper guides Bombers to defensive excellence

BY DAVID SCHURTER

STAFF WRITER

The Ithaca College women's soccer team is fresh off its first Liberty League championship in program history and a trip to the NCAA tournament in 2022. This season, they have picked up right where they left off with a 9-2-4 regular season record. At the forefront of that success has been a junior that has guarded the net like a lock and key.

The team boasts a strong defensive squad, but the leader of the defense has been junior goalkeeper Grace Hickey. So far this season, Hickey posts a 9-2-4 record and has only allowed six goals, adding 10 shutouts. Hickey has also led the team to a 5-1-3 record within the Liberty League, just one point behind second place RIT at 19 points.

Head coach Mindy Quigg said Hickey has shown exponential amounts of development since her first game and is setting the tone for the team, especially the defensive group.

"Her maturity over the past year and willingness to take chances and allow herself to grow into her role has been her most impressive trait," Quigg said. "The relationship our defensive unit builds — that is doing exactly what we're asking; it's all part of our team. Collective defense is important and it's important that the goalkeeper is on top of that."

Quigg said Hickey exemplifies the team culture of helping each other out regardless of position.

"Understanding it's a privilege, accepting roles and being respectful of others in their roles," Quigg said. "Everyone's putting in the work in each session and Grace does that and supports that. She sets a great example of the culture we want in our program."

Hickey said she did not always play

goalkeeper and that she switched to the position long before her college days.

"I fell in love with the sport while I was playing it and I switched to goalkeeping when I was eight or nine years old," Hickey said.

Hickey said that her teammates have had an enormous impact on her performance and that they do not work for themselves.

"It's the team I'm on and the teammates around me, as they become your family during your time here," Hickey said. "You want to play for your teammates, win for each other and you put in a lot of hard work for each other and want to succeed as a unit."

Prior to Hickey's two goals allowed in the Bombers regular season finale Oct. 28, she was in the midst of a hot stretch, as she did not allow a goal since the team's last loss at William Smith College on Sep. 27, where she only let up one goal. Hickey has stopped her last 22 shots faced, resulting in a 4-0-2 record in the team's last six games heading into the Liberty League playoffs.

Hickey said that being a goalkeeper is the most mentally challenging position on the field, but she knows her teammates have full trust in her.

"A huge part of it is instilling confidence, as being a goalkeeper is definitely the worst mental position on the field," Hickey said. "You make one mistake in the back of the net and it can make the difference in the game."

Hickey said the defensive unit in front of her has allowed her to perform, but everyone on the team has a crucial role.

"I'm always going to give a big shout out to the defense in the back; we lock it down and are a wall back there, but it really comes down to everyone," Hickey said. "Even the people on the bench are doing their part, as everyone on this team matters and we wouldn't be as



Junior goalkeeper Grace Hickey sends the ball downfield. Hickey finished the 2023 regular season with a 9-2-4 record and has only allowed six goals in those games.

RAYAHNA TRYKA/THE ITHACAN

successful as we are without everyone."

Part of that defensive unit is junior defender Allison Heft. Heft said Hickey sets the right example in goal and that the defense relies primarily on her for communication as she can see the entire field in front of her.

"Her and [senior goalkeeper Kate Lawrence] are both very talented and they push each other to be better," Heft said. "She is also super talented and such a great teammate and I think what makes her a great teammate is because she stops all of these shots and has to communicate a lot in the game."

Heft said she admires Hickey's development into becoming the starting goalkeeper.

"We've gotten much closer, especially this year," Heft said. "Grace has really grown and

stepped into being the starting goalkeeper and we've definitely gotten much closer as we are playing on the field together every game."

Now an upperclassman on the team, Hickey said one of the biggest reasons why she chose the college was because of the relationship she saw among the team and the welcoming environment they fostered.

"When I came to the camp here as a junior in high school, I saw how much of a family community they had here and that really drew me to the college," Hickey said. "We're all great friends on and off the field and having fun is a huge part of the game, as you need to have fun too."

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Drag queen Astala Vista dressed up in a devil costume and called out numbers during Halloween Drag Bingo on Oct. 30 in Emerson Suites. The event was hosted by the Student Activities Board and featured bingo as well as a Halloween costume contest and performances by the two visiting drag queens.

MADDY DOMBROW/THE ITHACAN