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OFFERS ATHLETES  
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## Athletics department enforces dress code

BY TESS FERGUSON

SPORTS EDITOR

On Oct. 15, the Ithaca College athletic department released a statement that redefined the way varsity athletes are allowed to present themselves.

The single-page document lists dress code policies for practices, athletic training clinics, weight rooms and public corridors in the Athletics and Events and Hill Centers.

Susan Bassett '79, associate vice president and director of intercollegiate athletics, said the conversation about implementing a dress code began in Spring 2023, and the policy was designed with professionalism and uniformity in mind.

"What I started to notice was that in common spaces in buildings, like the A&E and the Hill Center, people were walking around kind of as if they were in their locker room," Bassett said. "I just felt like there was a lack of decorum and, in some cases, even a lack of safety."

The dress code states that all athletes must wear team-issued practice gear for training as appropriate to their sport — which includes sneakers or cleats, socks, athletic pants or shorts and shirts that cover the entire chest, back and lower torso.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON/THE ITHACAN

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## BIPOC Unity Center staff departures spark discontent

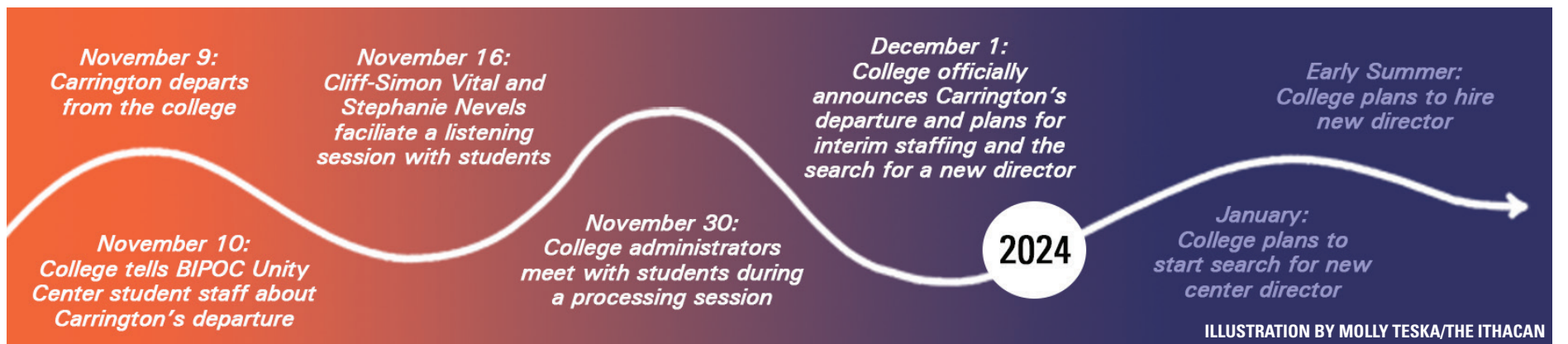


ILLUSTRATION BY MOLLY TESKA/THE ITHACAN

BY KAI LINCKE

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Ithaca College held a processing session Nov. 30 for BIPOC students to ask questions and share their concerns with college administrators and staff members about the departure of Angélica Carrington, former director of the BIPOC Unity Center.

Carrington was no longer employed at the college as of Nov. 9. During the session, the college shared human resources background information that may be relevant to Carrington's departure, information about interim plans for the BIPOC Unity Center and plans for the search for the center's next director. There were five administrators and college staff members that facilitated the

session: Luca Maurer, executive director for student equity, inclusion and belonging; Marsha Dawson, dean of students in the Office of Student Affairs and Campus Life; Cliff-Simon Vital, assistant director of the BIPOC Unity Center; Bonnie Prunty, vice president for student affairs and campus life; Stephanie Nevels, a mental health counselor at the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services; and Kimberly Lieb, business partner in the Office of Human Resources.

### College Communication

Senior Ashanti Ford, a peer educator for the BIPOC Unity Center, said in an interview with *The Ithacan* that the college officially shared the news of Carrington's departure with student staff members of the BIPOC

Unity Center during the center's weekly staff meeting Nov. 10.

The college did not make an official statement regarding Carrington's departure from her role as the director of the BIPOC Unity Center until Prunty announced her departure in an Intercom post Dec. 1.

During the Nov. 30 session, many BIPOC students expressed frustration with the lack of communication from administration on Carrington's departure. Students shared that they learned of Carrington's departure through emails and text messages from Carrington and other students who had already heard the news.

Ford said she learned of Carrington's departure Nov. 9 after Carrington texted her and said she was no longer employed.

"It felt like my world was crashing down when I heard," Ford said. "[It felt] like we lost someone, but that person is still alive. ... It was such a blow to the student staff ... because no matter what, even though she was our boss, she was also like a mother to us."

Maurer and Prunty both said they tried to be very thoughtful about how they communicated about Carrington's departure with students. They said they planned to have a meeting with student employees to tell them about Carrington's departure the day after she left the college.

"We absolutely owe you an apology. ... We have a responsibility for not having anticipated that that might have happened and planned differently," Prunty said.

Sophomore Mureen Doherty said the college should have sent a mass email to students to ensure that everyone knew of Carrington's departure, not just those who worked at the BIPOC Unity Center.

"Do you take into account and consideration cultural ramifications of who you are firing, how that culture works and how it impacts the entirety of campus? And if you cannot relate to the culture, do you bring in someone to help you understand?" Doherty said.

### Human Resources Context

Dawson said the college could not provide details about Carrington's employment or departure because it

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# Nation & World News

## Global air transport conference centers on progress in Riyadh

Representatives from over 100 countries and multinational organizations will assemble in Riyadh for the 15th International Conference on Air Services Negotiations, focusing on enhancing aviation for improved global transport. Beginning Dec. 3, the five-day event will attract over 700 civil aviation experts and specialists.

The ICAN2023 Conference, recognized as the foremost international event in its category, is dedicated to aligning with the swift advancements in the global air transport industry, as reported by the Saudi Press Agency.

## COP28 outlines initiatives on nature and carbon markets

Key business and philanthropy leaders joined with leaders of multilateral development banks and political leaders from emerging economies at COP28 on Dec. 2 to announce a range of initiatives aimed at harnessing the resources of business and philanthropy for climate action.

The second day of the inaugural COP28 Business and Philanthropy Forum included key announcements on preserving nature, energy transition alongside a methane abatement accelerator and an initiative to decarbonize health supply chains.

## Glenys Kinnock, British former Labour minister, dies at 79

Former British MEP and Labour minister Glenys Kinnock died peacefully in her sleep Dec. 3 with her husband and former Labour Party leader Lord Kinnock by her side, her family said.

She served as a minister in Tony Blair's Labour government and also represented Wales in the European Parliament as an MEP. Labour leader Keir Starmer called her a "true fighter" for the party.

## Thousands in Cumbria without electricity because of snowfall

More than 2,500 people in Cumbria, England, were without electricity Dec. 3, as the county's fire and rescue service said it worked through the night to rescue drivers from cars trapped in deep snow.

Power cuts followed heavy snow Dec. 2 in Cumbria, with the Met Office issuing new weather warnings for across the UK Dec. 3 morning.

## Germany calls for evictions from more than 27,000 homes

Eviction orders were issued for more than 27,000 homes in Germany last year, an answer to a parliamentary question has revealed.

Caren Lay, Die Linke party housing



## Four student suicides shock Boise schools

Hundreds of candles flickered at Hillside Junior High School as community members gathered at a candlelight vigil to grieve the loss of four Boise School District students who died by suicide since the start of October.

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spokeswoman, called for terminations of rental agreements to be revoked in the case of late payments and for evictions resulting in homelessness to be banned.

## ICC chief prosecutor wants to investigate all Gaza war crimes

The chief prosecutor of the International

Criminal Court, Karim Khan, is in favor of investigations into possible war crimes on all sides of the Gaza war.

Although Israel is not a state party to the court, Khan offered the country his support in investigating the Oct. 7 attacks.

SOURCE: TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

## MULTIMEDIA

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VISIT THEITHACAN.ORG/CATEGORY/MEDIA/



## Silent Disco and giant light-up unicorn delight at an iceless Ice & Lights Festival.

Makai Yllanes explored The Ice and Lights Festival on Dec. 2 on The Ithaca Commons. He found silent disco dancers and giant unicorn riders but unfortunately, no ice.



## 'On the Same Page' - Top Stories of Week 13

Co-hosts Clare Shanahan and Emma Kersting dive into the top stories at *The Ithacan*. Featuring Assistant News Editor Prakriti Panwar, Co-Life and Culture Editor Vivian Rose and writer Flynn Hynes.

# THE ITHACAN

220 ROY H. PARK HALL,  
ITHACA COLLEGE, ITHACA, NY 14850  
(607) 274-3208 • ITHACAN@ITHACA.EDU

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
MANAGING EDITOR  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH MANAGER  
OPINION EDITOR  
NEWS EDITOR  
ASST. NEWS EDITOR  
ASST. NEWS EDITOR  
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Natalie Millham, Reese Schenkel

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### GOT A NEWS TIP?

Contact the News Editor at  
ithacannews@gmail.com or 607-274-3208

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# Faculty Council gets sustainability news

BY LORIEN TYNE

NEWS EDITOR

The Ithaca College Faculty Council heard from the co-chairs of the Middle States Reaccreditation committee and from the Scott Doyle, director of energy management and sustainability, at its Dec. 5 meeting. Updates were also given on a new faculty retirement plan option and a policy change about the length of advanced notice when the college separates from an employee.

Melanie Stein, provost and senior vice president of academic affairs, touched on the addition of a new option in the faculty retirement plan in her report. There is a current option called the Transition to Retirement program where faculty can choose to teach part time for three years and gradually step down.

The new option allows faculty to teach full time up until retirement. In exchange for notice two years in advance, the college will give the retiring faculty member benefits.

"This has nothing to do with a change in the faculty size or an intent to change the faculty size," Stein said. "This is simply looking at our longstanding faculty retirement plan and adding an option."

Te-Wen Lo, associate professor in the Department of Biology, and John Fracchia, career engagement and technology specialist in the Center for Career Exploration and Development, spoke to the council as the co-chairs of the Middle



The Ithaca College Faculty Council also heard from the co-chairs of the committee for Middle States Reaccreditation and from the director of Energy Management and Sustainability Dec. 5.

SAMMIE MACARANAS/THE ITHACAN

States Reaccreditation committee.

The volunteer form was due Dec. 4, but Lo said they are looking for students and faculty from the School of Health Sciences and Human Performance and the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance to join the committee. Working groups will begin meeting at the start of Spring 2024.

Doyle's presentation covered highlights about the institution's sustainability policies and progress it has made since 2009, when the Ithaca College Board of Trustees approved the first climate action

plan. That plan committed to a goal for climate neutrality by 2050. He said that compared to data collected in 2007, the college produced half as much carbon emissions in 2022.

After Doyle's presentation, the council motioned to accept recommendations from the Faculty Handbook Amendment Committee regarding changes to Policy 4.15: Separation. The policy change increases the amount of advance notice provided by the college for those in their first or second year, bringing it in line with

those who have been at the college for three or more years. Stein said this change was brought forth to help reduce gaps between the departure of one faculty member and the hiring of another and to give departing faculty time to search for another job. She also said there is no reason to keep the old policy.

At 6:15 p.m., the council went into an executive session to speak about formal faculty review procedures. Afterward, the council motioned to end the meeting.

CONTACT: LTYNE@ITHACA.EDU

# Fall faculty and staff departures

BY KAI LINKE

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Several members of Ithaca College's faculty and staff departed from or announced plans to leave the college during Fall 2023.

Odalys Diaz Piñero, former chief of staff for President La Jerne Cornish, left the college at the end of October to serve as chief of staff at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Cornish said in an Oct. 27 Intercom post that Piñero started working at the college in April 2020 and worked to help guide the college through unprecedented circumstances by managing government and community relations and college communications.

Cornish said in the post that she plans to divide Piñero's responsibilities among her other staff members while she considers re-aligning staff duties.

Yasin Ahmed, former director of Religious and Spiritual Life, resigned from the college as of Oct. 27. Luca Maurer, executive director for student equity, inclusion and belonging, shared a statement from Ahmed that explained he decided to resign to pursue a larger calling in an Intercom post.

"I'm called to develop the 'beloved community,' but this will require my full-time attention," Ahmed said. "After much reflection, I have decided to step away from my role at IC ... in order to pursue the creation of a loving national community, a dream that has eluded us for too long."

Maurer said in the post that he was grateful for Ahmed's impact on the campus culture.

Maurer said the college will provide an update for filling the director of Religious and Spiritual Life position, and individuals can email him at [lmaurer@ithaca.edu](mailto:lmaurer@ithaca.edu) with any questions that would have been directed to Ahmed.

Ronald Trunzo, former associate director for Residential Life and Student Conduct and Community Standards, left the college as of Nov. 3. Laura Davis, director for the Office of Residential Life and the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, said in an Intercom post that Trunzo worked in residential life for almost 30 years.

"During his time at IC, he gave much to the department and across the college and we greatly appreciate his hard work and numerous contributions," Davis said in the post.

Radeana Hastings, former program coordinator of the BIPOC Unity Center, departed the college as of Nov. 10. The college has not made a formal announcement of Hastings' departure, but Maurer confirmed in an email to *The Ithacan* that Hastings no longer works at the college.

Sarah Boniche, associate director for Student Involvement in the Office of Student Engagement, will leave the college Dec. 8.

She joined the college as a resident director in 2018 and returned to the college in August 2022 as associate director for Student Involvement.

Susan Salahshor, assistant professor and founder of the Physician Assistant Studies program, will leave the college at the end of Fall 2023.

Christina Moylan, interim dean of the School of Health Sciences and Human Performance, said in a Nov. 30 Intercom post that Salahshor was a leader in the development of the new physician assistant graduate program.

Moylan said in the post that Melissa Murfin, associate professor in the Physician Assistant Studies program, will work as the interim program director while the college conducts a search to find the next director.

CONTACT: KLINCKE@ITHACA.EDU

# IC begins long reaccreditation process

BY LIAM MCDERMOTT

STAFF WRITER

Starting in January 2024, Ithaca College will begin two years of self-study, the first step in the process of being reaccredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE).

For students at any higher education institution in the U.S. to be eligible for financial aid from the federal government, the institution they want to attend must be accredited by the accreditation commission in their region.

Nicole Bieber is the senior director for strategic partnerships and advocacy at the MSCHE. She said an institution must meet seven standards set by the MSCHE.

The standards include having missions and goals, ethics and integrity, design and delivery of the student learning experience, support of the student experience, an educational effectiveness assessment, planning, resources, institutional improvement and governance, leadership and administration.

"They're identifying those areas in which they can do even better," Bieber said. "It's called the evidence expectations."

Bieber said that between 2024–25, the college plans to have working groups begin drafting reports of the self-study and by 2025–26, the college hopes to have the self-study completed and sent to the MSCHE in the Fall 2025 and reviewed by the commission by Spring 2026.

After the results are reviewed, the MSCHE will provide feedback to the college on what is going well and what the institution may need to work on.

Stacia Zabusky is the associate provost of Academic Affairs and the Accreditation Liaison



For Ithaca College to be eligible for financial aid, it has to be reaccredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education — a three-year long process.

AMINATTA IMRANA JALLOW/THE ITHACAN

Officer at Ithaca College. Zabusky is in charge of keeping the communication between the college and MSCHE consistent.

"It's pretty standard," Zabusky said. "It happens to almost every institution."

John Fracchia is the career engagement and technology specialist at the Center for Career Exploration and Development at Ithaca College and the co-chair of the Middle States Self-Study and Executive Team, the committee in charge of executing the self-study.

He said that although the self-study process will not begin until January, he believes the study will show the college in good standing.

"I think we have, from my own experience, an inquisitive and engaged student

body," Fracchia said.

Fracchia said the reaccreditation process is a chance for the college to focus on growth areas.

"It's more than just an exercise and reaccreditation," Fracchia said. "It's a chance to really take a critical look at an institution."

Fracchia said that it is important for the college to use data to back up its findings from the self-study and feels that the recent Campus Climate Survey is an opportunity to do that.

"When you're doing a survey, and particularly for reaccreditation, a lot of it is data-based," Fracchia said. "So surveying ... would certainly be appropriate to look at."

CONTACT: LMCDERMOTT@ITHACA.EDU

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was human resources information that legally could not be shared. Prunty said Lieb was present at the session to provide general context about human resources processes that may relate to Carrington.

Lieb said employees complete a performance review process toward the end of each academic year. Employees evaluate themselves; and supervisors, colleagues and associated student employees fill out an evaluation for an employee. During the performance review process or throughout other points in the year, they may identify a gap in performance which partners from the Office of Human Resources may try to address with a plan or formal performance improvement plan.

Senior Liguori Flanagan said performance reviews may not show the full extent of an individual's contributions to the college, especially in Carrington's case.

"There might just be students that feel like their voices are the voices that would have been the bend or the break on one issue with whether this director is doing a good job or not," Flanagan said.

Lieb said department leadership can ask students for feedback about employees. Multiple students said they were not asked to share feedback about Carrington.

#### Moving forward

At the processing session, Prunty said Dawson will serve as the interim director of the BIPOC



About 20 students attended the processing session Nov. 30 to share their concerns about the departure of staff from the BIPOC Unity Center. Five administrators facilitated the session.

KAI LINCKE/THE ITHACAN

Unity Center. Dawson will continue to serve as dean of students, but Prunty will take on some of her responsibilities so that she can work with the BIPOC Unity Center.

Dawson said that as she serves as the interim director of the BIPOC Unity Center, she wants to provide as much support as she can for students.

"At this time, it's just really important to listen to the students and navigate in a way that they need to feel seen, heard and valued, so that is the priority right now," Dawson said. Prunty said Shadayvia Wallace, program director for the

First Generation Center and the MLK Scholars Program, will lead the search for a new administrative assistant/program coordinator for the BIPOC Unity Center.

Sophomore Duda Formosa, a peer educator at the BIPOC Unity Center, said she is concerned about supporting the BIPOC community and continuing the momentum that the office has built through new events, initiatives and goals without a permanent director.

"It's a lot of weight on us to keep the office working," Formosa said. "I want to keep inviting the POC students [but] ... I'm not

motivated to do it. Because the person that was supporting us the most is not here anymore."

Prunty said the college will begin a national search for a new director of the BIPOC Unity Center in Spring 2024 and hopes to find a new director by early summer so that they can be ready to lead the center in August. Prunty said the college will look for students to serve on the search committee for a new director of the center.

Staff Writer Jacquelyn Reaves contributed reporting.

CONTACT: KLINCKE@ITHACA.EDU

## IC builds new transfer paths

BY RYAN JOHNSON

STAFF WRITER

Ithaca College is partnering with interested community colleges in New York state to develop transfer pathways for students who want to study for two years at a community college and transfer to Ithaca College to complete a degree.

The college is developing this initiative in partnership with the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities in New York. The CICU is statewide and represents the public policy interests of chief executives of independent colleges while aiming to provide equity and access to higher education. In February 2022, the CICU received a \$50,000 grant from the Teagle Foundation and the Arthur Vining Davis foundations to create more transparent and equitable transfer pathways for community college students.

Shana Gore, interim associate vice president for enrollment and student success at the college, said there has been little progress made for a formal process of transfer pathways to private institutions in New York until now.

Gore also said transfer pathways will allow students to receive credit for more major specific classes at a community college.

"Where we are in the process now is trying to identify the programs that would be the best fit for transfer programs," Gore said.

Paul Nelson, director of communications and external relations at the CICU, said the goal for the CICU is to use the grant to find ways to strengthen recruitment, retention and student persistence to a degree for both community colleges and four-year independent institutions.

"The 55 institutions that participated are committed to improving and innovating more equitable, transparent and expansive transfer practices for students," Nelson said via email.

Gore said some programs at the college are not flexible with pathways and require a full four-year program, but there are other programs at the college that are compatible with transfer pathways.

"Some of the ones we're looking at are history, biology, sociology [and] psychology-based on the way those programs are designed, [they could be compatible]," Gore said.

Gore said there are many reasons students start at a community college.

"For some it's a financial decision, for some it's a location [decision]," Gore said. "They may not be ready to move from their home to come to Ithaca."

Gore said that once the college has identified what programs that can be offered as transfer pathways, the CICU will match up community colleges that have a need for students to move into the programs that are offered at Ithaca College.

"We are hoping that by Fall [2024], we can have at least one pathway with one [community college] in place," Gore said.

Senior Ashlyn Darpino is majoring in voice with an outside field in integrated marketing communications. Darpino said she started at SUNY Broome community college and attended for one year. She said the process of transferring during the pandemic was extremely difficult.

Darpino said institutions do not realize that transfer students are coming in as sophomores or juniors with the same amount of knowledge of the institution that first-year students have.

"I think communication really is the biggest thing because I feel like so many of my personal issues would have been solved with anyone communicating with me," Darpino said.

Gore said that planning for transfer pathways is a collaborative effort involving the Office of the Registrar to plan the transfer credit process, various schools and majors at the college to plan programs and pathways, and the Center of Student Success to ease the transition for community college students.

CONTACT: RJOHNSON@ITHACA.EDU

## Ithaca airport to add flight routes to D.C.

BY SONYA MUKHINA

STAFF WRITER

In September, Ithaca Tompkins International Airport (ITH) received a \$750,000 grant from the Department of Transportation's Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP) to expand air routes to Washington, D.C.

The SCASDP is a grant program that awards 20 grants to smaller communities from 16 states across the U.S. to help them address issues regarding air transportation.

Chris Stephany, marketing and air service development administrator at the ITH, said the grant is earmarked by the Department of Transportation for a route to D.C., but could also be to the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in Arlington, Virginia, or Dallas, Texas, since those routes were available before the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I believe it is a very beneficial route for all the residents here in Tompkins County," Stephany said. "We're very optimistic that the expansion will be happening this coming year."

Stephany and Roxan Noble, airport director, said ITH struggled to rebound its workflow post-COVID-19. Noble said it is going to take at least until 2024 to expand routes, and it also depends on issues that airlines face, like the shortage of flight staff and pilots. In November 2022, ITH also announced that it would be discontinuing its services to Detroit. Noble said there are currently only two daily flights to John F. Kennedy International Airport and Newark Liberty International Airport available from the ITH. Noble said Delta and United Airlines are the only two airlines that offer flights from ITH.

"We've got great relationships with those two current carriers, and we are working on building back to where we were before COVID," Noble said.

Stephany said that with the expansion of routes, cost reduction is expected and this



Ithaca Tompkins International Airport received a \$750,000 grant in September from the Department of Transportation which will allow for expansion of air routes.

JOHN HENRY DOWNES/THE ITHACAN

makes air travel more accessible overall.

"We do believe that more flights equals cheaper prices," Stephany said. "The more flights are out of here, the more seats there are, so we are hoping that this is one of the benefits of adding three or four more flights to the route."

Sophomore Chike Neziyana said that flying home to D.C. usually turns out to be fairly expensive for him since there is no direct flight availability of the ITH. Neziyana said he usually flies out of Syracuse, New York, or New York City.

"I would say it is normally in the neighborhood of \$500 for a plane ticket and a bus ride," Neziyana said. "It always makes more sense to go somewhere I can get direct flight from, [so] if they are expanding their flight routes to D.C., I would definitely consider flying from Ithaca."

Noble said ITH has yet to decide which airline they are hoping to provide the

routes through. Melissa Marchese, a member of the Air Service Board of ITH, is the executive director of marketing strategy at Ithaca College. The Air Service Board is a body formed by the Tompkins County Area Development and the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce to focus on engaging with stakeholders.

Marchese said the college provides support to the airport and recognizes the importance of helping the community. Marchese said flights to D.C. can potentially ease the commute for the college's admissions officers who are not based in Ithaca or nearby.

"We have an admissions counselor based in [D.C.], just like we do in Boston or New York, so we do see the great potential there. I think it's wonderful for us to be able to say we have flights to New York and we would have flights to D.C.," Marchese said.

CONTACT: SMUKHINA@ITHACA.EDU

# SGC discusses student equity, inclusion and belonging

BY MAKAI YLLANES

STAFF WRITER

The Ithaca College Student Governance Council met Dec. 4 to confirm a new senate chair and heard from the executive director for Student Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in the Center for Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging.

Sophomore Eleanor Paterson resigned from her position as senate chair before this week's meeting. Paterson will be studying abroad in Spring 2024 and must pass on her duties as a member of the executive board to an SGC member who gets confirmed to the position.

Sophomores Lili Chalfant, School of Communications senator, and Nikki Sutera, School of Music, Theatre, and Dance senator, presented to the SGC in hopes of becoming the new senate chair.

Chalfant has served on the SGC since Fall 2022 and said she wants to create a strong leadership team within SGC.

Chalfant said some of her main goals would be to focus on mental health and student accessibility needs as well as connecting the campus. Chalfant said that being on SGC is not solely for the members to make changes they want but is to help their constituents.

"It's about being the voice for people and students and understanding what their needs are and addressing those," Chalfant said.

Sutera has also served on the SGC since Fall 2022 and served on the Academic Policy Committee and the



Luca Maurer, executive director for Student Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, discussed the Fall 2023 campus belonging survey and the search for a new director of Staff Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging.

MADDY DOMBROW/THE ITHACAN

Campus Affairs Committee and said she feels confident in the processes of an SGC meeting. Sutera said she has helped with policies regarding asynchronous classes, A.I. in the classroom and student advising.

"Last year, I served on the Academic Policy Committee where I served specifically on policy and last year, we created a policy for asynchronous classes," Sutera said. "I helped put in a lot of student input on making it equitable for all students in all learning situations."

The SGC then went into executive

session to discuss and vote for Chalfant or Sutera. Sutera was confirmed by the SGC to be the next senate chair.

Luca Maurer, the executive director for Student Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in the Center for Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, met with the SGC to discuss the structure of the center and the efforts it is putting in to create a more welcoming campus. The Center for Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging recently moved to the 2nd Floor of Job Hall across from the Center for Study of Culture,

Race, and Ethnicity. Maurer said the center has taken the lead on implementing the Fall 2023 campus climate survey in partnership with Rankin & Associates Consulting, which collects and analyzes climate data from colleges and universities around the nation. Maurer said the survey data serves as an important tool in making the college's climate more equitable and inclusive. The data will help the center organize and plan new initiatives and programs for the college.

Maurer said the response rate this

year was less than when the response rate was 46% in 2016. However, Maurer said there was more frustration with the college in 2016.

"The consultants' thinking and ours is that part of the reason that number was so high last time was driven by discontent," Maurer said.

Maurer said that with this new data, the college can help create projects and committees, like the Bias Impact Reporting Form which was created following the survey in Fall 2016.

The form is used to provide individuals at the college with resources to report if they experience or witness a bias incident on campus.

Maurer said the Bias Impact Resource Team reaches out to and provides resources and support for students who file a form. The form is used to provide individuals at the college with resources if they experience or witness a bias incident on campus.

Additionally, Sarah Boniche, associate director of Student Involvement for the Office of Student Engagement and the adviser for the council, announced she would be leaving the college at the end of the week and will be starting a new position at Binghamton University. She said someone else in the Office of Student Engagement would take over as adviser of SGC in Spring 2024.

Senior Carli McConnell, president of the student body, announced that junior Muhammad Arshad, Class of 2025 senator, sent in his resignation to SGC because of scheduling conflicts.

CONTACT: MYLLANES@ITHACA.EDU

## Q&A: Professor dedicates sabbatical to human rights

Elizabeth Kaletski, an associate professor in the Department of Economics at Ithaca College, was on sabbatical for Spring 2023. During her sabbatical, she worked on projects centered on children's rights for the Human Rights Measurement Initiative, including analyzing data, writing academic papers and securing funding.

Staff Writer Kaeleigh Banda spoke with Kaletski about her research, her time teaching at the college and the intersection of economics and human rights.

*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*

**Kaeleigh Banda:** Can you give me an overview of your time on sabbatical and explain more about the research you conducted?

**Elizabeth Kaletski:** I've been working with a not-for-profit organization that's based in New Zealand for a few years now. It's called the Human Rights Measurement Initiative. We do a lot of different things, but the overall mission is to try to translate human rights that are outlined in international law into things that can be measured in order to hold governments accountable. And so we have a bunch of different divisions ... and I'm one of the co-leads on the child rights division. Right now, we're still in development, so we've written a few academic papers. The other part of that work has been trying to get money for grants to fund [the research]. It's really expensive to do data collection and to develop these measures, but because we view it as something really important for pushing human rights forward around the world, we need to try and get money to do that. The other thing on sabbatical that I was working on was related specifically to economic and social rights. A co-author and I were looking at patterns of economic and social rights and how they relate to growth outcomes. We've found that actually, countries that focus



Elizabeth Kaletski, an associate professor in the Department of Economics, took a sabbatical and worked on research to measure human rights for a nonprofit.

PRAKRITI PANWAR/THE ITHACAN

on human rights tend to have better growth outcomes. It's quite a positive result in terms of where countries should focus. Focusing on human rights [can] bring positive economic growth as well.

**KB:** What motivated you to look into your specific research during Spring 2023 in particular?

**EK:** Coming out of my graduate studies ... I did a bunch of work on child rights and specifically child labor. But I went to the University of Connecticut, which had an econ department, but it also had a human rights institute which was this interdisciplinary institute where you had people from political science, law, anthropology and social work, and I just really love

the interdisciplinary nature of it. You just got so many perspectives and econ can sometimes be a little bit limiting. I always liked the idea of going outside the typical boundaries of the field. From that, I developed a lot of connections over the years and that's actually what brought me to the Human Rights Measurement Initiative.

**KB:** Can you describe a specific moment that stood out to you or that was particularly enriching or impactful during your time on sabbatical?

**EK:** I always feel a little bit like an armchair economist, especially working on data. I spend a lot of time staring at my computer. I'm ... just looking at numbers and it's really easy to get sort of disassociated from the people behind

that, especially since we're working on human rights and real issues that people are facing around the world. So one of the things that always stands out to me ... is we have people who are on the ground in countries around the world who are advocating for human rights. [They] are telling us the things that are going on and we use them to collect data to push for government action, too. So hearing their stories, the people who are really doing the hard work, is something that always sort of sticks out to me.

**KB:** How has Ithaca College helped you achieve your personal goals and support you and your research?

**EK:** When I first came in, I was hired as a labor economist and I had the opportunity to just develop classes in everything I was interested in. [I was able] to develop classes that are really in line with my research agenda. It was just super fulfilling and nice to be able to go into the classroom and talk about the things that I'm working on outside of the classroom. I think that connection between what I do in the class and then what I do in my research [is not something you] always get at different [colleges].

**KB:** What would you say is your biggest takeaway that you want to share with others?

**EK:** When you work on human rights, it's really easy to feel disheartened. It's things that real people are going through, and that's really difficult. But I have met and worked with so many people who are not just smart, but they're so dedicated and they want to see the world become a better place. And so it's important for me to make sure that people stay optimistic about where we can go in the future. There may be a lot of things that aren't great going on right now, but there are a lot of people who are working hard to make the world a better place.

CONTACT KAELEIGH BANDA  
KBANDA@ITHACA.EDU

## COLLEGE BRIEFS

### PA program assistant professor and director leave Ithaca College

Susan Salahshor, assistant professor and program director within the physician assistant program, and Sanghee Moon, assistant professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, will be leaving Ithaca College.

Salahshor started at the college in November 2019 as the founding program director of physician assistant studies. Salahshor's accomplishments include helping attract \$1 million to the Thaler Scholarship, an opportunity to support students pursuing the physician assistant studies degree; she was also nationally recognized as a Community Advocacy Award winner by the POCN, the largest nurse practitioner and physician associate network in the U.S.

Moon began at Ithaca College in 2020. Since then, Moon has had numerous accomplishments, some of which include being the vice chair of parkinsonism and related movement disorders task force team in the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine since 2020 and a review editor of several peer reviewed journals.

### Workshop for summer stock auditions offered to students

Ainsley Anderson, professor and chair of the Department of Theatre Production and Management, and Cooper Rothman, career engagement specialist for the School of Music, Theatre and Dance will be hosting a workshop about how to prepare for summer stock auditions.

Summer stock theaters are small productions that happen in the summer months across the country. The session will be held from 12 to 1 p.m. Dec. 7 in Room 008 of the Dillingham Center. The workshop will include how and where to apply, what is involved and how it can improve a career in the arts at Ithaca College.

### Hillel at Ithaca College to host Hanukkah events for students

Ithaca College's Hillel and Chabad organizations will be hosting several events for the week of Hanukkah. Participants can light a giant menorah for the first night of Hanukkah from 5 to 5:30 p.m. Dec. 7 on the Campus Center Quad. For accommodations or questions regarding the event, contact Lauren Goldberg via email at [lgoldberg2@ithaca.edu](mailto:lgoldberg2@ithaca.edu). Chabad's Shabbat and dinner services are from 7:30 to 11:15

p.m. Dec. 8 at 243 Coddington Road.

Hillel will also be hosting a Take a Break event from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dec. 12 in the Muller Chapel. Participants can spend this night of Hanukkah away from studying for finals to make crafts, eat snacks and spend time with friends.

### ICC credit Religious Studies course offered for winter session

Eric Steinschneider, assistant professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion, will be offering the course "Religion Matters" during the winter session for the 2023–2024 academic year.

The class is an ICC Diversity and Humanities credit course and will guide students through what religion is, how it works and its impacts and influences on a constantly changing society.

Topics may include digital witchcraft, Buddhist militias, Jewish feminists and spirituality in anime. Professor Steinschneider is a historian of religion with a special interest in Hinduism and the written languages Tamil and Sanskrit. Much of professor Steinschneider's research focuses on Saiva traditions of southern India, which specifically focus on the worship of the deity Siva.

### 2023 Winter Celebration hosted by President La Jerne Cornish

The Ithaca College community is invited to the 2023 Winter Celebration with President La Jerne Cornish and the president's cabinet. The celebration will mark the end of the fall semester from 4 to 6 p.m. Dec. 14 in Emerson Suites.

Different types of food and drinks will be served at the celebration that will be handpicked by the president's office and Executive Chef Jack Applegarth. Both non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages will be served.

The first alcoholic beverage will be complimentary and the ones after must be paid for by cash or credit card. A raffle will be pulled at the end of the evening to give everyone the chance to win a gift. RSVPs will close after Dec. 7.

### Students invited to Jingle Jangle Jubilee and ugly sweater contest

The Jingle Jangle Jubilee will be from 11 to 2 p.m. Dec. 9 in IC Square in Campus Center. The event will provide supplies for attendees to make personalized street signs and reed diffusers and participants can stuff a build-a-buddy. Complimentary hot cocoa,



### IC students perform a mythical musical

First-year student Ben Domenick-Urbansky narrates during his performance in IC Macabre's production of Ulysses Dies at Dawn in Williams Hall on Dec. 1. The musical is an adaptation of the Mechanisms' album of the same name.

CALEB KAUFMAN/THE ITHACAN

cookies and popcorn will be offered along with board games.

Attendees are encouraged to wear ugly holiday sweaters. Prizes will go to the ugliest, funniest, best homemade, best pair or group that coordinates their sweaters, most creative and most festive. Prizes include an IC sweatshirt-blanket, Nalgene bottles, fanny packs, a mug/cocoa gift basket and Regal movie tickets. The Campus Center dining hall will be open for brunch.

### Applications open for senior to speak at 2024 commencement

The Ithaca College Commencement Committee is looking for an undergraduate senior to speak at the May 2024 Commencement. All undergraduate seniors with a graduation date between Dec. 2023 and Dec. 2024 are eligible to apply.

In addition, eligible candidates must have earned a minimum of 60 credits at Ithaca College and have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 by the end of the Fall 2023 semester.

All applicants must send in a one-to

two-minute video explaining interest and giving an excerpt of the speech that will be submitted to the committee. Final speeches must be three to five minutes long.

### IC Wellness Clinic holds holiday gathering and an open house

The Wellness Clinic's holiday gathering and open house will be from 12 to 2 p.m. Dec. 8 in the Center for Health Sciences, room 302. Members and non-members are welcome to join for sessions on guided meditation and bodyweight exercises.

Memberships are available for faculty, staff, graduate students and their partners. Refreshments, demos and activities will be offered and a raffle will be pulled at the end of the evening.

Prizes include a choice of one semester graduate membership, a one-year spouse/partner/community membership or one semester locker rental with a wellness clinic t-shirt. Each member and non-member will receive one raffle ticket. Each member that brings a friend will receive one ticket per person they bring. Contact Anita Ching at [aching@ithaca.edu](mailto:aching@ithaca.edu) with any questions.

## PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

### SELECTED ENTRIES FROM NOV. 13 TO 19

NOV. 13	NOV. 15	NOV. 16	NOV. 17	NOV. 18	NOV. 19
<b>CRIMINAL MISCHIEF THIRD DEGREE</b> LOCATION: 30 College Circle Dr. SUMMARY: Patrol Officer Dana Malcolm reported an unknown person damaged a gas pipe. This is a pending investigation.	<b>MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / ILLNESS RELATED</b> LOCATION: Center for Health Sciences SUMMARY: A caller reported a person passed out. Assistance was provided but the person declined. Patrol Officer Jordan Bartolis responded to the call.	<b>FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL</b> LOCATION: 151 College Circle SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. George Whitmore fire protection specialist, responded and determined the alarm was caused by burnt food. The alarm was accidental.	<b>FIRE / ACTUAL FIRE</b> LOCATION: Recreation Trails SUMMARY: Caller reported a downed tree on fire. The cause is unknown. Patrol Officer Connor McCoy responded. This investigation is incomplete.	<b>V&amp;T LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT</b> LOCATION: Circle Lot 3 SUMMARY: A caller reported an unknown vehicle damaged a parked vehicle and left the area. Patrol Officer Matthew Patire responded. This is a pending investigation.	<b>CRIMINAL MISCHIEF FOURTH DEGREE</b> LOCATION: Textor Hall SUMMARY: Officer reported an unknown person damaged a door. Patrol Officer Bryan Vendoza responded. This investigation is currently pending.
<b>FIRE SMOLDERING</b> LOCATION: G-lot SUMMARY: A caller reported smoke coming from a cigarette receptacle. Charlie Sherman, fire and building safety coordinator for Environmental Health and Safety, extinguished the fire with water.	<b>MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT / PROPERTY DAMAGE</b> LOCATION: S-lot SUMMARY: Caller reported a two-car property damage vehicle accident. Patrol Officer Jordan Bartolis responded.	<b>SCC COLLEGE REGULATION</b> LOCATION: Friends Hall SUMMARY: A caller reported an unknown person posted flyers on bulletin boards. Patrol Officer Matthew Patire responded to the call. This is a pending investigation.	<b>SCC DISRUPTIVE / EXCESSIVE NOISE</b> LOCATION: Emerson Hall SUMMARY: A caller reported loud music. Patrol Officer Ivan Cruz responded and issued the person a warning. The person was warned for violation of law	<b>CRIMINAL MISCHIEF FOURTH DEGREE</b> LOCATION: Textor Hall SUMMARY: Officer reported an unknown person damaged a door. Patrol Officer Bryan Vendoza responded. This investigation is currently pending.	<b>UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA</b> LOCATION: Emerson Hall SUMMARY: Simplex reported a
<b>FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL</b> LOCATION: East Tower SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The cause for alarm activation was accidental. Patrol Officer Alex				<b>V&amp;T LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT</b> LOCATION: J-Lot/ South of 143-151 Tower Skyline Drive SUMMARY: A caller reported an unknown vehicle damaged a parked vehicle and left the area. Patrol Officer Steven Hutchinson responded to the call. This investigation is pending and has not been completed yet.	<b>UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA</b> LOCATION: Emerson Hall SUMMARY: Simplex reported a

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

#### KEY

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



ILLUSTRATION BY JOSHUA PANTANO/THE ITHACAN

## EDITORIALS

### New varsity athlete dress code is waste of resources

During October 2023, Ithaca College implemented a dress code for all varsity athletes. These rules are a waste of resources by the college, target certain sports teams and enforce sexist standards.

Dress code rules include that athletes must wear team-issued practice gear, or that they must wear shirts that cover their entire back and torso, specific footwear and athletic pants or shorts. For sports involving leotards or bathing suits, athletes must wear shorts or pants when traveling between the locker room and their practice space, among other rules. The justification for these rules is that they make the athletes look more professional.

All that should matter for athletes when they are practicing is that they are wearing athletic clothing that they are comfortable in and that is suited to their particular sport. Dress codes in academic settings have a long history of promoting discrimination against female and LGBTQ+ students. They promote body shaming and victim-blaming attitudes, as well

as restricting what students can wear based on their perceived genders. Specific rules that prohibit attire largely worn by female athletes — like crop tops or sports bras, leotards and one-piece bathing suits — suggest that this new athletics dress code follows the same trend.

To make matters worse, although the policy requires athletes to wear practice uniforms when possible, for some teams, they do not supply these uniforms. In some cases, practice uniforms have been supplied, but some teams have said it would not be possible to wear a practice uniform. For others still, they do not supply enough. If the college is not going to provide the particular clothing for athletes to look “professional,” they do not have the grounds to institute a dress code.

The new varsity athletics dress code is built on antiquated ideas specifically targeting female and LGBTQ+ athletes and it should be eliminated. The only dress code rules imposed on varsity athletes should be those that promote safety and uniformity in the playing arena when it is necessary for competition.

### Transfer pathways boost financial equity at college

Ithaca College is partnering with the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities in New York (CICU) to create transfer pathways for students who want to transfer to the college after two years at a community college. This is a necessary step to promote equitable access to higher education and create a smoother transition for transfer students.

For many, the cost of four years of college is inaccessible. This is especially true at private schools. As of 2023, full-time students at a private college pay an average of \$55,840 per year, as compared to \$26,027 at a public university. At Ithaca College, the cost of attendance for the 2023–24 academic year is \$71,781. This cost is astronomically high, and for the vast majority of people, out of reach.

By partnering with CICU to create transfer pathways, the college is helping make academia more financially accessible. The average cost of community college is \$3,970 per year. Creating more transfer programs will allow people to attend community

college for a more affordable price and then transfer to finish their four-year degree.

As of Fall 2022, transfers in the U.S. from a two-year college to a four-year college declined by 7.5% from the previous school year. This equates to nearly 37,600 students. Some reasons behind this decline are that four-year colleges do not always accept credits from community colleges and there is a lack of transparency and support regarding the transfer process. In creating defined transfer pathways, the college can address these concerns and help make the transfer process easier for students.

Transfer students are an invaluable part of the college community, and they should be treated as such. It is essential that the college not only creates streamlined transfer programs, but also helps ensure a smooth transition for transfer students. Acclimating to a new physical and academic landscape can be challenging, and it is up to the college to provide sufficient support and resources to ensure students’ success and wellbeing.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

ALL LETTERS MUST:

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

## GUEST COMMENTARY

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

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



AMINATTA IMRANA JALLOW/THE ITHACAN

## PENCILS DOWN

GABE HENDERSHOT

# Schools should prioritize safety

Safety on campus is a huge conversation right now, rightfully so. When students do not feel safe and protected on campus, it is easy to see why they may struggle academically or socially. It is an educational institution's job to set its students up for success in every way possible. There are, of course, the more obvious steps that schools can take to aid in the physical safety of students. These include proper maintenance of the campus, campus security and accessible emergency services. It is crucial that students are abundantly aware of the resources that are available to them. However, there are other threats to student safety.

Being safe is important. Feeling safe is another thing entirely. If a student feels unsafe on campus, it could pose a serious threat to their overall well-being and academic success.

As a transgender student attending high school in a relatively rural area, I felt the full effects of this issue. I was fearful when it came to being with students who I did not see on a regular basis. These fears were justified; I was often mocked or called slurs when the teachers were not around. The biggest problem with that situation is that I was so scared for my own safety that I did not feel like I could ask for help.

It's not just my own experience that matters. During high school, I saw students being antagonized while teachers stood by and did nothing. There are many who would argue that if a student is being verbally harassed, nothing should be done until a physical altercation occurs. This mindset is harmful for a couple of reasons. First, verbal harassment on campus could indicate physical violence out of sight. Secondly, verbal harassment can evolve into physical violence, not to mention that verbal harassment alone can have lasting effects. Schools that do nothing for students being verbally harassed are turning a blind eye to violence as a whole.

Policies should be in place to protect students who come forward with experiences of verbal harassment or hate speech. Though the real solution to this problem, I believe, is a concerted effort to build a culture of safety within the campus environment. This involves as many students and faculty as possible.

When students see unsafe behavior, their interference is what makes the difference. If intervention can occur early on, violence can be prevented more effectively. As I discovered in my own experiences with harassment, students will not report unsafe behavior they see if they are not sure of the response they will receive.

Making campus policies and attitudes toward safety evident to students is paramount. When this culture is strong within the campus environment, students feel safer because they know that their instructors and fellow peers are dedicated to everyone's immediate and long-term safety. In turn, fewer students are left behind. It is the job of educational institutions to implement and maintain this culture to protect their student body.

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

## GUEST COMMENTARY

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

# Club sports are prohibitively expensive

BY ANNA RILEY

JUNIOR

College is meant to be a time of discovery and passion, hence why many students opt to join a club sport or other student organization. Sports teams are a great way to make friends, try something new or continue to improve at a craft. However, at Ithaca College, club sports are simply too expensive for many students. Campus Recreation is severely underfunded and the teams feel the impacts deeply.

I have been on the equestrian team since I was a first-year student. I served as the secretary last year, and I am serving as the president this year. I am acutely aware of how much it costs to keep the team running, and a large portion of this cost comes straight out of team members' pockets.

Horseback riding is not a cheap sport; however, the allotment our team gets from Campus Rec is not enough to cover even most of our expenses. Last year, team members covered around 80% of expenses. We fundraise as much as possible, but it doesn't put enough of a dent in the costs to lower our team dues.

This isn't an isolated complaint. The fact is, Campus Rec doesn't have enough money to give to all the clubs sports we have. It's a larger issue stemming from the college's priorities in budgeting.

The college loves to use its student organizations as a selling point for new student recruitment. I have received several emails asking for student orgs to table for open houses this semester. It's amazing that the college has all these opportunities, but who's to say these



Junior Anna Riley writes about her experience as an athlete and executive board member on a club sports team and explains that club sports need more funding.

AMINATTA IMRANA JALLOW/THE ITHACAN

prospective students could actually participate in these clubs because of the astronomical prices? Every year when the equestrian team does recruitment, we get a large amount of initial interest and then people hear the price tag. If Campus Rec were able to fund us more, we'd be able to reduce costs and we'd likely get more recruitment.

Campus Rec is always telling us how dire our financial situation is and how imperative it is that we fundraise. We already pay so much money to go here, why do we have to pay even

more to participate in club sports?

If the college wants to claim that student orgs are an important part of campus life, they need to put their money where their mouth is.

Everyone deserves to get involved on campus if they want to. Cost shouldn't be a barrier to joining certain clubs. As of right now, club sports are emblematic of the classist divide facing the college.

**Anna Riley (she/her)** is a junior acting major. Contact her at [ariley@ithaca.edu](mailto:ariley@ithaca.edu)

## STAFF COMMENTARY

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

# Education on chronic illness is essential

BY KALYSTA DONAGHY-ROBINSON

PHOTO EDITOR

When I was 14 years old, I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), a chronic incurable illness that affects the way a person's immune system reacts to the outer coating of nerve fibers within their brain and/or spine.

MS is a disease that wears a different mask for each individual it affects. For some, it creates mobility issues, dizziness, migraines, fatigue or vision problems. I experienced double vision from the left side of my eyesight for six months before I was finally diagnosed.

Now that I have been living as an MS patient for nearly six years of my life, I've grown familiar with the autoimmune disease that will very likely be my most constant life companion. Those pesky infusions every five to six months have stopped being so menacing. Instead, they are riddled with repetition and routine. I feel like after six years of trial and many errors, I have finally solved how to correctly be an MS patient. But that was not always a label I was comfortable with or understood.

When it comes to chronic illnesses like MS, there is a lack of education and knowledge. People, especially professors or those in positions of authority, need to be more understanding of illnesses that are often physically

undetectable and do not go away after a few weeks. There needs to be an increase in education about chronic illnesses generally, especially in academic settings. The stigma that accompanies ailments that are not physical or visibly detectable needs to lessen.

When I was first diagnosed my freshman year of highschool, I felt out of place with the label of being chronically ill. It was horrifying to be thrust into a label and a life I was wholly unprepared for. What was even more challenging was trying to explain my new label.

Many people, much like myself, had never heard of the disease that affects an estimated 0.21% of people living in the United States.

I quickly grew accustomed to questions like, "Multiple what?" or, "Is that real thing?" Eventually, I decided to just avoid telling people about it entirely.

In my earlier years of being an MS patient, I would often have people find out that I was chronically ill and respond with disbelief, pity or shock. Much of this would happen with teachers or other leaders in academic settings, most recently with some of my Ithaca College professors.

Like many other chronic illnesses, MS is not always a visible ailment. My experience with double vision and the toll the diagnosis took on my mental health were never things that could be



Kalysta Donaghy-Robinson writes about having MS and the need for others to better understand chronic illness.

NOA RAN-RESSLER/THE ITHACAN

physically seen. In fact, some of the moments in my life where I have been at my lowest in terms of health, I have looked the exact same physically.

There is a lack of education when it comes to chronic illnesses like MS. I've had professors tell me that I can make up my schoolwork whenever I am healthy again, but what if you are never going to actually be healthy?

As I reflect on my journey with MS, I find that I am no longer uncomfortable with being labeled as an MS patient. I feel almost grateful for the experience because it has taught me some of my greatest life lessons. It has taught me

that the way in which people look exteriorly does not always translate to who they are on the inside.

Most importantly, my journey with MS has taught me compassion. It has taught me to be kind to the people around me and to myself. I would like to encourage people to be open to learning and to be compassionate without judgment. For anyone who is struggling with something that goes unrecognized, you are not invisible.

**Kalysta Donaghy-Robinson (she/her)** is a junior journalism major. Contact her at [kdonaghyrobinson@ithaca.edu](mailto:kdonaghyrobinson@ithaca.edu).





## Sights, sounds and sweets: Holiday cheer rocks around Ithaca

BY SARAH MOONEY  
STAFF WRITER

From Dec. 1 to Dec. 3, Ithaca celebrated the holidays by hosting The Factory Holiday Art Market, The Habitat for Humanity Cookie Walk and the Ice and Lights Festival.

### The Factory Holiday Art Market

Lasting from Dec. 1 to Dec. 3, The Factory Holiday Art Market gave local artists and artists from the surrounding area an opportunity to share and sell their work. The market was held at the South Hill Business Campus, located at 950 Danby Road across the street from Ithaca College.

The market was filled with artists, showing off a variety of different styles from woodworking, poetry, painting, glass art and photography, to a team who printed old newspaper ads onto t-shirts. The exhibits were placed in a winding indoor alleyway, which led to new artists after every turn. Each day the event was held, around 60 people walked along these alleyways to appreciate the artworks.

Michael Sampson, curator of the Gallery at South Hill and an abstract painter, said the market gives the public the chance to see unique types of art where a variety of different mediums are practiced.

"There are a little bit over 70, either invited or studio artists, in Artist Alley," Sampson said. "[The market gives the] opportunity for the public to come in and see either paintings or dice makers or ceramics by local artists."

Inside the market, there is also The Gallery at South Hill. Sampson said the gallery is currently exhibiting its third annual small works invitational.

"It's a really interesting way for the public to sort of see the intimate smaller pieces," Sampson said. "Us at the Factory Art Market like to tie in the small works with this even; it's a good pairing."

When the market is not in

session, these alleyways, located on the ground floor of the South Hill Business Campus, provide artists with rentable studio space in what they call Artist Alley. Many of the artists with rented space opened up their studios for the market so that the public could explore the area in which they work. During the market, these artists sold their work right from their studios.

While people walked around the alleyway, the vendors continued to work on their craft. One woman worked on her wood carvings, another stitched her mittens made from old sweaters and another watercolored greeting cards.

Maryam Adib, one of the market's vendors and renter of the studio space, said she's been renting studio space since 2020 and selling her work at the market for the past three years.

"I bounced around to a couple of spaces, but this is one where I could expand," Adib said. "I needed a place to hang my work, which is pretty large, so I moved to this one which I am able to have my shop and my gallery."

Adib's specialty is large murals and upcycled clothing. Adib said that while she was glad many people showed up, she wished more people would purchase her work.

"It's mostly people wanting to chat about the artwork," Adib said. "I think people are more apt to buy smaller things. I'm selling my new collection, but they are at a higher price point so less sales and more chatting."

Adib said she encourages Ithaca residents to attend and shop at this event every year.

"It's good to support small local artists," Adib said. "It gives money back to people in our communities and keeps the art scene alive in Ithaca and beyond."

### Habitat For Humanity Cookie Walk

Habitat for Humanity held their annual cookie walk Dec. 2 at Center Ithaca on The Commons where



Liz Warner worked at the Habitat for Humanity annual cookie walk Dec. 2 at Center Ithaca Commons for the first time since 2020 due to restrictions because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

KAELEIGH BANDA/THE ITHACAN

volunteers could sign up to bake cookies for the community.

Shannon MacCarrick, executive director at Habitat for Humanity of Tompkins and Cortland Counties, said the cookie walk had been happening in the community for 11 years but recently has not been held since 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic; however, many volunteers returned for the event.

"We had a lot of repeat bakers, which was nice," MacCarrick said. "We were a little worried if they were going to come back after the three-year hiatus."

The room was filled with tables in a circular pattern, piled with cookies, including chocolate chip, gingerbread, snickerdoodle and sugar cookies.

The cookie tables also had a wide selection of allergen free cookies. There was a clearly marked gluten-free section while the other cookies in the general area had ingredient lists attached to them.

Shoppers walked around the tables filling their containers provided by Habitat for Humanity with as many cookies as possible. With a deal of \$10 per pound of cookies, many shoppers could not resist.

Shoppers are encouraged to buy as many cookies as they can. MacCarrick said the proceeds go toward funding Habitat for Humanity. She said she expected to raise around \$5,000 from the fundraiser.

"Our fingers are crossed that the same thing will happen again this year — that we run out of cookies by 3:00," MacCarrick said.

This year, shoppers had the opportunity to pre-order their cookies, using a form on Habitat for Humanity's website, so they would

not have to wait in line. There also was an option for pre-packaged assorted cookies for the people who did not have time to spend looking for cookies.

These options helped to ensure everyone who wanted to buy cookies had the opportunity to. McCarrick said she was excited to see the variety of cookies they had this year.

"We had 100 bakers today; there's a couple of duplicates, but there's a lot of variety," McCarrick said. "We had people make some really cute ones, like polar bears and reindeer, and they are super fun to look at."

### Ice and Lights Festival

The Ice and Lights Festival, a two-weekend celebration of the start of winter, kicked off Dec. 2.

Stands filled The Commons with beer, wine, hot chocolate and chowder for the annual downtown-wide chowder cook-off. Attendees became taste testers for the chowder and voted on their favorites.

A stage with neon strobe lights was set up for a silent disco where everyone put on headphones and could select which music to listen to. A giant light-up unicorn sculpture stood by the silent disco with a ladder for people to climb and take a picture on it.

Ithaca College first-year student Caitlin Moran said she attended the event because it seemed like a way to celebrate the holidays.

"[The festival] seemed like something fun around Ithaca," Moran said. "I wanted to see what the silent disco was all about and I wanted to see all the ice sculptures."

The festival began with a Krampus parade, where around

20 people dressed as Krampus, a horned figure from European folklore designed to scare kids into being good. They walked along The Commons playing instruments, like the tambourine, the accordion and bells, then gathered in a circle and began dancing. The parade left The Commons after 15 minutes and made their way to Liquid State Brewing Company, about a mile away from The Commons.

Throughout the day, there had been off and on rain, making the weather not the most ideal for this festival. First-year student Tripp Corson said he felt the weather did not deter people from attending the event.

"The weather, it's not the best, but it's what you expect for a winter event," Corson said. "Everyone is bundled up."

The damp weather made the hot chocolate stand one of the highlights of the event. Moran said it was her favorite part.

"You get to customize it all yourself with toppings," Moran said. "I wanted the hot chocolate that wasn't the dining hall's hot chocolate."

Corson said he liked to have fun creating delicious combinations with the hot chocolate bar.

"Mine was a whole peppermint extravaganza," Corson said. "I had peppermint whipped cream and Candy Cane marshmallows."

Moran said she loved how beautiful the event was. Moran said she is excited to see Santa, who will be there from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 9 on The Commons.

"[The festival] looks like a movie," Moran said. "It is really beautiful."



Max Kleid at the Factory Holiday Art Market at the South Hill Business Campus across the street from Ithaca College.

KAELEIGH BANDA/THE ITHACAN

CONTACT: SMOONEY@ITHACA.EDU



## Movie trailers are not in tune

BY MOLLY FITZSIMONS

CO-LIFE AND CULTURE EDITOR

Movie trailers are one of the best ways that audiences get a feel for a film to find out if they want to see it. When movies are misrepresented as different genres from the actual content, there can be confusion following the film.

There are many films that have been misadvertised, either leading to unsatisfied viewers or low box office numbers. In 2023, there's been a surge in movie trailers that have misrepresented musical films. By cutting out much of the musical aspects within some trailers, some movie musicals do not seem like musical adaptations at all. They might not ignore the musical aspect all together, but they certainly do not highlight scenes that display such a genre.

"Mean Girls," first released in 2004, was later adapted into a musical version for Broadway. The original movie had no singing in it besides the iconic talent show scene with an overly sexual take on "Jingle Bell Rock." A new musical movie version of "Mean Girls" is set to release in 2024.

When watching the official trailer for the new film, character interactions are highlighted to help the viewer understand who the new actors playing these roles are. However, at no point in the commercial do we hear any of the characters sing. While it can be assumed that the movie's plot hopes to be closely following in the footsteps of the 2004 film, the missing features of the musical in the trailer can create confusion, leaving viewers thinking it is a reboot of the original movie rather than a Broadway musical rendition.

Similarly, "The Color Purple," set to release Dec. 25, also subtly hides the film being an adaption of the musical in its official trailer. While this trailer has much more shown in terms of musicality, it doesn't explicitly show that it is a musical adaptation.

"Wonka," set to come out Dec. 15, has the titular role being played by Timothée Chalamet. The film seems to have lots of movie magic, however, this magic all seems to play into what typically goes into a Wonka-related film, not necessarily the magic of musicals. Director Paul King claims that this film is not a musical and rather a "movie with songs," despite Timothée Chalamet singing seven musical numbers.

The argument could easily be made that by masking the true genres of these films, it will drive a larger audience into the theater. To that, I bring in the example of "La La Land," which is widely adored and surpassed \$435 million in the worldwide box office. "La La Land" was appropriately advertised, showing interactions both with and without musical numbers, leaving the viewer with an understanding without oversaturating the content with dancing and singing.

While the upcoming musical films are a great way to push the genre farther, the films would likely benefit in highlighting these aspects in their commercials, in order to include musical lovers while also making sure not to confuse other viewers.

**POPPED CULTURE** is a column, written by Life & Culture staff writers, that analyzes pop culture events. Molly Fitzsimons is a senior integrated marketing communications. Contact them at [mfitzsimons@ithaca.edu](mailto:mfitzsimons@ithaca.edu).

# Buzzsaw showcases buzzing creativity

BY GEORGIE GASSARO

STAFF WRITER

Writers, friends and classmates eagerly gathered at Williams Hall on Nov. 28 as Buzzsaw Magazine held their first ever Buzzsaw Showcase to celebrate the magazine's creations throughout recent semesters.

The Buzzsaw Showcase provided writers with the opportunity to read aloud any work they have done for the magazine, whether it be from any past issue or from this semester's two issues. The showcase was open to the entire campus community.

The magazine was created in 1999 by a group of students and friends who wanted to create a student-operated space for free expression of ideas and perspectives outside of perceived norms.

Senior writing major Mikayla Tolliver, the president of Buzzsaw, said that the event had a great turnout, with around 40 people in attendance, and that the showcase was successful in its mission to provide an open and welcoming platform for writers to share their work.

"It's always different reading someone's piece versus hearing the writer read that piece," Tolliver said. "[Having the showcase] just felt right. ... People seemed really excited about it and seemed to enjoy hearing the pieces read."

As each piece was read aloud, there was a wave of captivating silence within the audience. Each piece was drastically different in tone and content and showcased the depth and range that the writing at Buzzsaw has.

Junior psychology major Allie Richter is the Upfront editor for Buzzsaw. Richter was one of many writers who shared their work on Tuesday night and described the experience as both nerve wracking and exciting.

"This event was the first time I've ever



Junior Tyler Dale, Prose and Cons Co-Editor for Buzzsaw Magazine, reads aloud from a section of the "Lore" issue during the Nov. 28 Buzzsaw Showcase.

MAKAI YLLANES/THE ITHACAN

really written a poem and shared it with people," Richter said. "I really felt like it was such a great space because I feel that with Buzzsaw, we've always just had our two issues and never done anything outside of that, so it was really exciting to actually have an event."

Prose and Cons Co-Editor Sofia Nolfo, a senior communications management and design major, has been working with Buzzsaw for two years. Since next semester will be Nolfo's last with the college and with Buzzsaw, she said she is looking forward to getting more work published and continuing to create a collaborative environment within the publication's staff.

"I'm really excited that we're starting to

have some events and bring in the community because I feel like a good amount of people read Buzzsaw, but it's nice to have an interactive element with everyone," Nolfo said.

Richter expressed interest in having more events like the showcase in the future to continue providing a platform that allows writers to promote their work with the campus community.

"I'm excited to hopefully have something like this [next semester] to be able to give people more opportunities to share their work because I don't feel like we have a lot of opportunities like that," Richter said.

CONTACT: [GGASSARO@ITHACA.EDU](mailto:GGASSARO@ITHACA.EDU)

## Godzilla smashes franchise's records

MOVIE REVIEW: "Godzilla Minus One" Toho Co.



BY RAY MILBURN

HEAD VIDEO EDITOR

The 33rd Japanese "Godzilla" film stomped through North American theaters Dec. 1, delivering a record-setting opening weekend. Grossing \$11 million during its first three days in the United States, the latest entry in the franchise delivered a classic theater experience packed with thrills, action and characters who commanded as much screen presence as the giant lizard.

"Godzilla Minus One" opens on Shikishima Koichi (Kamiki Ryunosuke), a kamikaze pilot who evades a mission by claiming to have a faulty plane. Shikishima first appears on screen from within his cockpit, breathing heavily after his escape from certain death.

Minutes later, Shikishima is caught in the middle of Godzilla's rampage across Odo Island. Shikishima is one of two survivors, alongside engineer Tachibana Sosaku (Aoki Munetaka), of Godzilla's first on-screen attack.

Each of the major action setpieces is crafted with chilling tension. Sato's Naoki's score creeps underneath the action as droning, ice-cold ambience, but it also knows when to take center stage, blaring the classic Godzilla

theme as the monster unleashes its strength. The CGI is fantastic, bringing the grisly creature to life with rugged skin and grotesque spines on its back. The action scenes each have a riveting nature and jaw-dropping moments to punctuate the characters' fear.

Outside of the action, the cast of characters have a charm and personality that is equally as enthralling as the action-packed fight scenes. The film is grounded by Kamiki's performance as Shikishima, plagued by survivor's guilt and the cold reality of being a kamikaze pilot. Hamabe Minami shines as Oishi Noriko, Shikishima's caring partner, who adds much-needed heart to the film.

Her life with Shikishima is set against the bleak backdrop of post-World War II Japan. The country is aching, crippled from the fiery end of the second World War.

One of the movie's greatest strengths is tying Godzilla's raw power and terror to the horrors of war. Godzilla's atomic breath produces visceral nuclear imagery that evokes utter horror from the characters. Godzilla's attacks evoke a potent feeling of helplessness, and each of the actors convincingly sell their terror.

In "Godzilla Minus One,"



"Godzilla Minus One," the latest entry in the 69-year-old franchise, premiered in North American theaters Dec. 1.

COURTESY OF TOHO CO.

post-World War II Japan lacks munitions and the nation's citizens lack trust in their government. In the end, it falls on the bravery of Japanese citizens to defeat the beast. The message has layers of complexity and history that are written by and for a Japanese audience, but the voice and power can be felt regardless of nationality.

If anything holds the film back, it would be a bit of repetition. The story is rarely surprising

or original, so it's easy to lose an audience if they aren't immediately thrilled at the idea of another monster movie. However, it revisits old classics in a ferocious way.

Despite the bleak meaning and the film's often-somber story, the latest entry of the franchise is a stirring and inspiring action film that has much more happening under the surface.

CONTACT: [RMILBURN@ITHACA.EDU](mailto:RMILBURN@ITHACA.EDU)

# 'May December' centers on scandal and society

MOVIE REVIEW: "May December" Netflix



BY MATT MINTON  
SENIOR WRITER

Few film directors are able to balance so many conflicting tones at once while making a cohesive, unifying experience for viewers. Todd Haynes, one of our greatest American directors working today, brings elements of fierce dark comedy, deeply layered melodrama and an undeniable throughline of sorrow to his latest masterwork.

"May December," Haynes' new Netflix film released Dec. 1, is a term for a relationship with a considerably large age gap. Inspired by a true story from 1996, the film follows the aftermath of a huge scandal that shook not just Savannah, Georgia, but the entire country — a 36-year-old woman in a relationship with a seventh grader. Elizabeth Berry (Natalie Portman), the kind of cutthroat actor who can hide her cruelest intentions with a modest glance, seeps into the lives of the now-older Gracie Atherton-Yoo (Julianne Moore) and Joe Yoo (Charles Melton) to prepare for a movie about the scandal.

Haynes' films have always been keen on examining the space between unspoken words with an eye for the broader social implications of the characters' actions. "May December" is many things, but most importantly, it's an uncomfortable look at grooming and the way the media's obsession with unpacking people's trauma can only compound the victim's pain.

Casting director Samy Burch makes the jump to screenwriting with such a strong, confident voice that one could easily think she's written dozens of produced scripts before. Every detail matters. Each character has such distinct, subtle traits and moments

that say so much about who they are behind closed doors.

One of the film's most important scenes is when Elizabeth visits a local school to give a talk about acting. After one of Gracie's daughters, Mary (Elizabeth Yu), asks her why she would be interested in playing people she thinks are bad, Elizabeth goes on to talk about why she enjoys characters who can't be easily pinned down.

Elizabeth's fascination with playing ambiguously good and bad characters serves as a guise for her own questionable manipulation tactics to get the performance she wants. Labeling a character she's portraying in the "grey area" is an act of giving herself permission to take the character wherever she wants to go — no matter how exploitative or inaccurate.

The way Elizabeth shapes and molds Gracie's character into her own psyche shows how the two are alike in more ways than Elizabeth cares to admit. It becomes clear that Elizabeth is not really looking for answers, but a way to prepare for the role at any cost, including the loss of her own identity.

In a film with Oscar-winning veterans like Portman and Moore, it's "Riverdale"'s own Melton that stands out, giving one of the most haunting performances of the year. The balance Melton strikes between portraying an adult trying to convince himself he has matured to his age versus his childish mannerisms is completely devastating. After recently winning Best Supporting Actor at The Gotham Awards and the New York Film Critics Circle Awards, it's no wonder when watching "May December" why he's destined to become the critics' sweepster this year.

Joe's relationship with his own children,



Twenty years after their notorious romance, a married couple buckles under the pressure when an actress arrives to do research for a film about their past.

COURTESY OF NETFLIX

two of whom are graduating from high school, are the crucial moments that unlock the emotional baggage he shields from Gracie. The trauma that Joe feels in knowing that he never got the chance to fully experience his childhood, being forced to grow up before even entering high school, has never left him. However, there's hope that, with his children graduating, they can live the life

he never got.

While there are plenty of absurdly funny moments to be found in "May December," the ultimate feeling that Haynes leaves us with is deep sadness. It's an inescapable fate, much like the invisible prison bars that keep Joe from ever experiencing a full life.

CONTACT: MMINTON@ITHACA.EDU

# A24 leaves viewers in their very own 'Dream Scenario'

MOVIE REVIEW: "Dream Scenario" A24



BY PATRICK MAZZELLA  
STAFF WRITER

A24's newest film, Kristoffer Borgli's high-concept comedy "Dream Scenario," is a timid and toothless commentary on a world where everyone is connected, with a searing study on what global backlash does to a person hidden underneath. The film follows Paul Matthews (played by an unrecognizable Nicolas Cage), a washed-up professor at a less-than-prestigious university.

On a night out with his wife, Janet (the lovely Julianne Nicholson), Paul is stopped by his former girlfriend, Claire (Marnie McPhail) from decades prior. She tells him that she's been dreaming about him multiple nights in a row. It's here that the true story begins. While on the surface, the film is about the horrors, complexities and harsh truths that come with a world guided by public opinion and mass thought, underneath it sports a heartbreaking tale about the folly of a man desperate for validation — from his wife, from his kids and from the world.

As numerous people dream about Paul, it seems to become less and less of a coincidence. The final nail in the coffin is hammered in when he receives a call from a former colleague saying that a friend of his had

a dream with him in it. The very next day, upon his arrival to class, Paul finds the lecture hall full, contrasted to the sparse attendance prior to the dreams. Paul soon learns many people have been dreaming about him, but no matter the story, he remained a passive character. As a result, Paul soon becomes a global phenomenon. He feels invincible now — who doesn't want to meet the man from their dreams?

Obsessed with the fame, Paul goes all in, doing interviews, taking pictures, happily listening to the dreamer's stories and theories. He is truly on top of the world, ready to tackle his career aspirations of finally having published a book on his many — undocumented — theories on his field of study. In a desperate attempt to stay on top of this, he meets with a talent agency to maximize his relevance in a fast-moving attention economy. But Paul's career goals hardly line up with the plans this talent agency has for him.

Upon his return back home, away from the glitz and glam, he finds himself in a predicament. The worldwide dreams about Paul have turned into nightmares. No one will show up to class, no one even wants to be in the same room as the man they just witnessed torture them in their sleep. And what happens when a man on

top of the world is forced into the role of a villain?

This is precisely where the premise loses its bite. While Borgli has the best of intentions of creating a commentary on the popularity of "cancel culture" and the pitfalls of turning on people as a collective, it comes up flat and lacks the empathy that is required of any social comment. While Paul as a character is no saint, by positioning him as the main character, Borgli begs the question, "What if this happened to you?" and ignoring the fantastical elements, it simply wouldn't.

Borgli's allegorical "canceling" of Paul Matthews lacks compassion for the students too scarred from their nightmares to even go to class. Of course, the film argues on the validity of Paul's overreaction and response to this turn, which is the question of his character. In the end, the audience members are not meant to empathize with the faceless and nameless students, colleagues and strangers who can't even look Paul in the eyes after what he did to them, albeit in a dream.

The most unfortunate part of it all is that Borgli has a strong control over the tone of the film, making for one of the most intentionally uncomfortable viewings in recent years. The editing style is consistently



Paul Matthews (Nicolas Cage) in A24's "Dream Scenario" randomly begins to appear in millions of people's dreams.

COURTESY OF A24

engaging, informative and beautifully motivated. Each cut feels natural but almost unexpected. It's a technical marvel, frankly. But Borgli's refusal to confront any of the actual reasons that people get "canceled" (which the validity and permanence of, in and of itself, is a whole mess the film can't even get into), is what drives it down in effectiveness. While surely the mass backlash is a beast on its

own, it's not created out of nothing. There is no magical, unexplainable force that is conjured up by an unknown being making the public turn on these people.

Again, Paul Matthews is no saint, but a film without a real balance comes up to be just another "wouldn't this be crazy" scenario.

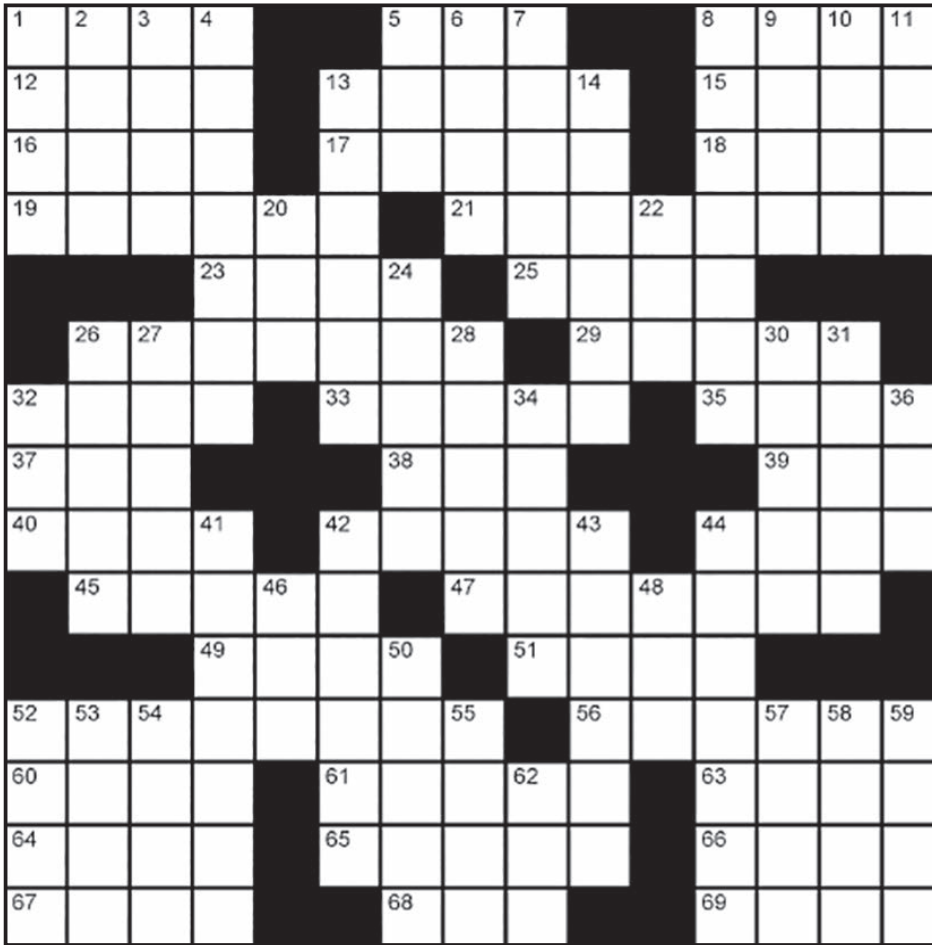
CONTACT: PMAZZELLA@ITHACA.EDU

# DIVERSIONS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023

## crossword

By Quill Driver Books



### ACROSS

- 1 Singer – Guthrie
- 5 Sun god
- 8 Toboggan
- 12 Show displeasure
- 13 Pay the –
- 15 Parade honoree
- 16 Release
- 17 Ridge in the mountains
- 18 Stratford-upon–
- 19 Vacation option
- 21 Censure
- 23 Red Planet
- 25 Redact
- 26 Art supply brand
- 29 Nemesis
- 32 Keep away from
- 33 Not just now
- 35 Go here and there
- 37 Wheel part
- 38 Ave. Crossers
- 39 Wood sorrel
- 30 Object of Devotion
- 42 Egg portion
- 44 Lacking Color
- 45 Notched, as a leaf
- 47 Small crown
- 49 Kilmer and Toriello
- 51 Earthy fuel
- 52 Like a cat burglar
- 56 Lunar feature
- 60 Sepulcher
- 61 Break forth
- 63 Nat king –
- 64 Indigo dye
- 65 Decides judicially
- 66 Golf club
- 67 City in Lebanon
- 68 Panhandle
- 69 Fender mishap

### DOWN

- 1 Impressionist
- 2 Variety of apple
- 3 San – Obiso
- 4 Upholstered footstool
- 5 Polite address
- 6 Oil grp.
- 7 Underworld river
- 8 Smash
- 9 Jacob's son
- 10 Cupid
- 11 Complete
- 13 Neighborhood watch
- 14 School book

- 20 Sunbeam
- 22 Misstep
- 24 Reduce a lot
- 26 Scold
- 27 Gossip bit
- 28 Storage place
- 30 Alaskan animal
- 31 Regatta vessel
- 32 – Lanka
- 34 Impede by legal means
- 36 Spring time
- 41 Endearing
- 42 Jumble
- 43 Builds
- 44 Relief for heartburn
- 46 – ammoniac
- 48 Scull
- 50 Bush
- 52 "On the double!"
- 53 Show award
- 54 Turkish title
- 55 Twelve days of Christmas
- 57 Went quickly
- 58 Tesla's – Musk
- 59 Monthly expense
- 62 Wood Pin

### last issue's crossword answers



## Polar Pardner

ILLUSTRATION BY JOSHUA PANTANO/THE ITHACAN



Create and solve your Sudoku puzzles for FREE.

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The Sudoku Source of "The Ithacan".

## answers to last issue's sudoku:

very easy

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

medium

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

## sudoku

easy

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

hard

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

## Dress code sparks controversy with athletes

FROM DRESS CODE, PAGE 1

Bassett said that after the dress code was finalized, she shared it with all of the coaching staff at the college to then relay the information to their athletes through the lens of their respective sports. While team sports, which often have practice uniforms, have seen minimal changes, individual sports like track and field and rowing have undergone a more significant shift.

### Coach responses

Erin Dinan, head coach of the women's cross country team, said many of her athletes, especially in the warmer months, train outdoors in their sports bras — something that is now prohibited. She said the change in dress code has seen mixed reactions from her athletes.

"I don't think they necessarily see the problem with just running in our sports bras because they've been doing it for years," Dinan said. "I do have some women on my team who prefer to not run in their sports bra and they've always worn their shirt, so I will say not everybody was upset about it — some people were unaffected."

Despite the goal of the dress code being rooted in uniformity, Dinan said it would not be feasible for her athletes to be in the same uniform every day. She said her athletes will continue to train in whatever feels comfortable as long as it is up to code.

"It's not financially sound to be able to outfit a team with clothes for five days of practice and a meet on the weekend," Dinan said. They won't look uniform, but they'll look appropriate in the sense that they'll be covered up."

All athletes at the college are issued a pair of shorts and T-shirts to be worn in the weight rooms. However, lacking uniform practice gear is not an issue unique to the cross country team. Gymnastics head coach Rick Suddaby said he was happy to comply with the standard, but his team needed the gear to be able to do so.

Bassett said that on Suddaby's request, the athletic department ordered the gymnasts' uniform leotards to practice in and Nike slides to wear to and from the gym — the only caveat being that the gymnasts need to wear pants or shorts over their leotards while in the Hill Center's public corridors.

Suddaby said that he supports Bassett's initiative and that looking uniform at practice will bring a new sense of professionalism to his team that he welcomes.

"When you look at the D-I and D-II teams, all those athletes are out-fitted this way, so now we're going to be kind of at that level," Suddaby said. "It's hard to get a definition of a dress code that meets the general

standards of every team, but when Susan and I spoke about us and our situation, she was ready to help us get to that point."

### Athlete responses

Outside of what was relayed by their coaches, the student-athletes received no additional information from the athletic department about why and how the dress code would be enforced.

Junior Owen Tobias-Wallingford — an athlete on the men's swimming and diving team and member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council — said that although the dress code was mentioned to the representatives before its release, they did not have any input in drafting it.

"In my experience communicating with Susan and the athletic department, they do try to get as much of an opinion as they can from the SAAC representatives, but this was more of a warning than a conversation," Tobias-Wallingford said.

Similar to the gymnasts, Tobias-Wallingford said the dress code has only impacted his team in terms of wearing team-issued gear rather than personal swimsuits and caps. He said the uniformity could benefit his team, especially while hosting prospective athletes.

"When you're having recruits on campus and watching practice up in the stands, it's very cool to look down and see that everyone has the IC cap on, everyone's doing stuff together," Tobias-Wallingford said. "It looks so much more like a team."

Junior Luca Pecora, an athlete on the women's track and field team, said her team was first introduced to the idea of a dress code during the annual "Get in the Game" meeting — a conversation each varsity team has with Bassett regarding NCAA compliance and expectations — but did not hear about it again until the document was sent out.

Pecora said that based on her team's conversation at the meeting, there is still some confusion among her teammates regarding the origin of the dress code.

"[Bassett] says in the 'Get in the Game' meeting that she sees us as adults, so why are you implementing this dress code," Pecora said. "If we're talking about professionalism, this is what professionals are wearing in our sports."

Jennifer Potter, head coach of the women's track and field team, said via email that she supports the dress code and that it does not impact her team, but declined to interview.

Similar to Pecora, sophomore Samantha Gallagher, an athlete on the women's rowing team, said that when her team trains indoors, they often condition in a sports bra or tank top so they do not sweat through their shirts before heading directly to the weight room.

Gallagher said many of her teammates are upset about the regulation not because they need to wear their lifting gear, but because being told to cover up has created an

uncomfortable and uninviting environment at practice.

"If you're just practicing and you feel normal, then someone — especially someone in a position of power like Susan Bassett — creates a rule or enforces an ideology that sexualizes what you're doing, it makes you feel gross," Gallagher said. "It makes what you're doing feel less normal and less comfortable — it puts your mind in a place where, at practice, now I'm worrying about what my body looks like to other people and I feel like no one should have to do that, least of all women."

### The bigger picture

In 2018, Rowan University issued a policy that required full-length shirts and prohibited its cross country teams from practicing in the same area as the football team because the football head coach said the athletes in sports bras were a distraction. The memo sparked outrage among the cross country team and was later rescinded by the university's president.

Dinan said Rowan's controversy was the first thing to come to her mind when she heard of the dress code, but she does not believe that being a distraction was part of the administration's motivation to implement the policy.

"Of course, it was at a different institution, so not here," Dinan said. "I think [our] focus was more about being dressed appropriately, which is a very different take. Either way, I can understand the frustrations from people — why does it matter what angle it's coming from?"

Ellen Staurowsky '79, professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences, and Studies, specializes in social justice and gender equity in sports. She said that when policies like this come from the top-down, they are not often embraced.

"Women are trying to figure it out," Staurowsky said. "We saw this in the most recent summer Olympics; we have volleyball players trying to make their own decisions about what they feel most comfortable with and that's where I think the conversation about dress code should come from. It should come from the athletes."

When receiving feedback about the new dress code, Bassett said she emphasizes the athletic department's acronym, PRIDE, which stands for professionalism, respect, integrity, dedication and excellence. She said, although some athletes might be inconvenienced, the policy will help to uphold those values.

"I want students who participate in intercollegiate athletics here to feel valued, respected, empowered and supported," Bassett said. "I think I can hear the concerns and I appreciate and respect the issues that people are raising, but I don't think what we're asking is unfair or unreasonable."



# Student-athletes navigate COVID eligibility loopholes

BY JESS MOSKOWITZ

STAFF WRITER

In Spring 2020, the NCAA announced that student-athletes who did not compete in the 2020 spring sports season because of the COVID-19 pandemic would be granted an extra season of eligibility.

Graduate student pole vaulter Dominic Mikula will use this extra season to compete in his sixth and final outdoor season this spring on the Ithaca College men's track & field team. Despite Mikula being able to use this a sixth year of eligibility for this year's outdoor season, he said he will have to take a break during the indoor season because of the NCAA not allowing extra eligibility during that period.

"Back in 2020, we were at the indoor NCAA championships in North Carolina when they canceled the meet and the upcoming outdoor season," Mikula said. "They didn't give back indoor eligibility, so that outdoor season is what I have left to be able to use for this upcoming season."

When the NCAA issued the eligibility extension in March of 2020, they gave universities the decision to extend player's eligibility window one year past their normal five years.

Mikula had to decide whether or not to come back and compete using his sixth year of eligibility or leave the program as a national champion. Mikula said this decision was based on both academic and athletic desires.

A student in the occupational therapy department, Mikula, with the guidance of his advisers, was able to curate a schedule that allowed him

to continue his academic and athletic career for six years at the college.

"I was already in a five-year master's program, so making it a six-year master's program with the program support in HSHSP and the occupational therapy department definitely allowed me to continue using my eligibility as I had it left," Mikula said.

Mikula will attend meets during the indoor season, however, he will compete under the "unattached" name. Competing unattached means individuals can attend an open meet and compete as long as they pay the fee to get into the meet, which allows Mikula to continue competing without requiring NCAA eligibility.

While Mikula is entering his sixth year, senior Hannah Fichter, a member of the women's track and field team, is graduating early with the class of 2024 and foregoing her eligibility.

Fichter, who competes in the 5k and steeple, had two seasons of eligibility left for both indoor and outdoor events and said the decision for her to forgo this eligibility was dependent on various components.

"Several of my teammates are trying to get me to come back to use my eligibility, especially for cross country, but I came to Ithaca for academics and running was a bonus, so I am OK with foregoing the eligibility I will have left after I graduate," Fichter said.

During this time of COVID-19 relief, Fichter has competed with fifth and sixth-year student-athletes. Fichter said she believes the structure put in place by the NCAA after COVID-19 has been a disservice to athletes entering their collegiate athletic experience.



Graduate student pole vaulter Dom Mikula is heading into his sixth year competing in college. Because of eligibility loopholes, he will be able to compete in the winter and spring seasons.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

"I believe that [COVID-19 eligibility relief] may have created an unfair advantage because as a freshman, I was competing against fifth and sixth-year athletes who were older and had developed more than I had in my career," Fichter said.

After spending the past six years with men's track & field coach Jim Nichols and pole vault coach Matt Scheffler, Mikula said he sees his experience as an opportunity to serve as a leader for underclassmen.

"Going out on top would be great,

but being able to use that outdoor eligibility would also be great and I felt like my body was healthy to come back and continue to be a leader," Mikula said. "Knowing the traditions of the program, helping the underclassmen navigate around a meet and providing that leadership as a veteran in the locker room is a huge thing for coaches and being able to provide that for them is important to me."

Nichols believes that Mikula's presence and experience will continue to benefit the team this season.

"Dom is our defending national champion so his sticking around adds a great level of leadership, dedication and diligence to the sport and the program," Nichols said. "He is a reflection of the success you can have in this program and even competing unattached in the winter, he will be able to train indoors with the team, serve as an example, provide that experience to our younger athletes and have a great impact."

CONTACT: J MOSKOWITZ@ITHACA.EDU

## Q&A: First-year quarterback makes quick impression

During the 2023 Ithaca College football season, the spotlight shifted to first-year quarterback Colin Schumm, who stepped onto the field following graduate student quarterback AJ Wingfield's injury against Union College.

Following his start, Schumm impressed everyone, maintaining a 4-2 record as a starter for the remainder of the season with his only losses being against ranked opponents SUNY Cortland and Randolph-Macon College. Despite the attention, Schumm has remained humble, attributing his achievements to the support of his team and the guidance of the coaching staff.

Staff Writer Flynn Hynes met with Schumm to discuss his journey before college, how he is reflecting on this season and how he is preparing for the future.

*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*

**Flynn Hynes:** Can you take me back to your high school days and even before? What were your main interests and how did your experience shape your decision to come play football at the collegiate level?

**Colin Schumm:** My main interests were really just my responsibilities growing up. My dad always talked about, "Your responsibilities are school, family and sports." ... I think having that mindset really just molded me to work, be disciplined and hold myself accountable for just everything I do.

**FH:** Did you look up to anyone growing up that you modeled your game after?

**CS:** Honestly, no, I really didn't play quarterback until my sophomore year of high school. So I didn't really know what I wanted to do and I wasn't sure if I wanted to play football in college yet until my junior year, so I never really paid attention to somebody specifically.

**FH:** I saw you played both basketball and baseball in high school and you were pretty

good at all three sports: football, baseball and basketball. What was it about football that ultimately led you to choose it as your collegiate sport? Was there a specific moment or reason that just made you shift your focus?

**CS:** Not necessarily. I feel like I just grew up in a football family. My dad's always loved football, it's always just been in our blood and I think me carrying that out just like my older brother did, it was just good for our family.

**FH:** Can you share some details about the recruitment process and what ultimately made you decide to play football at Ithaca College? What factors played a significant role in your decision?

**CS:** There were a couple of schools that showed interest ... but Ithaca was really the only college that put both of their feet in the door for me and really told me how much they wanted me to come and be a part of their program. Throughout the whole process, you could feel the love from the coaches, the players and just their willingness to do anything for you, whether you're in the program or not. I felt that every time I came to Ithaca and every time I've talked to any coaches on the coaching staff, so that's really what helped me to come here.

**FH:** Can you talk about the connection between you and the other first-years especially the quarterbacks? How do you guys support each other and what kind of chemistry do you guys share?

**CS:** We're all a close-knit team. We're all friends. I think with us, it was really just getting comfortable with each other because it was the first time that we got to interact and figure out who each other are. But all the quarterbacks that came in this year are really talented and I think any of us could have stepped in at that moment and played the role for the team and did what they had to do. I think this group that



First-year quarterback Colin Schumm was forced to step into the starting role after graduate student quarterback AJ Wingfield was injured against Union College.

NOLAN SAUNDERS/THE ITHACAN

we have in our [first-year] class really has a lot of room to grow for the future.

**FH:** Starting in the Cortaca game and two playoff games, how have these intense games prepared you and overall improved your ability?

**CS:** It's given me a little bit of confidence going into next year and going into spring ball. Those are obviously good games to be a part of [and] to experience, especially early on in someone's career. I just have to keep getting more comfortable and more familiar with everything that we're doing as an offense and as a program so we can excel.

**FH:** What are you looking to do this offseason and beyond to prepare for next season?

**CS:** For me, it's just getting bigger, stronger and faster. Everybody's goal in the offseason is

just to improve yourself, improve your body, and how you move throughout the offseason.

**FH:** What is the goal of your football journey? When you are done, what do you want to look back on in your career?

**CS:** I think it's more about the people you did it with. It's more about the experience and everything you overcame as a team, as individuals, and carrying that through life. Football is more about life than people think. It does just look like some guys just running around chasing a ball, but really there are life lessons that come with it if you really dive into it and buy into what you're doing.

CONTACT FLYNN HYNES  
FHYNES@ITHACA.EDU

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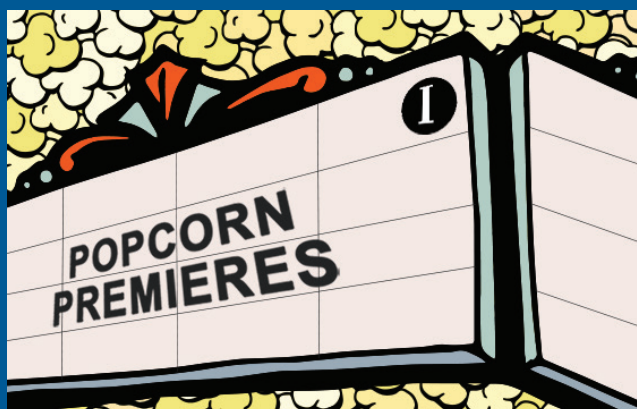
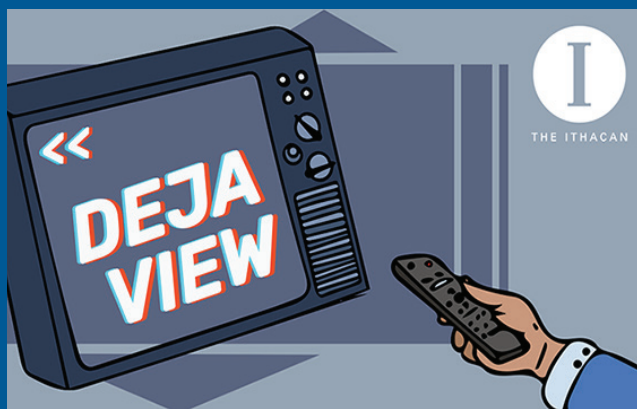
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From left, sophomore Kari Erickson and graduate students Irena Rosenberg and Treasure Blackman groove to the hip-hop number “Conceited” by Remy Ma. The dance was choreographed by Blackman for the IC Unbound showcase “POLISH” in Emerson Suites on Dec. 3, which featured multiple types of dances.

JADYN DAVIS/THE ITHACAN