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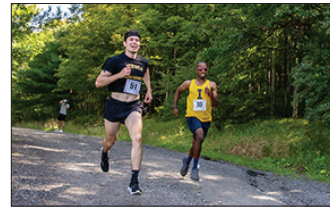
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LOCAL LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY NEEDS SUPPORT



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TRACK ALUMNI CONNECTION RUNS STRONG

Alliance centralizes local LGBTQ+ community

BY RYAN JOHNSON
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR



Reusable bags were filled with donated clothing at the Community School of Music and Arts Feb. 3 as about 140 people showed up to support the “All Y’all Clothing Swap,” the opening event for the newly formed Ithaca Pride Alliance.

The IPA was formally announced Nov. 15 to create more connection in Ithaca and Tompkins County among the LGBTQ+ community.

The long-term goals of the IPA are to serve as a centralized organization for planning events, spreading information about LGBTQ+ programming and resources and providing education about the LGBTQ+ community.

The board of the IPA consists of seven members involved in higher education, drag and LGBTQ+ programming, small business ownership and community initiatives.

According to a system that ranks cities on a scale of 0 to 100 based on how well laws, policies and services serve the LGBTQ+ community, the Human Rights Commission gave Ithaca a 100/100.

Ithaca has had a history of LGBTQ+ organizations as well as activism dating back to the late 1960s.

Crissi Dalfonzo, vice chair of the IPA and

The IPA is a project within the Tompkins Chamber Foundation, a not-for-profit. It partnered with TCF for a fiscal sponsorship, which means that TCF assists with tax and legal paperwork and setting up a bank account for the organization.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MOLLY TESKA, SHELBY RILEY-CHERUBIN AND COLE JACKSON/THE ITHACAN

PRIDE, PAGE 4

Students’ sit-in to boycott a speaker for Hillel event



Students participating in the sit-in said they felt Uriel Abulof, a speaker at Hillel’s event, holds beliefs that should not be given a platform at the college.

CALEB KAUFMAN/THE ITHACAN

BY MAKAI YLLANES

ASSISTANT VIDEO EDITOR

Approximately 40 students sat outside Textor Hall in a silent protest to boycott Uriel Abulof, instructor in the School of Continuing Education at Cornell University and an associate professor in the School of Political Science, Government and International Affairs at Tel Aviv University, for the Side-By-Side discussion Feb. 6.

Side By Side was a one-hour dialogue, followed by a Q&A session with Nizar Farsakh, chair of the board of the Museum of the

Palestinian People, and Abulof.

The purpose of the event was to share candid perspectives on the Israel-Hamas war from both Israeli and Palestinian point of views and personal experience. Both Farsakh and Abulof joined virtually via Zoom.

Sophomore Quincey Fireside was one of the students who participated in the sit-in. Five days before the event, Fireside — president of Ithaca College Students For Palestine (ICSFP) — took to the ICSFP Instagram, sharing posts tweeted and retweeted by Abulof that they said, in an

BOYCOTT, PAGE 4

Hillel facilitates reflection on Israel-Palestine history

BY ALYSSA BEEBE,
AUBREN VILLASEÑOR

SENIOR WRITERS

Hillel at Ithaca College held a conversation on the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Muller Chapel Feb. 6. Muller Chapel was filled with around 70 people, ranging from students, faculty and administrators as the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life welcomed two lecturers back to campus for the fifth time in a reoccurring event called Side-By-Side.

The conversation featured Nizar Farsakh, lecturer of International Affairs at George Washington University and chair of the board of the Museum of the Palestinian People, and Uriel Abulof, visiting professor at Cornell University and associate professor at Tel Aviv University in Israel, who provided a Palestinian and Israeli perspective respectively on their histories in the Middle East. Both speakers joined virtually.

The speakers reflected on the beliefs they used to hold because of the way they were raised and then the moments they questioned what they were taught.

Lauren Goldberg, associate director of Hillel at Ithaca College, said this year’s turnout for Side-By-Side was the largest they have had in five years. To prepare for the dialogue, Goldberg asked both presenters to highlight what they viewed as the four most significant developments in Israeli-Palestinian history. The presenters then reflected on their lived



Lauren Goldberg, associate director of Hillel at IC, facilitated the dialogue.

LUCIA IANDOLO/THE ITHACAN

experiences surrounding that period, which they then shared with the attendees.

The two presenters did not talk to each other while deciding which four significant developments to choose, but coincidentally highlighted the same four events. Those were the first and second Intifada, the Oslo Accords and the Oct. 7 attacks.

The discussion began around the events of the first Intifada in the late 1980s. As a young boy at the time, Abulof said he didn’t understand the intricacies of the conflict and was confused

REFLECTION, PAGE 4

Nation & World News

Average monthly wage in Israel rose to 9.5 percent in one year

The average monthly wage in Israel in Nov. 2023 rose 9.5% from Nov. 2022, the Central Bureau of Statistics reports, reaching an all-time record of NIS 12,969. Even taking inflation into account, the average wage rose in real terms by 6% between Nov. 2022 and Nov. 2023.

But there is a particularly large caveat. In Nov. 2023, the number of jobs in the economy fell by 4.9% compared with Nov. 2022, and was also down 2.5% compared with Oct. 2023.

Due to the war, many employees have been laid off or put on unpaid leave because of the slowdown in business activity, and this may have caused an artificial rise in the average wage.

Six people hurt, one injured during festival celebrating Lent

Six people were hurt, one of them seriously, when a large carnival float caught fire at a parade on Sunday in Kehl in southwestern Germany, police said.

One person suffered such severe burn injuries that he had to be taken to hospital in a rescue helicopter.

Several other people were injured, police said.

A Christian festival, Fastnacht — which

means the time or night just before the start of the Lent fasting period — is closely tied to customs and tradition and was first officially documented in the Middle Ages.

Scientists push for new tier for hurricanes as storms intensify

A new study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences makes the argument that weather experts need a new category to properly classify the stronger-than-ever hurricanes of the future.

The treatise advocates for the creation of a Category 6 hurricane tier in response to increasingly intense tropical cyclone activity around the world from climate change.

President Zelensky visits front lines of the Russia-Ukraine War

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited soldiers Feb. 4 fighting in the Dnipro and Zaporizhzhya sections of the war's front line where he was briefed on the situation.

The Russian military has set its sights on the industrial city of Dnipro in the southeast of the country as one of the war's "main targets," Zelensky said.

Zelensky also visited Zaporizhzhya, where Zelensky said air defense and electronic warfare capabilities also need to be strengthened.



U.S. and U.K. send airstrikes over Yemen

Houthi security forces stand guard in Yemen Feb. 5. The United States and Britain struck dozens of targets in Yemen in response to repeated attacks on Red Sea shipping by the Iran-backed Huthis that have disrupted global trade.

COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Rice production increased to a record high in the Philippines

Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said on Saturday that the Philippines produced a record-high 20 million metric tons of rice last year, which is 1.5% higher than the country's rice production in the same period in 2022.

In his speech during the ceremonial palay harvesting and distribution of various assistance in Candaba, Pampanga, he said the rice production in 2023 registered a 1.5% or 300,000-MT increase from the 19.76 million MT of palay produced in 2022.

SOURCE: TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

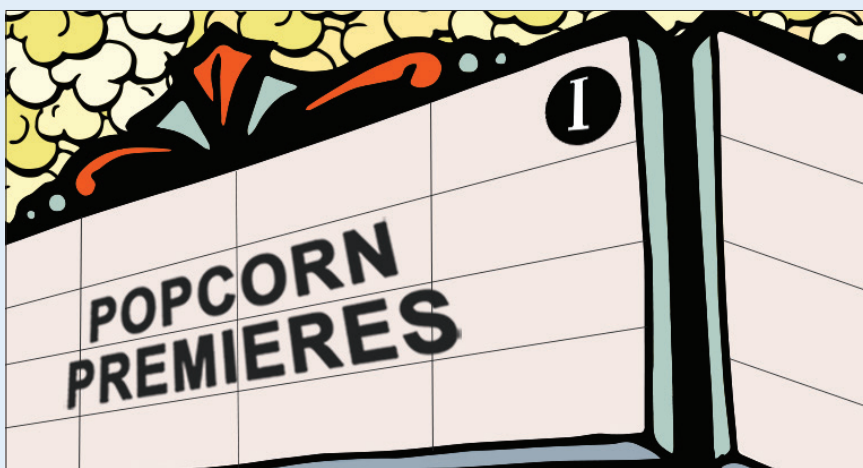
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This is: "Death Stranding Director's Cut"

Hideo Kojima's 2019 Game of the Year nominee launched on the App Store last week. Tune in for a demo of the game on iPad and Mac, and for updates on the future of "Death Stranding."



Popcorn Premieres

First-year student host Logan Thompson is joined by his new co-host, first-year student Ethan Kaufman to analyze the nominees for different major film awards and last week's top films at the box office.

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Online graduate degree expands access

BY KAI LINCKE

STAFF WRITER

Ithaca College is preparing to expand access to its speech-language pathology graduate program by offering an online, part-time master's degree program starting in Fall 2024. The college offers an undergraduate degree in speech-language pathology and a master's degree — with the option for teacher certification — in speech-language pathology.

Lynne Hewitt, professor and chair of the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, said early intervention providers in Tompkins County have told the department that there is a long waiting list for speech services and a great need for more speech-language pathologists. Hewitt said the department wanted to help fill the need and provide an online path for non-traditional learners to become speech-language pathologists.

The online master's degree is part-time and takes eight semesters to complete if students enter with the necessary course prerequisites. Hewitt said students who have not met the prerequisites can take the courses at the college, which will add three semesters of coursework for a total of 11 semesters or 3.7 years.

"If we say, 'Well, you have to get the prerequisites somewhere else,'



Lynne Hewitt, professor and chair of the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, said the online master's degree in SLP will provide a path for nontraditional learners.

KAI LINCKE/THE ITHACAN

then that's kind of turning them away, so we're offering them their prerequisites," Hewitt said.

Graduate student Cameryn Nichols said she thinks the externship experiences for the online program will be very similar to the in-person program because students can choose where they complete their externships.

"A lot of people don't stay in Ithaca," Nichols said. "They either

go home or go to different places that they might want to settle down in the future, so [the online program is] not super different in that sense.

Senior Molly Hankinson is in the speech-language pathology undergraduate program, and she said she plans to return to the college's in-person program for her graduate degree.

"We do have a really small cam-

pus, and it can be inaccessible for people who live at home and can't leave home due to whatever reasons," Hankinson said. "So for the professors to still be able to share their knowledge and get their word out there, but people also still having the accessibility of it without having to come all the way up to Ithaca, is pretty cool."

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SGC talks vital college services

BY JACQUELYN REAVES

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The Ithaca College Student Governance Council met Feb. 5 to hear from Brian Peterson, director of Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), and Caryanne Keenan, director of New Student and Transition Programs (NSTP). The council also held confirmation for the committee that oversees student elections, the Class of 2026 Senator and the first-generation senator.

The meeting began with a financial report from the appropriations committee on budgets they approved Jan. 31. Senior Noah Strathmann, vice president of business and finance for the SGC, gave the report.

"We approved four budgets from last Wednesday: IC Trading Card Game Club got \$640, Core Trading Consultants got \$4,040 and Amani Gospel Choir got \$84," Strathmann said. "[We have] a total of \$5,700 allocated, and we have \$1,427.33 left [in the budget]."

Peterson presented an overview of what CAPS is and said he sought to clear any misconceptions about the services the center provides to students on campus.

"I want to dispel a major myth that attaches itself to the counseling center every year, which is that we have a waiting list; we don't have a waiting list," Peterson said. "Where the question comes up about our waitlist is ... if [students] came in hoping for immediate services, it may actually take seven to 10 days for them to get that first appointment, but that's a [negotiable] schedule."

Keenan gave a presentation of all the activities that NSTP covers, including fall and spring orientation, first-year and transfer student events and the Tau Sigma National Honor Society, an honor society for transfer students.

"[Students] do orientation [and] it's big, it's huge, it's fun," Keenan said. "It's all of these activities. But then it's like, 'Okay, now what?' We want students to come out and still be engaged."

Keenan said that one day she hopes to have the orientation leaders working with their small groups throughout the year.

Sophomore Lili Chalfant, Park School of Communications Senator, said it is important for first-year and transfer students to develop a consistency in their routine when first coming to the college.

"A lot of students are dealing with inconsistency," Chalfant said. "Being in a new environment, new friends. A lot of newness. Having something consistent that isn't their classes, a support system, [is beneficial] because a lot of students feel isolated."

The SGC then held confirmations for senior Quinn Tufino, vice president of academic affairs, to the executive board for a position on the elections committee and sophomore Dante Conde, for the Class of 2026 Senator, and first-year student Laron Pigford, who is a transfer student, for the first-gen senator position.

After the executive session, the SGC had their senator reports and sophomore Rishabh Sen, vice president of campus affairs, said there is a potential mail center and Information Technologies collaboration that could let students know what is in their package before they pick it up from the mail center.

During the senator's reports, the council discussed new bills that are still in development and how to promote SGC to prospective members.

Senior Carli McConell, president of the student body, said the council is actively searching for new members, and it is important to promote the council.

"We want people on the Senate. We have 15 open senate positions right now," McConell said. "And there are people that have no idea what this organization is, which is really sad."

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Reaccreditation calls for policy clarity

BY VIVIAN ROSE

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Ithaca College Faculty Council heard from Stacia Zabusky, associate provost for Academic Programs, about the college's credit hour policy and Emily Rockett, vice president, general counsel and secretary to the board of trustees, about nominations for a faculty trustee in its Feb. 6 meeting.

Zabusky said she and her team discovered a gap in the college's compliance with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education standards for re-accreditation. This gap was regarding the college's Credit Hour Policy.

Zabusky said the college must clearly define aspects of teaching, including what a practicum means, what asynchronous learning expectations are and how asynchronous hours should be documented. Zabusky said that creating new definitions does not seek to make changes to courses, but to understand faculty processes for teaching.

"It isn't to say you're no longer allowed to do what you have been doing," Zabusky said. "It's trying to understand what you've been doing and see how important these concepts are. ... There's also an 80/20 rule. Exceptions can always be made."

David Hajjar, associate professor in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, asked Zabusky about the asynchronous Speech-Language Pathology master's program the department is offering beginning in Fall 2024.

Zabusky said a part of the Distance Learning Policy includes giving students clear information about how much time they are expected to spend for an asynchronous class. Zabusky said credit hours include anything a student is doing largely independently, like an internship on-site with the supervision of a faculty member or independent study. She said each hour must be documented to get credit.



From left, Luke Keller, professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy; Stacia Zabusky, associate provost of Academic Programs; and FC Chair Dave Gondek.

CLARK ROQUE ROYANDOYAN/THE ITHACAN

Zabusky said the Office of the Provost would need to determine how the policy would affect three-credit courses and the specific durations for lessons in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance.

The council then shifted to Rockett's discussion — who attended virtually via Zoom — about nominations for the faculty trustee position on the college's board of trustees. The position lasts for a four-year term, begins July 1 and is not additionally compensated, except for travel expenses for BOT meetings, which will be covered by the college. The position will also require attendance at the annual Winter, Fall and Spring BOT meetings and for the faculty member selected to sit on two board committees.

According to Faculty Council bylaws, the council has the responsibility to select three competent faculty members for consideration for the position by the recommended date of

March 1. The selected names will be sent to the Governance and Compensation Committee of the BOT, which is charged with selecting the faculty member for the position.

Rockett said the qualifications for selecting someone are determined by the Faculty Council and are similarly not written down, meaning that there are no prerequisites candidates must have or that the council must seek out.

Rockett said the faculty member selected must make philanthropic contributions to the college to attract donors. She said the amount means less than the consistency of donations.

"It's important to the board to be able to say to their contacts that they have 100% philanthropic participation because that sends a message to possible investors," Rockett said. "To say that the college is a worthy investment."

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FROM PRIDE, PAGE 1

director for LGBT Education, Outreach and Services at Ithaca College, said there have been many conversations among organizers over the years about not having a centralized organization for the LGBTQ+ community in Ithaca.

"Cornell [University] and [Ithaca College] both have resource centers on our campuses ... [but] if you are just a queer person that lives in Ithaca, you only have access to so many things," Dalfonzo said.

Andrew Sheldorf is the chair of the IPA and a drag queen who performs under the name Tilia Cordata. Sheldorf said they have been active in the LGBTQ+ community for almost six years and said LGBTQ+ organizing has been very grassroots, but the IPA serves to connect different areas of programming in Ithaca to a centralized organization.

"I kind of acted as somewhat of the de facto leader of organizations that existed before the IPA that were more ... unofficial," Sheldorf said. "We didn't really always touch base with each other or check schedules. I started calling together a loose group of folks four years ago to try to avoid ... us planning events on top of each other and [to] try to put together a schedule of events."

The IPA is a project within the Tompkins Chamber Foundation (TCF), a not-for-profit 501(c)3 that works to support the Ithaca community through initiatives that improve the quality of life for residents.

Dalfonzo said the IPA partnered



Establishment of the Ithaca Pride Alliance was announced in a vigil held for the Transgender Day of Remembrance in November 2023. The clothing swap was IPA's first opening event.

LORIEN TYNE/THE ITHACAN

with the TCF for a fiscal sponsorship, which means the TCF assists with tax and legal paperwork and setting up a bank account for the organization.

Dalfonzo also said that the partnership does not include monetary sponsorship and that the IPA relies on donations, sponsorships and grants for fundraising. "We are supported through [the TCF doing] the legal nonprofit work so that we can reach out to sponsors in town," Dalfonzo said.

Sheldorf said the IPA partnered with local businesses like Mimi's Attic and Buffalo Street Books to provide locations for clothing donations. There were also donation sites at the Ithaca College LGBT and the Cornell LGBT Center.

Sheldorf said they have experience in planning drag events in the Ithaca area and produce "Thursgays at the Range," a biweekly show that consists of drag performances and queer DJs.

Sheldorf said it is important to have all-age LGBTQ+ events.

Tina Coyne volunteered at the clothing swap and said she moved to Ithaca in December because she accepted a job to be the assistant director of the LGBT Resource Center at Cornell University.

Coyne said events like the clothing swap are important because they allow people going through change or transition to have access to no cost gender-affirming clothing.

"It is incredibly empowering

for people to be able to come to a place like this where it is very affirming," Coyne said. "For children or for young adults or even folks that are later in adulthood ... I do think having access to something like this can be really life-changing."

Ithaca College sophomore Silas Belmonté said he was surprised that there was not an organization like the IPA in the past, considering how LGBTQ+ friendly Ithaca is.

"I'm a poor college student who loves thrifting, and what is better than thrifting when things are free?" Belmonté said. "Donating my old stuff to where people can wear it is also a nice feeling of repurposing."

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FROM REFLECTION, PAGE 1

as to why Israelis and Palestinians could not just have their own state.

"My insight from [the time] was that what Jews were trying to do — the Zionist endeavor — and what Palestinians are trying to do were the same," Abulof said. "So if the Jewish people manage to get the State of Israel, why shouldn't Palestinians?"

Farsakh said this neglect and historical oppression caused him to sympathize with Arab countries like Iraq during the Gulf Wars.

"A lot of people celebrated that a nationalist Arab country defeated an oil monarchy," Farsakh said. "Back then, it was about a sense of strength; after years of humiliation by Western governments, [an Arab country was fighting back]. Now when I look back, I'm horrified that I could take this stance when it was an occupation."

Farsakh said that the Oct. 7 attacks, while appalling, were a desperate attempt at breaking the apartheid mindset that has plagued the Gaza Strip.

"It was destroying that myth that you do not need to talk to the Palestinians and you can just dismiss them," Farsakh said. "It was so offensive to see that Americans, the Europeans, really getting outraged at the massacre of Israelis, but then completely, absolutely zero empathy to what had happened to Palestinians [before that]."

Farsakh acknowledged that the constant violence has resulted in a cycle of victimization, of which no one benefits from, something Abulof resonated with.

"These acts of terror, [like those] that took place on Oct. 7, will have no deterrent effect," Abulof said. "It is only perpetuating the cycle of violence."

On the subject of potential solutions to the conflict, Abulof said the biggest impediment to a two-state solution is political will.

"A two-state solution is not a question of capacity, but of will," Abulof said. "If there is a will, there is a way."

Abulof said he would accept a two-state solution but cares about ensuring equality as well. Senior Rachel Gellman attended the event in Spring 2022 and returned to listen this February.

"I don't think that an event that is about nuance and seeing both sides should be controversial," Gellman said.

Sophomores Lauren Leighow and Lee Kreshtool attended the event together. Leighow initially considered participating in the sit-in instead.

"When we first talked about this event, I was saying that I wanted to go to the sit-in," Leighow said. "I wanted to be more active in supporting Palestine because there have not been many protests or demonstrations. ... I wanted any chance to be an activist in that."

Kreshtool said she felt the Side-By-Side would more fully express her activism, though she believes the intentions of the sit-in were good.

"The protest that is happening today encouraged me to actually see what happened with the conversation instead of just assuming what an Israeli's perspective is on it," Kreshtool said. "My point was, this is how you do it. I think by listening, and by attending, by learning, instead of closing off any attempt at conversation, I think this is the way you become more active."

First-year student Aya Oulida, president of Ithaca College Students for Justice in Palestinian (ICSJP), held apprehensions about coming to the event because of Abulof.

Oulida said she felt the Side-By-Side was not on equal ground. Abulof was on Zoom in Jerusalem, Israel, and Farsakh was in Washington, D.C.

"It wasn't just the location being in America, it is that one was closer to the actual war, and you could not tell," Oulida said. "If it was someone who was in Palestine, you would easily be able to tell they were in the midst of an occupation."

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FROM BOYCOTT, PAGE 1

Instagram post, "downplay the reality of Israel's genocide against the Palestinian people."

Fireside said Abulof expresses Zionist viewpoints and that he is dismissive of the killing of Palestinian people. Fireside said it is dangerous to have such a big platform for the Zionist community while they think there is little space for the Palestinian and anti-Zionist community on campus.

"We're boycotting the talk, his presence on campus and also the idea that Palestinian people on campus have to be accompanied by Israeli people to speak," Fireside said. "I think we've had quite a lot of talking from the Zionist community on campus since Oct. 7, [2023], and ... I'd like some more stage time for the Palestinian and anti-Zionist community on campus."

In October, Hillel put on the event Chamsas For The Heart, a pop-up therapeutic art studio in response to the war, and has continued to host Shabbat services every Friday.

The Jewish community has also been supported by President La Jerne Cornish in her letter to the campus community Oct. 10.

"It was heart-wrenching to hear our students, staff and other members of our extended Jewish community express their grief, anger, pain and fear," Cornish stated in the letter. "It is important to note that we are actively seeking ways to support both Jewish as well as Palestinian and Gazan community members during these difficult times."

In a comment to *The Ithacan*, Dave Maley, director of public relations at the college, said Cornish has made it clear that the college values the open exchange of ideas and the promotion of a peace in which human rights are non-negotiable.

"She has pledged the college's support of Palestinian and Gazan as well as Jewish members of the community, and she has spoken out against both Islamophobia and antisemitism," Maley said in an email to *The Ithacan*. "She and



Lauren Goldberg, director of Hillel at Ithaca College, said the program is not trying to convince anyone, but is built on mutual respect and honest conversations.

PRAKRITI PANWAR/THE ITHACAN

other administrators have also conveyed this in meetings they have held with Muslim and Palestinian students."

Lauren Goldberg, director of Hillel at Ithaca College, said to *The Ithacan* that the intent of the Side-By-Side program is not to position two people against each other.

"[The purpose of the event is] to show that two people can hold ... these two truths at the same time and speak to each other about ways forward that hold up the human rights of all people," Goldberg said.

Goldberg said the program is not trying to convince anybody of anything, but is built on mutual respect and honest conversations.

"We really believe that this is critical toward a sustained peace for all people," Goldberg said. "The entire hope of this program is that it will allow us to step out of our silos and to hear truly from the voices of people who live really in this milieu, what it's like to be in their skin and what it's been like to be who they are over the

course of their lifetime."

Fireside said that while the Side By Side was a good idea in theory, bringing Abulof to a campus that, according to them, already has such a high favorability toward Zionism showed a lack of interest in student concerns.

"Honestly, it felt like crumbs being thrown at the anti-Zionist community on campus, and there is mounting frustration," Fireside said. "I think it felt like a 'Please shut up' moment from the administration."

Fireside said they hoped the demonstration would be a wake-up call to the community and the administration.

"I've spoken to a lot of Palestinian students on campus; I know they feel really isolated," Fireside said. "I think that the administration has a lot of work to do in gaining back the trust of anti-Zionist and Palestinian students on campus."

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Cornell program researches sustainable solar farming

BY KAELEIGH BANDA

ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) established an Agrivoltaics Research Program in December 2023 after Governor Hochul signed a bill to fund their research.

Agrivoltaics is the combination of agriculture and photovoltaics. There are three forms of agrivoltaics: pollinator planting around solar panels, animals that graze under the solar panels and using land for both crop production and solar harvesting. In each scenario, the land around the solar panels is used productively and is not wasted.

Henry Williams, a Ph.D. mechanical engineering student at Cornell University, said the research at Cornell University focuses on using the land beneath the solar panels as a place to grow crops.

"Right now, the focus of agrivoltaic research at Cornell is shifting toward crop production and how we can design solar farms to co-locate crops and produce renewable energy," Williams said.

Max Zhang, Irving Porter Church Professor of Engineering in the Sibley School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Cornell University, said he has been researching agrivoltaics since 2018. In 2020, Zhang received a grant from the New York State Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to help fund the engineering side of the research.

"There's an inherent challenge

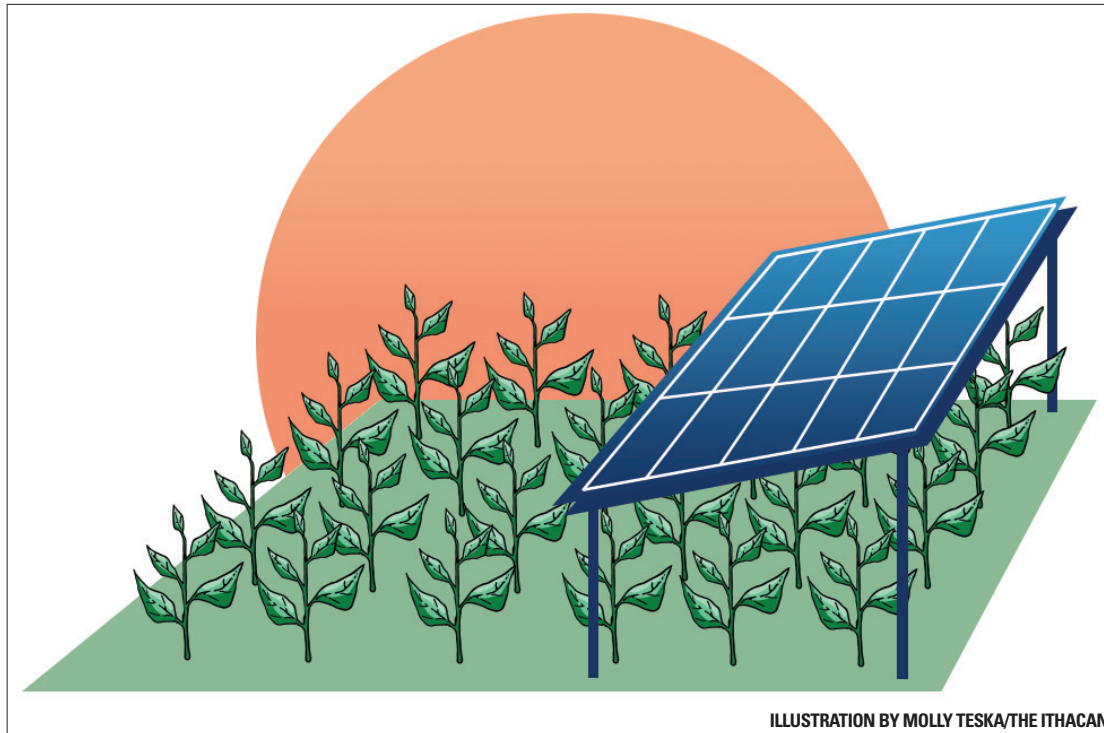


ILLUSTRATION BY MOLLY TESKA/THE ITHACAN

because both crops and solar panels are competing for the same thing and that is solar radiation," Zhang said.

Solar power use is on the rise because it does not involve fossil fuels, according to the International Energy Agency. However, the land that solar farms inhabit means less land for farming. Land access remains the top challenge for new farmers, which is why a proposed solution to accommodate both farming and solar energy has begun to grow.

Jeff Bielicki, associate professor in the College of Engineering and the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at Ohio State University, said a concern about agrivoltaics is about the

visual problem of using solar panels. He said that even though the solar panels are vaulted above the crops, there is still an added industrial feel to natural farmland.

"There are concerns from people who live on a farm or live in a nearby community and who are used to seeing these amber waves of grain," Bielicki said. "Now, all of a sudden, they're seeing all these long rows of metallic shiny things that change the visual aesthetic, which is not fun."

Agrivoltaics at Ithaca College

Scott Doyle, director of energy management and sustainability at Ithaca College, said he has been

learning about agrivoltaics and how the college can learn from this research. He said there are other ways to collect solar energy, like solar panels over parking lots or on top of buildings.

"I've worked with Dr. Zhang and Cornell on a lot of different projects over the years," Doyle said. "It's really interesting to learn from them [and] to think about what types of insights they have that might relate to projects we would want to consider doing."

Floating photovoltaics, placing solar panels on a floating structure in the water, is another way to gain solar energy without taking up land for agriculture. Doyle said the City of Ithaca

is looking into floating photovoltaics for the reservoir on the Six Mile Creek pending further research on the cost-effectiveness and feasibility.

New York State's involvement in the research

New York Senator Michelle Hinchey and Assembly member Anna Kelles collaborated to create the bill and gave CALs \$1 million to help create the program.

Williams said that utilizing more solar farms across the state is a solution to lowering carbon emissions at a timely rate.

"When you look at the numbers, we won't be able to meet New York state's renewable energy goals through rooftop, through parking lots, through small reservoirs and so the large-scale solar is necessary to meet the state's goals," Williams said.

The Agrivoltaics Research Program is not fully in effect yet. Williams said that as the research progresses, they hope to collaborate more with CALs to run crop trials to see what crops grow best under the solar panels and in which climates throughout the country.

"In our lab, we've been ... developing computational tools to enable the design of agrivoltaic solar farms," Williams said. "We are also evaluating our models with field data, so we'll go out to commercially operating solar farms throughout the state and record field data with climate monitoring sensors."

CONTACT: KBANDA@ITHACA.EDU

Q&A: New Pride Fellow steps into mentorship role

Lee Tyson began their role as Pride Fellow for The Center for LGBT Education, Outreach, and Services at Ithaca College on Jan. 16, 2024. Prior to this role, Tyson completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Tyson also received a Ph.D. in musicology and LGBT studies at Cornell University, where Tyson taught as a visiting lecturer.

The Pride Fellowship started in Fall 2022 as a two-year paid fellowship and is designed to aid the fellow in their research and practice of diversity, equity and inclusion programming.

The fellow's responsibilities include teaching and facilitating learning about the LGBTQ+ community, inviting and connecting participants to events and learning opportunities, and facilitating meetings with students to discuss social issues.

Staff writer Grace Condon spoke with Tyson about their perspectives on leadership, the transition from being a student to a mentor and plans for student connection.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Grace Condon: How have your prior experiences shaped your perspective on leadership and leading community building initiatives in the transgender and queer communities?

Lee Tyson: My most recent position was as a postdoctoral fellow at Case Western Reserve University in the Humanities in Leadership Learning Series program. I gained a lot of insights in general into how institutions work, what kind of strategic thinking happens at upper levels of administration and how folks might bridge the gap between ... working with students and the larger strategic thinking around diversity efforts. A lot of that has informed my shift from an academic path into student services. I [also] did [a] postdoc [at Case Western Reserve University]. ... The postdoc gave

me the opportunity to think more broad-scale about how higher education institutions can serve their students best.

GC: What made you want to come back to Ithaca and take the fellowship?

LT: I was here in Ithaca for nine years, as a PhD student ... and then teaching. I'm really excited to return. ... The Fellowship is a unique opportunity to get some really tailored experience in LGBTQ+ student services [and] that's rooted in Ithaca College's reputation of being the forefront of serving and supporting LGBTQ+ students. ... Also, I'm really excited to reconnect with this unique community. ... I'm especially excited about Ithaca's new Ithaca Pride Alliance, which is a new organization supporting LGBTQ+ community building in and around Ithaca, which our director Crissi Dalfonzo is one of the founders of.

GC: What do you bring to the fellowship as an advocate for those within your community and as someone who was once a student?

LT: [Having been a student is] one of the main experiences that I'm drawing on. I was the president of our Gay Straight Alliance [in high school]. In college, I was on the board of our Queer Student Organization; in graduate school, I was a peer educator on topics of gender and sexuality, and [I had] a recent role as co-chair of an organization supporting LGBTQ+ academics. Through all those positions, I've learned that relationship building and communication are key and understanding that individuals know themselves best and communities know what they need.

GC: How will you touch base with the queer and trans community at Ithaca College?

LT: Since I'm new to this position, a lot of the programming for the semester has already been set. So I'm working in a support capacity there and strategizing for a longer term. ... I've loved getting to know the students. I'm getting



Lee Tyson, IC's new Pride Fellow in The Center for LGBT Education, Outreach, and Services, will teach and facilitate learning about the LGBTQ+ community.

GRACE CONDON/THE ITHACAN

a chance to chat with ... almost everybody who comes through our doors [and] I'm spending more time with our student staff here in the center.

GC: Are there any events in the works that you're looking forward to?

LT: I'm excited for our Pride Prom in March. That is going to be a fun way to connect with a greater section of our campus community. I've been to various pride prom-like events in the past and [have] hosted some. It's exciting energy to find time for joy in our community.

GC: How does intersectionality play a role in student experiences of academic programs?

LT: [I] think [of intersectionality] as students'

multiple and intersecting identities and how they feel most comfortable to bring their full selves to any given space on campus. How can we be sure that our campus community is inclusive, but attentive to possibilities for solidarity across marginalized experiences, working together toward collective liberation? Part of my goal is to be sure to connect with students and groups across campus who want to share their positionalities and ... [ask], how can we as a center make our spaces and programming accessible to you?

CONTACT GRACE CONDON
GCONDON@ITHACA.EDU

COLLEGE BRIEFS

Staff council encouraged to send nominations for new staff trustee

Casey Kendall, the current staff trustee, will conclude her term June 30. The staff council is asked to recommend three staff members at Ithaca College for consideration to serve as Staff Trustee for a 4-year term that begins July 1. The Staff Council will send three names to the Governance & Compensation/Assessment Committee of the Board of Trustees by March 1.

Staff members can nominate themselves for Staff Trustee by Feb. 23 at 5 p.m. using the Staff Trustee Nominations Form. Additional information about this process can be found here. Staff members can contact staffcouncil@ithaca.edu for questions. Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact Chair Staff Council Marilyn Dispensa, at staffcouncil@ithaca.edu. Accommodations should be made as soon as possible.

Student organizations needed for Feb. 19 Student Experience Fair

The Office of Admission is looking for student organizations to table during the Student Experience Fair Feb. 19. Student organizations will be able to showcase and recruit new members.

The organization fair will take place in the Athletics and Events Center (A&E) from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Student organizations should plan to have at least one representative available to attend and interact with prospective and admitted students during the fair.

RSVP is required to attend. Student organizations should email ICSpring23Events@gmail.com to reserve a spot by Wednesday, Feb. 7. Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact the admission events planning committee at the same email or (607) 274-3124. Requests for accommodations should be made as soon as possible.

Muller Chapel to hold Ash Wednesday observance Feb. 14

On Feb. 14, Muller Chapel will be observing Ash Wednesday. The Catholic community mass will be held at 12:15 p.m. and all are welcome to participate. The ash distribution will be led by Pastor Debbie Reynolds of First Baptist Church starting at 2 p.m. Muller Chapel will be used throughout Lent as a space for introspection and spiritual connection.

Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact Austin Reid at

areid1@ithaca.edu or (607) 274-3011. Requests for accommodations should be made as soon as possible.

Office of Religious and Spiritual Life will be hosting an open house

The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life is hosting a spring semester open house for students, faculty and staff to attend from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Feb. 13 at the Muller Chapel.

The event is intended to encourage new connections across campus and to better acquaint attendees with Muller Chapel's programs. Attendees will be able to connect with campus chaplains and local clergy in the Ithaca community.

Attendees can also share ideas for Muller Chapel programming for the spring semester. Drinks and appetizers will be served. Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact Austin Reid at areid1@ithaca.edu or (607) 274-3011 and requests for accommodations be made as soon as possible.

2024 Campus Life Awards are open to nominations until Feb. 12

The 2024 Campus Life Awards committee is asking for nominations from faculty, staff and students to recognize graduating seniors who should be considered for the award. The Campus Life Awards are given each year to a select group of 10 graduating seniors to recognize achievement and contributions to the Ithaca College community through involvement in campus life.

In order to be nominated for the award, students should have been involved in a number of areas of campus life and demonstrated significant leadership abilities and accomplishments.

Nominations can be turned in using the nomination form. Nominees must graduate in December 2023, May 2024 or August 2024. The deadline for nominations is 5 p.m. Feb. 12.

Nominated students will receive the invitation to apply when the application opens Feb. 19. Any questions about the Campus Life Award nominations should be directed to cla@ithaca.edu.

BIPOC Unity center creates new student search committee

The BIPOC Unity Center is looking for students interested in serving on a search committee to assist in selecting a new director of the BIPOC Unity Center. Students will have the opportunity to contribute insights,



Pill bottle painting event held by Active Minds

First-year student Bianca Cunningham paints a pill bottle at an event hosted by Active Minds IC on Jan. 30. The group shared mental health advice with participants and sought to educate about the stigma around mental health medication.

AMINATTA IMRANA JALLOW/THE ITHACAN

ideas and perspectives in the selection process. The search committee will evaluate applications, conduct interviews with candidates and meet to discuss feedback.

Committee members will need to dedicate several hours per week to the process and the overall process will take several months. Students can apply using the interest form that is due Feb. 7. Students unable to commit this amount of time can still contribute to the process by attending on campus sessions with the finalists for the position.

Transfer student honor society will be holding a spring social

The Ithaca College National Transfer Honor Society Tau Sigma will be hosting a spring semester social from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Feb. 8 in the Klingenstein Lounge in the Campus Center.

The social serves as a chance to connect with new and returning transfer students both in and outside Tau Sigma.

The social will include movies, pizza, refreshments, pajamas and a cookie decorating contest with prizes. Students can RSVP

on IC Engage.

Writing Center to host an info session for faculty and staff Feb. 8

The Writing Center at Ithaca College is hosting an info session for faculty and staff at the college to receive feedback and learn about how the Writing Center works to assist students.

The info sessions are led by Writing Center Director Priya Sirohi to prepare faculty to send students to the Writing Center and to offer advice on what faculty can do to ensure appointments are effective. The Writing Center will also share updated policies on the use of Generative AI. There will be four info sessions.

The first two will be Feb. 8 from 11:10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 12:10 p.m. to 1 p.m. The last two will be Feb. 9 from 10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. and from 12 p.m. to 12:50 p.m.

The Writing Center is located at Smiddy Hall in room 107 and the event is reserved for faculty and staff only. Any further questions can be directed to psiroi@ithaca.edu.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM JAN. 22 TO 28

JAN. 22	JAN. 23	JAN. 24	JAN. 25	JAN. 26	JAN. 27	JAN. 28
<p>MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/ ILLNESS RELATED LOCATION: Office of Public Safety SUMMARY: A person reported having an allergic reaction. Sergeant John Elmore responded to the call and the person was transported to the hospital.</p>	<p>BURGLARY NO FORCE 2ND DEGREE LOCATION: Terrace 5 SUMMARY: A caller reported an unknown person entered the room and stole food and a stuffed animal. Patrol Officer Chaz Andrews responded to the call. This is currently a pending investigation.</p>	<p>PETIT LARCENY OVER \$200 LOCATION: 30 College Circle Drive SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person stole clothing Nov. 2023. Patrol Officer Steven Hutchison responded. This is currently a pending investigation.</p>	<p>SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE LOCATION: Terrace 11/ 114 Flora Brown Drive SUMMARY: A caller reported an unknown person opened a door Jan. 24. Patrol Officer Kevin McClain responded. This investigation is currently pending.</p>	<p>Verzosa responded to the call.</p>	<p>MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/ILLNESS RELATED LOCATION: Campus Center SUMMARY: Caller reported a person passed out. Patrol Officer Connor McCoy responded. The person was transported to the hospital by ambulance.</p>	<p>vomiting. The individual was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.</p>
<p>BURGLARY NO FORCE 2ND DEGREE LOCATION: Terrace 7 SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown person entered a dorm room and stole boots. Patrol Officer Alex Hitchcock responded to the call. This is currently a pending investigation.</p>	<p>MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT/ PERSONAL INJURY LOCATION: Grant Egbert Blvd SUMMARY: A caller reported a two car property damage motor vehicle accident with injuries. One person injured their head and one injured their neck. The two people declined medical assistance from ambulance staff. Patrol Officer Chaz Andrews responded to the call. Andrews issued one of the drivers a campus summons for failure to yield the right of way.</p>	<p>FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL LOCATION: 151 College Circle SUMMARY: The Simplex system reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by burning food. Sergeant Bryan</p>	<p>FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL LOCATION: 151 College Circle SUMMARY: The Simplex system reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by burning food. Sergeant Bryan</p>	<p>SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS LOCATION: Hood Hall SUMMARY: A caller reported a person</p>	<p>SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS LOCATION: Hood Hall SUMMARY: A caller reported a person</p>	<p>FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL LOCATION: 141 College Circle SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by burnt food. Master Patrol Officer Robert Jones responded.</p>
<p>FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL LOCATION: 185 College Circle SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by burnt food. Patrol Officer Steven Hutchison responded.</p>	<p>PETIT LARCENY UNDER \$50 LOCATION: Terrace 12 SUMMARY: A caller reported an unknown person entered the room and stole cases of water. Cloke responded.</p>	<p>FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL LOCATION: 151 College Circle SUMMARY: The Simplex system reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by burning food. Sergeant Bryan</p>	<p>FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL LOCATION: 151 College Circle SUMMARY: The Simplex system reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by burning food. Sergeant Bryan</p>	<p>SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS LOCATION: Hood Hall SUMMARY: A caller reported a person</p>	<p>SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS LOCATION: Hood Hall SUMMARY: A caller reported a person</p>	<p>FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL LOCATION: 141 College Circle SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by burnt food. Master Patrol Officer Robert Jones responded.</p>

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

KEY

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

OPINION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024

7



ILLUSTRATION BY MARIAN MAHASANTIPIYA/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

LGBTQ+ resources are a necessity for all in Ithaca

Ithaca is often painted as a progressive town, particularly when it comes to the LGBTQ+ community. While this acceptance can be seen in the attitudes and beliefs of the local community, there is still a need for more accessible resources and spaces for the queer community.

The Ithaca Pride Alliance (IPA) was founded Nov. 15 in the hopes of making LGBTQ+ resources and events more widely available. Since opening under the Tompkins Chamber Foundation, the organization has hosted events, provided education and generally offers a broad net of support for the LGBTQ+ community. The founding of this organization marks a shift toward a more supported community.

In 1969, the Student Homophile League was founded at Cornell University, marking the second publicly gay student organization in the U.S. In 1972, the first formal statement about bisexuality happened at Ithaca College. In 2004, 25 same-sex couples sued the City of Ithaca for denying their marriage applications in the case *Seymour v. Holcomb*. This rich queer history

reiterates the importance of community-driven LGBTQ+ organizations like the IPA.

At the college, students are fortunate to have a host of resources for LGBTQ+ students. The Center for LGBT Education, Outreach, & Services acts as a safe space. Student organizations like PRISM provide a platform for young queer students. These resources are essential — and yet, it is important to remember that these resources are only accessible to those pursuing higher education. While these resources are a necessity, they are not sufficient in addressing the needs of Ithaca as a whole.

The amount of acceptance and joy for queer people in Ithaca is certainly something to be proud of. However, attitudes must translate to action. While the college provides a multitude of support options for LGBTQ+ students, there should never be a barrier between students and community members when it comes to accessible resources. Organizations like the Ithaca Pride Alliance are essential to creating a welcoming, safe environment for all LGBTQ+ community members.

AI must be more clearly regulated at the college

It is impossible to ignore the new, evolving presence of AI in the classroom. Programs like ChatGPT are being used by students in all aspects of academia, from generating ideas to refining writing to finding sources. While AI can be a helpful tool in higher education, there must be more standardized regulations for the purpose and boundaries of using AI at Ithaca College.

According to a study conducted by Grand View Research, AI usage rate is expected to grow 37.7% between 2023 and 2030. This number expresses a stark reality: AI is here and it is here to stay. This rapidly growing technology is something that is set to revolutionize nearly all industries. It is the responsibility of professors and administrators to prepare students appropriately for the expectations of their fields of study. Now, that preparation must include using AI in a productive, ethical way.

While AI can be useful and is an essential skill in today's technological landscape, it is also important for Ithaca College to establish clear guidelines and restrictions regarding AI for the

sake of academic integrity, and more importantly, student safety.

Cornell University has a set of guidelines outlining the responsibilities, risks and restrictions of using AI. These guidelines include a section on student accountability, confidentiality and privacy, use for education and pedagogy, use for research and use for administration.

Additionally, they have published a Cornell Generative AI in Administration Task Force Report outlining the potential risks and opportunities that come with implementing AI. Cornell's extensive research and clear restrictions on using AI are examples of what Ithaca College could and should implement. Not only would these regulations allow students and faculty to use AI more comfortably, but they would limit potential risks or privacy concerns.

AI has the potential to be a helpful classroom tool throughout the college if more thought is put into its implementation. There must be clear guidelines on ethics and usage in order to make use of innovative technology while still maintaining academic integrity and safety.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu.

ALL LETTERS MUST:

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

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu or to the opinion editor opinion@theithacan.org

ALL COMMENTARIES MUST:

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

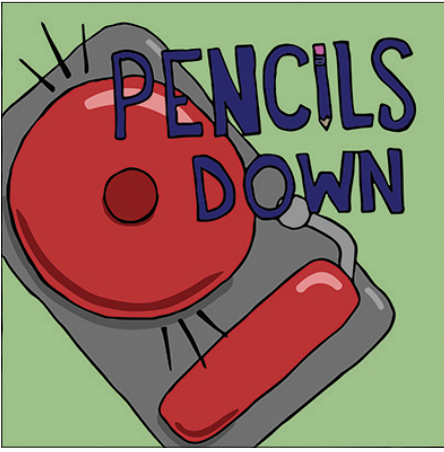


ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN

Excessive debt harms students

BY GABE HENDERSHOT

COLUMNIST

The biggest lie perpetuated by our society about higher education is that student debt is avoidable. This is just not true. By the time they have received a bachelor's degree, 70% of students have accumulated educational debt. These ideas grow anxiety in students that can drive them to overload their schedules with more work and time commitments than they can handle, all in order to reduce their debt. Attempting to do everything at once leads to overworked and unsupported students with poor mental and physical health.

There are many students, including myself, who are forced to accept debt as a necessary part of achieving an undergraduate degree. This is because of constantly rising tuition costs. Reducing the amount of debt that a student is saddled with postgraduation is of the utmost importance. Many students who apply for federal or private loans do not have an adequate understanding of what they are agreeing to and this debt can debilitate students, preventing them from adequately providing for themselves once they enter the workforce. It is important that students have the financial ability to meet their basic needs both during and after college, so they can continue to grow and enjoy their lives.

However, frequently circulated ideas about cutting costs and eliminating debt encourages students to participate in unhealthy behaviors. Busy students will begin to neglect their own well-being because they have been taught that their career matters more. Things like eating well, exercise and socializing are all important parts of a student's life that are often put on the back burner. All these choices can lead to emotional and physical burnout that prevents students from participating fully in their education, reducing the overall value of their time in college.

If students are going into thousands of dollars of debt to receive a degree, they should be given all the necessary resources to get the most out of that program. This includes being able to utilize communities available to them while in postsecondary education. Of course, classes and campus jobs can help enrich a student's experience, but a student who focuses only on these things is missing out. College life is full of opportunities, but it is not realistic for students to expect themselves to seize every single one. Luckily, at the collegiate level, there is room for students to adjust their schedules, allowing for a process of learning. Leaving this time for them to change and learn is paramount to building a strong foundation for most life skills.

Perpetuating this idea that there is an accessible, debt-free way to get a degree is dangerous. It promotes a number of unhealthy habits. Learning how to budget your time and energy is a crucial skill. Students cannot go through this learning process or make healthy decisions if they are constantly worried about accruing debt. Putting too much pressure on students to do everything in the most cost-efficient way possible is stressful and inhibits their growth as people.

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

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

School support staff must be prioritized

BY EMMA KATE JOHANSEN

CLASS OF '23

I graduated from Ithaca College in May 2023 with a screenwriting degree, but just about a month before graduation, the Writer's Guild of America went on strike. Without writing jobs to apply for, I floundered. My mom, a lifelong teacher, suggested I apply for school support staff positions for a district near my Connecticut hometown. I didn't count on the faculty needing as much help as the students.

In August, I was offered a position as a fourth grade classroom paraprofessional (teacher's aide). My job in this position is to provide support for students in the classroom with accommodations for ADHD, autism and other learning differences. However, from the first day I stepped foot in the classroom, it was clear that the six students I was explicitly assigned to work with were not the only ones in need of assistance. Almost immediately, I observed teachers drowning in responsibility, undercompensated, hounded to meet unreasonable deadlines and solving issues that were not their job to fix.

Our country's teachers are overwhelmed. I believe one of the main reasons for this is a lack of support in their classrooms and from administration. I work with a fourth grade ELA (reading and writing) teacher in what is considered a "support staff" position. Mainly, I take on whatever tasks are needed to lighten the workload for the classroom teacher. Even with me in the classroom to help, students are behind. There is another ELA teacher in the same grade with no classroom support and many students that need help. There are simply not enough paraprofessionals to go around.

One of the reasons that public schools lack



Emma Kate Johansen '23 writes about her experiences as a paraprofessional and shares the importance of prioritizing support staff by providing fair wages.

COURTESY OF EMMA KATE JOHANSEN

adequate support staff is that the salary is very low. Support staff are hourly employees, not salaried. This means that even though I am considered a full-time employee, I only work and get paid for 32 hours per week. In the interest of transparency and to emphasize the issues within this profession, I am paid \$16.01 per hour because this is my first year working in a school.

Pay scales for support staff have recently made local and national news in the neighboring state of Massachusetts, where the Newton Public School District is on strike. One of the issues they are striking for is a living wage for support staff. In Newton, paraprofessional contracts begin at \$27,000 per year. It amazed

me that support staff in a wealthy Boston suburb made only marginally more than me in Connecticut. Regardless of location, these wages are not sustainable and contribute to the lack of support staff in schools.

If school districts pay a living wage to support staff, teachers and students benefit. I believe that if school districts pay support staff a living wage, teacher burnout would decrease and student performance would increase. If you are entering an education field, be aware that this issue is pervasive and nationwide.

Emma Kate Johansen (she/her) is an Ithaca College alum. Contact her at ejohansen@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

Gun violence is exacerbated by Trump

BY CHRIS HOLMES

PROFESSOR

There are many reasons for Americans of every political stripe to fear a second Donald Trump presidency. His first term was a disaster, notable for its miasma of xenophobia, propaganda about the deep state, threats against the press and a full-frontal fetish for dictators and strongmen. That fog was inseparable from the president's fecklessness in the job itself. But to understand the true danger of a second Trump presidency, one must look with clarity at his party's relationship to guns and gun violence.

Over 40,000 people die because of gun violence in the U.S. every year. This staggering toll, the approximate equivalent of 13 9/11s annually, should be marked by national shame and mourning, and yet it is largely ignored by the press and politicians in the brief interims between mass shootings. Firearms continue to be the leading cause of death among children in the U.S. Add to this our near monopoly on female homicide. No other Western nation has done so little to combat a public health crisis of such enormity.

This is by and large the result of political cowardice and an ideology that afflicts mostly one side

of the political spectrum. Republicans offer nothing beyond empty thoughts and prayers, and worse, they sanctify violence as the "price of freedom." They reach for explanations for our singular affliction, blaming mental health, a coarsened culture, the lack of prayer in schools or anything that might distract from the truth. A careful look at crime rates in other wealthy democracies demonstrates that we are not more criminal. Rather, our crimes are vastly more lethal, resulting in death in circumstances where the gun is the variable.

Republicans tell us repeatedly that we are safer because we have so many guns. They reference risible and disproven statistics, but mostly they tell us that we can't do anything about it, and so we are better off armed.

Enter Trump after his loss in the 2020 election. Knowing full well he had lost, he used his immense platform to call thousands of supporters to the Capitol to disrupt the counting of electors. He knew that many among the crowd were armed, thus his command to take away the magnetometers designed to scan entrants for weapons. Trump understood exactly the kind of violence he was conjuring. He welcomed it, telling his aide that "they aren't here to hurt me." As we have since



Chris Holmes, professor in the Department of Literature and English, writes about Trump's impact on gun violence.

KAELEIGH BANDA/THE ITHACAN

learned, the militias that came to the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, had an arsenal of weapons waiting for a second round of that day's melee. To this date, there have been no meaningful repercussions for the president, nor for the senators who supported the insurrection.

Few in politics doubt that Trump will dispute the outcome of the 2024 presidential election should he lose. We can assume that a similar call will go out to militias and an armed citizenry. But what if he wins? What would a re-elected, vengeful Trump do with the power to bring armed mobs to his aid? One need only recall the fascist

governments of the 20th century to understand how tyrants use militias to hold power and to levy violence against ordinary citizens to quell dissent. Donald Trump's Republican Party wants the daily scroll of gun violence to become the background noise to daily life in the country. They want to normalize mass shootings and everyday gun death. They are laying the ground for political violence so that they can ignore that too.

Chris Holmes (he/him) is a professor in the Department of Literature and English. Contact him at cholmes@ithaca.edu.

Debates around Artificial Intelligence continue

BY MATT MINTON
SENIOR WRITER

With the official launch of ChatGPT in November 2022, students and faculty all across the country are being presented with major questions about how artificial intelligence (AI) should be used in the classroom, what constitutes as “cheating” and what this new technology means for the future of higher education.

Many colleges across the country, including Ithaca College, do not currently have official state-wide policies for the entire school to follow. This leaves faculty members having to make their own decisions about how — and if — students should be allowed to use AI.

According to a survey by Forbes in October 2023, out of 500 current educators across the United States from all school levels, 60% are using AI in the classroom and 55% believe that AI has improved educational outcomes.

Jenna Linskens, director of the Center for Instructional Design and Educational Technology, pulled together open conversations with the campus community, partnering with the Center for Faculty Excellence, starting in January 2023.

“Some of the things that we heard is that faculty really needed some guidance around a syllabus statement,” Linskens said. “We pulled together and curated a list of syllabus statements from colleges all around the world and shared them with faculty so they can put those statements in.”

Linskens said she knows of professors teaching anthropology, biology and screenwriting who ban AI use in the classroom. However, some professors, like Diane Gayeski, professor in the Department of Strategic Communication, are carefully implementing it into their curriculum.

Gayeski said she started requiring AI in the classroom during the Spring 2023 semester with platforms such as Chat GPT and scite.AI. scite.AI is a tool designed to make research easier and more efficient.

“My students are going to be expected to use AI in future jobs,” Gayeski said. “It’s similar to using any other tools like [Google] Spreadsheets or Powerpoint. ... It’s also an emerging technology, which is an area I teach. AI is very much on the horizon.”

Sophomore Jaimie-Kae Smith has noticed an uptick in the number of professors outlining AI policies in their syllabus this semester. In Smith’s Power of Injustice class she took during the Fall 2023 semester, she said her professor encouraged students to use AI to compare and contrast their own essays to work that AI put out about the same topic.

“We had to go through and nitpick the little discrepancies,” Smith said. “The AI version started mentioning characters that didn’t exist in the book. There were parts that were consistent, but others didn’t line up.”

Senior Isabella Lambert is currently taking a sports analytics class where they are talking about how AI technology can increase injury prediction and data analytics in sports.

An analysis by Acceleration Economy discusses how data-based prediction analysis is currently used by the National Football League, reportedly lowering injuries in lower extremities by 26%.

“Having some knowledge of any type of AI is huge heading into the future of the sports industry,” Lambert said. “If you know how to properly cite [AI], you should be able to use it like any other source.”

Smith said that she sometimes uses AI to help find sources of information and create a starting point that alleviates stress.

“But that’s where I try to draw the line with it,” Smith said. “I pride myself in having things in my work that are unique to myself and my writing style. ... The AI is not going to be able to put my personal spin on how I would do something.”

Some of the major concerns about AI use in the classroom stem from the fear of students generating papers without putting any effort



Artificial intelligence is an ongoing discussion on and off college campuses, as many colleges have yet to make an official statement surrounding the allowance or ban of the different programs.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MADDY TANZMAN, MOLLY TESKA/THE ITHACAN

into writing it themselves. Smith said academic integrity comes into question with other students who may see it as “the easy way out.”

“I think we’re all here with the intention of getting an education,” Smith said. “Using AI to bypass that ... then what’s the point? Just to get a grade, but what can you say that you learned at the end of the day?”

Gayeski said students have been finding different ways to cheat over the past hundred years, one example being paying somebody else to write their paper.

“Bottom line, if people want to cheat, they will cheat,” Gayeski said. “There are lots of ways around that, specifically that I require students in exams or papers to reflect very specifically on the readings or on lectures and discussions in the classroom.”

While many of the concerns seem to be poised toward how students will use AI, Gayeski said students can turn that same question back on their professors.

“I think it’s going to be used on both sides of the teaching experience,” Gayeski said. “I think students wouldn’t like it if they thought professors just used AI to create all of the content and grade the papers. Professors wouldn’t expect that students use AI to perform all their work. I think it’s going to be a matter of negotiation.”

In the current Academic Integrity Policy, the section of possible academic misconduct does not specifically mention AI use.

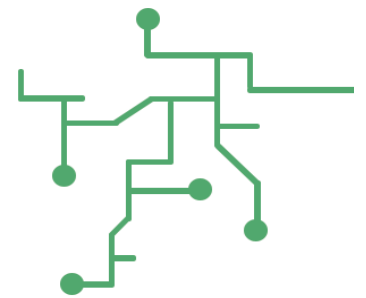
Luke Keller, professor of physics and astronomy and chair of the policy subcommittee of the IC Academic Policies Committee, said there are ongoing discussions about how to include AI in the existing list of examples.

“Our committee members agree that the ultimate decisions and definitions for use of AI in student academic work should be up to the instructor,” Keller said via email. “It’s important to note that the APC revision to the Standards of Academic Conduct simply includes the use of generative AI in an existing list. ... We need a group of faculty, students and staff to work out the details of how to implement this policy and give guidance.”

Keller said it could take a few meetings for the faculty council to figure out the policy, with the possibility of sending it back to the APC for further discussion.

Moving forward, Linskens and her department are working on two new developments: an AI literacy course for students in Canvas and a faculty resource course that will help guide professors in modifying their assignments or assessments with emerging technology in mind.

“That’s really a big piece of what the AI disruption is,” Linskens said. “We are seeing that faculty are



beginning to think about changing the way they’re creating assignments for students or assessing student learning in order to get a more authentic assessment.”

Following her discussions with people all across campus, Linskens said it’s important for faculty and students to have one-on-one open conversations about how they are each using AI.

“Ultimately, it is a tool that helps anyone be more productive, more effective in their writing, more cohesive in their work when used properly,” Linskens said. “So I encourage the conversation to remain open.”

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Jenna Linskens, director of the Center for Instructional Design and Educational Technology, has been providing guidance about AI.

MADDY TANZMAN/THE ITHACAN

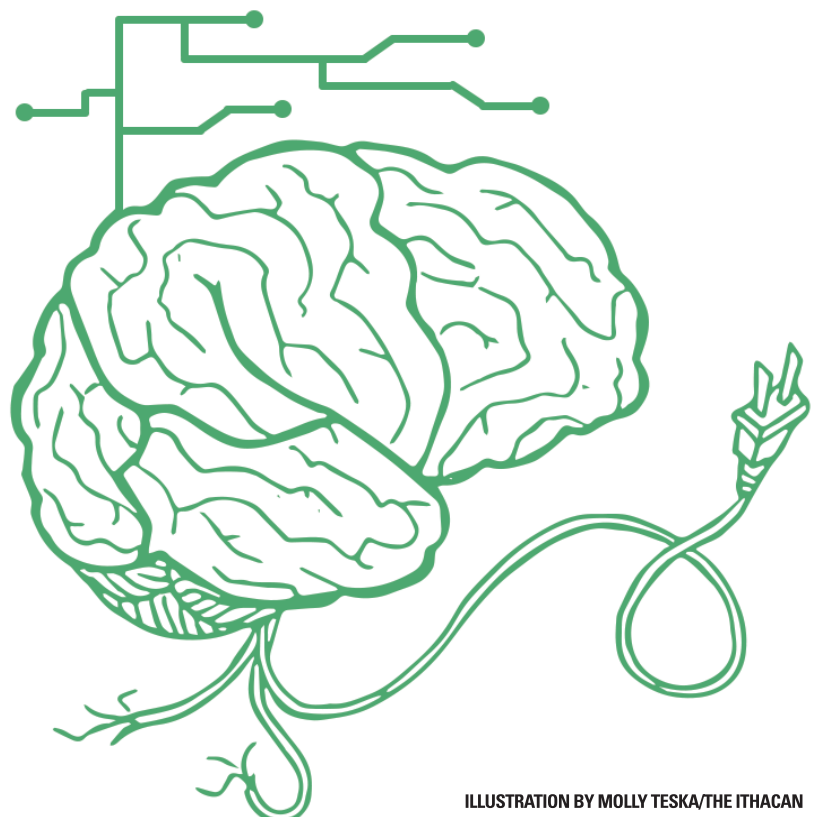


ILLUSTRATION BY MOLLY TESKA/THE ITHACAN



Grammy's recap and discussion

BY GEORGIE GASSARO

STAFF WRITER

The 66th annual GRAMMY Awards was hosted Feb. 4 in sunny Los Angeles to celebrate another year of musical success across all genres. With household names like Billy Joel, Celine Dion, Stevie Wonder and even Meryl Streep in attendance, it was a night full of surprises, firsts and unforgettable performances.

The night kicked off with a sneak peek of what's to come from Dua Lipa's upcoming album, "Training Season," as well as her recent hit, "Houdini." The disco-pop queen began her performance in the middle of the floor with an all-male dancer group and traveled to the stage to make way for her climbable, cube-shaped prop structure. As always, Lipa danced the night away.

SZA left with three trophies out of her nine nominations, a snub given the popularity of her album "SOS." When it debuted, it remained at No. 1 on the Top R&B/Hip-Hop Albums chart for 41 weeks, which set the record for the longest time at No. 1 by a woman on that chart.

The 2024 GRAMMYS were no exception for Swift's declaration that "haters gonna hate" as some viewed Swift's use of her first speech as a shameless act of self-promotion. Dropping huge announcements in this type of setting is not a new move for the singer-songwriter, who at last year's MTV's Video Music Awards announced "Midnights" following her win for "All Too Well: The Short Film."

Despite the online critiques, those in attendance on Sunday were exhilarated by her announcement, basking in excitement for Swift's achievements and in anticipation of what is to come for her.

As she made her way onstage, Swift brought up producer Jack Antonoff and singer/collaborator Lana Del Rey. It was clear that Rey did not feel comfortable sharing the spotlight with Swift at this moment, and the singer attempted to pull away and shook her head in resistance to Swift grabbing her hand. This added level of awkwardness made viewers more critical of Swift's lack of interaction with Celine Dion, claiming that Swift was out of touch with her surroundings at the moment.

Speaking of controversy, Miley Cyrus' "Flowers" dominated over four previous GRAMMY winners for Best Pop Solo Performance. "Flowers" debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 and secured that position for eight consecutive weeks. During her performance, the ex-Disney star and first-time GRAMMY winner called to the celebrity-filled crowd, "Why [are] you acting like you don't know this song?" mid-song before she threw down the mic stand. Cyrus' attitude made for an uncomfortable performance, though viewer discourse online was seemingly positive.

The 2024 GRAMMYS was undoubtedly a memorable night made possible by decades of musical legends and breakout artists who are keeping the industry alive, and with so much new music already announced in the last few months, the 2025 GRAMMY Awards are sure to be just as iconic.

POPPED CULTURE is a column, written by Life & Culture staff writers, that analyzes pop culture events. Georgie Gassaro is a first-year journalism major. Contact them at ggassaro@ithaca.edu.

BIPOC Unity Center hosts a Kickback

BY JACQUELYN REAVES

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Ithaca College's BIPOC Unity Center hosted a Kickback event Feb. 2 as a part of their monthly events for the campus community First Fridays.

The goal of the event was to showcase the multiple multicultural affinity organizations on campus. The Kickback was filled with 25 student organizations like "PODER: Latinx Student Association," "Brothers for Brothers" and the "Asian American Alliance," among many others.

Cliff-Simon Vital, assistant director of the BIPOC Unity Center, said the Kickback this semester wanted to highlight the different cultural-affinity organizations on campus, for any BIPOC students who could not engage with any organizations during the fall semester.

"[BIPOC students] might not be ready to commit to everything, and we see that involvement might not be as strong in the fall compared to the spring," Vital said. "We do this to support that process."

Senior Nathalie Molina, president of Sister 2 Sister, said she felt isolated as a BIPOC student at a predominantly white institution (PWI), but was able to find community within her organization.

"As a BIPOC student here on campus, my sophomore year, I felt very alienated on campus coming from a very BIPOC area back home," Molina said. "I'm from D.C. ... It's really nice to be able to find a community here."

Junior Kathleen Gang, secretary of IC Mixed, an organization dedicated toward mixed students on campus, said that being a part of the organization helped her understand more about her identity and she was able to find community with people who shared her identity.



Seniors Nour Elshikh and Kashief Scott dance at the BIPOC Unity Center's Kickback, one of events put on by the organization as part of their "First Fridays."

COLE JACKSON/THE ITHACAN

"[IC Mixed] did a lot for me when I was realizing more about my own identity and realizing I was a mixed person," Gang said. "Coming to a space where people understand things that I didn't realize other people experienced until I would talk about it."

Vital said events like the Kickback are important because it is a goal of the center to ensure that BIPOC students know the resources they have available to them while attending a PWI.

"That's why we do it. It's in our mission of the BIPOC Unity Center to create space that's validating and safe while also dismantling systems of oppression that hold our community back," Vital said.

The organizations who attended the Kickback were actively recruiting more students to become members of their organizations. Each group had a table dedicated to their or-

ganization with eye-catching, colorful poster boards that had the members of the e-board and the organization's mission statement on them.

For more information on any future events the BIPOC Unity Center is planning, you can follow them on Instagram, join them on IC engage, or send them an email Vital said.

First-year student Shana Desir joined two organizations at the event and said she joined to find a community on campus with people who are like her.

"I joined Sister 2 Sister and BSU. ... I joined those clubs because I want to be around people who look like me and understand the experiences I've had here," Desir said. "And [to be surrounded by] people that I feel like I can be more authentic around."

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New story spun in 'Mr. & Mrs. Smith'

TV SERIES REVIEW: "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" Prime Video



BY MARIANA CONTRERAS

ASST. LIFE & CULTURE EDITOR

It is no secret that remakes and sequels of old pop culture classics don't always have the best reputation. There is always a risk when it comes to taking something already beloved by many and trying to recreate it for a new generation. This is why Francesca Sloane's and Donald Glover's "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" strips the idea for the iconic 2005 Brangelina film and spins it in a whole new direction.

Like all its predecessors, "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" follows the story of a "married" couple who share the Smith surname. Here, John (Donald Glover) is an outcast, ex-marine who is paired up by a mysterious chatbot with Jane (Maya Erskine), a Type A, lonely woman who was rejected by the CIA for her "anti-social" tendencies. All eight episodes of the first season were released on Amazon Prime on Feb. 2.

One of the biggest differences and perhaps what makes this series so attractive is that unlike other spy-centered storylines, John and Jane are two common everyday folks who renounce their previous lives to build a

shared, adrenaline-filled one. This makes for a series that, rather than focus on action-heavy drama, allows the audience to connect with the development of these two awkward individuals in high risk situations.

Through fast, witty and quirky banter, the series travels through the different stages of John and Jane's relationship — from their first attempt to establish a practical cohabitation, to their blooming romance, to the inevitable damage caused by the unlikely circumstances that they are forced to navigate this flame. The missions tend to lend themselves more to a comedic undertone more than "Bond-like" espionage, which feels fitting with the unfamiliar nature the show has for John and Jane. Yet it also feels as if the creators are too scared to fully embrace the humor in them, still trying to provide proper homage to their precursors and stick to the high stakes of the job.

Glover and Erskine give the audience a relationship that doesn't feel unreachable; they portray neighborhood citizens who act and look like neighborhood citizens. The foundation for their relationship feels natural



John Smith (Donald Glover) and Jane Smith (Maya Erskine) work together to apprehend one of their targets.

COURTESY OF PRIME VIDEO

and required, and their chemistry works for this, but as they move deeper into their relationship and we start to see a semblance to a true "Mr. and Mrs." married pair, it is clear that they lack that passionate bond. In the show, Mr. and Mrs. Smith are not fervid lovers who have fallen apart because of rivalries and secrets, instead they are millennials living in Brooklyn navigating the hardships of finding "the one" in a unique way.

While this show should in no way be expected to mimic previous adaptations that share a title, Glover and Sloane do include multiple easter eggs for fans to enjoy without tying the story in itself to previous media. Ultimately, the series is most enjoyable as its own stand-alone concept. It promises a thought provoking stream that leaves viewers with an appetite for more.

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‘Zone of Interest’: Atrocities through a new lens

MOVIE REVIEW: “The Zone of Interest” A24



BY MATT MINTON
SENIOR WRITER

A woman tries on a fur coat to see if it suits her. A group of friends sit around with coffee, talking about the weather being too hot. Siblings play together in a pool, splashing water while laughing. An officer discusses in detail taking a plane that got him to his destination 50 minutes early. A family picks flowers together in the forest by the lake. Meanwhile, the sounds of distant screams and gunshots are heard over a wall — the only thing separating its creator from the atrocities committed.

We soon discover the names of the Höss family who we anxiously follow in Jonathan Glazer’s Holocaust drama, “The Zone of Interest,” which has been slowly expanding nationwide since Dec. 15. Rudolf Höss (Christian Friedel), the commander of the Auschwitz concentration camp, goes about his day-to-day life with his wife, Hedwig Höss (Sandra Hüller), and their children. As they entirely ignore the death and torture happening right next door, Glazer explores the different forms that human evil takes.

Based on the 2014 novel, “The Zone of Interest” is unlike any Holocaust movie — or any historical WWII drama for that matter. Glazer’s experimental, slow-burn and plotless approach pushes forward cinema’s capabilities by making the viewer complicit with the characters’ lack of action. We never get even a glance over the wall, the unspoken and the unseen, making the film’s atmosphere all the more unsettling and unbearable. We can’t help. We are left to do nothing.

Through this approach, Glazer crafts one of the most horrifying movies of all time about human complicity.

Lukasz Zal’s cinematography creates such vivid imagery, moving through the Höss’ house with a feeling of surveillance. In fact, the film was set up with multiple cameras rolling throughout the entire set at the same time, allowing the actors to improvise and simply exist in the space around them.

While there’s no technical element out of place, it’s the intricately crafted soundscape that makes “The Zone of Interest” fully work. It’s often hard to distinguish the sound design from Mica Levi’s ominous and all-consuming score, an intentional design that adds to the disorientation of watching the film.

With such intentionally dry characters, the entire cast does terrifically understated work in bringing these roles to life. Hüller, the Oscar-nominated star of “Anatomy of a Fall,” is the standout as the commander’s wife. But every character completely sinks into the environment around them, with no one single personality standing out. The lack of life, soul and empathy in these characters is sickening to watch.

Glazer’s ice-cold approach is sure to isolate some viewers, but that’s exactly the point. Time and time again throughout history, atrocities happen while humankind turns a blind eye to the suffering around them. Glazer harnesses the power of cinema to make us reconsider our own choices. Similarly to “Killers of the Flower Moon,” Glazer ends on a note that makes us question what it means to tell stories of genocide and the questions that must be considered



Rudolf Höss (Christian Friedel) watches as family and friends play in his home’s personal pool, just on the other side of the wall separating them from Auschwitz.

COURTESY OF A24

when reconstructing history.

There’s no easy way out through Glazer’s unique artistic choices. For example, a red screen flashes in the middle of the film for mere seconds — a quick release — before it swiftly returns to the situation at hand: a reminder that history must always be remembered. And by the end, even as the credits roll, Levi’s music blares through until the very last second. These few experimental details never fully allow the audience to catch

their breath or stop thinking about what they just watched.

What Glazer achieves in this project is unbelievably important to talk about. Few other movies are able to say so much about the injustices of humankind with so little actually shown. “The Zone of Interest” serves as a stark, sadly necessary reminder of humankind’s tendency to turn a blind eye to horror.

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Obvious CGI outweighs performances in ‘Argylle’

MOVIE REVIEW: “Argylle” AppleTV+



BY GEORGIE GASSARO
STAFF WRITER

Based on a recently published novel of the same title, the film “Argylle,” released Feb. 2, follows the journey of fictional author Elly Conway (Bryce Dallas Howard) as she discovers that her spy novels seemingly possess a fortune telling power for actual spy missions.

Elly — an introverted, quirky homebody and quintessential cat lady — befriends a dad-joke-loving spy named Aiden, who has been pursuing efforts to destroy an international espionage organization called the Division. In order to dismantle the Division, Elly must write the next chapter of her latest book and determine an ending much larger than that of her fiction spy thrillers.

Elly is bombarded with another surprise: her real name is Rachel Kylie, a former CIA operative turned spy who was brainwashed and recruited by the Division. The psychic properties of Elly’s novels are simply Rachel’s memories and knowledge.

If that wasn’t shocking enough, Elly/Rachel’s own “mother,” Ruth (Catherine O’Hara), is truly a Division spy who brainwashed her into her authorship life alongside one of the leaders of the Division, who acted as Elly’s father.

Howard’s character then switches back and forth between identities to attack the Division with Aiden — and her cat, Alfie — while rediscovering the prior life that was taken from her. Howard flawlessly nails the performance of both Elly’s fragile innocence and Rachel’s courage.

From the start, “Argylle” draws intrigue with creative transitions and cuts, such as the close-up shot of Agent Argylle’s yellow, foamy beer glass fading into the yellow argyle print title screen. “Argylle” also plays with shape and color throughout the film, constructing a game of I-Spy (no pun intended) for audiences who are otherwise uninterested in de-scattering the plot. There are multiple hidden diamond shapes, as well as an emphasis on yellow, in the set and costume design. Dua Lipa and Howard’s diamond-shaped necklaces, Alfie’s yellow collar, Ruth’s yellow argyle bookmark and even a diamond-shaped fire door sign serve as examples.

Director Matthew Vaughn is known for campy, theatrical storytelling displays. Unfortunately, this signature style of Vaughn’s serves as a cop-out for the obvious CGI and an abundance of overzealous scenes.

As for scenes that do not rely on CGI, there is simply too much happening. For example, the very

campy montage of Aiden and Elly dancing while holding machine guns, which rhythmically fire as they prance around rainbow smoke machines, or when Division agents slip on crude oil that Elly begins skating on like ice. “Argylle” commits to a high-strung tone only appropriate for a kid’s movie or a purely satirical spy thriller.

With a runtime of nearly two and a half hours, “Argylle” views as multiple movies within one, whether it be the plotline of Elly’s books and her character’s identities in the real world or Elly’s discovery of her own true identity and using that knowledge to her advantage. For a movie with the tagline, “Once you know the secret, don’t let the cat out of the bag,” it becomes unclear what the punchline secret is supposed to be.

Despite “Argylle” ultimately twisting a web of lies that gets tangled into confusion, there are moments of suspense and shock that serve as gems of hope to make viewers want to give it a chance.

There are also many thoughtful transitions to connect Elly’s storytelling with the film’s reality, such as the words of Elly’s manuscript, serving as a background for a scene, falling off the page and off-screen as she rewrites, or when Agent Argylle’s dialogue is



Elly Conway (Bryce Dallas Howard) works on her fiction spy-thriller novel in the most recent action movie, “Argylle.”

COURTESY OF APPLE TV+

intercut by Elly’s voice feeding the script into his mouth, as the layered audio demonstrates the inner subconscious that Agent Argylle acts as for Elly. With an all-star cast of Dua Lipa, Samuel Jackson and John Cena to name a few; a high-profile collaboration between Apple TV+ and Universal; and a significant and unprecedented production budget of \$200 million, the unknown origins of the literary predecessor of “Argylle” intrigued

entertainment news outlets.

At first glance, “Argylle” presents itself as a refreshing wave of original, playful content in an industry plagued by exhaustive remakes and sequels for built-in audiences. Sadly, it has no consistent purpose and fails to balance between tributary old Hollywood, Bond-like films and setting up Vaughn’s own place in the canon of spy-thriller classics.

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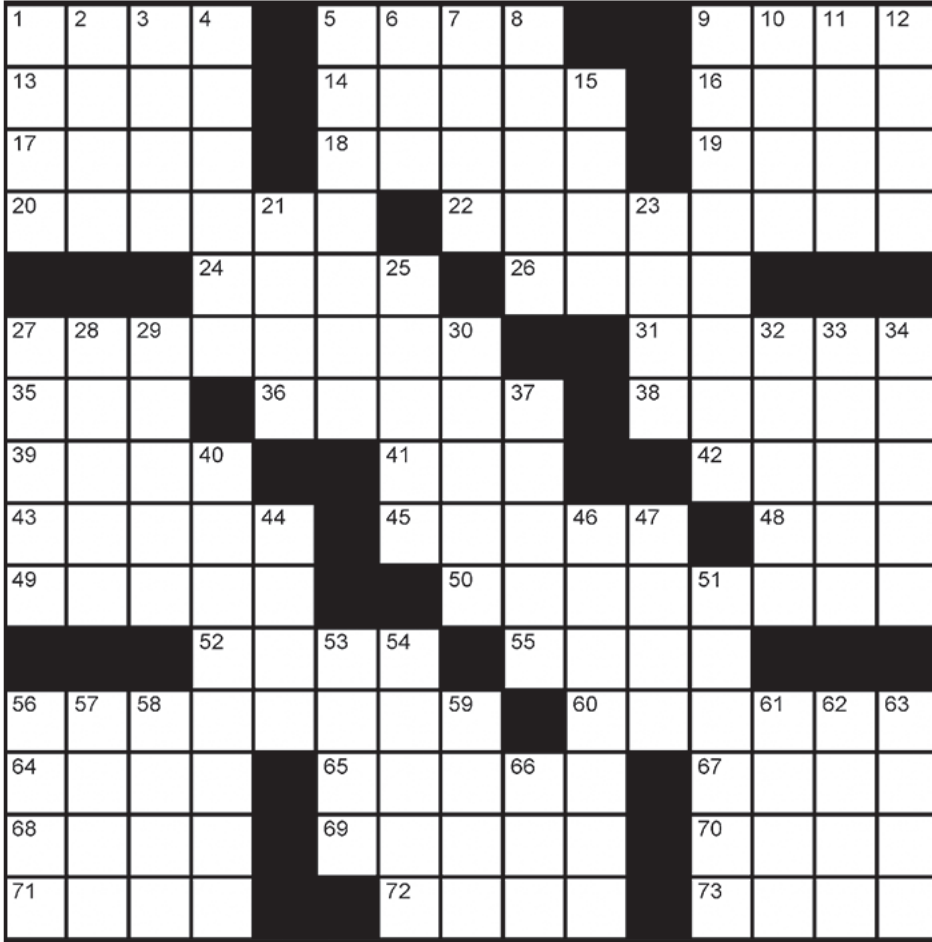
DIVERSIONS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024

12

crossword

By Quill Driver Books



ACROSS

- 1 Hems and –
- 5 Great number
- 9 Facile
- 13 Got down off a horse
- 14 Separately
- 16 “Exodus” author Leon –
- 17 Actor’s character
- 18 Rapunzel’s prison
- 19 Blanch
- 20 Petty Scholar
- 22 Block party attendee
- 24 Soften
- 26 One way to fly
- 27 Special ops seaman (2 wds.)
- 31 Pressed
- 35 Homer Simpson’s dad
- 36 – and true
- 38 Jeweled headdress
- 39 Quantity of firewood
- 41 Place
- 42 Cottage cheese bit
- 43 Starts the day

- 45 Spread out
- 48 Biblical Land of–
- 49 Chosen
- 50 Wall hanging
- 52 Interpret
- 55 Brief memo
- 56 Misdeeds
- 60 Woodsy growth
- 64 – in the face
- 65 Disney dog
- 67 Improbable story
- 68 Luxury car
- 69 Undercover operation
- 70 Stew pot
- 71 What remains
- 72 Court fig.
- 73 Kind of admiral

- 11 Missile housing
- 12 River in Belgium
- 15 The Supremes, e.g.
- 21 Aerie
- 23 Oversupply
- 25 Coin toss result
- 27 Pearly substance
- 28 Seething
- 29 Poetic works
- 30 Jumped
- 32 Thin and sickly
- 33 Proofreader’s find
- 34 Papa
- 37 Actor – McDermott
- 40 Broken-down

- 44 Kind of British gun
- 46 Expression of regret
- 47 Abominable snowman
- 51 Zone
- 53 Small vipers
- 54 Major airline
- 56 Glacial ridge
- 57 Chimney part
- 58 Crazes
- 59 be appropriate for
- 61 Patriot Nathan –
- 62 She, in Barcelona
- 63 Come close to
- 66 Blasting material

last issue’s crossword answers

B	A	B	A	D	E	M	I	C	H	A	S	M
E	R	A	S	I	V	A	N	H	A	R	P	Y
A	C	T	E	E	L	S	E	R	G	O	T	
R	A	K	I	S	H	L	U	N	A	M	O	T
S	P	A	P	R	O	T	E	G	E	F	A	N
A	R	M	Y	D	O	W	S	L	I	M	E	
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E	M	O	T	E	L	U	C	E	L	S	A	
D	O	N	N	U	C	L	E	A	R	D	E	L
H	O	M	E	W	A	R	D	A	C	C	O	S
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Polar Pardner

ILLUSTRATION BY JOSHUA PANTANO/THE ITHACAN



数独

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The Sudoku Source of "The Ithacan".

answers to last issue’s sudoku:

medium

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

hard

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

sudoku

very easy

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

medium

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

SPORTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024

13

ALUMNI OUTREACH RUNS DEEP

BY JULIA WALLACE

STAFF WRITER

Ithaca College prides itself on alumni relations years after a student graduates. The college hosts annual alumni weekends, invites alumni to speak to students about their field and successes, and provides a safe space where they are always welcome regardless of how long it has been since they have been students. Following in this spirit, the men's and women's track and field teams have gone to impressive lengths to harbor a strong tie between their current and previous athletes.

When the Glazer Arena was built in 2011, women's track and field coach Jennifer Potter '92 and men's track and field coach Jim Nichols realized they had an opportunity to host their own alumni event within the walls of the new indoor track. Utilizing their current athletes as mock-officials, the event is run annually as a real meet, complete with check-ins, numbers and officially clocked times.

Junior runner Christopher Licata said that alumni events were key to keeping the connection within the program and that the events are a great way to catch up with former teammates.

"Having an annual alumni meet each year to kick off our indoor season is a pretty cool way to connect and share experiences between the different people the track and field program has had through its history," Licata said. "It's a really cool opportunity to catch up and reconnect with teammates who graduated ahead of us, as well as speak with alumni who are years out of college and hear about how the team was when they competed."

After graduating, the opportunity to compete on the track is greatly reduced and a majority of alumni might think they would have to say goodbye forever to competition. It's clear that these mini-meets reignite the fire of competing in these alumni and remind them of the power they still hold within them. Roosevelt Lee '18 said via email that this aspect of the annual meet-ups is his favorite.

"I get to experience the thrill of being able to compete again, especially with those I may have once competed with before," Lee said via email. "I'm full of energy and excitement and having a good time. After the competition is done, I feel pretty beat up from doing so many events, but I end with a smile on my face as I take my cool down laps around the track."

These events go beyond friendly competition, however, as both coaches donate their

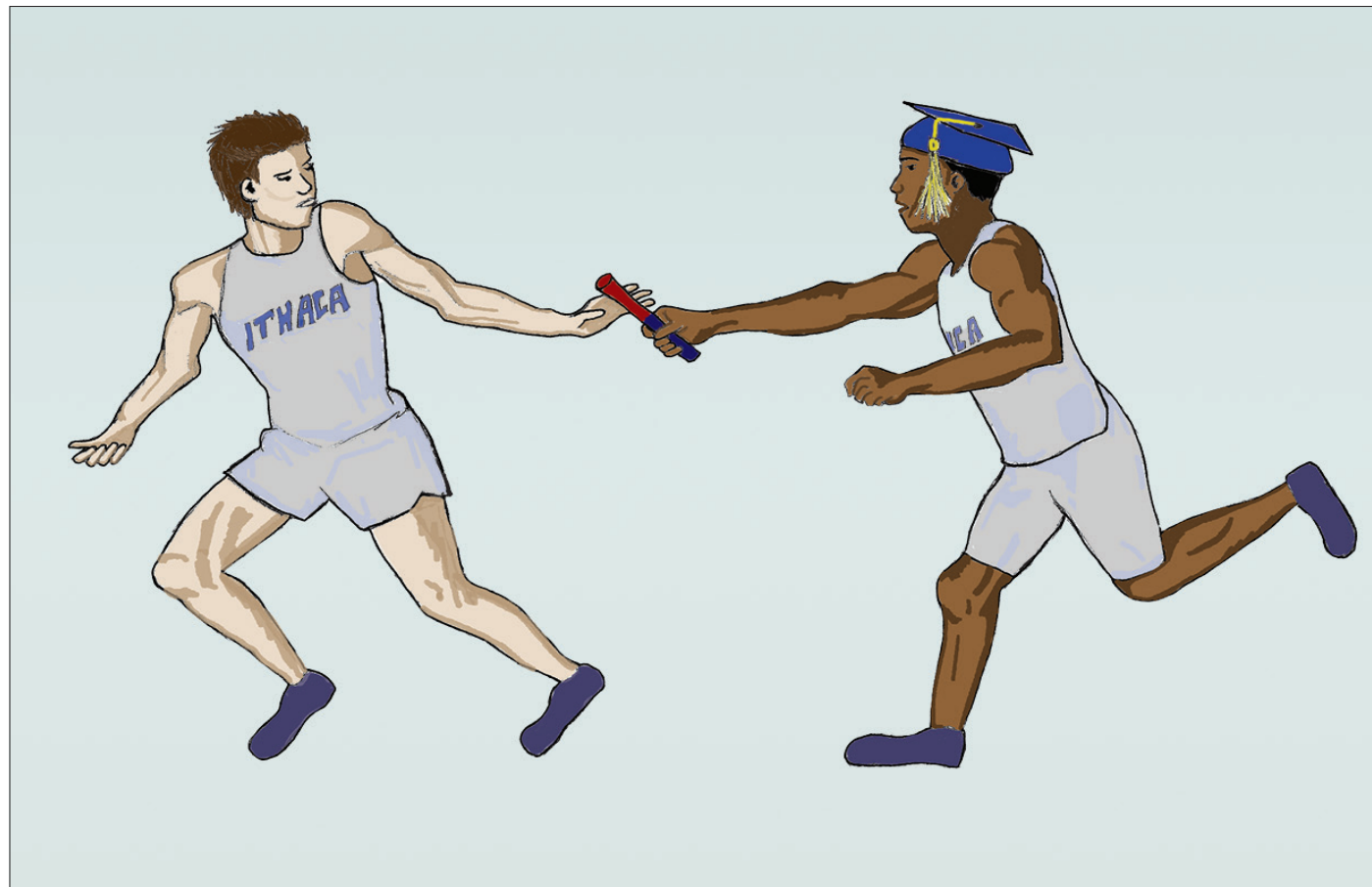


ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN

time, home and funds to create an environment that fosters the nostalgia of an alumni's time on the track. They make shirts, provide refreshments and have even offered up their homes for barbecues after alumni get-togethers or the cross country alumni event that occurs in the fall. They even dedicate a portion of their events to "Will-be's Races," relating to the "Will-be-Bombers," the children of the alumni and potential future track stars.

As special as these events are for alumni and athletes, it also fills the coaches with a sense of pride and family. Potter said she had countless close relationships and memories with athletes that she still holds dear today.

On Feb. 9 and 10, qualifying athletes will compete at the Boston University Valentine Invitational, the team's only meet of the regular season outside of New York. An extra layer of excitement is added when the athletes know that some of their alumni will be there before, after and during to cheer them on.

Sophomore runner Jessica Goode said it will be especially encouraging to have alumni in Boston there for the team.

"It's a special meet since it's all the way in

Boston, Massachusetts, which is a state that we never travel to for competitions," Goode said. "Some of the top schools in the country from all divisions compete there. It's definitely a full circle moment too when you see the bond that these alumni still have to the sport of track and field."

Potter stayed connected with alum Christine MacKinnon '16. MacKinnon eventually became one of the directors of the brand new New Balance Indoor Track Facility in Boston. Having this connection opens the door to bring alumni events to a whole new level yet again, allowing alumni and athletes to get a private tour of the facility before race day on Feb. 10.

"This is one of the most premier facilities in the country right now, so I thought why not have an alumni event there?" Potter said. "We'd start in the restaurant attached to the facility, Broken Records, and Christine would give tours because it is just being opened and is the talk of the town."

It's evident that once athletes join the track and field team, they are a part of a lifelong family that wishes to support all the following generations of Bombers. Alumni can give advice to current athletes outside of their sport as well. Potter said that because of the impact alumni can have on current athletes, she encourages both sides to stay in touch with one another.

"If I know an alumni was in the same major as an athlete, I'll connect them because they may be a sort of resource later on," Potter said. "This networking and connection with alumni is what makes Ithaca College so special."

In fact, Lee said he made such good connections with the current athletes that he decided to return to the team as a coach.

"I think these events do improve the overall climate of Ithaca track and field on both sides because it allows current student-athletes to interact with past athletes and hopefully gives current athletes something to look forward to when they graduate," Lee said. "It also shows that even though you may not be in the game anymore, you can bust out some old gear, dust off those spikes and have a good ole competition."

Many alumni had been so deeply affected by their time on the track that they chose to incorporate track and field in their own careers.

Ian Golden '00 is the founder of Trails Collective and Red Newt Racing, two organizations that promote a cross between running, nature and community. Golden said that when he was an athlete at the college, it was always fun to see alumni come back and interact.

Both Nichols and Potter have put in the work to forge long-lasting bonds with their athletes, as Potter said both current and previous runners have raved at the love and care they have continued to receive from them. Goode said some former athletes have even expressed their desires to race with their coaches, invite them to their weddings and set dates for lunch with their coaches after they leave the team.

"I'm sure that after graduating, my relationship with coach Nichols will stay the same as he always tries to stay in contact with alumni of past track teams," Licata said. "He sends out pamphlets or news about the successes of the team to alumni every so often and if any athlete returns to the cross country or track alumni meet, he makes sure to say hello and catch up with everyone who came to town."

Both Goode and Licata credited aspects of their track knowledge and confidence to the alumni that they have kept relationships with. There are many recently graduated alumni still in the area to finish their five or six-year master's programs that keep close ties to the athletes. One such relationship is one that Goode formed with recent graduate Paloma De Monte '22.

"Paloma is overall a fun person to be around and she is a shoulder that all of us can lean on when we are struggling with something or if we have any sort of question," Goode said. "She has personally helped me before and after races and she is knowledgeable when it comes to mental health."

Both the men's and women's teams have been training hard for months as they prepare for the big competitions at the end of the season. With Liberty Leagues in less than a month, the alumni event and the inspiration they spark are coming at a perfect time for these athletes.

"We're working like a well-oiled machine — the climate is awesome," Potter said. "We're a postseason team; I'm really excited to see what we can do. It's coming together as it should."



From left, Jesse Cappelaro '17 and men's track and field assistant coach Roosevelt Lee '18 run at the 2023 Janette Bonrouhi-Zakaim Memorial Alumni Run on Sep. 2, 2023.

XINYI QIN/THE ITHACAN

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Ivy League players embrace game in Japan

BY BILLY WOOD

SPORTS EDITOR

A cultural experience and a culmination of collegiate football careers occurred in Tokyo, Japan, on Jan. 21, 6,752 miles away from Schoellkopf Field in Ithaca. This was not an average Ivy League football game — this was the Dream Japan Bowl.

The Dream Japan Bowl is an annual American football game played between the Ivy League All-Stars and Japanese All-Stars in Tokyo. The game was brought back in 2023 with the Ivy League working with the Japan National Football Association.

The Ivy League spent a little over a week in Japan. During the team's time in the country, they visited the U.S. Embassy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Meiji shrine and ran youth football clinics to connect the youth of Japan with American football.

Despite a 10–5 defeat, Alec Bank, a former Harvard and current Stanford offensive lineman, said he was shocked he was going up against players who had been playing the game professionally.

“The guy who I went against graduated from Wake Forest, and he was on the Eagles practice squad for a year before going over to Japan,” Bank said. “He is 28 years old now. It was definitely a challenge.”

Cornell senior wide receiver Nicholas Laboy said he was shocked to see passion that paralleled the love for the game shown in the United States.

“I was absolutely surprised to

see so many Japanese people in the stands on their feet, screaming and going crazy for football,” Laboy said.

Robin Harris, the Ivy League's executive director, said the trip was as much focused on exposing the players to culture and education as it was about football.

“The game was important too, and they get to play the game they love in Japan, which is fabulous, but it really is about exposing them to a very different culture and the education that came with that,” Harris said.

During the trip, the team visited and ran football clinics. Cornell senior kicker Jackson Kennedy said these clinics left an impact on him.

“I had probably nine or 10 specialists with me, and I was thinking, ‘I'm just going to go do simple drills, we'll kick a ball around or whatever,’” Kennedy said. “Then you come to find out, these people are kicking 50-yard field goals and 55-yard field goals. That was beyond me. I didn't even know that was possible.”

Both Kennedy and Laboy are entered into the NCAA transfer portal as Graduate Transfers. While Laboy said the game probably did not have a vital impact on his future prospects, Kennedy said that having professional kicks on his resume is something that could help him.

“Being able to have a meaningful kick in a meaningful situation sort of just has that power to say, ‘Hey, I'm still playing a game, I'm still ready to go,’” Kennedy said.

Division III does not provide



The Ivy League sent 52 total players to compete in the Dream Japan Bowl on Jan. 21. Aside from fighting it out in the game, players participated in youth football clinics, cultural activities and tourism.

COURTESY OF MIKE LAGO

nearly the same opportunities for scouting and recognition that a Division I conference like the Ivy League can. Ithaca College junior defensive lineman Josh Miles said opportunities are there for Division III football to help players get their name out.

“Those opportunities are everywhere, especially with the game growing so fast and so many different countries wanting to join in on it,” Miles said. “I think especially with Division III, with how competitive football is getting in the recruiting

process, you're seeing a lot of top tier athletes. I think to have the exciting opportunity to connect them with international organizations ... I think connecting Division III athletes with those institutions and those organizations would be a perfect match.”

Kennedy said the experience brought together a group whose bond will last.

“This is something that we have the honor to do; it's not something that we were just given,” Kennedy said. “We were here because we were

able to be an impact on the team, impact games and I want to say we weren't the closest people on our team, but we definitely have this experience; I mean we're texting each other or sending contacts and, you know, got side jokes going now. It just shows that you never know who's going to be your friend, and I'm sure I'll be able to text those guys in 10–15 years jokes that we've made on this trip.”

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Diver returns home to reconnect with sport

BY FLYNN HYNES

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

This season, junior diver Kailee Payne has been dominating on the diving board, breaking the pool record at the Henry Kumpf Invitational on Jan. 20 with a score of 306.55 points in the 1-meter dive.

Payne spent the past two years at Division I Marshall University before coming to Ithaca College. During her time at Marshall, Payne would go on to be named Conference USA Freshman Diver of the Year. Not only that, but Payne set a pool record of 280.70 in the 1-meter dive while there, although that record was recently broken. However, she said the struggles around the coaching staff caused her to transfer and become a Bomber.

“I absolutely met some amazing people at Marshall,” Payne said. “Unfortunately, it was a very young coaching staff and I think they didn't have a proper sense of how to lead a team that felt respected enough as individuals, not just athletes.”

In addition, Payne said she values her academics more and has found a major in environmental science at Ithaca College that she loves. She is on her fourth major now, but she talked about how a small liberal arts program gives a more well-rounded approach to education.

In the 10 competitions and meets in which Payne has participated in this season, she secured a top-three position for nine in both 1-meter and 3-meter diving events. Over her two years at Marshall, Payne achieved an average score of 224.70 in the 1-meter (six dives) event, compared to an improved average of



Junior diver Kailee Payne transferred to Ithaca College after spending two seasons diving for Marshall University where she owns the pool record in the 1-meter dive.

RAYAHNA TRYKA/THE ITHACAN

280.75 with the Bombers. Additionally, in the 3-meter (six dives) event, Payne currently holds an average score of 275.84 at the college, highlighting an improvement from her average of 236.25 at Marshall.

Head swimming and diving coach Mike Blakely-Armitage '00 emphasized the strength of the diving program at the college. It's one of the top Division III programs for women diving in the country, currently ranked No. 30.

“I would say our Division III diving program for women is perennially one of the best in Division III,” Blakely-Armitage said. “She knew that coming in and I think that was probably really attractive to her.”

Payne is an Ithaca native and went to Ithaca

High School. Chris Griffin, the aquatics coordinator and diving coach at the college, said that in high school, Payne would make trips up to the Ithaca College clinic to work on her diving with the coaches at the time. It's a relationship that has been around for years now.

“I knew that there was a positive coach to athlete relationship, and I thought she would be a good fit for our dynamics, and I knew that she was a quality diver who could hopefully help us out on the boards,” Griffin said.

Unlike Marshall, Payne highlighted the warm-hearted coaching staff that is at Ithaca College. Payne said that as a diver, she works with Griffin more and that he always lightens the mood and makes sure to check in.

“He will always say that I respect you as a person more than an athlete, sometimes not those exact words, but that's my interpretation,” Payne said. “Because if you're not doing well as a person, how can you do well as an athlete?”

During her time here, Griffin said his main goal for Kailee is to enjoy the sport as much as she possibly can.

“This year was really about falling back in love with the sport, learning how to enjoy the sport, learning how to love it,” Griffin said.

Just like a coaching staff, team culture is extremely important. Payne gave high appraisal to a few of her teammates as people that have influenced her while at the college.

“I love diving because it's a very kind community,” Payne said. “The people are just friendly and very infrequently do you find anybody that's rude or anything. So I will say quite a few of my teammates, like Abby Marraccino, Eliza Salus and Audrey Scott, they have left big imprints on me because of how they have approached the sport. They want to enjoy it, they are motivated, they are going to push themselves even if that means being afraid.”

Payne described a new dive that she learned while being a bomber, which is a front 2 ½ pike with one twist on a 3-meter diving board. Payne described the opportunities that the college opened up for her to practice her skills.

“I was able to do that dive [at Ithaca College] because at Marshall, I just did not feel supported,” Payne said. “It was kind of this subconscious feeling that I couldn't do a dive. But coming to the school and being able to do that dive opened up so many gates that I never got.”

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Ithacappella, an all male-identifying a cappella group, recently took first place in the International Championships of Collegiate A Cappella Quarter Finals. They are now rehearsing for the semi-finals in March in Buffalo, NY. Pictured from left to right: senior Joey Albano and first-year students Ryan Martin and Sam Young.

MADDY TANZMAN/THE ITHACAN