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SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE IS A NECESSITY



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SAAC PLUNGES INTO COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Alumni memorialize 1970 protests at Ithaca College for the first time



From left, Vernard McBeth '71, Dennis Bryon '71 and Steven Centeno '73 participated in the march to occupy the space where former college president Howard Dillingham's office was, protesting against Educational Opportunity Program budget cuts.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY EMMA KERSTING AND GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN

BY ALYSSA BEEBE,
PRAKRITI PANWAR

SENIOR WRITER,
NEWS EDITOR

Ithaca College hosted the first-ever commemoration in 54 years of a march and sit-in that was organized in 1970 by the college's then Afro-Latin Society (ALS). Beginning April 9, 1970, a series of week-long events began after about 40 students marched from Egbert Student Union — now called the Campus Center — to occupy the space inside Job Hall, where former college President Howard Dillingham's office resided.

The April 17, 1970, issue of *The Ithacan* reported that “Students [were] hanging over the administrative balcony [and] responded to [Dillingham] with, ‘Meet the demands,’ while an opposing element chanted, ‘Bring the police.’”

The article also notes that there were 400 students waiting outside of the Campus Center, formerly known as The Union, chanting “Meet the Blacks demands” and that the 40 students who occupied the space inside Job Hall damaged parts of the bookstore.

History

ALS members and students protested to voice their frustrations

with the mismanagement of Education Opportunity Program (EOP) funds. It was established as a fiscal sponsorship to help students overcome financial and academic barriers to attending four-year institutions.

In April 1970, \$90,000 allotted to the college's EOP program were believed to be diverted to landscaping, based on information on the budget. At the time, most Black and Latino students could not afford to study at the college without EOP funds, according to the list of demands presented by ALS in *The Ithacan*.

The *Ithacan*'s reporting from April 10, 1970, states that the financial cuts in the budget were only proposed at the time, not implemented, and that while the EOP was one of the programs targeted, funding would also depend on state and federal aid.

Steven Centeno '73 participated in the protest in 1970 and attended the 2024 commemoration event. Centeno said to *The Ithacan* that the ALS was against the \$90,000 budget cut because it felt that the money was not being invested where it should have been.

“When these budget cuts came ... we were really shocked because what the college was proposing was to reduce our number, our admissions and recruitment,”

Centeno said. “[At the time], there were beautification projects that were going on campus. ... That money was supposed to go to the students and they decided to take the beautification.”

Centeno said that in the 1970s, there was a general culture at the college that made BIPOC students feel unwelcome. Centeno said everything that the ALS did came from a place of defending themselves, rather than actively attacking those in power.

“In the bathroom right here [in Campus Center] there used to be bathrooms along this wall and it said [things like], ‘If Black is beautiful, I just laid a masterpiece’ [and] ‘Everyone should own two n— and shoot one,’” Centeno said.

The college had 70 Black students out of 3,500 total students at the time, according to a *New York Times* article. As of Fall 2023, 23.4% of Ithaca College students identify as BIPOC, according to the Office of Analytical and Institutional Research. Since Fall 2020, the percentage of BIPOC students has stagnated around 23%.

The ALS presented 12 demands to the administration. According to the list of demands presented by ALS in *The Ithacan*, the students presented their 12 demands to Dillingham on April 9 and extended an invitation to meet with the

administration April 11 so that demands could be met by April 13, as they asked. However, no administration met with the students on April 11.

The April 24, 1970, issue of *The Ithacan* notes that after the protest, the college committed \$341 million to the EOP in a written statement.

Commemoration

The commemoration on March 25 was co-sponsored by the BIPOC Unity Center, the Center for Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, the Students of Color Coalition, the Office of Philosophy and Engagement and an alumni group called IC Unity.

Notably, alumni Dennis Bryon '71, Vernard McBeth '71 and Centeno told their stories as students at the college and the first members of the ALS.

When *The Ithacan* asked Bryon about and gave a summary of IC Rise Up, he said the act of publishing statements on campus was an indicator of the progress that still needs to be made.

“The fact that they put stuff on the wall meant that they weren't being heard,” Bryon said. “And that's no different than we did 50-some-odd years ago. Here we go full cycle again and again.”

ALUMNI, PAGE 4

City electrifies building ‘blocs’

BY VIVIAN ROSE

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The City of Ithaca announced Feb. 2 that the first “bloc” of buildings that have already been electrified or are in the process of being electrified have been identified.

“Bloc” of Buildings

The announcement lists 11 buildings and businesses comprising of Gimme! Coffee, Significant Elements, Historic Ithaca, Ithaca Piercing & Tattoo, First Baptist Church, St. James AME, Lifelong Senior Center, the Aeroplane Factory, Circus Culture, Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Plant Administrative Building, Petrone and Home Green Home.

Savannah Vega, sustainability planner for the City of Ithaca, said there are 200 buildings in total that have been identified as the most notable buildings that were electrified.

While the buildings are listed as being in the process of electrification, some of the buildings of the first “bloc” do not run on 100% electricity.

Vega said some of the buildings instead have heat pumps — that heat and cool the buildings — which she said covers a bulk of the buildings' energy needs. The heat pumps are the first transition away from natural gas.

“We need to put in the infrastructure in our buildings to create heating and cooling and hot

GREEN NEW DEAL, PAGE 4

College aids in STEM research

BY CLARK ROQUE ROYANDOYAN

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Every year, Ithaca College's Department of Chemistry sends students to the American Chemical Society (ACS) conference to gain experience with research and networking opportunities. This year, Becky Craig, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, said she took 13 students to the conference, the most she has ever taken during her three years at the college.

The annual conference took place from March 17–21. ACS is one of the largest organizations for the chemical industry in the U.S.

The college offers a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry that is accredited by the ACS, certifying the program as a rigorous curriculum that aligns with industry standards.

Craig said that for students who are majoring or minoring in chemistry, the annual conference acts as exposure to the world of chemistry beyond what the college has to offer. For graduating seniors and other students working on research, the ACS conference offers them a chance to present the research that they have been working on.

“It's just a great place where anyone who is involved in some aspect of chemistry — whether it's students, professors, researchers, companies that make instrumentation or funding

RESEARCH, PAGE 4

Nation & World News

Islamic State extremist group is responsible for Moscow attack

The so-called Islamic State extremist militia has published video of Friday's terrorist attack at a concert hall on the outskirts of Moscow.

The extremist group's Amaq mouthpiece published an almost 90-second video Sunday, which is said to show the attackers at the scene of the attack. The Arabic subtitles state that Amaq shows "exclusive scenes" of the "bloody attacks on Christians."

According to Russian authorities, four men had stormed into the concert hall Friday evening and opened fire. Explosions could also be heard, and a major fire engulfed the building.

Shortly after the attack, the so-called Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack.

Saudi royalty collect donations for charity at start of Ramadan

A total of more than SR1.268 billion (\$338 million) has been donated to the fourth National Platform for Charitable Work, or Ehsan, since its launch on the fifth day of the holy month of Ramadan.

King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman led donations on the first day with SR40 million and SR30 million, respectively.

Over 3 million donations have been recorded during the first 10 days of Ramadan, benefiting over 1.26 million people in several charity and development fields, including education, social work, health, food, housing and Ehsan endowments.

Reliance on oil for renewable energy is inevitable, OPEC says

Calls for completely abandoning oil and fully relying on renewable energy have been deemed "wrong" and "unrealistic" by Haitham Al-Ghais, the secretary-general of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"If oil disappeared, this would also affect the production of renewable energy, such as manufacturing of wind turbines and solar panels, as their production is linked to oil products," Al-Ghais said.

In an interview with the Kuwait News Agency, he emphasized that oil, which currently constitutes 31 percent of the global energy mix, remains the "lifblood of modern life" and is expected to maintain its crucial role in international markets for decades to come.

Ireland's Fine Gael party leader confirmed as youngest candidate

Simon Harris is expected to become the new leader of Fine Gael, the party at the helm of Ireland's coalition govern-



Supreme Court hears abortion pill case

To the dismay of Republicans, and the advantage of Democrats, abortion rights remain a high-priority issue for voters nearly two years after the Supreme Court ended a half-century of constitutional protection nationwide.

COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ment, after nominations closed March 24. It is understood that the further and higher education minister is the only candidate.

This paves the way for Harris to become Ireland's youngest premier following the shocking resignation of Leo Varadkar. Harris announced his candidature March 24 following a series of endorsements

from within the Fine Gael parliamentary party and after a number of senior colleagues said they did not intend to stand for the leadership.

Harris said he felt "overwhelmed" for the support for his bid.

SOURCE: TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

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New series: Ink Around Ithaca

In a brand-new *Ithacan* video series, former news editor Lorien Tyne explores tattoo shops in Ithaca. In the first episode, Lorien visits Miss Kitty's Tattoo Parlor.



'Pop Off!' gets their scare on

Host first-year student Ethan Kaufman is joined by guest first-year student MiCaila Lohrfink to rank the 10 films of the "Saw" franchise from worst to best.

THE ITHACAN

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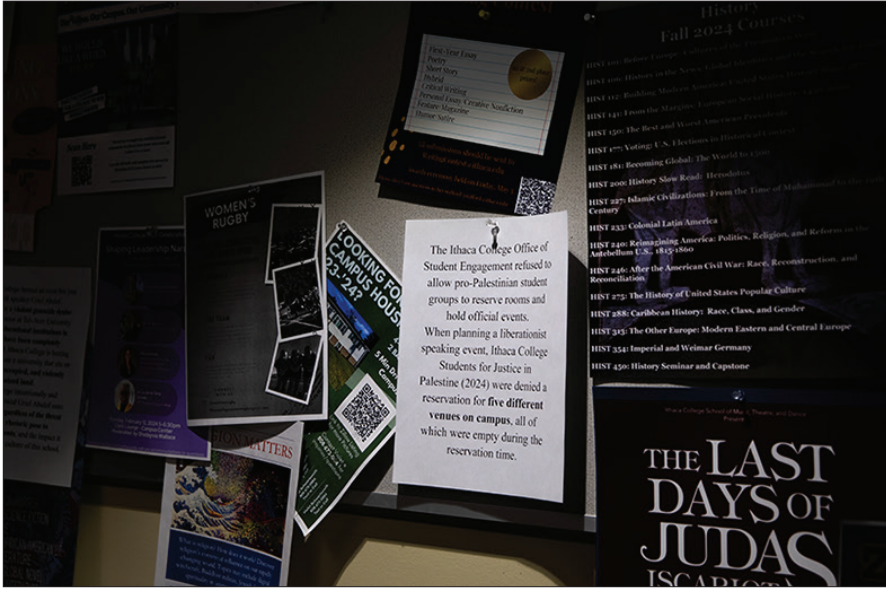
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Students for Palestine present demands to Cornish



IC Students for Palestine (ICSFP) put up about 100 flyers supporting Palestinian liberation around 9:30 p.m. March 22 at different locations across campus.

MARI KODAMA/THE ITHACAN

Demand 1: A school-wide statement acknowledging the genocide of Palestinians and an apology for not making the statement sooner.



About 25 students met by the Dillingham Fountains at 8:45 a.m. March 23 before entering the Peggy Ryan Williams building for the die-in.

PRAKRITI PANWAR/THE ITHACAN

Demand 2: A Boycott, Divestment and Sanction (BDS) audit of the college.



At the die-in, sophomore Quincey Fireside, president of ICSFP, requested that President La Jerne Cornish sit in to hear the organization's demands.

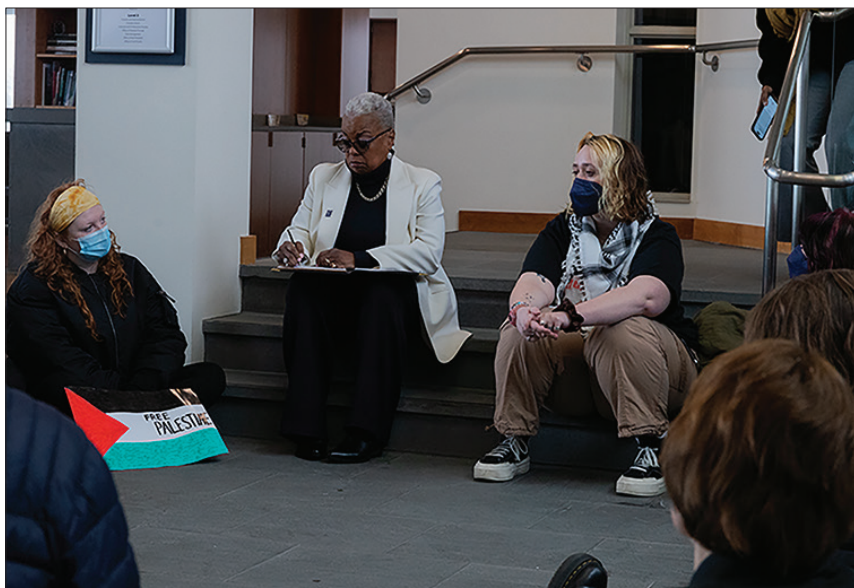
PRAKRITI PANWAR/THE ITHACAN



ICSFP used Signal Messenger, an application that encrypts data, to communicate and plan the die-in to avoid facing pressure not to proceed with the sit-in.

LORIEN TYNE/THE ITHACAN

Demand 3: Birthright trips to stop being run through Hillel at IC.



Cornish arrived at 10:24 a.m., sat in the circle, and said she was going to be as transparent as possible with her willingness to meet the ICSFP's demands.

LORIEN TYNE/THE ITHACAN

“

“What’s happening right now is bigger than us. ... And I want all students to feel safe and have a sense of belonging.”

— La Jerne Cornish
Ithaca College President

”

FROM ALUMNI, PAGE 1

Until you get the truth out [and have an] environment that speaks to the needs of everybody, then you're not making any progress."

In his talk, McBeth said ALS was a vehicle of change on the college's campus that held those in power accountable.

"ALS was the conscience of the Ithaca campus," McBeth said. "I always tell folks . . . when ALS spoke, IC listened 'cause we spoke truth to power, and they knew we were right even if they didn't want to admit it."

Tanya Hutchins '89, who helped plan the commemoration event, said EOP funds paid for her scholarship from 1985 to 1989. Hutchins said she is grateful for the work ALS members did in 1970.

"I am thankful for those actions 54 years ago because without them I would not be standing here before you as an IC alumni," Hutchins said at the commemoration talk. "The actions of April 1970 paved the way for the Center for the study of culture, race and ethnicity or the BIPOC Unity Center, or the MLK Scholar Program or any other program that aims to empower students of color."

After the talk by alumni in Job Hall, attendees moved to the ALS lounge in West Tower to hear from Nicholas Carl Moore '80, who created the iconic mural of the lounge. The mural is a collage of images that wrap around three walls in the lounge. They depict famous Black and Latino artists and activists, drawings of Latin American and African countries, quotes and lyrics, and elements



Tanya Hutchins '89, who helped plan the commemoration event, said EOP funds paid for her scholarship from 1985 to 1989. Hutchins said she is grateful for the work ALS members did.

EMMA KERSTING/THE ITHACAN

of African culture close to the Moore's heart.

Moore said he took four months to paint the mural, locking himself in the lounge, stacking chairs to reach higher on the wall and often sleeping on a couch in the lounge. He shared his own story of arriving at the college, coming from Buffalo, New York.

"That was the first time in my life I had ever met such a diverse group of people because in Buffalo, you were either Black or you were white," Moore said in his talk. "Coming out the hood in the '60s and '70s, it was like going to Mars. There was nothing or anybody that looked anything like us."

The concluding event was held in Klingenstein Lounge with

a performance by the Amani Gospel Choir and presentations from student organizations like Sister 2 Sister, Brother 4 Brother, Black Student Union and Pulse Hip-Hop.

Sophomore Mureen Doherty performed with the Amani Gospel Choir and is the daughter of Camille Doherty '93, who was present at the commemoration and spoke to several students in attendance. The Amani Gospel Choir was founded by Moore's generation of ALS members.

"Keep talking about history," Mureen Doherty said about the commemoration event. "I would like for us to keep talking about history. Make it known. Make it important. Obviously, we know this space, but we don't always have

the historical context of it."

President La Jerne Cornish, who addressed the alumni earlier, said she recognized that the college was not perfect.

"I know that for some of you during your time on campus, Ithaca College did not feel like home," Cornish said.

Cornish also commended ALS members who spoke up for their rights.

"I admire those of you who saw enough promise here . . . to roll up your sleeves and to work to make a better home, not just for yourselves, but for those who would come behind you," Cornish said.

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FROM RESEARCH, PAGE 1

agencies — [to] come together and just learn about what's happening in the community and make connections," Craig said. "All of the students that go are presenting [research] that they have done. And a lot of them are seniors, so it's kind of their senior capstone project that they're presenting."

Craig mentioned the appeal of the ACS conference as a networking opportunity for students to think about post-graduate opportunities in academia or the chemical industry.

"If they're interested in grad school, there's a lot of programs . . . at the conference where they can learn about the different disciplines and research topics and things that are available for continuing in grad school," Craig said. "If they want to go into industry, they can learn about different job opportunities and things like that. It's a big networking event."

ACS Fellow Lynn Hogue said via email that ACS is one of the world's largest organizations for scientific professionals in chemistry, but it is also more than just a conference.

"[ACS] is not just an industry event," Hogue said. "All types of chemists from academia, industry, government [and] testing labs attend. . . . Every type of chemistry and field is represented. No matter what the student's interest, they will find something for them at an ACS meeting."

For students like sophomore Rishabh Sen, the conference brought up an exciting opportunity for him to present his research. Sen said the benefits of presenting were being able to communicate and consolidate their learning to others.

"It forced me to be able to learn how to communicate effectively and efficiently to a larger audience," Sen said. "It's something that [professionals need to do] in academics, in both the natural sciences and information sciences . . . across years in their careers, so it was a really good stepping stone for that."

Back on South Hill, the college provides opportunities to conduct and present research with classes in research methodology for students, independent study in classes or through the annual Whalen Symposium each spring for students who are not required to perform research as part of their degree program.

John Winslow, associate professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, said he believes that the implementation of research into the curriculum allows students to apply what they learn in the classroom to real-world settings.

"Within all the departments, they have a research component because a lot of the programs within HSHP are clinical, so students are taught evidence-based practices," Winslow said.

Winslow explained that the department has what is called "clinical experiences" where students go out to local clinics and apply what they have learned in the classroom.

Students in the six-year clinical doctorate are expected to write a case report in their sixth year that highlights a case they have worked on during their fifth-year clinical. Students also have the option to take on a research project with a faculty adviser that starts in their fifth year and continues into their sixth year.

For the Department of Physics of Astronomy, research is strongly encouraged but not required. Luke Keller, professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, said professors often reach out to students to think about research as early as their first year.

In the Department of Physics and Astronomy, students are then offered to sign up for a research class that ranges between half a credit to four credits. In many academic departments, research is stressed to be important to the advancement of these fields at the college.

"They're performing science," Keller said. "They're doing science instead of learning about it in the classroom setting, or even in a lab setting. . . . They're applying all those skills and academic lessons to something where they're actually helping learn something new. It's what they will do as professional scientists and engineers when they graduate."

FROM GREEN NEW DEAL, PAGE 1

water that doesn't require natural gas that runs just on electricity," Vega said. "So once we can get that infrastructure in place, that's when we can start removing those gas lines and replacing the energy with renewed fully renewable sources like solar panels."

Gas Kicker Program

Buildings like the First Baptist Church, located at 309 North Cayuga Street, applied for the "gas kicker" program in April 2023, which is part of the NYSEG Economic Development Heat Pump Incentive for Gas Constrained Areas pilot program to provide this financial aid when installing their heat pump.

The gas kicker program provides the lion's share of the conversion of the building from fossil fuels to electricity.

Because every building uses a different amount of energy in heating and cooling, there is no set amount of emissions the conversion would redirect.

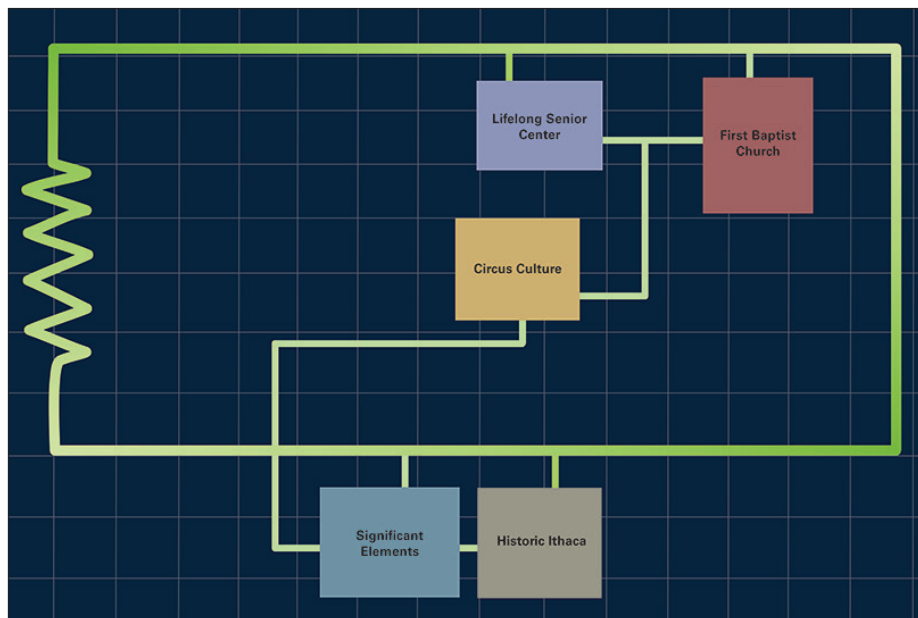
The incentive program was designed to provide a cap of \$200,000 per project of financial aid for buildings to transition off gas powered technologies and begin using renewable energy sources instead.

Timeline and Costs of the program

NYSEG released the incentive program in early April 2023, according to Ethan Bodnaruk, a project manager at BlocPower, which is a retrofit financing firm that works closely with the City of Ithaca to maintain the Ithaca Green New Deal.

The rebate program provides incentives for establishments to use renewable energy through NYSEG. David Caughey, a previous treasurer of the First Baptist Church, said the church was promised \$180,000 in April 2023 from NYSEG to fund the project, but the church first had to raise temporary funds to pay for the heat pump, its installation and an additional utility pole.

"A lot of our members are at a stage in life



Buildings like the First Baptist Church applied for the "gas kicker" program, which is part of the NYSEG Economic Development Heat Pump Incentive for financial aid.

ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN

where they have a fair amount of investment money here and there," Caughey said. "So we decided to ask the members if they would give us loans for somewhat indefinite periods, somewhere between three months and a year to cover this expense. And from the day that we asked for that, we had \$180,000 in less than a week."

Necessity of BlocPower

Bodnaruk said the process of applying for incentive funding is not simple. He said utilities in the state have separate incentive programs for different types of work in the energy field and are managed by different companies.

Bodnaruk said that helping businesses and establishments understand these incentives is where BlocPower steps in and to provide the services to complete the necessary paperwork for each incentive program.

"When you talk to contractors, you hear that it's hard for them to keep up with all the different programs out there and if there's a new

program that might expire right away, there's a lot of hesitancy to put in time to learn those rules," Bodnaruk said.

Vega said the electrification process is difficult to track because the city-wide initiative includes electrifying homes as well as businesses. She said Ithaca's Green New Deal is not always alerted when homes are newly electrified.

She also said the city's Green New Deal will focus on sending out more information for energy incentives like the one that closed in October 2023.

"There's definitely a lot more going on in the Green New Deal than just those 11 buildings," Vega said. "It's a whole community wide effort. And electrification isn't the only thing that we're focusing on in the Green New Deal. It's a much wider program. And all the different program partners that are critical in what we're trying to do."

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BOLD program resumes after one year IC announces grad speaker

BY NOA RAN-RESSLER

INVESTIGATIVE EDITOR

With the return of funding, the BOLD Women's Leadership Network at Ithaca College will welcome a new cohort of BOLD Scholars for the Class of 2027.

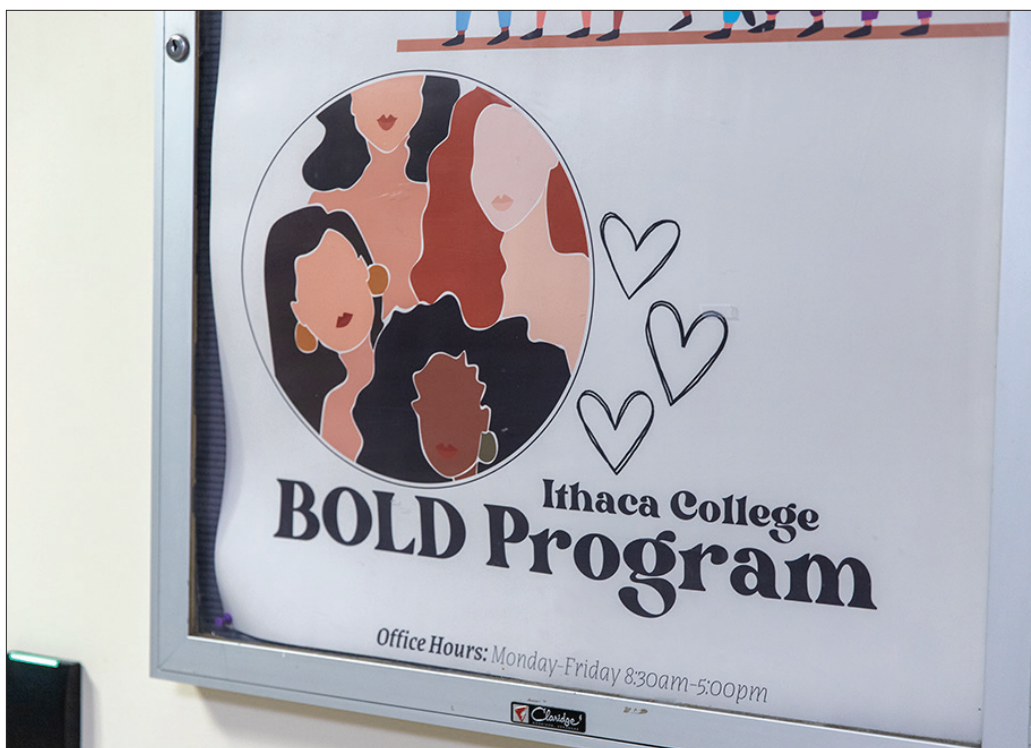
The Helen Gurley Brown Foundation has resumed funding the scholarship at the college, according to a Feb. 27 email from Bonnie Prunty, vice president of Student Affairs and Campus Life.

Mish Lenhart, director of the Office of Student Engagement, is the Women's Leadership Network and the BOLD Program's director. She said funding paused last year as the college and the foundation worked to redirect the focus of the program.

"We had to make a difficult decision to not have the program last year after some funding was taken from the foundation," Lenhart said. "They're reorganizing their portfolio, and we are really excited that we were able to apply for and get a new grant this year."

Lenhart said the purpose of the program has shifted as the foundation's mission has evolved. While the program started off with a social justice focus, it is now focused on career development and leadership.

Prunty said the college receives multi-year grants from the foundation. The current grant will be for



The BOLD Program shifted its focus from social justice to career development. Scholars will have the chance to attend networking opportunities and workshops about the workplace.

MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN

three years, and she said that after the grant term is up, the college will have to reapply. The grant is used to fund scholarships of up to \$21,500 per BOLD Scholar per year to use toward the cost of attendance at the college, with up to 10 scholars in each cohort.

Prunty said the application process is intended to attract diverse applicants. In addition to advertising through Intercom, the program reached out to offices

that work with students of marginalized identities.

"We make sure that those offices are aware that the application process is coming and what the program is," Prunty said. "They can help us amplify the message to those students so that we can have [a] diverse applicant pool."

Prunty said each cohort will participate in workshops like emotional intelligence at work, writing professionally and goal-setting.

Senior Kiara Valera, a BOLD scholar, said the BOLD scholarship improved her ability to afford the college's cost of attendance.

"Truthfully, I would not be here at this college if it wasn't for this program," Valera said. "It's brought a lot of happiness to my heart knowing that what it did for me, it's going to do for a whole bunch of other people as well."

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IC announces grad speaker

BY VIVIAN ROSE

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Ithaca College announced March 25 that Jason DeLand will be the speaker at the 129th Commencement ceremony. The 2024 commencement will take place at 10 a.m. May 19 at the Glazer Arena.

DeLand graduated from the college in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science from the Roy H. Park School of Communications and founded Anomaly in 2004. DeLand has been recognized as one of Adweek's "20 Most Influential People Under 40" and has gone on to win Anomaly awards like Fast Company's "50 Most Innovative Companies in the World," Ad Age's "US Agency of the Year" in 2018 and Adweek's equivalent honor in 2022.

DeLand has also managed and acquired accounts like Coca-Cola, Major League Baseball, Disney Parks and Resorts, Panera and Dick's Sporting Goods for Anomaly and has expanded the company into China and Nigeria.

DeLand is most well known for working on three of the most popular and viewed Super Bowl ads in history, Budweiser ads "Best Buds," "Lost Dog" and "Puppy Love."

While DeLand has made a career in the advertising field, he is also an advocate for social responsibility and has been a board member of the DREAM Charter School in Harlem since 2014.

Recognized for his achievements and successful career, DeLand was awarded the 2017 Ithaca College Alumni Association's Professional Achievement Award.

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SGC discusses new bill payment system for Fall 2024

BY JACQUELYN REAVES

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The Ithaca College Student Governance Council met March 25 to hear from Shana Gore, associate vice president of enrollment operations, management and student success, about upcoming changes to the billing and payment system used for financial aid services, including a new system that will unregister students for their classes if their bill is not paid.

Gore began by explaining that the college will be switching from three payment services — Quikpay, Nelnet and 1098-T — to Transact.

Gore said Transact will allow students to have easier access to their billing information in their portals on HomerConnect.

She said that switching to Transact means that students will now be able to access their bill, view their payment plans and add authorized payers all within one app.

Gore announced that the college will implement the new payment system May 15, after the spring semester ends.

Gore said via email that the switch will not cost the college any additional funding because the cost for Transact is around the same as the three services.

"I wanted to share with [the council] to get the information from you about how we can make sure that we communicate this as best as possible to students," Gore said.

Gore then explained a few of the differences between the platforms. She said the efficiency of paying online has been improved compared to the system of paying through Quikpay, Nelnet and 1098-T.

"[Currently,] we don't have a way to take electronic payments from someone other than the student through your portal," Gore said. "You don't want to give the outside company your login to [pay]. [Transact] would allow them if you just give them your name and ID [and then] they can go in and make payments



Shana Gore, associate vice president of enrollment operation, management and student success, said the system allows easier access to billing information.

MEI DENNISON/THE ITHACAN

to [the college] on your behalf."

Gore said that despite the payment system changing, everything is virtually still the same in terms of payment processes and due dates.

"Everything on the old system will be migrated over," Gore said. "You'll be able to see your previous history there. It will look different, it won't be the same format. It's also helpful because we can customize the messages there. We couldn't do that with [Quikpay]."

Gore also said the college has implemented a system that would prohibit registration for students if they have an outstanding balance of \$7,000 to \$10,000.

Gore said the switch is to avoid any incurring costs that may occur if a student registers for classes while not having paid off their current tuition.

"And if there is not a plan in place to pay, we go ahead and remove their classes, which also [makes available] waitlist spots for students that

have paid their bill on time," Gore said. "[We will] continue to work with [students with an outstanding balance] on a solid plan."

After explaining more about the switch in payment systems, Gore then opened up the discussion for notes the council members have for her.

Sophomore Ty Anderson, vice president of residential affairs, asked what the protocol would be if a student with an overdue balance did not communicate with financial services.

Gore said in response that when students communicate their financial situation to financial services, the majority of students can come to a resolution with the office or realize that the college is not a college they are financially compatible with.

Sophomore Rishabh Sen, vice president of campus affairs, suggested that a grace period should be introduced to make the policy sound more forgiving for students.

Gore said that there is a small grace period with the new policy and that payments will be due Aug. 10 and courses will be dropped for students who have not paid by Aug. 15.

"That's when we make the individual calls to students and their parents, emails and text messages go out," Gore said. "It wouldn't be until the 15th that any courses would be dropped."

Senior Carli McConnell, president of the student body, said a way to increase the number of students aware of this change when it is finalized is to reach out to advisers and have them make announcements.

"Reach out to the chairs of various departments so they can tell the people they are advising [to] keep an eye out for this [change] coming," McConnell said.

First-year first-generation senator LaRon Pigford gave updates on the three bills he is working on.

Pigford said the first bill is related to making student employees more accessible for first-gen students. Pigford said the second bill recommends further involvement from the New Student and Transition Programs to help accommodate first-gen, first-year and transfer students.

Pigford said the third bill addresses first-gen students within STEM majors to ensure they get the assistance they need.

Pigford said the reason why he is working on these bills is that after discussing with a friend in the physical therapy program at the college, they both concluded that STEM majors in the college should have more support.

"It's really important that we're supporting first-gen students, especially those that are STEM majors, double majors [or] in the dual degree program," Pigford said.

Pigford said he does not know when he will officially propose the bills to SGC because he wants to keep working on them.

CONTACT: JREAVES@ITHACA.EDU

COLLEGE BRIEFS

Wear teal April 2 to show support for sexual assault survivors

The Prevention Education Network at Ithaca College is inviting students to show their support for sexual assault survivors April 2 during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Teal is the color of sexual violence prevention.

The Prevention Education Network is also hosting events for sexual assault throughout April. The first event will also be 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 2 in the North Foyer.

The event is called the Ithaca College's Face of Prevention Resource Event and will allow students to learn more about the resources across campus and support Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

The Prevention Education Network's theme for this year is "Building Connected Communities," which helps reduce the likelihood of sexual abuse, assault and harassment in communities. For more information, students can visit the National Sexual Violence Resource Center's website.

Tim Reynolds '14 will conduct keynote for Whalen Symposium

Ithaca College alum Tim Reynolds, assistant professor of exercise science and athletic training in the School of Health and Human Performance, will be giving a keynote speech at 2:30 p.m. April 11 in Emerson Suites.

Reynolds will talk about how collaborating with faculty members and classmates at the college inspired him to launch "KettleShell" and equipped him for a successful career in physical therapy and business.

Reynolds started as a physical therapy student at the college and is now an entrepreneur and a professor. He is also the co-author of "Movers and Mentors," a collection of more than 75 interviews with professionals in the field of movement and science.

Biology Department to host a seminar with an alum March 29

The biology department at Ithaca College offers a seminar series each semester offering a broad range of topics in biology. The seminars are open to the entire campus community.

Leanee Donahue '14 will be presenting "Skin Cancer Susceptibility in the Eastern Spiny Mouse" at 1 p.m. March 29 in CNS 112. Students are invited to meet with Donahue in a small group following the talk to get questions answered related to the topic or inquire about different careers in biology.

Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact Susan Witherup at switherup@ithaca.edu or 607-274-3511. Requests for accommodations should be made as

soon as possible.

Express now open to provide free wellness supplies for students

Walter's Whaleness Express is a private, free resource for Ithaca College students to order wellness supplies.

The resource is offered by the Center for Health Promotion in collaboration with the Information Technology and Analytics Team and Ithaca College Mail Services.

Students can place orders for different wellness tools and have the option to either pick up their orders at the Center for Health Promotion or can have them delivered to their smart parcel lockers.

The new service was introduced to help increase access to wellness supplies to Ithaca College. Supplies that are available include sexual health supplies like condoms and dental dams, sleep kits, substance use supplies like Fentayl and Xylazine test strips, tick kits and quit kits to reduce or quit smoking or vaping.

Any questions about the express can be emailed to the Center for Health Promotion Team at healthpromotion@ithaca.edu.

Nominations open for the Ithaca seminar peer leader program

Ithaca College is looking for students to become peer leaders in the Ithaca Seminar Program for next semester. Through the program, trained peer educators will assist in facilitating the transition to college for first-year students while gaining professional experience.

Students from every major are welcome and the college is seeking to develop a team with a broad spectrum of identities, abilities and backgrounds.

Peer leaders will serve as a welcoming, more experienced resource to incoming students and will offer new students a relatable perspective while serving as an example of leadership on and off campus.

Peer leaders will be required to complete a 0-1 credit experiential learning course on facilitating student success, facilitate discussions and presentations regarding student transition to college, use communication skills and resources to engage first-year students in and out of class, connect students to resources at the college, encourage campus resources and demonstrate respect for all students.

The campus community can nominate a student through the peer leader nomination form. Any questions about the program



Local music festival entertains students

Left to right: Jesse Giordano, Ben Frame and Daniel Booth dance during Lost Mary's set at The Youngblood Discovery Festival on March 23. The music festival invited bands to play at Deep Dive, an Ithaca music venue and bar.

CALEB KAUFMAN/THE ITHACAN

can be directed to Elizabeth Bleicher, dean of Student Success and Retention at eblicher@ithaca.edu.

Information session to focus on study abroad opportunities in Italy

CIS abroad, an affiliated partner of Ithaca College, will hold an information session at 4 p.m. March 28 in Friends 207.

The information session will focus on study abroad programs in Rome and Sorrento, Italy. Students can learn about what the programs have to offer and enjoy Italian hot chocolate.

Individuals requiring accommodations should contact studyabroad@ithaca.edu. Requests for accommodations should be made as soon as possible. CIS Abroad also offers affiliated programs in Japan, Scotland and Thailand.

The organization offers fall, spring and summer options for coursework and internships. Students can come to the meeting and ask about any other affiliated programs. Students can also schedule an individual meeting with the CIS Abroad representative March 28 by emailing rgould@ithaca.edu.

Submission deadline approaches for Annual Writing Contest

Every spring, the Department of Writing hosts an annual writing contest. Students can submit creative work of all kinds.

Faculty will judge the work according to categories of first-year essay, poetry, short story, hybrid story, critical writing, personal essay/creative nonfiction, feature/magazine and humor/satire.

Winners and runners-up will have the opportunity to read from their work during an annual awards ceremony held May 3. Winners will also receive a gift card for Buffalo Street Books. For details including submission deadlines and guidelines for the competition, students can visit the writing contest website.

The deadline for the contest is April 1 at 5 p.m. and late entries are not accepted. Submissions will receive a confirmation within 72 hours. All submissions should be sent to WritingContest@ithaca.edu. Students can submit to multiple categories but can not submit more than one piece of work to the same category. Any questions can be directed to Jim Stafford at jstafford@ithaca.edu.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM MARCH 8 TO 17

MARCH 8

SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS

LOCATION: Bogart Hall

SUMMARY: Caller reported an unresponsive person in a bathroom. The person was referred for irresponsible use of alcohol. Patrol Officer Thaddeus May responded to the call.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Campus Center

SUMMARY: Caller reported person feeling light headed. The person was escorted to the Health Center. Charlie Sherman, fire and building safety coordinator, responded and the person was provided assistance.

MARCH 9

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Gannett Center

SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Unknown cause for alarm

activation. Patrol Officer Connor McCoy responded.

MARCH 10

MAKING GRAFFITI

LOCATION: Whalen Center For Music

SUMMARY: Officer reported an unknown person made graffiti on a sign and wall. Master Security Officer Amy Noble responded. This is a pending investigation.

FIRE ACTUAL FIRE / FLAME / IGNITION

LOCATION: Friends Hall

SUMMARY: Caller reported a laser cutting machine ignited the material it was cutting. Patrol Officer Connor McCoy responded and reported safety protocol followed and no damage occurred.

MARCH 12

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / INJURY RELATED

LOCATION: Hammond Health Center

SUMMARY: Caller reported falling and

injuring their shoulder, hip and knee. The person declined medical assistance. Ithaca Police Officer Jack Nelson investigated and completed a report.

MARCH 13

CRIMINAL POSSESSION STOLEN PROPERTY

LOCATION: Hilliard Hall

SUMMARY: Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards reported a person referred for underage possession of alcohol and criminal possession of stolen property. Master Security Officer Amy Noble responded. The person responsible was referred to the OSCCS.

MARCH 14

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: 150 College Circle

SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by burnt food. Patrol Officer Alex Hitchcock responded.

MARCH 15

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Whalen Center For Music

SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by cleaning. Patrol Officer Connor McCoy responded to the call.

MARCH 16

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: 151 College Circle

SUMMARY: Simplex reported fire alarm. Activation was caused by burnt food. Patrol Officer Connor McCoy responded.

MARCH 17

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Terrace 4

SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by burnt food. Patrol Officer Kevin Noter-

fanzo responded.

RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT 2ND DEGREE

LOCATION: Unlisted

SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person shot an arrow with a bow toward the roadway. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded. This is pending.

SAFETY HAZARD

LOCATION: West Tower

SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person locked a bike on a ramp blocking egress. The bike was moved prior to the officer's arrival. Patrol Officer Kevin Noterfanzo responded.

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

KEY

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

OPINION

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024

7



ILLUSTRATION BY ANANYA GAMBHIRAOPET/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

Sustainable buildings are essential at IC and beyond

In a community that prides itself for its forward-thinking approaches to sustainability, renewable energy sources must be a priority. The City of Ithaca recently announced that the first bloc of buildings to switch to electric energy sources are either already electrified or being electrified as part of the Ithaca Green New Deal. While some of the buildings are only being partially electrified, this first bloc of buildings signifies a commitment to a more sustainable Ithaca.

In 2019, the Ithaca Green New Deal was launched with four main goals: achieving carbon neutrality by 2030, reducing historical inequities through sustainability initiatives, reducing emissions from city vehicles by 50% by 2025 and powering the city's energy with 100% renewable electricity by 2025. These goals may appear lofty, especially given the short time frames. However, partnerships with organizations like BlocPower and NYSEG are enabling change through initiatives like the first group of electrified buildings.

At Ithaca College, there is also dedication to

creating more sustainable infrastructure. Four of the most recently built buildings on campus are certified Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). The LEED certification takes into consideration climate change, human health, water resources, biodiversity, green economy and community/natural resources, all of which require extensive, intentional sustainability. Furthermore, the college was recently recognized by the US Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership for its investment in renewable energy.

It is important that sustainability initiatives at the college continue to expand as infrastructure is built. While the function of buildings at the college is important, the environmental impact of infrastructure must be taken into consideration.

Initiatives like the Ithaca Green New Deal are important, but it is the action that follows that really matters. The City of Ithaca, as well as Ithaca College, must continue increasing the use of renewable energy and incorporate sustainability into all decision-making.

The college must support student-driven advocacy

At Ithaca College, advocacy has always been a vital part of student life. However, it is not solely up to students to push for change. It is also the administration's responsibility to hear students' demands and respond with action.

A commemoration of demonstrations from the Afro-Latin Society (ALS) in 1970 was held March 25. The commemoration recognized the efforts of students in ALS who gathered outside of President Howard Dillingham's office to protest the allocation of \$90,000 of Education Opportunity Program (EOP) funds toward landscaping rather than programming for students of color. Following the sit-in, students were met with less-than-supportive words from then-President Dillingham, who spoke about protesters saying "a mob is a mob," followed by a statement saying that he would not be "discussing the Black demands." These dismissive words not only inhibit student action, but show a blatant carelessness for students of color.

Today, student-led advocacy continues to be a central part of student life at the college.

Student coalitions like IC Rise Up have formed to demand better support for students of color. At a predominately white institution, this administrative support is especially important. And yet, the responsibility of pushing for change has consistently been the responsibility of students of color.

Most recently, Ithaca College Students for Palestine (ICFSP) hosted a die-in March 23 in Peggy Ryan Williams in protest of the college's lack of response to tens of thousands of deaths in Gaza. Students met with President La Jerne Cornish to discuss a list of demands. Cornish said that she would discuss the demands with her team and that she supports students' right to protest.

Cornish's acknowledgment of ICFSP's protest, as well as the commemoration of the 1970 ALS demonstrations, signifies that the college has become gradually more open to student advocacy. However, further administrative action is still needed. It is imperative that the college follows up with ICFSP about their demands and supports future student-led advocacy.

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.

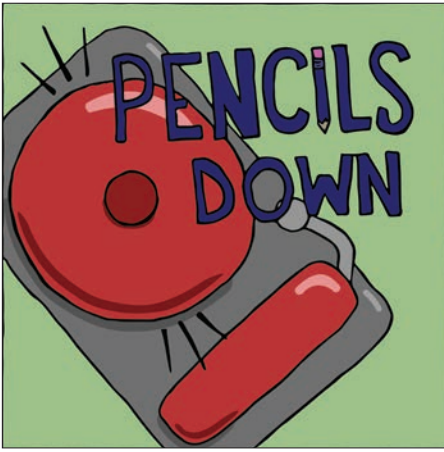


ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN

Admin hired excessively

BY GABE HENDERSHOT
COLUMNIST

The United States spends over \$14,000 a year per child in the public education system. This is significantly higher than the worldwide average, which is about \$10,000. Looking at these numbers, one might assume that the United States' public education system boasts a surplus of resources and support for children. However, there are many kids within the education system who are being left behind and that has everything to do with where that money is going.

Over the last 20 years, the number of administrators in the American education system has grown by 87%. In comparison, teachers have only grown by 8.7%. If an 87% increase in administration has been necessary, then how could it be possible that the population of teachers only needed to go up by 8.7%? The answer is that the growth in administration is not necessary.

The average public school teacher salary is approximately \$66,000 a year, while the average administrator makes \$139,000 a year. Administrators are making double what educators make and they are being hired at an exponentially higher rate. The money spent on administrative salaries could be going into increasing teacher's wages or hiring more teachers. It could even provide more resources for the classroom instead of asking that teachers take money out of their own pockets to do so.

A severe lack of staff has led to sizable increases in class size. Some teachers are asked to have classes of 20–30 students at a time. Having so many students has caused a shift in focus from learning to safety, which is depriving students of valuable instruction time. From the other side, being a teacher becomes a much less attractive job if it is no longer about teaching. Overinvesting in administration is discouraging teachers and is therefore harming the learning process.

As you might have picked up on by now, this whole situation is cyclical. The more administrators that are hired, the less money districts can put into hiring teachers and aides. When teachers are so outnumbered by their students, in addition to being underpaid, it is hard for any productive learning to occur. This dissuades potential and current teachers from the profession, making the problem worse. Not to mention that students with overworked teachers may not be receiving the structure or help that they need, thus preventing them from reaching their potential and possibly breeding behavioral issues that will also work to exacerbate the situation.

There are so many social issues in the United States that would benefit from increased funding. It is an ache I often feel; the wish for just a little more money to be poured into the groups that are suffering the most. That is why it is especially frustrating to see situations where the money exists to fix the problem but is just being misappropriated. Of course, schools deserve funding, but that money should be going to the teachers and to the purchasing of supplies; the resources that will aid students in their educational journey.

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.

Diversity improves music curriculum

BY TREVOR GRIFFITHS
SOPHOMORE

I am writing in response to the recent commentary discussing changes to the music history curriculum in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. It appears to be the consensus of many students that the curriculum is beginning to stray too far from the "Western musical canon," however, I come to offer a different perspective.

It is impossible to study the history of Western Classical music without acknowledging the white supremacy and misogyny that took place in its creation. For too long, people of color and women have been intentionally omitted from this canon. The new curriculum isn't aiming to discard the contributions of Western European composers, but rather to share stories that haven't been heard because of exclusion.

I understand students' desires to learn the Western canon for professional goals and opportunities; however, in order to obtain restorative justice, there must be some sort of payoff. A knowledge of the canon is cultural capital in the music world, and in order to effectively challenge what has been taught, there is going to be a time where that capital is abandoned so an entirely new canon can emerge. I question if the role of higher education should be to prepare students for the existing workplace, or prepare the next generation to be leaders that transform the workplace.

The recent curriculum changes have been spearheaded by Doctor Sara Haefeli, an associate professor in the Department of Music Theory, History, and Composition, who is a renowned musicologist with numerous published works. She has also been selected to take



Sophomore Trevor Griffiths writes about how changes to the music history curriculum are necessary to promoting inclusivity at IC and in the world of music.

MEI DENNISON/THE ITHACAN

over the next edition of "A History of Western Music," which is one of the most widely used music history textbooks worldwide. One of her goals as an educator is to help students develop research skills that allow us to formulate questions and find reliable, scholarly sources so that we ourselves can draw conclusions. Students have expressed their concerns about this learning style specifically when it comes to performance readiness and their understanding of musical styles, but I believe this creates healthy habits that translate across any genre.

Furthermore, institutions all over are changing their curriculum to match Haefeli's method. Elizabeth A. Kramer, a musicologist

with the University of West Georgia, has described Haefeli's case study model as an "active, collaborative, creative, critical, and healing 'new, critical musicological pedagogy.'" The world of musicology is changing, and with it, the very notions of what the Western Classical canon should be. I hope students at Ithaca College will embrace these changes and give grace to the educators who work tirelessly to create a comprehensive, inclusive curriculum that challenges centuries of oppression.

Trevor Griffiths (he/him) is a sophomore music education major. Contact him at tgriffiths2@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

Student safety must always be a priority

BY ELIZA WALTHER
SOPHOMORE

When Ithaca College students think of the Office of Public Safety, words like "reliable," "helpful" and "safe" come to mind. However, this response is not the case for every student, and I am one of those students who have experienced a lack of support from our school's public safety office.

My experience occurred during the first week back of Fall 2023. I came back to my room around 8:30 p.m. As I walked into my room on the third floor, I saw a snake right in the middle of the room. As I got closer to make sure I was seeing things right, it slithered away, so I ran downstairs to tell my friends. We first knocked on the doors of both the RAs in our building. After multiple knocks, there was no answer behind either door. With that, our next idea was to call Public Safety.

My friend called and told an officer the situation and he hung up on us. We called back and re-explained the story to the same officer, and he asked if we were sure there was a snake or if we were just imagining it. He asked for photo or video proof before he would do anything. As he spoke, I started to wonder if he was only questioning my report

because I am a woman. Would he have said the same thing if a man was on the phone?

Our only option was to go back into my room to see if we could find the snake. My one friend was eventually able to get a video of the snake under my bed. We called Public Safety back and let them know we had proof. Unfortunately, the same officer answered the phone and told us that there was nothing he could do about it, but he might be able to let pest control know about the situation. He called back later to let us know pest control would be here "at some point tonight or tomorrow." What is someone supposed to do with a snake in their room, having no idea when it would be removed?

At this point, it was about 11 p.m. and pest control still had not shown up. I did not feel comfortable sleeping in my room, so I ended up staying at a friend's place off campus for the night. My friend stayed up and waited for pest control to arrive. Once they did, they were unable to find the snake. Since nothing was resolved from this, I scheduled a meeting with the Office of Residential Life for Friday and was able to move into a new room by Monday. Even with this resolution, I was still left feeling unsure as to whether or



Sophomore Eliza Walther writes about her experience with public safety and the importance of supporting all students.

GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN

not my safety is actually Public Safety's number one priority.

I am not the only one who has had a negative encounter with Public Safety. One of my friends told me that one night during this semester, the pipes burst in a Garden Apartment. When she called Public Safety, she was informed that no one was on call that night so there was nothing they could do about it. The next morning, she called again and was told that there is always someone on call to help students, so she was lied to. Both of these situations make me think. Would Public Safety react the same way if a woman called and said she was

being followed by a man? I would hope they would take a report like that more seriously, but then that raises another question: Why is Public Safety only concerned about women's well-being when it involves men?

From my knowledge, these officers are still working for Public Safety with no retaliation. If this is the case, they should be penalized. Students should not be mistreated by the people who are supposed to be keeping us safe.

Eliza Walther (she/her) is a sophomore sports media major. Contact her at ewalther@ithaca.edu.

Fairy Fest creates magical day on The Commons

BY TAYLOR BORASH
STAFF WRITER

Despite the gloomy weather, over 150 people showed up March 23 to participate in Ithaca's third annual Fairy Fest, which was held on The Commons.

Over 30 small restaurants and businesses opened their doors to adults and children alike for the event, inviting families inside for activities, like face painting, wand making and fairy garden planting. Participants were encouraged to dress up as fairy, elf or woodland creatures.

Participating businesses were also decorated for the event, many sporting multicolored decorations alongside their glittery craft stands or displays of fairy-themed products like cupcakes and craft kits. Many employees were also dressed from head to toe in their own fairy outfits, complete with extravagant makeup and wings.

Fairy Fest was organized by Greta Perl, the owner of toy store

Alphabet Soup, who said the event would not have been possible without the help of the other small business owners.

"I just walked around and walked in the door because

that's the beauty of small businesses; the owner is usually right there and you can say hi and make a plan," Perl said. "This whole thing is just the power of people saying yes."

Perl said she was inspired to hold the first Fairy Fest back in Spring 2022 when the art supplies brand Faber-Castell's Creativity for Kids line sent her store a flower crown-making sample kit and asked

them to hold a day of flower crown-making to promote the product.

"I wasn't sure if I could get a lot of people in, just by myself as one business, but I thought maybe if I checked some of the other businesses and saw if they wanted to do something on the same day, we could make a whole day of it," Perl said.

As the organizer of the event, Perl joined participants in Alphabet Soup this year to help them make flower crowns and bracelets.

"I've been seeing people of all ages have fun with this," Perl said. "There was this old grandpa who came in earlier and he was making one for his bald head. It was so cute."

Many of the people hosting activities for the event expressed their support for a day focused on activities for children.

One of these people was Marina Billott, who hosted face painting and sold a variety of handmade jewelry and headbands in Center Ithaca in association with 15 Steps, a jewelry, clothing and craft store. She said the event was a wonderful way to help children participate in hands-on activities.

"It's not just fun, it's also something where children can learn something new," Billott said. "You can see a lot of different activities and other things that will help them develop."

Karim Yaport, who works at Mockingbird Paperie, shared a similar sentiment about hosting events for younger children and families in and around Ithaca. Yaport hosted a doll-making event where people of all ages were invited to make a fairy doll out of paper and glitter.

"We've had roughly 30 families so far that stopped by to decorate some fairies and put them on a stick and go on their merry way," Yaport said. "The kids get to color the little fairies and put some glitter on them, so it's really a fun, quick activity for them."

Yaport said she was glad to be part of an activity



Kelby Woodside, owner of Snailboat Studio, and Ithaca College sophomore Katie Oliver pose with the variety of crochet animals that were available for purchase at this year's Fairy Fest on The Commons.

MARI KODAMA/THE ITHACAN

that gave families a chance to have fun together without worrying about the cost, and she hopes there are more events like it in the future.

"I think a lot more of this should happen," Yaport said. "We do it a lot in Ithaca, and it really brings the community together. It's just a fun activity that families can do together for free or low cost, depending on which places you're going to."

Jessie Williams, an employee at Autumn Leaves Books, also said that while she was glad so many people showed up for the business's Mad Lib story time and mushroom house-making event, she wishes there were more events for children happening in Ithaca.

"I think this is a very friendly community toward children in general, but I certainly don't think having more events would be an issue," Williams said. "I think we should have as many as possible, especially because you get so many different types of people from different backgrounds, and then a fair amount of people from out of town."

Though it was mostly targeted toward children, the event was able to attract people of all ages, including students and young adults.

Matt Severson and Jamie Ferro were two participants who attended the event decked out in full fairy gear that they got from their live action role-playing hobby, including colorful flower crowns and flowing capes. Severson said that to them, the main draw of Fairy Fest was the people.

"The kind of people who are excited to do things like this and dress up and come out are

just nice to be around," Severson said.

Deirdre Kurzweil, the owner of Sunny Days of Ithaca, was also pleased with the event's high turnout. Kurzweil's business hosted an all-day button-making event and was the official distributor of the first ever Fairy Fest t-shirts.

"At Sunny Days, you can come in and make a free button every day, and for festivals and special occasions, we just customize it to that," Kurzweil said. "We're also printing the first ever Fairy Fest t-shirts. We're doing it on demand, so you can pick your shirt and the costs and everything upstairs and then we print it for you."

Kurzweil said she admires the Ithaca community's ability to come together and support local events even when faced with gloomy, stormy weather.

"I'm a little bit shocked but also so happy," Kurzweil said. "It's exactly because of this that events like these exist."

For future Fairy Fests, Perl said she would like to look into opportunities for local high school and college organizations to participate in the event as well.

"Perhaps there are some groups or clubs or service organizations within each school that might like to

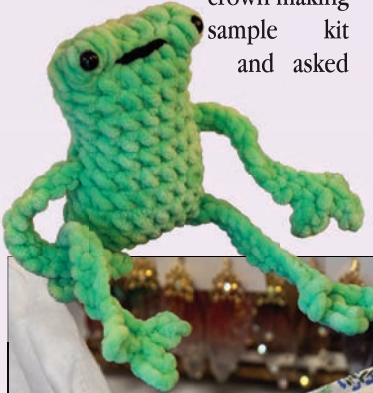


partner with Fairy Fest to either help volunteer, run their own table or activity, or do some kind of performance such as music, theater or dance," Perl said via email.

No matter what, Perl said she would definitely like to continue holding Fairy Fest every year for the foreseeable future.

"I think it does have room to grow, and I want to help it grow while still keeping the focus on small businesses and local organizations so it keeps that real homemade Ithaca feel," Perl said via email.

CONTACT: TBORASH@ITHACA.EDU



A variety of artwork was on display and available for purchase, in addition to plant-related items like pre-made seed packets.

MARI KODAMA/THE ITHACAN



ILLUSTRATION BY MOLLY TESKA/THE ITHACAN

First-ever Eid Bazaar celebrated in Emerson Suites

BY PRAKRITI PANWAR
NEWS EDITOR

The Ithaca College Muslim Student Association (MSA) organized its first-ever Eid Bazaar on March 23 in Emerson Suites. About 30 to 40 students attended the Bazaar, where they enjoyed Mediterranean and Jamaican food, bought jewelry and got free henna tattoos done by a professional artist.

Ramadan is a month of fasting observed in Islam. The meal after sundown is called Iftar, while the one before sunrise is called Suhoor. The end of Ramadan is marked by Eid-Al-Fitr, which is predicted to be on April 9 or 10 this year.

Senior Sarake Demebele, president of the MSA, said the club came up with the idea of hosting an Eid Bazaar to expand outreach and involve more people with MSA.

"This is our first one, and hopefully it'll be an annual event," Demebele said. "This is kind of our initiative to get the larger Ithaca campus involved with MSA so that we can get recognition and grow the community for Muslim students and also people that are interested in the club."

The Bazaar featured a "Try a Hijab" station that allowed attendees to know what it feels like to wear a hijab. Demebele said programming like this allows the campus community to learn more about Muslim and Islamic culture from a non-Western perspective, but at the same time does not allow them to appropriate this culture.

"People think we're forced to

put this [hijab] on and it's depressing to cover," Demebele said. "Our intentions are to just show how easy it is to just put on the scarf and like how it might make you feel. ... [It should feel] like a learning experience just to break down those stigmas and barriers."

Alexandria Sheridan said she has been a henna artist for over a decade and loves studying henna because of the different styles that are unique to each region.

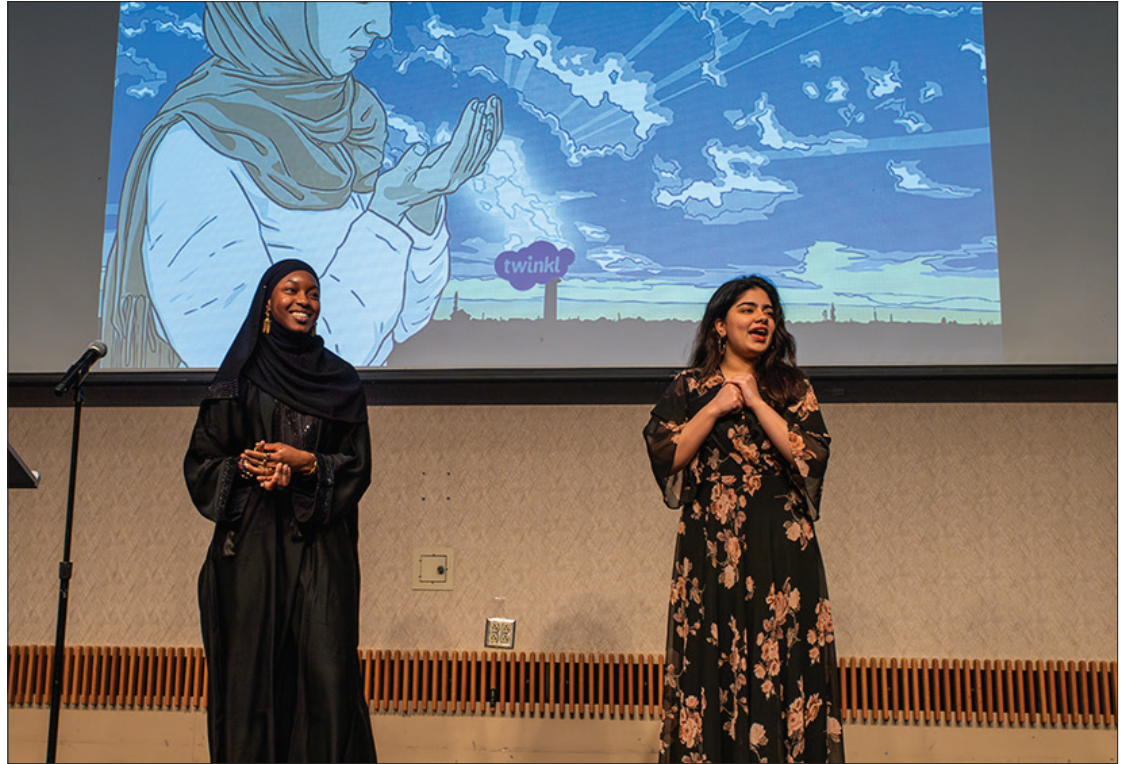
"So many things for me to study and it doesn't stop, so I really love it," Sheridan said. "For example, United Arab Emirates styles' [henna] almost looks like you're doing like a Chinese pottery design on somebody, and it's very uniform but very floral. ... And then if you look at South Asian ones ... [are] usually more ornamental."

Sheridan is based in Syracuse and said she looked forward to seeing students come together during Ramadan.

"I'm excited to see everyone break for Iftar together," Sheridan said. "I think it's exciting to see the campus do that for students so that they feel like there's a community here, especially since some might be really far from home here."

First-year student Kendall Curley said she is fasting for Ramadan and was excited to engage with other members of the community who know what it feels like to observe Ramadan.

"It's been really good to come to these events because I haven't talked to a lot of people that are Muslim around here," Curley said



Seniors Sarake Demebele and Fabiha Khan present and discuss with the audience about what Ramadan is, what it feels like to fast during Ramadan and why Ramadan is observed in Islam.

PRAKRITI PANWAR/THE ITHACAN

"It's been a good experience for me to learn more and just be surrounded by people that understand."

Fabiha Khan, vice president of the MSA, said that providing a community is important because fasting for Ramadan alone can be quite challenging for students.

The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life (ORSL), has been collaborating with the MSA to host community Iftars every Sunday. The ORSL provided support to the Eid Bazaar by placing and funding orders for items that could not be sourced locally. Khan said the MSA

also received funding from the Office of the President, the BIPOC Unity Center and the Student Activities Board to host the Eid Bazaar. Khan said the MSA has no funding allotted to it from the Student Governance Council because of unforeseen issues it ran into during the re-recognition process.

Khan said the club is running on donations and collaborations with other offices on campus for funding.

"Some very generous individuals on this campus have been supporting us," Khan said. "Of course,

it took a lot of advocacy and a lot of fighting. ... We had no money active in the beginning of this year."

Austin Reid, interim director of the ORSL, said he enjoyed collaborating with students and providing them with any support that he could.

"This seemed certainly like an idea to me that the students were very interested in seeing happen, and our office was happy to support with some of the logistics of it to help make it possible," Reid said.

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Gary Clark Jr. releases album with big features

MUSIC REVIEW: "JPEG RAW" Warner Records Inc.



BY MALIK CLEMENT
MANAGING EDITOR

Texas native, guitarist and singer Gary Clark Jr., who established himself as an up-and-coming electric blues artist in 2012 with his debut album "Blak and Blu," returns to the music scene with his album "JPEG RAW," which dropped March 22. Previous to this album, Clark Jr. released "This Land," which came out back in 2019.

"JPEG RAW" is a mix of soul, jazz and rock that shows Clark Jr. is continuing to experiment with his style in fun, inventive ways. The album features artists like Valerie June, Stevie Wonder and Keyon Harrold. The 12-track album jumps from genre to genre with Clark Jr. showcasing his talent and versatility as a music artist, falling short in cohesiveness but providing a little bit of everything he has to offer for fans to enjoy.

The album starts with four rock-centered songs that all carry an upbeat energy with his guitar taking a lead throughout. Out of the group of songs, "JPEG RAW" and "This Is Who We Are" show Clark Jr. diving into a more rock feel incorporating the masterful solos and riffs he gained popularity for. In "JPEG RAW," Clark Jr. is joined by a smooth, quick tempo jazz accompaniment to go along with his hard-hitting rock riffs. "This Is Who We Are" finishes out the rock-centric songs of the first four and drops the jazz influence for synths and a choir-like chorus while still leaving room for classic rock solos.

Clark Jr. transitions to the sweeter,

soul-heavy "What About The Children," joining Stevie Wonder in a duet. The lyrics of the song ask the listener to consider less fortunate children and how they dream of better lives, with Clark Jr. and Wonder riffing off the refrain, "What about the children / playin' in the street / dreaming of that good life."

As Clark Jr. has grown as an artist, he has been known to speak about social issues and protests through his songs — he mentions similar issues in his song "Feed the Babies" on his album "This Land." Clark Jr. continues to make a statement while pushing for positivity in "Hyperwave," creating imagery of catching waves under the sun while wearing sunglasses and bringing his shredding solos back to the forefront.

The song introduces a more psychedelic aspect to the album in its waxing and waning guitar riffs that invite listeners to join the hyperwave. The album concludes with "Habits," where Clark Jr. becomes introspective and wishes for his lover to return. In the nine-minute song, Clark Jr. pours his emotions into the lyrics, "I've had good days and I've had bad / I wouldn't trade it for the time that we've had / white lies oh white lies / Bright smiles turn to cryin' eyes." In the latter half of the song, Clark Jr. ends the album in a harmonious mix of instrumentation that seems to well up as his solo continues to ring out.

The album provides an eclectic mix of several genres but at times, is not as seamless as it could be. Each song respectively provides an interesting and enjoyable experience with



Gary Clark Jr. released his most recent album, "JPEG RAW," on March 22, which features notable artists like Valerie June, Keyon Harrold and Stevie Wonder.

COURTESY OF WARNER RECORDS

Clark Jr. touting his emotion-filled guitar playing throughout. Though as a whole, the album switches genres and tempos in somewhat jarring ways. While this does not detract from the quality of the songs or the fusion of

genres within each song, the album feels as though if the songs were ordered differently it would sound like a more succinct album.

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Alejandro and Elizabeth face many ‘Problemistas’

MOVIE REVIEW “Problemista” A24



BY PATRICK MAZZELLA
STAFF WRITER

Salvadoran performer Julio Torres came onto the American comedy scene with an act unlike most had seen. Posing as writer, director, producer and star, the talented comedian’s directorial debut, “Problemista,” takes it up a notch and taps into his incredible ability to find the heart and relatability in the strangest of situations.

The film, released March 22 following a SXSW premiere in 2023, follows Alejandro Martinez, a fictionalized version of Torres as an aspiring toy designer on a work visa in the U.S. Despite being rejected by Hasbro, Inc., Martinez doesn’t give up, continuing to work on his toy designs while working at a cryogenic freezing facility for rich, terminally ill people. Martinez’s job is to look after the now-frozen artist Bobby Ascencio (portrayed by RZA), who is known for his strange paintings of eggs. Following a terminal cancer diagnosis, Ascencio decides to cryogenically freeze himself, aiming to wake up in the future, despite no proven way to be thawed. Martinez is given the privilege of watching his belongings until the thawing method is proven.

When Martinez is confronted by the pink-haired, demon-eyed former art critic and wife of Bobby, Elizabeth (Tilda Swinton), he soon

finds himself in need of a new job to sponsor his time in the States. Following his dismissal from the company and the rising price of Bobby’s care, Martinez and Elizabeth team up to put together a show of the egg paintings in the hope of making enough money to keep him frozen.

Elizabeth’s delicate temper poses its challenges, though. Despite her tenderness in her good moments, get on her bad side and one will face her wrath.

What Torres does best in this film is letting the plot and story take a back seat in favor of the characters driving each moment. It creates a sense of intimacy and familiarity with the characters by the end of the film. These characters are driven by their insecurities, secrets and ulterior motives, but Torres instead focuses on the tender moments between humans who understand one another in such a beautiful way.

Along with the sort of buddy comedy happening between Martinez and Elizabeth as they assemble the show and pick up the pieces of Elizabeth’s life, Martinez also must contend with the hourglass slowly emptying on his time in the U.S. Without a formal job, he lacks a sponsorship and an ability to legally make money in the States. The dread and stress Torres is able to achieve and push onto the viewer



Alejandro Martinez (Julio Torres) and Elizabeth Ascencio (Tilda Swinton) team up to showcase a series of paintings with the hope of raising enough money to keep Elizabeth’s husband alive.

COURTESY OF A24

is beyond impressive.

The ability of many beats in the film, whether action or dialogue that elicited gasps, guffaws or laughter is truly a sign of a film with identity, a film with meaning and purpose. And that’s what Torres has been doing since day one. The art he’s produced, albeit absurd,

takes itself seriously. It imbues his own experience facing the unknown and how silly it can be and allows the audience into all of the hidden emotions underneath the uncomfortable laughter.

Despite the craziness of the world, there is art to make sense of it all, or art to challenge us in

a new way. Torres’ — and in turn Martinez’s — ability to challenge and shape the perception of his own work is the sign of not only someone to pay attention to now, but someone who will be making an impact for a long, long time.

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Women take control of their sorrow with Shakira

MUSIC REVIEW: “Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran” Sony Music Entertainment US Latin



BY SAMMIE MACARANAS
STAFF WRITER

On March 22, Latin pop sensation Shakira released her 12th studio album, “Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran” (translated as “Women No Longer Cry.”) The singer has made a comeback with this album after the release of her 11th studio album, “El Dorado,” in 2017. Shakira has stayed in the public eye since with the release of two collaborations, including Anuel AA’s “Me Gusta” and The Black Eyed Peas’ “Girl Like Me” in 2020. That same year, Shakira captivated audiences with her performance at the Super Bowl LIV half-time show with Jennifer Lopez. In 2022, the artist went through a public divorce from Spanish soccer player Gerard Piqué and a tax evasion scandal.

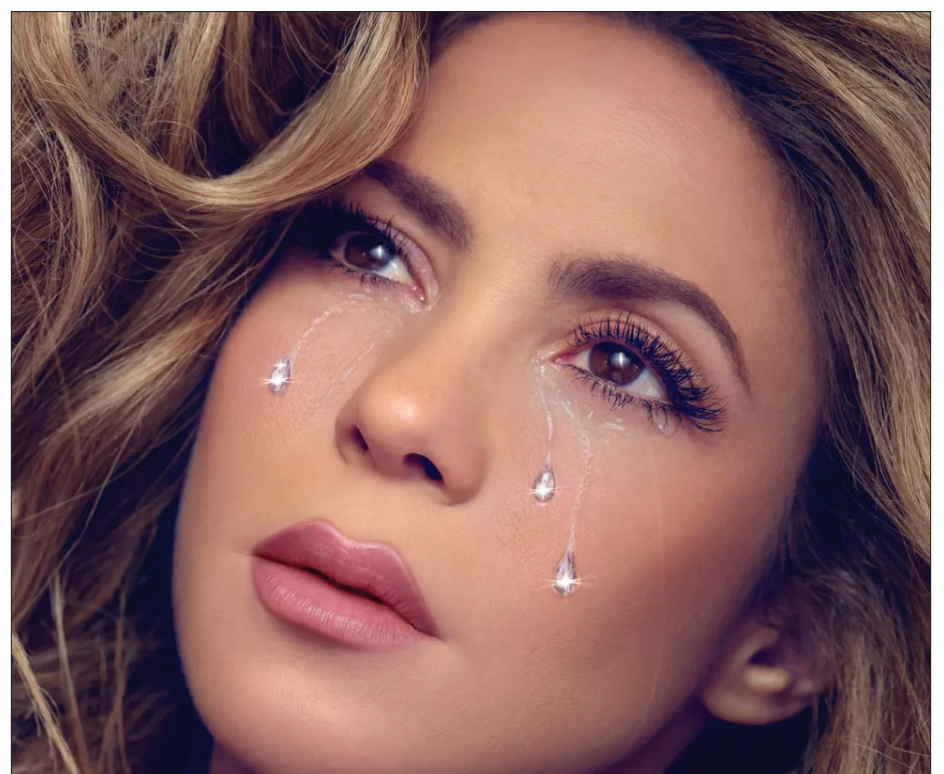
Reflecting the singer’s transition from alternative Latin rock and pop to dance pop in 2009, the 16-track album is a blend of the two styles with dance-pop songs like “Puntería” and alternative Latin rock songs like “Cómo Dónde y Cuándo,” making the album a rich listening experience. The album as a whole is masterfully produced, primarily by Shakira. Before the album’s debut, Shakira released eight singles for the album “Te Felicito” with Rauw Alejandro; “Monotonía” with Ozuna; “Shakira: Bzrp Music Sessions; “Vol. 53” with Bizarrap; “TQG” with Karol G; “Copa Vacía” with Manuel Turizo; “El Jefe” with Fuerza Regida; “Puntería” with Cardi B; and “Acróstico,” the only single that doesn’t feature another artist.

The album opens with “Puntería,” a

dance-pop collaboration with New York rapstress Cardi B. Throughout the song, Shakira expresses how the man she is with has “good aim” and knows what to do, what to wear and what to say to get her attention. She tells her lover that no matter how she tries to avoid his love, it consumes her and that no other men can get her attention. Shakira feels like she is captivated by this man’s actions and that everything that should feel wrong feels right. Cardi B’s verse matches perfectly with the dance beat and her vocals in the final verse with Shakira, showing an unconventional side to the rapstress’ artistic skills.

“La Fuerte” allows Shakira to express how she had to be the strong one and how hard it was for her to be in a relationship. She wishes that she had set her pride aside and asked for her needs to be met while in the relationship with her first words being, “If I had known it was going to be the last time, I would have enjoyed it more” (translated from Spanish). The beat juxtaposes the melancholic theme of the lyrics. Produced by Bizarrap, the upbeat backing pulls the listener into the song while allowing Shakira to pour her heart out in the lyrics.

“(Entre Parentesis)” with Grupo Frontera is a blend of the regional Mexican and alternative rock genres that tells the story of a woman whose partner is pulling away from her and putting an end to it. “TQG” is a heart-break song, where Shakira and Karol G take pride in breaking up with their ex partners before it was too late. Dedicated to and sung with her children, “Acróstico” is a piano ballad that spells the names of her children, Milan



Shakira released her most recent album, “Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran,” on March 22, this being her 12th album released, the most recent being from 2017.

COURTESY OF SONY MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT US LATIN

and Sasha, in each chorus. The album, filled with 11 other dynamic songs, is a look into Shakira’s heart. As a whole, it is one of the most genre defying albums she has released.

“Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran” takes inspiration from so many influential Latin genres and pulls together beautifully. Shakira’s vocals are on display while she also highlights the talents of all the artists she collaborated

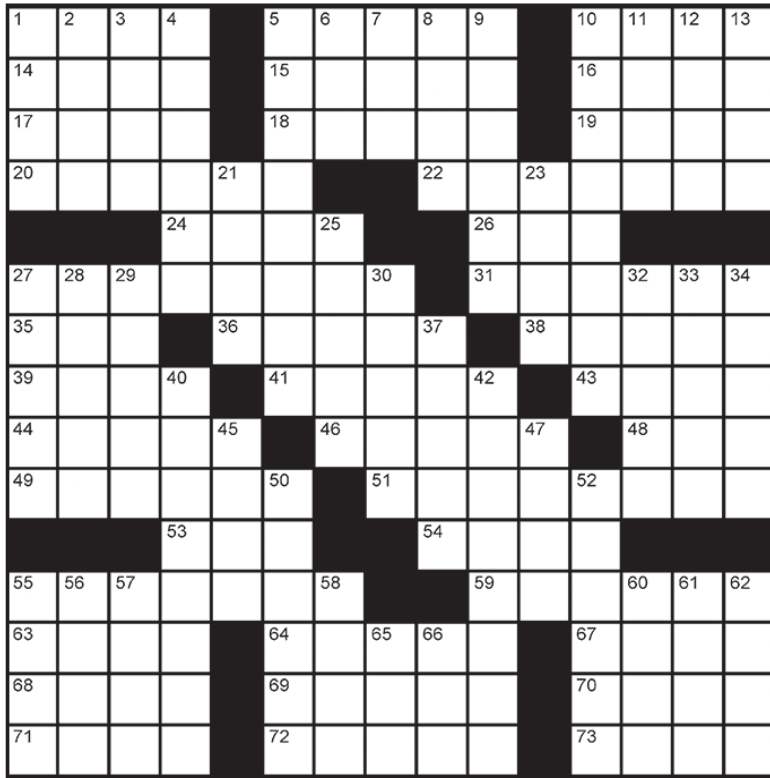
with on the album. Shakira’s choice to not record these songs in English shows that she is finally making music she loves after finding confidence in her artistry. Listen to the album and just get into it. It has something for all listeners, from Shakifans and Wolfies to the casual listener.

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DIVERSIONS

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024

crossword By Quill Driver Books



ACROSS

- 1 Dolt
- 5 Chassis
- 10 Beige
- 14 Protagonist
- 15 Ghastly pale
- 16 Expanse of wild wasteland
- 17 Ellipse
- 18 Rectify
- 19 Yemen neighbor
- 20 Bolster
- 22 Calorie counters
- 24 Lubricants
- 26 Quarterback – Manning
- 27 Limo feature (2 wds.)
- 31 Stickers
- 35 Yoko –
- 36 – Park, Colorado
- 38 Reef Material
- 39 Surmounting
- 41 Woodwind instruments
- 43 – bene
- 44 Playing cards
- 46 Nautical
- 48 Encountered
- 49 Part of a sonnet

DOWN

- 13 Containers for ashes
- 21 French river
- 23 Util. bill
- 25 The devil
- 27 Rivers and Crawford
- 28 Release
- 29 Planet circlers
- 30 "The Yellow Rose of –"
- 32 Bouquet
- 33 Afterward
- 34 Grayish
- 37 Disconnect
- 40 Funnel-shaped
- 51 Theological school
- 53 Numero –
- 54 Gardening tool
- 55 One of the Waltons
- 59 Fabled Scottish monster
- 63 Hindu title
- 64 Leggy bird
- 67 Danza or Hawk
- 68 Sicilian volcano
- 69 Singer – Urban
- 70 Entice
- 71 Certain votes
- 72 Pet Lovers' org.
- 73 Greek god

- flowers
- 42 ClassicTV witch
- 45 Broadcast
- 47 Enjoy
- 50 City in Kansas
- 55 Earl – tea
- 56 Set a value on
- 57 "– Karenina"
- 58 Matures
- 60 Tart-tasting
- 61 Kimono accessory
- 62 Looks at
- 65 – Van Winkle
- 66 List ender

last issue's crossword answers

M	E	L		S	C	A	M	S		T	A	G	S	
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O	S	S	A		D	E	F	O	E		S	O	D	

Polar Pardner

ILLUSTRATION BY JOSHUA PANTANO/THE ITHACAN



answers to last issue's sudoku:

medium

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

hard

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

very easy

	6		7	8	9			1	
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medium

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sudoku

救独

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The Shoelace Carnival

ILLUSTRATION BY DJ BERCHOFF/THE ITHACAN



SAAC PLUNGES INTO COMMUNITY

BY JESS MOSKOWITZ

STAFF WRITER

The Ithaca College Student-Athlete Advisory Council (SAAC) organized a team for the annual Polar Plunge on March 23, an event aimed at raising money and awareness for athletes competing in the Special Olympics.

This was the 11th annual Polar Plunge held in Ithaca and stands as the largest fundraising event for Special Olympics New York. It is a unique opportunity for individuals, organizations, schools and businesses to support Special Olympics New York athletes by jumping into frigid bodies of water across New York state.

The Polar Plunge occurred amid a snow storm in Ithaca, but despite the snowy conditions at Taughanock Falls State Park, many athletes and community members showed up to plunge and cheer on their fellow Bombers.

This year, SAAC created three subcommittees — mental health and wellness, Bombers supporting Bombers and community outreach. Senior Kiley Sullivan, a midfielder on the field hockey team, said she spearheaded the community outreach committee and Polar Plunge initiative.

Kaitlyn Wahila, field hockey head coach and SAAC adviser, noted the way that Sullivan has led this committee with an emphasis on going into the community and doing work on the ground to make a real impact.

“The goal with our community outreach this year has not been to ask our student-athletes to just donate to specific organizations, but it’s really been to find ways where we can get out into the community and do some good,” Wahila said.

Sullivan said she wanted this year’s plunge to expand beyond SAAC to grow bonds among all athletes and the community.

“I wanted to take community service to another level,” Sullivan said. “Because in previous years, we kind of just had plunge open to SAAC members, and I kinda wanted to open it up to other athletes and get them to kind of see a little bit more of what SAAC is about.”

This emphasis on community impact was echoed by junior Co-Chair Josh Miles, who spoke of the need for athletes to use the platform they have to help others.

Miles, a member of the Ithaca College football team, said he was able to empower his teammates to take the plunge and raise awareness for this cause, as he brought nearly 30 athletes with him to the event.

“A lot of these sports teams wouldn’t be here without the fundraising and the support that the community does, and I think it’s only fair that we give back to the community,” Miles said. “As athletes, we have such a large platform to influence, especially the younger generation, and those around us in the community and I think anytime that we have some spare time to go down and just help out, it’s really impactful and important to do so.”

Sullivan and Wahila decided that they would not make attendance at the Polar Plunge mandatory for student-athletes, but instead focus messaging on the importance



Polar Plunge participants eagerly await their turn to take the plunge at Taughanock Falls State Park on March 23. The Ithaca College Student-Athlete Advisory Council organized athletics involvement in this year’s plunge, raising \$4,170 for the Special Olympics.

ELIJAH CEDEÑO/THE ITHACAN

of giving back to inspire athletes to make the plunge.

“We made sure that everybody has been aware of it, but [Sullivan] also didn’t pressure it and decided not to make it mandatory because we were hoping that people would just naturally then be a little bit more inclined to be involved and have the student athletes who are genuinely interested in the plunge and the cause,” Wahila said.

In order to partake in the Polar Plunge, participants must raise a minimum of \$25. One strategy that SAAC implemented to raise money was the use of Instagram and social media.

“We created an Instagram donation bingo card for our athletes to just post on their story and gain support,” Miles said. “Once people see the card and you can get that ball rolling, you end up getting a lot more than \$25 out of it.”

While Ithaca College SAAC wound up raising a total of \$4,170, Sullivan said it is more about showing up for people than the money.

“For me, it’s not necessarily about getting as much money raised as possible, it’s the effort that you put into showing up,” Sullivan said. “I think it’s great that there’s that \$25 minimum, so that people are giving something, but I’ve just been telling people like whatever you can give, if it’s \$25 that’s totally fine, because I’d rather people show up for a good cause.”

Wahila said she sees events like this one as an opportunity for student-athletes to recognize the impact they can make off the field.

“It’s important that our student-athletes are involved in more than just their sport because

they are more than just players on the field, in the pool or on the court,” Wahila said.

Senior Gillian Coffey was among those in the crowd that did not take the plunge but wanted to show up and support the cause. Coffey said the event is fulfilling for her.

“I go every year with my friends and we love it,” Coffey said. “It’s a ton of fun and it’s nice to support a local organization while we’re all going to school here.”

Devin Sylvia, a sophomore on the Ithaca College women’s soccer team and member of the SAAC executive board, took the plunge with her teammates and believes that the benefits of the day outweigh the negative weather.

“I had so much fun doing the plunge and have had the privilege of doing it both this year and last year where the weather has been

crazy both times, but it makes for a good story and adds to the excitement of the day,” Sylvia said. “The plunge in itself is a great way for everyone to bond together and at the end of the day, we get to contribute to a great cause.”

Sullivan is hopeful that the Polar Plunge and other community engagement events will continue to grow and emphasize the connection among student-athletes, the campus community and the Ithaca community.

“I’m hopeful; it’s cool because you go to Polar Plunge and there’s so many different teams there and people from different backgrounds, and I’m hoping that people will keep showing up and realize this is really cool and be glad that they did that,” Sullivan said.

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The Ithaca College football team walks the path as they inch closer to taking the plunge. Junior defensive lineman Josh Miles brought nearly 30 athletes to the event.

ELIJAH CEDEÑO/THE ITHACAN



Trip brings team and soccer world closer together

BY FLYNN HYNES

ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Amid preparations for the upcoming season, the Ithaca College women's soccer team went to Portugal for a week during spring break from March 10–17. They played matches, explored the country and helped out in the community.

Taking a spring break trip to another country has been a long-time tradition for head coach Mindy Quigg, who said she has been doing this trip for around 20 years and tries to take the team every four years. Over the years, Quigg has taken her teams to Costa Rica, Argentina, France, Spain and Portugal.

Quigg, who said she tries to go on trips like these every four years, explained the planning process for this trip and how it came about. This year, she took the team to Porto and Lisbon and said Portugal was the first trip she took a team on.

"The first trip I ever did was Portugal," Quigg said. "I loved the country. Fell in love with it there. I just thought it's amazing. It's a very rich soccer country. They've been putting a lot of resources into their women's programs there."

Quigg said she fundraised and each player paid for part of the trip themselves. Quigg said much of the alumni network helped with funding because for many of them, the trip was a crucial learning experience while they were on the team.

During the trip, the Bombers worked with the company World-Strides to schedule three matches against different teams in Portu-

gal. The team played clubs of all different ages and came on top in two of their games.

Junior goalkeeper Grace Hickey said it was a refreshing break from the Division III collegiate level to be able to play teams in another country during the offseason without the same competitive edge.

"I think playing against international teams gives you another perspective of where you are because you play against the same teams year after year, and it's the same rivalries and it's the same goals that you have, but playing internationally, we knew that these scores didn't matter," Hickey said. "While we wanted to win, we also wanted to play good style. We wanted to move the ball around, find feet, take good shots, find crosses."

Quigg said European teams tend to have an advantage because of how much practicing they do together. Quigg said the competition ranged from age 17 to in their low 30s.

The team got to train and practice with different coaches from the professional club S.L. Benfica. Sophomore forward Kaelyn Fernandez said the level of conditioning from there was more rigorous compared to here at the college.

"Even the very first thing we did was like a warmup, and everyone was kind of like, 'Oh my goodness. Like, this is so much more,'" Fernandez said. "It was a really good experience."

During their time in Lisbon, the team did community service and volunteer work with Global Ambassadors, a program that is opening



The Ithaca College women's soccer team visited Portugal over spring break. During their time in Lisbon, the team did volunteer work with Global Ambassadors, a refugee support program. COURTESY OF MINDY QUIGG

sadors, a program that is opening a new center for refugee infants in Lisbon and works with refugees of all ages to get them shelter and education. Quigg said the Bombers worked with male refugees from countries that may not have been used to playing soccer with women in the past.

"I was working with the Global Ambassadors liaison and trying to get them engaged and it was really challenging," Quigg said. "And what made the difference was we just put the balls out and played rondos. ...

And that was it. The whole thing changed everybody. They were communicating as best they could. They were playing, they were laughing. We moved it into an eight-sided game. Everybody had a great time. By the end, arms around each other, getting pictures. It was one ball and a good attitude."

Hickey said she believes this trip bonded everyone together regardless of grade and that it will show on the field next season.

"I really can't think of many flaws," Hickey said. "I mean, a lot

of people who've never been to Europe got to experience it, which is absolutely incredible. ... It really just brought everyone together and a lot of other people to step outside their comfort zones, experience new culture, new foods, learn a new language. And I think it will translate to our play, just the relationships that we formed with each other and the trust that we built on that trip, it's gonna make it easier for us to connect on the field."

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First-year completes power duo for women's tennis

BY AUGUSTINE DAUDU

STAFF WRITER

The Ithaca College women's tennis team has been benefitting from the addition of five new first-year students for the 2023–24 season. One member in particular, first-year student Alys Pop, has made a splash alongside a former first-year sensation, junior Taylor Crain.

Pop, a Colorado native, said she grew up trying many sports and settled on tennis at age eight. She remained committed to the sport and competed for the Niwot High School girls tennis team, where she was first in singles by her senior year. She played at the 4A level, the second-highest division in Colorado high school tennis, and placed fourth in the 2022 Colorado State Championships.

Pop said she was looking to go to school out of state and that the team at the college helped her to cement her decision.

"As much as I love Colorado, I wanted to experience what other states have to offer," Pop said via email.

When Pop joined the team, she said she also took a job as a children's tennis instructor at the Cornell University Reis Tennis Center, where she works with beginners to teach them the basic moves of the sport. She also gives private lessons and plays competitive matches with the daughter of a friend. Pop said this job helps her hone her skills.

"It's nice because I get to play competitive matches against her. ... She gets used to different playing styles, and I also get more competition too," Pop said.

Ithaca College head coach Tom Rishcoff said that Pop's skill level was evident early on and that he knew she would make an impact.

"I think she was a really solid player from the get-go and also a mature player on the court," Rishcoff said.

In September 2023, Pop made her debut for the Bombers during the fall season at the Hosking Invitational in Geneva, New York. For her very first match, Pop dominated, winning 8–1 against senior captain Gracie Nicol of Union College and made it to the quarter-finals before being eliminated. In Universal Tennis Rating (UTR), an online database that categorizes players based on ability, she is rated a six, which is the second highest on the team, behind doubles partner Crain.

Crain is the first singles player for the women's tennis team, a distinction she has held since her first season at Ithaca in 2022.

In their first nine matches of the 2024 season, the pair have maintained a 6–3 record overall and a five match winning streak between March 2 and March 15.

The aspect of having someone to rely on in the heat of competition has been particularly important for Crain, as her doubles partner in the previous season, Caroline Herz '23, graduated. Last year, she and Crain played second in doubles, where they had a 15–3 win-loss record over the entire season and a seven-match straight win streak. Crain said that the transition was a change but that because of Pop's skill, the pair could continue the success of 2023's pairing.

"We were playing second doubles last year and [Herz] and I were very close friends, but I think [Pop] and I have matching game styles and I also get along very well with her," Crain said. "I think the biggest change was adjusting to a new game style, but it was a lot easier because [Pop] is very talented."

Pop said that good communication and



From left, junior Taylor Crain and first-year student Alys Pop have been a winning duo. Crain and Pop are 6–3 during the 2024 season and are one and two in singles.

AMINATTA IMRANA JALLOW/THE ITHACAN

their ferocious attitude are crucial factors in their connection and success

"We have really good chemistry, we're both very loud, we thrive off energy," Pop said.

Crain echoed Pop and said that the support goes both ways and that they help each other stay focused when they play.

"If I'm down, [Pop] will pick me up, it feels like a puzzle in that way," Crain said. "I can tell when she's mad and we'll walk back to like the curtain and try to slow down a little bit."

Pop also credits the tennis team as a whole with taking her in. She said that being new on the team does not have an impact on how she is treated.

"I didn't realize how meaningful it was when I first started, but looking back, having that support system, that was instant best friends from the get-go," Pop said.

Crain is optimistic about the pair's future and thinks they can achieve great results.

"I've never really had the opportunity to have such a good partner before, so it's been a really positive experience. ... I think we could even go as far as nationals for doubles," Crain said. "Knowing we have the capability to one day get to that next level is awesome, but getting there is like building the stepping stones."

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First-year student Alys Pop plays a doubles match alongside junior Taylor Crain at Cornell's Ries Tennis Center on Sunday March 24 against RPI. The duo of Pop and Crain are ranked No. 4 in Region II for doubles. Women's tennis will be going up against William Smith College in Geneva, New York, at 4 p.m. March 29.

JOHN HENRY DOWNES/THE ITHACAN