Alumni memorialize 1970 protests at Ithaca College for the first time

The former college president Howard Dillingham’s office was, protesting against Educational Opportunity Program budget cuts. 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.

“Bloc” of Buildings
The announcement lists 11 buildings and businesses comprising of Genesee Coffee, Significant Elements, Historic Ithaca, Ithaca Perc- ting & Tattoo, First Baptist Church, St. James Presbyterian Church, 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 to- tal that have been identified as the most notable buildings that were electrified.

City electifies building “blocs”

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 Genesee Coffee, Significant Elements, Historic Ithaca, Ithaca Perc- ting & Tattoo, First Baptist Church, St. James Presbyterian Church, 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 to- tal 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.

“We need to put in the infrastructure in our buildings to create heating and cooling, and hot water systems,” Vega said. “Those buildings include 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.

Alumni memorialize 1970 protests at Ithaca College for the first time

The Ithacan

BY ALYSSA BEEBE, PRAKRITI PANWAR

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-Latino 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 where former college president Howard Dillingham’s office resided.

The April 17, 1970, issue of The Ithacan reported that “Students [were] hanging over the adminis- trative balcony [and] responded to [Dillingham] with, ‘Meet the demands,’ while no opposing ele- ment chanted, ‘Bring the police.’” The article also noted that there were 200 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 Educa- tion Opportunity Program (EOP) funds. It was established as a fiscal sponsorship to help stu- dents 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 land- scaping, based on information on the budget. At the time, most Black and Latino students could not af- ford 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 fi- nancial cuts in the budget were only proposed at the time, not im- plemented, 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 stu- dents 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 was kind of a thing to be seen here. It’s a beautiful, I just laid a masterpiece® KandL Hall, where former college President Howard Dillingham’s office resided.

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College aids in STEM research

BY CLARK ROQUE ROY ANDOY
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 op- portunities. This year, Becky Craig, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, said the 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 organi- zations for the chemical industry in the U.S. The college offers a Bachelor of Science de- gree 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 confer- ence acts as exposure to the world of chemistry beyond what the college has to offer. For grad- uating 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
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 the start of Ramadan

A total of more than SR1.268 billion ($338 million) has been donated to the Saudi 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 “lifeblood 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 government, 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.

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.

The so-called Islamic State claimed responsibility for the Moscow attack, benefiting over 1.26 million people in several charity and development fields, including education, social work, health, food, housing and Ehsan endowments.

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Students for Palestine present demands to Cornish

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

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

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

“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 RESEARCH, PAGE 1

agencies — [to] come together and just learn about what’s happening in the community and solve problems," Craig said. "All of the students that are going [presenting] research that they have done. And a lot of them are seniors, so it’s kind of their senior capstone project that they’ve been working on all year long.

Craig mentioned the appeal of the ACS conference as a networking opportunity for students to think about 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 coming into grad school," Craig said. "If they want to go into industry, they can learn about the different opportunities and things like that. It’s a big networking event.”

AFC Fellow Lynn Hogan 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,” Hogan said. "It gives underrepresented students, in dis- cipline, government [and] testing labs attend. Every type of chemistry and field is repre- sented. No matter what the student’s interest, I they found something for them at an ACS meeting. "For students like sophomore Reshah Sen, the chemistry department included a networking opportu- nity 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 broader audience,” Sen said. “It’s something that [professionals need to do] in academics, in both the natural sciences and information sci- ences — across years in their careers, so it was great to have that experience.”

Back on South Hill, the college provides opportunities to conduct and present research with classes in research methodology for students, independent student classes and 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 De- partment of Physical Therapy, said he believes that the implementation of research into the curriculum 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 stu- dents go out to local clinics and apply what they have learned in the classroom.

Students in the six-year doctoral program are expected to write a case report in their seventh 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 advisor that starts in its fifth year and continues into their sixth year.

For the Department of Physics of Astrono- my, students are offered the opportunity to attend conferences that require a postgraduate degree. "Not required." Luke Keller, professor in the Depart- ment of Physics and Astronomy, said professors often reach out to students to think about re- search opportunities earlier for them. "We have students that go are presenting [research] that is not just an industry event,” Hogan said. "It gives underrepresented students, in dis- cipline, government [and] testing labs attend. Every type of chemistry and field is repre- sented. No matter what the student’s interest, I
SGC discusses new bill payment system for fall 2024

BY JACQUELYN REAVES
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The Ithaca College Student Government Council met March 29 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 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 announced that the payment system will be introduced to make the policy sound compatible with the new system used for financial aid services, including the New Student and Transition Programs to help accommodate first-gen, first-year and transfer students.

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

Gore went on to say that students and their parents, emails and text messages will go out, but “it wouldn’t be until the 15th that any courses would be dropped.”

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

Sophomore Ty Anderson, vice president of student employees, asked what the protocol is that students and their parents, emails and text messages will go out, but “it wouldn’t be until the 15th that any courses would be dropped.”

Senior Kiara Valera, a BOLD scholar, said the BOLD scholar 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 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.”

CONTACT: RRESSLER@ITHACA.EDU

IC announces grad speaker

BY VIVIAN ROSE
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Ithaca College announced March 25 that Jason Deland will be the speaker at the 2024 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 two领土 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 bill payments for popular brands, including Forever 21, Best Buy, and “Lost Dog” and “Puppy Love.”

While Deland has made a career in the advertising field, he also has helped with social responsibility and has been a board member of the Dream Charter School in Harlem since 2014.

Deland is recognizing for his achievements and success career. Deland was awarded the 2017 Ithaca College Alumni Association’s Professional Achievement award.

CONTACT: VROSE@ITHACA.EDU

BOLD program resumes after one year

BY NOA RAN-RESSLER
INVESTIGATIVE EDITOR

With the return of the Bill of Rights 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,” said Leshen, director of the Office of Student Engagement, is the Women’s Leadership Network and the BOLD Program’s director. She said funding passed 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,” Leshen said. “This is a very important part of our strategy for organizing their portfolio, and we are really excited that we were able to apply for and get a new grant this year.”

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

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

“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 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] whitelist 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.”

“Lost Dog” and “Puppy Love.”

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.
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, which will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 2 in the North Foyer.

The event is called the Ithaca College’s Case of Prevention Resource Event and will allow the 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.

**Colleges Briefs**

**Local music festival entertains students**

Left to right: Jesse Giordano, Ben Frame and Daniel Booth dance during Lost Highway’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.

**Calla Kaufman/The Ithaca"**

**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 five-year essay, poetry, short story, hybrid story, critical writing, personal essay, creative nonfiction, feature/magazine and humor/ satirical.

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 5. 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 LOG SELECTED ENTRIES FROM MARCH 8 TO 17**

**March 8**

**SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS**

LOCATION: Bogart Hall
SUMMARY: Caller reported an unsupervised person in a bathroom. The person denied the use of an 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: Commons
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Unknown cause for alarm activation. Patrol Officer Connor McCroy responded.

**March 10**

**Making Graffiti**

LOCATION: Whalen Center For Music SUMMARY: Patrol Officer Richard Ledbetter wrote 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: Patrol Officer Teronfo responded. The caller reported a laser cutting machine ignited the material it was cutting. Patrol Officer Connor McCroy 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 referred was responsible for the OSCS.

**March 14**

**Fire Alarm ACCIDENTAL**

LOCATION: 150 College Circle SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by burning 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 burning food. Patrol Officer Connor McCroy responded to the call.

**March 16**

**Fire Alarm ACCIDENTAL**

LOCATION: 151 College Circle SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Activation was caused by burned food. Patrol Officer Connor McCroy responded.

**March 17**

**Fire Alarm ACCIDENTAL**

LOCATION: Terrace 4 SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by burned food. Patrol Officer Kevin Nortons responded.

**RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT 2ND DEGREE**

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

**SAFETY HAZARD**

LOCATION: West Tower SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person locked bike on a ramp building. The bike was moved prior to the officer’s arrival. Patrol Officer Kevin Nortons responded.

Full public safety log available online at www.ithaca.edu./org.
Sustainable buildings are essential at IC and beyond

I
n 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 block 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 block of buildings signifies a commitment to a more sustainable Ithaca.

In 2019, the Ithaca Green New Deal was launched with four main goals: achieving car-free 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 seem lofty, especially given the short time frame. However, partnerships with organizations like BlocPower and NYSEG are enabling frames. Nevertheless, some of the buildings are only being partially electrified as part of the Ithaca Green New Deal. While some of the buildings are only being partially electrified, this first block of buildings signifies a commitment to a more sustainable Ithaca.

At Ithaca College, there is also dedication to creating more sustainable infrastructure. Four of the most recently built buildings on campus are LEED certified. 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.

However, initiatives like the Ithaca Green New Deal to push for change. It is also the administration’s responsibility to bear students’ demands and respond with action. A commemoration of demonstrations from the Afro-Latin Society (ALS) in 1970 was held on 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 Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) funds toward landscaping rather than programming for students of color.

Following the sit-in, students met with President La Jerne Commons to discuss a list of demands. Commons said that she would discuss the demands with her team and that she supports students’ rights to protest. Commons’s acknowledgment of ICFSP’s protest, as well as the commemoration of the 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.

The college must support student-driven advocacy

A
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 bear students’ demands and respond with action. A commemoration of demonstrations from the Afro-Latin Society (ALS) in 1970 was held on 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 Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) funds toward landscaping rather than programming for students of color.

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Diversity improves music curriculum

BY TREVOR GRIFFITHS

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. This new curriculum is aimed not at discrediting the contributions of Western composers, but rather to show stories that haven’t been heard because of exclusion.

I understand students’ desire to learn the Western canon for professional goals and opportunities; however, in order to obtain restorative justice, there must be some sort of parity. 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 that a new vision can emerge. A 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 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 method.” 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 embrace these changes and give grace to the educators who are tirelessly creating a comprehensive, inclusive curriculum that challenges centuries of oppression.

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.

Student safety must always be a priority

BY ELIZA WALTHER

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 the many who has 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. 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, and I couldn’t tell my friends. We first knocked on the doors of both the RA’s and in our building. After multiple knocks, there was no answer behind either door. With that, our next idea was to call Public Safety.

My first contact was an officer and the situation 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 later, and we had the snake removed.

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 if a snake is 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 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 supposed to be someone on call to help students, so she led 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 more 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.

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

I am a sophomore music education major. Contact him at twalth2@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 a fairy, elf or woodland creature.

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 alongside their glittery craft stands.

Woodside, owner of Snailboat Studio, and Ithaca College sophomore Katie Oliver pose with the makeup and wings.

Kelly 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.

Woodside and Oliver held the first Fairy Fest back in 2016, which was inspired by the beauty of small businesses. She said, “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 2017 when the art supplies brand Faber-Castell’s Creativity for Kids line sent her a 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 Mattia Vert, 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.”

Karin Yapor, who works at Mockingbird Paperie, shared a similar sentiment about hosting events for younger children and families in and around Ithaca.

Yapor 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,” Yapor said.

“The kids get to color the little fairies and put some glitter on them, so it’s really a fun activity for them,” Yapor said.

“Yapor said she was glad to be part of an activity 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,” Yapor 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.

Deidre 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 definitely would like to continue holding Fairy Fest every year for the foreseeable future.

“I think it does have mom 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.
Gary Clark Jr. releases album with big features

MUSIC REVIEW: "JPEG RAW" Warner Records Inc.

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 R&W," which dropped March 22. Previous to this album, Clark Jr. released "This Land," which came out back in 2019. "JPEG R&W" 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 R&W" 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 R&W," 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 with Clark Jr. transitioning 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 / dreamin' of that good life."

As Clark Jr. has grown as an artist, he has switched genres and tempos in some-what jarring ways. While this does not detract from the quality of the songs or the fusion of several genres but at times, is not as seamless as it could be. Each song respectively provides an interesting and enjoyable experience with the fusion of genres within each song, the album feels as though the songs were ordered differently it would sound like a more succinct album. 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

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 Dembele, 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," Dembele 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 MSA on campus and also that people 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. Dembele 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, not allowing them to appropriate this culture.

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

Alexzandra 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 the students who 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.

"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 (OSLA), has been collaborating with the MSA to host community Iftars every Sunday. The OSLA provided support to the Eid Bazaar by placing 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.

"It took a lot of advocacy and a lot of fighting... We had no money easy in the beginning of this year," Austin Reid, interim director of the OSLA, 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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Senior Sarake Dembele 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.

COURTESY OF WARNER RECORDS

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"Habits," where Clark Jr. becomes introspective, is 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

CLARITY: 4/5

MUSIC REVIEW: "JPEG RAW" Warner Records Inc.
Alejandro and Elizabeth face many ‘Problemistas’

MOVIE REVIEW “Problemista” A24

Women take control of their sorrow with Shakira

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

By Quill Driver Books

ACROSS
1 Dolt
5 Chassis
10 Beige
14 Protagonist
15 Ghostly pale
16 Expansive of wild wasteland
17 Eclipse
18 Rectify
19 Yemen neighbor
20 Bolster
22 Calorie counters
24 Lubricants
26 Quarterback – Manning
27 Lima feature
51 Theological school
53 Numero –
54 Gardening tool
55 One of the Wiltons
59 Fabled Scottish monster
63 Hindu title
64 Loggy bird
67 Danza or Hawk
68 Sicilian volcano
70 Entice
71 Certain votes
72 Pet Lovers’ org.
73 Greek god

DOWNS
1 Dinner item
2 – Strauss & Co.
3 Kind of exam
4 Blob
5 Free of defects
6 Liquor
7 Common verb
8 “Don’t – if I do!”
9 Swirled
10 Typed expression
11 Approach
12 Below
13 Containers for ashes
21 French river
23 Unit bill
25 The devil
27 Rivers and Crawford
28 Release
29 Planet circlets
30 “The Yellow Rose of –”
32 Bouquet
33 Afterward
34 Grayish
37 Disconnect
40 Funnel-shaped
45 Broadcast
47 Enjoy
50 City in Kansas
55 Earl – tea
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Polar Pardner

ILLUSTRATION BY JOSHUA PANTANO/THE ITHACAN

The Shoelace Carnival

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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 amidst a snow storm in Ithaca, but despite the snowy conditions at Taughannock 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 — in order to expand beyond SAAC to grow bonds among athletes and community members.

Senior Ashley Purnell, 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 advisor, 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.

"By the end of 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 you can get out into the community and do some good," Wahila said.

Sullivan said she wanted this year’s plunge to expose beyond SAAC and 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 in kind of 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 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 participate 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 whoever 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 the 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. "It's important that we give back to the community, and I think it's only fair that we give back to the community."

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.

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.

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Trip brings team and soccer world closer together

BY FLynn HyNes
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Amid preparations for the up- coming spring season, the women’s soccer team went to Portu- gal 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 Min- dy Quigg, who said she has been doing this trip for around 20 years and plans to take the team every four years. Over the years, Quigg has tak- en her teams to Costa Rica, Argenti- na, 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 fund- ing because for many of them, the trip was a crucial learning experi- ence 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 change from the Division III collegiate level to be able to play teams in another coun- try during the offseason without the same competitive edge.

“I think playing against interna- tional teams gives you another perspective of where you are and how 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 interna- tionally, I think that we knew that these scores didn’t matter,” Hickey said. “While we wanted to win, we also wanted to play good soccer. 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 competi- tion ranged from age 17 to 18 in their low 30s.

The team got to train and prac- tice with different coaches from the professional club S.L. Benfica. Sopho- more forward Kaelyn Fernandez said the level of conditioning from the Benfica was more rigorous compared to here at the college. “Even the very first thing we did was like a warmup, and every- one was kind of like, ‘Oh my goodness. like, this is so much more,’” Fernandez said. “It was an absolutely good experience.”

During their time in Lisbon, the team did community service and volunteer work with Global Ambas- sadors, a program that is opening refuge inns in Lisbon and works with refugees of all ages to get them shelter and education. Quigg said the more rigorous work 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 laugh- ing. 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 animal.”

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 lan- guage. 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 con- tact on the field.”

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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

First-year completes power duo for women’s tennis

BY Augustine Daudu
STAFF WRITER

The Ithaca College women’s tennis team has been beneficiaries 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 along- side 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 4.5 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 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 Women Tennis Center, where she works with beginners to teach them the basic moves of the sport. She also gives private lessons and a couple matches with the daughter of a friend. Pop said this job helps her hone her skills.

“It’s nice because I get to play competi- tive tennis, I get to change different playing styles, and I also get more competition too,” Pop said.

Ithaca College head coach Tom Bischak said that Pop’s skill level was evident early on in her career. “Pop’s skill level was evident early on while they were on the team,” Bischak said.

“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.”

Pop also credits the tennis team as a whole for helping her. “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 Niech of Lebanon with a mature player on the court, behind doubles partner Crain.

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

In their first nine matches of the 2024 sea- son, 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 Pop in her transition to a collegiate level. Caroline Herz ’23, grad- uated. Last year, she and Crain played second in doubles, where they had a 15–5 win-low re- cord over the entire season and a seven-match straight win streak. Crain said that the transi- tion 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 used to the same style and we’ve also also get along very well with her,” Crain said. “I think the biggest change was adjusting to a new game style, but it was also a lot easier be- cause [Pop] is very talented.”

Pop said that good communication and 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 helps both ways and that they help each other stay focused when they play.

“If I don’t win, [Pop] will pick me up, it feels like a puzzle in that way,” Crain said. “I can tell when she’s mad and I’ll walk back like in 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.

“T didn’t have 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 how 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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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.

AMRISHA IBRAHIM/JOURNAL/ITHACA EAGLE

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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.