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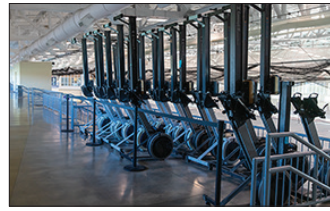
LIFE & CULTURE | page 9

**LOCAL FESTIVAL
FEATURES NEW
DIVERSE VOICES**



OPINION | page 7

**HOUSING MUST
ACCOUNT FOR
STUDENT NEEDS**

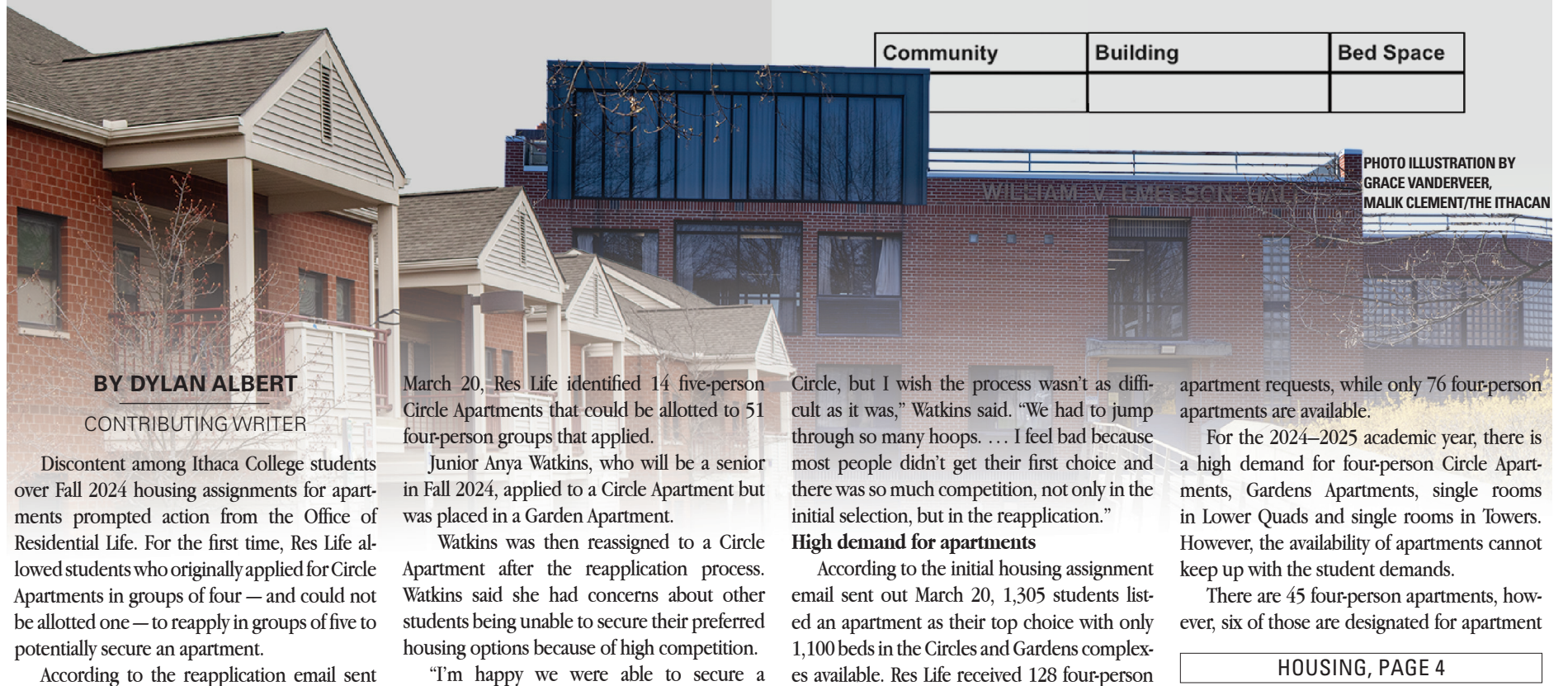


SPORTS | page 13

**IC STRENGTH
PROGRAM
BATTLES CHANGES**

High apartment demand prompts action

Students allowed to reapply



Your housing assignment for the upcoming academic year is:

Community	Building	Bed Space

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY
GRACE VANDERVEER,
MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN

BY DYLAN ALBERT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Discontent among Ithaca College students over Fall 2024 housing assignments for apartments prompted action from the Office of Residential Life. For the first time, Res Life allowed students who originally applied for Circle Apartments in groups of four — and could not be allotted one — to reapply in groups of five to potentially secure an apartment.

According to the reapplication email sent

March 20, Res Life identified 14 five-person Circle Apartments that could be allotted to 51 four-person groups that applied.

Junior Anya Watkins, who will be a senior in Fall 2024, applied to a Circle Apartment but was placed in a Garden Apartment.

Watkins was then reassigned to a Circle Apartment after the reapplication process. Watkins said she had concerns about other students being unable to secure their preferred housing options because of high competition. “I’m happy we were able to secure a

Circle, but I wish the process wasn’t as difficult as it was,” Watkins said. “We had to jump through so many hoops. . . . I feel bad because most people didn’t get their first choice and there was so much competition, not only in the initial selection, but in the reapplication.”

High demand for apartments

According to the initial housing assignment email sent out March 20, 1,305 students listed an apartment as their top choice with only 1,100 beds in the Circles and Gardens complexes available. Res Life received 128 four-person

apartment requests, while only 76 four-person apartments are available.

For the 2024–2025 academic year, there is a high demand for four-person Circle Apartments, Gardens Apartments, single rooms in Lower Quads and single rooms in Towers. However, the availability of apartments cannot keep up with the student demands.

There are 45 four-person apartments, however, six of those are designated for apartment

HOUSING, PAGE 4

Renovation temporarily impacts upper-campus access

BY JADYN DAVIS
SENIOR WRITER

Ithaca College commenced the Terrace Elevator Connector project, which involves construction at Terraces Dining Hall, April 1. The college expects the project to be completed before Fall 2024, however, there is a possibility Terrace Dining Hall will be closed for a part of the semester if renovations are not finished by the expected timeline.

Reginald Briggs, senior director of Dining Services, said the goal is to have a substantial amount of the work in the dining hall done by August.

Briggs said there have been talks of alternative options, like a mobile kitchen.

“I spent a lot of time trying to think of alternatives,” Briggs said. “We were all in agreement that the Campus Center dining hall doesn’t have the capacity to serve the whole student population for seven [to] eight weeks.”

In October 2023, the project, which is a part of the college’s master plan, was approved by the Town of Ithaca Planning Board.

This is one of the goals of the

Ithaca Forever Strategic Plan, a five-year plan aimed to address long-term institutional goals and make advancements to the campus.

Tim Downs, vice president of Finance and Administration and chief financial officer, said via email that the project costs \$4 million to complete; the major costs of the project are the materials used and labor.

Downs said the college has not taken any new debt to complete the project.

The project includes a new elevator that will make six stops through the ground floor of the Terrace Dining Hall up to Terrace 1; an accessible walkway that will connect Baker Walkway and the Terrace Bridge level to the dining hall; and two all-gender bathrooms on the ground floor of the dining hall. The only accessible entrance to the dining hall is on the west side of the building.

Construction officially started April 1 and certain areas inside and near the dining hall are restricted. In an Intercom post sent by Ernie McClatchie, associate vice president in the Office of Facilities, he said the southeast stairwell of the dining hall will be closed and students living in Terraces will have to get their mail in



Construction for the Terrace Elevator Connector project started April 1. The southeast stairwell of the dining hall will be closed and students in Terraces will get their mail in the Towers mail lockers.

JULIA HARGREAVES/THE ITHACAN

the Towers Concourse mail lockers.

McClatchie said that even though some of the temporary changes, like where students can get mail and the closure of the southeast stairwell entrance, might cause some frustrations, he wants to be able to get as much construction done from

now to August so that the dining hall can be used during the 2024 academic year.

“There’s no doubt if this was a project that we knew that could be completed in two months, then we would wait [to start during] June–July, which is what we do with most of

the construction around campus,” McClatchie said. “90% of the work we do is done when classes are out or if summer classes are here.”

Jeffrey Golden, associate vice president of Auxiliary Services, said

TERRACES, PAGE 4

Nation & World News

Egypt set to increase budget for its health sector next fiscal year

Egypt will increase health sector allocations in the next general budget to 495.6 billion pounds (\$10.4 billion), according to the country's finance minister. The North African country's upcoming fiscal year is set to begin in July.

Mohamed Maait, Egypt's minister of finance, said in a statement that this reflects an annual growth rate of 24.9 percent compared to the funds allocated for the sector in the current fiscal year.

This is in line with the nation's goal to improve medical services for citizens, which is also an objective of Egypt's Vision 2030.

Jordan's new mining strategy will make it a mining state by 2033

Jordan's mining sector is set to grow substantially, with projections indicating that its contribution to the nation's gross domestic product will reach 2.1 billion Jordanian dinars (\$2.9 billion) by 2033.

Up from 0.7 billion dinars in 2023, this ambitious target is part of the government's newly announced initiative to transform Jordan into a mining state by 2033, as outlined in the country's National Mining Strategy.

The strategy emerges from its Economic Modernization Vision and is backed by directives from Jordan's King Abdullah, emphasizing the need to accelerate

investment-stimulating procedures in mineral exploration.

Saudi Arabia has launched the kingdom's first EV car brand

As Saudi Arabia spearheads the transition toward sustainable solutions, electric vehicles are surging ahead and are expected to revolutionize transportation in the Middle East. But the question remains: Will they soon become a part of our daily lives?

When Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman launched the Kingdom's first automotive brand, Ceer, in 2022 to produce, design, manufacture and sell electrical vehicles, his message and ambitions were clear.

Saudi Arabia wasn't merely establishing an automotive brand. The crown prince emphasized that the kingdom was "igniting a new industry and ecosystem."

German airline suspends flights after Iran's attack on Israel

Germany's flagship airline Lufthansa is temporarily suspending several flights to cities in the Middle East, it said April 14, amid wider disruption unleashed by Iran's attack on Israel.

The measure affects regular flights to and from Tel Aviv in Israel, to Erbil in Iraq and Amman in Jordan, the Lufthansa Group said on its website.



Iran retaliates against Israel with drone strike

Iran's Revolutionary Guards confirmed early April 14, 2024, that a drone and missile attack was under way in Jerusalem against Israel in retaliation for a deadly April 1 drone strike on its Damascus consulate.

COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Landslide in Indonesia triggered by heavy rains kills 14 people

At least 14 people have died and another is missing after torrential rains triggered landslides on Indonesia's Sulawesi Island, an official said April 14.

Abdul Muhari, spokesperson for the National Disaster Management Agency, said

that four houses in Tana Toraja district of South Sulawesi province were buried in the landslides, injuring two villagers.

Rescuers are still searching for a missing villager in the hilly South Makale village, Muhari said.

SOURCE: TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

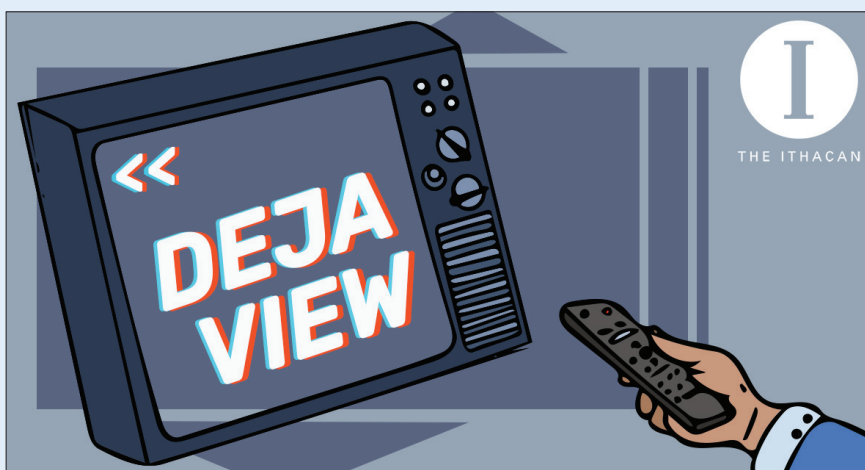
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Get your money's worth at Ford Observatory

In a brand-new "Getting Your Money's Worth," Mei and Lucia visit Ithaca College's Clinton B. Ford Observatory. The observatory, constructed in 1998, is open to students at select times.



'Deja View' supporting female screenwriters

On this episode of "Deja View," join hosts juniors Therese Kinirons and Hailey Howgate as they discuss their favorite genre bending comedy, Emma Seligman's "Shiva Baby" (2020).

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Laundry malfunctions spark concern

BY KAI LINCKE
STAFF WRITER

As some Ithaca College students share concerns about laundry machines in residence halls breaking down for several days, the Office of Residential Life is working to decrease disruptions to laundry services.

Since the start of Spring 2024, clothes caught on fire in a dryer in Holmes Hall, clothes overheated in a Bogart Hall dryer and a washing machine in Terrace 3 started smoking.

Laundry service provider

Senior Violet Van Buren has been a resident assistant in Terrace 12 since Fall 2021. She said her building has consistently struggled with laundry machines that do not work.

"Right now we've got two washers that work," Van Buren said. "One of them is just sort of off to the side for some reason. ... It worked for the first month and now has not been fixed since and they moved it so that we can't use it."

Jenny Pickett, assistant director of Residential Life and Student Conduct and Community Standards, said the laundry machines are breaking down frequently because they are reaching the end of their lives. She said the college will not receive new machines until it starts a new contract with a



Laundry machines across Ithaca College's campus have caused disruptions in several residence halls. Residential Life said it is working to lease laundry machines from a different provider.

JULIA HARGREAVES/THE ITHACAN

laundry service provider.

Pickett said the college's seven-year contract with CSC Service Works, the company the college leases the machines from, ended in May 2023. Pickett said that in discussions for a new contract, CSC planned to raise the price of each machine by \$10 monthly — which would have increased the college's cost of laundry services for its then-total of 308 machines by \$36,960 per year.

Addressing concerns

Towers Residence Director Sally Greenfield said that keeping track of out-of-order machines has been challenging.

"What has actually been happening, since we started being more carefully monitoring, is that they're up and running, and then that same machine might go down again," Greenfield said.

Pickett said Res Life is focusing on educating students about laundry by sending out email blasts after incidents like smoking

washers with tips for laundry and pictures of where students should cut off loading laundry.

"We're acknowledging that they are older machines and we know they need to be replaced, but some of the issues we see are user error," Pickett said. "I know that we're trying ... to figure out a way to get us new machines, but we also need students to pay attention ... and be good citizens."

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IC releases key survey findings

BY VIVIAN ROSE
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Campus Climate Committee co-chairs released the results of the Campus Climate Survey in an email sent to the campus community April 16.

According to the results of the survey that was completed in Fall 2023, 69% of the 1,987 people who responded reported feeling very comfortable or comfortable with the climate of the college, while 12% reported feeling uncomfortable or very uncomfortable. There are more than 6,200 people — staff, faculty and students — at the college.

The campus community will have two opportunities to hear from Rankin Climate — a company that assesses institutional climate and specifically works with the college's working committee — about the results in depth April 25.

The Key Findings Report will be explained from 12:10–1:05 p.m. in Emerson Suites and a livestream will be available as well. The full recording can be found on the climate report's website. The presentation will also be offered at 4–5:15 p.m. in Textor 102 in person only.

Each presentation will feature a Q&A session with the representatives and those in attendance. Questions can be submitted through the Presentations Question Form, which will close at 11:59 p.m. April 19. Campus community members can get access to a hard copy version of the Key Findings Report by contacting campusclimate@ithaca.edu.

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New health center role expands insurance education

BY KAELEIGH BANDA
ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

Beginning Fall 2024, Ithaca College's Hammond Health Center will add a new health insurance navigator position to help students understand their health insurance and what it covers.

This new role is being added to the center to ensure that trouble understanding insurance is not something that prevents students from receiving the care they need.

For many students, college is their first experience dealing directly with health insurance and other aspects of adulthood. Students have expressed confusion and concern over health insurance at the center.

The navigator will give students personal help with their insurance to help combat any confusion students may have.

There will only be one navigator to start, but if the position is well received, there might be more added.

Bonnie Prunty, vice president of Student Life and Campus Affairs, said she brought the idea of this position to the college after being inspired by Bucknell University.

When Hammond Health Center partnered with Cayuga Health Systems, Ithaca College started to do outreach to learn from other schools' health centers.

Prunty said she was intrigued by Bucknell's health insurance navigator and thought it would be a good idea to have someone to help students understand the complicated health insurance system in the U.S.

"I'm really hoping what we find is [the new position] just helps with access to the health center, so we don't hear about a student who maybe didn't seek the service that they needed at that health center because they were worried about what their bill was going to look like or whether their bill was going to be covered by their insurance or not," Prunty said. "My real



A new health insurance navigator position will be added to the college's Hammond Health Center in Fall 2024. It will help students understand their health insurance.

KAELEIGH BANDA/THE ITHACAN

goal is about access and not wanting there to be a barrier for students."

Before students even start college, the navigator will help students and families decide whether to choose their own insurance or the school's Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP).

Then, when the student gets to college, the navigator can guide students through what their plan covers and how much visits will cost. After a visit, if a student receives an overwhelming bill, the navigator can show them the best route to payment.

Prunty said the position has been in the works since the partnership with Cayuga Health Systems first happened in 2022.

In order to make the position possible, there needed to be some staffing changes to then have salary dollars to move around to create a new role.

The operations manager position was cut and the director of Student Health Services,

nurse manager and office coordinator have taken on its responsibilities.

The interview process has already started and the application is still open. Grace Webster, office coordinator for Hammond Health Center, said they interviewed one candidate already and have one more lined up. The center hopes to have someone hired as soon as possible.

"I'm excited about the candidate pool that we have right now and we still have more interviews lined up," Webster said. "And then from there, we can hopefully get somebody that can help out the whole student body, especially with the new students coming in."

The center is run by Cayuga Health Systems. Jennifer Metzgar, director of Student Health Services, said the shift to working with Cayuga Medical was a necessary change but has complicated things for students.

"We just started billing for health insurance

in August 2022, so prior to that, the college fully funded all the visits in the health center, but that model just wasn't sustainable," Metzgar said. "So we partnered with Cayuga Medical, but what we've learned is that a lot of students and families have questions about insurance."

International students have expressed concerns over the affordability of insurance in 2022 after ISO Student Health Insurance was denied, which was what many international students relied on.

In 2023, ISO Student Health Insurance created a plan to meet the college's requirements. Junior Jaqueline Pereira said many international students tend to avoid the health center.

"Every student has a different situation, but specifically for me, I avoid going to the health center just because I don't understand how things work and then I feel scared of going," Pereira said.

Pereira said she hopes this new person will understand international students and have empathy and patience toward all students.

"I feel like it would be a good resource to have someone that can help us understand and can help us feel less scared to go to the doctor," Pereira said. "That should not be something that should be scary."

The leadership at Cayuga Health Systems and Hammond Health Center agreed that this position would be a good addition.

Metzgar said she supported this position because she has seen students struggle with understanding insurance.

"I'm aware of students that have come into the health center and they don't know what their insurance is and when they find out we're going to be billing, they want to stop everything," Metzgar said. "I'm just worried that they're not getting the care they need because they don't have the information to make these decisions."

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FROM HOUSING, PAGE 1

assistants (AA). Sixty-five five-person apartments and 50 six-person apartments were available for student application.

In the Garden Apartment complex, there are 120 two-person apartments, with four of the apartments reserved for AAs. Thirty four-person apartments and six six-person apartments were available for the 2024–2025 cycle.

There is also a rising demand for single-room dorms. According to the March 20 reapplication email, 61 students listed a Lower Quads single room as a top choice, while only 16 single rooms are available and 77 students listed West Tower single room requests for 10 rooms.

The price of on-campus room and board per year at Ithaca College is \$15,934.

The prices of the same at other comparable colleges like Bard College, Vassar College, Clark University and St. Lawrence are \$17,180, \$16,560, \$11,164 and \$15,995, respectively.

Sophomore Carly Dixon, who will be a junior in Fall 2024, said she reapplied for a Circle Apartment but did not hear back about updated housing assignments.

Dixon said she was placed in Emerson Hall and wishes that she could live independently.

"I won't be able to grow as an adult and be more dependent on myself," Dixon said. "I feel like [Res Life] needs to communicate with us more, especially with putting so many juniors back in Emerson."

Upcoming changes

Res Life Housing Specialist Ryan McCarty said changes are



There were 1,305 students who listed an apartment as their top choice with only 1,100 beds in the Circles and Gardens available. Applicants requested 128 four-person apartments with 76 available.

MALIK CLEMENT/THE ITHACAN

being made to housing for the 2024–25 academic year.

McCarty said the college is converting larger triples in Emerson Hall, which have two separate rooms and one shared bathroom, to accommodate four people, giving priority to juniors and seniors.

"There is so much time to fix the things that don't seem to be going right for you right now," McCarty said. "I think [students'] time is better spent on worrying about [their] finals. Because I guarantee that most of you are going to end up in a place you want to be."

When it comes to meal plans, students who live in dorm buildings are required to register for "The

Residence Plan." The plan consists of meal plans starting at \$6,870 for the academic year.

The college requires students to live on campus until their junior year. When students can live off campus, they often have to consider renting prices. Fair Market Rent (FMR) prices in Ithaca are high compared to the national average as of 2024.

The Ithaca FMR area is more expensive than 94% of other FMR areas with an average Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment standing at \$1,664 a month.

Jeffery Golden, associate vice president of Auxiliary Services, said students may be backed into a corner financially because of this.

"The real estate housing market in Ithaca is hugely problematic and hugely expensive," Golden said. "It's hard for students trying to live off campus."

Employee housing

Boothroyd Hall, located in Upper Quads, has also been repurposed as employee housing. In Fall 2023, it was empty after it served as a COVID-19 isolation space. Golden said Terrace 10 was offered to faculty, staff and visiting international professors and then moved to Boothroyd.

The employee housing initiative first launched in Terrace 10 in 2022 before briefly transitioning to Terrace 1 in 2023.

However, because of the Terrace Elevator Construction Project, residents of Terrace 1 have been relocated to Boothroyd Hall.

Golden said the residence halls the college uses for employee housing are subject to frequent change.

Golden said residents can pay \$500 a month to live in Boothroyd. Golden said it could be less demanding to live in Boothroyd, or even stay there for short periods, rather than commute from long distances or attempt to find housing in Ithaca.

"You have to attract high quality, high caliber faculty on the content side, and so having affordable housing is an important part of that," Golden said.

Updated student housing

In Fall 2022, the college began a housing option in Eastman Hall, in Lower Quads, specifically for seniors and graduate students. Rooms in Eastman Hall feature single rooms that were previously double rooms and are open during winter break.

Senior and graduate students can reside in Eastman Hall for \$10,100 per year and also have the option of living there on a per-semester basis. Residents have access to a meal plan consisting of 21 meal swipes per week and \$200 Bomber Bucks per semester.

Golden said options like these offer affordable, unconventional opportunities to upperclassmen.

"Offering something like this for seniors and grad students puts them in a ... situation where they're on campus, but it's a slightly different vibe," Golden said. "It's a little bit more independent than your average [residence] hall scenario."

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FROM TERRACES, PAGE 1

he has been working with McClatchie to ensure that dining and facilities are on the same page regarding the project's timeline and how it will impact the dining hall's operations.

"The conversation has been a pretty well-developed one," Golden said. "With a project like this, there's always some uncertainty as it starts to unfold. So there's a back and forth and a debate there. You can make an argument that ... the first conversation about how the project would affect dining had to do with when we would start and when we would expect to end."

Senior David Castro said he is concerned about how the rest of the dining areas would be impacted if the dining hall were to be closed for the Fall 2024 semester.

"It would be extremely scary because when I've been here on campus and they close the Terrace dining hall the day of a break ... it's insane," Castro said. "In CC for lunch, it is already packed and crammed as it is. I think Towers would have to become more of a formal dining hall than it already is [if Terraces was closed]."

Plans and reasons for renovation

The campus's topography has posed challenges for members of the college community because it was built on a slope.

In 2021, 22% of students were registered with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). This percentage included students with physical disabilities along with students that have dietary restrictions, emotional support accommodations and testing accommodations.

McClatchie said students, faculty and staff have all expressed difficulties in accessing the dining hall over the years.

"This has been a concern for quite a few years, [which is] kind of one of the reasons why it was on the master plan, as a part of ADA improvements," McClatchie said. "It's interesting if you think about it: Terrace 5 is sort of an ADA and accessible Terrace; however, you



An illustration of what the area outside Terraces dining hall will look like. The project was approved in October 2023 by the planning board of the Town of Ithaca.

COURTESY OF IC INTERCOM

can't get to the main campus from there. You'd have to get to a car or vehicle and then drive around and come down. So I think [the Terrace renovation] really opens up the possibilities for accessibility."

Terrace Dining Hall is one of the buildings that is ADA compliant.

In 2015, the Office of Civil Rights visited the college and cited 16 areas on campus that were not ADA compliant, including Egbert Hall/Campus Center and Peggy Ryan Williams Center, and did not cite Terrace Dining Hall as ADA compliant.

Jenny Pickett, assistant director in the Office of Residential Life and Student Conduct and Community Standards, said Terrace 1, which served as employee housing, will remain closed during the Fall 2024 semester so that the renovations can be done before students can use it again. Terrace 1 residents have now been moved to Boothroyd Hall.

"One of the things we're focusing on in the

project is that connector piece over to Terrace 1 and the dining hall and then the work where it's attached to the residence hall," Pickett said. "And some of the accessible things were changing in Terrace 1 ... that's all happening in the fall to make sure that the priority of what most people need to use [Terrace 1] is complete."

Accessibility issues

Pickett said the main feedback that she received from Resident Assistants (RAs) is how some received difficulties from some of the dining staff when they used the accessible entrance to the dining hall in the past.

Briggs said the dining staff was initially concerned because there was no swipe station at the accessible entrance.

However, Briggs said the new entrance that will eventually replace the spiral staircase that people take to get to the ground floor of the dining hall will help manage the flow of traffic better.

The Terrace Dining Hall can accommodate

approximately 700 people.

"The spiral staircase entrance is arguably one of the worst entrances into a dining space I've ever seen in that it [places] you right into the primary service line," Briggs said. "So we're excited to have the new entrance that we're bringing into the corner of the room. You'll have the whole east side dining room to come into and spread out."

As construction continues, some students are experiencing difficulties getting into and around the dining hall because of the restricted areas.

Sophomore Oakley Weihing, president of the Disabled Students' Alliance, said that while they are excited about the new renovations, the construction has caused the dining hall to become more inaccessible to students because of the restricted areas.

"It's definitely more difficult to use the dining hall because it's just a lot more stairs," Weihing said. "A lot of people forget that accessibility goes beyond wheelchair accessibility. It's like some of us can get up those three or four steps that are in the second-floor entrance, but it's much more difficult to get off those three flights."

McClatchie said this project will allow for more inclusivity between the upper campus and the lower campus, as the elevator and the connector will make it easier to traverse the entire campus.

"I just think that the big aspect of this is that it just opens up so many possibilities now that just haven't been there before," McClatchie said. "We're very excited about it because we think it's a needed addition to what we have and it just makes a lot of sense. In many ways it is an inclusive sort of thing because it doesn't matter if you need to use the elevator or not, you still have an indoor walkway now that you never have before to be able to get so I tend to [think] there [are] benefits for all."

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New billing system to unregister students with debt

BY JACQUELYN REAVES
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

In a meeting with the Ithaca College Student Governance Council on March 25, Shana Gore, associate vice president of enrollment operations, management and student success, announced that the college will be unregistering students with outstanding debts between \$7,000–\$10,000 starting Aug. 15.

In the meeting with the SGC, Gore said the change from Quikpay, Nelnet and the 1098-T to Transact will primarily affect students who are not on a payment plan and have not communicated with the Student Financial Services about their financial situation and if they will pay off their debts.

Gore said to *The Ithacan* via email that she wanted to clarify that the new system is being implemented to help students navigate the financial aid process and, while the system is being changed, the deadlines are still the same as the previous semesters.

“The new system is being implemented to be more transparent and user-friendly for students, as well as offer more payment options,” Gore said. “For several years, IC bills have been due prior to the start of the semester; usually Aug. 10 for fall bills, and Jan. 10 for spring bills. We are continuing with those deadlines and removing registration for non-payment is adhering to that deadline for all students.”

Gore suggested that students who deal with financial hardship and

know they will not be able to pay off their bill by the due date should reach out to SFS and communicate that with the office.

She also said students who pay their bill after being unregistered will reregister for their classes based on the availability of classes left.

Sean Coppola '23 said he thought the change would only make attending the college harder for students.

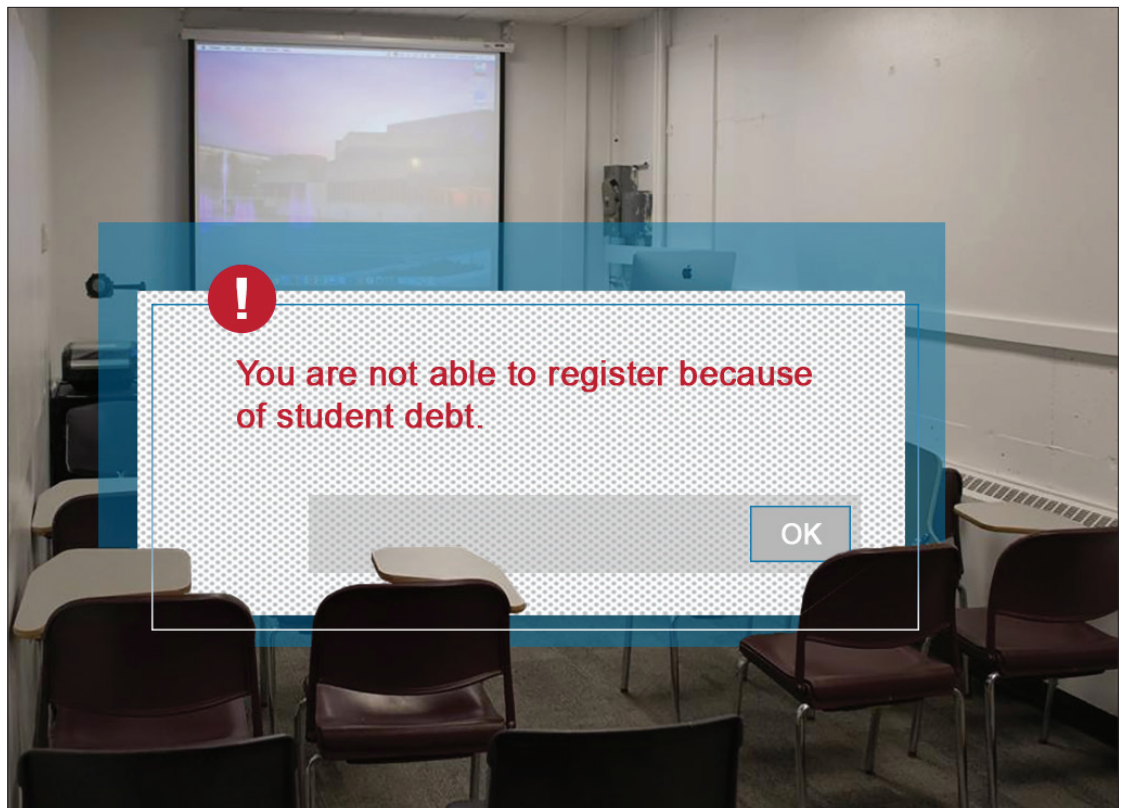
“It’s hard enough to get classes [that students are required to take],” Coppola said. “[This seems like it will] disproportionately affect students who already struggle with school.”

Coppola said that he had many issues with SFS, leading to him needing to work multiple jobs just to afford tuition, and that his financial aid was not consistent.

“I always needed more than I was getting,” Coppola said. “Whenever I would earn more financial aid, they would just say that my needs were already being met and take it out of other financial aid. . . . If my needs were being met then I would not be taking on a [residential] 10-hour-plus position and then also take on paid work.”

First-year student LaRon Pigford is a first-generation student and the first-gen senator for SGC. Pigford said the decision to unenroll students who have debts is a decision that will make college inaccessible for students who are experiencing financial hardship.

“For someone who would not have enough financial aid, it can



Ithaca College’s billing system change from Quikpay, Nelnet and the 1098-T to Transact will impact students who are not on a payment plan and have not communicated about their financial situation.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MOLLY TESKA/THE ITHACAN

be extremely dangerous for that student,” Pigford said. “The reason being that they can’t afford it. They will not be able to afford a higher education. . . . We live in a world where there are certain ways for this college to be more affordable.”

Shadayvia Wallace, program director of the MLK Scholars and First-Gen Center, said a good way to raise awareness is by having a listening session. Wallace said this would help more students become aware of the

change and ask more questions that they might have.

“I think having [an] info session so students are aware [would help],” Wallace said. “Everybody may not have social media [or] pay attention to their email, [and] more in-person opportunities to communicate with [SFS].”

Gore wanted to emphasize that communication with families and students would be constant and that students would know that they are

being unregistered before it happens.

“If students have a family member or supporter who helps with paying the bill, they should add them as an authorized payer so that the supporter receives all important billing communications,” Gore said. “Students are always encouraged to contact SFS to discuss their individual circumstances and learn about various options available.”

CONTACT: JREAVES@ITHACA.EDU

SGC talks course feedback and inclusive language use

BY JACQUELYN REAVES
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The Ithaca College Student Governance Council met April 15 to hear from David Gondek, associate professor in the Department of Biology and chair of Faculty Council, to give their feedback on end-of-semester student statements. The council also heard from Crissi Dalfonzo, director of LGBTQ Education, Outreach, and Services, to hear more about LGBTQ+ resources on campus and how to promote more gender-inclusive language.

Gondek explained that the faculty council has been working on solutions to improve the reflections students complete at the end of their semester about their courses. The faculty council met April 2 to discuss changing the scale they use for student evaluations; where most schools use a five to six-point Likert scale, the faculty council was considering adding a “not applicable” option for students. The faculty council postponed a vote on the Likert scales until May 7 and discussed what should be addressed in the scale based on what they read from student statements.

Gondek said the faculty council has been working on regulating student statements to make statements from different schools at the college more cohesive when looked at from a larger scale.

“The recommendation from [the] faculty council is to standardize students’ statements so that you’re not seeing different [responses] and [that] every professor [is on the same scale],” Gondek said.

Gondek then explained the framework that the new questions will follow. The questions will fall under three groups: course materials and learning outcomes, feedback on readings and activities done in the class, and reflection on how the students performed in the course.

Gondek then asked SGC members if they had any questions or feedback based on the information given.

Senior Noah Kamens, club athlete senator, said the form should have open-ended questions to fully capture the student experience in a class.

“[Having open-ended questions] gives you an opportunity to explain more about what you were looking for and what you’re satisfied or unsatisfied about,” Kamens said.

Gondek mentioned to the council that he would like to have a longer conversation with the council about the changes that will be made to the student statements but recognized that it would be better for him to come on a different day as a guest speaker.

Dalfonzo then gave a presentation that explained her position at the LGBTQ+ center, introduced Pride Fellow Lee Tyson who was not able to make it to the meeting and reminded the council that the center is located in Tower’s concourse.

Dalfonzo also told the council about the resources the center offers students. This ranges from the gender-affirming closet that allows students to donate and swap out clothes; the Open Pages residential learning community for people who identify as transgender and non-binary; and a voice and communication modification program that allows students to work with speech pathologists to train their voice to sound how they want it to sound.

Dalfonzo also explained more about upcoming events that the center is hosting, including the Lavender Graduation, a celebration of all the graduating students who identify as LGBTQ+, and a dinner that the center holds at the end of every semester. This semester, the event will be held April 18.

Dalfonzo also let the council know ways that they could be more gender-inclusive with



Crissi Dalfonzo, director of LGBTQ Education, Outreach, and Services, met with SGC to give a presentation on the importance of using gender-inclusive language.

MEI DENNISON/THE ITHACAN

their language. Dalfonzo said it is important to listen to members of the community the language directly affects when deciding what language is offensive.

“Think about the meaning behind our words; so many words and phrases have problematic histories and undertones,” Dalfonzo said. “Be aware and listen when [the minority group] will tell you, ‘Oh, don’t say that thing anymore.’ [You may think], ‘It’s history. It doesn’t matter.’ It matters.”

Dalfonzo also provided a guide on what students can do if they misgender someone, including accepting feedback, acknowledging what the intent was and the impact it had on that person, apologizing, asking clarifying questions, making the change and moving forward.

Dalfonzo said it was important to move forward because drawing more attention to a

mistake does not resolve the situation of getting someone’s pronouns wrong.

“[When you make a scene out of getting someone’s pronouns wrong], all of a sudden you’ve made it so much about you and that person has to placate you instead of you apologizing,” Dalfonzo said.

SGC then discussed how to implement inclusive language with Dalfonzo. Sophomore Rishabh Sen, vice president of campus affairs, said it’s important for the council to be able to implement gender-inclusive language.

“Try and use more gender-inclusive language,” Sen said. “[The language is] making sure that we’re creating a space [that is] open and welcoming.”

CONTACT: JREAVES@ITHACA.EDU

COLLEGE BRIEFS

Learn how to set boundaries and beat FOMO with peer coaches

The Center of Student Success will be holding a workshop on setting boundaries and FOMO during the noon hour April 18 in the Cayuga Lake Room.

Peer success coaches will be hosting the discussion-based event and will be helping attendees prioritize daily tasks effectively and achieve a healthy work-life balance. The event will be offering lunch for participants.

Students have the chance to meet employers at Career Fair

Ithaca College's Health and Wellness Career Fair will be from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. April 18 in the Center of Health Sciences Atrium.

The event will serve as an opportunity for attendees to meet representatives from health and wellness organizations. Participants will be able to network, learn about career options and have the opportunity to learn about full-time jobs or shadowing opportunities.

Employers who will be attending the event will come from areas like Allied Health, Exercise Science, Public Health and Physicians Assistants. If students have any questions, contact jfracchia@ithaca.edu.

2024 Lavender graduation will be celebrating LGBTQ+ graduates

The Lavender Graduation will be from 6 to 8:30 p.m. April 18 in Emerson Suites. The event will celebrate the achievements of the LGBTQ+ graduating class of 2024.

Graduates will be receiving rainbow chords and honor significant supporters. Family, friends and allies are encouraged to attend.

There will also be a reception with light refreshments after the ceremony. Graduates who are graduating in Spring, Summer, Fall or Winter of 2024 are invited to attend and register for the event.

Paint tote bags and get a root beer float with Lower Quads RAs

The Lower Quads residential assistants will be hosting a "Floats N' Totes" event from 6 to 8 p.m. April 18 on the Lower Quads lawn. The outdoor event will be offering participants root beer floats on the lawn between Eastman and Bogart residential halls.

The RAs will also be celebrating the end of the academic year by offering tote bags to paint and crafts while hanging out with friends. Student participants are encouraged to RSVP before attending the event.

Celebrate AAPI heritage month with Focus Asia Month Banquet

The Focus Asia Month Banquet will be from 6 to 9 p.m. April 19 in Emerson Suites. Focus Asia Month is celebrated annually by the Ithaca College community and will be in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month.

FAM is a celebration of AAPI heritage and is a place for Asian-American students, as well as all students interested in Asian and Asian-American culture to be seen and showcase Asian excellence.

FAM will hold a showcase with various performers from Ithaca College, Cornell University and the greater Ithaca Community. Reserve a seat before attending.

Earth Day hike to Buttermilk Falls will be hosted by Nature Rx

Nature Rx will be hosting an Earth Day hike from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 20. Hikers should meet the club at the Visitor Parking Lot at Campus Entrance to learn how to get from Ithaca College's campus to Buttermilk Falls through the natural lands.

The physical benefits of hiking include improved sleep and fitness, improved concentration and improved life satisfaction and decision-making.

Students should contact the Ithaca College Nature Rx at www.icnaturerx.org for more information.

Fulbright Chapter to hold Earth Day clean-up in Ithaca parks

The Central New York Fulbright Chapter is holding an Earth Day park clean-up April 20 in parks around Ithaca, Oneonta and Syracuse to begin National Volunteer Week. In Ithaca, volunteers will meet at a downtown location and work together to clean various parks. Gloves and trash bags will be provided.

After 60 to 90 minutes of volunteer work, volunteers will join at a restaurant for coffee, snacks, fun and community. The first fourteen people to sign up and attend the events will receive a free Fulbright Association T-shirt and all attendees will be treated to food and beverages at a local establishment after the volunteer event. Volunteers can sign up using the volunteer google form.

Explore post-graduate service options through speaking panel

The Community Service Committee at Ithaca College will be hosting "Exploring Post-Grad Service Opportunities Panel and



Bombers resiliently duel with Engineers

First-year pitcher Taylor Brunn meets her teammates in the pitcher's circle as the Ithaca College Bombers celebrate a strikeout in their extra innings 5-7 defeat against the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Engineers on Friday, April 12.

JULIA HARGREAVES/THE ITHACAN

Organization Fair." Students will have an opportunity to hear from current IC faculty and staff members who worked with long-term service organizations after graduating and will be able to chat with recruiters from various volunteer organizations.

The event will be held from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. April 22 and will take place in the Clark and Klingenstein Lounges in Campus Center. Hors' d'oeuvres will be served. Organizations in the panel include AmeriCorps, Jesuit Volunteer Corps, Francis Corps, City Year and Peace Corps.

Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact Sam Elebiary at selebiary@ithaca.edu or 607-274-3310. Requests for accommodations should be made as soon as possible.

Deadline for 2024 Block 1 Fall Funding Requests due April 21

The final meeting for the Appropriations Committee for the Student Governance Council will be held April 24 and budgets for funding requests for Block 1 Fall 2024 for student organizations need to be in by April 21.

The requests can be for travel or programming for Block 1 Fall 2024. The Appropriations Committee will be taking budget requests for operational budgets for the Fall 2024 semester.

Only student organizations that have completed their Spring 2024 semester Leading @IC requirements are eligible to request Fall 2024 funding during this semester. If there are any questions, students can email sgcbusiness@ithaca.edu.

Join the Alzheimer's Mini Walk at Longview Residential Facility

The Longview Adult Residential Facility and the Ithaca College community will come together in the fight against Alzheimer's on a mini walk from 1 to 3 p.m. April 19.

Opening remarks will start at Longview's Patio Home Circle at 1:15 p.m. Participants can join for the entire walk or a portion of it. The Longview shuttle will be available for the Ithaca College community. The event is free and open to the public. Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact Bree Nash at bnash@longviewwithaca.org.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM APRIL 1 TO 7

APRIL 1

CRIMINAL TAMPERING THIRD DEGREE

LOCATION: Upper Quads
SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person took a stop sign and the officer recovered it. Patrol Officer Steven Hutchison responded.

MAKING GRAFFITI

LOCATION: Academic Quad
SUMMARY: Officer reported unknown person wrote graffiti. Patrol Officer Matthew Patire responded. This incident is a pending investigation.

APRIL 2

SCC COLLEGE REGULATIONS

LOCATION: Campus Center Quad
SUMMARY: Officer reported person flying a drone. Sergeant John Elmore provided the person a warning. The person responsible was warned for violation of the law or the

Student Conduct Code.

FIRE ALARM SMOKE INVESTIGATION

LOCATION: Terrace 12
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by smoke from an overloaded washing machine. Master Patrol Officer Robert Jones responded.

APRIL 3

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 4TH DEGREE

LOCATION: E-lot
SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person damaged walkway light. Patrol officer Matthew Patire responded. This is a pending investigation.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Garden Apartment 26
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person having an allergic reaction. The person declined medical assistance.

Sergeant Bryan Verzosa completed the investigation and the report.

APRIL 4

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT/PERSONAL INJURY

LOCATION: Y-Lot
SUMMARY: Patrol Officer Alex Hitchcock reported a three-car personal injury motor vehicle accident. One person had injuries to their neck, shoulder and hands and they were transported to the hospital by ambulance.

MAKING GRAFFITI

LOCATION: Terraces
SUMMARY: Caller reported unknown person wrote graffiti on bollard. This is a pending investigation. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa completed the investigation.

APRIL 5

SCC COLLEGE REGULATIONS

LOCATION: Landon Hall
SUMMARY: Caller reported two persons

sleeping in a lounge. Ithaca Police Officer Jack Nelson issued two people a warning. The people responsible were warned for violation of the law or the Student Conduct Code.

SCC BULLYING OR CYBER BULLYING

LOCATION: Circle Apartments Building 151
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person was spreading rumors about them and a second person reported this same person attempted to instigate an altercation. This is a pending investigation. Officer Steven Hutchison responded.

APRIL 6

HARASSMENT 2ND DEGREE

LOCATION: East Tower
SUMMARY: Caller reported person sent unwanted text messages after they were told to stop. Master Patrol Officer Robert Jones responded. This is a pending investigation.

APRIL 7

SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF ALCOHOL/DRUGS

LOCATION: Clarke Hall
SUMMARY: Caller reported an intoxicated person fell and hit their head. The person was taken into custody under the mental hygiene law and was transported to the hospital by ambulance and referred to conduct. Patrol Officer Joe Cloke responded and referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community standards.

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

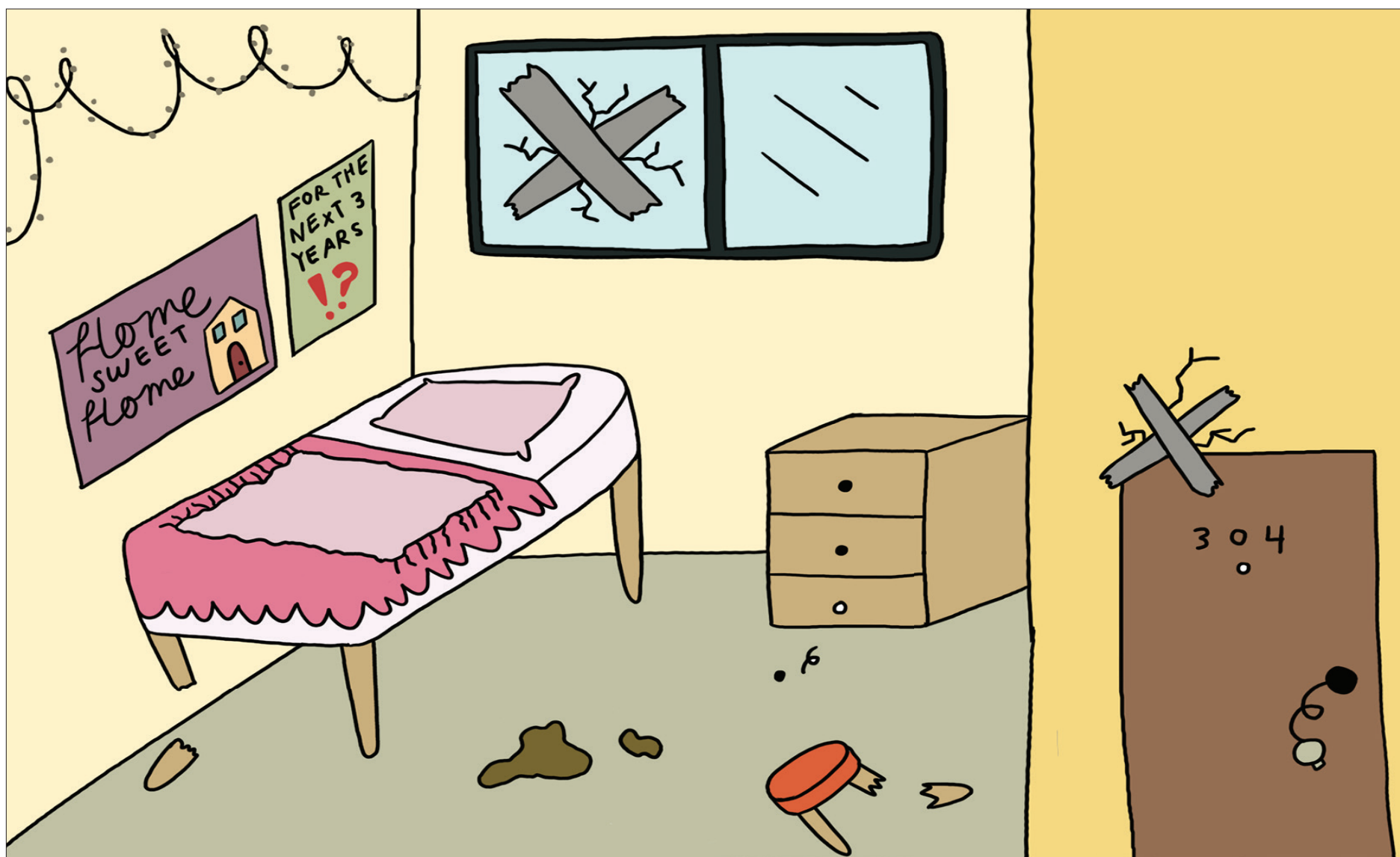


ILLUSTRATION BY MARIAN MAHASANTIPPIYA/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

Housing decisions must regard students' needs

Ithaca College prides itself on being a residential college. However, this translates to students being required to live on campus for three years before moving off campus. While some may argue that this policy fosters community, the realities of on-campus housing are less than ideal.

For many students living in dorms, the cost does not match the quality of buildings. Some residence halls are over 50 years old, with Lower Quads opening in 1963 while Towers and Terraces were built in 1965. Students have voiced concerns about bathrooms, rodents and overall poor infrastructure in residence halls. Most recently, there have been issues with laundry. Washing machines and dryers have overheated in residence halls, with clothes even catching fire in a dryer in Holmes Hall. For a standard two-person dorm room, these issues are accompanied by a \$9,160 price tag per year. This quality compared to the cost of these halls is astounding, especially considering that students have no choice but to subject themselves to these conditions for at least three years.

For upperclassmen, Gardens and Circles are the closest many students can get to off-campus living. These apartments are somewhat newer, but the limited availability of these apartments means many upperclassmen are still living in standard residence halls up through their junior year of college. This prevents students from experiencing life skills like cooking for themselves and taking care of an apartment. Furthermore, the costs of these apartments are high — a single bed in Circles costs \$13,279 per year and a bed in Gardens costs \$11,153 per year. While the Ithaca housing market is certainly not cost-friendly, finding off-campus housing allows students to tailor their search based on their own budgets.

The college should not use the argument that it is protecting students from the housing market while continuing to provide insufficient housing at unreasonably high rates. Instead, the college should listen to students' complaints about residential life by working to bolster infrastructure and find ways for students to experience off-campus living.

New billing system harms students and affects equity

The price of higher education is a cost heavy on many students' minds. At Ithaca College, the cost of tuition, room and board and other fees totals \$75,013. Because of this price, a majority of students rely on financial aid in pursuit of their degree. However, recent changes to the billing system make the college even more financially inaccessible.

Starting Aug. 15, the college will be unregistering students who have outstanding debts between \$7,000–\$10,000 that have not been paid by Aug. 10. Rather than contemplating why students are struggling to pay their bills on time, this new policy dismisses student needs, instead creating another massive financial barrier to higher education.

While this policy has the potential to affect all students, it will be especially harmful to students who grew up in lower-income households, students who identify as first-generation and students of color, increasing already-evident inequity. The college cannot claim to be a space that

advocates for diversity and inclusion while simultaneously implementing policies that uphold systemic classism and racism that are rampant in higher academia.

The number one reason students cite for dropping out of college is financial concerns, according to a CNBC article. With the new billing system in place, this issue has the potential to intensify at the college.

Students should not be forced out of their classes, their schools and their community because they cannot pay thousands of dollars prior to the semester even starting. There must be some sense of grace and support for students who are eager to learn, regardless of their financial situation.

The financial inaccessibility of higher education perpetuates stark inequities in our society. If the college truly wants to be a "place of progress" — a school that prioritizes community and inclusion — then it must revise the billing system to be more understanding of students' financial situations.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Submitted by Michael A Pagliarulo, Emeritus Professor, Department of Physical Therapy

I could not agree more with the commentary by Nathan Zakim in the April 11th issue of the online version of *The Ithacan* regarding the implication of the "bomber" college mascot. Although I live in Portland, Oregon, I remain engaged and support Ithaca College after retiring in 2012 having served on the faculty in the physical therapy department for 32 years. My son is a 2002 graduate from the Park School of Communication, so I am also aware of the perspectives of alumni. My concern is the message the term "bomber" conveys, especially when there is global turmoil involving destructive bombs. I experienced a clear example of this a few years ago when there was global conflict.

I was exercising in a local gym wearing a t-shirt with the college's logo and bomber term. An individual approached me and inquired if that represented institutional support for the conflict. I said No and explained that it was the mascot of the institution. That was the last time I wore that shirt in public. At the gym, I now proudly wear a t-shirt with the college's logo and the statement, ITHACA COLLEGE Department of Physical Therapy. I welcome inquiries that occur regarding the College and program, not commonly known on the West Coast.

Another example is a photo in the January 25, 2024 issue of online version *The Ithacan* I received that accompanied a

question in the Trivia section. The question was "In 2010 when Ithaca College began its mascot search, what was one of the potential mascots?" The photo portrayed a student-athlete with a football jersey about to throw a torpedo looking bomb with the college's logo and BOMBERS printed on the side of the bomb. Is that the image we should display for the Ithaca College community, especially when there is massive violence across the globe?

I fully understand the nature of strength in athletic competition and complexity in changing the mascot, but I support an analysis of the appropriateness of the current mascot and consideration of one without the notion of violence.

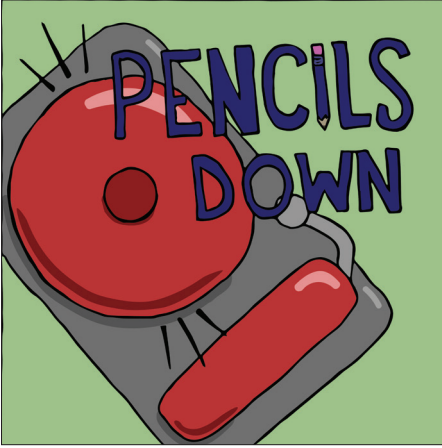


ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN

Students face intense stress

BY GABE HENDERSHOT

COLUMNIST

College is an advantageous time for many young adults because there are so many academic, social and career opportunities available to them. This is a sentiment echoed constantly by parents and, for the most part, it is true. It's the messaging hidden behind statements like this that causes a problem.

"Academic validation" is a term thrown around quite a bit. For kids who received praise at a young age within the classroom, it can become a significant part of their self-image. This relationship is cyclical; the more a student is praised for good academic performance, the more effort and time they will put into their studies to continue receiving that praise. When academics become the only important thing, any mistake a student makes can feel catastrophic.

Not only does this early dependence on academic validation skew how a student may view themselves, so does the messaging they receive. So much of the information and opinions that young academics are exposed to are focused on the negative, systemic issues of their time. A knowledge and level of compassion for current events is an important part of living on this earth, but it is easy to become overwhelmed by it.

A dependence on academic validation mixed with the impending doom of the future puts immense pressure on many attending colleges and universities across the country. There is a desire to do everything you can during your education to maximize the benefits; a sense that this is the only opportunity to create a better life. All of this is because there is so much pressure from outside forces to do as much as possible.

There are a couple of flaws in trying to do everything all the time. The first is that it is plainly unrealistic. Additionally, in an attempt to be involved in as many areas as possible, students often begin to fall short. When this happens, as a result of over-extending yourself, a student's self-image may be damaged by these shortcomings. If you place a significant portion of your self-worth on academics, you will struggle to show yourself grace when you start to lose out on all that validation. One of the most valuable parts of a college education is self-awareness. Learning how much they are capable of doing, and doing well, is information that will help students long into their futures. It is something we can only learn through trial and error. Still, there is something deeper and more important here.

We all strive to lead lives that make us feel happy and content. Contentment, however, lives inside us. External validation, academic or otherwise, can only serve to supplement our internal well-being. We must work hard to create our own happiness and only use external validation as a bonus. There will not always be people around you telling you that you are doing things right. Success cannot be found academically, socially or in your career without a solid balance between all these things and an innate compassion and understanding for yourself.

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.

College is more than just academics

BY CAMILLE BROCK

SENIOR

On one Friday every month, I host late-night programming with my student organization, IC After Dark. ICAD was formed in 2001 to create late-night events on Ithaca College's campus. It has since stayed true to that original mission and continues to be one of a few main student organizations that function to serve the need of large-scale programming for all students. Through my involvement, I have seen the importance of spaces like IC After Dark events. It's spaces like this that promote inclusion and foster safe, fun environments for any student.

Oftentimes when one thinks about higher education, they think about the experiences students have inside the classroom. Many individuals don't think about how college extends far beyond a student's academics. It's the events and groups they are a part of or the volunteering they do in the community. It's activities like these where students often discover their passions, develop crucial life skills and form lasting connections and friendships. It's important that higher education institutions promote these spaces and opportunities that play a crucial role in shaping one's holistic college journey. It's also important that students recognize the importance of this and take part in things they may be passionate about or explore new opportunities they may have just discovered.

Additionally, these spaces and opportunities outside the classroom offer invaluable experiential learning experiences that complement a student's formal education. Extracurriculars, internships, student events, study abroad opportunities and more expand perspectives and



Senior Camille Brock writes about her experience in IC After Dark and emphasizes the importance of extracurricular programming on college campuses.

AMINATTA IMRANA JALLOW/THE ITHACAN

truly cultivate a deeper understanding of what students may be passionate about.

Spaces and opportunities for individuals outside of academics also serve as hubs for social interaction and community building. In my time with ICAD and by working in the Office of Student Engagement, I have seen how events and student organizations foster a sense of belonging. ICAD hosts a Casino Night each fall and I have seen how this is a space where any student can connect with peers, laugh, gamble fake money and form meaningful relationships of all kinds. With Ithaca College being a primarily residential institution, these spaces become increasingly crucial to fostering a vibrant cam-

pus culture and promoting social inclusion.

Ithaca College needs to continue to commit itself to experiences, spaces and offices that support students outside of the classroom as much as they can. Investing in and prioritizing these avenues is crucial for ensuring that every student receives an enriching four years on South Hill. The skills students will gain and the opportunities they get to be a part of will serve them well when their college experience comes to a close.

Camille Brock (she/her) is a senior communication management and design major. Contact her at cbrock@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

Cinemapolis is a space for community

BY MATT MINTON

SENIOR WRITER

When I first stepped foot into Cinemapolis as an introverted first-year student struggling to find my place, I immediately felt a sense of belonging within Ithaca's independent film scene. From greeting the smiling, dedicated faces at the box office to deciding what seasoning I wanted on my popcorn, I knew it would be just the first trip of many throughout my college years.

Going to Cinemapolis quickly became a weekly tradition, making me realize how beautiful, strange and ultimately rewarding it can be to share a piece of media with passionate friends. Everything from the violent body horror in "Titane" to the coming-of-age story explored in "The Worst Person in the World" became vital moments in my college journey.

In the confusing, often overwhelming process that is moving to college, I was lucky enough to find a place I could truly call home. Having a place like Cinemapolis such a short drive away is an extraordinarily rare opportunity that more people should take advantage of during their college years, especially film students looking to go into the industry

themselves one day.

In the aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic, it's increasingly important to support locally owned theaters rather than big chain houses since moviegoing tastes have completely changed with streaming. We've seen a decrease in public spaces where people can come together and enjoy each other's company.

In addition to providing an outlet to see hard-to-find arthouse films, places like Cinemapolis create an environment for people to share new experiences together. It is the kind of environment where the staff recognize you by name and have a genuine curiosity about what movie you want to see. Hearing audience members discuss what they have just seen and contemplating what it meant is something that you don't always get at big chain theaters.

While Cinemapolis is known to show some of the biggest awards contenders of any given year around the holidays, they began playing more mainstream films — without sacrificing their stellar indie line-ups — in May 2023. And beyond new releases, the theater also occasionally offers hand-picked line-ups. For example, this past December, the theater played staff picks to celebrate the holiday season.



Senior Matt Minton writes about the importance of local theaters, like Cinemapolis, in fostering a sense of community.

COLE JACKSON/THE ITHACAN

Cinemapolis makes true efforts to reach and accommodate as many audiences as possible, making moviegoing more accessible.

Beyond going to Cinemapolis specifically, my hope is that more people will go out of their comfort zone and take a chance on new kinds of films. Films that maybe they haven't heard of before, or with actors that they aren't immediately familiar with. I understand how difficult it can be as college students to make the time to go see a movie. But places like Cinemapolis and Cornell Cinema, too, are vital to our collective culture.

Looking back over my past three years at Ithaca, whether I

was having a rough day or just feeling overwhelmed and depressed about the state of the world, Cinemapolis was always there for me. I know it can provide that feeling for so many other people too. While I may never get my popcorn order down, I know I can always rely on a trip to the theater when I need it. For my money, you can't go wrong with any of the popcorn options though.

Matt Minton (they/them) is a senior writing for film, television and emerging media major. Contact them at mminton@ithaca.edu.

All voices to
be heard at
New Voices
Festival



The New Voices Festival is set to take place from April 24 to 26, hosted by Ithaca College for over 10 years, planned and coordinated by the writing department.

MARI KODAMA/THE ITHACAN

BY JACQUELYN REAVES
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Seven newly published authors will read excerpts of their stories at Buffalo Street Books on April 24. This is a part of the Ithaca College writing department's annual New Voices Festival, which has been occurring for over 10 years. The festival is being held from April 24–26 and places an emphasis on platforming women and writers of color.

The festival was founded in 2013 by Chris Holmes, associate professor and chair of the English Department, and Eleanor Henderson, a professor in Department of Writing, with the intention of giving a platform to new authors and allowing students to interact with authors personally.

Every part of the festival, from the authors chosen to the panel discussions being hosted, has been curated by a group of students who have spent the whole semester planning the event. The festival allows students to engage with authors on a personal level through attending live readings, panels about the writers' intersectional

identities and how that relates to their work.

Holmes said that with the evolution of the event, he saw the importance of having diverse authors, as it encouraged conversation between groups, especially when the field they work in does not cater to them. He said the festival in 2023 showed him how important representation is for students who may not see people who share their identities in the career they pursue.

"Last year's festival ended up being all women and majority women of color," Holmes said. "They immediately had a bond that everyone could feel. They enjoyed each other so much. They felt so comfortable with each other, and they were able to have dialogues about things that are true to people who have been kept out, gate kept out of some of the big spaces in the literary world."

The festival this year has a myriad of authors who identify as women of color — authors like Claire Jiménez, whose stories reflect the life she has led as a Puerto Rican woman who grew up in New York City. Holmes said that with each year, the

festival continues to think about platforming diverse authors.

The invited authors are paired with a student-guide who has the responsibility of helping the author they are matched with find where they need to go or answer any questions they have about the event. Student-guides study the works of the authors chosen and have to present an introduction on the author they choose.

Senior Emily Trage, one of the student directors who worked on this year's festival, said that being heavily involved in the planning of the festival and studying the authors' published work gave her the rare opportunity to connect with an author on a personal level.

"The more established an author gets in the literary world, the harder it is to access them, the harder it is to make a personal connection with them," Trage said. "They've just gone through the experience of putting their work out there for the first time. It's really important for students to be able to see what that's like [and] ask questions to connect with these authors and their experiences."

Holmes is still the faculty director of the festival. He said that when creating the festival with Henderson they wanted the festival to be different each year, evolving to adapt to what students care about. The writers are chosen by the student directors, meaning that each work has a special connection to the students who have been studying it. This year, there will be a staged reading of the play "I'm Gonna Marry You Tobey Maguire" written by Samantha Hurley '18 in the Hoerner Theater.

"We wanted it to be different from other college-based literary festivals," Holmes said. "The way to make it truly an Ithaca College event was to make it something that individual groups of students were responsible for every year."

Holmes said the festival changing based on the students who run it not only helps maintain interest with the event, but allows writers to see the impact that their work has on the community.

"[The event] would change and grow and evolve based on student interest," Holmes said. "Getting students involved makes the writers like it a lot more because they're excited that students are reading and know a lot about their work."

Jacob White, associate professor in the Department of Writing and faculty director of the festival, said he was honored at the amount of effort students put into knowing his work and managing the event.

"In 2015, I was a new voice author," White said. "It was really touching to see from that perspective how much care and preparation the students put into hosting the writers. [It] was super fun. I was fairly new to the Ithaca community and I got to give readings, engage in panel discussions and party with the other six writers at the time who were visiting."

Erica Berry, one of the authors featured in the festival this year for her book "Wolfish," said that creating productive conversation around careers in a creative industry is important, especially when pursuing a career in writing.

This insight is valuable for students involved with the festival, as there are no required majors to become a student director. The student directors this year are Trage, senior writing major April Morales and junior English major Riley Rhoder.

Berry said that when she was growing up she thought that being an author was not a viable career for someone who did not already have wealth.

"I did not know anyone who was an author," Berry said. "I didn't see it really as a career path. The people that I did know doing it

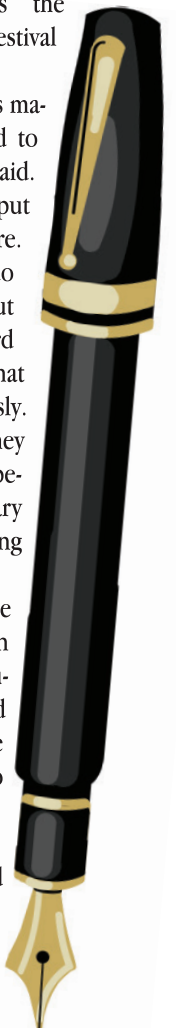
were married to someone who was really rich. There is no one path to being an author and what students will hear at the New Voices Festival is that each of us has taken different routes to make creative work [or] paid work [and sometimes] those things are the same."

First-year student Mina Jones, when hearing about the festival, said she appreciated the opportunities the New Voices Festival gives students.

"As a liberal arts major, it can be hard to network," Jones said. "You have to really put yourself out there. Even when you do put yourself out there, it can be hard to find people that take you seriously. ... It's great that they have a festival specifically for literary arts because writing is important."

Although the festival starts on April 24, the student-guides and their authors have already spoken to help prepare the authors for the festival. Trage said that as a student director, there is a build-up of anticipation for meeting the authors because of how long they have been studying their work.

"We've spent all semester studying their work and geeking out over these books together," Trage said. "To finally be able to connect with them as people as well, is a really fulfilling experience."



Senior Emily Trage, junior Riley Rhoder and senior April Morales are student directors of this year's New Voices Festival at Ithaca College.

MARI KODAMA/THE ITHACAN

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Park Promotions plans its very first Park Convention

BY NOA RAN-RESSLER
INVESTIGATIVE EDITOR

A new exhibition experience is coming to Ithaca College. The Park Convention, hosted by Park Promotions, will showcase student work from across the Roy H. Park School of Communications' 10 majors and nine minors. The inaugural Park Convention will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. April 19 on the third floor of Park Hall.

Park Promotions Manager Mickie Quinn said the idea for the structure of the convention came from a similar event at the The School of Music, Theatre, and Dance.

"[Students] were telling us about this thing that Dillingham does," Quinn said. "It's like they're doing a science fair where students get to exhibit things they're working on and really get a chance to speak passionately about these projects. They said Park should do something like that. ... From there, the idea started to grow."

Junior Julia Freitor, a member of Park Promotions, is the team lead for the convention. She said there are majors, minors, extra-curriculars and projects at the Park School of which many students are not aware.

"Our students are complaining that we don't know what the other people do," Freitor said. "We all do our own separate thing. ... So [we] took that insight and wanted to make an event that would bridge that gap."

Freitor said the convention will

not only provide a space for students to exhibit their work beyond the classroom, but will also give students a chance to get feedback about their work from faculty, staff and other students.

"It just feels wrong to do all this work for so long for a semester-long project and then only present it to your class for a grade," Freitor said. "I feel like these are things that we're learning and we should be proud to share them with other people."

Senior Kaylee Maietta, one of Park Promotions' project managers who is working on the convention team, said the goal of the convention is to share projects beyond isolated film screenings and end-of-year showings.

"I think [the convention] has a lot of potential to really foster a sense of togetherness," Maietta said. "A lot of times there's not a lot of overlap between each major. ... We really want to just promote all of the different ideas and philosophies of Park and really let people come together and see things that they might not see in other majors."

Quinn said preparation included getting the idea approved by Dean Amy Falkner, setting up applications for students to participate, promoting to all the majors to ensure diversity among submissions, and planning the dates and location.

"Once all of those elements are together — what's being presented, how it's being presented, all the details — we need to put all of that together," Quinn said. "We'll make sure that people show up and it's



Juniors Jaime von Bartheld and Julia Freitor, first-year students Nicki Meskos and Gabby Patino, and senior Kaylee Maietta during one of their planning meetings for The Park Convention.

NOA RAN-RESSLER/THE ITHACAN

successful and then we'll have [the] media there to make sure it's documented and covered. Also, the after: sending thank you notes to everyone."

Senior Olivia Celenza said via email that she will be presenting her musical "Arkhamites" — which she wrote with junior Sam Würdemann — at the Park Convention. She said it is a creative endeavor that she is proud of and wants to share it with others.

"I was able to grow as a creator and a collaborator as well as find a family that has touched my heart

forever," Celenza said via email. "That's why it's a no-brainer to showcase, because everyone involved gave everything they had to us, and I will always be grateful."

Quinn said that once the convention is established, the opportunities to share ideas and projects can expand beyond poster boards.

"How we anticipate this growing is needing to do this in the Emerson Suites and to make it eventually grow to where there are speakers and students can hold panel discussions about different

topics," Quinn said. "It's really Park student-driven on Park content."

Freitor said the applications have been impressive and she is excited to see how everyone presents their projects.

"It's been so cool to see what people work on," Freitor said. "We're breaking down the stigma floors of Park, bridging together the gap. Never after this will there be a question of what does this major do? We should — we will — know."

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KATALYST K-Pop sparkles with rhythm and style

BY MARIA-ANGELICA CHRISTAKIS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

An electrifying atmosphere took over the stage as all 17 members of KATALYST K-Pop took part in their opening number, "Bouncy (K-Hot Chili Peppers)" by boy group ATEEZ. Even for those who weren't devoted K-pop fans, KATALYST was able to capture the audience's attention with their lively production and eye-catching performances.

On April 12, KATALYST K-Pop set out their showcase, "OUR WORLD EP. 2: BANDIT," in Emerson Suites, featuring 19 vibrant dance numbers. Joined by IC's Tap Club, Pulse Hip-Hop, Ground Up Crew and Cornell's Azero, there were 23 performances for the audience to enjoy. Just like any other K-pop concert, the crowd was given blue light sticks to express their excitement. Interactive mini-games from the MC's and free Korean snacks were provided to highlight the experience.

The atmosphere of a K-pop performance is like no other, especially with a mixture of different K-pop groups in one showcase. With songs and choreography from famous groups like LE SSERAFIM, BTS, TWICE and TXT, there was a wide range of styles within the genre for people to enjoy. Their set list order was well crafted, from some hip-hop pieces joined with more lyrical numbers, it flowed throughout the show.

President and senior Cal Pavelle said this is their first showcase with KATALYST because of COVID-19, taking a gap year and studying abroad; they were finally able to end their time in KATALYST with a bang. It can be difficult to construct a showcase, but the end result showed their teamwork and collaboration paid off.

"The planning was asking a lot of the other members who have done it before, advice on what they did last year," Pavelle said. "Overall, the process has gone pretty well. It's not gonna be without stress, that's impossible. I think, overall, we handled it very nicely as a team and I'm really proud of how far we've come."

As for the showcase's theme last year of "OUR_WORLD" by boy group SEVENTEEN, this year KATALYST brought the same title back, but to a whole new level. Pavelle said that while they may share the same name, this year brought an entirely new aesthetic.

"We wanted to have the theme be centered around the group number; last year our theme was kind of more cutesy and fun," Pavelle said. "We kind of wanted to switch it up. Since a lot of people in the group really like ATEEZ, it would be a really fun, hype opening number for our theme."

It takes another level of dedication to perform these intense K-pop choreographies, especially back to back during the showcase. First-year student Salem Szalay said the commitment is rooted in the team's group effort.

"A lot of K-pop in particular functions in the group being able to trust each other," Szalay says. "It takes that level of trust and community to keep the team going and I think that has been my favorite part of the experience."

KATALYST is heavily supported by their alumni, five of whom came back to join their showcase and even helped with planning. They were also given the opportunity to teach and perform their own number.

Alumni and former e-board member, Gaby Shapiro '23, said that with her knowledge from past experiences with the group,



KATALYST K-Pop had their showcase titled "OUR WORLD EP.2: BANDIT" on April 12 in Emerson Suites, featuring 19 different dance numbers of the 23 that evening.

MARIA-ANGELICA CHRISTAKIS/THE ITHACAN

she was able to guide the current e-board. Shapiro was not only working toward planning, but advocating for expressing interests and crushing the K-pop stigma.

"When you're in a certain fandom space, whether you're crazy about it or not, people still judge you for it," Shapiro said. "It meant a lot to me to be surrounded by people who share the same taste and they're all just genuinely really great people, they are kind of like a family to me."

First-year student Gabby Patino said she came to the show because her friend was a K-pop fanatic and was unsure of what the show had in store for her.

"As someone who doesn't really know anything about K-pop outside of the main-

stream, I thought it was really cool seeing the intricacy of the dances and how dedicated all the members were," Patino said. "I could tell they were all really passionate about it and it's cool that there's a group on campus where they can bond over their shared interest."

Sophomore Elizabeth David said she joined KATALYST her first year after she developed an interest for K-pop in high school, which drove her to audition for KATALYST.

"At first it was a way to continue to dance in college, but I've come to love this community; they are so much fun to be around. There is no one else I'd rather gush to K-pop about — I love them," David said.

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Maggie Rogers ensures that she's not forgotten

ALBUM REVIEW: "Don't Forget Me" Debay Sounds LLC



BY SYD PIERRE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Maggie Rogers goes back to her past, both lyrically and sonically, with the release of her third studio album, "Don't Forget Me."

The brief, 35-minute, 10-track album was released April 12, following her 2022 album "Surrender" and 2019 album "Heard It In A Past Life." Rogers, arguably most known for getting "discovered" by Pharrell Williams when she was a student at New York University, said she wrote "Don't Forget Me" over five days.

Opening with "It Was Coming All Along," Rogers starts in the present but is wary of the future. Like a majority of the tracks on the album, she sings about a relationship that's met its end in one way or another. In the second verse, there's a hint to Rogers' other life — a 2022 graduate of the Harvard Divinity School with a Master of Religion and Public Life degree — as she adds, "I know I might sound existential ... But I swear there's some potential / In the actuality." A backing track of plenty of reverb adds a freshness and leaves the track ending on a hopeful note, despite Rogers' hesitations about the future.

"Drunk" and "On & On & On" have a late '80s, early '90s vibe to them, with funky beats and an edge reminiscent of Alanis Morissette or Natalie Merchant. Both

feel in line with her faster paced, rock-influenced "Surrender." "On & On & On" in particular seems to stale a little fast, the repetition of it going, well, on and on and on.

Another track that falls flat is "Never Going Home," a loose, country-influenced number (yes, there is a reference to "those old-heeled boots") when Rogers reflects on why she ended a relationship. Some of the country influence could be attributed to Ian Fitchuk, songwriter and producer who collaborated with Rogers on "Don't Forget Me" and who also worked with Kacey Musgraves on "Deeper Well." Nevertheless, the repetition is overdone and while twangy, sonically, there's too much similarity to the lead single.

"The Kill" is one of the strongest tracks on the album as Rogers reflects on that past relationship, lyrics on a bouncing rhythm. By the time she gets to the bridge, Rogers' tempered down rage leaks through her vocals, a mellowed version of what listeners heard on "Surrender." It's a windows-down-in-the-car type of song with its buzzy baseline and push and pull lyrics.

There's an early 2000s sound to "If Now Was Then," Rogers with a restless energy as she voices what she wishes she would do if she could make her decisions over again, once again slipping into her past to reflect on what led her to



Maggie Rogers released her newest album, "Don't Forget Me," on April 12, featuring a personal reflection of her past, present and the future that is held in store for her, for better or worse.

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the present day.

"I Still Do" and "All The Same" bring listeners back to Rogers' first album, pairing the soft, scaled-down acoustics of a piano or a guitar with Rogers' wistful, wishful lyrics. There's no belting in these ballads, but Rogers' packs plenty of emotion within her voice and words. While reminiscent of her earlier works, there's a more depth behind

these two, a sense that Rogers has reached the end of her reflection and is turning a chapter — the same idea seen sonically throughout "Don't Forget Me."

Throughout the album, there's a blend of old and new, of songs that have a springtime freshness to them followed by gritty, funky tracks for fast paced nights, a trip to the past for a moment of relief

in the present. As she settles into her new chapter of sound, Rogers does the same with herself, making peace with her past while winding down her journey of reflection on a confident note, a reminder that she's been there all along and everything she's learned in the past will find its way into her future.

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'Civil War' leaves much unexplored and unclear

MOVIE REVIEW: "CIVIL WAR" A24



BY MATT MINTON
SENIOR WRITER

In director Alex Garland's raging, uneasy portrait of the United States' near future in "Civil War," the finite details of what issues people are fighting for are intentionally left unclear and unexplored.

Instead, Garland anchors the audience in the perspective of four photojournalists — all varying in age, experience and expertise. After Lee (Kirsten Dunst) decides to travel to the nation's capitol to interview the U.S. president (Nick Offerman) alongside Joel (Wagner Moura) and Sammy (Stephen McKinley Henderson); up-and-coming journalist Jessie (Cailee Spaeny) joins their efforts with the goal of kick-starting her career as a war photographer.

The areas where "Civil War" shines include its taut exploration of the brave, courageous work of journalists while also tiptoeing into situations where their work borders on exploitation and media sensationalism. One of Garland's most brilliant devices is intercutting the journalists' photographs during some of the film's most tense moments. Additionally, the sound completely cuts out, leaving the simple snap of the photograph to tell the whole story.

In one particularly effective scene at a gas station, Jessie finds herself feeling so uneasy that she forgets to take a picture of the two hung-up bodies in front of her. This serves as a catalyst for the driving moral question presented not only to Jessie, but the audience at large: How can somebody capturing the

unspeakable evils of society remain passive? Where is the line drawn?

As compelling as these questions are, Garland's unwillingness to engage with any basic sort of worldbuilding to juxtapose what these photojournalists are attempting to "stay neutral from" leaves the film feeling general and vague despite some incredible setpieces throughout. It goes beyond the smaller details that people have laughed about online, like the notion that Texas and California could ever join forces.

The emotional plight that these journalists endure is clear-cut, but we never quite understand what drives them to do this work, regardless of the time the audience spends alongside them. The issue is less that the film isn't explicitly exploring political ideology and more that Garland doesn't do the foundational work to make this world feel like a close reality to our current political climate. For a director who has built his career largely with groundbreaking shatterings of reality, like the excellent "Ex Machina" and "Annihilation," it's unfortunate that it could not carry through here.

Where the film shows no faults is the formidable performances across the entire cast. After her career-breakout performance in "Priscilla," Spaeny showcases her versatility in a role asking her to be an active listener while also slowly paving her own way. Dunst is just as excellent as always, while Jesse Plemons once again proves that he can make a real impact even with the briefest roles.

The terrific performances combined with the technical elements at play make "Civil



War" well worth a watch. It wouldn't be a stretch to say that Garland has crafted some of the most impressive moments of his career here. The entire third act sequence set in D.C. is a never-ending assortment of brilliantly staged escalations and overhead shots depicting a world — a nation — collapsing in on itself. Most importantly, what Garland has to say about the role that the media plays during times of war and conflict leaves much to think about and ponder.

But with Garland's middling and repetitive "Men" and now his latest effort never fully coming together, perhaps having a different writer with a stronger perspective could help. Garland has openly spoken about taking a temporary break from directing to focus more on screenwriting. Hopefully, it won't be long before we see a true return to form for the brilliant filmmaker.

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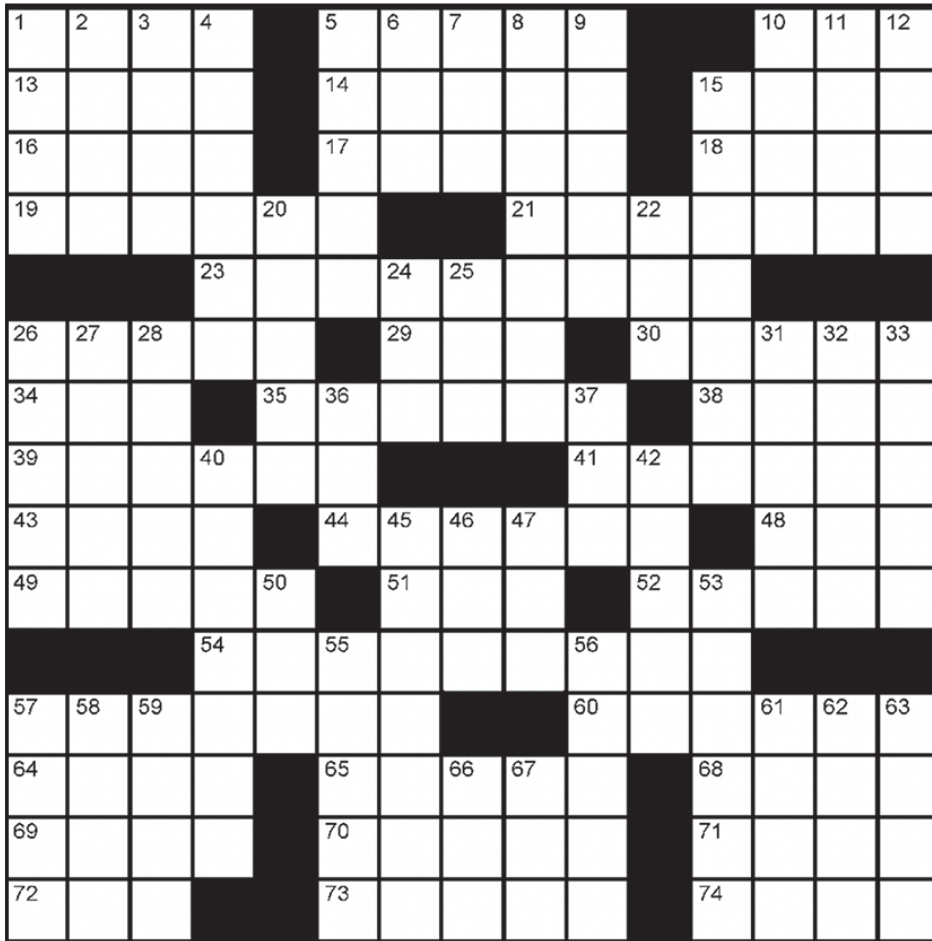
DIVERSIONS

THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024

12

crossword

By Quill Driver Books



ACROSS

- 1 Winslet or Beckinsale
- 5 Flattened bottle
- 10 Lifesaving procedure, for short
- 13 "How sweet --!"
- 14 Above the horizon
- 15 -- dieu
- 16 Walk
- 17 Bee Gees' "Stayin' --"
- 18 Indy 500, e.g.
- 19 Horse-drawn carriage
- 21 Outlawed
- 23 Set up
- 26 -- Rica
- 29 Totality
- 30 "-- Marnier"
- 34 "Born in the --"
- 35 Horse's gait
- 38 Bucks
- 39 Fasteners
- 41 Shrewd
- 43 Trickle through
- 44 Predicament
- 48 Fish eggs
- 49 "To -- human..."

- 51 Novelist -- Levin
- 52 Far from one another
- 54 Unappreciated
- 57 Getting -- fast
- 60 Follow secretly
- 64 -- vera
- 65 Evaluates
- 68 Online thumbs-up
- 69 Saucy
- 70 Spry
- 71 Barnyard mom
- 72 Boy
- 73 Appears to be
- 74 Smack

- 22 "-- Miserables"
- 24 Hosiery shade
- 25 Keyboard key
- 26 Malediction
- 27 Willow rod
- 28 Coupon clipper
- 31 Actress -- Dern
- 32 Furrier John Jacob --
- 33 Page
- 36 Deadly snake
- 37 Stadium cheer
- 40 Descriptive name
- 42 Hide
- 45 Ancestry
- 46 Rankle

- 47 Gadot of "Wonder Woman"
- 50 "Murder -- Wrote"
- 53 OT book
- 55 Wall hanging
- 56 Curves
- 57 Snoozes
- 58 Margarine
- 59 Damaged from use
- 61 Soap brand
- 62 Gumbo vegetable
- 63 Cry
- 66 Cravat
- 67 Sturdy tree

last issue's crossword answers

C	L	O	D	F	R	A	M	E	E	C	R	U	
H	E	R	O	L	U	R	I	D	M	O	O	R	
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sudoku

easy

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very easy

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

medium

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

Answers to last issue's sudoku:

STAFF BATTLES CHANGES IN STRENGTH PROGRAM

BY JESS MOSKOWITZ
STAFF WRITER

In February, Ithaca College announced that longtime head coach of strength and conditioning, Vic Brown, announced his resignation from the department. To fill the void, a young group of strength and conditioning coaches and graduate assistants have fought to maintain stability through continuing change.

After 10 years of service at Ithaca College, Brown said he wished to be closer to his family. Following Brown's departure, Ben Fleet, who served as the assistant strength and conditioning coach since August 2022, assumed the interim head position. Fleet said he sees this new role as an opportunity to continue to build on Brown's legacy, and is working to try and maintain a high standard for the program.

"Coach Brown was an incredible and still is an incredible mentor for me," Fleet said. "And Vic did a great job of leaving this program in a really good spot, where I try to continue that vision of success."

Madison Mulligan, assistant coach of the women's lacrosse team and member of the strength and conditioning team, said she found out Brown was leaving when the rest of the campus community did but feels as though he left the program in good shape.

"I found out just as everybody else did, but I feel as though Vic did a really good job of making sure that everything was set to go before he left," Mulligan said. "Scheduling and programming wise, he pretty much left us with a plan for the rest of the year, so it's been pretty smooth."

The program operates with the help of a team of graduate assistants who work to create and manage strength and conditioning plans for athletes across the Ithaca College campus. Mulligan said the responsibility has shifted since Brown's departure and has impacted the grad assistants.

"Two of the graduate assistants from last semester left, so there has definitely been a lot more hours — a lot more teams to cover," Mulligan said. "I would definitely say it's a beneficial thing. ... It's a good chance for people to have to fill roles with a little bit more responsibility and get more experience."

Will McGennis, a first-year graduate student who works primarily with men's lacrosse, said that while this transition period has led to the team being short-staffed, it has not hindered the ability to provide for the student-athletes.

"In addition to Vic, our staff really got reduced by three to five people here at IC," McGennis said. "But our team remains passionate, and I think the athletes have really experienced no loss, so to speak, in attention toward them and their teams. Myself and the other graduate assistants, Fleet and our interns do a fantastic job every day that we're in the weight room, providing an atmosphere that

allows everyone to succeed — where everyone's taken care of."

Fleet said that making sure the graduate assistants are serving the campus athletic community with transparency is important.

"I can't be in two places at once, so I can't see everything that [grad assistants are] doing all the time, but we meet every single week, meeting often and we meet for a long time, and we talk about what they're doing with their teams; what's going well, what isn't going well; what needs adjustments," Fleet said. "At the end of the day, I have a good communication line with everybody involved."

Cristea Park, a fifth-year member of the golf team, said she recognizes and appreciates the way Fleet has gone about this transition while also noting the transition has led to difficulties in familiarity with staff and assurance.

"I think Fleet is doing a great job and trying his best, but a lot of us really liked Vic, and all of us had so much respect for him," Park said. "Mentally, I really trusted him, and so I feel like transitioning into a period without him is slightly difficult."

Fleet said this emphasis on making sure the teams are still provided with equitable time and resources are of top importance as he navigates this sudden transition period.

"At the end of the day, I want everybody on every single team to get exactly what they need," Fleet said. "I'm going to do everything in my power to be equitable and give [the athletes] the support that they want and that they deserve."

One way Fleet intends to prioritize the athletes is by working to establish a culture of trust within the strength and conditioning program. Fleet said that creating trust, not only between himself and the athletes, but solidifying the trust between him and the graduate assistants is a priority for him.

"To keep building that trust every single day that we're here the past two semesters, it has been very helpful and very reassuring for me to know that I can lean on them, and they can do a great job for our athletes," Fleet said. "Everything that they apply to their programs comes through me, and I have to see it before, you know, they go — so we can really build that trust and I can have a good understanding of what they're doing."

Moving forward, Fleet is confident in the program he is working to create,



The Ithaca College strength and conditioning program has gotten younger and smaller since the departure of head coach Vic Brown. In the interim, graduate students have taken a bigger role.

GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN

building off of the work of Brown. He said he is looking forward to expanding the team as soon as possible, waiting on the hiring process from Ithaca College administration.

"They are in the search of hiring a new person to get on staff, so you know, when that happens, we're gonna be in such a phenomenal spot, and we are set up for success moving forward," Fleet said.

Susan Bassett '79, director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Campus Recreation, did not respond to a request for comment on the search.

McGennis said he values Fleet's openness and ability to help create the best opportunities possible.

"We bounce ideas off each other, and there's just a sense of trust and equality there that helps us be the best we can," McGennis said.

First-year tennis player Kendall Curley said she has had a strong experience with the strength and conditioning team thus far.

"The grad students are always there to support, they are passionate and are very good at what they do," Curley said. "Taylor Volmrich especially helped me — as well as the tennis team — during our first semester. They would guide us on how to properly do exercises and push us to do our best."

Volmrich is a fifth-year athlete on the rowing team and has worked as an intern and a grad assistant in the strength and conditioning department. One challenge Volmrich found throughout this transition process is making sure that the people in the weight room are really wanting to be there and to help.

"For our grad assistants, half are mental performance concentration students," Volmrich said. "They're not strength and conditioning focused, and it's a little bit unsure with their experiences, if

they actually want to be there in the weight room. So I think working to make sure they can really get people that are wanting and prepared to go into the weight room is important."

Volmrich said that highlighting the opportunities in the internship program could help aid the transition. Volmrich said that shining more light on the program will lead to more ready and able people to help out with the strength and conditioning staff.

"In the internship program, you're getting a lot of trust, experience and guided learning to develop your skills," Volmrich said. "I think that would make it a little bit easier to have more students on the ground."

Sports Editor Billy Wood contributed reporting to this story.

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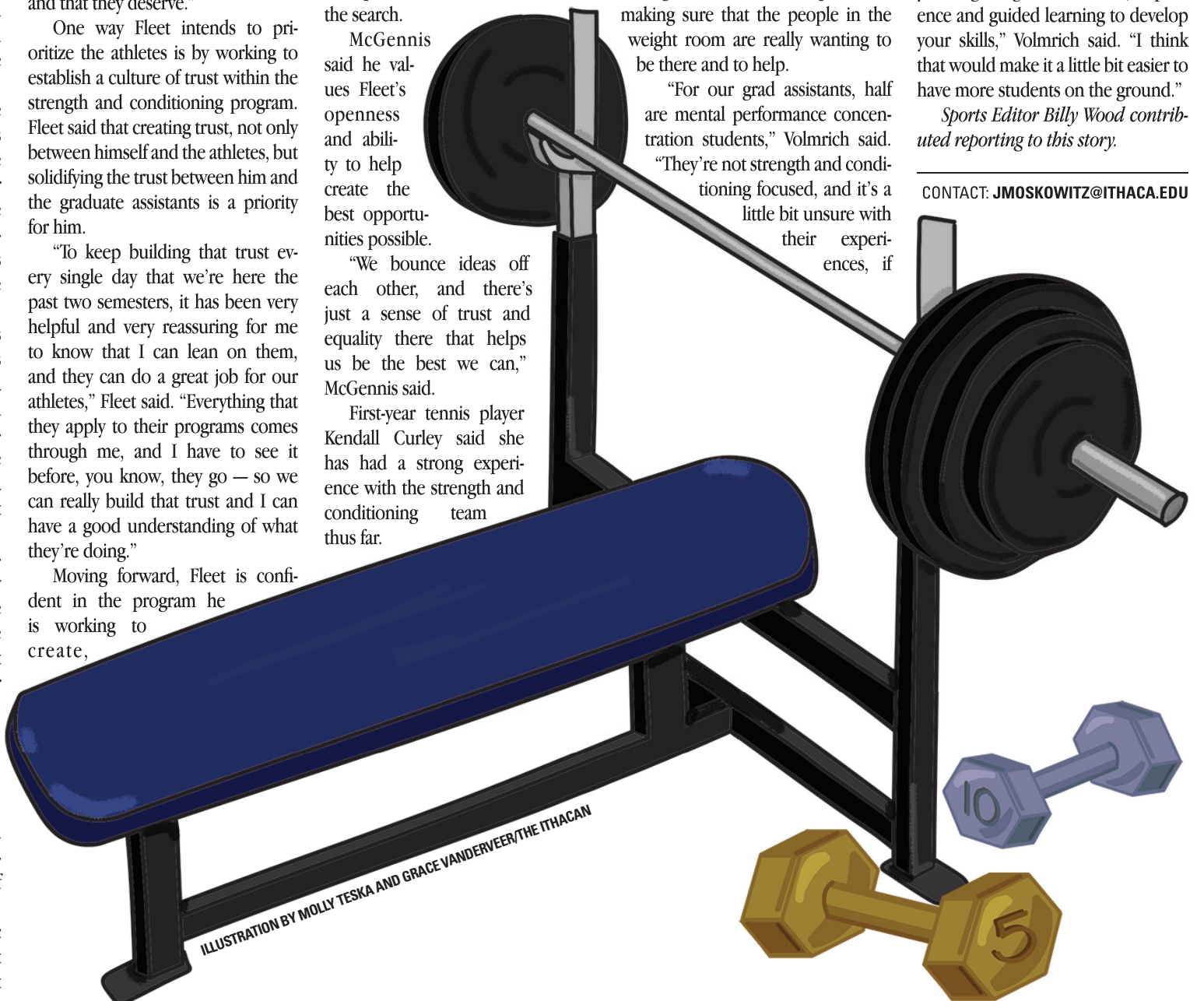


ILLUSTRATION BY MOLLY TESKA AND GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN

Chronic rescheduling keeps baseball away from home

BY NOA RAN-RESSLER
INVESTIGATIVE EDITOR

With upstate New York weather as unpredictable as it is, the Ithaca College baseball team has had to make numerous adjustments this season to accommodate a weather-intolerant field. Freeman Field is a natural dirt and grass field, not a synthetic surface, which means it cannot be played on while wet.

Logistics

Susan Bassett '79, director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Campus Recreation and associate vice president of student affairs, said the field has to naturally drain after heavy rain or snow. The college's softball field, Kostrinsky Field, drains better than the baseball diamond because it is higher on the hill. Softball players can usually get back to the field sooner after heavy precipitation.

"The coaches, including the opposing coaches and our coaches, communicate quite a bit and start thinking about possibilities where they can move things," Bassett said.

Head baseball coach David Valesente said that when rescheduling a game, he needs to coordinate with multiple parties to make sure both teams have access to a facility, transportation and athletic trainers.

Bassett said the protocol for deciding to move a game includes looking at weather forecasts a week in advance. Valesente said the condition of the field plays a significant role in the decision.

"If our outfield is wet and they're calling for rain in the next three days and there's no time for

it to dry out, there's a pretty good chance we won't be able to play at home," Valesente said. "It's just communicating with the opposing coach: 'We have this backup plan.'"

Solutions

Bassett said the college has two main solutions when Freeman Field is unplayable: Booth Baseball Field at Cornell University and Gutches Lumber Sports Complex in Cortland. As of April 18, the college has played two games at Booth Field, three at Gutches and two at Maine Endwell High School, compared to three games on Freeman Field.

If the college has a home series against a team with a turf field and Ithaca's weather looks rocky, the series could get moved to the opposing team's turf, as the college did with its April 6-7 series against the Rochester Institute of Technology. Bassett said both Booth Field and Gutches were booked for the dates, so RIT was the best alternative.

"We don't love that because we're giving up a home game [that] we want to play on our own field," Bassett said.

Although one solution could be implementing a turf baseball field at the college, Bassett said a synthetic baseball field with lights would cost about \$4 million, but there are more affordable options, like a synthetic infield with a natural outfield.

Valesente said the team got dug-out benches from Cornell and Ithaca College students built new bat racks in the wood shop on campus.

Valesente said the team is interested in organizing new batting cages and a new bullpen area for



The Ithaca College baseball team has played only three games at Freeman Field as of April 18. This comes as a result of weather forcing would-be home games to off-campus turf fields.

ILLUSTRATION BY JULIA HARGREAVES/THE ITHACAN

pitchers. He said he also wants to put stadium seating behind home plate and new fences and branding.

"We do like the natural surface and really appreciate its history," Valesente said. "If turf is in the future for us, when it comes to a donation, that's certainly something that we would consider."

Impact on student-athletes

Valesente said the coaching staff works with players to make sure they know about schedule changes early enough to communicate class conflicts with professors.

"They have the ability to

communicate with them," Valesente said. "Know about schedule changes and work makeups that need to take place, and Ithaca is a very supportive institution when it comes to student-athletes and competition."

Senior pitcher John Griffin said his professors have been accommodating when he needs to miss class for a game. He said one of the harder aspects of dealing with weather disruptions is the day-to-day changes, not just game day changes.

"Some kind of stuff is always getting shifted around, whether we have practice at five o'clock at

night or sometimes we've been [practicing] at six in the morning," Griffin said.

Valesente said the team has grown used to playing away from home and being flexible.

"It's part of the game," Valesente said. "We constantly are reminding [players] that it's out of our control. They know that we're doing everything that we can in our power as coaches to get the games in. ... The guys are really responsible about it and we make it happen."

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Sophomore slugger on pace to take home run crown

BY KHARI BOLDEN
STAFF WRITER

When first baseman Laura Remia '01 smacked 10 home runs in her inaugural college season, she etched her name into the Ithaca College softball record books with one of the best power-hitting seasons the school had ever seen.

But when she hit 15 as a sophomore, the entirety of Division III took notice. For over two decades, many of her school records have stood, untouched, until now.

To say sophomore catcher Haley Petrucci has been crushing softballs this season would be an understatement. Remia competed in 42 games during the 1999 season to reach her home run total. Meanwhile, Petrucci belted her NCAA Division III-leading 11th home run to left-center against Alfred University in what was just her 17th start of the season.

Petrucci said her softball journey began as early as 6 years old, when she began playing because of her older sister Kirsten.

"I wanted to be like her," Petrucci said. "So I just started playing [when] she played, and then I loved it and I stuck with it for longer."

Her love of softball eventually took her to Bishop Feehan High School, one of Massachusetts' most dominant softball programs. In her first season, Petrucci would be the backup catcher behind current RPI graduate student catcher Gabby Comeau. Additionally, her sophomore season was canceled because of COVID-19.

Petrucci said sophomore season without softball helped her in the long term by making her realize that she still loved the game.

"I took a break from softball with COVID,"

Petrucci said. "Partially because I was forced to. And I think I realized how much I missed it. ... I think I had been kind of just playing because I had been playing for so many years ... so I was like, 'Okay, I'll just play another year.' Like, I didn't see an option for not playing, but I think I really missed it."

Bill Milot, Bishop Feehan softball head coach, said that during her junior year, Petrucci hit over a .650 average at the plate.

"In 2021, she hit .657 for us," Milot said. "It's hard to believe, isn't it?"

Now, nearly a decade and a half after first picking up the bat, Petrucci is amid not just one of the best power-hitting seasons in Ithaca College history, but one of the best in Division III history. As a first-year student, Petrucci hit a respectable .282/.315/.487 with four home runs, but this season, these numbers have ballooned to .426/.514/.1.098 with 11 home runs in just 21 games played. Her current slugging percentage is over .100 better than Remia's best season as a Bomber.

Petrucci attributed her notable power spike this season to the fruits of her preseason labor. Throughout the preseason, she said she worked with her coaches to refine her swing technique, putting in consistent effort to enhance her skills and performance on the field.

Junior shortstop Sela Scheinman said she admires Petrucci's technique and attitude on the field.

"I love watching Haley hit," Scheinman said. "She has one of the most sound swings on our team. ... She just gets up to the plate and no matter what the situation is, she's totally in control of the at-bat."

When asked about Petrucci's improvement over the offseason, Scheinman said she was consistently a very hard worker, and



Sophomore catcher Haley Petrucci is on pace to break Ithaca College softball's single season home run record. Petrucci has 11 home runs through 21 games played.

JULIA HARGREAVES/THE ITHACAN

mentioned that Petrucci has been hitting the weight room hard this season.

"She got big," Scheinman said. "I think that's showing with the bat. The ball's flying."

Even off the field, Petrucci leaves a lasting impression on people. Milot said Petrucci is not someone he will forget.

"[She is] just a nice person," Milot said. "I actually coached high school nine years prior to coming here. And I've coached with my daughter, who's now 33, since the time she was nine. So I've been doing this a long time. She is a player that I believe I'll always remember."

Scheinman had similarly glowing praise for Petrucci, and she said Petrucci's positivity and

kindness make her a great person to be with.

"Haley is awesome," Scheinman said. "She's someone who you know is always gonna have your back. She's always got the effect of, like, always bringing a smile to your face because she always has a smile on her face."

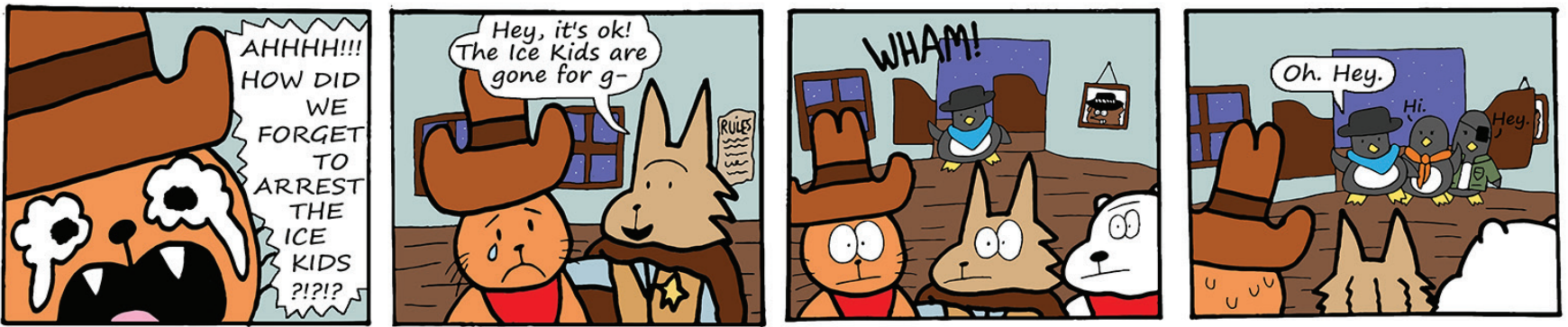
More than anything, Petrucci said she just wants to continue having fun.

"I just show up, and I just play the sport that I love," Petrucci said. "And that was something that I worked hard to get back this year, after struggling through it last year. So I think my biggest thing is like, I show up, and I just enjoy myself and I have fun."

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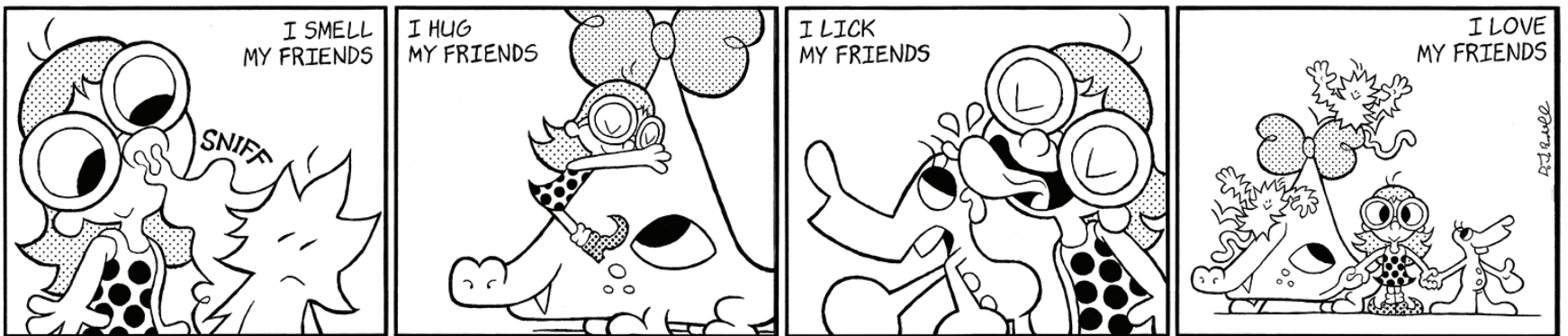
Polar Pardner

ILLUSTRATION BY JOSHUA PANTANO/THE ITHACAN



The Shoelace Carnival

ILLUSTRATION BY DJ BERCHOFF/THE ITHACAN



Death's Door

ILLUSTRATION BY GEORGE ESPOSITO/THE ITHACAN



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Sophomore Aidan Owens performed in the Pitch Please Block IV concert April 13 in Emerson Suites. He sang "Everybody Wants to Rule the World" by Tears for Fears. Pitch Please is the only non-auditioned a capella group on campus. This was the group's last concert of the semester and a send off for their senior students.

KAELEIGH BANDA/THE ITHACAN