Relevancy of free speech policies on Ithaca College’s campus grows

BY KAI LINCKE, STAFF WRITER, INVESTIGATIVE EDITOR, ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Ithaca College has a rich history of expression, and its free speech policy has changed over time as issues arise within and beyond campus. The college’s free speech policy, written in Section 2.31.1 of the Student Conduct Code within the college’s policy manual, highlights how the college responds to free expression while maintaining public order.

"The college is a private institution, so it does not legally have to follow the First Amendment and protect students’ rights to free speech and expression," according to the American Civil Liberties Union of New York. However, Emily Rockett, vice president, general counsel and secretary to the Board of Trustees, said the college must follow sections of the Higher Education Act of 1965 because it receives student financial aid from the federal government.

"As an institution that receives Title IV funding, we have to abide by Title VI, Title VII and Title IX, so you can’t discriminate in the educational environment or terms and conditions of employment on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, national origin, color—all of the protected classes," Rockett said. "It’s this fine line of if you are aware of an environment where illegal discrimination gets in the way of an individual’s ability to experience their education, do you have to do something about it?"

Rockett said private colleges often promote free speech, freedom of inquiry and freedom of expression for educational reasons. She said Ithaca College establishes these values in Section 2.31.1 of the Student Conduct Code within the college’s policy manual.

"But college administrators did not shut down Ithaca College Students for Palestine’s April 20 protest during Accepted Students Day events." Dave Maley, director of public relations, told The Ithacan on April 20 that, according to 2.31.1, the students would not be punished because the college supports students’ right to protest and they did not disrupt or create a safety hazard. Peaceful demonstrations are allowed as long as they do not include prohibited actions. Disruptive college events, classes or lectures engaging in theft or destruction of college property, and acting in a way that threatens people on campus or college property.

Rockett said 2.31.1 complies with New York Education Law 129A, Section 6430. This article mandates that colleges set written rules to maintain public order on campus and college property and clearly define penalties for breaching the rules. The article cannot be construed to limit or restrict the freedom of speech and peaceful assembly.

Michael Dorf, Robert S. Stevens Professor of Law at Cornell University, focuses on constitutional law and covers current events in law on his blog. Dorf wrote in 2017, and reaffirmed in 2023 as discourse about the Israel-Hamas conflict on college campuses gained national attention, that it is especially challenging for residential colleges to find a balance between creating an environment where students feel safe and where they feel they can express themselves.

"Campuses are not just places for faculty and students to teach, learn and study," Dorf said in the 2017 blog post. "They are also homes—and because it is in part a home, students should be entitled to some greater privacy and ability to shut out unwelcome messages, but because it is not only a home, at least in some times and some places on campus students should not be entitled to quite the level of protection from unwanted messages that we think everyone is entitled in their home."

Sean Stevens, chief research adviser for the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, said one of the missions of colleges and universities is to share ideas and conduct forward-thinking research. He said one of the higher education can fail short of that mission is by stifling free speech.

"Colleges are centers of how we’re going to advance human knowledge and that depends on free expression," Stevens said.

Illustration by Grace Vanderveer, The Ithacan

FREE SPEECH, PAGE 4

Q&A: President discusses plans

Nearing the end of the 2023–24 academic year, The Ithacan sat down to talk with La Jerne Cornish, the 10th president of Ithaca College.

"We are a smaller school and we plan to maintain the quality of the education," Cornish said. "We are a smaller school and we plan to maintain the quality of the education."
Anti-Islamic media alleged to have been at Hamburg rally

German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser called for police to act vigorously if crimes are committed during political demonstrations. Faeser was speaking after a rally by more than 1,000 Islamists in Hamburg on April 27, which passed off peacefully, but where allegations of anti-Islamic policies and an anti-Islam media campaign in Germany were heard.

Some carried posters that read “Caliphate is the solution” or “Germany – a dictator of values.”

Dubai Police arrests increase after “Anti-begging” campaign

Since the launch of its “Anti-begging” campaign in Ramadan, Dubai Police has arrested 396 beggars, 292 street vendors and 279 illegal workers. Police said 99% of the beggars arrested look at begging as a “profession.”

Dubai Police is always keen to raise awareness among the community about the dangers of begging, and intensifies its efforts in the holy month of Ramadan and the holidays, given the attempt of beggars to seek sympathy from people during these periods.” Brigadier Faleh Al Hamasi, director of the Suspects and Criminal Phenomena Department in the General Department of Criminal Investigation said in a press release.

Largest offer by a high-tech company completed in Tel Aviv

Israeli tech company Nayax (TASE: NYAX; Nasdaq: NYAX) completed an offering on Nasdaq, raising $68 million in March. Its three founders and senior executives – CEO Yair Nechmad, his brother Amir Nechmad, who serves as a director, and CFO David Ben Avi – sold shares for an aggregate value of $26 million (about NIS 100 million).

The offering came a year and a half after Nayax began to be traded on Nasdaq, and almost three years after it was first floated in Tel Aviv, in what was hailed as the largest ever offering by a high-tech company on the Israeli stock exchange.

Sudan alleges war crimes against United Arab Emirates

The United Nations Security Council convened April 29 to discuss a formal complaint lodged by Sudan against the United Arab Emirates (UAE), alleging acts of aggression. Sudan’s representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Al-Harith Idris, told the official Sudan News Agency that urgent discussions are necessary to address the UAE’s alleged aggression against Sudan. The plea seeks to hold the UAE legally accountable for alleged support to the para-military Rapid Support Forces, who have been accused of war crimes.

World Central Kitchen resumes operations after staff deaths

The World Central Kitchen (WCK) aid organization said April 28 it would resume operations in the Gaza Strip four weeks after seven of its staff members died in an Israeli aerial attack. The seven WCK staff members died April 1, when Israel Defense Forces (IDF) drones targeted three vehicles carrying them.

SOURCE: TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

THE ITHACAN

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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MANAGING EDITOR
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IC offers gender-affirming voice care through clinic

BY TAYLOR BORASH

STAFF WRITER

David Bayne, assistant professor in the School of Health Sciences and Human Performance, teaches and supervises students at Ithaca College who are getting their master’s in speech-language pathology. His students work with clients for 40 minutes a week in the non-credit Sir Alexander Ewing-Ithaca College Speech and Hearing Clinic, which was established in 2011 and is the only place in Ithaca to offer in-person gender-affirming voice care.

Gender-affirming voice care is a practice that focuses on using speech therapy to help individuals find the voice that authentically suits them and the way they wish to express themselves. Speech pathologists work with clients to adjust aspects of their vocal production like stress, pitch, and rate.

Bayne, who got his M.S. in speech-language pathology at Ithaca College and his Ph.D. from the University of Oregon, said that no matter where he teaches, his focus is always on gender-affirming voice care.

“It’s an area that’s really near and dear to my heart, and a lot of the courses that’s so integral to your identity,” Bayne said. “It’s just very rewarding to be able to help people who feel like their identity is not being expressed the way they wish, feel more like they have the ability to help even just one single person find their authentically just a really wonderful experience.”

Bayne said the voices he helps patients find are not typically connected by a gender binary.

“I go in and say, ‘OK, this is what we know is typically male, typically female, but you don’t have to aim for any of those typical norms that we have.” Bayne said. “I want to make sure that your voice is most authentic to you and your gender identity, so we might mix and match a little bit.”

Bayne said it is unfortunate that the Sir Alexander Ewing-Ithaca College Speech and Hearing Clinic, which is located in SmIdly Hall, is the only place in Ithaca that offers in-person gender-affirming voice care.

“Unfortunately, I think it’s an area that’s really lacking in the Southern Tier and broader Finger Lakes,” Bayne said. “There are a lot of gender-affirming services in the area, but specifically for voice and communication, I believe that we’re one of the only ones that are providing that in this area.”

To maintain the privacy of their patients, Bayne was unable to connect The Ithacan with patients who had received gender-affirming voice care from the clinic.

Eilana David, a graduate student who is getting her M.S. in speech-language pathology at the college, said via email that Bayne has been a big help for her and other graduate students who work under his supervision.

“We have weekly meetings where we discuss what we’re doing with him and he gives us great

SGC hears about AI integration and passes three bills

BY JACQUELYN REAVES

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

The Ithaca College Student Government Council met April 29 to pass three bills regarding time extension when presenting bills, an ad hoc committee to change orientation to further support incoming students from underrepresented backgrounds, and creating a senate position for the Students of Color Coalition.

The council also heard from Dave Weil, vice president and chief information and analytics officer in the Department of Information Technology and Analytics, who is the chief of information officer and associate vice president of applications and infrastructure.

Weil started the presentation with an overview of staff and faculty who work within the IT department, and every department recently held, like Ed Tech day.

“The artificial intelligence in the college will use may be the generative AI, we have to create [or could use] machine learning to help better understand the problem or a situation,” Weil said. “One of the things that we’ve been doing is we’ve been experimenting with AI.”

Weil said the department is experimenting with two AI tools: Ithaca Insights, a chatbot with the ability to help prospective students learn more about the college, and an IT service desk agent that will help students with any issues they are having with technology.

Weil said the department outlined a plan for the college and AI in 2023. The first step is to create a presidential working group to discuss how the college will integrate AI.

One of the things we need to be thinking about is where is it appropriate to use AI and where is it not appropriate to use AI,” Weil said.

Linskens said the reason for having the working group is “to look at AI through the lens of the campus community and the opportunity for AI to be based is taken into account.”

Kendall said the introduction of Clicker and TopHat, an application used to track attendance and student engagement in class, will no longer be used because of the inconvenience it caused students.

“The TopHat model requires students to purchase a card or key code,” Kendall said. “After all the feedback, the decision was to go with Clicker.”

The council discussed the Bill Time Extension bill, introduced by Sophomore Senate Chair Nikki Sutera to recognize that when presenting a bill, more time is needed than the two minutes given. The bill proposes five minutes instead of two.

The bill was passed with nine in favor, one abstaining and zero opposed. Sophomore Alec Hartigan, senior-at-large, abstained because he proposed the bill.

The council then discussed the bill that first-year student Lallon Pofjord, first generation senator, introduced at the SGC meeting April 22 to create a temporary committee to make a change to orientation to support students who are minorities.

Pofjord said he made revisions to streamline the original goals of the bill to give students from underrepresented backgrounds an orientation that better assists them and their identities. The revisions provided more clarity to the roles of members of SGC.

The bill was passed with eight in favor, two abstentions and zero opposed.

Senior Carli McConnell, president of the student body, presented a bill to create a senate position for a student involved with the Students of Color Coalition. The bill aims to allow students who are a part of the SGC more power through a senate position.

The bill was passed with nine in favor, one abstention by McConnell and zero opposed.

CONTACT: JREAVES@ITHACA.EDU

By Jacqueline Reaves

The Ithaca College Student Government Council met April 29 to discuss the IT department and upcoming AI integration for students at Ithaca College.

LUCIA SAMUNDIE/THE THAILAN

From left, Dave Weil and Casey Kendall from the Department of Information Analytics met with SGC on April 29 to discuss the IT department and upcoming AI integration for students at Ithaca College.

CONTACT: TDBASH@ITHACA.EDU
Faculty and staff at the college annually receive a 2-3% salary increase to account for inflation every year on July 1. During the pandemic, the college stopped this.
Universities see rise in protests

BY LIAM MCDERMOTT

In spring 2024, college campuses across the U.S. have broken out in protest over educational institutions ties to the Israeli government and the Israel-Hamas war. Following protests at campuses like Columbia University, the University of Texas at Austin and Brown University, the Coalition for Mutual Support (CMS) at Cornell University set up a Gaza solidarity encampment April 25.

Students named the area on the Arts Quad the "Cornell Liberated Zone," which consists of about 13 tents and 50 participants inside. On April 22, 46.77% of the Cornell student body voted in a referendum from Cornell to call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and to divest from companies funding the war; like Lockheed Martin and Boeing. The majority of students — 70.8% — voted for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and 40.45% of students voted to divest from companies. The Office of the President at Cornell University has until May 22 to accept or reject the referendum.

Participants at theCornell encampment were required to sign an intake form that asks for information like names and pronouns, dietary restrictions and allergies to food. On April 29, Cornell President Martha Pollack issued her first statement on the encampment.

Pollack announced that Cornell administration met with a group of student encampment participants April 27 and April 28 to urge them to move the encampment to a different location, which participants declined.

Faculty and students react to campus climate survey

BY SAMANTHA MACARANAS

On April 30, the Campus Climate Committee co-chairs hosted follow-up meetings for faculty and students to discuss the Key Findings report that was released April 16.

In the faculty meeting, attendees discussed what they found interesting about the key findings from the survey. Twelve faculty members attended the session, which was moderated by Belisa González, dean of faculty equity, inclusion and belonging and co-chair of the Campus Climate Committee.

When discussing why faculty dissatisfaction was so low, Hugh Egan, professor in the Department of Languages in English, said it was shocking that the highest dissatisfaction levels were reported by tenured professors.

According to the Key Findings report, tenured or tenure-eligible faculty reported having lower levels of comfort than non-tenure track (NTEN) and temporary faculty—a difference that was significant in 2016. 59% of tenured and tenure-eligible faculty reported feeling "comfortable" or "very comfortable," while 64% of NTEN and temporary faculty reported feeling "a lot more comfortable" or "very uncomfortable."

"Because in one way, tenure-eligible [facul- ty] and tenures are the most protected and safe categories on campus, but on the other hand, they've been here a long time to recognize the climate change and might be more inclined to register criticism or critique," Egan said.

As co-chair of the Department of Sociology, who is anonymous because of personal safe- ty concerns unrelated to the college, said the dissatisfaction levels could also be attributed to events that have occurred over the last few years, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the faculty members that were laid off by the college in 2021. Those causes were likely a large part of faculty dissatisfaction, even though there was not a place in the survey to address them.

"I'm on my floor in Muller and I know that on the fourth floor above me there are... empty faculty offices, and I show up to a parking lot where I am there, there are empty parking spaces," they said. "And these things aren't necessarily in the climate survey, they're in me. They're in my colleagues. They're in my classroom."

González said that while it is hard to deter- mine the success of the survey based on the results alone, discussing the results with stu- dents, faculty and staff will make it easier to outline the next steps for the committee to take.

"So we need to spend some time thinking over Spring 2024, Ithaca College witnessed multiple changes in leadership. The departure of some members will be followed by national searches that will commence in Fall 2024."

CONTACT: RJOHNSON@ITHACA.EDU

VROSE@ITHACA.EDU

For a complete list of the week’s stories, please see the online version of The Ithacan. 

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024 NEWS | 5

BY RYAN JOHNSON

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

With varying results and reactions, college campuses across the U.S. have broken out in protest over educational institutions ties to the Israeli government and the Israel-Hamas war. Following protests at campuses like Columbia University, the University of Texas at Austin and Brown University, the Coalition for Mutual Support (CMS) at Cornell University set up a Gaza solidarity encampment April 25.

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Pollack announced that Cornell administration met with a group of student encampment participants April 27 and April 28 to urge them to move the encampment to a different location, which participants declined.
Community invited to attend Employee Retirement Reception
The Employee Retirement Celebration Reception will be held from 4 to 5:30 p.m. May 5 in the Dillingham lobby.

The celebration is a way to honor retirement, to thank current employees, and to provide light snacks and non-alcoholic beverages, as well as alcoholic beverages available to those 21 or older to purchase.

There will be also be a short program to recognize and honor the work of the retirees. If you have questions, concerns or accommodation requests, you can contact Lanny Solody, talent management associate, at lhood@ithaca.edu.

Amani Gospel Singers to present gospel showcase performance
The Amani Gospel Singers will be holding a gospel showcase performance from 4 to 7 p.m. May 4 at Muller Chapel.

The Amani Gospel Singers have been Ithaca College’s only gospel singing group for over 40 years and plan for their showcase to provide an afternoon full of music, faith and fellowship.

The event is sponsored by the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, and is open and open for all to attend. Contact the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life with any questions. Individuals who require accommodations can reach out to Austin Reid, interim director officer of Religious and Spiritual Life, at areid1@ithaca.edu.

Students encouraged to apply to be summer teaching assistants
The Summer College for High School Students program is currently seeking applicants for two teaching assistant positions to run between July 15 and Aug. 2.

The courses looking for TAs are Imaginative Writing, which will be taught by Kathryn Howd Machan, professor in the Department of Writing; Wildlife Tracking and Survival, taught by Eber Beck, professor in the Department of Environmental Studies and Science; Rock Band for Beginners, taught by Connor McCoy, professor in the Department of Environmental Studies and Science; and Spiritual Life, at areid1@ithaca.edu.

Students who are interested in the position can apply online and email Eric Howd at ehowd@ithaca.edu for any further questions.

Stop and breathe at the library and make free buttons for prizes
As part of the JED Stop and Breathe Week, the library will be offering the opportunity for the Ithaca College community to stop by and make free buttons from 12 to 1:30 p.m. May 3.

Library staff will help attendees make buttons out of magazines, book covers or any images they may want to bring. A table will be set up at the first floor entrance of the library and registration is not required. Students who make a button will be entered to win a prize from the Center of Health Promotion as part of the JED Campus Initiative.

IC KicksBack event will be held on the Campus Center Quad
The IC KicksBack event will be held 5 to 7 p.m. May 3 on the Campus Center Quad for students, staff and faculty to celebrate the completion of the semester.

The event will feature four hours of live music, inflatable foods and carnival food that students will have access to with or without their Ithaca ID. The event will feature many carnival-themed treats like corn dogs, cotton candy, lemonade, street corn and more.

No bags, water bottles or containers are allowed, and attendees must show their Ithaca ID to be granted entry to the event.

Individuals who require accommodations can contact ickicksback@ithaca.edu.

Join IC in the Fitness Center for a cycling and dance class
The IC Campus Initiative’s Stop and Breathe Week is offering a variety of activities May 2 in the aerobics room at the Fitness Center to help students destress during finals week.

Students can head to the aerobics room to participate in a cycling class from 3:15 to 4 p.m. and right after that, from 4:15 to 5 p.m. in the same location, students can participate in a TES suspension training class.

Following that event, students can attend the Raise the Barre dance class from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m.

Celebrate family at the LGBT Center’s Queer Family Feast
The LGBT Center will be hosting a Queer Fam Feast from 5:30 to 7 p.m. May 2 in the Tower Concourse Suite 110 to give students the opportunity to celebrate their chosen family and enjoy free food before leaving for the summer.

The event is part of the JED Stop and Breathe Week, so attendees will be eligible to participate in the Stop and Breathe raffle to win a prize.

Students can contact lgbt@ithaca.edu with any access needs.

Have ice cream while the sun sets with Black Artists United
Black Artists United is hosting an outdoor ice cream social at sunset from 7 to 9 p.m. May 2 at CC Terrace patio above the dining hall. The event will be the final academic event of the year, and the entire Ithaca College community is invited to join current or prospective BAL members to celebrate.

Individuals who require accommodations can contact blackartistsunited@ithaca.edu.

IC Pinky Swear will be hosting bowling and bonding event
The Ithaca College Pinky Swear Foundation will be holding a bowling bonding outing from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. May 2 in Williams 211.

The event is open to anyone and will give attendees the opportunity to meet and bond with PKC members while learning more about the group’s involvement on campus and bowling.

Students with questions or access needs should contact pipsack.ict@gmail.com.

Party with Stillwater Magazine to celebrate 63rd print edition
Stillwater Magazine will be hosting a launch party to present its 63rd print magazine from 7 to 8:30 p.m. May 2 in IC Square.

Students are invited to celebrate the work of artists, writers and editors in the magazine, and many contributors will be reading their work and artist statements aloud. Stillwater Magazine is an annual undergraduate and literary magazine in the college’s writing department. The event will have free refreshments and copies of the magazine available to pick up.

Individuals who require accommodations can contact stillwatermagazine@gmail.com.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG
SELECTED ENTRIES FROM APRIL 15 TO 21

PETIT LARCYNE OVER $200
LOCATION: Hilliard Hall
SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person stole clothing from a washing machine. Patrol Officer Chaz Andrews responded to the call.

PETIT LARCYNE UNDER $200
LOCATION: Tower Concourse
SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person fell down stairs and injured their ankle. Patrol Officer Jordan Bartolis responded.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 4TH DEGREE
LOCATION: Al Zot
SUMMARY: Officer reported an unknown person damanged a sign. Security Officer Christopher Verzosa responded to the call.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 4TH DEGREE
LOCATION: 151 College Circle
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. The activation was caused by burnt foam. Fire Protection Specialist Enoch Perkins responded to the call.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 4TH DEGREE
LOCATION: Butterfield Stadium
SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person damaged a screen. Patrol Officer Jordan Bartolis responded to the call.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/PSYCHOLOGICAL LOCATION: Garden Apartment 27
SUMMARY: Caller reported person intentionally attempted to self-harm.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/PSYCHOLOGICAL LOCATION: Garden Apartment 27
SUMMARY: Caller reported person sent concerning text message about self-harm. The officer determined the person was not in imminent danger to themselves. Patrol Officer Connor McCoy responded and completed a report.

FIRE/FLAME/IGNITION LOCATION: 180 College Circle
SUMMARY: Caller reported there had been a fire in the oven caused by cooking which was extinguished by a fire extinguisher. Corporal Kevin McClain responded to the fire and completed a report.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 4TH DEGREE
LOCATION: Bogart Hall, Ighett Blvd
SUMMARY: Corporal Kevin McClain reported an unknown person damaged aCelebrating the 63rd print edition of Stillwater Magazine. Event details include time, date, and location. Attendees can expect refreshments and copies of the magazine at the event. Individuals may contact stillwatermagazine@gmail.com for more information.

Students interested in participating in the JED Stop and Breathe event can show their Ithaca ID to participate in the dance and cycling class. The event will take place on the Campus Center Quad from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. May 3.

The Ithaca College Pinky Swear Foundation will host a bowling bonding event at 6:30 p.m. May 2 in Williams 211. Attendees can expect free refreshments and copies of the magazine at the event. Contact pipsack.ict@gmail.com for questions or accommodations.

The LGBT Center will host a Queer Fam Feast from 5:30 to 7 p.m. May 2 in the Tower Concourse Suite 110 for students to celebrate their chosen family and enjoy free food. Contact lgbt@ithaca.edu for more information.

Stillwater Magazine will celebrate its 63rd print edition with a launch party at IC Square on May 2. Attendees can expect refreshments and copies of the magazine, with contributors reading their work and artist statements aloud. Contact stillwatermagazine@gmail.com for more information.

The LGBT Center will host a Queer Fam Feast on May 2 with free refreshments and copies of the magazine. Attendees can contact lgbt@ithaca.edu for access needs.

The Amani Gospel Singers will perform at the Amani Gospel Singers showcase on May 4. Attendees can contact ickicksback@ithaca.edu for accommodations.

The LGBT Center will host the Pinky Swear bowling bonding event at 6:30 p.m. May 2. Attendees can contact pipsack.ict@gmail.com for access needs.

Social events are listed for May 2, 2024, including a Queer Fam Feast, a bowling bonding event, and a Queer Family Feast. Attendees can contact lgbt@ithaca.edu for access needs.

The LGBT Center will hold a Queer Fam Feast from 5:30 to 7 p.m. May 2 at the Tower Concourse Suite 110 to provide an afternoon full of music, faith, and fellowship. The event will take place on the Campus Center Quad. Attendees can contact lgbt@ithaca.edu for access needs.

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Equitable faculty salaries are essential for campus

Throughout history, college students have been at the heart of social movements. From nationwide sit-ins during the Civil Rights Movement to more local movements, like protests advocating for the removal of former Ithaca College president Tom Rochon, students' voices have consistently been a catalyst for change. Today, students' right to free speech is being threatened nationwide. It is of the utmost importance that college administrators either uphold or create policies that support students exercising free speech, rather than silencing their voices.

Ithaca College's current policy on free speech, Section 2.31.1 of the Rules for Maintenance of Public Order, permits students to peacefully protest and exercise freedom of speech at the college, with stipulations regarding unauthorized entry, weapons and more. President La Jerne Cornish has upheld the college's policy and expressed her support for peaceful protesting. In a recent Q&A, she said Ithaca College Students for Palestine had the right to protest at the open house April 20 but did voice that if students protested at a private event like commencement, there would be repercussions. While Cornish's decision to uphold the college's current policy marks a respect for free speech that many other administrators nationwide are failing to exhibit, it is important that this support continues, no matter the size or scale of protests.

Administrators across the country must commit to establishing and upholding policies that protect the essential right to free speech.
Community can be used to cultivate positive change

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

Creative projects must be grounded in genuine care

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Editor’s Note: The opinions in this commentary do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board.
Rubber ducks paddle to fund 4-H Youth

The Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County hosted their 4-H Duck Race for the first time since 2019, where Ithaca residents could watch 3,000 ducks race down the Cascadilla Creek falls. Prizes were given to the ducks that finished in first and last place.

Cave-Gaetani said the 4-H Duck Race is an opportunity for people to come together and celebrate community. She said the spirit of the town during the event creates a joyful experience.

“People were so excited even dressed up as ducks with face paint and colorful attire. The community eagerly watched as the first place duck finished its expedition. The crowd erupted into loud cheers and celebrations. Although the ducks finished their journey, the people continued on to the CCE to discover the winners.

David Foote, communications manager at the CCE, was documenting the event and emphasizing the importance of engagement within the greater Ithaca community.

“The key thing that people have about supporting the community and just the spirit is such a celebration of this county and that it is an integral part of the community,” Cave-Gaetani said. “I'm new. It is all new to me. And it's just so exciting that we sold 3,000 ducks — that's all the ducks that we have … and, you know, it really helps to promote child and youth development and programming.”

The CCE fosters youth programming for families in New York state, giving over 300,000 children and teens experiences in 4-H programs. It includes after school programs, camps, strengthening families programs, the Primitive Pursuits program, rural youth services and urban outreach programs.

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BY GEORGE GASSARO, VIVIAN ROSE

STAFF WRITER, ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The 2023–24 David P. ’60 and Susan W. Wohluester Jazz Ensemble Compositions Contest welcomed award-winning jazz saxophonist Alexa Tarantino for her second guest performance April 27. It is not often that a guest performer returns for a second time. Tarantino’s return is a reflection of her extremely impressive career as a musician.

Tarantino performed at the college for the first time since Feb. 29, 2020. The most recent composition night was supported by none other than Ithaca College’s Jazz Ensemble. The group is led by Mike Titlebaum, associate professor of music performance and director of jazz studies.

The annual competition was created in 2010 to give members of the program an opportunity to write for a large band, and to give students exposure to assessing performances. The application process for the competition began in February and was open to all students. From the applicants, six composers were selected to perform alongside Tarantino. Of the selected composers, Titlebaum was nominated the winner of the contest and is awarded a $1,500 prize.

This year’s six composers were from an array of colleges, either currently pursuing a degree or having graduated and are now full-time musicians. Zhengtao Pan, Jack Snel- ling, Ethan Helm, Jared Decker, Jonathan Bumpus and prize winner Eric Weaver.

The piece “Violet Skies” featured a significant collaboration. The song was written by Tarantino and arranged by Titlebaum. After an introductory solo from Tarantino, the piece featured solos from nearly every member of the jazz band. Sophomore Chris Rakeman was on bass, senior James Williams and senior Alexha Lega were on trumpet and senior Dan Greenleaf was on guitar.

This showcase was the last student performance for senior Greenleaf and Williams, who both received a farewell speech from Titlebaum.

“Teach that singers should play, players should sing,” Titlebaum said. “Our model for that is Louis Armstrong. He was neither just a trumpet player, nor a singer. He was the greatest jazz musician who played the trumpet and sang. So this graduating senior, [Williams], I don’t think I’ve had a student more dedicated to this idea.”

As a senior, Greenleaf said he views performances at this point in his career as more celebratory than as something to be worried about.

“[Tarantino] is phenomenal,” Greenleaf said. “She’s an example of honing your craft. I don’t know if you could catch the vibe in the audience, but she’s just really lovely to be around as a musician, which is such a cool combination. It’s so rare to find somebody that has mastered social ability. The night featured a whirlwind of different instruments — trumpet, guitar, saxophone, bass clarinet — and collaborations, both on the stage and in the behind-the-scenes musical composition.

Alongside her career as a musician, Taran- tino is an accomplished educator. She has taught 500 workshops and worked with over a thousand students. On April 27, Tarantino delivered a masterclass before the performance, delving into her expertise and educating the attendees.

By ELIZABETH KHARABADZE
YEAR IN REVIEW EDITOR

There have been 10 presidents at Ithaca College since its start as a music conservatory, all of whom have led the college through periods of great change. Barbara Adams, associate professor in the Department of Writing, has been employed at the college for six of those presidents. Now, as the college’s longest-serving faculty member with over 50 years of teaching, advising and reframing perspectives on writing, Adams is retiring.

Before the college even had a writing department, Adams began her career on South Hill in 1972 as an instructor in the Department of English. She said that at that time, writing was a small subsection of the English department and only offered as a lecture-style course.

Adams said it became apparent that the college’s approach to teaching writing left students feeling discouraged because it gave the false impression that those who did poorly in English literature classes would do poorly in writing classes. In 1973, the Department of Writing began offering the Writing Program — opened to provide students the ability to immerse themselves in the world of writing without heavy emphasis on English literature. Adams taught more than 53 different courses in the department, including Writing & Publishing, Personal Essay, Magazine Writing and Editing & Publishing.

“It was very generative,” Adams said. “We just grew like weeds. We ended up with a curriculum with — I think it was well over of about 40 courses — just lots and lots of different kinds of writing: creative writing, journalistic, expository, all sorts.”

Susan Adams Delaney, associate professor and chair of the Department of Writing, first met Adams in 2007 when Delaney came to teach at the college. Delaney said that Adams was captivated by Adams’ attentiveness to details at faculty meetings and how committed she was to improving the writing department — not only for students, but for faculty as well.

Adams in particular had just a keen eye for all of those details about how has this curriculum grown, how did we develop these courses, why are we doing things the way we are, what are some things we had discussed in the past that we need to revisit now,” Delaney said.

Adams said there was great care placed in training students to be professional writers, not just creative writers. It was that kind of help that students needed. The college created the Internship Program in Writing & Publishing, which ran from 2001 to 2020. Adams sponsored about 389 academic-year internships, most of which were paid.

Matthew Gardener ‘23 had Adams as a professor for several writing classes, like Personal Essay and Editing & Publishing. “Matthew Gardner said in an introductory solo from Tarantino, the piece featured solos from nearly every member of the jazz band. Sophomore Chris Rakeman was on bass, senior James Williams and senior Alexha Lega were on trumpet and senior Dan Greenleaf was on guitar. This showcase was the last student performance for seniors Greenleaf and Williams, who both received a farewell speech from Titlebaum.

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Audience member Peter Swift is a friend of Titlebaum’s and has attended past performances at the college. Swift said it was the best he had seen, and was very impressed by Tarantino’s masterclass.

“Here teaching was wonderfully modulated,” Swift said. “Never critical, always positive.”

Another standout performance was “Windy Days” by Pan. At the concert, Titlebaum gave “Windy Days” a reflective introductory speech, commenting on the imagery and tone of the piece.

“This piece has a really beautiful landscape and beautiful tonal language that is very appealing to me,” Titlebaum said.

The selected composers came together to recognize their creation, and members of the Ithaca College Jazz Ensemble were able to collaborate with musicians from across the country.

Weaver, the winner of the competition, said he enjoys hearing artists outside of his school perform his music. Weaver is currently a graduate student at the University of North Texas.

“[It’s] so wonderful to have those experiences, and to have everyone have a good time on the stage,” Weaver said. “Wining is just one part of it.”
‘Challengers’ volleys with a true erotic triangle

MOVIE REVIEW: “Challengers” Amazon MGM Studios

BY MARIANA CONTRERAS
ASSISTANT CULTURE EDITOR

When it comes to desire, passion and lustfulness, Luca Guadagnino is an expert at capturing it all — the excitement, the thrill and even the shame. He has proven himself capable of seducing the audience through his depictions of sensibilities and out-of-the-box eroticisms. It’s no surprise, then, when Guadagnino and novelist-playwright Justin Kuritzkes take tennis, one of the most erotic sports, and craft a restless, sexy, infuriating film in “Challengers.” Since its release April 26, “Challengers” has become No. 1 in the box office with a domestic gross of $15 million.

Despite the impression the trailer might have given, it is important to note that the sensuality in this movie is not thanks to any sex scenes or its undeniably attractive stars. In fact, one could dare say that this is one of those movie trailers that turn out to be very misleading, as the film is mostly filled with positive ways. Similarly, it’s important to make the disclaimer that if one wants to watch a movie about tennis, this is not the right one.

Guadagnino has said he finds tennis boring to watch, yet it is his use of a match set in 2019 between Tashi, the true relationship that is crucial to bring the romantic triangle of this story. Even though the main concept of the plot is driven by both Art and Patrick’s thirst to have Tashi, the true relationship that keeps us on our toes is that of the friends, alluding once more to the underlying homoeroticism of tennis and the intimacy of two boys who entered manhood together.

Ultimately, “Challengers” is a sexy film, not because of the homoeroticism in it, but because of Zendaya as the leading lady, but because it focuses on passion. There’s passion among the characters and the way they feel about each other, but also in the way they feel about the sport. The film isn’t afraid to explore the innate sexuality and all high-performing and entitled tennis players in Luca Guadagnino’s newest film, “Challengers.”

CONTACT: mcontreras@ithaca.edu

BY SAMMIE MACARANAS
STAFF WRITER

On April 26, Annie Clark, more widely known as St. Vincent, released her seventh studio album, “All Born Screaming.” The musician has made a name for herself since leaving alternative indie artist Sufjan Stevens’ touring band in 2006. The multi-talented artist took a new step with this album, making it her debut as a producer. Clark’s musical abilities are once again put on display as she plays the electric piano, bass, acoustic guitar, string guitar, vocals and more.

In this album, Clark collaborated with Dave Grohl, Cate Le Bon and many other artists who helped the album shine. The album features 10 tracks, including three singles. “Broken Man,” “Flea” and “Big Time Nothing.” The album is a musical continuation of the 2020 film, “The Nowhere Inn,” a psychological thriller-comedy mockumentary written by and starring Clark.

The album begins with “Hell Is Near,” a dark bass drum and choir heavy song that plays with the idea that death is coming to all. A religious and chordal sound is found throughout the layering of heavy drums and Clark’s voice. The lyrics in this song are lost to the very end but, Clark’s vocal skill is still on display, as well as her instru- mental abilities. The song ends with Clark repeating the words “Give it all away, you give it all away.” “Cause the whole world’s watching you.” The track itself and this repeated lyric are shrouded in mystery since there is no clear answer to who she is talking to and what the listener is supposed to do.

“Broken Man” is one of the singles off the album and it features rock icon Dave Grohl on the drums. The song is filled with a very heavy and strong electric guitar, as well as Grohl’s iconic percussional sound. This song is one of the most addicting tracks from the album, which comes as a surprise as it is so widely different from Clark’s previous discography. The song slowly unravels from a laid back rock song to an explosive climax that is focused around the percussion. The beginning of the track almost feels like Clark is counting toward the climax with a “tick-tock” sound lingering in the background of the song. Clark has said before that she believes in gender fluidity and with the chorus saying, “And what are you looking at / Like you’ve never seen a broken man,” the audience can be led to believe that Clark is identifying as the broken man or that she is bending gender stereotypes by presenting as very feminine, but feeling more masculine as a person.

The final track on the album, “All Born Screaming,” features Cate Le Bon. It starts as a very bright, shaggy-dog song that transitions into a darker synthesized piece after the sec- ond verse and chorus. As the shag aesthetic drops out, the bass drums and synths fade into the instrumental. As the symbols get heavier, the chorus begins to chant “We’re all born screaming” over and over again, reminding the audience that “we’re all born screaming.” It’s weird and unconventional, but is really one of the best on the album.

“This album is pretty short, with a 41-minute run-time and only 10 songs. Nevertheless, the album is defi nitely one to listen to.

Famous features on St. Vincent’s newest album

ALBUM REVIEW: “All Born Screaming” Virgin Music Group

BY SAMMIE MACARANAS
STAFF WRITER

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“Challengers” is a very cohesive album. As the album progresses, from “Hell Is Near” to “All Born Screaming,” the listener can follow a life in reverse order, acting as an observer as Clark describes the feelings through the lyrics.

The album as a whole is a compound of all of her past eras and genres, but is also a window into a plethora of new genres for Clark to successfully produce music in. The songs are very easy to enjoy and versatile, acting as songs that one can ei- ther listen to in depth or have on in the background. Clark’s breathy vocals and the production are definitely the highlights of the album. Unfortunately for St. Vincent fans, the album is pretty short, with a 41-minute run-time and only 10 songs. Nevertheless, the album is definitely one to listen to.
crossword

By Quill Driver Books

1 Sleep
5 Millan or Romero
10 Cotton pod
14 Numerical prefix
15 Pal, in Spanish
16 Fencing sword
17 In this way
18 Dressed to the —
19 “The Hunchback of Notre-Dame”
Author
20 Glasses
22 Pratfall Inventor
24 Periods
25 Federal agents
26 Fairylike
28 Magnificence
32 Where backups reside
33 Ancient
34 “Tarzan the — Man”
35 Pull along
36 “Toy Story” character
37 Copy
38 Every dog has — day
39 Unrefined
40 Prototype
41 Unmatched
43 Grass cutter
44 Yorkshire river
45 Friend of Dorothy
46 Kind of hound
47 Burgers and fries (2 wds.)
53 Aid and —
54 Landlord’s offering
56 Johnson of TV
57 Positive
58 Young et
59 “— be honest...”
60 Asterisk
61 Cloth factory workers
62 Expression
63 Flavored plant
64 Musical work
65 Trying to catch up
66 Kind of block
67 Juan Ponce de —
68 Lively dance (hyph.)
69 Expels
70 Cause for contribution
71 Gilded or golden
72 Flavored plant
73 Ruin
74 Hint
75 Pointless
76 Flight manifest
77 Saharan
78 Barter
79 Fill with joy
80 Wingless parasite
81 Things for sale
82 — — parfum
83 — be honest...
84 Antitoxins
85 Best liked
86 Sandwich cookie
87 “The Simpsons” bus driver
88 Furniture item
89 Isle of —
90 Grappled
91 Risen
92 Active race
93 Surrey Illegal Installed
94 Corta Alle Ficar
95 USA Canter Cash
96 River is Atlantic
97 Sea clingy old
98 Brand — IRA apart
99 TV Nikes
100 Aloe Rated... Like
101 Agile Mark
102 Son Seems Slap

answers to last issue’s sudoku:

easy

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

medium

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

hard

1 5
4

2 9 7 8 3 4 5 6 1
4 6 5 1 7 9 8 2 3
8 3 1 5 6 2 4 9 7
9 8 6 3 4 1 2 7 5
7 5 2 9 8 6 3 1 4
1 4 3 7 2 5 6 8 9
3 2 8 4 9 7 1 5 6
5 7 4 6 1 8 9 3 2
6 1 9 2 5 3 7 4 8
BY FYNN HYNES
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

During the 1967 NFL draft, the Atlanta Falcons chose Sandor Szabo 117th with the 11th round pick. That was 57 years ago and no athlete from Ithaca College has made it close to the NFL since then. Until now.

Shortly after the third and last day of the 2024 NFL Draft April 27 selections, former All-American safety Derek Slywka ’23 was signed to a rookie mini-camp for both the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers.

Slywka grew up in the small town of Waterloo, New York, as a passionate Cleveland Browns fan with his two younger brothers. Growing up, Derek said football brought his family together.

“I think it goes all the way back to when I was a kid,” Slywka said. “It was my dad and my grandpa that influenced me a lot. I grew up a Browns fan, so it was just kind of like a football thing just growing up ... It’s been kind of a family thing. I have two younger brothers. So we’ve all played football our whole lives. Playing football in the backyard on Sundays after the Browns games were over.”

Slywka’s love for sports would help him grow into a three-sport athlete at Waterloo High School, where he played football, basketball, and baseball.

Slywka’s athletic talents would guide him to play basketball at Finger Lakes Community College (FLCC) for the 2019–20 academic year. However, he transferred to the Ithaca College football program after his first season at FLCC and the rest is history. Former teammate Isaac Hadac said Slywka is a social media football trainer who worked with multiple prospects through the draft. Even after working with him only a small bit, Hadac said Slywka presents multiple attributes that make him more than capable of competing in the NFL.

“ ‘He’s a beast,’ Hadac said. ‘He’s got the measurables, he’s got the speed, he’s got the ability and that’s what really matters at the end of the day. It doesn’t really matter what division you are. I worked with many kids this past draft class ... and he’s one of the best kids I’ve worked with.’ “

Despite Slywka’s athletic ability, linebackers head football coach Michael Toerper said Slywka’s work ethic is first-rate.

“Obviously his physical skill set is impressive,” Toerper said. “But his internal drive to incrementally improve every single day and having a plan to do so ... I think that’s the one thing that separates him apart is his incredibly competitive work ethic.”

As far as going on to the professional level, Slywka said he made this decision in spring 2023. He and Toerper sat down to talk about the potential opportunity to go play in the NFL. Afterward, Slywka knew he had to perform at a high level during the fall 2023 season in order to keep the door open and certainly did not disappoint, as he was named the D3football.com First Team All-American as well as becoming a Cliff Harms award finalist.

After the season, Toerper reached out to liaisons to earn Slywka a spot in pro day showcases. Pro days are opportunities held prior to the draft every year to showcase individual schools’ players to professional scouts. Slywka trained six days a week, which he said was different from in-season training because he was preparing for drills like the shuttle, the vertical and the 3-cone drill.

“I didn’t have money to get a trainer.” Slywka said. “So it was using my resources, talking with coach Toerper, using the lifting stuff we did at Ithaca — there’s a lot of stuff online right now of trainers and their programs that they do, so I kind of put [a plan] together using multiple different sources.”

To say Slywka showed out at the pro days is an understatement. Slywka’s performance garnered the attention of about 20 different NFL teams, as well as received a prospect grade for the NFL draft database.

“From that point, Slywka’s film was in the hands of NFL scouts and he signed with agent John Perez of Perez Sports. Slywka said he waited until the NFL draft to see where he would fall, eventually being signed to the two rookie mini camps.

All 32 teams hold rookie mini-camps for two to three days across various dates in early to mid-May. Rookie mini-camps consist of NFL draftees, tryout players, undrafted free agents and players like Slywka, who are invited to participate in the hopes of getting a contract.

Derek’s younger brother and former high school teammate, Kyle Slywka, said it’s unbelievable to see the time pass from when they were playing football together in their backyard.

“It’s crazy because we’ve always been competitors going back and forth in that yard,” Kyle Slywka said. “Seeing that competitive spirit in him when he plays football now, it’s stuff that he’s always had in him and it’s crazy to see how it translates to the field and how it helps him be such a great athlete. It’s really cool.”

Kyle Slywka also said he thinks his brother has had a lasting impact on their hometown in Waterloo.

“I think it’s definitely a big thing because nobody really did it from here, especially in football,” Kyle Slywka said. “I mean, it’s not been a well-known thing. And it’s definitely going to help their community.”

Toerper said that Derek’s journey is a testament to small-school athletes and that one of the main objectives of the football program at the college is to develop players into the best that they can be.

“It’s just a microcosm for all small-school athletes that you don’t have to be this highly touted five-star recruit to make it professional,” Toerper said. “Certainly, there’s things that are out of your control as far as metrics go, as far as a certain site you have to be at a lot of these levels, or a lot of these programs to be able to get a sniff in the NFL, but it just proves if you’re good enough, they’ll find you.”

During the rookie mini-camps, Slywka will be competing with drafted and undrafted rookies, as well as athletes who fall in the same boat as him. Slywka will fly out to compete in the Chief’s mini-camp May 3, followed by the 49ers mini-camp May 10 if he does not earn a spot with the Chiefs. Slywka said he is excited to see where this opportunity takes him and is also excited to be able to do this and set an example for his younger brothers that both play collegiate football.

“It’s something that if you told a 12-year-old me I’d be doing, he would probably be a lot more awed in that I necessarily am right now,” Slywka said. “I’m kind of just working, just keeping my head down and grinding to be ready for whatever the opportunity is that I do get. But it’s cool. I’m excited to be able to do it at an Ithaca Bomber. I’m excited to be able to be, as an older brother, having two younger brothers, to be able to do something like that, to kind of pave the way for both of them who both play football.”

CONTACT HYNES@ITHACA.EDU
When he died of a heart attack in school’s physical therapy program. Also an Ithaca College graduate who was closer to home.”

That I had looked at going to initially because of a personal tragedy. She said the transfer was paradoxical: “I was from the Finger Lakes area and Ithaca was one of the schools that I had looked at going to initially,” Musnicki said. “My father passed away suddenly [during] my freshman year, and so I wanted to be closer to home.”

Her, Bill Musnicki ’75, was also an Ithaca College graduate who earned his master’s degree from the school’s physical therapy program. When he died of a heart attack in 2012, his family was devastated.

Musnicki said her family members who were unretiring, Musnicki said she received a text from a familiar face: Alison Rusher, a former U.S. National Team’s eight; and retired Olympic Games and World Rowing Championship’s Women’s eight may be over, but Musnicki said she does not see it as the end of an era. “Each team has its own unique identity,” Musnicki said. “I compare it to a living organism. It has its ethos, it has its beliefs. I happened to be a part of those teams that were so dominant. I hope that [experience] is something that can provide [to Team USA] — because the older athletes when I was younger provided that for me. More importantly, I just want to be able to contribute to the team as a whole.”

COURTESY OF LISA WORTH...
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 Kailen Winkelblech goes up to bat during the Ithaca Bombers versus the Skidmore Thoroughbreds game April 28. Ithaca won 4–1 in its first game and again 6–0 in their second. The Bombers will face the Rochester Institute of Technology Tigers next at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. May 4 at home at Kostrinsky Field.