

ACCURACY • INDEPENDENCE • INTEGRITY

LIFE & CULTURE | page 7

THURSDAY DRAG FINDS ITS NEW HOME AT LOT 10



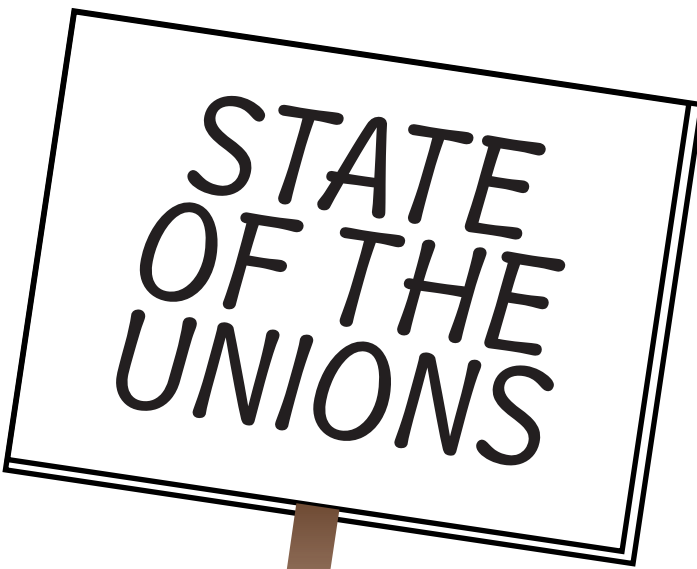
OPINION | page 5

LGBTQ+ SPACES MUST BE SAVED AND CELEBRATED



SPORTS | page 9

STUDENTS INTERN OFF COURT AT THE NBA AND WNBA



Higher ed employees advocate for labor rights

ILLUSTRATION BY EILE GUENEGO,
FILE PHOTOS/THE ITHACAN

BY KAI LINCKE

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MANAGER

As Cornell University students traveled to Collegetown for the start of Fall 2024, many Cornell staff members headed to the picket lines.

The UAW Local 2300 strike and Cornell graduate students' unionization in Fall 2023 are recent instances of union negotiations or unionization in higher education that have captured national attention.

At Ithaca College, some faculty members are represented in the Contingent Faculty Union, which ratified a new collective bargaining agreement with the college in July.

Ithaca College Contingent Faculty Union

The Ithaca College Contingent Faculty Union represents faculty in part-time and full-time contingent positions — both of which are not eligible for tenure.

According to the 1980 Supreme Court case *NLRB v. Yeshiva Univ.*, full-time tenure or tenure-track faculty who work at private institutions, like Ithaca College, are considered managers in their institutions and thus cannot join unions.

The Contingent Faculty Union is affiliated with the Service Employees International Union as SEIU Local 200United.

The union works to develop a collective bargaining agreement — an agreement between the union and the college that outlines terms for union members' employment and compensation — and can raise grievances on behalf of members who feel their rights outlined in the CBA have been violated.

Amber Lia-Kloppel, lecturer in the Department of Art, Art History, and Architecture and steward of the Contingent Faculty Union, said the union can help amplify contingent faculty members' voices.

"The administration has been listening and is attentive to our organizing power and their responsibilities as an employer," Lia-Kloppel said. "And when employees know their own

rights, I think it helps clarify how they can be treated."

According to the Contingent Faculty Union's CBA, all part-time and full-time contingent faculty are required to join the union. Emily Rockett — vice president, general counsel and secretary to the Board of Trustees — said new full-time contingent and part-time faculty receive forms to join the union during their onboarding process.

They can opt out of the union, but still must pay dues and are governed by the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Staff and unions

Rockett said members of the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management are part of the United Government Security Officers of America, but other college staff members are not represented by a union.

Pete Meyers, coordinator of the Tompkins County Workers' Center, said some staff members sought guidance from the center to start the unionization process approximately two years ago.

"We had three workers come to us from staff [at] Ithaca College, and I was able to set up interviews for them with three different unions," Meyers said. "They realized they were too small a group of people and it ended up not going anywhere."

Marilyn Dispensa, senior instructional designer within the Center for Faculty Excellence and chair of Staff Council, said the council has received a few anonymous requests from staff over the last few months to look into staff members' interest in unionizing.

During its July meeting, Staff Council discussed polling staff interest in unionization and drafted a statement in response.

"We do not have sufficient information to pursue a poll of employees regarding interest in unionization, and without sufficient information, staff members would not know what they are voting for or against," the statement said.

Dispensa said New York State labor laws prevent the college from encouraging or

UNIONS, PAGE 3

IC Title IX case moves forward

BY PRAKRITI PANWAR

NEWS EDITOR

In a decision and order filed Sept. 10, a U.S. district judge ruled that a former student's claim against Ithaca College for violating Title IX will survive. The student's claim about Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress (IIED) against Bryan Roberts, former associate dean of the Roy, H Park School of Communications, will also survive.

The student, who is identified by the court as John Doe for anonymity, filed a civil lawsuit against Roberts and the college in November 2023. Doe alleged that he was sexually harassed by four then-employees of the college, including Roberts.

The court dismissed four of Doe's claims: three against both the college and Roberts and one against the college.

The court ruled in favor of the two remaining claims: one against Roberts and one against the college.

The three dismissed claims against both defendants were negligent hiring, retention, training and supervision; negligence and Negligent Infliction of Emotional Damage. Doe's claim against the college for Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress (IIED) was dismissed, but his IIED claim against Roberts was not. The next step in the litigation process

TITLE IX, PAGE 3

Terraces open amid additions

BY RYAN JOHNSON

STAFF WRITER

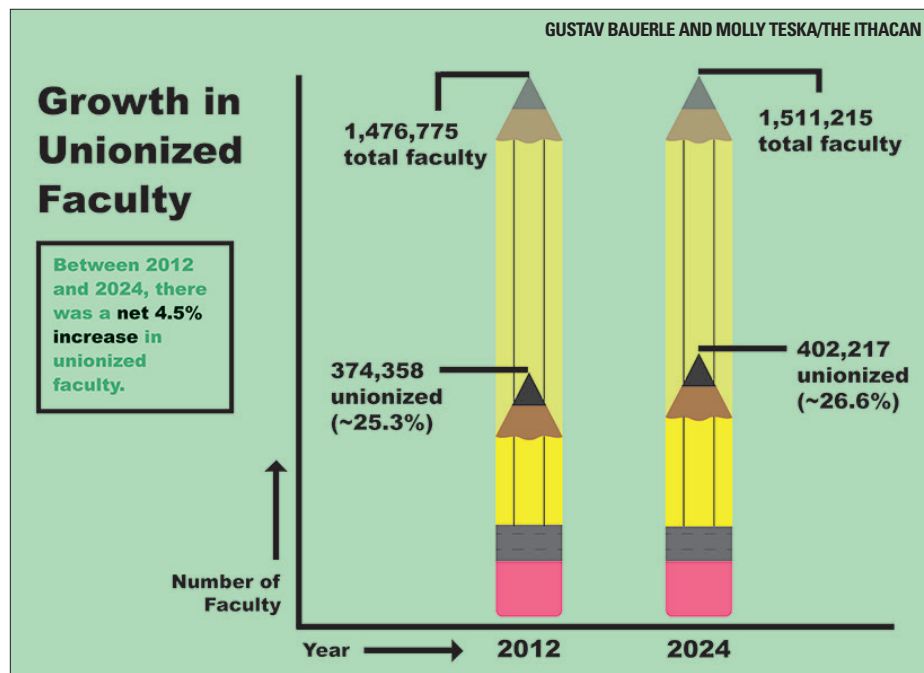
The Terrace Elevator Connector Project at Ithaca College started April 1 and has been underway since then, causing Terrace 1 to be closed to students. In the time frame since the project began, the spiral staircase at the Terrace Dining Hall has been removed and two all-gender restrooms have been added on the first floor of the dining hall.

The project, which is a part of the Ithaca Forever Strategic Plan, centers around the installation of a 6-stop elevator through the Terrace Dining Hall and the Terrace 1 residence hall. Students will be able to enter the Baker Walkway and take an elevator straight down into the Terraces or up into the Terrace quad. There will also be a stairwell attached to the Baker Walkway for students to use and get to and from the dining hall.

As of Sept. 11, the elevator has not been completed and Terrace 1 is still closed. The only entrance into the Terrace Dining Hall is the south entrance, a double-door entry located by the fire pits and outdoor seating area. Residents of the Terraces residence halls will have to continue picking mail up in the Towers Concourse, a change that began when construction started at Terraces.

Ernie McClatchie, associate vice president

TERRACES, PAGE 3



COLLEGE BRIEFS

BomberTHON to begin raising funds for children's hospital

BomberTHON will be hosting Taylor Swift Trivia Night from 7–9 p.m. Sept. 12 in IC Square. Participants are asked to bring \$5 to help raise money for the Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital, located in Syracuse.

Players can compete in teams of four or individually and the best teams will be awarded with prizes. Raffle tickets, snacks and Taylor Swift keychains will be sold for \$5. BomberTHON is a student-run organization that is part of a network of colleges that helps to raise money for the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

Eco Reps packages leftovers to combat dining hall food waste

Eco Reps will be meeting from 8–9 p.m. Sept. 13 in the Campus Center Dining Hall kitchens to package leftover food for donations to the Friendship Donations Network. The club meets at 7:45 p.m. every Friday in front of the doors of the Campus Center Dining Hall.

Participants can label, package or load food for delivery. Attendees should bring water and tie back long hair.

The Eco Reps are employed by the Office of Energy Management & Sustainability to educate and empower campus community

members about sustainability.

Panel to discuss professional interests and student success

Susan DiPace '74 will be hosting an alumni panel from 5–7 p.m. Sept. 14 in Emerson Suites. The panel will include Tamara Mayberry '97, Gelu Suluguic '98 and Ryan Zapolski '16. The conversation will be moderated by senior Lucas Kauffman, the host of the Career Corner Podcast.

There will be an opportunity for all students to network with the alumni in networking huddles and to connect about professional interests.

The panelists include IC alumni who have graduated in several different fields; Mayberry has worked in two separate presidential administrations and works as the chief of staff for the mayor of Rochester.

Suluguic received a degree in journalism from the Roy H. Park School of Communications and worked as a business reporter and editor of Reuters and Bloomberg. Zapolski graduated the college with a degree in sports management and is on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and chairs the Philanthropy subcommittee.

AI chatbot open to students to stay connected with the college

Ithaca College will be sending messages



IC Jazz Club hosts Weekly Jazz Jams

From left Natalie Gilbert, Everett Moore, Isaac Hophan and Jackson Wade perform at Weekly Jazz Jams. Any student is welcome to perform jazz music with IC Jazz Club from 8:30–10 p.m. on Thursdays in Towers Eatery.

MATEO BERMAN-SAMPLE/THE ITHACAN

to all consenting first-year, sophomore and transfer students through Textor, an AI chatbot. Textor is a tool that will remind students about important dates and deadlines. Students and their parents can initiate text messages from Textor by updating their preferences or opting in to receive

messages at 607-325-7874.

Representatives from the Center for Student Success will monitor the messages Textor sends and can help direct proper information to students. Students can end messages from Textor by replying STOP at any time.

MULTIMEDIA

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VISIT THEITHACAN.ORG/CATEGORY/MEDIA/



Ithaca Yacht Club launches cardboard boats

The Family & Children's Service of Ithaca partnered with Ithaca Yacht Club to host the sixth Cardboard Boat Race on Sept. 8.

Tune in to watch the boats in action!



Pop Off! – The Beatles' Albums

Sophomore host Ethan Kaufman and sophomore Jaiden Moreno break down the Beatles' discography and rank it from worst to best.

Correction:

In the previous issue of *The Ithacan* — the Fall 2024 Sports Preview — senior Caroline Hoskins of the sculling team was incorrectly identified as sophomore. In the same article, the length of sculling versus rowing races was wrong. Sculling races are 5,000 meters and rowing races are 2,000 meters.

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FROM TITLE IX, PAGE 1

is for both defendants to file an answer. According to a text order filed Sept. 11, an initial conference is scheduled for Oct. 17.

Roberts responded briefly via email to *The Ithacan's* request for comment.

"I do hope that the Ithacan does the right thing and reports clearly and accurately how all but two of the allegations have been dismissed before formal judicial proceedings have even begun," Roberts said. "I think it is very telling about the validity and honesty of the claims made."

A spokesperson of Erin Peake, Doe's lawyer, sent a statement via email to *The Ithacan*.

In the statement, Peake said the claims against the defendants are strong.

"Without question, the conduct of the school and many of its now-former employees has adversely affected our client's health, well-being, and educational experience," the statement said.

Negligent Hiring, Retention, Supervision and Training

The document cites that to establish this claim, the "employer knew or should have known [that] the employee [] [had] propensity for the conduct which caused the plaintiff's injury."

The court held that Roberts was not an employer and did not hold authority in hiring, retaining, supervising or training the other three former employees of the college, who also allegedly made "harmful, unwanted, unwelcome, nonconsensual and/or hostile sexual advances."



The court ruled that a former student's claims against Ithaca College and a former associate dean for violating Title IX and for Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress respectively, will survive.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

The court dismissed this claim of Doe's against the college on the assertion that Robert's sexual engagement with students is not indicative of a "propensity to engage in sexual abuse or harassment of students."

Claim of Negligence

Negligence is the failure of an individual to act reasonably, or act carelessly toward someone they owe a duty toward.

The court explained in its ruling that the college does not foreclose a duty based on the actions of its employees. The court dismissed Doe's claim for negligence in favor of Roberts, because "the conduct underlying this claim consists of intentional acts [and Doe] cannot state a cause of action

for negligence against Defendant Roberts related to that conduct."

NIED and IIED

A claim for Negligent Infliction of Emotional Damage (NIED) can be filed against any emotional distress that might have been caused, but the court stated that a "threat to physical safety or fear of physical harm is a requirement."

The court held that while Doe points out that he was traumatized and had to engage in therapy, it is not sufficient to prove the "genuineness" of his distress.

According to the decision and order, a claim of IIED has four aspects to it: extreme conduct; intentional actions or disregards for a high possibility of something that might cause emotional distress; a

causal relationship between conduct and "injury" and extreme emotional distress.

The court held that while Doe could have avoided Robert's alleged acts by simply leaving or exiting, the "feared consequences to [Doe's] collegiate or post-graduate career by engaging in such refusals raise at least an interference that he was not able to completely avoid Defendant Robert's alleged acts."

The claim was dismissed for the college because of lack of plausible facts to prove that the college "had notice of any such conduct until it was brought to the attention of the Title IX office."

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FROM UNIONS, PAGE 1

discouraging people from unionizing, which means that, as an entity of the college, the Staff Council cannot poll staff or suggest an opinion on unionization.

Dispensa added that the Staff Council does not represent any unionized staff — those who belong to the United Government Security Officers of America chapter — and it does not negotiate or participate in collective bargaining.

Dispensa said Staff Council is drafting a proposal for a Staff Ombuds Team, which would mediate conflicts between staff members and the college.

Contingent Faculty Union History

In April 2015, part-time faculty at Ithaca College filed a petition to unionize with the National Labor Relations Board.

Faculty voted to unionize in May 2015 and the part-time faculty bargaining committee began bargaining with the college in October 2015.

The committee asked the college to give part-time professors increased job security and fair compensation, as well as benefits; longer term contracts; clear and fair pathways to full-time positions; more professional development; suitable office space; transparent and fair evaluations and more inclusion at the college.

Full-time contingent faculty asked the college to allow them to join the part-time faculty union in April 2016. The college said it believed a union was "not appropriate" because it preferred to directly communicate with faculty.

Full-time contingent faculty filed with the National Labor Relations Board and established their own unit within the union in May 2016, which created the Contingent Faculty Union.

The union voted to authorize a strike in March 2017 after negotiations stalled, but canceled the strike when they agreed to a contract with the college two weeks later. The union ratified the contract in May 2017.

Negotiations

The college and the union agreed to the 2024–27 CBA in July. In the new CBA, union representatives received a 3% increase for wage minimums per credit hour taught for every year of the contract.

Part-time unionized faculty members who have more than three years seniority at the college are eligible for a two-year appointment. The new CBA requires that faculty with three years seniority and at least three concurrent semesters teaching must receive a contract to teach for both fall and spring semesters for two years instead of a single semester. The college will start counting semesters in Fall 2024.

Rockett said one of the college's considerations when selecting a collective bargaining team is picking administrators who represent the departments that union members work in.

"I think that the college tries really hard to do right by all its employees," Rockett said. "I think you can see that in the negotiations with both unions, as well as with the college's relationships with its non-unionized employees."

Lia-Kloppel said the union's dynamic with the college through negotiations has been positive and professional, but she hopes that union members will get more involved in future negotiations to gain more wins.

Lia-Kloppel said she is proud of the gains that the union has won for its members. She said she hopes people see how the union can benefit the greater campus community by protecting the college's integrity.

"The pushes that we make for our members are not only for individuals, but for strengthening the community as a whole," Lia-Kloppel said. "Meeting with the administration throughout negotiations really gives us some oversight onto what is happening within enrollment, the financial health of the institution, and increasingly, as we see these sudden closures of colleges and universities around the country. ... I think it's increasingly important that we as faculty have some oversight, and as adjunct faculty, in particular, we're really attentive to the spending of these institutions."

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FROM TERRACES, PAGE 1

in the Office of Facilities, said the main goal of construction before Fall 2024 was to ensure that the Baker Walkway and Terrace Dining Hall were usable by the start of the semester. While the Baker Walkway is covered in scaffolding, the walkway and the Terrace Dining Hall are still open for use. McClatchie said the Office of Facilities is aiming for the project to be done by November 2024.

"What I want to make sure is understood is that we did not intend for this project to be completed during the return of school," McClatchie said. "We would have hoped that we would have more of the exterior work done, but we had some complications over the summer."

McClatchie said there were issues with the project over the summer, like a lack of labor and materials needed, and the amount of rain during the summer months. McClatchie said

the project began with inserting footers, which are bases for the foundation of the new addition to the building. He said that inserting the footers and laying the foundation of the building was the most time-consuming part of the construction process.

"Once that piece was done, other than some utility work that had to be done, the actual erection of the steel [on the connector was done] to get the framing up," McClatchie said. "And then there was a lot of demolition [to] connect the new piece [of the building] to the old piece and get rid of the [spiral staircase]. Interior-wise, the two new bathrooms were built."

McClatchie said that at this point during construction, the process will start to move along faster.

"You'll see the roofing done [soon], everything will become enclosed," McClatchie said. "The elevator is actually being worked on and installed. Then, you'll see not only the exterior finishes being done, but the interior finishes

will start being completed."

Tim Downs, vice president of finance and administration and chief financial officer, said the college will most likely stay within the budget of \$4 million for the project. Downs said the original estimate for the project was \$3 million, but because of increasing labor and supply chain costs, additional money had to be allocated for the project.

"You should almost factor on escalation costs of 10% each year that you delay a project because of ... how fast prices are rising," Downs said. "As of now, we should finish at or below the [\$4 million] budget we set."

Sophomore Faith Marini said she uses the Terrace Dining Hall often and once she knew the renovations centered around making the college more accessible, she was in full support of the project.

"I remember my first year, I had a friend who uses a wheelchair and she was talking to me about how she had a bunch of issues trying to get to Terraces and it was inconvenient for her," Marini said. "I just want to be able to get dinners with her. So now, if they're adding this elevator, I feel like that's going to be really helpful."

Marini said the project is a great first step for the college to improve accessibility.

"I think [the project is a good thing]," Marini said. "I hope they continue to build more ramps on campus versus just a long climb of staircases from the top to the bottom of campus."

Downs said people should appreciate seeing construction on campus because it always means growth on campus.

"I don't mind students and families [seeing construction on campus] and interacting with it, even if it's a frustration because they have to park a little further or walk a little longer," Downs said. "It's seeing the work on campus ... and I think there's an important aspect to that."

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Terraces Dining Hall construction started April 1 and was scheduled to be completed during summer 2024. Now, the construction will tentatively end in September.

SAMMIE MACARANAS/THE ITHACAN

BIPOC Unity Center staff increases

BY PRAKRITI PANWAR
NEWS EDITOR

Ithaca College's BIPOC Unity Center has not yet hired a permanent director since undergoing a name change in Spring 2023 and a merger with the First-Generation and MLK Scholar Center in Spring 2024. However, it has the largest staff it has had since before the changes. At this time, the center plans to focus on intersectional programming to continue engaging students meaningfully.

The college launched a national search for a permanent director in May, but Stanley Bazile, vice president of Student Affairs and Campus Life, said the college decided to pause the search because it could not find a qualified candidate.

"We wanted to make sure [to] get this to get the semester [started] off correctly," Bazile said. "The last thing we wanted to do was start the semester, not have someone and then we're waiting ... to fill that position. That, to me, would have been irresponsible on our part."

Junior Leticia Rebelo de Oliveira is a student employee who has been working at the center since Fall 2022. Rebelo said even though there is no permanent director, it does not feel like the center is lacking support.

"We call it fully staffed right



From top left, Stanley Bazile, Shadayvia Wallace, Luca Maurer, Erin Foster, McKenzie Murray and Cliff-Simon Vital. The BIPOC Unity Center has paused the search for a director indefinitely.

KAELEIGH BANDA/THE ITHACAN

now because we have ... four professional staff working in the office," Rebelo said. "When I started, it was only the director."

In November 2023, *The Ithacan* reported that Angélica Carrington, former director of the BIPOC Unity Center, and Radeana Hastings, former program coordinator of the BIPOC Unity Center, were no longer employed at the college.

Rebelo said that during the uncertain phase in Spring 2023, many students did not feel like they had

a resource to turn to.

"I feel like I never received the answers I wanted, but I accepted what happened," Rebelo said. "I think we are now fully prepared to support the students again."

Luca Maurer, executive director for Student Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, is co-leading the campus climate survey, which was conducted in Spring 2024. The survey showed that underrepresented communities on campus reported lower levels of comfort on campus.

Maurer said the Center for EIB and the BIPOC Unity Center want to focus on intersectionality.

"The way that the Center for Equity, Inclusion and Belonging is able to propel the work forward of the BIPOC Unity Center is by serving as a reminder to the campus community that people don't live their lives in individual silos," Maurer said. "People are intersectional."

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IC enters global tuition program

BY TAYLOR BORASH
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

In August 2024, Ithaca College joined over 700 other colleges and universities across the country in the Tuition Exchange, an international program that offers scholarships for dependents of college faculty and staff. The college's eligible dependents will have the opportunity to apply for Tuition Exchange Scholarships beginning in Fall 2025.

The Tuition Exchange is a reciprocal scholarship program, which means dependents who win scholarships can use the money to pay for tuition at partner colleges that are also part of the Tuition Exchange. Students are expected to use the scholarship for the four years they attend their institution of choice, which can either cover the full cost of tuition or provide winning students with a set scholarship amount. The program changes the set rate every year based on a weighted average of all participating institutions. For the 2025–26 academic year, the amount is \$43,000 for every awarded student. In the 2023–24 academic year, over 7,800 scholarships were awarded, totaling over \$328 million.

Kirra Franzese, associate vice president and chief human resources officer, is the college's Tuition Exchange liaison officer and a member of the Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee that made it possible for the college to join the program. Franzese said the decision to join the Tuition Exchange was inspired by a desire to create more benefits for college employees.

"We're in a position in higher [education] where we want to be able to recruit and retain the best employees, and this is an absolute way in which we can show that we strive to be an employer of choice," Franzese said. "We want to support our employees and provide them with the most opportunities that we possibly can."

The college also has the Dependent Tuition Remission, a program that offers benefits for domestic partners and/or dependent children of eligible faculty who want to attend the college. The program is also available to employees of the college themselves and covers the cost of tuition, minus any scholarships or grants someone might have outside of college aid, whereas the Tuition Exchange is available only to dependents of college faculty and covers all costs up to the set award amount. The list of Tuition Exchange partner schools includes other institutions in the country, like Syracuse University and Elmira College.

Marc Webster, associate professor in the Department of Music Performance, is a member of the Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee and was heavily involved in the research process behind the college's involvement in the Tuition Exchange. Webster said the committee was able to convince the college to join the program by looking into 15 competitor institutions' involvement in similar tuition exchange programs.

"We wrote a proposal, and it was taken seriously and advanced through the ranks, but then we had to prove ... that it would provide some financial benefit to the institution, or that it would at least be a cost-neutral model," Webster said.

Franzese said that moving forward, the Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee may look into expanding the scholarship's eligibility requirements, which are decided by each participating institution, but for now their focus is on employee response to the program.

"We know Ithaca College is a great institution," Franzese said. "We know there are going to be people who want to come here and are going to want one of our scholarships, so we're really excited about potentially providing something for our existing employees to help retain them."

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Professor creates slug-based adhesive

BY SEBASTIAN PICKFORD
STAFF WRITER

For over 20 years, Andrew Smith, Dana professor in the Department of Biology at Ithaca College, has been researching the Arion subfuscus, an invasive species of slug originally from northwest Europe that is now commonly found in Ithaca and across most of eastern North America.

The slug has a defense mechanism and produces a unique glue-like secretion when under threat. Smith said he discovered this quality within his first couple weeks of moving to Ithaca in 2000.

"There was definitely an 'a-ha' moment because it was when we first got here, probably within the first couple weeks," Smith said. "I picked up [the slug] and it just started oozing on me. It got on my finger and I rubbed my fingers together and couldn't get it off. I was like, 'This is incredible. This is amazing.'"

Smith's curiosity gave him the inspiration to develop a specific product — a medical adhesive that could replace the need for stitches or staples.

"I think most people would say it's disgusting, it's an orange slime all over your hand and you can't get it off," Smith said. "But ... I knew that something that stuck like that and wouldn't come off and that set so quickly was really special."

Smith has been working with students in his lab to attempt to synthesize a glue based on the slug secretion. The glue could, in theory, be used in medical settings and would be much more compatible with the human body than the available medical adhesives.

"The reason I'm excited about this is because gels, from a medical point of view, are really, really useful," Smith said. "We say our body is 70% water, but it's not water that's flowing around, it's water that's trapped in a gel ... A lot of our structures are gels, so



Andrew Smith, Dana professor of biology, studies the sticky mucus of the Arion subfuscus slug. Smith is attempting to make the mucus into a medical adhesive.

KAI LINCKE/THE ITHACAN

it's very compatible."

Medical adhesives are becoming more common, with Dermabond being among the most popular according to the National Institute of Health. It is incredibly sticky and durable and sets quickly, but its main drawbacks are that it is inflexible and expensive.

One of Smith's students, junior biochem major Caitlyn O'Dell, has been working in Smith's lab since Spring 2023.

"At first, we were making these blocks of gel and running them through cheesecloth to try and make small gels that could later be put together," O'Dell said. "But we were finding that we needed more surface area."

She and the other lab students conducted many trials, changing variables and recording differences in their findings.

Sophomore biology major Artan Isom began working on the slug adhesive in Smith's lab in Spring 2024. Isom intends to pursue a medical

degree, and has already seen how a biomedical product like this could be useful through his experience in Fall 2022 working as an EMT.

"In a lot of surgeries, they use super glue or some sort of plastic, but it's generally not the best solution," Isom said. "[Dermabond is] toxic. It'll stay in your body and can cause inflammation."

According to Smith, the research is very novel, but there are several scientific communities working on creating a gel product like this, including a lab at MIT.

"We published this paper that did give a fair amount of information to other people, so that's going to accelerate the pace," Smith said. "There's a bit of a moral obligation. If we can get a glue into the world three years sooner, even if it's not me, it's three years sooner that a useful material exists."

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OPINION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

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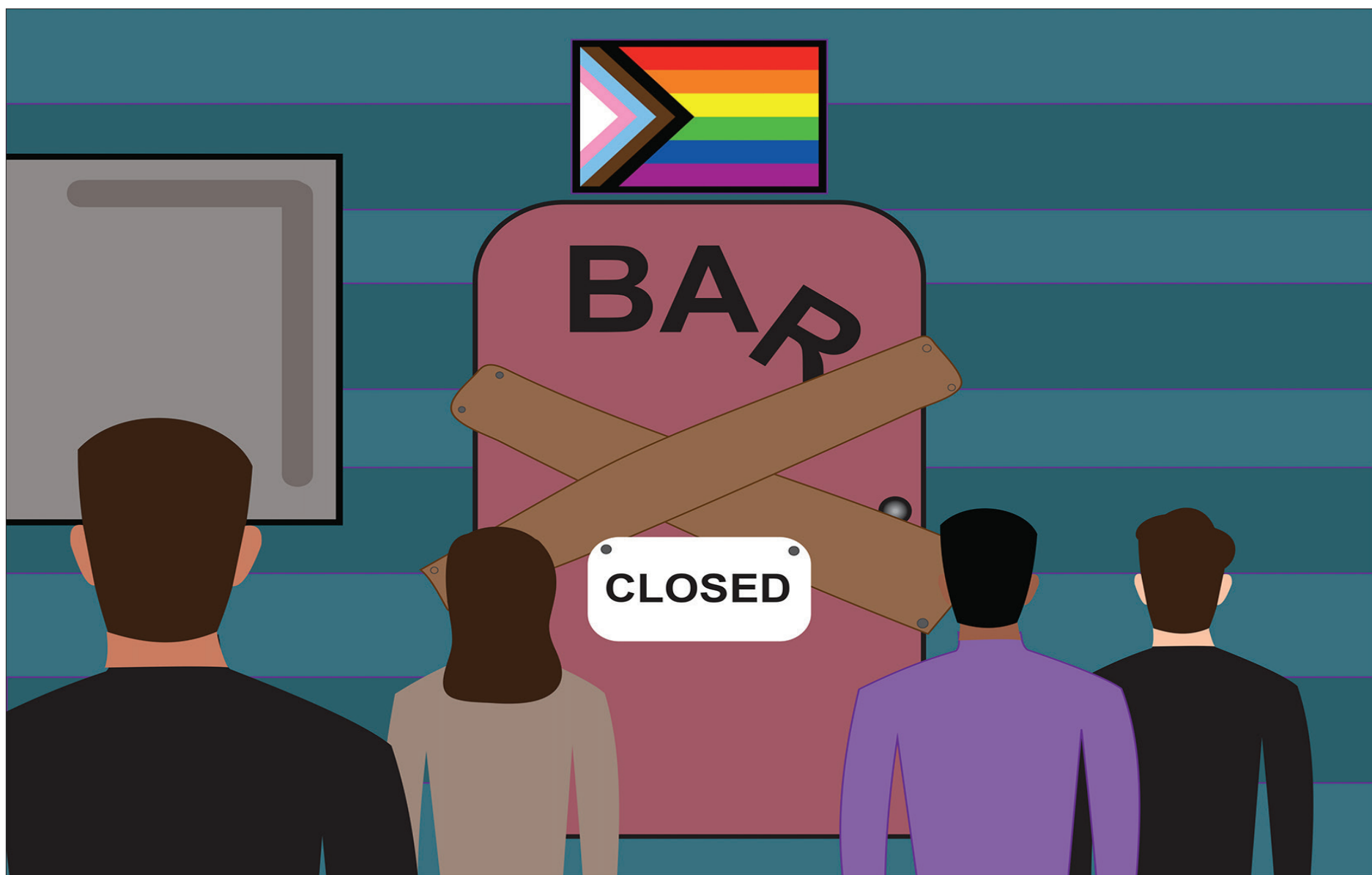


ILLUSTRATION BY GUSTAV BAUERLE/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

College must focus search for BIPOC Unity Center director

While the current staff of Ithaca College's BIPOC Unity Center do an admirable job, the postponement of the college's search for a director is endemic of many community-based issues in Ithaca — the options for support fall consistently on the same leaders, who can be stretched thin by the responsibilities with which they are tasked. Both the students they serve and the leaders themselves deserve an attitude of increased urgency from administration.

The college has a history of high turnover for faculty and staff that it is still attempting to rectify. A new hire is especially important because the campus community was left without answers in regard to the departure of former center director Angélica Carrington last year. The work of Shadayvia Wallace, associate director of the BIPOC Unity Center; Cliff-Simon Vital, interim associate director of the BIPOC Unity Center; Luca Maurer, executive director for Student Equity, Inclusion and Belonging; and the employees at the BIPOC Unity Center is commendable. Their efforts have not gone

unnoticed. The center is an essential institution at the college that serves many students who have often expressed the need for increased support. It deserves the support that a director would be able to provide. Just because something is functioning well without a full host of resources does not mean that those resources should not be allocated. In turn, if the search is paused indefinitely, that leaves the center without a director for possibly the entire academic year. It is unclear when the search will resume.

In light of frustrations voiced by the BIPOC community at the college in recent years, it is of the utmost importance that the college prioritize both speed and intentionality in its search. While students and other campus community members have been assured that the center is functioning successfully, there is always potential for increased support. The center must focus on serving its current population of students and ensure that future students have support. Postponing the search puts a bandage on the issue, rather than reinforcing efforts that would lead to the hiring of a candidate.

Communal LGBTQ+ spaces in Ithaca need to be celebrated

With the closing of The Range in downtown Ithaca, many patrons of the beloved ThursGays events were concerned about the survival of what has become a pinnacle of the LGBTQ+ community in the area. In 2024, there are few designated spaces for social events that cater to LGBTQ+ clientele in upstate New York. ThursGays has since moved to Lot 10.

Ithaca used to have a designated LGBTQ+ nightlife and community center in Common Ground, which closed in 2009. Felicia's Atomic Lounge, while not technically a gay bar, often served as a hub before closing in 2015. These closures follow a national pattern of the closure of gay and lesbian bars. As of Sept. 10, there are only 32 lesbian bars left in the U.S. In its place, members of the Ithaca community host a rotating "guerrilla queer bar" that partners with various establishments in the area each month.

Ithaca has a reputation of supporting LGBTQ+ expression and education. The former home of lesbian press Firebrand Books still stands in the Commons, now memorialized

with a historical plaque. Ithaca College has consistently been ranked as "Best of the Best" on the Campus Pride Index. The LGBTQ+ community has a strong voice here. With the creation of the Ithaca Pride Alliance last year, more structural support has begun to appear.

But historically, most of these community spaces are restricted to 21+ venues or only serve students. While ThursGays is a 21+ event, it helps to create a welcoming space. This type of support and camaraderie is equally important. While it is sad that The Range is closing, the fact that events like ThursGays have found a new home is vital.

Marginalized communities must often find their own spaces and carve out areas for their own joy. In the face of increased violence directed toward the LGBTQ+ community in general and the transgender community in particular, events that celebrate them are vital. Spaces that uplift LGBTQ+ voices must be protected. They remind us that experiences are diverse, beautiful and powerful. This is the importance and beauty of events that highlight community.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu.

ALL LETTERS MUST:

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

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

ALL COMMENTARIES MUST:

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

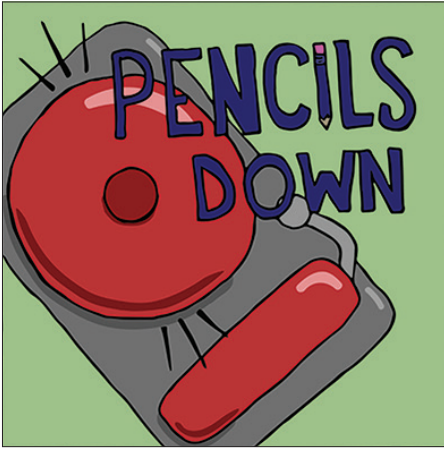


ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN

Hidden work of education

BY GABE HENDERSHOT

COLUMNIST

Over the last couple of weeks, Cornell University experienced the longest employee strike in the institution's history. The strike lasted 15 days, with Cornell workers picketing around Ithaca. Workers were striking because the school, despite its steady financial growth, has been paying its workers low wages with incredibly small raises each year. The cost of living has been on a relentless climb in the past few years and many Cornell employees, some of whom have worked at the institution for two or three decades, were struggling to survive.

It is confounding to think that Cornell has been able to treat their employees this way for so long without any pushback. The reality of our current economy, however, puts workers in a tough position. When someone is making just enough money to support themselves and their family, finding a higher paying job can be nearly impossible. This is because it requires both time and resources to search and interview for a new position. In this way, many employees get stuck in jobs that are not paying them fairly because it is their only way to make ends meet.

There is another fundamental rule of society at play when it comes to maintenance workers being underpaid and undervalued. "Invisible work" is a term used for any labor, mental or physical, that is not immediately noticeable by others. It is generally used in the context of homemaking and family life. A partner who cleans the house, does the dishes and cares for the children often does not receive ample credit for their contributions. This comes, from outdated suburban American ideals about the role of women in the home.

The connection between this concept and university maintenance workers might not be immediately clear. When students attend a university and live there, the campus becomes their home. Students need three meals a day, a clean place to live and a multitude of other resources. These are all provided by maintenance workers and other employees of the university.

However, this work is often not fully appreciated by students or, more importantly, by administration. Maintenance workers do vast amounts of labor on campuses to create a safe and pleasant environment for students. In articles discussing the Cornell strike, many workers said that they love their jobs and were sad that they could not welcome new students at the beginning of the fall semester.

This is why unions like the United Auto Workers, which led the recent strike, are so important. The UAW provided money to workers on strike so that they could afford to demand change. It is a failure of our country's systems and ideals that has caused these workers to be put in such a tough position. As I drove through Ithaca and saw Cornell workers picketing, I felt so proud of them. I realized that it is possible to push back against decades of mistreatment if we can sacrifice comfort for improvement.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

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

Disabled students deserve community

BY FLYNN DAVIDSON

JUNIOR

My first year of college was a new chance for me to meet other disabled students. During the club fair, I immediately signed up for DEAR@IC, Disability Education Advocacy and Resources at Ithaca College, hoping to do just that. I quickly learned that a good portion of those involved were non-disabled students. While it's nice to see support from the student body, it wasn't the community I wanted or needed. I acted briefly as its education liaison and took part in a presentation on accessibility at the college.

Its programming did not fit my personal needs at the time, so I left and eventually assisted in filling the void for an accessible social organization with the Disabled Students' Alliance.

Community over education has become one of our mottos. It is the responsibility of our non-disabled peers to educate themselves before expecting us to do it for them.

In the last few months of Spring 2024 my friend, junior Oakley Weihing, a sociology major and our current student organization president, asked if I wanted to work on creating the Disabled Students' Alliance. We spent those final few months finding other e-board members, a club adviser — the wonderful Dr. Ju Hyeon Han in Whalen — and students to join. We were successfully recognized by the end of the semester.

Ithaca College has diverse organizations, but during my first couple years on campus, there was nothing specifically by disabled students, for disabled students. I was also looking for something non-education based. I do



Junior Flynn Davidson, a speech language and pathology major, co-created the Disabled Students' Alliance to fill a programming vacancy for students on campus.

ALEXSIS ELLIOTT/THE ITHACAN

enjoy educating on disability and accessibility, but that's not all I want to do as a disabled person. I want to watch movies, play games and do crafts with people who have similar needs and won't shame me for needing sensory aides or a break.

I've seen plenty of advocacy groups, but very rarely do I see community groups for disabled people, especially in an academic environment. It's frustrating to not have a space like that when disabled people really want to interact with and support each other, which is exactly what we set out to do. On Aug. 25, we successfully held our first orientation event.

With the help of Student Accessibility

Services and New Student Transition Program, we welcomed a large group of disabled students, faculty and staff and several non-disabled ally professors. My fellow e-board members and I are incredibly proud of that event and the number of students who joined us for a good time and not an educational experience.

My hope for the alliance is that it becomes a place for all disabled students on campus. There is no such thing as "not disabled enough." If you feel you belong in our community, you are always welcome.

Flynn Davidson (they/them) is a junior SLP major. Contact them at fdavidson@ithaca.edu.

STAFF COMMENTARY

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

Aesthetics have flooded internet space

BY JADE FERRANTE

JUNIOR

Are you a clean girl or an office siren? Do you like cottagecore or dark academia? Do you have blueberry milk nails or tomato girl makeup? Are you alternative or coquette?

When society urges people to conform to neat, clear-cut identities like "clean girl" or "office siren," a sense of uniqueness is lost. As the intensity of aesthetic crosses over from only fashion to items like interests, music and personality, people start to define themselves not by who they are, but what they consume.

On sites like Instagram, Pinterest, TikTok and Tumblr, terms like these — office siren, mob wife — are being adopted by influencers and their followers alike as various "aesthetics," which synonymize fashion, makeup and lifestyle trends. Aesthetics are on the rise, bringing micro-trends and problems associated with fast-fashion.

Dior lip oil, Stanley cups and yoga pants signify a "clean girl," while Oxford shoes, tweed blazers and Gothic literature denote someone invested in "dark academia." Although aesthetics are superficially different, they all

have something quite important in common: the price tag.

Journalist Emily Heng compiled a collection for Vogue in July 2024 of the makeup used to attain the current trending makeup looks on TikTok. The cheapest item on the list is a \$35 lip-liner, while the most expensive is a \$650 moisturizing cream. While not all products on this list are required to be "on aesthetic," it is notable that the price of aesthetic compounds; these products will not remain trendy once another, different trend becomes popular. The implicit goal of aesthetic is not only a sense of style, but to live with style as well.

The aesthetic movement is closely linked to micro-trends and fast-fashion. Regardless of if tomato girl summer or pumpkin girl fall is trending, aesthetics have become a code word for consumerism. It would be a lie to say that trends and micro-trends have not always existed. In the '70s, it was bell-bottoms and peasant tops. In the '80s, it was shoulder pads and mullets. The internet, though, has sped the clock — aesthetics fade in and out in a matter of months, and studies have found that many people dispose of new clothes within a year. Martini Igini found that many garments are being worn only seven to ten times



Junior Jade Ferrante writes about how the current internet focus on aesthetics permeates many aspects of modern life.

ROBERT DANIELS/THE ITHACAN

before disposal. With the rise of online shopping and sites like Shein, people can buy hauls of poor-quality clothes in bulk. The problem is not solely that trends exist, but that they rely upon the exploitative fast fashion industry, which harms and impoverishes factory workers and has an outsized impact on the environment.

For many, "what's trending" doesn't matter — they wear what they want, when they want. But for many, what others wear means a great deal. People want to

belong, to fit in, to be cool. This is not inherently bad, but when encouraged by corporations and influencers seeking to profit off of our insecurities and desire to express ourselves, it hurts the environment and people. Astha Rajvanshi notes for Time that Shein forced workers into 75-hour shifts and violated labor laws.

The price of staying "on trend" isn't worth the cost.

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As one door closes, Ithaca's bar scene expands

BY KELLYANNE KEARNEY

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Range, a beloved bar located on the Ithaca Commons, closed its doors for good Aug. 3. The bar was first opened in 2016 by owners Andrew Schreck and Tommy Grozier.

The Range was both a bar and a music venue that hosted a variety of themed nights, including "ThursGays" and Salsa nights on Wednesdays. On "ThursGays," the Range would host a variety of weekly queer events with local drag performers. On salsa nights, anyone was able to come and learn to salsa dance and listen to Latin music. The Range also showcased local Ithaca bands and DJs weekly.

Senior Lilly Tollin said the The Range was more entertaining than other bars in The Commons.

"[The Range] felt a little bit nicer than Moonies," Tollin said. "Compared to Moonies, there seemed to be more space to just be and talk to other people — they had tables, they had a dartboard sometimes, so there was just more to do."

Senior Sebastian Rocha said he was very surprised to learn that The Range closed.

"Everyone always talked about how much better The Range was than most of the other bars and clubs," Rocha said. "Especially downtown ... nine times out of 10, people would prefer to go to The Range, not Moonies."

According to the Ithaca Voice, Schreck said The Range had to close because it was not financially sustainable anymore.

Schreck did not respond to multiple attempts to contact him for an interview.

The biggest reason mentioned as to why The Range may not have been successful was the cover fees; a regular night would have a \$5 entry fee, while nights with musical guests would have a higher entry fee. The Range also only accepted cash at the door for its covers most nights, whereas Moonies would accept Venmo payments, making it more accessible for patrons.

"If there's no way to digitally accept any kind of cover, then that will turn a lot of people away, especially because nowadays not a lot



From left, performers Queen Tessential and Butch Lite hosted the weekly event "ThursGays" on Sept. 5 at Lot 10. Originally held at The Range, "ThursGays" now live on at a new location.

ALEX BENOWITZ/THE ITHACAN



of people carry cash on them," Rocha said.

Another reason that could have contributed to The Range not being self-sustaining is the music. Tollin said she and her friends were sometimes disappointed by the music, but they stayed because they had already paid a cover.

"A lot of times, people were really unhappy with the music that [The Range] had, but felt like they had to stay because they paid for it," Tollin said.

The current bar scene

Whether people liked The Range or not, many have agreed that the absence of The Range has affected the two other largest bars in the area — Moonies and, recently, Lot 10. Rocha said he likes the back-and-forth between Moonies and Lot 10 because he thinks that it will improve Moonies.

"[Moonies is] not going to be the default bar you go to," Rocha said. "That's going to be Lot 10, so [Moonies] will have to be really smart about how they improve their services, and hopefully that will make them a much better competitor, one that I might actually want to go to one day. Healthy competition is healthy competition, and it will make both of the bars better, or it will kill off the worst bar."

Shakawat Hossain is the owner of three Ithaca bars: Moonies, Level B and Hideaway. He bought Moonies in 2020 and said what sets Moonies apart

from his other bars is its location on The Commons, which makes it an "Ithaca College bar." Hossain also said the summer and the beginning of Fall 2024 have been unusually slow, prompting Moonies to come up with promotions to retain customers.

"When students are back after summer, students are [going] out," Hossain said. "Everybody's pretty much packed, you know, but this year is kind of slow."

Hossain said he does not think The Range closing has had any effects on Moonies, given that it was already experiencing the "slowest summer ever."

The future of "ThursGays"

One of the events that The Range was most known for was "ThursGays," where drag performers would go to the bar and put on a drag show every Thursday. After The Range closed, Lot 10 became the new venue for "ThursGays" and now hosts the drag performers in the downstairs portion of the bar on Thursdays.

Tilia Cordata, head producer of "ThursGays" and drag performer herself, started "ThursGays at The Range" in 2022 as a way for members of the LGBTQ+ community to come together.

"The Range was home," Cordata said. "It had been kind of a drag home for a long time. ... It was a place [drag performers] connected with and performed at for a long time."

Cordata said she did not know The Range would be closing, as there was no warning despite having events lined up months in advance.

Though Cordata is still mourning the loss of The Range, she said she is excited about the future of



that this bar was kind of turning into a student space ... as someone who has lived here now for years not as a student, the culture of this bar has changed, but I think it's really good that we're taking up [the Lot 10 downstairs] space and showing the queer nightlife hasn't gone anywhere, like we're still here and we're still gonna do our best to show out every week."

Queen Tessential is a drag performer, an Ithaca College alum and an Ithaca College staff member who works at the Center for Student Success as a success coach.

Tessential said she is still processing news of The Range closing while also adjusting to the new venue. She likes Lot 10 because she is able to man the door and greet people who are going to attend the show.

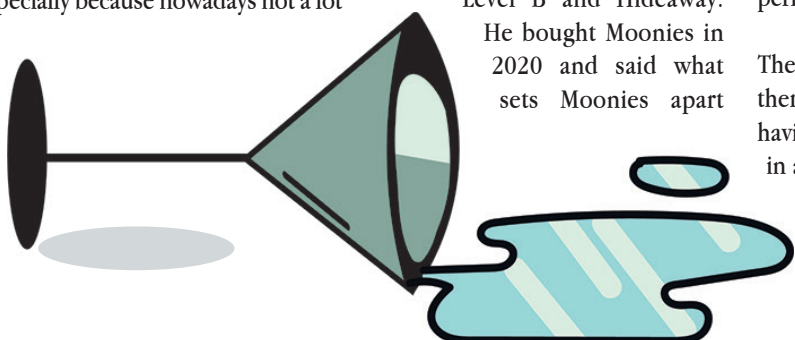
The loss of The Range is felt by many Ithaca locals and students, but the other bars in the area have been putting up a good effort to win over the affections of the demographic who attended The Range.

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Queen Tessential, a regular host and performer at "ThursGays," also works at the Center for Student Success at Ithaca College.

ALEX BENOWITZ/THE ITHACAN



Old ghosts, new faces in 'Beetlejuice Beetlejuice'

MOVIE REVIEW: "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" Warner Bros. Discovery



BY LOGAN THOMPSON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"Beetlejuice" (1988), arguably the most iconic movie in director Tim Burton's illustrious filmography, is a tough act to follow. Released on Sept. 6, after 36 years, the famed director took his shot with "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice." Unlike Burton's recent theatrical flops, this screwball, supernatural comedy might be a home run.

"Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" follows three generations of the Deetz family. Winona Ryder and Catherine O'Hara reprise their roles as Lydia and Delia, respectively, while Jenna Ortega plays Lydia's daughter, Astrid. Lydia now hosts a paranormal talk show, Delia curates art exhibitions and Astrid attends an all-girls boarding school.

The film opens with Lydia being pulled off set by her boyfriend and producer, Rory (Justin Theroux), as she experiences a traumatic vision of everyone's favorite sleazy shapeshifting demon, Betelgeuse (Michael Keaton). From there, the film frantically rushes forward, struggling to re-establish original characters while introducing new ones. The film is like a fever dream, bouncing back and forth between life as we know it and Burton's richly imagined underworld.

Alongside Ryder, O'Hara and Keaton are newcomers Ortega,

Theroux, Monica Bellucci, Arthur Conti and Willem Dafoe. Jeffrey Jones — now a convicted sex offender — does not reprise his role as Charles Deetz, though he does remain in the film as a headless torso played and voiced by uncredited actors. Frankly, it's too many characters crammed into a runtime of just one hour and 45 minutes.

Too much, and yet not enough. The much-hyped, all-star cast is underutilized. Some characters, particularly Bellucci's Delores and Dafoe's Wolf Jackson, serve no purpose at all. Delores, while initially framed as Betelgeuse's prominent and vengeful ex-wife, practically drops off the screen. Wolf, a famous actor turned afterlife police detective, is a worthy foil to Betelgeuse, but adds little to the plot. Neither character contributes enough to the story to justify their inclusion. The film would've been better off scrapping one character to create more time for the other.

Even with the bloated cast of characters, every performance is good and some are even great. Ryder, O'Hara and Ortega have fantastic chemistry. Their bond also serves as the emotional center of the film — specifically, the rekindling of Lydia and Astrid's mother-daughter relationship.

Yet everyone pales in comparison to Keaton as Betelgeuse. He chews up every scene, providing a



After 36 years, Michael Keaton, Winona Ryder and Catherine O'Hara reprise their roles in Tim Burton's "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" with new cast members like Jenna Ortega and Willem Dafoe.

COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. DISCOVERY

through line of hilarity that somewhat offsets the tedium of less interesting plotlines. Keaton has slightly more screen time than in the original film, where he had 17 minutes to make his everlasting impression.

In the last half hour, Burton's genius finally emerges as he flawlessly channels the original film's magic. The set design, costumes,

color scheme, blocking and cinematography — amplified by Danny Elfman's jubilant score — create an extraordinary experience.

Like its predecessor, "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" is a zany farce that only Tim Burton could imagine. There's gore, there's gags, there's grandiose musical numbers. But there's also teenage angst, vengeful exes and very real

human grief. He creates comedy from tragedy, unraveling human nature along the way. And, through the magic of Hollywood, he wraps the whole fantastical mess up in a glittery, happy-ending bow.

A home run, maybe not. But "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" is one hell of a ride.

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Ashe reclaims her genre-fusing sound in 'Willson'

ALBUM REVIEW: "Willson" Ashe



BY GEORGIE GASSARO

LIFE AND CULTURE EDITOR

Ashlyn Rae Willson, better known as Ashe, is no stranger to redefining her own name. With her new album, "Willson," she is now setting a new precedent for what her name stands for.

"Willson," released Sept. 6, is both Ashe's third studio album and the third piece of her self-titled series. This album is her first independently-released album. "Willson" marks Ashe's resurgence into the music industry, the reconciliation of her wounded past and the start of her self-discovery.

Ashe began her Fun While It Lasted Tour in Australia and New Zealand in 2022, and was scheduled to travel to the U.S. and Europe for a second leg going into 2023. On Feb. 1, 2023, Ashe announced her decision to cancel and refund the remaining tour dates to prioritize her mental health. This decision did not come as a complete surprise to Ashe's fan base because the singer has hinted at her struggles with grief and depression in her music after the death of her brother in 2020.

Haunting authenticity within her lyricism is not a new quality of Ashe's music, but "Willson" is set apart for its unfiltered confidence and experimentation with genre-blending and unusual production choices.

"Please don't fall in love with me" gives the album a soft opening with self-harmonies. In Ashe's typical alternative-pop style, she interrupts this tranquility with a shocking bridge. With this first track, Ashe alerts listeners that her time off has not damaged

her boldness. This is proven in tracks like her most mysterious and devastating "Pull The Plug," which uses faded heart-monitor sounds and anticipatory unfinished lines to draw questions as to which personal trauma the song refers to.

The haunting lyricism of "Willson" cuts deep like a paradoxical knife, one that has never been wielded by Ashe with such power. She constantly juxtaposes tempo with tone to create a listening environment of constant uncertainty and buzz.

"Helter Skelter" is the halfway mark of the album and is an absolute focal point for this narrative journey. Although soft sounding, this track tells the difficult story of her "calling in sick for the rest of this year." The song's delicate guitar and whimsical, sweet vocals are a great metaphorical transition for the future of her career as an artist because the rest of the album references her comeback — from both her career hiatus and her hardships with grief and domestic abuse.

"Dear Stranger," is a chilling and joyful love letter to her loyal fans as Ashe thanks them for sticking around during her hardest moments and for respecting her healing process. The future of Ashe's career is uncertain, but she is not sugarcoating her nerves.

While the second half of the album focuses more on her current happiness and excitement for her future marriage, the second-to-last track, "Devil Himself," transitions back to the reflective nature of the earlier tracks. At first, this seems awkward and counter-intuitive to the album's otherwise chronological structure, but the chorus



Ashe released her third studio album "Willson" on Sept. 6, after taking a break when she canceled the second leg of her Fun While It Lasted tour in 2023.

COURTESY OF LUKE ROGERS

line makes sense of this choice because she belts, "I fell in love with someone else."

By the end, Ashe reclaims ownership of her chosen mononymous nickname. In the self-titled final track, "Ashe," she is honest about the fraudulent nature of her old life, which she has thankfully left behind.

With Tennessee being her new home after moving away from California, Ashe will make

her first solo live performance debut with a one-night-only show scheduled Sept. 20 in Nashville, Tennessee. In "Willson," Ashe has found the perfect balance between staying true to her sound and setting herself apart from her past — a great start to what should be a very satisfying return to music.

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STUDENTS INTERN OFF COURT AT NBA

BY KHARI BOLDEN

STAFF WRITER

For a large majority of college athletes, intercollegiate athletics is their final foray into the world of competitive sports before they enter the workforce. But for three of Ithaca College's student-athletes, the workforce and professional sports became the same over the summer.

The college is well known for its connections with media industry titan NBC, which has representatives come to the college annually to meet with students and provide internship opportunities. In this case, though, it was the NBA and its affiliates who scooped up three senior Bombers for summer internships.

Women's basketball junior forward Annabella Yorrio recalled using TeamWork Online, a recruiting site for finding jobs at every level of the sports industry, and said she got some help from her academic adviser to get the internship.

"I went to my adviser because I wasn't really hearing back from any of them," Yorrio said. "So I went, and she's like, 'Oh, which ones are you applying to?' And I said, 'I applied to the New York Liberty inside sales internship,' and she's like, 'Oh, I know the supervisor!' So she kind of connected me with him and I got through the whole interview process."

Yorrio is a business administration major with a concentration in sports management, in addition to holding a role as vice president of the IC Sports Sales Club, which is dedicated to preparing students to join the sports sales industry. The inside sales internship with the Brooklyn Nets and New York Liberty parent company BSE Global was right up her alley.

Junior guard Jillian Payne, who is a sports media major, said she went into her internship with less field experience than Yorrio had.

Payne initially applied for the Olympics internship with NBC, but did not land the opportunity. She was encouraged by her mother and Yorrio to apply for the internship with the NBA, earning a role in its global media operations

department for the summer.

"Going in, I had no idea what I was going to be doing," Payne said. "I did a lot of different things [around Park], but global media operations: that's a very broad term. I really didn't know what that entailed and it was all gonna be new to me because I didn't know much about it."

Men's cross-country runner senior Drew Taylor said his summer internship with the NBA came from a similar Hail Mary.

"Late in [2023] — probably November or December — I saw it was posted on LinkedIn," Taylor said.

"I just applied, kind of just took a shot in the dark."

Taylor's position as a marketing partnerships and media intern with the NBA was not unfamiliar to him. He held an internship with Duke University's Iron Dukes fundraiser in Spring 2024, as well as a virtual sales role with the NFL's Washington Commanders during Fall 2023. At the college, he is president of the IC Sports Sales Club.

All three of these Ithaca student-athletes found themselves working internships with very different titles, but Yorrio and Taylor's roles were essentially different sides of the same coin. Taylor said their role difference was that Yorrio worked more with consumers while he was focused on the corporate side, seeking new partners and sponsors.

Yorrio said that after a few weeks of training with the Brooklyn Nets, she was already starting to make sales for the Liberty.

"After those two and a half weeks, I was cold calling and actually selling, doing what the whole inside sales class was doing that whole time," Yorrio said. "I was able to make a few sales within the month I had, so that was super rewarding."

Payne's role, meanwhile, was wildly different from what the two sports management students were doing. She said her job working on the linear side of media communications was relatively simple.

"I was basically trafficking, programming and scheduling for NBA TV," Payne said. "All of those NBA ads that you were

seeing, I was going through different spreadsheets and inputting that into the different channels of what was going to be going on, ensuring that that 24-hour channel was always full of content."

As time went on, Payne moved more toward digital media communications, which was a more varied day-to-day experience. The main project she focused on was researching new geo-proxies so that the NBA could manage international advertisements across its websites from one location.

As far as the location of the internships, Payne was stationed in Secaucus, New Jersey, while Taylor and Yorrio worked in New York City.

With how busy these 9–5 roles were, there was not much time left in the day for other activities. However, the responsibility for these three to perform as athletes at Ithaca College was just as significant for them as their professional advancement. Each one of them had to figure out training times that did not conflict with their full-time work hours, something Payne said they were all willing to do.

"If we were tired after work it didn't matter," Payne said. "We still had to go work out, and we had to get shots up and we had to run."

Yorrio said something similar, referring to the limited amount of time they had left to play.

"Also, we're seniors," Yorrio said.

"We only have one more year of this. It was one summer of preparing for a season, our last season, so you kind of just have to suck it up and do it."

The collegiate basketball season starts in November, but training was arguably even more urgent for Taylor, whose cross-country season began at the end of August. Taylor said there were several commitments for him to try and balance even outside of work and training, but he was confident in his ability to do so.

"I was working 40 hours a week, but then also adapting to city life, then also just wanting to explore the city and have a fun summer," Taylor said. "Nine times out of 10, I would get my workout or run in before the day even started."

As difficult as this sounds, these jobs came with their fair share of highlights. Payne shared that she was able to meet with both NBA Commissioner Adam Silver and Deputy Commissioner Mark Tatum.

Yorrio expressed that making her first sale was the most rewarding moment of her internship, but she also said a different role put her in the spotlight.

"One of my jobs during the game was seat-filling," Yorrio said. "So when [celebrities] were in the [Barclays Center's] Crown Club, I would just fill their seat.

So I got to sit next to Sue Bird and Jason Sudeikis one time, it was pretty cool."

As difficult as all of this sounds, each student had nothing but glowing praise for the NBA and the experience they had working for the company.

Yorrio said she was sad to leave an environment as nice as her office over the summer.

"It's so refreshing, being able to walk into work and be welcomed by the whole team just being so friendly with you, genuinely caring about you," Yorrio said.

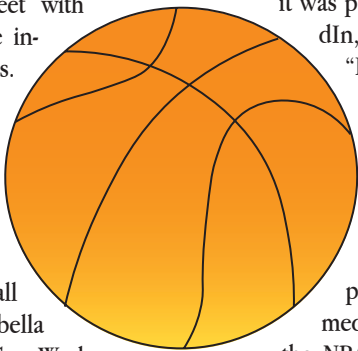
Taylor said that he would definitely work for the NBA again if the opportunity arose, and explained that his internship helped give more perspective on how big the world of sports sales truly is.

"It's a different kind of side of sales," Taylor said. "I mean, sales is definitely something I want to do after I graduate, whether that's more what I did this past summer or more of what Annabella did this summer, I think it's always good to have a kind of a well-rounded approach."

Payne said that the internship was such a positive experience that she considers getting back to the NBA an end goal for her career.

"Honest to god, [it was] the best summer of my life," Payne said.

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From left, Ithaca College student-athletes Annabella Yorrio, Drew Taylor and Jillian Payne all held internship positions with the National Basketball Association and its affiliates in summer 2024.

NATHAN GLASSER/THE ITHACAN

Senior guard takes his talents globally in Brazil

BY JACOB INFALD
STAFF WRITER

This past summer, the Ithaca College men's basketball team's senior guard Logan Wendell took his talents overseas and played internationally in Brazil, representing the U.S. in the Division III All-Stars.

Wendell and some of the top D-III talents from schools across the nation toured two cities in Brazil — São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro — over the course of 10 days and played four games.

Throughout the 2023–24 season, Wendell was an offensive juggernaut for the Bombers, leading the team with 18 points per game and becoming the 30th player in program history to eclipse the 1,000 career points mark. After the season, he was looking for an opportunity to play internationally for the summer. Wendell said the international competition was an upgrade compared to what the Bombers typically face during the regular season.

"It could be pretty tough for Division III guys to find a roster spot over there, so I'm lucky to have coach [Waleed] Farid, who was able to do that coming out of Division III," Wendell said.

Similar to Wendell, Farid had a decorated career at the D-III level, playing at the Stevens Institute of Technology from 2005–08. Afterward, he started playing professionally in Egypt for the Alexandria Sporting Club.

Farid said Wendell's off-season experience of playing overseas in Brazil gave the Bombers' star some

valuable insight on what it will take for him to accomplish his goal of playing professionally.

"[Wendell] getting an early taste of that will kind of help him understand what that's like, and also try to push him to figure out what it is he probably needs to start preparing for a little bit," Farid said.

Farid said he thinks that Wendell's experience playing on an all-star team this past summer will help him flourish in a variety of roles for the college this upcoming season.

"I think it'll help him here because we do have a lot of talented players here," Farid said. "Maybe there is gonna be a time where he doesn't have to shoulder the load and he can kind of play off the other guys and make an impact."

One of these talented players that coach Farid is referring to is senior guard Aidan Holmes. Holmes has been able to witness Wendell's skills develop over the last three seasons and said the whole team was very excited for Wendell.

"Logan is one of our leaders," Holmes said. "He's one of our captains and he has always put in a lot of work. So, to see that work kind of pay off for him, I think everyone was happy for him and knows that he probably represented Ithaca well out there."

Holmes said Wendell's off-season stint in Brazil is something that the program can rally behind.

"Some of them see Logan doing that as a senior, coming in as a freshman or a sophomore can have a little more motivation," Holmes said. "Coming here and playing here



Logan Wendell, senior guard for the Ithaca College men's basketball team, spent 10 days playing basketball in Brazil. In the photo, Wendell moves his way past two defenders to get to the rim.

COURTESY OF JONATHAN JAYRO

and being one of our guys can lead you to doing something like that or can get [you] to that stage by putting in the work."

Wendell said he shared the court with some players in top programs across D-III, including senior guard/forward Carter Meshanic from Hobart and William Smith University, the defending Liberty League champions. Wendell said he tried to learn as much as possible on how these teams build successful programs to help the Bombers.

"I think it was kind of just

prodding different players about what makes their team successful... then hopefully being able to translate that to some of our guys and trying to grow as a leader," Wendell said.

Farid said Wendell's leadership will only help him gain interest from international teams, which is a type of opportunity Farid hopes more student athletes will pursue.

"If he can continue to focus on figuring out how to help this team be the best version of itself, that'll kind of create some exposure for him," Farid said. "I look forward

to continuing to get other players involved in that kind of thing because I think we are attracting the kind of talent here who we think are some players who can go and play past college."

Wendell said he is excited for what the future holds for his basketball dreams.

"It's good to be able to play a different role, especially if that's something I want to do in the future," Wendell said.

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Accredited strength and conditioning boosts careers

BY DAVID SCHURTER
SPORTS EDITOR

The Ithaca College exercise science major joined just 17 other programs nationwide to have an accredited concentration in strength and conditioning for performance and wellness.

In New York State, it is the second program to have a certified concentration after SUNY Brockport's program was accredited in summer 2024. The accreditation comes from the Council on Accreditation of Strength and Conditioning Education (CASCE), which is a program led by the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA).

David Diggin, associate professor in the Department of Exercise Science and Athletic Training and the program director of the strength and conditioning concentration, said the program is on the rise with its newly recognized status.

"It's really exciting to be leading a program that is nationally recognized," Diggin said. "The idea is to standardize the education process for strength and conditioning coaches. Prior to this, we didn't really have standards that would do that and that meant a lot of students were coming home with a variety of different experiences. Now, we're standardizing that process and suggesting that this needs to be at a higher level than it was before."

Diggin said the recent transformations to the exercise science major will help its students excel within their career paths, emphasizing the build-up to the program's current phase.

"I've been a key part in reformulating and re-packaging the program to create what we have right now," Diggin said. "[Students are] really well-prepared when they leave to move on to

the next stage of whatever their careers are."

Despite its efforts, the department was missing one key instructor — a field experience coordinator — in order to earn the accreditation status. Diggin said the search began in 2023, accommodating for curriculum changes including faculty retirements and budget restrictions because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The college hired Sam Grattan '22 at the start of Fall 2024 to fill the role.

Christina Moylan, dean of the School of Health Sciences and Human Performance, who was not the dean when the process began, said the development gained traction approximately five years ago.

"I started in the dean role last July and this was already underway at that point," Moylan said. "It was something that was beginning to percolate a little bit at that point, especially when there's movement in the profession toward requiring accreditation."

By 2030, students will need to have graduated from an accredited strength and conditioning program in order to sit for the national certification exam. Moylan said the move for accreditation was justified as the field moves toward including it as a requirement for students to sit for their exams.

"I think given that, that would have been a huge factor in the dean making the decision that it made sense for us to go ahead and pursue this," Moylan said.

Donte Garcia '23, assistant strength and conditioning coach at the college, returned after previously working with Diggin as a student. Garcia said students currently enrolled in the concentration are set up for success.

"The concentration prepared me very well for the CSCS exam and last summer, I took the exam and did well on it," Garcia said. "Even



David Diggin, associate professor in the Department of Exercise Science and Athletic Training, is the director for the newly accredited concentration.

LUCIA IANDOLO/THE ITHACAN

going into my graduate year, I felt really confident in my content knowledge."

Andrew Parker, assistant director of athletics for sports performance at the college, said the collaboration between academics and athletics provides a huge boost to not only the students, but the coaches, professors and athletes.

"It shows we're one of the best in the country when it comes to the education program within exercise science and strength and conditioning specifically," Parker said. "It's an awesome opportunity to collaborate [within our program] and learn from one another and I think it's only going to help from the academic side of things."

Diggins said the accreditation process will only further the program.

"We're adapting to provide the students with the knowledge, skills and abilities that they need to succeed in the field," Diggins said. "In all of our classes where we teach the students the foundational knowledge, we give them opportunities to practice the skills. Then we give them opportunities through internships and other field experiences to actually practice hands-on with our athletes, so by the time they graduate from here, they're coming out at a really high level."

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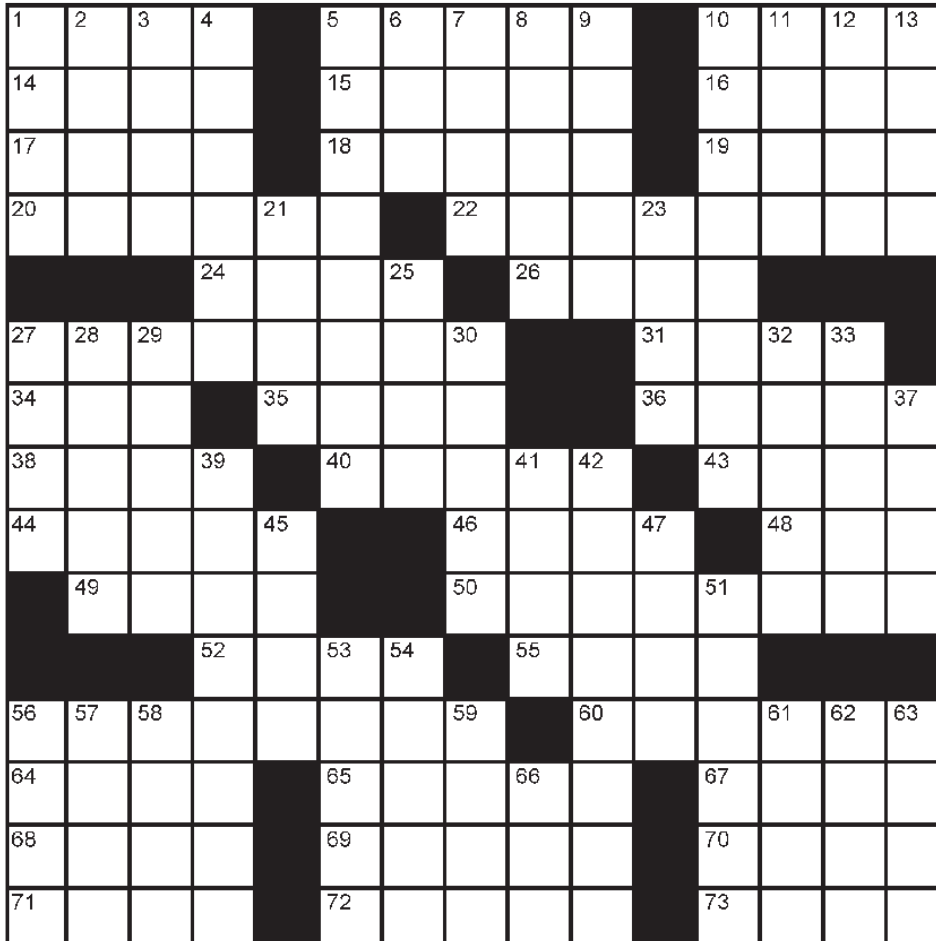
DIVERSIONS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

11

crossword

By Quill Driver Books

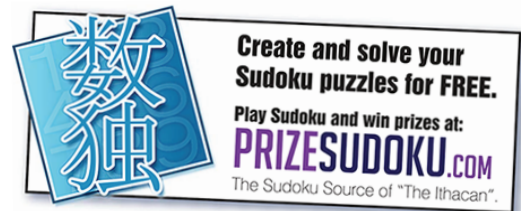


ACROSS

- 1 Kettles
- 5 Surprise Ending
- 10 Fashion
- 14 On
- 15 Strange and scary
- 16 Organic compound
- 17 "Knotty" wood
- 18 Time doing the job
- 19 Southern and Curry
- 20 Concur
- 22 1777 battle site
- 24 Spots
- 26 Metrical foot
- 27 Tropical fruits
- 31 — Springs
- 34 Melody
- 35 News item, for short
- 36 Sailing vessel
- 38 Smudge

DOWN

- 40 Put up
- 43 Medieval Instrument
- 44 Passover feast
- 46 Money in France and Spain
- 48 Drunkard
- 49 Change the decor
- 50 Movie-release event
- 52 Stop
- 55 Hiding place
- 56 Hoover dam reservoir (2 wds.)
- 60 Tempests
- 64 Home to billions
- 65 Pay— —go
- 67 Ark builder
- 68 Heal
- 69 Drumming beatle
- 70 She, in Paris
- 71 Cushions
- 72 Answer cryptically
- 73 Proof of ownership
- 1 Family guy
- 2 Cornelia — Skinner
- 3 Lots and lots
- 4 Swimsuit brand
- 5 Lab item (2 wds.)
- 6 Rainy
- 7 Part of an eye
- 8 Biblical mount
- 9 Aquarium fish
- 10 Spaghetti partner
- 11 — Domini
- 12 "King —"
- 13 "Frozen" queen
- 21 Something verboten (hyph.)
- 23 Elec. units
- 25 Hubbub
- 27 Cars for hire
- 28 Cargo vessel
- 29 Unrefined
- 30 Soak
- 32 Despicable sort
- 33 Power source
- 37 Seeger or Sampras
- 39 Also called gingers
- 41 Ringlet
- 42 Cherish
- 45 Go from place to place
- 47 Leave unmentioned
- 51 Pressed
- 53 Means of restraint
- 54 Liking
- 56 Lantern
- 57 On the bounding main
- 58 Benevolent
- 59 Pair
- 61 Bit part
- 62 Dad or granddad
- 63 Storage
- 66 Assoc.



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sudoku

easy

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

hard

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			1	8	6			5
	9							8
1	8	6						

Aug. 29 answers online at theithacan.org/crossword



The Ithaca College football team played against the Johns Hopkins University football team Sept. 7. Even though Ithaca was winning by 11 points at half-time, the game resulted in a loss for the Ithaca Bombers with a final score of 23-27. The game marked the first of the regular season and attracted a large crowd.

JULIA HARGREAVES/THE ITHACAN