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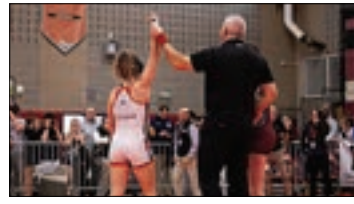
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EVERYTHING
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AN EQUITABLE
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**IC WRESTLING
RECRUITS FIRST
TWO WOMEN**

Ithaca City School District under investigation for diversity event

IC to build new outdoor track

BY JACOB GELMAN

CONTRIBUTING WRITER



The Ithaca City School District is under investigation by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights after the Equal Protection Project filed a complaint against ICSD for allegedly intentionally excluding white students from a DEI event.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY LUCIA IANDOLO AND OSLENE VANYANBAH

BY KAELEIGH BANDA
NEWS EDITOR

Diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives are being targeted by President Donald Trump's administration, which has led to threats of federal funding cuts and restricted programming for educational institutions across the United States. The Ithaca City School District is under investigation by the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights after the Equal Protection Project filed a complaint against ICSD for allegedly intentionally excluding white students from a DEI event.

In a letter sent to Luvell Brown, superintendent of ICSD, and Sean Eversley Bradwell, the president of the ICSD Board of Education, on May 28, 2024, the EPP claimed that the Students of Color United Summit 2024 at Ithaca High School, scheduled for May 31, was limited to staff and students of color.

The letter outlined why the EPP believes all the summit events held from 2021-24 are a form of racial exclusion. The EPP wrote that the event violates Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color and national origin in programs that receive federal financial assistance. ICSD receives

federal funding, which means it is at risk for funding cuts if the district is found to be noncompliant with Title VI.

On Jan. 27, 2025, the DOE opened the investigation into whether or not ICSD treated students differently on the basis of race or ethnicity and if there was an intentional exclusion of white students.

Before the 2024 summit, the EPP wrote in the letter that the official SOCU Summit website required that registering students acknowledge that the event is a student of color only event. ICSD responded by sending a mass email to the school community.

"Please know that SOCU is open to all of our secondary students," the statement said. "We apologize for any previous communication that included exclusionary language about the event. Anyone who wishes to attend on Friday is welcome!"

On Jan. 20, 2025, Trump signed an executive order titled, "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing." The federal DOE has been supporting the efforts of the Trump administration by removing or archiving over 200 web pages from the DOE website that contained DEI resources that

were identified for removal.

Also, some DOE employees that lead DEI initiatives were put on paid administrative leave.

"The U.S. Department of Education has taken action to eliminate harmful Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives," the DOE wrote in the press release. "These actions are in line with President Trump's ongoing commitment to end illegal discrimination and wasteful spending across the federal government."

On Feb. 14, the DOE released a Dear Colleague letter threatening to revoke federal funding for all schools and universities that do not remove all DEI initiatives.

Sara Levy, associate professor and chairperson in the Department of Education at Ithaca College, said that even though the anti-DEI sentiments in the EPP's letter are not backed up by law, it is still threatening.

"[Anti-DEI actions] are an attempt from this administration to violate the civil rights of a whole host of students and to really pull back on some of the initiatives that we know are important for student success, both at the higher education level and at the K-12 level," Levy said. "It needs to be taken seriously."

William Jacobson, a clinical professor and director of the

Securities Law Clinic at Cornell University, founded the EPP in 2023 through the Legal Insurrection Foundation.

Jacobson said DEI initiatives on college campuses should not be funded by taxpayers. He said support should be given to students based on background and circumstances, not their skin color.

"DEI at its core is a group-identity ideology, which treats students not as individuals, but as proxies for racial, ethnic or other identity groups," Jacobson said. "In this way it is dehumanizing to the individual, and frequently plays upon negative group stereotypes."

The EPP wrote that it is requesting that the Office for Civil Rights hold ICSD accountable for its unlawful conduct. This includes imposing fines, initiating administrative action to suspend or terminate federal financial assistance and referring the case to the Department of Justice for judicial proceedings.

Levy said that she feels the complaint against ICSD is wrongfully targeting the district.

"ICSD has done a really good job of trying to have a culturally responsive district," Levy said.

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Ithaca College announced a new outdoor track after receiving funds from anonymous donors. The eight-lane, 400-meter track is scheduled to be finished by September 2025 and is projected to cost an estimated \$4 million.

The track will be built on Yavits Field by Clark Companies after the project and location pass approval from the Town of Ithaca. Construction is scheduled to begin in late April, during which Yavits Field and Lot N, a lot for student parking, will be blocked off during the construction process.

The construction project will add a bus loop to the end of the parking lot, so buses can easily turn around when transporting people from the Athletics and Events Center to the new field.

Susan Bassett '79, associate vice president and director for intercollegiate athletics and campus recreation, said the idea of building a new track began in 2015 when she was assessing the quality of the outdoor facility. The old track was located around the football field in Butterfield Stadium and was torn up in 2023.

"I felt the ... urgency to make the track project happen mostly because our students didn't have an appropriate facility to practice on," Bassett said. "[Not having an outdoor track] left a gaping hole in our

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SGC discusses enrollment

AELA SHAW

STAFF WRITER

Rakin "Rock" Hall, vice president for Enrollment Management and Student Success, met with the Ithaca College Student Governance Council at its March 3 meeting to discuss the college's plans to increase future enrollment.

Senior Kathi Hodel, vice president of business and finance and head of SGC's Appropriations Committee, announced that at its Feb. 26 meeting, the committee allocated an additional \$16,199 to student organization and club events for Spring 2025. Hodel said this brought the total allocations for the semester to \$103,582, with \$40,000 left to allocate.

SGC also heard from Cliff-Simon Vital, interim director of the BIPOC Unity Center, who urged senators to get the word out about the center's upcoming Building Better Brotherhoods Retreat March 29.

Vital said the one-day retreat will focus on demystifying the concept of masculinity and how intersecting identities impact its conception.

Hall's discussion with SGC focused heavily on his new strategies to increase marketing and outreach to prospective students. Class of 2028 enrollment was about 200 students below the college's target of 1,380-1,420, according to President La Jerne Cornish at the All-College

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Nation & World News

Five killed in bombing of school connected to Taliban in Pakistan

A suicide bomber attacked the worshippers gathered at an Islamic school for Friday prayers in Pakistan on Feb. 28, killing at least five people and wounding several others, police and rescue workers said.

The bombing occurred at the Islamic school where several top leaders of the Afghan Taliban including the group's founding father Mullah Omar studied.

Maulana Hamidul Haq, the head of the school, thought to be close to the Afghan Taliban, was among the dead, regional administration chief Irfan Mehsud said.

The bombing occurred inside the compound of the mosque when people were lined up for prayers in the afternoon, said local police officer Amjad Mohamed.

— Zia Khan/dpa/TNS

King Salman and Crown Prince exchange Ramadan greetings

King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman extended their congratulations Feb. 28 to the leaders of Islamic countries on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

In line with its annual tradition of strengthening ties with fellow Islamic

nations, the Saudi leadership sent cables of congratulations, praying for the acceptance of good deeds and for the Islamic world to experience continued prosperity, unity and empowerment during Ramadan.

In return, King Salman and the crown prince received messages of congratulations from leaders across the Islamic world.

— Arab News, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia/TNS

South Korea's acting president refuses to name a ninth judge

The constitutional court confirmed Feb. 27 that Choi Sang-mok, acting president of South Korea, has a duty to name a ninth judge to the court, and that failing to do so would constitute a violation of the legislature's rights, in a ruling in favor of the National Assembly that impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol last December.

In a unanimous 8-0 ruling, the court found that the acting president's refusal to appoint nominee Ma Eun-hyuk as the court's ninth justice after selectively appointing two other judges nominated by the assembly, is a violation of the legislature's rights.

Parliament had nominated three judges to fill an equal number of vacancies on the nine member bench late last year.

— The Korea Herald, Asia News Network/TNS



Pope Francis spent quiet night in hospital

Pope Francis spent the night of Feb. 28 in the hospital without any new complications. He is being treated for severe bilateral pneumonia. Francis' condition has slightly improved according to official reports.

CECILIA FABIANO/LAPRESSE/ZUMA PRESS/DPA/TNS

Macron warns that EU could hit the U.S. with retaliatory tariffs

French President Emmanuel Macron has warned the United States that the European Union will impose retaliatory tariffs if Washington, D.C. follows through on its plan to levy a 25% duty on aluminum and steel imports.

"If these tariffs are confirmed, the Europeans will respond," Macron said. "We must protect and defend ourselves."

Macron urged the administration of President Donald Trump to reconsider, warning that the move would harm shared geopolitical interests.

— dpa/TNS

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On the Quad: Shortened 2026 break?

Reporter Andrew Marcus speaks to first-year and sophomore students about the newly shortened Thanksgiving break starting in 2026 proposed by the Academic Calendar Committee.



How IC Sports - Bryson Shaull

Host Johnny Lisi brings on men's soccer goalie and ICTV's "Beyond the Scoreboard" moderator Bryson Shaull to discuss student-athlete mental health and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Correction: In *The Ithacan's* previous print edition, Volume 92 Edition 11, the Spring Sports Preview, "Women's lacrosse looks to reach further heights" Chloe Nordyke is listed as returning. She is not on the roster.

THE ITHACAN

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All first-year students to live in themed housing

BY TREY NITZA
STAFF WRITER

In the 2025-26 academic year, residential life will see a significant change. All incoming first-year students will be put into themed living units, based on an interests survey, to foster more community between students in residence halls. While housing assignments for themed living units is mandatory, student participation in theme-related activities will be optional.

Beginning in Fall 2025, all incoming first-year students will pick a themed residential community to live in with other students with similar interests. There will be 11 themes to choose from, including Sustainability Central, Study Sanctuary, Naturally Adventurous and one for the LGBTQ+ community called Lavender Living.

The plan was announced at a Student Governance Council meeting Feb. 3. It was presented in part by Laura Davis, director and interim assistant dean of students in the Office of Residential Life.

Davis said one of the main reasons for implementing the themed housing plan was to foster greater social connection among students. She said a recent assessment revealed that 37% of students did not feel a sense of belonging in their residence hall.

Although the themed housing system is meant to coexist with the active RLCs, some members of the

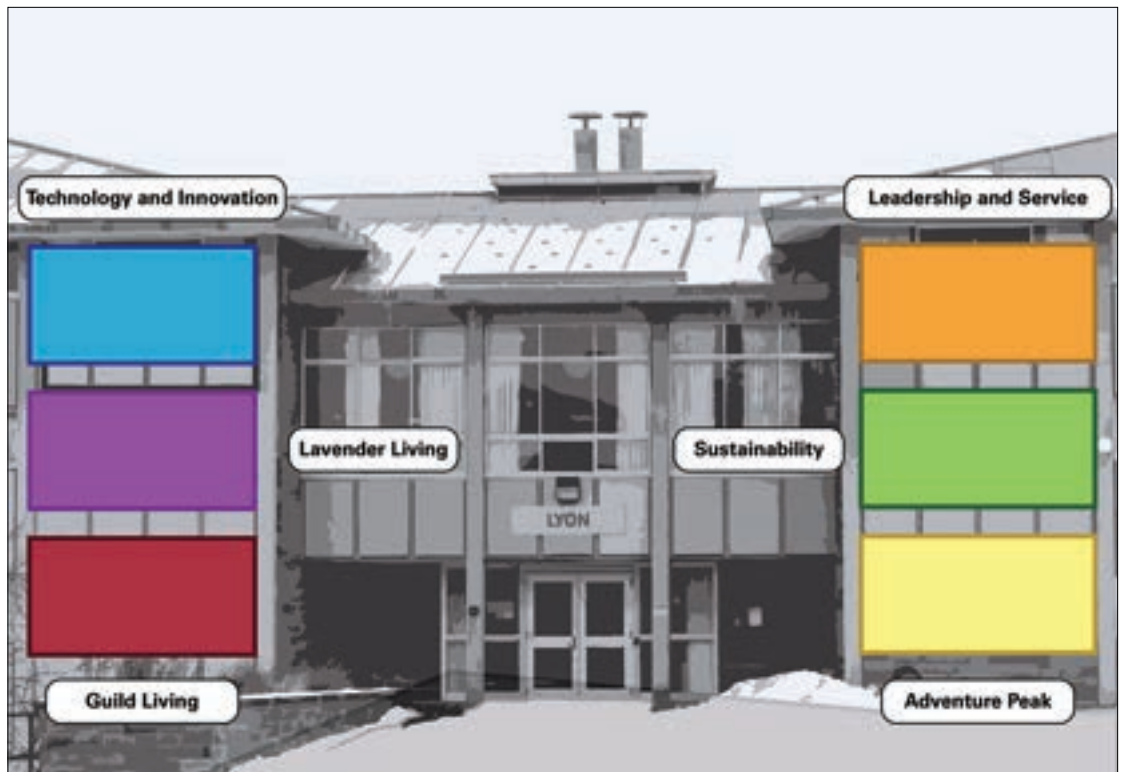
Shared Journeys RLC, run by the BIPOC Unity Center, expressed concern that it would be discontinued. The goal of Shared Journeys is to provide a space for BIPOC students to discuss the history of civil rights and systemic racism.

Cliff-Simon Vital, interim director of the BIPOC Unity Center, said he worried about Shared Journeys' future because he did not know if the new themed-housing model was intended to fit in with RLCs, and he heard some were at risk of being phased out. Vital said he did not think Shared Journeys was being specifically targeted.

Eileen Roth, assistant director for residential education and assessment, said the changes to residential life next year were not swayed by any outside influence, although President Donald Trump signed an executive order Jan. 20 banning diversity, equity and inclusion policies in federal agencies.

The Trump administration then gave federal schools and universities a deadline of Feb. 28 to remove diversity practices or lose federal money. Many colleges moved to remove diversity practices, including the University of Iowa, which discontinued RLCs for students of color and the LGBTQ+ community.

"These changes [at IC] were not influenced by external executive orders," Roth said via email. "Our commitment remains to fostering an inclusive community that supports all students."



All incoming first-year students in the 2025-26 academic year will be put into themed living units based on interest surveys. The goal of this is to foster more community between students in residence halls.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY OSLENE VANYANBAH AND KAELEIGH BANDA/THE ITHACAN

First-year student Smeena Gill, a member of Shared Journeys, said the RLC helped better her sense of community on campus.

"[IC] is very predominantly white and so it's nice being able to live on a floor where I look around and I see people of color from different backgrounds," Gill said. "That was really important to me when I came here."

Davis said that while Shared Journeys will continue, the First

Place RLC will be placed on pause next year because of low enrollment. First Place is an optional RLC for first-generation college students.

Sophomore Grace Comisso, a resident assistant in Upper Quads, said she supports the implementation of themed housing and that it could be a relatively harmless way to address declining enrollment.

Comisso said she could have benefited from having more sources

of connection her first year on campus and thinks themed living could foster other students' sense of community.

"I did feel quite detached from people," Comisso said. "I think having that overlap for these themes that don't involve or don't overlap with majors and stuff like that could be really beneficial."

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AI working group visits Faculty Council

BY EAMON CORBO
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Ithaca College Faculty Council met March 4 to discuss the use of artificial intelligence at the college with the Presidential Working Group on AI.

The AI working group is a team of seven staff, three faculty and two students created in July 2024 to provide the college with recommendations on AI that reflect the college's vision, mission and values statement. Luke Keller, professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy and member of the working group, said the group was asked by President La Jerne Cornish to visit Faculty Council, along with the Ithaca College Student Governance Council and Ithaca College Staff Council, to get feedback on its drafted set of guiding principles for further incorporating AI on campus.

Keller said the group has five key elements to its guiding principles: centering people, not technology; digital inclusion, equity and access; lifelong learning, adaptability and sustainability; responsible AI research and development and prioritizing environmental sustainability and stewardship in the college's use of AI.

Eric Steinschneider, associate professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion, asked Keller if the college can successfully maintain its core value of sustainability if it continues to increase its use of AI despite the known environmental impact.

"Is this going to have to generate some sort of reflection on our identity and core values if we're gonna really go down this path?" Steinschneider asked.

Keller said the working group had many discussions about how the college can be conscious of the environmental impact of AI and be able to recognize when AI use violates the college's core values.

Leann Kanda, associate professor in the



Luke Keller, professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, asked for feedback on the Presidential Working Group on AI's set of guiding principles.

KAELEIGH BANDA/THE ITHACAN

Department of Biology, asked about how the group is working to address privacy issues created by AI.

"At this point it is extremely difficult for me to be able to find out whether my document that is on Google or officially on my Microsoft OneDrive file is being scraped," Kanda said.

Keller said AI built at the college that uses institutional data will be secured, but the group does not have any control over the data that an AI like ChatGPT uses.

Paula Murray Cole, professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance Performance, asked the group for an example of an AI application that would help the college's efficiency.

Casey Kendall — deputy chief information officer, associate vice president of applications and infrastructure and a member of the

working group — said the Ithaca College Awareness, Response, and Education Team, or ICare, uses an internal AI tool for research that does not write back or train any language models. She said the AI tool has allowed ICare to see about 100 more students per year.

The council passed the motion to enter executive session with Melanie Stein, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs — restricting the meeting to only members of the council — to discuss updates on the Huron Consulting Group.

The Ithaca College Faculty Council meets on the first Tuesday of every month in the Taughannock Falls room of the Campus Center from 4-6 p.m.

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New MTD dean is appointed

BY EAMON CORBO
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Steve TenEyck has been selected as the new dean for the Ithaca College School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. He began his new position at the college March 1.

Melanie Stein, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, sent an email to the campus community March 3, announcing that TenEyck — who had been serving as the interim MTD dean along with Luis Loubriel for the 2024-25 academic year — was selected as the MTD dean.

TenEyck has worked as a faculty member at the college since 2001. He was the chair of the Department of Theatre Arts in 2021 and became an associate dean when the department merged with the School of Music back in 2022.

TenEyck's appointment concludes the work of the search committee — co-chaired by Crystal Peebles, associate professor in the Department of Music Theory, History, and Composition, and Marc Gomes, associate professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance Performance — for the new MTD dean that was formed at the end of summer 2024.

TenEyck said via email that he is looking forward to working with faculty, staff and students to continue the legacy of music, theater and dance at the college.

"We have all the pieces in place," TenEyck said to IC News and *The Ithacan*. "Incredible and talented faculty who are not only experts in their fields but also master teachers; dedicated and extraordinary staff who have created systems to support the work; world-class facilities; and passionate and gifted students."

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FROM EDUCATION, PAGE 1

"I think that the district was well within the law and I really appreciate their efforts to address issues within the school and within the community."

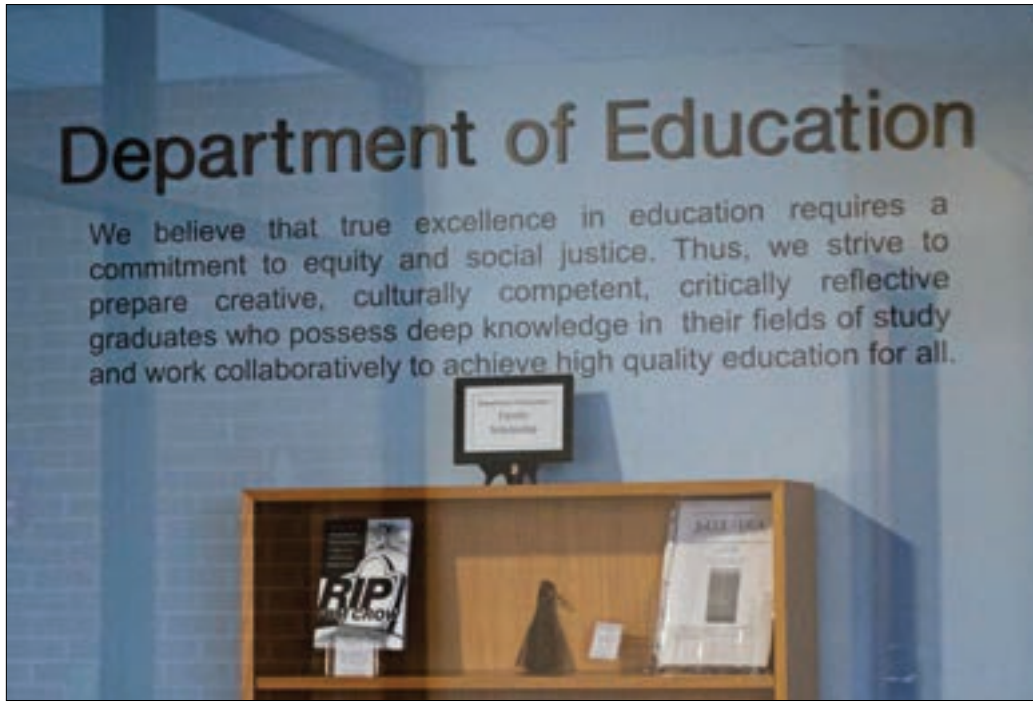
Levy said that despite the pressure from the federal government to erase DEI initiatives, the college's Department of Education is helping students learn strategies to build connections in classrooms and talk to each other with respect.

"Our mission and our department is grounded in social justice and equity," Levy said. "Our students are asking all of these [questions about DEI] ... and so we're doing our best to help them find resources to learn more. We want to support them. We want to help them think critically about the world they live in."

Shuzhan Li, assistant professor in the college's Department of Education, said via email that even though policies impacting education are constantly shifting, it is important to resist restrictive policies.

"The scholarly and advocacy work that we do as educators does not cease," Li said. "We just have to figure out how to navigate current climates with strategy and solidarity with each other."

The anti-DEI sentiments also extend to higher education. According to data from The Chronicle of Higher Education, 125 bills have been proposed across the U.S. to create legislation that would prohibit colleges from having diversity, equity and



Sara Levy, associate professor and chairperson in the Department of Education at Ithaca College, said the college's DOE is still committed to its mission grounded in social justice and equity.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

inclusion offices or staff, diversity statements in hiring processes, mandatory diversity training or race, sex, ethnicity or national origin considered in admissions or employment.

According to The New York Times, colleges that continue to offer scholarships and grants for students on the basis of their race or ethnicity are at risk of receiving funding cuts.

Sophomore Marvin Juarez Espinoza, a music education and performance major at IC, said many DEI policies have made college accessible for him.

"It makes me a little nervous, especially as a person of color and coming from a low-income

background, for how I'm gonna even afford school," Juarez Espinoza said.

Juarez Espinoza said his music education classes at IC are preparing him for the DEI pushback by teaching him how to make his classroom adaptive to all kinds of learners and backgrounds.

However, he said not all of his education classes go as deeply into DEI topics as they need to.

"I feel like we're glossing over it — learning vocabulary, but not really learning about what truly goes on behind the scenes and how all those operations work," Juarez Espinoza said. "One of the most important things that teachers can do is establish community

within their classroom where people respect each other."

Levy said DEI initiatives work toward a society where all people are valued and make room for a wide range of knowledge.

"Either we believe that all students have value in the classroom, or we don't," Levy said. "Education must be paying attention to the way things have been and acting in ways that work towards equity, that work towards inclusion, that work towards belonging with an understanding that we are not there yet."

Photo Editor Lucia Iandolo contributed reporting

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FROM SGC, PAGE 1

Welcome held Aug. 27, 2024.

Hall said applications for the 2025-26 academic year are up by 37%, but a more robust marketing strategy is needed to preserve enrollment and increase retention.

"Luckily, [the college] has a very strong brand and a great name that still attracts people from a 50-mile radius," Hall said. "I believe, with a little intentionality and a little marketing, we could probably attract people [within] a 170-mile radius and get more transfers here, which will hopefully lead to more graduate students."

Hall said part of the college's new marketing model is a more deliberate communication strategy for prospective students and their parents. He said that despite applications opening in August, the college does not send reminders to prospective students to apply until December, after the early decision deadline Nov. 1 and the early action deadline Dec. 1 have passed. Beginning in Spring 2025, Hall said the college will start sending emails to prospective students in June and to parents in April.

"We're going to have a parent engagement strategy that doesn't exist right now," Hall said. "I think if mom and dad saw a few more communications, chances are we can increase yield a little bit more."

In addition to increasing outreach, Hall said the college plans to increase incentivization for early applications by offering prospective students more scholarship money when applying early action and early decision.

Sophomore Giulia Gennari, the School of Health Sciences and Human Performance senator, told Hall she is from Vermont and asked what plans the college has to connect with prospective students also living outside New York and its bordering states.

Hall said his budget request for the 2025-26 academic year includes a request for funding to hire regional territory managers in states like Vermont, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Maine. He said these staff would engage in regional community events to market the college.

"Everything's relational," Hall said. "I think the relationships we build in certain regions helps students better understand who we are as people, not what we are as an institution."

Junior transfer senator Login Abudalla said that transferring course credits from her previous college was a difficult process. She asked Hall what he is doing to make the process of transferring course credits from previous institutions easier for future transfer students.

"Is there a resolution to make sure that [transfer] students have the opportunity to be students and not have to focus on, a lot of the time, maybe grades or worry that they're not gonna graduate on time?" Abudalla said.

Hall said the solution he is working on is to strengthen the college's articulation agreements with other colleges and universities. Hall said he is looking to create more agreements with schools in a 100- or 200-mile radius.

Junior senate chair Nikki Suter asked Hall how President Donald Trump's efforts to cut the Department of Education's funding will impact current and future students who rely on federal student aid to attend college.

Hall said that while he does not think the closing of the DOE is inevitable, the college is discussing the possibility of hiring one or two full-time grant writers. These individuals would connect others with necessary funding by writing and submitting grant applications.

Juno Brooks, Class of 2027 senator, asked Hall how the Supreme Court's 2023 overruling of affirmative action will affect the college's ability to ensure a diverse student population.

Hall said that while the college has to respect the Supreme Court's decision, he and the college are working to come out on the other side of what he described as a natural pushback against progress.

"I think the overriding win is the human spirit," Hall said. "We've been here before, and we'll just keep thinking our way through it."

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FROM TRACK, PAGE 1

intercollegiate sport offerings."

Tim Downs, chief financial officer and vice president of the Division of Finance and Administration, said the college surveyed the campus for an ideal location that would fit the track.

The location for the throwing fields will be moved to behind Emerson Hall, but Downs said there is not a completed plan for that process.

Jennifer Potter, head coach of the women's track and field team, said she loves the track's chosen location.

"It's in a space that needs some beautifying," Potter said. "It's still in close proximity to the [A&E]. The throwing area will be less than 800 meters away from it, and we'll have a place for buses to turn around and people to park and it's still close to the academia on campus. I like that it's not miles off-campus; it's right in the thick of things."

Monica Bertino Wooden '81 contributed funding in 2022 for the lights and synthetic surface of the track. Bassett said she searched for donors to contribute funds to finish the project.

"We went about the process of refining the track project," Bassett said. "[We talked] to different donors about, 'Would you be interested in funding this?' Ultimately, we found alumni who wished to remain anonymous who are funding the majority of the project. ... The project is funded mostly through donations from these anonymous donors with some support from the college capital fund."

The amount of money donated versus the amount of money that the college is contributing is not disclosed to the public.

Downs said one of the most asked questions about the new outdoor track was about restrooms. Between hiring utilities, heating water and plumbing, restroom management is expensive. After consideration, the board landed on portable toilets, for the time being.

Potter said that because of the added space on the new track, multiple practices will be



The plans for the track were shared Feb. 3, showing a multipurpose facility to be built on Yavits Field next to Lot N. Clark Companies will begin construction in April.

COURTESY OF CLARK COMPANIES

able to occur at once. The new track will be able to host home meets, championships and possibly USA Track & Field meets or more community events.

First-year student Lizzie Andrus, a thrower on the women's track and field team, said she hosted meets in high school and is looking forward to doing it again at college.

"It's been awesome to host the bomber invite [indoors] and another quad invitation that we had, so I'm just excited to experience outdoor home weeks on our home turf," Andrus said.

Potter said the new track will not be exclusive to track and field students of the college.

"It's a multipurpose ... facility where the community at large can also use it, not just people from college," Potter said.

In the current absence of an outdoor track at Ithaca College, most members of the track and field team practice at Cornell University. Students are driven in vans by coaches if they

lack transportation of their own. Come September, Ithaca College track and field students will no longer need to be driven with their equipment to Cornell. Junior Cece LaBonte, a multi-event athlete on the women's track and field team, said she is excited about practicing on campus.

"It's a hassle [going to Cornell] ... we have to bring all of our stuff there and back," LaBonte said. "Our schedule is a little bit unstable because if they say, 'Oh, you can't use it today,' then we gotta find a place to practice. The new track will fix a lot of those problems."

Andrus said she is looking forward to this experience with her peers and coaches.

"I think having that home turf is gonna bring a lot of camaraderie and great energy to the community, and I think it's definitely going to support and promote great athletics and competition in many years to come," Andrus said.

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COLLEGE BRIEFS

Makerspace hosts acrylic earring making workshop in Friends 101

The Makerspace is hosting an acrylic earring making activity using the laser cutter from 4:30-7 p.m. March 6 in Friends 101.

Attendees of the event will use Canva and Adobe Illustrator to create custom earrings, charms and necklaces with the laser cutter. Attendees will learn how to safely operate a laser cutter.

Skill building session to be held by Student Leadership Institute

The Student Leadership Institute is hosting a workshop to help students learn their strengths from 4-5 p.m. March 19 in the Student Activities Center on the third floor of the Campus Center.

The session aims to help students evaluate themselves and recognize their most underused and developed skills.

Park School to host fair for broadcast media employment

The Center for Career Exploration and Development and the Roy H. Park School of Communications are hosting a broadcast media employment fair from noon to 2 p.m. March 20 in Roy H. Park Hall.

Nominations for the Faculty Excellence Awards are now open

Nominations for the Faculty Excellence Awards — held by the Center for Faculty Excellence, the Office of the Provost and the Faculty Development Committee — are open, and will be until March 17.

Up to eight awards will be given for the categories of Excellence in Teaching, Excellence in Service, Excellence in Scholarship/Creative Work and more. All faculty with one year of employment at the college are

eligible. The deadline for submitting all nomination materials is 11:59 p.m. March 17. Faculty can nominate themselves or others.

Women Leaders Series to host Women of Distinction Awards

The Women Leaders Series Team in the Office of Student Engagement is presenting the seventh annual Women of Distinction Awards from 3:30-5 p.m. March 21 in Klingenstein Lounge in the Campus Center.

The awards recognize women who exhibit leadership in their field of expertise, serve as role models, are committed to advancing women and who give back to the Ithaca College community.

Recipients of the award will be recognized at the ceremony where they will share stories with attendees. The event is open to all students, faculty and staff but preregistration is required. Those interested can register on the Ithaca College website.

KATALYST K-pop dance club to hold fourth annual showcase

KATALYST K-Pop Dance is holding their fourth annual showcase from 7:30-10 p.m. March 22 in Emerson Suites in the Campus Center.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the show begins at 8:00 p.m. Admission to the performance is free and tickets can be reserved on IC Engage. Tickets may be provided at the door if there are extra seats.

Professor to hold information session about South Korea trip

Bradley Rappa, associate professor in the Department of Media Arts, Sciences, and Studies, is holding an information session at 7 p.m. March 6 for any student interested in joining him in going to South Korea in



IC music groups present Choral Collage

Sophomore Julian Bingham plays the bass guitar as part of the Choral Collage on March 3 in Ford Hall. The Ithaca College Chorus, Choir and Treble Chorale performed songs led by professors Khyle Wooten, Sean Linfors and Frances Fonza.

IAN LEWONO/THE ITHACAN

Summer 2025 to produce documentaries.

The trip will be at the Hanyang International Summer School at Hanyang University in Seoul. Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact Rappa at brappa@ithaca.edu.

Nominations for the Student Organization Awards are open

Nominations for the Office of Student Engagement's Student Organization

Awards are open.

The awards recognize an individual's contribution to a co-curricular at the college. Award categories include Outstanding Executive Board Member of the Year and Student Organization of the Year.

Nominations are due by 11:59 p.m. March 21. Any questions should be emailed to Dan Rogers, associate director of student involvement in the Office of Student Engagement, at drogers3@ithaca.edu.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM FEB. 17 TO 23

FEB. 17

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Terrace 9
SUMMARY: Caller reported abdomen pain and vomiting. Patrol Officer Jack Nelson responded. The person was transported to the hospital by ambulance.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT / PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION:Phillips Hall / 113 Campus Center Way
SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person stole money. Corporal Kevin McClain responded. The incident is being investigated.

SCC COMPLY WITH ID AND DIRECTIONS

LOCATION: M-lot / 100 Block Lyceum Drive
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person refused to move a vehicle. Patrol Officer Nick Shirley responded. The vehicle was issued a campus summons and the person was referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

FEB. 18

V&T LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT

LOCATION: G-lot
SUMMARY: Patrol Officer Nick Shirley reported an unknown vehicle damaged a parking sign.

The incident is being investigated.

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Terrace 8
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. George Whitmore, fire protection specialist in EH&S, responded. The activation was caused by cigarette smoke.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT / PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION:J-lot
SUMMARY: Caller reported a two-car property damage motor vehicle accident. Patrol Officer Sony Jean-Philippe responded. The incident was investigated.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / INJURY RELATED

LOCATION:Campus Center Quad / E of 113 Campus Center Way
SUMMARY: Caller reported slipping, falling and injuring their ankle. Patrol Officer Dana Malcolm responded. The fall occurred earlier and medical assistance was not requested at the time.

FEB. 19

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / INJURY RELATED

LOCATION: Smiddy Hall / 110 Conservatory Drive
SUMMARY: Caller reported slipping, falling and injuring their leg and shoulder. The fall occurred earlier and medical assistance was not requested at the time.

FEB. 20

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / INJURY RELATED

LOCATION: Facilities Storage Building / 123 Farm Pond Road
SUMMARY: Caller reported slipping and falling. Patrol Officer Steven Hutchinson responded. The person declined medical assistance.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Park Communications Building
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person passed out. Patrol Officer Steven Hutchinson responded. The person declined medical assistance.

V&T LEAVING THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT

LOCATION: S-lot
SUMMARY: Caller reported a vehicle struck a parked vehicle and left the area. Patrol Officer Thaddeus May responded. The incident occurred back in December 2024 and is being investigated.

FEB. 21

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / PSYCHOLOGICAL

LOCATION: Terrace 7
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person made alarming statements of self-harm. Patrol Officer Jack Nelson responded. The person was transported to hospital by ambulance.

SCC UNDERAGE POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL

LOCATION: East Tower
SUMMARY: The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards reported five people had been referred for underage possession of alcohol Master Security Officer Amy Noble responded.

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: Terrace 6
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm activated. Enoch Perkins, fire protection specialist in EH&S, responded. The activation was caused by burnt food.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT / PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: J-lot
SUMMARY: Caller reported a two-car property motor vehicle accident. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded.

FEB. 22

AGGRAVATED HARASSMENT 2ND DEGREE

LOCATION: Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person contacted Public Safety repeatedly using profanity and making threatening statements. Patrol Officer Ivan Cruz responded. The incident is being investigated.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / INJURY RELATED

LOCATION: Campus Center

SUMMARY: Caller reported a person cut their thumb while preparing food. Patrol Officer Alex Hitchcock responded. The person declined medical assistance.

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: 180 College Circle
SUMMARY: Caller reported a fire alarm. Patrol Officer Ivan Cruz responded. The activation was caused by burnt food.

WELFARE CHECK

LOCATION: Talcott Hall
SUMMARY: Caller reported a possibly intoxicated person. Patrol Officer Alex Hitchcock responded. The person was not intoxicated and no assistance was needed.

FEB. 23

FIRE ALARM CO / GAS ALARM

LOCATION: Center for Health Sciences
SUMMARY: Caller reported a carbon monoxide detector activation. Sergeant John Elmore responded. The cause for the activation is unknown.

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

KEY

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

OPINION



ILLUSTRATION BY ATTICUS JACKSON/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

DEI programs are needed for equitable education

Diversity, equity and inclusion has increasingly been coming under scrutiny by President Donald Trump's administration, terminating former President Joe Biden's Executive Order 13985, "Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government." In the wake of the removal, many businesses and schools no longer provide DEI training and education to their employees.

The official White House website calls the programs a "public waste and shameful discrimination." But, DEI programs are meant to do the exact opposite; DEI is the generic label given to the wide-ranging efforts that help ensure people of all backgrounds and abilities, specifically minority groups, have equal opportunities as their majority counterparts.

DEI programs in public schools ensure that every student has a fair chance to succeed. DEI aims to create learning environments that embrace and represent multiple different identities and perspectives. The role of DEI teachings is

to build a more globally connected educational system that develops empathetic, diverse thinkers and allows students to not only recognize, but appreciate our increasingly diverse world.

Without DEI, we would not have special education programs, a crucial reason many students make it to graduation. Beyond special education programs, it makes sure that students have role models in their schools; DEI in hiring practices helps ensure that teachers of all racial and cultural backgrounds are considered. In higher education, DEI programs help underrepresented groups, like making sure that everyone has equal opportunities. At Ithaca College, there are groups like the MLK scholars, and the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation that lift up groups that systematically have fewer opportunities.

Diversity, equity and inclusion is not some scary concept coming to take away your rights, despite what some people may say. Without it, our children may become sheltered. DEI teaches empathy, something that our country is currently greatly lacking.

Hollywood should put its money where its mouth is

The 97th annual Academy Awards, otherwise known as the Oscars, took place March 2 at the Dolby Theatre, in the wake of the Los Angeles wildfires. The wildfires destroyed over 11,200 homes and businesses, and leveled 40,000 acres of land, displacing thousands throughout Southern California.

Conan O'Brien, this year's host, mentioned the fires in his opening monologue, emphasizing the need for normalcy in our times of trouble. But his short acknowledgment was not all that was said about the fires. LA firefighters were invited on stage in tribute to the work that they have done, and the official Oscars website encourages viewers to help donate, linking organizations such as the California Fire Foundation.

Many celebrities have donated to relief efforts themselves, and many have lost their homes alongside the masses. Some have posted on social media trying to relate to their followers, relaying what they have lost to the fires. Yet, those posts were often made from the safety of

their second or third homes, far away from the devastation of the fires — a millionaire and an everyday person are not affected the same way by the same disaster.

The average cost of just the outfit of an A-list celebrity at the Oscars is \$1.5 million. It seems almost dystopian, watching the elite celebrate themselves while many people in the same city, mere miles away, are struggling to survive after losing their entire livelihoods.

The fires are just one example of the performative activism that stems from Hollywood. Celebrities will constantly endorse one thing publicly, while privately doing nothing for the cause. They will often use social media to promote social justice or other ideals while not actually taking any action.

So many celebrities have brought their performance off the screen and into everyday life. They pretend to be activists to appeal to those who need them to stand up and to those whose rights and lives are at stake, while these same celebrities are partying and not worrying about what will happen tomorrow.

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.

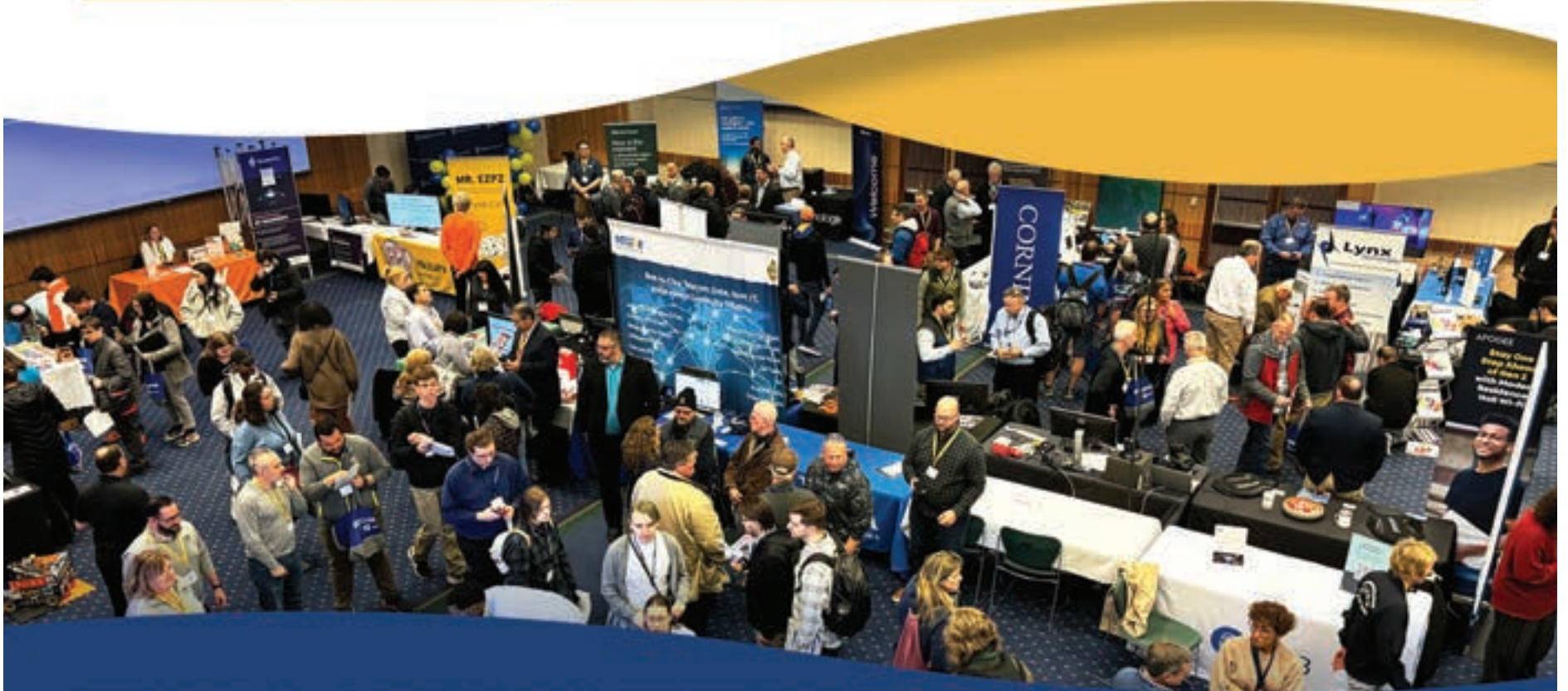
ALL COMMENTARIES MUST:

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

ITHACA COLLEGE

EDTECHDAY 2025

THURSDAY, MARCH 20TH | 9 AM TO 3PM CAMPUS CENTER ITHACA COLLEGE



FREE & OPEN TO EVERYONE

Educational Technology Day is an exciting opportunity for people in the upstate New York area to see the latest in computer and communications technologies. Learn how technology is currently being used in education, and see what can be expected in the coming years. This year's Ed Tech Day will feature more than 40 National and Regional Technology Vendors – Including Corning, Dell, and Many Others!

See What's New in Educational Technology with:

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- Featured speakers such as...

Emily Laird
AI Integration Technologist / Lecturer

Jacob VanRyn
NECC (National Esports Collegiate Conference)

Armando Nevares Luis
Microsoft

FBI

NYSERNet



More information and to register visit website

**Ithaca College Community members do not need to register*

www.ithaca.edu/edtechday

Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodation should contact us at 607-274-1530 or e-mail edtechday@ithaca.edu as much in advance as possible.

THE NEW MAG ATTACK

Inside the wave of **NEW** student magazines focused on marginalized voices.

BY EVA LEON — STAFF WRITER

Three new student-led magazines are now emerging at Ithaca College this semester to highlight under-represented voices, issues and subjects in student media: Tinta Libre, ETRNL Magazine and Her Campus.

Junior April Cascante had the idea to start a literary and arts magazine focusing on uplifting marginalized voices on campus, specifically voices of people of color. According to its social media page, Tinta Libre describes itself as a call to action, promoting justice and equity.

Tinta Libre is a Spanish phrase that can be translated as “free ink.” Cascante said they wanted the name of the magazine to reflect its mission to elevate Hispanic and Latino voices.

“It’s based on collective liberation and radical liberation, and wanting it to be a place for people to envision a more liberated world, and so that’s where the ‘libre’ comes from,” Cascante said. “Then Tinta, just because it’s a publishing magazine.”

Tinta Libre has three different sections: written word, visual arts and voices. Written word consists of fiction pieces, translations and critical analysis on culture. Cascante said they hope the

visual arts section will be very open and experimental, featuring any kind of art — physical or digital. Lastly, the voices section will focus on interviews and spotlights on students and faculty of color.

Her Campus is a national level media platform dedicated to empowering, informing and connecting college women. There are campus chapters for many different colleges, including Ithaca College as of Fall 2024.

Sophomore Grace Reilly, the editor-in-chief of Her Campus, said Her Campus consists of a writing, social media and PR team. The writing team produces articles on topics like wellness, beauty, politics, fashion and entertainment. The social media team creates digital content and a public relations team pushes for brand deals.

“It’s so hard to put it into such few words, but Her Campus is so all encompassing for all types of people, people that want to do video and digital content or write,” Reilly said. “So that’s the thing that really intrigued me, because it takes creative voices and blends them so well.”

The IC chapter was created in 2015 but ceased to exist in 2021 due to COVID-19 and the lack of in-person interaction. However, junior Gianna Izzo restarted the chapter last semester and the magazine has just started holding meetings

for its members this semester. Junior Leezum Regensburg is the secretary of Her Campus. She said the magazine has a mission to be able to provide an open space for women to share their college experiences together.

“I feel as though for what Ithaca was missing out on in terms of college media was really a safe and open space for women to talk about things that they were going through, or college experiences that they were going through,” Regensburg said. “The general topic of women in college is something that I feel like is not spoken about.”

Regensburg, for example, wrote articles about what makeup one could wear to go out versus going to class and her experiences at Cornell University fraternity events.

Similarly, Cascante said they want Tinta Libre to focus on social issues in its content but also just be a space for students of color at the college to showcase their creative work.

“I think that just the fact that they’re writing and creating as a POC person, that is a radical act in itself,” Cascante said.

Professor Annette Levine, professor in the Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures and the faculty adviser for Tinta Libre said she is honored to be a part of a publication that spotlights the work

throughout upstate New York. ETRNL is a fashion magazine founded by sophomore Ayla Khosropour and junior Oslene Vanyanbah. Its mission is to bring people together to share creative ideas through photography and design.

Khosropour said ETRNL has a focus on sustainable fashion and reusing clothes. The magazine’s goal is to not use new fabric and resist fast fashion. The magazine promotes and sells its repurposed clothes through unique photo shoots.

“It’s more crazy content, odd angles, the angles that you don’t really see in photo shoots,” Khosropour said. “Not [just] standard poses, but unique style, with different types of people with different styles. We’re trying to show that clothes don’t have gender.”

Although the magazine is not directly affiliated with the college, they try to engage the campus community as much as possible.

“We really wanted this program or magazine to be inclusive and open to everyone, and very much diverse as possible,” Khosropour said. “Whenever I’m looking for models or photographers or even editors, I’m not saying you need experience at all. This is a place for people to get experience and learn and make content.”

Her Campus has a similar mission of inclusivity. Although the content is mainly centered around women in college, Reilly and Regensburg assured that the magazine is not limited to female-identifying creators only.

“We really just want to be a fun community and organization that encourages all voices to be heard about entertainment and news, but also, just the fun little parts of college,” Reilly said.

Khosropour said she wants to create a space to showcase out-of-the-box, sustainable and genderless fashion in their photo shoots and magazine as a whole.

The current project she is working on consists of using the same pieces of clothing to style four different people.

Although each of these magazines have their own unique visions, they collectively strive to expand the range of the voices and issues being spotlighted in student media.

“Journalism is an everyone thing, media is an everyone thing,” Reilly said. “It’s not about gender guidelines, it’s something that we really want to break down, creating a space for everybody to have all their interests heard.”

Izzo is a staff writer and Vanyanbah is Design Editor for The Ithacan.



WOLFGANG CLAUSSEN/PIXABAY, WIKIIMAGES/PIXABAY, ANNETTE/PIXABAY, DIMITRIS VETSIKAS/PIXABAY, PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KAIDEN CHANDLER/THE ITHACAN

The Oscars: Heroines, heartbreak, humor and Conan

BY ALLISON DOLAN

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On March 2, the 97th annual Academy Awards ceremony took place at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. The casts of some of last year's highest-grossing movies were in attendance to celebrate all things Hollywood, from behind the scenes work to acting performances. Throughout the ceremonious evening, there were several surprise moments.

Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo, who starred in "Wicked," opened the ceremony with a mash-up of songs from musicals inspired by L. Frank Baum's novel "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz," which the story of "Wicked" is based on. Grande began with a cover of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" from the 1939 classic film "The Wizard of Oz," followed by Erivo singing "Home" from the popular Broadway musical "The Wiz." To conclude their performance, the pair sang the iconic ending to "Defying Gravity," which is featured at the end of their film. The performance from the duo set the tone for an exciting evening of awards.

The award for Best Documentary Feature went to "No Other Land," created by Basel Adra, Rachel Szor, Hamdan Ballal and Yuval Abraham. This documentary was notable as it was created by Israeli and Palestinian filmmakers. The film has only had limited releases in the U.S., and it has yet to be picked up by a distributor. In their acceptance speech for the award,

Adra and Abraham conveyed a message of unity and strength to a global market and audience.

"We made this film, Palestinians and Israelis, because together our voices are stronger," Abraham said. "We see each other."

The coveted Best Actor in a Leading Role title went to Adrien Brody for his performance as László Tóth in "The Brutalist." This was Brody's second Best Actor win, following his performance in 2002's "The Pianist."

His first Oscar gave him the title of the youngest ever Best Actor winner at 29, a record he still holds today. While Brody was the front runner for this category, Timothée Chalamet was another popular choice for the award. If he had won, Chalamet would have broken Brody's winning streak and his record for the youngest Best Actor winner.

MIKEY MADISON TOOK HOME HER first ever Oscar in the Best Actress in a Leading Role category for her portrayal of Ani in "Anora."

In her acceptance speech, Madison, who played an adult dancer, recognized the sex worker community and expressed her gratitude for getting to meet so many women in that industry while working on the film. Demi Moore, who starred in "The Substance," was high up in the running to win this category after winning the Golden Globe and Critics Choice Awards for her performance. Before this awards season, Moore had never won an award for her acting in a movie throughout her over



Director-writer Sean Baker (front) gives his acceptance speech along with the rest of the "Anora" cast for the award for Best Picture. The film swept nearly every major academy category this year.

REUTERS/VIA SNO SITES/CARLOS BARRIA

40-year career.

The biggest award of the night went to "Anora," in which Sean Baker broke a record when he won Best Picture, his fourth award of the evening.

By winning Best Picture, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay and Best Film Editing, Baker matched a record set in 1953 by Walt Disney when he won four Oscars in one evening. In total, "Anora" won five Oscars, making it the most decorated film of the night.

One of the award night's most

controversial moments came in host Conan O'Brien's opening monologue, when he called out Best Actress nominee Karla Sofía Gascón for her history of problematic social media posts. Gascón, the first transgender Best Actress nominee in Oscars history, came under fire in January when old tweets resurfaced that reflected racist and Islamophobic beliefs. Gascón was nominated for "Emilia Pérez," which had 13 Oscar nominations, the most of any film nominated this year. The film took home two awards, one for Zoe Saldaña

for Best Supporting Actress, and another for Best Original Song.

Fans of "Wicked" were disappointed by the film's lack of major award wins. The movie, which scored 10 nominations, won Best Production Design and Best Costume Design. Fans wanted Grande and Erivo, the film's stars who were each up for Best Supporting Actress and Best Actress in a Leading Role to win. If Erivo had won the award, she would have achieved EGOT status.

CONTACT: ADOLAN@ITHACA.EDU

The return of the Ithaca Experimental Film Festival

BY BRENDAN TOMASZEWSKI

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Across the theatrical screens of Ithaca College's Park School Auditorium, Cornell Cinema and Cinemapolis, audiences were exposed to various filmmaking visionaries from across the world. The Ithaca Experimental Film Festival was hosted at these locations, and with it came a stacked lineup of filmmakers ranging from students to veteran directors that had their work showcased from Feb. 28 to March 2.

The Ithaca Experimental Film Festival is an annual event that was held for the first time last year. Experimental film is a style of filmmaking where nontraditional methods of film production are used in order to provide a more artistic, evocative meaning to the film.

Brothers Philip and Timothy Linnik are local filmmakers around Ithaca who attended the second block of the festival at Cinemapolis. They said they found their first experience at the festival inspirational.

"Every single film brought up a lot of feelings, and I think it's really awesome even though you may not understand what you're watching," Phil Linnik said. "I think that as long as you make the audience feel something, you've already won."

The festival started in the auditorium of Park Hall, where it premiered the feature film "Your Final Meditation," directed by Corey Hughes. The film is a hypnotic yet colorful depiction of escapism and, like the title suggests, therapy.

The short film "when i wake up tomorrow everything will be different [excerpt]," directed by Tynan DeLong, premiered alongside

the feature. DeLong's footage consisted of a box of cassette tapes that he found on the street that depicted the recordings of an unknown stranger in different parts of his life.

But these films were just the tip of the iceberg for the festival.

Founders of the festival Philip Thompson, Desirée Tolchin and Aidan Cronin graduated from Ithaca College in 2021. They related their experiences as students at IC as why they decided to start the Ithaca Experimental Film Festival in 2023.

"After we graduated we got to festival our thesis films," Thompson said. "It was a really great experience talking with artists who have been working on low budget films for a while. It really made things feel obtainable, since we were forming a space where people can just talk as artists and friends and form new relationships."

Last year, there were 247 submissions, with 17 short films and one feature film screened at Cinemapolis and in the Park School Auditorium. This year, the festival had 565 submissions from over 54 countries, along with 35 short films and one feature film with the addition of Cornell Cinema to the showing locations.

"We were originally thinking that we would do two short blocks and a feature, but because of so many films, we decided to add another short block at Cornell Cinema," Thompson said. "It's really exciting to have the opportunity to show more stuff and bring more people to Ithaca."

Senior Gracie DeGeorge, a cinema and photography major, submitted her short film this year. She said it was an amazing opportunity to have a chance to screen her film at a public festival.



Tynan DeLong (left) and Corey Hughes (middle) talk about their respective short films with Andrew Vielkind (right). Their work explored themes of escapism.

CHRISTOPHER MEADOWS/THE ITHACAN

"I lost my dad last semester, so the film was kind of me actively going through that experience," DeGeorge said. "There's a little bit of nervousness as well as excitement and a lot of love, because a lot of people get to see my dad in a different way. Sometimes in film, we don't always see it in that extremely personal, upfront way."

Sarah Lasley is a filmmaker and professor at California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt. She said this current period of history is an important time for experimental film to be publicly visible.

"As AI starts to funnel in and fill in some of these lower budget, Netflix categories like 'Watch while you're on your phone,' content, we see more and more of this generic,

baseline content," Lasley said. "I think we're going to be really hungry for things that are different than that."

The Ithaca Experimental Film Festival was founded to allow filmmakers to use film not for the purpose of making millions of dollars at a box office, but to portray art through its most evocative lens.

"Aim a little too high," Lasley said. "Be a little too ambitious, maybe even audacious. I think that range of failure that's right at the top of what you're capable of is a really beautiful, vulnerable place. Push your own limits, try something that scares you, be vulnerable. That's what's really important."

CONTACT: BTOMASZEWSKI@ITHACA.EDU

THE QUEUE

Commentary from
The Ithacan's
culture critics.



MATT SAKATANI ROE/BRIARCLIFF ENTERTAINMENT

'My Dead Friend Zoe' slips

BY JUNO BROOKS

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"My Dead Friend Zoe" follows the heartfelt story of Merit (Sonequa Martin-Green) as she works through the grief of losing her friend and fellow service member, Zoe (Natalie Morales). After a call from her mother, Merit learns her grandfather (Ed Harris) has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Merit ghosts her therapy group to move out of the city and keep an eye on him as she and her mother transition him into assisted living.

The film falls short in defining itself with a solid theme. On her runs, Merit routinely drops off breakfast to an unhoused man before circling

back home, which seems like it is a nod to how many veterans end up unhoused, but that is not adequately explored.

The portrayal of PTSD in the film is moving, but it fails to take into consideration Merit's race and how that would impact her readjustment to life outside of the service. This is a disservice to the stories of Black female veterans, a group historically treated poorly during and after service.

The film is well-directed, well-cast and touching, but it could've been enhanced if it explored just one of the many social commentaries it touched on.

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'Last Breath' sends chills

BY WILL CARON

STAFF WRITER

"Last Breath" — released by Focus Features on Feb. 28 — proved to be an utterly nail-biting, terrifying experience through and through.

"Last Breath" portrays a sense of helplessness and dread, despite the fact that no gore is present. The plot centers around deep sea divers who are tasked with reaching the bottom of the ocean to do maintenance on gas lines. When a storm hits and the ship's power is cut, a diver is dislodged from his oxygen supply. He must be rescued by his fellow divers in time, or drown.

The sound design is, by far, the thing that

could have used the most improvement. Especially with this type of movie, where all the characters are either lodged in a tiny capsule or trapped at the bottom of the ocean with limited sight, good audio design is a necessity.

Overall, "Last Breath" does a great job of making you feel the tension and urgency. While its cinematography and sound could have been improved, both do their job well enough and make the viewer feel something. This film isn't perfect, but it does what it aims to do in dramatizing a documentary for the big screen.

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RCA RECORDS

'So Close To What' thrills

BY LIAM MCDERMOTT

STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 21, singer-songwriter Tate McRae released her third studio album, titled "So Close To What." The album comes after McRae had a breakout year in 2024, with her hit song "Greedy" from her second studio album "Think Later." "So Close To What" brings back the vibrant pop sounds usually heard around the late 1990s and early 2000s.

She premiered "It's ok I'm ok" from the then-unreleased album at the last performance of the Think Later World Tour. The song immediately made waves across social media with fans asking McRae to officially release the song. The song has sticky

instrumentals and vocals that make listeners want to get up and dance.

"So Close To What" is a no-skip album. Every song has at least one part that will be stuck in the listener's head for days, from the chorus to the pre-chorus to the outro. If this past year has not solidified McRae as a top 10 artist of this decade, this album has surely done it. With just a year since her past release, McRae created an album of hit songs in a very short amount of time. She has succeeded in putting a message out to the world that she will be in the music industry for a long time.

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Way too much 'Riff Raff'

BY NOLAN SHEEHAN

LIFE AND CULTURE EDITOR

Flying into theaters with as much grace as a clumsy housecat, Dito Montiel's "Riff Raff" debuted in theaters Feb. 28. A former hitman, Vincent (Ed Harris), tries to fall off the grid after living a life of crime, while his new family with his second wife comes into jeopardy. Although it stands as a strong story in concept, the execution of the final product thoroughly trods upon and ruins it through its unlikable characters, bland performances, inconsistent tone and its every attempt at "humor" falling flat on its face.

The tone of the movie is all over the

place. "Riff Raff" tries its hardest to combine dramatic and comedic elements together in order to lift up a message about the messiness of families and how they'll always come together when it matters. Unfortunately, the inclusion of the comedy destroys the dramatic weight of the message. It's hard to feel for a family member's last words when they're consistently cracking jokes out of character.

Despite the few standout performances, "Riff Raff" stands as a cluttered mess with too many conflicting elements to salvage anything of use.

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ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS/ENTERTAINMENT PICTURES/ZUMA PRESS/TNS

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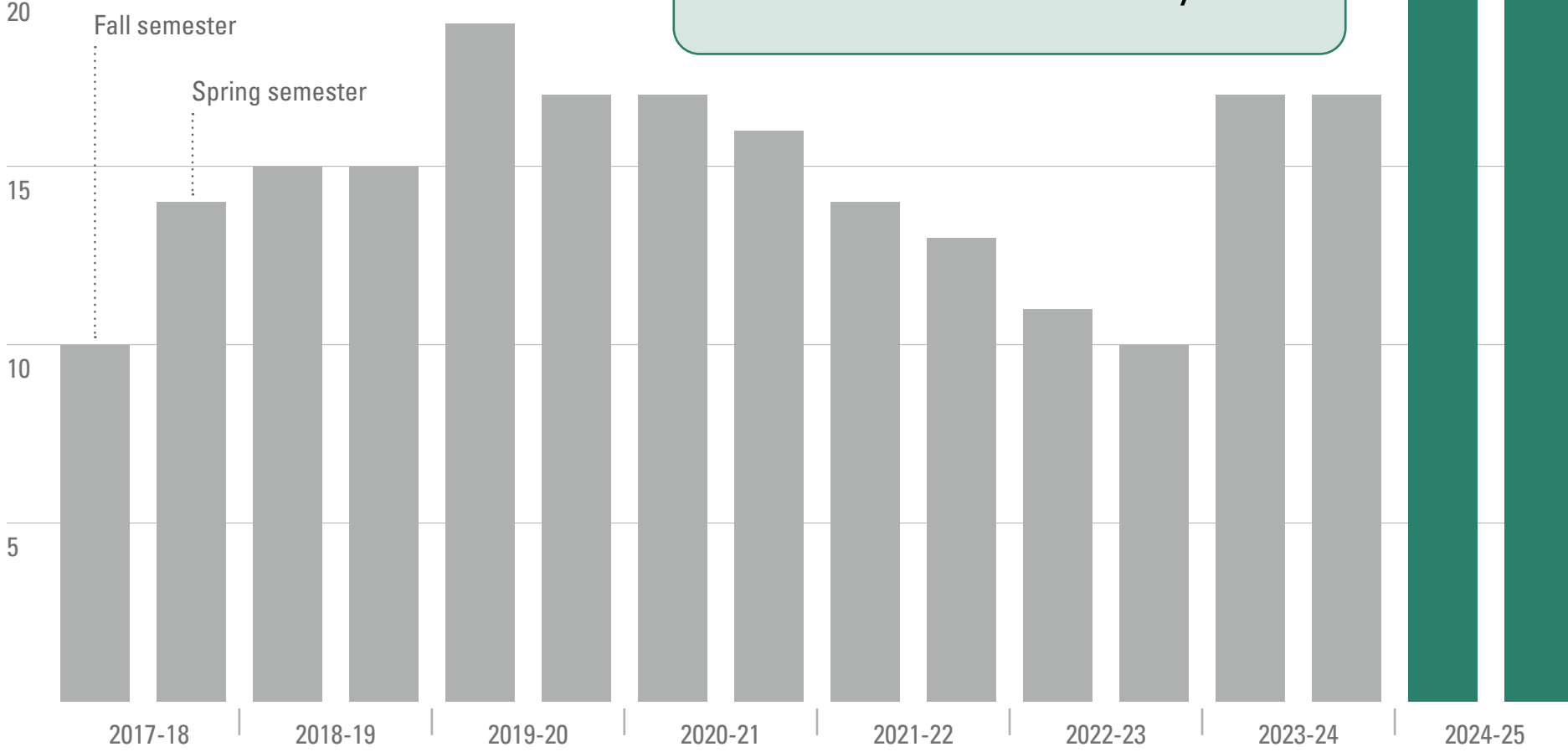
25

20

15

10

5



GOING UP...
 The number of female sports media majors hit **record highs** in the 2024-25 academic year.

DATA FROM THE ITHACA COLLEGE OFFICE OF ANALYTICS AND INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH, GRAPH BY KAIDEN CHANDLER/THE ITHACAN

BY ISABELLA MCSWEENEY
 STAFF WRITER

Ithaca College’s sports media and sport management majors have been majority male for as long as the college has collected enrollment data since 2017. Despite a small population, the college’s community of female students in sports media is on the rise.

In Spring 2022, *The Ithacan* examined the growing gender divide in Ithaca College’s sports media major.

Since Fall 2017, the proportion of female students in the major relative to male students has increased from 19.6% to 20.2%. The number of female students increased from 10 to 27 in the same time frame.

The School of Business’ Department of Sport Management — consisting of sport management, as well as management concentrations for business administration majors — yielded a decrease in the number of female and male students in the major.

Since Fall 2017, the proportion of women in sport management — including both the major and the concentration — relative to male students has increased from 12.9% to 18.8% in Fall 2024. Despite a decrease in overall enrollment in the program, the number of female students increased from nine to 15 in the same time frame.

Mead Loop, director of the sports media program, said it can be hard to attribute this growth to a single factor. He said a possible influence may be aftershocks of what he called the “Caitlin Clark effect.” Clark, the first overall pick in the 2024 WNBA draft, brought new attention to the league and other professional women’s sports. The 2024 season had a 170% increase in viewership from the year before.

Professional women’s sports have also seen the creation of the Professional Women’s Hockey League in 2023, as well as the

Women’s Lacrosse League and Women’s Elite Rugby in 2025.

Although female students are getting increasingly involved in IC’s sports departments, AIR data highlights a gap between the proportion of female students in sport majors and the college. The Spring 2025 undergraduate student body is 57% female students, with the Roy H. Park School of Communications and School of Business coming in at 51% and 27.4% female students, respectively. Of the total female students enrolled in the college, 5.2% are in the business school and 26.5% are in the communications school. Only 0.7% of students who are female major or have a concentration in sport management, while 1% major in sports media.

Senior Belle Adams, a sports media major, said that when she starts a new semester, she immediately notices the lack of other women in the room.

Rachel Madsen, associate professor and chair of the Department of Sport Management, said she has been part of North American Society for Sport Management workshops dedicated to addressing the gender divide. Regarding IC, Madsen said a major problem seems to be a lack of awareness about the department.

“A lot of my female students tell me that they didn’t even know this was a major until they got on campus,” Madsen said. “They were often in a different major and transferred in.”

Madsen said one difficulty in educating prospective students is the way open houses are held. There are specific events for each school, which limits the pool of students and discourages many from exploring programs

across multiple disciplines.

Adams said that maintaining a support system is an important aspect for increasing the number of female students in sport majors. When students enter the sports media program, they are required to take Introduction to Sports Media with Ellen Staurowsky, professor of sports media.

Senior Natalie Descalso, a sports media major, said Staurowsky makes students feel welcome by sharing internship opportunities, offering advice or having a casual conversation.

time at the college.

AWSM’s GroupMe, formed at the start of Fall 2024, currently boasts 26 members. Madsen said IC used to have a dedicated club for women in sport management before decreased enrollment numbers at the college led to its dissolution. As of Spring 2025 there are 73 undergraduate students in the sport management department, excluding the sport marketing major, which is down from 120 in Fall 2019. Descalso said that while AWSM began as an organization for only sports media majors, students’ majors are irrelevant as long as they are contributing to the community and preparing themselves for the professional world.

In 2021, The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport (TIDES) gave the Associated Press Sports Editors an “F” rating in gender hiring, with the APSE’s staff being only 19.3% women. Despite TIDES’ low rating, the industry shows signs of hope. The number of women employed by APSE almost doubled between 2021 and 2011, when they made up only 11.4% of the total staff. In 2023, the NFL reported “all-time highs” of women assistant coaches, team vice presidents and professional staff. Madsen said she believes this trend will continue.

“The very interesting thing that I’m seeing right now is that [sport] organizations specifically want to hire women,” Madsen said. “We need to get this info to high school girls and say, ‘Not only is there a place for you, they really want you.’”

METHODOLOGY

To show the number of female students in Ithaca College’s sports media and sport management programs, *The Ithacan* relied on the college’s public database.

The database uses the term “gender,” but was collecting data for sex assigned at birth. The college did not start collecting gender identity data until Fall 2022.

This article uses the terms “male” and “female” to reflect enrollment data based on sex assigned at birth.

“She’s almost like a mom in the sports media department,” Descalso said. “She’s spent a lot of time working with the girls in the major because she’s female, and she’s done so many amazing things in the sports media community. She’s been really amazing for all of us.”

On the student side, Descalso said she provides advice to younger sports media majors as the vice president of the college’s Association for Women in Sports Media. She said she feels encouraged by AWSM’s growth throughout her

Running back trains with former teammate for draft

BY JONATHAN FALCO
STAFF WRITER

When people watch senior athlete Jalen Leonard-Osbourne, whether it is on the football field or running track, they see a national champion who has won numerous other awards. With the help of his strength and conditioning coach and a fellow teammate on a similar path, Leonard-Osbourne sets his sights on the NFL after five prolific years at Ithaca College.

As running back for the football team, Leonard-Osbourne finished his career as a Bomber with 2,463 rushing yards and 969 receiving yards. He won awards like D3football.com Fourth Team All-American, Liberty League Offensive Player of the Year, Liberty League Honor Roll, D3football.com Third Team Preseason All-American and Liberty League First Team, among others.

As a track and field athlete, Leonard-Osbourne was an NCAA champion in the 60-meter dash and set the school records for the 60-meter and 100-meter dash.

Donte Garcia '23, assistant strength and conditioning coach and Leonard-Osbourne's former teammate said he has always had a close bond with the superstar running back and now has the opportunity to help him reach new heights.

"My favorite part about working with Jalen is seeing him transform into the best version of himself," Garcia said. "He is maturing; he was already a teammate of mine, so we already had a good relationship. But now, as his coach, taking a back seat

position as his friend and really focusing on getting him to where he needs to be, and just seeing his character development has been awesome."

Senior defensive back Jake Connolly, Leonard-Osbourne's teammate and good friend, has been working closely with him because he is also an NFL hopeful.

"He's a dog," Leonard-Osbourne said. "Just seeing the way he works, the way he just gets that extra work in. He doesn't want anybody to out-work him. I would just say, being around him, being in his presence just makes me overall a better athlete, a better person and a better competitor. He pushes me to my limits and unlocks a new potential."

Garcia is training individual athletes for the professional level for the first time. He said he is honored to be doing this for people he has known for a while, but he feels pressured to make sure both Connolly and Leonard-Osbourne are the best versions of themselves when it matters the most.

"It feels like a dream come true," Garcia said. "And at the same time, I'm nervous. I'm nervous because I'm a young coach. I know what I know, and I know what I don't know. With that being said, you'll never know if it's gonna be enough."

Head football coach Michael Toerper said he is fascinated by how Leonard-Osbourne handles adversity and credits everything he has had to overcome.

"He's a guy that's been able to handle it well," Toerper said. "He's got the tools to do so, and he's had to overcome adversity in the past. The



Senior running back Jalen Leonard-Osbourne makes a move during a 33-14 victory against Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on Oct. 19. Now, he has his sights set on playing professionally.

MARISSA MOSCHELLA/THE ITHACAN

best way of being good at handling adversity is by experiencing adversity and getting through the other side of it, and he's certainly done that."

An aspect of Leonard-Osbourne's career is that he comes from a Division III football program. The question is whether he can jump from Division III to the NFL, but Leonard-Osbourne's heart, tenacity and abilities say he can.

As a strength and conditioning coach, Garcia understands the pressure of developing two Division III athletes to be on par with those

from Division I schools. He also said a huge factor in both Connolly and Leonard-Osbourne's development depends on the decisions they have to make every day.

"It comes down to the athlete staying on top of their nutrition, staying on top of their recovery," Garcia said. "There's just so many things, especially when you're preparing an athlete at the Division III level to compete with genetic superhumans at the highest level. Everything has to be as close to perfect as possible, including what they're doing

behind closed doors."

As Leonard-Osbourne looks to achieve his NFL dreams, he has established a legacy as a dual-sport athlete representing the Bombers. He said he wants to be remembered for his hard work and dedication while rocking the navy and white.

"[I want to be remembered as] resilient," Leonard-Osbourne said. "Someone that just worked their butt off... as a dual sport athlete who did really well in both sports."

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IC's newest varsity sport commits first two recruits

BY DAVID SCHURTER
SPORTS EDITOR

Being the first official member of a team holds a significant place in a program's history. The Ithaca College women's wrestling team will enter its inaugural season during the 2025-26 academic year, and has just recruited its first two athletes.

Led by head coach Ryan Ciotoli '02, expectations of long-term success roam the halls of the Hill Center. Ciotoli said his connection to the program as a former athlete and a coach has drawn interest from prospective students.

"I think a lot of the recruits understand that the men's program has been really successful," Ciotoli said. "I'm a product of that, so they kind of see what we're setting up."

Ciotoli said there are 22 prospective student-athletes who have been accepted by the college and much of the recruitment efforts have focused within New York state.

He said that by working to recruit current high school juniors, the college's coaches will have an extra year to confidently develop relationships with future athletes.

"We've really started working on the sophomore and junior class, starting to build for the other years as well," Ciotoli said.

Creating trust from scratch within a program presents a challenge that Ciotoli said he is willing to tackle. He said he wants to have a staff that the athletes and himself can rely on in order to reach the level of competition that the men's program has achieved.

"There's a lot of aspects of building a team," Ciotoli said. "I brought on [assistant coach Kate Zavuholnik] who's going to be the full-time assistant when that's available. Right now, we

have a lot of good support through helping [to] recruit and also [support] on the men's side."

As of March 2, the team has two official commits who are both from in-state. Sophia Torian is from Shaker High School in Latham, and Delaney Bisailon is from Mechanicville High School in Mechanicville. The duo marks the beginning of an era for the college's athletics department, bringing its 14th women's varsity sport into commission.

Torian and Bisailon bring prominent records to South Hill from making waves at their respective high schools. Torian, who began wrestling her junior year, has tallied a 37-13 career record with 18 pins and 194 total points scored. Bisailon, who started her sophomore year, boasts a 56-19 record with 27 pins and 280 points scored.

Bisailon said she will not take building the foundation of IC women's wrestling for granted. She said she is looking forward to working with future teammates to build a championship-contending team.

"I'm really excited to see how it grows," Bisailon said. "Being the [first] couple of girls starting up the team, it's an honor."

Bisailon said her high school team has grown exponentially since her first season, where the ratio of boys to girls was 26 to five. She said that watching the increasing number of girls on her team correlate with the sport's increasing popularity nationally has created a more welcoming environment for women in wrestling.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association announced Jan. 17 that women's wrestling will be certified as a championship sport beginning in 2026. Now, college programs have the opportunity to compete on the biggest stage starting in Spring 2026.



The Ithaca College women's wrestling team is constructing its first roster. High school senior Delaney Bisailon is one of two recruits to commit to the team.

COURTESY OF JESSICA GREGG

Torian was the first official member of IC's program. She said she plans to take full advantage of her decision because these opportunities were not available to girls and women in wrestling when she was in middle school.

"It's an incredible honor," Torian said. "To be able to be a part of something so amazing, it feels great because the sport [is] only going to keep growing."

During her first year of high school, Torian said she had to wrestle at the club level with boys because girls' wrestling was not an official team sport in the state. By her sophomore year, girls' wrestling was sanctioned by the state, allowing for her to compete against other girls.

She said Ithaca College was not on her initial radar as it did not previously have a women's wrestling program, a key part of her college search. Once the announcement was made July 29 that the college was adding it to the long list of women's varsity sports, Torian jumped at the opportunity.

"We said Ithaca would be perfect if they had wrestling," Torian said. "To be able to commit to a school with great athletics programming and a great [business] program was the thing that really sold me to Ithaca."

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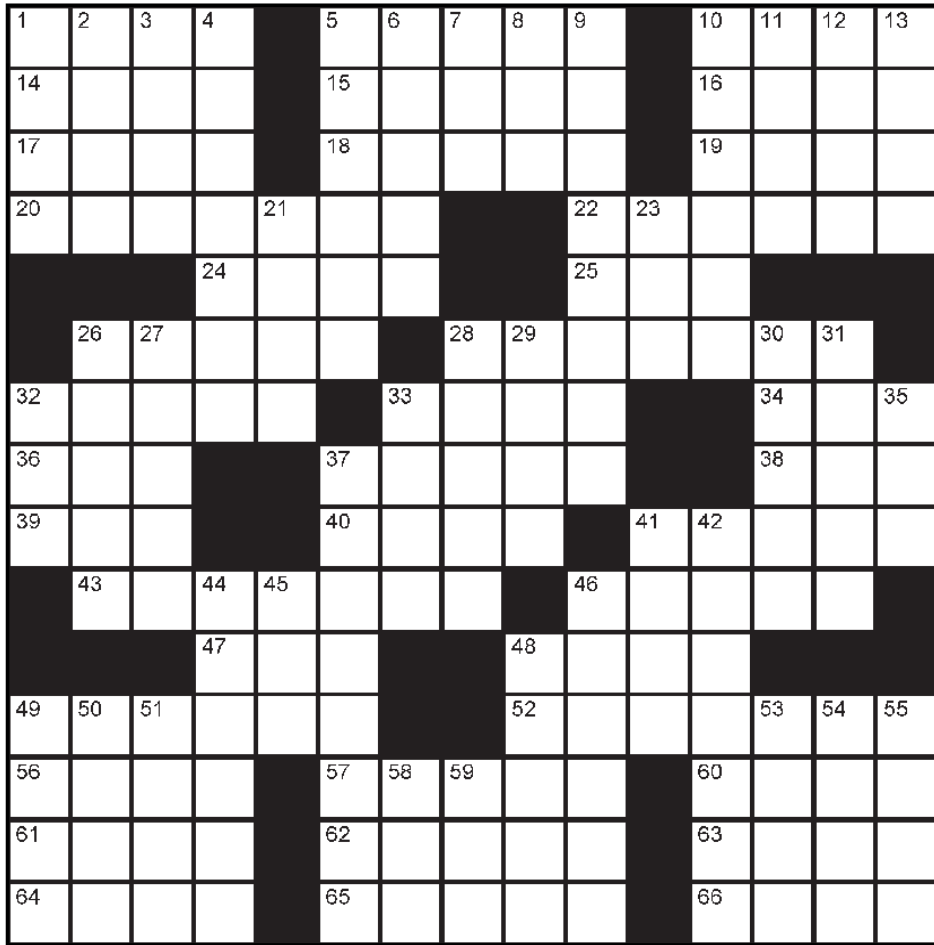
DIVERSIONS

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025

13

crossword

By Quill Driver



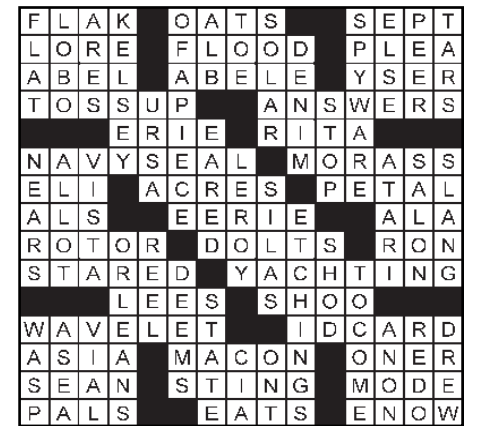
ACROSS

- 1 Cry out
- 5 Walk with pride
- 10 Running competition
- 14 Church calendar
- 15 Balance
- 16 Love god
- 17 In — of (instead)
- 18 Body part
- 19 Worm on a hook
- 20 Ties
- 22 Twofold
- 24 Villain in Shakespeare
- 25 Wapiti
- 26 Artificial gems
- 28 Thinks
- 32 Tub events
- 33 Secular
- 34 Letter following zeta
- 36 Little island
- 37 Big and muscular
- 38 Fond du —
- 39 Letters in genetics
- 40 Comply
- 41 Middle
- 43 Had faith in
- 46 "The Lion, the — and the Wardrobe"
- 47 "Go team!"
- 48 Talk wildly
- 49 Burning
- 52 Guaranteed
- 56 Claim on property
- 57 Send payment
- 60 — Scotia
- 61 Jai —
- 62 Undermine
- 63 At any time
- 64 Animal fluids
- 65 Slag
- 66 Fender spoiler

DOWN

- 1 Coyote cousin
- 2 Song in opera
- 3 — of March
- 4 Like a door
- 5 Parasite
- 6 Human trunk
- 7 Fix fraudulently
- 8 — Today
- 9 Inclination
- 10 Criticize harshly
- 11 Bedouin
- 12 Helix
- 13 Punta del —
- 21 Has food and drink
- 23 Hoary
- 26 Enamel
- 27 Fragrant oil
- 28 Cut down
- 29 Full of grease
- 30 Object from time past
- 31 Hidden supply
- 32 Naughty
- 33 Garage service
- 35 Behave
- 37 Troubled
- 41 Gets first prize
- 42 Brought into harmony
- 44 Astronomy Muse
- 45 Singer — Cooke
- 46 Squanders
- 48 Forays
- 49 Cry of regret
- 50 Do an office job
- 51 Nonsense poet
- 53 Wander
- 54 Divisible by two
- 55 Flit
- 58 Go wrong
- 59 Low

last issue's crossword answers



The Film Fleeks

BY ATTICUS JACKSON/THE ITHACAN



answers to last issue's sudoku:

very easy

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

medium

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

easy

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

hard

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

THE BUZZER

The Ithacan's breakdown of Ithaca College's week in sports

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK LAURA SUPPA/TRACK AND FIELD



Suppa continued her dominant season at the Liberty League Championship Tournament at Glazer Arena from Feb. 28 to March 1. The senior hurdler ran the fourth fastest time in Division III 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.61 seconds.

AVA SUFFREDINI/THE ITHACAN

COMPETITION OF THE WEEK MEN'S BASKETBALL VS. RPI



The Ithaca College men's basketball team held off the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Engineers to clinch its first conference championship since the 2019-20 season, earning a bid to the NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Tournament.

ROBERT DANIELS/THE ITHACAN

EVENT TO WATCH

1 P.M. MARCH 8 AT SUNY BROCKPORT



VS.



ITHACA

NCGA EAST REGIONALS

The Ithaca College gymnastics team heads to Brockport for the NCGA East Region Championship, where it looks to qualify its athletes for the NCGA Individual Event Finals on March 22 at Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, Minnesota. The team has won back-to-back duals against SUNY Cortland and Springfield College, also earning 190+ team points out of 200 four times this season.

NOTABLE UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

TRACK AND FIELD: 10 A.M. MARCH 7-8 AT AARTFC INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS AT THE GLAZER ARENA.

MEN'S LACROSSE: 1 P.M. MARCH 8 VS. UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON AT HIGGINS STADIUM.

SOFTBALL: 9 A.M. MARCH 9 VS. SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA.

BASEBALL: 1:30 P.M. MARCH 9 VS. ARCADIA UNIVERSITY IN LEXINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"[THERE IS] A LOT OF CONFIDENCE FOR WHAT THEY HAVE NEXT YEAR. THEY'RE GOING TO BE [HUNGRIER] FOR NEXT YEAR. BIG TIME."

MIKE BLAKELY-ARMITAGE '00
On the men's swimming and diving team's second place finish at Liberty Leagues.



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CHIEF ADJUAH



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Mid Atlantic Arts



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TICKETS AT CORNELLCONCERTSERIES.COM

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SONA JOBARTEH

"A GRIOT FOR A NEW GENERATION"



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I


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Chris Griffin, aquatics coordinator and diving coach at Ithaca College, leads the women's swimming and diving team in a celebratory plunge. The 2025 Liberty League Swimming and Diving Championships were hosted at IC, with the women's team placing first Feb. 22 for its sixth consecutive season.

ARTHUR WAWRZYNIAK/THE ITHACAN