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THE ITHACAN

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FAMILY LEGACY FUELS PROCTOR BROTHER DUO

Status changes leave international students worried

BY LORIEN TYNE

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Editor's note: All international student sources are referred to using their initials to preserve their safety.

JP, an international student at Ithaca College, was planning to begin work in the U.S. after graduation in May and make steps toward a green card. But JP's post-grad plans are not turning out how she thought they would. Since January, the federal government has made aggressive moves to push international students out of the country.

"I'm unsafe in a country that I have spent almost a decade living [in] and contributing to," JP said. "I built a life here, and I do everything by the books. ... Now, I don't want to be here. If I'm going to be suffering, I might as well suffer in the comfort of my home."

No international students at Ithaca College have had their status or visa terminated in 2025, according to Emily Rockett, vice president, general counsel and secretary to the Board of Trustees. However, the college's international students have anxiously watched President Donald Trump's administration revoke the legal status of more than 4,700 international students at other higher education institutions since his inauguration Jan. 20. Following significant

The federal administration's policy whiplash has stifled and destabilized international students.



ILLUSTRATION BY KAIDEN CHANDLER/THE ITHACAN

pushback in court, the administration announced April 25 that legal status would be restored for some students who had their status terminated but did not have their visa revoked, and a new system for reviewing legal statuses will be developed.

ST, an Ithaca College international student from Belarus, a country she described as politically unstable and unsafe, said the frequent changes in policy have made everyday tasks feel dangerous.

"Before, it was clear what you

can do," ST said. "[I'm] really paranoid about it, because you feel like anything can become a reason [to be deported]. . . . Sometimes you're just scared to move."

A spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security told ABC News that no visa revocations would be reversed. It is unclear how many statuses will be restored and within what timeline.

Jonathan Grode — U.S. practice director and managing partner of Green and Spiegel, an immigration

law firm — said that while litigation against the government appears to be succeeding, the attack on students has done what it intended to do.

"The chaos is by design," Grode said. "Sometimes the best way to control the many is to dramatically affect the few. The confidence and the ability to have student visas and ... be here and get an education has been impacted. The protests are being diminished. The effect has occurred. The result of litigation certainly has merit and matters. But do you see

protests at universities like we had last spring? ... Even though people prevail in court doesn't mean they've necessarily won."

Rockett said IC International Student and Scholar Services provides support to students, and the college would try to provide referrals, but it does not give individual legal services. The college has been hosting sessions for international students to know their rights, including a meeting with an immigration lawyer.

President La Jerne Cornish told *The Ithacan* that she would like to offer international undergraduate, graduate and recently graduated students summer housing using the Student Emergency Relief Fund in cases where students are concerned about not being permitted reentry to the U.S. or cannot go home for the summer for other reasons.

"I'm concerned, like everybody else in the country, about rights being taken," Cornish said. "We aren't doing anything public because we don't want to put anybody in harm's way. ... We want to keep the identities of those who are the most afraid and the most vulnerable as private as we possibly can."

AC, an international student studying politics at IC, said there has been no communication from the

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Park Cafe paninis face uncertain future

BY EAMON CORBO, JULIAN DELUCIA

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITORS

Around noon every weekday, the lobby of Park Hall is bustling with students. The Dailies Cafe, commonly referred to as the Park Cafe, is flooded with orders. Fewer than five employees at a time make sandwiches and coffees as crowds of students surround them, all wanting a hot panini for lunch. Despite its popularity, the cafe faces uncertainty regarding its ability to keep serving its signature paninis going into Fall 2025.

The Dailies Cafe, located next to the main entrance of Park Hall, started serving paninis in Fall 2023 as part of Ithaca College's meal exchange service, which was introduced to reduce the amount of foot traffic in the Campus Center Dining Hall.

The cafe is a popular retail dining location at the college, averaging 450-500 lunch orders per day, according to Ithaca College Dining Services. The cafe

also sells pre-packaged breakfast items, salads and coffees.

Jerome Rotunda — the former supervisor of the cafe who left the college April 17 for another job — said the cafe employees have had tension with faculty and administrators in the Roy H. Park School of Communications.

"I think the people in this building are just like, sick and tired of the Park Cafe," Rotunda said. "They don't like the noise, they don't like the look of it ... and they just don't want us to be there."

A consistent issue created by the cafe has been the noise. The cafe sits in earshot of multiple classrooms. The panini machines and GrubHub interfaces buzz and beep constantly and cafe workers conversate and play music. Rob Gearhart '82, associate dean of the Roy H. Park School of Communications, said he often receives complaints from staff and faculty that he relays to the cafe workers.

"Faculty around that hallway said they couldn't keep their



The Dailies Cafe, commonly referred to as the Park Cafe, gets 450-500 lunch orders per day, according to Dining Services.

MEI DENISON/THE ITHACAN

doors open in their classrooms because it was just too noisy coming from the cafe," Gearhart said. "We would ask them to keep [the noise] down and they were pretty good [complying] with that."

An incident occurred in which Amy Falkner, dean of the Roy H. Park School of Communications, had a verbal confrontation with Rotunda. The Ithacan contacted Falkner and Gearhart with an interview request. Gearhart said Falkner asked him to speak on behalf of the school because he had already been in contact with Dining Services for any issues involving the cafe. Gearhart said Falkner had been speaking in the classroom closest to the cafe and was

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Q&A: Cornish defends values

Editor-in-Chief Lorien Tyne and News Editor Kaeleigh Banda spoke with Ithaca College President La Jerne Cornish about how IC is responding to institutional financial challenges and political pressures from the federal government.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Kaeleigh Banda: Two of the college's scholarships are under investigation right now for alleged racial discrimination, and you recently attended an SGC meeting and stated, "We will comply with the law when it's the law, but it's not the law yet," regarding those anti-DEI efforts. Can you just expand on what you meant by that?

La Jerne Cornish: The only criterion for eligibility for each of those scholarships is that you are a current undergraduate student. We do not admit students to Ithaca College based on race. . . . Somebody made some assumptions about the scholarships, and it was inaccurate.

KB: You recently signed "A Call for Constructive Engagement." Can you talk more about the decision-making behind that?

LJC: It's who we are and what we stand for as an institution. I just repeated what our

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Nation & World News

Pope Francis commemorated in St. Peter's Square burial service

Pope Francis was buried in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major on April 26. Hundreds of thousands of people from global leaders to the impoverished and marginalized paid their respects to the man celebrated for his humility and humanity.

The rites for the pontiff, who died at the age of 88 on April 21, were more modest than for past popes, as he wished, and he was laid to rest in his favorite church in Rome after a two-hour funeral service held in St. Peter's Square.

— dpa correspondents/dpa/TNS

Trump questions Putin's goals after meeting with Zelenskyy

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he is hopeful for a "reliable and lasting peace" after meeting one-on-one with U.S. President Donald Trump, who later questioned whether Russian President Vladimir Putin genuinely wants to end the war in Ukraine.

Trump and Zelenskyy huddled for about 15 minutes at the Vatican on April 26 just before the funeral for Pope Francis — a sign of Trump's eagerness for a peace deal by

- Catherine Lucey and Daryna Krasnolutska/Bloomberg News/TNS

Louisiana 2-year-old deported 'with no meaningful process'

A federal judge is demanding answers after President Donald Trump's administration deported a 2-year-old U.S. citizen to Honduras "with no meaningful process."

The toddler, identified in court documents as "VML," was initially detained alongside her mother, Jenny Carolina Lopez Villela, and her older sister, Valeria, during a routine immigration check-in in New Orleans. She had been visiting the "Intensive Supervision Appearance Program" office, attorneys wrote.

- Jessica Schladebeck/New York Daily News/TNS

Talks progress between U.S. and Iran regarding nuclear program

The U.S. and Iran reported signs of progress in talks on a deal over Iran's nuclear program after what the Iranian foreign minister described as increasingly detailed discussions.

A senior U.S. administration official said the third round of talks since President Donald Trump's return to the White House was positive and productive, and the two sides agreed to meet again soon in Europe. Readouts from both sides indicated that substantial work still needs to be done.

- Arsalan Shahla/Bloomberg News/TNS



George Santos faces 87 months in prison

On April 25, a federal judge sentenced disgraced former New York Republican Rep. George Santos to more than seven years in prison.

Ryan Tarinelli/CQ-Roll Call/TNS

KEVIN DIETSCH/GETTY IMAGES/TNS

House GOP drafts cuts to system for federal employee pensions

Federal employee pension benefits are set to be pared back in the Republicans' tax and spending package working its way through the U.S. House, another slap at a workforce under pressure from Elon Musk's cost-cutting efforts.

The proposal, which was announced April 25, would force many federal civilian employees to pay higher premiums for retirement benefits and to lower their eventual benefits by changing the formula for calculating payments.

 Billy House and Erik Wasson/ Bloomberg News/TNS

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The Ithacan sits down with IC President Cornish

Editor-in-Chief Lorien Tyne and News Editor Kaeleigh Banda spoke with IC President La Jerne Cornish about the college's response to financial challenges and political pressures.



Pop Off – "The Leftovers" Episodes

In the last episode of the semester, host Ethan Kaufman brings on Jonathan Cohen to rank the top 10 episodes of the HBO supernatural drama "The Leftovers."

THE ITHACAN

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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF MANAGING EDITOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH MANAGER **OPINION EDITOR NEWS EDITOR ASST. NEWS EDITOR ASST. NEWS EDITOR** LIFE & CULTURE EDITOR LIFE & CULTURE EDITOR **SPORTS EDITOR SPORTS EDITOR** PHOTO EDITOR **ASST. PHOTO EDITOR ASST. PHOTO EDITOR** VIDEO EDITOR VIDEO EDITOR **PODCAST EDITOR** CHIEF COPY EDITOR **PROOFREADER PROOFREADER DESIGN EDITOR DESIGN EDITOR** SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER AD SALES MANAGER **NEWSLETTER EDITOR** ITHACAN ADVISER

LORIEN TYNE NOA RAN-RESSLER KAI LINCKE LEAH ELLENBERG KAELEIGH BANDA JULIAN DELUCIA EAMON CORBO NOLAN SHEEHAN SHEELAGH DOE DAVID SCHURTER JACOB INFALD LUCIA IANDOLO MEI DENNISON MARISSA MOSCHELLA **JULIA HARGREAVES AVA SUFFREDINI ETHAN KAUFMAN CAROLINE FENNEL** REESE SCHENKEL **CHAYANNE THOMPSON** KAIDEN CHANDLER **OSLENE VANYANBAH TAMAR WACHI GRACE VANDERVEER** MARIANA CONTRERAS **CASEY MUSARRA**

COPY EDITORS

Maddie Andreini, Gillian Fletcher, Isabella McSweeney, Natalie Millham

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college to students about summer housing being subsidized. He also said he does not fully understand the decision not to make a public statement, and if there is concern, they should just use the international student email list.

"Saying that you don't want to shine the spotlight on [international students] when the spotlight has already been shining on them is, I think, a weak excuse," AC said.

Legal status vs. visas

The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is a database of all foreign students' records maintained by individual schools and overseen by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

SEVIS tracks students' adherence to status requirements, as well as school disciplinary actions and criminal charges. Typical reasons for SEVIS termination are working without authorization or dropping below the required course load, which is 12 credits for undergraduate students. SEVIS termination, or termination of legal status, ends a student's ability to remain in the U.S. and puts them at risk of being deported.

"There was no notice or opportunity to defend the loss of status," Grode said. "That's why these litigations are being successful, because you have a right to defend yourself, and they weren't given that right."

If a visa is revoked, the cardholder must go abroad to process a new visa before they can return. However, a visa permits an individual to enter a country, meaning the cardholder can remain in the U.S. on an expired or terminated visa but cannot reenter.

"If you have a revoked visa, you don't have to leave, you don't have to be in a hurry," Grode said. "I don't think they would have gotten much pushback if they were [just revoking visas]. People might not have liked it, but it would have been their prerogative. They took a step too far and started to cancel the status."

Grode said the lawsuits are arguing that there was no legal basis for terminating students' statuses. He said status revocation typically does not come from the government; it comes from the school that controls the SEVIS record. Grode said it is unclear why the government encroached on a decision usually managed by schools.

"The answers from the government have been all over the place," Grode said. "It seems like they didn't fully recognize the effect of what they were doing when they took this additional step beyond visa revocation." Activism and status termination

Global attention has been drawn to the students who had their status or visa revoked because of activism like expressing support for Palestine or opposing Israel. Some visas have been terminated based on a seldom used provision that allows the secretary of state "under certain circumstances" to deny entry or terminate a visa if an "applicant whose entry or proposed activities in the United States would have potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences for the United States."

Visa holders are protected by the



President Donald Trump signed an executive order in March to begin dismantling the U.S. Department of Education. Since then, over 500 institutions have cosigned a statement in protest. REUTERS/VIA SNO SITES/CARLOS BARRIA

First Amendment. However, Grode said that having the right to free speech does not protect a visa holder from having their visa revoked because of their speech.

"[Visa holders] have a right to free speech, but don't have a right to a visa - the visa is a privilege," Grode said.

NB, an Ithaca College international student, said that while she normally would take part in or help organize protests, she has felt the need to lay low.

"I feel like I have to just be quiet," NB said. "I am not existing, the way that I ... would talk if everything was not happening. With everything going on, it's like a constant reminder that you feel like the other."

On April 9, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services released a statement that, effective immediately, the USCIS would begin considering antisemitism in noncitizens' social media activity and the physical harassment of Jewish individuals as precedent for denying them temporary or permanent residence in the U.S. The statement said the new policy will affect "aliens applying for lawful permanent resident status, foreign students and aliens affiliated

with educational institutions linked to antisemitic activity."

More than 100 lawsuits have been filed against the Trump administration, but the exact number is unclear. Grode said that fighting the massive amounts of litigation was not worth the resources for the administration.

"What this means practically, and the best analogy I could give you is, we've seen the Trump administration operate as a government of sledgehammers, and now they're being asked to take a scalpel," Grode said.

CONTACT: LTYNE@ITHACA.EDU

Ithaca Sciencenter hit by federal grant funding cuts

BY KAELEIGH BANDA

NEWS EDITOR

The colorful hands-on learning exhibits that live within the Ithaca Sciencenter have lost \$400,000 in essential aid from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Now, the Sciencenter is forced to adapt so it can still provide science education to community members of all ages.

On April 10, the Sciencenter was notified via an email addressed to the project directors at the Sciencenter that two of its grants from the federal government through the IMLS would be terminated.

The grants totaled \$500,000. At the time of termination, the Sciencenter had only spent about \$100,000 of the grants, so the remaining money was pulled.

This loss of grant funding is part of a larger movement by the federal administration. In a March 14 executive order, President Donald Trump began the process of eliminating the IMLS. Since then, it is estimated that over 1,000 grants have been canceled.

Ryan Opila, grants manager for the Sciencenter, said about a third of the center's \$3 million annual budget comes from grants. He said the Sciencenter receives grants from NASA, the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Health, and he fears the potential loss of those grants in the near future.

Opila said projects — including enhancements to the outdoor science park and a partnership with libraries across the Finger Lakes region to provide science kits to rural areas — are hindered because of this loss of grant funding.

"These federal grants are ways that the Sciencenter can look to grow and expand on promising partnerships and pilot projects that are addressing real needs in our community in new ways or addressing emerging needs," Opila said. "Those needs aren't going away with these projects being canceled, but we don't have the money to work on them without [funding], unfortunately."

Michelle Kortenaar, executive director of the Sciencenter, said that in addition to funding projects, the grants keep the Sciencenter operational.

"Grants provide indirect cost recovery," Kortenaar said. "You negotiate how much money it takes to keep the heat on and the exhibits working, and you bake that in. So we're losing funding that pays for some salaries. We're losing funding that helps to keep the lights on."

Even with federal pressure, Kortenaar said the Sciencenter is appealing the decision. Throughout the appeals process and beyond, Kortenaar said she hopes community members and college students continue to take action on a local level and in their hometowns.

"If [students] are concerned about the dismantling of funding from museums and libraries, they should call their local congressmen and senators as well, because we need our voices heard," Kortenaar said.

Jennifer Spitzer, associate professor in the Department of Literatures in English at Ithaca College, said she has taken her 12-year-old son to the Sciencenter since he was 4 years old. She said she is always amazed by the offerings, including the popular musical staircase.

"My son is very physical and tactile [and] there's room to run outside and interact with everything from musical instruments to climbing equipment," Spitzer said. "There are specifically places for interaction ... so I think that made a big impact, and it was just very social for him."

Spitzer said the funding cuts to local educational facilities made by the Trump administration are part of the dismantling of



At the Sciencenter, there are interactive exhibits that allow visitors to create and have tactile experiences. At a weather exhibit, a child drew a photo of their family. LUCIA IANDOLO/THE ITHACAN

higher education and the ecosystems that a critical resource."

"I think it is a way to de-educate the next generation," Spitzer said. "Because I very firmly believe, and I think every political scientist and scholar is saying so, that an authoritarian regime wants an uneducated and uninformed populace to be more malleable."

Spitzer said the Sciencenter was even open during the COVID-19 pandemic, and provided relief from isolation. Kortenaar said that as soon as it was permitted, the Sciencenter reopened, and people were there

"Even when you weren't supposed to leave your house unless it was essential, there were people at the Sciencenter," Kortenaar said. "We are essential in this community. We are a place where families can have joyful experiences with their kids in a safe and educational environment, and that's

Adrienne Testa, director of exhibits and facilities at the Sciencenter, said she hopes people of all ages - including college students who can enjoy the mini golf course — visit the Sciencenter.

During this financial downturn, the Sciencenter will remain open but will rely on visitors and donations to provide services to the community. The Sciencenter is currently open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Kids under 2 years old can visit for free, and general admission is \$12.50 per person.

"The Sciencenter was built by the community for the community," Testa said. "We have a plaque outside because it truly was a labor of love. Now, we need that support from our community again, so if people can come visit, it will make a big difference."

CONTACT: KBANDA@ITHACA.EDU

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frustrated by the volume of the music. She then left the class and asked Rotunda and the cafe workers to turn off the music.

"She was really challenged by the fact that it was making a lot of noise in that classroom," Gearhart said. "She didn't think that was appropriate, so she did ask them to turn down the music."

Rotunda said he felt that moment was a turning point in the way the school's administrators had been handling the cafe and its workers.

"I guarantee when the dean came out and yelled at me ... in her head that was like, 'That's it. I'm getting these people out of here,'" Rotunda said.

Senior Parker Friedman, student manager of the Dailies Cafe, said he was frustrated by the lack of communication to cafe workers from the Park administration and Dining Services. He said there has been very little discussion involving cafe employees regarding the cafe's future and their music permissions. He said orders have been given with minimal explanation.

"It wasn't like, ... 'Let's sit down with you and have a conversation about what's going on and come to a conclusion," Friedman said. "Instead [it was], 'There's these complaints, now we're gonna turn off all the music."

Jeffrey Golden, associate vice president of auxiliary services, said it is natural for tension to arise between the cafe and Park's faculty and administration because of the competing priorities of feeding students and teaching students in

the same building.

"[Issues] come up, they're pretty normal," Golden said. "And on some level, if we were all coexisting in those spaces, and we never had any of those, I'd think it was weirder."

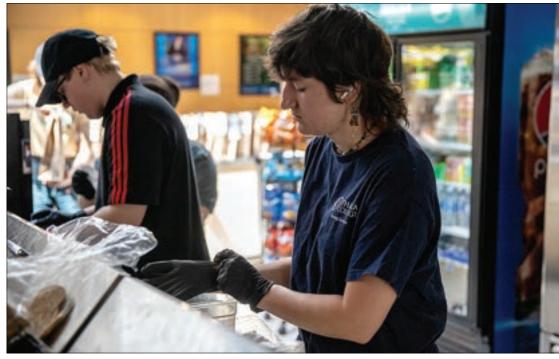
As of Spring 2025, 1,338 of the 4,784 students enrolled at the college are seeking a degree in the Park School, making it the most populated school at the college. Before the meal exchange program was implemented in Fall 2023, the Dailies Cafe was a much smaller operation, mainly selling pastries, drinks and pre-packaged foods.

Senior Joey Kwasnicki, a Dailies Cafe employee, said the panini grills reach temperatures of around 500 degrees, making the cafe uncomfortably hot. They said the cafe workers are not allowed to open the doors, and the sunlight that comes through the lobby skylight also adds to the heat.

"We can't wear shorts [and] we can't really have a fan, because the tickets would blow everywhere," Kwasnicki said. "We're stuck there for 2 1/2 hours and we can't get any air."

The Dailies Cafe uses more electricity than other exchange locations because of the power draw required by the panini press machines. Golden said the Dailies Cafe has exceeded its high electrical power draw at times.

"[In an] ideal world, [the] Park Cafe probably is a menu that isn't a heavy lift in terms of the electrical output that's needed," Golden said. "And so is it possible that a menu change or a small adjustment there kind of gets us where we're



From left, seniors Val Besch and Joey Kwasnicki make paninis at the cafe in Park Hall. Kwasnicki said the panini grills reach temperatures of around 500 degrees, making the cafe uncomfortably hot.

JULIAN DELUCIA/THE ITHACAN

at and settles us into a more comfortable place? Yeah, that could be possible."

Golden said that while there has been tension between the cafe and Park faculty, that tension is not necessarily representative of a larger issue.

"This is one of those instances where the problem is real, but the conflict is not," Golden said.

Sophomore Lindsay Rusakow, a Dailies Cafe employee, said there have been many communication issues with management, and she and other workers have felt disrespected by admissions staff and Park administration.

"With Park [admin] and admissions ... they were speaking to the

students who are working, who are paying to go here ... like they were not equals," Rusakow said.

Gearhart said the Park School has asked Dining Services to not have the full cafe there next year.

"The decision for some solution is not ours, it's Dining Services'," Gearhart said. "We've asked if we could address [the cafe] by next year. ... We are using every nook and cranny [of the building] almost all the time, and there's not a lot of other space."

Golden said that while the college does not have any official plans on closing the cafe, changes are possible because the retail dining locations were adapted for the meal exchange service, not designed for it.

"We need to think about the right

menus in places not just because of the physical volume of people that move around in them, but also the operational realities of what it takes to produce those menus," Golden said.

Friedman said he wanted to find a happy medium for all parties and he felt the cafe workers were being left out of important discussions.

"It's kind of ironic [that] the communication school ... doesn't want to communicate," Friedman said. "Now it's kind of more ... pushing from each side where we're frustrated and feel like there's nothing we can do."

CONTACT: ECORBO@ITHACA.EDU

JDELUCIA@ITHACA.EDU

FROM CORNISH, PAGE 1

strategic planning goal is. We are going to continue to defend people's freedom of speech, freedom to express themselves [and] right to protest. What this [federal] administration is doing goes against our values, and I don't mind signing something in support of our values.

KB: How does this institution plan on following through on all those points made in "A Call for Constructive Engagement?"

LJC: We are going to continue to do what we've always done. We're going to continue to live our values and lean into our values, unless and until we cannot. We will comply with the law, but today, we are not breaking any laws and so when there's a law, we will comply with it.

KB: Have any potential funding cuts led you to freeze hiring or eliminate any positions, and if so, which areas are being most affected?

LJC: We are undergoing [a] restructuring. I announced at the beginning of the year that we had hired Huron consultants to work with us because the Board of Trustees has given us a mandate to have a balanced budget by FY28. Having a balanced budget is going to require that we reduce staffing in certain areas across the institution. I announced a few weeks ago via an email that I have restructured the executive leadership team, going from 12 direct reports to five direct reports. We now have five divisions ... [and] each division has been given a reduction target that they must meet effective FY26, which would be July 1 of [20]25. ... I have not been able to present a balanced budget to the board for the three years that I've been the president, and so I am grateful to the Board of Trustees for giving the team until FY28 to get back to balance.

Lorien Tyne: As these cuts and reductions happen, how can we maintain the quality of education here while also decreasing faculty

size and course offerings?

IJC: I think we will be able to do that because the faculty and staff will be aligned with the student body. ... We have to make other decisions about what we're going to stop doing because we cannot continue to do all the things that we did before because we are not the size that we were before. And so again, this is about alignment.

KB: We found out that the Deaf studies minor is on administrative pause and will be cut after Fall 2025, and students found out from their instructors. Can you tell me a little bit about the decision to end this program, and what other programs will be similarly impacted that students may not know about yet?

IJC: I think that the leadership in the School of [Health Sciences and Human Performance] looked at majors, minors and resources and personnel and made a decision based on the needs of HSHP right now. What I like about the decision is that it's on pause, which says that should things change, they can bring it back. But, there are no full-time faculty associated with that program—all of those faculty were part-time faculty.

LT: What specific line would federal authorities have to cross before the college would publicly object to their actions?

IJC: We will comply with the law. I'm really clear about that. We are not going to break a law. I'll use what happened with our trans athlete as an example. We had a trans student who competed in an NCAA event. NCAA guidelines say that trans students cannot compete. We didn't follow the guidelines. We self-reported to the NCAA. They appreciated that we self-reported. Trans athletes can practice with their teams, but they cannot compete, and so that's an instance where we are complying with a rule by the NCAA.

LT: As an institution and a community, how do we respond to this kind of attack on one of our trans athletes and what



Ithaca College President La Jerne Cornish discussed how the college works to balance its budget as it navigates changes to the federal government.

NOA RAN-RESSLER/THE ITHACAN

can be done going forward to protect transgender student-athletes while also following NCAA guidelines? And are our NCAA guidelines compatible with protecting our transgender athletes?

LJC: Again, our trans athletes can practice with the teams that they've been on, and that remains the same. They cannot compete, and so we will follow the rules. But we supported that particular athlete, and we will support all of our trans students. We are so LGBTQIA+friendly. That's what we are. That's what we do. You have a queer Black president.

LT: What I'm asking is, is following NCAA guidelines directly against our values by not participating in a set of guidelines or organization that allows all of our students to compete equally?

LJC: What do we stand to lose by not complying with the NCAA? We have [26] teams on this campus, so if we do not comply with the NCAA rules, we disadvantage all of the other

athletes who play on the other teams.

KB: There have been whispers around campus about students wanting the mascot of the college to change from the Bombers to something regarding the geese. What is your perspective on this?

IJC: I know what I'm about to say is going to upset some people, and I know who they are. I love the idea of the goose. ... There are geese all over this campus. Find your flock. Geese are fierce. You don't mess with them. But there are others who have said to me that geese leave things around our campus, and so they aren't happy about the droppings.

LT: What would be the next steps in making that happen?

IJC: I think it needs to come up from the students. ... I think if the students take hold of it, I'm going to support them fully.

CONTACT: LTYNE@ITHACA.EDU KBANDA@ITHACA.EDU THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025 NEWS | 5

Wild turkey relocated after entering Circle Apartment

BY DOMINICK PETRUCCI

STAFF WRITER

On April 17, Ithaca College was met with an unexpected visitor in the Circle Apartments, raising many concerns over students' relationship with roaming wildlife. A turkey wandered around several apartments, interacting with students and even going into a building.

Wild animals that roam into a space and stay there for extended periods of time, causing slight damage, can be considered a nuisance animal under the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation guidelines. Ernie McClatchie, associate vice president of facilities at IC, said a turkey would not traditionally be classified as a nuisance animal and that IC encourages animals to roam on campus.

"We would consider things causing damage to be nuisance animals," McClatchie said. "Under that, I would say mice, squirrels or something like a beaver. ... Turkeys are not very common."

After seeing the animal in his front yard, junior Alex Blakely quickly grabbed his film camera and snapped some film photos.

"There is something very fun about absurdity in life," Blakely said. "I think it's important to document every moment. ... When you see something absurd, something people aren't used to, it makes people think, like 'Why is there a

turkey in Circles?"

The behavior of the turkey was noted by students to be very social. It wandered closer to students' apartments than expected, was away from the flock and was not scared of being confronted.

"It was the chillest animal I've ever met," Blakely said. "I got up extremely close to it, and it didn't back away at all."

The turkey became relevant again April 21 when a video appeared on the Barstool Ithaca Instagram page. The 11-second reel begins with a turkey flying from a Circles bathroom counter onto the light fixture above. Numerous voices can be heard laughing hysterically as they beg him to get down.

The video only had the caption "New roommate for Circles apartments" and referred to the turkey as "Gurt."

The video gained 1,380 likes and 23.8 thousand views in six days. Many students who reposted the video have expressed concern over the animal's safety.

McClatchie said the college's guidelines for keeping animals out of residential buildings are present for valid reasons, and viral videos like this can be misleading.

"These are wild animals," McClatchie said. "We should not encourage wild animals to be brought into residences, where people could be hurt. . . . We are lucky [that] we can see these animals on a daily basis, but



After seeing the wild turkey in the front yard of his Circle apartment, junior Alex Blakely said he quickly grabbed his film camera and snapped some film photos as students gathered to see the turkey.

COURTESY OF ALEX BLAKELY

they are not meant for interactions."

Circles staff sent out a message to all residents at 7 p.m. April 21 titled, "Help Save Gurt the Turkey (not spam) (we wish we were joking)."

"Have you seen this Turkey?" the graphic stated. "Seeing a turkey this close is not normal behavior and having them in your apartment is not safe for you or the turkey. . . . [ResLife and Public Safety] will work with

a wildlife conservation group to get him back to his family."

The email brought this directly to the attention of several residents who did not previously know of the situation. Junior Em Taber said she was shocked the situation escalated this much.

"I was baffled because what I'd heard from my friends was this seemed very innocent," Taber said. "It was sad to hear that someone had turned a moment of joy [seeing the turkey] into animal endangerment."

The turkey has been carefully relocated but McClatchie said students should be mindful of how they interact with wildlife on campus.

"If they are causing concern, or it is abnormal, contact [facilities] or public safety to evaluate the situation," McClatchie said.

CONTACT: DPETRUCCI@ITHACA.EDU

Students plan concert to protest Cornell

BY EAMON CORBO

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Students at Cornell University and Ithaca College are organizing a Community Slope Day in response to Cornell dropping Kehlani as the headlining performer for Slope Day over alleged antisemitism. The event will start at 11 a.m. May 7 — a half an hour before the Slope Day concert.

As of April 30, organizers have raised over \$4,800 through GoFundMe to help create the Community Slope Day. Cornell senior Hannah Devine-Rader said Atlanta-based rapper Nimstarr will perform at the event. They said organizers are still in the process of finding more local and non-local artists to perform at Community Slope Day.

"I think that it's hard for people to maybe understand exactly what's happening because we haven't announced everything, but I just want to confirm that it is happening," Devine-Rader said. "We're not going to be able to get huge, big names that are the level of Kehlani, but we hope that that's not the only reason people will come out. It is going to be very fun."

Cornell President Michael Kotlikoff announced in an April 23 statement that the university dropped the R&B singer as the headlining performer for its annual Slope Day concert over expressing pro-Palestinian and alleged antisemitic sentiments.

"In the days since Kehlani was announced, I have heard grave concerns from our community that many are angry, hurt, and confused that Slope Day would feature a performer who has espoused antisemitic, anti-Israel sentiments in performances, videos, and on social media," Kotlikoff wrote. "While any artist has the right in our country to express hateful views, Slope Day is about uniting our community, not dividing it."

The music video for "Next 2 U" features Kehlani singing in front of the flag for Palestine



Cornell President Michael Kotlikoff announced in an April 23 statement that Cornell dropped Kehlani as the headlining performer for its annual Slope Day concert.

KAELEIGH BANDA/THE ITHACAN

and opens with the phrase "Long live the intifada." Intifada is an Arabic word that generally translates to an uprising or a resistance. In the context of Israel and Palestine, the term is seen by some as a call for Palestinian liberation, while to others it is seen as a threat of violence against Jewish people.

As of April 30, the headlining performer that will replace Kehlani at Cornell's Slope Day concert is yet to be announced.

Student organizers began to plan for the May 7 community concert after the April 23 statement from Kotlikoff. Ithaca College senior Ben Sterbenk said it is difficult to organize an event to the scale they are planning for Community Slope Day in just two weeks.

"The fact that it's happening at all is a testament to how many people are so angered by this action, and how many people care about each other and want to build a better future for themselves and the people around them," Sterbenk said.

Only Cornell students, staff, faculty and alumni are allowed to attend the annual Slope Day. Sterbenk said Community Slope Day will be open to everyone in the greater Ithaca community.

"We have the chance to make an alternative that not just fights for free expression ... but as an opportunity to create community," Sterbenk said. "To make this thing that we've not been able to go to, something we're able to go to."

Elliot Walsh — an Ithaca community member who finished his undergraduate studies at Cornell in Spring 2024 and received a master's degree from Cornell in Fall 2024 — said Community Slope Day will continue to release updates and information on the event in the coming days through Instagram @communityslopeday.

Bob Iger to be at graduation

BY KAELEIGH BANDA

NEWS EDITOR

President La Jerne Cornish told *The Ithacan* in an exclusive interview that Bob Iger '73, CEO of The Walt Disney Company, will be attending the 2025 Ithaca College Commencement ceremony to receive a Doctor of Letters.

Iger received his bachelor's degree in television in 1973 from IC. He will be receiving a Doctor of Letters, which is an honorary degree that recognizes his contributions to his field.

On April 25, the college announced in an Intercom post that Monica Digilio '85, CEO of Compass Advisors LLC, will be the keynote speaker for the college's 130th Commencement ceremony.

Digilio received her B.S. in cinema and photography in 1985 and her M.S. in communications in 1986 from the Roy H. Park School of Communications.

Senior acting major Jasmine Williams will also speak at Commencement as the student speaker.

President La Jerne Cornish said Iger was selected to receive his honorary degree in 2023 but he was unable to come to campus.

"This is the year that he can come [to IC]," Cornish said. "He will not give the Commencement address, [but] he will be at the Saturday night dinner. He will get his plaque with the honorary degree and then when we hood him on Sunday morning, he will say a few words."

Commencement will take place at 10 a.m. May 18 in the Glazer Arena inside the Athletics and Events Center.

CONTACT: **ECORBO@ITHACA.EDU**

CONTACT: KBANDA@ITHACA.EDU

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Ithacans for Israel hosts Palestinian humanitarian

BY KAI LINCKE

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MANAGER

Ahmed Fouad Alkhatib, a pro-Palestine activist and resident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, visited Ithaca College on April 28 for a discussion titled "Breaking Cycles of Dehumanization."

The event was organized by Ithacans for Israel and Realign for Palestine, a project from the Atlantic Council that strives to promote peaceful activism and radical pragmatism — which focuses on pursuing achievable solutions instead of solutions aligned with ideology. Realign for Palestine advocates for a two-state solution as a path forward for peace between Israel and Palestine.

The discussion was sponsored by the Office of the President, the Department of Politics and Stanley Bazile, the vice president of Student Affairs and Campus Life.

The event opened with the debut screening of "Waging Peace," a film that documents Alkhatib's advocacy for a two-state solution and work to create Realign for Palestine.

Alkhatib grew up in Gaza City and left to live in the U.S. as an exchange student in 2005. Alkhatib said he has lost 33 family members in the latest Israel-Hamas war. He said in the film that he works to use his voice as a Palestinian person to help others understand that multiple truths about the war in Gaza can coexist.

"October 7 [was] a horrendous massacre, and what's happening in Gaza is an utter disaster," Alkhatib said. "The Jewish people do have historical roots to the land, even though I know that my family and grandparents have lived there for hundreds of years. The two don't have to cancel each other out."

Alkhatib said he hopes Realign for Palestine will promote radical pragmatism and encourage people to reject violence and pursue a two-state solution.

"There's an imbalance of power dynamics between Israel and Palestine.... [but] my thesis is that we have plenty of space for agency and accountability and responsibility," Alkhatib said. "I want to rebrand peace and coexistence as courageous, as strong as coming from a position of strength and emotional intelligence and control."

Sophomore Benjamin Epstein, president and founder of Ithacans for Israel and Emerson Fellow with StandWithUs, led the discussion with Alkhatib. Epstein asked how Alkhatib responds to people who feel his criticism of pro-Palestinian campus protests detracts from the pro-Palestinian cause.

Alkhatib said some activists have reduced pro-Palestine stances to anti-Israel — which has made some Jewish college students feel unsafe on campus. He said he does not want the Palestinian people's aspirations for freedom from terrorism,



From left, sophomore Benjamin Epstein moderated the discussion in Clarke Lounge with Ahmed Fouad Alkhatib, a pro-Palestine activist and resident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council.

KAI LINCKE/THE ITHACAN

occupation and repression to be associated with hatred.

"[Emotional intelligence is] my most precious asset, and what I would encourage you all to use as a baseline for how you humanize the other; how you humanize people with whom you vehemently disagree with," Alkhatib said. "Sometimes it is difficult because I see some horrible footage, I get some horrible abuse and I have to also challenge myself

to have empathy and humanity for some of the very [activists] that I think are immensely unhelpful on the pro-Palestine side."

Epstein said to the room that he hopes attendees will continue recognizing each others' shared humanity. He noted that he has developed a strong bond with the Muslim Student Association during Spring 2025, and encouraged attendees to go to one of their future events.

"They are such an unbelievably great community [and] we've had unbelievable conversations," Epstein said. "It's so important that this joy and this culture of peace and coexistence that we've built here, we pass that on and we keep it moving, because if that doesn't keep moving, then we're just at a dead end and we haven't learned anything."

CONTACT: KLINCKE@ITHACA.EDU

SGC releases election results

BY EAMON CORBO

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

On April 30, the Ithaca College Student Governance Council announced the elected executive board and senate candidates for the 2025-26 academic year. Six candidates were elected to SGC's executive board and nine candidates were elected to senate for the 2025-26 academic year.

Junior Rishabh Sen was reelected as the president of the student body after running unopposed with 282 votes and 28 votes of no confidence, which means that the voter chose to abstain from voting for that candidate.

Sophomore Eva Horst was reelected as the vice president of campus affairs with 204 votes. She ran against junior Noeline Luyindula who received 93 votes. Both candidates received 13 votes of no confidence.

Junior Asata Rothblatt was elected as the vice president of academic affairs with 219 votes. She ran against first-year student Amelia Grimshaw who received 60 votes. Both candidates received 31 votes of no confidence. The position was vacant before Rothblatt was elected.

Sophomore Juno Brooks was elected as the vice president of business and finance with 145 votes. He ran against junior Login Abudalla who received 135 votes. Both candidates received 30 votes of no confidence. Brooks will be taking over the role from senior Kathi Hodel.

Junior Caleb Cackowski was reelected as the vice president of communications after running unopposed with 281 votes and 29 votes of no confidence.

Junior Ty Anderson was reelected as the vice president of residential affairs after running unopposed with 275 votes and 35 votes of no confidence.

SGC discusses impact of federal actions

BY AELA SHAW

STAFF WRITER

The Ithaca College Student Governance Council met April 28 for its last meeting with its current members. SGC was joined by Emily Rockett, vice president, general counsel and secretary to the Board of Trustees, who discussed the legal implications of ongoing federal actions regarding higher education.

SGC also voted on two bills presented by council members. The first was a land acknowledgment bill, passed with a vote of seven in favor, none opposed and one abstaining.

A student accessibility bill was tabled to make necessary changes before it can be reintroduced at a future meeting with a vote of five in favor, none opposed and three abstaining.

Several members of SGC asked Rockett about updates to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights investigation into the college. The investigation was launched in March for alleged impermissible race-based scholarships in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color and national origin in programs that receive federal funding.

Junior Senate Chair Nikki Sutera asked Rockett how recent mass layoffs of DOE staff have impacted the investigation. Rockett said such investigations typically take a while to unfold, and DOE layoffs will likely further prolong processing times.

"I have had notification that the investigator assigned to this matter has changed three times before I filed a response," Rockett said. "That was over the course of less than a month."

Rockett said the investigation could also be slowed by President Donald Trump's administration's priority to impose bans on transgender athletes competing in women's sports. She said she thinks the OCR is focusing its resources on this issue more than its investigations into



The Ithaca College Student Governance Council was joined by Emily Rockett, vice president, general counsel and secretary to the Board of Trustees.

ALEXSIS ELLIOTT/THE ITHACAN

alleged racial discrimination.

Junior Transfer Senator Login Abudalla asked Rockett how the college is responding to the DOE's threats to revoke funding from colleges and universities that fail to remove diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

Rockett said that because the college is not a major research institution, it does not have a significant amount of federal research grants. Rockett said these grants and contracts are not part of Title IV funding — the federal mechanism to provide financial aid to college students — which requires a lengthier legal process to be revoked. She said cuts to Title IV funding are unprecedented and would be politically risky.

"I can't fully predict the future, but I don't lose too much sleep over that possibility," Rockett said. "I would encourage you guys not to. either."

Junior Ty Anderson, vice president of residential affairs, asked Rockett for advice for

international students who are worried about traveling because of the Trump administration's widespread revocation of student visas. Rockett acknowledged the complicated legal considerations involved in the detainment of international students.

"The tricky part about traveling right now is that the way customs and enforcement officials are behaving is not necessarily inconsistent with what is legal in all cases, but it's much more aggressive than what they've been doing previously," Rockett said.

She said she is not authorized to give legal advice to students but encouraged anybody planning on traveling internationally to read through the American Civil Liberties Union's "Know Your Rights" guide beforehand and ensure that they have all documentation regarding their legal status in the U.S.

CONTACT: ECORBO@ITHACA.EDU

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COLLEGE BRIEFS

IC KicksBack 2025 coming soon to the Campus Center Quad

The Office of Student Engagement is holding IC KicksBack 2025 from 3-7 p.m. May 2 on the Campus Center Quad.

The event will feature live music, inflatables and carnival food. The event is open to all students, faculty and staff. Attendees must enter through the Campus Center Dining Hall and show their Ithaca College ID to attend the event.

Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact Dan Rogers at drogers3@ithaca.edu or call 607-274-3222.

IC Eco Reps looking for volunteers for Friday Night Food Donation

IC Eco Reps is seeking volunteers for its food donation events from 7:45-8:45 p.m. on Fridays at the Campus Center

The group helps combat food waste and food insecurity by packaging and labeling unused food to give to those in need.

The donations are collected through the Friendship Donations Network, a local nonprofit organization.

IC Unbound Dance Company to hold its "ICON" showcase

IC Unbound Dance Company is holding its Spring 2025 showcase, "ICON" at 2 and 8 p.m. May 4 in Emerson Suites inside of the Campus Center.

Dances will feature the work of student choreographers with many different styles, including jazz, hip-hop, contemporary, ballet, tap and more.

Tickets will also be available at the door if the show does not sell out in presale.

Doors open half an hour before the shows start.

Center for Health Promotion tabling for substance safety

The Center for Health Promotion's Alcohol & Other Drug Team is tabling from 10 a.m. to noon May 6 in the Textor hallway to help students learn about alcohol and other substance use harm reduction.

Students will be able to learn about the effects of alcohol and play the "Do you have a poor pour?" game, to test their knowledge of what is considered one standard drink.

Free prizes will be available for all participants.

Yearly IC Community Brunch returning to Campus Center

The Office of Student Affairs and Campus Life is holding the annual IC Community Brunch from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 10 in the Campus Center Dining Hall, in celebration of the end of the Spring 2025 semester.

The event is open to all students with an Ithaca College ID, including students without a meal plan.

Cornell Companions, an animal therapy program to visit campus

Cornell Companions, an animal-assisted activities and therapy program at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, will be visiting Ithaca College with dogs from noon to 1 p.m. May 2 on the Campus Center Quad.

Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact Abby Juda at ajuda@ithaca.edu or 607-274-3889.

Prunty's Pantry seeking new volunteers for the rest of the year

Prunty's Pantry, Ithaca College's on-campus food pantry, is seeking volunteers for the rest of the semester. The pantry is located in the lower level of the Campus Center.

The pantry is open from 12:15-2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from 4-6 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The pantry is closed on Mondays for restocking and cleaning.

Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact Doreen Hettich-Atkins at studentaffairs@ithaca.edu or 607-274-3374.

Center for Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging to host an event

The Center for Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging is inviting faculty and staff to have baked potatoes, tater tots and barbecue bites from 3-5 p.m. May 6 in Emerson Suites inside the Campus Center.

Attendees are encouraged to invite other faculty and staff to the event.

Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact Mack



Whalen Symposium highlights academic success

Bonnie Riley, assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy, presents her keynote address at the James J. Whalen Academic Symposium. At the event, students presented their research and creative works.

DANIELLA THOMPSON/THE ITHACAN

Rovenolt at mrovenolt@ithaca.edu or or call 607-274-7761. call 607-274-7011.

Guthrie Ramsey to speak as part of the Ithaca Music Forum

Guthrie Ramsey, professor emeritus of music at the University of Pennsylvania, will present a talk on his experience researching jazz, soul, blues and other genres of music throughout his life at 5 p.m. May 2 in the Nabenhauer Recital Room inside of the James J. Whalen Center for Music.

The event is being organized by the Ithaca Music Forum in collaboration with the BIPOC Unity Center.

Ramsey is an honorary member of the American Musicological Society, and was the distinguished visiting dean's chair in music at McGill University in 2023. He is also a Guggenheim Fellow. The event is free to the public and will include a recep-

Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact Linda Koenig at lkoenig@ithaca.edu

Nature-inspired choral concert to come to Ford Hall on May 2

The Contemporary Chamber Ensemble and Treble Chorale are presenting a concert with music inspired by birds, myth and nature at 7 p.m. May 2 in Ford Hall inside of the James J. Whalen Center for Music. The event is free and open to the public.

Office of Facilities to conduct the annual power shutdowns

The Office of Facilities will conduct its annual power shutdowns on May 30 and Aug. 9 to perform required maintenance on the campus electrical infrastructure. The power will be turned off starting at 6 a.m. May 30 and power will be restored in the evening.

Information on the Aug. 9 shutdown is yet to be released. Individuals with questions on the shutdowns should contact the Office of Facilities at 607-274-3225 or send an email to pplant@ithaca.edu.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM APRIL 14 TO 21

APRIL 14

PETIT LARCENY UNDER \$50

LOCATION: Campus Center SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person had stolen food and other various items. Corporal Jordan Bartolis responded.

APRIL 15

SAFETY HAZARD ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD

LOCATION: Facilities Parking Lot SUMMARY: Caller reported a vehicle leaking gasoline. Mark Ross, environmental safety specialist in EH&S, responded. The spill area was then cleaned up.

CRIMINAL TAMPERING THIRD DEGREE

LOCATION: Friends Hall SUMMARY: Patrol Officer Ivan Cruz reported that an unknown person to overflow.

APRIL 16

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Gannett Center SUMMARY: Caller reported a person passed out. Corporal Kevin McClain responded. The person declined medical assistance.

ACCIDENTAL PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: Athletics and Events Center / 150 Lyceum Drive SUMMARY: Caller reported while performing maintenance that they accidentally damaged a camera mount. Corporal Robert Jones responded.

APRIL 17

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: 12 College Circle SUMMARY: Caller reported a fire alarm. activation was caused by burnt food.

APRIL 18

BURGLARY NO FORCE SECOND DEGREE

LOCATION: Bogart Hall SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person entered and stole a gaming console. Patrol Officer Thaddeus May responded.

SCC DRUG VIOLATIONS

LOCATION: 190 College Circle SUMMARY: Caller reported an intoxicated person. Patrol Officer Thaddeus May responded. The person declined medical assistance and was referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

FIRE ALARM ACCIDENTAL

LOCATION: 130 College Circle SUMMARY: Caller reported a fire alarm. Corporal Robert Jones responded. The

had intentionally caused a toilet Corporal Robert Jones responded. The activation was caused by burnt food.

APRIL 19

WELFARE CHECK

LOCATION: Landon Hall

SUMMARY: Caller reported they had not heard from a person for multiple days. Patrol Officer Jack Nelson responded. The person was located and did not need assistance.

APRIL 20

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / ILLNESS RELATED

LOCATION: Landon Hall SUMMARY: Caller reported a person feeling ill. Sergeant Bryan Verzosa responded. The person declined assistance and indicated they would transport themself to the hospital.

APRIL 21

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / PSYCHOLOGICAL

LOCATION: Hammond Health

Center / 117 Campus Center Way SUMMARY: Caller reported a person was taken into custody under New York state's Mental Hygiene Law. Patrol Officer Alex Hitchcock responded. The person was transported to the nearest hospital by ambulance.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE / ILLNESS RELATED

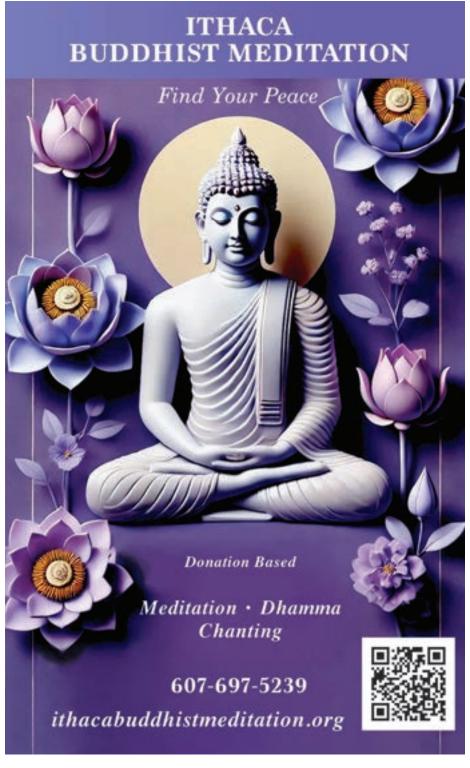
LOCATION: Hood Hall SUMMARY: Caller reported a person having a seizure. Patrol Officer Alex Hitchcock responded. The person was transported to the hospital by ambulance.

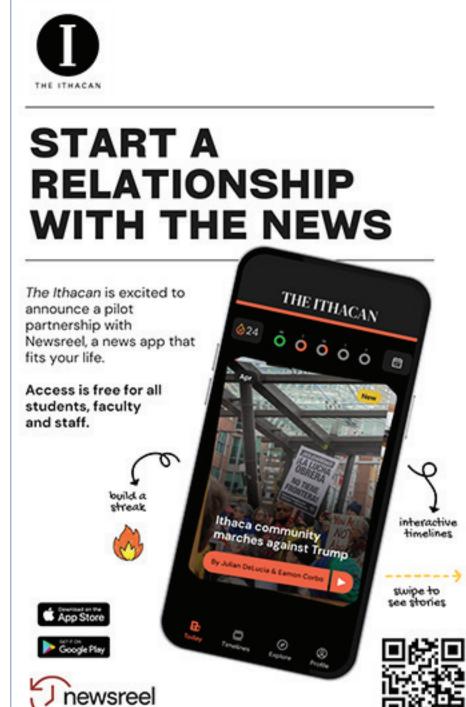
Full public safety log available online at www.theithacan.org.

KEY

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

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THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

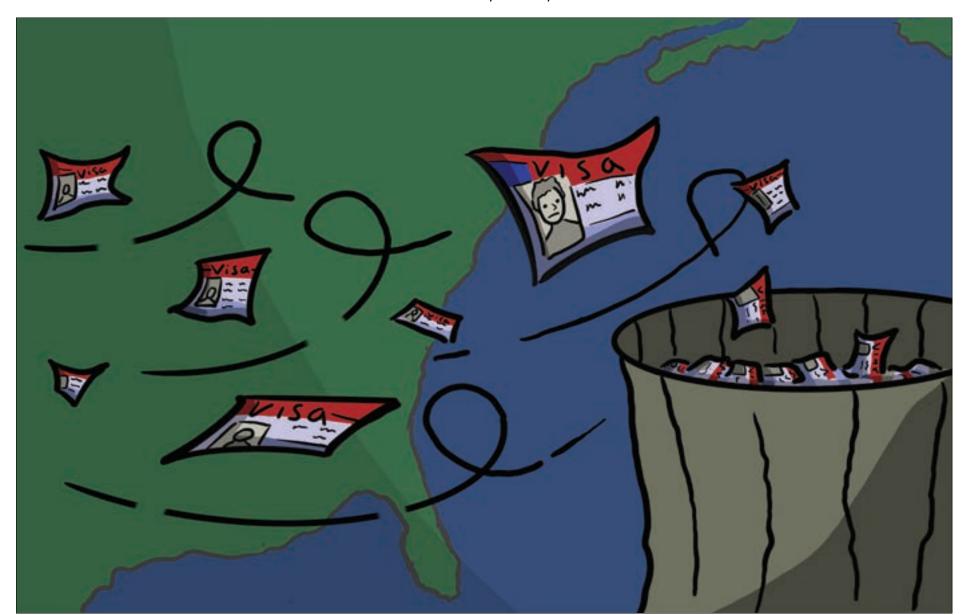


ILLUSTRATION BY ATTICUS JACKSON/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

he recent actions by President Donald Trump's administration to target international students should not be seen as ordinary immigration policy. The termination of students' legal statuses and visas are part of a deliberate strategy to suppress dissenting political views and stifle the intellectual freedom the U.S. once prided itself on. Instead of focusing on legitimate national security concerns, this is an attack on ideas that challenge the status quo.

In recent months, the Trump administration has escalated efforts to limit international students in higher education. Through sudden visa revocations, termination of legal statuses and increased surveillance of political activity, the administration has sent a clear message: certain voices are no longer welcome.

Although these measures are framed as necessary for national security, their true purpose is political. International students - particularly those contributing to progressive causes and activism on college campuses - are being targeted because their ideas challenge the administration's agenda. This crackdown is not about immigration enforcement; it is about silencing dissent and reshaping the future of American intellectual life.

In January 2025, Trump introduced Executive Order 14188, which was framed to the public as a measure to combat the rising levels of antisemitism in the U.S. But the order has focused on students who are leading and involved in political activism, particularly in pro-Palestinian movements.

These moves are primarily aimed at weakening universities' role as a platform for political discourse, as student protests have been at the forefront of social change in U.S. history.

By revoking young scholars' legal status, the administration sends a clear message: dissent is unwelcome in this country. It is part of a larger strategy to weaponize immigration policy against perceived ideological opponents. Instead of harnessing the global leadership and innovation that international students bring, the U.S. is choosing fear, exclusion and authoritarianism.

Revoking visas and status Effective activism needs limits students' expression to go beyond social media

eneration Z is often hailed as "the activist generation," but social media has complicated what activism looks like. In recent years, major humanitarian crises have gone viral, only to be forgotten just as quickly by those who are unimpacted. While Gen Z has unparalleled access to information and powerful platforms for change, social media has enabled a wave of performative activism, where urgent global issues become fleeting trends rather than catalysts for sustainable action.

Performative activism is centered on aesthetics. lacks any real sort of action and focuses on preserving one's self-image rather than the actual cause. On social media, it means posting for appearance, not action or education. But, it is often motivated by social pressures, or the fear of being called out by peers.

Many issues are trivialized because of performative activism. They are treated as trends, rather than real people who are suffering.

One major example of performative activism, both for Gen Z and other generations,

was #BlackoutTuesday for Black Lives Matter in June 2020. Millions of people posted black squares with no context other than #BlackoutTuesday or other related hashtags as a caption. Engagement was short-lived for many, deleting the posts after what they considered an appropriate amount of time, or after criticism for being performative. The trend caused more harm than good because the millions of black squares drowned out important resources being posted under the hashtag.

Even what may seem like a harmless trend, the ice bucket challenge is really performative activism. Whether it was for ALS in 2014 or for University of Southern California's mental health club these past few weeks, the trend sparked no real action for most participants.

At its core, activism is about action. Gen Z has the tools and the research to spark real change, but too often that power is diluted by the urge to be seen as doing the right thing rather than actually doing it. Real change does not come from curated feeds. It comes from sustained effort, even when no one is watching.

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

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GUEST COMMENTARY

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

Diminished expectations create disengaged students

BY LORIEN TYNE

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I came to Ithaca College for *The Ithacan* because decades of passionate students built a legacy worth committing four years contributing to. It is this newsroom and the people that give it life that have kept me here. But even in the past few years, I have noticed participation in student-media dwindling as well as outside support for student-media in general.

Whether it is *The Ithacan*, ICTV, WICB or the many extracurricular opportunities on campus to produce media, the lack of extracurricular involvement is something I think the college should take very seriously considering it has direct impacts on the quality of media we produce and the quality of what and how we are learning. Or if it matters more — the potential students and donors we attract. Without student-media, the Roy H. Park School of Communications would mainly be professors begging students to do their readings.

I have immense appreciation for the support given to student-media, like funding and equipment. And while we do rely on those resources, perhaps more important is the value the campus community places in the service student-media provides. Nobody at *The Ithacan* works dozens of hours a week because of the three-10 hours of minimum wage. We do it because we think it helps our education and the community.

I know that the institution is struggling. It is not just *The Ithacan* that is lacking enrollment. Aligning faculty to the student body is a phrase I hope to never hear again after I graduate. I understand that cuts need to be made but the college cannot keep positions empty for full academic years or cut faculty lines from departments that rely on a fully-staffed program. Recently, I was at a journalism conference and one speaker said something along the lines of, "If you have limited resources, don't make everything mediocre, make a few things really spectacular," and if I could give this institution one piece of advice, that would be it. With what we pay in tuition, we shouldn't have random adjunct teachers who don't know the program or the curriculum and who were only hired because faculty don't want to be here anymore.

I came to a nationally renowned communications school where in my last year, the college reduced the requirements for my major — a mistake. The journalism field sure isn't getting easier, so why would our education? And yes, the requirements changed along with a shift to four-credit courses, but while the college can say it was student input, I cannot help but think we just don't have enough faculty to teach. At times, the expectations are too low and students become complacent.



Senior Lorien Tyne, editor-in-chief of *The Ithacan*, reflects on the low expectations given to students and how lack of extracurricular participation contributes to a less prepared generation.

LUCIA IANDOLO/THE ITHACAN

The fact that I could have graduated from the college with a journalism degree without having worked in student media, having an internship or getting to know my community is ridiculous. My bachelor's degree capstone was just five short reflection papers about my education.

Moving beyond my gripes, I have been surrounded by individuals professors, staff and peers — that are passionate about journalism and see its importance and its flaws. Every time the spark in me has faltered, someone would reignite it. I have those handful of people to thank for pushing me to be better.

I know I will continue to engage with the college, as many alumni do, because of the community I've found here and the professional experience I've gained. I just hope that as the college continues on its mission to balance its budget by FY 2028, that it takes into account the long-term impacts of where the quality of education is lacking and where students are really finding their reason to graduate from here with no regrets.

Lorien Tyne (she/they) is a senior journalism major. Contact them at Ltyne@ithaca.edu

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

AI on campus: Navigating the new normal in school

BY ISABELLA BOGOSEL, NARGES KASIRI

> SENIOR, PROFESSOR

AI is rapidly weaving its way into campus life, and our community is learning to navigate it in real time.

In a multi-week research project, our Advanced Analytics class set out to understand how Generative AI is being used and perceived by students, faculty and staff. Our research began with a simple question: How are people on campus using AI? The answers weren't so simple. Through interviews, training sessions and a campus-wide survey with 362 responses representing students, staff and faculty, we uncovered differences in use, trust and confidence.

Students reported the highest use among regular users. Many faculty and staff expressed hesitation, not out of disapproval, but unfamiliarity. This divide is rooted in access and understanding.

ChatGPT emerged as the most used tool. Across all roles, AI was applied to tasks like writing, content creation and coding. Students especially leaned on it for writing support, learning assistance and idea generation.

Usage varied by discipline. About half of business majors are regular users, likely due to exposure through courses such as Business Analytics. In contrast, students from the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance reported minimal engagement. As one student noted: "Al cannot sing in the 1:1 studio class of a voice professor." Still, these

concerns highlight opportunities: AI can't replace creativity or hands-on learning, but with guidance, it can support both artistic and analytical growth.

Some voiced fears about AI's impact on originality and job security. One participant said, "We are training ourselves out of independent thought." These sentiments reflect a deeper concern: that overreliance on AI may erode human skills.

For many, the biggest barriers weren't technical, but educational. Respondents struggled with crafting effective prompts and cited limited access to advanced tools. Nearly half called for clear guidance.

Privacy concerns also surfaced. One user shared, "I always must catch myself [redacting] personal information before prompting AI." Hesitation like this underscores the importance of ethical considerations.

There's also a clear demand for support. One faculty member said, "I'd [teach it]. But I'm not well—versed enough in it." That isn't disinterest, it's a call for help.

Our training sessions showed that even small improvements in prompting build trust and boost usage. One trainee said, "I find that it is like having an assistant!"

Results show 50% of faculty and 66% of students seek stronger ethical guidance.

AI is already part of education; we must empower our community to use it wisely. Here's how we can move forward:

1. Deepen education through tailored training. Discipline-specific training and one-on-one support are more effective than broad workshops.



Senior Isabella Bogosel, a business administration major, and Narges Kasiri, professor in the Department of Management, shared their findings from an Al study.

LUCIA IANDOLO/THE ITHACAN

- 2. Clarify policies to empower ethical use. Additional resources for faculty would make the process of updating syllabi and course content smoother. Students deserve transparency, and clear, well-communicated policies will help build trust, strengthen our community and minimize confusion.
- 3. Improve access to helpful tools. OpenAI's free access to ChatGPT+ is helpful, but broader availability could significantly enhance learning and research.

This research shows that AI is already influencing how students learn, how faculty teach and how staff support both. If we ignore the gaps in confidence, access and

policy, we risk leaving parts of our community behind. But if we adapt — with clear guidance, relevant training and ethical support — we can build a more inclusive academic environment. The choices that we make now define how we prepare our graduates to use it responsibly in their careers.

Isabella Bogosel (she/her) is a senior business administration major. Contact her at ibogosel@ithaca.edu.

Narges Kasiri (she/her) is a professor in the Department of Management. Contact her at nkasiri@ithaca.edu THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

Self-defense class empowers women in Ithaca

BY HALEY MEBERG

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Kristi Taylor, the instructor of Wen-Do Women's Self Defence program in Ithaca, gave advice I never expected to hear.

"If you are ever in danger, scream 'fire' instead of 'help," Taylor said. "More people are likely to get involved."

This caught me off guard coming from my self-defense instructor. I couldn't imagine why that would have worked, but the other women in the class nodded as if they already knew.

The 2022-23 Enough is Enough Grant Program report from New York state's Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence shows crisis service responses for college survivors rose from 6,384 to 13,125 individuals in one year. As a college student, this made me give a second thought to Taylor's advice.

Taylor says a fire feels like a threat to everyone's safety. A woman in danger? Not always.

I am one of nine women standing in a circle of yoga mats in the

Wen-Do instructor based in the U.S. Taylor runs Ithaca's chapter of Wen-Do Women's Self Defence, Canada's oldest feminist self-defense program. Although Wen-Do has been empowering women in Canada for decades, it is a newer presence in the U.S. During this class, I learned that the program is not about brute force; it is about awareness, confidence and learning how to respond when your physical boundaries are crossed.

Deb Chard has been a senior trainer and activist for Wen-Do Women's Self Defence since 1988.

"On my first day, I felt like this program was revolutionary," Chard said. "I saw women and girls change from the inside out. I changed from the inside out."

Wen-Do was created in 1972 by Ned and Anne Paige in the wake of the infamous Kitty Genovese case from 1964, when a woman was murdered outside of her apartment while neighbors repeatedly ignored her screams for help. Although this incident took place in New York, the attack shook the public and inspired a movement in Toronto.

This program combines defense skills and feminist principles to show women of all ages that they are more powerful than they think.

"I would have never considered myself a terribly strong, physically capable person, especially if somebody was a lot larger than me," Taylor said. "When I took [the class], it was life-changing for me."

The April 8 class is filled with women of all different shapes, ages and abilities. I will not share their names and individual stories about why they are attending because they are not mine to tell, but each one stands with the goal of unleashing their untapped inner power. This was the first session of the five-week program.

The energy in the room starts off low, but it doesn't stay that way. Taylor leads us in a series of guttural yells projected from our diaphragm to preserve our voice. At first, I wasn't sure I was even capable of creating that much noise. I felt that it was too loud and too much, however, that is the whole point. We are learning to take up space and turn our voices into power.

With every sharp "HUT" yelled, the group's energy builds, amplifying a sense of shared strength and solidarity as we go against the societal norms that pressure women to shrink and feel helpless. It felt freeing knowing I have the capability to emit that kind of noise. I was not told to tone it back or make myself smaller. I was encouraged to be loud and to be firm. Through each yell, I felt a bit of reassurance in myself.

We move on to the second half of class: strikes. Hammer fists, zipper punches and eagle claws are just a few we started with. The names may sound cartoonish, but these are precise and intentional moves. We are able to — regardless of strength or



From left, Wen-Do self-defense instructor Kristi Taylor demonstrates a move called eagle claw on reporter Haley Meberg. This technique utilizes the pads of your fingers to claw an attacker's eyes.

SHEELAGH DOE/THE ITHACAN

 ${\it size-defend\ ourselves\ effectively}.$

"The eldest woman to complete the 15-hour course was 93 years old, and she was my student," Chard said. "She totally broke down all the stereotypes of who we're supposed to be when we're old and when we're young."

In class, we partner up and use rolled-up yoga mats as our targets. Each hit builds momentum. When someone lands a particularly powerful strike and the mat goes flying, the entire room alights with support and enthusiasm. There is a rhythm to it and a wave of encouragement.

At first, I hesitated when it was my turn to strike. But once I allowed myself to use my full strength and saw the support from my fellow classmates, pride washed over me. For the first time, strength didn't feel like something I needed to try and harness, it was something that I already had.

One woman in the class, who has requested to remain anonymous for safety and privacy reasons, shared with me what this class means to her.

"I think it would be a very different experience if this were solo training or if it was on Zoom and you didn't have that cohort of energy encouraging one another," the Wen-Do participant said. "I think that just further adds to feeling empowered and feeling strong and feeling capable."

Many women come to Wen-Do classes for a range of personal reasons and request to stay anonymous as they embrace their journey of empowerment and self-transformation.

Taylor explained how, prior to working at Wen-Do, she worked in community-based victim services with survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse. She told me a story about a past student who disclosed they had been a survivor of domestic violence and how Wen-Do helped her.

"She said what she learned through the class is that her talking ability, her running away, her less physical forms of defending herself were always things that she had felt ashamed of, and she had always felt ashamed of how she reacted in those situations," Taylor said. "After taking the course, she realized those were actually really powerful self-defense techniques that she could and should be proud of instead of ashamed of."

Taylor reminds us that in Wen-Do, we are not focused on using strength against strength; we are not trying to overpower the attacker, we want to surprise and outsmart them. Each



SHEELAGH DOE/THE ITHACAN

"What we want to do at Wen-Do is look at our entire toolbox of life, self-capability, and then be able to say, 'What are the things that make me feel good?'" Taylor said. "'How do I want to move through the world?' and 'What can I do to undermine some of those messages that I've been told?'"

Wen-Do aims to flip the narrative of women's safety from one grounded in sexism and misogyny, to one that empowers and uplifts women.

"I think we work really hard to debunk and break down the lies and the stereotypes that we've been fed from the time that we were really little girls about who we're supposed to be, what we're supposed to be capable of, what we're not capable of," Chard said. "I think this program is about confronting the lies."

Taylor doesn't hand us a list of rules about where we can go, what we should wear or how to act to avoid danger. She dismantles those outdated, coded messages suggesting women's safety depends on how well we behave. Instead, as a group we discuss ways that we help ourselves feel safe in uneasy situations.

"I've been really excited to see how Kristi really encourages everyone to take this home and show your mom, show your sister, show your cousin," the Wen-Do participant said. "I think that is the big thing with this: it is a knowledge base now that we can take and share."

As we add these stories and exercises into our toolbox, we reclaim the power of running away. Wen-Do teaches us that it is okay and even smart to sidestep danger when we can. Real strength is found in taking whatever steps are necessary to get to safety, even if that means walking away.

I am only three weeks into this five-week program and I have not mastered everything. But I have taken a first step in embracing my strength. Being powerful does not mean being loud or fearless. Sometimes, it just means believing you matter enough to fight back.



SHEELAGH DOE/THE ITHACAN

boardroom of the Henry St. John Building on The Commons, listening to Taylor's advice. Desks and chairs line the walls, opening up the space from its normal function to our own Wen-Do studio. It is not glamorous, but it doesn't need to be. The circle we formed with our mats transforms the space and fills the room with quiet determination. Everyone is here for a different reason, but we are all connected by the goal of learning how to fight back against an attacker.

After completing her Wen-Do instructor training in 2023, Taylor founded WenDo Women NY, becoming the first operational

move we make comes from the hips
— whether it be a Wen-Do fist to the
chin or a back snap kick. The overall idea is simple but powerful: you
don't need to be big to be dangerous.

HMEBERG@ITHACA.EDU

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THE COUEUE Commentary from The Ithacan's culture critics.



BY NOA RAN-RESSLER MANAGING EDITOR

"The Legend of Ochi" is an incredible visual experience. The cinematography, special effects, sound effects and soundtrack are all awe-inspiring. The plot and dialogue, however, are completely convoluted. So while this movie is well-made, it is not any good.

The opening scenes feel like a fantasy environmental film, especially when it cuts to Yuri (Helena Zengel), who cares about all living things and goes on to spend the better part of the movie saving a misunderstood species called Ochi. The themes whip from environmentalism to sound to family to language and back to family when Yuri returns her Ochi to its mother. There are so many genius layers to this movie - like the commentary on how language unites us and is inherently beautiful - but none of them feel connected. The different themes and plot points are integrated so poorly that each scene feels like it should be its own

It is easy to appreciate the artful musicality of the film, but ultimately, it would not be worth a second view. In most cases, it probably is not worth the first.

> **CONTACT NOA RAN-RESSLER** NRANRESSLER@ITHACA.EDU

'Until Dawn' adapts poorly

BY NOLAN SHEEHAN

LIFE AND CULTURE EDITOR

Attempting to build off of a popular video game with different story direction, "Until Dawn" is an adaptation that fails to follow the blueprint. This film goes to great lengths to make itself unique in how it presents its horror, with a magical hourglass that resets time every time the main cast die. While the onslaught of deaths can be entertaining for an hour or so, the lack of strong characters and the obvious hindrance of one-note acting capabilities renders "Until Dawn" to be nothing more than an average horror flick.

The time reset in the film is a result of a

magic barrier around the old town, with the hourglass acting as the centerpiece for the mayhem. The magic system in this movie does not exist in the source material. It is an addition that does nothing but confuse the audience as the movie progresses.

At the end of the day, "Until Dawn" is an unfinished horror product that could have used a rewrite here and there. From gore to body transformations, the film provides an entertaining experience despite acting discrepancies, poor writing and an incoherent magic system.

> **CONTACT NOLAN SHEEHAN** NSHEEHAN@ITHACA.EDU



KERRY BROWN/SONY PICTURES/TNS



WARNER BROS.

'Sinners' strikes a chord

BY MARIANA CONTRERAS

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Within the last decade, writer-director Ryan Coogler has cast Michael B. Jordan in six of his most significant projects. The dynamic, disruptive duo come back together to make "Sinners" as action-packed as "Creed" and as profound as "Black Panther." At its heart, the film celebrates Black culture in an unexpected commentary about white supremacy and its impact on Black communities.

By using vampire lore and mixing it with imposed religious guilt in American minorities by the conquistadors, Coogler

explores the underlying white supremacy and appropriation that has occurred for ages when it comes to Black culture. Even with the victims of vampires, who all join one conscious mind, we can see a metaphorical but very real transformation. It resembles the adjustment that is necessary from people of color to fit into the ideal white society - one where they hold

"Sinners" is a film that will get gears turning and start a conversation for audiences, the industry and society as a whole.

> CONTACT MARIANA CONTRERAS MCONTRERAS@ITHACA.EDU

Ballet series balances well

BY MAYA SILVEIRA SCURI

STAFF WRITER

"Étoile" — which means star or a ballet company's principal dancer in French — is Amy Sherman-Palladino's latest entry into a world of fast-talking, personality-filled characters. The "Gilmore Girls" and "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" creator steps into a different setting, as the series follows two ballet companies: one in New York, led by Jack (Luke Kirby), and one in Paris, led by Geneviève (Charlotte Gainsbourg). Amid drama among the dancers and a lack of audience for concerts, the heads of both companies decide to switch their top performers, staging

fresh faces to draw more crowds.

"Étoile" could be a tale of cheering on talented dancers and choreographers to succeed, but they're already immensely successful. So what comes next? That is what "Étoile" is about: figuring out how to keep art alive and moving forward in current times while showing how dancers and choreographers deal with failure and success.

Fortunately, "Étoile" was picked up for season two, so viewers should be seeing more of the ever-changing world of dance. Hopefully, the story will soon find its étoile.

> **CONTACT MAYA SILVEIRA SCURI** MSILVEIRASCURI@ITHACA.EDU



PHILIPPE ANTONELLO/PRIME VIDEO/TNS

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Goodwill opening creates sustainable thrift scene

BY JACKIE VICKERY

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Goodwill of the Finger Lakes officially opened its first Ithaca location April 25. The new store, located in the former Ollie's Bargain Outlet at 723 S. Meadow St., became Goodwill's 13th retail establishment in the Finger Lakes region.

Other thrifting outlets in Ithaca include Thrifty Shopper, Salvation Army, Finger Lakes ReUse and Mimi's Attic. Community leaders and Goodwill officials gathered at 9 a.m. for a ribbon-cutting ceremony, where the store's branded banners and balloons decorated the entrance. To officially welcome the new store, each participant cut a piece of the blue ribbon.

Jennifer Lake, president and CEO of Goodwill of the Finger Lakes, who has been with the organization since 2007, highlighted the organization's sustainability initiatives and partnerships in the region.

"Our arrival in Ithaca is timely and exciting as we recognize the sustainable impact of shopping secondhand and our commitment to elevating people, community and the planet," Lake said.

The Ithaca Goodwill store carries gently-used clothing, books, home decor, electronics, sporting equipment and furniture. With clothing at a fraction of retail price, the site provides shoppers with affordable options to refresh their wardrobes and homes sustainably.

First-year student Gerek Tupy

said he believes that this new Goodwill location will strengthen Ithaca's thrift shopping scene.

"Thrifting fits perfectly into my college budget," Tupy said. "Most of the clothes I wear are thrifted from either Ithaca thrift stores or other stores throughout the tricounty area."

Beyond offering affordable goods, Goodwill's presence in Ithaca also supports broader community needs. Proceeds from the store help fund three regional programs: 211/LIFE LINE and 988 hotline services, Goodwill Vision Enterprises and Goodwill Learning Academy. These initiatives provide essential resources to the community such as mental health support, vision rehabilitation and education access.

Anna Kelles, a New York Assembly member, praised Goodwill of the Finger Lakes' expansion to Ithaca, highlighting the organization's focus on sustainability.

"By donating or shopping at Goodwill, our neighbors are taking a meaningful step toward reducing that impact — keeping reusable items in circulation and increasing access to affordable essentials for individuals and families," Kelles said. "Ithaca has long been a leader in waste reduction and reuse, and the addition of Goodwill strengthens that legacy."

Beyond its community services, Goodwill's retail presence has already begun making an impact on Ithaca's shopping landscape. The opening generated enthusiasm among local college



On April 25, community leaders and Goodwill officials gathered outside of the new retail location in Ithaca to mark its opening. Each participant cut a piece of the blue ribbon in front of a crowd.

EMMI CHEN/THE ITHACAN

students who view thrifting as both a fashion statement and a way to discover clothing items that support a more sustainable approach to personal style.

Among the enthusiastic college students is first-year student Marley Migdal. She said she sees great potential for the new Goodwill. Migdal said she considers thrifting to be a way to support sustainable fashion while providing an alternative to traditional consumer practices.

"It's always exciting to have a new thrift store, especially one like Goodwill," Migdal said. "It's one of those thrifts where there's still some pretty cool finds without being too expensive, like something you'd get from one of those higher-end stores, which is great as a college student."

Migdal said she believes thrift shopping is a fundamental part of the city's college life and transforms how students approach fashion consumption.

"I think a lot of college students, especially those at Ithaca are very fashionable, especially in the thrifted sense, so I think it won't take long for the new Goodwill to get integrated into the thrifting and fashion scene here," Migdal said.

Operating seven days a week, the location accepts donations during all business hours, making it easy for community members to contribute items they no longer need.

"We'd like to sincerely thank the Ithaca community for the warm welcome and are excited for the ability to collaborate with other local reuse organizations to aggregate materials for remanufacturing and recycling," Lake said.

CONTACT: JVICKERY@ITHACA.EDU

A full 'Scircle' moment for Ithaca College's band scene

BY PARKER ANNE DEVINE

STAFF WRITER

Scircle, the apartment affectionately nicknamed by Ithaca College junior roommates Sophia Spring, Alex Blakely, Zoe McCartney, AJ Preston and Sarah Bonner, has hosted three band shows during the 2024-25 academic year. On April 7, Scircle announced its final show of the year.

The show was on April 26, marking the six-month anniversary of its first official show. The lineup included IC bands Guesthaus, The Brood, Beer Cat, Vampira Death Cult and Bisexual Lighting along with Binghamton band Trouble Chute. Spring said she is proud of what Scircle accomplished in the past two semesters.

"I love all my roommates so much, and it's so special that we were able to have this experience," Spring said.

Sophomore Noah Robinson, member of IC bands Bisexual Lighting and The Brood, said that over the past two semesters, Scircle has become more than just an apartment. Robinson said that he went out to dinner recently with sophomore Alex Siegelson, of Beer Cat, and the pair were recognized by the cashier.

"[He was] just this random dude that had been to another Scircle show," Robinson said. "It's cool that people not only recognize us, but they recognize the location. They really view it as a venue."

Scircle is not the first Circle apartment to become a venue for IC musicians. Spring said she and her roommates were inspired by an apartment from the previous year, Pimlau's Place, that would throw themed shows.

Wallace Petruziello '24, former resident of

Pimlau's Place, said that after the COVID-19 pandemic, IC barely had a music scene.

"I think there were literally two bands on all of campus, and there weren't really shows anywhere," Petruziello said. "But then there was a group of Park students that decided they wanted to try throwing shows at their Circles apartment. It was very interesting, because I think they literally would just take whatever artists were on campus."

In Petruziello's senior year, Pimlau's Place was born, and he said it became an integral part of revitalizing the IC music scene after COVID-19. Petruziello said he hoped that Pimlau's Place could help IC students who had not yet found their place in the college.

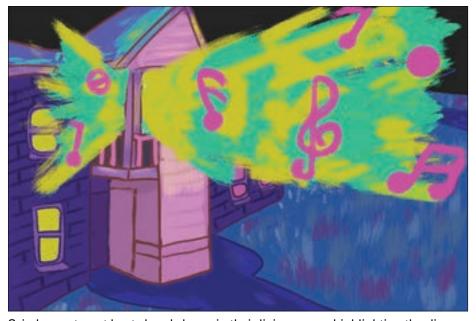
"It was really about bringing bands together [and] inspiring people to start their own bands," Petruziello said. "It was about trying to make sure that all of the underclassmen who were just starting bands had a place to play their first shows and ... find their way into the scene."

After Petruziello graduated in Spring 2024, Spring and her roommates took up the responsibility of becoming an on-campus venue for student bands.

"My first music scene introduction was Pimlau's," Spring said. "So we're keeping the cycle chugging on this beautiful community."

Spring said that after hosting a house party in the beginning of Fall 2024, the idea of throwing a show in their space seemed more tangible because of their prior involvement in the college's Open Mic Night and IC Unknown Stage.

Spring said that when they host a show it becomes an all-hands-on-deck effort — which includes cooking dinner for the bands because of the all-day setup.



Scircle apartment hosts band shows in their living space, highlighting the diverse array of campus bands. It has been crucial for IC bands post-COVID-19 pandemic.

ILLUSTRATION BY EILE GUENEGO

Despite being one of the oldest people in the room, Petruziello said he and his bandmates did not feel out of place.

"It was really reassuring to see [that] after a couple months of having to play elsewhere and not quite finding a new audience yet outside of Ithaca, [we could] come home and play for a crowd that had the same passion that we felt that we were playing for a year ago," Petruziello said.

After this semester ends, the residents of Scircle will have different living situations. Robinson said that it is only right to let someone else have their Pimlau's moment.

Passing down the responsibility of hosting these shows seems to be becoming an IC music scene tradition.

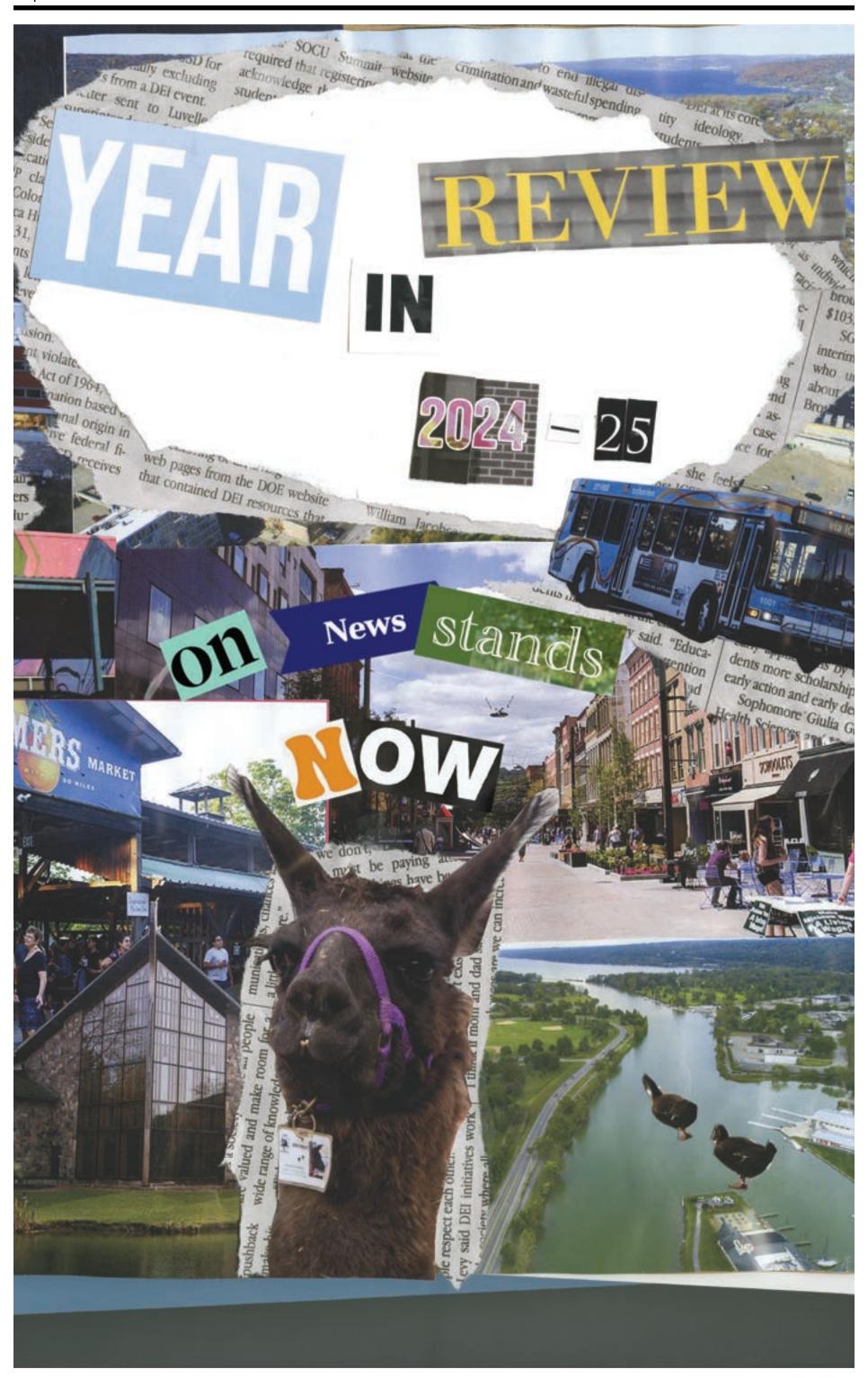
"I was really hoping we could leave behind a stronger scene than I came in with," Petruziello said. "[Pimlau's] was sort of like the defining part of college for me, and it's probably going to be one of the things I remember most fondly of being at IC."

Blakely said he is grateful to have captured these moments in Scircle through his band photography.

"It's such an emotional thing," Blakely said. "It'll mean something to the next and upcoming music scenes that come here to Ithaca and all these photos, all these articles, all these things written about them, will inspire more."

CONTACT: PDEVINE@ITHACA.EDU

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Family legacy inspires Proctor brothers

BY JACOB INFALD

SPORTS EDITOR

On April 19 at Higgins Stadium the Ithaca College men's lacrosse team is tied with Clarkson University 10-10 with 20 seconds remaining. It is Senior Day, and the Bombers are one win away from snapping their playoff drought of three seasons.

Sophomore midfielder/faceoff Corey White wins the faceoff and passes it off to junior attacker Tim Rogers. Rogers streaks down the right side, he swings the ball left to senior attacker Kyle Proctor. Kyle stops on a dime, and finds his little brother Lucas Proctor, sophomore attacker/midfielder, on the right side in front of the goal. Lucas runs to the net, crosses the stick over to his left and bounces the ball right past the Clarkson goalie into the back of the net, sealing the Bombers' win.

The Proctor brothers accomplished their goal of doing something special together on the IC lacrosse field. After Lucas' game-winner, the first person he embraced was his older brother — they had done it, the Bombers were back in the postseason.

The Proctors have been filling up the stat sheet for the men's lacrosse team throughout the 2025 season. Lucas leads the team in points and goals with 49 and 28 respectively, while his older brother is atop the stat sheet in the assist category, tallying 24 on the season.

However, for the Proctor brothers, their commitment to excellence goes far beyond their love for lacrosse. Through deep-rooted family tradition and the desire to represent something greater than themselves, Kyle and Lucas look to cement their legacies on and off the field. Lucas said the phrase "the Proctor brothers" is nothing new for his family.

"My father and his brother were both the Proctor brothers and my father's dad and his brother were the Proctor brothers and now we're doing it, so it means a lot," Lucas said.

Gary Proctor, Kyle and Lucas' uncle, said his dad and uncle grew up during the Great Depression and World War II. Gary said his father and uncle were relied upon to contribute to the family and the two realized that they can get more work done working together as a pair, and thus the Proctor brothers legacy

"We grew up with my father and my uncle and we were always encouraged and mentored that brothers don't fight each other," Gary said. "[They said], You guys need to work together, you need to respect each other, you need to look out for each other,' because that's how my dad and his brother had grown up."



From left, senior attacker Kyle Proctor and his younger brother, sophomore midfielder/attacker Lucas Proctor, are leading the charge for the IC men's lacrosse team. Kyle is leading the team in assists with 24 and Lucas is leading the team in goals with 28.

CHRISTOPHER MEADOWS/THE ITHACAN

Gary and Dan, Lucas and Kyle's father, excelled together in the sport of track and field in high school, making the state semifinals in multiple relays. However, the next generation of Proctor brothers, Kyle and Lucas were instantly brought together by the sport of lacrosse. Kyle said he began playing in second grade and Lucas immediately wanted to follow suit.

Kyle said that growing up the two of them would make a makeshift goal in the backyard with an old dog pen and a shed and play countless games of one-on-one.

"I was bigger, I beat up on him," Kyle said. "Then after some time he started getting the hang of it and he got pretty damn good and started fighting back against me."

The two brothers were set to finally play together in 2020, Kyle's junior year of high school and Lucas' first year, but the season was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The

following season, Kyle tore his labrum, preventing the two brothers from getting ample time on the field together.

However, during that same year, tragedy struck that went far beyond lacrosse injuries when their father died.

"It has been tough on Kyle and Luke but it's pulled them together and made them stronger," Gary said. "We all grow up, we all get through it and all go on and we stick together."

After Kyle's first season at IC, their dreams of playing collegiate lacrosse together started to pick up steam. Kyle said his brother had Division I offers, but Kyle really enjoyed his first-year season at Ithaca and this really got Lucas thinking about his future.

"I remember there was one night going into [Lucas'] senior year [of high school] and we were in Cape Cod and he was really weighing his options," Kyle said. "I was just like, 'Man you could go play anywhere but you know you could come to Ithaca and we could do something special,' and he was like, 'Man I got the chills,' and I think from there he never looked back."

Head coach Tommy Pearce said the biggest similarity he sees in the siblings is their ability to handle the stick with both hands. He said many players on the team are dominant with their main hand and serviceable with their off, but the Proctor brothers are ambidextrous.

"They're both fiery competitors, they always want what's best for the team," Pearce said. "They really like to win. They put it all on the table every chance they get, every practice, every game."

Kyle said everyone on the team is like family to him, but having his literal family on the field with him definitely gives him that extra spark.

"A lot of us on the team, we have different things we pray to before a game," Kyle said. "Me personally, [I pray] to my father, hoping that he's watching down over us and then when I can get up from that prayer and see my brother there waiting for me to give me a hug, that's a very special moment every game."

After a 2024 season that saw Lucas struggle with an ankle injury and inconsistent playing time, the brothers both said that this season has been a dream come true and it has brought joy to many people in their lives. Kyle said they get old neighbors, friends and family reaching out to them after every game.

Kyle's leadership on the team goes beyond just leading his little brother. Pearce said the older Proctor brother was voted a captain by his peers for his ability to hold others accountable and to get the most out of his teammates.

Lucas said he attributes much of his success to his older brother's leadership growing up. He said he credits the hours spent training and playing together in the backyard to their success, since they know each other's games well and where they can find each other on the field.

"The confidence really comes through him and all the work we both put in growing up," Lucas said. "Growing up, he's been a huge leader for me and a huge role model. He's always worked his butt off and I've definitely taken that from him, being able to put that into my game, my life and it's taught me a lot of lessons."

As Kyle wraps up his career on the field, he said he hopes he continues to honor his father and his family legacy off the field. He said that playing lacrosse will always hold a special place in his heart and he hopes both he and Lucas' kids play lacrosse together as the next generation of Proctor brothers.

"It's just a kind of surreal moment knowing that we're kind of living up to those expectations and setting our own path," Kyle said. "I'm always proud of my brother, but us doing it together and making other people proud ... it's just a dream come true."



From left, Kyle and Lucas Proctor after a lacrosse game during their childhood. The two have shared a love for of lacrosse since Kyle was in second grade.

COURTESY OF ALLISON PROCTOR

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Pole vaulter clears herniated disk and the competition

BY KHARI BOLDEN

STAFF WRITER

Junior pole vaulter Robert George set the bar high for himself as a first-year athlete before a career altering back injury kept him off the runway for nearly 1 1/2 years. His unlikely return to competition this spring was met with immediate placements at the top of the podium and, as his athletic career potentially winds down, a chance at the closure he was very nearly robbed of.

During his first-year spring season, George finished top 10 in the pole vault during the Liberty League Outdoor Track Championships and the AARTFC Outdoor Track & Field Championships, and his 4.50 meter jump was the highest of any Liberty League first-year student during the 2023 outdoor season. Unfortunately, even with these podium-worthy jumps coming in May, it was a practice jump in March that would come to define the next 18 months of his life.

"I took a jump up and I didn't really feel comfortable with it when I was in the air," George said. "I landed on the back of my head and my neck and I finished out the season because we didn't know what was wrong."

The Montville, New Jersey native said he realized something was wrong when he felt constant pain in his back while working as a line cook in the summer following the season. A couple of meets into George's sophomore indoor season, he learned just how wrong things

were after an encounter with Tim Reynolds, an anatomy and physiology assistant professor at IC.

"At the start of every semester, I always mention 'If anybody has any injuries and you need a little bit of advice, feel free to stop by my office and ask a question," Reynolds said. "I feel like it's an opportunity for students to speak to a medical professional in a relatively safe setting."

George stopped by Reynolds' office regarding his back pain early in Spring 2023, leading Reynolds and some of IC's athletic training staff to take a closer look. What began as a routine check escalated into a formal evaluation by the end of the semester at Cayuga Medical Center, where George was diagnosed with an L5 disk herniation in his lower lumbar region. This herniation was not just causing him back pain, but also sciatica, a pain down his leg caused by pressure on his sciatic nerve by the herniated disk.

It took 447 days for George to have the chance to jump competitively again. Reynolds said George's rehabilitation began by making sure he could function in daily life with minimal pain and discomfort, before they eventually moved on to some of the more specific movements needed for vaulting.

This was George's routine for more than a year: class, rehab, going to practice, watching his teammates take the runway and waiting for his pain to subside. Noah McKibben, a teammate and heptathlete/decathlete, said George's back never seemed to noticeably improve from the start of his rehab to the end.



Junior pole vaulter Robert George missed a significant portion of his sophomore season due to a disk herniation in his lower lumbar region, sidelining him until the 2025 outdoor season.

SOFIA STERBENK/THE ITHACAN

George said he wants to end his career on his terms, stating that even if there was that "what if," he still wanted to have a college career that he could look back on with pride. The drive to write his own ending is what kept him going, even when jumping did not feel the same.

With that in mind, he began jumping again during Fall 2024. He stayed the course through the pain he felt and readied himself for the first meet of the 2025 outdoor season: the Cortland Red Dragon Open, a meet he would go on to win with a jump

of 4.00 meters.

"We just recently started doing something weekly: the team MVP award," McKibben said. "I send out a form to the whole team, and everyone votes for their MVP, and he won it when he won his first meet in pole vault, just because everyone knows how much it means to him and how happy all of us were for his return."

George would also go on to win the pole vault at his next meet, the 2025 TCNJ Invitational and Multi, with a 4.15m jump, made that much more impressive with wind and rain creating adverse conditions during the competition.

"The point of this season was to bring some closure to this chapter in my life because it is coming to a close, whether I decide to do it this year or next year," George said. "It's been a big talk in my family about why I wanted to do this season, and how we were doing PT and waiting so that I could be pain-free to get back to that."

CONTACT: KBOLDEN@ITHACA.EDU

IC continues search for its next director of athletics

BY DAVID SCHURTER

SPORTS EDITOR

The changing of the guard is an important step in determining the future of a program. For a department with a rich history such as the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics at Ithaca College, the search for the next athletic director is underway with a deadline of July 1, according to the athletics department.

Susan Bassett '79 has been the associate vice president and director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Campus Recreation at the college since the 2013-14 academic year. On Feb. 6, Bassett made the announcement that she will be stepping down at the end of Spring 2025.

Bassett's announcement immediately prompted a search for the next director of intercollegiate athletics.

Margaret Shackell, associate professor in the School of Business and the college's NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative, said 12 potential candidates will be interviewed between May 1-2. She said three finalists will then visit the college from May 12-14. WittKieffer, a premier executive search and advisory solutions firm, is assisting with the hiring process.

"They specialize in finding people to apply and help guide the process," Shackell said. "Then President [La Jerne] Cornish, with input from Susan Bassett, chose people that represent all the constituencies on campus to be on the search committee."

The search committee consists of two student-athletes and two head coaches: senior football player Joshua Miles, senior golfer Rheanna DeCrow, women's soccer head coach Melinda Quigg and men's basketball head coach Waleed Farid.

From the student perspective, DeCrow said via email that the search process has been enlightening and displays the foundation of running an athletics department.

"It makes you look at your time as an athlete in a grander perspective," DeCrow said. "[They allow reflection] on what have been the most important values and principles over your time as an Ithaca Bomber and trying to find someone who aligns as well as possible with those principles."

Quigg said via email that the search committee is focused on combining the tradition of past success with the outlook of progression toward a stronger future.

"Our search committee embodies the inclusivity and diversity that are core to our values, bringing together a range of perspectives — from dedicated faculty and staff to the vibrant voices of our student-athletes, who lend critical insights from their first-hand experiences in our athletic programs," Quigg said.

As a member of one of the college's smallest varsity athletics programs, DeCrow said she holds a greater understanding of the smaller teams on campus and how they maintain stability. She said her work in student media organizations like ICTV has also led to her building stronger connections with the other athletics programs, allowing for their voices to be heard, too.

"I feel a great deal of responsibility to make sure I am doing what is in the best interest of all the student-athletes on campus," DeCrow said. "I really try within our committee meetings to make sure the student-athlete perspective is heard so that the Ithaca athlete experience continues



Susan Bassett '79, associate vice president and director of Intercollegiate Athletics, announced her retirement Feb. 6, prompting a search for the next athletics director.

to be one of excellence, competitiveness and everything that makes being a Bomber so special."

The NACDA Learfield Directors' Cup honors the success of every college athletics program across the country, spanning all three divisions in the NCAA, the NAIA and junior colleges. The Bombers finished 32nd overall out of over 400 Division III schools in 2024 and first out of all Liberty League institutions.

During Bassett's tenure, the college has placed in the top 20 among D-III schools seven times, including two top 10 finishes in both the 2016-17 and 2017-18 academic years.

Shackell said the fundraising efforts started by Bassett, as well as the

individualized coaching implemented, such as the leadership academy program and faculty athlete mentors, are crucial for the long-term success of each program.

ILLUSTRATION BY GRACE VANDERVEER/THE ITHACAN

While the process is still in its early stages, DeCrow said she is confident that the future director of athletics will continue to guide the success of the college's sports programs.

"We have a great pool of applicants that are extensively qualified," DeCrow said. "I am very much looking forward to continuing the process and doing all that we can to make sure we are closing [on] someone who aligns with the Ithaca vision and Bomber standards."

DIVERSIONS

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

Crossword By Quill Driver														
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70					71						72			

ACROSS

- 1 Sharp flavor 5 Raise, as a flag
- 10 Dull sound
- 14 By mouth
- 15 Possessor
- 16 Thin, as air 17 Drv
- 18 Camel relative
- 19 vital
- 20 Squalid 22 In a perfect
- world 24 Tidings
- 26 Antiquity 27 Relieves of
- weapons 30 Experience
- anew 34 Racket
- 35 Mil. Rank
- 37 Be worthy of
- 38 Rd.
- 39 Slender candle
- 41 Actress -
- Longoria 42 "- Rae"
- 45 Of the Kidneys
- 47 Nothing
- 48 Append
- 50 Went on a diet 52 Monk's title

- 53 Prong
- 54 "- you me!" 58 Glides over ice
- 62 Margarine
- 63 Disconcert
- 67 Kittens 68 Unwanted
- sound
- 69 Actress Gray
- 70 To boot 71 South American
- range 72 Feat
- **DOWN**
- 1 Hauls 2 Seed cover
- 3 Back of the neck
- 4 Gathers 5 Sacred texts (2
- wds.)
- 6 Night bird
- 7 - heartbeat
- 8 Partly (Prefix)
- 9 Merchant 10 Foot-operated
- lever 11 Auditorium
- 12 Russian river
- 13 Gainsay
- 21 Enthusiasm 23 Basic (Abbr.)

- 25 Smudge 27 Chunk of turf
 - 28 Lethargic
 - 29 Much better than average
 - 31 Actress Cara 32 Intense
 - 33 Footnote abbr. 34 Actor -
 - Andrews
 - 36 Doctrine
 - 40 Salad veggies
 - 43 Mob member
 - 44 "God's Little -"
 - 46 Clumsy guy

 - 49 Cuban capital

- 51 Stopped 54 — Raton
- 55 Israel's airline
- 56 Permits
- 57 Black, poetically
- 59 Whitewall
- 60 Singer -
- Brickwell 61 Transmit
- 64 and abet
- 65 Opp. Of NNW

last issue's crossword answers

С	Щ	Α		S				E	ט		В	ျပ	Ρ	
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М	0	L	D		G	Α	G		П	М	Р	Ε	D	Е
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The Film **Fleeks**

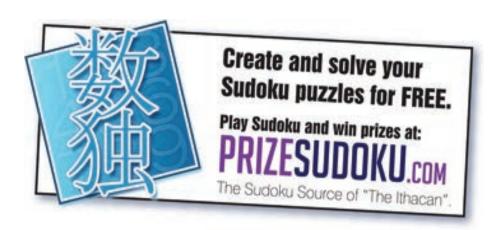
BY ATTICUS JACKSON/THE ITHACAN











easy

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			4			9		
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hard

	9		8	3				1
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answers to last issue's sudoku:

very easy

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7	3	8	2	5	1	6	4	9
1	5	9	3	6	4	8	7	2
8	9	7	4	2	5	1	6	3
5	1	6	9	7	3	2	8	4
3	2	4	8	100	6	7	9	5
2	8	3	5	9	7	4	1	6
6	4	5	1	3	8	9	2	7
9	7	1	6	4	2	3	5	8

medium

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

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

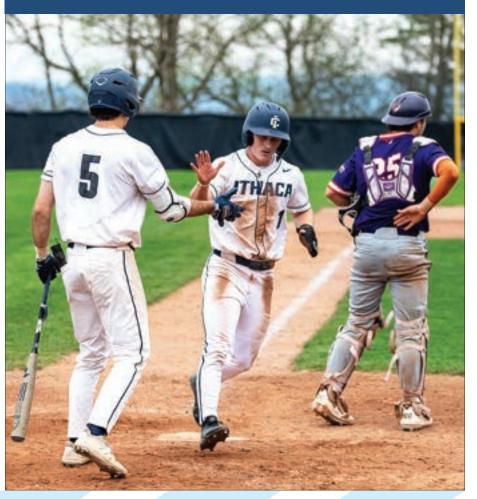
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK LILY CODY/WOMEN'S LACROSSE



Cody continued her dominant season for the Ithaca College women's lacrosse team against Skidmore College on April 26. The junior attacker tallied six goals and an assist in the team's 17-11 win over the Thoroughbreds on its Senior Day.

MEI DENNISON/THE ITHACAN

COMPETITION OF THE WEEK BASEBALL VS. HOBART COLLEGE



The Ithaca College baseball team played its final regular season home game against the Hobart College Statesmen on April 25. By defeating Hobart 7-4, Ithaca clinched the Liberty League West Division champion title for the second consecutive season.

JENNA GRIMES/THE ITHACAN

EVENT TO WATCH

ITHACA

LIBERTY **LEAGUES** 9 A.M. MAY 2

The Ithaca College men's and women's rowing teams will head to the Liberty League Championships on May 2 in Saratoga Springs. The women's team is looking to win its eighth consecutive conference championship while the men are looking to repeat. The men's team is coming off a solid showing at the Remley Cup on April 19 in Worcester, Massachusetts, while the women's team brought home fourth place overall at the New York State Championships on April 19.

NOTABLE UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

SOFTBALL: 3 P.M. / 5 P.M. MAY 1 VS ALFRED UNIVERSITY IN ALFRED, NEW YORK

WOMEN'S LACROSSE: MAY 2 VS LIBERTY LEAGUE SEMIFINALS — TBA

TRACK AND FIELD: 10 A.M. MAY 2-3 ATTHE LIBERTY LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP IN ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

SOFTBALL: 1 P.M. / 3 P.M. MAY 3 VS RIT AT KOSTRINSKY FIELD



"ANOTHER TITLE, ANOTHER T-SHIRT, AND ANOTHER PLAQUE UP IN OUR OFFICE — THAT'D

> OLIVIA PUPPO '25 On defending the Liberty League Championship title



BE AWESOME."

SPORTS | 19 THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

PHOTO FINISH A year in sports, photographed by The Ithacan.



Sophomore midfielder Cameron Wooten dribbles the ball while junior defender Jameson Mannix attempts to steal it in a game against Hamilton College on Oct. 1. MEI DENNISON/THE ITHACAN



The Ithaca College field hockey team celebrates its first-ever Liberty League championship title against the University of Rochester Yellowjackets on Nov. 10. MARISSA MOSCHELLA/THE ITHACAN



The Ithaca College women's basketball team took care of business against Skidmore College on Feb. 7. Senior forward Anya Watkins takes a contested shot.



Senior Wenchard Pierre-Louis pins his opponent at a wrestling meet Feb. 19. The Bombers won 42-0 against the Cardinals and 51-0 against the Red Dragons. ROBERT DANIELS/THE ITHACAN





The Ithaca College men's lacrosse team defeated SUNY Brockport at Higgins Stadium on March 19. Senior midfielder Graham Brady prepares to pass the ball. JENNA GRIMES/THE ITHACAN



The Ithaca College softball team took down SUNY Geneseo on April 2 in Game 1 of its scheduled doubleheader, before Game 2 was washed away by the rain.

20 | THE ITHACAN THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025



Junior Frankie Valens performs an acrobatic routine at ICircus' end of semester showcase April 25. The showcase, titled "Haunted Circus" took place in Ithaca College's Fitness Center. Members of the club performed various acts like dance, acrobatics, juggling and aerial arts. ICircus aims to promote the circus' mind, body and spirit benefits.

CHRISTOPHER MEADOWS/THE ITHACAN