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OUT IN ITHACA
LOOKS LIKE**



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ITHACA IS NOT
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DERBY SCENE
FLOURISHES**

IC faculty navigate expensive housing market

BY KAELEIGH BANDA
NEWS EDITOR

As the cost of housing continues to increase in Ithaca, many Ithaca College faculty members are navigating the real estate market on lower wages than necessary to sustainably live in Ithaca. Through IC extended housing, extra classes, long commutes and working multiple jobs, some professors are trying to find ways to support themselves and their families.

Ithaca is in the top 21% of the most expensive cities in the world to live in, according to LivingCost.org. Brent Katzmann, Ithaca office manager for Warren Real Estate, said that over the last five years, the average sale price for single-family homes, condos and townhomes in Tompkins County has grown by over 35%.

"It's given people a lot of instant equity, which for homeowners is a good thing, but it's also caused real issues with affordability because wages have not kept up at that pace," Katzmann said.

Brendan Murday, the associate provost for faculty affairs, said he works to identify salaries that make sense for each newly hired faculty member, but the high cost of living in Ithaca is not a direct factor in determining salaries.

"We look at the salaries for the faculty in the department and try to make sure that there's some equity with where that new hire would start and where current faculty are," Murday said. "We will also take a

look at some data nationwide for that discipline."

Marcy Sutherland — an instructor in the Department of Education at IC and research and communications coordinator for the Park Center for Independent Media — said she has needed to have multiple jobs to live in Ithaca when she was only working at PCIM, including substitute teaching and working at a center for adults with autism. Sutherland said she is limited in the number of hours she is allowed to work at the college.

"I just don't think they should be controlling how much money I make," Sutherland said. "I get that they have control over my salary, they have control over the amount I make working with PCIM, but how much I work? I find it really insulting. I think it's infuriating to put a cap on my overall wealth. ... They have no idea what I'm responsible for financially."

In her position with PCIM, she is limited to only 13 hours a week, even though she could work up to 30 hours a week within the nature of it being a part-time position.

"I have been a really good instructor regardless of how many jobs I have," Sutherland said. "No one asked about how working in both places could be beneficial. ... There's now more engagement between education and PCIM and media literacy. And the conversations I had were still only about hours a month, and that was disheartening."



Ithaca is in the top 21% of the most expensive cities in the world to live in, according to LivingCost.org. Many Ithaca College faculty members are navigating the real estate market on lower wages than needed.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KAELEIGH BANDA/THE ITHACAN

According to Indeed, the average annual salary for an instructor at IC is \$61,299, which is lower than the recommended \$73,392 per year needed to rent comfortably in Ithaca. Sutherland said she makes around \$60,000 as an instructor. She said she lives in Brooktondale, about 15 minutes from the IC campus, since she cannot afford to live in Ithaca. For homeowners, Katzmann said the issue of affordability is with the amount of capital or cash that is required on top of

the monthly payment.

"If you want to put 10% down on a \$450,000 home, that's \$45,000," Katzmann said.

"And you've got closing costs on top of that, mortgage applications, appraisal fees, prepayments for taxes and insurance, so you could be out \$60,000 just to get in the door."

While faculty are impacted by high housing costs in the Ithaca area, the college town environment, combined with Cornell University, is part of what makes the real estate

market competitive. Mickey Huff, professor in the Department of Journalism and distinguished director of the PCIM, said the colleges in Ithaca are the main reasons for its bustling, desirable culture.

"Go and find me another 30,000 population town anywhere within 50 miles of here," Huff said. "Does it have what we have here? Nothing like it. ... Those things are here because the colleges are here, and

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Community holds vigil for Charlie Kirk IC launches new portal

**BY KAELEIGH BANDA,
EAMON CORBO**

NEWS EDITOR,
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Residents of the greater Ithaca area held a vigil in remembrance of Charlie Kirk on the evening of Oct. 14 at the Bernie Milton Pavilion on The Commons. About 15 people attended the vigil that took place on what would have been Kirk's 32nd birthday. Cars drove by throughout the evening, showing a variety of support and opposition.

Kirk was a prominent Christian right-wing media figure, political organizer and conservative activist. Kirk was fatally shot Sept. 10 while speaking at Utah Valley University. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by U.S. President Donald Trump Oct. 14, which is the nation's highest civilian honor.

Kirk was the founder and CEO of nonprofit organization Turning Point USA. According to the organization's website, its mission is to "identify, educate, train, and organize students to promote the principles of fiscal responsibility, free markets, and limited government." During Kirk's funeral Sept. 21, Trump said Kirk played an integral role in



About 15 residents of greater Ithaca attended a vigil in remembrance of Charlie Kirk on the evening of Oct. 14 at the Bernie Milton Pavilion on The Commons.

KAELEIGH BANDA/THE ITHACAN

helping him win the young male vote in the 2024 presidential election.

The vigil was organized by Rocco Lucente, a Tioga County resident and the former chair of the Town of Ulysses Republican Party, to

honor Kirk's life. He said he considers Kirk to be a martyr because he was killed while spreading Christianity.

KIRK VIGIL, PAGE 4

IC launches new portal

BY EAMON CORBO

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Ithaca College announced the release of myIC, its new student portal, in an Oct. 8 email to the campus community. The new portal reorganizes college resources to be accessible and customizable to students. The portal is accessible via the web or through the myICPortal application on iOS and Android devices.

Students can check their emails, grades, class schedules and assignments through the portal. The portal also includes announcements for events, daily dining hall menus, access to student life and academic resources and links to open DegreeWorks and Homer Connect.

Casey Kendall, deputy chief information officer and associate vice president of applications, said the idea for myIC was born out of a discussion with the college's Student Governance Council in Fall 2023. She said myIC was created as a replacement for

NEW PORTAL, PAGE 4

WORLD NEWS

Trump aims to seize his momentum on Gaza peace at leaders summit

President Donald Trump kicked off a global summit Oct. 13. in Egypt on Gaza’s future, aimed at ensuring the U.S.-led truce in the Middle East turns into a lasting peace.

The stop was Trump’s second during his whirlwind trip to the region, following a visit to Israel to celebrate the ceasefire with Hamas and welcome back freed hostages that were held by the group, designated a terrorist organization by the United States and European Union.

— Mirette Magdy, Sam Dagher and Samy Adghirni/Bloomberg News/TNS

Trump and Xi spark another standoff with future of world economy at risk

U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping’s latest tit-for-tat showdown has both countries claiming the ball is now in the other’s court, with the clock ticking toward another escalation in import tariffs.

After Trump signaled openness to the idea of doing a deal with Beijing, U.S. Vice President JD Vance declared Oct. 12 the outcome would “depend on how the Chinese

respond.” Hours later, China’s Foreign Ministry made clear Beijing would take its cues from Washington’s next steps, after having already unleashed what it saw as retaliatory actions.

— Bloomberg News/TNS

Zelenskyy to visit the U.S. and speak with Trump regarding arms and energy

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy plans to meet with U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington this week to discuss air defense, long-range weaponry and energy as Russia intensifies strikes on the war-battered nation’s energy system.

The Ukrainian leader said the meeting Oct. 17 follows up on two detailed phone conversations with Trump over the past week, in which Zelenskyy discussed the Kremlin’s latest attacks on energy and civilian infrastructure. The White House hasn’t confirmed the meeting.

— Andrea Palasciano and Kateryna Chursina Bloomberg News/TNS

Trump hints at intervening in clash between Pakistan and Afghanistan

U.S. President Donald Trump suggested he is willing to step in to resolve days of



Israeli and Palestinian detainees released

Israelis and Palestinians cried, cheered and gave thanks Oct. 13 as Hamas released the last 20 Israeli hostages in exchange for more than 1,900 Palestinian prisoners.

— Nabih Bulos/Los AngelesTimes/TNS

MUSSA QAWASMA/ REUTERS

deadly cross-border fighting between Pakistan and Afghanistan, saying he is “good at solving wars.”

Trump made the remarks while on his way to Egypt to co-chair an international peace summit on Gaza. Also expected to be in

attendance is Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Asim Munir. Pakistani media said a meeting between the Pakistani leaders and Trump during the gathering was likely.

— Tooba Khan/Bloomberg News/TNS

MULTIMEDIA

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Ithacan Overtime with Brenna Schoenfeld

Ithacan reporter Alliey Magistro spoke with senior midfielder Brenna Schoenfeld about her role on the Ithaca field hockey team, as well as standout moments and pregame rituals.



New Video Podcast – “Table Talks”

Host Tony Ortiz sits down with extracurricular leaders, campus celebrities, professors and more to chat with people making news on campus. Premiering Oct. 18.

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FROM HOUSING, PAGE 1

the colleges raise the standard of living, until the colleges decide that they don't have to pay people to work there anymore, and then the very people that make a place what it is have to leave."

Faculty at Cornell are paid more than faculty at IC in comparable roles. According to a Fall 2023 Faculty Salary Survey, instructors are paid over \$94,000 a year compared to the \$61,299 salary of IC instructors. While those salaries reflect the financial states and funding of both institutions, faculty are still navigating the same housing market.

Cornell's presence in Ithaca also impacts property taxes.

Approximately 57% of the property in the City of Ithaca is tax-exempt property, mostly owned by Cornell. This impacts property owners in Ithaca because the median property tax rate is 2.86%, which is higher than the national median property tax rate of 1.02%.

Some faculty members opt to commute from other towns to avoid the high costs of housing in Ithaca. Katzmann said he sees the prices drop the farther away from Ithaca in Chemung County and Seneca County.

Extended housing

On campus, IC has extended housing that is available to faculty and staff. The extended housing program allows employees to live in a residence hall for \$600 a month, which is lower than the average cost of \$1,671 for a



On campus, IC has extended housing that allows employees to live in a residence hall for \$600 a month. Terrace 12, Terrace 13 and Boothroyd Hall are locations where extended housing is provided.

FILE PHOTO/THE ITHACAN

428-square-foot studio apartment. Terrace 12 and 13 and Boothroyd Hall are the main locations where extended housing is provided.

Jeff Golden, associate vice president of auxiliary services at IC, oversees extended housing. The college began offering extended housing in 2022.

Golden said the college wants to provide an inexpensive housing option open to everyone, regardless of income.

"The Ithaca housing market is extremely expensive," Golden said. "There's a high demand and a relatively low supply. And so

long-term housing's a struggle for faculty and staff up and down the pay scale."

Golden said there are about 10-20 faculty and staff members utilizing extended housing per building. He said the number of residents is constantly fluctuating because there are visitors who use the space or employees using it temporarily.

However, the extended housing is not accessible to faculty and staff looking for housing for their family. Golden said extended housing is not the single solution to the problem, but IC

plans to continue offering it for those it does help. He said if student enrollment increases, the spaces to live will be given to students first.

"I recognize that the pressures of the Ithaca area housing market are greater than this thing will have an opportunity to solve," Golden said. "We are very aware of the fact that, at its best, it is simply us trying to offer a solution that hopefully will work for some people, but absolutely will surely not work for everyone."

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FROM NEW PORTAL, PAGE 1

apps.ithaca.edu, which is a website that includes a list of links for various resources at the college.

"A lot of students didn't know if all of those things on apps.ithaca.edu were available to them," Kendall said. "And they didn't really have the context about what a lot of the things in there were."

The portal is customizable, allowing students to add and remove widgets and reorganize their dashboards. Melissa Pittinaro, executive director for marketing communications at the college, said myIC was intentionally designed to allow students to tailor their portal to their preferences. She said that having the portal on mobile devices allows students to access college resources at their fingertips.

Kendall said myIC was created using Pathify, a platform that allows colleges to create customizable student portals for the web and mobile devices.

"Students were saying that they would love to have an app that was more comprehensive with all the services that they have at the college and that can be a communication tool as well," Kendall said.

Pittinaro said the college also chose to use the "IC" name for the portal to complement the branding of the SafeIC mobile safety app, which launched in July. She said a small group of students tested out myIC and provided feedback for it over the summer.

"We feel like we have a good 1.0, and the idea is to keep building it and evolving it and making sure that it's working for folks and that we can add new improvements as needed," Pittinaro said.

Graduate student Joshua Wan, a student employee in the Office of Information Technology and Analytics, said he was part of a feedback group for myIC over the summer. He said he wants to see more control over



Students can check their emails, grades, class schedules and assignments through the new myIC portal. The portal is available to download on iOS and Android devices.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RAESSLER GUTHRIE/THE ITHACAN

the widgets within the myIC portal.

"So currently you have to find [the widgets] based off of what is provided," Wan said. "But if we could find more ways to add specific ones ... like add a widget that's like a quick link to something else."

The portal has been available since the start of Fall 2025, but the college did not begin marketing it until after Oct. 6. Kendall said the college has mainly been doing back-end technical work on the portal but is now looking for student feedback.

"We actually have a feedback form within the portal," Kendall said. "But what we are really looking for is scheduling some focus groups, so there'll be small deep dive sessions into the portal."

Pittinaro said IT and marketing communications will be meeting with other offices at the college to show them the portal and discuss how their offices can use it to tailor announcements and reminders to students.

She said she hopes the portal becomes a tool that students use every day.

"Instead of having a million things bookmarked, they can go log in ... to all the portals or the apps that they might be using every day," Pittinaro said.

Wan said he has heard from many students through his job at IT that resources like apps.ithaca.edu are confusing. He said he hopes students take advantage of the centralized information in the portal.

"I think students will end up seeing however much they want to see," Wan said. "Obviously, we have a bunch of bulletin boards up around the entirety of the campus. How often do you end up seeing students looking at those though? ... I hope that with myIC, as long as one person in a friend group gets it ... eventually it'll catch on."

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FROM KIRK VIGIL, PAGE 1

"I believe that the man who did that was certainly demonically inspired to do it," Lucente said. "I think that Satan saw what good Charlie was doing in the world and wanted to stop his ministry. And this reflects Satan's patterns throughout history, most notably with the murder of Jesus Christ on the cross."

Ithaca is known for its progressive politics with local groups like Indivisible Tompkins organizing protests with thousands of attendees in the past year. Lucente said he feels like conservative voices have been silenced, threatened and attacked in Ithaca since Trump was first elected in 2016.

"I look at the political culture of this area as being one that people like me feel like they can't say what they think," Lucente said. "I'm going to do whatever I can to push back against that and to stand against that and to try to help people believe that they can have a voice in Ithaca again, even if they don't agree with the majority."

Bill Ward, a community member at the vigil, said he has noticed a common use of violent rhetoric that Democrats and liberal activists have been using against conservatives.

"Honestly, the Republicans and the right, we don't want violence," Ward said. "If we wanted to, we would have stomped them. We are the party that probably has most of the guns and everything else, but we don't want to."

Ward said he has been interested in politics since he was in college in the early 2010s. Since then, he said he has engaged in political activism, including attending the "No Kings" rally in June, where he claims he was harassed for outwardly supporting Trump.

He said he plans to attend the Oct. 18 "No Kings II" rally as well. Ward said that when he found out about Kirk's assassination, he was heartbroken.

"He's got two young kids that'll never know him," Ward said. "I have young kids. ... Thank God he's got so many hours of footage that they can see, but then there's the one that he got shot on. Imagine seeing your dad [like that]?"

Lenny Sacco, a security guard at the vigil, said he thinks one of Kirk's famous quotes, "When people stop talking, that's when you get violence," is a timely warning.

"Every time I go on YouTube, there's another conspiracy theory about who killed Charlie Kirk or how it happened," Sacco said. "I'm like, the guy is freaking dead. That's all that matters."

Instead of mourning in private, Ward said he was in support of a public vigil on The Commons because it brings attention to the cause, even if it is not a popular viewpoint in Ithaca.

"We may have been getting flipped off ... but the people that were all beeping and giving me a thumbs-up, they've shown that there's still a lot of people in this town that do believe in the same cause," Ward said.

In addition to the supportive beeps Ward observed, some cars blared their horns in opposition. One truck with large flags out the back, including a Palestinian flag, Black Lives Matter flag and transgender pride flag, drove in circles to continue to pass the rally.

Vivian King, a community member at the vigil, said she also knows that Ithaca is generally liberal leaning, but that God called her to live in this area. She said she believes there was a spiritual warfare at play in the cause of Kirk's death.

"You can definitely feel the spirit sometimes," King said. "There's a weight and a heaviness in Ithaca. ... I believe there was some spiritual attack on his life."

King said her religious views caused her to feel the pain of Kirk's assassination because he was also an advocate for the Holy Bible, Jesus and the things that Jesus believed in.

"He was a conservative and he had a lot of views that were similar to me in the church as a Christian faith," King said. "He was pro-life. He loved everyone, no matter what they believed in."

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SGC examines accreditation process and AI concerns

BY NAOMI MARTIN
STAFF WRITER

The Ithaca College Student Governance Council met Oct. 13 to discuss feedback needed for Ithaca College’s accreditation process and recent student concerns regarding artificial intelligence.

The council was presented with the Middle States Self-Study Report, which is a part of Ithaca College’s three-year-long accreditation process. The accreditation process is conducted every eight years and evaluates the whole institution on factors such as governance, academic effectiveness and financial stability. Ithaca College uses the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) as an independent evaluator.

Senior Rishabh Sen, president of the student body, said that the council will help with the editing process for the 200-page report.

“We are here to serve not only a student body, but a general Ithaca College community,” Sen said. “This is a service that we are giving to the whole Ithaca College community, both present students and alumni [are] participating and helping with this Middle States committee.”

The Middle States Self-Study draft is open to the community, and the administration is requesting feedback through an online form by Oct. 20.

During senator reports, Sen spoke about his past meeting with President La Jerne Cornish. Sen said the two discussed the council’s recent concerns with AI policy on campus,

specifically regarding worries of mandatory AI usage within academics. Sen paraphrased what Cornish said regarding the council’s concerns.

“[They are] preparing students for an AI-driven job market, and that if AI is not incorporated, she believes the college would not be fairly and adequately preparing students for the job market in the future,” Sen said.

Cornish also told Sen that the administration has received feedback from students regarding AI recently and are looking to host a town hall or forum focusing on AI next semester.

Senior Caleb Cackowski, the vice president of communications, raised the issue of the TeraWulf AI data center that is planned to be built along the bank of Cayuga Lake.

Sophomore Ash Beall, one of the senators-at-large, said there has already been student criticism over the data center. Beall said a petition has been circulating against the developments around the Finger Lakes and their effects on the environment and Ithaca residents.

First-year student Aditya Valecha, senator-at-large, said TeraWulf has claimed to be carbon zero, but residents are still concerned about the environmental impacts of the project.

“Residents do complain about the noise and water usage, so on the face of it, the company looks [like its] clean energy [and is] keeping low damage to the lake,” Valecha said. “They’re trying their best to be sustainable ... but the residents’ complaints make sense.”

In senator reports, sophomore



From left, senior Nikki Sutera and sophomores Frankie Weisse and Ty Sayahi discuss feedback for Ithaca College’s accreditation process and recent student concerns regarding artificial intelligence.

BEATRICE MANTEL/THE ITHACAN

Luis Antonio Toriche, the first-generation senator, spoke about the first-generation students club which had its first event Oct. 13. Toriche is on the executive board for first-gen club which is overseen by the First-Generation Program within The Unity Center. The club has begun communicating via GroupMe and is looking to recruit any interested first-gen students.

Junior Angel Pandey, School of Business senator, spoke during senator reports about her efforts to

boost engagement within the School of Business. Pandey said she wants to create more opportunities for career development by collaborating with alumni networks. There are some networking trips that the business school organizes, but only around 15 to 20 students get a spot every semester. Pandey said she is not only looking to strengthen the alumni network for students, but also improve the academic experience.

The council was supposed to hear from Barbie Bargher, director of

Student Financial Services, but Bargher was unable to attend due to personal reasons. Bargher has rescheduled for Dec. 1.

Next week the council will hear from Elyse Nepa, assistant director of Clery Act and Prevention Education in the Office of Public Safety and Emergency Management, along with members from the Office of Public Safety to speak about campus security.

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Q&A: New professor discusses multicultural urbanism

Cheng Chen is a new assistant professor in the Department of Art, Art History, and Architecture at Ithaca College. Brought in at the start of Fall 2025, Chen is currently teaching Architecture Across Cultures and will be receiving his Doctor of Philosophy in the Constructed Environment from the University of Virginia in December.

Contributing Writer James Ambrosini spoke with Chen about what led him to come to IC, the details of his work and what he plans to share with students interested in taking his classes.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

James Ambrosini: What led up to you arriving at IC to teach architectural studies?

Cheng Chen: I was raised and educated in China for my bachelor’s and master’s degrees in architecture, and also practiced architecture there as a project architect. In 2019, just half a year before the pandemic, I started my Ph.D at [the University of Virginia], as well as my first long term living experience in the U.S. I started learning and getting my candidacy there, and taught for one year as a lecturer. Then I flew to Africa for my field work. And I realized I just could not do both schedules of teaching at UVA and field work in Africa, so I just quit [teaching]. After several times over two years of field work, going back and forth, I met my partner. She’s also practicing architecture in New York, and so I moved to New York and I started teaching at Kean University and Columbia University while finishing my dissertation.

JA: What was it that made you decide to come to Ithaca?

CC: I’m kind of an outdoor person. Even though I have a beautiful office, I just don’t feel like I can stay there 24/7, so I need

some escape to get my energy from nature. ... Personally, I feel close to some places or to some people I already know when I visited. My partner and I visited Ithaca last year; we enjoyed hiking all the Finger Lakes and the scenery. This is a super cozy and beautiful town, and a little similar setting with my hometown in the U.S., Charlotte, Virginia, where I did my Ph.D. I visited many, many other places, and I just felt that ‘OK, this is the place’ because I feel like the students, my colleagues, the people in town and all the nature just makes me feel at home.

JA: What are some design strategies or techniques you’ve seen other countries use in their infrastructure that you wish the Western world used more?

CC: It inspired my current course I’m teaching that’s called Architecture Across Cultures, in which we highlight a non-European-centric or Western-centric narrative in architecture. There are many indigenous and spontaneous wisdoms outside the West, and sometimes they are not looking as fancy or looking so “advanced,” because of the power of the narratives and communication of them in [the] media. They are not [marketed] as good as Western ideas sometimes, and [students] feel a little bit nervous or cautious when they see something unfamiliar to them. I showed one picture in my class last week of the favelas in Brazil, and you will find that everyone’s roof has several rebars extruding out, and it’s actually living there as a foundation for future expansion. That way, when [the construction workers] finish this two-floor villa, if their family has the money and resources, and they have one or two new family members and decide to expand to the third floor, they can directly start from there, and it helps minimize disruption to the existing structure. So we always say that in the Global South, in architecture



Cheng Chen is a new assistant professor in the Department of Art, Art History, and Architecture at Ithaca College. Chen is currently teaching Architecture Across Cultures.

ABIGAIL CHESMAN/THE ITHACAN

and urbanism, we have a context called post-colonialism, where all these newly independent countries have no resources, and this is the wisdom or knowledge that’s cultivated in very resource-limited conditions, but they still achieve that status.

JA: What do you hope to gain from your time at IC, in both your teaching and your research?

CC: I think one of the reasons I was hired was for my expertise in cross-cultural architecture and global architecture. I inherited the Architecture Across Cultures course from [another professor], and so I want to build on top of it and embrace our students with multicultural architecture and urbanism. ... I also envision many other topics about non-Western architecture, through narratives and courses.

As for my own research, my dissertation is not actually about design. I’m working on construction sites for railways and transnational airports in Africa, which means they are African infrastructure, but funded by Japan, by China, by the U.S., and how the construction gets delivered. I studied how migrant workers stay, leave and work. I’ll study financing stuff and talk about management, like how to manage 10,000 construction workers imported from China to Kenya, and how to run a migrant society. ... I think in today’s world, interdisciplinary abilities are a super strong asset for our students. You are no longer just a craftsman; you need to know everything before you can deliver a design.

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COLLEGE BRIEFS

New York Film & Television Alliance to offer low-cost headshots to students

The New York Film & Television Student Alliance at Ithaca College will be offering headshot photography 5-7:30 p.m. Oct. 16 in the Roy H. Park School of Communications Room 144. Junior Ethan Wilson, NYFTSA social media director, will be taking headshots for \$5.

Families and loved ones welcomed to South Hill for Family Weekend 2025

Ithaca College once again welcomes families and loved ones of students to come to campus for Family Weekend 2025 from Oct. 17-19. Activities such as music and theater performances, academic open houses, art exhibits, athletic events, local hikes, tours and more will be available.

The Welcome Reception and family photos will be hosted 4-7 p.m. Oct. 17 in Phillips Hall. In-depth programs and itineraries will be made available at the Welcome Reception. For any questions or inquiries contact New Student and Transition Programs at families@ithaca.edu.

Unity Center to host annual s'mores and hot chocolate event on the Quad

The Unity Center is hosting its annual s'mores and hot chocolate event 4-6:30 p.m. Oct. 17 on the Campus Center Quad. As it falls on Family Weekend, all family, friends and pets are invited.

S'mores and hot chocolate will be provided while supplies last. For questions or any requests for accomodations, please email bipocunity@ithaca.edu.

IC and Cornell Rotaract clubs come together for joint highway cleanup

The Ithaca College and Cornell University Rotaract Clubs are joining together for a highway cleanup from 9-11 a.m. Oct. 18

and will meet at Tops Friendly Markets on Triphammer Road.

These two organizations have been cleaning a two-mile stretch of New York State Route 13, between the Triphammer Road and Stewart Park exits, since the mid-2000s. Hard hats, vests, gloves, grabbers and trash bags will be provided at the meeting point, where volunteers will receive a safety briefing and then head out in small teams to clean different sections of the highway. If volunteers need a ride provided or have any questions, they can reach out to dformoso@ithaca.edu.

Competition and prizes to come at the annual IC Gaming Tournament

Information Technology and Analytics will be hosting the annual IC Gaming Tournament 12-5 p.m. Oct. 25 in Emerson Suites. There will be a Mario Kart 8 tournament, with the winner earning a Quest 3S VR headset.

There will also be competitions for Just Dance and Tekken 8, as well as stations to play Mario Kart World, throwback Wii games and tabletop/board games. Free Monster energy drinks and swag will be available on site and food and drink will be provided.

Additionally, there will be a raffle, giving away blind boxes, bean bag chairs, movie tickets and more. Preregistration for the Mario Kart tournament is highly encouraged and the separate registration form is available on the IC Engage page.

Unity Center and MLK Scholars to lead Underground Ithaca Retreat

The Unity Center and the Martin Luther King Scholars Program will be meeting at 10 a.m. Oct. 25 in the Taughannock Falls Room in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the Underground Railroad.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., attendees will go on an immersive walking tour of Ithaca and



Annual BeeFest causes a buzz on campus

Senior Payton Romance opens a beehouse at BeeFest on Oct. 11 at the South Hill Apiary. South Hill Apiaries hosts this event to educate Ithaca residents about bees.

IAN LEWONO/THE ITHACAN

learn about the Underground Railroad stops in the city, as well as the history of local abolitionists. It is a walking tour so comfortable clothing, comfortable shoes and water are recommended. There will be multiple stops and breaks for rest on the trip. For questions or accommodation requests, reach out to bipocunity@ithaca.edu.

Queer Trivia to be hosted by the LGBTQ Center in Emerson Suites

The LGBTQ Center will be hosting a

game of Queer Trivia 5-7 p.m. Oct. 16 in Clarke Lounge, hosted by local drag queen Queentessential.

It will be team trivia in groups of four, so bringing friends is recommended and encouraged. Trivia questions will cover everything from queer icons and media to activism and campus life. No trivia or subject expertise is required to participate.

There will be prizes for top teams and snacks at the event. RSVP with a group or independently on IC Engage.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG

SELECTED ENTRIES FROM SEPT. 29 TO OCT. 5

SEPT. 29

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
FOURTH DEGREE

LOCATION: R-Lot
SUMMARY: Caller reported an unknown person damaged the mirror of a car. Patrol Officer Sony Jean-Philippe responded.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION
OF MARIJUANA

LOCATION: Eastman Hall
SUMMARY: Caller reported that during a New York State Fire Inspection, marijuana was found. Sergeant John Elmore responded. One person was referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE /
INJURY RELATED

LOCATION: Grant Egbert Boulevard
SUMMARY: Caller reported falling off a bicycle and sustaining an ankle injury. Sergeant John Elmore responded. The person declined medical assistance and arranged for their own transportation to the hospital.

FIRE ALARM UNDETERMINED
CAUSE FOR ALARM

LOCATION: Terrace 13
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Patrol Officer Thaddeus

May responded. May was unable to locate the cause of activation.

SEPT. 30

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE /
INJURY RELATED

LOCATION: Lyon Hall
SUMMARY: Tompkins County 911 Center reported a person had vomited, lost consciousness and struck their head. Sergeant Kevin Noterfonzo responded. The person was transported to the hospital by ambulance.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT /
PROPERTY DAMAGE

LOCATION: M-Lot
SUMMARY: Caller reported a two car property damage motor vehicle accident. Patrol Officer Steven Hutchison responded.

SCC DISRUPTIVE /
EXCESSIVE NOISE

LOCATION: Terrace 4
SUMMARY: Caller reported people yelling. Patrol Officer Ivan Cruz responded. Cruz issued a warning to the people responsible.

OCT. 1

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION
OF MARIJUANA

LOCATION: Eastman Hall
SUMMARY: The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards

reported two people were referred for unlawful possession of marijuana. Master Security Officer Amy Noble responded to the call.

V&T NO INSURANCE

LOCATION: L-Lot
SUMMARY: Caller reported a two car property damage motor vehicle accident. Both vehicles were towed from the scene. Corporal Robert Jones responded and issued uniform traffic tickets for the Town of Ithaca court for unlicensed operation, no insurance, speed not reasonable, failure to maintain lane and no inspection.

OCT. 2

SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF
ALCOHOL/DRUGS

LOCATION: Terrace 2
SUMMARY: Tompkins County 911 Center reported a person accidentally burned their side and arm with hot water. Lieutenant Michael Nelson responded. Nelson determined the person was intoxicated. The person was transported to the hospital by ambulance and referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION
OF MARIJUANA

LOCATION: 190 College Circle
SUMMARY: The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards

reported six people were referred for possession of marijuana. Master Security Officer Amy Noble responded to the call.

WELFARE CHECK

LOCATION: 131 College Circle
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person making statements about not feeling safe. Patrol Officer Matthew Patire responded. Patire determined the person was not an imminent danger to themselves and provided assistance.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE /
INJURY RELATED

LOCATION: 180 College Circle
SUMMARY: Caller reported a person had previously injured their back and could not get up at the time of the call. Corporal Jordan Bartolis responded. The person was transported to hospital by ambulance.

OCT. 3

ACCIDENTAL PROPERTY
DAMAGE

LOCATION: Carp Wood Field
SUMMARY: Caller reported a vehicle had accidentally damaged the grass. Patrol Officer Alex Hitchcock responded. The incident was investigated and a report was completed.

SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE

LOCATION: Terrace 8
SUMMARY: Caller reported that their

package had been delivered but was no longer in the area. Patrol Officer Alex Hitchcock responded. The package had been delivered to the wrong building.

OCT. 4

SCC IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF
ALCOHOL / DRUGS

LOCATION: 190 College Circle
SUMMARY: The Tompkins County 911 Center reported a person vomiting after ingesting a marijuana edible. Patrol Officer Jon Carr responded. The person was transported to the hospital by ambulance and was referred by the officer to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

OCT. 5

FIRE ALARM UNDETERMINED
CAUSE FOR ALARM

LOCATION: Tallcott Hall
SUMMARY: Simplex reported a fire alarm. Corporal Dana Malcolm responded. Malcolm was unable to determine the cause of the alarm and was declared accidental.

KEY

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



ATTICUS JACKSON/THE ITHACAN

EDITORIALS

Affordable housing in town ensures adequate lifestyle

Ithaca's high cost of living is driven by an expensive housing market and unusually high local tax burdens that have disproportionately fallen on homeowners and renters. Major landowners like Cornell University do not pay full property taxes, leaving the extra costs to Ithaca residents.

To protect the people of Ithaca, the City and Town of Ithaca must expand affordable housing and reform tax relief to ensure local homeowners and renters pay fair prices. These exorbitant costs may drive away potential Ithaca residents, including those who would work at both Ithaca College and Cornell.

Fair Market Rent trends for Tompkins County show how quickly rent has risen relative to national averages. Though approximately 74% of Ithaca's population are renters, the FMR for a two-bedroom apartment is higher than the New York state average.

New housing developments are being built throughout Ithaca, but many of these rental units are geared towards students with short-term leases, limiting options for

non-students and working professionals.

In the City of Ithaca, 37.89% of assessed property value is exempt from property taxes, as both colleges in Ithaca are private, non-profit institutions. In 2024, the Town of Ithaca created an agreement with Cornell for a \$425,000 annual payment for the next 10 years — a small settlement compared to the university's footprint.

Due to Cornell and IC's tax-exempt status, the other property owners in Ithaca have to "make up" this lost revenue. When big institutions like Cornell University are tax-exempt, the same municipal budget has to be raised from a smaller taxable base: the people living in Ithaca. This exponentially increases rates for homeowners and small landlords, making it almost impossible to live comfortably in Ithaca.

Ithaca's leadership needs to negotiate larger, extended agreements with Cornell and IC to ensure affordable living conditions for the people of Ithaca. They must expand the affordable housing supply through development incentives to save the people of Ithaca's wallets.

Safe night life is a crucial part of IC's student culture

Student bars make up nightlife culture in almost every college town. Friday and Saturday nights are spent listening to music and dancing, with friends and strangers alike.

Moonies Bar and Nightclub, or "Moonies" to many, has long been a staple for Ithaca College students looking to party.

Lot 10 originally opened in 2012, changed owners in 2019, and reopened in 2024 under new management, adding another option for students to spend their weekend nights.

A big part of college culture is underage drinking, with many students choosing to do so at these bars. Student bars need to promote and follow safe and legal practices.

They have an obligation to keep these students safe, which means things like: monitoring overdrinking, ensuring students are getting back to campus safely and overall encouraging safe drinking habits.

One long-standing tradition for IC students is to write their name on the walls of the bathroom in Moonies right before they graduate.

The bathrooms in the nightclub hold generations of IC students, all in one place.

Students who are going out can look at the walls and see all of the students who came before them; it creates a camaraderie in students, connecting cohorts across years.

Many students look forward to the day when they get their name on the bathroom wall, forever memorialized with their friends, teammates and peers who came before them.

Though with the insurgence of students' love for Lot 10, it may be a dying dream.

The steady shift of IC students from Moonies to Lot 10 represents more than just a change in nightlife — it signals the erosion of a student-centered space that anchored social rituals, traditions and peer networks around campus.

Students and the owners of local student bars, like Moonies and Lot 10, need to act to preserve this long-standing student culture through safe, legal and inclusive means before it is lost forever.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu.

All letters must:

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

GUEST COMMENTARY

Send to ithacan@ithaca.edu.

All commentaries must:

- Be 650-750 words.
- Be written by an individual or group who has an educated opinion or is an authority on the subject.
- Be emailed or dropped off by 5 p.m. Monday in Park 220.

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

Big tech companies need to be honest about user data

SAMUEL RADCLIFFE
STUDENT

Privacy is an intrinsic part of human life. It gives us security, allows us to build trust and manage our relationships. However, as digital technologies continue to evolve, our personal privacy becomes increasingly under threat, sometimes without our knowledge.

Every day when we elect to use technology, we leave behind a digital footprint. These technologies are so deeply embedded in our daily lives that we often neglect to notice that our privacy is being compromised.

Technology truly is the kryptonite of personal privacy. We are already living in a state of digital surveillance, as digital spaces allow for the collection of vast amounts of personal information, from identifiers to financial data to biometrics.

For example, according to a Gallup survey conducted in 2019, more than one in four Americans regularly use mobile health apps or fitness trackers. A similar survey by the cybersecurity company Surfshark revealed that about 80% of top fitness apps, such as Strava, Fitbit and Runna, share user data with third parties. The types of data often collected include fitness metrics, but can extend beyond this to include personal information such as identifiers, device data and location data.

Now consider that most modern cell phones contain a GPS receiver, allowing its software to provide real-time information about the movements of an individual, resulting in a state of constant surveillance.

In most cases, our data is collected for capitalization, not for our benefit. Third-party companies use the information shared with them for profiling, risk assessment and targeted advertising, all for the purpose of generating a profit. Digital tech companies pursue profits on behalf of their shareholders. They are responsible for some of the most valuable stocks in the U.S. market. To these corporations, you are the product.

It is not about hacking your bank account anymore — it is about hacking your mind.

When we click “agree” to app agreements, website cookies or privacy policies, we are signing away our constitutionally allocated right to privacy by arbitration. Terms of service are legal agreements that often contain clauses that allow companies to collect, store and share data. Privacy policies do not protect us, they just detail the ways in which it is breached. In this way, we allow our own data to be used against us. Now, the corporations decide on our rights, not a judge or a jury.

Agreeing to these terms and conditions is voluntary, but do we really



First-year student Samuel Radcliffe outlines how, despite signed privacy policies and agreements, large technology companies continue to use, sell and buy users’ data created from everyday internet use.

MEI DENNISON/THE ITHACAN

have a choice? Digital technology is ingrained so deeply into society that in order to write ourselves out of surveillance, we almost have to write ourselves out of society itself. Moreover, sites and applications usually do not tell you if and what kind of data they are collecting. They are not up front because it is harder to opt out of

something that you do not know that you are a part of.

As consumers of technology and as participants in the digital landscape, it is important for us to ask questions beforehand and not after. Who controls the technology? For what purpose? To what end? The problem is not just that our data is collected,

but that it is often done so without our knowledge. We need to demand more transparency from the companies we trust our data with in order to safeguard our information.

Samuel Radcliffe (he/him) is a first-year TPDM major. Contact him at sradcliffe@ithaca.edu.

GUEST COMMENTARY

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

Ithaca needs to be transparent about extra parking costs

OLIVIA ASHLINE
LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER

“Dear Ithaca, why are you charging for parking on the weekends?”

This year, I vowed to take some space from the progressive, college-town culture I live in. My livelihood depends on locals buying my handmade hats, but after 10 years of rejection, judgement and unrealistic expectations, I decided to put my pennies into other communities.

Still, when a friend asked to stay at my house while she vended at Apple Harvest Festival, my financial desperation nudged me into her booth to try for some sales. That’s how I found myself downtown early one Saturday, watching parking garage attendants set up sandwich boards that read “\$10 a Day Parking.”

In many towns that host downtown festivals, parking is free. Local councils understand that easy access increases foot traffic and benefits merchants. But when parking and attending the festival myself, I saw a downtown garage putting out a sign advertising \$10 to park.

That \$10 per car could have gone to small businesses: hats, cider, meals, books. Instead, it was siphoned off by a system whose benefits are largely invisible.

The City of Ithaca’s own documents show that parking revenue is not earmarked for community reinvestment. According to the 2025 City Council Budget, the city confirms all parking fees collected and in addition to, parking revenue is

budgeted as a General Fund line item alongside items like fines and Cornell University’s Memorandum of Agreement.

While parking system expenses are budgeted at \$5 million, largely covering operations, debt and garage repairs and \$1.03 million to Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit, this is a general “Outside Agencies” line, not linked to garage fees.

The city’s official fee schedule sets a “Special Event” garage rate of \$5 per day, which can be seen in the city’s fee schedule. Yet vendors reported \$10 signage during Apple Fest, raising questions about consistency.

Nowhere in these documents is there evidence that Apple Fest garage fees — or any event parking surcharges — are directed toward downtown merchants, transit subsidies for workers or festival-related improvements.

This isn’t an argument against city revenue; it is an argument against opacity. If the city could point to examples such as 25% of Apple Fest parking revenue subsidized bus passes for downtown employees, or this weekend’s revenue funded sidewalk repairs and lighting on the Commons, I would be less frustrated.

New York City recently tested fare-free buses, causing transit conflicts to drop by nearly 40% according to NYC’s MTA DOT reports.

Imagine if Ithaca reinvested its festival parking revenue into free shuttles or mobility improvements downtown, providing festival attendees and visitors to the city a relief from driving and parking at all.

Cornell University subsidizes TCAT at



Local business owner Olivia Ashline comments on the parking prices at Apple Harvest Festival, arguing that festival parking money should be reallocated for the community.

COURTESY OF KAIT HOYT PHOTOGRAPHY

\$3.3 million annually, keeping buses frequent for students and staff. That is a real, transparent model of institutional subsidy that eases pressure on downtown parking. But when it comes to the city’s parking revenue, the lack of documentation leaves vendors and residents to assume the worst.

Instead of seeing money flow back into transit, sidewalks or merchant support, we see half-million-dollar fountains and budget lines that bury parking under “general operations.”

Ithaca should publish an annual Parking

Transparency Report. Show residents how much was collected at special events and how those dollars were spent. Earmark a portion of festival parking revenue for downtown improvements, transit subsidies or direct support to local businesses that make events possible.

Otherwise, do not charge these extra fees at all.

Olivia Ashline (she/her) is the owner of North Ferry Hats in Ithaca. Contact her at northferryhats@gmail.com.

Is chasing a night out in Ithaca worth the shot?

RYAN JOHNSON

SENIOR WRITER

Editor's Note: The student sources who are under 21 in this story are referred to using their initials to preserve their anonymity.

Ithaca — a city of about 33,000 — has the 9th most bars per capita out of every city in the U.S. If a zest for exploration hit a resident, they could go to a new bar every night for a month and would still have more to discover.

Despite the wide variety of drinking options available throughout Ithaca, drinking rates at Ithaca College have decreased since 2022, according to survey results from the National College Health Assessment. In 2022, 66.2% of students reported using alcohol in the past month. In 2025, only 54.1% of students reported using alcohol in the past month — trending less than a point above the national average.

Although alcohol consumption has decreased, many Ithaca College students still decide to go out on Fridays and Saturdays, hopping on the Route 11 bus around 10 p.m. for a free ride downtown. From Aug. 17 to Sept. 21, between 10 p.m. and 11 p.m., the Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit (TCAT) Route 11 bus recorded 1,400 riders.

As fewer people are going out and there are only a couple of bars on the commons that are less likely to catch fake IDs, I wondered what kept students going to the bars. On Sept. 26, I decided to see for myself what a night out in Ithaca looked like from the perspective of five 20-year-old Ithaca College roommates who do not shy away from a night out.

The Pregame

I met the group at an upstairs Circle Apartment at about 9:45 p.m. NG, MB and CG were out on their balcony as I rang the bell. They let me inside and showed me to their regular spot. A small side

table held MB's mixed vodka Celsius; CG's Simply Spiked Bold; 8% ABV; a near-empty bottle of Recipe 21 Premium Vodka; NG's Mike's Harder Lemonade; also 8%; and a small bag of weed. CG said the plan for the night was to go to the Commons, which meant either Moonies Bar & Nightclub or Lot 10.

CG said that before going to the bar, the group gets the cheapest mixer and liquor they can find. NG also said he makes sure he is cross-faded every time he goes out, as he continued to take hits out of his bong.

Moonies is that no one goes anymore, and if there were a bigger crowd there, she would be there every night.

The Bus

At 10:38 p.m., the roommates joined a group of about 15 at the TCAT bus stop. A full bus passed, but an empty one followed. Once they got on the bus, CG and NG opened their buzzballs and began drinking them.

Trevor Jensen, service planning and scheduling manager for TCAT, said in an interview with *The Ithacan* that when he had to drive the Route 11 bus from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.

because there is never a line before going to Lot 10.

"They never have a cover anymore," CG said. "I think Moonies is struggling. I would be shocked if they didn't close down in the next year."

Shakawat Hossain is the owner of Moonies, Level B and Hideaway in Ithaca. Hossain has owned Moonies since 2020 and said in an interview with *The Ithacan* that IC students have a lot of memories there.

"I always ask customers, especially Ithaca College students, what you guys want because [Moonies] is your place," Hossain said.

Hossain said students com-

The roommates took their drinks up to the upstairs dance floor, which was almost full. They danced for about 20 minutes as CG and NG alternated hitting the vape and sniffing poppers.

Senior Cassie Skeele was working at the upstairs bar at Lot 10 that night.

Skeele said she has been working at Lot 10 for a little over a year and said her favorite part of the job is waking up with more money in her pocket and no hangover.

"I have seen a lot of fights, drunk people getting mad and throwing drinks at each other," Skeele said. "There's a huge age range at Lot 10 [too], seeing people interacting is always interesting."

At 11:45 p.m., the Lot 10 bouncers would not let anyone else upstairs because the dance floor was at full capacity.

KR said that just like other nights, she did not have fun because Lot 10 does not play good music. On the walk to the 12:31 a.m. TCAT, CG smoked a cigarette and said she wished there were more options than Lot 10 or Moonies.

After the night ended, I met up with CG and NG again when they were sober. If the night ended in disappointment, I wondered what kept them going out week after week. CG said that since they are social people, going out is the best way to see everyone they want.

NG said the best part is sharing moments with friends and that before he starts to work, this is his last chance to let loose.

"It's just about being around my friends," NG said. "It gives us so many stories. ... A bad night out is still better than a good night in."

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"It takes the anxiety out of going out," NG said. "I need to be high before I'm drunk."

NG said he has had his fake ID since he was 15 years old, but he said he has never gotten carded in Ithaca when buying liquor. He then shared his vision of an ideal night out.

"Drink five drinks at Lot 10, go to the patio, smoke a couple joints and cigarettes," NG said. "Everyone leaves Lot 10, goes to Moonies [and then] Marrakech, always Marrakech. ... And a post-game, a post-game is the most important part of a good night out."

MB said the problem with

on Fridays and Saturdays, it drove him nuts.

"But at the same time, it's a lot of fun because you feel productive," Jensen said. "You're driving 60 to 70 people up the hill ... you're taking potential drunk drivers off the road, and you feel like you're doing something good."

Jeremiah Anderson, operations manager at TCAT, said that providing public transportation for students who are drinking during the evening is a public service to the students and the community.

After the Towers stop, the second TCAT on the route reached maximum capacity and skipped the Garden Apartments stop.

On the commons, a manager at Lot 10 was giving out half off drink tickets to students. CG grabbed one on the walk to Moonies.

Moonies

CG told the roommates that the plan was to get off the bus and go to Moonies quickly to pee

plained about the regular \$5 cover and asked him to create "power

hour deals," which are promotions on Fridays and Saturdays where students can come in at a certain time to purchase \$2 beers and mixed drinks.

Hossain said the drink promotions do not benefit sales at Moonies, but he still runs them because he cares about the college's students despite the economy.

Lot 10

The four roommates exited the bar to get in line at Lot 10 at 11:18 p.m., and ordered four lemondrop shots, two Long Island iced teas and two strawberry Surfsides for \$54. NG said they try to order as many drinks as possible early, before a bigger rush of students at the bar.



A silver anniversary for The Department of Writing

EVA LEON
ASST. LIFE & CULTURE EDITOR

This year marks the 25-year anniversary of the Bachelor of Arts in writing at Ithaca College. The department that houses the degree, however, has a history that dates back 53 years.

In 1973, six part-time English faculty decided to branch off and start their own program dedicated exclusively to writing in all its forms. This program eventually became the Department of Writing, with tenure lines and a major the department claims to be New York state’s only comprehensive B.A. in writing.

Barbara Adams, retired writing professor and founding member recounted the evolution of the writing program during her speech at the Department of Writing Silver Anniversary celebration on Oct.10.

“Those first 25 years were very genuine,” Adams said. “But it wasn’t all pretty ... there [were] ups and downs and obstacles, but it was a lot of fun.”

Adams worked with colleague Catherine Penner, retired associate professor in the Department of Writing, to write the proposal for the major and codeveloped the writing center alongside retired associate professor Miriam Brody.

Antonio DiRenzo, professor in the Department of Writing, arrived in 1990 before it officially became the Department of Writing.

He said the then faculty decided on the B.A., rather than a Bache-

lor of Fine Arts because the faculty wanted the students to remember their duties as students, professionals and citizens, as well as their role as artists when taking on the writing major. This meant not solely focusing on creative writing, but also providing practical training for students.

“People need to know that not one role defines them, not one form of writing defines them,” DiRenzo said. “You need to be multitallented. You need to be creative with your creativity.”

DiRenzo said that other schools usually only have BEAs in writing, which focus on writing exclusively as a creative and artistic practice.

Jacob White, professor and chair of the Department of Writing, emphasized the versatility that writing majors are taught to have.

“We as a department are really eager to make sure that our students are fully equipped,” White said. “For not just one specific thing, but to be able to navigate among things and to be able to navigate a landscape.”

The New Voices Festival and the Visiting Writers’ Workshop are two examples of how the department exposes students to the professional world before they graduate.

The New Voices Festival brings debut authors to campus, offering writing students a chance to work with them.

Senior Gemma Colasanti is the student leader and social media manager of the New Voices Festival. She said the opportunity to host a



From left, retired writing professor Barbara Adams joins associate professor and chair Jacob White and professor Katharyn Howd Machan at the silver anniversary of the Bachelor of Arts in writing on Oct. 10.

EVA LEON/THE ITHACAN

panel of authors and workshop with them as a student was something that stood out to her over her college career.

“Combining my love for books and writing with event planning is just something that I didn’t even think was a possibility that I could really do and make a career out of,” Colasanti said.

Senior Katya Mirsky is currently a writing intern at Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services, where she is working on marketing their 50th anniversary celebration by writing stories about people in the community getting housing through the organization.

“The internship program showed me there’s so many avenues you can go down,” Mirsky said. “I’ve [worked at] four different sites, each of them have been a different discipline within writing.”

The Department of Writing is still recovering from the effects of COVID-19 layoffs and is looking ahead to changes in the department.

White said the department wants to appeal to writing students who want to be involved in social organizing or cultural criticism and hopes to integrate more subjects from across the schools at IC in its curriculum to build on the comprehensive aspect of the major.

“We have a very, very rich curriculum, a very talented faculty to be able to always pivot and meet the needs of students, but also the institution as it changes,” DiRenzo said.

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IC students of color collaborate with Cornell groups

MILA VENTURA-RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

With 12 BIPOC-oriented organizations on the Ithaca College campus to serve a population of 1,260 students of color, IC students are finding community beyond campus. From attending parties like the Cornell Black Student Union Cookout to joining Latino-based sororities and fraternities, Ithaca College students have been finding affinity spaces among the Cornell community.

BIPOC organizations on IC’s campus are being invited to collaborate with Cornell clubs and multicultural Greek-letter organizations. Starting from around the end of the pandemic, many multicultural groups on IC’s campus began reforming and the number of these groups has only grown.

Junior Martina Brinkley Flores is the secretary for IC Poder, IC’s Latinx Student Association; the social media manager for IC’s chapter of the Association of Latino Professionals For America (ALFPA); and the social media manager for the newly founded IC Latin Ensemble. She said she came to Ithaca looking to find a Latino community after feeling isolated throughout high school.

“It’s just really scary times,” Brinkley Flores said. “Having that aspect of community and feeling safe, it’s really meaningful to me because all my friends, we all have the same fears, and being able to find that comfort that you’re not alone is really important, especially in the world we’re living in right now.”

Cornell University is holding discussions to cut funding to ALANA Intercultural Board by 30%. ALANA is an umbrella organization that provides the budgets for clubs like the BSU, Cornell Asian Pacific Student Union and the multicultural fraternities and sororities. These funding cuts would limit the operations of

groups that have made an impact not only on Cornell students, but also the experiences of the Ithaca students who engage with them.

Cornell organizations have been inviting IC groups for collaboration. The Ithaca College Musicians of Color Association (IC MOCA) held “Migration of Music” on Sept. 22, an event with the Iota Chapter of Sigma Lambda Upsilon from Cornell.

Senior Jazmen Robinson and sophomore Heather Cruz are members of the executive board for IC MOCA and helped run the collaboration of organizations.

“The event was about the migration of music in POC communities in the U.S.,” Cruz said. “And [the Iota sisters] just thought it would be a really good fit to collaborate with the Musicians of Color Association, since we’re a music-based org, and especially because they’re ... a Latina-based org.”

Robinson said that the event was a great way to give representation to different cultures in a way that the music classes at IC do not offer.

“We didn’t have the big outcome, but we all found each other having a deep conversation about where ... our music roots come from,” Robinson said. “Your grandmother in the kitchen or your mother cleaning up in the morning on Sundays?” Those key memories mattered.”

Outside of the executive board of IC organizations, students have discovered information about Cornell’s organizations through word of mouth.

Junior Marian Sanchez is a member of IC ALPFA, and part of Lambda Pi Chi at Cornell. After a lonely first year at Ithaca College, adjusting to her new environment after growing up surrounded by Latino-American culture, Sanchez said she was pointed to various Latino organizations by a friend.



From left, junior Martina Brinkley Flores is part of Sabor Latin Dance Ensemble at Cornell and junior Marian Sanchez belongs to the Cornell chapter of Lambda Pi Chi.

EVA LEON/THE ITHACAN

“For me, one of the events that caught my attention was something in my culture, Dia de los Muertos,” Sanchez said. “They had an event [at Cornell] ... and they had homemade bread ... something that you can’t find here in Ithaca. So I think a lot of people are searching for that because ... you can’t really find a lot of things from your culture [in Ithaca].”

As of 2023, 63% of the student population of Ithaca is White and 71.8% of the student population of IC is White, compared to the percentage of White residents of all of New York state, which is less than 36%. Robinson, Sanchez and Brinkley Flores all described how students of color come to IC and face a disarming distance from the cultures they grew up in.

Students do not have to go to Cornell to

participate in events. IC student organizations have hosted their own events, which Cornell students have attended, or Cornell students have come to IC themselves to connect.

Robinson said the IC and Cornell collaborations create networks for students and spaces for debates and exchanges of experience among students.

“[IC is] a smaller school, but it also has different perks to it,” Robinson said. “I think it’s a very loving, very kind, very welcoming community. ... For all those people of color to all come together in Ithaca and not just be so separated, I think that matters. And we also get a side of what their life is like on the other side of the hill.”

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THE

QUEUE

Commentary from
The Ithacan's
culture critics

“ STYLISTIC
OPAQUENESS ”

“ANEMONE”
★★★★☆

“ UPS THE HUMOR
AND HEART ”

“ROOFMAN”
★★★★★

FIVE STAR
MOVIES FOR
SEASONAL SCARES



Day-Lewis’ ‘Anemone’ gets lost in its own darkness

SOFIA FITZGERALD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It has been eight years since Daniel Day-Lewis made an appearance on the big screen. When he announced his retirement in 2017 after his leading role in Paul Thomas Anderson’s “Phantom Thread,” the film world wondered if we had seen the last of the legendary actor.

Released Oct. 3, “Anemone,” a psychological drama, marks not only the celebrated return of Daniel, but also the directorial debut of his son, Ronan, featuring a script the duo wrote together.

Though no doubt a meaty concept and rich in narrative potential, “Anemone” bites off more than it can chew. The two-hour drama attempts to juggle overlapping themes of absolution, piety, generational patterns, religious trauma, brotherhood and the lasting

impact of war on the human psyche. All the while, it maintains a stylistic opaqueness that ultimately clouds the viewing experience. The film does not quite seem to know what it is, and the audience is left even more clueless.

From the film’s beginning, director Ronan establishes himself as an artist. The first-time director pulls from his extensive background in the arts to blend the versatile mediums of painting and filmmaking.

Less intelligible are the abstract, almost mythological figures that insert themselves at erratic moments throughout the film.

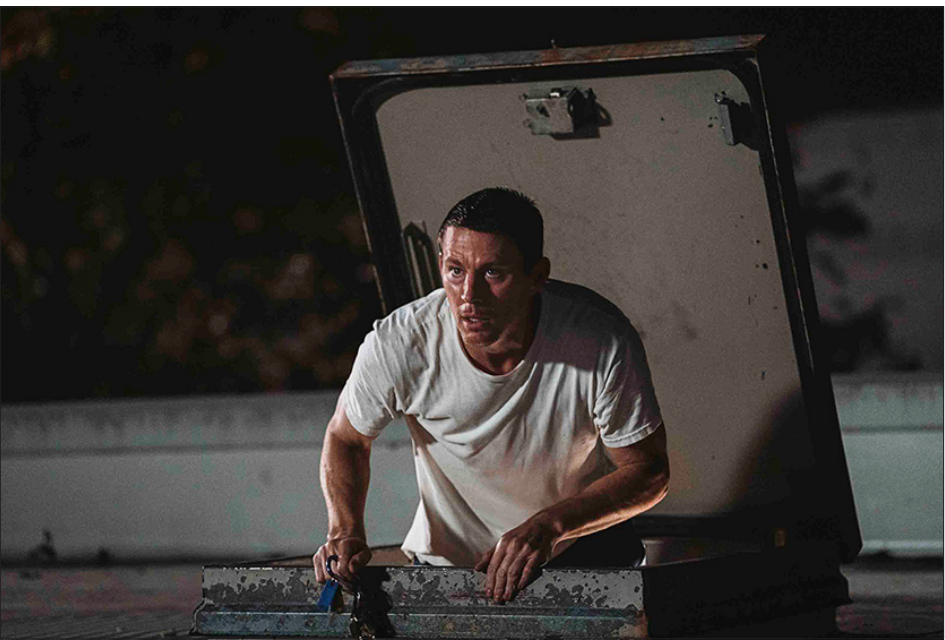
“Anemone” is ultimately let down by its incongruous composition. Elements that would be impressive standing alone clash with each other, and the images that are captivating to look at are poorly supported by the threadbare plot and ambiguous symbolism.

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FOCUS FEATURES/TNS

‘Roofman’ adds sentimentality to the true crime genre



DAVI RUSSO/PARAMOUNT PICTURES/TNS

RILEY YOUNG
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With a modern trend of true crime stories — films, television shows, podcasts and more — sweeping entertainment, “Roofman,” released Oct. 10, stands out with its charm, sensitivity and grace. While most true crime stories glamorize the violence and trauma victims go through, “Roofman” ups the humor and heart, leaving the audience emotional and touched.

Based on an unbelievable true story, the film follows Jeffrey Manchester (Channing Tatum), who begins the film by robbing a McDonald’s to support his family by drilling holes into the ceiling, leading the police and the public to give him the nickname “Roofman.”

Tatum gives the best performance of his career as Manchester. Selling his charisma to both the characters in the film and to the

audience through his narration, it is impossible to not feel sympathy for his character.

The film’s use of camera work is nothing short of extraordinary. Close-ups are used to highlight the stress Manchester is constantly feeling. The slow zoom-ins build intensity and intrigue, and the editing throughout is fluid and helps the film’s pacing. The grainy texture from the 35mm it was shot on helps create the 2000s setting and adds to the realism.

The credits at the end of the film show real footage of the news discussing the events of the film and interviews with the people part of the story, adding a sense of closure and helping the audience remember that the film is based on real events. “Roofman” is one of the best films of the year so far, a hidden gem that stays with you long after the credits roll.

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LIFE & CULTURE’S SPOOKY SEASON RECOMMENDATIONS





WARNER BROS

‘THE EXORCIST’

“The Exorcist” is a classic horror movie that completely changed the genre. Not only does it have a bunch of iconic scares and scenes, but it is a great film from top to bottom. Recommended by Staff Writer Brian Murray.



DIMENSION FILMS

‘SCREAM’

“Scream” is a top-tier spooky movie. One of the best murder mysteries from the ’90s. Wes Craven created a cult classic for the Halloween season. Recommended by Staff Writer Abbi Puckett.



CLAUDETTE BARIUS/UNIVERSAL PICTURES

‘US’

The comedically terrifying movie “Us” has the audience contemplating everything around them in the best — and scariest — ways. Recommended by Sheelagh Doe, Life & Culture Editor.

DIVERSIONS



CROSSWORD



BY QUILL DRIVER BOOKS

- ACROSS**

1 “The Spy Next —”

5 Blood giver

10 Male deer

14Taj Mahal location

15 Sidestep

16 Healthy

17 Hoover Dam lake

18 Father

19 Stir up

20 Sea bird

22 Sunday dinner item

24 Nosebag filler

25 Philly Ivy League school

26Thin pancake

28 Get lazy (2 wds.)

32 “Lara Croft: Tomb —”

33 Cipher

34 Eau-de- —

35 Plus

36 Short-lived craze

37 Paved way (abbr.)

38 Hang down

39 Slender

41 Asserted

44 Enjoyable

46 Spud

47 Strong wind

48 Not common

49 Cold-weather wear

51 Burst inward

55 Opening

56 Interlace

59 Home goods giant

60 Diner fare

61 Pertaining to birds

61 Periods

63 — Kett of old
- DOWN**

1 Not completely dry

2 Pointed arch

3 Spoken

4 Used a walkie-talkie

5 Arguer

6 Baking chambers

7 Old horse

8 “— to Billie Joe”

9 Old tire made new

10 Shriveled

11 Town in New Mexico

12 Dismounted

13 Mousse

21 — Canaveral

23 A single time

25Trudge

26 Waterway

27 Raised line

28 Hard to come by

29 Elliptical

30 Wallet item

31 Manager contents

32 Coarse file

36 Penalty

39 Old Russian ruler

40 Partial

41 Parts of a flower

42 Waterproof cover

43 Artist's studio

45 Mystery writer — Agatha Christie

48 Challenger

49 Chair back part

50 Expensive

52 Gumbo ingre-
dient

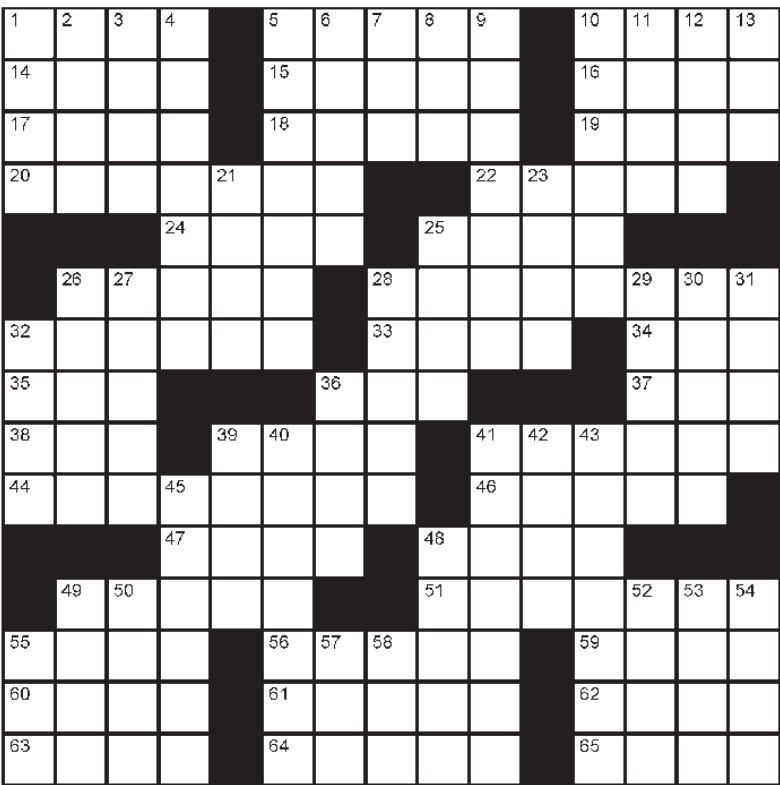
53 College VIP

54 “— of Eden”

55That woman

57 First woman

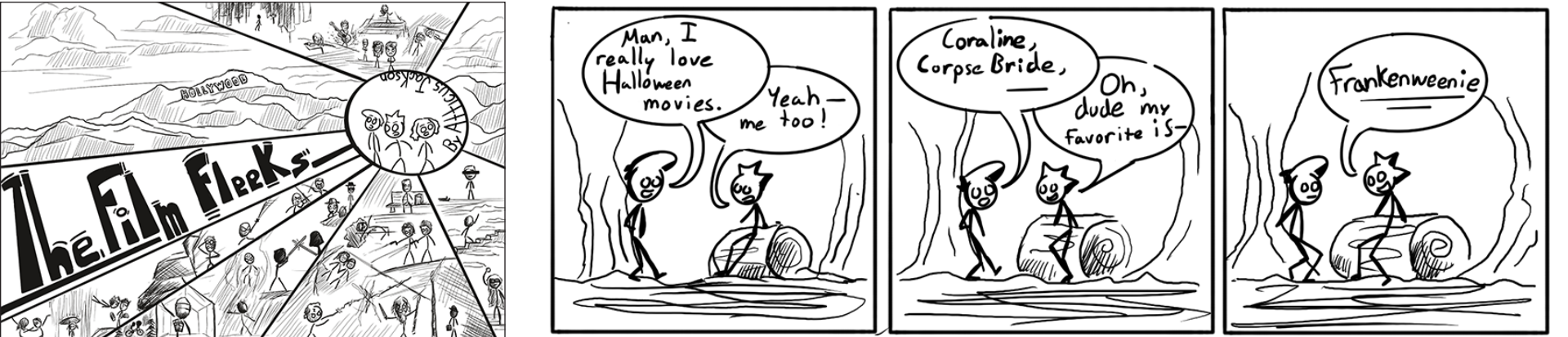
58 Trouble



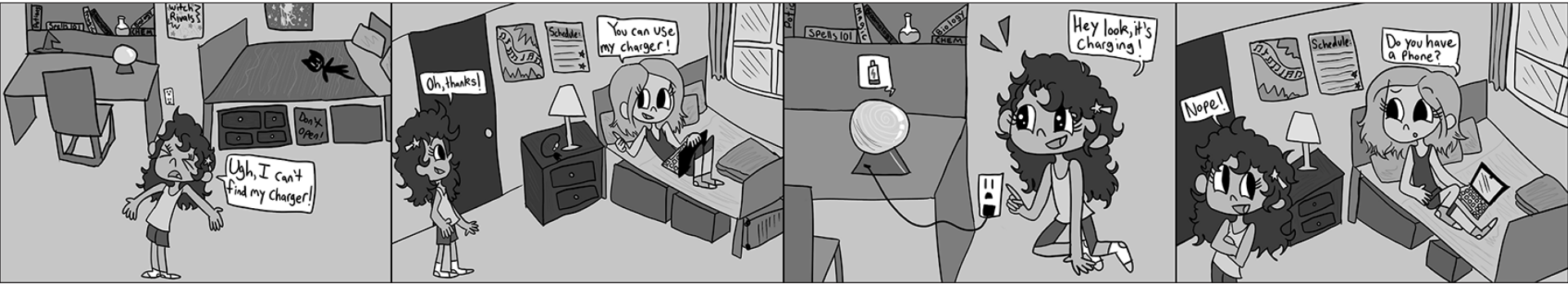
LOOKING FOR PUZZLE ANSWERS?

Check out the answers to our crossword and sudoku puzzles at theithacan.org/games

THE FILM FLEKS • BY ATTICUS JACKSON/THE ITHACAN



MY ROOMMATE IS A WITCH • BY KENDALL STRAND/THE ITHACAN



SOMEWHERE IN CAYUGA LAKE • BY JULIA HARGREAVES/THE ITHACAN



SUDOKU

1

9

5

8

4

3

2

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The Sudoku Source of "The Ithacan".

VERY EASY										MEDIUM									
			9		5		8		2	6				1					
1	5		8		2		9			7			3			6			5
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SPORTS



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

13

Ithaca derby scene rolls toward new horizons

ISABELLA MCSWEENEY

SPORTS EDITOR

To newcomers, Ithaca is known for Cayuga Lake, gorges and the annual Apple Harvest Festival. Few realize that it is a hotbed for the local roller derby scene, which will be expanding this winter with the start of satellite practices for Rochester's Flour City Fear.

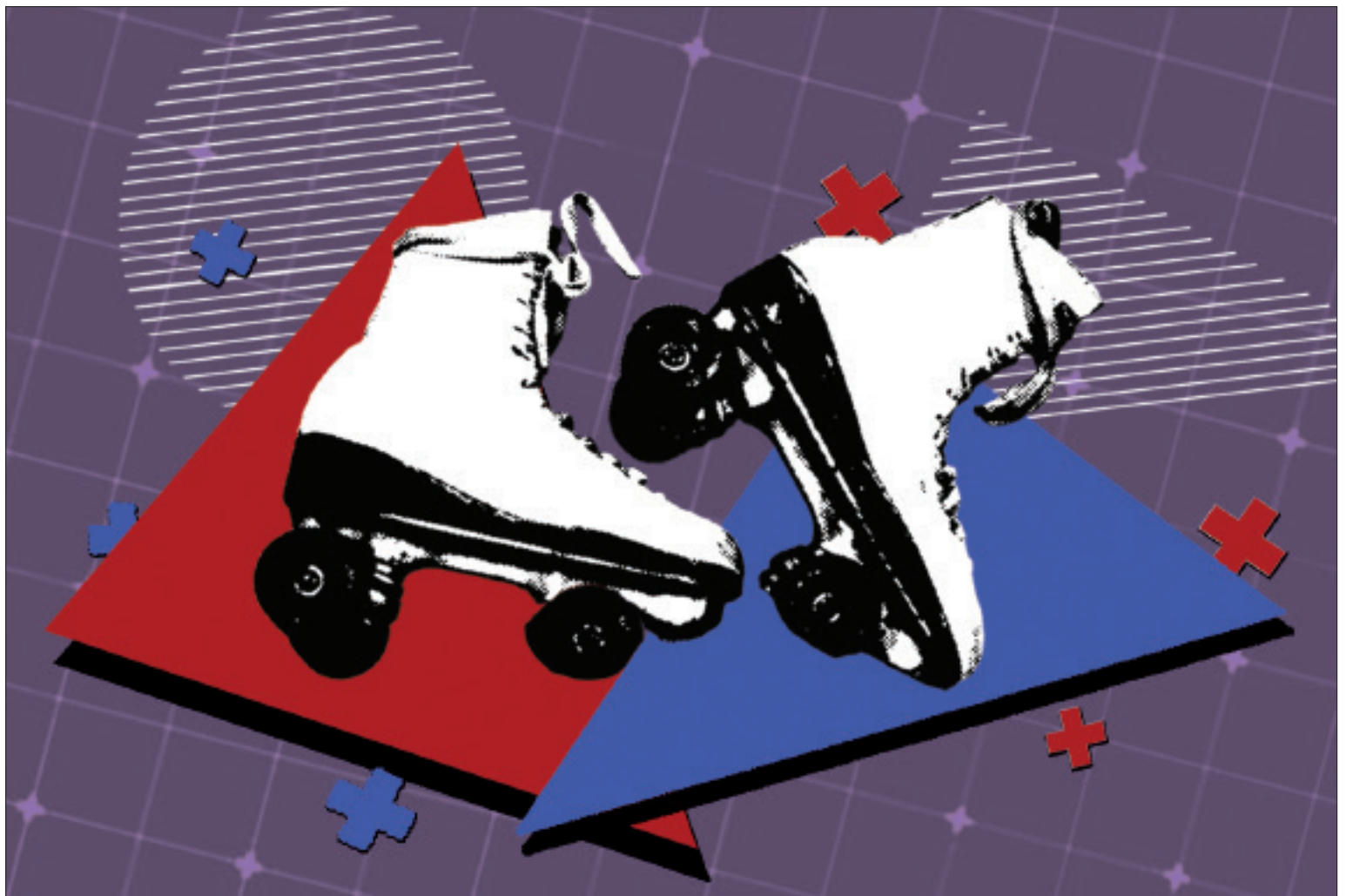
The Ithaca League of Women Rollers (ILWR), which was established in 2008, is made up of two teams: the SufferJets and the BlueStockings. ILWR is a member of the Women's Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA), which governs 443 leagues in 31 countries. Rochester, Syracuse and Elmira boast similar teams. Western New York is also home to the Rust Cup, a competition hosted by Jamestown Skate Products for transgender, non-binary and women skaters.

Apart from the WFTDA, there are 55 active open-gender leagues throughout North America, Europe and Australia under the Men's Roller Derby Association (MRDA). Rochester is home to Flour City Fear, which held an interest event Oct. 1 for satellite practices in Ithaca.

The practices are being led by Juliana Garcia, who was introduced to Ithaca Roller Derby during her senior year at Cornell University. Garcia transferred to Rochester's WFTDA team and joined Flour City Fear in 2024 after a friend recommended MRDA to "reignite the roller derby passion."

A driving force behind the satellite practices is commutes. Garcia said many Flour City Fear members are based outside of Rochester, with some driving as much as three and a half hours each way for biweekly practices. Garcia said timing was important as well, with Flour City in the middle of a rebuild.

"We had lost some members, so we were brainstorming — how do we build up membership?" Garcia said. "It sucked, because I know so many people in Ithaca who want to play, but no one wants to drive that far. And I was like, 'Wait, why haven't I thought of [satellite practices] sooner?'"



The SufferJets and BlueStockings are navigating venue changes after their lease ended with The Shops in late 2024. Rochester-based Flour City Fear, an open-gender league under the Men's Roller Derby Association, hosted an interest meeting for satellite practices in Ithaca on Oct. 1.

JERSEY ILLUSTRATIONS BY ISABELLA MCSWEENEY, PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MARISSA MOSCHELLA/THE ITHACAN

Satellite practices also mean that the Ithaca group can lean on existing Flour City Fear programs and leadership.

"Starting a whole league is really challenging," Garcia said. "It's incredibly costly, and a huge time suck, so it's nice to already have something that's preestablished. [Flour City] has their board, so we're gonna join up with them and hopefully help contribute to the league."

The sense of community is also strong in the ILWR. Sara Ryan, public relations chair for the ILWR, said that they are very close with neighboring leagues. Members can join up to two WFTDA leagues and cross-team communication is encouraged.

"A lot of people will drop in on [Elmira and Syracuse's] practices just to get more skate time," Ryan said. "I recently played a game with Elmira because they needed extra skaters — it's a community of helping each other out and playing a fun sport as much as we can."

Finding a place to practice has been a challenge for both Flour City Fear and ILWR. The ILWR moved to The Shops in 2023, but a steep hike in rent forced them to find a new space when their lease was up. Since then, they have been splitting time between Ithaca and Watkins Glen.

"It gets a little complicated with managing all the different locations and coordinating that,

but our training committee [has] a pretty good sign-up system now," Ryan said. "We're making it work."

Ithaca College junior Jett Sofko said while it has been weird practicing with the ILWR in basketball gyms and in areas outside of Ithaca, it has had its advantages.

"The floor [at The Shops] was horrible, so I'm kind of happy to be out of that space," Sofko said. "[I'm also] kind of upset because there were locker rooms and you could have your own private stall."

In the summer, the team hosts some practices at Cass Park in Ithaca, but the venue gets iced over as soon as hockey season starts. Because of that, Ryan said the team has made previously optional CrossFit practices mandatory in place of regular skating drills. Members work closely with an instructor who designs workouts around explosive motion, lower body and core.

"It's newer-ish, but it's been really good for us," Ryan said. "We've seen a lot of overall strength gain from the team."

The off-season also marks an essential time to train new members. ILWR encourages people of all skill levels to join their New Skaters Assembly, with skater orientation starting Oct. 16. Ryan said this is a major change from when she joined the league in 2022 during its post-COVID rebuild.

"When I started, it was just 'show up and figure it out,'" Ryan said. "Now we do new skater assemblies twice a year. It's a 12-week long program where we can take people from no previous skating history to playing roller derby by the end of it."

As PR chair, Ryan promotes New Skater Assembly through the league's website, social media and word of mouth. Garcia has begun a similar

process, posting about Flour City Fear's meet and greet on Facebook and local websites like Visit Ithaca.

Although they will be sharing the same space, Garcia believes there will be little overlap or competition between the two leagues.

"It's a different vibe," Garcia said. "If we were starting another WFTDA team, that would be a pretty serious no-no, but since it's a completely different organization, and it's open gender ... there's not a huge issue."

Ryan said that while it is still early in the process, with Flour City Fear yet to hold an official satellite practice, the ILWR's PR committee is talking about connecting with them for events.

The WFTDA and MRDA have a history of collaboration. They came together in 2014 to form a Memorandum of Understanding regarding rules development, safety guidelines and official certifications, before WFTDA decided to part ways in 2019. Restrictions against cross-organization chartering were removed in 2023.

Derby is centered around community. Sofko said members of the ILWR often have team bonding events, including "soup nights" at Ryan's home. After practices, members also congregate at Personal Best Brewing in downtown Ithaca.

"One of our roller derby players, Pound Dog, works there, so we have an in," Sofko said. "Everyone is so nice and friendly. You know group projects or gym assignments where you have to get partnered up with somebody, and you have to make sure your friends aren't taken yet? You don't do that with roller derby. You're like, 'You're free? Let's go.' [There is] no awkwardness."



Members of Flour City Fear compete in a bout. The team travels throughout the Northeast to compete, before returning to Rochester for biweekly practices. Members commute from hours away to participate.

COURTESY OF WIK'S PIX/JAMIE FILSON

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Junior sets up strong start for record-breaking career

LYLA DORAN

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Ithaca College volleyball junior setter Wesley Slavin made history on the court. As of Oct. 11, Slavin has recorded 2,096 career assists, which currently places her in the top nine for assists all-time in IC volleyball history. Compared to the more than 400 games the others on the assist leaderboard have competed in, Slavin has only played 218 games.

Slavin joined the team as a first-year student in 2023, out of Tamalpais High School in Mill Valley, California. She was voted MVP twice and was a two-time captain during her time at the school.

Her style of play helps her be an exceptional player for the Bombers. She said she likes her sets to confuse the other team.

“I like to say that I’m a super strategic setter,” Slavin said. “I reverse the flow ... where the ball is going one way, I’ll turn it the other way to kind of mess with the block.”

Slavin made her college debut as a first-year student against New York University and became a powerhouse for the Bombers. She ended the 2023 season with 564 assists, averaging 8.55 per set, placing her first among Liberty League players. During the 2024 season, she became even more dominant. She earned 925 assists across 29 games, averaging 9.95 per set, which put her 22nd in NCAA D-III.

Slavin was recognized throughout the Liberty League. In 2024, she was

named All-Liberty League First Team, AVCA Region III Player of the Year, AVCA Second Team All-American and Liberty League Player of the Year, all as a sophomore.

Slavin’s teammate, junior outside hitter Gabriela Gonzalez-Abreu, described her as one of her best friends. With Gonzalez-Abreu being an outside hitter for the Bombers, many of her kills come from Slavin’s assists.

“It’s easy to get sucked into setting one person or being predictable,” Abreu said. “She splits it up. She’s very good at being creative the way she plays.”

Slavin said her position as a setter means she frequently has to make quick decisions.

“I really trust [whichever hitter] I’m going [to] and if someone’s doing especially well, then I’ll continue to feed them and then I’ll switch it up to get [the opponent] confused,” Slavin said.

Head coach Tara Stilwell ’19, a former libero/defensive specialist for the Bombers from 2015-18, has also enjoyed time at the top of Ithaca’s statistical leaderboard. Stilwell is currently tied for all-time digs at 1,683 in 349 games. Stilwell said she gives much of the credit to Slavin for her achievement on the court.

“A lot of people who are currently in the record book from the 80s to the 2000s would play upwards of 40 to 60 matches a year,” Stilwell said. “On a good year, we play 35, so that’s where the imbalance comes from. It’s almost harder for a setter to get on the record board



Junior setter Wesley Slavin recorded 2,000 career assists Oct. 7, making her the ninth to do so in program history. Slavin has been an essential part of the team’s dominant 14-3 season record.

EMMI CHEN/THE ITHACAN

in the Hall of Fame ... just props to her.”

Slavin said Stilwell has had a huge impact on her career and taught her that having fun is a critical part of the game.

“She has been the most positive impact coach I’ve ever experienced,” Slavin said.

Slavin described the setter position as the quarterback position of the court. She makes important decisions for the entire team and calls the plays. The setter decides where

the ball is going to go on offense. Without a good assist, a hitter can’t get a kill, which earns the team points. Setters almost always get the second ball, the bridge between the defense and the offense. Slavin said her positive chemistry with her teammates, especially her hitters, has shaped her as a player.

“It’s a stressful role, but I feel as though I’ve come into it well and approached it well, and it’s been great,” Slavin said. “[My team] made my job incredibly easy.”

Slavin is currently in the midst of her junior-year season and is already one of the Bombers’ most influential players in program history. Stilwell said Slavin is an essential part of the team.

“She just runs the court so well. It’s hard to find a setter that can get her hands on that much and put us in a really good place,” Stilwell said. “And that makes a world of difference for our hitters.”

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Local first-year marks latest add to multi sport legacy

JOHN FRIEDERS

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For first-year student Raya Mount, joining the Ithaca College cross-country team was not part of the plan.

Growing up in nearby Trumansburg, Mount never imagined herself pursuing running after high school. Track served as a spring sport that kept her in shape and provided her with another competitive outlet, but her athletic life had always centered around basketball and soccer. Running was a side activity and a means to an end for her.

When choosing schools, Mount said that sports were not a consideration at all.

“I actually didn’t apply to any other schools,” Mount said. “I wasn’t planning on running here either. It was just because of the OT [Occupational Therapy] program, and during my track season, my coach was like, ‘Hey, do you want me to reach out to the coach there?’”

That casual remark opened up an opportunity she did not know existed. Mount was getting ready to graduate by the late spring of her senior year, with occupational therapy education taking precedence over her athletic aspirations. However, she was referred to Erin Dinan, head coach of the IC women’s cross-country team, by her high school coach, Bryce DeSantis.

DeSantis set up a phone call between Mount and Dinan to test the waters. Mount said she was nervous for the conversation, but Dinan was welcoming when asking if she wanted to give cross-country a try.

Dinan saw this as more than simply a chance to develop talent. She had previously witnessed individuals like Mount — multisport athletes with natural endurance, athleticism and a desire to learn — who had not dedicated years to cross-country.

“It’s very exciting for me to see somebody who is new at it,” Dinan said. “There’s untapped talent there.”

Mount gained recognition for her adaptability in Trumansburg, a small town about 15 miles north of Ithaca. Soccer was in the fall; basketball was in the winter. In spring, Mount started to discover she might be more of a runner than she thought.

“She had a great senior track season, and I thought, ‘You know what, she could run at IC,’” DeSantis said. “She’s determined. You put some miles on her, and all of a sudden she’s going to be a different runner.”

Mount’s transition into year-round running began in August, when she arrived on South Hill for preseason. IC athletes reported early, giving first-years like Mount a crash course in training before the rest of campus filled with students.

Running was not all there was to it. Early morning drills, lengthy runs on the Ithaca-area trails and group dinners in the dining hall were all part of the program. The adjustment was still a difficult one for a first-year student who never saw herself as a distance runner. Mount discovered that the feeling of belonging gave her a surge of energy and quiet confidence.

“She just loves it,” Dinan said. “You wouldn’t have ever known she had never run cross-country before. She fell right in, and that speaks a lot about her.”

Part of that ease came from her personality. Both coaches described Mount as grounded. That outlook has helped her adapt to training loads that would have seemed impossible just a year ago.

For decades, Ithaca College’s cross-country program has thrived on athletes like Mount. Dinan, now in her 19th year with the team, has built a culture of consistency, leading the Bombers to 14 Empire 8 championships. Yet what makes her program unique is the balance



First-year runner Raya Mount, who is from Trumansburg, was recommended by her high school track coach to join the Ithaca College women’s cross-country team.

LUCIA IANDOLO/THE ITHACAN

between development and results.

Some runners arrive with state titles and mileage logs dating back to middle school. Others, like Mount, come with limited experience but a hunger to improve. The team’s structure, Dinan said, allows both types to flourish.

“It’s about seeing what they can become,” Dinan said. “With Raya, there’s excitement because we don’t know where her ceiling is yet.”

The team saw another similar addition this year with junior Lola Gitlin. Gitlin transferred in Spring 2024 from Long Island University, with plans to join the soccer team. After arriving at IC, however, she made the switch to cross-country.

During the 2015 season, the Bombers made it to the NCAA Championships. Dinan said around half of her roster that year was composed of athletes who had not started

running cross-country until college. She said that runners have had backgrounds in gymnastics, soccer and basketball. Parley Hannan ’21 played on the tennis team her sophomore year before switching to long-distance running. She was named the 5,000-meter and 10,000-meter run national champion in 2021.

Where Mount’s career goes from here is uncertain, but the possibilities are intriguing. As she adjusts to the demands of a college training schedule and builds the mileage she lacked in high school, her potential expands. Dinan said she knows that patience will be key, but she is excited to see what unfolds.

“She has all the pieces,” Dinan said. “It’s just about putting them together.”

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THE

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BUZZER

THE ITHACAN'S BREAKDOWN OF ITHACA COLLEGE'S WEEK IN SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

NICHOLAS LANG/FOOTBALL



The Bombers extended their winning streak to five as the offense ignited, led through the air by junior wide receiver Nicholas Lang. Lang hauled in 14 receptions for 145 yards and two scores in the 24-7 victory over St. Lawrence on Oct. 11.

ERIN SOLTANO/THE ITHACAN

COMPETITION OF THE WEEK

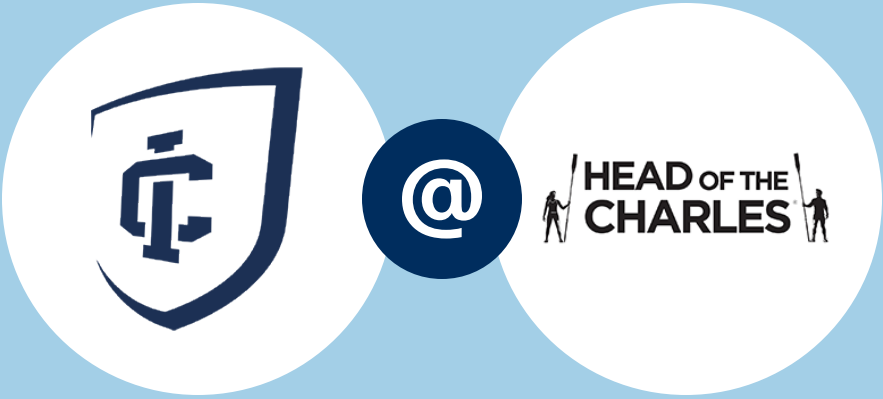
FIELD HOCKEY VS. ROCHESTER



Field hockey celebrated the life of former Bomber Kyra Feick with a 1-0 win over the University of Rochester. The winning goal came from junior midfielder Audrey McMahon, marking the Bombers' second ranked win of the season.

ABIGAIL CHESMAN/THE ITHACAN

EVENT TO WATCH



10 A.M. OCT. 19 AT HEAD OF THE CHARLES

The Ithaca College women's rowing and sculling teams will head to Cambridge, Massachusetts to compete in the 60th annual Head of the Charles Regatta. The Bombers finished the collegiate women's eights with a time of 18:02.830 last year, ranking 13th out of 34 and leading the Liberty League. The Head of the Charles is the largest three-day regatta in the world, with 11,000 athletes traveling from around the world to compete.

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MORE UPCOMING COMPETITIONS

FIELD HOCKEY: 4 p.m. Oct. 17 vs. St. Lawrence University at Higgins Stadium

SWIMMING AND DIVING: 1 p.m. Oct. 18 vs. University of Scranton and Hartwick College at Kelsey Bird Natatorium

VOLLEYBALL: 2 p.m. Oct. 18 vs. Lawrence University at the Ben Light Gymnasium

WOMEN'S SOCCER: 3:30 p.m. Oct. 21 vs. Rochester Institute of Technology at Carp Wood Field



First-year student Daivat Mehta snaps a photo with Ember, the llama, Oct. 14 on the Academic Quad during the Paws on the Lawn event. The event is hosted by the Ithaca College Library, which periodically invites llamas and dogs through Cornell Companions as an opportunity for students to de-stress during midterms.

SOFIA STERBENK/THE ITHACAN