Terminated employees’ children to maintain full tuition benefits

BY CAITLIN HOLTMAN

Ithaca College announced April 14 that terminated employees who have a dependent enrolled at the college will continue to receive full tuition benefits for the duration of the students’ enrollment, not exceeding eight semesters.

La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, and Hayley Harris, vice president for human resources and planning, made the announcement in a letter to the faculty. The letter was in response to a resolution from the Humanities and Sciences (H&S) Faculty Senate requesting support for faculty and staff terminated as part of the Academic Program Prioritization (APP).

Students with parents employed full time by the college are eligible for dependent tuition remission. Tuition remission is a benefit available to employees, dependent children and spouses or domestic partners. Benefits only extend to tuition, leaving room and board and other fees up to the employee. Full-time dependents who qualify for tuition remission may take between 12 and 18 credit hours per semester and up to 14 credit hours total.

The current policy for tuition remission states that benefits continue through May 31 of the following academic year after the employee’s termination. The April 14 letter also stated that terminated faculty will retain access to Netpass, email and library privileges for 12 months following their termination date. Terminated employees will also have access to job search and retraining assistance through Express Employment Professionals and WorkforceNY free of charge.

The bill, called the “Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act,” allows for the possession of up to three ounces of marijuana for recreational purposes. Cornell University, Tompkins Cortland Community College and Ithaca College are maintaining their policies prohibiting marijuana. Because Ithaca College, like many colleges in the state, receives funding from the federal government, which still classifies marijuana as an illegal substance, marijuana is not permitted on campus. Even medical marijuana, which has health benefits like reducing chronic pain and seizures, is illegal on campus.

Katie Newcomb, assistant director of the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, said the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) requires federally funded schools to not only comply with the federal legalization of marijuana and other drugs but also to run a drug and alcohol abuse prevention program.

Newcomb said that additionally, recreational marijuana is only legal for adults over 21 years old. Most of the college’s student body is under 21, meaning that even if the school were to legalize it, it would still be illegal for most students to consume, similar to alcohol.

The bill treats the consumption of marijuana like cigarettes, allowing for smoking in public like walking down the street. However, wherever there are restrictions on cigarettes, there are also restrictions on smoking marijuana. Municipalities have until Dec. 31 to pass a law prohibiting the opening of dispensaries, but they cannot opt out of the legalization of marijuana. Legal sales of marijuana will likely start in 2022.

Sophomore Andres Rendon said after years of rallies in its favor, the bill was able to legalize it, it would still be illegal for most students to consume, similar to alcohol.
Plastics increase due to protocols

By Bridget Hagen

When Ithaca College senior Abigail Begum noticed the single-use plastics in the dining halls this semester, she said she thought the movement to use less plastic had been forgotten because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the past, Dining Services gave students reusable plates, cups and metal silverware in the dining halls. However, dining staff cannot wash those items anymore because of COVID-19 precautions.

Students now get single-use plastic utensils, which are not compostable or recyclable, and plastic cups, which are compostable and recyclable, at the dining halls.

“Before COVID, we tried to be as environmentally friendly as possible,” Scott McWilliams, director of Dining Services, said. This year, Dining Services has purchased approximately 159,250 plastic knives, 43,000 forks and 47,000 spoons.

He said Dining Services’ goal is still to source as many sustainable plastic alternatives as it can.

Worldwide, 300 million tons of plastic waste are produced annually, with single-use plastics accounting for half of that, according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for flexible packaging, which includes single-use plastics, has increased by approximately 4–5% in the United States.

Susan Allen, professor in the Department of Environmental Studies and Science, said students could bring their own silverware instead of taking the plastic utensil kits to reduce plastic waste.

“We’re doing everything we can to prevent the spread of COVID,” she said. “That’s great. I’m all for it, but it doesn’t necessarily mean that we have to use single-use plastics. We can just provide our own.”

McWilliams said students could bring their own silverware with them to the dining hall and wash it themselves after they leave. Students could bring their own beverages, he said, but to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the dining hall staff cannot fill students’ own cups or water bottles for them.

Rebecca Evans, campus sustainability coordinator for the Office of Energy Management and Sustainability, said she would usually recommend that students eat in the dining halls in order to decrease their waste on campus.

In the dining halls, students avoid extra packaging by receiving their food in reusable plastic containers, despite the single-use utensils. Restaurants often give customers their takeaway food in disposable cardboard boxes and plastic bags and with single-use plastic silverware, Evans said.

She said food packaging in grocery stores also amounts to a lot of waste.

“I think that the dining hall is actually still the best bet,” Evans said.

Freshman Haley Bracken said she does not take the single-use utensils when she picks up food from retail dining options like Ithaca Bakery. She said she typically brings those meals back to her room where she has her own silverware.

“We already get the containers,” she said. “Why not use reusable utensils?”

Contact Bridget Hagen

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IC Creatives: Kellie Swensen
Junior Kellie Swensen, artist and sociology student, shares their artwork and belief in the power of art to inspire social change.

How IC Sports
Women’s Track & Field Pole Vaulter Juliann Terry
Hosts Kaitlin Maniscalco and Gabby Lacconca sit down with senior Juliann Terry to learn about pole vaulting and Terry’s transition from gymnastics to track and field.

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Gender studies major to begin in fall

**BY ALEXIS MANORE**

After years of progress and development, the Ithaca College Women's and Gender Studies (WGST) program will offer a new major in women's, gender and sexuality studies (WGSS) in Fall 2021.

The Women's Studies program was established in 1995 and was changed to Women's and Gender Studies (WGST) in 2014. Currently, it is only offered as a minor. It is an interdisciplinary program made up of classes and professors from all five schools that explores the way that women and gender as categories of analysis intersect with race, class and sexuality.

Claire Gleitman, professor in the Department of English and coordinator for the WGST program, said the program has grown to be the third largest interdisciplinary minor at the college.

“I’m delighted that there will be a WGSS major as of Fall 2021,” she said via email. “We hadn’t planned that the process would move along as swiftly as it did, but we weren’t sure that it would.”

She said the hiring of more designated WGST faculty members, including Kasia Bartoszyńska, assistant professor in the Department of English and the WGST program, and Natasha Bharj, assistant professor in the Department of Psychology and the WGST program, were crucial in making the major possible.

Carla Golden, professor emeritus and former coordinator for the WGST program, said Bartoszyńska and Bharj’s appointments to the program are significant because the program draws its other faculty from other departments.

Bartoszyńska said she was thrilled by the approval of the WGSS major.

“Since coming to IC, I’ve been so excited and impressed by our students and their enthusiasm for, and commitment to, the program and the work that we do,” she said via email. “It has long been a popular minor, but the shift to a major will allow students to pursue their studies in more depth.”

Gleitman said Golden was also key in the formation of the WGSS major.

Golden said she and Gleitman worked together on a proposal for the new major to submit to the New York State Education Department in Spring 2020 and throughout the summer, and submitted it in Fall 2020. The department must review, approve and register every program that is creditable toward a degree at colleges and universities in New York state.

“I think it’s fantastic,” Golden said. “It will bring Ithaca College into the 21st century. Every school ought to have a women’s gender and sexuality studies program, especially Ithaca, which is such a progressive school.”

Sophomore Sara Ostermeier currently has a minor in WGST. She said that the WGST classes cover engaging material and that she intends to add the WGSS major in the fall.

“There are so many people who are interested in the subject in general, that I think it’s a really good move to have a major for this,” she said. “I think it’s the kind of major that’s perfect for Ithaca College. … It matches who the college is.”

**CONTACT ALEXIS MANORE**

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IC launches new program

**BY ALEXIS MANORE**

Ithaca College has received approval to launch its Master of Science in physician’s assistant (PA) studies, which will admit students beginning in Fall 2021.

President Shirley M. Collado and La Jerne Cornish, provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, said in an April 13 announcement that the program has received provisional accreditation from the Physician Assistant Educational Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant and the New York State Education Department. The program will be housed in the School of Health Sciences and Human Performance (HSHIP). The 27-month program will admit 30 students in its first cohort in the fall. Admissions will close July 1.

A PA is a medical professional who works with physicians to diagnose illnesses, manage treatment plans, prescribe medications and more. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of PAs is projected to grow by 51% from 2019 to 2029, which is much faster than the average for all other occupations.

“IC is already well-known for quality health profession programs, and the PA program is another example of ‘Ithaca Forever’ growing academic and professional programs,” she said. “We are excited for the PA program to join the list of strong programs that make up Ithaca College.”

The college has been planning on launching the PA program since the launch of the strategic plan in 2019. The announcement was made in the midst of the Academic Program Prioritization process, which involves the elimination of five graduate programs at the college. This includes four Masters of Music programs in the Music School and the Image Text Master of Fine Arts in the Roy H. Park School of Communications.

“The fact that Ithaca College is doing this after getting rid of the Master programs in the music school does not sit right with me at all,” user @keearbear said on Twitter.

The program will be housed downtown in the former Rothschild Building on the Ithaca Commons and will also use some of the facilities in the Center for Health Sciences, the Hill Center and Smiddy Hall on campus. The college received a $1,580,627 grant to help renovate facilities for the program. The new space will include a clinical learning center and a simulation center.

Sunny Days of Ithaca, a gift store located on the Commons, had to move to locations as a result of the construction on the building that will house the PA program.

Deidre Kurzweil, owner of Sunny Days of Ithaca, said the program will be an amazing asset to the college and downtown Ithaca. However, she said she would have preferred more consideration from the college and her landlord throughout the construction process.

She said she went into December 2020 20% ahead of where she expected to be, and entered the month 20% behind. In the end, she decided to move her store further downtown.

“The program is great. I’m glad it’s being built,” Kurzweil said. “But we’re not protected by the terms of our lease.”

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sits at $10,343 trillion.
Schumer said that forgiving $60,000 of student loans could help stimulate the economy.
Shana Gore, executive director of Student Financial Services, said she thinks it is important for families and students to be aware of how much debt they take on. She also said that part of the reason the college decided to freeze tuition for the 2021–22 academic year was made in 2019. Throughout the 2020–21 academic year so far, 14 students have been arrested in 2017 and 519 referrals and 15 arrests in 2018. Only one drug-related arrest was made in 2019. Throughout the 2020–21 academic year so far, 14 students have been referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards for offenses regarding marijuana use, according to the college’s public safety logs.

Sophomore Malii McCormack started a GoFundMe campaign Jan. 24 to help raise money for her outstanding balance at the college. She lost both of her jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Everyone knows the general culture around drug usage at Ithaca College. Even on the college campuses, I feel like colleges are realizing that people should be able to follow the laws of the state.”

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Sophomore Ben Caruccio said that expunging marijuana records is a good way to fix the worst of the past. However, he said he believes that the legalization of college campuses could take a while.
“I think especially with the legalization of it I could see them changing it, but not any time soon,” Caruccio said. “That feels like something that would be a slow process. Maybe in the next decade, but I don’t see them changing it for next year, for example.”

Despite maintaining its policy prohibiting marijuana, the college joined New York state in decriminalizing the drug in 2019. By de-criminalizing it, the possession of marijuana went from being a felony or misdemeanor to being a ticketable offense.

The consequences for students that break Ithaca’s marijuana policy remain. After a first offense, students are required to take a web education course. After a second offense, they go on disciplinary probation for one year. After a third, they are removed from campus

A combination of 187 drug-related referrals on campus and in student housing. This was a significant decrease from 600 referrals and 12 arrests in 2017. A total of 192 referrals and 15 arrests in 2018. Only one drug-related arrest was made in 2019. Throughout the 2020–21 academic year so far, 14 students have been referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards for offenses regarding marijuana use, according to the college’s public safety logs.

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Enrollment causes housing changes

BY JAY BRADLEY

Lower enrollment projections at Ithaca College have resulted in the elimination of the off-campus application process for juniors for the 2021–22 academic year.

Due to reduced enrollment projections, the upcoming academic year has been anticipated to meet housing needs for freshmen, sophomores and juniors, and there will be no off-campus application process. Enrollment in Fall 2020 was 5,534, down from 6,266 in Fall 2019 and 6,517 in Fall 2018, according to the Office of Analytics and Institutional Research.

“The off-campus application process exists for the sole purpose of approving some interested students to move off campus in order to make sure there is enough housing available for our new and returning students,” a Nov. 3 announcement from the Division of Student Affairs and Campus Life stated. “If it is anticipated that there will be on-campus housing for all first-years, sophomores and juniors, an off-campus release process will not occur.”

Sophomore Mary Turner is graduating early, in May 2022, and had been hoping that her last year at the college would be as she envisioned, to live off campus with her boyfriend to save money and learn more about living on her own before leaving college.

“Essentially for myself and a few of my friends that have decided to graduate an entire year early, that opportunity to possibly leave college,” Turner said.

“The off-campus application process serves as a sort of safety net for students who have been notified of their termination as a result of the Office of Residential Life’s projections for the Class of 2023 have decided to graduate early.”

In most years, a limited number of off-campus applications are approved for non-seniors and seniors who have not lived on campus for six semesters. Last year, approximately 238 juniors were accepted to live off campus after 470 applied, a 70% approval rate, according to the Office of Residential Life.

“Juniors who have been notified of their termination have three children. She is married to a nurse who works at the local hospital, and they have three children.

A key part of his work since 2009 has been serving as the Model United Nations adviser for the college’s Model United Nations team. “The administration still hasn’t clarified what the terms will be.”

“Middle-class parents for help with the misrepresentation. She said that despite their income becoming primary. And low-paid,” she said. “Then my income became primary. And willingness to collaborate with faculty.”

“Fomalhaut chaired the Contingent Faculty Union for three years and has been part of the leadership team since it was founded. She also served on the Faculty Council and a multicultural women’s fiction.

“The administration has left her unsurprised about the administration’s unwillingness to collaborate with faculty.”

He now faces a steep decline in family income and the possible loss of tuition remission for his kids.

TCHD cancels vaccine day

BY ALEXIS MANORE

The Tompkins County Health Department (TCHD) has canceled the College Student Vaccination Day after a national pause in administration of the Johnson and Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine.

The vaccination day was meant to allow low Ithaca College, Cornell University and Tompkins Cortland Community College students to receive the J&J vaccine April 15 at the Shops at Ithaca Mall. However, after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New York State Department of Health called for a pause in administration of the J&J vaccine, the day has been canceled. TCHD will continue to administer the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines at local clinics, as well as state-run sites.

In an April 13 email to the college community, Ellen Sellers-Selin, medical director for the Center for Counseling, Health and Wellness at Ithaca College, encouraged students to speak with their healthcare providers about vaccinations.

“This recommended pause in distribution of the J&J vaccine is the result of reports of rare, but dangerous, blood clots in at least 12 of 13 days after administration of the vaccine. The CDC and the Food and Drug Administration will be investigating these reports.”

TCHD has distributed 150 doses of the J&J vaccine to members of the Tompkins County community, the announcement stated.

The CDC has stated that adverse reactions related to the J&J vaccine appear to be rare and that those who have received it that week had strokes, or blood clots. Pain, leg pain or shortness of breath in three weeks after the vaccine should contact their health care providers.

College, he spent four years directing Cornell’s study abroad program in Hamburg, Germany. He continued working for the program when he returned to the U.S.

Arroyo said he knew he wanted to be a teacher since the age of seven and still loves it. His courses are mostly about European politics and international organizations.

A key part of his work since 2009 has been serving as the adviser for the college’s Model United Nations team.

“The students who participate in these national and international simulations are, he said, “a wonderful, eclectic group of people who are a lot of fun to work with, not just the obvious politics students. They will miss that a lot.”

He now faces a steep decline in family income and the possible loss of tuition remission for his kids.

One daughter currently attends Ithaca College now, and his son received his acceptance letter three weeks after Arroyo was notified of his termination.

“Our family has planned around this for years,” he said. “The administration still hasn’t clarified what the terms will be.”

His own future, Arroyo said, “is going to mean upheaval, but I’m not going to let this torpedo my life.”

He said he felt that the administration is making a mistake as a result of the college’s future. “A decision was made in a very quick, almost panic way using certain parameters, data and indicators and ignoring national simulations are, he said, “a wonderful, eclectic group of people who are a lot of fun to work with, not just the obvious politics students. They will miss that a lot.”

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Ducks quack for a cause at BomberTHON

Senior Laura Heppes dumps rubber ducks into a pool in Kelsey Partridge Bird Natatorium for the BomberTHON Rubber Ducky Derby. Bomber/THON raised $34,221.92 for Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital in Syracuse, New York.

LEXI DANIELSON/THE ITHACAN

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG
SELECTED ENTRIES FROM MARCH 29 TO APRIL 5

MARCH 29

PETIT LARCENY BETWEEN $50–$199
LOCATION: 1-Lot
SUMMARY: A caller reported that a storefront had been broken into.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
LOCATION: Garden Apartments
SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown person stole a sign. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

MARCH 30

MAKING GRAFFITI NO DEGREE
LOCATION: All Campus
SUMMARY: An officer responded to a report of graffiti on building exit signs in multiple buildings. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

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SUMMARY: A caller reported that a storefront had been broken into.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
LOCATION: Garden Apartments
SUMMARY: A caller reported that an unknown person stole a sign. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

MARCH 30

MAKING GRAFFITI NO DEGREE
LOCATION: All Campus
SUMMARY: An officer responded to a report of graffiti on building exit signs in multiple buildings. Master Patrol Officer Bryan Verzosa responded.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCIDENT LOG
SELECTED ENTRIES FROM MARCH 29 TO APRIL 5

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Forgiveness of college debt needed for students now

Student debt forgiveness deserves to be higher on the national agenda. It has been a severe crisis that our government has ignored for far too long. Unfortunately, due to the society we live in, students are not offered much of a choice other than paying the cost of higher education to acquire a high paying job.

President Joe Biden’s initial plan to support forgiving $10,000 in student debt is not enough. Arguably, Senator Chuck Schumer and Senator Elizabeth Warren’s campaign to forgive $50,000 of every student’s student debt is not either, though it is better than the president’s proposed solution. Students are burdened with loans that can haunt them for life. Even when they enter the workforce, many still struggle to pay off the loans and interest that build up.

It is not fair to place massive debt onto students before they begin their lives and expect them to pay it off as they also embark on the other expensive financial pursuits of life, including marriage, having children and paying mortgages. Loans provide the ability to begin life, but they do not support a healthy, happy life. Students should not have to turn to crowdfunding platforms to pursue their goals.

For the 2020–21 academic year, the cost of undergraduate attendance at Ithaca College, including tuition, room and board, and estimated book and personal expenses, is $65,599. Even with scholarships and grants, tuition costs across the country remain steep. Whether the price tag of higher education is worth it is a question that has yet to be convincingly answered.

Some students are not afforded the privilege of relying on their parents. Nearly three in 10 American Black and Latinx college students are solely responsible for paying for all of their higher education costs, according to the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, an American nonprofit organization that attempts to help the Black college community acquire a high-quality college education at an affordable cost. Colleges can become more diverse if they are more financially accessible.

Legalization efforts must offer reparations to BIPOC

As more states across the nation usher in the legalization of marijuana and with New York celebrating the legalization of recreational use March 31, we must recognize how the war on drugs has disproportionately harmed communities of color. The war on drugs, a global initiative led by the United States, aimed to decrease the illicit sale and use of drugs by increasing prison sentences for drug dealers and users. By design, the war on drugs targeted people of color, leaving them more likely to be stopped, searched, arrested, convicted, harshly sentenced and stuck with a lifelong criminal record. Nearly 80% of people in federal prison and about 60% of people in state prison for drug offenses are Black or Latinx. Black people and Indigenous people are more likely to be killed by law enforcement during police interactions.

Efforts to legalize marijuana are meaningless without offers of reparations. In 2020 alone, New Yorkers of color — mostly from Black and Latinx communities — made up approximately 95% of marijuana arrests. The New York State Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act attempts to repair some of these damages by automatically expunging the records of people with previous marijuana-related charges that are no longer criminalized. Though it is too early to see its effects, expungement at the very least offers people a chance to start anew.

Marijuana convictions can be lifelong prison sentences, be it physically or mentally imprisoned. They can prevent people from job opportunities, drive them away from their families and invite them into the criminal system. For a drug that, at least on the surface, appears to be safer than alcohol, why do we so heavily criminalize it? Drug convictions, for substances with a high potential for abuse, require rehabilitation, not inequitable criminal sentencing. The legalization of marijuana is a beginning — we must now continue the conversation to undo the suffering caused by previous legislation and build communities of support.
It seems as if every week someone in my immediate community at home is being affected by COVID-19 and if not COVID-19 directly, then with health issues that have worsened because of the virus. It’s terrifying to watch the world around you change so quickly and so drastically. My mom says that it’s just our season, and eventually, it will all be over and be someone else’s turn.

Whoever heard of a season lasting a year? It’s kind of laughable to me that I can’t remember not experiencing long winters before.

Now I’m not here to share my sob story with you—I have my therapist for that. However, I do think it’s important to urge young people to not be so careless when it comes to the pandemic.

It can be the smallest things that truly make a difference. I can’t tell you how many times people have looked at me strangely because I shudder when the line for the dining hall is packed, or frown when five people have a sticker on a sticker meant for one. The idea of being in that confined space with people who don’t seem to share the same level of concern as me is disheartening and jarring.

One time, I called out to a guy whose mask was hanging below his nose as he shared a six feet apart sticker with his buddy. He waited until my back was turned to shove his mask back down and send my friend and me a nasty look.

People seem pretty touchy when it comes to their mask placement. Especially when they’re wearing it wrong.

That was me just asking if he could pull his mask up. Imagine if someone told him he has to (which he does). I mean, I get the sentiment, “I can’t breathe when I wear a mask,” or “No one can hear me.” It’s rather simple though. You can breathe and you just need to talk louder.

As someone who had an asthma attack so bad freshman year that they had to call the ambulance, masks are not going to hurt you if you keep them on when you aren’t in your room. It’s easy to forget that we’re in a pandemic when the weather’s nice and you get to play lawn games with friends. I just urge you to still follow precautions and guidelines. If not for you, then for the person across the room whose life you know nothing about. Be a little kinder when it comes to others. We’re going through a lot.

Greg Peterson ‘09 addresses Ithaca College’s decline in student enrollment and writes that the college’s decision to resize does not solve the school’s problems.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Where do demographics end and decisions begin?

BY GREG PETERSON

After hearing about the changes at Ithaca College, I didn’t understand the problems my alma mater was facing. My professors taught me to do research, and I have read through annual budgets, 990 forms and years of admissions data for IC and other colleges.

Overall, total enrollment at four-year colleges across New York has been steadily declining over the past five years. There has been a similar trend regionally. Since 2015, IC has increased the acceptance rate to maintain enrollment numbers as applications have plummeted and the yield has decreased even further. We’ve been told these decreasing numbers are part of a larger demographic trend impacting higher education, and IC must adapt.

The problem is that these concerning trends might have less to do with demographics and more to do with how IC has been managed. While the total number of enrolled students has decreased in the past five years, some colleges have actually increased enrollment. If regional demographics are impacting admissions, then why are many schools not seeing the same trends in applications and enrollment as IC? Why has admittance been poor the past few years at IC, and will resizing the school even address these problems?

In looking at the past 20 years of total applications, acceptance rates and yields at IC, 2014–15 seems to be an important pivot year in how the school’s reputation in the residence of President Tom Rochon and the protests? Did then hiring a president who has pleaded no contest to sexual abuse have an impact? Have applications dropped due to recent turnover at the administrative level? More importantly, if IC has a reputation problem, or is suffering from losing key figures in the administration, how will resizing the school improve that?

In looking at the past 20 years of total applications, acceptance rates and yields at IC, 2014–15 seems to be an important pivot point where all three of those trends move in negative directions and have largely continued in that way. What happened then and what has continued to happen since 2014?

The administration seems to have chosen to resize as the solution when we haven’t even identified the problem.

GREG PETERSON is a 2009 Ithaca College graduate. Contact him at peterson9ap@comcast.net.
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crossword

By United Media

ACROSS
1 Ax handle
5 Sofa end
8 Envelope sealer
12 State positively
13 Misery
14 O.K. Corral name
15 Suave
17 SCOTUS count
18 Memo abbr.
19 Hoodoo
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23 Pushes to the limit
26 Inventor — Sikorsky
27 Youngstar
28 Hoover
31 Winter ailment
32 Ms. Oyl
34 Refinery shipment
35 Hurricane center
36 Tumbler’s pad
37 Sleek racer
38 Port near Hong Kong
40 Pharaoh’s god
41 Walkie-talkie OK
44 England’s FBI
46 Reformers’ targets

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2 Wide st.
3 Watch chain
4 Reduced-price coupon
5 Be in store
6 Louis XIV, e.g.
7 Mal de —
8 Rank above species
9 Den
10 Coffee dispensers
11 Teuché provoker
16 Niagara Falls st.
19 Yield territory
20 Precious thing
21 Unsightly
22 Playboy
24 Curly-tailed dog
25 Centurion’s 14
26 Wrestling match

answers to last issue’s crossword:

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The Sudoku Source of “The Ithacan”
BY KATHERINE KROM

Not too many people can say that they have their entire four-year college experience documented. Senior Gavin Berger, a television radio major at Ithaca College, has done just that on his Instagram page, “Welcome to Ithaca.”

Berger started the Instagram page during his freshman orientation. Berger said that when he and his friends were sitting by the Dillingham Fountains, one of his friends was filming and Berger stood up on a table and said, “Welcome to Ithaca.” Since then, Berger has posted a video about Ithaca on the page almost every day.

“One of my friends was like, ‘What if we did this every day,’” Berger said. “I was like, ‘Oh, that would be funny. Let’s see how long I can do this every day.’ I was like, almost every day.”

The account features what it is like to be an Ithaca College student, including life on campus, in the surrounding area and studying abroad. “Welcome to Ithaca” now has almost 600 followers with over 600 videos full of skits in different areas around Ithaca and information for students about events and clubs. Along with that, the Instagram page has also featured other students and even interviews with President Shirley M. Collado.

Berger said his goal for “Welcome to Ithaca” has been to make a difference within the community but also in his own life. Berger said he wants people to connect through their love for Ithaca and the variety of activities they can take part in.

“I want people to feel motivated to do stuff ... and also to be remotely entertained,” Berger said. “People have asked me why I do it or when I am going to stop doing it, but I eventually realized that I just had to do it for myself to prove to myself that I can just do it and to prove that my college experience was different. Everyone strives to be unique.”

Berger said that watching older videos is great because he can see how he has grown and become more confident. It is Berger’s last semester, making this the last season of “Welcome to Ithaca.” Because of Berger, he and the Class of 2021 are excited to start their own Instagram pages to continue the academic year.

“Now [students] can read my lips because I am wearing a mask in all of them,” Berger said. “I am out of places on campus to shoot videos where I haven’t been before. It is hard to stay creative with stuff.”

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Berger said his goal for “Welcome to Ithaca” has been to make a difference within the community but also in his own experience.
Students transform apartment into ICTV set

BY SYDNEY BRUMFIELD

Being in the age of social distancing did not prevent Joel Liss and junior Joshua Stein from creating the web-exclusive show "Wormhole." In this six-episode science fiction comedy show, a Garden Apartment gets completely turned upside down. Each episode follows a different zany adventure for the characters Joel, Josh and sock puppet Gilbert.

"Wormhole" is currently airing every Friday on ICTV. Liss and Stein said the team shot its scenes on-campus over a week for six weeks. Liss said the first episode was filmed Feb. 21 and wrapped March 28.

The concept for "Wormhole" came about after Stein and Liss decided to create a show that they could work on together despite the complication of COVID-19 guidelines. Liss said the team had "been reaching out to the production companies."

This project was filmed entirely in quarantine with Liss, Stein and their roommates, all members of the Ithaca College Television (ICTV) club. Liss said the team shot its episodes on-campus and in one episode worked with students from Cornell University.

"I think it never got really stressful or bad on set, but I think in an ideal world, you shouldn’t be working with the people you live with," Liss said. "People need to diversify who they work with, who they live with and who they spend their time with."

Stein said that in the height of production, the roommates would often resort to yelling at each other’s rooms about what needed to get done. He said this was good and bad in a sense because it was easy for them to work on the show but difficult to know when to stop working.

"Every week we were just, work, work, work, prepare for this episode, shoot," Corcoran said. "I think that was the biggest take away from the project because she has grown as a professional."

"This is the first [project] that I felt I had a personal connection to the people that I was working with," Corcoran said. "I appreciated the trust. I think they specifically tried to get more women on set because that they realized that on all of the sets they’re on don’t have a lot of women, and I agree. It was nice to just kind of be on a set that really appreciated everybody and doesn’t talk over people at all."
**Popped Culture**

**LGBTQ+ artists change hip-hop**

BY EVA SALZMAN

Hip-hop has long been known for its deep-rooted culture of keeping it real. Since its origins, the genre has been highlighted by anecdotes of the Black experience. However, on the other side of the spectrum to this dime-

Monster flick is full of mayhem

MUSIC REVIEW: “Dancing With The Devil...The Art of Starting Over” Island Records

BY GABRIELLE TOPPING

Demi Lovato’s seventh studio album, “Dancing With The Devil...The Art of Starting Over,” details her life after her 2018 overdose on heroin and fentanyl-laced oxycodone, which caused her to suffer from three strokes and a heart attack. It gives List-

Artist shares her struggles

BY ANTHONY DE LAPI

“Godzilla vs. Kong” is a new monster action movie directed by Adam Wingard and is the fourth installment in the franchise. It stars Dr. Nathan Lind (Alexander Skarsgård) and Ilene Andrews (Rebecca Hall) as the lead characters in a story of the devil disguised as alcohol and drugs. Lovato expresses the deepest parts of her stories in the franchise is the humanoid. In the track “I Love Me,” she discusses her recovery from addiction in “Dancing With The Devil.”

Lovato shares her experience with addiction in “Dancing With The Devil.”

COURTESY OF ISLAND RECORDS

Monsters are barely ever in the films, so the light scenes are so blindingly dim or dark that they couldn’t be seen. In this movie, Godzilla and Kong are fighting night right in the daylight, and when they do fight at night, they don’t ask much from its audience. It’s a quick popcorn flick, reminiscent of a B-movie, that requires the viewer to turn off their brain in order to get the full experience.

Lovato’s emotional growth is heard loud and clear in the track “Butterfly,” in which she emphasizes forgiveness. She expresses forgiveness toward her father and their codependency and forgiveness toward herself for her unhealthy coping mechanisms. She sings, “Forgiveness is the hardest truth” and “this is something I deal with my whole life.”

Lovato accepts her past, although painful, and uses it to further her growth.

“Dancing with the Devil” Prism” is the latest addition to the Warner Bros.

COURTESY OF WARNER BROS

MOVIE REVIEW: “Godzilla vs. Kong” Warner Bros. Bros". After ac-

The power that both artists radiate in their performances is inspiring.

Lovato’s emotional growth is heard loud and clear in the track “Butterfly,” in which she emphasizes forgiveness. She expresses forgiveness toward her father and their codependency and forgiveness toward herself for her unhealthy coping mechanisms. She sings, “Forgiveness is the hardest truth” and “this is something I deal with my whole life.”

Lovato accepts her past, although painful, and uses it to further her growth.

…but the little white line is a glass pipe. She attests the lies she was telling herself and turns her pain into a lesson by truthfully setting the record straight about what she experienced.

In addition to her album, Lovato released a docuseries with the same title, “Dancing with the Devil,” in which she shares intimate details of her life with commentary from her friends and family. The series promotes seek-

The vulnerability that Lovato expresses throughout the album is admirable. In the track “Melon Cake,” Lovato explains how she was “starving” for attention from a disordered eating disorder, and that she was “living as a prisoner” inside of her own mind. She reveals that she has found freedom on the other side of recovery.

In the track “I Love Me,” she discusses her life after her 2018 overdose on heroin and fentanyl-laced oxycodone, which caused her to suffer from three strokes and a heart attack. It gives List-

The high profile of the genre’s content. LGBTQ+ artists are present in the forefront of the genre’s content. LGBTQ+ hip-hop artists have yet to create something that shame-

The highly scrutinized music video, released in March, has wound up critics for a few different reasons. The video begins with Lil Nas X trying to get into Heaven. Lil Nas X, however, doesn’t quite fit in. He is a gay man, and he is not allowed in, but he does not care. He is dressed in traditionally feminine clothes and high heels, and he pole dances his way down to hell andlap dances on the devil. This has served hate from the Christian right for the video’s satanic themes, but that isn’t the point. It has also received criticism because it’s a gay man wearing heels without watering it down.

The song is a powerful expression of homo-

LGBTQ+ artists have yet to create something that shame-

The song is a powerful expression of homo-

Lovato shares her experience with addiction in “Dancing With The Devil.”

COURTESY OF ISLAND RECORDS

Lovato’s collaborations with the featured artists are some of the best songs on the album, the most notable being with Grande. "Meet Him Last Night," featuring Grande, showcases the tempestuations of the devil disguised as alcohol and drugs. Grande’s lyrics are executed beautifully, and the duo’s voices blend effortlessly together.

The power that both artists radiate in their stories in the franchise is the humanoid. In the track “I Love Me,” she discusses her recovery from addiction in “Dancing With The Devil.”

Lovato accepts her past, although painful, and uses it to further her growth.

“Dancing with the Devil” Prism” is the latest addition to the Warner Bros.

COURTESY OF WARNER BROS

MOVIE REVIEW: “Godzilla vs. Kong” Warner Bros. Bros". After ac-

The power that both artists radiate in their narratives of their story, which is what makes the album feel so genuine. Her signature-

TOMORROW (Call Me By Your Name)

The highly scrutinized music video, released in March, has wound up critics for a few different reasons. The video begins with Lil Nas X trying to get into Heaven. Lil Nas X, however, doesn’t quite fit in. He is a gay man, and he is not allowed in, but he does not care. He is dressed in traditionally feminine clothes and high heels, and he pole dances his way down to hell andlap dances on the devil. This has served hate from the Christian right for the video’s satanic themes, but that isn’t the point. It has also received criticism because it’s a gay man wearing heels without watering it down.

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The song is a powerful expression of homo-
BY CONNOR GLUNT

Freshmen typically require some game experience to adjust from high school lacrosse to the speed and skill of the collegiate level. However, that has not been the case with freshman John Sramac.

The 6’2”, left-handed attackman has started the season with 15 goals and four assists through his first five games, helping the Bombers achieve a 5-2 record. Sramac was also named Liberty League Rookie of the Week on March 29. Sramac began the season as a bench player and was going to be used in moderation as an offensive specialist, but he said he did not envision having this start to his college career.

Now, he is looking ahead and not coasting off of his early success. Sramac has already proven himself as a scoring threat for the Bombers after just five games at the college.

“Honestly, I try not to think about anything too much,” Sramac said. “I try to control what I can control and work as hard as I possibly can. I don’t really think about my impact all that much.”

What Sramac did control was his training and preparation. Although it was difficult with gyms closed, Sramac said the time off allowed him to focus on his fitness. Since there was nothing to do, he did not have any distractions and was able to use his time off to improve his mentality in the progression as a player.

“I had a good nervousness before the first game, and I think after the first goal, I got to ease it into it and stop worrying about everything else,” Sramac said. “It’s a lot harder to play well when you have a lot going on in your head. I think I’m at my best when I’m keeping things simple and playing with confidence, just kind of trusting my skills.”

Sramac’s mature mindset was noticeable from the start, senior Connor Till said. Till was not in Sramac’s practice pod when the team began training together, but when the offensive starters were grouped together, Till said it was evident that Sramac was going to stand out this season.

“Once he started to play, we knew he was going to be nasty,” Till said. “Because of the way he’s built, he’s a strong kid, you can tell he works hard in the weight room. Watching how well he handles himself on the field, he doesn’t really get ratted. A lot of freshmen do. It’s hard, mentally, for them to play. [Sramac] just goes out there and plays well.”

When Till and the rest of the team got to know Sramac better, it helped them understand Sramac on and off the field. Till and his teammates know that the freshman is going to compete as hard as he can. Whether it is in a friendly context of NBA 2K21 or in a critical moment of a lacrosse game, it has helped Sramac gain the trust and respect of his peers quickly.

“I thought he was quiet at first, but he’s a freshman,” Till said. “Once you get him to open up, he’s one of the most competitive kids on the team. I think that just stems from being an ultra-competitive person even outside of lacrosse, which is good. That translates to how good he plays.”

While Till and the rest of the team got to know Sramac better on and off the field, senior Connor Brumfield has known Sramac dating back to his high school days. Brumfield and Sramac both attended Mount Lebanon High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Brumfield said he and Sramac have gotten to know each other being committed on the lacrosse field. Brumfield said Sramac works just as hard in the classroom. He is currently in the exploratory program.

“When he’s definitely one of the hardest working players on the team now, and it wasn’t any different in high school,” Brumfield said. “Despite the difficult situation we were in over the summer and fall, finding time and space to work out, John got it done and went above and beyond to prepare for this season.”

When Till and the rest of the team began training together, head coach Jeff Long said it is tough to predict how fast players would have, head coach Jeff Long said that Sramac would get playing time but not cocky, a supportive leader and beyond to prepare for this season.

“[Sramac plays well with] pretty much everyone on the roster,” Long said. “John is a go-to, do-it-all guy who can carry, dodge, cut, shoot and feed.”

Long said that Sramac is an extreme- “I’m trying to get better with my off hand and trying to be able to shoot with my off hand as well,” Sramac said. “I think I have made some valuable facets of Sramac’s game that have carried over from high school days. Brumfield and Sramac both dating back to his high school days. Brumfield and Sramac both attended Mount Lebanon High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Brumfield said he and Sramac have gotten to know each other being committed on the lacrosse field. Brumfield said Sramac works just as hard in the classroom. He is currently in the exploratory program.

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When the team’s coaches were planning the lineups and what roles certain players would have, head coach Jeff Long knew Sramac would get playing time but was not sure how consistent it would be. Long said it is tough to predict how fast players will develop, but he had confidence Sramac would be able to adjust and perform quickly.

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Long said that Sramac is an extreme- “I’m trying to get better with my off hand and trying to be able to shoot with my off hand as well,” Sramac said. “I think I have made some valuable mistakes in practice. I’m just picking stuff up and trying to learn as much as possible from my mistakes, whether it’s just little nuances in the offense or other things.”

Even though Sramac is second on the team in shots and first in goals, Long said he wants the freshman to shoot more. Sramac said that he thinks his shooting ability is his best skill and that he is anticipating extra attention from opponents now that he has put the Liberty League on notice.

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“In high school, I made players around me better by creating scoring opportunities, but I think that has changed since I’ve gotten here,” Sramac said. “I try to keep things as simple as possible. I didn’t really think anything after the first three games, but maybe at this point, I might start to see [other teams’ defense play me] differently.”

Sramac already has proven himself as a scoring threat for the Bombers after just five games at the college. ABEE LONDON/THE ITHACAN
Running club plans virtual races

BY ARLA DAVIS

After several months of planning over the summer, the Ithaca College Running Club will be hosting a virtual meet against the Syracuse University Running Club.

Senior Laura Kenny, who serves as the college’s club’s workout coordinator, said the meet will consist of six running events: a 100-meter dash, a 200-meter dash, a 400-meter run, a 1,500-meter run, a 4x100-meter relay, and a 5-kilometer race. Junior running club co-president Mark Gregory said the college’s club members will compete on the outdoor track at Butterfield Stadium, while Syracuse will compete on its campus. He also said the club plans to livestream the races on the club’s Instagram for people to watch.

Runners’ times will be recorded through Strava, a running app that Gregory said the club uses for its workouts. The app keeps track of runners’ times, elevation, and mileage, and will use a different app for its results, but both will submit their data to each other before the race, who will place first, second, and third in the given event along with an overall team score.

Gregory said the app has helped the club stay connected throughout the entire pandemic. “Strava is like the Facebook for runners where you can literally post your runs every single day,” he said. “During the fall, we would post challenges and even fun things, like post a picture of you running in funny socks or run with a family member. We can keep it as casual or competitive as people want it to be, and that’s the main thing we tend to focus on.”

Gregory said the 5-kilometer race will be different from the other five events because it will include students who are not on campus this semester. Remote students can record their time on Strava and submit them as well. Sophomore Hannah Wheeler serves as the secretary for the club despite completing the semester remotely. She said she is not being on campus has given her a unique perspective in preparing for the event.

“I think a really big component of races and 5ks are coming together and just having that team feeling,” Wheeler said. “[The club] is trying to cultivate that team feeling in a safe way. It’s one thing to just run a 5k, but it’s another to have people on the sideline cheering you on.”

Kenny said she is most looking forward to seeing her time with the running club come full circle and have the races on the club’s Instagram — it’s just really nice to be able to give back and being able to do something as a community again.”

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Lacrosse team climbs national ranks

BY EMMA KERSTING

The Ithaca College women’s lacrosse team is ranked seventh in the Intercollegiate Women’s Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWCLA) poll and is off to the best start in program history since 1983.

The Bombers are currently undefeated seven games into the season and have defeated ranked teams like SUNY Cortland, The College at Brockport and William Smith College. The South Hill squad started the season ranked at 15, and they now trail six undefeated teams in the rankings. However, the rankings do not affect the team’s placement in the NCAA championships. Since there is no at-large bid, the Bombers will not win the field playing again.

Senior midfielder Jacqui Hallack said she believes the team’s high ranking is a testament to the players’ commitment to the team. Since the team started practicing later than usual with their fall training being canceled, Hallack said she is proud of the early success of the team.

“Winning seven in the nation just shows our hard work and all the dedication that we put in from the preseason to follow the COVID guidelines and continue to play now,” Hallack said. “All of the hard work that we have put in this far in the season is paying off, and we are being recognized as a top 10 team.”

Head coach Katie Moore, who is currently in her ninth season with the women’s lacrosse team, said she is excited to see the team succeed. The team has won 14 consecutive games, a streak stretching back to the 2019 season. At the same time, she said she is not surprised at its success since the team trained extensively, both remotely and as a team in person, leading up to the season and continues to put in work.

“I think for us, it’s where we expect to be,” Moore said. “We want to be a national contender. The rankings don’t mean a whole lot to us other than just a reflection of how hard the girls are working.”

Senior attacker Alexa Ritchie said there has been a shift in culture over the last two seasons. After the 2020 season ended so abruptly and there was uncertainty about having a season this year, the team is grateful to be on the field playing again.

“We’re super connected, we have each other’s back,” Ritchie said. “It’s a team connection that I’ve never even felt on a team before these last two years. It’s insane to be a part of.”

The Bombers are currently first in the Liberty League standings and have a 2–1 record in the conference. “We want to keep that trend going and just keep playing as a team,” Ritchie said.

The Bombers are set to play Union College on April 9, where the Bombers are a 15 seed. Moore said the Bombers have set goals to continue their success. All three of them said their main goals would be to compete in the first undefeated season in program history, win the Liberty League and get as far as they can in the NCAA championships.

“We like to set small milestones each week so that we can focus on each game individually,” Hallack said. “A Liberty League championship and a tournament run are always in the back of our heads, but we can’t get there if we don’t handle the games in front of us.”

The Bombers are scheduled to play University of Rochester, which is 2–3 and not ranked, and Vassar College, which is 2–1 and not ranked as well, each two more times to continue their regular season. The Liberty League Championships begin April 28.

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Freshmen Katie Dawe and Emily Polanish and sophomore Jillian Conlon run in a scavenger hunt with the Ithaca College Running Club on March 17 at the Peggy Ryan Williams Center.

COURTESY OF ITHACA COLLEGE RUNNING CLUB

OUT OF BOUNDS

Emily Adams

Anti-LGBTQ+ policy must stop

The 2021 men’s NCAA basketball tournament was an event defined by big upsets, and none was bigger than Oral Roberts University, a 15 seed, becoming two top squads to make it to the Sweet 16. However, the team and school have faced discrimination behind the glow of their so-called Cinderella story.

Oral Roberts’ homophic policies came to light after the team became a fan-favorite underdog on social media. The institution’s student code of conduct expressly states that “‘Excessive sexual behavior’ is ‘expressly prohibited in Scripture, and therefore should be avoided by members of the university community.’” Transgender student-athletes face even more discrimination. According to Athlete Ally, only 10 of the 65 member institutions of the Power Five conferences have publicly adopted the NCAA’s guidance for transgender participation in collegiate athletics. In fact, only 8% of institutions even have a publicly available policy for transgender inclusion.

In the NCAA’s requirements for member institutions, section 20.9.1 outlines the importance of the NCAA’s policy on discrimination in diversity and inclusion, “to the extent that the organization is working so many schools to compete that do not uphold this standard,” and notes, “foster accountability is evident, and athletes are bearing the brunt of advocacy efforts.” Recently, a duo of track and field athletes at the University of Washington wrote a letter to the organization signed by more than 500 other student-athletes requesting that the school not be allowed to host NCAA-sanctioned events. Despite questions about the organization’s policies, including claims that the NCAA is complicit in supporting Oral Roberts’ homophic policies in competition but did not directly address it in a letter, the NCAA continues to host Oral Roberts’ events.

According to Athlete Ally, Oral Roberts is one of the 28% of NCAA member schools that are welcoming and respectful of situations to determine whether NCAA championships can be conducted in ways that are welcoming and respectful of all participants. In fact, while moving championships out of states with discriminatory policies is a good first step, it does not address the deeply-rooted homophobic and transphobic climate within the NCAA and member schools. If the organization is truly committed to diversity and inclusion, it should ban any school with explicitly anti-LGBTQ+ policies from participating in NCAA-sanctioned events. Despite questions about the NCAA’s policies, it can make a strong case to critics on the basis that excluding queer athletes is a violation of the NCAA’s policies in a private organization. In a time when social justice has become inextricable from sports and when more people are coming out as LGBTQ+, it matters more than ever before, the NCAA must protect all of the athletes who it claims to support.

Contact Emily Adams
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OUT OF BOUNDS

Emily Adams

Anti-LGBTQ+ policy must stop
Senior pitcher Beth Fleming throws a strike during a double header against Union College on April 10 at Kostrinsky Field. Fleming had 28 strikeouts this season, five coming from the double header against Union. The Bombers won 7–1 in the first game and 3–1 in the second, making them 6–0 in the Liberty League and 8–2 overall.

ABBEY LONDON/THE ITHACAN