

Parkland shooting survivor talks gun reform five years later

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JACK MUSCATELLO/CHRONICLE

CT lawmakers honor Bobcats, encourage Biden to invite men's hockey team to White House

By CAT MURPHY
News Editor

Twelve days after the Quinnipiac University men's hockey team secured the first NCAA Division I national championship title in university history, Connecticut's five representatives and two senators urged President Joe Biden to invite the Bobcats to the White House.

"As proud members of the Connecticut delegation, we join the entire state in celebrating the Quinnipiac Bobcats on their historic season and extraordinary victory," the seven Connecticut lawmakers wrote in an April 20 letter to Biden. "We hope you are able to honor the Bobcats at the White House in recognition of their incredible achievements."

Simultaneously, Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy authored an April 20 resolution "commending and congratulating" not only the national championship-winning team, but the Quinnipiac fans, students and faculty.

Rep. Rosa DeLauro, whose district encompasses Quinnipiac, is leading Connecticut Reps. Joe Courtney, Jim Himes, John Larson and Jahana Hayes in sponsoring a similar resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"We are especially grateful that the Connecticut delegation and the Governor have approached President Biden to invite the men's hockey team to the White House to celebrate their win of the national championship," Quinnipiac President Judy Olian wrote in a statement to the Chronicle April 24.

The Senate resolution recognized the indi-

vidual achievements of Quinnipiac sophomore forward Jacob Quillan, who scored 10 seconds into overtime in the national championship game on April 8 to power the Bobcats to a 3-2 win over the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers.

Quillan earned this year's NCAA tournament's Most Outstanding Player award after the 21-year-old Nova Scotia, Canada, native's five-goal performance in the Frozen Four set a Quinnipiac record for most goals scored in a single tournament.

The resolution also specifically commended head coach Rand Pecknold, who, at 56 years old, has spent more than half his life coaching the Quinnipiac men's hockey team.

"Rand Pecknold, the head coach of the Quinnipiac Bobcats, has led the team for 29 years and transformed the Quinnipiac Bobcats from a Division II program to a National Division I powerhouse," the resolution stated.

Pecknold, who has accumulated over 600 career victories in his nearly three decades as head coach, previously led the Bobcats to the Frozen Four tournament in 2013 and 2016. Under Pecknold's leadership, the Quinnipiac men's hockey team qualified for the NCAA Division I tournament in eight of the last 10 seasons.

Attributing the Bobcats' championship win to "years of hard work and dedication," the delegation's letter to Biden also applauded the veteran Quinnipiac coach.

"As one of the former players who gathered together to watch the final game said, 'Once you are on the team and you are alumni, you

are family,'" the letter to Biden read. "Nothing encapsulates more the impact that Quinnipiac hockey under Coach Pecknold has had on so many people."

Although Biden has not yet formally invited the Bobcats to the White House, it would be far from the first time a U.S. president celebrated a national championship-winning team at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Just weeks before the Connecticut lawmakers urged Biden to invite the Bobcats to the White House, the 46th president invited the University of Connecticut's men's basketball team and Louisiana State University's women's basketball team to celebrate their respective national championship titles in Washington, D.C.

"Celebrating this moment with a visit to the White House seems very apt and a wonderful milestone in our student-athletes' lives, commemorating this historic season which has brought so much pride to the Bobcat community," Olian wrote.

Quinnipiac previously commemorated the team's national championship title at an informal ceremony on the York Hill Campus April 9 and at an official celebration at M&T Bank Arena April 10. The university also memorialized the team's win with a national champions flag, which Pecknold helped hoist over the quad April 19.

In an April 12 Facebook post, Hamden Mayor Lauren Garrett noted that town officials began planning for a parade when the Bobcats reached the Frozen Four "in the hopes that they would go all the way."

However, Quinnipiac officials rejected town plans to host a parade in the team's honor.

"Ultimately Quinnipiac decided to celebrate their champions with a big event on Monday and they graciously invited the community to participate," Garrett wrote in the Facebook post.

The university announced its decision to veto the town's parade plans on Twitter April 12.

"Beyond the continued joyous mood throughout the Bobcat family, no further community-wide celebrations are planned," the statement posted to the official Quinnipiac Twitter read.

The controversial tweet, which has amassed over 110,000 views as of publication, faced considerable backlash.

"The rally was the day after Easter... at 6pm on a workday. Seriously?" user @InvasiveKarma wrote in an April 13 response to the university's statement. "CELEBRATE IT! Be proud!! This is a big deal!"

User @JoeKempsey, a 2021 Quinnipiac graduate, even posted a Twitter poll beneath Quinnipiac's tweet to gauge the popularity of the university's decision to veto parade plans. Approximately 95% of respondents to the April 12 poll — which received nearly 1,200 responses — voted in favor of a parade.

"QU has been terrible at engaging the community since 2015, when I was a student," Quinnipiac alumnus @scott_erwin wrote in an April 12 tweet. "Whoever is on the board or committee, that voted against having a parade for an Ice Hockey NCAA Championship, in New England, is an absolute fool."

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David Hogg: embodying both the
activist and the college kid

By CAT MURPHY
News Editor

David Hogg was a 17-year-old senior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, when a 19-year-old gunman murdered 14 of his classmates and three staff members with an AR-15 assault rifle on Valentine’s Day in 2018.

Five years, two months and six days after finding himself at the center of the national gun control debate, the March for Our Lives co-founder stood centerstage in the Quinnipiac University Center for Communications, Computing and Engineering’s Mt. Carmel Auditorium.

Sporting a blueish-gray suit with a red-and-blue Quinnipiac Democrats pin affixed to his left lapel, the now 23-year-old gun control activist addressed a group of more than four dozen Quinnipiac students and faculty on April 20.

“No fewer than 200,000 Americans have been mercilessly slaughtered since the shooting at my high school,” Hogg said, his solemn words echoing throughout the otherwise silent auditorium. “Do I need to lay out all the pros and cons of placing children into tiny caskets and laying them to rest forever?”

However, Hogg acknowledged the logistical impracticality of collecting every firearm in the U.S.

“You mean to tell me that we’re coming to take 400 million guns?” Hogg asked rhetorically. “That’s bullshit, frankly.”

And, rejecting claims that he seeks to derail American gun culture, Hogg clarified that he aims to weaken the financial and political power of the National Rifle Association.

“We’re Americans — (guns are) a common part of our culture,” said Hogg, who began shooting in the fourth grade and continues to shoot guns competitively for the Harvard University skeet shooting team. “What isn’t — and shouldn’t be — a common part of our culture is the irresponsibility that the NRA has come to represent.”

Hogg advocated for what he termed “common sense” gun reform policies: background checks, red flag laws, waiting periods and mandatory training.

“It’s not simply about whether or not you’re for or against guns,” Hogg said. “It’s about the fact that we are all for safety and responsibility.”

The college senior also spoke passionately about the power Generation Z has to reclaim the gun control narrative from gun-rights activists.

“The response after Parkland was incredible, but Parkland should be the rule

“Do I need to lay out all the pros and cons of placing children into tiny caskets and laying them to rest forever?”

– David Hogg
MARCH FOR OUR LIVES CO-FOUNDER

and not the exception,” Hogg said forcefully, emphasizing each word as he spoke. “I don’t want Gen Alpha — which is the one that comes after Z — to be talking about this, and we have the possibility of ensuring that they don’t have to.”

But the persona Hogg embodied on stage in CCE-101 that evening contrasted that of the 20-something history major who woke up at 5 a.m. that morning to complete a six-page paper he procrastinated writing.

“What you sometimes see on TV is not how he always is,” said Drew Sullivan, senior vice president at the American Program Bureau and Hogg’s speaking agent, on a Zoom call with the Chronicle April 19.

When Hogg joined the call from his phone, he was not wearing the suit and tie Quinnipiac students would see him in the next evening. Rather, he donned Apple AirPods and a maroon crewneck emblazoned with the NASA logo, speaking to the Chronicle as he ate his breakfast.

Hogg’s 40-minute keynote address itself embodied the dichotomy between the activist and the college student.

An imperfect but genuine public speaker, Hogg stood largely stationary at the podium as he read from his iPad. Scrolling with his right hand as he gesticulated with his left, Hogg at times lost his place in his prepared speech and filled in the blanks with ad-libbed remarks.

Hogg’s unscripted comments — many of which featured swears and the word “whatever” — tended to be more characteristic of the college kid born in 2000 than of the veteran gun-control activist.

“Fuck anyone that says these gun laws don’t work,” Hogg said. “Pardon my French.”

Rhythmically tapping his fingers on the table as he answered one-on-one questions in CCE-102 after the event, Hogg also unconsciously pulled at his neatly manicured beard hairs and fidgeted with the black necktie knotted beneath the collar of his white dress shirt.

But the activist also seemed to carry with him the weight of his five years of advocacy.

Hogg, who at one point referenced his experience with post-traumatic stress disorder, spoke openly during his speech about the death threats and conspiracy theories to which he and his family have been subjected.

Simultaneously, four Quinnipiac Public Safety officers and an undercover Hamden police officer manned the auditorium doors.

Paul Cappuzzo, the outgoing president of the Quinnipiac Democrats who organized the event, said Hogg’s notoriety among anti-gun control activists prompted the university to implement additional safety precautions.

“He’s a very public figure,” said Cappuzzo, a senior political science and economics double major. “And because of that, we had to take security measures to make sure things would be safe.”

Although the Giffords Law Center ranks Connecticut’s gun control laws among the strongest in the U.S., lawmakers only began reforming the state’s gun safety laws after a 20-year-old gunman murdered 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, in 2012.

And yet, the Hamden Police Department arrested two 17-year-olds and two 18-year-olds on gun-related charges between December 2022 and March 2023 alone.

Just over two months before Hogg spoke at Quinnipiac — and only eight miles from where he stood in the Mt. Carmel Auditorium — Hamden police arrested an 18-year-old high school student for carrying a loaded handgun with a large-capacity magazine on school grounds.

But while Hogg survived the deadliest high school shooting in U.S. history, school shootings are far from unique to high schools.

To the contrary, the deadliest school shooting in American history took place when a 23-year-old gunman massacred 32 college students and one faculty member at Virginia Tech in April 2007.

And, following the Feb. 13, 2023, mass shooting at Michigan State University that killed three students and wounded five others, Quinnipiac officials moved to implement active shooter training for students.

The university’s 14-minute “Run, Hide, Fight” active shooter training course advises students to resort to hiding and fighting only when the situation renders evacuation impossible.

Notably, the emergency guides posted in every Quinnipiac classroom instruct individuals to “stay in your office or classroom” and “encourage others to remain, rather than trying to leave the building” during an active shooter or violent intruder event.

But Hogg compared the “Run, Hide, Fight” training universities like Quinnipiac offer their students and faculty to the Cold War-era “duck and cover” drills that schoolchildren practiced to prepare for a possible nuclear attack.

“They really are putting a bandage on a bullet,” Hogg told the Chronicle. “We can run, hide, fight all we want — people are still getting killed.”



JACK MUSCATELLO/CHRONICLE

March for Our Lives co-founder David Hogg speaks at Quinnipiac University on April 20 to advocate for gun reform five years after surviving the 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Quinnipiac graduation to feature sensory-friendly spaces, combined ceremonies

By CARLEIGH BECK
Copy Editor

Quinnipiac University officials are introducing sensory rooms at the class of 2023 commencement ceremonies set to take place May 12-15.

Ephemia Nicolakis, a senior 3+1 graphic design and public relations double major who worked to add this resource at graduation, said these rooms are used to help those who have difficulties processing stimuli.

“People with disabilities, sensory issues or (post-traumatic stress disorder), who can’t be in loud environments that could potentially be triggering, (will) have a safe space to go to on campus and still experience and watch graduation,” Nicolakis said. “I think a big part of it is that we just want to make sure that commencement is accessible for everyone equally.”

University officials will also combine the undergraduate and graduate commencement ceremonies within each school and college.

Karla Natale, associate vice president of community partnerships, said university officials did this to enable each school to celebrate their graduates together.

“Any changes we make are to enhance the overall Commencement experience,” Natale wrote in an email statement to the Chronicle

April 25. “The Commencement Committee works throughout the year to provide our graduates and their families with a positive and celebratory experience as they transition from students to alumni. We want our graduates to remain Bobcats for Life and stay active with their university.”

Nicolakis was on the marketing team for graduation last year and will be receiving her bachelor’s degree at commencement this year. After a friend reached out to her with questions about the potential to make graduation a more sensory-friendly environment, Nicolakis said she reached out to the Office of Student Accessibility to coordinate sensory resources for the ceremony.

“Everybody we’ve been working with has been really helpful ... (and) we’ve had great feedback,” Nicolakis said. “Quinnipiac is really one of those places (that) if you want to do something, you can do it ... you just have to step forward and be the one to do it.”

University officials will only designate sensory-friendly space at the graduation ceremonies held on the Mount Carmel Campus because M&T Bank Arena is already a certified “Kulture City Sensory Venue,” Nicolakis said. The non-profit or-

ganization, which works to promote accessibility for sensory needs, certifies venues that have the space and resources, such as sensory bags, to make the venue accessible to individuals with sensory needs.

Although university officials have not yet finalized plans for the location of the sensory room, Nicolakis said she hopes that the school will be able to provide sensory bags, which include items like headphones and fidget toys, at the ceremony.

Nicolakis said Kulture City previously provided sensory bags to Quinnipiac to use at M&T Bank Arena.

Lexie Glinbizzi, a graduate public relations student, worked with Nicolakis to add sensory-friendly spaces at graduation.

Glinbizzi has two younger brothers with autism who have been unable to visit her in college because transportation and transition can be difficult for them. Her family has been trying to find a way for her brothers to attend her graduation comfortably.

“It’s been a constant worry for months, and then I kind of sat back and realized nobody should have to worry about this,” Glinbizzi said. “I can’t be the only person with an autistic sibling that feels this way.”

Glinbizzi emphasized the importance of

accommodating family members with sensory needs at graduation.

“I want my brothers to see me graduate,” said Glinbizzi. “One of them has even said they want to go to Quinnipiac ... these kids could be future Bobcats.”



ILLUSTRATION BY LINDSEY KOMSON AND AMANDA RIHA

Radiologic sciences association names QU professor president-elect

By JACKLYN PELLEGRINO
Associate Arts & Life Editor

Kori Stewart, associate professor of diagnostic imaging at Quinnipiac University, is poised to become the president-elect of the Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences in July.

Stewart said AEIRS seeks to help members develop their skills as educators. It offers its members strategies and networking to help new and seasoned educators continue to work through best practices in educating in the radiologic and imaging sciences.

“I was immediately just astounded at how encouraging and welcoming everyone is (in the AEIRS) community,” Stewart said. “A lot of times, radiography programs compete for students, and this had a very different feel. It didn’t feel like anybody was competing. But rather, everybody was coming together to really focus in on how do we best educate the future of our profession.”

Stewart said she joined AEIRS as a member in 2015 and began volunteering for the organization during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. She served as the secretary and treasurer for the last two years before becoming the president-elect. Her position as president-elect is part of a three-year term, during which she will serve as the president-elect, president and then, finally, chair of the organization.

“It feels a little nerve-wracking,” Stewart said. “I’m really excited about it to be really honest, but nerve-wracking because I just don’t want to let anybody down.”

Stewart said she hopes to increase membership, provide newer educators with guidance and mentorship and help seasoned educators embrace the digital realm and find the “best practices for today’s students.”

“I would love to see what I call the ‘digital transformation,’” Stewart said. “Helping educators that still feel comfortable with that hard copy piece of paper to transition to an engaging digital classroom because that’s what our

students want, that’s what our students do.”

Bernadette Mele, clinical professor and chair of diagnostic imaging and director of the radiologist assistant program, said she was glad Stewart will be in a national leadership position.

“Seeing her putting forward all of her efforts, the 120% that she puts in at the university ... it’ll show them that if you’re passionate about your field that you should continue to get out there and become part of the community,” Mele said.

Alicia Giaimo, a clinical professor of diagnostic imaging, program director of radiologic sciences and Stewart’s former professor and colleague, said she is now a member of AEIRS and is speaking at its conference in July because of Stewart.

“She has a way to inspire those around

her,” Giaimo said. “It’s almost sneaky — her persona challenges you to be better because she’s so awesome.”

Giaimo said that she and Stewart have always kept in touch and discussed different tools and ways to navigate teaching methods.

“Just like, ‘I’m struggling with students for this,’ ‘what are you doing,’ ‘I need ideas,’” Giaimo said. “She’s always been a resource actually for our jobs but also personally and she’s just honestly a phenomenal human.”

Janelle Chiasera, dean of the school of health sciences, said she is “incredibly proud” of Stewart.

“She’s a relatively new faculty member and to have one of our own faculty members taking on the role of president-elect for their professional organization is huge for people who have even been here for awhile,” Chia-

sera said. “I am also really happy for the society as well, to have someone like Kori leading their profession, makes me very happy about their future.”

Stewart teaches a variety of courses and labs in the diagnostic imaging department at Quinnipiac. She uses a “flipped-classroom model” where students are asked to read the textbook and receive a recorded lecture before class to encourage an “active-learning environment” in the classroom.

“I love that I can go into my classroom and tell my students that they are the eyes of medicine because, without a medical image, we don’t necessarily know what’s really going on inside of a patient’s body,” Stewart said.

Stewart said that diagnostic imaging requires patience and a love for working with patients.

“You can’t be afraid to touch a patient, to help move them, to help them walk down the hallway to your imaging room,” Stewart said. “You have to be empathetic and really have a passion for helping others.”

Sophomore radiologic sciences major Elizabeth Velez is taking Stewart’s patient care course.

“She’s the perfect one to teach patient care because she loves infection control and she thinks that the sterile environment of the hospital is of the utmost importance and so she just cares about the patient quality of care and really amplifies it to us as students,” Velez said.

Jordan Tupay, a senior in the radiologic sciences program who is taking her capstone course with Stewart, said Stewart is helping her research the effects of ionizing radiation on plants.

“Initially, it was intimidating because she knew so much, and she was so knowledgeable, but honestly she’s so dedicated, and she takes the time to go over everything with her students,” Tupay said. “She’s very selfless in that way.”



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

The Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences named Kori Stewart, associate professor of diagnostic imaging at Quinnipiac University, its next president-elect. Stewart has served as the association’s secretary and treasurer since 2021.

Senior send-offs

The most difficult experiences are the most rewarding

By **MELINA KHAN**
Former Editor-in-Chief

I’ve heard a lot of people say “college is the best years of your life.” They neglect to say it’s also often the hardest, most demanding and confusing years of your life.

I started college at the peak of the COVID pandemic. What I remember most about my first year is the uncertainty I felt towards everything. From social distancing to what I wanted to do with my life, I had no idea what the future held.

I would’ve never guessed that three years later, I would be pursuing a career as a journalist and leading my college newspaper.

I never wanted to be a journalist, but I joined the Chronicle in an attempt to get in-

volved on campus and augment my writing skills. I quickly realized my passion for news and storytelling, but still never thought I had what it took to be a journalist; I hated talking to people and had major social anxiety.

It wasn’t until I covered my first breaking news story — a story about an assault on campus — that I realized the magnitude of not only the Chronicle but journalism entirely. After that, I took a leap of faith and changed my major to journalism. Just a year later, I was named the leader of this organization.

Being the editor-in-chief of the Chronicle has been the honor of a lifetime. From long days in the media suite, the late night Google Docs edits and the debates over headlines, there’s so much I will miss, even

in the mundanity.

I never saw myself as a leader. I never even saw myself as a journalist, let alone a good one. If I hadn’t met the right people along the way, I would’ve never felt capable of everything I’ve had the opportunity to do.

There’s so many people to thank; former News Editor Emily Flamme supported me as I learned the ins and outs of the AP Stylebook, former Editor-in-Chief Michael Sicoli helped me stop second guessing myself and Dean of the School of Communications Chris Roush was the first person to tell me to go for editor-in-chief.

There’s countless others I could mention who have supported me over the past three years, but at the end of the day, they all taught me a big thing; I already had it within myself to succeed, I just needed to find the confidence to do so.

It can be draining, difficult and even isolating at times to do this job. Over the past year, I’ve had to make a lot of tough decisions, cover a lot of difficult stories and have a lot of tense conversations. There’s so much that goes into the Chronicle, and being editor-in-chief, that people don’t see.

On the hardest days, I stopped taking care of myself and neglected my mental and physical health. I lost sight of my own well-being because of pent up stress and anxiety. I even doubted whether I was strong enough to do this job without losing myself in the process.

But on the best days, I spent hours with some of the best people I’ve ever known while being made fun of for how I say “room,” all the while dropping my meal points on mac and cheese and begging people to bring coffee to

FAVORITE CHRONICLE CONTRIBUTION

“QUINNIPIAC OWES MORE TO ITS INDIGENOUS ROOTS”

the weekly coffee and critiques meeting.

On the best days, we published stories that enacted change and held people accountable. We etched into perpetuity some of the university’s most historic moments, from a massive campus renovation to a national championship. We broke stories that people cared about.

It’s easy to look back and see all the hard stuff — the things that you’ll probably think about for the rest of your life and the decisions you wish you could change.

But I can undoubtedly say it’s much easier to look back and see all the good — the endless laughter, the people you’ll never forget and the fulfilling nature of this work.

I think that’s why people describe these years as the best ones — because the best things in life are sometimes also the hardest. Regardless, I wouldn’t change it for the world; The Quinnipiac Chronicle changed the trajectory of my life. For that, I will forever be grateful.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Pay it forward

By **DANIEL PASSAPERA**
Former Digital Managing Editor

When I first came to Quinnipiac, I didn’t know if journalism was the right path for me. If you told me I would go on to lead an entire section within the Chronicle, let alone become a managing editor, I would’ve laughed.

I was hesitant to join student media because I didn’t know if there was anywhere for me to fit in. That was until then-Editor-in-Chief Michael Sicoli kept encouraging me to join, for which I am grateful.

Photography editor seemed like the natural fit, and it was nothing short of an incred-

ible experience photographing anything, literally anything, from sports to parking cameras at the Hogan lot.

I owe a big thank you to former Creative Director Connor Lawless, who I had the pleasure of working with when I first started. He pushed me to become better creatively. Of course, our unspoken competitiveness, especially during Fall Fest 2021 to see who could get the best shot, helped too.

During my time at Quinnipiac, I’ve also found a passion for audience engagement, social media and different visual mediums for storytelling. I took a chance with my newfound passion and left the photography editor role with the goal of creating the Chronicle’s first-ever multimedia section.

I wanted to elevate the Chronicle toward a more modern approach to visual storytelling and social media while leaving it in a better position for the future. Now with Jack Muscatello and Connor Youngberg taking the reins, the sky’s the limit.

All of this wouldn’t have been achieved without the incredible people around me and for that, I say, pay it forward.

The most important lesson I’ve learned from my experience working in student media is the ability to teach others and set up success for those coming after you. Individ-

ual accomplishments are overrated. It’s your ability and willingness to set an example and share knowledge that makes it worthwhile.

Shared success with others is better than being successful alone, even if we are students. We should help each other become the best versions of ourselves.

I am forever thankful to the outgoing managing board who I’ve had the pleasure

of working alongside and hope to continue working with in the future. I’m also excited to see what Peyton McKenzie produces as he returns in his role as creative director on the managing board. I will miss the creative director-multimedia pipeline.

I think it’s safe to say the journalism program and student media here at Quinnipiac was the right path for me.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

FAVORITE CHRONICLE CONTRIBUTION

LEAD PHOTO FOR 2021 FALL FEST COVERAGE

An open mind will open doors

By **NICOLE MCISAAC**
Former Managing Editor

Four years, 48 months, 1,640 days or 126,230,400 seconds.

That’s how long I have been a member of the Quinnipiac Chronicle. As graduation nears and I reflect upon how my time in the organization has impacted me, I am left with a simple phrase to describe my experience: Be open-minded.

But in order for that meaning to come to fruition, let’s rewind a bit.

In 2019, I came into Quinnipiac University with the sole mindset of being a broadcast journalist. I didn’t want anything that didn’t have to do with teleprompters, cameras and microphones.

Ironic, right?

I started to get involved in student media with the campus television station, but was nudged to try more. It wasn’t until my School of Communications peer mentor, former News Editor Emily DiSalvo, encouraged me to show up to Quinnipiac’s School of Business building at 9:15 on a random Tuesday.

From there, I hit the ground running and de-

cided to never look back.

I remember my first couple of stories that I published with the Chronicle, specifically features on Susan Scoopo, administrative assistant to the School of Communications, and Daryl Richard, former vice president of marketing and communications. I didn’t know what I was doing — nervous wouldn’t even begin to describe how I was feeling.

But I picked up my notepad and pen and followed in the footsteps of the other editors before me — such as former Managing Editors Emily Flamme and Jessica Simms.

Diving into news stories every week, I slowly began to crawl — or maybe sprint — my way up the latter. From copy editor, associate news editor, news editor and now former managing editor, it is safe to say that this organization quickly became my home since the start of my college journey.

Through every edit and weekly coffee and critiques meeting (that never seemed to have any coffee), I learned something more about myself — I learned that there was a bigger world of jour-

nalism that I hadn’t even skimmed the surface of. There were so many skills that I didn’t even have exposure to yet.

From there, I dipped my toes outside of my strictly-profound love for news and began writing across all sections of the paper. Though a lot different than what I was used to, this allowed me to work with more people and pick up on different writing skills than I was previously exposed to.

Then, I picked up a camera to shoot photos (yes, even for sports), worked on scripts for our podcasts, ran news workshops for news writing, helped launch a broadcast-style Instagram Reel and mastered my editing skills for other individuals’ stories. Basically, the AP Stylebook became my essential go-to.

However, I knew I still was missing something.

With all of these versatile and diverse resume skills, there was one more puzzle piece that I wasn’t able to locate until last spring: my true passion for audience engagement and digital-gear work.

Using all of the skills that I learned throughout my time at the Chronicle and in courses thus far, I took a chance and became the audience engagement intern at the Connecticut Mirror in Hartford last spring.

You know when people say things happen for a reason? This happened for a reason.

Fast forward a year later and now wrapping up my time there, I officially have the “audience bug.” Through this type of work, I am able to take all the skills I previously mentioned and combine them — while still working in that newsroom and journalism atmosphere. While in my role as managing editor, I worked hard to ensure that I was bringing that newly-learned audience knowledge and spreading it to others within the Chronicle.

Without those experiences and without that leap, I wouldn’t have found that piece to complete the puzzle.

But if you’d asked me even two years ago what search engine optimization was, I would tell you to go fish.

Although I worked hard to get to where I am today, it wouldn’t have happened if I never

FAVORITE CHRONICLE CONTRIBUTION

THE CREATION OF ‘CHRON-60’

went to that Chronicle meeting all those years ago. I wouldn’t be the journalist and communication professional I am today, simply, without the Chronicle.

And don’t get me wrong, I have had my fair share of times throughout these past four years where I felt as if I didn’t want to do it anymore. From restless nights as news editor to arguing over what words to run in a headline — it was all worth it. I wouldn’t change the path or challenges for anything.

As I head into the professional world while finishing up my graduate degree in public relations on the social media track next year, I will miss the Chronicle dearly — but know I have been prepared for my next journey.

So for all the students reading this with more semesters to go, be more open-minded toward your professional career. You never know what that one “missed opportunity” will bring or what future doors will open for you. But most of all, you don’t know where the wind will blow you or where you are meant to wind up.

To the Chronicle, my editorial board, previous editors and all of the professors along the way, thank you for pushing me to grow in ways I didn’t think were possible. Words can’t describe how grateful I am for crossing paths with you.

Continue to be open-minded toward trying new things in your professional career, and no matter what — never look back.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Find your creative confidence

By **EMMA KOGEL**
Former Associate Design Editor

With graduation around the corner and the year ending, it gives us all the time to reflect. When it comes to thinking about my time at Quinnipiac University, something I am grateful for is my involvement on campus.

In sophomore year, in the midst of COVID-19, my friends from down the hall got me to join The Quinnipiac Chronicle. Although I didn’t know what to expect, I said I’d attend a meeting and see how I felt. I started making a few graphics and found that I enjoyed the environment surrounding this organization. I am grateful I gave it a chance, and it stuck.

At the beginning of college, I was a

scared 18-year-old who decided to study graphic design. Through the uncertainty, I realized I needed a creative outlet. I wasn’t sure at the time what would be a good fit for me regarding involvement on campus. Yet, I knew that being involved would help me in many ways.

I have always loved collaborating and finding inspiration through others, making the newspaper a great fit. Through this experience, I was able to grow as a student, designer and especially a team member.

The biggest takeaway from this experience was my increasing confidence in my abilities. I will take the skills and experience I’ve gained from this student organization into my future career.

I learned a lot about myself and how I function in this environment — even getting out of my comfort zone occasionally. I even wrote about my favorite celebrity, the iconic Justin Bieber. If you know me, you know how fitting this is: the guy’s even my lock screen.

I am thankful for everyone currently a part of this organization, along with past members who have helped me grow my skills and gain new experiences.

I came into this organization without knowing how producing and putting out a weekly newspaper worked. But now I under-

stand the hard work that goes into each issue and the communication that goes along with it — even if I’m the worst offender of not reading the GroupMe, sorry, everyone.

As someone who came to college unsure of herself and her abilities in a workplace environment, the Chronicle allowed me to grow and understand my strengths and weaknesses.

I am incredibly grateful for the people I have met through the Chronicle over the last few years. I am happy to tell people I have been involved in this organization.

As someone who was unsure about how involved she wanted to be on campus, take it from me, go to that meeting and meet new people. You never know where it could take you.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

FAVORITE CHRONICLE CONTRIBUTION

“UNPACKING THE PETE DAVIDSON EFFECT”

Making new friendships beyond the media suite

By **DAVID MATOS**
Former Arts & Life Editor

Like many seniors graduating in a few weeks, I started my first year pre-pandemic in the fall of 2019. Life was very different back then. I was 100 pounds lighter, I tried to play it straight and doctors exclusively wore surgical masks in the operating room.

When I started college, I had two objectives — to make friends and be gay.

My first semester of college was rather mundane. I had just come off four miserable years at Catholic all-boys high school where the slightest suggestion of my queerness could’ve gotten me physically hurt by my peers. As a result, I didn’t have many friends in high school. Though not much has changed, I was the quiet, gay, chubby kid with a bad haircut and an underbite.

In my senior year of high school, I was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and lost over 100 pounds. Going into my first year at Quinnipiac University, I wanted to relish the moment and free myself from the real-life horror

show that was my high school experience.

However, in my fall 2019 semester, I didn’t take advantage of my newfound freedom and instead took on old habits. I kept to myself, did my work and was now the lonely, gay, skinny kid with a bad haircut and an underbite.

In the spring, I contacted the former Arts & Life Editor for The Quinnipiac Chronicle, Jessica Simms. I was an active member of my high school’s newspaper club, and I’m a journalism major after all, so the fact I waited this long to join the Chronicle was mad.

I wrote my first article dedicated to my favorite television show, “RuPaul’s Drag Race.” Although looking back, I formatted the article more like a press release than something worthy of a print publication.

However, this was still a significant milestone for me as someone who was publicly closeted for years, getting to write about something so prominent in queer culture. I wrote one more article, this time about Jeffree Star. This was be-

fore the internet publicly exposed him as being a racist. However, this continued my trend of making small attempts at being unapologetically gay and writing about queer topics.

My plans for world domination quickly stopped when the COVID-19 pandemic stole the spotlight. In the spring 2020 semester, Quinnipiac sent everyone home for what I thought would be just a week or two but quickly turned into a full year.

During my time at home, I gained back all my weight, developed an eating disorder after discovering Uber Eats and stopped writing for the Chronicle for no other reason than my self-pity.

Though classes and the Chronicle were still virtual in February 2021, I connected with the former Arts & Life Editor Emily DiSalvo and rejoined the Chronicle. I started writing every week for arts & life, quickly becoming a staff writer. Once editorial board applications rolled around in April, Emily encouraged me to apply for the associate arts & life editor position.

I was hesitant at first because, at that point, I had only written around four articles. But, I took her advice, applied and landed the 2021-2022 semester position thanks to former Editor-in-Chief Michael Sicoli, who trusted me.

In the fall of 2021, I was a junior and finally back on campus. This was when I met Neha Seenarine, the associate arts & life editor at the time, and former Arts & Life Editor Ashley Pelletier, two people I now consider friends.

Over the last year, working alongside Neha as the arts & life editors and Zoe Leone as our associate has been incredible. Neha is one of the best people I’ve come to know at Quinnipiac, and though she may not realize it, she’s the first person in my life I called a real friend. It’s genuinely not every day you can work with your best friend.

Because of my faulty experience making friends in high school, connecting with others was challenging. However, Neha made me feel comfortable, and like I could be myself from day

FAVORITE CHRONICLE CONTRIBUTION

“LET’S TALK ABOUT GAY SEX”

one. I remember walking into the media suite on my first deadline day, and she greeted me with open arms and a smile despite having never spoken a word with me.

We then walked to our classes bonding over our love for Britney Spears and the rest is history. She’s someone I can always text, laugh with during Tuesday’s deadlines and gossip over a sangria before our weekly g-board meetings. While there’s much of the Chronicle I will miss, sharing my time with Neha every week is what I will miss the most. She made my time at Quinnipiac and the Chronicle all the more bearable, and I couldn’t be more thankful for that.

I came to college wanting to find a friend and be proud of my identity as a gay man. Now, I’m leaving the Chronicle with seven articles that fall under the LGBTQ+ category, the last of which is about gay sex, and friendships with my fellow graduating peers that I foresee lasting beyond the media suite.

Because of the Chronicle, I’m more unapologetically myself than ever as I type this with my acrylic nails and a poster of Ariana Grande glaring over my shoulder.

Even though I might still resemble that gay chubby kid with a bad haircut — but in blonde — and underbite, I think my freshman-year self would be proud of the person I’ve become.

Congrats to the current Arts & Life Editor Zoe and the Associate Editor Jacklyn Pellegrino; I know you will both kill it in your new roles.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

The end of my Quinnipiac chronicles

By **NEHA SEENARINE**
Former Arts & Life Editor

The Quinnipiac Chronicle wasn’t the first publication I joined on campus, but that doesn’t mean I’m not grateful to be a member of the team.

When I was a first-year student I ironically joined the satire publication, The Quinnipiac Barnacle. Even though that’s not the best move as a journalism major – that didn’t stop me. However, my membership was brief when COVID-19 killed the organization.

One thing that was drilled into my head when I came to Quinnipiac University is that I need some sort of portfolio to show to future employers. I’m sure recruiters wouldn’t care for my practice press releases from COM-140, so during my sophomore year I put my free time into another organization – The Quinnipiac Chronicle.

As soon as I joined, I realized anything is possible at the Chronicle.

If I’m being honest, I’m not the type of girl who is itching to break news or cover a sports event — however, I did want to write about pop culture, so I joined the Arts & Life breakout room on Zoom when general meetings were held virtually. Before I knew it, I wrote my first article

about the Kardashian family and I never left.

My first few articles were focused on entertainment, whether it was about Adam Sandler or Frankie Jonas becoming viral on TikTok. If you told me Calvin Harris would block me on Twitter over an album review back then, I wouldn’t believe you. Eventually, I found what I love to write about: featuring amazing people on campus and sex columns.

There was nothing more rewarding to me than giving someone an outlet to tell their story. During my first year in Chronicle, I had the opportunity to feature now Quinnipiac Democrats president Paul Cappuzzo and his YouTube show, “The Paulitics Show.”

Flash forward to my senior year, I spent some time writing about organizations on campus like the Quinnipiac Pep Band or the Women’s Health Organization – putting a spotlight on organizations that build a community.

If there are two pieces that were prominent to my Chronicle career it is “Size, does it matter?” and “Post-nut clarity’s dreadful aftermath” – because listen, I get it, no one wants to discuss a penis and the effect of its fluids. That’s alright. But the Chronicle allowed me to break barriers and write about topics that are on people’s minds but are never discussed at the dinner table. This publication allowed me to use my voice and represent who I am as a writer and I’m thankful for never being limited in my ideas.

The Chronicle is also responsible for giving me back my first love when I came to campus – The Barnacle.

During my junior year, I missed writing satire so much that I would talk about Barnacle as if it was an ex that broke my heart. Thankfully, the then-Editor-in-Chief Michael Sicoli and Arts & Life editor Ashley Pelletier gave me the op-

portunity to introduce a satirical column to the Chronicle. Man, it was hit. All of sudden, Quinnipiac had an outdoor residence facility, a women’s swim team and a nightclub at an administrator’s home.

During my spring semester of junior year, I was sent an email from the last Barnacle Editor-in-Chief Claire Gregg with the keys to the kingdom and a month later, the Barnacle was a revived organization on campus. However, this could not have been possible without the support of my co-editors at the Chronicle. Opinion Editor Michael LaRocca joined my executive board at the Barnacle and I passed my role down to Sports Editor Ethan Hurwitz.

I am forever thankful for the past Arts & Life editors Emily DiSalvo and Ashley Pelletier who

have guided me into this position. Being a part of Arts & Life is not a one-person job and every semester being in Chronicle would not be possible without my co-editor David Matos. I am grateful for the time I’ve worked with him and I know I have a best friend for life. The future is bright for the section with the leadership of Zoe Leone and Jacklyn Pellegrino – I know Arts & Life will continue to evolve with their creativity.

My experience at the Chronicle would not have been as enjoyable without the people I work with. Whether it is a group chat with the sports editors asking what they ate on their trip covering a game or learning if it’s worth waiting in line at a food truck on campus with my co-editors, I wouldn’t trade the stress and exhaustion for anything.

FAVORITE CHRONICLE CONTRIBUTION

“SIZE, DOES IT MATTER?”



DANIEL PASSAPERA/CHRONICLE

A green thumbs-up

SEA's Earth Day celebration promotes change, actions for QU sustainability

By AIDAN SHEEDY
Photography Editor

On a gusty spring afternoon, Quinnipiac University students and community members joined to build a more sustainable future at the annual Earth Day Fair, presented by the Students for Environmental Action.

The April 21 event boasted an array of environment-friendly resources for students, like glass reusable straws, natural overnight oats, bottle donations and information about how to stay green while away at school.

Among the student-run tables was a vendor of vintage Quinnipiac athletic gear to promote reusing and a representative of a Quinnipiac Dining-affiliated produce company called Sardilli.

Linda Wooster of Bethany, Connecticut, was selling throwback merchandise to the students and many took home some rare finds like a “Class of ‘05” shirt or a Quinnipiac Braves — the university’s former mascot — starter jacket.

Wooster said she was a Quinnipiac

Athletics employee for many years and made quite the collection of Bobcat and Braves apparel in her own house. She also added that all the proceeds were sent directly to the Bethany Historical Society.

Alexander Moylan, the Sardilli Produce and Dairy account representative, said Quinnipiac Dining thought his contribution to the Earth Day Fair was necessary to get the students excited about eating and growing their own fruits and vegetables.

“There can never be enough (events),” Moylan said. “Every single time the students are always happy, the smiles are brimming ... Just being outside that service is different and engaging.”

But this Earth Day celebration was more than just another event for passionate environmental leaders. Although she’s not on the executive board, devout SEA member Ana Caliri said the university needs more students to spark a change.

“As young students get educated, there’s

been more voice toward (change),” Caliri, a junior health science and environmental studies co-major said. “The more students are aware about how individual actions can create big social change, the more the university will hear that and hopefully make real changes toward being sustainable.”

Throughout the day, Caliri focused on using the SEA as a tool to educate the student body on topics that may not be covered inside the classroom like how to compost properly. But something bigger than that was bothering her—the university’s carbon footprint and the lack of knowledge about it.

“We’re on a campus that doesn’t really prioritize or value sustainability,” Caliri said. “The university is supposed to be leading young minds ... When the environment is such a pressing issue today, why not use that fodder to improve?”

Caliri listed off five environmentally-detrimental actions that Quinnipiac University

is facing: lack of LEED-certified structures, little to no natural flora and fauna, energy output, seemingly no recycling process and the termination of Pine Grove.

As reported by The Chronicle in March, Quinnipiac’s sustainability score ranked among the worst in the state and far behind competing schools like UConn, Yale and Wesleyan. However, the new recreation center and the south quad in construction are all set to be LEED certified, the green rating system most commonly used worldwide.

This Earth Day, the largest takeaway Caliri wants is more power to the voices of the students, as many may underestimate the power of people in large numbers.

“The students’ role is huge. The will of many is bigger than people think,” Caliri said. “If we get a lot of people speaking and arguing for the university to be more sustainable, they’ll listen to us at least.”



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac University students lined the Quad in hopes to get a little more green in their diet and pick up some great resources to learn more about environmental conservation and their impact on the Earth.

The Weeknd turns back the clock with his newest single 'Double Fantasy'

By ETHAN HURWITZ
Sports Editor

In a promotional effort for his upcoming HBO show, “The Idol,” releasing in June, The Weeknd dropped “Double Fantasy,” a new single featuring Future, on April 21.

The new song, which is part of the show’s official soundtrack, was performed for the first time during Metro Boomin’s set at Coachella on the same day as the release date. Metro Boomin, along with world-renowned producer Mike Dean, were also credited with the production of this single.

After a lengthy saxophone solo, the single jumps right into the perspective of The Weeknd’s in-show character, Tedros, a seedy nightclub owner and cult leader. With the song oozing with synths, The Weeknd — real name Abel Tesfaye — goes back to the vintage style of singing that made him explode onto the scene last decade.

“I can tell that you think that I’m right for you / I already know that it’s not true, but girl, I’ll lie to you / Even though it’s wrong / It’s wrong / Even though it’s wrong.”

With Tedros crooning about the inner trauma of his partner, he sings about how he

just doesn’t care and loves the darkness within.

“Baby girl, I’m the only one who knows this side of you / And baby, you know that I can pull out what’s inside of you.”

It is a dark song, accompanied with a dark music video. In the video, Lily-Rose Depp, Tesfaye’s co-star in the show, plays Jocelyn, a wannabe popstar that falls under Tedros’ influence. With scenes from the show seen in the video, it lays a solid foundation for the relationship between the two main characters.

The name of the song — which pays homage to the 1980 album by John Lennon and Yoko Ono — plays on the idea of seeing double. In Lennon and Ono’s album, they go back and forth singing to each other about how much they love each other. For the 2023 single, The Weeknd sings about how both parts of a human’s mental state can impact him.

When Future comes into the song for his verse, he raps about how both the good and bad sides of a person can come into play in a relationship.

“I sent you an envelope, came with a poem / You possess venom, that came with a charm / You get the good out of me when I perform / I know the bad in you, that’s what I want.”

This is not the first time that these two have gotten together on a project.

“Double Fantasy” is another song on a long list of collaborations between The Weeknd and Future, who last teamed up for the latter’s album on “Coming Out Strong” in 2017. Other hits that the two icons have worked on include “Low Life,” “All I Know,” “Six Feet Under” and “Drinks On Us.”

The single has flashback ties to some of Tesfaye’s older projects. With the hypnotic singing and electric beats in the background, it calls back to 2013’s “Kissland” and 2020’s “After Hours.” However, lately, The Weeknd has incorporated more club-style synths and keyboards in his projects. Darker undertones about sex, drugs and club nightlife have been staples in The Weeknd’s discography since his debut mixtapes in the early 2010s.

With a full soundtrack being produced for the show by Tesfaye, those who crave new music from The Weeknd do not need to wait any longer. With him also working on another studio album in the future, “Double Fantasy” is a nice little surprise just in time for the summer.



BRIAN ZIFF/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

'Double Fantasy' is the Weeknd's first work released since the album Live From SoFi Stadium released on March 3.

The new Super Mario Bros. movie shines for what it is

By BENJAMIN YEARGIN
Managing Editor

When I first heard about “The Super Mario Bros. Movie,” I was hesitant. I didn’t have high hopes for Illumination Entertainment to make an enjoyable movie about the beloved video game franchise, given that they are responsible for “Rich Minion” by Yeat.

The movie proved me wrong.

Sure, there were parts of “The Super Mario Bros. Movie” that were subpar, like Seth Rogen’s not-so authentic Donkey Kong performance and the lack of adequate cameos from some of my favorite characters in the “Super Mario Bros.” universe like Wario, Waluigi and Funky Kong.

I came out of the movie satisfied with what it was: a movie enjoyable for those who’ve spent countless hours playing Mario-themed video games. It’s not a Citizen Kane-level masterpiece — nor will it make you think — but it’s an hour and a half of mindless enjoyment.

The film hit the box office on April 5 to massive success. According to the Hollywood Reporter, it grossed a combined \$238.5 million in its first two weekends of release, and it’s on pace to be the third movie since the pandemic to break \$1 billion worldwide.

The most striking thing about the movie was the plot. You’d think a movie about the Mario Bros. would be the conventional Mario (Chris Pratt) and Luigi (Charlie Day) saving Peach (Anya Taylor-Joy) and defeating Bowser (Jack Black). Half of that plot is true.

Peach was not a damsel in distress.

Instead, she helped Mario train to defeat Bowser and accompanied him on his journey to save Luigi from King Koopa. Peach made her own decisions and ruled the Mushroom Kingdom with help from Toad (Keegan-Michael Key).

The flick included elements of most Mario games, including the famous “Mario Kart” franchise, and the games titled “New Super Mario Bros.” As someone who grew up playing “Mario Kart Wii” and still considers himself good at the game, it’s nice to see the creators giving a nod to the franchise and its most notorious course, “Rainbow Road.”

The movie’s A-list celebrities — Pratt, Day, Taylor-Joy, Key and Black — all gave good performances, though some were more memorable than others.

Black’s performance was easily the best. His ballad for Princess Peach, appropriately titled “Peaches,” became a meme and showed why Black shines in nearly everything he does: commitment.

He committed himself entirely to the role of Bowser and nearly everyone I talked to loved it. Like Black, I felt Key put his all into playing Toad and it paid off. It’s special to see actors devote so much care into playing fictional characters.

Going into the movie, critics heavily scrutinized Pratt’s voice for Mario based on the trailer.

“Chris Pratt’s Mario voice is watered down to an upsetting degree,” Distractify’s Bianca Piazza wrote on Oct. 7.

In order to please such a vast audience, Pratt had to nail the voice. Although he didn’t nail it, I was pleasantly surprised by his vocal performance.

To fully understand Pratt’s performance, you need context. In the movie, Mario and Luigi are two plumbers from Brooklyn, New York, who are cast off into the Mushroom Kingdom and a Bowser-inhabited island, respectively.

His mixture of the Brooklyn accent and Charles Martinet’s voice for Mario made a more realistic and relatable character than just the caricature we grew up on.

Speaking of Martinet — the original voice of Mario — it nearly made me tear up when I heard his voice on the big screen. Illumination Entertainment made the classy move to cast the man who voiced so many childhoods in the blockbuster movie.

The one character I didn’t find too memorable was Mario’s taller, greener counterpart, Luigi. Besides not being in the majority of the 92 minute runtime, I felt that Day rarely captured the essence of Luigi, the cowardly lion of the “Super Mario Bros.” franchise.

However, Pratt and Day nailed the certain nuances of Mario’s “Yahoo” or “Mama Mia” or Luigi’s “Yay” that partly made up for the downsides of their respective performances.

I felt the score was incredibly well done too. The musical motifs common throughout the series intermittently showed up in the film, and made me smile while calling back

to my childhood when I heard them.

“The Super Mario Bros. Movie” will bring about a plethora of nostalgia, make you smile and leave you thinking about the days you spent playing Mario games. I give it four power stars out of five.



'Bluey' is making the world a magical place

By ZOE LEONE
Arts & Life Editor

These days, when anyone asks me how I’m doing, my default answer is usually, “stressed.” With the semester coming to a close and my to-do list only growing longer, some days my outlets for stress relief seem like the only thing getting me through the day.

For some college students, these outlets might be going to the gym after class or spending time with friends on the Quad during a nice day. But for me, there’s only one sure-fire way to temporarily shake my anxieties away: watching an episode of “Bluey.”

“Bluey” is an animated TV show that first premiered in 2018 in Australia, with the Walt Disney Company gaining international broadcasting rights the following year. Whether it’s airing live down under (new episodes of season three are currently airing in Australia) or being streamed on Disney+, the series has become a smash hit for both cable and streaming viewers.

The show follows the titular character, Bluey, a 6-year-old Blue Heeler puppy who lives in Brisbane, Australia with her mom, Chilli, her dad, Bandit and her little sister, Bingo. While the Heeler family is generally the main focus of the show, a wide cast of friends, families and neighbors of all different dog breeds make regular appearances.

While the initial target audience of “Bluey” was preschoolers, it’s found a dedicated group of fans that range much older than 3-5 years old. The official

“Bluey” account on TikTok currently has 2.3 million followers, while the show’s hashtag has accumulated over five billion views. Scrolling through videos will show a mix of parents happily watching the show without their children, 20 year olds boasting about their binge watching and edits of scenes set to Taylor Swift songs.

I was first exposed to the show over the summer, when I was spending my days chasing after 3-year-olds who call me “Miss Zoe.” We were having our daily argument of whether the room was going to watch “Encanto” or “Cocomelon.” Suddenly, a pudgy toddler finger was pointing at the TV screen and I heard a shriek of “I want to watch Bluey!”

I’d never heard of it before, but I was more than happy to put something on that I hadn’t already seen 10 times that week. Three nine-minute-long episodes later and I found myself sitting in a chair in front of the TV, a kid in my lap, staring at the screen in a joyous trance. I had consumed a fair amount of media aimed for small children in that daycare room, but there was something different about “Bluey.”

Flash forward to now and “Bluey” has somehow become a part of my regular television rotation. Whether it’s the end of a long day of classes or I’m in need of recovery from a night out, I find myself pulling up Disney+ and taking solace in the familiar up-beat theme song.

It makes sense that the series has found a loving home with parents, but it begs

the question: what is it about “Bluey” that connects with college students?

"Kids' cartoons can be a support treatment because they incorporate themes like community order, friendship, family, teamwork, that good always wins over evil, and that the sun will always come out tomorrow," said Dr. Laurel Steinberg, a New York psychotherapist, in an interview with VICE. "They can help restore optimism and give someone a break from worrying or feeling sad, all of which can elevate mood."

Ultimately, “Bluey” is about a lot more than an anthropomorphic — an animation style that gives human traits, personalities and emotions to non-human things — family

of dogs. While a lot of the episodes follow a slice of life style, these small looks into everyday life always include the big stuff.

Whether it’s Bingo or Bluey dealing with their big emotions, Bandit and Chilli worrying that they’re not great parents or even dealing with topics such as divorce, death and grief or infertility, the writers do not skip over the hard things in life just because the show is aimed at kids. Instead, they’re repackaged in a way that lands softer in the minds of children, or in this case, college students.

So as Chilli tells Bluey, “The world’s a magical place!” And thanks to this show, I think a lot of us believe it just might be.



Stunt casting shakes up Broadway for the worse

Celebrities don’t belong on Broadway

By CASEY WIEDERHOLD
Photography Editor

I remember in 2019 when I went to see Colleen Ballinger in “Waitress: The Musical.” I was a huge fan of both at the time and had to do everything I could to convince my parents to purchase tickets for the show. I had the tickets in time for my birthday and that was how I spent the day: in New York to see one of my favorite YouTubers live and in person.

Stunt casting situations like this one happen all of the time on Broadway, and not always for the better. Stunt casting is when productions use celebrities in order to generate media publicity.

In fact, singer Joanna “JoJo” Levesque just made her Broadway debut in “Moulin Rouge! The Musical.” Levesque can sing; she has popular hits such as “Leave (Get Out)” and “Baby It’s You.” She was the youngest female artist to be nominated for a Billboard Music Award in 2004, when she was only 13 years old.

Apart from having singing capabilities, Levesque has to have some dance abilities if she’s able to handle the “Moulin Rouge! The Musical” choreography. But I have yet to hear one comment about her acting. Levesque came to the show after Ashley Loren left, and the show has lost money ever since. According to PlayBill.com, the musical has lost around \$330,000. This could just be because Aaron Tveit and Loren left, since during their last week sales skyrocketed. But I won’t have an opinion on Levesque until I see her for myself.

Olivia Holt, from popular television shows such as “Kickin’ it,” “Girl vs. Monster” and “Cruel Summer” also recently made her Broadway debut as Roxie Hart in the musical “Chicago.” “Chicago” is guilty of using stunt casting in almost every run. In the past, it has cast Sofía Vergara, Pamela Anderson, Billy Ray Cyrus and Todrick Hall.

Casting celebrities from the film and music industry is a widely different concept than stunt casting a musical theater celebrity. The difference is, with musical theatre stunt casting, it comes from stars who have built their career from theatre. These stars would include Bernadette Peters, Aaron Tveit, Idina Menzel and Patti LuPone. Whereas coming from the film and music industry, the celebrities started in that area and the companies use it to generate media attention for that specific show.

Cameron Dallas in “Mean Girls” is one of the worst stunt castings that has been heard of among the theater community.

According to Deadline, Dallas released music starting in 2018, then was cast in the Broadway musical the following year. Immediately, negative videos began to surface. Dallas could not sing.

In one scene, Renéé Rapp, who portrayed Regina George at the time, was singing her song “Someone Gets Hurt.” In that song, Dallas was supposed to harmonize and sing his own lyrics alongside Rapp. Instead, the composers and directors had to cut this part entirely. Erika Henningsen, who portrayed Cady Heron, even had to go off key in her song, “Stupid with Love,” just to attempt to

harmonize with Dallas.

Dallas was only on Broadway for a month, and once he joined the cast, the musical lost money, an average of \$98,000 a week. Once Dallas left, the musical gained approximately \$75,000 just from the return of Kyle Selig.

I will always feel bad for Sabrina Carpenter. She was a stunt cast that I was genuinely excited to see. However, the COVID-19 pandemic cut her performance short. Carpenter was slated to go on as Cady Heron, the main character of “Mean Girls.” Directors casted her for a 14-week limited run, though she was cut short after only two performances. I know Carpenter would have been a perfect Cady Heron, her voice fits the part and I know she can act the part.

Stunt casting doesn’t always have to be

bad. There have been some instances where it was good. Take Jordan Fisher as Evan Hansen in the musical “Dear Evan Hansen,” for example, or even Gaten Matarazzo in the same musical. Both Fisher and Matarazzo are phenomenal singers and actors, which makes them perfect stunt casts.

Stunt casting would be like saying, “Let’s put Taylor Swift and Harry Styles in ‘The Light in the Piazza.’” It makes no sense to do it, other than the fact that they can sing.

There’s a certain criteria that should be followed when stunt casting. It may drive up media attention for musicals, but it could ruin the experience for hardcore theatre fans who have been there since the release of the musical. Stunt casting should only be used as a last-resort option, for when shows really need the money. I still love Broadway nonetheless.



ILLUSTRATION BY SHAVONNE CHIN

A guide for the best everyday makeup routine

By KRYSTAL MILLER
Associate News Editor

As an avid makeup wearer, I have my go-to everyday makeup products. Wearing makeup makes me feel more confident and prepared for the day. I also love trying out different products and seeing what works the best for me. With warmer weather, I like to have a glowy and natural base that isn’t expensive.

Most of my makeup products are from drugstores like CVS, or the cosmetic’s websites, Ulta or Sephora. I have a combination skin type, so these products may work differently on you if you have oily or dry skin.

I pick out my makeup products through what influencers on Youtube recommend, Tiktok reviews and trying out new products from brands I’m familiar with. I feel better about buying new makeup if other people online are giving it good reviews. These products are affordable and do what they claim to do on the packaging.

Primer: Elf Cosmetics Power Grip Primer + 4% Niacinamide

This primer has been all over TikTok, and for good reason. This is different from the original power grip primer because of the added niacinamide, which is a skincare ingredient. It is sticky when you first put it on, but it looks flawless under foundation. It makes your makeup last all day and is a primer I know is making a huge difference to my routine.

Foundation: Elf Halo Glow Liquid Filter

This foundation is perfect for when you want a lighter coverage, but you still want to blur your skin and have glow. You can also layer this foundation under a more full coverage one or use it as a highlighter, but I like to wear it on its own. You don’t need a lot of product on your skin and it works for all skin types.

Concealer: Too Faced Born This Way Concealer

This concealer is full coverage and will not budge on your face. It is perfect for covering up and brightening the undereye area. This concealer is buildable and feels light on the skin.

Highlighter: Jaclyn Cosmetics Accent Light Highlighter in Iced

I was hesitant to buy Jaclyn Cosmetics after the lipstick scandal where customers were receiving contaminated lipsticks, but I love this champagne colored highlighter. It gives a subtle glow and can be worn with any makeup look. It’s also easy to apply and you can control how much you are adding to your look.

Blush: Rare Beauty Soft Pinch Liquid Blush in Joy

For a celebrity makeup brand, I was a little scared when I first tried this, but Selena Gomez’s brand absolutely shocked me. This blush is the most pigmented blush I’ve ever tried and the most long-lasting. I hate checking the mirror after a few hours and seeing my blush has completely disappeared, and that doesn’t happen. It does take some time to get used to the application process if you aren’t familiar with liquid blushes; less is always more. The applicator on the blush has a round top, which makes it easy to open for disabled people, which should be more of a standard in the beauty industry.

Bronzer: Milani XL All Over Bronzer

I’ve been using this bronzer since I first started makeup, and it never lets me down. It is fast and easy to apply, and gives a natural finish. It has a cooler tone and warmer tone side, so you can decide what shade you want to have. The large pan also makes it simple to swipe your brush through.

Brows: Elf Mad for Matte Nude Mood Eyeshadow Palette

I prefer eyeshadow for my eyebrows over an eyebrow pencil because I have thicker brows, which means an eyebrow pencil is gone in a week. It also saves me money and I can pack less when traveling. I take one of the cooler tone brown colors and fill them in and it doesn’t look as heavy as a pomade would.

Eyeliner: NYX Epic Ink Liner

This eyeliner is an opaque black, so you only need a single swipe to get the coverage you want. The felt tip makes it easy to control and make smaller lines if you want to do more detailed designs. It is also waterproof and does not bleed or run throughout the day.

Mascara: L’Oreal Paris Telescopic Original Mascara

This mascara is worth the hype. It is extremely lengthening and makes your lashes pop. For anyone who wants a new mascara, I tell them to get this one. It is definitely one of the best ones I’ve tried. It has a thin wand that makes it easy to coat the lashes and not accidentally hit your eyelid with the product, which is a problem I have with some other mascaras.

Eyeshadow: Morphe X James Charles Artistry Palette

Even though Charles has been through a lot of drama throughout the past years, I still enjoy this palette. It has a wide variety of shades, including a lot of bright colors and neutrals. The colors are pigmented, but it does take some blending to get a seamless eye look.

Powder: Maybelline Fit Me Translucent Powder

This loose powder is the best I’ve tried, this mattifies the oily parts of my t-zone and keeps them that way. Especially when I’m wearing more dewy foundation, powder is a must. This powder is finely milled, so if you like to bake your under eye this is for you too. This powder makes your skin look smooth and poreless.

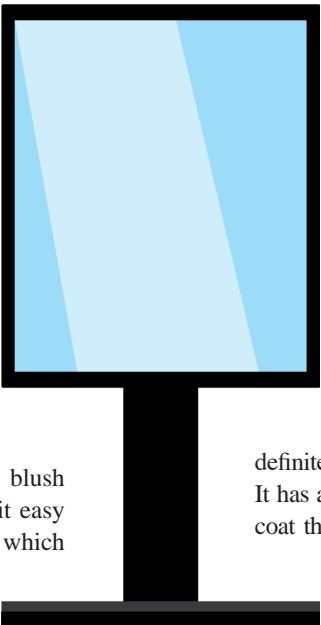
Lip Gloss: NYX Butter Gloss in Ginger Snap

Since the beginning of high school, I have been collecting these glosses in every shade I can find. These glosses are so soft, not sticky and do not feel dry at all, which is the number one thing I hate about lip gloss. Also, the glosses come in a bunch of shades.

Setting Spray: Stay All-Night Micro-Fine Setting Mists

Setting spray didn’t used to be part of my routine, but now I cannot imagine my life without it. It helps all the makeup products melt into the skin and last even longer. The micro-fine mist feels refreshing on the skin and helps to reach every area of your face without drenching it.

If you are looking for a new makeup product to add to your collection, take a look at these ones the next time you walk into a Target or Walgreens.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY SHAVONNE CHIN



PHOTOS BY DANIEL PASSAPERA/AIDAN SHEEDY/PHOTOILLUSTRATION BY CAMERON LEVASSEUR
Quinnipiac has won six MAAC championships (men’s and women’s soccer, volleyball, women’s cross country, women’s tennis, golf) and one national championship (men’s hockey) in 2022-23.

**Men’s MVP:
Yaniv Perets**

The backbone of the men’s hockey team, Perets had another record season en route to a national championship and an NHL contract. In 41 starts in 2022-23, the sophomore recorded a 1.49 goals against average and a .931 save percentage. He also stopped 13 shots in an overtime victory over Minnesota to clinch the championship.

**Women’s MVP:
Rebecca Cooke**

Leading the women’s soccer team to an NCAA tournament appearance, Cooke dominated every offensive category for Quinnipiac. Her 22 goals and 51 points led the Bobcats by a long shot and also all of NCAA Division I.

**Men’s Best Newcomer:
Collin Graf**

Coming in as a transfer from Union, the sophomore rewrote the Quinnipiac record books. Graf led the men’s hockey team in goals (21) and points (59), the latter number tied for the most in a single season in program history.

By THE CHRONICLE SPORTS STAFF

In conjunction with the final print issue of the 2022-23 school year releasing this week, The Quinnipiac Chronicle sports staff put together its collective picks for 10 annual awards, given to Quinnipiac athletes and coaches for noteworthy performance in their respective seasons.

The awards are as follows: men’s most valuable player, women’s most valuable

player, men’s best newcomer, women’s best newcomer, men’s most improved, women’s most improved, men’s coach of the year, women’s coach of the year, men’s team of the year and women’s team of the year.

Voting for each award was open to the entire staff of the Chronicle’s sports section beginning on April 15 and closing on April 23. A total of 17 members participated in the vote.

**Women’s Best Newcomer:
Damla Gunes**

Settling into the starting setter role as a freshman, Gunes led the volleyball team to their first-ever conference title. Her 865 assists were good for third in the MAAC, resulting in her being named to the All-Rookie Team.

**Men’s Most Improved:
Jacob Quillan**

Dramatically improving his point total from nine as a freshman to 38 as a sophomore, Quillan capped off a tremendous second year with the men’s hockey team by scoring the game-winning goal in the national championship game.

**Women’s Most Improved:
Jackie Grisdale**

The Bobcats starting guard had a year to remember. Starting in every game and leading the women’s basketball team in minutes, her 9.9 points per game finished second on the team while her field-goal percentage finished fourth.

**Men’s Coach of the Year:
Rand Pecknold**

After 29 seasons with the men’s hockey program, Pecknold finally reached the top of the mountain, completing a program-record 34-win season with the first national championship in program history.

**Women’s Coach of the Year:
Kyle Robinson**

In his fourth season at the helm of the Quinnipiac volleyball program, Robinson took his squad on a Cinderella run in the MAAC Tournament, defeating No. 3 Iona, No. 7 Rider and No. 1 Fairfield en route to the team’s first conference title.

**Men’s Team of the Year:
Ice Hockey**

The men’s hockey team had its most successful season in program history in 2022-23. The Bobcats won the Belpot and CT Ice trophies, Heroes Hat and Cleary Cup as ECAC Hockey regular season champions before ending the season with their first national championship.

**Women’s Team of the Year:
Soccer**

The women’s soccer program went 15-3-1, including a 9-0-0 record at home, to win its first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2000. Led by head coach Dave Clarke, the Bobcats scored 54 goals and knocked off the Niagara Purple Eagles 4-0 in the MAAC title game.

Nina Klein hired as new field hockey coach

By ZACHARY CARTER
Staff Writer

Former Boston College assistant coach Nina Klein has assumed head coaching duties of the Quinnipiac field hockey team effective April 21, according to a press release from Quinnipiac Athletics.

“Nina Klein is a creative and high-energy leader who is also a three-time NCAA Div. I National Champion,” wrote Sara Fraser, deputy director of athletics and SWA at Quinnipiac, in the press release. “She understands the elements that build excellence and is a skilled motivator who wants to help each student-athlete reach their full potential.”

Klein spent one season with the Eagles in 2022 and four seasons with the Bobcats before that, serving under former head coach Becca Main from 2018-2021 as a voluntary assistant and later as an associate head coach.

“I want to take the time to thank Sarah Fraser,

Billy Mecca, and Greg Amodio for entrusting me with this program,” Klein wrote in the press release. “They believed in my vision from the start and understand the level of intensity and hard work I will bring to this program daily. I look forward to the opportunity to compete for Big East Championships and I am excited to empower the next generation of female athletes as we continue to strive for excellence.”

Klein will become just the second head coach in Quinnipiac field hockey history, taking over for Main, who announced her retirement on March 1 after 28 seasons at the helm.

“When I came to Quinnipiac in 2018, I was enthralled by the opportunity to be a part of an athletic department community that was rich in history, tradition and community,” Klein wrote. “Quinnipiac is a fantastic place to work and coach and I am ecstatic to join this family of coaches, administrators, and mentors.”



PHOTO VIA QUINNIPAC ATHLETICS
Nina Klein was named the second head coach in Quinnipiac field hockey program history on April 22.

Clearing the haze

How Sebastian Mueller became a focal point for Quinnipiac baseball

By **BENJAMIN YEARGIN**
Managing Editor

To put it plainly, Quinnipiac baseball’s Sebastian Mueller had a disappointing 2022 season. In 26 games played, the junior first baseman/outfielder posted a .215 batting average, .287 on-base percentage and a .380 slugging percentage.

He showed flashes of greatness, like a 3-3 performance against St. John’s on March 25, 2022, but could never consistently piece together the brilliance he was capable of.

Fast forward to present day, when “Purple Haze” by Jimi Hendrix comes on at the Quinnipiac baseball field and Mueller steps up to the dish, something’s going to happen. The Califon, New Jersey, native sports an impressive slashline of .285/.371/.467, holds the three spot in the lineup and has tallied career highs in nearly every offensive category.

So what changed?

It started on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, when the Bobcats took on Yale in Hamden.

“I took a really bad batting practice,” Mueller said. “And I was like I don’t know why my swing feels terrible now. From that moment on, it’s just been tweaking with stuff until I finally found it.”

This season, Mueller has become what he’s always been capable of — Quinnipiac’s starting first baseman and more importantly, an all-encompassing ballplayer. With what he can do at the plate and defensively, Mueller is everything the Bobcats need for a playoff push.

“He’s just a pure hitter,” senior outfielder Anthony Donofrio said on April 14. “He’s one of those guys where you put all your confidence into as a team and you know he goes out there and produces day in and day out. He’s a huge asset to this team.”

Arriving in Hamden as a freshman in 2021, Mueller had a productive first campaign. In a year plagued by COVID-19, he hit .253, with a .656 OPS and five extra-base hits. It was nothing spectacular, but still a stellar season.

His freshman campaign had him slotted to start at designated hitter/first base for the Bobcats in 2022. The pressure to perform well affected Mueller drastically.

“I put too much pressure on myself,” Mueller said. “I was like ‘you have to be the guy, you have to hit .370 and just put up video game numbers’ ... When I’m super stressed and trying to do too much, I’m a horrible baseball player.”

In an awful feedback loop, the more stress



CASEY WIEDERHOLD/CHRONICLE

Senior first baseman and outfielder Sebastian Mueller is tied for third in home runs for Quinnipiac baseball this season, with six.

Mueller put on himself to put up unrealistic numbers, the worse he ended up doing. That lasted throughout all of 2022 and it didn’t end until Mueller focused on controlling what he could and remained even keeled.

He escaped the feedback loop and got to work.

Signs of progress started to appear during Mueller’s summer with the now-defunct Winnetka Muskrats of the New England Collegiate Baseball League. He showed flashes of what he’s capable of, and in 23 games and 65 at-bats, Mueller hit .262 with a .724 OPS while tallying 17 hits and five extra-base hits.

“His opportunities were limited,” head coach John Delaney said on April 19. “Seb didn’t take that as a downfall, he continued to work.”

Carrying that momentum into 2023, Mueller is tied for third on the team with six home runs, tied for third in doubles, tied for fourth in hits, fourth in OPS, RBIs and walks and fifth in OBP.

“He came off a good summer, so I think he got a chance to get comfortable again,” Delaney said. “Now he’s doing what we always expected him to do. He’s putting together some great at-bats and giving us a great chance.”

The resiliency needed to come back and stay level after such a roller coaster of a career up to that point is a testament to who Mueller is as a person.

“He’s a great dude. He’s awesome, he’s relentless and fearless,” junior outfielder Jared Zimbardo said on April 19. “Having him behind all of us is so awesome, I can’t ask for anything else.”

Besides rebounding offensively, Mueller’s defense continues to add a side to his game that only helps Quinnipiac, his .982 fielding percentage is fourth on the team. Also, Mueller’s flexibility at first base allows him to get runners out by just a step.

“We were (playing) Iowa and I just stretched and went for it,” Mueller said. “I was like, ‘I

think I can do this’ and I got all the way and I was like alright ... buy a couple extra inches to hopefully get some more guys out.”

Mueller’s resurgence coincides with a Quinnipiac team that’s surprising the MAAC. Compared to last year’s eighth place finish, the Bobcats currently sit tied with Niagara for fifth in the conference, right in the middle of the playoff hunt.

The team just feels different. Quinnipiac baseball swept a MAAC opponent for the first time since May 2019, took games from tough teams in Rider and Canisius and could make the postseason. Mueller knows it’s different too.

“(The) culture is definitely different, a lot more guys keep fighting,” Mueller said on April 19. “(When) we go down three or four it’s not like oh, no, the game’s over. We know we’re never out.”

TENNIS from 12

Quinnipiac, the Stags remained stout and proved to be a challenge in the singles matchups.

“Fairfield came up tough,” Miller said. “I knew they were gonna be tough. We beat them in the regular season, but I knew that they had the potential of giving us a fight.”

Lisovyy went up 5-0 quickly in her first set, which is the pace she prefers to play at, but her opponent battled her way back to nearly tie it at 5-4.

“Paula came onto my court and she really got my head back into the game,” Lisovyy said. “I relaxed a little, being up 5-0 I thought it was going to be an easy win. It was a hard adjustment I had to make but I pulled through.”

After a pep talk from Miller, Lisovyy took the set 6-4 and followed suit with a 6-3

win in the second set, giving Quinnipiac a 2-0 lead overall.

Not only did Truden showcase her creative skills in doubles, but in singles she was slicing and dicing her way to points. Her forehand shots were precise but her backhand shots needed an adjustment because of a lingering injury.

“I do have two torn ligaments, so of course I can’t play a two-handed backhand,” Truden said. “Most of the girls don’t like low slices, especially to their backhands, so this kind of plays in my favor. When I have to rely on something, I’ll just slice and it works out.”

Truden took the first set, after a tough back-and-forth contest, 6-4. In the second set she incorporated more slicing into her playstyle, which gave her opponent trouble as she hit the low change-up into the top of

the net. Truden took the second set 6-2, leaving the Bobcats one win away from another MAAC Championship.

Nella went down early to her opponent in the first set 6-2. She battled back in the second set but it wasn’t enough as Fairfield got a point back after a 7-5 win. Quinnipiac remained ahead 3-1.

Bradley went down one set, but tied it up 1-1 in her match as it headed to a third set. Koscielski was locked in a tight battle at the No. 1 spot down one set but ahead by one game in the second. Sekerina won her first set 6-3, but her opponent, junior Katarina Plumtree, wouldn’t go away without a fight.

Both exchanged wins until the score of the second set was knotted at five all. The hopes of winning the MAAC championship rested on the Kazan, Russia, native’s shoulders and she had ice in her veins.

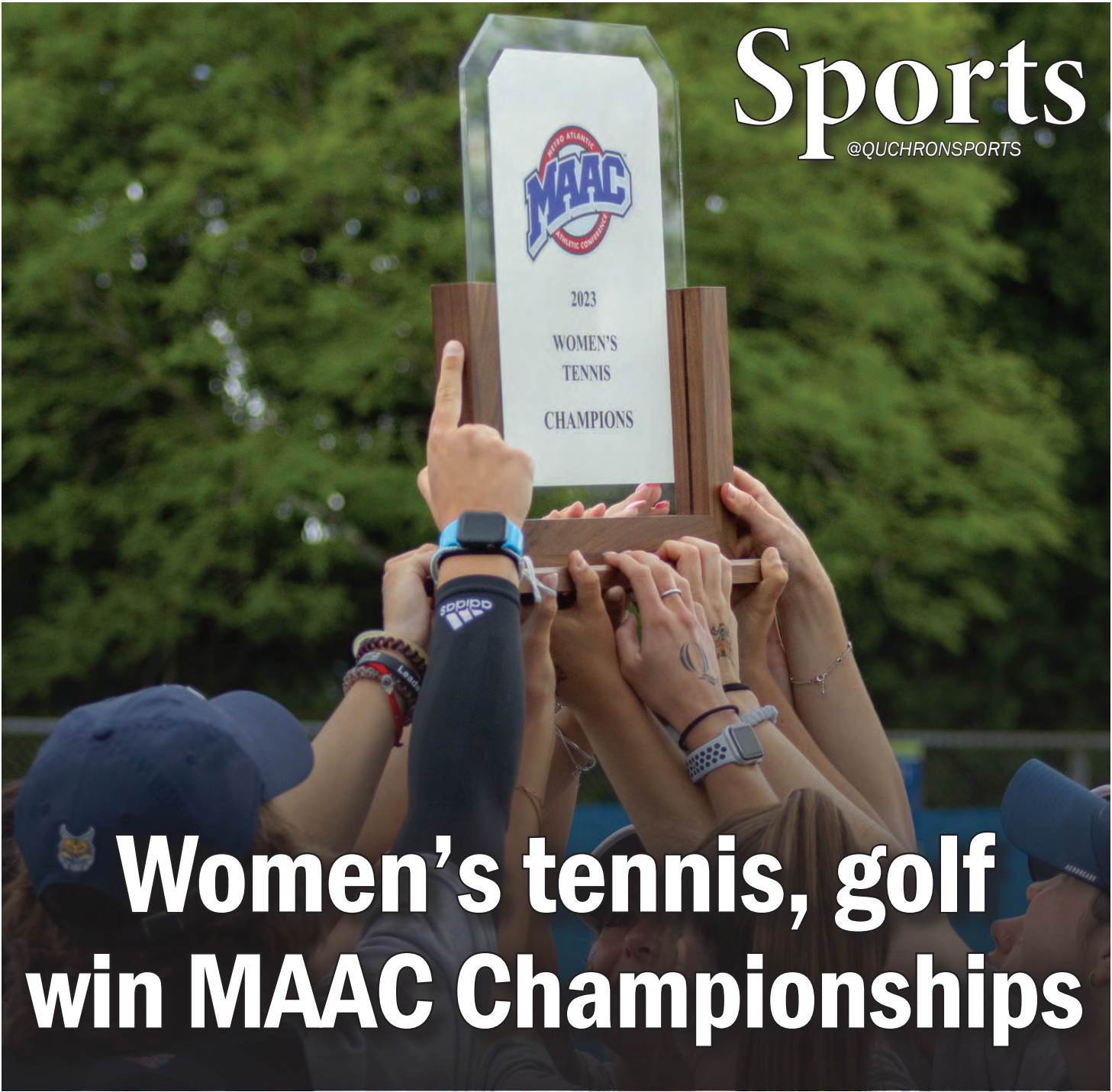
“Since the entire team was looking at me, I knew that it was really important for everyone,” Sekerina said. “I was just fighting for every single point to win.”

Sekerina swept her opponent in the final game 60-0, giving Quinnipiac the 4-1 match victory.

Lisovyy was named the tournament’s Most Outstanding Player for her impressive weekend, as she went a perfect 4-0.

Quinnipiac finished the year winning nine matches in a row, including the MAAC playoffs.

The Bobcats head to the NCAA tournament for the second-consecutive season. The NCAA selection show will take place on May 1 at 6 p.m.



Women's tennis, golf win MAAC Championships

CAMERON LEVASSEUR/CHRONICLE

Sports

@QUCHRONSPORTS

Bobcats win MAAC title with victory over Fairfield

By RYAN RAGGIO
Staff Writer

WEST WINDSOR, N.J. — For the second year in a row and seventh time in the last decade, the Quinnipiac women's tennis team are MAAC champions, defeating Fairfield 4-1 Sunday. With the win, the Bobcats complete an undefeated season in conference play.

“There’s no better way to end it,” senior captain Claire Koscielski said.

Head coach Paula Miller kept the same pairings for the crucial doubles point from the back half of conference play, with graduate student Kamilla Nella and senior Alessia Truden at No. 1 in doubles, senior Jordan Bradley and freshman Nikole Lisovyy at No. 2 and Koscielski and freshman Vera Sekerina at No. 3.

Quinnipiac came out as a dominant force in those doubles matchups. Truden was on her game, pulling all of the tricks she had out of her bag. Following a weak hit, the opponent smashed the ball from up close but was met by Truden’s behind-the-back swat for the point.

Bradley’s strong forehand shot, paired with Lisovyy’s agile front of the net presence, gave their opponents problems all over the court. The duo scored several points off plays where Bradley forced Fairfield to the backline, out of position, then Lisovyy cleaned up the weak returns with a smash or a cheeky drop.

Koscielski and Sekerina were dominant the whole match, which propelled them to a 6-1 victory. Bradley and Lisovyy secured a 6-1 victory as well and gave the Bobcats the early 1-0 match lead.

Despite the strong doubles performances from

See **TENNIS** Page 11

Back-to-back ... to back

Women's golf claims third-straight conference championship

By ETHAN HURWITZ
Sports Editor

After a record-setting weekend at Disney's Palm Golf Course in Florida, the Quinnipiac women's golf team dominated its way to its third-straight MAAC title and fifth in program history. The Bobcats shot 29 strokes better than second place Albany and placed three golfers inside the top three.

“I need all five of them to play well,” head coach John O'Connor said to Quinnipiac Athletics prior to the tournament. “They (have) got to be focused, they (have) got to be ready to put together good scores.”

And focused they were.

To claim the trophy on Sunday, Quinnipiac shot 291–292–290 — 873 (+9), setting a new MAAC best to break its own record from a year prior. Sophomore Fuge Zhang and seniors Leeyen Peralta and Kaylee Sakoda all ranked in the top three in the tournament.

Zhang was named the 2023 MAAC Golfer of the Year, the fourth time a Bobcat was given the award. For the trio, they were all named all-conference, the first time in program history that the Bobcats held the top three spots.

The spring season was a dominant one for the Bobcats, as the MAAC Tournament was the 11th time they finished in the top 10 of the event.

“We have more time in between events to prepare,” Sakoda said to Quinnipiac Athletics about the differences between the spring and winter seasons. “During the winter, it’s a little tough with the tough weather.”

On the first day, the Bobcats set a conference record, shooting 291 (+3) in the first round. That was good enough for the lowest total score by a school in MAAC history. They also paced the

tournament with 57 birdies on the first day.

To follow that up, Quinnipiac continued to pull ahead the next day. Extending their stroke lead to 14, the Bobcats saw Zhang (-2) and Peralta (E) lock up the first two spots on the leaderboard.

Both Peralta and Sakoda, who were named captains of this program for this season, strived pre-tournament to lead the Bobcats to a championship.

“As captains, me and Kaylee try and lead by example,” Peralta said. “We all lift each other up ... our teammates are going to help us.”

On Sunday, Zhang set another MAAC record. Shooting a 72 for her third round, her -2 weekend was the best by a golfer at any MAAC Championship event. Sakoda also had a round to remember, as she shot -3

To round out Quinnipiac’s weekend, sophomore Meg Yoshida (+16) finished tied for 15th place and junior Aimee Uchida (+22) finished tied for 28th.

The Bobcats will now prepare for the NCAA Tournament in one of six regional locations. Their first round match will be announced Wednesday, April 26 at 1 p.m. on the Golf Channel.

Potential locations include the University of Georgia Golf Course, PGA National Resort Palm Beach (Florida), the Palouse Ridge Golf Club (Washington), the Lonnie Poole Golf Course (North Carolina), TPC San Antonio (Texas) and The Club at Chatham Hills (Indiana).

“It’s huge,” O'Connor said. “Winning the MAAC is always critical for us, it gives us a chance to play at the next level at Regionals and that’s a whole different level. I aspire to be the best coach at Quinnipiac with the best team ... hopefully that will come.”

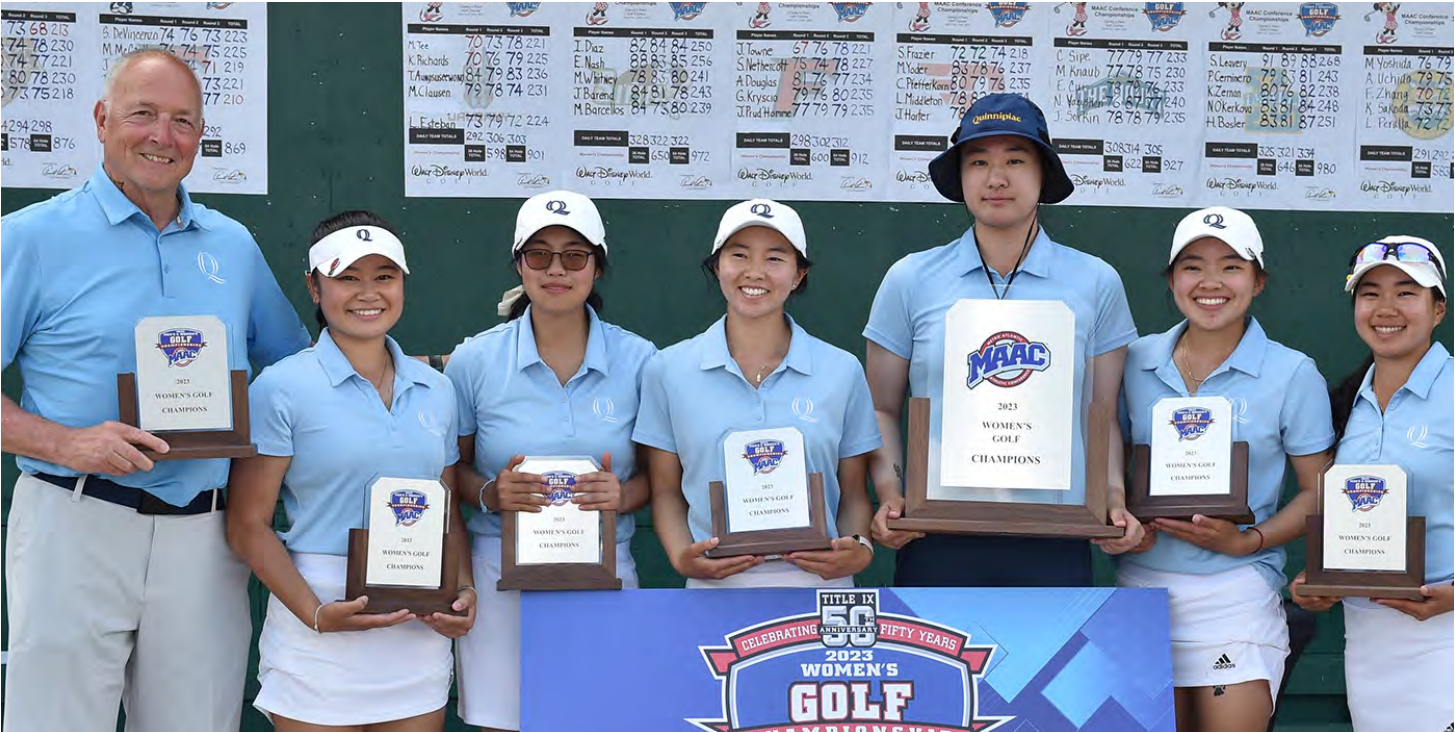


PHOTO VIA QUINNIPAC ATHLETICS

The Quinnipiac women's golf program set multiple MAAC records in its championship performance this past weekend.