



VOA/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

OPINION: Turkey native calls attention to earthquake tragedy

P.4

By DAMLA GUNES
Contributing Writer

As you may have heard on the news, one of the worst disasters of the last decade happened in my home country of Turkey, known officially as Türkiye, on Feb. 6. Not just one, but two earthquakes with magnitudes of 7.8 and 7.6 occurred nearly back-to-back and caused tremendous damage to Türkiye and Syria.

As of Feb. 13, the death toll is estimated to be more than 40,000 and at least 24 million people are affected. The earthquake hit southeast Türkiye and caused considerable destruction to ten cities: Adana, Adiyaman, Diyarbakir, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye and Sanliurfa. Immediately after the incident, Türkiye called for international help. However, there are still so many people waiting for that aid.

Imagine trying to rescue your family from under the rubble, having no idea if they are alive. Imagine being a little kid and being rescued, only to learn that your whole family is dead. Imagine being a teenager and putting your family in a grave. How is this fair? Who is to blame? The nature? The faith? The government? The contractors? There are thousands of people dead, thousands of families destroyed and thousands of facilities gone and yet we are still trying to blame someone; whatever we do we cannot bring those people or places back.

Currently, all types of schools are closed until Feb. 21. Universities switched to on-line education because the government decided to give college dorms and facilities

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South Quad, accessibility and diversity: President Olian addresses campus concerns

By KATIE LANGLEY
News Editor

Quinnipiac University President Judy Olian sat down with student media on Feb. 13 to discuss her four-and-a-half years at the institution and answer questions about recent campus news, including the construction of the South Quad and plans to increase campus diversity, equity and inclusion.

Here are the key topics Olian spoke about:

South Quad construction

Construction crews broke ground on the \$293 million South Quad project earlier this winter after receiving final approval from the Hamden Planning and Zoning Commission on Dec. 13.

Olian said the new 417-bed first-year residential hall, 142,000-square-foot general academic building and 80,000-square-foot business school included in the South Quad plan will foster “cutting-edge” research and development.

“When we think about buildings, we don’t think about brick-and-mortar walls,” Olian said. “We think of them as enablers. What is it that our students, faculty and staff are going to be able to do through the building that they couldn’t otherwise do.”

However, the project was controversial among some Hamden residents, who expressed concerns about the initial rezoning of the Mount Carmel Campus for the South Quad initiative.

Noting that the South Quad planning process

was “extensive and comprehensive,” Olian said the university was supported by the Hamden PZC.

As Quinnipiac moves forward with its 10-Year Master Facilities Plan, Olian emphasized the importance of maintaining a positive relationship with the Hamden community.

“Let’s be clear, when we thrive, the town thrives, because we’re the biggest employer other than the government in town... and on top of that, all of the businesses in the town really enjoy the relationships that they have with the students, faculty and staff,” Olian said.

Accessibility concerns

Following coverage by the Chronicle revealing flaws in the university’s approach to accessibility, Olian said that she is focused on helping students with differing abilities succeed at Quinnipiac.

However, Olian also said she recognizes that the path changes from the ongoing South Quad construction poses an accessibility issue to some. She encouraged students with accessibility concerns pertaining to the new detours to reach out to the Office of Student Accessibility.

“We need a bit of patience because this is a big project,” Olian said. “We’ll get there, and we want to minimize any forms of disruption. It’s all about students, including those who have special accommodations, so please let us know if there are any issues.”

Olian also referred students to the Student

Accessibility Advisory Committee, which administrators committed to creating in November following a Student Government Association resolution calling on the university to audit the OSA. The committee is currently taking applications, according to MyQ, Quinnipiac’s student website.

Campus diversity

Olian also responded to questions about campus diversity, following the results of the Inclusive Excellence Survey, released on Dec. 6. Over 45% of student respondents to the survey said that campus is not diverse.

The survey will help Quinnipiac “establish a baseline” for which to improve upon issues of diversity, Olian said.

“I don’t think there’s any single initiative that will make us a more diverse campus,” Olian said. “It is all the little acts of kindness, of generosity, of pipeline development.”

Olian added that the university is now reaching out to high schools in more diverse areas to recruit potential students and will continue to provide programming focused on diversity.

Diversity, equity and inclusion leadership

When asked about the departures of former Title IX coordinator Dennis Kwarteng and outgoing Vice President for Equity, Inclusion and Leadership Development Don Sawyer, Olian said that the turnover is not unusual, despite the appearance of instability

within the DEI staff.

Kwarteng left his position as Title IX coordinator in January “for another professional opportunity” after three years in the role, according to a Jan. 10 email from Sawyer. Civil Rights and Title IX Investigator Sarah Hellyer is currently serving as the interim Title IX coordinator.

Less than two weeks later, Olian announced in a Jan. 23 email to the university community that Sawyer will leave his current position in July to join Fairfield University after 11 years at Quinnipiac.

Olian said during the interview that the university is conducting a “nationwide search” for a new DEI head.

“We expect to get somebody who is going to be extremely qualified and continue the journey that I think has been very impactful towards building on the culture of inclusivity and continuing the internal commitment to that all across the university,” Olian said. “And remember, (DEI) starts with the leadership team, but it does not end with the leadership team.”

Supporting community members from Turkey and Syria

Following a Feb. 6 earthquake estimated to have killed over 40,000 people in Turkey and Syria, Olian sent an email to the Quinnipiac community on Feb. 10, to share re-

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QU Athletics partners with New Haven-based Avelo Airlines

By LILY PHILIPCZAK and NICOLE MCISAAC

Quinnipiac University’s athletics department recently partnered with Avelo Airlines in an effort to provide students, faculty and staff with discounted air travel from Connecticut.

“We don’t have the really deep pockets like a big airline or traditional advertiser might have, so we have to be a little bit creative,” said Travis Christ, head of marketing for Avelo. “And Quinnipiac was open to that creativity.”

As part of the promotion, members of the Quinnipiac community can receive \$20 off of round-trip flight purchases by using the code “QU20.” The discount is available to all students, faculty and staff and must be used before the promotion ends on July 31.

Avelo is a United States air travel company that departs from 34 airports throughout the country, per a report from Flight Connections. The airline began departing flights at the Tweed New Haven Airport on Nov. 3, 2021.

The airline provides services to 14 different locations including Baltimore, Charleston, Chicago, Fort Lauderdale, Fort Myers, Myrtle Beach, Nashville, Orlando, Raleigh-Durham, Sarasota/Bradenton, Savana, Tampa, West Palm Beach and Wilmington.

Avelo Airlines has partnered with six different universities across the country, including the University of Connecticut and

the University of New Haven. Christ said that the partnership with Quinnipiac is another effort to increase the airline’s recognition among the college population.

“As we’ve run these programs, they typically have involved different elements that for Avelo get us awareness out across the student population, parents, alums,” Christ said. “That’s really important for us.”

However, Christ said the partnership also serves as a mutually beneficial way for universities to provide benefits to their athletic community.

“It gives them a chance to provide flight opportunities, tickets for fans and a lot of the athletic stuff that we do,” Christ said. “So it makes their athletic events more entertaining.”

In an effort to increase awareness and excitement about the airline partnership, Quinnipiac athletics will be giving away roundtrip airfare at upcoming home games as the spring sport season begins.

Many students are already expressing excitement about what the new partnership will mean for the future of the university.

“It’s always good to see partnerships expanding with Quinnipiac,” said David Maher, a senior film, television and media arts major. “It’s awesome to see how many more companies are coming to sponsor our school and support our school, so adding another one is great.”

Despite always seeing giveaways at other campus sporting events, Maher said he is

looking forward to utilizing the Avelo discount code for future travels.

“(I am) definitely thinking about using it in the future,” Maher said. “I don’t know much about it, but there is a first time for everything.”

Although the partnership is being promoted at sporting events and on social media, some of the student population is still unaware of the discounted airfare.

“I am an avid traveler and hearing about this news was my first time ever hearing about the brand, the travel-airline company,” said Sammy Keane, a junior public relations major. “... I didn’t know that the collaboration goes until July, I was only under the impression it was during the spring semester.”

Even though Keane was not previously aware of the collaboration, she said the promotion is yet another benefit that the Quinnipiac community can utilize moving forward.

“Hearing that it goes into the summer is really cool because we do have students who do summer terms or J-terms abroad, even spring break too.” Keane said.

Nick Solari, associate athletic director of athletic communications, did not respond to multiple requests for comment about this partnership as of publication.

As Quinnipiac continues to raise awareness about its recent partnership, Christ said Avelo is continuing to seek ways to expand in the future.



ILLUSTRATION BY MARINA YASUNA

OLIAN from cover

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sources accepting donations, including the International Rescue Committee, UNICEF and Doctors Without Borders.

“I just cannot imagine the sense of loss and heartbreak that is going on, with lost lives and missing lives and hardships that families are going through,” Olian said during the Feb. 13 interview.

The Counseling Center held a support group for those impacted by the earthquake on Feb. 13, according to the email from Olian.

Olian encouraged the community during the interview to assist aid efforts through donating to aid organizations and emotionally supporting Quinnipiac community members from Syria and Turkey.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

President Judy Olian spoke about campus diversity on Feb. 13 amid the announced departures of two key diversity, equity and inclusion administrators.

Quinnipiac instructor, ESPN pioneer Barry Sacks dies

By SETH FROMOWITZ, KATIE LANGLEY, MELINA KHAN and CAT MURPHY

Longtime Quinnipiac University instructor Barry Sacks, 63, of Southbury, Connecticut, died at Saint Mary’s Hospital in Waterbury on Feb. 12 after suffering a heart attack two days prior.

Sacks had been an adjunct instructor of journalism in the School of Communications since 2015, where he taught courses in sports journalism. He joined Quinnipiac at the end of an illustrious career at ESPN that spanned more than three decades.

After joining the network as a production assistant in 1982, Sacks went on to become a producer for ESPN until his retirement in 2016. He is recognized as one of the founding forces behind “SportsCenter” and “College Gameday,” two of ESPN’s longest-running shows.

An Ithaca College graduate, Sacks held many positions before landing at ESPN, including as a radio sports director, newspaper reporter and sports writer.

At Quinnipiac, Sacks taught two graduate sports production courses as well as sports broadcasting for undergraduates, the latter which he created.

In a statement to the Chronicle on behalf of Sacks’ family, nephew DJ Carey said his uncle was the “bedrock of our family and the center (of) our universe.”

“Even though Barry is no longer with us, he’s left a mark on us all,” Carey wrote. “His tenacity, passion and kindness are now a little part of us all. And for those of you who were lucky to have known him he’s a part of you now, too.”

Molly Yanity, chair of journalism and director of the graduate program in journalism, said Sacks was a beloved member of the community for his “fun and gregarious”

personality. She said he enjoyed getting to know his students.

“He was always the first person to email me and say, ‘When are class rosters out?’ because he wanted to get the photo lineups of everybody and see who was in his class,” Yanity said.

Sacks’ passion for sports was a driving force for his career. Yanity said he approached his job as a producer with the mindset of a sports fan, which reflected in the classroom.

Peter Howarth, a sports journalism graduate student who was in Sacks’ class this semester, said his instructor “lived and breathed” sports.

“It seems like every class he had another story to tell us about,” Howarth said.

Howarth said Sacks spoke just weeks ago about his experience producing the 1989 MLB World Series after an earthquake struck northern California, the site of the game.

“He said ever since then, he has a contingency of what to do if there’s an earthquake,” Howarth said. “Whatever problem there is, he either experienced it or he knew what to do in that situation.”

Beyond the classroom, Yanity said Sacks was a mentor to students.

“He wasn’t just a teacher,” Yanity said. “He worked with students, helped them believe in themselves (and stayed) friends with them all throughout their career.”

Sacks’ positive impact on those he encountered rang true after the news of his passing. Many of his former students, colleagues and friends took to social media over the weekend to share fond memories of Sacks.

Robyn Brown, a graduate of the sports journalism master’s program, first got to know Sacks as a student in 2017, before

working alongside him for the Connecticut Sun organization. She said Sacks became “the biggest mentor (she) ever had.”

“There’s just a kindness about him and a love that you felt and you knew that he cared about you,” Brown said. “I feel like his heart was honestly bigger than the world.”

Liz Flynn, who graduated from the sports journalism master’s program in 2021, had Sacks for two classes and said that he was an inspiration to all of his students.

“If you knew him, you were lucky enough to know him, and you hit the jackpot if you had him as a professor,” Flynn said. “He just cared so much about his students. He was like a dad to every single person.”

Flynn, who currently works as an assistant photographer for the New York Mets, said that she will never forget when she told Sacks about getting her job.

“He was just so proud of me and so happy, and there are so many things that he taught me that I still even use for work now,” Flynn said. “I know that he was so happy for me even though he didn’t teach me a thing about photography, but he made me such a better person.”

The department of journalism held a ceremony Feb. 14 to “gather, grieve and share memories” of Sacks, Yanity wrote in an email to students in the School of Communications Feb. 13. More than three dozen of Sacks’ former students and colleagues attended the gathering.

“He was such a genuinely decent human being who gave a shit about what he did for a living,” said Richard Hanley, associate professor of journalism, at the gathering. “I think Barry taught all of you to give a shit about your professional careers.”

John Morgan, Quinnipiac’s associate

vice president for public relations, wrote in a statement that the university sends its condolences to Sacks’ family and friends and is offering counseling services to students.

“Beloved by his students, Barry was one of the linchpins of our sports journalism offerings, and the reason why so many of his students have had successful careers,” Morgan said.

Sacks is survived by his wife JoAnn Newberry Sacks and his son Jesse Newberry Sacks.

Yanity and journalism professor Nick Pietruszkiewicz will be available for those who wish to reflect on Sacks as a professor and as a friend throughout the week, according to an email sent to the Quinnipiac community by School of Communications Dean Chris Roush on Feb. 12.



BARRY SACKS VIA LINKEDIN

Sports journalism graduate students said that they will always value Sacks’ stories and inspiration.

QU kicks off third annual MLK Dream Week with discussion on intersectionality

By SAMANTHA NUNEZ and AIDAN SHEEDY

As a young Black man with Indigenous heritage from Providence, Rhode Island, Raymond “Two Hawks” Watson did not know much about his background or why he should be interested in learning more.

Watson spoke to Quinnipiac University students and faculty on Feb. 6 in the Mt. Carmel Auditorium, to commence the annual MLK Dream Week. He shared his story and how to encourage others to get in touch with their roots.

Watson is the founder and CEO of Providence Cultural Equity Initiative, an organization that promotes cultural awareness within Rhode Island.

Growing up with his mother and grandmother, Watson recalled being reassured of his culture as a way to never forget it.

“Here is this pressing sort of (Narragansett) identity upon me that I’m not quite sure what that means,” Watson said.

Watson said that questioning what “being Indian meant” has always been in the back of his mind. He explained that he has faced instances in which he’s had to defend his identity to friends.

Shortly after his grandmother’s death, Watson decided to honor her legacy and learned more about his Narragansett heritage.

According to HISTORY the Narragansett are the Algonuian-speaking Indigenous people of present-day Rhode Island. Archaeo-

logical evidence has also revealed that the Narragansett people have lived in the area for more than 30,000 years.

To connect with his ancestral heritage, Watson began attending Pow Wows, a dance gathering held by some Indigenous groups, and was surprised to see people that looked like him.

“This thing called Blackness is much more diverse and in-depth than I understood it to be,” Watson said.

This fascination with intersectionality evolved into an appreciation as Watson said he soon realized “how rich and deep the Black community actually was.”

The non-profit group Center for Intersectional Justice describes this concept as “the ways in which systems of inequality based on gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, class and other forms of discrimination intersect to “create unique dynamics and effects.”

“When you get down to cultures, you actually stop to get to know who people are on individual and personal levels,” Watson said.

Associate Director for Multicultural Education Veronica Jacobs said she sees Black History Month as an opportunity for the entire university to learn and reflect. But there’s more to Black History than oppression and negatives, Jacobs said.

Jacobs explained that Watson was a part of a multicultural education panel that mul-

tiple Quinnipiac members attended, and as the team was trying to find possible speakers for MLK Dream Week, immediately Watson came to mind.

“I spent about an hour having a conversation with him where he shared many of the things he shared tonight, and I could really see the passion he had for cultural authenticity,” Jacobs said.

First-year nursing major Diana Sliwinski was in the audience during the event. She said Watson brought insight on the

topic of intersectionality.

Watson said that adults should encourage young people to connect with their culture to find out about where they come from.

“I think sometimes when we think about Black community, as (Watson) shared, we always focus on slavery or racism,” Jacobs said. “But there’s so much more to that in terms of excellence and creations...and so I think Black History Month is an opportunity for celebration.”



CASEY WIEDERHOLD/CHRONICLE

Raymond “Two Hawks” Watson opened up this year’s MLK Dream Week with a speech about connecting with his multi-layered Black and Indigenous ancestry.

Opinion

Don’t turn a blind eye to the earthquakes in Turkey

EARTHQUAKE from cover

to the earthquake victims. Many schools announced that they will sponsor the education of the students who have suffered from this disaster, including the high-school I graduated from in Bursa. Sports stopped playing at every level. According to an article from Al-Monitor, the economy was also affected immensely. The piece states that the destroyed apartments are worth around \$6.3 billion and the other buildings that are now unusable may balloon that cost to \$10 billion. Even the citizens all over the country stopped going out because they are mourning.

Since the earthquakes, every citizen has been trying to help the area with donations. Every part of the country is just working to help the affected area by collecting and donating clothing, money, tents, blankets, baby food, food, diapers, heaters, shoes; in short, everything.

Plus, many countries are sending help to Türkiye, such as Greece, Italy, Russia, United Kingdom, the United States, South Korea, Algeria, Canada, China, Egypt, Germany, India, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Sweden, Ukraine, Saudi Arabia and more. The Turkish community in the U.S. has also been working diligently to collect all types of donations and material needed for the area; they sent their collected aid to Türkiye through Turkish Airlines.

In the first 24 hours following the earth-

quake, citizens and family members couldn’t get any information because the phone lines were down and help didn’t reach the area the way it was supposed to. In these types of incidents, time is everything. You are basically trying to rescue people as quickly as possible. Yet, some people still do not know if their parents, relatives or friends are alive.

The rescue efforts are ongoing, but due to the area’s size, it is still not under control. In some cities, airports are currently being used as hospitals. Above all, the area is one of the harshest environments in Türkiye. Some people who survived froze to death because of the cold. The weather is approximately between 20 and 45 degrees Fahrenheit, which is between -7 and 8 degrees Celsius. These are some of the reasons people are calling this one of the biggest disasters of the last decade.

Alongside the tragedy itself, volleyball, the sport I gave my life to also brought bad news. There were a group of girls who happened to be in that area of Türkiye because of a tournament. A big part of the volleyball community in Türkiye is located around that area. I know what it feels like to be 13 to 14 years old and going to a tournament with excitement. I know what it feels like to leave your home, leave your family and friends to pursue your career goals. I was sharing a very similar lifestyle with them. I left my family and friends to pursue my goals when I decided to commit to the Quinnipiac University volleyball team. I know what it feels like to leave your comfort zone



VOA/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

As of Feb. 14, The New York Times states over 40,000 deaths were reported from the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Rescue operations are still ongoing.

and struggle just to be successful. They were just teenagers. They had their life goals, they had their dreams, now it is all gone.

What a tragedy, right? But how much do people outside of Türkiye care or know about the whole situation? People don’t even realize how severe the situation is. When I read the news about the earthquake, I was so worried I immediately called my parents to check in, even though I knew they were not affected by this incident because we live in the northwest of Türkiye.

That morning, some people asked me if my family was OK, and when I said yes, they didn’t care to ask about how I was. I was devastated. My heart was ripped apart. So many emotions were going through my body. I didn’t know if I was supposed to feel happy because my family was not affected; but how could I? My country, a part of my heart, was in severe condition. The people who were speaking the same language as me were suffering. I couldn’t put the words together when explaining myself. I was scrolling through social media, watching the news and just crying because I was far away and I couldn’t help. I imagined how I would be if my family and friends were affected.

Fellow Turkish students and I tried to raise awareness and spread the news here at Quinnipiac too, however very few people reached out to check in, which broke my heart even more. If a catastrophic incident happened close to Quinnipiac, everyone would go insane. They would share hashtags for awareness, donate to the fami-

lies who suffered and start protesting. I am not expecting anyone to do this for Türkiye, but I hoped at least the people I called friends would have reached out to me and offered their help.

This week as Turkish students, we wanted help from the QU community and reached out to President Judy Olian, International Student Services, the Department of Cultural and Global Engagement and the Quinnipiac Athletic Department, who all agreed to support us. We have discussed our ideas about how to help the affected victims and raise awareness. In the following weeks, Turkish students will start collecting donations to help their country and will be expecting the QU students and faculty members to help them.

On Feb. 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Turkish students will do tabling in the Carl Hansen Student Center. Our goal is to raise money and donate this money to the victims of the earthquake by sending it to the most reliable source in Türkiye named Ahbap. We’re also planning to give away some donuts in exchange for donations. We hope you’ll make a visit to our table and show some respect and appreciation. We’re also planning a bigger event soon with the support of QU faculty members in the Piazza.

With all of these factors considered, I think everyone can relate to how Turkish people feel, how heartbroken we are. By all counts, this terrible disaster could have happened to anyone, that’s why we need to spread awareness all over the world.

“I know what it feels like to leave your home, leave your family and friends to pursue your career goals. I was sharing a very similar lifestyle with them ... They were just teenagers. They had their life goals, they had their dreams, now it is all gone.”

– Damla Gunes
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Sampling in hip-hop: A mixed blessing

By CHRISTIAAN MCCRAY
Staff Writer

With the hip-hop genre entering its 50th year of existence, rappers and producers have found countless ways to advance the genre. However, a testament that has stayed constant in hip-hop is sampling.

Sampling is the reuse of digitally encoded music or sound in a new composition or recording. Hip-hop’s core sound was built upon samples from rock, funk, soul and disco.

Hip-hop’s utilization of samples has continued to be a staple in the genre. However, producers’ excessive reliance on sampling has been a major blessing and a minor curse.

Not only is sampling crucial to hip-hop, but to music in general. According to Tracklib, 17% of all 2022 Billboard Hot 100 songs contained samples from previous songs. With the site also reporting that the usage of samples in hits has seen a 31% increase in 2022 compared to the last three years, sampling’s stronghold on music only seems to get tighter with time.

Hip-hop’s dependence on samples has become both a strength and a weakness. On one hand, samples lay the groundwork for traditional, evergreen hip-hop beats. They add a vitality and vibe to hip-hop tracks that would be difficult to

recreate otherwise.

Legendary producers such as, J Dilla, Madlib and Danger Mouse are known for dissecting samples to the degree that the original sample is unrecognizable. Specifically, J Dilla took this idea to the next level by flipping multiple samples and rearranging them into a new sound. Though Dilla died in 2006, his influence on the turntables is still being exemplified on songs from Kendrick Lamar (“Momma”), KAY-TRANADA (“Drive Me Crazy” featuring Vic Mensa) and J. Cole (“Power Trip”).

Nonetheless, many hip-hop musicians rely too heavily on samples. They didn’t put in the work to make something completely new and creative, instead opting to use samples as the basis for their song.

This method has been the catalyst of hit songs that have propelled musicians’ career’s to new heights. Last year, one of the biggest beneficiaries of this tactic was Minnesota rapper Yung Gravy. The rapper’s hit song “Betty (Get Money)” heavily sampled Rick Astley’s “Never Gonna Give You Up”. The instrumental of Gravy’s song uses the same strings melody as the 80s hit and the rapper provides a modified version of Astley’s chorus.

Gravy has had viral hits in the past, but

“Betty (Get Money)” brought him newfound mainstream success. Gravy is not the only rapper who rode samples to the top of the charts with more established rappers like Jack Harlow’s “First Class” that samples Fergie’s “Glamorous” featuring Ludacris and Nicki Minaj’s “Super Freaky Girl” that samples Rick James’ “Super Freak,” earning their first solo Billboard Hot 100 No. 1 with this tactic.

The ethical and legal implications of overusing samples are another concern. It’s not uncommon for hip-hop musicians to use samples without permission. This may lead to lawsuits, legal action and the need to pay high royalties.

The introduction of music streaming services has inflated the demand for music. These platforms’ rising revenue will steadily increase the frequency of lawsuits over samples.

A blueprint to how a simple sample could create a hit is exhibited with the song “Lucid Dreams,” by the late Juice WRLD. The song’s producer, Nick Mira, sampled Sting’s “Shape of My Heart” by coupling the famous guitar melody with a piano rendition and a 808 drum sequence.

In an interview with NME, Juice WRLD stated that Sting earns more than 85% of the royalties for “Lucid Dreams.” Despite Sting saying the song is his favorite re-working of “Shape of



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX KENDALL

My Heart,” the monetary gain that artists like Sting receive from these lawsuits will overrule their judgment.

Gravy is also facing these issues firsthand as Rick Astley recently sued him for vocal impersonation. As rappers and producers continue to sample well-known hits to create their own, the possibility of a lawsuit will always linger.

Hip-hop has suffered from an unhealthy obsession with sample use. Though samples have always played a significant role in hip-hop, their overuse has led to a lack of originality, legal concerns and genre repetition. As time goes on, sampling will remain a double-edged sword in music.

Opinion

Why it’s essential to have SGA transparency

By **NICK FIZZANO**
Contributing Writer

We all know or have heard about the Quinnipiac University Student Government Association, or also known as SGA. Some of us have signed the endorsement of candidates to be on ballots, while some in student organizations keep their fingers crossed that these student leaders will approve most of their budget items. Unfortunately, we just don’t know a lot of what they do.

Most of the representatives are elected by students, usually in the fall or spring semester, except when there are unfilled positions. It isn’t strange for SGA to have vacancies either. Archives from the Quinnipiac Chronicle between 2021 and 2022 show SGA resignations ran rampant, with 10 resignations alone over the winter break.

These vacant offices are filled by special elections, where only SGA members vote. Special elections are generally done in executive session, which requires any non-members to leave the room, locking out constituents. Even on SGA’s minutes log, which can be found on Do You QU, there is nothing more than a note that SGA went into executive session and then eventually left it. There isn’t even a hint as to how long they were in it.

Things were different at the Feb. 1, SGA meeting for a special election, where there were three vacant offices. As usual, the motion was made to go into the executive session. Yet, going against tradition, first-year Class President J.P. DiDonato argued against the motion, reasoning that the student body does not have a true say in who their representatives are, and even worse, they do not even know what their

representatives plan to do.

As I put on my coat, fully expecting to be politely told to leave, I watched the hands raise against the motion. At first, I could not tell what had happened, but when SGA President Owenea Roberts announced the motion had failed, I realized the executive session would be delayed. I was privileged enough to listen to the candidates speeches and some questions from senators. An attempt was made to go into executive session after each candidate spoke in order to allow SGA to discuss, then exit the session after.

Doing this, I have no doubt, would have steadily led to fewer people coming back after each session. Had the motion to temporarily go into executive session gone through, there would only be an illusion of transparency. Thankfully, that motion failed too, and all three candidates spoke one after the other, only interrupted by a few questions from SGA members. The next vote for an executive session passed nearly unanimously – with DiDonato abstaining. For the first time, the people in the crowd and the media heard the speeches of peers who hoped to represent us in our student government.

In all fairness to the members of SGA who voted for the motion, their argument for executive session centers around the idea that SGA should be able to speak freely about candidates, without fear of offending others.

Yet, to have the entirety of elections in an executive session is frankly undemocratic and unrepresentative. To have the representatives of people thrown on them without an idea of what they intend to do is not how any successful form of government runs itself. What DiDonato did was open up a door to the process a crack, but the door should be open entirely.

This should not be the only time SGA moves itself toward transparency. As a student body, we should commend SGA for this step, however we have to push them to continue to be transparent.

The SGA cannot believe that making one move to reveal their business to students is enough.

There is more that needs to be done. The fact that there is no record of how long executive sessions last is another serious issue which should be remedied. There is no way to tell how long executive sessions last and as such there is no way to imagine what has happened during the course of them.

There isn’t even an official record of how individual members of SGA voted in special elections, or in any vote, for that matter. This is problematic for a number of reasons.

Firstly, normal elections will publicly post a breakdown of the votes individuals won. There is no reason for a different standard to apply toward special elections candidates. Further, if it is made so that student senators have to own up to whether or not they voted for a candidate, they can be held responsible for the success or failure of that candidate.

Indeed, the same rationale applies to normal votes. If you have voted for or against something, your constituents deserve to know and should be able to ask why. When SGA is more transparent, there is more accountability. No one can hide behind the opaque darkness of tradition when the spotlight is put upon them.

SGA deserves to be congratulated for its move toward transparency. The representatives responsible should be recognized for facilitating that move and those who voted with him should be recognized for pushing it over the finish line. But this should not be the end of the story, SGA should continue a march to make as much of their business as transparent as possible.

“If you have voted for or against something, your constituents deserve to know and should be able to ask why. When SGA is more transparent, there is more accountability.”

– Nick Fizzano
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Super Bowl advertisements outshine the game

By **A.J. NEWTH**
Associate Opinion Editor

This past Sunday was Super Bowl 57, where fans gathered to watch the Kansas City Chiefs face off against the Philadelphia Eagles and the long awaited commercials that come along with the game.

While many individuals watch the Super Bowl just for the game, there is a whole demographic of fans who don’t even like football that tune in just for the advertisements and the halftime show. The 2023 Super Bowl was no different and the ads definitely delivered.

As an avid New England Patriots fan myself, I’m no stranger to a good Super Bowl party. But when my team isn’t playing, I can’t seem to find the same love for the game that I do when New England is on the field. That being said, this year’s Super Bowl was all about the commercials.

From cars to beer to insurance, companies sure do get creative with their advertisements for the game. This is most likely because an ad during the event can cost upwards of \$6 million, with some businesses even pushing that limit to \$7 million for only a 30 to 60 second ad.

We’ve seen our fair share of memorable moments, from the Michael Buble “Bubly” ad in 2019 to the iconic “Puppy Monkey Baby” Mountain Dew commercial in 2016. Advertisements continued to up their game for Super Bowl 57, so much so that they were more interesting than the game.

I’m not the only one who prefers to watch the advertisements when my team’s not playing, as a Marketing Brew survey found that 76% of viewers are looking forward to the ads.

Conveniently enough, it was discovered that the Super Bowl commercials are becoming increasingly aimed at women, most likely to expand the NFL’s target market.

The same survey found that 75% of women disclosed that they would be watching the super bowl this year, compared to the 62% from 2022 and the 50% from the year prior.

Super Bowl ads are such a big industry that some companies even pre-release their commercials, hoping to generate traction or promote a new product line. There’s no way to pre-release game clips, the only discussion is game predictions. This is why the ads draw so much attention for the 100 million viewers that watch the Super Bowl every year.

An ad that definitely hit home this year was a Sam Adams “Brighter Boston” clip, starring Greg Hoyt, who tried to convince viewers that the Sam Adams beer would change Boston for the better. The skit was comical and made the break between plays interesting.

Another great way to advertise is to include popular stars or references. This is exactly what the PopCorners chip company decided to do when their expensive ad featured Walter White and Jesse Pinkman (Bryan Cranston and Aaron Paul) from the popular television series, “Breaking Bad,” negotiating over the product. The marketing was genius and the commercial was well-received by those who understood and recognized the reference.

Super Bowl ads are not just general advertisements. They’re popularized for their unpredictability, quality, humor and special effects. They feature celebrity cameos and hit songs as well as real world important topics.

Other advertisements from this year’s showing include a Blue Moon ad where Coors Light and Miller Lite comically battle and in the end neither beer is the purpose of the commercial. Dave Grohl also made an appearance in a Crown Royal ad, where he is seen hilariously practicing gratitude. There’s also

a lighthearted Downy commercial, featuring “Downy McBride,” who bikes through the street with the product. All of these captured more attention than a 60-yard drive or extended possession of the ball.

The Super Bowl is the most-viewed sporting event in the United States and the culture surrounding it means that people will share food and drinks with friends regardless of whether or not they are football fans. Especially when the game is dragging, it’s nice to have entertainment to break up the game.

I have a great appreciation for the game of football and regularly enjoy watching it, especially with friends. The only difference is that during the regular season, commercials are used for bathroom breaks and during the Super Bowl I’d rather leave during a play challenge than during a Will Ferrell or Steve Carell appearance with one of my favorite brands.

What individuals do with their time after the game further proves my point. While some will read about the halftime show or reminisce on important parts of the game, I think one of the biggest increases in website traffic once the game is over is the buzz on social media about the ads. Popular advertisements can be seen trending on Twitter or being reposted on Instagram, people absolutely love them and the discussion that follows the next day typically surrounds ads and everyone’s favorites.

While I understand the importance of actually enjoying the football, there are times when a battle between beers or a “Breaking Bad” reference is more enjoyable than watching a game between two teams I don’t even follow.

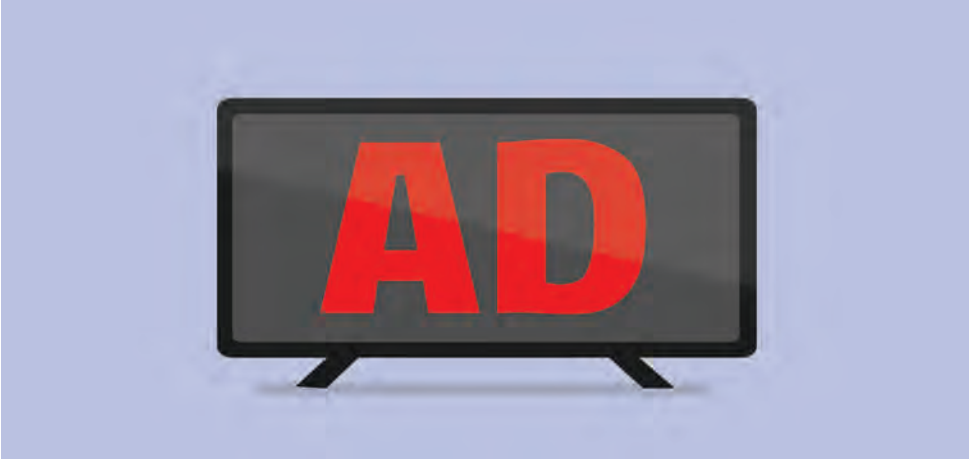


ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RIHA

Arts & Life

Aaron Tveit turns on the red light in 'Moulin Rouge! The Musical'

By CASEY WIEDERHOLD
Associate Photography Editor

I remember when I saw “Moulin Rouge! The Musical” for the first time back in 2021. I was captivated by the male lead, Christian the composer. During intermission, I glanced through the Playbill and found the name of the actor who plays Christian. Aaron Tveit is his name and I will wear it out.

Tveit started with “Moulin Rouge” back in 2018 when the musical performed its out-of-town run in Boston, Massachusetts. He stayed with the musical until May 8, 2022, when he took his final bow after more than 500 shows. Tveit won a Tony Award in 2020 for “Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical,” a category in which he was the sole nominee that year.

On May 10, 2022, Derek Klena came to replace Tveit as the male lead and has done a fantastic job, but Tveit holds a special place in my heart.

When the Broadway musical reopened in September 2021, Tveit began to change his vocal stylings in the Act 2 number, “El Tango de Roxanne.” He began to option up the last note of the song, leaving audience members, including myself, stunned. An

option is when singers hit the same note, but it is eight steps higher than it was originally written in the music. Musical theatre fans will remember when the social media managers for “Moulin Rouge!” posted the option-up on their pages, allowing fans to watch the short clip on repeat. A friend of mine and I are very guilty of this.

With Tveit’s departure from the musical, I wanted him to return to Broadway soon. My wishes came true on Dec. 1, 2022, when I was scrolling through Instagram and found a post from the Playbill account that Tveit was returning to the musical for a 12-week limited engagement. I immediately asked my parents to

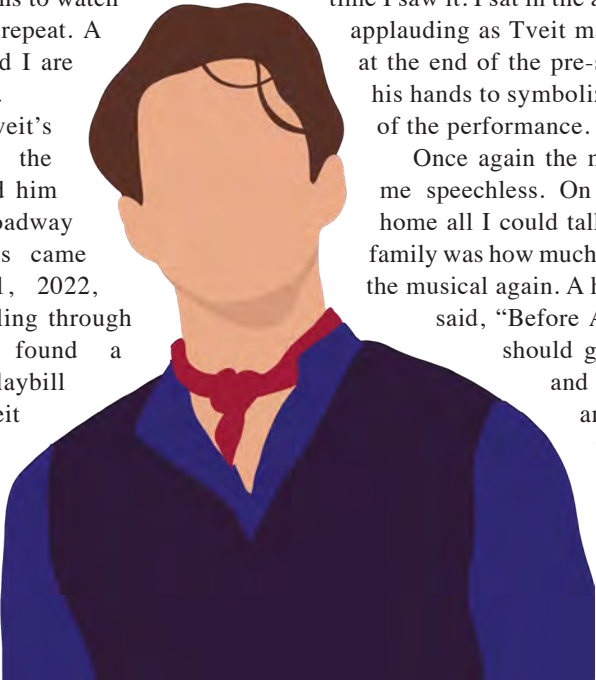


ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RIHA

somehow purchase tickets, and with the holiday season coming around at the time, it was my way of convincing them.

On Feb. 4, I returned to the Al Hirschfeld Theatre in New York City to see Tveit. It was just as amazing as the first time I saw it. I sat in the audience eagerly applauding as Tveit made his entrance at the end of the pre-show and raised his hands to symbolize the beginning of the performance.

Once again the musical rendered me speechless. On the drive back home all I could talk about with my family was how much I enjoyed seeing the musical again. A hometown friend said, “Before Aaron leaves we should get can-can seats and go again.” She and I are planning to return to the place we both refer to as “The Rouge.”

Tveit has recently said in a tweet that he is working

on new music. In a question and answer thread on Twitter, user @sendbacktherain asked, “You mentioned recently that you’ve been working on your own music- can you share any details on what you’ve been working on and if/when it will be shared? #AskAaronTveitTM.” to which Tveit responded, “I cannot lol. But. Soon!—AT #AskAaronTveitTM.”

When I found out that Tveit was going to be releasing his own music, I was excited. He has a phenomenal voice which allows him to show the emotions that he wants to. I enjoy listening to his covers, so to be able to have the opportunity to listen to his original pieces is going to be interesting.

I am an Tveit appreciator and will listen to his music or cast albums when I walk to class or need music for background. Tveit has become one of my favorite Broadway actors over the years, and “Moulin Rouge! The Musical” is a popular jukebox musical with a healthy mix of popular songs that everyone would enjoy. But to hear Tveit’s voice on cast recordings is a thrilling part of my day. As the musical says, “the Moulin Rouge is a state of mind,” but I think Tveit is really a state of mind.

Rihanna returns to music at 2023 Super Bowl

By A.J. NEWTH
Associate Opinion Editor

When Rihanna headlined the NFL 2023 Super Bowl halftime show Sunday, she proved that even if she isn’t always active in the music industry, she’s still one of the most timeless artists of our generation.

This year’s halftime show was sponsored by Apple Music. Rihanna’s set lasted 13 minutes and consisted of a wide variety of her discography, including 12 songs that showcased her talent and performance personality.

Rihanna appeared dressed in all red surrounded by backup dancers in white jumpsuits and sunglasses. The stage was

outlined in bright LED lights, following a red and white color palette that only emphasized the singer.

Her setlist was all the talk on Twitter prior to her performance, as many users tried to predict which songs the star would include in her performance.

She opened with “Bitch Better Have My Money” and immediately captivated the attention of the crowd as cheers erupted throughout State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona. The stage featured several suspended platforms in the air, which moved at different times in the performance and all featured dancers atop them.

The dancing was extremely synchronous

as dancers moved with and around the icon, and the pop of color from Rihanna’s red outfit allowed her to be the center of attention, literally.

The rest of her set included “Where Have You Been,” “Only Girl (In The World),” “We Found Love,” “Rude Boy,” “Work,” “Wild Thoughts,” “Pour It Up,” “All of the Lights,” “Run This Town” and “Umbrella.”

Typically, Super Bowl halftime performances bring out special guests, like the 2022 halftime show that featured guests 50 Cent and Anderson .Paak, or in 2020 with guests Bad Bunny and J Balvin.

Rihanna proved she didn’t need anyone, as she was a one-woman show and exceeded expectations. Even with no guest appearances, songs like “Work,” which features Drake, “Wild Thoughts,” which is her song with DJ Khaled and Bryson Tiller, and “Umbrella,” with Jay-Z, Rihanna was definitely channeling the musical style from several well-known artists.

“Diamonds,” followed by a massive display of fireworks, which marked the end of the 2023 Super Bowl halftime show.

Rihanna hasn’t made headlines in music in a while, as she hasn’t released any new music since her last album release “Anti” in January 2016. Her last No. 1 hit was “Work,” also that year. It’s been nothing but crickets for her stage presence as well, as her last performance before the Super Bowl was at the 2018 Grammys performing “Wild Thoughts” with DJ Khaled.

Rihanna was thought to have performed at a Super Bowl sooner, but she turned down offers in 2018 and 2019 to step onto the NFL stage. She declined in solidarity with quarterback Colin Kaepernick of the San Francisco 49ers during controversy when he was all but blacklisted from the NFL for taking a knee during the national anthem during the 2016 season as part of the protest of racial injustice and police brutality.



ILLUSTRATION BY EMMA KOGEL

She even included her chorus of “All of the Lights,” bringing Ye’s music to center stage more than once.

During “Run This Town,” Rihanna traded her crowd of dancers for a band dressed in black sporting bright red instruments. In the song, she reappeared with a long red coat as she prepared for the climax of the set.

Her performance included special effects like laser lights and fireworks. The effects weren’t the only thing that caught the attention of the audience, as towards the end of the show Rihanna was lifted high into the air on her own floating platform, donning a long red coat as she wrapped up the set with

In a press conference, Rihanna talked about her reasoning for accepting the offer to play the Super Bowl given everything going on in her life, especially being pregnant with her second child. She mentioned that it was crucial for her to show her son what it means to exhibit strength and do difficult and scary things, as well as how important it is for her to represent her country and Black women everywhere, according to a NewsOne article.

While Rihanna hasn’t been very engaged in music until this show, her stage presence, performance personality and sheer talent proved that she will always be one of the biggest icons in the music world.

Rihanna, please, don’t stop the music.

Arts & Life

How underrated artists are gaining popularity from TikTok

By SAMANTHA NUNEZ
Contributing Writer

Remember the days when you knew every song that was on the radio? Singing gives you a feeling of serotonin and even thinking about it gives you a sense of nostalgia.

Well, just as you get older, so does your taste in music.

Today, you might not know or enjoy the songs played on the radio. Music played on the radio is considered "mainstream," meaning artists distribute their music through label companies and gain publicity by having airtime. These are usually the hottest or most streamed songs during that time.

With the rise of social media, music besides traditional pop and rock has emerged from underrated artists. Especially with the help of TikTok, which makes any song/sound go viral.

TikTok is a social media platform where you can post videos up to 10 minute-long videos. Initially, the app was designed to post dancing videos, but it has become for all and another platform where influencers can share their content.

Recently, it's had a significant impact on the music industry, with songs going viral, boosting the artist's presence. One person singing, dancing or using a song creates a

domino effect of its popularity.

One artist that devotes their new fame to TikTok is Doja Cat.

Once an indie artist, she released her first EP "Purrr!" in 2014 and her first album "Amala" in 2018. Months after, songs she released before "Amala," "Candy," "MOOO!" and "Tia Tamera" had gone viral. As a result, her fanbase grew. She's had her music played on the radio, worked with mainstream artists and wrote a song for the Oscar-nominated film "Elvis." Once an underrated artist, she is now a performer with recognition.

Lizzo, Jack Harlow, DaBaby and 24kGoldn are a few artists whose older music made them rise in fame.

Emerging musicians have recently been in the spotlight, like Ice Spice. A Bronx drill rapper, Ice Spice rose to prominence with her summer 2022 hit, "Munch (Feelin U)." With over 580,000 videos made with the song, her success increased with streaming and putting her name out there to be labeled "rap's new princess." She released her first EP, "Like..?," on Jan. 20.

Newer artists, including GloRilla, Coi Leray and Lil Nas X, have created an image for themselves, built a larger fanbase and received opportunities.

TikTok also has a reputation for

increasing artists' presence throughout the country.

Pop Smoke, a Bronx drill rapper, was an upcoming artist prominent in the New York City area. He has collaborated with artists like Travis Scott, Nicki Minaj and 50 Cent. After his death in 2020, his music spread worldwide, with a number of songs that have gone viral on the app and his streaming going up. His legacy still lives on.

An app like TikTok can broaden your mind to different songs and genres that aren't just pop and rock and make you interested in hearing more. Though an artist's life might change overnight, it is shocking to see how social media is a crucial aspect of how the industry releases music.



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX KENDALL

The Grammys missed out on 'Dance Fever'

By ZOE LEONE
Associate Arts & Life Editor

The Grammy Awards returned to TV on Feb. 5 and in true yearly ritual fashion, the show brought along a whole new slew of controversies for social media users to spend the next week debating over. As fans argued over Harry Styles' acceptance speech and who should have won Song of the Year, there was a noticeable lull in the conversation about the snub of a particular artist: Florence + The Machine.

The English indie rock band, led by powerhouse Florence Welch, was nominated for Best Alternative Music Performance for their critically acclaimed hit "King" from their latest album, "Dance Fever." The award, however, went to "Chaise Lounge" by Wet Leg, a new arrival to the indie music scene that rose to popularity on TikTok for its catchy instrumentals and cringe-worthy lyrics.

This was F+TM's seventh nomination and seventh loss. The group's first nomination was for Best New Artist in 2011, which was given to Bon Iver, who is perhaps better known as a Taylor Swift feature than as an independent artist. The band continued to face losses in the following years on its devastatingly gorgeous albums "Ceremonials" and "How Big, How Blue, How Beautiful." But the Recording Academy's ignorance

of "Dance Fever" was a brutal snub.

While producer Jack Antonoff won Producer of the Year partially for his work on the album, lead singer, songwriter and consistent producer, Welch, and the band

itself, received no other nominations. For an album that received universal acclaim from Metacritic users and critics, the lack of nominations was a notable shock.

Welch wrote and recorded "Dance

Fever" in the beginning of the pandemic, and the ache of loneliness and anxiety of those two years is peppered beautifully throughout the album. The musician, who is nine years sober, poured her anguish and pain into "Dance Fever," which helped keep her from relapsing. While each track flows into one another with near-perfection, "King" undoubtedly sets the tone of the album.

The track, which was written and produced by Welch and Antonoff, is a burrow-in-your-bones rock crescendo that features Welch melodically wailing as she examines the anguish of being a woman. With the repetition of the lyrics "I am no mother/I am no bride/I am king" throughout the verses, it hits like a suckerpunch each time, regardless how many times you've listened.

Every song on the album serves a purpose and creates a cohesive album of emotion that is easily one of the best released in 2022. The loss was shocking enough, but the Recording Academy only giving F+TM one nomination for one of their best albums was one of the biggest oversights of the body this year.

F+TM has a unique ability to create beauty in the pains of mundane life. While the Recording Academy may not be ready to acknowledge that, the rest of the world certainly is.



RALPH ARVESEN/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Prince Of Darkness has left the building

By **MICHAEL SINGER**
Contributing Writer

Black Sabbath's lead singer, Ozzy Osbourne, has long called the stage his home. Now, after 50 years of rock and roll debauchery, he has decided to step away from the spotlight and call it a career from touring.

It has been well documented that Osbourne battled issues from an accident back in 2019 that injured his spine. Four years, three operations and multiple touring postponements later, Osbourne wrote his “body is still physically weak,” in a statement on Twitter early in the morning on Feb. 1.

Multiple names in rock and roll are synonymous with living forever. Keith Richards of The Rolling Stones is one of the first who comes to mind and Osbourne is usually mentioned right after. Now, it seems like the once-great rock god is more mortal than once thought.

Now that Osbourne has decided to call it a day from touring, what does that mean going forward for the singer and what does this mean for the rock world? If Osbourne is like any musician, then making new music and releasing new records won’t be an issue for him.

Over the past three years, Osbourne has released two records, 2020’s “Ordinary Man,” and 2022’s “Patient Number 9,” the latter of which has won a Grammy for Best Rock Album. One of the album's singles, “Degradation Rules,” also won Best Metal Performance.

It doesn’t seem like Osbourne really minds releasing albums without a tour to support each record since he has been doing it for the past

three years.

The hardest part for both the fans and Osbourne alike is the lack of touring. For 50 years, touring has been Osbourne’s bread and butter and fans have been eagerly waiting for him to hit the road again.

A musician lives for going city-to-city and playing in front of tours —that’s what every kid dreams of. When a musician can’t tour anymore, their “office” is essentially being taken away.

Osbourne, being himself, would do anything for his fans. Recently, he was promoting his latest record at the Comic-Con Conventions and meeting hundreds of fans. I know every fan had to have asked him “when are you going back out on tour?” At one point in time, I was wondering the same thing.

I would give my left arm to see The Prince Of Darkness (I realized I never mentioned why they call him The Prince Of Darkness... that’s what Google is for, use it!). I know there are legions of fans that would die to see Osbourne in concert and I truly think that it is only a matter of time before we see Osbourne return to the stage in some capacity.

Whether he chooses to make a return to the stage is not up to me, although I would love for it to be my decision, it simply isn’t. It seems that the hard life that Osbourne once lived has finally caught up to him.

What does this mean for the rock world?

It simply means that nothing is forever and even “immortal” icons such as Osbourne have to cross the finish line sometime.

Everyone wants to believe that their favorite singer will be around forever, but even acts like

the mighty Van Halen, AC/DC and Led Zeppelin won’t be around forever. It goes to show that it doesn't matter how many bat heads you bite off, everyone has to call it a day at some time.

In 2023 alone, music fans witnessed the likes of David Crosby and Jeff Beck pass away, two musicians that defined different generations and touched millions of fans. This alone should put it into perspective of how important it is that

we buy that ticket to the concert and we see our favorite artists before it’s too late.

I truly think that when you’ve worked as hard as Osbourne has, it really is okay to walk away. With 22 studio records under his belt, 50 years of touring and being the voice of a generation of many metalheads, it’s OK for Osbourne to have that last final bow and jump on board the Crazy Train with a one-way ticket.



Alberto Cabello/Wikimedia Commons

After over 50 years in the music industry, Ozzy Osbourne announced his retirement on Feb. 1.

Finding appreciation in country music

By **MICHAEL HANLEY**
Contributing Writer

On its surface, it is hard to find people who actually enjoy country music. Over-produced garbage about beer and trucks? It’s not enjoyable to most people. I remember my first time trying to enjoy it; the prosthetic sounding band and soulless guitar solos from musicians like Florida Georgia Line and Luke Combs sent shivers down my spine, and still does to this day. It all sounded the same: similar stories, similar voices and similar trends.

The country music seen on Apple Music's “Today’s Hits” has a very selective audience; sure, it's good music to party to, but to most music fans, we’re looking for something more. To me and many others, music is about passion,

emotion, vulnerability and connecting to the world at large. It’s there for our good, our bad and our worse days. Yet to most of us, it is hard to find a connection with country music.

In one year this all changed for me. Country is now my most listened-to genre on platforms and as a musician, I perform country songs for my friends and family often. Hell, I own a cowboy hat and I wear it proudly.

So what changed? Simple: I sifted through the garbage, swam through the sewer and found the promised land.

I found the one musician that opened my eyes and sang to me: Tyler Childers, the current face of Appalachian country.

His second studio album, “Purgatory,”

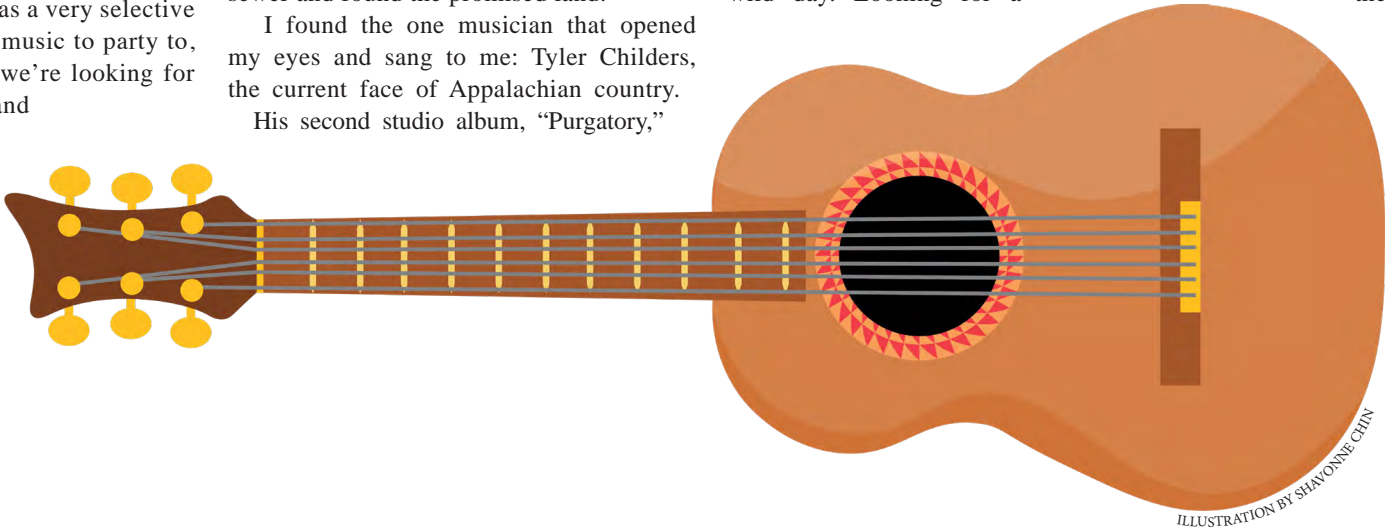
has a song for everybody. Looking for an upbeat love song? Try “Feathered Indians.” How about a song about slowing down and focusing on the finer things? Listen to “Universal Sound.” Want an acoustic murder-ballad? Listen to “Banded Clovis.” The album as a whole is perfect, no skips needed.

From there, finding other musicians like him was easy. The working man, banjo-fueled music of Sturgil Simpson became a pillar of my country playlist. The traditional cowboy twang of Colter Wall has always helped me wind down after a wild day. Looking for a

deep storyteller? Give Charles Wesley Godwin a shot. Then there’s Zach Bryan, the hands-down best songwriter on the scene right now. Bryan’s album “American Heartbreak,” consisting of 34 songs, is full of hits for any occasion. From “Something in the Orange” to “Whiskey Fever,” if you're looking to laugh, sing and cry, “American Heartbreak” is the album for you.

I realized that like most things, you cannot put a definitive label on country music. From bluegrass to studio trash, the country music spectrum is wide and vast and there is room for everybody.

Want to get into country music? You simply need to find the one musician that speaks directly to you, connecting their songs to your life and singing directly to your soul. I promise, if you look hard enough, you’ll find that musician or band, and you’ll be hooked for life.



‘This Is Why’ pop punk revival needs to step it up

By MICHAEL LAROCCA
Opinion Editor

Why do revival albums always seem to have something wrong with them?

On Feb. 10, the alternative group Paramore released its newest album “This Is Why,” the first album from the group in nearly six years. The revival of the peers within Paramore’s old genre is common in 2023, with the likes of Fall Out Boy also having a new album slated for release on March 24.

If someone is listening to this album for high-energy hits like “Misery Business” or “Ain’t It Fun,” they’re not here. Some songs are high energy, like “The News,” and other songs are catchy, like “C’est Comme Ça.” However, with those songs, those qualities are to their own detriment.

“The News” feels almost over dramatic at times with its self-aware lyricism and obnoxious guitar backing.

“C’est Comme Ça,” the fourth song on the tracklist, should be recognized as one of the worst released songs in recent memory. While its chorus of “C’est comme ça, c’est comme ça, Na-na-na-na” is sung only four times in a row, can easily get stuck in someone’s head, it’s more of a parasite rather than a friendly earworm. It can be nearly enough to drive the less-dedicated listener to shut the album off before it even had the chance to begin.

There is no song throughout this 10-track experience that forces anyone less than a

Paramore superfan (or someone reviewing the album) to come back and give it a second listen. The whole album feels devoid of anything giving it life. Listening to “This Is Why” can make one feel the way the band is portrayed on the album’s cover, pushed up against a wall in the middle of a boring, beige room with nothing better to do.

The only two songs that were memorable in any shape or form were “Running Out Of Time” and “Crave.”

“Running Out Of Time” made an impact due to lead singer Hayley Williams’ unique cadence throughout and a chorus that made me feel excited for when it came back around. “Crave” on the other hand, was the only song on the album that seemed to take a genre-bending approach. The track worked its way into indie pop/dream pop territory, which was a sound that many other songs on the album likely could have benefitted from.

With the release of “This Is Why,” the revival of the great alternative groups from the 2000s and 2010s is now officially batting 0-2. Panic! At the Disco’s “Viva Las Vengeance” was released in August 2022 and was the weakest offering of the group’s entire discography. “This Is Why” was seen as the next great hope for the revival of this world, but after its release, what is there left to be hopeful about?

All the public has seen so far has been weak or unmemorable collections with a



SVEN-SEBASTIAN SAJAK/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

“This Is Why” is Paramore’s first album since the release of “After Laughter” in 2017, where it debuted at No. 6 on the US Billboard 200.

song or two that can keep them listening for about a week and nothing more. This review was meant to be much longer, but there truly is very little to say about this offering from Paramore. Every single piece sounds like it has been done before by bands better and worse than the trio.

For a group that has not released since 2017, one would think that “This Is Why”

would have the potential to be great, but it just falls completely flat.

There is one last chance for fans of these groups to be thrilled. With “So Much (for) Stardust” by Fall Out Boy coming out March 24, fans of the genre will likely be hoping that it comes out better than this piece of garbage.

A spoiler-free commendation of HBO Max’s newest hit ‘The Last of Us’

By MICHAEL SICOLI
Staff Writer

Most people love a good apocalypse show. Whether it’s zombies or aliens — maybe a good nuclear fallout — people are fascinated by different perspectives on the end of the world. But most people, especially video game enthusiasts, never consider fungus as a world-ending option.

Unless, of course, you played or watched “The Last of Us” when it came out on PlayStation 3 in 2013. Then you probably had some trouble fighting through the tears of an absolutely heart-wrenching story. Now, the same story is being played out on HBO Max as a series.

The fifth episode of the series released on Feb. 10 clearing the midway point of the nine-



ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RIHA

episode first season.

This apocalypse concept is built around genuine scientific theory. The show opens with an amazing scene, paired with dull shots of a mindless crowd as a scientist explains the risk certain fungi possess. Cordyceps is a real fungus that takes control of ants and spiders. It can’t exist in humans due to our higher body temperature, but as the show suggests, a mutation due to global warming could cause that leap to be made.

It’s terrifying. But that’s the show.

The story follows a dynamic pair of characters. There’s Joel Miller, a perfectly-played pessimist by Pedro Pascal. Then there’s Ellie Williams, an upstart child who has known nothing other than the run-down world that exists. Bella Ramsey does a brilliant job of playing a girl who’s built up a shield of sarcasm and quick wit to handle the often-abrasive situations.

It’s an incredible story as the pair travel through a post-outbreak United States, dealing with the infected in a dilapidated country. There are raiders, people who adjusted to this new world by stepping on the throats of others. None of that is uncommon in apocalyptic shows, but “The Last of Us” stands out because of its hybrid form of video game and show.

Plenty of shows have tried to bridge the gap before, but often struggle to replace hours of gameplay with sufficient TV content. But “The Last of Us” does exactly what a video game-turned-TV show should do — it switches perspective away from your characters.

A video game is based around the player — Miller — which often means you don’t leave the perspective of that character. The show breaks that barrier and expounds upon smaller mentions of characters the video game can’t dive deeper into. In fact, it even strengthens the story from where it was.

Episode 3, for example, shares the perspective of doomsday-prepper Bill. He has a brief appearance in the game that is limited to a line of dialogue and a hidden note. But in the show, his relationship with newcomer Frank receives a whole episode of development and care.

On one hand, you have gun-toting, anti-establishment Bill, someone who’s set death traps across his town to keep people out. On the other hand, you have optimist Frank who sees the best in people. Their relationship in this horrific world is unlike any seen in another piece of media — and it’s barely explored in the game.

When you pair excellent characters with top-tier acting and detailed storytelling it gives a reason for people who already know how the story goes to be locked into every episode. And if you didn’t play the game, power to you — here’s a beautiful tragedy that you can watch for the first time. Color me jealous.

Episodes release every Sunday at 9 p.m. on HBO Max, with each episode even more heartbreaking than the last. Have the tissues and popcorn ready on hand; nothing comes easy for these beloved protagonists.

Yeargin’s Yard

How Quinnipiac baseball can evolve in 2023



DANIEL PASSAPERA/CHRONICLE

Senior right-handed pitcher Kevin Seitter pitched a 1.80 ERA with the Newport Gulls in the New England Collegiate Baseball League last summer.

By BENJAMIN YEARGIN
Associate Sports Editor

The theory of evolution, also known as natural selection, is how an organism adapts to its circumstances. The Quinnipiac baseball team must go through its own evolution this spring, coming out of another losing season and losing key players to graduation and the transfer portal.

Additions and Subtractions

Starting with their two biggest losses to the transfer portal, senior left-handed pitcher Brandy Garcia transferred to Texas A&M, a College World Series contender, and senior catcher/outfielder Danny Melnick transferred to Rutgers.

Garcia was Quinnipiac’s No. 1 starter while Melnick capped off last year with All-MAAC First Team honors and NEIBA All-New England First Team honors.

Quinnipiac also lost first baseman Michael Kohn to George Washington, outfielder Andrew McDermott to Queens University of Charlotte, first baseman Ryan Grace to Lesley, and right-handed pitchers Chris Mazza to LIU and Gabriel Romano to John Hopkins.

“It doesn’t matter,” head coach John Delaney said. “If kids don’t want to be here, they don’t want to be here. Some of the kids chose to go, some were told to go.”

To top it off, two veteran staples in infielder Ian Ostberg and left-handed pitcher Anthony Ambrosino graduated.

Another subtraction that greatly impacts the

program isn’t someone who plays between the foul lines, it is the former assistant coach and recruiting coordinator Pat Egan, who has taken over as the next head coach of Sacred Heart.

“You have one of your best friends, a guy you coached with for eight years, you want him to move forward,” Delaney said.

It’s worth noting that the Bobcats bought in their own transfers. Senior right-handed pitcher Sam Favieri and graduate students Frank Craska and Tim Blaisdell transferred from UConn, Lafayette and Hartford, respectively. Sophomore infielder Nick Montagna joined from Pace (NCAA Division II), where he earned the NE10 Southwest Division Rookie Hitter of the Year award. And senior infielder/outfielder Matt Tesoriero transferred from Catholic University (NCAA Division III).

The million-dollar question is this: who does that leave and how will the Bobcats evolve?

Offense

On the sticks, the four leaders of the offense will be junior outfielder Jared Zimbardo, senior outfielder/right-handed pitcher Anthony Donofrio, graduate student infielder Kyle Maves and junior catcher Keegan O’Connor.

Donofrio, Zimbardo and O’Connor finished the year second, third and fourth on the team in batting average, respectively, and all tallied at least 15 extra-base hits. These three could potentially make up the meat of the Bobcats order, hitting two-three-four.

Maves’ return to the team adds obvious speed as he led the team with 23 stolen bases last year, a consistent bat and someone who sets the tone for Quinnipiac.

“As much as you might see guys in the portal, we returned the biggest pieces on the entire team,” Delaney said. “You got Maves back, you got Donofrio back, you got Zimbardo back ... tell me a lineup that’s going to be better with those three at the top.”

Another player that will obtain a significant role this season is junior infielder Matt DeRosa. The North Haven native was named an All-Star in the Future Collegiate Baseball Summer League where he hit .339/.391/.424 with 42 hits and six extra-base hits in 37 games. DeRosa has played shortstop, second and third base, and he could start at any of those positions come opening day.

Two more names to watch out for are senior right-handed pitcher/first baseman Sean Swenson and junior first baseman/outfielder Sebastian Mueller. Both had forgettable years last year but with Kohn gone, both will receive more playing time at first or at designated hitter.

Pitching and Schedule

In the rotation, the only lock to start is senior right-handed pitcher Kevin Seitter.

Seitter pitched superbly in the NECBL Summer League with the Newport Gulls. He finished the year with a 1.80 ERA in eight games (six starts), allowing a combined seven earned runs

and keeping opponents to a lackluster .168 batting average. Though this is a small sample size, if Seitter can pitch close to this good for the Bobcats, they’ll have a great shot to win every third or fourth game.

With junior left-handed pitcher Tate Cope-land missing the season with Tommy John surgery, the other two spots are up for grabs.

Expect Blaisdell to get some nods, he was Hartford’s No. 1 starter and brings a plethora of experience with three pitches he can locate in the strike zone. Other names to be aware of for weekend starting or long-relief are sophomore Mason Ulsh and senior Jimmy Hagan, who were both injured all or most of last year, Craska and Favieri.

The schedule is more or less the same as years past, a long stretch of out-of-conference games that showcases power five school Iowa, which then evolves into more local teams and conference play. Quinnipiac’s first home game is Saturday, March 18, against St. John’s at 12 p.m.

Final Thoughts

The Bobcats are hungry this year. The team wants to win and change people’s expectations.

“I think (people) should expect a team that’s going to want to win games ... they’re going to see a tough nine innings of baseball,” Zimbardo said.

Quinnipiac will look to turn heads when it starts the season on Saturday, Feb. 18, against Iowa and Indiana State at the Snowbird Classic in Port Charlotte, Florida.

WLAX from 12

..... is coming off an All-MAAC Rookie Team season in 2022, where she scored 25 goals for the Bobcats off the bench.

“It’s always nice to see a player return and have the stress of everything being new for the first time off their backs,” Kotowicz said. “(Delmond)has an intensity behind her. She is competitive beyond belief. So she’s been able to elevate not only her own play, and she plays fast, which is really fun. But she also elevates the play of the people around her.”

The team is also looking forward to production from its wealth of upperclassmen, making up

over half the roster. The Bobcats are returning senior attacker Desiree Kleberg, who led the team in scoring last season with 38 points.

“I actually think some of our seniors and fifth-years have come back a little bit more mature, a little bit more ready to do something instead of just being here,” associate head coach Jordan Christopher said. “I think the leadership that we’re going to see from the eight seniors plus three fifth-years is something that’s going to be pretty cool for us.”

An interesting dynamic of MAAC women’s lacrosse in 2023 is that teams will have to fight through two defending conference champions to win the MAAC title. Fairfield is currently the defending MAAC champion, and with the conference’s addition of Mount

St. Mary’s, teams will have to battle past the 2022 NEC champion as well.

“We’re excited to have (Mount St. Mary’s) in the conference,” Kotowicz said. “I think it strengthens our conference. But they’re a different style of game, which I think is even more fun for us. I think more than anything, it has allowed us to become more competitive because we lost Monmouth, they were always at the top. So to bring in another really talented team is really helpful.”

The road to a MAAC Championship for the Bobcats will begin Feb. 15 in Hamden when they face off against Sacred Heart. That game kickstarts an eight-game non-conference schedule before MAAC play begins on Mar. 25 against Marist.

The Red Foxes were actually the team that Kotowicz won a conference title with in 2008. That experience is still in the back of her head, reminding her of what it takes to reach the top once again.

“It was all about consistency,” Kotowicz said. “It was believing in something that no one else sees ... What we were believing in was the process ... It has driven the foundation of how we are coaching now.”

It is that coaching foundation that will look to drive the Bobcats down the road that will lead to a berth in the MAAC Tournament, or maybe even the MAAC Championship.

The ebbs and flows of Bobcats basketball: The resurgence of Luis Kortright

By ZACHARY CARTER
Staff Writer

Just as a poet or novelist gains recognition for their unique styles of writing, basketball players bring their own unique play styles to the hardwood, breaking the unconventional mold of what is considered a traditional modern hooper.

Junior guard Luis Kortright has by no means redefined what it means to be a basketball player, but in a year when he has seen a significant increase in minutes, he has put his skillset on full display, playing the game the only way he knows how.

“My favorite player is LeBron James,” Kortright said. “I just try to mimic the things that he does when it comes to being that team player and doing everything that the team needs.”

Inspiration comes from all levels of the game, and it’s easy to look to one of the greatest players who’s ever lived for pointers. But when Kortright turns to the film reels in search of motivation, he keeps his options open.

“I watch more so (highlights of) Chris Paul because that’s where I get my playmaking skills from,” Kortright said. “But when it comes to my mentality, I got that LeBron mentality.”

Kortright, now in his third season with the Bobcats, has come a long way in developing his LeBron-esque mentality. He has risen, fallen and risen again during his time in Hamden, a trend that many basketball players cannot claim to have overcome.

In his freshman campaign, Kortright grew accustomed to a prominent role off the bench, averaging 23.1 minutes per game alongside an impressive 10.3 points per game. However, an ankle injury cost Kortright precious minutes in his sophomore season.

The result of Kortright’s injury was a drastic decrease in production. His 23.1 minutes per game dropped to 14.1. His points per game average slumped from 10.3 to just 3.5. In layman’s terms, Kortright was not himself. Playing through an injury isn’t easy by itself, but coping with the noticeable production decline was even harder.

“When I came back I kept thinking that I had to do so much,” Kortright said. “It did

mess me up mentally.”

His decision to rush back from an injury is ultimately one that Kortright regrets. He fought through the pain in an attempt to stay on the court, when in reality he should have taken the time to properly rehab his ankle. Having overcome his injury now, Kortright reflects on his decision to endure the injury.

“For me, I felt like I rushed it,” he said. “Like I didn’t give myself the right amount of time to heal and actually recover the right way.”

With his injury behind him and the latter half of his career on the horizon, Kortright was determined to return to his first-year form.

“Now that I know that I don’t have my foot holding me back anymore, every day I push myself to be the best that I can because there is nothing holding me back but me,” Kortright said.

A healthy Kortright is a dangerous Kortright. Since the beginning of his 2022-23 campaign, he has looked like his former self once again. His ability to put the ball in the basket finally reappeared, with Kortright now putting up just over 10 points per game.

His reinvigorated productivity has allowed Kortright to see more time on the floor as well, with his minutes per game leaping up and over his first-year average, settling nicely at 26.4.

But a comeback like this is not done alone. For Kortright, he credits head coach Baker Dunleavy and the rest of the coaching staff immensely for his leap back into the regular rotation.

“They have the vision, and I have the vision, and we all see that I know how to make the right plays,” Kortright said. “So we all come to the equal point where it’s like, ‘he knows how to make the right plays so the ball has to be in his hands for us to be successful.’”

The decision to put Kortright in charge of the offense on a more consistent basis has exceeded both Kortright’s coaching staff’s expectations.

Dunleavy, who has been an integral part of Kortright’s return to stardom, has praised him for his ability to ignite the team’s fiery offense.

“He’s a guy that connects us and makes other players better,” Dunleavy said. “That’s what really defines him is that he can score but he also



CONNOR LAWLESS /CHRONICLE ARCHIVES (2022)

Junior guard Luis Kortright has bounced back from an ankle injury that hurt his play last season.

helps other guys play well.”

This season, Quinnipiac men’s basketball is off to its best start in years. At 17-9, the Bobcats are, on paper, poised to make a deep run in the MAAC tournament, and a big reason for their success can be traced directly back to Kortright. His teammates have adopted the same ‘no-mercy’ mentality both in the locker room and on the court, with all of them sharing the sentiment that they have nothing to lose.

“We all have that desperate mentality that we got to get it done,” Kortright said.

Compared to past seasons, Kortright feels the team’s turnaround stemmed from an increase in effort and desire.

“With previous teams, we played very lackadaisically,” Kortright said. “With this team, we fight more, we push for greatness, we push each other and the coaches push us to a whole new level.”

Kortright and the Bobcats will continue to push for greatness down the stretch, with just a handful of regular season games remaining before the MAAC playoffs.

For Kortright, he will continue to put his own stamp on the game of basketball. From his high school days in Manhattan through his years in Hamden, Kortright will always play his own game; that is a guarantee.

Raggio’s Rally: Recapping the first set of non-conference matches

By RYAN RAGGIO
Staff Writer

The Quinnipiac men’s and women’s tennis teams started their seasons in mid-January and have progressed down the road to the MAAC championship and a NCAA berth.

The women’s program is the reigning MAAC champions after sweeping their way to last year’s title. The Bobcats started off the season 0-2, losing to Harvard (4-0) and Yale (7-0), before earning their first win against Merrimack

(4-3). Since the 0-2 start, the defending MAAC champions are 2-1 and are poised for another title run.

Quinnipiac women’s head coach Paula Miller has said in the past that she makes a tough schedule for her team to prepare them for the in-conference matchups which round out the last five matches of the season.

“We have seven losses because we played some really good teams,” Miller said. “This is to get ready for the MAAC and hopefully, we can

win all of our matches.”

This strategy has proven effective, as the women’s team have won the MAAC championship six times during Miller’s 10-year tenure as head coach.

The team’s first MAAC matchup comes on March 4, against Niagara. Their next won’t be until April 1, against Mount St. Mary’s which starts the aforementioned five-game stretch against MAAC opponents to finish the season.

Graduate student Kamilla Nella recently won the MAAC co-player of the week after achieving her 92nd career win in Quinnipiac’s 6-1 loss against Delaware. Senior Claire Koscielski, senior Jordan Bradley and Nella round out the top three in the singles slots for Quinnipiac.

Despite the young season, the three can each add one meet to their highlight reel. Against Merrimack, Koscielski had a perfect day going 18-0, winning the doubles match with senior Alessia Truden 6-0 and both of her singles matches 6-0. Quinnipiac’s win over Hofstra went on the heels of Bradley’s impressive day on the court as she won both her doubles match, with Nella, and both of her singles matches 6-2 and 6-4.

The men’s team is looking for redemption after falling to Monmouth (4-0) in the MAAC finals last season. Quinnipiac’s new head coach, Bryan Adinolfi, took over after former head coach, Chris Pappas, left in the off season. So far, his team holds a 2-5 overall record.

Quinnipiac dropped its first two matches of the spring to Brown (7-0) and St. John’s (6-1). The team played Merrimack for its first home match of the year

and did not disappoint. History repeated itself, as the Bobcats came out on top with a strong 5-2 victory. Since the win, the Bobcats have lost three matches in a row and look to rest up and bounce back for their upcoming match against North Dakota on Feb. 25.

Winning the doubles point can determine the winner once the singles matches end. If each team wins three singles matches, the doubles point would be the deciding factor.

Adinolfi expressed time and time again how important it is for his team to win the doubles point to ultimately set the tone for the rest of the match.

“The doubles point is big if we want to have a chance of winning the conference,” Adinolfi said.

Senior Kemal Karagozoglu and junior Shaurya Sood have been on fire in the doubles matchups. Having won their last four matches together, the pair holds a 4-2 doubles record this season. The combination of Karagozoglu’s towering 6-foot-4 frame at the front of the net with Sood’s quickness at the backline gives opponents trouble.

“My main goal is to always be the big man out there,” Karagozoglu said. “Just attack, be aggressive, use my size and my arm length. I just try to dominate and not let the opponents control the game.”

Both teams have had slow starts, but when it comes time for conference play, they dial it up. While the women’s team looks to defend their title and add more hardware to the trophy room, the men’s team is out for redemption and is looking to seize a title in Adinolfi’s debut year as head coach.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Freshman Vera Sekerina won her first collegiate match against Merrimack on Jan. 28.



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

Togetherhness, brotherhood defining Quinnipiac men’s team

By COLIN KENNEDY
Staff Writer

Following a disappointing 2-11 season last year, the Quinnipiac men’s lacrosse team is ready to turn the page toward the spring. Just ask any player in the locker room and they will tell you there is an excited energy surging through the program knowing they have a clean slate in front of them.

“I’d say we’re just a very energetic and excited group to get after it this year,” graduate student midfielder and captain Demitri George said. “We want to stake our claim in the MAAC and show everyone what we can do.”

A common theme within the halls of men’s lacrosse this spring has been the idea of brotherhood. From freshmen to graduate students, this group of Bobcats knows that their relationships formed off the turf will lead to results on it.

Experience is a leading factor in the creation of this tight-knit Quinnipiac locker room. Seven of their top nine scorers returned from the 2022 campaign. George is spearheading the leadership group for Quinnipiac, and he is joined by three other captains; graduate student goalie Nick DiMuccio, senior defenseman Zack Siegel and senior attack John DeLucia.

“The captain vote was a unanimous decision this year, with 99% of the votes cast going to

these four young men,” head coach Mason Poli said. “Not only do we have good leaders, but we have guys who know who they want to follow.”

One of the main pieces returning this spring is George, who is one of the top face-off specialists in the country. He was the winner of the 2021 and 2022 MAAC Face-off Specialist of the Year Award, and finished second in the country in faceoff attempts in 2022 (115-for-155). With George manning the face-off dot, the Bobcats put themselves in a strong position to start an attack.

Another pillar returning for his fifth year is DiMuccio, who will man the cage once again for the Bobcats this season. Last year, DiMuccio averaged 13.33 saves per game, good for ninth in NCAA Division I. The standout goaltender provides a security blanket for a young Quinnipiac defense as it matures throughout the season.

“On the defensive end we have a couple of young guys stepping up, and I think they’re definitely game ready,” DiMuccio said. “It’s a group that really supports each other from top to bottom.”

A key piece to the Bobcats defense is Siegel, who is joined by Michael Buschbacher as the only two seniors on the defensive side of the field. With younger players expected to get their

first looks on the defense, it has forced Quinnipiac to be ultra-competitive when preparing to get the defense ready. Some notable Bobcats expected to make an impact are sophomore defenseman Matthew Bologna and junior defenseman Tommy Shaughnessy.

“There’s some new faces, but they’ve done a great job preparing for months and months all throughout the fall and these past few weeks,” Siegel said. “We’re obviously all excited to get after it against another color for real this time.”

On the other side of the field, there is no lack of experience to the Bobcats offensive attack. The two top point scorers from 2022 are returning for Quinnipiac in sophomore midfielder Ryan Donnery and his twin brother, sophomore attack Dylan Donnery. The offensive duo tallied 31 and 29 points respectfully.

“I think last year we had a lot more than we showed, and we had more potential than we were able to deliver,” DeLucia said. “We learned from it and are ready to move forward and hit the gates running.”

Other key members to the attack unit include DeLucia (27 points), junior midfielder Steven Germain (26 points) and senior attack Jake Tellers (23 points).

“We know not everything is gonna go our

way, so we want to stay together and play together,” DeLucia said. “Together has been a big word for us.”

At the top of this united group of Bobcats is Poli, who is returning for his ninth season with the program and fifth as the head coach. Being here for nine years, Poli has seen many Quinnipiac teams come and go, but this one feels a little different.

“It’s one of the tightest groups that I’ve had here in my nine years,” Poli said.

Heading into the 2023 season, the Bobcats received some MAAC recognition. Both Germain and George were named to the Preseason All-MAAC team, and Quinnipiac were sixth in the league’s Preseason Coaches’ Poll.

The Bobcats showcased their togetherness during their season opener against UMass Lowell on Feb. 12. Quinnipiac was victorious, 21-12, mainly thanks to an offensive outburst (four goals from freshman attackman Justin Robbert) and solid play in the cage from DiMuccio.

Winning is nothing new in Hamden, with a culture of capturing MAAC titles becoming the standard at Quinnipiac. That winning culture seems to have made its way down to the men’s lacrosse program as it prepares to make its own run at glory this spring.

‘It’s up to us’: Quinnipiac women’s squad looks to exceed expectations

By MICHAEL LARocca
Opinion Editor

Ninth place and 22 points. That’s where the MAAC women’s lacrosse coaches picked Quinnipiac after a 6-10 season and eighth-place finish in 2022, seeing it as the lowest of their peers for this season. But the goal for this Bobcats team is to silence the doubters waiting in the wings.

“I mean, there’s our motivators,” head coach Tanya Kotowicz said. “How do you know how a team is going to be until they actually get out there and do something? ... What will happen is still yet to be known, but what is happening is known by only those inside the program now and it’s up to us

to take care of that and it’ll speak for itself.”

Kotowicz’s eighth season at the helm of this program will be one that mandates success. So far during her tenure, the Bobcats have never finished at or above .500.

The closest the team ever came to a .500 record was in 2020, when the team sat at 3-4 before the season was canceled due to the onset of COVID-19. The closest they came to a .500 record in a non-COVID modified season was the 6-10 campaign last year, where they did not qualify for the MAAC Tournament.

For the Bobcats to make that jump to contending within the MAAC, it will be crucial for them

to make use of the assets they have acquired and developed over previous seasons.

At the moment, Quinnipiac has what might be the most valuable asset in the MAAC, and that is senior goalkeeper Kat Henselder. In 2022, Henselder was named to the All-MAAC Second Team after finishing second in the MAAC in goals against average (12.12), saves per game (10.44) and save percentage (.476). She also ranked within the top-20 nationally for the latter two statistics and within the top-50 for goals against average.

Those accolades from 2022 allowed Henselder to be the only Bobcat and only keeper named to the 2023 Preseason All-MAAC team. It proves

that this season is the time for the senior to make a statement and be the brick wall the team needs and boost her teammates .

“(Henselder)’s been able to grow up as a person, not just as an athlete,” Kotowicz said. “She’s creative. She’s athletic. She’s not your typical stay in the crease kind of player. I think that that has helped us elevate the type of game we play, especially on the defensive end.”

On offense, Quinnipiac is returning four of its top-five scorers from last year. That includes sophomore midfielder EllaGrace Delmond, who