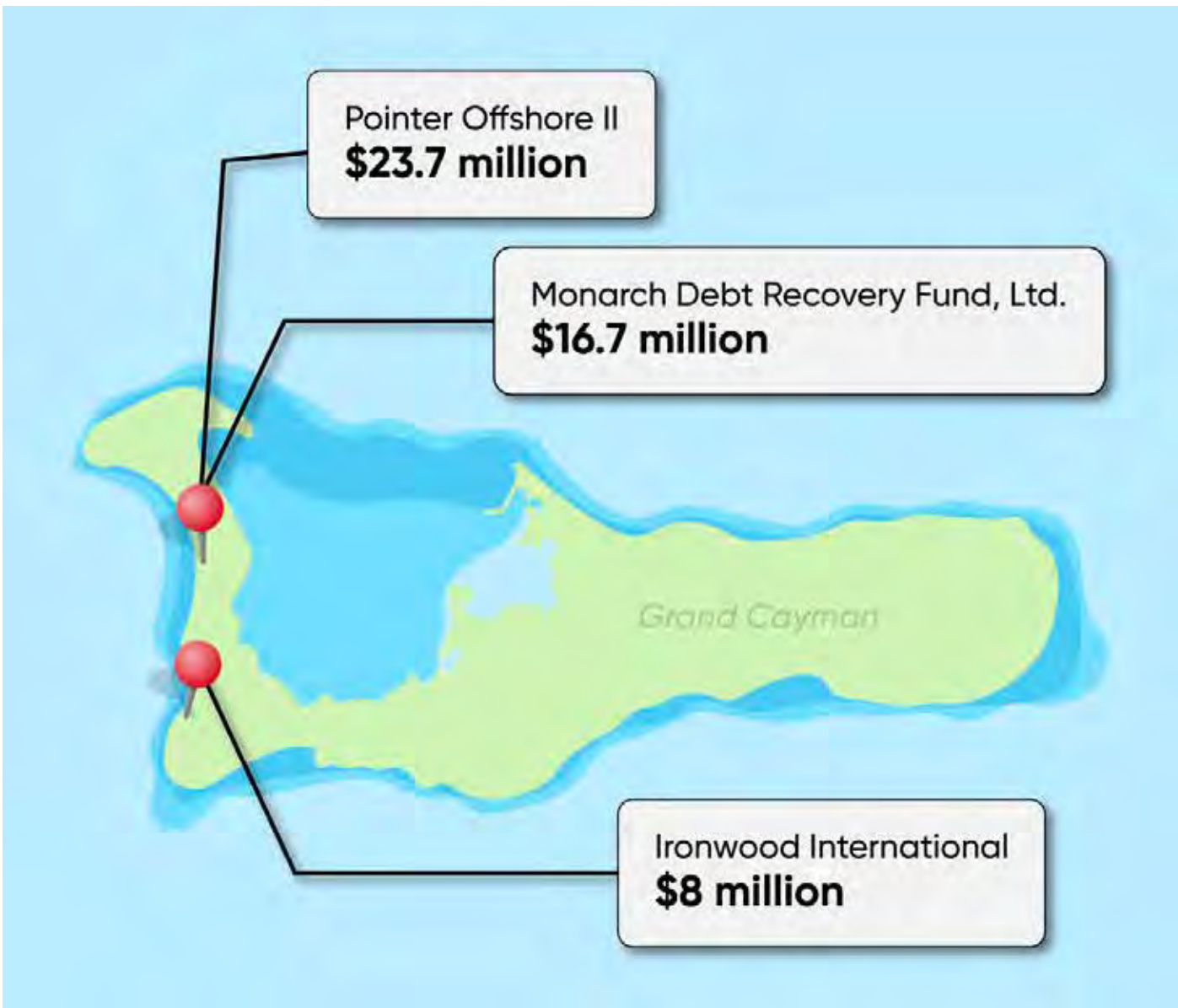


\$48M IN THE CAYMANS

Quinnipiac University has millions tied up in offshore hedge funds that invest in the fossil fuel industry — and it has for years.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

By CAT MURPHY
 News Editor

Quinnipiac University has put itself on the map in recent years — literally. Over the last five years, the private Connecticut university has poured tens of millions of dollars into offshore hedge funds.

Public tax records indicate that Quinnipiac has maintained a multimillion-dollar investment portfolio in the Cayman Islands — where lenient corporate tax laws enable investors to avoid paying taxes on their offshore assets — since at least 2018.

Quinnipiac’s most recent financial audit valued its hedge fund investments at \$48.4 million as of June 2023.

More than a third of those assets — \$16.7 million — are tied up in Monarch Debt Recovery Fund Ltd., one of some two dozen hedge funds operated by multibillion-dollar pooled investment fund manager Monarch Alternative Capital.

And despite Quinnipiac’s public commitment to “outcomes that support the long-term sustainability of our planet,” Monarch Alternative Capital’s filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission show that the corporation bankrolls the fossil fuel and tobacco industries.

As of 2019, Monarch owns a 4.33% stake in Arch Resources — a \$3.2 billion coal mining and processing company — worth more than \$104 million.

Monarch is also a majority owner of Pxyus International, a \$1.6 billion tobacco

distributor. The New York City-based corporation’s 24.6% ownership stake in Pxyus is worth more than \$11 million.

And back in 2018 — the first year Quinnipiac disclosed its ties to Monarch — the corporation had more than \$90 million invested in oil and gas acquisition company Resolute Energy and crude oil shipping company Gener8 Maritime. Both corporations have since been bought out.

“Quinnipiac does not have any direct investments in fossil fuels and has committed to not investing directly in fossil fuel interests,” wrote John Morgan, associate vice president for public relations, in a statement to The Chronicle Tuesday.

But by investing in Monarch, the university is banking on the success of Monarch’s portfolio. So, while Quinnipiac may not be directly investing in fossil fuels, the university’s multimillion-dollar stake in Monarch’s pooled investments ensures it profits from the industry’s success.

“Some commingled funds in our portfolio, which are funds that invest in a wide array of companies and industries, may include fossil fuel interests as a portion of the fund,” Morgan wrote. “Investments in commingled funds provide scale, access to leading investment managers and diversification which is vital to growing the endowment for realization of major improvements at the university, and for the long-term success of Quinnipiac Univer-

sity and the communities it serves.”

The university disclosed having another \$23.7 million invested in Pointer Offshore II, a Cayman Islands-incorporated hedge fund based in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Pointer’s holdings — unlike Monarch’s — are not public, meaning its SEC filings do not disclose its investments.

Quinnipiac invests the remaining \$8 million in Ironwood International, a hedge fund manager overseeing more than \$6.8 billion in global assets. Ironwood is technically headquartered in San Francisco. However, it is legally registered as operating out of the Uglad House, a law firm on Grand Cayman that serves as the official address for thousands of supposedly U.S.-based businesses. Ironwood’s holdings are not public.

Because Quinnipiac’s finances are shrouded in mystery, the history of the university’s \$48.4 million hedge fund portfolio — today worth what 873 students pay in annual tuition and fees — is murky at best.

Public disclosure requirements rarely apply to private institutions, meaning the university’s financial activities are, as a general rule, not subject to public scrutiny.

But Quinnipiac — like the majority of colleges in the United States — is a not-for-profit institution. And even private nonprofits must file annual returns with the Internal Revenue Service to remain exempt from

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See **HEDGE FUNDS** Page 2

Quinnipiac taps new School of Law dean to take over in July

By ALEXANDRA MARTINAKOVA
 News Editor

For the second time in the past month, Quinnipiac University Provost Debra Liebowitz announced the appointment of a new dean.

On Feb. 13, Liebowitz named Brian Gallini, dean and professor of law at Willamette University, to succeed Jennifer Brown as dean of the School of Law. Brown will step down on June 30 after more than a decade in the role to focus on teaching and research.

Gallini — a criminal law scholar with focus on law enforcement discretion issues in the context of interrogation methods, consent searches and profiling — will also join the school as a tenured professor.

“Brian’s wealth of experience, commitment to excellence, and passion for advancing the profession will inspire the next generation of legal advocates, scholars, and changemakers here at Quinnipiac,” Liebowitz wrote in a Feb. 13 email to the Quinnipiac community.

Various nations’ top law journals, such as the Washington Law Review and Hastings Law Journal have published Gallini’s work, per Liebowitz’s email.

His commentary has appeared in worldwide media outlets, such as ABC News, the Associated Press, the Los Angeles Times and the Wall Street Journal, according to the press release.

He is a two-time winner of the Southeastern Association of Law School Call-for-Papers competition and a 2017 Southeastern Conference Faculty Achievement Award winner.

Gallini has “deep roots in the Northeast” and has “long appreciated Quinnipiac’s commitment to innovation and experiential learning from afar,” according to the press release.

He also said he was drawn to Quinnipiac for its wide portfolio of programs, from nursing, communications and law schools, to its athletics and alumni engagement, per the Hartford Business Journal.

Since Gallini joined Willamette University in 2020, its law school recruited the largest and most academically well-credentialed class in more than a decade and has committed itself to critically evaluating its approach to diversity, equity and inclusion, according to his university profile.

Under his leadership, Willamette’s College of Law had also recruited the largest faculty cohort in years, successfully building out and expanding the experiential curriculum.

Before his deanship, Gallini spent 12 years as a professor of law at the University of Arkansas and as the head coach of the men’s ice hockey team. Currently, he coaches his son’s youth team.

He is also the author of “Investigative Criminal Procedure: Inside This Century’s Most (In)Famous Cases,” published last year.

The experienced law professional holds a master’s degree from Temple University and a law degree from the University of Michigan Law School, as well as a bachelor’s degree in Russian studies from the College of the Holy Cross.

“Gallini’s creative and student-centered approach to leadership will further solidify the school’s reputation as a premier institution for legal education and innovation,” Liebowitz wrote.

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The value of Quinnipiac's hedge fund investments since FY 2018-19



INFOGRAPHIC BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

The history behind Quinnipiac's offshore hedge fund investments

HEDGE FUNDS from cover

..... federal income taxes. This tax return, known as the form 990, is one of the few public insights into the financial activities of private nonprofits like Quinnipiac.

Compared to a public institution's disclosure requirements, the 990 is relatively limited in scope and only broadly outlines a private entity's finances.

However, as far as offshore hedge funds go, two relevant figures are subject to disclosure: the value of an institution's private investments and the value of an institution's foreign investments.

It was a technicality in the 990 form's disclosure requirements for private assets — not foreign assets — that forced Quinnipiac to reveal its hedge fund investments in 2018.

For context, the IRS typically only requires institutions to disclose the net value of their private investments, not specifics about the holdings. There is one notable exception: if an institution's privately held securities comprise more than 5% of its total assets.

Quinnipiac's \$81.9 million in private investments constituted 5.2% of its total assets in fiscal year 2018-19, forcing the university to disclose having \$39.8 million of that tucked away in three hedge funds in the Cayman Islands.

A dozen private equity investments accounted for most of the remaining \$42.1 million, per the university's 2018-19 filing. Alternative investment firm Ares Management — whose board of directors Quinnipiac President Judy Olian serves on — acquired one of the private equity firms the university used, Landmark Equity Partners, in 2021. It is unclear if Quinnipiac still holds investments with this firm.

Quinnipiac's foreign investment practices are quite common in higher education. Public tax filings show that at least five other Connecticut colleges — Fairfield University, Sacred Heart University, Trinity College, Connecticut College and the University of Hartford — maintain multimillion-dollar hedge fund portfolios. In fiscal year 2021-22 alone, these six schools disclosed a combined \$288.1 million in hedge fund investments.

But in a different section of Quinnipiac's 2018-19 filing, the university denied

having any foreign investments valued at more than \$100,000. In fact, in the decade that the IRS had required organizations to disclose foreign transactions, the university had never once reported investing money outside of the United States.

If not for the IRS's 5% disclosure threshold, it is possible that Quinnipiac's offshore investments may never have come to light.

The multimillion-dollar discrepancy calls into question the credibility of Quinnipiac's previous 990 filings.

To put it another way: for the university's older disclosures to have been accurate, Quinnipiac would have had to have placed all \$39.8 million into those offshore hedge funds between July 2018 and June 2019.

But even Quinnipiac's own financial statements do not support this hypothetical.

Case in point, the university's 2018-19 990 filing indicates that its privately held securities only saw an \$8.9 million increase in this 12-month timeframe.

And while Quinnipiac's 2018-19 audit report does not specifically mention the term "hedge funds," the listed value of one of the university's so-called "alternative" investments corresponds — to the exact dollar — to the value of its offshore hedge fund assets.

Using that logic to backtrack these assets, it appears that Quinnipiac had held more than \$31

million in offshore hedge fund accounts since at least fiscal year 2015-16 — three years before disclosing these investments.

Quinnipiac's recent tax filings have been more forthcoming about the university's foreign assets than in the past.

In fiscal year 2019-20, Quinnipiac's reported foreign transactions totaled \$53.7 million and spanned every IRS-defined geographic region except Antarctica and South Asia. Quinnipiac's 990 filing indicates that the university poured roughly 90% of these funds — \$47.5 million — into foreign investment funds located in Central America and the Caribbean. Subsequent filings valued Quinnipiac's foreign investments in Central America and the Caribbean at \$55.1 million in 2020-21 and at \$50.5 million in 2021-22.

Quinnipiac's audit disclosures valued the university's offshore hedge fund assets at \$40.6 million in 2019-20 and \$46.1 million in 2021-22 — leaving \$6.9 million and \$4.4 million in foreign investments unaccounted for each year.

But because private investments constituted less than 5% of Quinnipiac's total assets in each of these years, the university was not required to publicly disclose any specifics about these investments in its 990 filings.

Hedge fund investments among Connecticut universities in FY 2021-22



INFOGRAPHIC BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

Quinnipiac raises awareness about email scams

By **ALEXANDRA MARTINAKOVA**
News Editor

Quinnipiac University's Information Security Department has increased vigilance against phishing scam emails over the recent months.

"Phishing" refers to an attempt to steal sensitive information, typically in the form of usernames, passwords, credit card numbers, bank account information or any other important data to utilize or sell the stolen information, according to Cloudflare, a cybersecurity website.

In a Feb. 12 email to The Chronicle, Thomas Spencer, a university information security officer, wrote that IT's goal is to heighten the community's awareness of scams and deceitful emails.

"The more informed you are the better you can protect yourself and the wider Quinnipiac community," Spencer wrote.

Robert Jasek, chief information security officer, has sent seven emails warning students about phishing scams since Aug. 28. For perspective, he sent five emails over the course of the entire 2022-2023 academic year.

Spencer added that no single event prompted the decision to send out warning emails, but rather just the increased need for awareness.

Phishing statistics suggest that nearly 1.2% of all emails sent are malicious, which translates to 3.4 billion phishing emails daily, according to Astra Security, a cybersecurity software designed to help businesses protect and recover hacked websites. Phishing scams account for nearly 22% of all data breaches, which made it the most prevalent cybercrime listed in the FBI's 2021 internet crime report.

"Most of the spam and phishing emails sent to Quinnipiac email addresses actually never make it to the recipient," Spencer wrote. "Around 80,000 spam, phishing, or other malicious emails are blocked every day."

Additionally, in a Jan. 4 email, Jasek announced the Cybersecurity Awareness Plan

for 2024, which was designed to "keep our community informed, safe, and engaged in today's digital world."

The plan consists of email phishing and awareness simulation and training, a phishing campaign with in-person training presentations, community outreach and engagement and a new Information Security website: infosec.quinnipiac.edu.

"If anyone from Quinnipiac falls victim to a phishing or scam email, the best thing they can do is reach out to the Information Security office," Spencer wrote. "We can secure the account and remediate any adverse actions that might have taken place."

If someone does fall victim to a phishing scheme, the first thing should be to change any compromised passwords and disconnect the device from the network, per the Federal Trade Commission website. If the scam involves any credit card numbers, the faster one calls their bank to cancel or freeze them, the better.

Alerting others about the scams will also serve in increasing alertness against these emails, as it is never just one person that is targeted.

"We typically encounter several types of scam email, each with its own tactics," Spencer wrote. "Some aim to harvest personal information by directly asking questions such as, 'Do you have a cell phone number I can call?' Others lure recipients into clicking on malicious links."

A particularly prevalent scam, Spencer said, involves an offer for a "free piano" — or another large, moderately valuable item.

"The scammers promise to deliver the item at no cost, except for a shipping fee that seems small in comparison to the item's value — usually between \$200 and \$500," Spencer wrote. "Once the payment is made, the scam concludes, as the promised item never actually existed."

Jasek sent such an email on Oct. 9,



INFOGRAPHIC BY AMANDA RIHA

where he broke down a scam email that promised a free piano if they just replied from their private email address.

Jasek used this example email to identify seven different "red flags" one should be on the lookout for when receiving a suspicious email.

These "red flags" include: a mismatched email address and name; a yellow banner marking emails sent from an external address; general addressing to students and faculty rather than a direct name; too-good-to-be-true deals; private email addresses; vague details; and incorrect grammar or phrasing.

"If the message is claiming to be someone from Quinnipiac and you see this banner, it's a strong indicator that you should scrutinize the email's authenticity," Spencer wrote.

Spencer also included that one should always be skeptical of unsolicited messages or offers and should not click any link, open any attachments or scan any QR codes from unknown or suspicious emails.

In 2022, Connecticut ranked 22nd

among the states in the Forbes Advisor Internet Crimes Report. With a score of 55.12 out of 100, this means 4.08 out of every 100,000 residents were victims to phishing scams. The report also states that Connecticut residents who fell for phishing scams lost more than \$26,000 altogether.

According to Spencer, no specific groups of people are targeted more than others.

"To a scammer, anyone is fair game," Spencer wrote.

And yet on Jan. 23, Jasek sent out another example email — this one specifically targeted at Chinese students — to warn against impersonators from the Chinese embassy or police force.

International students studying in the U.S. are no strangers to various scams and phishing attempts. This demographic is particularly vulnerable against scammers impersonating government agency personnel that threaten their immigration status, according to Homeland Security.

School of Law earns national recognition

By **ALEXANDRA MARTINAKOVA**
News Editor

The Quinnipiac University School of Law earned top national rankings for its building and programs in the PreLaw Magazine's winter 2024 issue.

The National Jurist publication recognized Quinnipiac's School of Law as a leader in international law and employment law, awarding the school an "A-" for both categories.

Jennifer Brown, dean of the School of Law, said she is "glad to know that our efforts are recognized."

"We at Quinnipiac more generally put a lot of value on experiential learning," Brown said. "I think we have great opportunities for students to kind of get out there, to travel or in the case of workplace law, to actually help to resolve workplace disputes."

The Center on Dispute Resolution and the Civil Justice Clinic are among the assets available to students in Quinnipiac's employment and labor externship program.

The law school's dispute resolution center offers a certificate training in mediation skills to all enrolled students.

When it comes to workplace law, Brown said, lawyers need to master statutory and regulatory laws and understand conflict management.

Brown also pointed out a comment an alum left under the school's Facebook post: "As an employment and labor law practitioner, I can say confidently the workplace law concentration prepared me for the field in Connecticut."

Students in the Civil Justice Clinic have worked with the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, the

body that handles workplace disputes and employment discrimination claims.

"We thought carefully about what lawyers in those fields need to know and what they need to be exposed to," Brown said. "We've tried to make sure that the curriculum includes those kinds of courses and we guide the student through them."

Speaking on the international law rank, Brown mentioned learning trips law students take to Guatemala, Oxford, England and Dublin to study human rights and learn more about the concentration.

With a 97.1% debt-to-income ratio, Quinnipiac earned a spot among the top schools for salary versus debt. PreLaw Magazine listed the average income for a Quinnipiac School of Law graduate at \$83,420 and debt at \$81,000.

"We really try to be reasonable about our expenses," Brown said. "But you know, legal education is expensive because of things like the experiential opportunities."

She added that the school tries to help students through financial aid and merit scholarships, as well as offering a part-time program and evening classes so students can progress through law school while also working at law firms.

"Maybe that also helps a little bit with some of the expenses and to at least hold within reasonable boundaries the kind of borrowing that they have to do," Brown said.

Quinnipiac's School of Law Center on the North Haven Campus earned an "A+" rank and overall second place on the list, with an aesthetic score of 4.25 out of 5.

"I have been to other law schools, and I would agree Quinnipiac is the nicest," first-year law student Robert Schroeder said. "I'm sure there are nicer law schools, but I know for a fact that there are other law schools that aren't as nice."

However, aesthetic points make up only 50% of the overall score, per the PreLaw Magazine. Square feet per student make up 10% and the third biggest category taking up 15% is the number of hours the school's library is open. The rest is divided between parking opportunities and other amenities.

"It's just pretty, and when I saw (the ranking) I was happy it was getting recognition and I think it was warranted," Schroeder said.

The school's library is open 24/7 almost every day of the year. Brown explained that this is due to the understanding that everyone has different times when they feel productive, so officials made the space available for the students at any time.

"I happen to think we have a really beautiful building," Brown said. "But I think we got a lot of that recognition because of the way the building serves the students."

No. 7 Stetson University and No. 1 University of Memphis were the only other universities with the same open hours that found their spot on the "A+" list alongside Quinnipiac.

The School of Law Center includes a 150-seat courtroom, a legal clinic, a mock trial practice room and more than two dozen classrooms and seminar-style rooms, according to the official facilities website.

"Our building has created office space for student organizations, so that when students

are building those leadership and project management skills through those organizations," Brown said. "Whether it's a competition team or a public interest law project, they have offices where they can do that and not every law school has that kind of space for students to use."

Brown said she was also invited to a conference in Texas to present to fellow deans and associate deans about the School of Law's building and the planning that went into designing it.

Although this is not the first time Quinnipiac's School of Law has received national recognition, Brown believes there are other parts of the school and its programs that are overlooked — specifically, the advocacy and the mock trial program.

"We're competing head-to-head with schools like Harvard and UCLA or NYU, in a sense we kind of punch above our weight," Brown said. "I would love to see that part of our curriculum continue to grow and continue to get more and more recognition because I certainly think they deserve it."

Brown is stepping down from her deanship this June after a decade in the role, and according to her, she always had a "love-hate relationship" with rankings.

"It's nice to be recognized, it really is," Brown said. "At the same time, I've learned to take rankings with a grain of salt, because I don't necessarily feel that we become a better school if another school is worse than us (in the ranking) ... In that sense, well, I just think rankings can be a flawed instrument for measuring quality."

Opinion

Why Quinnipiac needs a women and gender center

By **LILY PHILIPCZAK**
Staff Writer

If you needed resources regarding gender and sexuality on campus or wanted a safe space to voice concerns from an intersectional standpoint, would you know where to go?

Historically, most campus women's centers were founded in the late 1960s to early 1970s during the peak of social and political movements for women's rights, civil rights and gay liberation. These centers are meant to implement support and hold universities and colleges accountable for creating a safe environment where all people can learn, work and live.

Furthermore, these centers provide vital educational resources about consent, safe sex, intimate partner violence, gender, sexuality and more. In this centralized location, there is an abundance of resources, provided by the university and off-campus community providers, that make it easier for people to get the support they need. For example, a 24/7 sexual assault and victim advocate, Title IX coordinator or counselor.

At the University of Connecticut — About an hour away from Quinnipiac — there were almost 19,000 undergraduates enrolled in the fall 2022 semester, with a gender distribution of 47% male students and 53% female students. With a majority of enrolled students being female, UConn has a women's center.

That same semester, Quinnipiac University had a total undergraduate enrollment of 6,073, with a gender distribution of 39% male students and 61% female students. With a majority of female enrolled students, Quinnipiac does not have a women's center.

So why not? Although one is public and another is private, does this mean prospective students must commit to a college solely based on which will support and provide them with more consolidated, accessible resources when it comes to issues of gender and sexuality?

If Quinnipiac were to have a women and gender center, it would demonstrate its flexibility and adaptability to proactively support the evolving needs of students, faculty and staff.

Women's centers are also known as women and gender centers because they are meant to be a place of community building and create a safe, welcoming space for intersectional identities. Students that are a part of the LGBTQ+ Quinnipiac community deserve an inclusive, safe place on campus.

Sexual violence on college campuses is not only highly stigmatized, it is prevalent. 23.1% of transgender, genderqueer or nonconforming college students have been sexually assaulted, according to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network. College-aged women are twice as likely to be sexually assaulted than robbed.

Quinnipiac does have a Department of Women and Gender Studies, but that is simply not enough. The WGS curriculum includes learning about human sexuality, sexual violence and queer history. However, what is the effectiveness of learning about it if the university won't put it into practice outside of the classroom?

The university can provide many resources, but these can be difficult and retraumatizing to navigate through if there isn't one centralized location available. If that's the case, I guarantee that there are students who will not pursue or utilize the resources.

As things stand at Quinnipiac, you have to call, email or visit several offices or departments — such as Title IX, Student Affairs, CARE, Residential Life and Public Safety — to obtain resources. This system is not trauma-informed, as all survivors react differently. Immediately after experiencing a traumatic event, it is unlikely that you are thinking about making that phone call or sending that email.

I say this from personal experience, and I'm certainly not the only one.

You may ask: aren't there student organizations to help support students? Yes, there is the Survivor Advocacy Alliance.

The Survivor Advocacy Alliance advocates for gender equality and empowerment, with the mission to support survivors of gender or sexual-based violence on college campuses. I am proud to be the secretary.

“It is imperative that there is a centralized location where students can voice gender or sexuality based concerns directly or be referred to university resources or off campus providers.”

– Lily Philipczak
STAFF WRITER

I was extremely disappointed that an organization which creates a welcoming safe space for survivors and allies was given an insufficient amount of funding by the Student Government Association. SAA received \$1000 less than the budget requested for the spring 2024 semester.

Students may utilize a women and gender center within their first semester on campus.

The Red Zone, taking place from the beginning of the fall semester to Thanksgiving break, is the time of year when the majority of college campus sexual assaults happen, according to Promoting Awareness/Victim Empowerment, a national nonprofit that works to prevent sexual assault and heal survivors.

First-year undergraduate students — statistically — are the most vulnerable because this may be the first time they are exposed to college campus culture with Greek life rushing and parties celebrating the return to campus that coincides with the fall semester. Many students may also have a limited education on sexual violence and consent.

Sexual violence is vastly underreported to campus safety officials and law enforcement. 90% of sexual violence instances on college

campuses in the United States go unreported, according to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

Common reasons that a college student might not report is their belief that the victimization is a personal matter or not important enough to report, fear of retaliation, not wanting to get the perpetrator in trouble or the belief that nothing could be done by authorities or administration even if they did report.

It is imperative that there is a centralized location where students can voice gender or sexuality based concerns directly or be referred to university resources or off-campus providers.

Quinnipiac, please do more to support your students. Students, remember that you are never alone.

In the meantime, here are some resources for students who need them:

Quinnipiac Survivor Advocacy Alliance Instagram: @saa_quinnipiac

Promoting Awareness Victim Empowerment: shatteringthesilence.org/hotlines

Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network crisis hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE

Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network online hotline: hotline.rainn.org/online

By **AMANDA MADERA**
Copy Editor

There's nothing better than being able to grab a late-night snack with friends from “the Rat,” — officially known as the Bobcat Den — but have you ever stopped to really look at the prices of what you buy?

As I was waiting in line to pay for my meal recently, I decided to look at the price tags on the fridge next to me. The cost of the Dunkin' creamer struck me, and I kept the number in mind. As I was walking back to my dorm, I looked up the product online.

At Target, the creamer costs \$3.99. At the Rat, it costs \$9.99.

A half-gallon of milk? \$6.99 from the Rat, and \$2.79 from Target. TGI Friday's boneless chicken bites? \$10.89 from the Rat, and \$7.24 from Walmart. The list goes on.

It's quite obvious that Quinnipiac is overcharging students for snacks, meals, candy and drinks when most of us already pay a decent amount of money to attend this university. Frankly, I find it ridiculous that a singular pickle from the Rat costs \$3.99 while a jar of pickles costs \$2.49 from Target.

It's extremely inconvenient that the

Mount Carmel Campus dining hall closes at 7 p.m. on weekdays and 8 p.m. on weekends, forcing students to be overcharged at the Rat for the day-to-day essentials.

Even then, the dining hall prices aren't far off from the Rat's.

One bag of chips costs \$4.09, while a box of 18 assorted bags of chips costs \$9.98 from Walmart. One 28-ounce bottle of Gatorade costs \$3.39, while at Walmart it costs \$1.77. A bag of Swedish Fish costs \$4.09, compared to \$1.28 from Walmart.

To make matters worse, if you live on the York Hill Campus, the prices don't improve. A 16-ounce jar of JIF peanut butter is \$7.99, whereas at Walmart it's \$2.42. A bag of beef jerky is \$12.99, it's \$3.97 at Walmart. Finally, a Milky Way share size candy bar is \$4.29, at Walmart it's \$2.28.

Additionally, most students living on the Mount Carmel Campus don't have their own ways of transportation to get to shopping centers.

While I understand students can take the shuttle to stores to buy these items for a lower price, we shouldn't have to carve out an entire day for a shopping trip that could be done on campus if items were

sold at reasonable prices.

The shuttles to local shopping centers also only run on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at specific times. Not everyone is available to go grocery shopping on those days.

Since I live close to campus, I'm able to go grocery shopping twice a week to avoid getting scammed by the dining system. For those who are less fortunate, I would suggest looking into Instacart+.

With this delivery service, you can subscribe for \$9.99 a month and when you order \$35 of groceries or more, it offers unlimited free delivery. That way, you're able to purchase items in bulk for less than what the Rat and dining halls offer.

I can't find any justification other than Quinnipiac clearly choosing economic prosperity over the needs of its students. Even with the fees Quinnipiac has to pay to stock these goods, students are paying thousands of dollars to go here. The university could make up money in other ways.

Do yourself a favor: skip the shopping spree at the Rat and remember to stock up on these items when possible from local grocery stores. Your wallet will thank you later.



QU dining dwindles students' meal points

DISCLAIMER: This piece is strictly based on the opinions and experiences of the writer and should not be viewed as a substitute for professional financial advice.

Opinion

I'm a feminist, but I don't hate men

A response to anti-feminism social media influencers

By **LILLIAN CURTIN**
Associate Opinion Editor

I'm a feminist, of course I support women — but I support men, too.

Feminism is defined as “all genders having equal rights and opportunities,” according to the International Women’s Development Agency. But, after many years of the same argument, there somehow still seems to be a misconception around what feminism is. Consequently, the anti-feminist movement has gained more of a following thanks to social media apps like TikTok.

A TikTok has been circulating recently from the creator Lily Kate, using a trend currently on the platform to make it known that she isn't a feminist.

“I'm not a feminist, I can wear dresses and feel pretty,” Kate said in her Dec. 11, 2023 video.

Meanwhile, she showed herself in a spaghetti-strap dress. Thanks to feminism, she can wear a dress with spaghetti straps without it being “scandalous.”

“I'm not a feminist, I don't hate children,” she continued.

Thanks to feminism, she can choose when to have children, if ever, because women fought for her to have that choice.

I couldn't believe that she was serious. I thought it was satire. But it wasn't. After reviewing more of Kate's content, I realized her perspective of feminism is completely skewed, as are those of many anti-feminists on the app. I thought that arguments like Kate's had died out.

When Kate says she's “not a feminist,” does she know what she's actually saying? By definition, she's claiming she doesn't support her own freedoms.

Feminism doesn't mean we want women to be superior to men. We just want equal rights.

Feminism is seeing the gender wage gap and being angry that women on average only make 82 cents to a man's dollar, and even less for women of color.

I get even angrier when I think about the fact that wages decrease when more women enter male-dominated fields such as engineering. Did you know that computer programming was originally a female-dominated field? Yet it only gained prestige and increased pay when it became male dominated. If this makes you angry, you're a feminist.

Notice how I didn't say men's pay should be decreased? It's because all we're asking for is equality, not for men to suffer what we've had to suffer since the beginning of time.

Anyone who thinks that feminism is just anti-men needs to take a history lesson. People like Kate who use their platforms to spread false information just because they're ignorant are dangerous. If you claim to not be a feminist or even anti-feminism, you're just anti-women.

Early feminists paved the way for us to vote and go to school — just like men do. They didn't say, “Well, now men have to stay home with the kids.”

Anti-feminists love to bow down to men, so they should know that feminists aren't just the reason for women's freedoms. They are advocates for men's freedoms as well.

Early feminists made it so it was possible for men to stay home with kids and be homemakers while women worked if they wanted to. The key word here? “Want.” We have these freedoms because of feminists, so we can do what we want, when we want.

The argument that feminism is “anti-men” is a tactic to discredit the movement. If you believe women hate men because they're feminists, think about who told you that. Was it a man? Was it a woman in a moment of anger because she had to deal with misogyny every day — misogynists like anti-feminists?

Because of these false ideas of what feminism is, it's often treated like a dirty word.

Men can be feminists, too. Saying “I'm not a feminist” as a woman is saying “I don't want freedom.” Saying “I'm not a feminist” as a man is saying “I don't want women to have freedom.”

The problem is that anti-feminists don't even want to try to understand the views of feminists. So, they make up preposterous lies about feminism and spread them, like these content creators.

Debra Lea, another woman who creates anti-feminism on TikTok, stated in a video, “Feminists mad I'm anti feminist because I don't wanna grow my armpit hair out.”

Is this really what anti-feminists think of when they think of feminism? It's sad and disturbing to say the least.

Another creator, Mallory, said in a different video, “don't tell the feminists, I'd rather stay home and cook and clean.”

Some women want to stay home and cook and clean. That is what will give them a happy and fulfilling life, and that's perfectly acceptable. Yet, that's not the goal for every woman on this planet. The whole point of feminism is that if that is what you want, then go for it.

If you want to have more traditional gender roles in your home, then that is fine, just don't force everyone else to live that way and don't shame the women who would rather not live that way.

TikTok is a great source for entertainment, but I think we should take every perspective on a serious topic with a grain of salt. There is no reason for women's rights to be villainized or politicized, but with creators like Kate, Lea and Mallory spreading harmful misinformation on the app, it's hard for them not to.

It seems women have a long way to go before they can actually be seen as equals without a fight.

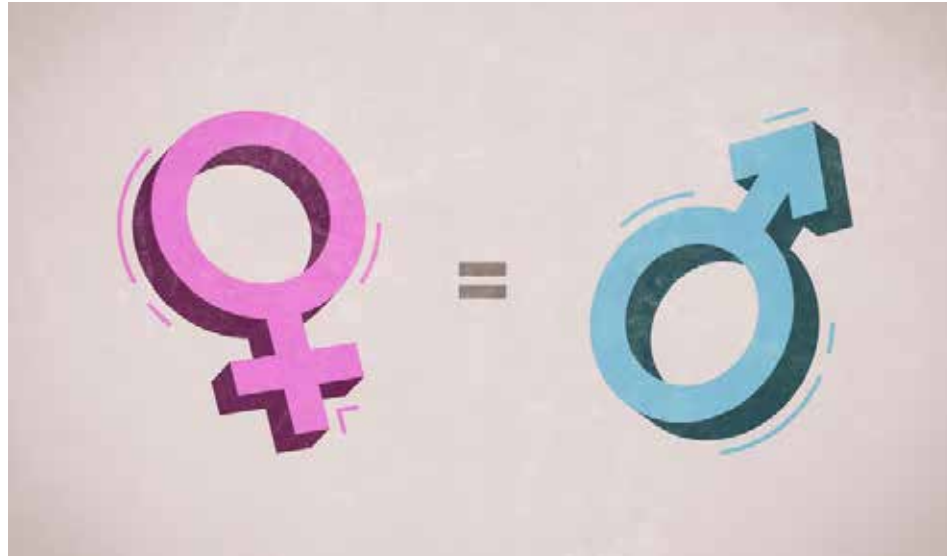


ILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

Bobcat Buzz



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

The inconvenient walk to the College of Arts and Sciences buildings puts students in potential danger.

South Quad construction thrives, but threatens student lives

By **LILLIAN CURTIN**
Associate Opinion Editor

The construction of the new South Quad buildings — The SITE, the new School of Business and The Grove — has become Quinnipiac University's pride and joy.

However, there's no joy in the walk to the College of Arts and Sciences buildings, now that construction has taken over the original walkways. It shouldn't be difficult to walk to class, but it's not just the construction itself that's at fault. It's the students.

The new route to CAS follows the road from the CAS parking lot to the Hilltop parking lot, where there is obviously a lot of traffic. The pedestrian-only lane is a thin lane that cannot adequately fit the amount of

students walking between classes. Sometimes students overlap and walk into the line of traffic. While the confined lane is the university's fault, the behavior of some students is not.

It doesn't help when students are stopping in the middle of the pedestrian lane and talking to one another during passing times between classes, taking up the whole lane. This causes students to unnecessarily stand in the road when there's oncoming traffic. Not to mention, it's adding time to a walk that some of us have to rush through anyway.

The walkers (or talkers) are not the only issue. I constantly see drivers on their phones while I'm walking. Texting and driving is bad enough already, but to do it in a space where traffic — both on foot

and from vehicles — is already so hectic makes me wonder how these drivers passed driver's ed, especially on days when it's icy and slippery.

These students drive so recklessly that when my mom visited me a couple of weeks ago, I texted her to be cautious when she entered by CAS because I watched a driver use a speed bump as a launch ramp.

We're all adults, and it's sad that I'm seeing all of these things. Between forcing other students to stand in the road and reckless driving, someone is going to get hurt.

Be cautious when driving in such a packed and condensed lane, and be aware of others when you're walking. No conversation is so important that you need to block the pedestrian lane or respond to a text while driving.

Arts & Life

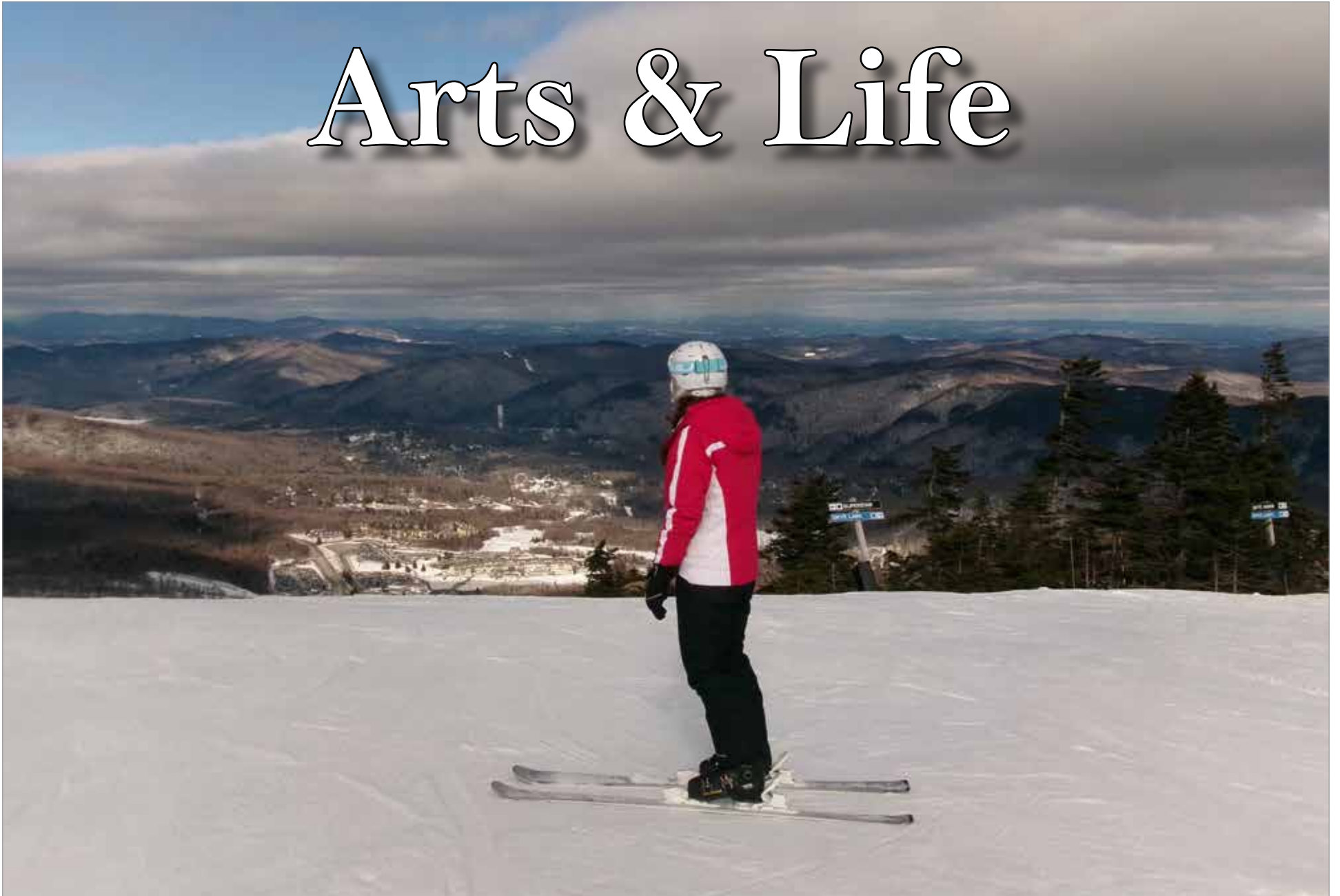


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY GRACE CONNEELY-NOLAN

Staff Writer Grace Conneely-Nolan admiring the view from the top of Killington Peak on the QU Snow trip to Killington, Vermont.

Skiing into new experiences Branch out with QU Snow

By **GRACE CONNEELY-NOLAN**
Staff Writer

Despite getting up at 3:30 a.m. on Super Bowl Sunday, the day was worth it. Standing in line for an hour and a half to get tickets was worth it. Being a part of QU Snow's ski trip made it worth it.

QU Snow — Quinnipiac's skiing and snowboarding club — held its annual trip to Killington, Vermont, on Feb. 11. The trip was in high demand among club members, with a cutoff of 50 Quinnipiac students out of more than the 100 that showed up to wait in line. As No. 47, I was unsure whether or not I would be able to go, but I am glad I stood

my ground.

With the bus arriving at 5 a.m., we had a little over three hours on the road and arrived just before 9 a.m. Coincidentally, that was when the mountain opened anyway because of the warm weather. The staff needed more time to groom the snow from the rain the night before.

It was warm enough to take off my jacket at the height of ski season. At first, I was worried about it being too cold, but I was actually too hot. It was a beautiful day, but it didn't feel like Vermont in February. The slopes were thin but icy and slick, with many patches of grass and barely any snow clinging onto the trees.

Even with the warmer-than-usual temperatures, we had a full six hours on our own to ski. With this being the first time I could ski this winter, I was thrilled. My friend and I took many different lifts and actually got lost on the huge mountain. At one point, we skied at the other end of the mountain by mistake and had to take several different lifts to return to the same spot.

My main incentive to go on this trip was the fact that it was completely free. I spent no money at Killington and could enjoy everything at the season's peak. From beautiful gondola rides to skiing as much of the mountain as we could, I made memories that would only be possible by being involved on campus. After leaving just before 5 p.m., we arrived back at Quinnipiac in time to watch the Super Bowl Halftime Show.

The best memories come from getting out of your comfort zone. When I first came to Quinnipiac, I was overwhelmed by the

many opportunities available to students. It felt like a lot to find a balance at school. Just surviving the first couple of weeks required so much effort.

My advice to incoming first-year students is to do everything you possibly can. The first month is crucial; don't go home, and don't stay in your room. You are setting yourself up for the future by being active on campus. By becoming involved in the community, you can meet new people, find future mentors and enhance your resume by taking advantage of what this school offers.

Joining clubs immediately surrounds you with people interested in the same things you

are. They are a great way to keep yourself active and accountable for staying involved within the campus community.

As long as you take it lightly, there is no downside to trying new things. Initially, it seems hard, but your first year of college is about branching out from high school, growing and learning about yourself and who you want to be.

This trip added variety to my time here at Quinnipiac, and I wouldn't have experienced any of it if I was not willing to go out of my comfort zone. I look forward to QU Snow's trips in the future and making new memories and experiences.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY CAMERON LEVASSEUR

Killington Ski Resort is the largest ski resort in the Northeast, with over 73 miles of trails.

“My advice to incoming first-year students is to do everything you possibly can.”

— **GRACE CONNEELY-NOLAN**
STAFF WRITER

Texas can't hold her

A look into Beyoncé's new country music

By **ZOE LEONE**
Arts & Life Editor

The Super Bowl is known for many things. Whether you're in it for a night of nail-biting football, a hit-or-miss halftime show or a seemingly-endless cycle of star-studded commercials, the multi-hour event has a little something for everyone.

However, this year, the NFL's biggest night brought audiences to their feet for a very different reason: brand new Beyoncé music. In a series of "Veep"-themed commercials for Verizon — oh, Tony Hale how I missed you — the global superstar announced two new songs, which dropped across streaming services several hours later.

But this was no ordinary Beyoncé drop. While the singer has cemented herself as a living legend in pop, R&B and house music, her newest foray finds her throwing on her cowboy hat. That's right, folks: Beyoncé is going country.

The two new tracks — "TEXAS HOLD 'EM" and "16 CARRIAGES" — are part of Beyoncé's newest project, "Act II," the second installment of her critically-acclaimed and ridiculously good 2022 album, "Renaissance." And while fans will have to wait until March 29 for the full album, the surprise music drop is plenty perfect enough to enjoy during the wait.

"TEXAS HOLD 'EM" makes it clear from the very first second that if you're here for a Beyoncé pop hit, you're in the wrong place. The opening notes of twangy banjo have transformative properties; one second you're nodding your head to the beat and the next you're in a dive bar, ready for a hoedown.

The usage of classic country elements — easily recognizable instruments, a knee-thumping beat and lyrics all about dancing, drinking and family — prove that the singer's



ILLUSTRATION BY ELIZABETH LARSON

Houston roots run strong. It's not just the instrumentals that lend strength to the song, but Beyoncé's impeccable vocals. They flow like butter on the track, making for easy, sweet listening.

And while "16 CARRIAGES" is no less of a hit, it finds the singer diving into her emotions in a truly gorgeous country ballad. Paired with a smooth guitar and crashing organ, Beyoncé croons about her years of blood, sweat and tears put into an unforgiving industry.

For those unfamiliar with the cultural icon's beginnings, Beyoncé — born Beyoncé Giselle Knowles — began working in the music industry at only eight years old. Her rise to a household name was less than easy, from the strain it placed on her family to the impact mass media attention had on the mental health of a young woman just trying to find her place.

With lyrics such as, "The legacy, if it's the last thing I do / You'll remember me cause we got something to prove / In your memory on a highway to truth," Beyoncé makes it clear that her years of fighting will not be for nothing.

While the tracks have been met with love from the general public — "TEXAS HOLD 'EM" has racked up over 29 million streams on Spotify in a little over a week — the country world has been far less welcoming.

Variety referred to the tracks as "country-themed" and "country-esque," as opposed to actual country songs. An Oklahoma radio station initially refused to play "TEXAS HOLD 'EM," citing that "we do not play Beyoncé at KYKC as we are a country music station," according to The New York Times. While the station later revised its decision after receiving mass backlash, this is not the first time the genre has tried to keep the

doors closed on the singer.

In 2016, Beyoncé was joined by country legends The Chicks on stage at the Country Music Awards to perform a collaboration of her song "Daddy Lessons." From the moment the performance was announced, country fans immediately exploded in protest. It didn't seem to matter that the song was actually a country track or that The Chicks themselves couldn't stop singing the artist's praises; country music fans insisted that Beyoncé didn't belong.

So eight years later, it's no coincidence that Beyoncé is going full-blown country, the same way it was no coincidence that two years ago, "Renaissance" was revealed to be an epic mix of dance, disco and house music. The singer's new acts are not just new eras; they are a reclamation and a celebration of Black music.

"Renaissance" was a reckoning of Black joy, drawing its inspiration from the world of Black dance music and Black queer ballroom and club culture of the 1970s. Beyoncé dedicated the album to her Uncle Jonny — her cousin who helped raise her and introduced her to a great deal of the culture that would inspire the album — and "the fallen angels whose contributions have gone unrecognized for far too long."

Much of "Act II" is still being kept under wraps, but the Black origins of country music are an undeniable part of the singer's glorious return to music. From the banjo's introduction in America tying back to the transatlantic slave trade or the influence southern Black church music had on early artists, country music as we know it would not exist without the Black musicians the genre is so keen on excluding.

So when Beyoncé sings, "Don't be a bitch, come take it to the floor now," you better grab your cowboy boots and listen. We have some celebrating to do.

New York Fashion Week has stunning written all over it

By **SAMANTHA NUNEZ**
Staff Writer

Bright lights. Sequins dangling. Excessive blow drying. Bold makeup looks. Quick changes. Heels clicking on the runway. This is what the fashion industry waits for.

New York Fashion Week took over Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood from Feb. 9-14. The biannual event showcased designers' fall and winter collections with a variety of styles, like glamorous, grunge and streetwear.

Originally set as "Press Week," publicist Eleanor Lambert created fashion week to present American fashion during World War II. Designers, editors, models and stylists made their way to the Big Apple in hopes of experiencing the creativity firsthand.

Over time, the Council of Fashion Designers of America created "7th on Sixth," an event bringing designers, sponsors and the media to promote fashion. "7th on Sixth" gained global recognition, creating the "Big Four," or the capitals of fashion — New York, London, Milan and Paris.

Last fall, returning brands Ralph Lauren, Carolina Herrera, Michael Kors and Tory Burch showcased their spring and summer collections. The runway was filled with models wearing a scenery of red-colored clothes, elegant roses, bold leather, enormous bows and metallic sequins.

This year's fashion week provided an unforgettable night with 97 brands attending and collections portrayed through shows, digital media and presentations. This included Coach, Michael Kors, Gabriela Hearst, Tory Burch and returning brands Ralph Lauren, Carolina Herrera and Tommy Hilfiger.

Diving deeper into the brands, we'll take a look at underrated looks that showcased unique stylings and should be prominently known in the fashion industry.

BISHME CROMARTIE

Newcomer Bishme Cromartie made his debut at NYFW, bringing a bold, feminine collection. The Baltimore native got his start on "Project Runway: All Stars," which he won this past September.

Just five months after his win, Cromartie displayed a Matrix-inspired look on the runway. The models strutted the stage with slicked hair and a swash of gray-metallic makeup across their face.

The outfits ranged from jumpsuits, draped dresses and fluffy mini dresses covered in red, black, white, plaid and metallic hue colors. Cromartie's styling was the perfect way to debut in the fashion world and give a taste of what he has to offer. However, I would have loved to see the brand's iconic rimless, black-tinted sunglasses to make the outfits pop.

GABRIELA HEARST

Gabriela Hearst revealed her wintertime collection at NYFW. The Uruguayan-American designer gathered models to strut the runway wearing her sustainable designs. The aesthetic of the luxurious lifestyle made its way onto the stage with cashmere and fleece material, a major inspiration for this collection. The black, white, gold, red and blue colors gave the outfits a diverse look. Though it might look simple, this look gave me a sense of elegance and sophistication.

RODARTE

Sisters Kate and Laura Mulleavy created a collection of femininity and dark stylings.

In a burgundy setting with bouquets of bright-colored flowers, models displayed themselves wearing angelic-type gowns in yellow, ballet pink, floral and baby blue. This feminine-blossoming look with angel wings showcased the softness in the sisters' clothing.

The other half of the collection had models displaying themselves in black and red gowns with lace, fluffy, leather and embellished textures giving a Victorian-style look. This collection is unique from most recognized brands as the sisters chose to go outside of the fashion world's comfort zone and create a bolder look.

THOM BROWNE

CFDA chairman Thom Browne closed fashion week with an eye-catching runway presentation. Known for his innovative and whimsical looks, Browne designed outfits that honored late poet Edgar Allan Poe. Strutting through a winter wonderland, models wore black and white plaid blazers, trench coats, parachute-like dresses, pants, sheer jumpsuits and gold parachute dresses. Their braided updos, bold winged liner and red lips added to Browne's weirdly fashionable look.

WIEDERHOEFT

Designer Jackson Wiederhoeft showcased his "Secret Room" collection that included various styles such as satin, embroidery, crystal, sequins, drapes and veiling on different clothing items like corsets, blazers, pants, dresses and skirts.

At first, I was unsure why Wiederhoeft had incorporated such diverse looks, but it became clear that it demonstrated his versatility in fashion design and his ability to create unique and distinct pieces.

FINAL THOUGHTS

As I anxiously waited for New York Fashion Week to roll its way into this year, I was amazed by the number of creative designers — returning and new — that provided unique looks. Even though I may not be able to afford expensive clothing, I know what a work of fashion is when I see it.



ILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

TikTok trends are doing more harm than good to womens' self-esteem

By CHARLOTTE ROSS
Staff Writer

Return to TikTok for a lot of things in today's society: celebrity news, outfit inspiration, recipe and activity ideas and so much more. But another reason, popularized more recently, seems to be for certain negative body representations.

An example of this trend is women sharing fit checks with so-called "perfect legging legs" and workout videos showing how to achieve the "Miley Cyrus pilates arms."

Now, I know a lot of us watched Miley Cyrus' performance at the Grammys, but I know I wasn't the first person to see one of these videos and think: "What the hell are 'legging legs?'"

"Legging legs," per TikTok's definition, describe certain young womens' slender physiques, particularly their lean legs. The trend seems rather ill-timed considering leggings have been around and popular since the '80s. Even the name itself is confusing and rather misleading — can't any pair of legs in leggings be considered "legging legs?"

The same goes for so-called "Miley Cyrus arms." The Grammy winner's recent performance of her hit song "Flowers" gained traction for her open back dress and, once again, her slender physique and lean arms. The pattern is shockingly similar — leggings and Miley Cyrus aren't even what's trending at all. It's just plain and simple body shaming.

All of this talk about clothing and arms and legs may sound crazy to you, but it's undeniable

how harmful these trends can be to a young and impressionable audience.

The statistics surely don't lie either. 80% of young girls say they've downloaded a filter or used an app to change the way they look in photos by the time they are 13 years old, according to the Boys and Girls Club of America.

That is arguably the most harmful aspect of social media — that practically all of its content is fake or staged. Filters, photoshop, angles and AI are all used to promote a certain image: the "perfect" body or face, and we are just all expected to hold ourselves to that standard the moment we create our profile.

A user reached out to the National Alliance for Eating Disorders' TikTok in late January after repeatedly seeing harmful and concerning content under the tags. The organization, which works hand-in-hand with social media companies like TikTok, worked to ban the hashtag #egginglegs, and put steps in place to direct viewers who searched it towards the Eating Disorder hotline.

As beneficial as this solution may be, the way that platforms like TikTok are set up could still cause more harm to these individuals based on the kinds of videos they have searched and interacted with in the past, even just one time. A young teenager interacting with a video with either tag could cause several other videos promoting unhealthy habits and body image content to be filtered their way — it's just how the



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX KENDALL

algorithm works.

Talks of dieting, unhealthy eating habits and the "ideal" body have been around for decades existing in magazines, movies and even advertisements. But according to Jillian Lampert, chief strategy officer for Accanto Health, the parent company of The Emily Program — which works in eating disorder treatment and awareness — it is practically inescapable for young individuals today because social media is simply everywhere.

These repeated harmful tags and content have created an extremely difficult issue for representatives working at companies like

TikTok and other social media brands. Although flagging inappropriate content is a possibility, it is unrealistic to expect to catch all harmful content that is uploaded to the internet before others see it.

As young people continue to enter the digital world at a time where social media trends like these are so prevalent, we as a society must think of a better approach to controlling the kinds of content that are available for them to see.

Whether that be demanding social media companies to put stricter guidelines in place, or boycotting apps like these all together, the fact of the matter remains: these trends have to stop.

'After Jackie' honors a trio of Black baseball pioneers

By AIDAN SHEEDY
Photography Editor

On April 15, 1947, 28-year-old Jackie Robinson suited up for the Brooklyn Dodgers, officially breaking Major League Baseball's color barrier. While Robinson was not the first Black player in baseball history, he remains one of the greatest symbols of Black excellence in the United States for his accomplishments on and off the field.

In school, we're taught that his perseverance integrated baseball and America's pastime and was used as a bridge toward equality during the Civil Rights Movement. But when Robinson retired from baseball after the 1956 season, the first generation of Black ballplayers to carry on his legacy were inevitably met with new obstacles of their own. The documentary "After Jackie" explores a few of those stories.

"After Jackie" focuses on the stories of three teammates on the two-time World Series-winning St. Louis Cardinals of the 1960s: ace pitcher Bob Gibson, center fielder Curt Flood and first baseman Bill White. The trio played seven seasons together, from 1959 to 1965, during the height of the Civil Rights Movement. The film shows how the efforts of these men should be told with Robinson's story as each of them created change and progress in baseball and society.

BOB GIBSON

Out of the three, Gibson is the only athlete in the Baseball Hall of Fame, and one of the first Black ace pitchers in baseball history. On the field, Gibson collected accolades like Halloween candy.

He won two Cy Young awards, two World Series, an MVP, nine Gold Gloves and became the first player ever to win two World Series MVPs. His career highlight came in the 1968 season that began with the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., less than a week before Opening Day. Gibson finalized the season with an otherworldly 1.12 ERA, the best mark at the time (among qualified pitchers) since 1914.



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX KENDALL

Off the field, Gibson sparked change in players' housing management and treatment while on the road. Gibson spent his formative athletic years staying in separate hotels than his teammates, which teammate Tim McCarver said in the documentary was known as "colored town" to white residents.

To improve the conditions for Black players, Gibson looked to a more confrontational personality in the clubhouse — Bill White.

BILL WHITE

As White explains in the documentary, a part of the game for Black players was having rocks thrown at your bus, being bombarded with racial taunts and slurs, staying in terrible housing and receiving lower pay than white teammates. Under all this adversity, White took matters into his own hands and began to fight back.

To all of the players' surprise, he got a meeting with team owner and heir to the Anheuser-Busch companies, August Busch. White threatened a Budweiser boycott, which scared Busch because the company was the No. 1 seller of beer to the Black community at the time. As a result, Busch purchased a brand-

new hotel not just for the Black players, but the whole team.

After retiring in 1969 at the age of 35, White turned to broadcasting, where he became the first Black play-by-play announcer for a major sports team. His greatest accomplishment came 20 years later, when he was unanimously elected as the new National League President in 1989. He was the first Black man to lead a major professional sports league in the U.S.

CURT FLOOD

Flood was the spark plug of the group. He wore No. 42 in honor of Robinson and played with the same heart.

He was an electric ballplayer with elite contact skills and displayed incredible athleticism in the field. Flood won a Gold Glove in seven consecutive seasons from 1963-1969 and batted over .300 in five of them. But it was his fight against the front offices that brought racial and ethical issues to the forefront of MLB.

In 1972, Flood brought his contractual concerns all the way to the Supreme Court after filing a lawsuit against commissioner

Bowie Kuhn for violating human rights under the reserve clause, which reserves this player's contract rights to one team even if he is sold or traded. Flood said in an interview featured in the film that this rule is just another form of slavery.

However, the documentary didn't spend much time talking about the case itself and the history of the reserve clause. After small outside research, it's clear that Flood was not the first person to fight back against executives.

While Flood lost the case, his efforts made way for MLB to remove the clause and adopt a new system of free agency, giving players more control of their contract terms.

TAKEAWAYS

I think more baseball fans need to watch documentaries like this because it may help us focus on the real legends and not on the players we've been told were legends.

The documentary takes the time to highlight each player individually and illustrates how their stories continue to create change and opportunity for not just Black players, but all players, even today. However, there were more stories missing.

The film's tagline references a new generation of Black ballplayers. I was disappointed by this structure when there was no mention of Larry Doby — the first Black man to play in the American League — and only one small reference to Satchel Paige. I finished the film thinking about all the cool connections missed with the absence of those icons.

After watching "After Jackie," it's clear to me that the Eras Committee needs to elect Flood and White into the Hall of Fame. They both possess the feats necessary, especially when discussing the contributions of Black baseball. There would be no free agency without Flood and fewer opportunities for people of color in the game if it weren't for the work of White.

The downfall of online gaming

By **KRYSTAL MILLER**
Associate Arts & Life Editor

After school I would race to my family's old-school computer in the living room to go on my mom's Facebook account and play "Pet Society." I decorated my light pink cat in the most extravagant outfits and picked out the theme for another one of my 100 rooms in my virtual house.

This game was my favorite of all the Facebook games. I spent so many hours on it that it got to the point where I was on an insane level. I'm so glad I did not have access to a credit card, because I know I would've spent all of it on outfits in the game. When "Pet Society" was shut down in 2013, I was devastated.

My sister and I were on every gaming platform you could think of, like "Pixie Hollow," "Moshi Monsters," "Poptropica" and "Webkinz." I feel terribly sorry for my parents for making them pay for a "Club Penguin" membership every month, but in my defense, I needed every color puffle.

"Club Penguin" Card-Jitsu made me feel like a real-life karate kid, choosing between ice, fire and water cards to compete against a fellow penguin opponent. If you won enough rounds, you would advance to the next belt color. I also frequently embarked on secret missions, where I got to solve assignments such as "the case of the missing puffles" and "the veggie villain." Although at times it was challenging for me, it was rewarding once I finally cracked the case.

Online games were a bonding experience

with not just my sister, but my classmates and friends as well. If we had free time during a computer class, we would all log onto "Poptropica" and try to solve quests together. I spent hours calling my friends on the house phone just to discuss who was coming to see my freshly-decorated igloo in "Club Penguin."

Being able to play mini — games, dress up and chat with others on the websites was all part of the fun. It was much more interactive than competitive, which is what I usually see with games today. The games also helped kids learn problem-solving skills and teamwork, and online platforms such as "Cool Math Games" are educational. "Papa's Cupcakeria" was my personal favorite game because of the adrenaline rush of trying to make cupcakes quickly for customers, but I also played "Fireboy and Watergirl" a lot.

As I got older, these types of games started to get shut down more and more frequently. What was once crucial in my life, has now become a mere memory.

The Papa's games were some of the many online games created with Adobe Flash, and in 2020, the software platform was shut down due to security reasons. There are still some websites to access some of these old games, but this still contributes to the lack of online

games that are available today.

At the time, I did not understand why this was happening. People became less interested in online gaming and some online games became solely mobile, but as a kid with no phone, this left me with no other options.

I'm disappointed that kids now don't get to have the same experience I had growing up playing online games. I know a lot of kids play video games, but shooting guns or racing cars was not something that interested me, and there were no video games that were similar to the games I liked. Online games are also more

accessible and typically free to play, unlike games that require a Playstation or Xbox.

By the age of 10, more than 40% of kids have a phone, according to Common Sense Media. Most kids want to spend their time on TikTok or Snapchat, compared to feeding fake pets on the internet. Kids also don't want to spend the amount of time I did as a kid customizing a character or completing a minigame.

I understand why they would want to own phones when everyone around them is doing it, but I think it does take away from the fun of being a kid growing up without the pressure to act or look a certain way. A large part of this is on the parents, who allow them to have free range on these social media sites and don't check in on their children's mental health.

Playing online games had a more positive impact on my mental health than scrolling on Instagram, but it has just become a part of my routine. Online games are simple and bring pure joy that you can't experience the same way with social media. I know the time where kids obsessively played games on the internet will probably never return, but I'm glad I was a part of it when it was.



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX KENDALL

Early bird vs. night owl: Finding your perfect productivity balance

By **GINA LORUSSO**
Staff Writer

In the debate between early birds and night owls, the battle of the ideal daily schedule rages on. Some greet the early morning sun with open arms while others thrive under the moon and stars.

Both of these lifestyle choices come with benefits, but when is the best time to seize the day? Ultimately, you decide.

It's sometimes difficult to get up to your alarm, even after a full eight hours. Other times, it's hard to drift off to sleep when your mind is still moving.

EARLY BIRD GETS THE WORM

I love to start my day with an early morning gym session, listening to my favorite music as I conquer my first task. It's almost the same concept as making your bed first thing in the morning — once you've completed the day's first task, you'll be motivated to do the rest. With this mindset, you can accomplish more than you think in the early hours and have more free time later on.

Having the chance to get a kick-start in the mornings sets the mood and determines your attitude for the day. Whether it's getting a good workout in or doing those chores you've been pushing off, it feels great to get up and moving.

An added bonus to waking up early is time to eat a fulfilling and healthy breakfast. Lack of time is the biggest contributor to skipping the most important meal of the day. Consistently doing so can lead to feeling fatigued and irritated — the opposite of what we want.

Not having breakfast makes it more difficult to concentrate and has a significant impact on attention span. This is due to lack of glucose in the brain which is an essential metabolic

power source used to fuel cognitive functions, according to the Better Health Channel.

The solitude of mornings gives you time and space to collect your thoughts before moving into the busy schedule ahead of you. This gradual start is important for a sound mind because it allows for a stress-free morning routine that doesn't feel rushed or overwhelming.

I prefer being an early bird because at the end of the day, I have more time to myself. Being able to go to bed knowing that I hit all of my goals allows me to sleep better and makes me excited for what I can accomplish tomorrow. It's an essential part of my life being a go-getter. Using mornings as a head start gives me the opportunity to make the most of each day and push myself to achieve as much as I can.

NIGHT OWL CATCHES THE MOUSE

For night owls, the opposite applies. Using the daytime to get obligations out of the way

leaves optimal time at night to be productive.

Nighttime has a certain type of energy perfect for working on projects and assignments because there are minimal distractions, allowing individuals to focus on their thoughts. Some people find that their minds are more open during late hours which encourages a free flow of ideas, according to Psychology Today. This mental state also allows for better problem solving skills.

Typical demands of the average day obstruct setting aside periods of time for work and hobbies. Nighttime offers stress-free isolation that many people can't find during the day. This uninterrupted time is when you can finally hit the books and focus or just relax and let your mind wander.

As the sun sets, early birds begin to wind down but this is where night owls are just getting started.

The ability to function at night gives night owls a one-up on early birds, especially when it

comes to meeting deadlines. People who work at night are often better at meeting deadlines because they keep the grind going well beyond the hours of a normal work day. The adrenaline rush of trying to submit that assignment before 11:59 p.m. can produce a burst of productivity and enhance work performance.

However, the night owl lifestyle simply isn't something I can get behind. If I pushed off everything until later on, I would feel as though I don't have time to relax and regret not using the day to its fullest potential. Besides, after I've finished my classes, the last thing I want to be doing is staring at my computer screen when I can be doing something I genuinely enjoy.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Taking care of your mind and body is equally important. Take a moment for yourself, even if it means just settling down with your favorite hot beverage.

No matter which side you take, you'll have time to decompress before bed, maybe even well before then. Early birds may finish first, but night owls still utilize those late hours. It's rewarding to cozy up with a good book or tune into your favorite Netflix show after a productive day. After all, you deserve the time to yourself.

Early birds and night owls both thrive in their own ways, but in reality, it all comes down to time management. Neither side has the upper hand because there are perks to both. Your success relies on aligning your schedule with your individual preferences and strengths.

Whether you find inspiration at the break of day or flourish with the man in the moon, use your peak hours to your advantage to live a satisfying, fulfilling and balanced lifestyle.



ILLUSTRATION BY SHAVONNE CHIN

Golf ignoring rankings snub, chasing MAAC four-peat

By **RYAN JOHANSON**
Copy Editor

After winning three-straight MAAC championships and losing little of last year's roster, you would assume Quinnipiac golf polled first in the conference entering this season. Yet it didn't.

In the 2024 MAAC Women's Golf Pre-season Coaches' Poll, the Bobcats ranked second behind Albany, despite earning one more first-place vote than the Great Danes. After Quinnipiac and Albany finished one and two every year since 2017, the coaches picked the Danes to win the MAAC for the first time since 2019.

Playing golf year-round Connecticut is difficult. As temperatures drop, courses are unplayable, shifting the workouts inside to a simulation room.

"The start of the spring season, it's always tough to tell what we're doing," head coach John O'Connor said. "We're inside. We haven't been on a golf course. What they're doing is getting stronger. One of the things that we have focused on over the years is getting the team physically fit."

Senior Aimee Uchida knows it's time

to get ready for the next tournament.

"It's a transition process, but by the time we hit that second week (back from winter break), we're back at the simulation room," Uchida said. "We're back in the gym trying to be the best that we can be by the time our first tournament approaches because once that first tournament is over, it's the next one and the next one."

While getting back into the swing of things was difficult, in the first tournament of the 2024 season — the Atlantic Invitational — the Bobcats finished second. Five Bobcat golfers participated in the tournament: Uchida, graduate student Leeyen Peralta, juniors Fuge Zhang and Meg Yoshida and freshman Samantha Galantini.

Peralta won MAAC Golfer of the Week after her performance at the Atlantic Invitational where she tied for seventh, shooting a 9-over-par. She had the best score on par-3 holes in the tournament, finishing with a 1-under-par in the 12 par-3 holes in the weekend.

Before the invitational, O'Connor named Peralta a captain for the spring season. She'll lead a group striving for its fourth-straight MAAC championship.

"We've all been working hard in the simulation room, chipping practice and especial-

ly in the weight room, we all push each other," Peralta said. "We try to make it as fun and competitive as possible."

That extra push from teammates has made Peralta a tournament winner and a MAAC superstar.

"(Peralta) has had an unbelievable season, so far this year," O'Connor said. "She's won two tournaments. She has a remarkable stroke average ... She's a superstar. (Peralta's) goal is probably to win the conference."

For Zhang, it was her first tournament since the 2023 MAAC championship where she shot a conference record 1-under-par, propelling the Bobcats to the win. During the Atlantic Invitational, she improved each round, starting in the first round shooting 6-over-par, then shooting 2-over-par in the final round. The Tianjin, China, native also finished 1-under-par on the nine par-5 holes during the tournament.

Uchida and Yoshida both finished within a stroke of each other, with Uchida finishing in a tie for 13th and Yoshida finishing in 15th. Uchida finished fourth on the par-4 holes with a score of 3-over-par over the 33 par-4

holes on the weekend.

Galantini ended her first collegiate half-season with a third-place finish at the Quinnipiac Classic while also placing 16th at a loaded Lady Blue Hen Invitational to complete the fall season. During the Atlantic Invitational, the New Jersey native finished in 27th place by shooting a 22-over-par.

Having previously competed in the Girls Junior PGA Championship before joining Quinnipiac, Galantini possesses the skills needed to rebound from this performance as the MAAC championships loom closer.

"Samantha is just solid, she's consistent all the time. If she has an unusual score she bounces right back," O'Connor said. "The bad scores don't affect her. She's solid all the time. She's gonna be a good golfer for us in (the) future."

The Bobcats have the chance to repeat as MAAC champions with their improving skills. With golfers like Zhang, Peralta and Galantini — just to name a few — the Bobcats have an adept group going into their three remaining tournaments before the MAAC championships.

Quinnipiac looks to continue its top status when the team travels to Oldsmar, Florida, to take part in Butler's Don Benbow Spring Invitational on March 11 and 12.



Senior Aimee Uchida drives the ball during the Quinnipiac Classic on Oct. 9, 2023.



Senior top Lyndsey Rudolph flips in the air during a meet against Kutztown on Feb. 11, 2023.

Acro and tumbling remains in national spotlight, hopes to take next jump despite key losses

By **ZACHARY REAGAN**
Staff Writer

Acrobatics and tumbling may be one of the newest sports at Quinnipiac, but its history is as storied as one of the most successful teams on campus.

Head coach Mary Ann Powers is entering her 27th year at Quinnipiac, and she's built quite the program. Her teams have been nationally ranked in the top 10 since 2005, and she was one of the founding coaches of the National Collegiate Acrobatics and Tumbling Association.

To say Powers is a pioneer of the sport is an understatement. She, along with the other founding members of the NCATA, shaped a new form of competitive gymnastics that prioritized strength, grace and perfection while also revamping the scoring system.

"We created a code of points, just like in gymnastics," Powers said. "Back in the day ... you kind of had to guess who won. Now we have start values based on difficulty (of the trick being performed), and what we take away is execution errors."

Since the sport is more recent compared

to traditional forms of gymnastics, coaches find talent for acrobatics and tumbling just about anywhere, from traditional individual gymnasts, divers or even lifters.

"I did gymnastics my entire life," junior base Hallie Fowler said. "For a few years I did artistic acrobatic gymnastics, and that gave me kind of an insight into lifting people, and being part of a team rather than an individualized sport like (traditional) gymnastics."

Acrobatics and tumbling is unique because there's nothing inherently combative about it. There's no contact, so teams often compete for self-improvement rather than overpowering opponents.

"The skills are pretty apples to apples, especially in the top five," senior back base Chloe White said. "It's really the execution, I think, that we excel at in comparison to other schools. Not that it matters, because we're comparing it to ourselves."

When it comes to expectations for their 2024 campaign, the Bobcats have their eyes set on a championship run. They won four individual national titles last season, but it wasn't enough to get them over the hump

past Baylor. In the last three full seasons, Quinnipiac lost to the Bears in the NCATA semifinals twice, both within a margin of less than 10 points. However, Powers is confident that her team can stay strong in mind and body.

"I think this year it could be the game of any of the top five, they're all that strong," Powers said. "Right now we want to get a little healthier, we've had some ankle issues this year. You want to accumulate all these wins in the season, but the biggest one is when you go into the postseason really healthy. That's what the goal is."

A big question going into this year is which athletes will take a big leap. Three out of the four national titles Quinnipiac won last year were in tumbling, and all of the women involved in those events have graduated. When it comes to those that will take their place, Powers praised athletes who also participated in title-winning events like the senior trio of bases Farrah Chernov, Summer Knoell and top Lyndsey Rudolph in the inversion pyramid.

Senior tumbler Tiffany Zieba already

showcased her talent in the Bobcats' first meet of the year against Morgan State, where she had the highest score in the tumbling event. Powers anticipates that freshman Jady Wong will make an immediate impact as well.

Aside from individuals, Powers has high expectations for the athletes in team events.

"I feel like my acro seven has the potential for a national championship," Powers said. "Just watch (the) acro seven (event against Morgan State), the thing didn't budge, it was beautiful."

Receiving national attention is promising for the program, but Powers wants the support of the Quinnipiac community as well.

"Tell them to come out and watch us. Have a good day with us," Powers said. "Watch the women on this campus. I'm gonna say this about my team and I mean it: they are so invested in the community. I would love to see everybody give us a little love back and get out here to a meet."

Acrobatics and tumbling's home opener is set for Sunday at 1 p.m. against LIU.



'Connecticut feels like home'

Redshirt senior forward Richie Springs lines up for a free throw during a 66-64 win over Fairfield on Jan. 28.

CAMERON LEVASSEUR/CHRONICLE

A national champion at UConn, Richie Springs brings experience to surging Quinnipiac

By **JAMES KASSAN**
Staff Writer

Coming off a national championship year for UConn, Quinnipiac men's basketball forward Richie Springs has played an important role off the bench for head coach Tom Pecora and the Bobcats. The Brooklyn, New York, native spent four seasons in Storrs before arriving in Hamden for his redshirt senior season.

Springs appeared in 19 games last season for UConn and has taken on a new role with Quinnipiac. His championship experience in-state made Hamden a perfect fit.

"It's close to home, and I've been in Connecticut already for a while being at UConn, it felt like the right place to be, Connecticut feels like home to me," Springs said. "My mentors have a connection with (Pecora), there was that trust already built up, they told me about his history and I just felt like the trust was there, I just felt really comfortable."

Although he did not see much action throughout his time at UConn, Springs still learned from a winning organization and coaches who were his mentors, including longtime head coach Dan Hurley, who helped recruit him out of high school.

"(Hurley) taught toughness, team chemistry, communication and just little things like that," Springs said. "Those things are very important to be a good team."

Springs' college basketball journey is unique, as he redshirted in 2019 and played three seasons for the Huskies. He also will have a final year of eligibility next year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I saw Richie play when he was a sophomore at Loughlin High School," Pecora said. "He was playing with great guards and didn't really get the ball a lot, but now he's grown as a player."

The redshirt senior has appeared in 25 games

so far in his first year as a Bobcat, averaging 4.1 points and 3.0 rebounds. This season has been his career-best and has a chance to get better with the last month of conference play looming ahead.

Many players go their entire collegiate career without a national championship. Springs knows how fortunate he is to be part of such a great accomplishment and bring that experience to Hamden.

"There's a lot of similar qualities that this team has with UConn, there's really good leadership, good chemistry with the team and the toughness, being a defensive team first, those qualities were at UConn," Springs said.

Just one month after winning the national championship, Springs transferred to Quinnipiac on May 10. With the Bobcats, Springs is receiving the most playing time of his career, averaging 10.7 minutes per game.

Quinnipiac is off to its best start in over 40 years — the Bobcats have a 19-6 record — and is in sole possession of first place in the conference with games in hand. With a month remaining in the regular season, the Bobcats look to qualify for the NCAA Tournament. That starts with winning their conference tournament for the first time in program history.

"Richie's seen it, he was a part of that last year. Our guys haven't seen it, so when you have a guy that knows what it takes, he knows how to lead in his ways," assistant head coach Bradley Jacks said. "He's bought into the work ethic of what our guys do, he's bought into the culture of what we're about. He's about all the right things, and that's what this program is, guys being bought into the work."

Springs has helped the Bobcats on the court, but it's clear his value off the court is immeasurable. As Pecora has said all year,

"the work defines the man."

Not many collegiate players get to say they've experienced playing against NBA prospects in practice. Springs can. Guards Jordan Hawkins and Andre Jackson Jr. — two of his former teammates — were drafted this past summer.

"They challenged me a lot, we're gonna battle each other the whole time (in practice), I felt like those guys got me better even though I didn't play a lot on the court, but I feel like in practice I took that experience and got better from it," Springs said.

Coming to a new school, meshing with new teammates is never easy and takes some getting used to. Springs brings leadership with him now as one of the upperclassmen on the Bobcats.

"I think I bring a good work ethic, (because) when I was younger I didn't," Springs said. "Being consistent is hard to do, I feel like if (the underclassmen) started out, by the time they're in my situation, they'll be really good. Work ethic is just something I think is really important to preach to them."

As the Bobcats continue to show their depth heading into the back half of the season, Springs will certainly see an uptick in minutes. And luckily for Quinnipiac, the former Husky knows what to expect.

"This team ... knows what it takes," Springs said. "(We) just got to keep winning, doing the same thing every day and I think we'll be fine."



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Springs is averaging career-highs in points (4.1) and rebounds (3.0) during the 2023-24 season, his first in a Quinnipiac uniform.



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MONEY IN THE BANK

PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Tom Pecora signs contract extension through 2027-28

By **ETHAN HURWITZ**
Sports Editor

Quinnipiac men's basketball head coach Tom Pecora received a four-year contract extension through the 2027-28 season, as first reported by CBS Sports' Jon Rothstein and confirmed to The Chronicle by Quinnipiac Athletics Monday.

"We're rethrilled to announce that Tom Pecora will continue to lead our men's basketball program," Quinnipiac Director of Athletics Greg Amodio wrote in a Feb. 19 statement. "He is an excellent mentor to our student-athletes and a great ambassador for the University. Quinnipiac Basketball has experienced incredible success already under Tom's guidance, and we're excited about the future of the team as we continue to compete for league championships."

In just his first season as head coach, Pecora has the Bobcats sitting atop the MAAC with a 19-6 record. With just under a month left until the MAAC tournament Quinnipiac currently sits at 11-3 in conference play.

"I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity and I'm prepared to lead Quinnipiac Men's Basketball moving forward," Pecora wrote in the statement. "I'd like to sincerely thank Quinnipiac University President Judy Olian and Director of Athletics Greg Amodio for their continued support."

The Bobcats' 19-6 overall record is tied for the school's best start since 1965-66, where the Division II Quinnipiac Braves began the year 21-4.

"It's an exciting time to be a part of the Quinnipiac community," Pecora wrote. "I'm looking forward to the chance to build this team into a perennial MAAC contender."

Ready or not?

Questions remain as women's ice hockey begins postseason

By **COLIN KENNEDY**
Associate Sports Editor

It's been a weird season for the Quinnipiac women's ice hockey team.

On one hand, the Bobcats have won 24 games, sit fifth in the ECAC Hockey standings and are in control of a third-straight NCAA tournament berth. But on the other hand? There just seems to be something missing — a level that they haven't risen to, a potential they haven't reached.

It'll have to find that next level soon as, come Saturday, Quinnipiac will face off against Harvard in a first round win-or-go-home matchup of the conference tournament.

"We've really been a group that has found ways to win," head coach Cass Turner told ESPN+ on Feb. 10. "We have so much experience and a belief ... (players) go into some games like 'We're just not going to lose, we're just not.'"

The team's belief in its ability to win may come in handy in the coming weeks, but it doesn't change the facts. The Bobcats finished their last 10 games of the regular season 4-6, not necessarily playing their best hockey when they needed to. That said, they did go toe-to-toe with No. 7 St. Lawrence and No. 3 Clarkson, but fell at home in overtime both nights.

"We work really well together, and we come off of lower moments really well," senior forward Kate Villeneuve told ESPN+ on Feb. 10. "Coming off after a loss, we really pick up the next day of practice and don't kind of dwell on anything, which is really important."

Quinnipiac finished the regular season with a weekend sweep on the road against RPI and Union. Not exactly the cream of the crop in the ECAC, but the Bobcats handled business and scored six goals in the finale against Union —

their highest total since Jan. 12 at Harvard.

Amid the weekend sweep, the Bobcats may have found something within their depth.

Junior forward Maya Labad was all over the ice, racking up six points (three goals, three assists). Labad's most impressive play was a no-look dish to the other standout of the weekend, Alexa Hoskin.

The graduate student forward has been battling a lower-body injury all season and hasn't been able to get into a groove on the scoring sheet. But Hoskin may have finally broken through, tallying three goals and an assist and could be another much-needed weapon for Quinnipiac in the postseason.

"(Hoskin) truly believes in herself, and going through an injury like she had, it's challenging," Turner said. "It showed her resilience and toughness. She loves this game. She loves this team, and she's going to do everything she can to help them."

Looking ahead to Saturday's first-round matchup, the facts say the Crimson are not a very competitive hockey team. Only winning five games all year and sitting at No. 37 of 44 teams in the Pairwise, the Bobcats should make quick work of a team that has only scored 38 goals compared to their 123. Just looking at the head-to-head matchups this season, Quinnipiac went 2-0 with a combined score of 15-1. The Bobcats should cruise towards an eventual quarterfinal series against Cornell.

The Big Red — who clinched a first-round bye — are a much higher-caliber team than Harvard, winning 22 games and unlike the Bobcats, finished the final 10 regular season games strong at 9-1. Both teams split their regular season matchups, each winning on the road — Quinnipiac back on Nov. 17 and Cornell on Jan. 20.

"The key for us is just to play for 60 minutes,"

senior forward Sophie Urban told ESPN+ on Feb. 9. "We can stick to our game plan ... I think those are gonna be keys for us."

A series against the Big Red should be highly competitive, but as of now, Cornell has been playing better hockey. That doesn't mean Quinnipiac doesn't stand a chance — it very well does, and it wouldn't be all that surprising to see the Bobcats advance to the ECAC Hockey championship weekend.

Quinnipiac's performance in the conference tournament will have a direct effect on its participation in the NCAA Tournament, and it's fair to say its situation is a little muddy.

The tournament is made up of the six conference winners and five at-large bids. Currently sitting at No. 8, the Bobcats are still on the bubble especially with two conferences — the CHA and NEWHA — receiving automatic bids, though neither has a team sitting inside the top 11. That leaves two spots for Quinnipiac, Min-

nesota Duluth, St. Cloud State and UConn. An early exit against Harvard could end the Bobcats' season entirely.

"We want to play at the end of the year and we want to win games at the end of the year," Turner said. "No matter what happens, it's not always about finding the easiest path. There's going to be challenging moments in any of those games. So we just want to play our best and recognize that we have a good opportunity in front of us. We've put ourselves in a good position."

The Bobcats have a group that's been here before — a group that's both won and lost some big playoff games. They have an experienced core that when playing their best can go head-to-head with the country's best.

Whether or not they reach that level, we'll find out.



TYLER RINKO/CHRONICLE

Freshman forward Kahlen Lamarche battles for the puck in a Feb. 3 game against Princeton.