

PHOTOS: Proposed cease-fire resolution stirs controversy in Hamden



JACK SPIEGEL/CHRONICLE

Five takeaways from SGA's State of the QUnion

By LILY PHILIPCZAK
Staff Writer

The Quinnipiac University Student Government Association hosted its annual State of the QUnion address on Feb. 21, allowing students to ask administrators about prevalent issues affecting the student body.

The panel featured five administrators: President Judy Olian; Provost Debra Liebowitz; Tom Ellett, chief experience officer; David Fryson, interim vice president for equity and inclusion and Sal Filardi, vice president for facilities and capital planning.

These were the main topics discussed:

FEB. 14 OPINION PIECE PUBLISHED BY THE CHRONICLE

Several students — many of whom spoke on behalf of the Muslim Student Association and the Muslim community — expressed concerns about The Chronicle's publication of an opinion piece titled "A cease-fire in Gaza will cause more harm than good."

"I think it is totally unacceptable for an article to be published, as it is very biased," a sophomore political science student said. "With the safety concerns occurring in other universities and the hate crimes that are currently taking place all over America, it does not make us Muslims feel safe."

Although Olian and Ellett voiced their understanding for students' feelings toward the conflict, they highlighted that opinion pieces represent the opinion of the writer, not of the organization.

"We encourage our students as journalists to be responsible journalists, accurate journalists — to cover the news as unbiased," Olian said. "Opinion pieces are opinion pieces, and we do not have any way to censor The Quinnipiac Chronicle, Q30 or any other outlets."

Olian emphasized the university's respect for free press on campus and encouraged students to express their opinions so long as their expression does not break the university's code of conduct.

"The free press can be inciting or hateful in the expression of their opinions on campus because we have a code of conduct, and we would potentially bring it forward if that's what it was," Olian said. "The freedom of expression is very broad and powerful in this country."

The last speaker asked the panelists to reconsider their stances on the The Chronicle article.

"We all have an individual responsibility to handle conversations like this carefully while respecting the opinions of others," a first-year international business student said.

A student said that, when the article was initially published, it did not include statistics about Palestinian casualties or information about the history of cease-fire. The student also argued that the article misled readers to believe only one side of the story.

With backlash coming from current students, alumni and a piece published in the University of New Haven's student-run newspaper, The Charger Bulletin, some students claimed that The Chronicle's publication of the Feb. 14 opinion piece is damaging the reputation of the university.

"I recognize that sometimes what is published

Student ambassadors urged to post positive reviews of Quinnipiac

By CAT MURPHY
News Editor

A Quinnipiac University admissions official apologized last week after urging student ambassadors to post reviews that would "positively boost" the university's online ratings.

In a since-retracted Feb. 22 email to the admissions office's student employees, the Quinnipiac administrator seemed to imply that writing positive reviews on Niche — a leading college search and ranking website — was mandatory.

"If you are not out on tour, on the phone, or working on scanning/completing a project, I expect a review to be completed during your shift," the employee wrote in bold, highlighted text.

With an overall "B" rating on Niche, Quinnipiac ranks behind most of Connecticut's big-name schools — Yale University and the University of Connecticut, for instance — but tops out the site's list of the state's top 10 colleges.

In the same way a student's GPA represents the average of their individual class grades, behind every college's overall Niche grade is a so-called "report card" comprising a dozen specific ratings. Using public data sets and student reviews, the site grades an institution on everything from its academics and dorms to its diversity and party scene.

Quinnipiac earned a "B" in half of Niche's 12 categories: academics, diversity, professors, dorms, student life and value. And while the university earned an "A" for its athletics and an "A-" for its safety and party scene, Niche gave Quinnipiac a "B-" for its campus, a "C" for its location and a "C-" for its campus food.

The admissions official told student ambassadors in the Feb. 22 email that Quinnipiac was particularly concerned with raising the latter three grades, as well as the university's value rating.

"Quinnipiac has a strong presence on Niche, but it needs a little bump in ratings," the employee wrote. "This is an important piece of attracting future students, especially with how much students are online these days."

The Feb. 22 email asked students working in the admissions office to review the university "from the student perspective, not a student employee."

But a student ambassador — who agreed to speak with The Chronicle on the condition of anonymity — challenged the ethics behind this request.

"You're paying us to do it, and it's during our shifts, so it is as a student employee," they said. "It just feels a little bit icky."

The student employee, who has worked in the admissions office for several semesters, said they had never received an email like this in the past.

"I also felt a little shocked that they would put something like that in writing," they said. "Is this really where our efforts are best being used right now?"

In a statement to The Chronicle the following day, John Morgan, associate vice president for public relations, wrote that the incident "should not have occurred."

"The university does not support the communication and regrets that it was sent to the student ambassadors," Morgan wrote in the Feb. 23 statement.

Within hours of the official's Feb. 22 communication, more than a dozen positive reviews — 11 five-star, four four-star and

one three-star — appeared on Quinnipiac University's online profile page.

"I couldn't recommend coming to this school enough," one of the five-star reviews said.

"If I had to choose where to go to college again, I would choose to come here again," another said.

Although there is no definitive way to determine whether student ambassadors posted each of these 16 reviews, Quinnipiac's Niche page often goes weeks or months without receiving a single review.

"That's the thing, it looks fraudulent," the anonymous student ambassador said with a laugh.

This student did not post a review of their own.

"That's not to say that we're not a great school, but I don't want people to have a conflated or overexcited perception of the school when that is not sometimes always the reality," the student said. "This feels like an icky context to hype it up."

The admissions administrator, who oversees all of the office's student employees, followed up with student ambassadors on Feb. 23 to offer their "sincerest apologies" for the initial email.

"While I always hope that you will share your QU experiences with prospective students, I should not have asked you to post those experiences on Niche.com or indicated that it was required in any way," the official wrote in the follow-up email.

Morgan reiterated that student ambassadors "are not expected or required to post any reviews to the NICHE site."

Aidan Sheedy contributed to this report.

p. 2

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Inside Hamden’s contentious cease-fire vote

By CAT MURPHY, AIDAN SHEEDY and JACK SPIEGEL

Amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, a proposed cease-fire resolution undertaken by the Hamden Legislative Council brought hundreds of pro-Israel and pro-Palestine demonstrators to Hamden Memorial Town Hall on Feb. 20. The three-page resolution, drafted by 22-year-old council member Abdul-Razak Osmanu, called for “an immediate and permanent ceasefire” and “an end to the siege and blockade of Gaza.” And Hamden is not alone — dozens of other cities across the U.S. have passed symbolic cease-fire resolutions in recent weeks. Pro-Palestine demonstrators rallied outside Hamden Memorial Town Hall in support of the resolution before joining pro-Israel demonstrators inside for a lengthy public comment session. The council tabled the resolution without voting on it.



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

Shafy Ahmed demonstrates in support of a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas on Feb. 20. “Enough is enough,” he said.



CAT MURPHY/CHRONICLE

Francesca Maria, a member of the Connecticut Democratic Socialists of America, leads dozens of cease-fire activists in pro-Palestine chants outside Hamden Memorial Town Hall on Feb. 20.



CAT MURPHY/CHRONICLE

Semyon Dubrovsky holds up a pro-Israel sign advocating for Hamas to “lay down” its weapons.



CAT MURPHY/CHRONICLE

A young child named Alan enjoys a lollipop while holding up a pro-Palestine sign at the Feb. 20 rally in Hamden.



CAT MURPHY/CHRONICLE

A Holocaust survivor addresses the Hamden Legislative Council to voice his opposition to the council’s proposed cease-fire resolution, eliciting several boos from the pro-Palestine demonstrators in Hamden Memorial Town Hall.



JACK SPIEGEL/CHRONICLE

Dozens of demonstrators gather outside Hamden Memorial Town Hall to advocate for a cease-fire in Gaza. “My family down there, they don’t have a voice,” demonstrator Sueadd Yaghi said. “So, I’m giving them a voice.”



JACK SPIEGEL/CHRONICLE

Pro-Israel supporters hold an empty seat in Hamden Memorial Town Hall for 4-year old Israeli hostage Ariel Bibas.



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

Pro-Palestine demonstrators hold up a banner advocating for an immediate cease-fire during the rally.

Quinnipiac changes course registration system

By ALEXANDRA MARTINAKOVA
News Editor

The Quinnipiac University Registrar’s Office implemented changes to the course registration process in the hopes of lightening the strain on its system.

In a Feb. 21 email to the university community, Amy Terry, university registrar, announced the changes, calling the October registration period “a disappointing experience” due to multiple crashes.

Many students would agree with her.

“I think it’s important that they did something about the crashing,” said Melanie Topchik, a sophomore 3+1 advertising and integrated communications major. “It wasn’t fair, and a lot of people were having issues.”

Tom Ellett, chief experience officer, attributed the crashes not just to the overwhelming number of students in every academic class, but also to students using more than one device to register — or even having their parents sign in to try to get a good spot in line.

Each class of students was assigned a seniority-based registration start date, with seniors beginning registration at 7 a.m. the first day of class registration and first-years beginning registration at 7 a.m. on the fourth day. In the past, registration periods were broken up by class year — which meant the entire class was registering at the same time.

For perspective, Quinnipiac’s class of 2027 has more than 1,800 students.

Beginning with the summer and fall 2024 registration period, students will be assigned registration times and dates based on their completed credits. The registration process was previously based on how many credits a student was expected to have at the end of their current semester. Student-athletes also get a one-day priority, which Ellett said was a decision of the faculty senate.

Each class’s upcoming registration period is separated into three different times on three days from April 2-5. Students are assigned registration dates based on their number of completed credits by Feb. 16 — around 600 students per group.

Ellett said that Matt Romeo, chief information officer, surveyed other schools with the same registration system to determine alternative options.

“We were over here letting everybody in,” Ellett said. “(Other schools) do it by alphabet or course numbers. What we are doing (now) is just limiting (the number of students).”

Romeo and the registrar initially suggested the university’s new course registration system. The Quinnipiac Faculty Senate and Student Government Association then vetted their recommendations.

“I met with SGA and their committee, they had few options,” Ellett said. “They could do this one or (another) one, and everyone chose this one. We didn’t put on the table the alphabetical (option), it just made sense to do something that was consistent with credits, rather than the luck of your last name starting with F.”

But SGA President Jacob Cedor seemed to remember the decision-making process differently.

“While SGA’s Steering Committee was consulted for feedback on the registration changes, we were not involved in making the final decisions on which model would be implemented,” Cedor wrote in a Feb. 27 statement to The Chronicle. “There was no endorsement of any model by SGA and we shared questions and concerns related to it.”

Another change — albeit smaller — is in the registration date’s start times. The earliest registration time changed from 7 a.m. for everyone to 6:30 a.m. for students and 6 a.m. for student-athletes.

“It’s only 30 minutes and it’s once a semester,” Ellett said. “It’s a matter of trying to get through all the people in the portal and not compete with class. Students should be in class and not have the things (the) university does compete with it.”

Some students voiced concerns about the registration times.

“A lot of students get upset because they accidentally sleep through or they aren’t awake enough to realize what they are doing,” Topchik said. “A lot of clubs and organizations do things at night to avoid classes and I think it might be a good idea to do something similar with course registration.”

Ellett said that SGA did not raise the registration times as an issue. But again, Cedor seemed to remember this differently.

“We did share one of our concerns being the overlap between 8 a.m. classes and some registration blocks,” Cedor wrote.

He added that SGA asked for faculty, staff and coaches to be made aware of registration periods and give students opportunities to register in class if needed.

Students with the fewest credits relative to the rest of their class are assigned later registration times — either 7:30 a.m. or 8:30 a.m. — on their class’s registration date. Students received an email with their specific time and date on Feb. 27.

Going forward, Ellett said, the university may slightly change the way the groups of students are divided based on credits to account for the incoming number of students so as to not to let more than around 600 students into the system at once.

“We have to do some surveys, and ask, ‘Did it work?’” Ellett said. “Did the system crash or not? Did students use two or three instruments to tap in again? Like with anything, we always have to evaluate it.”



INFOGRAPHIC BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

QUNION from cover

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in those outlets, what is expressed through those outlets has a bearing on the status of the institution,” Olian said.

The views expressed in The Chronicle’s opinion section are those of the respective authors. They do not reflect the views of The Chronicle as an organization.

CAMPUS SAFETY

In November 2023, Public Safety investigated two incidents in which someone scratched swastikas into the mail lockers on the York Hill Campus. Amid a rise in on-campus hate crimes across the country, students inquired about measures being taken to ensure the safety of Arab and Jewish students.

Students also expressed safety concerns about the campus’s openness, ranging from trespassers that are not affiliated with Quinnipiac interacting with students to the security of the gates. Some students said they had been granted allowed access to campus by holding up cards for identification other than their QCard.

Olian noted that the university has tried to increase security measures without violating students’ privacy, citing increases in the Department of Public Safety’s presence, additional cameras and anonymous tip lines.

“We want to make sure that everybody feels comfortable, in who they are, what surrounds them and the protections they have,” Olian said.

Reiterating that student safety is the department’s first priority, Tony Reyes, chief of public safety, said that public safety escorts are available 24/7.

“I also recognize that there could be a disconnect between how safe you are and how safe you feel,” Reyes acknowledged. “That is equally important and that we have to work just as hard to make you feel as safe as you are.”

Ellett spoke about the RAVE Guardian, a mobile safety app that provides emergency assistance, while Fryson shared resources avail-

able to students under Title IX.

“If anyone feels that they’ve ever encountered any type of bias, in addition to (contacting) public safety, you can also report through the Title IX office in a confidential way and we’ll make sure that any incidents on campus will be investigated,” Fryson said.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Students also raised questions about the retention of students and faculty of color and first-generation students. Within the last 12 months, there has been a turnover of diversity, equity and inclusion university officials — with the most recent official to leave being Sarah Hellyar, former interim Title IX coordinator, on the second day of the spring 2024 semester.

“I will acknowledge that we are in a rebuild,” Olian said, adding that the university has recently created several positions that are strictly focused on “inclusive excellence.”

Olian said that the officials from the former Department of Cultural and Global Engagement — which has since been restruc-

tured as the Office of Inclusive Excellence — had different reasons for leaving, including better opportunities.

“It’s not going to be an easy turnaround,” Fryson said. “It is one that we are intentional in making sure that in terms of making sure that faculty, staff and students that are here not only have a sense of belonging but also have a sense of contact.”

Fryson mentioned strategies being implemented, but did not elaborate on specifics.

“These are not quick fixes, but they are long-term strategies to make sure that we are not only diverse, we are also an inclusive campus,” Fryson said.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

The university’s student employment system prioritizes students with federal work-study, meaning Quinnipiac has experienced a decline in non-aid job opportunities for students without work-study grants. Kay Owalbi, the vice president of SGA and the event’s moderator, asked Ellett about the university’s

plans, if any, to provide better job offerings on campus for students without aid.

Ellett emphasized that because the university receives federal funding and doles out financial aid, Quinnipiac is no different than any other university in the country by prioritizing federal work-study positions.

However, he noted that non-work study students are prioritized for technical positions and those requiring special skills.

“One of the things that we’ve been focused on is to look at our partners to see how they can help provide further opportunities for students,” Ellett said.

Ellett cited the bookstore, student-led dining operations and the university’s partnership with Hartford HealthCare as potential opportunities for students.

“When I got here there weren’t any positions in the dining operation,” Ellett said. “Today we have 124 students employed and we’re looking to raise it to at least 150-160.”

Students can contact the university’s career services office to learn more about student employment opportunities.

PARKING

Last year, the construction to build the tennis courts eliminated 145 student parking spaces in the North Lot — reducing parking in that lot by 20%.

Students still face challenges with parking and raised concerns about miscommunications between One Stop and Public Safety. Some students said they have parked in designated lots — even checking with Public Safety officials first — only to be ticketed or called to move their vehicles.

Ellett explained that the policies and procedures for parking were created by a committee within One Stop that works closely with SGA.

“Those (recommendations) were created by students, given to the administration and we support those policies,” Ellett said, encouraging students to voice their concerns to One Stop.



JACK MUSCATELLO/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac University President Judy Olian answers student questions at the Student Government Association’s annual State of the QUnion event.

Opinion

Raising the bar, not lowering the rim: Strategies for WNBA success

By **BEN BUSILLO**
Contributing Writer

Does the ability to dunk possess that much importance in basketball?

Social media users have long debated the possibility of the WNBA lowering the height of its rims. Most notably, Shaquille O’Neal pitched the idea to three-time WNBA champion Candace Parker on an episode of “NBA on TNT.”

The claim asserts that if the WNBA lowers the height of its rims, women — who are typically shorter than the male athletes — would be able to show off more explosive and athletic plays like dunking.

O’Neal and many sports fans on the internet say that the addition of the dunk will make women’s play more exciting and attract more casual basketball fans, therefore increasing popularity in an unpopular league.

Lowering the rim in the WNBA will simply exacerbate the biggest issue the WNBA has — a lack of respect from the male-dominated basketball market. This solution ignores the current popularity of women’s college basketball and does not address the root cause of the league’s failure.

It’s no secret that women’s basketball is disrespected because of a perceived lack of athletic ability. This element of casual sexism in the sports community restricts the potential growth of women’s sports.

Lowering the net will just feed into the mob of disparagement the WNBA already receives, and will reinforce the narrative that female athletes are inferior to their male counterparts.

Let’s hypothetically say that this change would be a surefire way to increase the WNBA’s popularity. If you make this change at the pro level, what does that mean for every other level of women’s basketball across the country? If you lower the rim in the pros, you have to lower it everywhere else.



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The NBA is not more successful solely because of the dunk. While dunks are exciting, they should not be seen as a cure-all for increasing interest in the sport.

Women’s basketball does not need dunks for people to take interest.

On Oct. 15, Caitlin Clark and the Iowa Hawkeyes set an NCAA women’s basketball attendance record when they played in front of more than 55,500 fans at Iowa football’s Kinnick Stadium. How many dunks were in that game? Zero.

Instead of chasing after elements from the men’s game, the focus should be on celebrating the strengths and distinctive qualities that already exist within women’s basketball. Women’s college basketball does a great job of making those types of connections with the fans.

The easiest way to grow the WNBA is to target the existing NBA audience. From a viewer’s perspective, the WNBA is the most poorly marketed major professional sports organization in the U.S. Part of the focus of its marketing strategy has been to try and convert more women into basketball fans.

The problem with that is men make up more than 80% of the NBA’s fanbase. But what the

WNBA doesn’t realize is that true fans of basketball watch because they enjoy the sport itself and a good storyline — no matter the gender.

Many people like to say, “women’s basketball is boring,” but when the media doesn’t attempt to generate any buzz around big games, of course fans won’t be as invested. When storylines are marketed correctly, people will watch.

Last year’s NCAA Women’s National Championship game between Iowa and LSU was heavily anticipated. The media did a great job of marketing the duel between superstars Clark and Angel Reese. In addition to the massive in-person audience, the game drew almost 10 million viewers, the largest television audience for any women’s basketball game ever.

That being said, the WNBA should also continue to target young girls who play basketball. That’s how you create stars, by giving young fans a role model. An entire generation of male basketball players can be influenced by an NBA star like LeBron James.

James was marketed as the next huge star in the NBA, which generated an entirely new fanbase.

Young female hoopers do not have any high-

ly marketed megastars to look up to on the professional level. This is solely because the WNBA has done a very poor job at creating them. Stars are formed when they are marketed extremely well, and failing to tap into a base of young basketball players craving for a role model is a driving cause for the league’s failure.

Promotions and events that highlight the skills of the best WNBA players help put the league in the spotlight it is capable of reaching. A great promotion that showcased the pure talent of the WNBA was the Stephen Curry vs. Sabrina Ionescu 3-point competition this past NBA All-Star Weekend.

Curry is considered the greatest 3-point shooter in NBA history and Ionescu is one of the WNBA’s biggest stars. Though she lost the competition against Curry by three points, Ionescu shot at the NBA’s 3-point line (which is a foot and a half further away from the hoop than the WNBA’s) and ended up finishing with 26 points, which would have tied the winning score of the NBA 3-point contest that same night.

ESPN needs to give more primetime exposure to the WNBA. The first two games of the WNBA finals averaged close to 700,000 viewers, with Game 1 airing on ABC and Game 2 airing on ESPN. Last year the WNBA was holding its own when competing for time slots with NFL games and the World Series. The WNBA should market its stars and their personalities and watch the league flourish in a primetime game.

Lowering the rim completely changes the root principles of the game. Basketball is a game that can be played by anyone. Though the WNBA has never seriously considered this change, it will just create more division within a sport where gender bias is the biggest hurdle. A lack of attention is what handicaps women’s basketball, not a lack of alley-oops.

Is not wearing a neck guard in ice hockey worth the risk?

By **CASEY NEDELKA**
Contributing Writer

In ice hockey, players wear protective gear at all times, including helmets, face masks, gloves and various body pads. But there’s one area of the body that isn’t often protected, which could have deadly consequences if hit by a skate blade: the neck.

The debate over whether hockey players should wear neck guards was reignited in October 2023 during a match between the Elite Ice Hockey League’s Sheffield Steelers and the Nottingham Panthers. Near the end of the second period, Steelers player Matt Petgrave’s leg kicked up and sliced Panthers forward former NHLer Adam Johnson in the neck. Johnson received immediate medical attention but was later pronounced dead at the hospital.

Neck guards are not typically mandated for college and professional players, but following Johnson’s death, many organizations are working to change that. The England Ice Hockey Association and the International Ice Hockey Federation made neck guards mandatory starting in 2024. However, the NHL has not made neck guards mandatory.

Some NHL players have chosen to wear the guards anyway, including T.J. Oshie. The Washington Capitals winger is the founder of Warroad Hockey, a company that makes protective hockey gear. While he isn’t the only player to wear a neck guard, a recent poll from The Athletic shows that a majority of the players don’t want a potential mandate.

Nearly 80% of NHL players polled regarding

a neck guard requirement were against it. Some of the players polled, even one who had been cut by a skate, said that it was the player’s choice.

It’s understandable that players might find the guards uncomfortable or itchy, especially if they’re not used to wearing them, but flat-out refusing to wear the hockey equivalent of a turtle-neck in order to lessen the chances of dying is ridiculous. No player is immune to accidents, and just because it hasn’t happened to you doesn’t mean it won’t happen.

Freak accidents can happen to anyone at any time, which Quinnipiac alum Rachel Ross knows all too well.

Army ice hockey played a game against Sacred Heart in Bridgeport, Connecticut, on Jan. 5, 2023. During the second period, a Sacred Heart player’s leg kicked up and cut then-junior Army forward Eric Huss in the neck, an incident which was scarily similar to Johnson’s.

Thankfully, Ross, the then-senior associate athletic trainer for Army, vaulted over the boards and rushed to apply pressure to Huss’ neck. He was rushed to the hospital while Ross sat on top of his stretcher and kept her hand on the wound throughout the drive.

“We rolled into the hospital, looking all Grey’s Anatomy-like,” Ross said in an interview with The Chronicle on Jan. 3. “His care team took over and he was rushed into surgery.”

Ross, who graduated from Quinnipiac’s sports medicine program in 2016, had never dealt with that kind of injury before.

“A major laceration like that is not very com-

mon,” Ross said. “In general, it’s happened two or three times in a year now, but prior to that it must have been a couple of years since it happened.”

Huss has since returned to the ice for Army and along with five of his teammates, wears a neck guard in every practice and game. But Ross highlighted an important flaw with their new gear.

“I think we need some better technology to really protect all of the structures in the neck,” Ross said. “The neck guard that (Huss) currently wears wouldn’t have helped him when he got injured; the injury was too high up and his neck guard wouldn’t quite reach.”

On paper, neck guards are a good idea. The neck is a very exposed part of the body that contains major arteries, which can have deadly consequences if struck. However, current technol-

ogy is not advanced enough to protect athletes all of the time. Is it worth it to still wear them?

The answer is absolutely. Hockey is a fun game that some people are lucky enough to get paid for. Under no circumstances should players risk death when on the ice, and frankly it’s ridiculous that the NHL has not instituted a neck guard mandate. It’s understandable that players are uncomfortable and get hot, but it’s a small price to pay to stay alive.

The same goes for collegiate-level players. Accidents happen all the time, and no student should ever have to experience what Huss went through.

Even if neck guards aren’t 100% effective, they’re not 0%, either. It’s better to be safe than sorry.



TRIPP MENHALL/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac men’s ice hockey graduate student forward Zach Tupker wearing protective neck equipment in a Feb. 23 game against Brown.

Opinion

Could Nikki Haley still win the Republican nomination?

By LILLIAN CURTIN
Associate Opinion Editor

Republican presidential hopeful Nikki Haley lost the South Carolina Primary on Feb. 24 to former President Donald Trump. It was a devastating political defeat. Haley was the governor of South Carolina from 2011 to 2017, so a “home-field advantage” should’ve helped her. Instead, she might as well have been a stranger that voters in the state had never heard of.

Haley lost to Trump by more than 150,000 votes, sparking the need for a dissection on the defeat and what the future of her campaign will look like.

The obvious target audience in a Republican primary would be Republicans. If Haley wanted to win South Carolina, she needed to appeal to Republican voters. Not only with issues and topics, but also with her approaches to them.

Trump has a strong hold on a larger number of demographics than Haley. Haley attracts more left-leaning independents, moderate Republicans and Democrats who didn’t vote in the Democratic primary. Trump has the votes of traditional Republicans, such as veterans

and evangelicals, according to NBC News.

Just the fact that Haley is attracting leftists is deterring Republicans.

Of course, campaigns are led by the candidate’s policies. Foreign policy plays a role in voters’ decisions, with 37% of voters saying foreign policy is their top issue, according to a South Carolina exit poll.

Trump’s isolationist approaches have been confused for nationalism. Secluding us from foreign nations is not the answer. His voters don’t see that. To them, this is just an “America-first” approach, and they don’t understand the severity of that tactic and the repercussions it can actually have.

Haley’s experiences as a U.N. ambassador have given her a seemingly unnoticed leg-up on this key issue. She is a nationalist, yet appreciates the importance of foreign relationships.

If this was a pre-2016 election, she may have gotten by with her policies alone. But, her defeat is simply because of Trump’s following and South Carolina being a state where the conservative population has more extreme views.

Trump’s supporters see him as hard-hitting

“Trump is funny sometimes. But we shouldn’t be looking for humor when people are dying overseas and our national security is threatened.”

– Lillian Curtin
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR



Former President Donald Trump leads the race for Republican presidential nominee with 110 delegates, and Nikki Haley follows with 20 delegates, according to The Associated Press.

and are underwhelmed by Haley’s approaches after years of listening to his speeches and observing his aggressive behavior.

She lost because the South Carolina voters have a misconception of both her and Trump. She isn’t perceived as strong because they perceive Trump’s aggression and the lack of thought in his words as strength. It’s a disappointing reality.

Haley’s reputation as governor should’ve been a stepping stone, but was overshadowed by Trump’s as a loose cannon. In times like these, we need to put entertainment aside to prioritize the country’s best interest.

Yes, Trump has presidential experience. But Haley’s foreign policy experience would prove much more useful with an abundance of issues that the world is experiencing. Trump is funny sometimes. But we shouldn’t be looking for humor when people are dying overseas and our national security is threatened.

Ever since the New Hampshire primary, Haley is persevering through her series of losses. In her concession speech after the South Carolina primary was called, she showed no signs of dropping out.

It’s likely she’ll wait until Super Tuesday to end her campaign, when the more moderate states will hold their primary elections. She may gain more delegates, but catching up to Trump with the deficit she has right now will be difficult.

Haley believes she can still convince voters. In her speech she said, “America will come apart if we make the wrong choices.”

We’re going to see changes in her arguments in an effort to be more convincing. I went to a few of her events in New Hampshire, she gave the same rehearsed speech at each one. It was the same speech she gave on TV.

At first I thought “Wow, she’s really articulate and convincing.” After attending the last event, her speech wasn’t convincing and left me wondering what she truly cares about and if her candidacy is just an act.

At this point in the race, voters have seen her speak on the same issues a lot. Whether it be in interviews or at rallies, voters hear the same lines. She needs to create a new script.

What’s appealing to Trump voters is the spontaneity. You never know what he’s going to say, or when. It makes him seem more genuine.

A rehearsed monologue isn’t going to push Haley to the election in November, but instead keep her at the same place she is now.

Many voters are convinced that Trump is the overall winner due to the outcomes of primaries in states like New Hampshire and South Carolina, and come Super Tuesday, we’ll truly know if Haley is a potential nominee.

If Haley can convince more voters like she intends, she may be able to take hold of Trump’s votes. It’s going to take a lot of work to make up the losses Haley has already incurred. She needs to change her wording every now and then so that her campaign doesn’t grow stale, and show voters that she’s authentic and actually has their best interests in mind.

Note from the editors

By CHRONICLE STAFF

The Chronicle’s status at Quinnipiac University as an independent, student-run newspaper puts the organization in a unique position to serve both as a source of campus news and a platform for student opinions.

As such, the paper has published three opinion pieces about the Israel-Hamas war since Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023 attack on Israel, which have varied in political leanings and perspectives on the conflict.

In this particularly contentious

time in global affairs, The Chronicle continues to uphold the same editorial standards and practices.

Views expressed in The Chronicle’s opinion section are those of the respective authors. They do not reflect the views of The Chronicle as an organization.

In addition, The Chronicle is not run by Quinnipiac University, but by students, and therefore does not represent the feelings or opinions of administrators or the university as a whole.

The Chronicle accepts letter to the

editor submissions from all members of the Quinnipiac community. These should be between 150 and 300 words.

In addition, all students are welcome to write for the opinion section.

Opinions must not contain hate speech, false statements or improper sourcing.

The Chronicle reserves the right to edit all material, including advertising, based on content, grammar and space requirements.

All work must be approved by the editor-in-chief before going to print. Send

letters to thequichronicle@gmail.com.

The Chronicle follows guidance from The Associated Press and works to ensure that all pieces, including opinions, are well-informed. The staff takes into account all comments and questions and may issue corrections when necessary.

We thank readers for their support of free student press and encourage those with questions about The Chronicle’s editorial guidelines to email thequichronicle@gmail.com.



Jazzy Collins is the first Black Emmy winner for Outstanding Casting for a Reality Program for her work on "The Traitors."

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY JAZZY COLLINS/ TAKEN BY ELIZABETH FORREST

Bringing home the gold

QU alum wins an Emmy for casting on the reality show 'The Traitors'

By JACKLYN PELLEGRINO
Arts & Life Editor

When taking film classes at Quinnipiac University, every student dreams of where their career will take them and what milestones they will accomplish once they graduate.

For Jazzy Collins, a 2014 Quinnipiac film, television and media arts alum and a casting director, dreams became a reality on Jan. 15 when she became the first Black Emmy winner for the category Outstanding Casting for a Reality Program — for her work on “The Traitors.”

“I was in shambles on stage,” Collins said. “I was trying to hold myself together. I was trying not to cry. It was a lot of emotions hitting all at once. Obviously, first is shock and then the second one is being so proud of where I’ve come so far.”

At the same time, Collins said she has a responsibility to pave a path for other Black women who might think they don’t have a chance of working in the film and TV industry.

The casting director worked on “The Traitors” — a murder mystery reality show on Peacock — for six months in casting and production. She interviewed contestants and was able to see them again once they made it on the show.

“Seeing them on set is really, really cool because a lot of people from the casting team usually don’t have that opportunity to be on set as well,” Collins said.

Contestants on the “The Traitors” live in a castle and work in teams to complete

missions to earn up to \$250,000.

One of Collins’ roles was to help explain the rules of the show to contestants during its first season. Collins said she also did welfare, a process in which she helped contestants integrate back into society after being in a high-stress environment.

As a casting director, Collins oversees a casting producer, casting associate, casting managers, casting coordinators and casting editors.

“There’s a lot of us that are all on one team, which is why I can’t take credit for everything,” Collins said. “It’s literally a full-team effort.”

Collins said that the casting team works to find people based on what type of show it is. She said for competition shows such as “The Traitors,” they look for people that have particular jobs or who have the right psychological traits.

“So, can they manipulate?” Collins said. “Can they talk really well? Which is why we thought of a hairstylist or we thought of people that work as a political analyst, because these people can talk, these people can get secrets.”

The casting director has been working in the field for the last decade. She was previously nominated in 2023 for her work on “Lizzo’s Watch Out for the Big Grrrls.”

Collins has worked in casting on several different shows throughout the years, such as “America’s Got Talent,” “The Circle,” “The Bachelor” and “The Bachelorette.”

Prior to her work in the field, Collins’

time at Quinnipiac — especially as a member of Quinnipiac Film Society — taught her a lot.

“Quinnipiac Film Society was something that was near and dear to my heart while I was there,” Collins said. “It really opened up my eyes to how you can look at film differently and how you can collaborate with people that you normally don’t have the chance to collaborate with.”

Collins said she walked into QFS as a first-year that didn’t really know anyone and by the end, she is still friends with some of the people she met today.

“We’re on set for long hours, created these films that may never see the light of day,” Collins said. “But we had so much fun doing

it. That alone, really, I would say impacted my career today.”

Raymond Foery, professor emeritus of communications, said Collins was in his two-part senior seminar class while she was at Quinnipiac.

“She was lively,” Foery said. “She was always opinionated. This was a seminar so I encouraged people to express their opinions and she was never reluctant to. I found her to be intellectually stimulating.”

When he found out that Collins won an Emmy, Foery said he was like a “proud father.”

“When you have students that you’re close to or that you remember fondly, they’re like your children,” Foery said.

“I was in shambles on stage. I was trying to hold myself together.”

– JAZZY COLLINS

'Avatar: The Last Airbender' is just alright

By ALEXANDRA MARTINAKOVA
News Editor

I cannot tell you how many times I have been called a child for watching anime or cartoons, for no other reason besides the fact that these shows are animated.

When you watch those shows as a child, you often don't notice how brutal they can be. Netflix's live-action remake of "Avatar: The Last Airbender" is a striking example of that.

There's a sort of raw cruelty displayed. Accompanied by stunning visuals, Netflix almost managed to hit the mark with this one.

But it didn't.

There were a lot of changes — as seems to be a trend with live-action remakes — from Nickelodeon's show "Avatar: The Last Airbender." Some decent, some bad, but I certainly wasn't expecting to see the massacre of the Air Nomads on my screen in the first 20 minutes of watching.

"Avatar: The Last Airbender" follows Aang (Gordon Cormier), in his journey to master all four elements and stop the Fire Nation from dominating the world.

The world of "Avatar: The Last Airbender" is a beautiful fantasy, with some being able to control, or bend, the four elements — water, earth, fire and air.

Despite being rated PG, Netflix did not shy away from showing the ruthless nature of firebenders and the consequences of the war. It showed humanity, the best and worst parts of it.

I must admit, when it comes to visuals and costume design, this is one of the better remakes I have seen, ultimately redeeming its reputation from the 2010 movie "The Last Airbender."

While not the most realistic, the bending scenes possessed an almost video game-like quality that was fascinating and created an immersive atmosphere.

And I don't care what anyone else says, I loved the CGI version of the animal companions Appa, Momo and even Nyla. They're probably the cutest thing I have seen this year.

Even the dialogue managed to impress me. I was surprised that the writers used a lot of source material that made me scream at my computer in delight when I heard lines like: "My cabbages!" or "Secret tunnel! Secret tunnel!"

But all of that fell flat when accompanied by weak and underwhelming delivery. As much as the actors look like the original characters, they rarely made me feel, well, anything.

There were some exceptions. Arden Cho (June), Maria Zhang (Suki) and Dallas James Liu (Prince Zuko) brought life to their characters, even if Cho and Zhang got about 15 minutes of screen time combined.

There was so much underutilized potential from the main characters, though. Cormier nailed Aang's more sarcastic commentary but failed to deliver in the heavier scenes.

Kiawentiio Tarbell lacked the fire and drive that Katara possessed. Elizabeth Yu, while perhaps bringing more emotional depth to her character early on rather than later in the story, softened Azula's ruthless nature — and I'd like to talk to someone about the decision to not give her her blue flames, because why?

And it took me seven episodes — out of only eight, which is a whole separate issue — to enjoy Sokka's (Ian Ousley) humor because the writers didn't give him any.

The animated series "Avatar: The Last Airbender" might've covered serious topics and powerful emotions like rage and anguish, but at the heart of it, it was humorous.

"Avatar: The Last Airbender" (2024) went for more of a dark tone, emphasizing the hurt and sidelining the jokes.

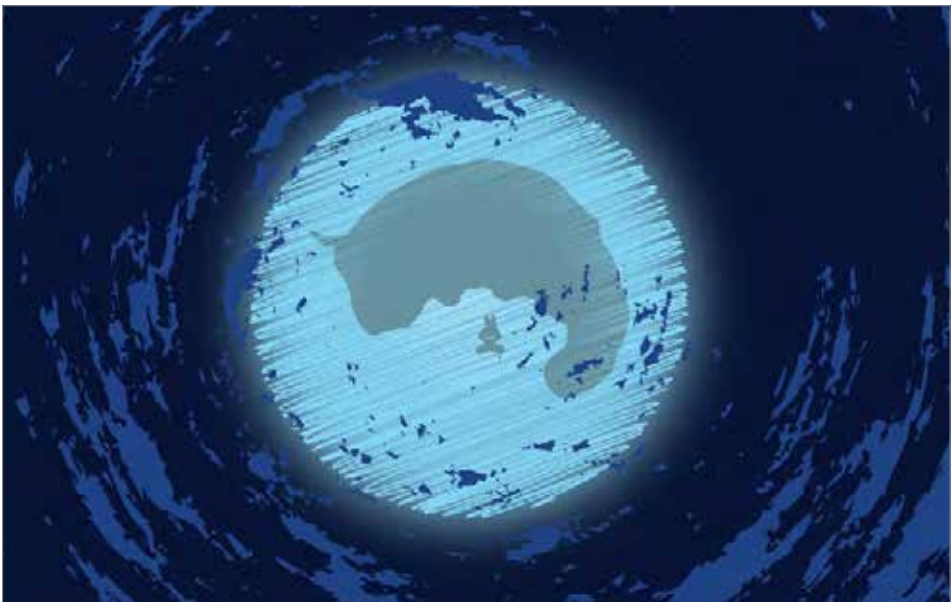


ILLUSTRATION BY SHAVONNE CHIN

Ironically, the writers made a decision early on in the production to cut out Sokka's misogynistic ideals, effectively ruining any character development the man could've had.

There were a few other questionable choices. Stuffing a few episodes worth of content into 50-minute episodes and effectively diminishing the characters involved in the process just doesn't do it for me.

Bringing in Azula and Fire Lord Ozai (Daniel Dae Kim) in this season rather than seasons 2 and 3, respectively, didn't bother me as much as I thought it would. However, I wished the writers kept Ozai faceless until later on like the animated series does, to keep the suspense.

And did I almost shed a tear when I heard the familiar tunes of "Leaves from the Vine" during Uncle Iroh's (Paul Sun-Hyung Lee) son's funeral? Maybe. You have no proof.

But putting Katara and Sokka — siblings,

mind you — into the "love tunnel" scenes which originally belonged to Aang and Katara to showcase the first hints of their connection, just made me stare at my screen in disbelief and denial.

It felt like the show tried to focus on too much at once.

But the first season of the animated show had 20 episodes to introduce everything and let things develop naturally. Trying to condense all that into mere eight episodes, meant that a lot of it was lost or overlooked.

At the end of the day though, I'm conflicted in my opinion. There's so much potential that showmakers just didn't use.

It's not great. But I also can't say it's bad either.

It's just alright. Which, for the live-action remake of a classic like the Nickelodeon show, just shouldn't be enough.

Go home for the holidays with 'The Holdovers'

By ZOE LEONE
Arts & Life Editor

Christmas is traditionally celebrated with family, gathered around tables across the world with lights all aglow as people join with their loved ones for a day of merriment.

That is, of course, if you are not Paul Hunham (Paul Giamatti), Angus Tully (Dominic Sessa) or Mary Lamb (Da'Vine Joy Randolph) — the main trio in the critically acclaimed film "The Holdovers."

Because then you are stuck at a snowy New England boarding school in 1970, relegated to a building with next to no heat and the pain of loss simmering in your belly. It may be Christmastime, but life isn't always easy.

Especially not for these three.

Hunham is a cantankerous history teacher pushing against the grain of boarding school life, trying to shape the minds of his spoiled and unwilling students into getting somewhat of an honest education. Angus is a high school junior with a rocky past, his family just as unreliable as his behavior. And Mary is the school's head cook, gripped by the fresh reins of grief as she mourns the loss of her son — a soldier who died in the Vietnam War.

They are all suffering. They all feel alone, ostracized and sticking out like a sore thumb, as it's as clear to the world as it is to them that they are painfully adrift. So when Hunham and Mary are forced to stay over break and care for Angus — who's been left behind by his mother and new stepfather — over the winter holiday, they break and bond in unlikely ways.

It starts out rocky. Angus is determined to rebel in any way possible, to punish the world

for all he has lost and been forced to endure. He grinds roughly against Hunham, their soon-to-be-discovered similarities making for explosive fights in Greek and cursing as they learn more about each other's pasts.

Mary is the balm between the men. Her suffering is the freshest, the pain of losing her son only compounded by the cheer of the holiday season. They treat her with a care they refuse each other, but between Mary's caring hands and excellent food, she forces them into a learned warmth and empathy.

Randolph shines just as much as her

character does. Her performance as a Bostonian mother learning to put together the pieces of her life strikes a powerful chord, one that can be easily felt without having to suffer in the same ways. She moves effortlessly across the screen — so much so that she has already walked away with wins at the Golden Globes, Critics' Choice Awards, Independent Spirit Awards and Screen Actors Guild Awards.

Her "Best Supporting Actress" Oscar is imminent, and well-deserved.

Giamatti and Sessa don't get left behind in Randolph's triumph, however. Both give

excellent performances as men in different stages of life, one just beginning and one looking back, but both working through their pain, regardless.

Hunham and Angus are two sides of the same coin and it's a joy to watch them begin to learn so. From pill bottles to familial fears, the two men start to realize how much they have in common, how much their pain strikes a similar chord. They begin to care for each other — not just as teacher and student, but as people too.

The film is just as visually stunning as its performances. Director Alexander Payne and cinematographer Eigil Bryld worked together to use inventive film techniques to give the movie a similar visual to the '70s films of the era. From filming with a digital camera with special lenses to creating a specific lookup table to color-grade the film, the resulting visuals are immersive, wholly transporting the audience back to New England in 1970.

"The Holdovers" is a film that was made with care, about people who care, and that's where its biggest success lies.

People know pain and suffering well. They know it in their bones, in their blood, in their spirit. They carry it on their backs as they walk through their day, trying to take it down when it rears its ugly head at others.

But "The Holdovers" shows the other side of pain — love. And as Hunham, Angus and Mary navigate the dwindling days of the year, with milestones and celebrations afoot, they come to learn that perhaps it's the love we have for one another that binds us together, and not the pain that comes with being human.



ILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

Asian Student Alliance welcomes the Year of the Dragon

By KRYSTAL MILLER
Associate Arts & Life Editor

Sparkly outfits, red and gold balloons, streamers and tables draped in red covered Burt Kahn Court for the Asian Student Alliance's celebration of Lunar New Year on Feb. 22.

The event included a variety of Asian cuisines, such as fried rice, egg rolls, crab rangoon, lo mein and dumplings. Students made dragon-themed crafts while waiting for dinner.

Nancy Nguyen, ASA's public relations director and a sophomore nursing major, explained how Lunar New Year commemorates the arrival of spring in the Chinese calendar.

"So this year, it's the Year of the Dragon," Nguyen said. "So it's basically just a celebration with family and friends. Just a time to be together for the new year."

The Year of the Dragon symbolizes power, honor, luck and nobility. In the Chinese zodiac, dragons are known for being significant and powerful creatures.

Nguyen said this year's event differs from last year because previously the ASA did a traditional Chinese fan dance, but this year the Ju Long Wushu Chinese Martial Arts Training Center — located in South Windsor,

Connecticut — performed a lion dance to promote good luck and fortune.

"As a kid I would always watch (lion dancing) with my family and it's always just really fun to watch no matter how old you are," Nguyen said.

Children of all ages gracefully danced across the gym in colorful attire and completed various dance positions in perfect sequence. The bright yellow and red lions quickly grabbed the attention of the audience and left the energy in the room full of happiness and cheer.

Nguyen's role in the process was helping with the organization's social media accounts, creating the flyers and spreading the word of the event.

"The main purpose is to just have fun, and to try different things, try different foods and we also incorporate some culture and learning experiences from our presentation so it's also a learning experience for more people to learn about the Asian culture," Nguyen said.

Victoria Michaud, a first-year radiologic science major, found out about the Lunar New Year event through Instagram. She said she was looking forward to the performance and the food the most.

"I've never really been to a Lunar New Year

celebration, I wanted ... (to) really explore the culture," Michaud said. "I've always heard about it, I never had a chance to really go to a celebration, even eat the food."

Naomi Gorero, the president of ASA and a senior sociology major, said that Lunar New Year is considered one of the biggest celebrations in many Asian cultures and it also has great meaning for many members of the organization.

"I personally celebrate it in my family, and a lot of the e-board members celebrate this holiday as well and so it's a great way to incorporate what we celebrate and share it with other people and show the significance of Asian holidays," Gorero said.

The main goal throughout the two-month process of planning the event was educating students about the history, culture and importance of this holiday.

"So I think that's like one of the biggest purposes of Lunar New Year is we try to create a space where everyone could feel safe, but also be represented," Gorero said.

The president said that performing last year in front of a large crowd was nerve-wracking for her, so it was fun to see professionals do it this year.

"I haven't seen ... a lion dance performance in such a long time, so it's bringing a lot of nostalgia for me," Gorero said.

Colby Chung, a senior in the physician assistant program, has gone to this event for years. Coming from a Chinese family, Chung said he wanted more people to know about Lunar New Year traditions.

"I talked to some of my friends in college here and they know nothing about it, so I do find it fun and interesting to see other people react to the kinds of traditions that we do," Chung said.

Chung added that Lunar New Year is a time for community, and everyone gets to have a meal together.

"Every single time I come (to the event), I ... sit at a random table and I get to meet new people, and I think that's a good thing," Chung said.

After taking an exam, Krisztina Buzas, a graduate molecular and cell biology student, said she wanted to have a celebratory dinner at the event.

"I thought (the performance) was great, it was nice to see different cultural perspectives," Buzas said. "I haven't seen a performance like this before and it was really cute."



The Ju Long Wushu Chinese Martial Arts Training Center performs a lion dance at the Lunar New Year celebration.



The Asian Student Alliance drapes Burt Kahn court in red, featuring symbol of the new year — the dragon.

The golden age of Ayo Edebiri

By ZOE LEONE
Arts & Life Editor

They say home is where the heart is, but god I love the Irish — well, the fake Irish at least.

I'm talking, of course, about everyone's favorite Hollywood darling: Ayo Edebiri. And while the actress is actually from Boston — the Ireland bit started in March of last year when Edebiri joked that she played Jenny the Donkey in "The Banshees of Inisherin" — her appeal across country lines is for good reason.

While Edebiri had minor roles in movies and television spanning several years, her big break undeniably came from her role as Sydney Adamu in the critically acclaimed Hulu hit, "The Bear." Sydney is the antithesis of Jeremy Allen White's Carmy Berzatto; where he is by the book and bordering on neurotic, his sous chef brings a warmth and level-headedness to the kitchen that puts Carmy's anxiety on a low boil.

The praise for the actress quickly came rolling in after the first season premiered. And while the actors' and writers' strike postponed the arrival of award season, the delay proved to be no match for Edebiri. In the past few months, she's gone home with an Emmy, a Golden Globe, a Critics' Choice award, a Screen Actors Guild award and a Film Independent Spirit award.

However, her media domination — which

also includes a recurring role on "Abbott Elementary" — hasn't just been limited to TV. Edebiri has graced the silver screen in movies that have generated just as much of a cult following as "The Bear."

Edebiri lent her voice to the beloved "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse" and "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem," proving that her charisma is strong enough to uphold even when she's not visually on screen.

But her roles in 2023's "Bottoms" and "Theater Camp" solidified her star status. "Bottoms" saw her hang up her chef apron in favor of playing a socially awkward high schooler who starts a fight club with her best friend to pick up girls, while "Theater Camp" featured the actress as a counselor who violently

lied on her resume and finds herself teaching stunt classes to overzealous theater kids.

Edebiri has proved she has the skills to be a lasting star. But her extraordinary skyrocket of popularity has to do with her charm and seemingly effortless personality as much as it does with her acting chops (and gorgeous face).

Where some actors seem to flounder when it comes to interviews and social media appeal, Edebiri excels. From her endlessly amusing relationship with Ireland — multiple Irish publications have proudly claimed her as one of their own — to her repeated horror at being asked about White's infamous Calvin Klein ads, this year's award season media circuit has proven that she has the charisma to last.

Edebiri's personality, however, manages to never seem fake. Her surprise at every award show sweep seems genuine, which makes it even easier to root for her. She's naturally cool, the kind of celebrity that you desperately want to be your best friend.

After all, not everyone gets the "Pride & Prejudice" hype, but Edebiri, who revealed to Matthew Macfadyen — Mr. Darcy himself — that she once got grounded for having him as her screen saver, seems like the perfect viewing partner.

It doesn't hurt that much of Hollywood's current group of favorites love Edebiri just as much as the rest of the world. Between her co-stars on "The Bear," Quinta Brunson, Emma Seligman and even Taylor Swift, the industry is in agreement that the actress is a star in her own right.

Edebiri already has a slew of upcoming projects slated — season three of "The Bear" is set to return in June, as well as a handful of star-studded films — and we can only hope that her universal belovedness will keep her booked for years to come.

So while the actress and I both share a lack of hobbies outside of watching movies and TV, I'm adding a new one to my list: being a full-time Ayo Edebiri fan.



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX KENDALL

South Asian Society brings Bollywood to the Bobcats

By GEORGE MADDALONI
Staff Photographer

Aiming to educate students on Indian culture, the South Asian Society hosted its annual Bollywood Fest in the Mt. Carmel Auditorium for a night filled with food, dance, songs and more. It all began with a feast of Indian food like gulab jamun, vegetable biryani, samosas, garlic naan and chicken malabar. While students ate, general-board chair Mahee Saxena delivered a presentation on the history and modern figures in Bollywood. Then came the Kahoot! quiz with amazing prizes. The next half of the event was dedicated to dance and performance, starting with all five members of the executive board participating in a choreographed dance. An enchanting night, capped off with an enchanting performance.



Sophomore 3+1 biology major and SAS club events coordinator Sarita Nagesar participates in one of the multiple Bollywood dances put on during the night. "It's important that people see our culture, people see what we do, because dance is honestly a big part of our culture," Nagesar said.



SAS general board chair Shreeya Patel, a sophomore biomedical sciences major, takes part in the e-board dance.



Students are invited to learn a simple Bollywood dance together. "No matter what culture you come from, you can always partake in other peoples' culture respectfully," Kavya Patel said.



At the center of the e-board dance is club president Ohm Patel, a junior in the 3+3 finance and accounting program.



Amith Dandanayakula, a graduate student in the business analytics program, passionately delivers a monologue from the Bollywood movie "Yamadonga." "I am citing a sanskrit monologue— which tells that all humans are equal, and everyone has equal rights," Dandanayakula later explained about the cultural importance of the monologue, which denounces the inequalities of the caste system.



SAS general board chair Mahee Saxena, sophomore biomedical sciences major, delivers a presentation on Bollywood history.

Men’s tennis aiming to erase decade-long title drought

By **ALEXANDRA MARTINAKOVA**
News Editor

It’s been a decade since Quinnipiac’s men’s tennis entered the MAAC, and it has yet to raise the conference trophy. This year’s squad is set on changing that.

“I think we have a team that can pull off winning the whole thing, but we have to put it together,” head coach Bryan Adinolfi said. “We’re not counting on it without working hard.”

Last year, Siena eliminated the Bobcats in a tight 4-3 MAAC semifinal. This season’s roster sports six returners and only three new additions.

“I think that our returners are gonna bring us experience and the match toughness that we need,” Adinolfi said. “We’re very excited about the additions.”

The Bobcats were picked second in the MAAC Preseason Coaches Poll, bested by Fairfield.

“I think this is the strongest team I have been a part of in my four years,” senior Shaurya Sood said.

It’s been a rocky start for Quinnipiac, though. As of publication, the Bobcats sit at 2-7 in non-conference matches, losing the last four meets in a row.

With the current line-up, Quinnipiac is not out of contention yet.

Freshman Finn Burridge won four-straight matches, his first loss coming over the week-end against Army.

“(Burridge) is fighting for the sixth spot, but definitely helping us on the doubles line-up with the big serve,” Adinolfi said of the Auckland, New Zealand, native.

Burridge sits at 4-5 in doubles. For the past six meets, he’s been partnered with sophomore Csanad Nyaradi, after his previous partner — freshman Carlos Braun Simo — suffered a shoulder injury following the Jan. 28 meet at Yale. Simo has been out since, despite earning MAAC Player of the Week the same week.

The “secret weapon” of the team is UC Riverside graduate transfer Daniel Velek.

“He is great, very hard worker and a great competitor,” Adinolfi said. “At the No. 1 position, he’s making our team stronger because we believe he can win consistently.”

So far, the Sezimovo Usti, Czech Republic, native is 5-4 in singles.

“I play with (Velek) at No. 1 doubles,” Sood said. “He’s probably one of the best players this team has had, I would say.”

The graduate-senior doubles team has the same record of 5-4 in the season so far.

“(Velek) is pushing all the other guys down in the line-up, which is great,” Adinolfi said.

At the No. 2 position, senior captain Aya-

to Arakaki has not had much success yet, sitting at 2-6 and losing the last four singles. He and senior Donovan Brown sit at the No. 3 spot in doubles, having played together for the past three years.

When it comes to the doubles pairings, Adinolfi isn’t that worried.

“I’ve seen us play really well and I’ve seen us get blown out,” Adinolfi said. “I think we just need to improve the fundamentals, like first-serve percentage and making returns. If we just hone those, I think that the pairings we have can win doubles points.”

Arakaki has been the backbone of Quinnipiac for the past two years, according to Adinolfi, who called him “a great leader and just a machine when it comes to working hard.”

Sood and Brown are both 3-6 in singles. Nyaradi sits at 2-7, but Adinolfi praises their experience and toughness nonetheless.

Sophomore Gaurav Mootha has only made two appearances in the season so far, losing both of his matches in straight sets.

“We lost a couple of matches that I feel like we could’ve won and we definitely have work to do,” Adinolfi said.

The only player on the roster who has yet to make an appearance in the line-up is junior Yasha Laskin.

“(Laskin) is a great teammate and works hard in practice,” Adinolfi said. “He’s fighting for the No. 6 singles spot, but we’re trying to go as full strength as we can. He’s right there for both singles and doubles, just hasn’t gotten into a match yet.”

Despite the rough few weeks, Adinolfi remains optimistic. He knows he has a close team and praised its great chemistry.

“Tennis is very difficult sometimes, mentally it can be very frustrating,” the second-year head coach said. “There’s no one else to blame except yourself and during matches you will see our guys supporting each other.”

As Adinolfi noted, a lot of times that kind of energy can make a difference and “the team that wants it more ... definitely can make a difference between a win or loss.”

This year’s Bobcats are rich in foreign talent. Seven out of the nine players on the roster are international students.

Arakaki hails from Saitama, Japan. Sood and Mootha both come from India. Nyaradi is Hungarian and Simo is a Munich, Germany native.

“I think it’s such a positive thing,” Adinolfi said. “Some of the guys potentially have a different work ethic which is great to blend with everyone else.”



Senior Shaurya Sood prepares to return in a match against Merrimack on Jan. 28, 2023.



Sophomore Nikole Lisovsky backhands the ball during a match against Stonehill on Feb. 10.

Women’s tennis ‘working well together’ ahead of MAAC slate

By **ALEXANDRA MARTINAKOVA**
News Editor

Ask the players, ask the coach — if they had to describe Quinnipiac women’s tennis in one word, it would be “young.”

And rightfully so. Out of the 10 players on this year’s roster, four are freshmen and two are transfers.

“You never know how the freshmen are gonna compete on the court,” head coach Paula Miller said. “But they are all fighters and they’re competing every day. It’s been great even with so many new players.”

And they haven’t been faring half bad, sitting 3-6 in pre-conference matches.

“We have a very new team, but I think everybody adjusted really well,” senior Dominique Yeo said. “If you bring a lot of new people in, they have a lot of energy because they want to win the ring. Everybody’s very motivated and working hard.”

When it comes to Yeo, a Saint Francis University transfer from the Netherlands, Miller had only positive things to say.

“(Yeo’s) a leader on and off the court,” Miller said. “She was a captain at her other school, so she has that leader role which we need. She pushes them a little bit more. She’s one of the strongest girls on our team and she’s been a great addition to our program.”

But then again, there’s not one player Miller can point out in either a positive or

negative context.

“I can’t even tell you who my top six are,” Miller said. “I’ve been impressed with all of them. I didn’t think we’d be as strong as we are for such a young team, but they really compete and it’s been great.”

Freshman Caitlin Flower was recently named the MAAC Player of the Week. She had been undefeated on the season, but as of Feb. 26 she sits 5-3 in singles.

Flower is a well-rounded player, consistently playing at the No. 4-5 position, which could change soon.

“I knew she was a good player coming in,” Miller said. “We’re looking to possibly move her up because she’s been doing so well. She’s been working hard on things we’ve talked about to get her better mentally and physically.”

Flower, alongside freshman Caroline Schulson — the “freshman duo doubles team” as Miller dubbed them — stands at 8-5 in the season in doubles.

“(Flower and Schulson) have actually been together since almost the beginning,” Miller said. “They are the one team that I’ve kind of stuck with since they’ve been doing really well.”

Though, as Miller said, “you never know.”

For a team to secure one doubles point, it has to win two out of the three one-set doubles matches. So far, Quinnipiac won that point only three times. Coincidentally, every time

the Bobcats secured that point, they ended up winning the meet.

But Miller is optimistic and continues to play around with the pairings.

“I think we are a great team in doubles and that’s something that we haven’t had in the past,” Miller said. “I’m big into closing the net and putting balls away, getting as close as you can. It’s just the matter of finding the right combinations in that aspect.”

Schulson has been another great addition — and not just in doubles. Undefeated in her high school career, she’s proved to be a real “surprise,” playing a higher No. 3-4 position than the No. 5-6 Miller expected her to.

“I know her private coach and he told me she was working really hard this summer,” Miller said. “She improved a lot before coming to this school and she’s been a great surprise for how well she’s been playing.”

Freshmen Ella Lewis and Anagha Shankar are right up there in Miller’s praises as well, Shankar securing the No. 1 position, and earning MAAC Player of the Week early in the season.

Despite the fresh faces that shine in this team, the returners are nothing to snooze on.

Sophomore Vera Sekerina was a clinch player for the Bobcats in 2023, securing the No. 2 position for this season. Graduate Jordan Bradley is 2-2 so far, sitting comfortably at the No. 5-6 position along with sophomore Nikole Lisovsky.

However, there are Bobcats that have yet to

see the spotlight.

Graduate student Jenna Sloan is out with a wrist injury. Senior Alexandra Luehrman — a law student — has been tied up with academic responsibilities.

“I’ve never had a 3+3 law student on a team before,” Miller said. “That fourth year of their eligibility is difficult, which we knew but I wanted to try it out.”

Unfortunately, as Miller added, “It’s really kinda not doable so she’s not around too much, but she comes when she can.”

In its nature, tennis is a very individual sport. However, in college play, the importance of the team cannot get lost, and that’s something Miller emphasized to her players early on.

“We tell them at practice to always cheer for each other,” Miller said. “They are learning the team aspect of it, it’s not all just playing individual tournaments where it’s all about you. They took a little bit in the fall to understand that.”

But a team is much more than just the players. Often, it’s the coach who makes or breaks it. That’s not a problem for the Bobcats.

“(Miller’s a) very organized coach with clear goals,” Yeo said. “She’s very experienced and she knows what it takes for us to win. We had good practices and really good results against some tougher teams. I definitely think the team is working well together.”

Women’s ice hockey returning to form as quarterfinal series with Cornell looms

By CAT MURPHY
News Editor

After gliding into 2024 looking almost unstoppable, Quinnipiac women’s ice hockey skidded through the last six weeks of the regular season looking, well, pretty stoppable.

The team’s fumbles in that final stretch cast serious doubt on the prospect of a deep playoff run. But with the ECAC Hockey playoffs now underway, those doubts seem unreasonably pessimistic — maybe even unwarranted altogether — in retrospect.

The Bobcats turned their first taste of the playoffs into a nine-course meal on Saturday, swallowing Harvard whole in a 9-0 blowout.

“We like playoff hockey,” head coach Cass Turner said.

It’s important to point out that last-place Harvard is the runt of the ECAC litter as far as opponents go — and Quinnipiac’s upcoming conference quarterfinals opponent, No. 4 Cornell, most definitely isn’t.

But even then, Quinnipiac’s all-star showing on Saturday gives at least some indication of the team’s vibe heading into this coming weekend.

Statistically, the Bobcats put on one of their best performances of the season against the Crimson.

Of course, Captain Obvious will point out Saturday’s score. And rightfully so: you shouldn’t be able to measure a hockey game’s score in field goals.

The Bobcats hounded the Harvard net with an overwhelming 42 shots on goal, recording both their fifth-highest shot count and fifth-highest shot percentage of the season.

But even against a team that has been shut out more times than it has won, nine goals in 60 minutes is a feat — particularly because those nine goals came from seven different forwards

across all four of Quinnipiac’s lines.

“It’s just being relentless in our mentality and playing a team game,” Turner said. “And when you play that way, it could be anybody who puts the puck in the net.”

It’s worth remembering that offensive woes were a key component of Quinnipiac’s late-season slog. For the better part of the six weeks leading up to Saturday’s matchup, the Bobcats lacked their characteristic offensive coordination and struggled to create scoring opportunities — even when they did, they struggled to capitalize.

All this to say that the team’s offensive consistency against Harvard is undoubtedly a promising sign of a return to the status quo.

But the scoreboard was far from the only place where Quinnipiac excelled against the Crimson.

Defensively, the Bobcats allowed just 19 shots on goal Saturday, the same number they recorded in the first period alone.

For perspective, the Bobcats haven’t held a team to fewer than 20 shots since December. But Quinnipiac’s ability to win is, to no one’s surprise, tied directly to its ability to defend its own zone. The Bobcats are 13-1 when allowing fewer than 25 shots but 4-10 when allowing at least 35. How well the Bobcats play in front of Angers will determine the outcome of the three-game series at Cornell.

Discipline — and, more accurately, a lack thereof — has defined Quinnipiac’s season. The Bobcats won or tied 84% of games in which they served seven or fewer penalty minutes (20-4-1). But when the Bobcats racked up eight or more penalty minutes, their chances of winning dropped to 50% (5-5).

To put it another way: more than half of Quinnipiac’s nine losses this season came in games where the Bobcats committed at least four minor penalties (or, in one instance,



JACK SPIEGEL/CHRONICLE

Graduate student forward Julia Nearis scores a wrap-around goal in Quinnipiac’s 9-0 win over Harvard in the first round of the ECAC Hockey Tournament on Feb. 25.

two minors and a major).

But, for the first time in over a year, the Bobcats managed to avoid the penalty box entirely against Harvard. And with only a middle-of-the-road penalty kill, trips to the sin bin have the potential to make or break Quinnipiac’s postseason run. The Bobcats proved in Saturday’s blowout win that they can stay out of the box — the question is whether they can continue to avoid the box under pressure.

“It’s going to continue to be really important,” Turner said. “We have a great goalie who can really help us in the PK, but if we can find ourselves out of the box, that’s where we want to be.”

Quinnipiac may not beat the Big Red by nine but that’s not to say it can’t win.

Of all the ECAC teams the Bobcats could

face in the postseason, Cornell is probably the easiest to beat. Because Cornell isn’t Clarkson or St. Lawrence, and it certainly isn’t ECAC top-seeded Colgate.

The last time the Bobcats took on the Big Red in Ithaca, they left the Empire State with a 3-1 win. And back in January, it had taken Quinnipiac just 39 seconds to erase Cornell’s late two-goal lead, even if the Bobcats then let up the game-winner with under a minute to play.

Bottom line: Cornell is beatable.

Take what you will from Quinnipiac’s dominating defeat of a team batting .200 on the season. But if the Bobcats can replicate even half of their opening round performance in the quarterfinals, they have more than a solid chance of coming out of this weekend’s best-of-three series at Cornell on top.

Indoor track and field places second at MAAC Championships, still hunting for elusive title

By CAMERON LEVASSEUR
Sports Editor

NEW YORK — It would’ve taken near perfection for Quinnipiac to pull off an upset over defending conference champion Rider in this weekend’s MAAC indoor track and field championships at The Armory in Manhattan.

The Bobcats didn’t achieve perfection — few rarely do — but they still managed to excel on the track and in the jumps, winning six events and scoring 153 points for a decisive second-place finish only to the Broncs’ 179.5.

It’s the fourth-straight season and sixth time since joining the MAAC in 2013 that Quinnipiac has finished runner-up. The program is still searching for its first conference title in track and field.

“Each year is a little different and sometimes things go your way and sometimes they don’t,” head coach Carolyn Martin said. “I think we had a chance to go after it and some things didn’t go quite like we had anticipated and that’s okay.”

Midway through the second day of competition, it seemed like things were going in the Bobcats’ favor.

Bolstered by a day one upset in the high jump by freshman Shaelyn Murphy, Quinnipiac pulled off early day two victories by senior Alessandra Zaffina in the mile and sophomore Nyasia Dailey in the 60m to close in on Rider’s lead.

Then junior Rylie Smith stepped on the track, first repeating as MAAC champion in the 400-meter before doubling up with another gold in the 200m.

“I knew since we had a really short break after that before the (200m), I had to give it everything I had,” Smith said.

Smith’s performance, later supplemented by another win in the 4x400m relay, earned her honors as the meet’s Most Outstanding Track Performer.

“She’s tremendous, she doesn’t really get frazzled,” Martin said. “She just stays steady and she goes and she does what she knows she can do.”

Smith’s wins helped the Bobcats leapfrog Rider on the scoreboard, while podium finishes for freshman Ashlynn Witt in the 800m and sophomore Sydney Lavelle in the 60m hurdles drove their lead to double digits.

Quinnipiac maintained its lead into the 3000m, where 6-7-8 finishes from seniors Corinne Barney, Zaffina and Liv DiStefano measured up with a third place finish for Broncs’ junior Jordan O’Neill.

But it wasn’t enough cushion to survive the final hour of the meet, where Rider took a combined 43 points to the Bobcats’ two in the shot put and triple jump and created an insurmountable gap with just the relays left to run.

“After like the 200’s, I thought ‘O.K., we’ve got a shot,’” Martin said. “But then it started to get a little further away from us. We don’t really have a throws program right now, so that’s something that I’d love to be able to grow and that would help us as well. Having those throws come in really just pushed the hammer on us and that hurt.”

Coming up short doesn’t discredit the success Quinnipiac saw on the weekend.

In addition to the six event wins, 20 athletes put points on the board and 17 recorded personal bests, including freshman Olivia DeBellis, who broke the school record in the pole vault with a 3.60m clear.

It took that collective effort to put the Bobcats in contention, establishing a more than 50-point lead on third place Mount St. Mary’s.

“I love being in the hunt, and that’s all that I ask of these ladies,” Martin said. “It makes it so much more fun when you can be in the hunt in a championship.”

Entering the outdoor season, that’s exactly where the Bobcats remain — in the hunt, biding their time again after being forced to watch Rider swag surf and do the worm across the infield like it owns it. For now, the Broncs do. But little by little, this roster — already comprised of two dozen MAAC cross country champions — is discovering what it takes to do the same on the track.

“I think that we fought really hard. We did everything we could,” Smith said. “Hopefully for outdoors, we’ll come back stronger.”

“We’re hungry, this group is hungry, and they want to be in the hunt every time,” Martin said. “So that’s the plan, keep going after it.”



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Freshman Shaelyn Murphy clears 1.63m to win a jump off against Rider’s Savanna Marcantonio for the MAAC title on Feb. 24.

LOUD and CLEARY



TRIPP MENHALL/CHRONICLE

Men’s hockey raises record fourth-straight Cleary Cup in resounding win at Brown

By CAMERON LEVASSEUR
Sports Editor

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The most intense moment from Quinnipiac men’s hockey’s 5-2 win over Brown Friday came 356 miles away in Potsdam, New York.

The Bobcats needed a win, combined with anything but a regulation win for Cornell to take home their fourth-straight Cleary Cup as ECAC Hockey regular season champions. The Big Red were at Clarkson, hoping to hang onto a chance for a share of the title.

Holding a 3-2 lead with 30 seconds remaining, it seemed like Cornell would stay in the fight. Then a centering pass from Golden Knights graduate student forward Anthony Romano deflected off the helmet of classmate Mathieu Gosselin and into the net. Then came a review, a celebration and a final 26 seconds without a goal. And six hours away in Providence, Quinnipiac — which had just headed to the locker room — retook the ice to lift the trophy.

“We talk a lot about things that we’re going to do in September and October, and if we do these things right and stay the course the whole year we’ll get rewarded in February or March,” head coach Rand Pecknold said. “So this is a huge reward.”

Quinnipiac’s seventh-overall regular season title also makes the Bobcats the first team in conference history to win four-straight outright championships.

“Every game is a grind no matter what throughout the year,” graduate student defenseman CJ McGee said. “So it’s nice that we won a trophy here and then hopefully we can continue that grind and win a couple more.”

As for the game itself, the Bobcats came out of the gates sluggish, not connecting on passes and waiting too long to shoot. But they found their stride in the final third of the first period, scoring four goals in under six minutes as Brown showed its true colors as a perennial ECAC punching bag.

A great net-front feed from junior forward Jacob Quillan to freshman forward Mason Marcellus set the stage for the opening goal. Marcellus grabbed the pass and fired it across the slot to classmate and linemate Andon Cerbone, who one-timed the puck past Brown freshman netminder Lawton Zacher.

Just seven seconds later, sophomore forward

Anthony Cipollone doubled the Bobcats’ lead, catching a break-in chip off the boards in stride and finding nothing but twine on his shot.

Senior forward Travis Treloar netted the game’s third goal four minutes later. Then sophomore defenseman Charles-Alexis Legault made the gap four, beating Zacher in the final minute of the period.

“I thought Brown battled hard,” Pecknold said. “We were fortunate in the first to score some goals, we had some great grade-A (chances).”

After being embarrassed in the first, Brown outshot Quinnipiac 6-5 in the second but failed to make up any ground on the scoreboard. Sig-

naling defeat, the Bears abandoned their game plan as the period wound down, playing the body in every possible situation — even if it meant overskating the puck.

“We gave up a lot of chances against, but luckily we scored those four early and were able to kind of hang on a little bit,” McGee said. “I think we could’ve been a bit more offensive late and then the game got a little chippy, which wasn’t very great.”

Graduate student forward Zach Tupker gave the visitors a 5-0 lead midway through the third, but Brown found new life in the final 10 minutes of the game.

The Bears scored a pair of goals — assisted by a few defensive breakdowns and untimely penalties for the Bobcats — to make the final a more respectable 5-2.

“You get up 4-0, you think it’s going to be easy, and it’s not going to be easy, it’s quite hard,” Pecknold said. “I thought our first was really good, not clean, but you win on the road and (now) you just get on the bus and get out of here.”

Because Quinnipiac played Yale in a conference game in the first round of the Connecticut Ice Tournament, the Bobcats get Saturday off. They wrap up the regular season with a pair of home bouts against Clarkson and St. Lawrence on March 1 and 2.

The focus until then?

“I think it’s just the little details,” McGee said. “When we play our game and we play the right way, we can beat anybody, and we can go win another national championship. So making sure we’re focusing on the little details and making sure we’re doing everything right is a big thing.”



TRIPP MENHALL/CHRONICLE

From right: Sophomore forward Anthony Cipollone celebrates with senior defenseman Cooper Moore and junior forward Cristophe Tellier after scoring against Brown on Feb. 23.