

Quinnipiac hosts global officials to mark anniversary of war in Ukraine



CASEY WIEDERHOLD/CHRONICLE

By ALEX MARTINAKOVA and LILY PHILIPCZAK

Quinnipiac University's Central European Institute held a conference about the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine War on Feb. 25 in the Mt. Carmel Auditorium in the Center for Communications, Computing and Engineering.

President Judy Olian opened the event with a short speech following a few initial comments from CEI Director Christopher Ball.

"This is a somber moment, commemorating a year-long invasion of Russia on Ukraine," Olian said. "We have to remember that this is not a happy anniversary, and there is nothing to celebrate other than the admiration and resilience of the Ukrainians."

The event, titled "Passing the One-Year Mark: How the Ukrainian Displacement Crisis Shapes European and American Policy," was sponsored by the Novak Family Polish Chair and multiple student-run organizations, including the Quinnipiac Democrats and College Republicans.

The conference featured multiple panels and speakers, including scholars, diplomats, global policy experts and lawmakers such as Connecticut Sen. Richard Blumenthal.

Not a single chair in the auditorium was unoccupied. Many guests trickled in and out as the panels progressed, listening to the panelists talk despite the snowy weather.

Blumenthal talked about his recent visits to the war-torn country. He said he met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy both before and after the war began.

"America has really come together in

See UKRAINE Page 2

Audit shows 'significant deficiencies' in QU's financial recordkeeping

By CAT MURPHY

Associate News Editor

Quinnipiac University may have to buy out several students' loans after repeatedly mishandling federal student loan documentation, according to the university's annual independent financial audit.

Released in January 2023, the university's fiscal year 2021-22 audit report identified "significant deficiencies" in its internal management of major federal loan programs. Independent auditing firm Marcum LLP found that Quinnipiac officials were "unable to produce original promissory notes" for several students in loan repayment.

Promissory notes are binding legal documents in which a borrower promises to repay a loan, according to the Department of Education. Without a promissory note, institutions can neither prove that a student agreed to pay back their loan nor enforce the loan.

In effect, a paperwork mishap on an institution's behalf can make student loans unenforceable.

Federal regulations therefore require institutions to "keep the original promissory notes and repayment schedules until the loans are satisfied."

Alternatively, institutions must maintain copies of promissory notes if it cannot maintain the original note. Notes must also be kept in a "locked, fireproof container" and made accessible only to authorized person-

nel, per federal law.

It is unclear if Quinnipiac officials followed these procedures.

"The university does not comment on (inquiries) related to university finances," wrote John Pettit III, associate director of public relations, in a statement to the Chronicle on Feb. 24.

Per the audit, university officials could not locate at least six students' loan notes. The FY 2021-22 audit report states that a "breakdown of controls" caused university officials to discard or misplace original

promissory notes during "departmental reorganizations" and "office moves."

Each of the six missing promissory notes originated between 1992 and 2011 and pertained to the Federal Perkins Loan Program, a since-ended, need-based federal loan program, according to the most recent audit.

In 2019 the Department of Education began mandating colleges and universities to transfer to the U.S. government all Perkins loans that had not been repaid in at least two years. In doing so, the institution gives up its rights to collect payments on the loan, ac-

cording to the Department of Education.

However, an institution cannot reassign loans without the original promissory notes. Accordingly, Quinnipiac officials cannot comply with the federal mandate if they cannot locate the students' missing loan notes, per the audit.

"Failure to maintain the original promissory notes puts the University at risk that the loans will not be accepted when assigned," the auditor wrote. "We recommend strengthening controls around promissory notes and ongoing review of loan documents for federal loan recipients."

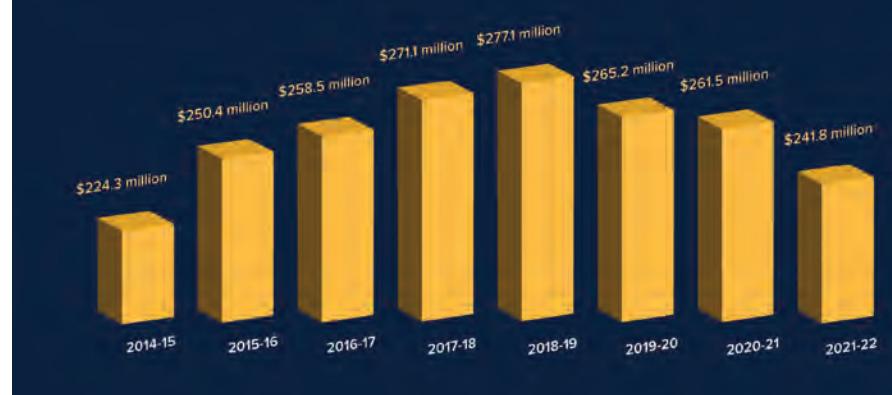
Notably, the university's FY 2020-21 financial audit identified the same internal control deficiency.

Marcum LLP found in 2021 that Quinnipiac officials were unable to produce original promissory notes for three of 25 students in federal loan repayment under the Perkins Loan Program. The original notes dated back to 1990, 1992 and 1995, according to the report.

The university issued a corrective action plan at the time to address the deficiencies identified in the FY 20-21 report.

The corrective action plan included a commitment to reviewing all remaining student loan records. The plan also stated that

QUINNIPAC UNIVERSITY NET TUITION REVENUE



INFOGRAPHIC BY LINDSEY KOMSON

See AUDIT Page 2

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UKRAINE from cover

support of Ukraine," Blumenthal said. "And my goal is that I go back to Washington and to make sure we continue to do so."

However, 8 million Ukrainian people, mainly women with young children, fled their country in hopes to escape the horrors they were facing. Some of those came to the U.S., including to Connecticut, with the hope to either one day return home or start a new life in the U.S., according to Blumenthal.

"(Refugees) should be welcome in this country," Blumenthal said. "I want to say that I will be offering legislation called the Ukrainian Adjustment Act."

The Ukrainian Adjustment Act will provide a path to a permanent status for Ukrainian refugees who are currently living under a temporary status in Connecticut. Blumenthal pointed out that those refugees need assurance that they can safely stay in this country.

"(Ukrainian refugees) are bringing us the talents, the energy, the gifts of intelligence and cultural enrichment, just like those who came here once and made the United States," Blumenthal said.

The conference also featured a pre-recorded message from Oleksandr Vasiuk, a member of the Ukrainian parliament who could not attend in person.

"Exactly one year ago, the country of Ukraine woke up to explosions. At that moment every Ukrainian unfortunately felt what war is like," Vasiuk said. "They've experienced how it feels to remain in a country under constant Russian missile attacks, while hiding their children in cold basements with only a prayer to survive."

Several speakers reiterated the resilience of the Ukrainian people, including Monika Palotai, visiting researcher at Hudson Institute, and Jacek Czaputowicz, former minis-



CASEY WIEDERHOLD/CHRONICLE

(Left to right) Romanian diplomat Cornel Feruta, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York Adrian Kubicki, Director of the Hungary-based Migration Research Institute Viktor Marsai and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland Jacek Czaputowicz spoke at a session on Feb. 25 about bordering countries' response to the Ukrainian war and refugee crisis.

ter of foreign affairs of Poland.

The event also highlighted groups in the local community that are providing aid to support Ukrainians. The Ukrainian Humanitarian and Soldier Relief Program at St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church in New Haven, Connecticut, accepts monetary and item donations.

The Connecticut for Ukraine Refugee Matching Program is for Ukrainian refugees who wish to live in Connecticut, and is administered free of charge by volunteers who are dedicated to finding safe homes. The program is organized by Murtha Culina LLP and the Honorary Consulate of Romania to Connecticut Dana Bucin.

Bucin spoke about the efforts of Romanians to help those fleeing from the war in Ukraine at the conference.

"The efforts of ordinary Romanian citizens, lining up for miles at the border with cars to pick up the Ukrainian refugees to house them and feed them in their own homes," Bucin said.

Bucin said her efforts working as an immigration lawyer in 2022 at the southern border in Tijuana, Mexico, helped around two thousand Ukrainian refugees into the United States. Bucin and Nayla Rush, a senior researcher at the Center for Immigration Studies holds a doctorate in Migration Studies, attested to the U.S. response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis and brought attention to the antiquated asylum system.

Bucin said the current asylum system takes "18 to 24 months optimistically to resettle refugees in the United States, and it's actually inept and inadequate for an emergency such as the Ukraine."

During a panel on global and American challenges, Rush spoke about the European Union Temporary protection. This protection specific to Ukrainian refugees will entail benefits that allow them an opportunity to thrive in the wake of the devastating war, such as access to employment. The protection has been extended to March 2024 to expedite admission that avoids overwhelming the standard asylum system.

"I first went to Ukraine before the invasion. And I came back and I said to my colleagues and the president, that our intelligence gives Ukraine about three to five days before the Russians take Kyiv," Blumenthal said. "But I knew, these people are going to fight to the last person."

"At that moment every Ukrainian unfortunately felt what war is like. They've experienced how it feels to remain in a country under constant Russian missile attacks, while hiding their children in cold basements with only a prayer to survive."

- Oleksandr Vasiuk
MEMBER OF THE UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENT

AUDIT from cover

the university was "on track" to collect and digitize its historic loan records by the June 30, 2022, federal compliance deadline.

However, the university's nearly identical 2022 corrective action plan indicated a June 30, 2023, compliance deadline for the same action. The auditor noted in the report that the recordkeeping failure "recurred in the current fiscal year as the corrective actions were not timely implemented."

Pettit declined to comment on why university officials were unable to meet the original deadline.

The university's Department of Management and Office of Financial Aid "identified all loans that are missing original promissory notes" after reviewing all remaining student loans notes yet to be assigned, according to the 2022 corrective action plan.

The plan also noted that university officials had provided "alternative documents supporting the existence of these loans" to

the proper authorities and were awaiting the outcome of an appeals process.

"Any loans that are not accepted during this appeals process will be purchased by the University at the conclusion of the assignment process, which is planned to be completed by June 30, 2023," the university's corrective action plan states.

Pettit declined to comment on both the alternative documents or potential cost for the university of the loan purchases.

It is unclear if the university's review process identified any other missing promissory notes not already included in the FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 audit reports.

The deficiencies in Quinnipiac's financial recordkeeping procedures in FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 were among several significant weaknesses identified in the university's finances since 2019.

The most recent audit also revealed several major decreases in the university's finances, many of them attributable to changes in the stock market.

The endowment, which was valued at nearly \$785 million in FY 2020-21, suf-

fered a \$111 million decrease in FY 2021-22. The 14% decrease was due in large part to a \$105 million loss on investments, according to the report.

Likewise, the university's net tuition revenue decreased by 7.5% between FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22. The \$19.7 million decline in tuition revenue in FY 2021-22 brought Quinnipiac's net tuition profit below \$250 million the first time since FY 2014-15.

The audit also revealed that the university paid an undisclosed employee over \$2 million in predefined pension and postretirement benefits in FY 2021-22.

Prior audit reports obtained by the Chronicle revealed that the same unnamed employee entered the multimillion-dollar pension agreement with the university at least eight years ago. The audits seem to indicate that the undisclosed employee entered retirement during or after FY 2017-18, which ended on June 30, 2018.

University officials have repeatedly declined to name the former employee.

Turkish student athletes initiate fundraiser to aid Turkey in its earthquake relief efforts

By JACKLYN PELLEGRINO
Copy Editor

The Quinnipiac University Athletics Department launched a fundraiser created by three student athletes from Turkey on Feb. 17 to help support victims of the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

Volleyball players Damla Gunes, a first-year business major, and Yagmur Gunes, a first-year undecided major, and men's tennis player Kemal Karagozoglu, a senior international business major, are working with the Student Athlete Advisory Committee on campus.

Members of the Quinnipiac community can donate to the fundraiser by using the Tiltify link, a digital fundraising platform, throughout the upcoming weeks. There is not a set date when the fundraiser will close.

All the money raised by the Athletics Department through Tiltify link will be going to rescue.org, which was one of the links included in the initial email that President Judy Olian sent out to the Quinnipiac community on Feb. 10.

In an email statement to the Chronicle on Feb. 28, Director of International Student Services Sarah Driscoll said there are six students from Turkey currently attending Quinnipiac. There are also other students with Turkish background who have friends and relatives who live there as well as several Turkish faculty and staff at the university.

SAAC has a member from each of the university's athletics teams who advocate for the student athletes to have a better student experience, said Casey Stark, assistant athletic director of academic support and advisor for SAAC.

According to CBS News, many buildings in Turkey have been built with inadequate materials, such as concrete, so a lot are not able to withstand earthquakes because many of them do not follow "seismic building codes." Although,

it is difficult to combat this problem because of expenses and other challenges in the country.

Yagmur Gunes said the athletes wanted to start the fundraiser because the earthquakes destroyed several areas and the recovery process is going to take a long time.

According to World Vision, the Feb. 6 earthquake hit approximately 10 Turkish provinces, including Adana, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Malatya and Sanliurfa, and several Syrian cities such as Aleppo, Latakia, Hama and Idlib.

"We were feeling so bad," Yagmur Gunes said. "So damaged inside, even though our families are fine. It doesn't mean that does not affect us, because it's our country. So, we knew that this healing process is going to be long and our country is going to need as much help as possible."

The three student athletes went to Director of Athletics Greg Amodio, their coaches and Stark to see what the athletics department could do for the earthquake victims. Stark connected them with SAAC to try to fundraise and spread the word.

"I'm super proud of our student athletes, our student leaders, who are heading the charge there," Stark said. "This has been really grassroots and really about sharing knowledge (about what is) happening internationally, that people aren't speaking about as much as they could or should."

Stark said that the goal for the athletics department fundraiser is currently set to \$1,000. Notably, \$1 in the U.S. is equivalent to a little under 20 Turkish lira. As of Feb. 28, \$825 has been raised.

"It was all over the news and no one cared," Damla Gunes said. "So, I was kind of angry and sad and I wanted to...spread the news more and make my voice be heard by the people."

The SAAC leadership team decided that each

sports team will contribute to the fundraiser in a different way such as holding an event or having members of the team contribute individually.

In addition to the Tiltify link sent out by the athletics department through email and social media, the students raised money separately by tabling in the Carl Hansen Student Center on Feb. 15. All of the money from this fundraiser will be donated to Ahbab, a non-governmental organization in Turkey. There was also a "Pie the Athletes" fundraising event on Feb. 22 where participants could throw pie in the volunteers' faces after contributing a donation to the relief effort.

Yagmur Gunes said that they raised a little over \$1,000 just from the Student Center tabling

on Feb. 15 and that a lot of people came to the table to support them and donated a lot more than she expected.

"People didn't know how bad the problem, the situation was, how devastated our country was and a lot of people didn't even ask me how I was or how my family was doing, even though they're my friends," Damla Gunes said.

Damla Gunes said that the money from the athletics fundraiser will be given out to affected victims.

"In the first place they are going to provide basic needs either tents, water, food, diapers, blankets, but then they are going to help kids go to school and get a new apartment in different cities," Damla Gunes said.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY DAMLA GUNES

Senior Altug Yilmaz (left), junior Emre Topcu (standing), sophomore Kristin Frengul (middle) and first-year Damla Gunes (right) collected over \$1,000 in donations for disaster relief in Turkey on Feb. 15.

Former USA Today editor-in-chief discusses gender equity in media at QU

By MELINA KHAN
Editor-in-Chief

Women working in the media industry made 87 cents to every dollar men earned in 2021, according to Narrow the Gap. Joanne Lipman, a journalist and best-selling author, spoke to Quinnipiac University students on Monday about how to combat this inequity, break into the media industry and stand out in the workforce.

Lipman, who previously served as the editor-in-chief of USA Today and was the first woman to hold the post of deputy managing editor at The Wall Street Journal, shared insights from her career as part of the School of Communications'

Dean's Speaker Series. President Judy Olian and Dean of the School of Communications Chris Roush moderated the event, which was held in the Mount Carmel Auditorium.

Drawing on an illustrious career spanning four decades, Lipman spoke about gender equity in the media industry. When she joined The Wall Street Journal in 1983 after graduating from Yale University, Lipman said she was one of the only women in the newsroom. Although the prevalence of women in the industry has changed, the wage gap hardly has.

"To me, (the wage gap) is one of the major reasons why we need to get more women, more

people of color into these jobs and into leadership," Lipman said.

Lipman said she thinks the intersection of the pandemic and Generation Z entering the workforce will shape what workplaces look like, especially with the prevalence of technology.

"The younger generation coming up, which is almost half non-white, is coming into a workforce that was built by and for essentially white men, and are looking at it and saying, 'Does this workplace work for me?'" Lipman said.

As for combating workplace disparities, Lipman advised students to "listen to the other voices in the room."

"There's always one or two people who are really quiet and they're intimidated to speak, or if they do talk, somebody talks right over them," Lipman said. "And one thing you can do right now while you're still in school is when you see that, be aware of it. Look at who's the quiet person in the room, who's not speaking."

Lipman also referenced "tiara syndrome," a term that describes how women often wait to be recognized for their good work, while men often overestimate their abilities. She said this is one reason to amplify others' perspectives.

"I think all of us can do our part to recognize people who may feel marginalized and bring them into our conversation," Lipman said.

Erin Russell, a first-year public relations major who attended the event, said the discussion of the gender wage gap resonated with her because she had not previously considered how it might affect her.

"(The wage gap) definitely is something that I want to look out for, for myself in the future and not avoid, but be ready to take on," Russell said.

Like Russell, Samantha Shaw, a first-year

film, television and media arts major, cited the conversation around gender equity as her biggest takeaway of the event.

"I think that's really important because as she kept mentioning, we are the future," Shaw said. "I think just being more mindful of those differences is kind of where we can start, especially as we are going into the field. So overall, just paying attention to what's going on around us."

In addition, Lipman encouraged students to hone into their connections as they enter the workforce.

"Ask people questions when people come through, people like me, and your professors, ask them lots of questions," Lipman said. "Seek advice from people."

For those interested in entering the media industry, Lipman emphasized the importance of asking for advice from professionals.

"You might feel like you're imposing by asking advice, but I find that people really want to pay it forward," Lipman said. "Because whoever you talk to, somebody has helped them along the way and they'd like to pay it forward."

As for her own advice to students, Lipman said to take advantage of opportunities to share their work. From sharing written content on platforms like Medium or Substack to posting videos to YouTube or TikTok, Lipman said the "barriers to access" media are lower now more than ever.

"I don't think that you and your generation and colleagues understand how much you have to offer to people like me, to people in media currently, because you're digital and social natives," Lipman told the Chronicle. "You consume media in a different way, you create media in a different way."



Quinnipiac President Judy Olian (left) and Dean of the School of Communications Chris Roush (right) joined former USA Today Editor-in-Chief Joanne Lipman (center) in a discussion about young people entering the media workforce on Feb. 27.

PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Opinion

Gun violence can happen anywhere, so where has the outrage gone?

By NICHOLAS PESTRITTO

Staff Writer

The time to stand up and face the harsh truth of gun violence repercussions on our country has been a long time coming.

The United States has normalized a culture of gun violence, mass shootings and death. If we continue down this road, not only will we become even more desensitized to mass shootings, but they will only grow. As students, are we prepared enough if this culture affects us firsthand? How will our community react if we are put in a situation involving gun violence?

On Feb. 13, a gunman shot and killed three students and injured five other students at Michigan State University. Authorities said he later died by a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Just like many other shootings we hear about on the news, it is students who are running, hiding and praying that they will survive senseless violence. It seems to be time to ask the question, will my school be next?

To be fully honest, when I read the breaking news notification from The New York Times app on my phone, I didn't think much of it. I'm sure I am probably not the only one who had this reaction.

The fact that tragedies are happening and we are becoming desensitized to mass casualty events is terrifying. These acts of cruelty continue to keep happening in our country and have become a part of our everyday lives.

In a Pew Research Center survey conducted in April 2021, 48% of Americans said they see gun violence as a "very big problem" in the country today and 24% of Americans see it as a "moderately big problem." Additionally, Everytown For Gun Safety reported in February 2022 that 58% of adults stated that they or someone they care for has experienced gun vio-



ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR YOUNGBERG

lence in their lifetime. Basically, a majority of people are very concerned about gun violence and that destructive gun-related culture has become normalized.

According to Axios, as of Feb. 15 the U.S. had already seen more than 70 mass shootings in 2023 and is on pace for more than 576 by the end of the year. This is clearly an extremely important problem that must be addressed before it starts to spiral even more out of control.

I really think that we have yet to reach the peak of this epidemic. It has become the new normal and it's essential that we work to turn things around as soon as possible.

The mass shooting at Michigan State could have easily happened at any other college, university or even here, at Quinnipiac University. It could only be a matter of time before something exactly like that comes close to us and our lives. Is our campus security here at Quinnipiac

going to be ready to respond to a situation like this? How effective will security be in the event of an active shooter on campus? Will the active shooter training given to students be enough?

Sometimes it seems like anyone can have access to our campus, especially now that we can allow certain restaurants to come directly through the security gates and onto campus. How strict is our campus security really when it comes to having people drive onto campus and are they always checking students for their student IDs?

The new active shooter training was sent to Quinnipiac students on Feb. 23 and is supposed to provide them with the knowledge necessary to know how to deal with a situation when there is an active shooter on campus. This training will only have an effect on the QU community if everyone completes it, but how will we know if that happens? Along with that, the training is

only considered to be "suggested" unlike the previous sexual assault and diversity, equity and inclusion trainings that are under the "mandatory" section. Questions surrounding the implementation of this new training and how effective it actually will be, absolutely need to be asked.

An event like this could happen anywhere and that is evident based on what we have seen in the past several years. This is exactly the fear that our generation will now have to live with for the rest of our lives, at least until something is done to protect students and children from being harmed while in the education system. We should realize that all of these events and the people who die with them carry a huge moral weight and we should never let that go.

If we continue to constantly see mass shootings in the news and don't fully grasp their influence on our generation or simply choose to ignore what doesn't directly impact us, the problem will continue to grow and get worse.

We cannot just disregard these tragic events or acknowledge them and proceed to move on and forget about them. It seems like we will only start to care about the problems of gun violence when we meet them head on and are directly impacted in some way.

How much longer will we have to live with a fear of being involved with a mass shooting? Will we be able to sustain living in this type of culture? We need to realize that constantly worrying about dying in mass shootings is not normal and should never be seen as normal.

We seem to be greatly lacking in understanding the impact that mass shootings have on our society and due to their frequency, the unfortunate truth is that we may sadly be involved in one at some point in our lives if we don't start to change.

For female fans, passion isn't all-inclusive

By ZOE LEONE

Associate Arts & Life Editor

As I sat in the student section of M&T Bank Arena during this year's men's hockey game against Yale, I couldn't help but notice the rather extreme levels of energy around me. As the game progressed, it became apparent that the vast majority of the over-the-top screaming was coming from one distinct group of fans: the men.

The intense, and sometimes volatile, nature of male sports fans is not new information. A group of Philadelphia Eagles fans flipped a parked car before this year's Super Bowl. But things can escalate and take a turn. After the

Vancouver Canucks lost to the Boston Bruins in Game 7 of the 2011 Stanley Cup Finals, fans took to the streets of Vancouver and caused major damages to the city. In the most intense cases, a 2013 study found that domestic violence by men increases by 38% in England after the national soccer team loses a match.

The examples are extreme, but the facts still stand. Men are allowed to be fans of things, from sports to comic books, with every emotion. Whether it's anger or sadness, we've learned to accept the consequences and let things take their toll.

And yet when it comes to women mixing their passions with their emotions, why are we

so critical?

The rise of "Beatlemania" brought about the term "hysterical females" that was often associated with fans of the popular band, according to The Guardian. A quick Google search beginning with "are fangirls" will quickly produce the result "annoying" as the rest of that query.

In my own experience, when women convey emotion toward the things they're passionate about, they're viewed as unstable. Similarly, when those interests align with things that are traditionally considered feminine, the reaction gets even worse.

Why is it socially acceptable for a man to go purple in the face while screaming for a college hockey team, but when I bring up liking Taylor Swift, I'm given a lecture?

I've gotten the judgemental looks whenever I've talked about something I love. Whether it be a TV show or a musical artist, unbridled enthusiasm from a woman is almost always met with a raised eyebrow or a snicker. The double standard runs deep.

I've lived this experience too many times. Recently, I was having a conversation with a man about our love for music. When I cracked a joke about his repeated listenings of The Smiths and The Cure aligning with stereotypical male music tastes, I was immediately hit with a rant about my own favorite artists.

He told me that my favorites—ranging from Swift and Lorde to Hozier and Florence + The

Machine—weren't influential and were only popular because they were making money-grabbing music. The pretentiousness was almost blindsiding. Why is my taste in music somehow lesser? Is it because I'm a woman? Is it because some of the artists I love have a predominantly female fanbase? Or is it just because a man felt threatened by my suggestion that his passions weren't as special as he thought?

Popular TikToker Talia Lichtstein pointed out the inconsistencies in a video posted to her account. In it, she snarkily remarks on how the men who grew up making fun of girls for obsessing over One Direction are now writing tribute messages to Tom Brady as he finally retires. While Lichtstein is dripping in sarcasm, she's incredibly on the nose.

Some of the worst offenders of judging female fans are male fans themselves, especially sports fans. Screaming over a boy band is somehow going too far, while screaming at a TV is perfectly acceptable.

The issue is intertwined with misogyny and forces women to take the hit every time. No matter their interests, women are perceived as crazy while men are considered passionate.

So next time you go to judge a girl for her obsession with Harry Styles, remember how you acted over your favorite sports team. Maybe she's not as crazy as you think.



ILLUSTRATION BY EMMA KOGEL

Opinion

Swipe left on the stigmas of online dating

By MELINA KHAN
Editor-in-Chief

From Googling the best Chinese food in the area to keeping in touch with family members states away on Facebook, using the internet to stay connected is widely normalized and accepted. There's no reason why dating online shouldn't be.

Nowadays, it's extremely common to utilize dating apps like Tinder. A 2020 Pew Research study found 30% of adults in the United States have used a dating app or website at some point. Among college students, the rate is predicted to be much higher; a 2021 study from the University of South Carolina found that more than 93% of surveyed students use Tinder.

While the motivations for joining a dating app may differ for each person, it's common for college students to join Tinder as a casual way to meet people on campus. Whether you're swiping right for a hookup, a date or just for fun, what comes out of it is up to you. For some reason, though, dating apps are still widely stigmatized, especially when it comes to opening up to family members or close friends about the topic.

In an interview with Glamour Magazine last year, dating coach Kate Mansfield said many people are dishonest about meeting their significant other on a dating app because of the shame that might come along

with it.

"For many, dating apps still evoke the idea of hook ups, affairs and only for the desperate and lonely," Mansfield said.

Most of my friends in relationships met their significant other on Tinder or another dating app. But in every case, their families don't know that.

There's a lot of reasons for this omission, but it always comes down to the stigma that exists about dating apps. The most common sentiment among older generations is that meeting someone online isn't safe. While 62% of people ages 18-29 consider dating platforms safe per Pew's study, that number goes down among older generations; just 40% of people over 65 think dating apps are safe.

The reasons people download dating apps vary, but these apps were created with the intention to lead to successful relationships. The reality, especially in college, is that most people on dating apps aren't on them to meet their husband or wife. They're on dating apps because it's normal, casual and fun.

I can understand why people hold back the truth from family. Our parents' generation didn't date in the age of Tinder or Hinge, so it's understandable why the prevalence of these apps might seem strange to them. Whatever happened to blind dates and coworker crushes?

The reality is, online dating is not only more popular than people think – it's also more successful. According to Pew, 39% of online daters have married or been in a committed relationship with someone they met online. Michael Rosenfeld, a Stanford University sociologist who studies dating, said in 2019 that online dating is more successful than traditional dating because of the internet's advantages of scale.

"Online dating systems have much larger pools of potential partners compared to the

number of people your mother knows, or the number of people your best friend knows," Rosenfeld said. "Even if most of the people in the pool are not to your taste, a larger choice set makes it more likely you can find someone who suits you."

Apps like Tinder have become the standard approach to meeting romantic interests in the modern age, especially among college students. Between the popularity and success of online dating, there's no reason why we have to keep hiding our participation.



ILLUSTRATION BY MARINA YASUNA

Going to school is criminal Why are schools and prisons built so similarly?

By AMANDA GERACI
Contributing Writer

Most people have probably seen that 2014-15 Instagram-esque comparison describing the resemblance of schools to prisons in the United States, listing things such as dress code, loss of individual freedom, focus on silence and so on.

While that is all true and relevant to another important conversation, there is one thing I have noticed that never appears on the images containing these comparison lists: the eerily similar architecture of the buildings.

In my Prisons and Jails course at Quinnipiac University this semester, we briefly touched on the concept that schools are designed similarly to prisons, observing an image as a class and having to guess what type of building it was.

The entire class believed the building was a prison, just to find out it was an elementary school. I was shocked and left class with many lingering thoughts. I needed answers or at least an explanation.

I decided to take to the internet to see if there was any research done on this. I had mainly hoped to find a link between the architecture and how that may subconsciously affect students, or if there are any similarities in behavior between students who attend school and offenders being housed in prison. Honestly, I would be satisfied seeing this topic being discussed at all.

Having never heard anyone discuss this topic before or seen any related news pieces, I was surprised to find a couple of articles covering the similarities in school and pris-

on architecture. There were Reddit forums questioning why this is the case, what this is doing to our students and why it is important to start building schools that do not resemble correctional facilities.

Unfortunately none of these sources are those that would be considered minorly reputable — all either Reddit forums or hole-in-the-wall independent sites with no credibility. While it is great to see some people acknowledging this, it needs to be discussed on a much greater scale. Why hasn't this topic made it to mainstream media coverage yet?

Aside from the exterior architecture of the two buildings, some of the most striking parallels in design are the long hallways with doors leading into rooms that you typically cannot access without permission, the

presence of courtyards enclosed by the walls of the building, bright fluorescent lighting and the layout of the cafeterias as a whole.

It is easy to see some of the same behaviors being displayed in both of these environments; the simplest example being cafeteria fights. The cafeteria monitors serve the same role as a corrections officer would, monitoring the room and breaking up said fights, while those observing either join in or sit back and observe.

Students are often told by their teachers, administrators and guardians that school is supposed to be a safe space, yet for most, it is a place that is filled with anxiety and stress. In its simplest form, students go to school to learn and come out with new knowledge.

Now applying the same principles, of-

fenders go into prison to serve time and come out with the learned intention to change the direction of their life. Yet in both of these scenarios, those initial purposes can become secondary to fighting, cliques, drama and an overarching feeling of negativity.

We can see that these buildings are clearly ineffective at achieving their original goals, so why keep constructing them the way we always have?

The formula that was used to build prisons and schools is scarily similar. Were they perhaps designed by some of the same people? This factor is brought up in an article from ArchDaily, covering the concept that design similarities may be the result of the same architect. Yet after scouring this article, there are no details covering who these builders are, just a discussion about how long the similarities between these buildings have existed and how school architecture differs between the United States and other countries such as Finland.

As a criminal justice major, it is immensely frustrating to see the lack of discussion and conversation about this issue via larger scale sources.

Considering the fact that school is universally understood as a place that should provide a nurturing environment and prison is a place that people attend as a form of punishment, they should not be this similar.

It is crucial that we begin to recognize the issue at hand and break the cycle. This needs to be done before the behaviors we are already seeing in these strikingly similar facilities start to manifest themselves into a larger problem.



ILLUSTRATION BY MARINA YASUNA

Arts & Life

African and Caribbean Student Union hosts cultural cook-off

By KRISTAL MILLER

Associate News Editor

Loud, upbeat music and the smell of delicious food and laughter filled the Carl Hansen Student Center Piazza on Friday night.

The African and Caribbean Student Union hosted a cultural cook-off on Feb. 24 complete with various foods like jerk chicken, plantains, empanadas and pollo guisado. Students participated in a raffle for prizes, like Lego flowers, and voted on their favorite foods through a QR code available on each table.

Autumn White, ACSU's event coordinator and a first-year criminal justice major, said the cultural cook-off was a way to integrate everyone's different cultures into the Quinnipiac University community.

"We felt like it was important enough to keep the tradition going, we felt like it wasn't enough emphasis as far as our culture being introduced to Quinnipiac because there's different ways you can do it," White said. "Food is a commonality that brings people together."

White said many students confuse ACSU with other multicultural organizations like the Black Student Union and the Latino Cultural Society and tend to not know much about African and Caribbean countries.

"There's so many countries in the Caribbean that don't get enough recognition," White said. "So I feel like us as an organization wanted to do something that just represents us well, and our countries in a fun way."

White said she was most excited to engage with people who may have questions. She said this is the first big event ACSU has held this year.

"I feel like I get a really good feeling that people want to know more about my culture, my country, so I think it'd be very exciting to see people that want to come," White said.

The planning involved coordinating the perfect time that didn't conflict with other organizations, the amount and type of food and the best place to decorate, White said.

"We work as a team, but we're also booking a space, calling the different restaurants or seeing what type of foods people may like," White said.

Students lined up for food served by the ACSU in large trays, along with drinks in the cooler, such as Jamaican soda. Everyone then sat down at the tables to discuss with their friends. A colorful graphic of the words "Cultural Cook-off" was displayed on the projector screen throughout the night.

Joseph Aikins, a sophomore film, television and media arts major, attended the cultural cook-off to enjoy the start of the weekend.

"It's good, everyone here is friendly and I've had good conversations," Aikins said.

Aikins said his favorite food of the night was the plantains.

"I decided to come for free food, connect with others and have an experience on a Friday night," Aikins said.

Anna-Beth Haye, ACSU's president and



AMALIA BARROSO/CHRONICLE

Students gathered in the piazza for a cultural cook-off hosted by the African and Caribbean Student Union on Feb. 24.

a junior journalism major, said it is important to educate people on African and Caribbean culture. Haye said because of COVID-19, the tradition started to fade out.

"In between my freshman and now junior year, I realized that (the cultural cook-off) kind of fizzled out, so I wanted to bring it back," Haye said. "I think it's really important we bring it back and share different foods on campus, especially since Quinnipiac is not as diverse as it can be."

Haye said the purpose of the event is to share culture and the food associated with it.

"So I think it's really important that we kind of create a piece of home, a piece of how we grew up here, because we're here and this is not temporary," Haye said.

Everyone is invited to the event, including current students and alumni, Haye said.

"We just want to make it a really fun, safe space for everybody," Haye said.

Dancing in the moonlight: QU Asian Student Alliance celebrates Lunar New Year

By AIDAN SHEEDY

Copy Editor

In a gymnasium draped in red and shimmering gold, the Asian Student Alliance celebrated the Lunar New Year on Friday with a magical night of lucky rabbits, mystic dragons and ceremonial dancing.

Lunar New Year, according to the QU ASA Instagram, is a rich cultural tradition for many East Asian countries that lasts for 11 days and signifies the beginning of the year and the spring season. Although this one-night-only celebration had delicious food, games, a photo booth, crafts and a dance performance from the ASA executive board that blew everyone away.

The crowd of attendees lit up as the team jumped out from behind the makeshift stage curtains wearing red T-shirts and waving paper fans to a choreographed dance.

"A lot of our actual sweat and tears got put into this," Co-President Ashley Hong said. "We wanna show you guys a really special tradition to us."

In years prior, the ASA had hired a professional dance group from New York to perform, but that could not happen this year, so the team felt it was necessary to try something different.

"This year we wanted to make it special, a little more personal," said Hong, a senior health science studies major in the occupational therapy program. "We spent hours practicing this dance for a couple times a week for a few hours each."

In fact, it was general-board member Sarah Nguyen that ran the show behind the scenes. Nguyen shared a Vietnamese fan dance she did with her church organization and wanted to pass along her knowledge to a student group she cares about.



The QU Asian Student Alliance showed off their best moves at this year's Lunar New Year celebration on Feb. 24.

"I really enjoyed our practices together," Nguyen said. "But that was just the scope of what I did with them."

Typically, Nguyen is the student learning the dance, but this time she was the teacher.

"It was weird, especially because I'm used to being taught the dances," Nguyen said. "This was like me getting the torch passed down to me."

Naomi Gorero, ASA's public relations director, was in the center of the triangular formation flaunting a rabbit-ear hat, honoring 2023 as the year of the rabbit. Gorero, a junior sociology major, said she had performed before, but most of the rest had not.

"Not a lot of us are dancers," Gorero said. "Sometimes we're just robots."

But these robots were a unit.

"I think the dance helped us have better teamwork as the ASA," Gorero said. "I was

saying to myself, 'you better not drop these fans or else we'll pass out.'"

As one of 11 cultural, spiritual or identity-based student organizations on campus, the ASA aims to break the barriers between cultures of the Asian continent, according to Do You QU.

"When I want to be mindful of other people and be more inclusive, I realize that it's a global thing," Hong said. "New Year's is not for one country."

The holiday's name, "Lunar New Year," may sound different from the former "Chinese New Year." The inclusive term is used because the holiday is not celebrated exclusively in China, but in all countries that use the lunar calendar system. North and South Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei and Vietnam are all other countries that observe, according to Time Magazine.

The food, of course, was a big hit. Only

30 minutes into the event, there were only scraps of chicken lo mein and a few cold dumplings remaining.

Hong said her favorite food of the night was the fresh-steamed Har gow, a Cantonese dim sum-style dumpling. She could not get over the taste of the crystal shrimp, and neither could Gianna Moreno, a sophomore health sciences studies major in the occupational therapy program.

"I think it was really fun," Moreno said. "You got to learn a lot ... and everyone seems like they're having a fun time."

The Lunar New Year celebration is one way of exposing the Quinnipiac University community to multiculturalism, and Moreno sees the importance.

"Quinnipiac already doesn't have a high diversity rate," she said. "I think having events like these are good."

Quinnipiac is toward the bottom of nearly every ranking in that category. The current student makeup is 81.1% white, according to the university's website. But events like this bring together students from all backgrounds.

"Right here there's a lot of people of different backgrounds and cultures," Morero said. "And they want to experience Lunar New Year."

The ASA put together a great celebration to really ring in the new year and a new season for change. The round of applause was everyone's token of appreciation.

"One thing a lot of things cultural (organizations) want to bring out is making people feel welcome and also expose them to (different) cultures," Morero said. "Having ASA can cover a bigger demographic of the Asian community."

Arts & Life

'Parade' will not be silenced

By ZOE LEONE
Associate Arts & Life Editor

The revival of "Parade" returned to Broadway on Feb. 21 for its first preview performance. What should have been a night of celebration was marred as ticket holders and buyers were met with a protest from a neo-Nazi group.

"Parade" first opened on Broadway in 1998 and is a dramatization of the real-life story of Leo Frank, a Jewish man in Georgia who was wrongly convicted of raping and murdering a 13-year-old girl who worked at the factory he was superintendent of in 1913. While he was initially not a suspect, mishandled police work, ulterior political motives and harsh antisemitic views changed the focus to Frank.

After his sentence was changed from death by hanging to life in prison by the then-governor of Georgia in 1915, a group of men from the young girl's hometown kidnapped Frank from prison and lynched him outside in an oak tree. The event sparked the birth of the Anti-Defamation League, an anti-hate organization primarily focused on Jewish people. Alternatively, Frank's death also triggered the revival of the Ku Klux Klan.

Frank was pardoned posthumously by the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles in 1986. The movement followed a 1982 report by The Tennessean which featured testimony from a worker at the factory who alleged that he had seen the state's key witness with the young girl's body at the scene of the crime. This, combined with new evidence that seemed to exonerate him, surged a new wave

of belief in Frank's innocence.

"Parade," however, is not about Frank's innocence or guilt. The musical follows the timeline from the beginning of Frank's arrival to the South and ends with his final prayer before he is lynched. At the heart of the show is Frank (Ben Platt) and his wife, Lucille (Micaela Diamond), and their heartbreaking journey into love amidst the hatred surrounding them.

The neo-Nazis harassed audiences standing outside the venue, stating that they were paying money to go "worship a fucking pedophile," according to Variety, and handing out flyers advertising their group. And yet the cast and crew, who were not made aware of the protest until after the show, delivered a performance worthy of rave reviews from critics at notable publications, like the New York Times.

"If there is any remaining doubt out there about the urgency of telling this story in this moment in history, the vileness on display last night should put it to rest," wrote the producers of "Parade" in a statement posted to the show's Instagram account. "We stand by the valiant Broadway cast that brings this vital story to life each night."

Similarly, Platt also spoke out against the events of the night. In a reel posted to his Instagram, he said the event was "very ugly and scary, but a wonderful reminder of why we're telling this particular story and how special and powerful art, and particularly theater, can be."

The extreme antisemitism in the protest

brought a wave of support, not just from the Broadway world, but the New York community as well. Two days after the demonstration took place, Mayor Eric Adams took to the stage to speak to the audience before that night's performance, saying that what had happened "was not the New York spirit we love – this was hatred, this was bigotry."

While the extremist group may have intended to discourage theatergoers from attending "Parade," the event seemed to only

have an adverse effect. Since the Tuesday night preview, audiences have been lining up to secure tickets to the performances, with many of them saying that the display of hatred made them feel a responsibility to come support the show, according to CBS News. It was also reported that extra security was seen outside the theater.

The cast and crew of "Parade" have proven that they will not be silenced. After all, the show must go on.



ILLUSTRATION BY ELIZABETH LARSON

'Cocaine Bear' isn't all the internet made it out to be

By ETHAN HURWITZ
Sports Editor

If you want the definition of a new-age cult film, look no further than Elizabeth Banks' "Cocaine Bear," which hit theaters Friday.

Loosely based on the true story of a black bear that ingested a kilogram of cocaine in 1985, the film counterpart is a dark comedy that can make you chuckle, despite all the dead bodies. Although it has good moments, it certainly did not live up to the social media praise from the last year and change.

Andrew C. Thornton, a narcotics officer-turned-drug smuggler, became infamous in the 1980s for falling to his death after dropping 40 bags of cocaine out of his airplane above Knoxville, Tennessee. With real news broadcasts shown on the movie screen, it helps paint the background for the dark comedy.

A collection of police officers, tourists, tour guides and criminals all spawned to the Georgia wilderness to (inadvertently or not) come face-to-face with the bear. With elements of the real-world present in the film, there are also drastic elements that are different.

For starters, the real-life bear died quickly from an overdose and was later stuffed in Kentucky. In this film, the bear certainly had a lot more creative liberties and the dynamic duo for online popularity – drugs and crazy, wild animals – helped blast this movie into stardom.

You're thrown into the action immediately. A couple is hiking in the woods before they see a bear scratching a tree. Before you even have time to comprehend what is going on, a girl is

mauled to death.

There are some familiar faces throughout, with Daveed (O'Shea Jackson Jr.) and Syd White (Ray Liotta) playing key roles in trying to find the rest of the cocaine. Although Liotta's role is limited, the late legendary actor had some great moments in what was posthumously released and dedicated in his honor.

A significant portion of the beginning focuses on the different groups of characters, but the film snaps into the main plot almost instantly. Two kids skip school to explore in the local woods, only to see a bear, high as

possibly can be on cocaine.

Mix in a few – OK a lot – of witty and ill-timed jokes and it's a perfect dark comedy. However, as a thematic plot, it is almost the same for the final stretch. The bear goes and attacks some people and then retreats back to the woods. Wash, rinse and repeat. It gets repetitive, but it works in a way that you never expect when or where the coked-up animal is going to strike.

The film is grotesque and really disgusting at times. There are more ripped-apart limbs scenes than I expected. But the characters were unrealistically calm throughout. Take for instance when the park ranger accidentally shoots a teen, goes "I didn't mean to" and strolls away unbothered.

While gory overall, the witty commentary by the cast seems to downplay all the deaths that take place. When a medic gets his arm snapped in half, his comedic yelling makes the viewers feel like he wasn't even hurt in the first place. It is a weird dynamic and kind of off-putting.

Lost in the overarching plot is how well the bear was animated into looking like a real animal that ate a Schedule II drug. Because of the humor elements, the movie does a good job of contrasting the brutality of the bear attacks with the seemingly innocent butterflies that fly around the forest.

If you like bears, drugs or just a 90-minute runtime that can make you chuckle more than you would expect, "Cocaine Bear" is the movie for you. If you are looking for a cinematic masterpiece that is going to make you question your viewing experience, this is the farthest thing from it. To me, it felt like the movie was completed after the trailer went viral and not the other way around.

The trailer, which gained immense hype online, made the film appear as a slow burn with a coked-out bear killing dozens and while yes, that was very evident, it seemed to be missing something. Whether it was the uninteresting family storyline or the poorly-placed sappy scenes, it felt like the overall plot was rushed in order to push out the movie into theaters.

Since being announced in 2021, the hype surrounding the film has been immense. It's safe to say that if you were waiting for it, then it was sort of worth the wait.

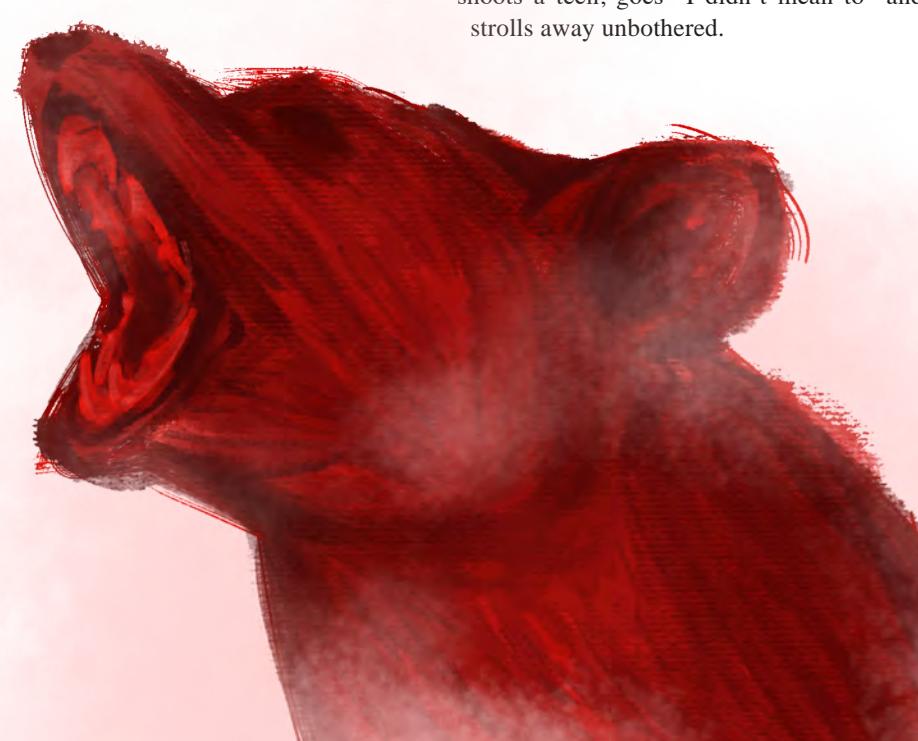


ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX KENDALL

'Coraline' has cemented its twitchy-witchy legacy

By JENNIFER MOGLIA
Staff Writer

It was released almost 15 years ago, but Henry Selick's "Coraline" is still racking up accolades. Last week, it jumped into the Top 250 Narrative Feature Films list on Letterboxd, a social media site for movie watchers. It also became the latest movie to be watched by over one million people on the platform, according to a post on Letterboxd's Instagram.

Since its release in 2009, "Coraline" has amassed a cult fanbase that hasn't calmed down. The Museum of Pop Culture in Seattle is putting props from the film on display in an exhibit titled "Hidden Worlds: The Films of Laika" next month.

The movie was brought back to theaters by Fathom Events twice over the past two years: once to celebrate LAIKA Studios' 15th anniversary in 2021 and once in 2022 to appease the fans who missed out the year before. I was able to attend one of the showings last August and although I already knew that "Coraline" was my favorite movie, getting to see it on the big screen for the first time helped me appreciate it even more.

The title sequence looks straight out of a traditional horror movie, with high-pitched, eerie music playing as a pair of hands deconstructs and puts together stuffed dolls with the cast's names rolling across the screen. If you went into this blind, you probably wouldn't think that it was rated PG or marketed to children.

Children's horror movies have been on the rise for years. "Coraline" wasn't the first but it's certainly one of the best thanks to its director, Henry Selick. Selick is best known for directing the iconic animated film "The Nightmare Before Christmas."

Selick worked on "Nightmare" with frequent collaborator and fellow spooky animated movie legend Tim Burton, known for creepy kids' flicks

like "Corpse Bride" and "Frankenweenie." The two also worked together on "James and the Giant Peach" in 1996.

The fact that you probably recognized most, if not all, of those titles goes to show not only how great the legacies of these filmmakers are, but how impactful children's horror movies can be. They can instill a love of all things creepy-crawly in young people without exposing them to anything too traumatizing.

In an article from The California Aggie, the University of California at Davis' student newspaper, author Adhithi Anjali emphasizes the importance of children's horror movies.

"Whereas we can enjoy the catharsis of horror, as we see the unraveling of order take place rather than remaining struck by the debilitating fear that something is wrong, children seem to lack a new and unique outlet for their daily encounters with the unfamiliar," Anjali wrote. "What children's horror can do is offer an outlet that acknowledges that fear."

"Coraline" isn't just iconic for being a spooky kids' movie, though. Since the main character, Coraline Jones, uses a doll and a secret door to visit her "other family," the film is considered to be one of the big screen's first multiverse movies.

Yes, before there was "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" and "Everything Everywhere All At Once," there was "Coraline." It's not hard to think that the creators of those 2022 films were inspired by this 2009 animated feature.

Another genre this film fits into is book-to-movie adaptations; before Selick worked his stop-motion magic, "Coraline" was a 2002 novella by Neil Gaiman. However, Selick puts on a masterclass in page-to-screen transitions, taking the original story and building on it, but not changing it so

drastically that existing fans don't know what they're watching.

The book has regular flats, but the movie has the gorgeous Pink Palace Apartments. The book has Coraline visit an alternate universe through a normal door, but the movie has her travel through a stunning blue and purple tunnel. Selick knew what he needed to add (more charming characters like Coraline's neighbor and friend Wybie Lovat) and what he needed to omit (some of the darker scenes) to fully flesh this story out into its own universe.

"Coraline" is still gaining popularity, with Hot Topic still producing new

merchandise based on the movie and "The Other Father Song" trending on TikTok. Selick has also established himself as more than a one-film wonder.

While Tim Burton has implied that his spooky projects "don't call for" diversity, Selick released "Wendell & Wild" on Netflix in late 2022, an animated horror-comedy film featuring characters of color voiced by Keegan-Michael Key, Jordan Peele, Angela Bassett and more. Coming up on 15 years since it originally hit theaters, it doesn't seem like anything will dethrone "Coraline" or Henry Selick from their twitchy-witchy thrones anytime soon.



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX KENDALL

Don't look past the intricacies of pasta

By BEN KANE
Contributing Writer

Pasta is such a simple dish. Just grab a handful of noodles from a box and drop it into a pot of boiling water. Once it's cooked and out of the water, throw in some sauce or

butter and there's your dinner.

However, those noodles aren't just something you eat: they're a form of art.

Pasta is little tiny mixtures of eggs and flour formed into fun and exciting shapes. From the classic ziti or rigatoni, to the more

complex cavatelli and rotini, the noodle-shape possibilities are endless. But which one is the best?

While there are many shapes in contention for that number one spot, the one that can definitely be cut is the tri-color shapes. When thinking of pasta, the color that usually comes to mind is yellow-ish gold, not green or orange.

From a technical standpoint, tri-color is just rotini or penne with food color. I'm convinced each color has a distinct taste, though, and I just can't get past it.

The only other shape that ranks just as terribly as tri-color has to be angel hair. No one has ever said, "I wish there was something like spaghetti, but really thin." However, that's exactly what angel hair is and it just doesn't make any sense.

Moving to the positives, ranking very highly has to be cavatelli. Shaped like the long braided locks of Rapunzel, this pasta is one of the best for sauce. The little indentations within the noodle create the perfect ledge for a tomatoey basil mixture to perch

itself on, making for the perfect sauce-to-noodle ratio.

A noodle that does this better than the rest is rigatoni. While it doesn't have the braids of a cavatelli, the small grooves on the cylinder-shaped noodle once again create a perfect sauce-to-noodle ratio. What makes it better than the cavatelli, however, is the hollowness of the noodle. By having this hole, the sauce can travel through the noodle and saturate the inside as well, creating a saucy bite every single time.

So yes, while some noodles rank higher than others, pasta, like anything, is all subjective. I think it correlates with mood as well. When I want to feel sophisticated, I go for a bucatini. When I want something that will bring me back to my childhood, I go for the classic penne. There's really no wrong answer, just as there's no right answer.

Next time you go into the cupboard and want to grab a box of pasta, really envision how you want the rest of your day to go, and let that pilot your taste buds and your pasta experience.



ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RIHA

Unpacking the Pete Davidson effect

By EMMA KOGEL
Associate Design Editor

When it comes to what makes an attractive man, the internet has a lot of differing opinions.

For example, when it comes to the interesting dating life of comedian Pete Davidson, people, especially on social media, are confused about how he manages to date women that objectively seem miles out of his league. Best known for being engaged to Ariana Grande and dating Kim Kardashian, Davidson has confused and amazed people everywhere.

It doesn't come as a surprise to me that an average-looking man has been able to date beautiful women. I mean, look at these couples in question. The man typically has a stellar personality that pulls these women in. I believe that's the true secret that these men do not understand. It was said best by Evie Magazine, "Looks fade over time, but intelligence, wit, and charm are all characteristics that last well into old age."

Davidson is just one example of this, but there are many other men that the internet speaks of who are average looking, but due to other factors, are considered to be widely desired by women. Some men that fall under this category are Jack Harlow, Evan Peters, Timothée Chalamet and Jeremy Allen White. All these men continuously are spoken about online for being very attractive, while others join in to speak on how they're truly just average-looking males that only are looked at this way because of their overall demeanor.

This goes back to the ongoing conversation of the female gaze as opposed to the male gaze. Most women look for men who are open and honest and don't feel like their masculinity is threatened all the time, which Davidson has displayed through his recurring role in "Saturday Night Live," as well his incredibly public relationships.

Davidson is a mentally ill, tattooed-up, damaged and sickly-looking individual that is unexpectedly irresistible. I understand how people could look at a photo of Davidson and think it's crazy how he is considered one of the most desired men out there. But, I personally have to agree with what feels like the majority of women at this point.

Davidson has been considered to be "one of the most desirable male celebrities of our time" according to BuzzFeed News, which is something that especially men can't seem to understand.

And of course, the fact that he is a comedian only helps his game. Many men don't typically understand the Davidson obsession, which I think is due to the male gaze differing from the female gaze. The male gaze surrounds a woman's looks, the vision of the picture-perfect woman we see through the media. So, when an average guy like Davidson shows up on everyone's social media pictured with these stunning women, people are going to talk.

Davidson seems like the kind of guy you'd want to be around, and I believe that's the reason behind the hold he has on women.



ILLUSTRATION BY EMMA KOGEL

I mean, if you use social media you've seen plenty of conversations surrounding the famous comedian.

And, even through all the positive and negative comments, this man continues to be the one getting all the hater's dream girls.

The internet will continue to love and obsess over men that truly look like they're dying and maybe don't shower very often, but

that's just the way it goes. I know the older generations wouldn't understand this trend but I think for the people who love the Davidsons of the world, it all comes down to their vibe. What I'm saying is, I believe the Davidson haters out there can learn something from a guy like him. And, then maybe, they'll be going out with their own Kardashian one day.

Why the Black Crowes are America's last great rock band

By MICHAEL SINGER
Contributing Writer

As the 1980s came to a close, the hair metal scene became something of the past. The loud, drowning sound of 1990s grunge became "the sound" of rock and kicked metal out of the spotlight.

Yet, in that period between rock genres there was one band that was able to revive the classic rock of Led Zeppelin and Aerosmith and produce a long-forgotten yet new sound of their own. That band was The Black Crowes.

The period of excess metal in the '80s produced great bands like Guns N' Roses and Poison. But in the time between the rock genres of the '80s and '90s, The Black Crowes cemented itself as the last great American band. Yes, better than Pearl Jam, and even better than Nirvana.

In 1990, The Black Crowes stormed onto the scene with their debut record "Shake Your Money Maker" which was carried by three songs, "Twice As Hard," the Otis Redding cover of "Hard to Handle" and smash hit ballad "She Talks to Angels."

The band's stripped-down, classic rock vibe was needed as the glam rock scene began to age and grunge rock wasn't quite ready to make a worldwide impact.

By April 1991, The Black Crowes' debut record peaked all the way to the number four position on the Billboard charts and the Crowes began to fly high.

Quickly after the band's debut, The Black Crowes released its sophomore record, "The Southern Harmony and Musical Companion" on May 12, 1992, which reached the number one position before the year expired.

Six studio records later, multiple lineup changes, breakups and one giant reunion later, the Crowes are still flying high breathing life into

the rock world.

But, what made The Black Crowes so different?

The band's look certainly helped. It had a classic rock and roll look that was certainly different from the get-up acts like Motley Crue and Cinderella were wearing. No high heels and no hair spray. The Crowes were, in contrast to the bands mentioned before, stripped down to the roots.

In all honesty, The Crowes had the look that was needed at the right time. The metal scene was getting old and so were the bands that made a living on that music.

The Crowes wore jeans, boots, a T-shirt and a

jacket that made its members look like rock and roll superstars. Within Rolling Stone magazine and other publications, The Crowes received great reviews and eventually graced the covers of music magazines. The members looked like the part they were supposed to play.

The second and obvious reason why The Crowes were so different is its sound.

Before The Crowes, music was loud, in your face and all over the place. Bands before the Crowes would record mediocre songs but try to have a great music video to try and strengthen their music.

The Black Crowes took the opposite approach and in fact, produced strong songs



CEEDUB13/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The Black Crowes created a new era of rock producing grunge sounds and making its way to be one of the most memorable bands.

to support its strong musical style. No matter what version of the band you listen to, the main members of The Black Crowes — lead singer Chris Robinson, his brother, guitarist Rich Robinson and drummer Steve Gorman — are absolutely brilliant songwriters.

If you listen to different versions of The Black Crowes, you can tell how strong and diverse the band's music is. "Shake Your Money Maker" and "The Southern Harmony and Musical Companion" are straight-ahead rock and roll records, but records like "Three Snakes and One Charm" and "Lions" are psychedelic rock and are more off the beaten path of Black Crowes rock and roll.

What makes The Crowes' music so different from the drowning, depressing grunge sound (can you tell that I don't like grunge?) is that the members sang about happy subjects like having fun, love and heartbreak — subjects that everyone can relate to.

Just listen to songs like "Wiser Time," "Remedy" and "Ozone Mama." These are three different songs from three different records over the course of The Black Crowes' career that carry different emotions and invoke different feelings within each listener.

That's what separates a "good" band from a "great" band — if you're able to make your listener feel multiple emotions throughout one record then you're able to keep them hooked then expand to a broader audience. This is why The Black Crowes was able to become so popular so fast.

The chances of becoming a successful musician are basically slim to none, but to be considered America's last greatest rock band is another thing. The Black Crowes have been flying high since 1990 keeping true rock and roll alive.

'This isn't about me': Tricia Fabbri reacts to her 500th career victory

By ZACK HOCHBERG
Staff Writer

Quinnipiac women's basketball head coach Tricia Fabbri embodies what it means to be a Bobcat, and she added to her long list of accolades with the program on Feb. 16, eclipsing 500 wins as head coach.

In the midst of her 28th season at the helm, Fabbri is doing what she has always done — putting her team in a position to cut down the nets in March.

However, Fabbri's success didn't start at Quinnipiac. She played under Dianne Nolan at Fairfield, who now serves as an ESPN broadcaster for Quinnipiac basketball games, as well as one of Fabbri's mentors.

"I have so much gratitude that I have a person in my life who has become a dear friend, but it is so important, especially in this day and age, back in the day coaching while having a family, it didn't happen, but I saw in her how it could happen," Fabbri said.

With Nolan as a role model, Fabbri began her coaching career starting as an assistant in 1991 for the Stags before taking the head coaching job at Quinnipiac in 1995. Fast forward three decades, Fabbri boasts over 500 wins, two MAAC Coach of the Year awards and three NCAA tournament appearances.

The early days with the Bobcats, who were known as the Braves at the time, were rough — going a combined 33-97 in her first five seasons — but it helped shape who Fabbri is and where this program is today.

Fabbri and men's hockey coach Rand Pecknold both started coaching around the same time. Pecknold joined Quinnipiac in 1994, just a year before Fabbri. Once Fabbri arrived, the two were forced to share an office.

"I think learning the backstory to how you took those steps to get where you wanted to go, that's where the story is, Fabbri said. "Rand has built a national power, we've been to a Sweet 16, and we started literally in a janitor's closet literally with a desk, a chair and one phone."

Pecknold has never been shy of his support of the other Quinnipiac athletic teams, often sending his players to sit in the stands of their games.

"We basically started out together, she's a great coach and a great person," Pecknold said. "It's a great place to work and I'm really im-



BENJAMIN YEARGIN/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac women's basketball head coach Tricia Fabbri is now the second Quinnipiac coach in school history to surpass 500 career wins along with men's hockey head coach Rand Pecknold.

pressed with all the coaches in this building."

On the court and ice, Fabbri and Pecknold both watched their programs and the university grow, as Quinnipiac went from the Braves to the Bobcats, from NCAA Division II to Division I, and for Fabbri, from the NEC to the MAAC.

Quinnipiac is home for Fabbri, as she has raised a family here in Connecticut.

"It's been a multitude of different opportunities staying at the same place," Fabbri said. "Ultimately, having the ability to coach at the Division I level and then also, for me personally, to have a family and not have to relocate with a young family gave me the best of both worlds."

With Fabbri at the helm, Quinnipiac became a successful basketball program, ultimately capturing its first NCAA Tournament appearance in 2013 after winning the NEC Tournament.

The tournament berth catapulted Quinnipiac's program, as it made the jump from the NEC to the MAAC soon after in 2013-14.

Quinnipiac made an immediate mark on its new conference, as it advanced all the way to the 2014 MAAC title game before losing to Marist. As a No. 4 seed, the Bobcats were able to upset No. 1 Iona to make it to its second-straight conference championship game and earn a bid to the WNIT.

The success kept coming for Fabbri's squad,

making multiple runs at both the MAAC and NCAA tournaments, before entering the national spotlight in 2016-17 when it reached the Sweet 16. The Bobcats' run included upset victories over Marquette and Miami, before ultimately falling to eventual NCAA Champion South Carolina.

"The longevity she's had, not only coaching and winning, but running a high-class program and representing the school," Quinnipiac men's basketball head coach Baker Dunleavy said. "She's treated me incredibly since the day I've gotten here and I'm so appreciative."

The banners hanging in Lender Court that signify team success mean more to Fabbri than the fresh one celebrating her 500th win, because it wouldn't be possible without her players.

Once Fabbri secured win No. 500 against Mount St. Mary's, her team decorated the locker room, but she didn't want to celebrate just yet.

"Honestly we got to the locker room and they were ready to do the big celebration, but I actually asked them to stop," Fabbri said. "Ultimately this isn't about me or what I'm doing and getting 500 wins, it's really about us and what we're trying to achieve this season, one game at a time."

Fabbri's focus was never on a regular season game. That game was just a stepping stone for where the Bobcats want to be at the end of the

season — cutting down the nets and heading to an NCAA tournament.

"I'm very much old school, we'll celebrate when we cut down the net," Fabbri said. "That's what we do."

Like Pecknold and Dunleavy, Quinnipiac women's ice hockey head coach Cass Turner has seen Fabbri's excellence up close and is appreciative of it too.

"Her drive to want to be great and to want to create a phenomenal experience for her student-athletes, that's what's gotten her here," Turner said. "And it's been really, really neat to watch."

Fabbri appreciates the opportunity at hand to mentor those who are just starting out in their coaching careers, just like Nolan did for her over three decades ago.

"It's so great to have people in your corner that are going to really tell you (the) truth," Fabbri said. "That's what I try to do, when they're down it's like 'hey, onward,' ... when you have failure that is the greatest opportunity for success."

Fabbri felt failure early on, never reaching double-digit wins in her first five years at the university, but she's now secured back-to-back 20 win seasons with her eyes set on bigger prizes: a MAAC championship and the NCAA tournament.

Men's lacrosse makes big strides in team identity

By ZACHARY CARTER
Staff Writer

Despite what you might have heard about some sports teams in Hamden, conference championships don't grow on trees. For the Quinnipiac men's lacrosse team, its members are going to have to put their heads down, block out the noise and grind for one.

With the release of the 2023 MAAC Pre-season Coaches' Poll in early February, the Bobcats found themselves as reasonable underdogs, selected No. 6 out of the 10 teams in

the conference. It is a fairly generous landing spot for a Quinnipiac team that finished with a 2-11 record just a season prior.

However, the Bobcats have cooked up a recipe for success this season, with little to lose and everything to gain. Low expectations and a poor record in the previous year have given the team all the motivation necessary to surprise the league this spring.

Head coach Mason Poli understands the importance of keeping continuity in his players' mindsets. Prior to the beginning of the year, he and the rest of his coaching staff honed in on a few key aspects that they wished to perfect over the course of the season.

"For us, we focus on our three F's: we're fast, fundamental and focused," Poli said on Feb. 25. "You can't have one without the other, they all have to work in unison."

And so far, that's precisely what the team has done. Those "3 F's" have proven to be a strong kickstarter — albeit in a small sample size — but the Bobcats have come out to a reasonably hot start to begin this year's campaign.

Through their first three games, some notable names have stuck out on both sides of the ball for the Bobcats. Junior midfielder Steven Germain leads the way in scoring with an impressive 10 goals, followed by senior attack John DeLucia and junior attack Dylan Don-

ney, who both tallied seven. Graduate student goaltender Nick DiMuccio has shined in net, recording 48 saves over three games, including a season-high 21 stops against No. 13 Brown on Feb. 18.

An 21-12 trouncing of UMass Lowell in the season opener gave the team all the confidence it needed to take on No. 13 Brown in Providence, where it gutted out an impressive 11-10 win against the Bears to improve to 2-0.

Two wins were all the Bobcats were able to scrape together in 2022, and yet they have now tied that mark in 2023, doing so in just their first two games of the season.

With those wins already under their belts, the Bobcats turned their attention to the Bryant Bulldogs on Feb. 25. The result of the game was a 19-12 loss, but the Bobcats certainly did not let themselves walk away without learning some vital lessons.

In Poli's eyes, he finds the loss to be just as productive as a win. The Bulldogs attacked the Bobcats with a unique playstyle that featured a high-intensity pace of play, something that he felt his team didn't see in its first two games.

But it is a different style of play that he feels his team needs to familiarize itself with before conference matches begin in mid-March.

"We want to test ourselves early and challenge ourselves early so that hopefully as the

season goes on these kinds of things become easier," Poli said. "We also want to see a couple of different looks."

Over the course of the spring, each team will come at the Bobcats with a different game plan, making it necessary that the team can recognize each look and adapt accordingly.

Both Poli and his team understand the importance of the games early in the year, and how each game offers a new look. The coaching staff also recognizes that non-conference games at the beginning of the season can carry just as much weight as the higher-leverage games toward the end of the season.

Working toward developing a shared identity is something that the men's lacrosse team has put a lot of effort toward coming into the 2023 season. As the year progresses and the six-team conference tournament begins to creep up, this is a team that expects itself to be in a position to make a deep playoff run. The only way to do that, however, is to take it one game at a time.

"We have got to keep improving because we need to be playing our best lacrosse at the end of April and beginning of May," Poli said. "Regardless of the outcome, our goal every day is that we have got to get better as a group, and that is going to continue to be the message."



The Quinnipiac men's lacrosse team is off to its best start in seven seasons.

JACK MUSCATELLO/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac's first field hockey coach Becca Main announces retirement after 28 seasons



PHOTO VIA QUINNIPAC ATHLETICS

Quinnipiac field hockey head coach Becca Main retires after 214 total wins with the Bobcats, good for 47th all time in NCAA Division I history.

By ETHAN HURWITZ
Sports Editor

On Friday, Becca Main, the only head coach in Quinnipiac field hockey program history, announced her retirement after 28 seasons in Hamden.

"I am filled with gratitude and excitement as I announce my retirement from Quinnipiac University," Main said in a Feb. 24 press release. "There has not been a day in three decades that I didn't enjoy driving onto the Quinnipiac campus – thrilled at the prospect of teaching and learning in a higher education environment with brilliant athletes and coaches."

Main's coaching career began in 1995, when the Bobcats were the Braves and the field hockey program was created. Since then, she has taken the team to new heights, including a 2016 invitation to the Big East, a new state-of-the-art stadium and 214 total victories.

"I have been challenged and elevated by

my players, assistant coaches, and opposing coaches," Main said. "Quinnipiac is a magical community where I was able to cultivate a coaching career that afforded me the opportunity to work beside colleagues of such determination and passion."

This past season, the Bobcats recorded their most wins since 2015, going 8-11.

Main's resume includes four conference Coach of the Year awards (1997, 1998, 2004, 2015) and three trips to the NCAA Tournament in 2001, 2003 and 2013. Before leaving the MAAC for the Big East, Main also led Quinnipiac to the 2013 MAAC title, the only conference championship in program history.

When she was hired in 1995, Main was also brought along to be the head coach of the women's lacrosse team, a role she held for eight seasons, including a 10-win season in 2002.

"Congratulations to Becca on an incredible career leading the Quinnipiac field hockey pro-

gram," Quinnipiac Director of Athletics Greg Amadio said in the Feb. 24 press release. "She embodies all of the qualities you could hope for in a leader and it has been a privilege to work directly with her over the past eight years."

During her playing career, Main was just as fierce on the field as she was off. She was the 1993 Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year during her time at Penn State and was named to the U.S. National Team that won a bronze medal in the 1994 World Cup. After her playing career, she picked up coaching and was later inducted into the Connecticut Field Hockey Coaches Association in 2005.

Main is part of a select group of Quinnipiac head coaches that have been with the university since the 1990s, including Rand Pecknold (men's hockey), Tricia Fabbri (women's basketball), Dave Clarke (women's soccer) and Mary Ann Powers (acrobatics and tumbling).

"Becca Main has a commitment to excel-

lence that I cherish," Pecknold said in the Feb. 24 press release. "She is a wonderful person and has done so much for the growth of Quinnipiac University."

During her tenure, the Bobcats had 94 student-athletes named to the all-conference teams, as well as 27 NFHCA Mideast All-Region selections. Main ends her career 47th out of all NCAA Division I field hockey coaches in career wins.

"This field hockey program is in a great place with eighteen of the most wonderful athletes spearheading the next decade," Main said. "They are poised to do some huge things and I know they will be the best advocates for the program as they enter a phase with a new coaching staff."

Quinnipiac Athletics announced that a national search for Main's replacement will begin shortly.

Women's lacrosse has gone radio silent, on and off the field

By ETHAN HURWITZ
Sports Editor

The start of the 2023 Quinnipiac women's lacrosse season was just right. In a physical game against Sacred Heart on Feb. 15, the Bobcats fought their way to a hard-fought 16-11 win over the Pioneers. The victory was good for the program's fourth season-opening win since 2017.

"I'm just really proud of them," head coach Tanya Kotowicz said on Feb. 15. "I think we kind of got to see a lot of what we're practicing. It's nice to beat up on someone other than ourselves. So just to get out there and get our first win on our field, our home opener, it's really important."

Then it all fell apart. Fast.

In the two games that followed, the Bobcats lost to the then-winless LIU Sharks 13-6 and the then-No. 21 Yale Bulldogs 14-5. The two games showcased Quinnipiac's lack of offensive prowess, as the 11 combined goals scored were the lowest total in a two-game stretch since 2018, where the team only mustered nine goals against Hofstra and Kennesaw State.

Problems were evident all over the field. The offensive rushes that worked against the Pioneers disappeared, and the defense gave up

too many free-chance shot opportunities. Goal-tenders senior Kat Henseler and sophomore Lindsay Mazzucco allowed 27 goals in a start everyone would hope to forget.

Graduate student midfielder Maddie Deegan, taking over a leadership role this season, voiced her displeasure in the LIU outcome. After the final whistle, Deegan huddled her teammates and emotionally asked why their five-goal outburst in the fourth quarter wasn't able to extend the whole match.

After each Quinnipiac sporting event, coaches and players are pulled aside for an interview with the media. However, after the LIU loss, Kotowicz, associate head coach Jordan Christopher and the roster all quickly shuffled into the locker room and did not return.

The Chronicle was told by athletic communications that it "did not sound good" in the Bobcats' locker room following the team's exit from the field against the Sharks. What appeared to be a normal end-of-game conversation lasted into 30 minutes and beyond.

Understandably, a brutal loss can damage a team's psyche.

But then the same thing happened after the Yale game last Wednesday. After a second-half that saw the Bobcats give up eight unanswered goals, the coaching staff brought the entire team into the locker room, without coming back for their usual postgame media availability.

Cameron Boon, associate director of creative contact for athletic communications, wrote in a statement to the Chronicle that "there is no commitment to provide" regarding the team's postgame media availability.

"The lack of postgame media at the last home game was not intentional," Boon wrote.

Another 30 minutes passed until the press conference was unofficially canceled. Quinnipiac Athletic Communications did not immediately respond for comment regarding either occurrence. Are there internal issues going on inside the locker room walls or is the team just drastically underperforming?

Something is up with this Quinnipiac squad and it is very evident what needs to change.

Giving sophomore midfielder EllaGrace Delmond more minutes on the field is the clear-cut answer to this team's problems. Despite finishing third on the team in goals last season (25), Delmond's

role in the offense has diminished drastically.

"She is just a pure competitor," Kotowicz said about Delmond on Feb. 15. "She's team oriented. She just keeps getting better individually. And it just keeps elevating our team, which is really cool to see."

In the one game the team has won this season, Delmond had three goals, but only has a single point in the next two losses. Getting an elite goal scorer on the field is something the coaching staff needs to start doing, especially with a UMass Lowell squad on the horizon that just scored 21 goals against Stonehill.

Kotowicz and her squad look to rebound from the rough two-game stretch with a bout against that same UMass Lowell squad March 1 at 1 p.m. Maybe getting on the road will be good for this team, as the Bobcats finally get to leave their Hamden confines for the first time this season.

At the end of the season, we may all be singing the Bobcats' praises. "It's not over until the fat lady sings" is the commonly-known expression in the world of sports. But for the women's lacrosse team, the lady is silent, as was their performance these last few games.

Sports

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PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

'Just be a champion every day'

Men's hockey looks to turn historic regular season into first Whitelaw Cup since 2016

By CAMERON LEVASSEUR
Sports Editor

In 2016, the Quinnipiac men's hockey team rode a three-goal second period surge to topple Harvard and capture the first Whitelaw Cup in program history. That same year, the Bobcats won three NCAA Tournament games and earned a berth to the national title game, in which they lost 5-1 to North Dakota.

Nearly seven years have passed since now-professionals Devon Toews, Connor Clifton, Sam Anas and company stepped off the ice at Amalie Arena in Tampa, Florida, heartbroken but proud of their historic run. In the time since, Quinnipiac has won 163 games, appeared in two ECAC Hockey championship games and three NCAA Tournaments – but is yet to lift the coveted trophy in Lake Placid for a second time; nor has it returned to the Frozen Four, the pinnacle of college hockey.

With a sweep of RPI and Union this past weekend, the 2022-23 Bobcats finished the regular season 28-3-3, which is in the conversation for the best regular season in program history. Also in that conversation? The 2015-16 squad, which went 25-2-7.

The parallels are there. This Quinnipiac squad is debatably the most complete team it's put on the ice since 2016. The Bobcats are No. 2 in the polls, No. 2 in PairWise and are top three in a plethora of meaningful team statistics, including scoring offense, scoring defense, face-off percentage and shooting percentage.

"We're such a close knit group," sophomore forward Jacob Quillan said after a 5-2 win over Brown on Feb. 18. "We're battling every day, practicing every day, getting better. I wouldn't want to do it with anyone else."

Its PairWise position has Quinnipiac poised to enter the NCAA Tournament as a No. 1 seed at the

Bridgeport Regional, putting it in front of a home crowd with a trip to the Frozen Four on the line.

If the Bobcats win out at regionals, they'll return to Tampa, back to the same arena that saw so much anguish in 2016, with a chance to flip the script and bring home the program's first national championship.

But all of that is weeks away, too distant to consider for a team that has maintained a "one game at a time" mentality all season.

So for the moment, it's all eyes on the ECAC Hockey quarterfinals, where Quinnipiac awaits the lowest seed to escape the preliminary round.

That means one of No. 8 Union, No. 9 Princeton, No. 10 Yale, No. 11 Brown or No. 12 Dartmouth will enter M&T Bank Arena looking to upset the Bobcats in a three-game series starting March 10.

Unlike previous years, it really could be any of those teams making the trip to Hamden. The tournament format was amended earlier this season to change the first round from a best-of-three series to a single-elimination format. In a league where the bottom of the standings are wide open, a winner-take-all opening round has all the potential for upsets.

Regardless of its opponent, all the momentum is on Quinnipiac's side. The Bobcats are a combined 10-0-0 against their potential quarter-final opponents and have just completed the best regular season of any ECAC Hockey team in more than three decades.

They finished the regular season 20-2-0 in conference play, becoming the first ECAC Hockey team to register 20 wins in-conference since Harvard in 1988-89 and only the 10th team to do it in the conference's 62-year history.

Offensively, the Bobcats are firing on all cylinders, getting production from up and down the lineup. Sophomore forward Collin Graf has continued to pace Quinnipiac's offense. The Union

transfer has 49 points in 34 games this season, chasing down the program single-season points record of 59.

Graf's linemates, freshman Sam Lipkin (34 points) and Quillan (29), have cemented the Bobcats' top line as one of the nation's best. Lipkin has put himself at the front of the ECAC Hockey Rookie of the Year conversation with seven goals and 10 points in his past seven games.

Beyond its youth, Quinnipiac's upperclassmen have produced on a similar level all season. Graduate student forward Ethan de Jong and senior forward Skyler Brind'Amour have both already set career highs in points, while graduate student forwards TJ Friedmann and Michael Lombardi and defenseman Zach Metsa have all eclipsed the 20-point plateau.

Assistant coach Mike Corbett credits the team's veterans for the attitude that's led the Bobcats to 28 wins this season.

"Those guys have kept it in perspective since day one," Corbett said on Feb. 18. "It's kind of a never-finished mentality. And it's not finished until we get to the last game of the season and hopefully it works in our favor."

On the defensive end, the Bobcats have been just as successful. Sophomore goaltender Yaniv Perets has been playing at the level that garnered him nomination as a finalist for the 2022 Richter Award (given to the best goaltender in college hockey) as Quinnipiac's team defense has rounded into form over the back half of the season, allowing an NCAA-leading 1.6 goals per game.

Every aspect of the Bobcats' game suggests a deep postseason run. The storylines, the statistics, the eye test all say that this team is going far. All that's left to do is play the games and prove it.

"Just be a champion every day," Corbett said on Feb. 18. "If you're a champion every day then you're going to win championships. It's inevitable, and our guys do it every day."



BENJAMIN YEARGIN/CHRONICLE

Sophomore forward Collin Graf is 11 points away from setting a new single-season program record.