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Mask mandate partially lifted, booster deadline extended

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QU raises cybersecurity concerns amid war in Ukraine

By **NICOLE MCISAAC** and **MELINA KHAN**

With the political unrest between Ukraine and Russia, Quinnipiac University urged its community to remain vigilant about email scams that could potentially infiltrate the university’s technology system.

Quinnipiac’s information security department has received several warnings regarding phishing messages sent to the university’s community, according to a Feb. 25, email from Chief Information Security Officer Robert Jasek.

Although Jasek said that he doesn’t believe that there’s currently a threat at Quinnipiac, he said it is important for the community to remain cautious due to the conflict between Ukraine and Russia.

After years of tension between the two countries, forces from Russia invaded Ukraine Feb. 24, with Russian President Vladimir Putin referring to the invasion as a “special military operation.”

Given the history of Russian hacking groups using malicious software to breach information from other countries, including a 2015 cyberattack on Ukraine, Jasek said there are currently information security concerns in the U.S.

“It is a known thing that we do see attacks from (Russia),” Jasek said. “What we’re wor-

ried about is if something spins off from an attack on Ukraine.”

Jasek said hackers typically breach networks in other countries by using phishing and scam emails to coerce users into sharing personal information or click on external website links. He said emails targeting Quinnipiac students often include offers for fraudulent job opportunities.

Despite some being aware of these internet invasions, Jasek said students can potentially be susceptible to the emails while facing the demands of being a college student.

“When you’re distracted with all your schoolwork, you’re on autopilot, you’re not really thinking and you see this email and say ‘Gee, I could use the extra money,’” Jasek said. “You’re going to do something like respond to them and you’re going to click on a link.”

Hackers typically ask for personal information such as an address, cellphone number and banking information. Some emails will prompt users to click a website link, which when clicked, can introduce malicious software on the user’s computer. If the computer is connected to Quinnipiac Wi-Fi, hackers can then gain access to the university’s network.

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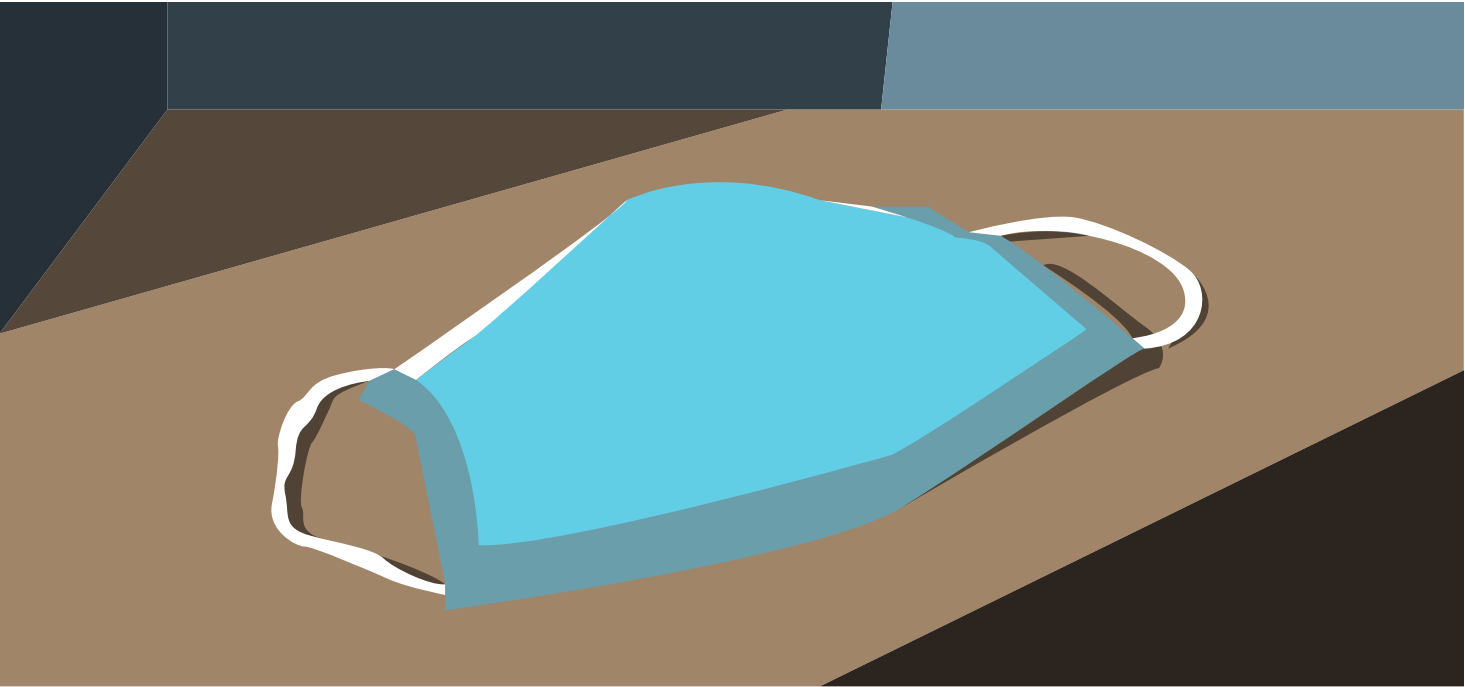


ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR LAWLESS

QU loosens mask mandate, pushes booster deadline

By NICOLE MCISAAC and AMANDA UNDARI
Quinnipiac University instated an optional indoor mask mandate March 1, in addition to extending the booster record submission deadline to March 19.

All individuals are required to wear masks inside of classrooms and health care service areas, according to a Quinnipiac COVID support email sent to the community on Feb. 28. Masks may be required at university-sponsored events and other large gatherings.

Senior Medical Advisor David Hill said the university’s decision to loosen the mask mandate came after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced updated masking guidance Feb. 25, based on COVID case count by county.

“Quinnipiac has a highly vaccinated population, omicron is waning,” Hill said. “We’ve done well so far with our numbers of cases on campus, our capacity to take care of students has been never overwhelmed in the first month of being back.”

Despite favoring a sense of normalcy on campus, students said they wish the university chose to fully remove or support the mandate to avoid a noncommittal response.

“I feel it is a halfhearted move by the university in an attempt to please all,” said Christopher Winters, a senior law in society major. “By refusing to commit one way or the other, it has the exact opposite effect of pleasing no one.”

Hill said the decision to continue requiring masking in classrooms because it is an environment in which students are required to be present.

“The classroom’s a required event, and students don’t have a choice about whether they show up or not in the classroom,” Hill said. “They haven’t necessarily made a choice of who they sit next to. That’s very different from the dining hall, it’s very differ-

ent from other public events, it’s very different from the dormitory situation.”

The university has 29 active cases in isolation, and 25 of the cases being within the past week, according to the university’s COVID-19 dashboard.

However, students are concerned that cases will increase given the new mask protocol.

“If no one’s wearing masks in places like the cafe or (recreation) center, then what’s the point of keeping them on in class when you’re exposed to people elsewhere?” said Michael Powell Jr., a senior accounting major.

Students who did not upload their booster records received an email regarding the updated changes on Feb. 25. Any student who does not meet the new submission date will be required to follow a five-day quarantine if exposed to an individual who tested positive for COVID-19.

Non-boosted individuals are also prohibited from participating in any university-sponsored travel for the remainder of the semester and will be charged a \$200 noncompliance fee to their bursar account.

Additionally, non-boosted residential students who need to quarantine must travel home, and students living off campus must remain in their housing to complete their isolation. All quarantined students will be required to complete a daily symptom check during the five days, and can end their quarantine period once they have a negative antigen test and are cleared by Student Health Services.

The \$200 fee collected from noncompliant students will be donated in full to the 1929 Scholarship Fund, a student-run fund that provides aid to incoming and transfer students.

“If we are going to fine students, let’s have that money go back to the students,” Hill said. “It’s a positive response for a challenging decision.”

Hill told The Chronicle that there is no exact number of students who have completed the

requirement yet, but feels that the university’s spring break from March 14-17 will allow more students to complete the booster requisite before the new deadline.

In disagreement with the university’s decision, some students have taken action to convince Quinnipiac officials to reconsider the mandate.

Halie Jansen, a senior health science studies major, runs the Instagram account @qu.students to call upon the university to reconsider its booster mandate. She said she doesn’t agree with the noncompliance fee because the majority of the Quinnipiac population is already vaccinated.

“Taking money from one student during this pandemic, just to give to another is wrong,” Jansen said. “Students who want to have a choice in this booster may still have financial troubles that QU is not considering.”

Jansen said there is a link to a student-run petition placed within the account’s bio that requests the university’s administration to abolish the mandate on campus. The Chronicle reported at the start of the open letter in January, and as of publication it has risen to 978 signatures.

Other students feel that those who do not meet the updated requirement should face consequences.

Sophomore computer information systems major Julianna Rodgers said that students who don’t upload their booster information by the extended deadline should receive a harsher punishment.

“I think they should just get kicked off of campus instead of having to pay money,” Rodgers said.

The university will continue to monitor the COVID-19 cases and adjust any policy if necessary. Any student with questions regarding the booster mandate is encouraged to contact covidappeals@qu.edu.

CYBERSECURITY from cover

“That’s the bigger concern for us at this point, because once they get inside our network it’s really hard to find them,” Jasek said. “Typically the way defenses work is you’re trying to stop badness from coming in, and you’re sort of assuming that goodness on the inside is goodness.”

Quinnipiac’s information security department has taken efforts to promote vigilance against fraudulent emails in recent years.

In June 2021, Jasek notified the community of the addition of a banner at the top of email messages coming from outside Quinnipiac’s network. The cautionary message notifies the recipient that it “originated from outside of the organization” and to not “follow guidance, click links, or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.”

Despite the urge for vigilance, some students say they are not concerned about the potential for suspicious messages.

Alexandra Pena, a sophomore nursing major, said she has received untrustworthy job offer emails in the past and can typically detect when a message is not legitimate.

“It’s pretty easy to pick out that it’s not

Quinnipiac for the reason of all the typos,” Pena said. “I do feel like it’s kind of weird. Some people can believe it so I feel like it’s a little concerning. But I feel like most people know what’s real and what’s not.”

However, Pena said the ability to identify fraudulent emails depends on each person’s individual experience with online literacy.

“If you have some sort of experience or you can easily recognize these things, I feel like you should be OK,” Pena said. “There are people out there that are easily susceptible just for the reason that they don’t know. I feel like it really depends.”

Marc Gartenburg, a junior finance major, said he is concerned about phishing messages because he’s known victims of hacking.

“I know people who have (been hacked) and it’s definitely frightening,” Gartenburg said. “You have to go out and tell people like ‘I didn’t send that message.’ It’s frightening and also something you don’t want to have to deal with.”

With Russia’s history of targeting cyber information from other countries, Gartenburg said the current conflict in Ukraine exacerbates hacking worries.

“It definitely makes me feel concerned because I don’t want my information out

there in the wrong hands, no one does,” Gartenburg said. “As we’ve seen in the past, Russia is very good at (hacking) ... Apple could be next and a lot of (Quinnipiac students) are iPhone users so it’s scary.”

Any student who believes they have received a fraudulent email is encouraged to forward the message to informationsecurity@quinnipiac.edu, or to call the information security office at 203-582-3625. Jasek said the office will verify the sender and the contents to ensure it is safe for students to open and or respond to.

“It definitely makes me feel concerned because I don’t want my information out there in the wrong hands, no one does.”

– Marc Gartenburg
JUNIOR FINANCE MAJOR

Former presidential candidate encourages QU students to engage in politics

By JACK SPIEGEL
Staff Writer

A conversation with former Housing and Urban Development Secretary and 2020 Democratic presidential candidate Julián Castro on Feb. 24, left community members excited to put Quinnipiac University on the nation’s political map.

Clarice L. Buckman Theater was packed as Castro spoke with Quinnipiac Democrats’ President Paul Cappuzzo who told The Chronicle that having the opportunity to interview Castro was something he could not put words to.

“It’s just unimaginable how excited I was to be up there,” Cappuzzo said.

In the nearly 25-minute address to the crowd, Castro covered a wide range of topics, from the crisis in Ukraine to the importance of young people being involved in politics.

In addition to praising the efforts of college-aged Democrats, Castro said they are “the lifeline of the Democratic party.”

Castro also said in places like Connecticut, voters built up coalitions, which helped “lead to President (Joe) Biden’s victory in November 2020.”

While speaking on the current geopolitical climate of the world, Castro said Russia’s invasion of Ukraine reminded him of the Cold War. On Feb. 24, Russia invaded Ukraine in what it called a “special military operation,” leading experts to believe Ukraine’s capital, Kyiv, would fall within days.

Castro told The Chronicle that he praises the Biden administration’s handling of the war in Ukraine. He also said that “ramping up sanctions against individuals and companies” should be on the table.

In his speech, Castro stated his disagreement with his Republican counterparts, while pushing for progressive policies like the advancement of LGBTQ rights, equal access to the ballot box and a fair corporate tax system.

Additionally, Castro told The Chronicle that students can get involved in political

discourse by following current events and volunteering on different civic efforts, especially political campaigns.

In terms of his next steps, Castro said that he is not running for office in 2022, but may “jump back in at some point in the future.” Currently, Castro is a political analyst for NBC and MSNBC.

The second half of the event was a question-and-answer style town hall with previ-

ously submitted questions from community members largely focusing on domestic issues.

One question brought up concerns about the equitable distribution of funds in the Biden administration’s Build Back Better bill.

“With a lot of federal money before, they didn’t reach the people, the places often-times that they needed to be the most, especially people of color,” Castro said.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention executive order, which was administered under the Trump administration immigration policy and further continued under the Biden administration. The policy prevents asylum claims in the name of public health.

“You can test people, you can even require vaccination when you want it,” Castro said. “There are other ways to make sure that these people who are coming from desperate circumstances and applying for asylum have the opportunity to do that.”

Given the event’s coinciding timing with political science classes, Cappuzzo said he was pleased with the event’s turnout.

Castro’s close ties to Biden grabbed the attention of many in terms of the Ukraine crisis.

“It was interesting to see him comment on the Ukraine stuff especially since it was really escalating that day,” said Matt Hawryluk, a senior marketing major.

President Judy Olian was also in attendance and told The Chronicle it is “natural” for Quinnipiac to obtain such a high profile speaker.

“We want to make it possible for our students to be engaged in public service and political movements whether they’re local or national,” Olian said.

Political science professor Scott McLean told The Chronicle having Castro visit proves that Quinnipiac is a flagship university with the ability to host high profile guests.

“I just like the story of how he got involved in politics and that he didn’t really plan to have a life in public service,” McLean said. “It sometimes happens for people and you get excited about an issue that draws you further into it.”

Castro praised the calls for leadership among the younger generation.

“You are present,” Castro said. “I came here tonight to say that we need you. Your nation needs you right now.”

Cappuzzo told The Chronicle that they are working on obtaining another speaker for later in the semester.



Former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julián Castro answered questions from audience members at Quinnipiac University Feb. 24.

DANIEL PASSAPERA/CHRONICLE

Senior citizen walking program hits the ground running

By AIDAN SHEEDY
Copy Editor

More feet will be shuffling on Quinnipiac University’s North Haven campus as the university began its senior citizen fitness program, “Bobcat Stride,” on Feb. 23, bringing active locals in from the cold and into a healthier lifestyle.

“We just want to be a resource for the community,” said Karla Natale, associate vice president for community partnerships. “We want to be able to provide something for (senior citizens) especially.”

The program runs weekly from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays on the second floor of the Center for Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. Bobcat Stride aims to keep local senior residents inside a heated facility to exercise. It is open to the public for those 50 years and older and any Quinnipiac students. Participants are required to sign a liability waiver upon arrival.

Natale and her team created a walking route so it resembles the path of mall walkers. She said it is typical to see many senior citizens speed walk through the concourse of a shopping mall in the mornings.

The team marked the route around the circumference of the second floor, measuring a total of exactly a quarter of a mile. About every 10 feet, floor signs with bright yellow arrows indicate the walkers’ next step forward.

“What it means to be a part of the community, is just to be there,” Natale said. “I would want the same thing. I wouldn’t want to be treated as someone who is not contributing as much. They are very important and we want them to know they are important.”

Many senior citizens returned for their third morning of walking in the early morning of Feb. 28, evidently feeling healthy and appreciated.

North Haven residents Thomas and Rosemary Calamo took their walk together, a change from their normal routine.

“We usually walk around our neighborhood, but when we heard about this ... it’s inside so it sounded a lot warmer,” Rosemary Calamo said.

Thomas Calamo said he and his wife exercise a lot, but found it difficult in the winter to also stay warm while engaging in physical activity.

“It was good for us because you’re not out in the elements like the snow and rain,” Thomas Calamo said.

Fourth-year health science studies major Victoria O’Toole helped come up with ideas and refined the smaller details of the tri-weekly event.

“It may give students within the health care field some opportunity to volunteer and add stuff to their resume,” said O’Toole, who is entering a graduate occupational therapy program. “I plan on volunteering at least once a week.”

Utilizing her background in occupational therapy and her knowledge from previously working at an assisted living home, O’Toole was able to find a sense of accomplishment with her involvement in the project.

“Giving (senior citizens) a spot to welcome them on campus gives them more resources,” O’Toole said. “It feels good to give more opportunity.”

Those opportunities brought in grateful North Haven residents like 69-year-old Barbara Munck.

“I love that (Quinnipiac) is an age-friendly university, reaching out to the community and trying to be a part of it,” Munck said. “I really love when what’s offered at a university is available to people in the community.”

Munck, a retired Yale University professor, said this new program was exactly the thing she needed to get out of bed in the morning.

“I needed a kick-start,” Munck said. “It’s real easy to stay in bed a long time, so this might be a good way to change my routine.”

Promoting a healthy lifestyle was the backbone of this initiative, Natale said. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the average adult needs 150 minutes a week of physical activity, including walking, to better their health.

North Haven resident Josephine Reilly, 83, said she is appreciative of the program’s support for the community’s seniors. Reilly said she wants Quinnipiac to give back the same gratitude she has felt over the years.

“(Quinnipiac) has been helping out,” Reilly said. “I’d like to help them out too.”

Reilly has been walking every morning since she moved to the area 40 years ago. Since the kick-off event on Feb. 23, she said she has already accumulated more than 10 miles in her steps.

“I always wake up at 5:30,” Reilly said. “I feel great. Now it’s time to go home and start the day.”

Any students interested in participating can contact Natale at karla.natale@quinnipiac.edu for details.



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac University’s senior walking program ‘Bobcat Stride’ launched Feb. 23 at the School of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences on the North Haven campus.

Opinion

Texas’ anti-LGBTQ laws put trans lives in grave danger

By **XAVIER CULLEN**
Opinion Editor

I can only imagine the fear the LGBTQ community must be feeling. After decades of fighting for the right to adoption and same-sex marriage, the community has still had to deal with widespread discrimination — in society and in law.

Wave after wave of anti-gay and anti-transgender laws keep getting pushed through legislature, suffocating the community. It must feel like drowning, unable to escape the ocean’s current of bigotry.

That latest wave came from Texas. State Attorney General Ken Paxton wrote an opinion to the state’s House of Representatives on Feb. 18, stating that sex reassignment surgery and puberty blockers for minors classify as “abuse.”

A week later, Gov. Greg Abbott called upon state-licensed professionals to be mandated reporters of this so-called “abuse.” Doctors, nurses and teachers would be forced to report any “abuse” that they see or face criminal charges. He urged the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services to investigate relevant cases.

The first victims of this were the parents of a 16-year-old trans daughter. The mother is a DFPS employee who “reviews cases of abuse and neglect” and has filed a lawsuit, according to Houston Public Media. If the parents lose, they’ll be placed on a child abuse registry, the mother will lose her job and investigations will continue statewide.

This situation is inhumane to the highest degree.

Paxton and Abbott want to turn the world against children who are trans, who will live in fear wherever they go. Schools will not be safe. Hospitals will not be safe.

There are a lot of brave teachers who have spoken out against this ruling and said they will not report this “abuse,” but can a kid who is trans really know who to trust?

A lot of those children already suffer from poor support systems in their families and communities. Around 40% of trans youth reported that they have experienced homelessness or housing insecurity sometime in their lives, according to the Trevor Project. Now, Abbott is making sure they have nowhere to turn because of a transphobic belief that children are incapable of understanding their identity.

Forced to feel ashamed of who they are and scared to tell anyone how they feel, children who are trans could feel even more isolated and depressed.

But the effects might turn even deadlier. Eric Stanley, associate professor in the



PHOTO BY GAGE SKIDMORE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has a long-standing history of supporting anti-LGBTQ laws, such as the prohibition of same-sex marriage.

Department of Gender and Women’s Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, said that anti-trans violence is not only permitted by legislation like this, it’s encouraged.

“In other words, those that enact anti-trans violence on the individual level are acting under the authority of a murderous settler state,” Stanley said in an interview with The 19th. “The two are entwined in a deadly knot.”

For families of trans children, that fear is real.

“With the sports ban (on trans students) last year, things got a little scarier,” said Violet A., an anonymous mother of a trans child who spoke to Today. “When ... a gender-affirming healthcare spot for children closed a few months ago, it got a little scarier. So now, to hear about this most recent news, I’m over Texas. I’m over it.”

The validity of trans children is not debatable. By as early as 3 years old, children can start to categorize their gender as masculine or feminine, according to the Mayo Clinic. As they begin to mature, a better understanding of their identity forms.

Gender norms are not natural. Boys aren’t born liking sports and video games, and girls aren’t born liking Disney princesses and the color pink. Part of being a kid is trying new things. For some, that entails joining the soccer team or taking dance classes. For others, it means trying on clothes or playing with toys stereotypically from the other gender.

But don’t hear what I’m not saying. A child coming to terms with their gender identity is not the same as a child trying out a new hobby. It is much more serious, and it requires much more love, care and support. That’s what makes Texas’ actions even more despicable. At their most vulnerable, children who are trans are being denied their human rights.

Denying that exploration removes the importance of childhood. Governmental restrictions on who children can be robs them of their personal growth and development.

It is disheartening to see yet another instance of anti-trans governance. On Feb. 24, Florida’s House of Representatives passed the Parental Rights in Education bill, which effectively bans all conversations of sexuality and gender identity in schools. The Senate committee approved the so-called “Don’t Say Gay” bill on Feb. 28, and it only has the state Senate in its way before Gov. Ron DeSantis can approve it.

Just last year, a bill in the Texas Senate tried to make gender-affirming care for minors a felony. While that failed to pass, Abbott later signed a bill that prohibits trans students from competing for gendered sports teams that fit their identity, despite no evidence being provided that they have an unfair advantage. The National Coalition for Women & Girls in Education and American Psychological Association have both come out against such laws.

Anti-trans cultists usually cite outdated, misleading or biased sources to back up their bigoted claims despite mounds of evidence proving them wrong. They’ll resort to bad-faith hypotheticals, like that of a “man

pretending to be a woman” entering public restrooms and assaulting children. Bigots concoct a fantasy world that leads them to enact these discriminatory laws.

“At their most vulnerable, children who are trans are being denied their much-needed human rights.”

– Xavier Cullen
OPINION EDITOR

Misinformation is in full effect when discussing trans rights, and it stops any progress from being made. But when has the truth ever stopped bigotry?

A better question might be: How can this be stopped? Unfortunately, in the U.S., states are given carte blanche to do whatever they want. That is unless President Joe Biden actually lived up to his promise to people in the LGBTQ community that their rights were a “top priority.”

He can talk all he wants about these bills on Twitter, but he can make tangible differences by flexing the kind of power former President Donald Trump did when he was in office.

If Biden cared about LGBTQ rights, he would do everything in his power to stop these laws. And if Abbott or DeSantis actually cared about children, they wouldn’t force trans kids through this psychological torture.

I just hope that all Texans who are trans can find a safe place in these scary times.



PHOTO BY EDWARD O. UTHMAN/FLICKR

An LGBTQ flag hung in Houston, Texas, for Pride Month 2021. One in four homeless youths aged 13-24 in Harris County identify as LGBTQ, according to the University of Houston.

Opinion

QU needs to pick a side with masks

By ASHLEY PELLETIER
Arts & Life Editor

If you have any insecurities about the lower half of your face, I have some bad news for you.

As of March 1, Quinnipiac University students have the option to not wear masks indoors, with the exception of in classrooms and “large, university-sponsored events,” according to a university email.

Quinnipiac’s decision to remove most of the mandate follows new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that does away with masking recommendations in over 70% of the country.

Some are probably happy to get the choice – and they’re valid – but the wishy-washy nature of the new policy seems absurd to me. It doesn’t make any sense to have masks in the classroom when the second the students flood into the hallway, the masks will come off. They’re still in a large group, but that same rule won’t apply.

There should be no middle ground when it comes to masking. You either make people wear them whenever they’re indoors or you don’t. Making anti-maskers and pro-maskers both upset for different reasons just makes the Quinnipiac administration a common enemy for strongly opinionated students. The decision also makes the administration look clueless with what they are doing.

Just because the state of Connecticut and the CDC are loosening mask recommendations doesn’t mean that Quinnipiac should be listening to them.



ILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

Throughout the pandemic, the CDC has repeatedly changed its guidelines just to make people happy when they should have listened to science. It changed quarantine guidelines from 10 days to five on Dec. 27, 2021, after Delta Airlines sent a letter to CDC Director Rochelle Walensky asking for reconsideration of the length of quarantine.

The CDC clearly no longer sees the American people’s health as a priority. Rather, they are bending to political and corporate pressure.

Whether Quinnipiac administrators understand that or not, they are certainly taking advantage of it to an extent. They want

to make the anti-mask population happy, but don’t want to upset immunocompromised and pro-mask students. Honestly, I laughed when I read the email the university sent on Feb. 28, because of how stupid its decision regarding masks was.

Personally, I will still be wearing my mask regardless of where I am on campus. While they aren’t 100% effective, I’d rather keep people’s bodily fluids away from my nose and mouth. However, I understand why some may choose to go without them. We are going into our third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, and I am just as tired of

masks as everybody else. However, we can’t just throw in the towel.

There are many people who may not even have the option to stop wearing masks. Even with the less severe omicron variant, we saw levels of hospitalization and death unlike any other wave of the pandemic, particularly from disabled and immunocompromised people.

While college students are in an age bracket where they are more likely to have milder symptoms of COVID-19, many common conditions can cause more severe symptoms, including diabetes, asthma and depression. This is not to mention many older professors and other staff at Quinnipiac who are also at high risk.

Even if college students get less severe symptoms of COVID-19, they can still develop so-called “long COVID.” A person has this if they continue having symptoms for weeks or even months after testing positive for the virus. Symptoms include fatigue, headaches, insomnia and several others, all of which can be debilitating, even to young people.

Quinnipiac wants to push the responsibility of COVID spread on campus onto its students. Leaving the mitigation of the virus to young adults, many whose frontal lobes aren’t even finished developing, is a reckless and stupid choice.

This decision is ultimately a slap in the face to people who are at higher risk for severe COVID-19. However, if Quinnipiac is going to make the wrong decision for them, it should at least be wrong with its whole chest.

To heal homesickness, we have to accept growing up

By MICHAEL LAROCCA
Associate Opinion Editor

Adjusting to college life is a difficult process, that’s a given. That change is one of the few aspects of growing up that affects every person differently.

I am grateful to say that it was not as difficult of an ordeal as I expected. I found friends I love being around, and joining student media organizations gave me a purpose on campus besides getting a degree. Outside of those, I avoided homesickness by getting engulfed in Quinnipiac University sports.



CONNOR LAWLESS/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac women’s soccer lost 4-0 against Monmouth in the MAAC championship on Nov. 7, 2021.

As a lifelong resident of Middletown, New Jersey, I lived a swift half-hour away from Monmouth University. My favorite first-year memories have been when I learned the Hawks were coming to Hamden, Connecticut, to play my beloved Bobcats.

Regardless of the matchup’s outcome, it always felt nice to have a piece of home come visit me while away at school. However, I learned recently that this slice of comfort won’t stay with me for much longer.

On Jan. 18, Monmouth University announced that it will leave the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference and move all of its athletic teams to the Colonial Athletic Association, starting the 2022-23 academic year. This meant that after my first year of college, I will be without the opportunity to see Quinnipiac face off against the men and women representing the university of my home.

Unable to discern why, I was crushed when I found out. It took a few weeks for me to process the news.

I described my feelings in a tweet on Feb. 6, “I’m still not over Monmouth leaving the MAAC. It feels like the union between my home and my college has been severed like the world’s strangest breakup.”

It was odd to feel this way because I cannot say that I have ever been a Monmouth Hawks fan. I grew attached to the simple idea that something so close to my home would make visits to me at college fairly consistently.

In the most playful way possible, I always wanted Quinnipiac to beat Monmouth just to reassure myself that I love being here in the same way I love being at home. I definitely will not miss how much Monmouth dominated the Bobcats.



INFOGRAPHIC BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

Across all sports matchups where Quinnipiac played the Hawks, the Bobcats have a 169-207-6 all-time record as of publication. These games have happened throughout the schools’ 24 years of conference bouts with each other.

While Monmouth’s decision to compete in the Colonial Athletic Association is completely valid, for me, this feels like a connection that has been viciously severed with little warning.

In my head, having the Hawks come visit Hamden once every few weeks was essentially a cure-all for the homesickness usually cited as a symptom of the college adjustment process. Now, as they leave my day-to-day consciousness, all I see is an opportunity to grow up, for Quinnipiac as well as myself.

I have learned what it takes to be an adult in today’s world at college, and this is my first step toward becoming just that. No matter how large or small, we all go through our early lives

with training wheels on. Possibly, entire universities experience this just the same.

Monmouth is leaving the MAAC to experience growth within its athletics that it could not find beforehand. Quinnipiac sports, besides ice hockey, will see where they can go without a big brother watching over every year. I may finally be able to live without thinking about home all of the time.

Before writing this, I was still upset with the revelation that fans of MAAC schools went through last month. Now as I explore these feelings, I feel refreshed. Instead of seeing Monmouth like the person I go to class with each week, I can now view it as that super cool cousin who comes around during the holidays. We don’t see each other often but have an amazing time together whenever we do.

Letting go of what we hold dearest might be what can help us grow and become the most developed version of ourselves.

Arts & Life

STANDING UP AND SPEAKING OUT

Four Black activists reflect on advocating and organizing with purpose through a virtual discussion

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

In 2020, many activists appeared as the world witnessed the tragic murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, kick-starting protests across the globe in favor of social change. The reality of racial inequalities and police brutality associated with Black individuals finally got notoriety, pushing the ongoing Black Lives Matter movement to the forefront.

Something many new activists may not consider is that Black activism existed long before the monumental events that occurred only two years ago. In commemoration of Black History Month, the Department of Cultural and Global Engagement invited four Black activists on Feb. 22, to virtually discuss their individual journeys, substantial advocacy and their motives behind the fight for social equality.

“(This event is) an opportunity for us to learn about meaningful activism, challenges and successes as we disrupt the status quo and the importance of care and resilience through the work of activism,” said Veronica Jacobs, associate director of multicultural education.

Harmony Edosomwan is a Nigerian-American activist raised in the Bronx by two Nigerian immigrants. She is a chef and cannabis advocate. Recently graduated from the University of Vermont, Edosomwan is the owner of two businesses, Harmony’s Kitchen, a soul food catering business and Heauxs Defense, a self-defense tools company.

She champions Black women, Black queer women and racial justice. She has recently explored environmental justice with a more urban perspective due to her roots in the Bronx. Throughout Edosomwan’s life, when she witnesses something she has to speak on it. To her, activism means standing up for what you believe in and “causing good trouble.”

“Like I remember just even back in sixth grade,” Edosomwan said. “When I see people getting bullied on the bus, I’d be like, ‘Hey, don’t do that’ ... I was always causing good trouble throughout my entire life.”

Edosomwan said she was always “activist-minded” and stood up and spoke out on what she believed in. The summer of 2016 was particularly impactful for her as it marked her initial encounter with the BLM movement. That summer, she and her

sister joined a BLM protest in Union Square.

Edosomwan said this was one of the biggest protests that New York City had up to that point. Seeing how the police handled the protest shook her to her core, specifically when she had to run away from the police while it was raining that night. This experience was eye-opening to her and fired up a passion to devote her life to activism. A few months later after this encounter during her first semester of college, she organized her initial protest.

“And just the things I saw that night, the rage that I saw from our people, the anger, the sadness, the community,” Edosomwan said. “There were people coming up to me and telling me like, ‘Hey, in case you get sprayed by pepper spray, here’s what you have to do.’”

Like Edosomwan, a healing facilitator and storyteller Rachel Greene studied at the University of Vermont as a graduate student. Greene witnessed Edosomwan’s activism work as an undergrad which motivated to her own work as a Black educator.

“I got to just witness so much of the amazing, incredible leadership of (Edosomwan’s) activism,” Greene said. “It’s something that has always inspired me and I may be older, but there was just so much that I learned from you and your leadership. And so it’s really awesome to see (Edosomwan) on this panel.”

Growing up in a predominantly white school, she felt as if she held a lot of privilege. It wasn’t until she was an undergraduate at Loyola University Chicago when she realized that her clouded experience was not grounded on her identity as a Black queer person.

“It was really hard for me to make space for my rage,” Greene said. “And I think I found that in activism and I found that in identity exploration and obviously so many of the things that were happening with the BLM movement at the time.”

During her first year of college, she took part in many rallies in response to Trayvon Martin’s murder in 2012. These rallies were personal to her as she had thought about all the times she was in spaces with her white friends and felt unsafe.

“It was years and years of anger and frustration that I think had been hidden that kind of just exploded all at once,” Greene said.

One thing that Greene learned from this is that both rage and anger have a space despite being taught she should suppress it her whole life. She has witnessed the most impact when she incorporates her animosity when she leads.

Greene’s efforts in activism and social change are grounded in organizing spaces of community and healing for people who identify as LGBTQ. She also found personal healing in creating sanctuaries of refuge for people of queer and trans identities.

“When I think of activism, one of the first things I think about is self-observation,” Greene said. “Specifically thinking about the communities that I work with and serve,

but also thinking about what it means to advocate and create resources and be a part of solutions to folks for the future.”

She published her second poetry book, “Heartstrings: From My Heart, To Yours,” on Jan. 13, which showcases her spiritual journey, grief and relationship with intergenerational trauma.

Greene champions community healing as intergenerational trauma regularly impacts Black communities and advocating for social change can unknowingly affect one’s mental state negatively.

“I think for me, I’ve learned that there has to be actively folks organizing,” Greene said. “But there also has to be people holding space for those folks who are doing that work ... when I was an undergraduate student, I had no idea how that was impacting my mental health when I was doing a lot of organizing and activism on my college campus until I got into my professional career.”

Scholar-activist, Kat Morris experienced domestic violence growing up which kick-started her advocacy when she had no choice but to start speaking out for the safety of herself and her siblings.

Similar to Greene, Morris also grew up in predominantly white spaces but much of the racism she experienced was interpersonal and not systemic as she did not face a lack of infrastructure. However, her time in foster care is when she was introduced to systemic poverty and a “new layer of interpersonal racism” because her foster parents were “white and racist.”

When she moved in with her mother in Bridgeport, Connecticut, she experienced systemic racism in the forms of environmental racism, police brutality and structural degradation for the first time.

“The first time I went to high school ... I had to get patted down by police and go through my detectors,” said Morris. “But it’s been normalized in Black and brown communities. That kind of built-up an anger in me. And I started to get more and more aware of the environment and climate change, just the different sources of pollution that I was seeing around me that I’d never seen before ... And so that was really what inspired me to get into action.”

Morris earned a master of public policy degree from the University of Connecticut where she founded the UConn Collaborative Organizing as an undergraduate. UCCO is a community organization that aims to boost solidarity, intersectionality, social fairness and environmental justice.

She also shared some wisdom of advocating for social change in her TEDx Yukon talk, “How to collaborate for environmental justice,” where she goes in-depth on how to go about coming together for calls of action like environmental justice and racism, health inequalities and organizing in your community.

Julian Rose’s activism and passion lie in Black feminism, centering the most marginalized, gender-based violence and those affected by both state violence and patriarch violence in Black communities.

He is involved in Black feminist and abolitionist organizing efforts in Atlanta. For Rose, activism is “like an individual choosing a certain political engagement to bring about social change, like serving as a change agent.” Rose said organizing in a community builds “connectedness” to its citizens and gives more power to its people and sustainability.

Ana Allen, a senior political science and psychology double major, reflected on the opportunity to learn from the four panelists on what it means to be an activist and the mental impact it can have people don’t often consider.

“I think that is absolutely amazing to kind of hear from people who are activists, but also are differentiating from activism and community like involvement,” Allen said. “I think, especially for myself, trying to navigate that area between trying to be an activist, trying not to be performative and then also trying to work with the community, especially a community that is not necessarily my own ... definitely is hard to navigate.”

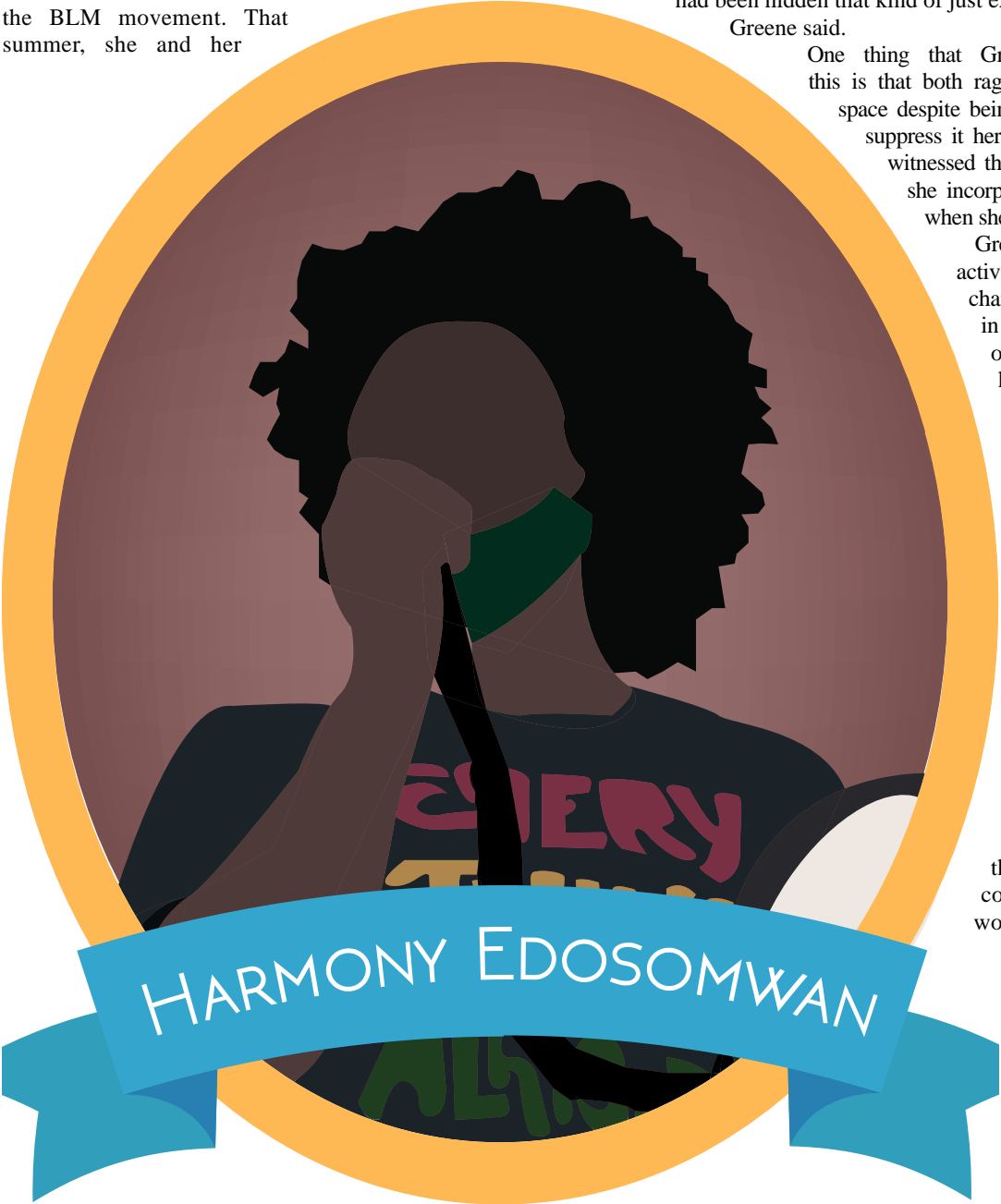


ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR LAWLESS

Indigenous Student Union invites Taíno speakers as QU grapples with colonial legacies

By JULIUS MILLAN
Contributing Writer

Quinnipiac University’s Indigenous Student Union and Latino Cultural Society invited speakers on Feb. 24, to talk about Taíno culture and colonial legacies.

Assistant professor of political science Marcos Scauso and Gabriella Colello, the president of the ISU, spoke about the legacies of colonialism at Quinnipiac and losing touch with Indigenous cultures.

Stephanie Bailey and Sanakori Ramos, the casique, chief, and behique, medicine man, of the Arayeke Yukayek, a self-determined Taíno tribe focused on fostering a revival of Taíno customs and culture in New York and the Greater Antilles in the Caribbean, advocated the importance of connecting with your roots.

Before European colonization, the Taíno people mainly lived in the Greater Antilles — chiefly Puerto Rico, modern-day Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Cuba. They were the first to come into contact with Christopher Columbus and the Spanish before being subjugated, killed and enslaved by the thousands. There were countless more who died of disease.



LCS Secretary Genesis Paulino emphasized the importance of remembering Indigenous roots as whitewashing runs rampant.

Genesis Paulino, secretary of the LCS and a sophomore sociology major, thought the event was an excellent chance for the ISU and LCS to cooperate with each other since Indigenous and Caribbean cultures are intermixed.

“It was a great way for both groups to learn about Taíno culture and for others to change their mindset on Indigenous influence in the Caribbean,” Paulino said.

Colello, a senior political science major, saw this event as a chance to give an Indigenous culture a spotlight at a university whose land once belonged to Indigenous people.

“Especially at QU, there’s a mindset that some native cultures are dead and should be left in the past,” Colello said. “I believe that having members of the Taíno community speak about their culture is a great way to change that.”

Before the event officially began, songs such as “La Negra Tiene Tumbao” by Celia Cruz played in Echlin Center 101 as guests conversed with each other. Attendees enjoyed staple Dominican foods like tostones, which are fried plantations and dried passion fruit dish called chinola.

After introducing the ISU and LCS, Colello also spoke about the notion of erasing Indigenous cultures at Quinnipiac. During her speech, she mentioned the mindset of students using a personal experience she had when sitting by a group of students who chatted about the good that came from removing the Indigenous people from their lands.

“People were speaking about Indigenous people in the past and how it justifies present harms against them,” Colello said.

After Colello finished, Scauso took the floor to speak about colonial legacies at Quinnipiac.

Scauso mentioned how historically, there is a long legacy of taking things from Indigenous people to benefit the colonizers in the U.S. Throughout the Americas, using a “construction of others as inferior as justification to rule (Indigenous people).”

In his speech, Scauso also discussed the mission of Quinnipiac and how “the citizen we are trying to teach is the citizen of market demand.”

Scauso argued that in order for the university, where 74.2% of students are white as of 2019, to become more inclusive, it must teach more than one approach to humanity.

“By teaching one method, all others become excluded,” Scauso said.

Paulino remarked on cultural disconnection before turning the floor over to the Taíno speakers.

“A lot of the time we don’t have the resources to connect to our Indigenous heritage because of colonization,” Paulino said.

Before they gave their speeches on Taíno culture and the importance of connecting with Indigenous ancestors, however, Bailey said they would bless the space with a Taíno song.

“Every time we walk into a ceremony or we walk into a space where we have to exchange energy, we like to bless the space in some fashion,” Bailey said.

Ramos described the song as “depicting the many manifestations of the highest power.”

“For us, God is multifaceted,” Ramos said. “God is everywhere. Everything you see has this energy, this power, and our ancestors, the Taíno had this understanding as well.”

Ramos sang a traditional Taíno song, with the audience clapping once the song reached its conclusion.

Bailey made many points during her speech, including one where schools teach children that Taínos are all dead.



ISU President Gabriella Colello said she's noticed students using microaggressions toward Quinnipiac's Indigenous population.

“Academia has taught for quite an extensive period of time that Tainos are extinct,” Bailey said. “We hear it, we learn it from as young as kindergarten when they tell us about Christopher Columbus coming over, ‘discovering America’ and the Taíno people, or the Indigenous people he found, being wiped out.”

Ramos mentioned certain aspects of Taíno culture, such as old ways of fishing where Taíno people would cast nets into the sea, or keeping pet turtles as a sign of good luck. He advocated the importance of reviving Indigenous traditions in the face of American culture.

“A lot of people want to be connected in a tribal way, and the tribal way is against the American way or the capitalistic way,” Ramos said. “It’s the ‘we’ versus the ‘I’, and that’s very difficult for all of us. We all struggle with that.”

CHERISH YOUR YOUTH, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

By ASHLEY PELLETIER
Arts & Life Editor

I turned 21 years old on Feb. 25. By all accounts, I am an adult now.

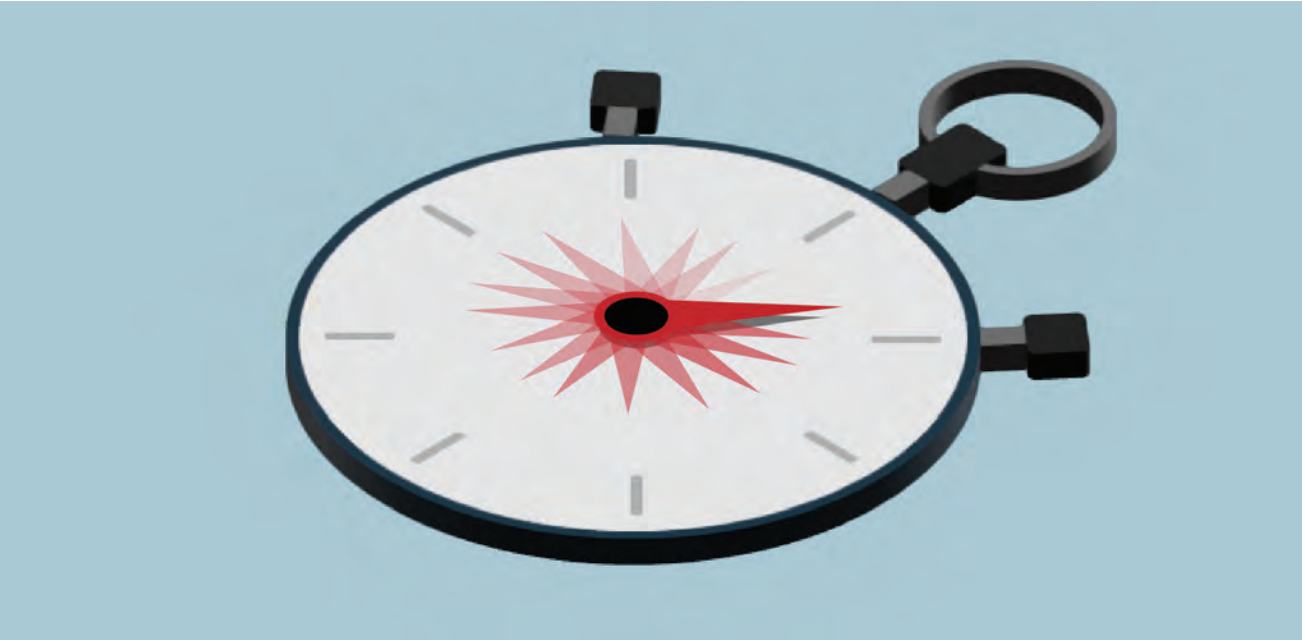
I spent my weekend with two of the people I am closest to — my mom and my best friend. For the first time in years, I genuinely enjoyed my birthday without worrying about whatever was happening outside of the celebration of my making it another year around the sun. However, I feel conflicted with the life I’ve lived as a young person.

It is taking me a long time to come to grips with the end of my childhood. Most of the time, I still feel like the awkward 16-year-old I was five years ago.

I imagine many people from my generation feel the same. On top of general nostalgia for our childhoods, we’ve missed out on two years where we should have been able to cause trouble, be with our friends and fully enjoy our youth while we have it.

I may have gotten some time in college before COVID-19 changed our lives, but I still haven’t been able to get the most out of my college years. I have never been able to see Wake the Giant, one of Quinnipiac University’s biggest events of the year. I haven’t gone out with my friends as much as I’d hoped, and I will not be able to travel abroad or to Los Angeles for a semester like I had planned.

Missing out on these experiences made turning 21 far more difficult to accept. I often find myself upset that I was robbed of these opportunities, but I’ve learned that I have to move on. There’s no point in wallowing over these lost moments, and while I still struggle with that, it’s becoming easier. I can like my friend’s social media posts from Berlin leaving me only a little jealous.



On top of COVID-19, I spent my teenage years focusing on mental health issues, bad relationships and my parents’ divorce. Rather than spending time doing “teenager” things and enjoying my time in high school, I would be working at my part-time job or spending all of my time on the internet to distract myself from what was going on with my life.

I felt really low. I spent a lot of my time in bed crying if I wasn’t working at my local grocery store, which also put physical stress on me. What made things worse was that I knew I was wasting my time in high school feeling bad for myself, I just couldn’t help it.

Only in the past few years have I allowed myself to move on from my problems and live my life. I’m at the point where I’m finally content with the good, bad and ugly of my life.

Everybody has struggles like mine. I know that. However, I warn others not to let their issues take over their lives. Enjoy yourself while you can. Even if you can’t go out and go to restaurants, parks and crowded places, find activities that make you feel joy. Play games with your friends, get takeout and take advantage of the life you’ve been given.

Going forward, I’m making the most of my 20s. I’ve already missed out on so much, it’s time to make up for all of that.

LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIPS DON'T HAVE TO FEEL FAR APART

By **KATIE LANGLEY**
Associate News Editor

362 miles.

That's the distance separating me and my long term partner, a student at McGill University in Montréal, Québec. That's not to mention an international border and a pandemic between us.

Apart from the tedious six-hour road trip, travel restrictions are constantly in flux between countries. Until recently, travelers were required to get a PCR COVID-19 test within 72 hours of arrival to enter Canada from the U.S., which was often expensive and hard to come by.

Despite this challenge, my friends know me to spontaneously drive to a different country on the weekends to see my girlfriend when the daily stress of college gets too overwhelming.

I won't tell you it's not difficult; it's hard feeling that the person who knows you better than anyone else is far away. I often feel like I'm missing out on her life, our lives together – things as mundane as having coffee together in the morning or movie nights not separated by a FaceTime screen.

Due to the ever-changing reality of COVID-19 and us both being full-time college students with responsibilities like tests, work and extracurriculars, it can be months between cross-border visits.

According to Dating at a Distance, as many as 75% of college students have been in a long-distance relationship at some point considering it's not uncommon for students to decide to go out-of-state or out-of-country for school.

There is hope. Refinery29 reported that more than half of long distance relationships stick for the long term, and distance has no correlation to relationship quality or levels of intimacy, satisfaction and trust. A long-distance relationship can be just as strong as any other.

But it doesn't come without effort. If you value your relationship, you will put in the work despite the distance. With so many couples forced apart by school, work and the pandemic, it's important to find ways to feel connected to your partner every day. Here are a few that I've found helpful.



ILLUSTRATION BY EMMA ROGEL

1. Cyber-romance

FaceTime. Skype. Zoom. In this age, there is a plethora of web resources for nightly talks and online date nights.

Aside from daily debriefs about our days, my partner and I also video call to help sustain a sense of normality. Whether it's a casual study session, a comfy movie night or an intimate cyber date, the internet can help make separate feel less isolated. We love Teleparty and the Disney+ Groupwatch function for watching shows and movies together.

A date can be two people in two different countries watching "High School Musical 3: Senior Year" together or reading each other BuzzFeed quizzes to find out what "Schitt's Creek" character you are. Finding something that makes you both laugh won't necessarily fill the void of your loved one, but it will help to make the distance a little less difficult.

2. Look to the future, but don't neglect the present

When you miss someone, it's easy to get caught up in thinking about how much you can't wait to be in their space. I often catch myself thinking "Everything would be better if my partner was here." But basing your happiness or mental health on one factor is a slippery slope that can lead to disappointment. Instead, talk about your future life together; getting a cat, coming home to each other, being an arms-length from the one you love. However, don't forget to also support each other's individual lives, dreams and aspirations.

3. Little acts of kindness

My partner and I send letters to each other like we're away at war in the 1800s. If you've ever received a surprise message in the mail, you know how it can make your day just a little bit brighter. We can't shy away from being sappy and lovey-dovey when we're over 300 miles away. Some of the best things don't cost money; I make playlists for her all the time, and we use the NoteIt app to leave each other pictures and notes on our phones' home screens.

If you feel like splurging on your long-distance beau, try sending them a stuffed buddy through SendAFriend or a customizable care package from Happy Box. Something as small as messaging your partner compliments or things that made you think of them throughout the day can help them feel important and cared for.

Despite what society may tell us, long-distance relationships are survivable, and healthy partnerships are worth it — no matter the distance. When it comes to your private relationship, no one but you and your partner can tell you how to make it fulfilling. So whether you're a world away from them or your partner is sitting right next to you, do something kind for them today.

NEVER GIVING BIG TIME RUSH UP

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

If I made a list of bad Big Time Rush songs, it would be blank. Its newest single, "Not Giving You Up" is no exception.

The boy band, consisting of Kendall Schmidt, Logan Henderson, James Maslow and Carlos PenaVega, released their new song, "Not Giving You Up" on Feb. 25. This song is its second-latest release following its 2013 hiatus after ending its sitcom on Nickelodeon.

"Not Giving You Up" feels like Big Time Rush has a massive crush on me, and I wouldn't want it any other way. My initial listen was at midnight, and I was bobbing my head up and down to the song in my bed. My second listen was at 7 a.m. immediately after I called out of work because of the sleet. However, the song gave me the willpower to drive through Mario Kart's Rainbow Road.

Their voices flow simultaneously together. Schmidt and Maslow captured my heart with "When it comes to you, girl / I'm prepared to do anything that it takes." I remember Schmidt and Maslow having the lead vocals for the longest time, but Henderson and PenaVega carried the main verses. It was refreshing to hear their voices.

"Not Giving You Up" is three minutes long. I've heard the shortest songs are the ones we want more of like PARTYNEXTDOOR's "Break from Toronto" which is only a minute and 39 seconds. The beauty of this is that listeners will smash the repeat button over and over. I've been waiting for new Big Time Rush music for years, so I'll take what I can get.

As a longtime fan, I admired how their discography was mostly love songs. Despite the band being away for almost a decade, they still know how to swoon their audiences, or at least myself.

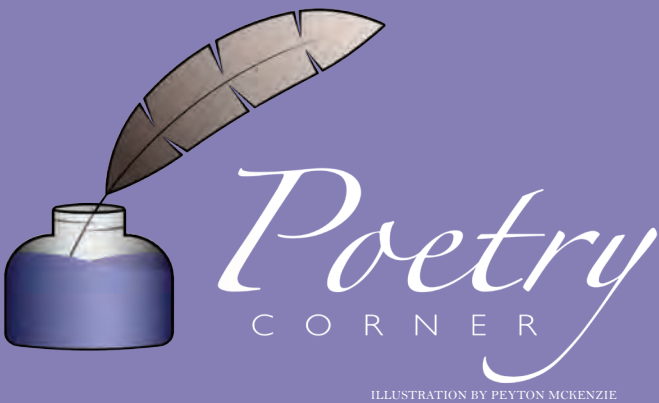
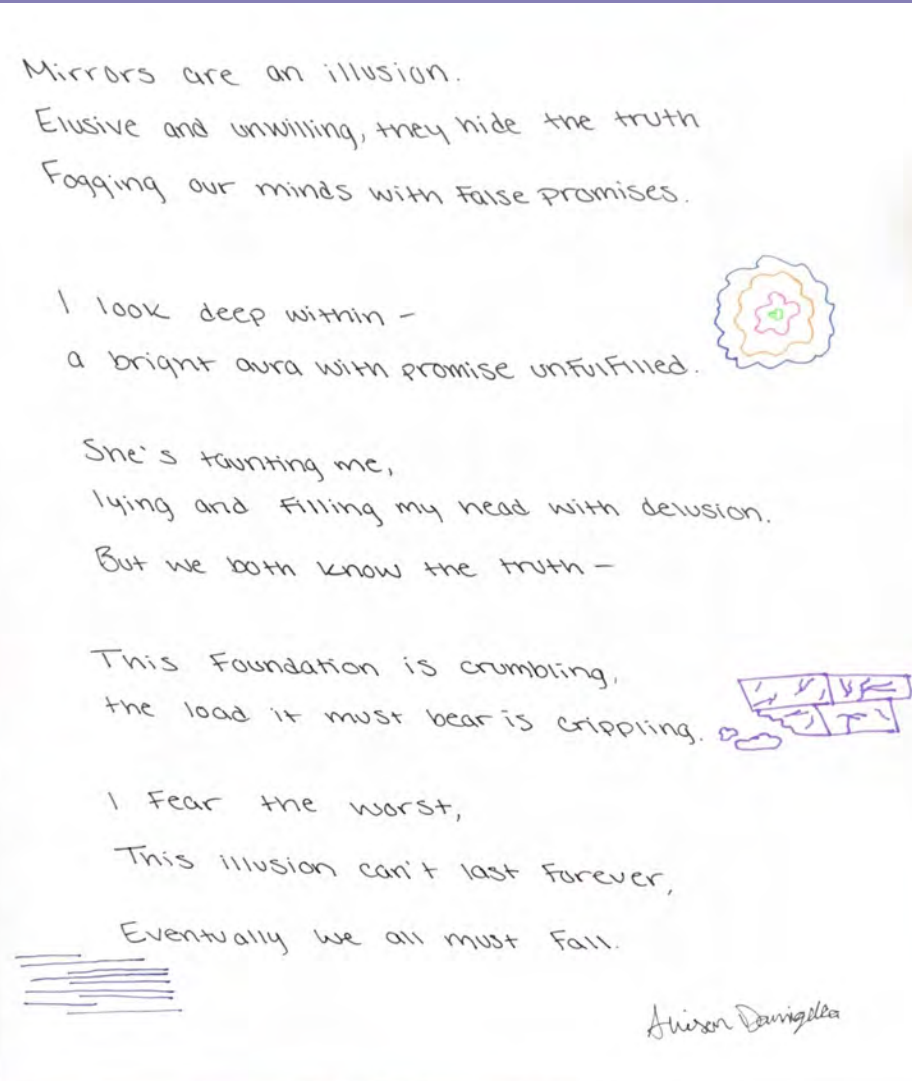
In recent years, we've seen boy bands like the Jonas Brothers and New Kids On The Block reunite. It's not difficult to regroup a fan base because honestly, I listen to Big Time Rush's "Any Kind of Guy" from 2010 every day. I yearned for more music from them. When you put out impressive work, the loyalty will stay unless someone from the band gets canceled on the internet.

Although Big Time Rush is under Nick Columbia records, they can't promote their music as actively on Nickelodeon. The band's songs would be incorporated in its show's episodes and music videos would play in between commercials. I remember being stunned that Schmidt said "hell" in "Music Sounds Better With U" and the lyric got censored out. However, Nickelodeon's social media accounts share the band's latest projects, and it's wholesome to see they haven't cut ties.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH HARDIMAN

I have a big time crush on Big Time Rush, and it's one of my biggest dreams to meet the boy band.



Poem by
Allison Damigella

Allison Damigella is a staff writer for The Quinnipiac Chronicle

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ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR LAWLESS

New survey reveals the true
motive behind men's interest
in women's sports

This article is for comedic purposes only. Actual names and likenesses
used in this article are used in a parodic context, and are not a reflection of
any actual person.

By AIDAN SHEEDY
Copy Editor

After being placed in the top 10 in the nation for six consecutive months, the Quinnipiac women's ice hockey team finally got some support.

In its final home game of the regular season on Feb. 19, an impressive 15 students went absolutely crazy in section 110 of the People's United Center.

"The atmosphere was unlike any other game I've been to," said Jordan Witherspoon Jr., a junior philosophy major. "I didn't know girls played hockey until today. I didn't think girls knew how."

Kelly Babstock, former women's ice hockey player, arguably the greatest in program history was in attendance. In her years at Quinnipiac, Babstock saw little to no change in the way women are treated in hockey.

"When I was here, the school didn't even acknowledge that we existed," Babstock said. "I'm glad to see at least a little progress being made for the women in hockey. As we say, hockey is for everyone."

But unfortunately, many male Quinnipiac students don't feel that way. A recent survey from Brotein Shake Digest showed that a whopping 92% of Quinnipiac students think that men's hockey is better and more fun to watch.

"Women are simply weaker than men," Biff Davidson, senior finance major and president of the Quinnipiac NFT club said. "They are not as good as men, and that's science."

But when asked why he was in attendance, Davidson said he wasn't there for any other reason but to get a date.

"The only reason I ever come to these games is to get girls' numbers and chat on Kik," Davidson said. "Do you think I want to be here? I just want to hook up."

Students across campus should be cautious when interacting with Davidson, whose username on all social media platforms is "BigBiff69," the name he said he's had since seventh grade.

Davidson's roommate Ian Moore, a senior business major, had a different experience at the big game.

"Those were women? They were so awesome," Moore said. "I am so sorry that I never went to a game before this. From now on, I will be at every game and treat every woman with respect."

And just like that, Moore was a new man. It's like magic.

Learn from Biff and Ian and grab a ticket for game one of the ECAC women's ice hockey semifinals on March 4, as the Bobcats take on No. 3 Colgate.

"These women are so good at what they do," Moore said. "I'm definitely going to the next one."

Perhaps more Quinnipiac students will actually come out and support their team this time. The team deserves it.

Scores & Schedule

Wednesday 2/23

SOFT won 4-1 @ Sacred Heart
WLAX won 11-8 @ Sacred Heart

Thursday 2/24

WBB won 65-56 @ Marist
MBB lost 78-71 vs. Siena

Friday 2/25

WIH won 5-1 vs. Clarkson
MLAX lost 13-10 @ Sacred Heart
BASE lost 10-4 @ NC State
MIH lost 1-0 vs. Cornell

Saturday 2/26

GOLF 4 of 7 @ Gardner-Webb Invitational
WBB won 70-49 vs. Siena
BASE lost 12-10 @ NC State (Game 1)
BASE lost 16-4 @ NC State (Game 2)
WIH won 4-0 vs. Clarkson
WTEN lost 4-0 @ Army
MIH won 4-0 vs. Colgate

Saturday 2/26

WIT&F No team results @ BU Last Chance
GOLF 3 of 7 @ Gardner-Webb Invitational
MBB lost 72-67 vs. Canisius
MTEN lost 4-3 vs. Sacred Heart

Tuesday 3/1

WLAX lost 13-12 @ Yale

Wednesday 3/2

WBB @ Manhattan 7 p.m.

Thursday 3/3

MBB @ Monmouth 7 p.m.

Friday 3/4

WIT&F ECAC Championships
BASE @ James Madison 3 p.m.
WIH vs. Colgate 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 3/5

WIT&F ECAC Championships
BASE @ James Madison 12 p.m.
WLAX vs. BU 12 p.m.
MBB @ Iona 1 p.m.
WBB vs. Rider 2 p.m.
WIH vs. TBD 3 p.m.
WTEN vs. Fordham 6 p.m.

Sunday 3/6

WIT&F ECAC Championships
BASE @ James Madison 12 p.m.
WTEN @ NJIT 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday 3/8

WBB vs TBD (MAAC Playoffs)
MBB vs TBD (MAAC Playoffs)
WTEN @ UConn 1 p.m.
MLAX @ Fairfield 7 p.m.

WIH dominated in quarterfinal victory. What’s next?

By CAMERON LEVASSEUR
Associate Sports Editor

Quinnipiac women’s hockey has 16 wins over Clarkson in program history. Of those wins, two were by four or more goals. Both of those came this past weekend, as the Bobcats steamrolled the Golden Knights on back-to-back afternoons to claim a spot in the ECAC Hockey semifinals.

In what historically has been an incredibly tight matchup, Quinnipiac skated the three-time national champions into the ground. This bodes well as the Bobcats attempt to run the gauntlet to a conference title next weekend.

Eighth-seed Princeton topped regular-season champion Harvard in three games, so the semifinal and championship games will take place at Ingalls Rink in New Haven on March 4 and 5, since Yale is the highest seed remaining.

The Bobcats will face third-seeded Colgate in a one-game playoff Friday night with a berth to Saturday’s championship on the line.

The Raiders, who finished the regular season with a 26-7-1 record, will not be an easy out by any stretch. They split the season series with Quinnipiac, falling at home in late November before earning a hard-fought overtime victory in Hamden a month ago.

The latter game was perhaps one of the toughest the Bobcats have played all season, as junior winger Jess Schryver acknowledged following the loss.

“I feel like we haven’t battled this hard in a game yet this season, so even though we lost this game we got a lot out of it,” Schryver said in late January.

Colgate possesses a deadly offense, averaging 4.0 goals per game, good enough

for third in Division I. It’s led by sophomore forwards Kalty Kaltounova and Dara Greig, as well as junior forward Danielle Serdachny, who have combined for 142 points on the season.

Quinnipiac put up big numbers on the scoreboard this weekend, but it’s difficult to expect that same level of production to stay consistent throughout the playoffs. In order to win this game, the Bobcats are going to have to shut down the Raiders’ top two lines.

Graduate student goaltender Corinne Schroeder will be a big part of making that happen. She’s been a brick wall between the pipes as of late, allowing only three goals in her last five starts. Four of those starts were against ranked opponents.

The Bobcats’ defensive core has also been doing a great job of limiting quality scoring chances in recent games. They’re clogging up the center of the ice and getting sticks and bodies in lanes, causing most shots to come from the perimeter of the zone.

If Quinnipiac makes it past Colgate, there will still be one of Yale or Princeton standing between the Bobcats and the ECAC Hockey trophy.

The Bulldogs have a strong attack, but they’ve struggled against the Bobcats this season, suffering three straight losses while being outscored 10-4. Come championship Saturday, it’s Princeton who poses the bigger threat to Quinnipiac’s title hopes.

Tigers’ senior goaltender Rachel McQuigge stifled the Bobcats in November, posting a 37-save shutout to hand them their first loss of the season. She’s struggled since then, as Princeton crashed and burned into the final spot in the conference tournament. However, McQuigge submitted three strong performances to down

Harvard in the quarterfinals. The Bowmanville, Ontario native is in great form, which could be bad news for Quinnipiac.

Junior forward Maggie Connors, the Tigers’ leading point-getter, is a dynamic goalscorer and electric skater who can turn the tide of a game at a moment’s notice. She did it in Game 3 against the Crimson and also scored the lone tally in Hamden back in the fall.

The Bobcats have a chance to leave New Haven victorious and earn automatic qualification to the NCAA Tournament. But in order to do so, they need to continue to play strong defensive hockey and get timely goals from their forward core.



CONNOR LAWLESS/CHRONICLE

The Bobcats rose from No. 9 to No. 6 in the USCHO poll after sweeping Clarkson.

Goaltending carries MIH to No. 1 seed, Bobcats await quarterfinals matchup

By PETER PIEKARSKI
Sports Editor

Back on Sept. 8, 2021, during the first media conference before the season began, each player that spoke repeated the same goal: win the Frozen Four.

Six months and 36 games later, that goal remains unchanged. Quinnipiac finished the regular season with a 28-5-3 record and clinched a Cleary Cup for being the best regular-season team in ECAC Hockey in the process.



ALEX BAYER/CHRONICLE

The Bobcats fell to No. 6 in the USCHO poll on Feb. 28, after a loss to Cornell.

The name of the game for Quinnipiac is possession. Opponents struggle to generate consistent offense as the Bobcats suffocate breakouts, forcing teams to dump the puck frequently. The Bobcats have several puck-moving defensemen that quickly transition play back to the offensive zone.

Though its shot differential is the best in the country, Quinnipiac’s defense allows several high-danger scoring chances every game, forcing the goaltending to bail out the team on numerous occasions.

Speaking of goaltenders, freshman sensation Yaniv Perets has been a stalwart in the crease, finishing the season as the best goalie in the nation. He claimed the No. 1 spot in save percentage (.955), goals-against average (.82) and shutouts (11). He still remains on single-season record watch for all three categories, currently boasting the best GAA, and second-best SV% and shutouts in Division I history.

Graduate student Dylan St. Cyr has been nearly as impressive in net. He posted a .939 SV%, 1.11 GAA and five shutouts on the year. Granted, both goalies don’t see much action as the Bobcats hold opposing teams to the least number of shots per game in the NCAA (18.5).

Now that the ECAC Hockey playoffs have arrived, it’s time for Quinnipiac to deliver on its goal. Even though it’s likely the Bobcats will receive an automatic tournament bid, this team has a history of choking away games and series.

Just last year, Quinnipiac lost the championship game to St. Lawrence. Predating that, Brown upset the Bobcats in the conference quarterfinals, despite being the top seed.

There are several weak points to this Quinnipiac team, one of which was previously mentioned. Beyond the intermittent

defensive lapses, the offense has been quite lackluster for the majority of the season.

Even though the Bobcats finished with the second-most shots for in the country, they only scored on 9.6% of them. Of Quinnipiac’s 117 goals, 47 were scored in eight games. That’s 40% of the season’s goals in 22% of the games.

This means that Quinnipiac scored 2.5 goals per game through the other 28 games in the season.

In comparison, the No. 1 team in the country, Minnesota State, whom Quinnipiac lost to in the 2021 NCAA regional playoff round, averages 3.12 goals per game outside of its eight highest-scoring performances.

Why such a drastic difference in offensive performance?

Minnesota State scores on 25% of its power plays. Quinnipiac scored just under 14%. Over the Bobcats’ last 10 games, they only managed to score four times on 32 chances. In the three biggest contests during those 10 games against Harvard, Clarkson and Cornell, they went a combined 0-for-8.

Quinnipiac can take 34 shots per game and hold the puck in the offensive end for most of each game, but if it can’t find the back of the net, the ECAC Hockey playoffs will not be kind. Neither will the NCAA tournament.

Since Quinnipiac received a first-round bye, it will face one of Yale, Dartmouth, Princeton, Brown or St. Lawrence depending on how the opening rounds play out. Yale sits as the bottom seed, so a Whitney Avenue battle could be on tap for the quarterfinal matchup if the Bulldogs manage to upset Colgate in their series beginning March 4.

MBB hitting season low at crucial point of regular-season schedule

By TOYLOY BROWN III
Managing Editor

An offense propelled by strong team play like Quinnipiac’s, comes with a great responsibility to take care of the ball. If the Bobcats achieve this, it has reason to be optimistic come playoff time.

The Quinnipiac men’s basketball team is not positioned in the upper half of the MAAC standings as the regular season comes to a close. It has lost three straight and has two games remaining before the conference tournament gets underway in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Currently, the Bobcats (12-14, 7-11 MAAC) sit in a five-way tie for sixth place.

Winning their last two games can play a vital role in drawing a more favorable matchup in the bracket and improving its chances of winning in the tournament.

The last time Quinnipiac advanced past the first round of the tournament was the 2017-18 season, year one of the Baker Dunleavy coaching era. This will be Dunleavy’s fourth MAAC tournament as the 2019-20 postseason was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the No. 8 seed last season, the Bobcats lost to the No. 9 seed and eventual conference champion Iona Gaels 72-48 in the first round. If the Bobcats don’t want a repeat of last year, they must not beat themselves.

Turnovers have haunted the Bobcats this regular season. Quinnipiac is third-worst in the conference in both turnovers per game (12.9) and turnover margin (-0.38).

The error-prone nature of the Bobcats is in part a consequence of Dunleavy’s movement-heavy offensive system. The offense works best when good passes are delivered to players executing cuts and have defenders trailing after backscreens.

This style creates open shots and gets a multitude of players involved. Of those who have played at least 20 games, six Quinnipiac players average at least eight points per game. No other team in the conference has more than five players that eclipse that scoring output.

“We don’t have that one guy that’s going to lead us in scoring,” Dunleavy said last month. “So based on how the defense plays, based on what’s open that game and what we’re executing, different guys are going to have to step up.”

It is no accident that the Bobcats average the second-most assists per game in the conference (14.5). Quinnipiac’s solid passing needs to continue if it wants to get out of the first round of the tournament.

The mistakes Quinnipiac makes from not taking care of the rock don’t only take away potential shooting opportunities for itself, but it also gives opponents quick, uncontested scores.

While anyone is capable of getting an assist in Dunleavy’s system, the bulk of playmaking comes from graduate student Kevin Marfo, the best passing five-man in the conference. He averages 4.1 assists per game, third in the MAAC and the most assists by a non-guard. While the 6-foot-9-inch big passes to cutters well from the high-post area, he also gives it away a fair amount, averaging 3.5 turnovers per game.

“I play a big role in (the turnovers) because the ball happens

to be in my hand a lot more,” Marfo said. “I have to be better in those situations and I have to continue ... (to) make the right play, and sometimes the right play is not making that pass.”

The Bobcats’ brand of basketball can lead to some tournament success even if the regular season has not been great record-wise. The team still averages the second-most points per game (72.6) in the conference and is capable of getting hot from beyond the arc — leading the MAAC in made 3-pointers per game (8.8).

The last time the team advanced past the first round, it reached the semifinals. What was the team’s conference record then? The same as it is now, 7-11.

Quinnipiac has an offensive identity going into Atlantic City, which is a positive. If it wants to maximize its potential, it must minimize blunders.



Quinnipiac men’s basketball lost seven of its last eight games and is currently on a four-game losing streak.

DeWees hasn’t let ‘one game at a time’ mentality die, even with No. 2 seed within reach

By RILEY MILLETTE
Sports Editor

The Quinnipiac women’s basketball team has gotten used to playing at home in the last few weeks. Four of its last six games have been on its own court, three of them on a Saturday.

That doesn’t matter because the players are home on Saturday nights to go to Toad’s Place. Or maybe it does, I don’t know their weekend plans.

It matters because staying at Quinnipiac and not needing to take multi-hour bus trips on weekends allows the players to take a revitalizing breather.

“We traveled a ton in January, and we were on the road a lot on Saturdays,” Quinnipiac head coach Tricia Fabbri said. “To end up with a lot of Saturday home games now, and I think that’s helped us get that extra rest going down the stretch.”

That recharge did wonders for the women’s basketball squad. They grew healthier, as junior forward Cur’Tiera Haywood and senior guard Mackenzie DeWees had some time to heal up from injuries.

Now with a healthy starting lineup and a full bench, the Bobcats have ripped off 10 wins in their last 12 games, which includes Haywood’s six-game absence and one game for DeWees.

Through all the team’s recent success, DeWees has preached a common mantra. As a locker room leader, she’s been adamant on the team staying present and playing within itself.

“We can’t even look too far ahead in the MAAC, and now we have to finish out this weekend and go in with a winning streak,” DeWees said.

DeWees might have said “one game at a time” in post-game press conferences more times than junior forward Mikala Morris has recorded a double-double this season. Which, by the way, is a MAAC-leading 13 times.

It’s her way of taking charge. She leads by example through her calmness on the court, which she said helps the other players on the team stay composed.

It’s worked for freshman guard Jackie Grisdale, who has been a valuable bench asset during the Bobcats’ hot streak.

“If ‘one game at a time’ is our mantra of the day, then that’s what we’re gonna really focus on and keep in mind,” Grisdale said.

There are other mottos that get floated out there. Grisdale said sometimes DeWees sprinkles in “let it happen” or “play calm.” Whatever the phrase that day, it helps to keep everyone locked in.

It also extends to freshman forward Grace LaBarge and junior guard Makenzie Helms, who have provided meaningful minutes off the bench to spell the team’s starters. Being able to summon reliable defenders like LaBarge and consistent scorers like Helms off the bench is a luxury that many other teams don’t have.

“Grace and Jackie stepped up when things weren’t going well, we had a rocky offensive night up in Buffalo (against Canisius),” Fabbri said. “But it’s been different players, right? That’s what makes it a team ... it’s been a great blend.”

Even though the team is set to depart for Atlantic City early next week, Fabbri and company are still focused on their big game coming up against Manhattan. The Bobcats would clinch the No. 2 seed again with a win on Wednesday, added motivation if at all needed.

But is it? The Bobcats are competing in the MAAC tournament for the first time with fans since 2020 after a dominant six-week stretch of games in which their average margin of victory was 15.4 points.

DeWees has kept the team on track, as leaders do. No one wants to play the Bobcats right now.



The women’s basketball team will clinch the No. 2 seed in the MAAC tournament with a win against Manhattan on Wednesday.

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