

‘ABHORRENT’ HATE SPEECH

Quinnipiac University hit by third incident of antisemitic graffiti amid vandalism-plagued February



JACK MUSCATELLO/CHRONICLE

By CAT MURPHY
 News Editor

Although the month of February is typically characterized by Valentine’s Day festivities, it was a much more malicious v-word that defined the first full month of Quinnipiac University’s spring 2024 semester: vandalism.

As mandated by federal law, the Department of Public Safety publicly discloses all on-campus crimes, including vandalism, in Quinnipiac’s daily crime log. Vandalism accounted for over 40% of all logged campus crimes last month, with Quinnipiac officials recording an unprecedented 13 incidents of vandalism in the shortest month of the year.

For perspective, between Sept. 9 and Oct. 22 of last year — a period two weeks longer than the month of February — Quinnipiac’s crime log identified just 12 incidents of vandalism.

To put this another way: campus officials went from reporting an average of two incidents of vandalism per week last fall to reporting vandalism nearly every other day last month.

And in a repeat of last semester, it was an incident of bias-motivated vandalism that garnered the most attention.

In late February, Public Safety and Hamden police opened an investigation into another incident of on-campus antisemitic graffiti — the third since November — after discovering a swastika and other anti-Jewish hate speech carved into a bathroom stall in M&T Bank Arena.

“It’s terrible to see vandalism (in) any form, but especially when it is targeting other members of our school community,” wrote Leigha Scheman, a first-year in the 3+2 master of social work program, in a text message statement to The Chronicle.

In a Feb. 27 email condemning the antisemitic vandalism, Chief Experience Officer Tom Ellett and Chief of Public Safety Tony Reyes said campus officials would

make “every effort to identify and discipline the perpetrators.”

“Such hate speech is abhorrent, it can be threatening, and it violates QU’s code of conduct,” Ellett and Reyes wrote. “Hate speech and symbols that evoke violence have no place anywhere and will not be tolerated. They aren’t who we are or aspire to be.”

Photos of the vandalized stall show that the antisemitic graffiti invoked Hitler and the white supremacist dog whistle “1488.” The “14” is a reference to the “14 Words” slogan — “We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children” — and the “88” is a numerical code for “Heil Hitler.”

The vandalism also referenced Ye, the American musician formerly known as Kanye West. Ye has repeatedly faced public backlash for his antisemitic comments — most notably for an October 2022 social media post in which he threatened to go “death con 3 On JEWISH PEOPLE.”

The Anti-Defamation League Center

on Extremism later found that antisemitic incidents frequently invoke Ye’s name, noting that “references to Ye, often paired with swastikas or other antisemitic slurs, have become mainstream shorthand for the hatred of — or a desire to commit violence against — Jewish people.”

“I don’t understand how people could think or speak this way,” wrote Haley Organ, a senior theater major, in a text message statement to The Chronicle. “I think they hold baseless hatred that causes them to act out, threaten the safety of others, and deface school property.”

The Feb. 27 incident came less than four months after officials on two separate occasions found swastikas scratched into mail lockers in the Rocky Top Student Center. For context, Quinnipiac’s most recent annual security reports indicate that, prior to the fall semester, campus officials had not reported an incident of bias-motivated vandalism since 2019.

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“With the increase in hate speech there are times I do not feel as safe as I should on campus.”

– Leigha Scheman
FIRST-YEAR 3+2 MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK STUDENT

Law alum ‘sows seeds of greatness’ as Hartford mayor

By MICHAEL LAROCCA
 Opinion Editor

On May 11, 2014, Arunan Arulampalam stood before his fellow Quinnipiac University School of Law classmates as the student speaker for their commencement ceremony. While Arulampalam was not the final speaker of the ceremony, for the next eight minutes, the floor was his.

Arulampalam spent the previous year leading the school as the president of the Student Bar Association. That was finished. He was no longer the head of his class, but on that spring morning, Arulampalam was its voice.

Arulampalam spoke on the anxieties his classmates and he held regarding the future of not just the U.S., but the world.

“Increasingly, our generation is viewed as incapable and unworthy of the mantle,” Arulampalam said. “But while I believe the challenges we face as a nation and a world are great, I have every bit of faith in our generation to be the ones to meet those challenges.”

He spoke of the great and selfless work his classmates completed during their years as law students, spreading the word of what he called “seeds of greatness” he saw sprouting in the halls of the law building in North Haven, Connecticut.

“The history of our generation is yet to be written, its stories have yet to be told,” Arulampalam said. “I believe that when they are, they will be so full of the small, yet incredibly significant acts of the multitude of great men and women of our generation, that there will be no room for their biographies.”

Nearly a decade later, immediately after the clock struck midnight on Jan. 1, Arulampalam’s own seed of greatness fully sprouted, if it had not already. As citizens of Connecticut were celebrating the new year, Arulampalam was sworn in as the newest mayor of the Nutmeg State capital, Hartford.

This was a moment his colleagues and peers believed he was ready for since his days as a law student.

“He had a very strong vision of service to his community,” said Jennifer Brown, dean of the Quinnipiac School of Law. “He really believes in the idea of a lawyer as a public servant. I think he wanted to be on the lookout for opportunities to make a difference rather than just opportunities to climb a ladder.”

Arulampalam and his family immigrated to the U.S. from Zimbabwe when he was still a toddler, and he became a citizen when he was 12 years old. Despite eventually settling in Connecticut as an adult with his wife, Liza, Arulampalam’s early days in California as a member of an immigrant family were what shaped his political ideology and goals as a public servant.

“I grew up feeling sometimes outside of the system,” Arulampalam said. “My family, through their hard work and sacrifice, was able to build opportunities for me, but at a high cost. It is those who are marginalized, those who are on the outside of society who I’ve always felt real, personal kinship with.”

Arulampalam might not have known as

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Crime log: Quinnipiac officials report 13 incidents of vandalism in February

VANDALISM from cover

"The recent on campus antisemitism has definitely created a lot of anxiety for a lot of people," Organ wrote. "It doesn't really feel safe."

Scheman expressed similar safety concerns amid the rise in anti-Jewish sentiment on campus.

"Truthfully, with the increase in hate speech there are times I do not feel as safe as I should on campus," Scheman wrote. "And it seems as if nothing is being done to stop this propaganda — as it continues to happen."

Gabriel Kahaleh, a senior political science major, echoed Scheman's criticisms of the university's administration's response.

"It feels like they're making it a big deal because they have to, but they don't care, I don't think," Kahaleh said. "It feels normalized."

Quinnipiac is far from the only campus experiencing a seemingly sudden rise in anti-Jewish sentiment — the recent wave of antisemitism is emblematic of the national spike in antisemitic and Islamophobic hate incidents triggered by the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

"I think it's a symptom of a larger issue," Kahaleh said. "It's not a Quinnipiac problem — I think this is a United States of America problem."

But the antisemitic graffiti in M&T Bank Arena was just one of the 13 incidents of on-campus vandalism reported last month.

Seven of these incidents occurred in The Ledges Residence Hall, where vandalism has posed a consistent problem since August.

The remaining five incidents occurred in five separate locations: two Mount Carmel Campus residence halls, two parking lots and the York Hill Campus facilities building.

Few other details were available about these incidents, and Reyes has not responded to The Chronicle's requests for comment.

However, it does not appear as though the wave of on-campus vandalism was confined to the month of February.

Somewhere between 30 and 90 minutes into the month of March, an eighth-floor

pool table in the Crescent Residence Hall was vandalized beyond repair. And as of March 5, campus officials have already reported incidents of vandalism in The Ledges and Mountainview residence halls.

In a March 1 email to Crescent's residents, Kristin Scriven, the residence hall director, and Michael Guthrie, assistant director of residential life, wrote that "this

type of behavior, after a relatively peaceful year on York Hill, is disappointing."

"Vandalism not only damages property but also undermines the trust and sense of belonging within our community," Scriven and Guthrie wrote. "Please be mindful of your actions and the actions of your neighbors and hold your peers accountable so that this type of behavior doesn't continue."



Aidan Sheedy/Chronicle

A swastika and other anti-Jewish hate symbols carved into a bathroom stall in M&T Bank Arena on Feb. 27. Vandalism accounted for 40% of campus crimes in February.

HARTFORD MAYOR from cover

a child that he was going to be the mayor of Hartford, nor did he know what he was going to do after law school, but he knew it was necessary to make the change in society that he envisioned.

"I think the beauty of a legal degree is that there are a lot of things you can do," Arulampalam said. "Every single job I've done is completely separate ... I had no subject matter expertise in any of those going in, and my legal degree really helped me navigate a lot of that."

He built his career off of time spent as an associate at the New Haven office of the Updike, Kelly & Spellacy law firm and as Deputy Commissioner at the State of Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection. He also served as a CEO of the Hartford Land Bank, a nonprofit meant to recover properties on the brink of foreclosure in Hartford and return them to the community that needs them.

Faculty members remember Arulampalam as one of the most driven in their classes, as

well as someone who had mastered the art of understanding opposite viewpoints.

"(Arulampalam) was really good at listening and talking with other people and finding ways to find common ground and to solve problems," said Brad Saxton, a professor of law and dean emeritus of the School of Law. "I think it is really promising for what he's going to be like as the mayor."

His commencement address also widened the eyes of those who heard it, forming lifelong memories of his speech.

"In my 40 years at the law school, it was one of the very best ever. In fact, I described it as (John F.) Kennedy-esque," Professor of Law Emeritus Robert Farrell said. "Obviously at the time I didn't know he was going to become mayor of Hartford. But, of course, looking back now I say, 'Well, there was a sign of it right then.'"

Arulampalam likely did not imagine he was going to become the mayor of a state capital a decade ago, but he recognized that his story was yet to be written, so he wrote. He became the change he wanted to see in the world around him, and the timelessness of his 2014 address can be

applied to young people of today wishing to make their mark.

"If anything, there's greater uncertainty about the future," Arulampalam said. "But I think it's all the more reason that new graduates coming out need to take hold of their role in this world. We need people who are willing to fight for the future of this society, of this country, of this state."

When it comes to where he is going to be a decade from now, Arulampalam doesn't want to know.

"I think that in politics, when you wedge yourself into a specific type of career path, it can get you into trouble," Arulampalam said. "My hope is to do the best I can, over as long a time as the citizens of Hartford will keep me, to make real change and really impact my community."

So for now, Arulampalam will work from his office on Main Street, continue to raise his five children with Liza and tend to the fruits that grew from the seeds of greatness he planted in the halls of a law school in North Haven, Connecticut.

How the interim chief equity official's background prepared him to rebuild Quinnipiac's diversity office

By SAMANTHA NUNEZ
Staff Writer

David Fryson, Quinnipiac University's interim vice president for equity and inclusion, was hired to rebuild the university's diversity office following several key departures. And Fryson — who grew up in a Black community in the predominantly white Institute, West Virginia — has persevered through years of societal and personal challenges to get here.

From a young age, Fryson had a passion for music and always identified himself as a multifaceted musician. Once he entered Dunbar High School, a predominantly white school, Fryson formed a band with his friends and performed at local clubs. The band initially planned to go on the road, but when those plans fell through, it left Fryson conflicted about his future.

"I don't think (Dunbar) really prepared many of us (Black students) for college life," Fryson said.

When Fryson expressed wanting to further his education, his guidance counselor had only one thing to say: "Good luck." That was, he said, "the extent of his high school counseling."

Fortunately, the music department at nearby West Virginia State University persuaded Fryson — who dreamed of becoming a band

director — to continue his education.

At WVSVU, Fryson balanced school and music with his family, serving as the band president at school but going home to a wife and child.

"My wife has been one to balance us, guide us and to support us," Fryson said.

Soon enough, the plans that fell through in high school became reality — Fryson finally had the opportunity to go on the road with his band. But when he graduated in 1979 with his bachelor's degree in music education, his plans fell through yet again: he never became a band director.

Instead, Fryson joined the Job Corps Center — a nonprofit educational and vocational program dedicated to helping young adults transition into employment — before working for then-West Virginia Gov. Jay Rockefeller. It was this work with government officials that sparked his realization that he could pursue a career in law.

"I felt like the law would afford me the opportunity to speak to things I really felt strongly about — equity, justice and civil rights," Fryson said. "I felt like law school education would give me that foundation."

Fryson and his wife had two more children before he decided to attend the West Virginia College — now University — School of Law,

graduating with his law degree in 1988.

He went on to practice as a lawyer, seeking justice in the courtroom — his first case coming out of law school fought against unfair hiring practices in police and fire departments.

But his passion for equity eventually led him to seek justice elsewhere: in the classroom.

Fryson joined West Virginia University in May 2010 as its deputy general counsel, becoming its vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion less than three years later. He stayed in this position for nearly nine years before taking on the same role at Brandeis University.

Fryson had officially retired — he even refurbished a home and got into writing — but he soon joined The Registry, an organization that provides high-level academic leaders to colleges on an interim basis.

And in January, he found a new university to call home: Quinnipiac.

In December 2023, Quinnipiac President Judy Olian announced the departure of Wayne Gersie, the former vice president for equity and inclusion, who returned to Michigan Tech University for personal reasons.

Over the previous six months, several prominent diversity officials left Quinnipiac. Don Sawyer — Gersie's predecessor as vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion — left in June 2023. Daymyen Layne, former director of multicultural education and training, also left last summer. Veronica Jacobs, former associate director of multicultural education and training, left in December. And a few days after Fryson joined Quinnipiac, Sarah Hellyar, interim Title IX coordinator, announced her resignation.

"I had an opportunity," Fryson said. "(I) saw the challenges that were here and I really thought that with the background expertise that I bring that I could really help the institution that has a commitment to diversity but at the same time is going through a challenging time."

At the same time, Fryson has also been practicing ministry for more than 35 years, joining the church after coming off the road.

Fryson currently serves as the senior pastor of the New First Baptist Church in Charleston,



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

David Fryson, interim vice president for equity and inclusion, has been tasked with rebuilding the Office of Inclusive Excellence after recent turnover.

West Virginia. Another pastor has been holding down the fort while Fryson is in Connecticut, but he still heads down once a month to check in.

For Fryson, establishing the Office of Inclusive Excellence means ensuring that Quinnipiac is supporting its diverse community.

"We want to make sure that as we build this house, as we continue, that it is one where (there) is true equality, true equity, true opportunities for people, no matter what their background, sexual orientation, (or) gender," Fryson said.

Though Fryson's path to Quinnipiac has been unique, he believes that his journey has taught him perseverance — a lesson he still applies in his work today.

"(Diversity and inclusion work) provides a help to students in terms of their life trajectory," Fryson said. "It lets them understand that no matter what your background, orientation, gender and nationality that America was designed for there to be a place for all of us even though we haven't always done it well ... that's the one lesson that I really would like for people that I come in contact with."

"I thought I could really help the institution that has a commitment to diversity, but is going through a challenging time."

— David Fryson
INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT
FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Philosophy scholar discusses humanity's relationship with animals at Quinnipiac

By LILY PHILIPCAK
Staff Writer

A scholar of animal studies and feminist philosophy spoke at Quinnipiac University's 38th annual Alfred P. Stiernotte Lecture on Feb. 26 to discuss the complex relationship between humans and animals.

Lori Gruen — a William Griffin professor of philosophy at Wesleyan University who has authored dozens of books about animal ethics, the ethics of captivity and environmental philosophy — presented the lecture, titled "Empathy and Justice Beyond the Human."

The event, sponsored by the Stiernotte Fund, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Albert Schweitzer Institute and the Department of Philosophy and Political Science, is named for Stiernotte, who initiated teaching philosophy at Quinnipiac.

"(The Stiernotte Lecture) is a celebration of philosophy within the University and is a special point of pride within the College of Arts and Sciences," said Wesley Renfro, senior associate dean for academic affairs in strategic initiatives.

Gruen addressed the hierarchy of beings that humans have conceptualized, one where humanity sits at the top of the food chain, and everything else is considered inferior.

This concept — known as speciesism or

human exceptionalism — considers the suffering of some beings more important than that of others. In other words, the suffering of animals is less important than humans.

She attributed part of this to "sameness bias," when we "empathize with people that are like us, as opposed to people or animals that aren't like us," Gruen said.

"Individual human beings typically have different and greater interests than other animals," Gruen said. "Humans have been insisting on their superiority to animals for millennia."

But she also noted that humans often apply a similar hierarchy to other humans. That is, dominant groups use the same conceptualization of superiority to marginalize groups they deem inferior.

"There are deep connections between conceptualizing nonhuman animals as disposable (and) insignificant and treating other human beings as disposable and insignificant," Gruen said, relating the connections to racial inequality, gender violence and climate injustice.

Humans have a tendency to elevate humanity and delegitimize animals, Gruen said, because they can control animal environments in a way animals cannot control human environments.

"(Humans) are the only animals that manip-

ulate our environments to destroy them," Gruen said. "Most other animals don't do that."

The production of pollutants and other environmentally toxic materials serves as a prime example of this uniquely human power, she said.

Case in point, the increasing demand for global production of palm oil, a vegetable oil found in most household products, is the leading cause of wild orangutans being critically endangered, according to Orangutan Foundation International.

The habitat loss caused each year by the expansion of palm oil plantations kills off an estimated 1,000-5,000 orangutans each year, and the Orangutan Conservatory notes that many experts believe the critically endangered species may be extinct in the wild within the next half-century.

"It's very difficult to avoid palm oil," Gruen said. "It's in virtually everything."

Roughly 50% of the packaged products found in supermarkets — from pizza, doughnuts and chocolate, to deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste and lipstick — use palm oil, according to the World Wide Fund for Nature.

Species extinctions damage humanity's ecological relationships, Gruen said, and have an impact on what she termed "entangled empathy."

Entangled empathy, Gruen explained, is

essentially the philosophical concept of "putting yourself in someone else's shoes" — imagining yourself in someone or something else's position and judging how their conditions contribute to their current state of mind and well-being.

Entangled empathy is a newly introduced ethic for improving humanity's relationships with animals and other humans. Entangled empathy is different from regular empathy because it attends to the other's needs, interests, vulnerabilities and sensitivities.

Gruen's theory of entangled empathy stood out to Satine Berntsen, a graduate student in cinematic production management studies.

"It's quite interesting because it brings up the idea of who we are and our knowledge and aspects of personality being built upon to create something more that we may not even understand yet," Berntsen said.

Other students were disappointed that Gruen failed to highlight the importance of plants.

"I thought it was interesting that the speaker brought up the concept that you can't really connect to plants because we still have importance and value within plants and larger ecosystems," said Elizabeth Connelly, a first-year environmental science major.

Opinion

A call for in-person empathy

The impact of remote Title IX interactions on survivor well-being

By **LILY PHILIPCAK**
Staff Writer

Did you know that under Title IX, you are not entitled to face-to-face interactions when meeting with a university coordinator? In other words, the Quinnipiac University Office of Title IX is not required to meet with you in person, even if that is what you want or need.

When I found out that Quinnipiac's interim Title IX coordinator is fully remote, I was distressed. Even worse, it was not common knowledge among students and professors that I spoke to. I couldn't help but think about the survivors that felt uncomfortable and awkward meeting with the office on Zoom and did not pursue further proceedings as a result.

In accordance with Title IX regulations, every school that receives federal funds must designate at least one employee who is responsible for coordinating the school's compliance with Title IX.

Quinnipiac has policies that prohibit discrimination and misconduct on the basis of gender, including sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, sexual violence, intimate partner violence, stalking and any other gender-based harassment or misconduct.

However, as long as that employee upholds the school's compliance with federal

law, it does not matter if the procedures are trauma-informed or not — whereas in-person procedures would be.

The purpose of trauma-informed care — a framework that assumes individuals are highly impacted by a history of trauma — is not to treat symptoms or issues related to abuse or any other form of trauma, but rather to provide easily accessible support services to those who have experienced

trauma, according to the Buffalo Center for Social Research.

This is important because when systems meant to support students — such as Title IX, Student Affairs, CARE, Residential Life and Public Safety — do not have procedures that are trauma-informed, this increases the possibility of triggering or exacerbating trauma symptoms or retraumatizing an individual.



ILLUSTRATION BY TRIPP MENHALL

Any situation or environment that resembles a trauma — literally or symbolically — has the potential to trigger difficult feelings and reactions associated with the original trauma, which is known as retraumatization.

Title IX protections were significantly altered in 2020 under former President Donald Trump's administration — such as the redefinition of sexual harassment to a narrow range of actions that are “severe, pervasive and objectively offensive.”

The issue with that is that practically no sexual harassment is considered objectively offensive, according to the Title IX terms.

Under President Joe Biden's administration, these Title IX protections have not been reinstated. This leaves students vulnerable and creates barriers that keep survivors from coming forward.

Remote meetings are a significant barrier because they could disempower victims. What would happen if someone's trauma stemmed from online sexual exploitation, such as receiving threatening messages or having nude photos spread online? Strictly virtual proceedings could deter victims altogether, preventing them from getting the support they need.

Universities must enact trauma-informed initiatives and show up for victims in person.

Alabama's promotion of anti-abortion sentiments capitalizes on the pain of others

By **LILLIAN CURTIN**
Associate Opinion Editor

I remember in 2022 when I read the headline from the New York Times, “In 6-to-3 Ruling, Supreme Court Ends Nearly 50 Years of Abortion Rights.”

I just couldn't believe it. The Supreme Court ruled that abortion laws were now up to the states. Just when I thought things couldn't get worse, they did.

On Feb. 16, the Alabama Supreme Court

ruled that frozen embryos are now considered children under state law. Meaning, the disposal of embryos will now be prohibited under the Wrongful Death of a Minor Act.

This October term case, released on Feb. 16, formed when a group of hopeful couples had their embryos collected through in vitro fertilization, more commonly referred to as IVF. They were waiting to start the implantation process when a separate patient illegally trespassed into the cryogenic nursery,

where the center stored the embryos. Due to the unexpected cold temperature, the patient dropped the embryos on the floor, making them unviable.

The patient who trespassed and destroyed the embryos needs to be legally punished, there's no doubt about that, but charging them with the killing of children is extreme. The center also needs to be punished for neglect. I can't begin to imagine how devastating this is for the families involved, and I sympathize with them.

However, are these embryos really children, like the court says? No.

Alabama lawmakers saw this as an opportunity to advance their anti-abortion agenda. The case revolved around the question of when life begins, which has been at the heart of the anti-abortion vs. abortion rights debate for decades. This case was just an opportunity to finalize Alabama lawmakers' choice of when they wanted to say that life started. They used these families as a part of their ploy.

During the case, the defense, the reproductive center, claimed that an embryo cannot be considered a child because it can't survive without a womb. I agree.

Yes, embryos are defined as living. However, embryos are not yet fetuses, let alone children. There needs to be a pregnancy for the embryo to turn into a child, but in this case, the insemination didn't happen yet.

The plaintiffs — the families that froze their embryos — claimed that the “unequal treatment” against the embryos would go against the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. This clause protects all Americans legally, no matter who you are or where you come from.

What's interesting is the fact that the Equal Protection Clause was written to protect minorities, yet Alabama was ranked 44th out of all 50 states in the Racial Inequality Index.

Just last year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Alabama discriminated against Black voters under the Voting Rights Act. The Supreme Court of Alabama seems like it picks and chooses what or who it cares about when it comes to the law.

The decision was based completely on anti-abortion values.

Even worse, during the ruling, the Supreme Court cited the Bible, including Jeremiah verse 1:5 in the conclusion of the statement. I'm Catholic, but I know church needs to be separate from state.

Using these families to prove a political point is already disgusting, but doing it as a legal entity that's supposed to be unbiased is a slap in the face to the legal system and the Americans who rely on it for justice.

Instead of interpreting Bible verses, The Alabama Supreme Court should focus on interpreting the law.

“Using these families to prove a political point is already disgusting, but doing it as a legal entity that's supposed to be unbiased is a slap in the face to the legal system and the Americans who rely on it for justice.”

— Lillian Curtin
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR

Opinion

Beloved classics don't deserve subpar live-action remakes

By **ALEXANDRA MARTINAKOVA**
News Editor

You know what, this might be a little bit of a me problem.

I don't think I've heard people complain about this as much as I do, at least not outside of the internet. But I'm just so over all of the recent live-action remakes. They are unoriginal, lazy and nothing more than a money-making scheme.

Live-action remakes, especially from Disney, have become a trend in recent years. These remakes bring beloved animated classics to real life on the big screen, hoping to introduce them to new generations and appease long-time fans.

In the past decade, Disney has put out 17 live-action remakes, and Netflix has made a habit of creating live-actions of popular anime. And that's not counting all of the book adaptations that have been coming out left and right.

Here's a penny for your thoughts — how about we just watch (or read, in the case of "Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief," for example) the original material instead?

See, live-actions work in cases like "Cruella" or "Maleficent," when you take an idea and create a different story where the original serves just as additional information, background or inspiration.

This is the entire concept behind fan-fiction, which has been immensely popular since the creation of Wattpad and AO3. These are websites dedicated to fan-fiction, which skyrocketed in recent years, to the point where The New York Times published an essay from a 16-year-old girl on



ILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

"Why We Should Be Fans Of Fan Fiction," back in June 2023.

My point here is that there is no issue in creating movies like "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil," because while they are based on a certain material, they are their own stand alone thing. Hey, that movie even got 95% audience score on Rotten Tomatoes.

The issue arises when production companies get lazy and start remaking every animated movie and show they can get their hands on.

That's not to say these movies aren't impressive — sometimes. Sure, modern CGI can create incredible visuals, but it can also give you badly animated talking dogs. Looking at you, 2019 Disney+'s "Lady and the Tramp."

Talking dogs are somehow so much

more believable when they are animated.

That's just the thing. These stories weren't created for live-action. They are fantasies, full of mermaids, dragons, talking animals and so much more.

If Disney (and others, this is not a personal attack on Disney even though it might feel like one) truly wants to bring these stories to new generations and give them the love they deserve — just make them available again.

I cannot tell you how many times I have tried searching for my old DVDs in hope of watching a beloved childhood classic when I was feeling down, only to get immensely disappointed. For context, Disney+ wasn't available in my home country, Slovakia, until 2022.

And because these stories just don't

work in real life, oftentimes the writing and plot lines have to change. This doesn't just mean a mob of unruly fans, but also, at that point, why not just create a new story rather than ruining a pre-existing one?

There is also the topic of the casting choices in the remakes. The most recent examples were the debates behind "The Little Mermaid" from last year, "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" from this year and "How to Train Your Dragon," which is set for 2025.

In all instances the actresses for Ariel (Halle Bailey), Annabeth Chase (Leah Jeffries) and Astrid Hofferson (Nico Parker) are Black women, which resulted in a lot of online backlash.

And while all three of them are phenomenal actresses, why not create new stories where Black women are the main characters rather than a few-years-afterthought?

There are so, so many other issues with live-action remakes to touch on, and so many other examples to give. "Avatar: The Last Airbender" on Netflix has incredible visuals but subpar acting. "Mulan" completely changed the original idea, to the point where it shouldn't even be called by the same name. And so on.

Which, in itself, serves as the best argument as to why not make them anymore.

Why don't we just all sit down, dust off those forgotten DVDs that we all stashed somewhere once we hit puberty and became "too cool for school?"

Or better yet, why don't we start coming up with original ideas rather than recycling everything for profit?

Self-service stations in the York Hill dining hall benefit everyone

By **MICHAEL LAROCCA**
Opinion Editor

Getting food at the York Hill dining hall can be a slog. Sometimes it takes upwards of 10 minutes to get a plate of eggs and bacon on an average weekday morning.

The quick and easy thing to do in this situation is blame the dining hall staff. But it's not their fault, nowhere near it. Anyone looking beyond their field of vision can see there is a catastrophic understaffing problem in that facility. During a dinner rush, workers can be seen jumping between stations in an effort to serve everyone, and obviously that's going to be slow.

To combat both of these issues, Quinnipiac Dining made one of its best decisions in a long time. This past weekend, the York Hill dining

hall converted two stations to self-serve instead of requiring a worker to attend the area at all times. It should remain this way permanently.

Prior to this change, the only areas that were self-serve were the salad station and the hot bar that offered access to rarely available chicken tenders and french fries. Now students can serve themselves all the pasta they want at their own pace. The other self-service option is Pom and Honey, where students can treat themselves to the daily rotating station.

This leaves the workers to focus on the popular sandwich and pizza stations, tasks that actually require their full focus and attention.

The only logical step up from here is to make as many self-serve stations as physically possible.

Breakfast still isn't self-serve, but that seems like a change that can be made easily.

These stations not only make maneuvering the dining hall a quicker process, but it can change how students are charged for their food. The stations where students serve themselves are charged by the weight of the filled container, not a fixed price. This means that you pay for what you want and no longer run the risk of being charged full price when a worker gives you a skimpy scoop of scrambled eggs.

This is an example of a simple change that can make a great impact within campus dining. The department should be pleased by that and start thinking of more ways to improve the experience across all three campuses.

Bobcat Buzz



JACK MUSCATELLO/CHRONICLE

Two of York Hill Campus' dining hall stations are intermittently self-service.

Arts & Life



TRIPP MENHALL/CHRONICLE

Russell Jackson, a senior entrepreneurship and small business management major, helped create the company Fluid Sports Tech to benefit student-athletes' mental health.

'It is okay to ask for help'

QU student creates app to help student-athletes with their mental health

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

Student-athletes spend thousands of hours in practices, games and training, all while trying to maintain their GPA. It can be easy to feel overwhelmed or not know who to turn to when you're struggling, especially when you are trying to obtain an unrealistic image for the team.

In fact, mental health is one of the top reasons why student-athletes move schools. The NCAA reported in transfer years 2020-21 and 2021-22 that 61% of female and 40% of male Division I and Division II student-athletes who transferred said it was for their mental health.

To tackle these issues, Quinnipiac University student Russell Jackson and former Reinhardt University student-athlete Joshua Robbins, joined forces in July 2023 to create Fluid Sports Tech, an app which provides mental-health resources to support student-athletes.

Jackson, a senior entrepreneurship and small business management major, worked on the platform during his entrepreneurship capstone in the fall 2023 semester. Any student-athlete can use the app, but the team does plan on eventually working with colleges to be an extension of the schools' sports psychologists or mental health departments on campuses.

Jackson and Robbins — who met while working on a former start-up — were inspired by their past experience in baseball to create a space for student-athletes to go to for help. Jackson played baseball until the end of high school and Robbins played until his senior year at Reinhardt University.

"You're told growing up by coaches

and mentors and other players that baseball is a sport where it's 90% mental and 10% physical," Jackson said. "Something we're looking into, is that like, 'Yes, if baseball is 90% mental and 10% physical, why do you work only on the physical?'"

Robbins shared a similar sentiment toward baseball, but he didn't fully process his emotions until after he graduated.

"I think a lot of (being on a baseball team) is you try and just really suppress a lot of emotions and what's going on and you just try and deal with it," Robbins said. "Then afterwards, you're like, 'Well why? Why didn't I just say something? Why didn't I try and seek resources or seek help?'"

Fluid Sports Tech has 10 people on its team, which includes interns on the marketing and coding side of the project. There is currently a wireframe of the app, which is a model of what will soon be on the app store in the summer. There are 60-70 student-athletes currently using this model, Jackson said.

The app includes articles and videos related to mental health and connects users to sports psychologists and certified mental performance consultants. Jackson said some professionals have agreed to join the platform, but they are still in the process of working out the details.

"So our platform looks to incorporate, at some point, hopefully hundreds or thousands of these sports psychologists, so if this athlete isn't comfortable speaking to that one person on campus because they just don't connect well ... they can go on our application," Jackson said.

The team is working on starting a podcast that will feature athletes sharing their stories

about their mental health. They also plan to have an artificial intelligence bot that will answer questions, such as how to build confidence for a big pitch or exercises to help with public speaking.

The app will operate on a subscription model with a free version that will offer most of the materials but not all of them. Then a \$5 per month plan will have the majority of the information and a \$9.99 per month plan will include everything.

Mia Johnson, a senior communications and digital studies major at Saint's Mary's College of California, is a dancer and marketing intern for Fluid Sports Tech. She is helping the team expand their social media, creating a YouTube channel for the podcast and helping prepare for an undergraduate entrepreneurship competition called e-Fest.

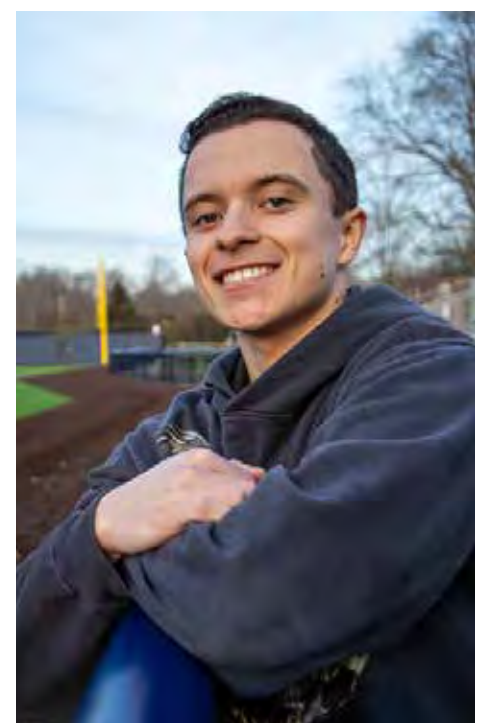
Students across the nation compete to pitch their business ideas at e-Fest. If Fluid Sports Tech makes it to the second round, Johnson and Jackson will be flying to Minnesota to potentially win a portion of \$215,000 in cash prizes that they will use to fund the company.

"(Jackson and Robbins) both are very motivated to make this a successful app and podcast and company," Johnson said. "I can see the drive that they have and making sure that these athletes and coaches are getting the help that they need in order to perform better and in order to stay in the sport (they) are doing without feeling like there's like a mental block that's preventing them from doing what they love."

Jackson, Robbins and Johnson are all striving to give student-athletes the resources they wish they had themselves. The goal of

Fluid Sports Tech is to prevent people from having to leave their sport because of mental health issues, but rather be able to get that help they need.

"I know, speaking firsthand, I was pretty shy about bringing up a lot of the stuff that I was going through, but I think just knowing that it is okay to ask for help, it's not a burden on you," Robbins said. "It's not a burden to the team and doesn't make you any less of a person by asking for help, people ask for help all the time."



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

Jackson played baseball throughout high school, which inspired him to co-found Fluid Sports Tech.

'Dune: Part Two' shakes the senses with this year's biggest sci-fi masterclass

By JACK MUSCATELLO
Digital Managing Editor

The old adage “go big or go home” has long been co-opted by Hollywood as its approach of choice for sequels. Rarely does it work as well as it does for “Dune: Part Two,” which expands upon its predecessor with a fulfilling epic that manages to leave a little room for more to follow.

“Part Two” continues the journey of Paul Atreides (Timothée Chalamet), the young patriarch of the once-powerful House Atreides. He spends much of the film grappling with the prophecy that he is the “One” — a messianic figure who will save the people of Arrakis, the sandy planet from which “Dune” earns its name — as the evil Harkonnen family seeks to control the galaxy’s spice trade.

His story is one of almost biblical proportions, based on the 1965 novel of the same name, and the film leans heavily into religious undertones with a massive scale like no other.

Director Denis Villeneuve returns to the planet Arrakis with the same acute care for detail and rhythm that first established the arid landscape almost three years ago. But where the first film devoted more time to explaining how the “Dune” universe came to be, “Part Two” gets right into the thick of it with one action set piece after another, culminating in almost three hours of pure spectacle.

While on the subject, the action has been refined to a degree where “meticulous” is an understatement. The combination of choreography and sound design works wonders, creating moments of tension that help smooth

over the more dense political developments adapted directly from the book.

Where the first film occasionally falters in its embrace of more “tell” than “show,” the action in “Part Two” provides complete immersion and plot progression in equal measure.

The ensemble cast may just be one of the best put to screen in recent memory. Chalamet leans into Atreides’ young wit and slowly growing dark edge, improving his screen presence tremendously. Opposite him is Zendaya, who earns significantly more screen time in “Part Two” as Chani — a member of Arrakis’ native people, the Fremen, and a fast love interest to Atreides.

But the script affords her plenty of time to oppose the idea of Atreides as a prophesied hero, which creates a surprising amount of nuance around the “white savior” archetype that “Dune”’s narrative centers on. Though the novel touches on the problematic notions of God-like power in the hands of one person, having Chani represent this hesitation creates engaging conflict between the two.

Javier Bardem also expands on his role as a leader among the Fremen, who celebrates Atreides’ arrival with open arms, contributing much to the film’s humor and later moments of grace.

Austin Butler’s new villain, Feyd-Rautha, works to wisely mimic Atreides’ arc in “Part One,” though with much more sinister intentions. Rebecca Ferguson rounds out the principal group with full command of the film’s most disturbing



ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RIHA

sequences as Lady Jessica, Atreides’ mother and the main proponent to his savior complex.

The cinematography somehow tops that of “Part One,” incorporating even more creative framing and one of the best lighting showcases there is. There are just so many shots that practically beg for behind-the-scenes explanations, with a particular sequence atop an extra-large sandworm that is cinematic icing on the cake.

Across the board, “Part Two” is the result of a creative team operating at the height of their craft. Each department’s work blends with the next, culminating in sequences that, when coupled with the scope of an IMAX presentation,

are second to none.

The film still leaves some open threads for an inevitable third installment, which does take away a bit of the emotional bite in the final 20 minutes. It’s a largely nitpicky point, but complaints about “Part One”’s seemingly unfinished narrative still linger as the credits roll on “Part Two.”

Nevertheless, in the wake of 2023’s “Oppenheimer,” which almost literally blew the doors off the competition on the subject of cinematic immersion, “Dune: Part Two” serves a well-rounded return that promises a healthy future for blockbuster action. Seek this out on the biggest screen possible.

You never really know the person behind the online persona

By ALEXANDRA MARTINAKOVA
News Editor

Everyone has that one singer that lives in every one of their playlists and that one actor that they watch every one of their movies. In the world of social media and the internet, we all have someone who we follow, look up to or even admire.

It’s a bummer when they turn out to be a terrible person.

If you were in any way a part of the Minecraft and Twitch community in recent years, you would know the name Wilbur Soot pretty well. If you are more of an indie music fan, you know him as lead vocalist William Gold of the British indie rock band Lovejoy.

And now, we all know him as a perpetrator of domestic violence.

On Feb. 21, Shubble, an American Minecraft Twitch streamer and YouTuber, spoke out about her experiences with abuse from one of her ex-boyfriends, without explicitly naming him.

In her 30-minute-long stream, Shubble detailed some of her experiences throughout her relationship. She recalled having to create a safe word because of his persistent biting that would leave bruises on her arms and legs, and him joking about how she looked abused. She recalled his lies, manipulation and financial abuse.

She talked about him ignoring their safe word and even biting down harder whenever she’d use it.

Shubble’s reason for speaking up now, months after their break up, was, as she put it, “silence has always brought me peace, and this time it feels like my silence is not keeping my peace, it’s only keeping somebody else’s peace.”

However, on X, formerly known as Twitter, fans immediately started speculating, despite Shubble’s wishes, who she might’ve been talking about — and Wilbur’s name came up more than once.

A week later, on Feb. 27, Wilbur posted an

apology — if it could even be called that — on his X page, admitting to the allegations.

Wilbur was a popular and well-loved figure in the community — with 4.7 million followers on Twitch, 6.05 million subscribers on YouTube and Lovejoy amounting 2.1 million monthly listeners on Spotify.

He was a part of many Minecraft SMPs — survival multiplayer servers — including the Dream SMP, which quickly rose to popularity in 2020 and QSMP, the world’s first multilingual server created by his fellow content creator Quackity.

He was a role model for many young and impressionable fans, which made the situation even more surprising.

Soon, Wilbur’s replies were flooded with responses from other content creators, YouTubers, Twitch streamers and anyone else who has publicly interacted with him.

The surprising part was that many of them spoke up about their own experiences with the

British streamer. The replies to that apology post have now reached more than 20,000.

Wilbur’s so-called apology contained the word “I” 26 times and he did not mention Shubble by her name once. As Dream, a Minecraft YouTuber and singer, put it in his response: “She had reason to be afraid to say your name, but you shouldn’t have been afraid to say hers.”

Shubble has since replied on her alternate X account, “I could not have imagined what I would wake up to today. My ex pretending he thought I enjoyed being hurt ... and all of my friends immediately coming to my defense.”

She replied to that post saying, “and for the record, I don’t accept the apology.”

The internet being the internet, some believe that Shubble is lying, saying that Wilbur is just getting “canceled” and that this will blow over in a week or two, as it has done in the past with other content creators who have been accused of abuse or grooming.

To that, Shubble’s friend and British streamer

Aimsey, who is close friends with Wilbur’s close friends, spoke out to their fans.

“This is not some petty drama, this is not some Twitter thing,” Aimsey said on their livestream. “This is abuse. There are victims involved in this and you guys are treating it like it’s a Twitter drama, it’s not. This is a serious thing. Stop acting like this is something that’s gonna be blown over in a week. Stop saying ‘Wilbur is canceled,’ he’s not canceled, he’s an abuser! It is a crime!”

I used to watch Wilbur’s streams during the COVID-19 pandemic and continued to do so after, even after I dropped so many other content creators.

Lovejoy has had a permanent place in my playlists for years now. The songs “Perfume,” “Concrete,” “Consequences” and “Normal People Things” were among my favorites. Now I can’t bring myself to listen to them.

Wilbur has been silent since posting his response and so has Lovejoy. The band was set to play at big festivals in 2024, including Summer Sonic in Japan and on the first day of Coachella. So far, there has been no news regarding whether they’ll perform or not.

Content creators’ online personas are just that: a persona. The fans never truly know the person they are following and who they are looking up to. But it hits hard, to know that who you admired or listened to is not a good person.

This situation is not about Wilbur though, and it’s not about the fans’ feelings. It’s about Shubble, and everyone else who spoke out about their experiences.

As Ranboo, American Twitch streamer and Wilbur’s former close friend put it, “anyone who tried to downplay or discredit a victim’s stories for ANY REASON, especially for the sake of being able to watch a creator’s content is an idiot ... ‘separate art from the artist’ listen to a different fucking song.”

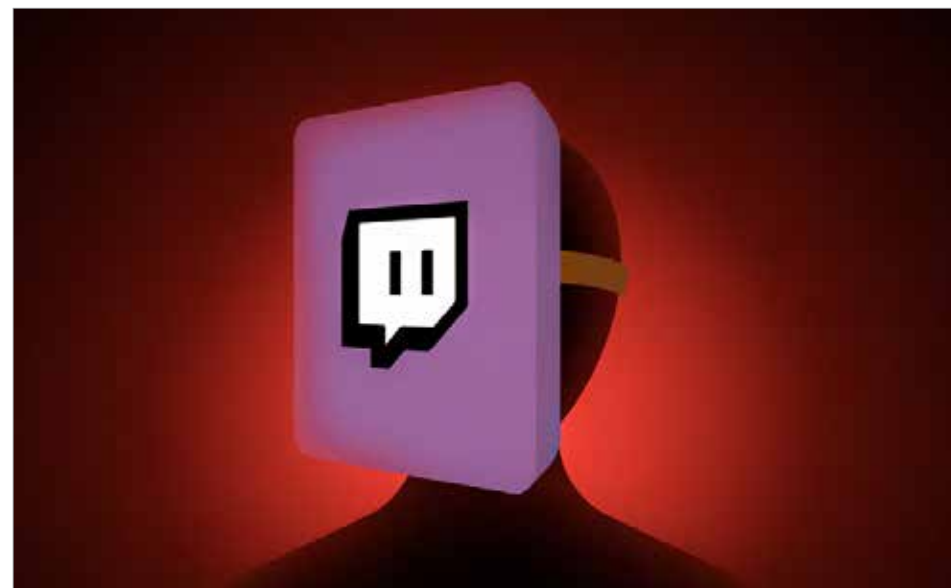


ILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

'Would you like to add a tip?'

By **GRACE CONNEELY-NOLAN**
Staff Writer

Everyone knows the uncomfortable exchange when the barista flips the screen, prompting you to choose how much to tip the minimum wage worker for handing over a muffin. This forces you to decide how much to tip on a \$5 baked good.

Tipping culture has gotten out of control. There has been a recent increase in the margins of American gratuity habits. Almost three-fourths of American adults said tipping is now expected in more places than five years ago, according to Pew Research Center.

It is one of the overlapping effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. People are venturing out to bars, restaurants and coffee shops, and consumers are ready to return to stores, confronted with forgotten pleasures and new etiquette expectations. This makes people feel like they need to tip more often.

"Tipflation," the growth of digital payments with automatic tipping prompts, has drawn backlash from many Americans, according to CBS. Implementing digital checkout systems that pressure customers to leave a tip — sometimes exceeding 30% — creates an awkward encounter.

In many places in the U.S., the minimum wage for tipped workers is lower than the standard minimum wage. Companies can legally pay their employees less and rely on tips to make up the difference. This creates an environment where workers heavily depend on tips to earn a living.

Working throughout high school as a hostess, I learned more about customer service than I ever thought I would. I earned a stable hourly rate, but now, as a waitress, my main income comes from tips.

Working for tips is much different than working at a guaranteed rate. It affects the days you want to work, the amount of work you take on and the customer service.

As a waitress, I noticed a trend with the age of customers and how much they tipped. In my experience, it was more common for older customers to tip than younger generations.

Older Americans are more likely than younger adults to tip even below the average percentage, according to Pew Research Center. Of those 65 and older, 61% would tip 15% or less compared to 54% of those under 30.

Inflation without proper raises has led to the out-of-hand phenomenon where customers are responsible for funding workers and adding to their bank accounts. Tipping is standard for several services in the restaurant industry. The issue is the overwhelming expectation of tipping those whose salaries don't rely on outside gratuity. Why should customers bear the burden of tipping when corporations should be paying their employees fairly?

Americans can't agree on whether

adding a tip is more of a choice or an obligation when consumers are left to their own devices. When presented with a digital screen showing different numbers of tips, they take widely different approaches.

Over three-fourths of respondents always or often tip for haircuts, and just 61% said the same about tipping their taxi or ride-hailing drivers, according to NBC News.

Americans have a reputation for being

generous tippers. The percentage of the tip is likely associated with income level. The average tip percentage in the U.S. is nearly 18%, according to USA Today.

Customer gratuity varies in different countries. Over winter break, my family and I traveled to Costa Rica and experienced a much different tipping policy. Tipping is completely optional but greatly appreciated, with 10% being the standard percentage. We were unsure of how much to tip but learned how cultural norms and standards affect it, and most restaurants expected American tourists to tip.

So, what is the solution to this exceedingly high tipping culture?

First, addressing the surge in tipping opens up broader discussions on labor laws, minimum wage and fair compensation for all workers. Companies should pay their employees a livable wage without relying on tips, creating a more stable and equitable income for workers.

Fundamentally, the cultural norm of tipping will never go away. The goal is to create a balance that ensures employees are fairly compensated. At the same time, customers receive good value and the business profits.

The next time you feel pressured to tip at a coffee shop, remember the corporation behind it is responsible for taking care of its employees.



ILLUSTRATION BY SHAVONNE CHIN

Ace Frehley's '10,000 Volts' puts him back in the groove

By **TYLER PLATZ**
Contributing Writer

Ace is back and he told you so. The phrase "rock 'n' roll is dead" is frequently tossed around. With the rise of other genres like hip hop, pop and hip-hop, music fans have seemingly placed the rock genre in its theoretical coffin. Don't tell that to Ace Frehley.

Frehley has long been one of the faces of the rock genre, with or without his signature spaceman makeup. A singer, songwriter and guitarist, Frehley embodies what it means to rock through his work with Kiss — as well as his solo career spanning decades.

On Feb. 23, the former Kiss guitarist released his eighth studio album, "10,000 Volts," more than 45 years after the release of his self-titled solo debut in 1978. The album —

Frehley's first collection of original material in six years — signifies more than just another addition to his discography. It proves that rock 'n' roll is not dead at all.

The 11-track album showcases Frehley's continued ability to deliver his distinctive style of classic rock 'n' roll, appreciated by Kiss fans, who have followed Frehley's career, in and out of the band. The title track and opening song, "10,000 Volts," kicks off the album with a flanger-esque guitar chord, followed by a patented Frehley riff, setting the tone for the rest of the album.

Many defining features that make Frehley's albums unmistakably his resurface on this project. His signature sunburst-colored Les Paul guitar, the Jimmy Page-inspired solos and the references to the stars and space —

evident in song titles like "Cosmic Heart" and "Up in the Sky" — are just a few noteworthy elements. Even the album artwork features Frehley playing his guitar in space, surrounded by UFOs and amplifiers producing what looks like enough voltage to power his hometown of New York City.

Unlike his previous albums, "10,000 Volts" does not include any guest musicians. In the past, Frehley collaborated with artists such as Slash from Guns N' Roses, Robin Zander of Cheap Trick, John 5 — currently touring with Motley Crue — and his former Kiss bandmates, vocalist Paul Stanley and bassist Gene Simmons. While guitarist Steve Brown, formerly of the band Trixter, assisted in producing the album, all the music was performed by Frehley and his band.

The song that best exemplifies Frehley's ability to blend his melodic guitar playing with his singing is the track "Walkin' on the Moon," released before the album and reminiscent of the style of "I'm In Need Of Love" from his debut album. This single preceded the album's release and accompanied a new music video featuring playful visuals, including Frehley donning a NASA-style astronaut suit and aliens playing inflatable guitars.

A hidden gem for hardcore Kiss and Frehley fans lies in the lyrics of the fourth track, "Cherry Medicine." It's chock-full of innuendos, including the line, "You make me feel better when you're in your black leather." This directly references Frehley's vocal debut on the Kiss song "Shock Me," featured on the 1977 album "Love Gun," where the lyrics state, "Shock me, put on your black leather."

The seventh track, titled "Blinded," resonates with a more serious and contemporary theme in 2024, addressing the topics of computers and artificial

intelligence in its lyrics. Frehley's interest in the technology of tomorrow is not only expressed through his lyrics but also embodied in his on-stage persona.

Frehley's entire spaceman gimmick originated from his fascination of the evolution of technology. Put a guitar in his hands and a microphone in front of him, and you get a song like "Blinded."

In the lyrics, Frehley refers to the growing technology in the world as "a mind attack" that lacks empathy. Lines like "Cause we're blinded by science and we're blinded by fear," as well as "We're the victims in the web of despair," clearly target the influence of technology on modern life. Even non-Kiss fans can find resonance in this song as it deals with such a prominent theme.

The album concludes in typical fashion, mirroring the conclusion of many of Frehley's solo projects with an instrumental track. "Stratosphere" marks the finale with an acoustic composition that clocks in at just over three minutes. The piece resembles Frehley's earlier work, "Fractured Mirror," an acoustic piece that finished his 1978 debut.

The album is not only available to digitally stream on Spotify and Apple Music. The album can be purchased physically on vinyl. Frehley, whose roots in the music industry go back to a time when vinyl was the predominant format, continues to embrace this tradition. More than 40 years later, he is ensuring fans can still consume his music through the same tactile experience that defined the early years of his career.

For rock music fans, "10,000 Volts" is definitely worth a listen. With its cool guitar licks, fun and straightforward lyrics reminiscent of the '70s and '80s and an undeniable power that aligns with its name, the album demonstrates that rock music is very much alive and thriving in the 21st century.



MICHAEL SINGER/NEW YORK STATE MUSIC MAGAZINE

Ace Frehley, former Kiss guitarist, released "10,000 Volts," his eighth studio album more than 45 years after his solo debut.

A night in color: Students gather for Women Empowered's annual Paint Night

By PEYTON MCKENZIE
Creative Director

Students gathered to flex their creative muscles during a Paint Night hosted by Women Empowered on Feb. 28. Attendees scattered throughout the Mount Carmel dining hall to make their best work using a plethora of different paint options. The organization provided an option of tote bags or mini-canvases for students to paint on. Club members also served mocktails, cookies, pizza and other snacks for attendees to eat throughout their creative process.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

From left, first-year international business major Avery Looby, sophomore economics major Genevieve Brintnall and first-year health science studies major Mikayla Hyman paint tote bags during a Paint Night hosted by Women Empowered on Feb. 28 in the Mount Carmel Dining Hall.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

A bottle of blue acrylic craft paint sits among a rainbow of other options during the Paint Night.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Students paint a variety of designs such as strawberries and luxury fashion designer logos on tote bags during the event.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Many students gathered on Feb. 28 to paint tote bags and mini canvases at the Women Empowered Paint Night.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Sophomore psychology major Rebecca Kildoo sits alone at a table peacefully painting a tote bag.



TYLER RINKO/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac fired 46 shots on net — its second highest total of the season — in a 8-1 win over St. Lawrence on March 2.



TYLER RINKO/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac has lost five of eight overtime games this season, including a 3-2 loss to Clarkson on March 2.

JEKYLL AND HYDE

Quinnipiac's two-faced regular season finale shows postseason floor and ceiling

By CAMERON LEVASSEUR
Sports Editor

There's no better dichotomy of the best and worst that Quinnipiac men's hockey can be than this weekend's series against Clarkson and St. Lawrence.

The Bobcats crashed and burned against the Golden Knights on Friday, playing a low-effort, high-mistake brand of hockey light years away from their identity. That translated into a 3-2 overtime loss, their first ECAC Hockey loss on home ice in 735 days.

A "disappointing effort," as head coach Rand Pecknold put it postgame.

Saturday's regular season finale against the Saints could not have been more different. Quinnipiac played with pace and moved the puck effectively, spreading St. Lawrence's defense thin and capitalizing on a rookie goaltender to the tune of an 8-1 win.

"That's how we respond," Pecknold said Saturday.

Applying a critical eye to Friday's game gives cause to believe this team could be a first-round exit in the NCAA Tournament. Doing the same for Saturday suggests there's nothing stopping the Bobcats from repeating as national champions.

The reality of what the weekend actually shows is somewhere in between. Quinnipiac has both glaring superpowers and undermining flaws, and the impetus of either comes back to the systems this program has long relied upon.

With a week off before jumping into the ECAC Hockey quarterfinals on March 15, there's no better time to evaluate them than now.

IT'S A TRAP!

Quinnipiac's 1-1-3 neutral zone trap has been the staple of its game for the last decade-plus.

The aim is to force attackers wide and

suffocate their passing options through the neutral zone by swinging forwards in from the center of the ice and having defensemen play tight to their own blue line.

It's incredibly frustrating to play against, but also the most effort-intensive structure a team can play. The easiest way to beat it is to dump and chase, which in turn requires the defensemen to turn on their heels and hunt the puck down in their zone.

This works well to invigorate a forecheck when a team has good puck-moving defensemen (like Quinnipiac does) who can make quick decisions on the breakout.

It didn't work for the Bobcats against Clarkson because those defensemen either tried to force passes into high-traffic areas or just flat out lost the race to the puck in the first place.

The Golden Knights didn't score on any opportunity created off even-strength dump-ins, but they did hem Quinnipiac into its own zone for significant periods of time, limiting the Bobcats' ability to generate chances on the other end.

The fix is not a question of skill, but rather one of effort and thinking within the structure of the system. Clarkson came prepared to beat the trap, but so does every team Quinnipiac plays.

The concern is elevated when you reach the NCAA Tournament. High-powered, physical teams from the Big Ten or NCHC will crash dump-ins harder than Clarkson will. So if the Bobcats struggle to turn the play south quickly as they did on Friday, teams will capitalize off turnovers and dig them into a hole.

SURF'S UP

For a team known for its defense, Quinnipiac has maintained historically good of-

fense the last two seasons.

The Bobcats' offense last year (4 goals per game) finished third in the nation. In 2024, their scoring (4.3) has outpaced that mark through the end of the regular season. Momentum has been a driving factor behind that increase.

Against St. Lawrence, the Bobcats scored within the first four minutes of every period, keeping sustained pressure through the intermissions. Against Brown the week before, they scored four goals in six minutes to take a commanding first-period lead.

This — as was the case a season ago — is fueled by their ability to roll four lines capable of causing damage in the offensive end.

But a more active defensive core is creating higher numbers of chances in transition.

Each of the team's six everyday defensemen are good skaters and comfortable leading the play with the puck on their stick, a complete strength that wasn't there last season. When they're on — like they were against St. Lawrence — plays rapidly turn north-south and unrelenting pressure causes teams to break.

Sophomore Charles-Alexis Legault, who had a career-high three points against the Saints, is in the midst of a breakout campaign that's seen his production more than double. But more importantly, he's adjusted to the speed of college hockey and taken strides in properly leveraging his 6-foot, 3-inch frame to his advantage.

"I've gotten more comfortable with the pace, just how fast the game is, how big the guys are, the speed," Legault said. "Just play fast, play north, and things will go your way."

Four of Quinnipiac's defensemen, graduate student Jayden Lee, senior Cooper Moore,

junior Davis Pennington and Legault, have all already crossed the 20-point threshold. Former captain Zach Metsa (37 points) and Lee (20) were the team's only blue-liners to do that last season. The group's 3.14 points per game average is nearly three-tenths higher than their predecessors.

Whenever the Bobcats score goals in bunches, most of those six have factored in scoring plays. They're a major reason why Quinnipiac can gain momentum and then ride the wave.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Entering the ECAC Tournament as the No. 1 seed, Quinnipiac has the luxury of a week off before vying for a spot in Lake Placid in a best-of-three quarterfinals series.

"We've got to get healthy, we've got some guys that are banged up a little bit," Pecknold said. "That's the big bonus of the bye, you get healthy and you have that week to rest up."

Its opponent in that series will be the lowest seed to make it out of the first round of the tournament, meaning one of No. 8 Harvard, No. 9 Princeton, No. 10 Yale, No. 11 Brown and No. 12 RPI.

The Bobcats went a perfect 10-0 against those teams in the regular season, outscoring them by a combined 59-14 margin.

That's not to say that whoever they face will keel over and die, but the focus for Quinnipiac will be on its own systems, not its opponents.

The final weekend of the regular season showed both this team's ceiling and floor, but most importantly, it showed how effective buying into those systems can be.

Quinnipiac women's basketball hoping to create postseason magic

By **BENJAMIN YEARGIN**
Managing Editor

If I were to hypothetically walk into Bally's, Caesars or one of the many casinos in Atlantic City, New Jersey — the host of the MAAC Tournament — and bet my entire bank account on Quinnipiac women's basketball to win the conference, I would probably lose money.

Especially when Fairfield is on a 24-game win streak, at the top of the MAAC, and became the first MAAC team to be ranked in the Associated Press poll at No. 25 since the 2011 Marist Red Foxes.

Coupled with emerging Canisius and consistent staples like Niagara, Manhattan and Siena, my bank account would likely be in shambles in this hypothetical.

In reality, it wouldn't. I'm not 21, so I can't legally bet, but I would bet on the Bobcats potentially pulling off some upsets. Here's why:

RETURN TO FORM

A lingering storyline throughout Quinnipiac's season has been its injuries.

Head coach Tricia Fabbri announced on Dec. 19 that junior guard Jackie Grisdale would miss the remainder of the season with a lower-body injury.

To add more salt to the wound, sophomore forward Ella O'Donnell and freshman guards Maria Kealy and Karson Martin are currently injured.

To put it into perspective, four of the five normal starters for the Bobcats are injured.

"It's hard to overcome the injury bug, and then to have so many of them," Fabbri said on Feb. 29. "It compounds."

But that could change, as Fabbri alluded to following Quinnipiac's 64-46 loss on Feb. 29 to Fairfield.

"I'm remaining optimistic that we are going to get healthier after this game," Fabbri said.

If O'Donnell, Kealy and Martin can get healthy in time for the tournament, the Bobcats could play the ace up their sleeve and add to the tools they have to compete with most teams.

STAR POWER

Quinnipiac has good players.

Look no further than the freshman duo of Martin and forward Anna Foley.

Foley and Martin have likely earned spots on the All-MAAC Rookie Team, are first and second on the team in scoring among eligible players and are second and third among rookies in the MAAC, respectively.

Foley is averaging 17.7 points and 8.3 rebounds per game since Feb. 1. Both are All-MAAC First Team-esque numbers.

"It means a lot to be able to contribute in this way," Foley said on Feb. 1. "(Getting) back to the game I know I'm capable of."

O'Donnell, junior forward Grace LaBarge and freshman guard Ava Sollenne all have put up respectable seasons and proven to be assets to the team.

When O'Donnell's healthy, she can go toe-to-toe with anyone in the conference. LaBarge is a consistent three-point threat, sitting third in three-point percentage and Sollenne tops the list among Quinnipiac's active players.

If Quinnipiac wants to compete in the tournament, it needs great showings from its best players.

POTENTIAL MATCHUPS

The Bobcats currently sit seventh in the MAAC, which would line them up to play the No. 10 seed — Saint Peter's. Marist is only a game behind the Peacocks, so Quinnipiac could potentially face the Red Foxes too.

This matchup bodes well for Quinnipiac; it has never lost to the Peacocks and beat them twice already this season, albeit in sloppy fashion.

The Bobcats have hit their ceiling, and they can't go higher than the No. 7 seed. However, they can fall. Iona and Rider are only one game behind Quinnipiac.

Its next game is against Iona on Thursday, March 7.

Beating the Gaels is imperative for the Bobcats. If they end the season as an eight or nine seed and win their first game in the tour-

namment, they then have a one-way ticket to face Fairfield in the quarterfinals.

But if they can beat Iona in New Rochelle, New York, then return home and defeat Marist on March 9, Quinnipiac would hold the No. 7 seed.

For the sake of brevity, I'm going to proceed as if the Bobcats are the No. 7 in the tournament.

If they do beat Saint Peter's, they'll face the No. 2 seed, likely Niagara or Siena.

Quinnipiac can beat Niagara — it pushed the Purple Eagles to overtime twice this season, the latest time being without O'Donnell and Kealy.

"We go out expecting to win," Fabbri said following the Feb. 22 loss to Niagara. "It's amazing how we have faced all our challenges this year and continue to come out ... and keep battling."

However, Siena has comfortably handled the Bobcats twice this season, beating them by double digits both in Hamden and at home.

The one saving grace for Quinnipiac in this potential matchup is that junior

forward Anajah Brown has not played for the Saints since Feb. 22. She is considered day-to-day with a shoulder injury, per a team source.

If she's out, Foley could shine in the paint. If the Bobcats do match up with Siena, Quinnipiac's guards must manage the dominant Saints guards — senior Ahniysha Jackson and sophomores Elisa Mevius, Teresa Seppala and London Gamble.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The Bobcats have never found themselves in the bottom half of the MAAC since they joined the conference in 2013. This is the lowest seed they've ever been while in the conference.

There's no way to know what will happen. But don't write the Bobcats off.

They've fought tremendously in wins, they've fought tremendously in losses and they'll fight again in the MAAC tournament.

And who knows, maybe I'll double my metaphorical money by the end of the tournament.



Head coach Tricia Fabbri looks on during Quinnipiac's win over Maine on Nov. 6, 2023.

PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Women's ice hockey swept by Cornell, awaits slim-to-none NCAA tournament fate

By **COLIN KENNEDY**
Associate Sports Editor

ITHACA, N.Y. — It seemed like Quinnipiac women's ice hockey had turned a corner. The Bobcats rattled off three-straight wins — albeit against subpar opponents — and were playing their best hockey since early January before heading into an ECAC Hockey quarterfinal series with Cornell.

Turns out those three wins were just a façade as the Big Red snookered Quinnipiac, sweeping it out of the conference tournament.

"That's a great Cornell hockey team," Turner said. "Over the two days they just kept gaining momentum."

The Bobcats were never really in it. Cornell was just too fast, too physical, too skilled and they just couldn't keep up. That said, it wasn't like Quinnipiac didn't show some grit.

A competitive Game 1 saw the Bobcats fight back from an early 2-0 hole to force overtime. But a misplayed puck by graduate student goaltender Logan Angers early in the extra frame allowed Cornell freshman forward Karel Prefontaine to capitalize and put Quinnipiac on the brink of elimination.

"I saw her getting back, but I knew that a shot would probably make it harder for her than just trying to skate it in," Prefontaine told The Cornell Daily Sun. "She was farther back (from) her net, so I had the perfect angle."

Game 2 was a different story.

Cornell throttled the Bobcats from the start, and it wasn't close. Unlike the first game, Quinnipiac was never competitive, and the team fell apart at the seams. Its offense was nonexistent — only putting up 11 shots on goal — and couldn't muster any kind of a presence in its offensive zone.

"We didn't get the same o-zone sustained pressure," Turner said. "That helped (the Big Red) gain momentum because it was making them uncomfortable (on Friday)."

The Bobcats' playoff discipline also evaporated in Saturday's contest, filling the penalty box five times. In their previous two ECAC tournament games against Harvard, they played clean hockey, and with their backs against the wall, that discipline went right out the window. While none resulted in a Cornell goal, it's clear Quinnipiac was cracking under the pressure.

"It was different officiating from the night before," Turner said. "Cornell made us uncomfortable."

The Big Red's offensive onslaught was the most impressive thing on the ice last weekend. With dynamic forwards senior Izzy Daniel, junior Lily Delandei and sophomores Avi Adam and Georgia Schiff, the Bobcats couldn't keep up. Penalty trouble stalled that attack in Game 1, but once it got rolling in the second and third periods of Game 2, it just poured fuel on the fire.

"We faced an opponent that is just on their game," Turner said. "It's harder to bounce back."

So where does Quinnipiac stand now?

An emotional senior forward Kendall Cooper embraced with Angers as time expired in Ithaca. The sixth-year netminder could very well have played her last game as a Bobcat this past weekend.

While Quinnipiac was eliminated from the conference tournament, its NCAA Tournament hopes are still alive — for now.

"That hope, and that potential opportunity is going to keep (the team) moving forward," Turner said.

Only 11 teams make the NCAA Division I women's tournament. Five receive an auto-bid for winning its conference tournament while the remaining six teams receive an at-large bid. Currently two conferences — the NEWHA and CHA — sit outside the top-11, meaning two teams that are in as of now will be knocked out come next weekend. As of publication, the Bobcats would be out.

Following the sweep, Quinnipiac fell to No. 9 in the Pairwise — behind No. 8 Minnesota-Duluth, who it would need to finish in front of to secure the last at-large bid. The Bulldogs swept St. Cloud State, meaning they will be playing at least one more conference tournament game next weekend.

Currently sitting 0.568 points behind Minnesota-Duluth, Quinnipiac would need some serious help to revive its season. The Bobcats will have to sit and wait out the rest of the conference tournaments before the selection show on March 10 at 12 p.m. unveils their fate.

"It's not where you want to be," Turner said. No, no it's not.



All bets are off

As MAAC Tournament looms, men's basketball looking to hit the jackpot in Atlantic City

By **ETHAN HURWITZ**
Sports Editor

For Quinnipiac men's basketball, a lot of things have never happened.

The Bobcats have never won a share of the MAAC regular season title, they haven't hoisted a conference trophy and they sure haven't gone dancing into the NCAA Tournament.

But with two games remaining until the conference tournament in Atlantic City, New Jersey, the Bobcats — who currently sit at 13-5 in conference play and 21-8 overall — know what's at stake.

"I'm not afraid of setting high goals and I talk to these guys about that all the time," head coach Tom Pecora said. "All we've ever talked about is (a) one-game winning streak. Let's go win the next one. ... If you look past your next opponent, now you just set yourself up for failure."

There's been many versions of this Bobcats team this season. A 10-game winning streak skyrocketed Pecora's squad into national headlines as one of the premier mid-major programs. A four-game losing skid saw them drop in the MAAC standings — albeit for less than half a week — and questions began to arise.

Since then, Quinnipiac has rattled off two wins at Iona and against Siena — convincing ones at that — and is en route to the program's first-ever MAAC regular season title and No. 1 seed

heading into the thick of March.

"The whole idea was to not let the team lose confidence," graduate student guard Savion Lewis said. "The losing streak that we had was definitely a great humbling experience and it allowed us to figure out what we need to work on."

Lewis, who just recently broke a 31-year-old program record for total assists in a season, knows what this team's capable of. So does fellow graduate student guard Matt Balanc, who is making a final run at a championship — "I'm done," he said after senior day.

"We practice the same way, we lift the same way, we do treatment the same way," Balanc said on Jan. 28. "It's the will to get better. If you can get better in every situation, you're going find a way to win."

It isn't just the veteran backcourt though. Senior forward Paul Otieno, junior forward Alexis Reyes and sophomore forward Amarri Tice have all had their chances to shine collectively and as individuals.

That's going to be the key for this upcoming postseason run. Not that one specific player can score over 20 points, but the opportunity that anyone in the starting lineup could.

"Savion Lewis, Matt Balanc, Otieno, they've been together for a while," Iona head coach Tobin Anderson said on

March 1. "They've had success together."

The fluidity of the offense has found a rhythm, with the Bobcats scoring a combined 153 points in the wins over the Gaels and Saints. On the other end of the floor, the determined defense, especially from Tice and junior guard Doug Young, has given Quinnipiac a grit and toughness it didn't have at this time a year ago.

Young is usually the first off the bench, but he's hardly the only one racking up big minutes.

Redshirt senior forwards Richie Springs and JJ Riggins have logged valuable minutes in reserve, and freshman forward Rihards Vavers (averaging 8.4 points per game) has allowed the Bobcats to mix and match their offensive lineups at ease.

"They put in work every day ... they get shots up in practice," Balanc said. "They go hard, they do the scouting practice. They may not always get the playing time on the court, but they're invested, they're bought in and when those dudes get to play and have a chance, it's good to watch them succeed."

Last year's tournament hopes — where the three-seeded Bobcats fell in a blowout upset to No. 11 Marist — ended abruptly. This year, those hopes extend all the way through March.

Quinnipiac has won 21 times this

season, only the 11th time in program history it has surpassed the illustrious 20-win mark. With a home matchup against the aforementioned Red Foxes (March 7) and Saint Peter's (March 9) to end the regular season, the Bobcats have two final opportunities to showcase themselves as the cream of the MAAC crop.

"We're still making this school a basketball school," Lewis said. "Hopefully we have success in the playoffs (and) in the tournament."

While their final record and tournament seeding are yet to be determined, the Bobcats do have a rough idea of how their postseason schedule will look. They have clinched a top-four seed and a first-round bye, meaning they won't play their first game in Atlantic City until at least 6:30 p.m. on March 13.

Until then, the Bobcats will continue to take it day-by-day until their goal — which has been the goal since the new head coach took over last April — is fulfilled.

"Our goal right from the beginning of the season has been to win a championship, to win the MAAC Championship and then go on and ... play in the NCAA Tournament," Pecora said. "I knew at the beginning of the year, it was realistic for this group of guys."