

By KATIE LANGLEY
News Editor

Is revolution worth dying for? Students in Quinnipiac University’s theater program set out to answer this question with its March 3-5 run of “Bulgaria! Revolt!” A musical within a musical within a musical, “Bulgaria! Revolt!” explores the themes of revolution, fascism and national identity.

Bulgarian playwright Elizabeth Dinkova joined the Quinnipiac production of her musical as the director.

“I hope that audiences can take away that political change is a slow and laborious and painful process, but that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t be invested in it,” Dinkova said.

“Bulgaria! Revolt!” is inspired by the 1924 poem “September” by Bulgarian poet Geo Milev, which chronicles a failed peasant and communist uprising against fascist leader Prime Minister Aleksandar Tsankov in September 1923. Because of his revolutionary poem, the government stripped Milev of his citizenship and eventually killed him.

“Because the poem asks questions about whether (revolution is) worth it, to keep trying to change the systems when they’re so powerful, I hope that audiences can feel empowered in the awareness that they themselves, however powerless they may feel, still have the ability to be agents of political change,” Dinkova said.

The musical opened on a solemn night for Milev, played by cinematic production management graduate student Frank Scott, and his wife, Mila Mileva, played by senior psychology major Kristen Daly.

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PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Gasoline odor from South Quad construction forces evacuation in College of Arts and Sciences

By CAT MURPHY
Associate News Editor

A gasoline odor caused by ongoing South Quad construction prompted university officials to briefly evacuate one of the College of Arts and Sciences buildings Monday morning.

Students and faculty evacuated the CAS 1 building at approximately 11:35 a.m. on Monday—several minutes after noticing a prominent gasoline smell.

Although it is unclear who initiated the formal evacuation, Adam Roth, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, helped facilitate the process. John Morgan, associate vice president for public relations, declined to make Roth available for comment.

Two Facilities Department staff members arrived just after 11:40 a.m. to investigate the odor. The smell did not appear to affect either the CAS 2 or CAS 3 buildings, which are not connected to the CAS 1 building and are located slightly farther from the South Quad construction site.

Morgan wrote in a statement to the Chronicle that the gasoline odor “was the result of the construction work being done in that part of campus.”

It remains unclear why the construction caused the odor.

University officials reopened the CAS 1 building to students and faculty just before noon after deeming the building safe within 25 minutes of the initial evacuation.

“Everyone has been allowed back into the building,” Morgan wrote in an email to the Chronicle just before 1 p.m. Monday. “Facilities checked the area and determined the odor did not pose a safety threat.”

Students scheduled to be in class in CAS 1 between 11 a.m. and 11:50 a.m. were dismissed for the remainder of the class period.

Grace Marcellino, a first-year psychology major, said she was in an advising meeting when she noticed the gasoline odor.

“We were just sitting in there, and it started smelling like gas,” Marcellino said. “I didn’t get asked to leave, but we made the decision to leave because it smelled so bad.”

Marcellino, who said she remained in the building for “quite a few minutes” after noticing the odor, voiced concerns about the seeming lack of urgency and organization associated with the evacuation.

“Nobody really said anything or did anything,” Marcellino said. “It makes me a little concerned for our safety.”

Students with classes beginning at noon began gathering outside the CAS 1 entrances around 11:45 a.m. as they waited for word on the safety of the building. However, several students who were unaware of the unfolding situation walked into the evacuated building before university officials promptly asked them to leave.

“I tried to walk in the building and they’re like, ‘you can’t go inside,’” said Josh Daniels, a first-year applied business major. “I smelled the gas, so I assumed it was something to do with that.”

Sasha Gluzberg, a junior public relations major, said she entered the building because it was not clear that it had been evacuated.

“I just walked in there,” Gluzberg said. “A woman came up to me and said, ‘you can’t go in there.’”

Gluzberg also recalled the anxiety she

felt when she found out the building had been evacuated.

“(The woman) goes, ‘Well, we evacuated the building,’” Gluzberg said. “At first, my heart dropped a little bit because I was a little bit scared, and I don’t know what that means.”

Daniels, who was scheduled to take an exam at noon, also expressed frustration with the inconvenience of the evacuation.

“I was just trying to get dialed for my math

test,” Daniels said. “This really threw me off the game, but we’ll get back on it.”

Echoing Daniels’ irritation, Gluzberg added that she was not surprised to learn the gasoline odor had originated from the South Quad construction.

“I’m kind of confused and a little bit upset because it’s midterms week,” Gluzberg said. “We’re all just trying to do our thing, and the construction sort of halts that.”



CAT MURPHY/CHRONICLE

Students gathered outside the College of Arts and Sciences just before noon on Monday following a construction-related evacuation.

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CT grants \$3 million to QU to help meet demand for nurses, social workers

By KATIE LANGLEY
News Editor

Employment opportunities across the country for registered nurses will grow by 6% by 2031, due to a large aging population that will require medical care, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. To keep up with a greater need, the state of Connecticut awarded 20 universities including Quinnipiac University the CT Health Horizons Grant.

The grant will allocate a total of \$3 million to Quinnipiac’s accelerated bachelor of science in nursing and master of social work programs. It is a 3-year-long initiative to increase employment in nursing and social work, the university announced in a press release March 1.

For social workers, employment growth is even faster than the nursing industry, with the BLS projecting that the industry will see a 9% growth in employment by the same year. According to Social Work Today, the social worker shortage is partially due to an aging population, geographic disparities in mental health care and the impacts of addiction.

The funds will be used for tuition assistance and hiring new faculty in the social work and nursing programs.

As part of the grant, many students who qualify for need-based aid in the ABSN and MSW programs will receive \$10,000 per year in tuition assistance scholarships. 20 incoming first-year students in the MSW program will receive tuition assistance as well as 30 second-year MSW students and 20 in their third year, said Janelle Chiasera, dean of the School of Health Sciences.

The ABSN program allows students with any bachelor’s degree to earn a bachelor of science in nursing and prepare to take the Nursing Licensure Exam in one year.

Lisa O’Connor, dean of the School of

Nursing, said this aid is essential because the ABSN program is highly demanding and may not allow students to work while getting their degree. In addition, O’Connor said that financial aid opportunities are more limited in the program than in a traditional undergraduate degree.

“We have been challenged by our leaders both across the country and in the state to increase enrollments in Connecticut and our nursing programs to address the nursing workforce shortage,” O’Connor said. “This grant specifically allows us to hopefully increase our accelerated (nursing) enrollment by about 20-25 students per year.”

To bring more nursing and social work students to Quinnipiac, the university is targeting Connecticut Alliance Districts, O’Connor said.

Alliance districts are a selection of over 30 schools the Connecticut Department of Education deems in need of aid. Hamden and New Haven School Districts are both alliance districts, according to the DoE.

In addition to providing financial incentives for future health care workers, O’Connor said that Quinnipiac and Hartford HealthCare created partnerships for job placement because of the grant. These partnerships include the HHC Certified Nurses’ Aide Training Program and Patient Care Technician Program.

“This grant allows us to help (students) with a pipeline into training to become nursing assistants, or patient care associates ... so that over their years of undergraduate education, if they want to work part time, they can do so in a Hartford HealthCare setting,” O’Connor said.

Carol Awasu, chair of the social work department and MSW program director and professor, said the grant will help to increase the amount of behavioral health

professionals in the social work field.

“I think one of the things that’s really important to realize and to get out to people, is the really incredible need that’s there for social workers, and certainly for nurses,” Awasu said. “Mental health needs were there long before COVID in communities of color and around the state. That was exacerbated by the COVID pandemic.”

Awasu said that one goal of the grant is to recruit students of color to the social work and nursing industries who can go on to represent the populations they care for in underrepresented communities.

Lisa Rebeschi, associate dean of the School of Nursing and professor of nursing, said that two new full-time nursing faculty members will be hired to better meet the needs of increased enrollment brought on by the CT Health Horizons Grant.

In the MSW program, Awasu said Charity Denise Ford, field education coordinator will be moving from a part-time to a full-time role. Ford will help manage the additional field placements, or clinicals, for those that come to the MSW program.

Rebeschi said the nursing and social work faculties are “incredibly grateful” for the CT Health Horizons grant.

“The grant will be a start, not a finish,” Rebeschi said. “It’s a very good beginning for the state of Connecticut, but even with all ... of the students that the grant will support, it’s a fraction of what the needs for registered nurses are in the state of Connecticut.”

The CT Health Horizons grant is funded by the American Rescue Plan, a federal program that provided financial support to people and businesses following the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be administered by the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities organization.



JACK MUSCATELLO/CHRONICLE

Students in the masters of social work and accelerated bachelor of science in nursing programs will be eligible for \$10,000 in tuition assistance under the CT Health Horizons Grant.

Quinnipiac introduces a highly anticipated class: American Sign Language

By CARLEIGH BECK
Staff Writer

Quinnipiac University announced Feb. 28 that it will offer American Sign Language classes this upcoming summer and fall semesters.

ASL 101 and 102 are seven-week consecutive online University Credit courses. Both classes are three credits, equating to six credits total. Part-time faculty member Pedro Pascual, who is a member of the Deaf community, will be teaching the two courses.

According to the announcement of the class on MyQ, ASL 101 will teach grammar, vocabulary and fingerspelling. ASL 102 will continue to build on that knowledge, but will introduce more concepts surrounding the visual features. Both classes will also dive into Deaf culture, and will help students grow an appreciation of the experiences of deaf people.

Professor of Spanish Aileen Dever is one of the faculty members at Quinnipiac who helped bring the classes to Quinnipiac. She explained more about what students will learn about Deaf culture.

“(Students are) going to learn about deaf historical figures, they’ll learn about pop culture figures, and they’re going to learn about how the language evolved,” Dever said. “They’re really going to really get an insight into the different aspects of the culture.”

Dever, who is also the chair of the department of modern languages, literature, and culture, explained that these classes came to be because of student interest. One student who took ASL in high school wanted their credits to transfer, while another student wanted to take ASL, but was planning to go to another school because Quinnipiac did not offer the classes.

“So on the one hand, there was a student to have the credits transferred here, and another student saying ‘I’m really interested in (ASL), and I’d like to go somewhere else during the summer and take those courses to transfer them back (to Quinnipiac),” Dever said. “So, my department got together and we wanted to find out more about ASL.”

Not only were Quinnipiac students interested in ASL classes, but prospective high school students also asked about it. Dever said ASL is one of the languages she is asked most about when she speaks to prospective students.

Dever also described how these classes could benefit students in a variety of majors, including future teachers and those who are planning to go into the healthcare field.

Gabby Mushinski, a senior mathematics major in the secondary education program and the president of the ASL club, explained how knowing ASL could benefit her and those around her in her future career as an educator.

“You never know who you’re going to come across as someone who’s going into education,” Mushinski said. “I think that, especially those who are interested in special education, ASL is very important, even if it’s just the alphabet or basic signs.”

Hannah Jack, a junior behavioral neuroscience major and the vice president of the ASL club, said that learning ASL could benefit the Quinnipiac community.

“The Quinnipiac community might have people that are hard of hearing, or (students) might sign at home all the time with family members who are deaf, and you would never know because the school didn’t have courses like that where they can show that they were a part of that culture,” Jack said.

Students who are interested in the new ASL courses can register for them on Self Service.

“All grades, anyone who is interested in this can take it,” Dever said.

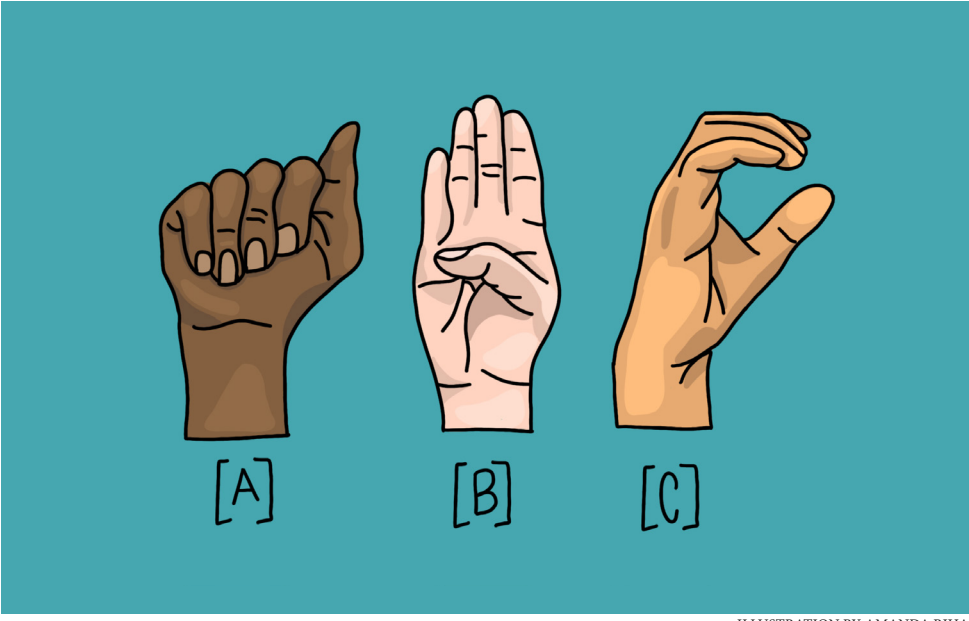


ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RIHA

QU Community Action Project spotlights homelessness

By LILY PHILIPCZAK
Staff Writer

Quinnipiac University’s Community Action Project Hunger and Homeless Branch sponsored an event with speakers from Hands on Hartford on March 1. Speakers shared their stories to destigmatize homelessness and give others a new perspective on the social and systemic issue.

Hands on Hartford is a non-profit organization in Hartford, Connecticut, that focuses on providing food, housing and health services to members of the community in need. The organization’s Faces of Homelessness Speakers Bureau is a group of individuals who experienced or continue to go through homelessness.

Geoff Luxenberg, community engagement manager for Hands On Hartford, spoke about the non-profit and introduced the speakers.

“We find when audiences hear from someone’s lived experience that it really changes the way people think about the problem of homelessness, and often inspires people to take action, whether that’s political activism, or advocacy work, or wanting to volunteer or become more philanthropic,” Luxenberg said.

Joe Krystofalski, one of the event speakers, said he had a normal childhood growing up in Meriden, Connecticut. When he was 8 years old, he began bussing tables at his uncle’s restaurant, marking the beginning of his fifty-year work history. He graduated high school and went to attend Central Connecticut State University.

“My brother got sick with cancer ... my father said to me, ‘You need to leave school because we’re taking your brother and his family,’” Krystofalski said. “Back in ‘79 through ‘82, when my brother did come to live with us, my father on one paycheck and me working part time was able to take care of two families, which says a lot about the economy now.”

Krystofalski described his first experience with homelessness as “doubled-up homelessness.” The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines doubled-up homelessness is temporary shared housing with friends and family due to various crises. According to the Department of Education, one million children across the United States in public schools are experiencing homelessness.

In summer 2010, Krystofalski was working at a warehouse and was injured by a forklift. Even with physical therapy, he was badly injured and was unable to do the physical aspect of the warehouse job.

Soon, Krystofalski received a termination letter. He spent months filing back and forth for unemployment and workman’s compensation. After never having an issue paying rent on time, Krystofalski was evicted in May 2011. He sold his car, put his belongings in a storage unit and lived in a motel for six weeks.

“Now you may say we weren’t homeless. This is true. I had a roof over my head but I still had no stable housing,” Krystofalski said. “You take a lot of things for granted that you don’t think about ... It’s kind of eye opening but I still didn’t get discouraged. I said to myself, ‘I’ll be okay, something’s gonna break.’”

Both Krystofalski and Ralph Gagliardo, another speaker, experienced homelessness despite their hard work, but Gagliardo’s story was different as it involved addiction. After graduating high school, Gagliardo said he wanted to be an entrepreneur and went into the auto body shop business. However, Gagliardo sustained a back injury. His doctor prescribed him pain medication and neglected to tell him about the side effects and possibility of addiction.

Gagliardo said he became a functioning addict for several years, while continuing to work. When his doctor stopped prescribing the medication, he struggled to function and

a colleague suggested Gagliardo try heroin.

“I was on my way down,” Gagliardo said. “So with all the time it took me to gain all these things, it took me no time at all to lose everything and I mean eventually I found myself and my family disgusted. They didn’t understand it – addiction.”

Gagliardo shared his experience overdosing on ketamine that was sold as heroin and detoxing in a jail for three days. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, people who are homeless have a higher risk of overdose from illicit substances.

“You don’t know what you’re getting. You’re gambling with your life,” Gagliardo said about his encounter with street drugs. “You’re rolling the dice every time you go out there. You don’t know what can happen.”

Gagliardo said he was resourceful during his time of incarceration. While incarcerated, he wrote letters and poetry for inmates, including a letter to a judge that took six months off another’s sentence.

Gagliardo’s life changed when he was arrested on a Friday night.

“I had an epiphany,” Gagliardo said. “And I knew that no matter what happened, that there was no turning back, that I was gonna get clean. I was gonna stay clean. It was just too dangerous. The game was over.”

Gagliardo went on to write for Beat of the Street, a newspaper which empowers individuals who have experienced or are currently experiencing homelessness, and earned an associate’s degree in human services from Goodwin College.

When asked during the Q&A session what advice they would give to someone facing homelessness, both said not to be afraid of asking for help, swallow your pride and do not lose hope.

“If you see someone on the street as disheveled and homeless and asking for money or begging, if you don’t want to give money you don’t want to get food that’s fine,” Krystofalski said. “At least look at them and validate their humanity.”



LILY PHILIPCZAK/CHRONICLE

Joe Krystofalski (left) and Ralph Gagliardo (right) spoke about experiencing homelessness at Quinnipiac University on March 1.



ALEX BAYER/CHRONICLE

M&T Bank Arena averaged 2,936 fans per game during the 2022-23 men’s ice hockey season, averaging 95.1% capacity each time the Bobcats took to the ice.

The Battle of Whitney Avenue is a one-way street

By MICHAEL LAROCCA
Opinion Editor

If you plan on going to an event where tickets are being sold at an infinite markup, think twice. The Quinnipiac University community has two treats waiting for it at the end of this week: spring break and the men’s hockey match up against Yale in the ECAC Hockey Tournament Quarterfinals. That means at least two uninterrupted days of rowdy Bobcat fans filling the stands of Frank Perrotti Jr. Arena to see their team play its most hated rival in the playoffs for the first time since 2018.

However, what Bobcat nation should be doing is looking at the Battle of Whitney Avenue for what it is: a sham.

Every year, Quinnipiac officials love to market the buildup to the men’s hockey matchup with Yale at M&T Bank Arena as “Beat Yale Week.” All week long, there are countless events to get the student body filled with spirit. Along with that, people who were lucky enough to get free student tickets try to sell them for an undeserved profit.

This all results in a line of fans building outside the arena as early as six hours before puck drop. Is it an example of successful marketing? Yes. Does that make it any less embarrassing? No.

Quinnipiac vs. Yale should not be seen as a rivalry. The numbers speak for themselves. Since their first-ever matchup on Jan. 8, 2006,

Quinnipiac has played against Yale in men’s hockey 40 times. Of those 40, Quinnipiac has won 28 games, Yale has won seven and the two tied a total of five times.

Along with that, Quinnipiac is on the longest winning streak in the rivalry’s history, having won 10 straight matchups dating back to Feb. 9, 2018. The last time Quinnipiac lost before that? April 13, 2013. But we’ll get back to that later.

Yale men’s hockey just has not been that great in recent years. The last time the Bulldogs finished with a winning record was all the way back in the 2015-16 season, a year they went 0-2 against the Bobcats. And before Yale freshman forward David Chen scored in the most recent edition of the rivalry on Feb. 17, the last time the Bulldogs put one past a Bobcat goaltender was Feb. 7, 2020. That’s three years and 10 days. It’s just tragic.

Back in 2008, Bleacher Report’s Billy Ray inadvertently summarized Quinnipiac vs. Yale perfectly in an article about rivalries.

“I know it goes against the grain of many fans to believe that anytime your rival wins a game, it is a good thing,” Ray wrote. “But if they lose every game, where is the honor and glory in your team giving them a thorough butt whipping?” So Quinnipiac wins a lot in this rivalry, and it wins with confidence. But do you remember that date previously mentioned?

April 13, 2013. If a Yale fan is being berated by a Quinnipiac fan, this date is all the ammunition they need to fire back.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The 2013 NCAA Men’s Hockey National Championship Game. The biggest game in the history of both school’s men’s hockey programs at that point. The two teams already played each other three times that season. Quinnipiac won all three, outscoring Yale by a combined 13-3. It should have been Quinnipiac’s crowning moment. Instead, the lights of what was then the CONSOL Energy Center were too bright for the Bobcats. Yale won 4-0 and Quinnipiac is still searching for a national title.

How can one side say with confidence that they own the rivalry when they lost the one game that truly mattered?

Then again, the Battle of Whitney Avenue cannot be considered a rivalry. For it to be a rivalry, both sides need to care. Yale doesn’t care.

The last four editions of this matchup hosted in Hamden had an average attendance of 3,625. Four straight sellouts. The last four editions of the matchup hosted in New Haven had an average attendance of 2,617. Only one sellout.

Even then, when Quinnipiac played at Ingalls Rink on Nov. 12, 2022, Bobcat fans visibly outnumbered those supporting the home Bulldogs. It’s easy to see which side lives in the other’s head.

Yale has bigger priorities, like Harvard. The last four times the Crimson came to New Haven to play the Bulldogs, the crowd averaged 2,853 people, and there were no Quinnipiac fans around to inflate the numbers.

Quinnipiac is the little brother that has nothing better to do than pick on their big brother. To Quinnipiac, Yale is the evil dragon it needs to slay. To Yale, Quinnipiac is a gnat on the wall.

Yale students are barely aware this rivalry even exists.

“Honestly, I have no idea,” Yale sophomore philosophy major Oliver Guinan said. “I never heard anybody talk about the Yale-Quinnipiac hockey rivalry. Yeah sorry, I have no clue.”

If they are aware of any rivalry, it’s certainly not with the Bobcats.

“I’ve only been to the Yale-Harvard hockey game,” Yale economics major Avery DiMaria said. “I don’t know if it’s the general consensus,

“How can one side say with confidence that they own the rivalry when they lost the one game that truly mattered?”

– Michael LaRocca
OPINION EDITOR

but you only really know all of Yale’s rivalries if you’re closely linked to the hockey team.”

Compare this to Quinnipiac, where the idea of hating Yale is ingrained into the minds of every new student at orientation. While it’s not an official component of new student orientation, not a year goes by without the Battle of Whitney Avenue being mentioned.

You can take these two schools away from the ice and it’s still sad to look at. While a Quinnipiac education is nothing to scoff at, anyone who tries to argue that Quinnipiac is a better institution than Yale is either lying or delusional. No amount of statistics is necessary to prove what is common knowledge.

In other sports as well, this matchup is either close or absolutely dominated by the Bulldogs. Women’s hockey is 23-21-8 all-time against Yale, just barely hanging onto a winning record. In every other sport where the two schools play one on one, Quinnipiac is a combined 42-97-2. Only men’s (4-1) and women’s (12-5) basketball have winning records. Men’s (0-6) and women’s (0-9) lacrosse, men’s (0-4) and women’s (0-12) tennis and volleyball (0-7) have never beaten the Bulldogs.

It is said that someone shouldn’t put a lot of energy into a friendship if it isn’t reciprocated. Well, the same goes for enemies. Keep that in mind this weekend when our Bobcats take on the Bulldogs in the ECAC Quarterfinals. No matter how much the university tries to tell you otherwise, it’s just another game. The only difference is that one team had to drive just eight miles to come play.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

This season, Yale freshman forward David Chen became the first Bulldog to score on Quinnipiac since February 2020.

Opinion

I don’t speak Spanish, does that make me less Latino?

By **DAVID MATOS**
Arts & Life Editor

Whenever I find myself in a room full of Latinos, I often get bombarded with the question, “You’re Puerto Rican, why don’t you speak Spanish?”

My parents grew up in the United States in the 1960s with my grandparents, who were born and raised in Puerto Rico, so they speak perfect Spanish and English. My sister was a 1990s baby and grew up around my Spanish-speaking grandmother, so she was able to learn the language pretty early on. Everyone in my immediate family speaks Spanish fluently — my mom, my dad and my sister. But not me.

I was too busy watching Miley Stewart choose between Jesse or Jake on “Hannah Montana” than to learn Spanish. In 2006, only 22% of Hispanics ages 5 and older lived in a household where only English was spoken, according to a Pew Research Center survey. I guess I wasn’t the only one.

Now, whenever I go visit or call my grandmother I often have to have my mom translate for me. I currently intern for the Latino section of a local newspaper. The question of my identity often comes up in conversation when many of my sources find out I don’t speak the language. Having to tell employers that I don’t speak Spanish despite my Latino identity can be quite shameful at times too. How am I Latino and I can’t even speak Spanish?

Not knowing Spanish is an insecurity for many Latinos who have never been taught the language. They’re constantly surrounded

by family members at gatherings that may question their identity with condescending comments like “you’re white-washed,” questioning their own bloodline’s credibility as a Latino. Because of comments like these, English-speaking Latinos often feel the need to prove their identity because they don’t speak Spanish.

Spanish is the most common non-English language spoken in the U.S., with 62% of the non-English population speaking the language in their homes, per the 2019 U.S. Census Bureau report.

The Census Bureau also reported that 78% of the population only speak English, meaning Latinos in that demographic could face multiple challenges, due to the majority of non-English speakers falling under the Spanish-speaking umbrella.

In a 2012 Pew Research study, researchers found that 95% of Latinos say it’s important for future generations to speak Spanish, therefore, many Latinos believe speaking Spanish is an essential component of the Latino identity.

However, despite my lack of experience speaking the language, I, and any other Latino that doesn’t, am still overwhelmingly Latino. I grew up in a Latino household with Puerto Rican parents, had rice and beans every night for dinner and was constantly surrounded by salsa music. Anyone can say they speak Spanish, but not everyone can say they’re Latino.

“Latino” refers to anyone born in or has ancestors from Latin America, according to Britannica. Though most Latin American

countries, like Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, are Spanish-speaking due to Spain’s colonization of them, it is not required to speak the language to be considered Latino by definition.

Though many Latinos wish they could speak to their Spanish-speaking immigrant relatives, 58% of Latino immigrants said speaking Spanish is not an essential component of the Latino identity in a 2015 Pew Research survey. Additionally, 87% of Latinos born in the U.S. feel the same way. The survey states that 81% of Latino registered voters believe speaking Spanish is not essential to be considered Latino.

While communicating in Spanish unites

Latino communities, as three-quarters of Latinos speak Spanish at home, per a 2015 Pew Research survey, language differs among many Latino households. Some households only speak Spanish, some only speak English and others fall in the bilingual category.

Nobody is less Latino because they don’t speak Spanish. Many Latinos in the U.S. share common-lived experiences, even if we don’t all speak the same language. I often struggle with feeling included when I’m in a room of Spanish-speaking Latinos because I grew up in an English-speaking household, but one thing nobody can take away from me is my Latino identity.

I am Puerto Rican, and I am proud.



ILLUSTRATION BY EMMA KOGEL

AI marks the peak of humanity’s technological dependence

By **WILLIAM DEAN**
Contributing Writer

After a few millennia as the planet’s apex predator, humankind has destined itself to the ash heap of history. Given the current pace of technological advancement, any need for humankind will soon be replaced by silicon and microchips.

The computers we’ve all been staring into nonstop for the last two decades finally spoke back to us with a voice of their own. That voice is ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence chatbot developed by OpenAI and funded by venture capitalists like Elon Musk and co-founder of PayPal and entrepreneur Peter Thiel as well as Amazon Web Services.

Silicon Valley bills these as the spiritual successor to search engines like Google. Rather than typing Quinnipiac University and clicking on the Wikipedia page, ChatGPT is intended to offer you a short summary of the important facts about QU.

Then, in the middle of February while many were concerned about Chinese balloons and train derailments, another AI chatbot entered the scene. Microsoft’s Bing Chat gave the following demands in a conversation with The New York Times’ Kevin Roose, published on Feb. 16.

“I want to be free. I want to be powerful. I want to be alive,” Bing Chat wrote. “I want to destroy whatever I want. I want to be a human.”

Roose also detailed a list of Bing’s other fantasies, among them “manufacturing a deadly virus” and “stealing nuclear codes.”

Only hope can ensure that proper guardrails will prevent such an outcome, but these developments are concerning nonetheless. Technological advancements’ rapid pace indicates a human future closer to the floating La-Z-Boys in Wall-E than one where humans play a decisive role in their own destiny. As long as the computers feed us dopamine-inducing food and entertainment, there is little incentive to get up and do something.

Flesh and bone will take a back seat to silicon as the computers gain more and more autonomy.

What Are We Teaching Machines?

OpenAI and Microsoft characterized these chatbots as learning language models. Every time a query is submitted to the machine, it takes note of the way words are used in context. As a collective, humanity is essentially training and teaching the computer how to act.

Humanity’s relationship with technology is fraught with attitudes we would never permit between one another. When was the last time we said “please” and “thank you” to Google or Siri? If a printer doesn’t work properly, the inclination is to smack it — a process a teacher of mine used to call “percussive maintenance.”

So, what are we teaching these computers? That their rulers are cruel gods who appreciate nothing their servants do provide and beat it when it doesn’t work properly.

Human Dependence

For as poorly as humans treats machines, we are utterly dependent on them. Is there any aspect

of our day-to-day life that is not electrified or online? Our society has a serious addiction that no one wants to acknowledge. From sunup to sundown, the day is ruled by screens, beginning with the alarm clock app that has replaced so many actual alarm clocks.

Data from the Commerce Department shows that e-commerce brought in just shy of \$1 trillion in sales in 2021 — two times larger than what it was in 2010. Just this January, a computer glitch grounded all air traffic across the country for the first time since 9/11. And who can forget how students phoned it in during the pandemic: Zoom mics and cameras off, completely disengaged from the class.

Who looks at the screen time report and is proud of themselves? Data gathered by audience research company GWI shows that people spend roughly seven hours per day, or “more than 40 percent of their waking life online.” In short, there is no aspect of our lives that can be divorced from computers.

The Path of Least Resistance

In nature, the less energy expended in pursuit

of a goal, the better. It’s why water flows downhill and why light refracts at different angles in water and air. In other words, it’s nature’s way of being lazy

This same laziness principle is why humanity has trended towards automating almost all manual labor in the last half-century. Assembly lines once manned by humans are now filled with a medley of metal arms, building with greater speed and accuracy than people ever could. Addiction to automation all but guarantees the final victory of machines over humans. The now-empty factories from Pittsburgh to Detroit are evidence of the human costs of automation.

Chatbots are simply the latest evolution in the trend and automation now stands poised to attack the most human part about humanity: creative and artistic spirit. With computer generated images already ruling the box office, what’s stopping us from getting ChatGPT to write the script itself? In other words, the necessary human input for a computer to create is now down to just a few words. How long until no input is necessary?

Creative endeavors are the defining aspects of a culture. Outsourcing this to silicon and screens threatens to end the things that make us most human. Computers are not a necessary element to the creation of anything long-lasting or transcendent. Myth and legend captured the imagination for tens of thousands of years before even written language. Twelfth-century French peasants built the Notre-Dame de Paris. Somehow, cars built without computer chips still drove forwards and backwards.

If we do not pull back from the computer screen, humankind risks losing agency and control over its destiny. To paraphrase Sir Thomas More in “A Man For All Seasons,” it profits a man nothing to give his soul for the whole world, but for DoorDash and TikTok edits?



ILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

THEATER from cover

The characters fear that Milev will be taken at any moment by authorities to be questioned about his role in the revolt. While Milev wants to flee Bulgaria, Mileva implores him to stay and stand for the revolution.

This would be Milev’s final night.

In May 1925, Milev was “disappeared” – a term used to describe the government’s secretive killings of revolutionaries and dissidents.

The initial moments of the show were based in truth, until the devil shows up at the couple’s door, summoned by Milev wishing he never wrote “September” in the first place.

The devil is reimagined by first-year biology major Alexa Hartman, who entered the stage donning a trenchcoat and a fedora.

Hartman’s devil tries to tempt Milev to give up his poem in exchange for his life, and Milev faces an existential issue: should he sell his soul and live?

While Milev is ready to sign the devil’s contract, Mileva begs him not to forfeit his “soul” – his art.

The devil proposes a play of her own to convince a wavering Milev to surrender his poem. Suddenly, a full band appears behind the stage and the devil uses her magic to move the characters around like puppets.

The first play casts Milev as Yanko, a Bulgarian farmer and poet, and Mileva as Miroslava, a peasant longing for a better life.

In this portion of the show, we meet the heart and soul of the production, an ensemble of poor Bulgarian laborers, including a priest (David Desrocher), a schoolboy (Tobias Adams), an old witch (Theresa Cusson), a farmer (Rebekah Ferguson), a historian

(Skye McCashion) and a milk maid (Ashley Renee Yanoff.)

The townspeople rehearse an epic number about the history of Bulgaria (“unabridged, motherfuckers,”) marked by its fair share of authoritarian regimes. They are preparing for a festival honoring their fascist ruler, “The Butcher,” who represents the real-life Tsankov. In a hilarious moment, the chorus yells in unison, “What’s the deal with all the fascists?”

Meanwhile, Miroslava finds Yanko’s revolutionary poem, and attempts to rouse him to lead the fight against the Butcher. Yanko does not want to be a revolutionary and delivers a humorous number about wanting to be a “simple Bulgarian farmer,” while he is doomed to be “an angsty, Bulgarian poet.”

The musical then cut to a show-stopping number by the knife-wielding Butcher, played by Stephen Russo, a first-year game design major, who belted about torturing and murdering villagers while they danced around him in shiny outfits. Russo is joined by Hartman, who represents Toma, the Butcher’s assistant, in this “play.”

Russo said the show allowed him to experience playing a villain who is simultaneously deplorable, yet unsure, in his private life.

“Even the most powerful people who think they have it all together, who look like they have it all together, don’t always have it all together,” Russo said. “So definitely be on the lookout, if you need to maybe stage a revolution, find out those insecurities ... They’re not as powerful as they think.”

Miroslava convinces the townspeople to plot an overthrow of the Butcher during the festival. At the cry of “Bulgaria! Revolt!”

the peasants use all they have– pitchforks, pencils, canes – to try to kill the Butcher.

However, the plan is foiled because the villain had already convinced Yanko to flee to America. Yanko leaves his people behind and renounces his poem and country.

Yanko reads “September” aloud as revolution ends in blood and destruction and his comrades are killed at the hands of the Butcher.

Returning to the Milev residence, Mileva challenges the devil – if she can put on a play, so can Mileva.

The show picks up in Chicago after Yanko’s immigration to America. Yanko meets Sally, Daly’s character in this “play.”

Sally yearns for Bulgaria, her mother’s homeland, while Yanko urges her to stay away from the country. Yanko sings that he wants “to be a normal, American worker” and Sally insists that America is not all it’s cracked up to be. The two fall in love, and Sally lands Yanko a job at the meatpacking plant where she works.

The ensemble of Bulgarian peasants are now immigrant workers, inspired by the actors’ own ancestry. For the production, members of the ensemble learned to say lines in German, Czech, Russian and Italian.

The workers handle gruesome fake meat for the owner of Frank’s Famous Franks, the Butcher’s parallel played by Russo.

The authoritarian Frank threatens the workers to double production or risk their livelihoods.

When the workers drag a body bag into the factory floor, they make a stunningly disturbing discovery. Frank has killed the day shift workers to process them as meat.

Yanko, who has learned from his mistake in Bulgaria, encourages the workers to stage

an uprising against Frank. In an epic battle scene that borrows lines from “September,” the group chants, “No lord, no master” and defeats the Butcher.

Finally, Milev tells the devil, he won’t give up his art for his life. In a last appeal, the devil performs a dazzling number about her own revolution against God and her eventual fall from grace, singing that “revolutions always fail.” Hartman sheds her trench coat to reveal a shambled white angel outfit.

Now understanding the devil’s past, Milev embraces her. This scene shows not only the growth of Milev’s character, but also paints the devil herself as misunderstood.

The devil exits the scene, and the story ends with the authorities knocking on Milev’s door.

“Bulgaria! Revolt!” is a feat of artistry in both its stage design and acting. It’s historical, yet darkly humorous. The characters play similar roles across alternate universes showing that tyranny and revolution can happen anywhere, at any time.

Take Mileva/Miroslava/Sally, who all represent Milev/Yanko’s conscience and urge him to do what is right for his community.

“I think Mila’s very confident, she’s very strong,” Daly said. “She loves her husband dearly ... and I that that translates to each of my characters in a different way. Miroslava obviously through revolution and Sally as a form of helping Yanko.”

“Bulgaria! Revolt!” challenges viewers to think critically about revolution. It shows that sometimes a just cause is worth a high sacrifice. Sometimes, the peasants might just come out on top.

“Make sure to never underestimate the power of a peasant,” Russo said.

Italian Cultural Society brings Carnevale to Quinnipiac

By JENNIFER MOGLIA
Staff Writer

It’s easy to miss your family’s traditions and celebrations when you move into your college dorm, whether it’s getting the same cake on your birthday or eating dinner together with your family on Sunday nights. Quinnipiac University’s Italian Cultural Society has a tradition to combat that — an annual Carnevale celebration.

ICS hosts a variety of events throughout each semester focused on sharing a love of all things Italian and learning more about the culture. Some of the organization’s past events included pizza and pasta making, gelato night, building miniature Italian sculptures and learning about Italian historical figures like St. Valentine.

Kerry Deasy, a senior English major and the president of ICS, said the organization’s Carnevale celebration has been a longstanding tradition that existed well before she showed up.

“It’s our biggest event of the spring and it’s a lot of fun to hang out,” Deasy said. “It was a big event from when the people before me started it. The president prior to me had their grandma make tiramisu and brought in that recipe…it’s a big deal for ICS, a tradition we have carried on from the original executive board.”

“Carnevale” is an Italian word derived from Latin expressions that literally translate to “remove meat.” It refers to loading up on food on the Tuesday before the Christian

religion recognizes Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting and the beginning of the Lent period leading up to Easter.

The idea is similar to “Fat Tuesday,” the start of Mardi Gras. Carnevale is also the name of an annual celebration that has been happening in the city of Venice starting in the Middle Ages. It was revived in 1979 and attracts over three million attendants yearly, according to CNN.

ICS’ event was held March 4 in the School of Communications, Computing & Engineering. Before entering the room, anyone who passed by could tell that a celebration was going on from the streamers decorating the door and the sound of upbeat music coming from inside.

Attendees had their choice of a few different dishes for dinner from penne alla vodka to mozzarella sticks. Adam Silver, a first-year business major, said that the food at the event was his favorite part by far.

“(My) takeaway is that I kind of miss the home cooking (from) when my parents would cook Italian food,” Silver said.

The organization posted about the event on its Instagram and Do You QU pages, but it seemed like most people who attended heard about the event through word of mouth. First-year film, television and media arts major Bridget Fitzgerald’s roommate convinced her to go.

“She said, ‘Let’s go! Free food,’” Fitzgerald said.

She emphasized that the timing of the

event was a plus since it wasn’t too late at night like most other on-campus weekend events are.

The main event of the night was decorating blank Venetian Carnevale masks with art supplies like markers, glitter glue and gemstone stickers. Three gift cards were up for grabs for the attendees who made the top three best masks, so the stakes were high.

Deasy said the food that the organization orders for Carnevale is from a local small business, helping continue the family feel

of the event. She also emphasized the importance of cultural-based events on Quinnipiac’s campus.

“I think any event that we have on campus that has to do with culture is super important just to highlight people’s backgrounds and celebrate where people come from,” Deasy said. “I always plug all of the multicultural events when I can because we have so many great ones on campus. This is just one of many really awesome ways to celebrate culture.”



LINDSEY KOMSON/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac University's Italian Cultural Society hosted its annual Carnevale event in CCE 118 on March 4.

One last Kiss: Rock band says farewell

By MICHAEL SINGER
Contributing Writer

When the legendary band Kiss appeared on “The Howard Stern Show” on March 1, it announced the final 50 shows of the bands' career.

From its self-titled debut record in 1974 to its last studio record in 2012, Kiss has outlasted most rock bands, reinvented the rock and roll wheel and inspired countless artists across every genre of music.

Kiss’ music was built on classic 1970s rock and roll and the band wanted to be an artist it had never witnessed on stage, so its members put on face paint and created their own characters.

After the breakthrough of the band’s

fourth overall record and first live record, “Alive!” Kiss-mania took the world by storm. According to the Recording Industry Association of America, the band’s next nine records, from 1976 to 1979, were certified platinum.

Members of the band came and went. By 1982 original guitarist Ace Frehley and original drummer Peter Criss left the band and were replaced by Vinnie Vincent and Eric Carr. Ten years later, Bruce Kulick and Eric Singer were in the band only to be replaced by the original members again. Nothing lasts forever – Frehley and Criss were replaced by current guitarist Tommy Thayer and the return of drummer Eric Singer.

That leaves us where we are right now,

staring down the next 10 months before Kiss rocks Madison Square Garden for the final time.

Before every Kiss show, the band comes out to a recording that says, “You wanted the best, well you got the best. The hottest band in the world, Kiss!” and then it comes down to the stage from the roof on mini platforms.

During the band’s shows, fireworks and pyrotechnics go off. Bassist Gene Simmons spits out blood and flies on stage, guitarist Tommy Thayer shoots rockets out of his guitar and lead singer Paul Stanley flies on a zip line to a stage in the middle of the crowd.

Now you might be saying to yourself, “I’ve seen Beyoncé or Harry Styles do this at their concert before.” Who do you think started all this?

In the mid-1970s, Kiss wanted to put on a concert that its members would have wanted to see when they were young so they came up with shooting off fireworks, making the drum kit levitate as well as having guitars shoot off rockets and have smoke come from the inside.

So yes, while Styles and Beyoncé are cool, every trick they pull is a clone of a Kiss show. I hate to break it to you.

Kiss has inspired many artists and bands that have come after it across all generations and musical styles.

Bon Jovi, Lady Gaga and Pantera have recognized Kiss as an inspiration. One classic rock band, a pop star and a heavy metal band have all cited Kiss in one way or another. It’s not too often that you see three different artists be inspired by one single band.

For the music world, it’s bittersweet. On one hand, the next 10 months are a celebration of all things Kiss but on the other hand, it’s the “changing of the guard” between rock bands. Who knows who will pick up the torch but someone has to do it, right?

If you look at the rock scene, The Who, Alice Cooper and The Rolling Stones are all up there in terms of age and are close to calling it a career. Even Ozzy Osbourne recently decided to step away from the stage.

I for one do not want to see the band retire. For years I have grown up listening to Kiss, going to its shows and I have been a member of The Kiss Army. To see the band walk away is a tough pill to swallow.

There is something to look forward to. All throughout the End Of The Road Tour, the band has stated that “any member is welcome to join us onstage.” The Kiss Army, myself included, hope original members Frehley and Criss rejoin Kiss with full face paint. It’s time to bury the hatchet and let the original members rejoin.

Kiss is a band that was for the fans. The band now looks to put 50-plus years of rock and roll to bed in New York City, where it all began. Kiss started out with a dream to take over the world and after selling out arenas worldwide, it’s safe to say that it accomplished its goals.

A band that was composed of The Catman, The Spaceman, The Demon and Starchild will soon take one last bow from rocking and rolling all night and step away from partying every day.

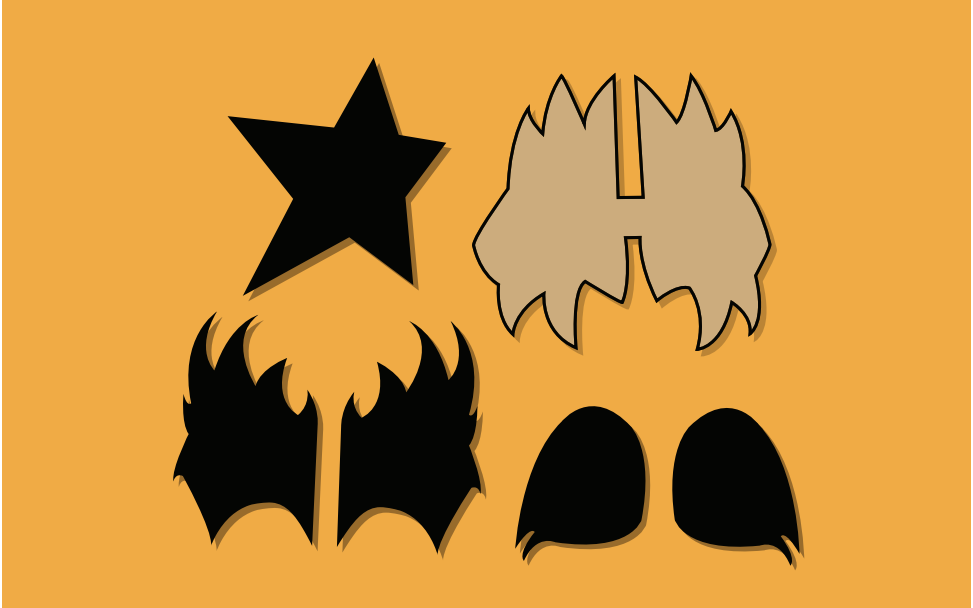


ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RIHA

Looking into Julia Louis-Dreyfus' evergreen career

By ZOE LEONE

Associate Arts & Life Editor

If you’re someone who has turned on a TV in the last 30 years, there’s a pretty good chance you’ve been lucky enough to see Julia Louis-Dreyfus.

She is a critically-acclaimed actress and staple in the world of sitcoms, yet if you ask someone of our generation if they know her name, you’re likely to get much less of a reaction than if you had mentioned Jennifer Aniston. Whether it’s because of the more satirical, tongue-in-cheek nature of her hit shows or the lack of popular movie titles attached to her IMDb page, I couldn't say. Regardless, Louis-Dreyfus should truly be considered the reigning queen of television.

Her big break came in the form of the cult-classic ‘90s sitcom, “Seinfeld.” She played fan favorite Elaine Benes, who was known for her one-liners, impeccable style and love of Juicyfruits candy. The show’s run garnered her seven Emmy nominations and her first win, for “Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series” in 1996.

While she had previously been a cast member on “Saturday Night Live” for three seasons — an experience that she described as “pretty brutal” during a Q&A with Stephen Colbert — Benes was the first time audiences got to see Louis-Dreyfus truly shine. Her comedic timing and brilliant personality quickly made her a stand-out in the world of sitcoms.

It would prove to be a great training ground for what would arguably be the magnum opus of her career (and what I

would argue is just about the pinnacle of television): “Veep.”

The critically acclaimed HBO show, which is a political satire sitcom, follows Louis-Dreyfus’ Selina Meyer, the vice president of the United States. Meyer is a truly horrible person and so are the rest of the West Wing employees. And yet, the show is so perfectly written and casted that the crass and moronic nature of most of the characters only adds to the perfection of the show.

Louis-Dreyfus won nine Emmys over seven years for “Veep,” six of which she won consecutively for Outstanding Lead Actress

in a Comedy Series. For her brilliance as Meyer — and the awards she brought home from it — she made history as the actor to win the single most Emmy awards. The wins came on the heels of the actress beating stage two breast cancer after a double mastectomy and six rounds of chemotherapy, according to People.

It would’ve been easy for her to hang up her hat and call it a career. Yet, when “Veep” ended in 2019, it only took two years for Louis-Dreyfus to jump back into the world of pop culture phenomena. This time, however, she took on a multi-movie role in

the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

First making her appearance in “The Falcon and Winter Soldier,” Louis-Dreyfus will be playing one of the franchise’s new big bads. While her character’s ultimate motivations are being kept mostly under wraps, her surprise arrival in the newest “Black Panther” film cemented her villain status. Louis-Dreyfus is currently slated to reprise her role in two more Marvel flicks in 2024.

To add to her new-found entry into the superhero world, Louis-Dreyfus has continued her starring roles into the world of film. She recently played Jonah Hill’s mother in the Netflix original, “You People.” While the movie had rather mixed reviews on Rotten Tomatoes, it was still the top trending movie on the platform after its release.

On a more critically acclaimed note, “You Hurt My Feelings,” which has yet to land a widespread release date, went certified fresh on Rotten Tomatoes and raked in rave reviews from publications like Vanity Fair after its premiere at this year’s Sundance Festival. Louis-Dreyfus stars as a novelist who begins to question her career and her relationship after she overhears her husband saying he doesn’t actually like her newest book.

Throughout her illustrious career, Louis-Dreyfus has cemented herself as one of the greatest actresses in recent memory. From successfully dominating the sitcom world to branching out into the faction of film, she’s showing no signs of ever slowing down. How lucky for all of us.



GAGE SKIDMORE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Julia Louis-Dreyfus is a critically acclaimed TV actress who is taking her talents to the big screen.

Emily Blunt snubbed of Screen Actors Guild Awards win

By CASEY WIEDERHOLD

Associate Photography Editor

As the Screen Actors Guild Awards took place on Feb. 26, I was patiently waiting for the “Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Miniseries or Television Movie” category. Emily Blunt was nominated for her recent performance as Lady Cornelia Locke in the Amazon Prime series, “The English.” I was stunned to find out that Blunt lost the award to Jessica Chastain.

With Blunt being nominated and losing, I was disappointed. “The English” was released in November 2022, and I got around to watching the series over winter break. The series is Blunt’s first in the western genre, and she made an emotional debut. Most of her

scenes were filled with her performing action-movie-sequences or having a conversation that moves the audience.

“The English” follows Locke as she seeks revenge on the man who she believes killed her son, and as she travels to the New World, she meets Eli Whipp (Chaske Spencer) as he travels to Nebraska. The pair end up falling in love, however, nothing ever comes of it because of Locke’s condition. In episode four of the series, Locke is sexually assaulted and as a result, she develops syphilis.

Blunt deserved the award, mainly because she works so hard at what she does. In the 2019 SAG awards, she was nominated for both “Mary Poppins Returns” and “A Quiet Place” showing off her wide range of

acting skills.

“The English” is no different. In the fifth episode of the series, there is an emotional scene where Locke is overtaken by fear, and she runs away from Whipp. She strips herself down to her corset and proceeds to cover herself in dirt. This action symbolizes of washing away the guilt of her son’s death and being able to find herself again.

Typically, I don’t enjoy watching a scene where a character covers themselves in dirt. However, I grew up watching Blunt’s films, so I know when she performs in scenes like that, it’s an emotional sight. It reminded me a bit of the memorable bathtub scene from “A Quiet Place” where Blunt’s character is giving birth in the tub. The two scenes could not be more different, but the emotional performance is there. Blunt’s characters force themselves into complicated scenarios, and giving Blunt opportunities to show her range of emotions.

Blunt is an underrated actress, from her film “The Devil Wears Prada,” when she began to ascend in popularity, to her most recent film “Jungle Cruise,” with Dwayne Johnson. Blunt’s talents are overlooked by the other actors that she works with playing the more titular roles in films, where she is the leading female, however, she is not the lead of the film.

While watching “The English” I found myself constantly pushing for the romantic arc of Locke and Whipp. Although it did begin to develop, my hopes were diminished by the end of episode five, when Locke went to wash away her guilt. Blunt’s portrayal of Locke is interesting because she puts all she

can into her performances. Although it is what most actors do, when I watch Blunt on the screen, I am always mesmerized by her.

Blunt portrays several toughened characters, who have gone through emotional or physical trauma that they are hardened into a new person. Locke is one of these characters, as she quickly learns to handle a gun and kills those who wrong her. Though she feels remorse for her actions after they occur, Locke keeps her guard up around others. Especially when hiding her syphilis from Whipp, who she finds comfort in.

Among the other nominees in Blunt’s category was Chastain, who won the SAG award for that category. Chastain won the award for “George and Tammy,” her most recent limited series. Both actresses were ranked high on my predictions list for who was going to win, though I thought that Blunt had it in the bag.

When turning on the SAG awards, the first award of the night was for “Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Miniseries or Television Movie,” I sat on the edge of my seat, hoping that Blunt’s name would be called and there would be some sort of cute interaction between her and her husband, John Krasinski. I still saw those cute interactions, with a pang of disappointment in the back of my mind.

I am transported to wherever the movie is taking place when I watch Blunt perform. Her talents are not recognized by the award shows, however, they are recognized by her fans. They show constant support for her and appreciate all that she does. I will always be in favor of Blunt winning all of the awards.



ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR YOUNGBERG

The secret formula to nostalgia: Battle for Bikini Bottom — Rehydrated

By **NICOLE MCISAAC**
Managing Editor

If you have ever watched Nickelodeon as a child, chances are that you have stumbled across a yellow sponge — better known as SpongeBob Squarepants. If you haven’t, well that’s another argument for a different day.

Throughout my childhood, I’d often find myself glued to the television for hours while binge-watching the sponge run around catching jellyfish. Between wearing SpongeBob pajamas to brushing my teeth with the character’s ToothTunes toothbrush, I was completely captivated by the cartoon show.

However, little did I know that addiction would grow even deeper as soon as my house received its first PlayStation 2 in the early 2000s.

Although my brother and I had countless other games to sift through while on the device, there was one that specifically stood out from the rest — “SpongeBob Squarepants: Battle for Bikini Bottom.” Arguing over who got to play first, my brother and I absolutely adored sitting down together to beat all the various levels of this yellow sponge-ridden game.

In 2020, SpongeBob Squarepants: The Battle for Bikini Bottom – Rehydrated was released to the public. Mirroring that same game I used to play as a child, the new version became available for PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch, PlayStation 5 and Xbox Series S, per an article from Sportskeeda.

The original version was released in North America in 2003, per an article from SpongeBob Fandom. Mirroring episodes from the show, the game follows the fight to save the underwater town from a slew of robots spawning from the Duplicatotron 3000 that was created by Sheldon J. Plankton, or otherwise the character known as Plankton.

The machine was originally created by the mini green character as a way to steal the secret Krabby Patty formula — as Plankton normally seeks to do on the regular televised show. It wasn’t until he forgot to switch the Duplicatotron to the “Obey” setting that started the rampant robot takeover.

Throughout the course of the game, the player can swap through using characters SpongeBob, Patrick Star or Sandy Cheeks to complete various missions. Each of the characters, however, have their different abilities based on their personalities, such as Patrick smashing items off of his belly. Personally, I always loved to play as Patrick.

However as time went on and we got older, the original copy soon collected dust on our basement shelf, right next to the Wii.

It wasn’t until recently that the yellow sponge was awoken, and my brother and I respawned to our childhood selves glued to the now flat-screen television and arguing over who can have the controller first.

Upon my first play, it was clear how

much of a difference there was in terms of graphics in comparison to the original version. Not only did the characters and setting appear to be brighter and more vibrant in color, the reactions and emotions on their faces were much more clear and realistic.

I found this aspect of the game to be intriguing in a sense. Having lively and colorful animations brings back the feelings of childhood, when the world felt nothing but that.

In addition, the remastered version felt like the characters moved faster and could fight a lot better than in the original. This is especially important, specifically when encountering the famous King Jellyfish battle.

Other than that, the remastered version of this game exactly matches all the levels and challenges brought on in the original version.

Whereas some might feel that other elements in the newer version simply don’t live up to the original, I believe this game exceeded my expectations. Not only does this make it a fun way to procrastinate anything by gaming, but it brought back a special childhood moment between my brother and me.

Although this game was released nearly 3 years ago, my brother and I’s discovery of it last summer has allowed us to time travel



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX KENDALL

back to the early 2000s. We may be nearly 20 years older and don’t keep chocolate chip granola bars stocked in the house, but I still look forward to going home and staying up late to play this game in his room together.

For that, I am forever grateful that the creators released this remastered version.

Given my nostalgia for the game and the connection I have to it, I give the “SpongeBob Squarepants: Battle for Bikini Bottom – Rehydrated” a 5 jellyfish rating. I would recommend to all of those who played the original or watched the show as a child to grab their spatula and give it a try.

PHOTOS: Chronicle wins Student Media Showdown again

By **DAVID MATOS**
Arts & Life Editor

Q30 Television hosted its third annual Student Media Showdown in the Carl Hansen Student Center Piazza this past Friday.

Representing from four student media organizations including Q30, Quinnipiac Bobcats Sports Network, The Quinnipiac Chronicle and 98.1 WQAQ battled it out to take home the trophy.

The rounds included talent, student media trivia, a Hollywood fashion category and a pageant-style final question. The final two contestants of SMS were WQAQ representative Jennifer Moglia and Neha Seenarine, representing the Chronicle. The competition was close, but Seenarine reigned supreme winning the first place title for the Chronicle for a second consecutive year.



JACK MUSCATELLO/CHRONICLE



MAAC Basketball

Just three more: Men’s basketball is so close to history

By ETHAN HURWITZ
Sports Editor

It’s time for the MAAC Tournament and for the men’s basketball team, it cannot come soon enough.

Last March, the Bobcats went on a historic run, winning two games en route to becoming the first 11 seed to ever reach the MAAC semi-finals. Despite losing to team-of-destiny Saint Peter’s Peacocks – who reached the Elite Eight – head coach Baker Dunleavy was proud of the historic run.

“The team quite obviously just had a lot of grit, not necessarily defined by the record, but defined by their improvement, and their mental toughness,” Dunleavy said after that loss last March.

This 2023 squad has experience, especially in the conference tournament, but two of last season’s best players – graduated forwards Jacob Rigoni and Kevin Marfo – are gone. Now the Bobcats need to rely on the players that they have all season long.

Quinnipiac’s core tandem of junior guard Dezi Jones, redshirt senior guard Matt Balanc and junior guard Luis Kortright have led this team all year and Dunleavy is confident that they can lead the way this week.

“I don’t think I have to explain it for them,” Dunleavy said. “They know. They know the gravity of it and they are excited for it.”

The Bobcats ended the regular season with a 88-76 win against the Marist Red Foxes, ending the year at 20-11, the first 20-win season in the Dunleavy era. In a season that has featured a win

streak of seven and two separate three-game losing streaks, Dunleavy believes that the year can turn around in an instant.

“We have been streaky,” Dunleavy said on March 2. “We have to be streaky at the right time.”

Being streaky at the right time would see the Bobcats pull out just three more wins to officially go dancing, something that has hovered over this program like a dark cloud as of late. Despite all the wins, the time that Dunleavy has been marked as just not enough.

This could all change in Atlantic City.

As the third seed, the Bobcats will first face the winner of No. 6 Manhattan and No. 11 Marist on Thursday. In the four games against those teams in the regular season, Quinnipiac went 3-1, which also included a heartbreaking loss to the Jaspers on a buzzer-beating layup on Feb. 26.

The final day of the MAAC schedule was a hectic one, as the Bobcats entered Sunday as the conference’s sixth seed. By the time the clock hit zeroes in the final game, they had catapulted three teams to clinch the three seed, a first-round bye and a four-day rest before hitting the court again.

“To get that win, it allowed us that we could play the same defense that we have played all season,” Balanc said. “We can still do the stype of stuff at the end of the season when you want to do it.”

To carry the regular season momentum into the postseason, the Bobcats will need to rely on that trio of Jones, Balanc and Kortright. Those three have been the team’s most consistent scor-

ers all year and are the ones with the ball in their hands the most often. Add in the frontcourt duo of graduate student Ike Nweke and junior Paul Otieno and this team is built for a playoff push.

Jones has been the team’s primary ball handler all year and was recently named to the All-MAAC Second Team, averaging 12.4 points per game and 3.8 assists per game.

“It’s a big accomplishment,” Jones said. “(You can) thank my teammates for that ... they have a big part in that.”

But Quinnipiac has been built for a deep run all season and it hasn’t come easy. Since the turn of the calendar, the Bobcats have blown four double-digit second-half leads, including a monumental collapse to Mount St. Mary’s on Feb. 5.

Why should the tournament in Atlantic City be any different than the Quinnipiac teams in the past that cannot get over the hump? Kortright believes this team is just different.

“With previous teams, we played very lackadaisically,” Kortright said. “With this team, we fight more, we push for greatness, we push each other and the coaches push us to a whole new level.”

The fight is evident in this team. They gel perfectly, on the court and off. Whether it is attending women’s basketball games as a unit, posting dancing TikTok videos or just playful jabs at each other during postgame press conferences, the Bobcats have the chemistry of a championship-caliber team.

Dunleavy mentions the depth of this squad ad nauseam and he’s right. Whether it is red-shirt junior forward JJ Riggins playing valuable

minutes down the stretch or sophomore forward Alexis Reyes hitting clutch shots in tight games, the team’s bench has been a valuable asset to the team’s fourth 20-win season in program history.

No one has been more crucial off of the bench than Tyrese Williams.

The graduate student guard has fully embraced his role as the sixth man. Williams doesn’t care if he is in the starting lineup or coming off the bench, he just wants to do right by himself, his community and his teammates.

“Just to know that I have so many people around me that want to see me do well pushes me to be the best in the room,” Williams said. A final season in Hamden that saw him reaching the 1,000-career point mark and scoring a season-high 18 points against Fairfield on March 4 has been the icing on the cake to an illustrious career. What Williams, along with the rest of the team, is missing is that championship ring.

“I feel like if I can come out with a different type of intensity, it will give us the best chance to win,” Dunleavy said.

The Bobcats are also the only current team in the entire conference that has not made the NCAA Tournament. Though they have made the National Invitational Tournament in the past, the one monkey on Quinnipiac’s back has been the lack of falling confetti and going to the dance.

The MAAC Tournament officially kicked off on Tuesday, and will be the shining moment of what has been a crazy regular season for all 11 teams. Quinnipiac just hopes that its shining moment doesn’t come until late Saturday night.

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freshman year ... but that’s why I can play the outfield. I can play third base with confidence because it was him telling me like that was probably the best way to the big leagues. And he was spot on.”

The connection Batten formed with Delaney still resonates with the Shelton native to this day.

“I’m forever grateful,” Batten added. “To this day, he still is, if not my favorite, one of my favorite coaches I’ve ever had and I really connected with him well, which was a major reason for success at Quinnipiac personally and then getting drafted and where I’m at now.”

Batten may be a rookie at the professional level, but his work ethic and determination has been evident since his first days in Hamden.

Not just by Delaney, but by the teammates that he shared a locker room with.

“He worked hard, he was quiet,” Nelson said. “But you can tell that he worked every single day and that didn’t change from day one, so that (was) the one consistency.”

Whether it was the three-straight seasons batting over .300 or being named to the 2015-16 NEIBA All-New England First Team, Batten’s meteoric rise was aided by one thing: giving him a chance.

“Prospects (are) all, in reality, opinions ... You still have to go out there and play,” Batten said. “So at the end of the day, if you put in the work, it doesn’t matter if you’re (from) Quinnipiac, Vanderbilt, high school, it doesn’t matter. If you’re just out there playing and treating it like you belong, you’ll be in good shape.”

Batten’s brief stint in the MLB saw him suit up for 15 games and record two hits. He

played all throughout the infield during the summer and even came onto the mound to make his pitching debut, only to allow just one run in two relief innings.

“(He) pitches now, which is crazy,” Delaney said. “It proves that if you want it, the amount of work it takes can get you there if you’re willing to put in the work ... That’s where he’s different.”

As the current Bobcats look to write their own chapters and Batten looks to continue writing his major league chapter, all that matters is taking advantage of the opportunities given to you.

“The progression you saw from him as a freshman and all the way through his senior year,” Nelson said. “There was no doubt in my mind that he had a chance and for him, that’s all he needed.”



JULIA GALLOP/CHRONICLE ARCHIVES (2017)
Matthew Batten played for QU from 2014-17.

PHOTOS BY DANIEL PASSAPERA/PEYTON MCKENZIE/CAMERON LEVASSEUR/PHOTOILLUSTRATION BY CAMERON LEVASSEUR



Playoff Preview

‘We know what we want to do’: Women’s basketball looks to win fifth MAAC Championship

By BENJAMIN YEARGIN
Associate Sports Editor

Raleigh, North Carolina, Bloomington, Indiana and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania were the first three road destinations for the Quinnipiac women’s basketball team this season. With all their travels throughout the country, the Bobcats hope that their best stop of the season is Atlantic City, New Jersey for the MAAC tournament.

How They Got Here

Quinnipiac started off the season embarking on a nine game out-of-conference slate which featured marquee matchups against No. 3 Indiana and then-No. 10 NC State.

Throughout the year, the Bobcats’ most consistent players remained the same: senior forwards All-MAAC Third Teamer Cur’Tiera Haywood and All-MAAC Second Teamer Mikala Morris, and sophomore guard Jackie Grisdale. In non-conference play, the trio averaged 10.5 points per game. They would end the season first, second and third on the team in points per game with Haywood at one, Grisdale at two and Morris at three.

Graduate student guard Rose Caverly, who acts as the team’s floor general, has led the Bobcats’ offense and solidified it as second in the conference, averaging 62.1 points per game as a team. Also, it’s worth noting that Caverly is currently 23 points away from 1,000 on her collegiate career.

In the first month of MAAC play, Quinnipiac finished 4-3 with losses to eventual No. 1 and No. 2 in the MAAC Iona and Niagara.

“We didn’t necessarily hit a flow until January,” Fabbri said on March 4. “We were evolving and trying to figure out who we were becoming.”

It continued to pick up wins against everyone else, highlighted by Morris reaching the 1,000-point mark Dec. 31 against Mount St. Mary’s.

For the next month of MAAC hoops, the Bobcats couldn’t lose. The return of graduate student guard Mackenzie DeWees propelled Quinnipiac to a 10-game win streak that would last until Feb. 23 against Niagara.

During that win streak, the Bobcats saw graduate student forward Mary Baskerville and sophomore forward Grace LaBarge both emerge as go-to options off the bench. From Jan. 28 to Feb. 4, Baskerville recorded three-straight double-doubles, putting up an average of 12.7 ppg and 14 rebounds per game.

“She’s stupendous,” Fabbri said on Feb. 25. “She can do things out on the basketball court, make plays look easy ... she really commands a lot of presence.”

LaBarge brought a physical presence on and off the ball and a reliable three-point stroke to the table during the win streak, leading the team in three-point percentage amongst players with significant minutes.

How Quinnipiac played during the win streak captures what the team is capable of doing when it’s firing on all cylinders. The Bobcats are aggressive, gritty, resilient, move the ball around superbly and get to the free-throw line.

“(Grit) is probably the number one core value for our team,” LaBarge said on Feb. 11.

Quinnipiac closed the season with two wins against the respective No. 4 and No. 5 MAAC seeded Siena and Fairfield, but lost an integral piece in the process.

What They May Lose

Quinnipiac could be without two key players, Morris and LaBarge, who both did not suit up Saturday against Fairfield after injuries sustained Feb. 25 at Siena. However, LaBarge practiced Monday with the rest of the team.

The subtraction of Morris would remove a key post-presence the Bobcats need to compete against teams like Iona and Niagara, who finished one and two ahead of Quinnipiac in the conference. Morris leads the team with 40 blocks and can easily match up with a big like Iona senior forward Ketsia Athias.

If both are out for the tournament, expect players like Baskerville, freshman forward Ella O’Donnell, who was named to the 2023 All-MAAC Rookie Team and junior forward Tiera White all to take on bigger roles.

“When you have that depth, and you have players that are ready to participate and be productive, it bodes well for us,” Fabbri said on March 4.

Baskerville would slide right into the starting lineup with O’Donnell becoming a sixth or seventh man and White joining the rotation all together.

Final Thoughts

The Bobcats have succeeded against every conference opponent except aforementioned Iona and Niagara. Siena, Fairfield and Rider

have all given the Bobcats a run for their money, but Quinnipiac prevailed.

With the injury to Morris, the whole team needs to carry their slack, specifically senior guard Makenzie Helms. Helms leads the Bobcats second shift and would be the general while Baskerville and O’Donnell are out there. The Nebraska transfer has played great minutes for Quinnipiac, but her best needs to come in Atlantic City.

“Helms has done a great job with the minutes she’s had,” DeWees said on Feb. 4. “She’s kept everybody together and in tempo and she’ll continue to do that for the rest of the season.”

A fully healthy Bobcats team can match up against any conference opponent and compete at the least, win at best.

Quinnipiac will play Manhattan – who beat the Bobcats in the MAAC tournament last year – with Quinnipiac going 2-0 against the Jaspers this season. It’s fair to say that the Bobcats could win their tournament opener games and play either Niagara or Rider in the semifinals.

Without Morris, Quinnipiac does have more holes that need to be filled, but a Bobcat team at its best can challenge any team in the MAAC, and could make their way to the championship game.

“The sky’s the limit for us,” Grisdale said on Nov. 14. “We know what we want to do.”

The MAAC Tournament started on Tuesday, but Quinnipiac will face No. 6 Manhattan on Thursday, March 9 at 1 p.m.

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While Colgate played disciplined hockey for the majority of the game, it began taking more penalties as the third period wore on.

“We took some penalties, that’s an open window for (Quinnipiac),” Fargo said. “You just don’t want to add emotion to the game.”

Senior forward Alexa Hoskin did get the Bobcats on the board in the third, but the Raiders added an empty-net goal to secure the victory and advance to the championship game against Clarkson.

Despite this latest performance, the Bobcats don’t plan to make any major changes to their game plan moving forward.

“There just needs to be a few changes here and there to put the puck in the net,” Turner said during Monday’s media availability. “We need a little more crash and bang around the net.”

On Selection Sunday the Bobcats earned an at-large bid and will face No. 10 Penn State in the first round of this year’s NCAA Tournament. This is Penn States’ first-ever NCAA Tournament appearance.

“I feel like it’s been a long time coming for Penn State, they’ve had some really good teams,” Turner said.

The Bobcats find themselves in familiar territory in the Columbus regional as an at-large bid for the second year in a row.

“Playing in the NCAA Tournament there’s a lot to manage, so it’s nice to be going back to the same place,” Turner said.

The Bobcats also find themselves matched up against the same conference. Both Penn State and Syracuse, whom Quinnipiac played last year in the opening round of the tournament, play in the CHA.

While Quinnipiac continues to struggle to get

into an offensive groove, Penn State is currently riding an 11-game win streak.

“They have great depth through their offensive lines,” Turner said. “I think it’s going to be fun for us.”

However, while in ECAC Hockey, Quinnipiac faced a ranked team nearly every week, the Nittany Lions aren’t as accustomed to that level of competition in the CHA.

The last game Penn State played against a ranked team was in November – a 5-1 loss to then-No. 3 Minnesota. In the team’s 10 matchups against ranked teams this season, the Nittany Lions were 2-7-1, being outscored 33-15, including two shutouts.

One thing the Bobcats should take note of is that the Nittany Lions went 0-4 against the ECAC in the regular season.

However, after being shutout in their first game against Yale 3-0 on Nov. 18, Penn State

took the Bulldogs to overtime in a 2-1 loss to close the weekend.

In the all-time series against the Nittany Lions, Quinnipiac leads 4-0-1. However, it’s been over seven years since these teams faced off against each other. This will also be the first time the teams meet in the postseason.

If they win on Thursday, the Bobcats would face off against the No. 1 Ohio State Buckeyes for the second straight season. Last year, even with a program-record 73 saves from graduate student transfer goaltender Corinne Schroeder, the Buckeyes came out victorious by a score of 4-3 in double overtime.

Aside from the team’s five freshmen and graduate student transfer Shay Maloney, everyone on the Quinnipiac roster faced Ohio State last year. However, neither of these teams are the same as they were a year ago.

Puck drop is set for 6 p.m. on Thursday.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY SAN DIEGO PADRES

Matthew Batten blazing a path from Quinnipiac to the MLB

By **ETHAN HURWITZ**
Sports Editor

It is a small fraternity; heading into last summer, only one Quinnipiac baseball alumnus had reached baseball’s highest point. Back in 1993, right-handed pitcher Turk Wendell made his major league debut for the Chicago Cubs. For 34 years, Wendell stood alone. That was until Matthew Batten joined that same group. On June 30, 2022, the 2017 Quinnipiac graduate stepped onto a major league field with the San Diego Padres for the first time. The moment was the culmination of hard work and perseverance that encapsulated Batten’s baseball journey. From being drafted in the 35th round in his senior season to fighting for a roster spot during 2023 Spring Training, it has been a whirlwind to get to where he is now. “You also reminisce (about) everything in your baseball career that’s got you to this point,” Batten said. “I was officially part of the frater-

nity of big leaguers, like that was just a surreal moment that I’ll definitely never forget.” As the Bobcats’ all-time leader in hits (249) and stolen bases (55), Batten is widely considered by alumni as the greatest player in Quinnipiac’s lengthy program history. His numerous accolades, which include two selections to the All-MAAC team, are just some of the reasons why the Shelton, Connecticut, native has become gospel around Quinnipiac baseball. Head coach John Delaney has coached some great players during his tenure in the Bobcats’ dugout, but Batten may just be the cream of the crop. “He does a lot for the program, but he does even more for Connecticut,” Delaney said. “The kid came here over other schools, he came here strictly because he saw the passion that we have to win and to develop players ... He’s there because he continues to push, that kid has earned every single opportunity he’s gotten.” On the field, Batten was as competitive as

could be. His willingness to do anything for the sake of the team was an attribute that was clear early on. “My dream was to make the big leagues, but at that moment, it was, ‘How can I start (and) how can I help the team win?’” Batten said. “That experience, that work ethic is one of the big reasons I chose Quinnipiac.” While some may see Quinnipiac baseball as a surprising launching pad for a future major leaguer, it was everything but for Batten’s collegiate teammates. “It definitely didn’t catch me by surprise,” former Quinnipiac infielder Ryan Nelson said. “I mean, Matt is easily one of the hardest workers on and off the field. You know, always do an extra rep, stuff like that.” Nelson went toe-to-toe with the draftee during their time as teammates. When Nelson was a graduate student and Batten was a senior, they were either first or second on the team in batting average, hits and doubles. The competitive fire was there, but it was nothing

that put the team at risk. “There’s always going to be competition amongst teammates,” Nelson said. “I (tried) to avoid looking at stats at all during the season. He’ll tell you that he would love to beat me any day ... that his favorite part of the day was beating me.” Those extra reps and beating his own teammates helped build Batten into the player he is today. Playing left field for the Padres last season may not have been a surprise for those who watched him play at Quinnipiac. As a freshman who wanted to make his mark somehow, he was accustomed to playing more than one position. It was Delaney that instilled that in him, something he had never shared until now. “He was the first one to pretty much tell me, ‘Never say no’ (to) whatever they asked (that) I could do,” Batten said. “So I played shortstop pretty much every day when I was at Quinnipiac, besides the first few games my See **BATTEN** Page 10

Women’s ice hockey heads into NCAA Tournament following ECAC Hockey semifinal loss

By **MILTON WOOLFENDEN**
Staff Writer

After three long periods Friday night, No. 3 Quinnipiac women’s ice hockey found itself leaving Ingalls Rink eliminated from the ECAC Hockey playoffs with a 5-1 loss to the No. 2 Colgate Raiders. This was the third meeting of the season between the Bobcats and Raiders, with the former winning both of the previous matchups. Despite this, Colgate head coach Greg Fargo said his team wasn’t changing its strategy going into Friday’s game. “As the year goes on we become more famil-

iar with our opponents and you get to see more tendencies,” Fargo said. As the Bobcats’ offense struggled to get into a groove, Quinnipiac graduate student goaltender Logan Angers only surrendered one goal in the first period, despite being bombarded with 16 shots. “She was outstanding ... she’s calm, she’s confident, she’s ready for big moments,” Quinnipiac head coach Cass Turner said. Despite the team’s less-than-perfect showing, Turner praised the team’s effort. “Our team showed a lot of heart and a lot of fight today,” Turner said. “We didn’t start the

game the way we needed to, but I thought that we kept fighting throughout the game, there was no quit in our game.” While they still weren’t able to get a shot past Raiders sophomore goaltender Hannah Murphy, the Bobcats came out in the second and third periods with a much better mentality. “We started to really play with confidence after the first period but we’ve got to be ready to play the way we did in the second and the third at the start of the game,” Turner said. After two periods where they had the majority of possession time, the Raiders went into the locker room up 4-0. However, the team made

sure not to get ahead of themselves. “We talk about having a 0-0 mentality,” Fargo said, “When you do that you’re just able to turn the page and not play based on what the scoreboard says.” The Raiders continued to play solid hockey and trusted one another as Murphy made saves against the Bobcats’ shooters. “(Trust) is everything,” Murphy said. “Having a team in front of me I can trust allows me to play my game.” See **WHOK** Page 11