

The QUINNIPIAC CHRONICLE

The official student newspaper of Quinnipiac University since 1929

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Nearly 100 medical students receive residency placements

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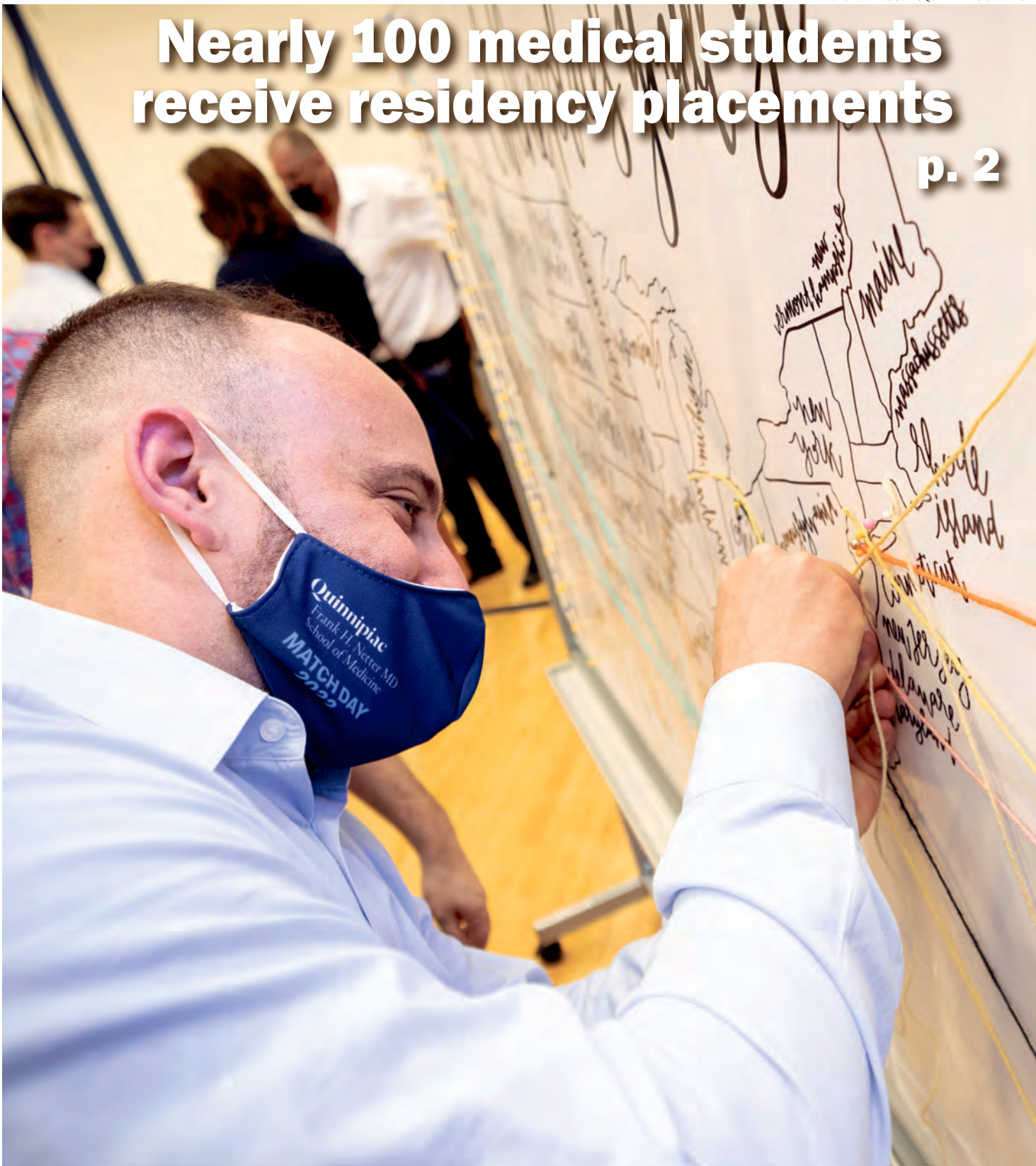


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MICHAEL SICOLI/CHRONICLE

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Quinnipiac women's basketball grits its teeth through physical injuries and mental fatigue during one-sided WNIT loss to Boston College

Spaghetti sauce, posters and clothes: Students promote small businesses

By **KATIE LANGLEY**
Associate News Editor

Liana Testa, a senior international business major at Quinnipiac University, brought her family's 20-year-old pasta sauce recipe into the

modern era by creating an e-commerce-based company to sell sauce by the jar.

Today, the Connecticut-based company Testa's Sauce, sells four different types of sauces. Attendees of the student business

pop-up shop event had an opportunity to try it for themselves on March 9.

"We just really wanted to grow our network and sell it online," Testa said. "So ever since then, I was like, 'What better way to sell it online than to sell directly to customers?'"

Han Biondo, a junior health science studies major, was among the students who sampled the wares of the small businesses tabling at the event sponsored by the People's United Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Biondo tried Testa's vodka sauce with penne pasta.

"I mean, you can't go wrong with pasta," Biondo said.

Biondo also bought a jacket from AI's Articles, a second-hand custom clothing business built around ethical sourcing, that was tabling at the event.

"Every time (AI's Articles) comes (to campus) I need to run to her because she has the best thrifts ever," Biondo said about Allison Demirjian, the owner of AI's Articles.

Demirjian, a fifth-year MBA graduate student, said that she started regularly shopping at thrift stores in college. The hobby turned into a business during the pandemic, with its main platform on Instagram at @als_articles.

"Whenever I go into a thrift store, it's just whatever speaks to me," Demirjian said. "And then if I see a piece and I have an idea, I go home

and experiment a little bit and try to turn it into something new."

Another display packed with colorful vintage clothing was Hardcore Hippy, owned by senior entrepreneurship major Faith Ramadan. At the event, she sold 1990s-era outfits and what she called "eccentric, weird oddities," such as band posters.

Ramadan said that she sees her business as an antique store, which appeals to many generations. Hardcore Hippy can be found on Depop and Instagram.

"I figured, we're at college, so if I was walking by and I saw a Korn poster, I'd be like 'All right, I like this, I'm gonna put that up in my dorm room right now,'" Ramadan said.

The PUCIE hosted its first pop-up shop in December 2021 after a student business owner shared with the organization that she had little opportunity to showcase her products on campus.

Patrice Luoma, director of the PUCIE, said that the event's goal was to create a "culture of innovation and entrepreneurship" and help students grow their business ideas.

"If someone comes to me and says, 'I have an idea, but then I don't know what else to do with it,' I can help them take their idea and (go)



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

The People's United Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship organized a pop-up shop for student businesses March 9.

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Medical students celebrate 'Match Day' in person

By MELINA KHAN
News Editor

As the clock struck noon on March 18, nearly four years of medical education were reduced to a single moment for fourth-year medical students nationwide, including 96 from Quinnipiac University's Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine. It was the moment they would learn where they would be spending at least the next three years for their residency placements.

"It's sort of the culmination of all the hard work over the last 3 1/2 years," said Allison Bradley, a fourth-year medical student. "All of the exams you've taken, all the rotations you've done, all of the interviews you went on lead to this one moment."

Each year, the National Residency Matching Program pairs medical students with residency programs based on mutual interest. This year, NRMP reported a total of 47,675 applicants for 39,205 residency positions. Through an online system, students and programs submit their respective preferences and NRMP calculates an algorithm to effectively match candidates to a program. Students receive their results in a ceremony widely known as "Match Day."

Quinnipiac recognized Match Day 2022 with

a ceremony for students in Burt Kahn Court. The event held extra significance for students, as it was the first in-person Match Day since 2019.

Fourth-year medical student Jenny Hansen matched with the Cleveland Clinic Foundation for obstetrics and gynecology. She said having the ceremony in person was special for the graduating class as it has been remote for most of their time at Quinnipiac because of the pandemic.

"As amazing as it was to open my letter and see this amazing program, the unabashed joy and thrill I felt for so many of my classmates and being able to hug and hold them, that really would have been lost if it had been virtual," Hansen said.

Bradley, who matched at Yale New Haven Hospital for pediatrics, helped organize the last two Match Days as her class's social chair. She said the experience of planning the previous ceremonies made her appreciate the in-person event more.

"I remember (the class of 2020) just being very upset about (having a virtual Match Day) and I guess I didn't fully grasp, at the time, how big of a deal it was until you actually do

go through the application process and figure out where you're going," Bradley said. "I was definitely very excited it was going to be in person just because it's supposed to be this rite of passage."

Match Day marked one of the first in-person university-sponsored events since Quinnipiac loosened its mask mandate March 1. However, safety protocols were implemented for the event, including requiring guests to wear a face mask and be fully vaccinated. Attendees were also given masks that honored the occasion.

Hailey Wyatt, a fourth-year medical student who matched with New York Medical College's Metropolitan Hospital Center for general surgery, said she appreciated the precautions put in place for the event.

"I think that in general, because all of us have been working very closely with patients with COVID-19 over the past two years



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ALLISON BRADLEY

Medical students Jenny Hansen (left) and Allison Bradley (right) said they appreciated celebrating Match Day in person.

through our rotations, we all understand the reasoning behind masks and why everyone there was required to be vaccinated," Wyatt said.

Bradley said the class's unique experiences working in the health care field throughout the pandemic made the opportunity more special.

"There's nothing really that compares to all being in the same room together, especially having gone through the last two years of medical school in the pandemic and working in the hospitals with COVID patients and kind of coming out maybe on the other side and being able to celebrate that," Bradley said.

Phillip Boiselle, dean of Quinnipiac's school of medicine, compared the day to an academic version of the NCAA March Madness basketball tournament. He said the event was marked by "hope, optimism, pride and appreciation."

"It is particularly meaningful for our students to have the opportunity to share this momentous occasion with one another," Boiselle said. "And with those who have supported them throughout their journeys — including family, friends, loved ones, as well as faculty and staff members at QU-Netter."



DANIEL PASSAPERA/QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

The Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine held the Match Day ceremony for fourth-year students in Burt Kahn Court on March 18.

BUSINESS POP-UP from cover

through the steps that they need to actually turn it into something that they can use," Luoma said.

NiasEarringsEtc was another business drawing crowds at the event. Its owner, senior graphic design and interactive major Nia Braccidiferro, sells everything from jewelry to stickers on Etsy and Instagram.

"It started out as a side project in quarantine," Braccidiferro said. "And now it's just something that keeps me busy, because I'm creative and I like to use my graphic design skills and I'm a hands-on person."

Braccidiferro's entrepreneurship professor informed her of the event.

"I love seeing all these different booths, and I can't wait to go explore and meet fellow business people," Braccidiferro said.

Samantha Primavera, a first-year athletic training and physical therapy double major, bought earrings from Braccidiferro's business as well as a thrifted sweater and a T-shirt from Love Someone Today, a company run by sophomore entrepreneurship major Kat Storey.

"(The event is) a mood lifter," Primavera said. "My suitemates and I were walking by and it was like, 'woah.' We had to do a double take and walk backwards. It's definitely one of those things that I think we should do more on campus."

Storey said that her business's goal is to spread positivity and awareness about mental

health by selling clothing and stickers that say "Love Someone Today."

"For me, it's just nice to have a reminder that there's always going to be someone that'll love you, you're not alone in this world," Storey said. "I'm an athlete here and I've been an athlete my whole life, and for athletes a lot of the time it's hard when you have so much pressure on you and it's a lot of mental health struggles."

Storey said that she plans on making her

business into a nonprofit that benefits mental health causes. For now, customers can spread awareness by wearing and displaying their merchandise bought at lovesomeonetoday.co.

When it comes to supporting student business, Biondo said events like the pop-up shop make shopping small more accessible.

"I'm just stopping at everyone's (tables) to support them all," Biondo said.



NICOLE MCISAAC/CHRONICLE

'Love Someone Today,' owned by sophomore entrepreneurship major Kat Storey (left), aims to spread awareness about mental health through clothing and stickers.

SGA introduces new 4.0 GPA dean's list for fall 2022

By **JACKLYN PELLEGRINO**
Staff Writer

A Quinnipiac University student created a Student Government Association initiative for a new dean's list with honors that will be implemented in fall 2022 to give students an edge when applying for jobs in the future.

The upcoming dean's list with honors recognizes students who achieve a 4.0 GPA, as opposed to the regular list which requires at least a 3.5 GPA.

All full-time students must complete at least 14 credits with at least 12 that have a letter grade of above a C to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester.

Stevens said she was inspired with the idea for the initiative when applying for internships and learning more about graduate schools.

"I think that implementing this dean's list with honors is an opportunity to provide Quinnipiac students with a competitive edge when applying to jobs and graduate schools, where employers can kind of recognize each student's achievements during their four years at Quinnipiac," Stevens said.

Stevens said that a lot of companies use tracking systems where a resume is first reviewed by software, and immediately knocking out hundreds to thousands of resumes before one is even viewed by "human eyes." In addition, she said many jobs have a minimum GPA requirement.

"I have seen how hard it is and competitive to acquire internships and entry-level jobs upon graduating college," Stevens said. "Just getting selected for a first round of interviews

can be challenging."

After Stevens came up with the initiative it went through SGA's Student Advocacy Committee, which plans initiatives. Stevens later met with Annalisa Zinn, vice president for academic innovation and effectiveness, and came up with a proposal to present to the Academic Policy and Programs Committee.

"I presented the proposal to the APPC and just made a PowerPoint going into what my proposal consists of, why this is an initiative, what it looks to implement and just basically gave background about the initiative," Stevens said.

From there, the APPC brought took the proposal to the faculty senate who is in charge of "approving and implementing" such changes.

The initiative has been announced through SGA's social media but there has been no communication from the university yet.

"I thank Hannah Stevens and SGA for their vision and dedication in developing the proposal for Dean's List with Honors, which will serve as additional motivation and recognition for superior academic performance in support of QU's mission to prepare graduates for 21st-century careers and citizenship," Zinn said.

However, some students said they have mixed opinions on the new dean's list with honors initiative.

Laurn Santos, a finance and marketing graduate student, said that she thinks the dean's list itself is "pretty fair," but said some students may interpret it differently.

"I feel like it may be kind of demeaning to other people who are on the dean's list," Santos said. "It may be great for people who do have a

4.0, but I think everyone else may be a little uncomfortable by it."

Andrea Chetirko, a first-year nursing major, said that all students with a GPA over 3.5 should receive equal recognition.

"I find (the dean's list with honors) very stupid, and I think that we shouldn't be putting 4.0 students above everyone else even though people are taking different classes," Chetirko said.

Despite some students disagreeing with the plan, Tim Malone, a junior film, television and media arts major, said that he thinks the initiative is a "cool idea."

"I'm curious if I put that on my resume if people will even understand what that means," Malone said. "I feel like they would really have to find a way to differentiate the dean's list and this new dean's list. I think any way to just honor students' good academic performance is a good thing."

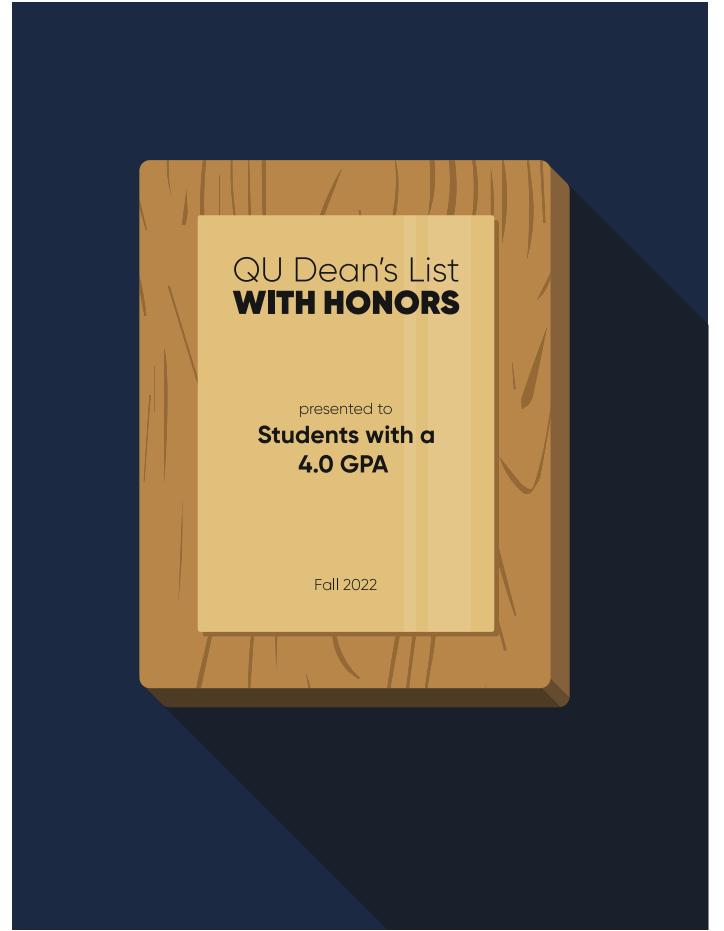


ILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

New initiative brings Quinnipiac Poll into classrooms

By **KRYSTAL MILLER**
Staff Writer

Quinnipiac University students can now take classes about data analysis, market opinion, research and reporting that incorporate the Quinnipiac University National Poll.

The Quinnipiac Signature Polling Experience launched this spring as a way to implement the Quinnipiac Poll into existing courses to teach students about the polling process firsthand. This semester, Political Psychology and Public Opinion and Marketing Research are the courses involved in the Quinnipiac initiative.

"It was inspired by President (Judy) Olian, who wanted to find ways for the poll to enrich the academic experiences of the students, and then I worked with Provost (Debra) Liebowitz," said Doug Schwartz, associate vice president of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. "She and I partnered in coming up with an actual program to implement."

The Quinnipiac Signature Polling Experience is multidisciplinary with courses in media studies, marketing and political science. The poll conducts public opinion surveys on politics and current issues with national and state polls. There will be a media studies course on political communication in the fall along with the political and marketing courses.

Scott McLean, professor of political science, said the idea started with discussions on raising the profile of Quinnipiac and the polling institute because it is well-known and respected.

"We wanted to find ways for the polling institute to have more of a relationship with our students and with the education that students receive at Quinnipiac," McLean said.

The Quinnipiac Poll team includes polling analysts Tim Malloy and Mary Snow. Schwartz said their mission is to be as timely and as accurate as possible.

"Our goal is really about understanding why people think the way they do, and tracking trends," Schwartz said. "Doing a more in-depth analysis of why people think or feel the way they do."

McLean teaches Political Psychology and

Public Opinion. The course covers survey design, how polls are conducted, statistical analysis and how the poll communicates with the mass media and news media.

"This is a course that is focused on the interrelationship between politics and polling, it's designed to give Quinnipiac students a real opportunity to see the workings of a major United States polling organization," McLean said.

Jensen Wilson, a senior political science major, who has taken McLean's class, said the public opinion is essential to allow political campaigns to measure the candidate's favorability and determine the most important issues of the electorate.

"From taking this course, I learned how to be a critical viewer of polls," Wilson said. "When analyzing polls, it is important to determine whether it is trustworthy and accurately represents public opinion."

Tilottama Ghosh Chowdhury, associate professor of marketing, teaches the marketing research class. The course helps students plan, collect, and analyze data to solve market research problems, as well as conducting surveys and experiments.

"The course is about understanding the logistics, the process of trying to understand the market research problem, then planning a data collection based on the research hypotheses, and finally trying to learn about different tools by which you are, for example, conducting a survey," Ghosh Chowdhury said.

Liv Distefano, a sophomore marketing major, has taken Ghosh Chowdhury's class. She said she learned how to formulate and understand experimental designs, different types of interviews and surveys, polls and how to analyze problems within different companies in the course.

"I think this course is important because it educates a person about how to better understand the marketplace to gain the most success from a business standpoint," Distefano said. "This course adapts to the changes in society and focuses on relevancy of trends to understand certain data and understand consumer behavior."

Christine Lupo, a sophomore marketing and business analytics major who took marketing



ILLUSTRATION BY SEAN FORMANTES

research, found the incorporation of the Quinnipiac Poll into the course beneficial to students.

"It is a resource other schools do not offer, which makes Quinnipiac stand out in academic excellence," Lupo said. "Gaining new knowledge has allowed me to view the process differently and see the hard work that goes into it."

Schwartz said these courses go beyond the textbook, which is what makes it distinctive.

"This is a program that really distinguishes Quinnipiac from other universities, because (students) are getting this real world hands-on experience of seeing what it's like to actually conduct a poll," Schwartz said.

Schwartz said one class talked about deciding what to poll on and the process of producing an accurate poll. There have also been people in interviewer operations at Quinnipiac

Poll talking to students about how to collect data and polling analysts talking about how to report the results of findings to news media.

"Several of our goals, basically, is to give a behind the scenes look at how a national poll conducts polls and we've provided our various experts to talk to students in those classes," Schwartz said.

The meetings have been done through Zoom, with three different class sections being able to interact with members of the Quinnipiac Poll.

The week before spring break, Snow and Malloy spoke in Wilson's class about how the Quinnipiac Poll interacts with the media.

"It is a great opportunity to hear from professionals and learn about how the organization conducts their polls," Wilson said.

Opinion

Ukraine's war isn't unique

American media shouldn't forget the crises in Syria and Yemen when covering Ukraine



PHOTO BY GGIA/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

According to the U.N. around 13.3 million Syrians have been displaced since 2011 due to the country's civil war. Almost half of the world's refugees are under 18 years old.

By **CHRISTIAAN MCCRAY**
Staff Writer

The Russian invasion of Ukraine signaled the dawn of the latest world conflict. Mass media is fully focused in this war, social media has been flooded with support toward Ukraine and news channels have not gone a day without reporting on the conflict since Russia invaded. But where is this attention for other wars going on worldwide?

I'm not downplaying the atrocities in Ukraine, and I understand the severity of this war, especially since Russia is a nuclear power. Nevertheless, the same crimes against humanity that are occurring in Ukraine have been happening for decades in non-European countries. Yet these conflicts have not gotten enough attention, specifically the wars in the Middle East.

Over 30 million people watched President Joe Biden emphatically stand by Ukraine's side during the State of the Union on March 1. However, Biden did not speak about the horrors going on in Syria and Yemen.

The Middle East has not gone a year without a country at war since 2003. The longest war during that span is the ongoing Syrian civil war. It has caused at least 350,000 casualties with 3,746 happening in 2021 alone, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Last year's casualties included 1,505 civilians, 360 of which were children. The decade-long conflict sadly has no end in sight.

Due to everlasting conflict, 12.4 million Syrians lack consistent access to food, which is nearly 70% of the population, according to the World Food Programme. While Russian billionaires have their assets frozen less than a month into the war in

Ukraine, just last October, Interpol allowed Syria to rejoin its network without objections from the U.S. It seems as the war continues, relations with the Syrian regime are becoming normalized with no backlash.

Despite these recent events, there has been no recent coverage on these matters. The only reason the war got any significant coverage from the media was due to the Syrian refugee crisis. The issue remains the world's largest refugee and displacement crisis with 13.5 million Syrians being forcibly displaced. The coverage of this crisis can be ascribed to the mass migration of Syrian refugees into European countries.

With the American media and the government focused on the Ukraine conflict, the world has disengaged from the Syrian civil war. The longer this goes on, the more Syrians will die.

Less than 1,500 miles away, Yemen is also in a civil war. The conflict dates back to 2011 and turned into a full-blown civil war in 2014 when the Houthi rebel forces took over the capital city Sanaa, forcing President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi into exile. The war caused an unrelenting famine in Yemen that left up to 19 million Yemenis food insecure which is 64% of the population.

Both the Houthi movement and Saudi-led coalition backing Hadi's government have committed several horrific crimes against humanity. The only route to a resolution is to hold both parties accountable and not choose sides; however, the U.S. government has openly backed the Saudi coalition.

U.S. laws prohibit selling arms to abusive governments, but the government con-

tinues arms sales with the coalition. If the U.S. persists in choosing sides, the Saudi-led coalition and the Houthis will carry on fighting, and Yemenis will continue to endure the famine.

“Not all wars are created equal, but all crimes against humanity should come to the forefront.”

– Christiaan McCray
STAFF WRITER

The lack of media coverage of the Syrian and Yemen wars can partially be attributed to the length of the wars. Both wars have been occurring for over five years and the Ukraine war is the latest and most intriguing news story. However, atrocities are still happening in these wars. In January and February, at least 47 children were wounded or killed due to the Yemen civil war, and this month in Syria, two Syrian civilians were killed in a missile at-

tack. These recent tragedies plus the hunger issues transpiring in both countries deserve significant media attention no matter how long the wars have lasted.

Another reason is the clear double standards that the media displays over non-European conflicts. Constantly, Western media labels the Ukrainian government and civilians as “heroes” and label rebel forces like the Houthis as “terrorists.” Both coalitions are fighting for freedom from corrupt governments and both utilize inhumane methods in the process. In Ukraine, Black immigrant students and Black Africans have been victims of racial abuse at the border. They've been forced to stay in the country while guards let white Ukrainians flee from the country. This clear hypocrisy sets a haunting precedent in Western media that certain lives matter more than others.

According to a January 2021 Pew Research Center study, 86% of Americans get their news from digital devices and 68% get their news from television. If you turn to any news channel, none are talking about the severity of the conflicts occurring in Syria and Yemen. If Ukraine was to endure a famine at this very moment, every news channel would cover it. Syria and Yemen have been facing staggering numbers of food insecurity for years, and it feels like no one bats an eye.

I'm not asking for news organizations to take attention off the Ukraine conflict. The media's job is to cover major world conflicts and the Syrian, Yemeni, and many other wars have been brushed off to the side. Not all wars are created equal, but all crimes against humanity should come to the forefront.

Opinion

Influencers aren't your friends They don't know you, and you don't know them

By **XAVIER CULLEN**
Opinion Editor

In the era of influencers, every kid has that one content creator that they go to every time they feel sad, depressed, angry or anxious. The one person's videos make fans forget about the worries of life.

A lot of creators I follow fit that bill. I watch their videos as I fall asleep or when work stresses me out and I just need a break.

After a long time, you could start to form an emotional attachment to the influencer. They have been with you during your worst and best times, by your side no matter what — like a best friend.

But that bond is a one-way street, and the affection is unrequited. It's a phenomenon known as parasocial relationships, which form when a viewer doesn't understand the gap between themselves and the person on the other side of the screen. And that gap is becoming razor thin in the age of social media. For some fans, the creator is a friend they can hang out with despite never meeting them.

This feeling can fester into an unhealthy obsession. Female creators like Pokimane have it especially bad. Some male viewers have an impression that a parasocial relationship is more than just a friendship — it's somehow romantic. They have gone so far as to get mad at Pokimane when she refused to say whether she had a boyfriend or not. To these fans, the thought that she could be with someone other than themselves was infuriating.

Despite so many horrible effects of parasocial relationships, several social media websites promote them to drive up en-



ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR LAWLESS

gagement. Most popular YouTubers and Twitch streamers try to act "real" and down-to-earth to get more views and followers. They aim to make the viewer feel like a part of the video.

This is most apparent in reaction videos, where a creator will provide live reactions to some other video. The creator actively draws the viewer in, often looking straight at the camera and talking directly to the audience. With every audible gasp and exclamation, creators act as if their viewers are right alongside them.

This point isn't meant to blame creators. It seems natural to make content this way. and the big view counts sure help. A lot of them

mean no ill will when doing this, and these actions are harmless in a vacuum. But that also doesn't stop horrible people from using parasocial relationships to their advantage.

One of the most nefarious parts of parasocial relationships is that creators use them to hide their true identities. Look no further than the Minecraft YouTube community.

Formed around the lighthearted, kid-friendly video game, the Minecraft community online has been susceptible to grooming, manipulation and abuse. Creators like LionMaker have used their underage fans' adoration and trust to make sexual advances on them, and others like SkyDoesMinecraft

and Tobuscus have covered up their abusive personal lives with their kid-friendly social media personality.

Popular creators like Mini Ladd, Call-McCarson, David Dobrik and James Charles have also been accused of sexual assault, grooming or abuse.

The internet can be a terrifying place for kids to roam, and the allure of friendship-like bonds on YouTube can be a trap for the unattentive. While there are thousands of amazing creators looking to make the world a happier place, a few bad apples can spoil the bunch.

Maybe it's the human need for a sense of belonging that attracts us to these creators. We crave feeling included, and YouTube gives fans exactly that.

But this doesn't mean we should ban children from watching funny videos on the internet. A lot of my growth during childhood came from watching YouTube, and it acted as an escape from my teenage struggles. But I do believe that we are meddling with technology and social trends that we don't fully understand yet.

The sad truth about social media is that we are trying to figure out its negative side effects while mindlessly consuming its content. We navigate uncharted territory fully knowing that apps like Instagram and Facebook are destroying our confidence and increasing anxiety among teenagers.

While these lands should still be explored, we need to tread carefully. If we don't, we'll fall victim to the very things we created.

Don't look down on tall women

By **NICOLE MCISAAC**
News Editor

How do people describe you to others when they meet you for the first time? Maybe it's your distinguishing hair color, the way that you dress or the shade of your eyes.

For me, it's commonly, "Oh, she's that tall girl."

Being a 5-foot-9-inch tall female certainly has its advantages, but the harsh stereotypes seemingly overpower those benefits on a daily basis. Taller women can be perceived as more masculine, intimidating, athletic or even undateable.

The average height of an American woman in 2022 is 5-foot-4 inches while it's 5-foot-9-inches for men, according to World Population View. While I'm not the tallest woman alive, there is something about being half a foot taller than average that spikes some insecurities.

Oftentimes, people understand how others are more sensitive to comments regarding weight, body and facial features. However, when it comes to curating an unnecessary comment about a female's height, there are certainly no boundaries for some.

I usually hear the common "How's the

weather up there?" or "Wow, you definitely play basketball." While those remarks may seem lighthearted at first glance, it certainly piles onto the various others that frame tall women as the main act of a circus freak show.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with me physically. I am healthy, active and have a great head on my shoulders. My height never really bothered me when I was very young, especially since the majority of the other girls towered over the boys in elementary school.

However, as I got older and entered the wrath of middle school, I began to feel more self-conscious and thought twice about my lengthy size.

When I was in seventh grade, a boy in my class turned to me and asked how tall I was. After telling him what I was told at my doctor's physical, he responded with: "Why are you so abnormally large?"

While younger me didn't know it then, that comment would stick with me for a while.

Leaving the heels at home, ensuring that I always shifted my weight to my hip when standing, crouching down in every photograph I took — I just wanted to "fit in" like all the other girls around me, even if there was nothing wrong with me.

Unfortunately, the way I felt about my height is not uncommon to other tall females around the globe and throughout many years.

In a 2017 research study by the University of South Florida Scholar Commons, 10 women, between 5-feet-11-inches and 6-feet-3-inches, emphasized how they began to learn the differences between their own height and what is average when placed outside of their family environments.

"School classrooms tend to cluster children of the similar ages in order to foster peer relationships and friendships," wrote Elizabeth Joy Fuller, the author of the study. "As such, many of my participants quickly realized that their tallness is atypical in comparison to their peers. Unfortunately, many of my participants learned early in life to associate their height with negativity due to the treatment they experienced from other children."

The negative comments made to tall girls in their childhood alter how they will continue to perceive their height and femininity as they tackle life.

The hold that these comments have on tall females' mental health is something that is not discussed enough. Despite the 2019 film "Tall Girl" spotlighting feelings that many women feel daily, this topic needs to be talked about for the sake of the next generation about to face similar comments I did on that day in middle school.

Now a junior in college, I have begun to embrace and love my height. I can literally see over everybody at a concert and rock flare jeans like no tomorrow. Although there are some instances where I still encounter some self-doubt about my size, I know that my height is perfectly normal.

However, I wish I knew that sooner. I wish I knew comparing one's image to others around them does not justify anything, and average certainly does not define normal.

So here's to wearing those 5-inch pumps sitting in the back of your closet, to dating a partner who is two inches shorter than you or reaching that box of Cheez-Its on the top shelf. Whether you are above or below average, you are perfect just the way you are.

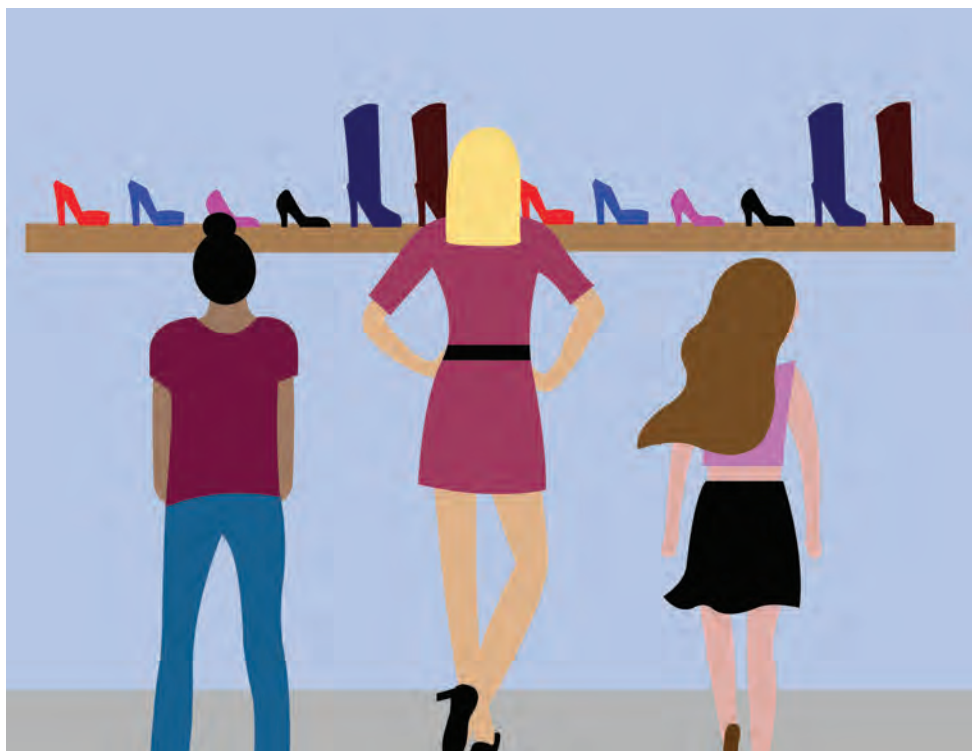


ILLUSTRATION BY EMMA ROGEL

Arts & Life

WHEN WOMEN SPEAK, LISTEN UP!

The Albert Schweitzer Institute hosted its annual International Women's Day Teach-in featuring impactful women at QU

By **ASHLEY PELLETIER, DAVID MATOS and NEHA SEENARINE**

The 1960s marked the first time women were allowed to open bank accounts in the U.S. However, it wasn't until the 1974 Equal Opportunity Act that banks issued credit cards to unmarried women who otherwise would've needed the signature of their husbands.

Achieving greatness is no easy feat. However, in a world where white men still hold dominance, women have to fight 10 times harder.

Quinnipiac University's Albert Schweitzer Institute held its annual International Women's Day Teach-in on March 8 in the Mount Carmel Piazza.

"It's a great day to be on campus," President Judy Olian said in a speech at the teach-in. "To be very proud and joyful about celebrating this International Women's Day Teach-in, celebrating our women on campus and of course also celebrating the economic, cultural and political achievements of women, which is so numerous. And it's inspiring to showcase all the accomplishments of women. And in particular, the women here at Quinnipiac."

Olian kickstarted the event by recognizing the many contributions from women, past and present. That included the women in her own life who acted as role models, like her Jewish mother who survived the catastrophic events of the Holocaust.

"She was forced to never take no for an answer," Olian said. "She always felt that there were possibilities even when they were the most daunting circumstances around her. I think that that's how she survived the war, the Holocaust ... Through the force and her personality, she's powered all of us kids to reach for the stars."

Women in different cultures

Christine Kinealy, professor of history and director of Ireland's Great Hunger Institute, expressed how women leaders were notoriously left out of accounts of history in favor of figuratively putting men on a pedestal.

Everyone knows about St. Patrick, one of the three patron saints of Ireland, whereas hardly anyone acknowledges one of the most important goddesses of Ireland, St. Brigid. The goddess, along with many other notable women in history, was left up to historical scholars to discover as their stories were often dismissed or replaced altogether.

"Increasingly the history of pagan Ireland (and) of early Christian Ireland was written by men," Kinealy said. "And this patriarchal system wrote women, especially beautiful goddesses out of their history. And so women were now depicted as being passive and pure if they weren't invisible. So suddenly Saint Brigid was written out of history and when she did exist, she was a Saint."

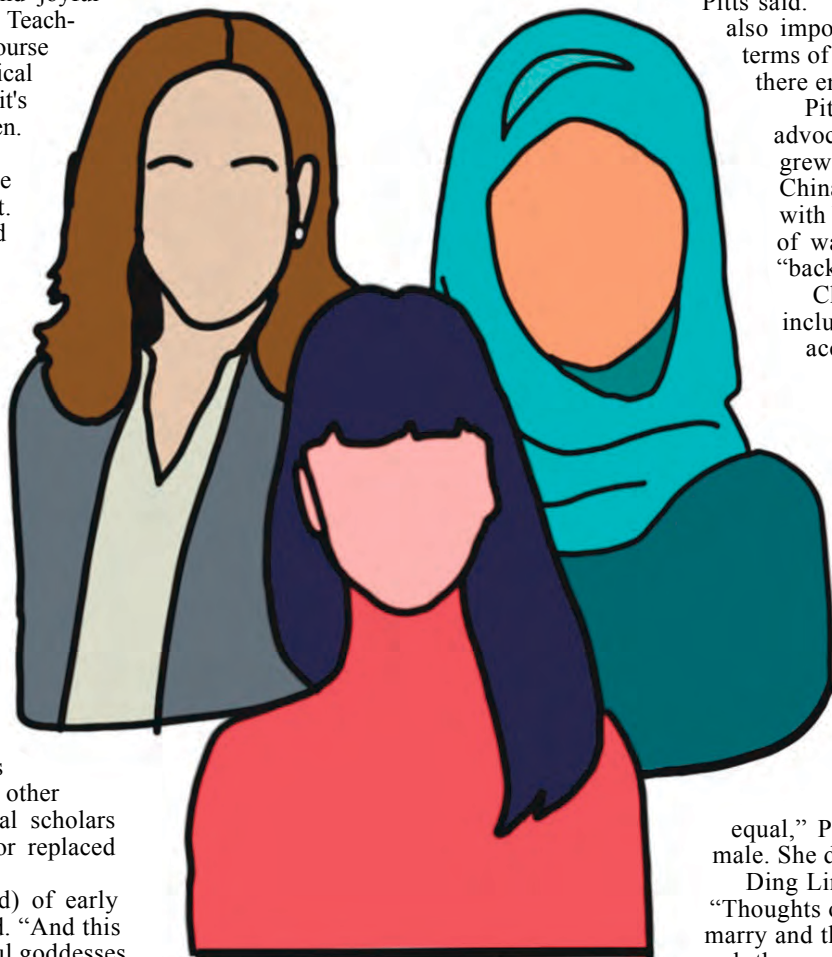
Rania Bensadok, a senior philosophy and political science double major and vice president of the Indigenous Student Union, read some of her poetry based on her experience as a first-generation American whose family comes from Algeria.

She emphasized her grandparents' experience in the Algerian War, which took place from 1954 to 1964 and earned Algeria its independence from France.

"My grandparents continuously shared stories with me growing up about the war and the things they had to endure during that time," Bensadok said. "For instance, during the war, it was forbidden for Algerians to make or be seen with an Algerian flag. My grandmother created the first Algerian flag factory."



Larissa Pitts, assistant professor of history, take attendees back to International Women's Day in World War II through Ding Ling's essay 'Thoughts on March 8.'



Kiara Tantaquidgeon, a Quinnipiac graduate from 2021 and former president of the ISU, ended the morning with her general appreciation to native women and in particular Gladys Tantaquidgeon, an author from the Mohegan tribe that greatly influenced her life.

"I was always told this by my great grandfather that native women are a force of nature and our creator's most powerful creation, and Gladys was certainly no exception to that," Kiara Tantaquidgeon said. "She stood for education. She stood for community. She stood for social justice and she was the blueprint."

Larissa Pitts, an assistant professor of history, took attendees back to International Women's Day in 1942.

"It's important to think of feminism not just in terms of time," Pitts said. "We think about the typical waves of feminism ... it's also important to think about feminism in terms of space. In terms of different countries or cultures and the way that people there engage with issues of feminism."

Pitts shared the story of Chinese author Ding Ling's advocacy for women's rights in wartime China. Ding Ling grew up in a time considered to be "natural humiliation." China had a lack of political and economic independence with Western imperialism and colonialism with the addition of war with Japan. Chinese traditions were perceived as "backward," particularly women's rights.

Chinese men were actively fighting for women's rights including advocating for the abolition of footbinding, access to education and employment. Ding Ling's single mother's fight for education attracted her to "the promise of national feminism," becoming a woman in the new China.

"She started to realize that there was still limitations of the ability of women to be free," Pitts said. "You were still not able to have a real strong role in politics. You still weren't able to have full economic rights and get the same kinds of jobs men could."

Ding Ling went on to write "Miss Sophie's Diary," rocking China's literary world presenting the idea of women having sexual desires. Chinese women at the time were not allowed to express their emotions to someone else. Ding Ling wrote what she wanted to, but she still suffered from societal limitations.

"She was promised of this world that would be equal," Pitts said. "A woman would be treated the same as a male. She didn't end up experiencing it that way."

Ding Ling wrote an essay that she knew would cause tension. "Thoughts on March 8" is about the social pressures of women to marry and the challenges for them to achieve greatness in politics and the economy. Marriage was a difficult choice to express independence from society.

"You reject a marriage, you tell a man you're not interested that means you might be stuck up or you don't understand them or you think you're too good for them," Pitts said. "Her essay was a lot about the fact there seem to be so many choices for women ... but the reality through social pressures that wasn't quite so easy. There was no good choices, every single choice was a bad one."

Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox, associate professor of legal studies, took the audience to South Asia and presented on "Women's Equality as the Key to Annihilating Caste Discrimination." Caste is the system of dividing society into hereditary classes commonly known in Hindu culture. It also controls and regulates what a woman can do with her body.

"The caste system depends on the control of women," Gadkar-Wilcox said. "You have practices like the social death of widows because your existence then becomes problematic if it's not in the context of the marriage."

Gadkar-Wilcox explored the topic of invisible and routine violence of the caste, also the politics of the Black Lives Matters movement and the visibility it brings to the missing margin of experience.

"When people say 'All Lives Matter' what are they missing?" Gadkar-Wilcox said. "They're missing what happens, the kind of unique experience that is faced when you are facing public acts of violence that just get largely ignored."

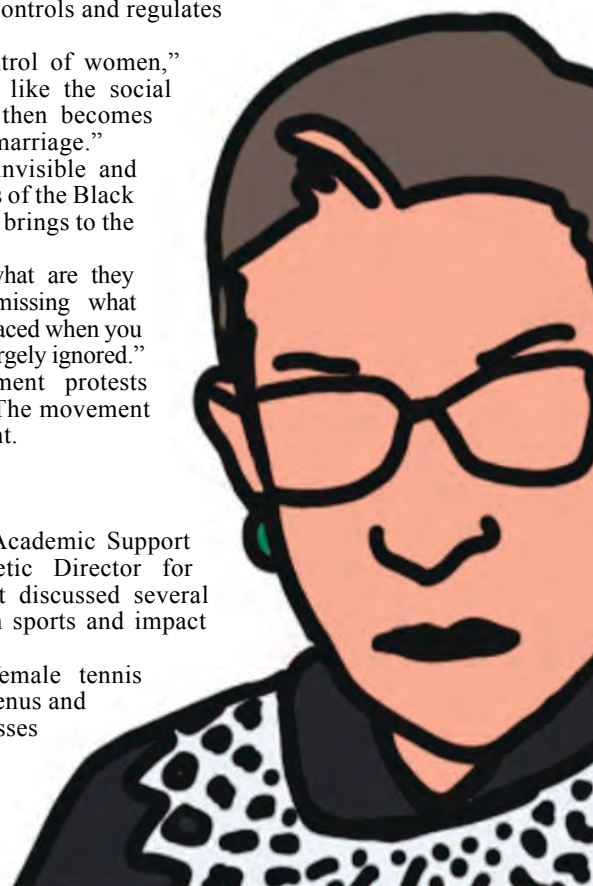
Similarly in India, the Dalit movement protests untouchability, casteism and superstitions. The movement helped women receive access to employment.

Women in sports

Senior Assistant Athletic Director for Academic Support Kristen Casamento and Associate Athletic Director for Business and Administration Alyssa Hyatt discussed several examples of women creating their paths in sports and impact for others.

For instance, they referenced how female tennis player Billie Jean King paved the way for Venus and Serena Williams to experience their successes by competing in the "Battle of the Sexes."

While female athletes are at the forefront of the women in sports movement, Casamento and Hyatt brought up both sports management and sports



broadcasting in their presentations.

The appreciation for Quinnipiac women's sports has been underwhelming compared to the men's teams according to Camille Manley, intramurals supervisor.

"You'd see such a big turnout for the men's ice hockey, and you won't see as much for the women doing just as good," Manley said. "Even our women's basketball team is ranked much higher than our men's team, yet you see a lower turnout for the women's team. What's the purpose of that? Just because they're a different gender, they shouldn't be getting the same amount of (crowdfunding)?"

Quinnipiac club sports faced issues where the men's volleyball team was allowed to practice in the Burt Kahn court, but the women's team did not have access.

"They didn't have a valid reason why," Manley said. "One of the co-captains spoke up to (Director of Campus Life for Recreation) Mike Medina saying we should be able to have the same resources as the men do on campus."

The women's club volleyball team has practiced in Burt Kahn for the majority of this academic year, but Medina said there were scheduling conflicts that moved them to the recreation center.

Outside of Quinnipiac, women basketball players faced a lack of resources last year during the NCAA tournament. Male athletes were provided luxurious gyms and locker rooms meanwhile, the women had a locker room the size of a classroom with a curtain to separate the fitness room.

"There is no answer that the NCAA executive leadership led by Mark Emmert can give to explain the disparities," wrote South Carolina women's basketball head coach Dawn Staley in a statement last year. "The real issue is not the weights or the 'swag' bags; it's that they did not think or do not think that the women's players 'deserve' the same amenities of the men ... it is sad that the NCAA is not willing to recognize and invest in our growth despite its claims of togetherness and equality."

Women in arts

J.T. Torres, assistant teaching professor of English, and Emma McMMain, a PhD candidate in educational psychology at Washington State University, discussed the narrative constructions of white women leaders in fictional works written by men.

They emphasized that women leaders in literature or film are often given unrealistic expectations in terms of personality, environmental situations and plot, which can be daunting to the reader or viewer.

"The problem itself in our research and our experience is not so much the particular story being told that powerful women are cool or badass," Torres said. "Let's tell those stories. We just don't want that to close off other stories. And when those powerful aspects become associated with other hierarchical qualities like whiteness class, etc., we close off the possibilities of what can be."

Part-time faculty member Brooks Appelbaum, with student performers Nicolas Vazquez and Kaitlyn Kelly, did an excerpt from the play "Pygmalion."

"Pygmalion is a story of transformation," Appelbaum said. "On the face of it, it may not be seen as a feminist story."

The performance followed Eliza Doolittle, played by Kelly, demanding her independence after she's been disrespected because of her appearance and speech dialect.

Alice Mahon, secretary of Fourth Wall Theater, took the microphone to share the women's empowerment within the organization. Fourth Wall put on productions "Proof" in the fall and "Little Women" on April 1-3, focusing themes on women.

"For the first time in Fourth Wall's history, we produced a fully female executive board which proved much different in years past," Mahon said. "The (executive) board which quickly became the 'girl-bosses of theater' had the primary responsibility of selecting the show that the organization will be putting on for the year ahead. We decided to stick to the theme of women empowerment, feministic ideals and women-driven productions."

Women striving for a better future

Professor of entrepreneurship and strategy Patrice Luoma also pushed students to take advantage of Quinnipiac's resources, including the annual Pitch Contest, which is taking place on April 7. The contest is an opportunity for student-run businesses to get funding.

"We are here to provide you with not only mentoring but money to grow your business," Luoma said.

Luoma brought up multiple current and former Quinnipiac students who have started their businesses and careers. One such student was Class of 2021 member McKenna Haz, who founded SEAVV Athletics, a clothing brand that uses recycled plastic in products, while she was a student.

Ambar Pagan, a senior political science major, presented a conversation on women's participation in politics both as a politician and voter.

Pagan shared several statistics regarding the lack of female representation in politics. Currently, women only make up 27% of Congress despite making up 50.8% of the U.S. population. Only 9% of Congress is made up of women of color when they are around 20% of the population.

According to the Center for American Women and Politics, women also vote more than men. In 2020, it was reported that over 10 million more women were registered to vote than men.

"I remember the campaign of Hillary Clinton, I was in the living room with my family and a family member told me that a woman could not go into politics and be president of the United States," Pagan said. "There needs to be a change in U.S. politics, but also in global politics."

In the same vein of discussion about representation, senior political science and psychology major Ana Allen explained how she finds representation in the world around her.

Allen said that having role models is vital to inspire and motivate you, but as a woman, role models are not nearly as common.

"I always have asked myself this question: If women are paid less and put in less



Ambar Pagan, a senior political science major, presented on the overall lack of female representation in US politics.

AUTUMN DRISCOLL/QUINNIPAC UNIVERSITY

positions of power ... why are we always expected to find role models so easily?" Allen said.

However, she has found some figures she would consider role models. Some of Allen's examples included author Maya Angelou, professor and activist Angela Davis and French psychiatrist Frantz Fanon.

Hillary Haldane, professor of anthropology, said that there's a need for feminist leadership in sexual violence climate surveys. A new bill concerning sexual misconduct on college campuses was passed by the House of Representatives last summer. Undergraduates fought for the law which protects students who report sexual assault, violence or stalking. The law also establishes colleges to survey students on sexual misconduct every two years.

Although the survey is meant to give all victims or witnesses of sexual assault a voice, Haldane said it fails to be inclusive to everyone and fails to take into account students' experiences outside of the university setting. She said that we should work on making every institution violence-free so a sexual violence climate survey is no longer needed.

Lauren Jerram, a first-year senator of the Student Government Association and Jack Weitsen, former SGA multicultural and identity senator, discussed the potential of bringing a women's center to Quinnipiac. This initiative began in 2020 when 73.3% of students said yes to a women's center on campus through a survey created by the SGA.

The women's center aimed to provide resources for things that primarily affect people who identify as female, such as eating disorders, safe sex, cancer screenings, family planning and pregnancies. The environment will also be a safe space for victims of sexual misconduct and relationship violence. To remain inclusive, the institution will also provide LGBTQ community inclusive services and resources for men. As the environment is open to everyone, SGA is considering the idea of calling it the "gender center."

International Women's Day is so much more than appreciating those in your everyday lives. It strives for a better and more inclusive world for women to live in.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY SARAH HARDIMAN

GIRL MEETS PANDA

Pixar's 'Turning Red' is a fun, diverse adventure for a new age group

By **ASHLEY PELLETIER**
Arts & Life Editor

When you're 13 years old, your life feels like it's falling apart. Acne, raging hormones and middle school drama bring waves of embarrassment and anger. Now imagine dealing with all that, but you also keep turning into a giant red panda.

Pixar's latest film, "Turning Red," was released on Disney+ March 11. It follows Meilin Lee, a 13-year-old Chinese-Canadian girl living in her mother's shadow while trying to become her own person.

"Turning Red" is unlike any Pixar movie to date. It's set in 2002 in Toronto, Canada and includes references to Tamagotchis and Nokia cell phones. Lee's favorite boy band, 4*Town, is clearly reminiscent of The Backstreet Boys and other bands of the era.

The early 2000s setting filled with relevant pop culture moments stands apart from Pixar movies' usual timeless quality. For some, that may not be appealing. However, I think the positives of "Turning Red" far outweigh the negatives.

For one, Domee Shi, the film's director, took many aspects of Lee's life from her own lived experiences. From the relationship with an overbearing mother to embracing Chinese culture, Shi artfully handles the story she created.

Culture and family relationships are often discussed in children's movies, as can recently be seen with "Encanto" and "Onward." However, "Turning Red" handles a moment rarely covered in the media — menstruation. The scene is short, but it is still a big deal. If I had seen something like this when I was 13, I'd have felt a lot more comfortable with getting my period.

The main reason Shi could handle such a topic was because of Lee's age. Very few children's movies take place when the characters are at the awkward age between preteen and teenager. Making more films like "Turning Red" will

allow kids in those age groups to feel more normal.

The animation for "Turning Red" is amazing, which can be expected from any Pixar film. However, the clear inspiration from anime and differentiation from movies like "Luca" and "Soul," the two most recent Pixar films, make for a fresh look for an innovative production company. While the style could be perceived as more childish, I think it works with the quirky, naive narrator.

Shi previously directed "Bao," an eight-minute Pixar short that played before "Incredibles 2." "Bao" also handled the story of an overbearing Chinese-Canadian mother but focused on the relationship that Chinese mothers share with their children through food.

I look forward to seeing where Shi goes from here. "Turning Red" is Shi's first feature-length film. She is also the first female director of a Pixar production. With such strong artistic vision and storytelling, Shi will continue to trailblaze for Asian women in animation.

Outside of the East Asian representation in "Turning Red," there is other great representation. The security officer at Lee's school is Sikh. One of her newly gained friends has an insulin patch to treat diabetes. While these moments of representation are fleeting, they are still significant for those groups.

I am a white woman. I am not a part of the target audience for "Turning Red." However, I think the representation seen throughout the story is so important. All but one of the primary characters are of various racial and ethnic backgrounds. It is so important to give more

children the opportunity to see themselves in media, especially a Disney or Pixar movie. I hope that Disney and Pixar continue to tell inclusive stories of characters in fun, memorable ways.



ILLUSTRATION BY SHAVONNE CHIN

'WHO CARES?' A PLEASANT ENTRY POINT INTO REX ORANGE COUNTY'S MUSIC

By **MICHAEL LAROCCA**
Associate Opinion Editor

Nearly 2 1/2 years after the release of his acclaimed third studio album, "Pony," Rex Orange County released his follow-up album "WHO CARES?" on March 11, quickly reaching the top of the alternative genre charts.

Prior to this release, I knew little to nothing about the artist, whose birth name is Alexander O'Connor. The entirety of my experience with his music came from his two features on Tyler, The Creator's 2017 album "Flower Boy." As much as I loved his appearances on that album, it was Tyler, The Creator in the end that led me to "WHO CARES?"

When I found out March 9 that the final single from O'Connor's album, "OPEN A WINDOW," featured Tyler, The Creator, it was enough for me to give the song a fair chance. Once I heard it alongside the album's other two singles, "KEEP IT UP" and "AMAZING," I was left wondering why it took me so long to get into Rex Orange County's music.

The three preview tracks are the perfect sample for listeners to understand the pleasantly somber, yet upbeat tone established over the album's 11-track run.

My favorite song on the album grew to be "AMAZING," which I believe is the best song of 2022 thus far. The track had the mystical ability to bring me back to simpler times in my life. Times where love was still a new concept to me, with the song's whimsical character teaching me to enjoy where I am at now.

"Don't change a thing, you are amazing / I can't believe you've come and saved me / We can stay here, spend every day here / I don't mind," he sings.

The lyrics give off similar vibes to Bruno Mars' 2010 mega-hit "Just the Way You Are" even though it is safe to say it may not reach those same heights considering Mars' monthly listeners dwarfs O'Connor's at an approximate 4:1 ratio.

The rest of the album's melodies worked perfectly paired with O'Connor's soft vocal tone, giving me something I can always go back to when I am looking for comfort. His music sharply contrasts with the majority of current pop music and its lower energy gives me another corridor to walk down sonically.

O'Connor's voice is at its most comforting on the track



PHOTO BY SKYLER PRADHAN/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Rex Orange County's 'WHO CARES?' currently sits at No. 5 on The Billboard top 200 album chart.

"7AM," as he showed that he is just like the rest of us — someone in his early 20s trying to feel confident in the decisions that led him to this point.

"I know that I wanna be independent / I really wanna prove myself today / But what if I'm hopeless and dependent? / Once again, should I pack up or stay?" O'Connor contemplates in the song's second verse.

Unlike other albums I listened to over the past year, "WHO CARES?" seems to know exactly what it is and wants to be. Its themes of self-affirmation, struggles with identity and learning what one wants from love are consistent throughout, and its 35-minute runtime is absolutely perfect for an album of its nature.

Like the rest of Rex Orange County's music, he does his best to ensure the majority of words spoken are his own. With Tyler, The Creator's verse on "OPEN A WINDOW" as the album's lone feature, it shows to the listener that despite what the lyrics say, O'Connor is very confident with his musical ability and does not need to rely on anyone.

"WHO CARES?" is a perfectly enjoyable listen. It shows how much O'Connor has grown since the days of his appearance on "Flower Boy" and that at 23 years old, he still wants to keep growing. While the album may not reach top-10 on the charts, it is certainly a top-10 in my heart. As a brand-new fan of his music, I cannot wait to see what he does next.

Growing up, then growing old

Dating your high school sweetheart lays the foundation for a successful future

By **ANYA GRONDALSKI**
Podcast Host

There's something special about a relationship that grows up with you, laying a brick foundation for your future.

My boyfriend and I have been together for 4 1/2 years. We met when I was 13 and he was 15 at a mutual friend's graduation party in 2016. A year later, we recognized each other's friendly faces at show choir practice and the rest is history.

Long-lasting relationships are the ones where two things remain unwavering: healthy communication and a commitment to compromise. These skills are learned throughout adolescence and practiced into adulthood. The average adult couple has already developed these, putting communication and compromise into practice to start a relationship.

But imagine loving someone through this critical development in your life. Through your experiences, your mistakes and pain, you choose to better yourself not just as a maturing individual, but also on behalf of your partner.

Although some will tell you it's impossible to see forever in the guy you met in the auditorium, there are examples of how high school relationships can in fact work out. LeBron James and Savannah Brinson started dating at 17 and 16, respectively, and are still happily married to this day. They were committed before the NBA legend's claim to fame, and they stuck together through the challenges that being a celebrity likely brought to their family.

My boyfriend and I were together during puberty, bad haircuts, fashion phases and changes in career goals. He was my one constant as everything else around me was changing, and we loved each other the same through it all.

According to marketing expert Brandon Gaille, only one out of five high school relationships make it to college. Additionally, less than 2% of marriages are between high school sweethearts. It seems like the odds have always and will always be against people like us.

To make things even more complicated, there's a general societal consensus that staying with your high school or college partner is just plain sad. People tend to think you are holding each other back from achieving your unrealized dreams and goals.

Our commitment to each other has strengthened our plans for the future. We know that "home" is in the same area and our Christmases won't be split between coasts. And the best part: we can avoid the awkward "meeting the parents" dinner that most



ILLUSTRATION BY EMMA ROGEL

new couples dread.

Additionally, our relationship has been instrumental in shaping who we've both become. My partner's parents divorced before we started dating. They had to sell his childhood home. This experience gave him a cold outlook on life, but through our experiences together and my sometimes-overbearing joy for the little things, he's grown into an emotionally intelligent and openly communicative man. Likewise, he spent years encouraging me to be outspoken and defend myself when I used to be a silent doormat for toxic friends.

There's no doubt we've made each other stronger, better, more confident individuals.

And like all relationships, there's fighting. The transition from high school to college was especially hard because he is older. Not being able to relate to each other, plus long-distance and his military university's culture, made it feel like we were living completely different lives. What got us through was knowing that the other was right where they were meant to be. All we could do

was be supportive until we could be home together again.

Situations like this are one of the many reasons that my high school relationship demonstrates strength. It may be cliché, but you're supposed to fight for the people and things you love. Maybe people just don't see the point in putting effort into relationships anymore, or maybe I just got lucky.

The person I am now at 19 is in stark contrast to who I was at 13. You come to realize that problems don't have to be so big and that fighting over semantics is a waste of time. You learn an incredible amount of patience, a skill severely lacking in people our age.

You are also privy to the full scope of your partner's past and the way it influences their decisions and perspectives. You know the real "why" behind their hurt because you went through the experiences that shaped each other together.

Planning your future with the person that made your past is a special experience that few are privileged enough to have. And through it, you learn that love is so much more beautiful when you choose to invest time, energy and sacrifice into it.



ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR LAWLESS

By **PETER PIEKARSKI**
Sports Editor

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

In a wild, blockbuster move, Quinnipiac University is officially trading its women's rugby team to Merrimack University in exchange for the women's swimming and diving team.

"I feel betrayed," Quinnipiac senior benchwarmer Kathleen Garryowen said. "I've spent my four years here hustling on and off the field carrying water bottles for my teammates."

Additionally, Quinnipiac is sending a 2023 commit and a conditional senior 3.5 GPA student, and in return is receiving cash considerations. The senior student will convert to a 2.8 GPA junior if and when the construction of the pool is delayed.

With limited facility room and funding, the newly acquired swim team will have to design, pay for and build a Division I swimming pool itself where the current rugby field resides.

"I gave them one rule for the new structure," Quinnipiac director of athletics

Quinnipiac's new deal: women's rugby sent to Merrimack for swim team

Greg Amodio said. "It has to be an outdoor swimming pool. That way, they have a competitive edge against schools that have never trained outside during the New England winter."

The new Quinnipiac athletes will have to properly file all permits with the town of Hamden for construction in a 48-hour window once they arrive at the university.

Once that portion is done, the pool must be completed in a timely manner, as the MAAC requires that any renovated or newly installed arenas are to be done exactly 183 days prior to the season opener.

"This is ridiculous, I never signed up for this," junior engineering major and swim team free-stylist Brianna McBackstroke said. "How am I expected to design a stadium when I took 90% of my college courses online and used Chegg for all of them?"

Since funds are tight, Quinnipiac plans to hand the reins to a current university coach to run the team. As of now, the favorite to land the job is women's soccer head coach Dave Clarke.

"I don't know much about swimming, but I sure can teach them how to dive," Clarke said.

The team has 212 days and 11 hours to complete the new pool and prepare for the 2022-23 season.

Scores & Schedule

Tuesday 3/15

BASE won 7-5 @ Hartford

Wednesday 3/16

WTEN won 5-2 vs. Franklin Pierce

MTEN won 6-1 vs. Franklin Pierce

SOFT lost 6-0 @ Lipscomb

Friday 3/18

MHOK won 3-1 vs. Colgate
(ECAC Hockey Semifinals)

WBB won 61-50 @ Rhode Island
(WNIT Round One)

BASE lost 8-2 @ VCU

Saturday 3/19

GOLF 5th of 16th @ Low Country Intercollegiate

SOFT lost 4-0 @ UMBC

SOFT 4-3 @ Lafayette

WLAX lost 16-11 @ Binghamton

ACRO lost 284.460-280.685 vs. Baylor

MTEN lost 4-3 @ Coast Guard

BASE lost 14-4 @ VCU

MLAX lost 9-7 @ Manhattan

MIH lost 3-2 vs. Harvard

(ECAC Hockey Championship)

Sunday 3/20

GOLF 6th of 16th @ Low Country Intercollegiate

SOFT lost 10-9 @ UMBC

BASE lost 17-6 @ VCU

SOFT lost 9-7 @ Towson

WTEN won 5-2 vs. Hofstra

MTEN lost 7-0 vs. Hofstra

Monday 3/21

WBB lost 94-68 vs. Boston College
(WNIT Round Two)

Tuesday 3/22

BASE lost 19-7 @ Yale

Friday 3/25

BASE @ St. John's 3 p.m.

MIH vs. St. Cloud State 8 p.m.

(NCAA Tournament Regional Semifinal)

Saturday 3/26

WOT&F @ Monmouth Invitational

MTEN @ Bryant 11 a.m.

MLAX vs. Monmouth 12 p.m.

BASE @ St. John's 12 p.m.

FHOK vs. Sacred Heart 12 p.m.

SOFT vs. Maine 12:30 p.m.

WLAX @ Marist 1 p.m.

WTEN @ Bryant 2 p.m.

SOFT vs. Hartford 2:30 p.m.

Sunday 3/27

BASE @ St. John's 12 p.m.

SOFT vs. Maine 12:30 p.m.

MTEN & WTEN @ Rider 2 p.m.

SOFT vs. Hartford 2:30 p.m.

MIH vs. TBD (Dependent on semifinal win)

Rough regular season or historic tournament run?

What's more meaningful when reviewing MBB's season?



CONNOR LAWLESS/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac men's basketball is the only No. 11 seed to reach the semifinals in men's MAAC tournament history.

By **TOYLOY BROWN III**
Managing Editor

How should the Quinnipiac men's basketball 2021-22 season be remembered?

There is no way to sugarcoat it: The Bobcats had a disappointing regular season. They lost their last six games and finished with a 12-16 overall record before the post-season. After being ranked ninth out of 11 MAAC teams in the MAAC Preseason Coaches' Poll, Quinnipiac ended the season in last place.

Or should this group be remembered for its postseason run in Atlantic City?

No. 11 Quinnipiac defeated No. 6 Marist 77-52 in the opening round. It buried more 3-pointers (17) in one game than any other game over the last two seasons and held the Red Foxes to a season-low in points.



CONNOR LAWLESS/CHRONICLE

Questions surround Baker Dunleavy as 2022-23 is his final season under contract as head coach of the men's basketball team.

In the quarterfinals, Quinnipiac knocked off No. 3 Siena 77-71, staving off a second-half comeback and keeping All-MAAC Second Team guard Colby Rogers in check.

Quinnipiac was sent home from the MAAC tournament semifinals 64-52 by No. 2 Saint Peter's, a team that has gone on to March Madness and upset No. 2 Kentucky in the Round of 64 and No. 7 Murray State in the Second Round of the NCAA tournament.

While the Bobcats fell one win short of the MAAC championship game, this is how head coach Baker Dunleavy will remember this year's squad.

"The team that 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.

This year's Bobcats have to be remembered for both the regular season and the tournament, their highs and lows. The success the team experienced cannot be appreciated the same without battle wounds it sustained in losses.

"It's easy to break apart when things go against you and you lose games," graduate student forward Jacob Rigoni said. "We really, truly did believe in ourselves and ... when we come together and play that way, we're capable of anything. We're one of the best teams in the league."

The losses Quinnipiac experienced not only made the wins feel sweeter, but it cemented its journey in MAAC history, becoming the first-ever No. 11 seed to make the men's tournament semifinals.

The historic accomplishment was only achieved through the things Dunleavy said — "grit" and "mental toughness." This Quinnipiac team that ended as one of the final four teams in Atlantic City is not only "defined by the record" but by its "improvement."

This improvement may not only apply to the players but also to its coaching staff, a crew that kept a team's belief in itself.

As next season is Dunleavy's last year under contract as head coach, his mediocre win-loss record over his five total seasons (66-81) can be consequential.

That is why Rigoni, the player who's donned the Quinnipiac uniform in more games than anyone in the program's history, expressed his belief in the coach that recruited him unprompted in his last postgame press conference.

"Everyone's entitled to their opinion, but just being in that locker room every single day and being with this coaching staff, coach Dunleavy and all of our assistants, there's no one more dedicated to the team and doing the job for us and trying to put us in the best position to win," Rigoni said. "There's no question that he should be leading this team, and I'm really thankful to be a part of that."

The Quinnipiac men's basketball season can be remembered in a number of ways, but one thing is certain. This season was memorable, which is not always a guarantee.

WBB smiles through physical pain and mental fatigue despite lopsided loss in season finale



MICHAEL SICOLI/CHRONICLE

Senior guard Mackenzie DeWees scored 15 points in what may have been her final game with the Bobcats on March 21.

By RILEY MILLETTE
Sports Editor

Mackenzie DeWees looked down at her feet dejectedly, ring and middle finger on her right hand taped together, waiting for the referee to skip her the ball for her free throws. The senior guard looked tired, out of gas, knowing it was perhaps her last game in a Quinnipiac uniform.

Each free throw looked like a contest, each layup a battle. As physical a player as they come, DeWees still fought for loose balls and played top-tier defense, but the possible conclusion to her Quinnipiac career was a grueling marathon.

DeWees, along with fellow senior guards Rose Caverly and Amani Free, can opt into another year of NCAA eligibility because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Monday's result made the trio contemplate about their future sooner than they would have hoped.

The Quinnipiac women's basketball team literally limped to the finish line of the 2022 season, which ended with a whimper in a 94-68 loss to Boston College. DeWees missed all but 12 minutes of the team's last game against URI with injury. Caverly dealt with ailments of her own.

"I don't think anyone is 100% healthy this time of season," head coach Tricia Fabbri said with a light chuckle. "Not only is it physically fatiguing, but mentally as well."

Regardless, the team was feeling loose before the game, smiling and having fun in the pregame shootaround. Junior guard Sajada Bonner danced to Drake's "Wants and Needs." Senior guard Amani Free sang the hook. "I need me some Jesus in my life, amen," she mouthed as she put up a 3-pointer.

DeWees was happy and smiling. Sophomore forward Tiera White was busting moves — which isn't out of the ordinary for her — but still, the vibe was positive.

Call it the postseason tournament effect.

"Maybe we felt a bit more excitement than usual," Fabbri said.

Monday's game was the second round of the WNIT, a tournament offered to the nation's best teams that didn't get a bid in the NCAA tournament. Since the Bobcats were the No. 2 seed in the MAAC and the No. 1 Fairfield Stags won the conference, Quinnipiac received an automatic bid to the WNIT.

The Bobcats achieved their goal of playing in the postseason outside the MAAC tournament, but not the one they dreamed of. The NCAA tournament was in sight this season. Fabbri is no stranger to it. She's been to it five times since 2013, including a run to the Sweet Sixteen in 2017 as a No. 12 seed.

Of course, there's always motivation for college athletes every time they play. One more game for the seniors, perhaps. Beating Boston College would have put Quinnipiac onto the third round of the WNIT, its best-ever performance in the tournament.

Maybe better yet, the Bobcats had just made program history three days prior after winning on the road against a WNIT opponent for the first time. And that team, URI, was the No. 2 seed in the Atlantic 10, no less. Adding to that accomplishment would have put a bow on the team's postseason journey.

But making it through the regular season, the MAAC tournament and two additional postseason games comes at a price.

This season Quinnipiac has rolled along through injuries, though few and far between, thanks to a deep bench rotation. But the Bobcats' health caught up to them in their lopsided loss

to the Eagles. Quinnipiac still had the high-energy offense that was its identity this season and played with the urgency that Fabbri expects, but it was easy to tell how laboring it was.

For some, that is. Caverly was putting up extra shots on the Conte Forum floor an hour and a half before the game started and it paid off. She scored a career-high 26 points and tied a program record by hitting six 3-pointers. DeWees scored 15 points, an average night for her, but needed to conjure every iota of energy from within to do it.

It didn't help that the Bobcats were plain and simply outmatched.

There were five minutes left in the second quarter with Quinnipiac trailing Boston College 32-18. The Eagles were in the middle of pounding the Bobcats, which they did in about every way possible. Boston College outrebounded, outscored, outmuscled and outwilled Quinnipiac at every turn in its 26-point triumph.

Junior forward Mikala Morris got the business from Eagles freshman center Maria Gakdeng. Gakdeng, an inch taller than Morris, stole her lunch money all night. She forced Morris to shoot 3-10 from the field and collect only three rebounds in 26 minutes. Morris was a double-double machine during the regular season, second-most in the MAAC in that category with 13. But against a team equipped to deal with her size, the Eagles erased her.

Speaking of double-doubles, take a bow, Taylor Soule. The Boston College senior forward finished with 33 points, 16 rebounds and three steals. At halftime, the stat sheet read 12 points and 10 rebounds. A double-double at halftime in the second round of the WNIT.

"I think I just went into the game knowing how dominant I can be," Soule said.

You might expect the Bobcats to walk into the postgame

press conference, hat in hand, sorry for themselves that the book had truly closed on their season. However, Fabbri glowed about her team and what they accomplished in 2022 without any disappointment in her voice. She said the experience of playing much stiffer competition than the team is used to will help the younger players on the team going forward, and the more experienced players on the team agreed.

"We put in all this work and just because they're an Atlantic 10 team and an ACC team, that doesn't mean that we shouldn't be on the court," Caverly said. "Take the open shots, play your game, so just gaining confidence from these two games."

Continuing the theme of end-of-season reflection, DeWees said her favorite moment of the year was the first home game, which was actually a loss. Then ranked No. 4 Indiana beat Quinnipiac 67-59.

"You could see it in our eyes and coach's eyes, I think it really stunned (Indiana)," DeWees said. "I think the crowd really got into it, and that was the first time we really had a big crowd back in the arena. I really think that that is just like the most fun time."

Her reflection fit the pregame warmup — she smiled and spoke warmly about the memories she made. Even after trudging through a nightmare of a game against an ACC opponent while injured, she managed to revert to her jovial spirit.

It was a fitting end (maybe?) to a storybook career. A member of the 1,000-point club, two time All-MAAC First Teamer, one-time MAAC Player of the Year. Had DeWees played her final game at Conte Forum on Monday, her career won't be remembered for her final game, even though she still performed well.

The program and the fans will remember her accolades, her talent and the respect she commanded. DeWees' trademarked headband will be a symbol of leadership for years to come.



MICHAEL SICOLI/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac lost 94-68 to Boston College in the second round of the WNIT, its fifth appearance in the tournament.



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Pete's Pond: QU falls into Allentown bracket

ECAC Hockey finals loss pits MIH against No. 11 St. Cloud State

By **PETER PIEKARSKI**
Sports Editor

This upcoming weekend, 12 seniors and graduate transfers will have one final opportunity to take another step toward their ultimate goal: winning the national championship.

The NCAA regional playoffs are set, with the Quinnipiac Bobcats (31-6-3) heading to Allentown, Pennsylvania for a nighttime showdown with the St. Cloud State Huskies (18-14-4).

Don't let the team's record sway you, as St. Cloud plays in the toughest conference in college hockey. The NCHC is sending five teams to the NCAA regional round this year, with St. Cloud entering as the lowest seed from the conference.

It's quite the matchup as the two teams rank at opposite ends on special teams. St. Cloud is lethal on the power play, converting on 31.3% of its opportunities which leads Division I. It is one of five teams in the country to score over 40 goals this season on the man advantage.

For Quinnipiac, its power play has seen better days as the Bobcats sit as the 10th-worst power-play unit in the country, converting just 14.5% of the time.

When down a skater, however, the Bobcats lead the league in efficiency, killing off 91.8% of their penalties. St. Cloud is middle of the pack on the penalty kill at 81.7%.

"Playoffs is always goaltending and special teams, so I think it'll be huge," Quinnipiac head coach Rand Pecknold said. "I went through all of St. Cloud's power-play goals, I watched them all yesterday, I watched them all again today. They are lights out on the (power play)."

Led by respective graduate student and junior forwards Kevin Fitzgerald and Jami Krannila, the Huskies offense has several weapons that can score. Seven players on the team reached double-digit goals, and three players averaged a point per game.

Graduate student goaltender David Hrenak has been inconsistent for the Huskies, as he finished with a .914 save percentage and 2.26 goals against average. It doesn't help that he faces an erratic number of shots each night, seeing as little as 12 and as many as 49.

All five of the NCHC teams finished the season as a top-10 team in the RPI rankings, and the USCHO poll had four of the five in the top-10 with St. Cloud finishing at No. 11.

Against the four teams ahead, the Huskies went 3-7-4, finishing with a minus-11 goal differential.

"It just came out (March 20) that we're playing them," senior forward and captain Wyatt Bongiovanni said. "But we're going to discuss amongst ourselves ... we're going to give ourselves the best opportunity to win and attack these guys head on. Certainly I'm sure (Oliver Chau) has some insight and experience not only playing them but beating them. We're going to use everything we've got to our advantage."

Much like the matchup with Colgate in the ECAC Hockey semifinals, Quinnipiac holds a significant advantage at even strength. The Bobcats' goal share at even strength is second in the country only at 74.6%, outscoring its opponents 97-33. Comparatively, St. Cloud finished at 55% with 72 goals for and 59 against.

"I think a lot of it is trust in the system and trust in the process," senior forward T.J. Friedmann said. "We've had a very successful year, we've been in the win column a lot playing off our identity."

The aforementioned Huskies' power play largely determines the outcome of the game. When St. Cloud wins, it scores a ridiculous 46.2% of the time. But when the Huskies lose, they score at a 14.1% rate.

St. Cloud struggled to perform in its conference, finishing 10-10-4 and losing in the quarterfinals to Minnesota-Duluth. This intertwines with the success of the power play against NCHC opponents. When the Huskies won against their conference, the power play converted on 41.5% of their chances. But when they lost to NCHC teams, the power play scored only 13.7% of the time.

Quinnipiac relies heavily on defense to collect wins, only allowing teams to reach three goals four times this season. None of its opponents have surpassed the three goal mark so far.

"Every team in college hockey can play every team in college hockey and put the puck in the back of the net," freshman goaltender Yaniv Perets said. "I feel like it doesn't really matter who you go up against. It's just being ready for whatever comes your way whenever it does."

Down the stretch, the Bobcats labored against the top teams in their conference. In its seven total games against Harvard, Clarkson and Cornell, Quinnipiac finished 1-6 with two overtime losses, one of which occurred this previous weekend in the ECAC Hockey championship.

This is now the second consecutive conference championship the Bobcats have lost in overtime by a score of 3-2 while being the No. 1 seed.

"We took a step back, kind of let the feeling sink in and realized in the grand scheme of things we're only four wins away from a national title," Friedmann said. "We've moved on, we're ready to get the job done."

Pending the outcome of both regional Allentown matchups, if Quinnipiac advances past St. Cloud, then the Bobcats will face the winner of Michigan and AIC on Sunday afternoon for a spot in the Frozen Four semifinals.

"We're just going to focus on St. Cloud right now, that's how we always operate," Pecknold said. "It's a short turnaround for sure, but it's a short for them also. It's a two-way street."



CONNOR LAWLESS/CHRONICLE

Freshman Yaniv Perets was one of three goalies to be named a top-10 Hobey Baker Award finalist this season.