

THE BUCK STOPS HERE

Quinnipiac women's soccer beats Stags 1-0, wins second-straight MAAC championship



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

By **AMANDA DRONZEK**
Staff Writer

HAMDEN, Conn. — There's no atmosphere quite like a championship match, especially on the soccer pitch. It wasn't the battle of Whitney Avenue, but it was a Connecticut throwdown Sunday as No. 1 Quinnipiac and No. 2 Fairfield squared off for the MAAC title.

"Since the minute we stepped on campus, we had one vision," sophomore midfielder Madison Alves said.

The Bobcats, undefeated in conference play, scored the game's only goal in the opening minute and held on to win its second-straight MAAC championship with a 1-0 win over the Stags.

"At the beginning of the year we set a bunch of goals," graduate defender Olivia Scott said. "We don't lose at home. We retain home advantage. We win a semifinal and we win a final."



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Graduate student midfielder Markela Bejleri (left) and senior goalkeeper Sofia Lospinoso dump water on women's soccer head coach Dave Clarke in celebration of the team's second consecutive MAAC championship win on Nov. 5.

Quinnipiac is the fourth team in conference history to secure consecutive MAAC titles — and the first since Monmouth won four straight from 2016 to 2019.

"(The coaching staff) gave them a game plan two days after we lost to Penn State," Quinnipiac head coach Dave Clarke said.

Clarke and the coaching staff have had the same mantra all season.

"Retain the league title. Repeat as champions. We never talked about anything else," Clarke said.

The Bobcats are bound for the NCAA tournament — their second appearance in a row. In 2022, Penn State eliminated Quinnipiac 4-1 in a first-round victory.

But the Bobcats are a stronger team this year, seeking more than just a taste of the tournament.

Quinnipiac showed dominance early, with senior forward Courtney Chochol netting a re-

bound pass off a corner kick in the first minute to leverage a 1-0 lead over Fairfield.

The Stags locked down their defense and held the Bobcats' lead to one heading into the half. Quinnipiac remained a brick wall in the back.

Both teams had offensive opportunities but came up with unanswered go-ahead passes and close shots.

With in-state rivals gunning for a trophy, the contest did not go without physicality. Chochol, graduate student defender Kayla Mingachos and junior midfielder Ella Gagno each received yellow cards during the match, as did Fairfield senior defender Sydney Corbett.

Quinnipiac emerged from the locker room for the second half greeted by an electric crowd of navy blue. On the far side of the stadium, fans hung over the wall and shook the house with blaring horns and silly strings. It was a party in Hamden that didn't stop.

"There's a camaraderie here," Clarke said. "All the parents, all the grandparents that are here. They're the ones that drove them to every practice. They're the ones that went to every high school game. They're the ones that sacrifice to get them to play and become a Division I athlete."

The Bobcats held possession in the Stags zone for the majority of the half.

With just over 15 minutes in regulation, Quinnipiac was awarded a penalty kick after a foul in the box. Chochol fired what looked to be her second goal of the day, but the ball ricocheted off the lower right goalpost and out.

Although Fairfield's season ended Sunday, its gritty performance on defense held the relentless Quinnipiac offense to one goal.

In the end, the Stags couldn't produce enough offense to dethrone the champions.

"When that whistle blew I was in tears," Mingachos said. "It's not over yet for us."

A sneak peek at the South Quad

By **CAT MURPHY**
News Editor

On a late-October tour of the South Quad construction site, Sal Filardi pointed up at the three enormous steel skeletons before him and described to a group of hard-hatted student reporters the buildings they're slated to become.

"There's a lot of people like, 'I won't be here when they're done,'" said Filardi, Quinnipiac University's vice president for facilities and capital planning. "I know, but this raises the stature of Quinnipiac, and you're always Quinnipiac."

First proposed in February 2022, the \$293 million undertaking — which officials began constructing in December after a lengthy series of meetings with the Hamden Planning and Zoning Commission — will include a residence hall, a new School of Business building and a general academic center.

Here's an overview of what The Chronicle learned on its Oct. 23 tour of the construction site:

RESIDENCE HALL

Scheduled to open in time for the start of the fall 2024 semester next August — a full nine months before either academic building opens — the new residence hall is the most complete of the three South Quad skeletons.

Located just west of The Commons residence hall where the South Lot parking lot previously stood, the c-shaped dorm building will soon house 417 students. The residence hall's north side overlooks the quad, meaning both the Arnold Bernhard Library's clock tower and the Sleeping Giant's "belly button" — as Chief Experience Officer Tom Ellett described it — sit within eyeshot of the upper floors.

The new four-story residence hall will increase the Mount Carmel Campus' housing capacity, which currently sits somewhere around 3,000 beds, by roughly 13%.

Architects separated each of the hall's floors into three of what Filardi described as "RA units" — that is, roughly 30 student beds and a designated resident assistant room. Although single rooms will account for approximately 10% of student accommodations, Filardi said the building will comprise mostly double rooms.

Beyond student and RA accommodations, though, each of the 12 "units" will contain a lounge area.

"We're trying to create a community here where students can engage with each other," Ellett said. "There's a lot of cross-community that can happen on the floor."

Each floor will also contain three gender-neutral restroom pods.

"All gender-neutral is, is the ability for anybody to use it," Filardi said, noting that the bathrooms prioritize privacy. "It gives us the opportunity that we could mix genders on the floor and have anybody use it."

The bathrooms will feature a line of communal sinks on one wall and a series of private stalls — each containing a shower and a toilet — on the other. Unlike in the majority of communal residence hall bathrooms on campus, floor-to-ceiling walls and doors will separate each of the new residence hall's restroom stalls.

Or, as Filardi put it, "you can't peek under it."

But each quasi-communal bathroom will also be flanked on either side by two entirely private bathrooms.

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Scheduled to open in May 2025, the School of Business' new South Quad home

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An inside look at the ‘University of the Future’
What to know about Quinnipiac’s three new buildings



JACK MUSCATELLO/CHRONICLE

The academic building’s unfinished structural frame (top), a hallway inside the new residence hall complex (bottom left) and piles of building materials on Quinnipiac University’s South Quad construction site (bottom right) on Oct. 23.

SOUTH QUAD from cover

is structurally complete, but envisioning the finer details requires some imagination.

“There’s not a whole lot to see on those buildings,” Filardi said of the business and general academic buildings. “You can see they’re kind of the skeleton of the structural steel.”

The building will feature around a dozen academic classrooms, including a handful of business-centric speciality spaces such as an innovation hub and a financial technology center.

Most of the building’s classrooms, Filardi said, will seat between 45 and 60 students — a notable upward shift from the campus’ current average classroom size.

“The 30-person classroom doesn’t work anymore,” Filardi said. “As we’re designing new buildings, we’re making sure that the classrooms are big enough to handle the changes in pedagogy that we’ve seen.”

The new building will also include a 150-seat auditorium and a main lobby area with a grab-and-go snack bar. The building’s second and third floors will contain faculty offices, study areas, meeting rooms and the dean’s suite.

The 79,000-square-foot building bordering New Road is slated to replace the aging Lender School of Business building. For perspective, the Lender building — which the business school shares with the School of Communications — clocks in at just over 44,000 square feet.

The university’s future plans for the Lender building are still unclear.

ACADEMIC CENTER

A general academic center will reside directly between the business school and the new residence hall, though this building is both the least complete and the most vague in its design.

The 137,000-square-foot behemoth was approximately 65% structurally complete when reporters toured in October, but Filardi said workers were preparing to lay the final beams.

The academic center — which will open alongside the School of Business at the end of the spring 2025 semester — will feature both wet and dry labs, new classrooms, group study spaces, faculty offices and a 700-seat auditorium.

“It’s good to see growth on campus,” said Jacob Cedor, a senior international business major and the president of Quinnipiac’s Student Government Association. “And it’s nice to see everything in kind of the framing stages

here because you can start to picture everything and how it might look.”

Cedor knows he won’t be here when the South Quad opens. He knows he’ll never have the opportunity to use the new classrooms or sleep with Sleeping Giant out his dorm window. And he knows some students feel that Quinnipiac’s “University of the Future” campaign neglects the university of today, so to speak.

“There are obviously people who are skeptical, as people are skeptical of every decision that the university makes,” he said.

But like Filardi, he argued that Quinnipiac alumni will still benefit, even if only vicariously, from the university’s continued growth.

“This is just a really great thing to see as a student and as someone who will be an alumni in just a couple years,” Cedor said. “I think it benefits all of us when we’re gone that the campus and the community is still growing.”



Scan this QR code or visit The Chronicle’s YouTube page to watch corresponding video coverage of the South Quad construction site tour.

PR students launch bystander intervention campaign

By **ALEX MARTINAKOVA**
Copy Editor

Quinnipiac University students working for The Agency — the School of Communications’ full-service student-run advertising and public relations firm — and Stephen Sweet, director of student conduct and community standards, created “Defend the Den,” a bystander intervention campaign.

The campaign, Sweet said, aims to reduce harm and encourage kindness on campus by addressing concerns and looking out for students who may need mental health support, intervening in situations where it is required and simply encouraging students to make safer choices in the moment.

“Defend the Den is a bystander awareness campaign created by students for students,” said Khearwood In, a senior advertising major who works as the account executive for Defend the Den. “By increasing empathy between us we can create a more positive and inclusive community where Bobcats can rely on each other.”

The bystander effect refers to the psychological phenomenon where individuals are less likely to help or intervene due to the ambiguity of the situation, the presence of multiple bystanders and the social influence of other people’s inaction, per the American Psychological Association.

Bystander intervention involves a bystander becoming an upstander in discriminatory or emergency situations.

“The idea is something that came out of a project that I worked on when I was enrolled in the graduate program in the School of Business here in the organizational leadership program,”

Sweet said. “My final capstone was to create a project that could be implemented in an organizational environment. My professional career has always been in student affairs, and I have worked at a few different universities that have had similar programs.”

Sweet presented his idea to the Quinnipiac Marketing and Communications Department in the spring of 2023. The department suggested he work with The Agency, which in Sweet’s opinion was a “brilliant idea.”

That was when senior public relations majors Brianna McElDowney and Isabella Baird took on his project.

“We worked with nothing but his idea,” McElDowney said. “We came up with the name and the messaging behind it and ways to get it involved on campus.”

McElDowney and Baird, who this semester are interning in the Dean of Students Office, are now in charge of the peer education part of the project.

“We’ve been going to (first-year seminar) classes, talking with students and getting their input on what they know about bystander intervention and what they think about it,” McElDowney said. “With peer education, we are hoping to train these students so they can then go on and teach their organizations, other classes and so on.”

As they did at this year’s first-year orientation, the pair presented a PowerPoint to students about various situations they might encounter.

“One of the scenarios is what would you do if you were out at a party on campus for example, and you see someone that had drunk too much and someone is trying to give them more,” Baird said. “What do you do in that situation?

We show them the three steps that might be the best way to go, the three D’s, so maybe latching on to that person or giving them water and other ways to intervene.”

The “three D’s” of bystander intervention are: direct, distract and delegate—if it is safe, take a direct action to intervene; find a creative way to diffuse a situation or distraction to help someone out and enlist the help of your friends or other bystanders to help you.

Amid their teachings, McElDowney and Baird said they hope to enlist more students to become student ambassadors for Defend the Den. The two are in charge of training nominated students to become “den defenders,” as Sweet calls them.

In and Natalia Liberato, a senior English major and the senior account executive for Defend the Den, work on the initiative’s public relations campaign in The Agency.

“We are tasked with coming up with new ways for students to get involved,” Liberato said, noting that her and In have created a social media page, hosted a trivia night and made custom shirts.

In said they have been creating campaign content that should be ready to roll out in a few weeks, but noted that there have been a “few bumps” that they still need to work out before launching the content.

“If students see something they are worried about they should say something,” Sweet said. “And it can be as simple as tapping someone on the shoulder and asking if they’re okay. What we don’t want is for people to not say anything at all.”

CT governor appoints QU professor to state human rights commission

By **LILY PHILIPCZAK**
Staff Writer

In August, Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont appointed Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox, an associate professor of legal studies and the chair of justice and law at Quinnipiac University, to the state’s Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

The CHRO — the oldest state governmental civil rights agency — aims to eliminate discrimination and establish equal opportunity through civil and human rights law enforcement, as well as advocacy and education.

“The Commission of Human Rights and Opportunities promotes a culture of equality in Connecticut and actively protects human rights,” Gadkar-Wilcox wrote in a statement to The Chronicle. “It is the only agency in the state empowered to enforce civil rights statutes.”

This culture of equality, Gadkar-Wilcox said, exists by hearing individual claims of employment discrimination, promoting fair housing policies and ensuring that state agencies are promoting inclusive policies and practices.

The CHRO is responsible for enforcing laws that ban discrimination, monitoring compliance with affirmative action in state contracting and conducting educational outreach for Connecticut residents.

In fiscal year 2022-23, there were over 2,100 complaints, according to the CHRO annual case processing report.

Gadkar-Wilcox serves as a commissioner and a member of the appointed board. Her position oversees the work of the regional staff offices, which receive and resolve cases of individuals who believe they were illegally discriminated against.

“Professor Gadkar-Wilcox has dedicated her entire career both in and out of the classroom to drawing the world’s attention to human rights issues,” said Sarah Annabi, a second-year law student who has taken four of Gadkar-Wilcox’s classes on human rights.

Gadkar-Wilcox, who has taught classes on human rights and constitutional law, pursues research on the fundamental rights and principles of justice that are mentioned in the U.S. Constitution and throughout international law.

“Studying human rights has to go beyond the classroom,” Gadkar-Wilcox wrote. “It has been important for me to ensure the work we do on an academic campus has some direct connection and relevance to local communities.”

She said she wants students to consider how to apply the principles learned in class to help communities advocate for social and economic policies addressing human rights violations. Gadkar-Wilcox believes that her position on the CHRO will provide her with the opportunities to learn how nondiscrimination laws in employment, housing and public accommodations are enforced.

“I look forward to taking this knowledge back to my students, and connecting it back to my own research in human rights and constitutional law,” Gadkar-Wilcox said.

Gadkar-Wilcox studied constitutional values in India as a Fulbright scholar between 2015 and 2017. Prior to teaching at Quinnipiac, she was the director of a non-profit legal education organization and worked in the field of legal studies as a litigation associate.

In addition to teaching classes on human rights, Gadkar-Wilcox has been the Executive Director of the Oxford Consortium for Human Rights since 2017, coordinating human rights workshops and building strategy to partner with universities as well as establishing opportunities for students to connect with a network of global peers and scholars.

Annabi participated in a workshop hosted by the Oxford Consortium, which Gadkar-Wilcox introduced her to. Under her advisement, Annabi and three other Quinnipiac students presented on human trafficking in

Connecticut and learned how to navigate potential solutions with human rights advocates.

“Gadkar-Wilcox inspires students and constituents to participate in activities that fuel a sense of community,” Annabi said. “She makes those around her realize that community service and participation are not burdens, but privileges and pleasures.”

Gadkar-Wilcox is the founder and director of the Global Engagement Fellows Program and the University’s Mock Trial Program when she first began teaching at Quinnipiac in 2011.

“Programs such as the Global Engagement Fellows Program enable students to take principles they learn in the classroom and build collaborative partnerships with community organizations,” Gadkar-Wilcox said. “This shows students the ways in which the law can serve as a tool for social justice.”

The Global Engagement Fellows Program’s goals aligns with those of the Oxford Consortium. It was created as a forum for students to discuss human rights and how to facilitate human rights issues on local, state, national and international levels. The emphasis of addressing human rights issues in the local community is important to Gadkar-Wilcox.

“The Global Engagement Fellows wouldn’t have existed (without) Sujata,” said Jill Martin, a professor of legal studies who has known Gadkar-Wilcox since she was hired at Quinnipiac.

When Gadkar-Wilcox arrived at Quinnipiac, Martin was the chair of the justice and law department and remembers the passion and enthusiasm Gadkar-Wilcox demonstrated in her first semester of teaching.

“The first semester she was there, she came to me and said ‘Can I start a mock trial?’” Martin said. “She really is passionate about what she believes in. This position at the Commission is a perfect match for her at the state level because she has the expertise and scholarship in the area both practical and research.”

Less-than-stellar reviews for Stellic

By **CARLEIGH BECK**
Copy Editor

Stellic, Quinnipiac University’s new progress planning platform, is receiving complaints from students and staff as the fall semester course registration period comes to an end.

Provost Debra Liebowitz announced in August that Stellic would replace the Self-Service “My Progress” tab.

Stellic is designed to lay out which classes students need to graduate, but the platform has, in many instances, inaccurately reported students’ progress.

“I’m supposed to be graduating in May and Stellic changed my graduation year to May 2026 instead of May 2024,” senior history major Julianna Mennella said. “It’s actually funny because on the website, it said (I) had five credits left; graduation date May 2026. I was like, ‘OK, that doesn’t make any sense.’”

Fearing that she wouldn’t graduate on time, Mennella emailed multiple people to correct the platform’s errors. Eventually, the mistakes were corrected.

“I’ve never had a problem with advising, it’s actually been pretty easy,” Mennella said. “My advisors have been wonderful, but then (Stellic) kind of changed everything.”

Liebowitz also reported hearing that Stellic does not always show transfer credits properly.

“We have heard some frustrations, some come from students, some come from faculty,” Liebowitz said. “One of the things that we’re going to do as the registration period is over, is we’ll be doing a survey and getting feedback.”

Liebowitz said that she is considering focus groups as a way to understand what the experience has been like for users.

“We want to hear people’s thoughts. We want to see how we can make (Stellic) better,” Liebowitz said.

Like students, some advisors are struggling to use the new program and are dealing with an array of technical difficulties.

“We all tried our best to really have all programs maps set up and ready to go for advising,” said Lauren Sardi, the executive director of the collaborative for interdisciplinary integrative studies and a professor of sociology and women’s and gender studies. “There’s just so much that still needs to be tweaked during this given semester because it’s new.”

Sardi said she is trying to stay optimistic about the program’s future, but she and other academic advisors are juggling between Self-Service and Stellic to figure out where students stand in their progress.

Students also have to use Self-Service and Stellic together to schedule their classes. Although students must track their academic progress in Stellic, they still have to register for classes on Self-Service. Advisors and students are also complaining about this issue.

“It could be better where the registration happens in the same system, but that’s not what Stellic does,” Liebowitz said. “We knew that when we made the decision to bring (Stellic) on and when everyone evaluated it, they still felt like what it did bring was significant enough that it was worthwhile.”

Despite these issues, some students said they liked how Stellic lays out academic programs.

“I liked the aesthetic design of it with the pop-down menus,” said Katie Spedale, a junior psychology major.

Although the website looks more organized, the technical difficulties are not easy to get past for some.

“I understand they’re trying to make it easier,” Mennella said. “It’s just nothing is in the correct place.”

Mennella said she and many of her friends feel that it is not worth trying to learn how the new program works before they graduate in the spring.

“I only have a semester left here, I’m not even going to pay attention to it,” Mennella said. “I’m just going to go back to regular old Self Service.”

Opinion

Choosing conscience over convenience

The power of ethical consumerism in today’s world

By A.J. NEWTH
Opinion Editor

When you order something online or purchase a product at the mall, do you ever wonder where it’s really coming from?

Ethical consumerism is the overarching term used to describe companies that provide products that appeal to people’s best selves, such as fair trade coffee or a purchase that includes a charity donation, according to Harvard Business Review.

The controversy surrounding this topic is simple: most people don’t care. When purchasing items, consumers look for low prices, fast shipping and familiar brands; they don’t look at whether that company uses child labor or if they donate to the less fortunate.

The reality of the issue is that although individuals don’t care, they should. We have enough issues in this world between crumbling political climates, environmental and sustainability issues and poverty; problems that can’t be fixed overnight, let alone over decades of time. Switching to ethically made products is a simple change that doesn’t require significant time or effort, just conscious decision making.

Those who want to buy ethically can start by searching for humanely-sourced animal products, buying produce from local farmers markets or thrifting as opposed to purchasing fast-fashion. This extends beyond commodities, and you can even use ethical consumption when deciding where to put your finances.

Many of the largest banks are major investors in the fossil fuel industry, and you may find several of the investments in your portfolio are in companies that participate in unethical practices.

Choosing to invest in companies that make positive change is called impact investing, or socially responsible investing, and it’s the balance between managing investments to get the greatest return with companies based on their environmental and social impacts, per Business Insider.

Unfortunately, as great as ethical consumerism sounds, it comes at a cost — or



ILLUSTRATION BY SHAVONNE CHIN

more so, a tradeoff.

Buying ethically sourced products isn’t cheap. Not everyone has the money to spend twice as much on eggs that are free range compared to the affordable ones that come from chickens in cages. That goes for all products, whether it be food, general goods or clothing.

Fast-fashion is part of a whole other conversation, but the biggest culprit perpetuating wasteful consumerism is the global online clothing store Shein. The company offers a variety of cute and incredibly affordable clothing and accessory options, and in the past year has significantly cut down on shipping times and prices, making it the ideal supplier to a huge demographic of consumers.

However, the company has been under fire in recent years for accusations of forced labor practices and mistreatment of Uyghurs, a marginalized group in China. The company allegedly falsified reports of underpaid labor of its supplier factories and has consistently blurred lines and refused to disclose any information that would confirm the allegations, according to CNBC.

Even the heavy allegations of child labor, forced labor practices and sweatshops are not enough to deter loyal consumers who gravitate

towards the variety, accessibility and convenience that the company offers. That is the tradeoff, by choosing to ethically consume you give up the convenience of same-day shipping and cheaply-made crop tops for less than \$5.

That being said, there are some companies we should be supporting because they practice ethical consumerism in many aspects of their businesses.

Patagonia is a well-known outdoor clothing and gear company and it’s committed to environmental and social responsibility. It donates a percentage of profits to environmental causes, promotes fair labor practices and encourages customers to repair and reuse their products.

Ben & Jerry’s also focuses on social and environmental initiatives. It supports fair trade ingredients, uses sustainable packaging and advocates for various global causes. Starbucks has made significant efforts to source ethically grown and traded coffee, starting programs like Coffee and Farmer Equity Practices, which promote sustainable farming and support coffee-producing communities.

The online marketplace Etsy promotes hand-made vintage products, and many of its sellers focus on sustainable and ethical practices. There’s

countless examples of companies that are making the changes we want to see, and it’s not that difficult. Consumers should continue to support companies that care about more than money.

I understand that a majority of people will read this article and not change their consumption habits. The fact of the matter is that there are a lot of things out of our control in this world and this is something that we have the power to change.

The dark side of ethical consumerism is that because many people don’t participate in it, companies have the impression that they shouldn’t actively pursue more ethical business practices.

It’s a continuous cycle that starts and ends with consumers and their purchasing behavior. If people make the choice to only buy ethically-sourced products, that would become the standard and we would have a market where success is based on morals and social responsibility instead of who can source the cheapest labor to undercut other company’s prices without getting caught.

As consumers, we continue to participate in a system where our ability to make ethical choices is based more on the money we have in the bank than on our character.

So how do you make an impact? There’s a few different ways to get involved in ethical consumption. These include buying ethical products, understanding less is more when shopping, trying to reuse before you recycle, shopping at thrift stores and flea markets (and giving your old items back as well) and advocating for ethical consumerism in your community.

I’m not suggesting you spend twice as much on groceries per month. As a college student, I especially understand how trying to ethically consume can be incredibly pricey. However, small changes can make a big difference.

In a world filled with complex challenges, ethical consumerism offers a tangible way to make a positive impact. It may come at a cost, but the tradeoff is a step towards a more responsible and sustainable future.

‘Fizzling out’: Why the Fizz app is destined for failure

By LILLIAN CURTIN
Staff Writer

A few weeks ago I received an email from the app company Fizz with the opportunity to make a quick \$15 by promoting the app on my Instagram story, which I accepted. The app is emerging on many university campuses such as Pace, Vanderbilt and even here at Quinnipiac. But regardless of which campus the company targets, the app is a waste of time, space and potential.

A group of students created the app Fizz at Stanford University in 2020, and ever since, the app has been struggling to keep up with its competitor YikYak. Apps like YikYak and Fizz are targeted towards college campuses. Both apps use “upvoting” and “downvoting” as likes and dislikes. If a post is downvoted enough, it gets deleted from the feed. The apps use students’ locations to bring them relatable content.

YikYak has been popular on campus for years. It was naturally popular with college students around the country, with an easy transition from school to school. However, since the launch of the Quinnipiac version of Fizz, the new app has received mixed reviews.

I polled 20 Quinnipiac students through posts on both apps in an attempt to determine what students thought of both. When polled, the respon-

dents said they favored YikYak over Fizz. Fifteen of the 20 surveyed students said that YikYak was more entertaining and 14 said that YikYak is the better app overall. Students expressed that they have yet to use Fizz and don’t plan to. Some replied with statements like, “What even is Fizz?” It’s clear the app hasn’t reached popularity as quickly as creators intended.

The content on the lesser-known app is questionable at best, but both YikYak and Fizz revolve around drama. Those who have used the app know of rumored scandals between important groups on Quinnipiac’s campus. While these scandals are not proven to be true, the app still facilitates the spread of misinformation. YikYak does of course have its own rumors and scandals, but none to the extent of Fizz.

YikYak also has added several different guidelines and rules to prevent slander and harassment, enforcing a “one strike” policy, where a user will be banned automatically after participating in any hate — important steps that Fizz has yet to take.

While there are risks with any social media app, Fizz has particularly become an outlet for

bullying and harassment, more so than YikYak. The Spectator, Seattle University’s student newspaper, reported instances of bullying on Fizz, and we’ve certainly seen this at Quinnipiac as well. Students have also seen disrespectful comments on sensitive topics such as sexual harassment and violence.

The popularity of anonymous apps has been declining, examples being Yolo, SendIt and other apps primarily used

by middle and high schoolers. The same fate can be predicted for Fizz. However, YikYak has survived through the years, with its popularity remaining steady. It’s been an established app now for a decade and has the audience that Fizz is struggling to reach.

Fizz is most likely going to decrease in use. Fizz is merely a trend — and is already fizzling out — taking its flawed technology and embarrassing desperation for users with it.

When it comes to the anonymous-posting app market, Fizz is no match for YikYak, which has proven to dominate across several university campuses, not just Quinnipiac. The Instagram for QU YikYak has 621 followers, while the Fizz account only has 130 at the time of publication.

It’s time I ask the question: creators of Fizz, what are you doing? Just quit while you’re behind. Fizz is simply wasted potential in the grand scheme of things; a poor attempt to reinvent the age-old concept of anonymous posting targeted at college students. It’s something that’s already been done — and successfully — by others before. It’s safe to say that the app is a Fizz-aster in every way.



ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RIHA

Opinion

Why are young people volunteering less?

By **LILLIAN CURTIN**
Staff Writer

From an increase in narcissism and selfishness, to being overworked and not having enough time to help others, kids and teenagers don't help in their communities as much as they used to. There are countless factors that contribute to this saddening decrease in volunteer work.

However, volunteering is important because it's evident that individuals in our society today don't care about others as much as they should. But they didn't stop caring out of nowhere, so why did teens stop volunteering?

Some believe it's due to an increase of narcissism in young people. Generations today are more entitled than they used to be. This is due to a domino effect of social media, money and parental influences, according to Jean Twenge, a professor of psychology at San Diego State University.

When it comes to social media, simple actions such as posting a selfie encourage "narcissism and selfish behaviors," according to a 2015 study from Elon University.

Just like social media, money can have a similar negative effect. It's common nowadays for kids to get an allowance for doing chores. What happened to kids helping out of the good of their heart? While this is a small issue on a much bigger scale, it perpetuates the idea that volunteering requires a tangible incentive. This treatment has created an environment where helping others has to be rewarded.

Teenagers are also too busy and overworked. They don't have time to focus on other people when they barely have time to focus on themselves. Especially in high school, there is pressure to put as much on your plate as possible for resumes and col-

lege applications.

Students often join random clubs, and don't even attend the meetings half of the time just to add another thing to make them look good on college applications. However, community service and volunteering arguably looks better to admissions, though this shouldn't be the main reason why people should volunteer.

When applying for jobs and college, volunteering shows hard work and commitment. It's more valuable than just a status in a club because it offers a glimpse into you as a person and a better understanding of your character and values. Volunteering shows serious dedication to the community and a commitment to helping others.

It's shown that volunteering can also help with stress. It's been proven that char-

ity work actually releases dopamine and increases positivity, according to Mayo Clinic Health System.

I can personally vouch for this. I spent years volunteering in my local fire department as a cadet. In a society where one of the main concerns is grades, it was something that wasn't school related that I could look forward to. It helped me in many ways, specifically gaining better self-esteem, all while I helped others. Once I started helping people, I didn't want to stop and received multiple awards that ultimately helped me stand out to colleges.

But who is to blame for the lack of community outreach from children and teenagers? Social media, money and being too busy are strong contributing factors, but the biggest factor of them

all is the parental role in children's lives.

Narcissists are made, not born. Studies from the National Library of Medicine show that parents who considered their kids to be better than others raised children who thought the same. Thus the kids developed narcissistic tendencies, according to Brad Bushman, a professor of communication and psychology at Ohio State University.

When parents give everything to their children, the children grow into greedy and out of touch adults who don't have an ounce of care for others.

In an age where every kid has an iPad, there are ways to give back at the palm of our hands, whether it be in the community or even on our phones. The issue is, even though there are a surplus of opportunities, teens and kids either don't want to help because of selfish reasons or they simply don't have time.

The glue that holds a community together is the people. If people are helping in their community, they can easily improve it. If you want to help in your community here at Quinnipiac or in Hamden, there are plenty of opportunities. Quinnipiac gives access to organizations that aid elderly and those with disabilities, the environment and other causes in need. Some organizations on campus that promote volunteering are Foundation4Orphans, Habitat for Humanity and Bobcats in the Community, among others.

Ways to get involved include joining clubs or organizations that benefit the community on Quinnipiac's DoYouQU website, the "Community Service Opportunities" section of the Quinnipiac University website, or if you're looking for something local, there are plenty of options on the Hamden town website under "Volunteer Opportunities."



ILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

Bobcat Buzz



JACK MUSCATELLO/CHRONICLE
Every dorm room on Quinnipiac University's campuses dons an uncomfortable blue chair.

Quinnipiac's unbearable chairs: A sit-ty situation

By **ALEX MARTINAKOVA**
Copy Editor

Let's be real, as college students, we spend the majority of our time sitting. It doesn't matter whether you are eating in the dining hall, nodding off in class or working on the 30th assignment of the week, you are most likely sitting on your behind.

And I don't know about you, but personally, I like to be comfortable when I'm typing away on my computer. This proves impossible with the world's most uncomfortable chairs that have found their home in every single dorm at Quinnipiac University.

You know what I'm talking about. The plastic blue chair that greets you as soon as you open the door to your

dorm room. It's hideous. It's cold and hard and I absolutely hate it.

Considering our tuition, I don't see a reason why the university can't invest into chairs that won't give us terrible back pain. Really, it is not that hard to find affordable chairs with good lumbar support that won't make my back want to retire before I even enter the workforce.

It's not like they are particularly cheap either — as a quick Google search research revealed — so unless the university officials buy them for a near god-like sale I truly cannot comprehend why they chose them in the first place.

The only sensible thing to do with them is to stash those blue

nightmares somewhere they won't be seen. Now, I'm not saying I encourage people to throw them out the window or into the nearby trash can (not that I ever thought of it). If anyone wants to do that, that's on them. I claim plausible deniability.

You probably don't even consider this to be a problem. Just bring another chair, push the blue atrocity to the side and call it a day. Not so easy for an international student like me. Not only would I have to go out and buy one and find a ride to the shop and back, but I would also need to stash it somewhere throughout the summer, which is just an added cost.

That being said, that's exactly what I did.

Arts & Life



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Students unwind at Fall Fest to the sounds of Peach Tree Rascals

By JACKLYN PELLEGRINO
Associate Arts & Life Editor

Quinnipiac University's Student Programming Board and WQAQ 98.1 FM hosted Fall Fest — their annual fall music festival — on Nov. 4 on the quad. Students enjoyed free food from various food trucks, participated in a variety of activities and, of course, listened to a free concert from headliner Peach Tree Rascals.

Students got a punch card when they walked in, and if they got all 10 spots signed, they could enter to win a free sweatshirt. To do this, students had to participate in

various events, such as taking a picture inside an inflatable bobcat, going to a food truck, riding the mechanical bull or stopping by the SPB and WQAQ tables. Only the first 150 students to fill the card were eligible for the custom Fall Fest beige crew neck adorned with pastel pumpkins.

PLANNING FOR THE ANNUAL EVENT

Avery Simonds, a senior interdisciplinary studies major and SPB mainstage chair, said that the planning started in May, continued

throughout the entire summer and picked up once the semester started.

Simonds said that SPB has hosted rappers in the past and she wanted to go on a different path by choosing an indie artist. She said that she wanted to create the feel of being at a local fair.

"I wanted to create the vibe of what I grew up going to and I feel like that brings a nostalgia factor," Simonds said. "I also looked into what has been popular on TikTok, so Peach Tree Rascals was just the natural choice for me."

SPB and WQAQ wanted the merchandise to have a cool, pastel color tone instead of the brighter oranges and reds used in the past.

president. "That's where she landed and I landed on Peach Tree Rascals."

The event was originally scheduled for Oct. 14, but got moved back because of rain to avoid any safety concerns.

Putting the stage on the quad with the rain would've damaged the grass and it couldn't be moved inside because the stage would be too heavy and damage the floor, Iwatsuki said.

Luckily the new date had bright sunshine and temperatures in the 50s, so the event was able to run as planned this past Saturday.

"November is a time where people might feel the burnout and people might just want



TYLER RINKO/CHRONICLE

Abigail Cranston (left) enjoys some ice cream with her mom, Hannah Cranston, director of student engagement, at Fall Fest on Nov. 4.

"I hope they leave feeling better, lighter, happier than they did before they came to the show."

– Tarrek Abdel-Khaliq
PEACH TREE RASCALS SINGER



MollyAnn O'Malley (left), a sophomore computer science major, hands out tote bags to (from right) junior media studies major Catroina Jablonski and sophomore game design major Paige Walker as they arrive at Fall Fest on Nov. 4.

to go home for Thanksgiving,” Iwatsuki said. “We want to give them a time to just relax and have time with their friends, maybe meet new people and just ultimately have a clear mind going into the next few weeks of school.”

A CONVERSATION WITH PEACH TREE RASCALS

The Peach Tree Rascals’ band members: Issac Pech, Dominic Pizano, Tarrek Abdel-Khaliq and Joseph and Jasper Barros performed in Connecticut for the first time ever at Quinnipiac on Saturday. The members share a close bond and have been friends for years.

“We all grew up together and we’re all best friends since high school so I think having that close relationship before the music and then bringing that into the music just builds for good success,” Joseph Barros said.

The band came up with its name through trial and error before its first song came out.

“We came up with our band name by throwing things at the wall two weeks before we released our first song,” Pech said. “We were just trying to figure out the name. Jorge, our creative director, who’s back home, came up with Peach Tree Village. I did not like village, so I replaced it with rascals and we ran with it.”

The members said that performing for a college audience differs from a regular crowd because not every student will know all their songs.

“It’s obviously really fun when everybody knows all the words and the crowd, everyone came for you,” Pech said. “But it’s also fun, kind of like a sport or a challenge, to get on stage and warm the crowd up and by the end of the show have everyone happy.”

Peach Tree Rascals are well known on TikTok for their song “Mariposa” and the band members attributed a lot of their success to the platform.

“TikTok is the main reason why all of

our success came from,” Abdel-Khaliq said. “‘Mariposa’ blew up on TikTok for a dance but it feels weird saying that because we didn’t really do anything. It was other people who made the dance go viral and used the song.”

Abdel-Khaliq said “it’s a beautiful thing” to see people react to the band’s music on social media.

“I just like being able to connect with the audience on a deeper level,” Abdel-Khaliq said.

Similar to the SPB and WQAQ organizers, the members of PTR also wanted students to leave the stress of school and life behind and have fun.

“I hope they leave feeling better if they weren’t feeling good, better, lighter, happier than they did before they came to the show,” Abdel-Khaliq said. “That’s kind of the point of the energy we like to bring. So, people leave all their worries, problems and stresses behind them and enjoy the moment, jump around, scream and just let it all out.”

DAY OF FESTIVITIES AND PTR’S NEWEST AND BIGGEST FANS

For the most part, students were pleased with the new genre picked for the event this year.

“I actually listen to (Peach Tree Rascals’) music and I love their music so I’m really excited,” said Gillian Galvin, a first-year health science studies major in the occupational therapy program. “I can’t think of one (song) that’s my favorite because I love all of their music so I’m just excited for them to perform.”

While some students at the event were already big fans of PTR, some were just hearing them for the first time at the event.

“It’s really interesting,” Chloe Cogovan, a first-year interdisciplinary studies major, said. “I’ve never heard of the band so I’m excited to hear what they got. I like (the genre), it’s usually the genre I listen to anyways so it’s good to hear something like that.”



Students take a group selfie as they set up their blanket and food on the Mount Carmel Campus Quad before Peach Tree Rascals’ performance.

Other attendees just wanted to spend the day out with friends and get out of their dorms.

“It’s better than being held up in my room,” said Colin Strickland, a first-year criminal justice major. “There’s legit nothing to do other than homework so I just want something fun.”

Jai Hernandez, a sophomore game design and development major, came to the event for the free food. At the event, he visited the different tables and took pictures with students in costumes and near the inflatable bobcat.

“I didn’t really hear about (Peach Tree Rascals),” Hernandez said. “I only knew about them through a song on TikTok but then I recognized their name when the event was announced. I think (the genre’s) pretty fitting for Fall Fest and I really enjoyed that it’s indie.”

Bridget Clarke, a sophomore history major, said that she was said she was happy with the genre of music SPB picked for this year’s event because it was more of her style than artists the club has hosted in the past.

“I’m really excited,” Clarke said. “I’ve been listening to them to get to know their songs and I’m excited to hear them.”

Many students took advantage of going to all the events to get their cards signed by SPB and WQAQ organizers so they could try to win a crewneck.

Attendees got to ride a mechanical bull and try to beat their friends on who could stay on the longest or try an inflatable hippo game similar to the popular childhood game “Hungry Hungry Hippos.” Others decided to participate in lawn games such as cornhole and Kan Jam.

“I did the bull ride like four times,” said Sese Allerheiligen, a sophomore software engineering major in the 3+1 software engineering and cybersecurity program. “I got up to 16 seconds, not to flex.”

Troy Sheldon, a junior health science

studies major was making a run to Starbucks with his friends, saw Fall Fest happening on the Quad and decided to check out the event.

“It seems pretty cool so far,” Sheldon said. “We walked to all the tables over there, did some Jenga over here.”

PTR TAKE THE STAGE

After eating the free food from Silver Sands Pizza, Blue Chip Creamery and What the Truck and participating in all the different games and crafts, students gathered near the stage at 2 p.m. for the main performance.

“I really enjoyed (the performance),” Allerheiligen said. “I never heard of them before. ‘Mariposa’ was the song that my friends were like, ‘If you’ve heard of them, that’s the one song you would’ve heard’ and I hadn’t. Part of me was like should I listen to their stuff before Fall Fest and then I was like, ‘No I’ll go in blind, that’ll be fun’ and I came and I just really enjoyed it.”

The concert had a very relaxed but upbeat vibe. Students sat on blankets spread throughout the quad. Some got up to get a closer view and jumped up and down near the gate in front of the stage with their friends.

“I really liked it,” said Camryn Keller, a junior software engineering major. “I thought it was fun. I was laying back here and just enjoying the music ... I enjoyed their crowd work, even though I didn’t want to go up there.”

The event gave students a chance to listen to music, eat and play games with their friends to try to de-stress and have fun for the afternoon.

“I hope that students get a really fun day out of it,” Simonds said. “I know that with midterms, finals, tests, exams, it’s really stressful and I hope that students use that Saturday as a way to just de-stress and unload and have a great time and just not stress about class.”



Students grab food from Silver Sands Pizza, one of the various food trucks at Fall Fest.



The San Jose, California-based group Peach Tree Rascals jam out for the Fall Fest crowd.

What’s all the 'Hocus Pocus' about GSA’s drag show dinner?

By **CARLEIGH BECK**
Copy Editor

Winifred, Sarah and Mary Sanderson from the popular Disney Halloween movie “Hocus Pocus” came to life on the night of Nov. 4 at the Gender and Sexuality Alliance’s annual dinner drag show.

The Sanderson sisters came into the Carl Hansen Student Center Piazza and made the stage their own. Their wicked laughter and the spooky music could bring anyone right back into the Halloween mood.

But these childhood favorites were a little different from the movie. Though their costumes, hair and makeup created an uncanny resemblance to the sisters, their actions were a different story. With Winifred twerking, Sarah tap dancing and Mary taking candy from the audience – though this is something that she might’ve done in the movie – this was not the Sanderson sisters most people are used to.

The queens are part of “Summer Orlando Presents: Hocus Pocus Live!!!” The production is led by Orlando, a Connecticut-based drag queen and the face of Winifred.

“We’ve had bigger queens in the past, queens who have been on RuPaul’s Drag Race. I think it’s great that they have a bigger name, because they bring in a bigger crowd,” said GSA Co-President Gabrielle Inacio, a junior behavioral neuroscience major. “But personally, I love the local queens that we’ve had. I think their shows are so fun, so engaging.”

The witchy group performs at theaters, bars and other colleges during the Halloween season, which was something that the GSA was interested in.

“We really wanted to hone in on a theme, so I think it makes it easier for planning and figuring out decorations and making it a cohesive event,” Inacio said. “We thought that

was really exciting, it’d be a really fun 'Hocus Pocus' Halloween theme.”

When students walked into the piazza Saturday, they were able to get dinner, which included macaroni and cheese, chicken tenders, salad, sodas and more, catered by Eli’s on Whitney.

Along with the free food, GSA also had a table set up at the event where it offered free pride flags for all different identities in the community, colorful stickers and pins with pronouns on them.

This is not the only drag show the GSA holds during the school year. Typically, the club hosts a drag show dinner during the fall semester, and then drag show bingo during the spring semester.

“As far as I know, drag shows have been a yearly tradition for a long time,” Inacio said. “I’m not sure the year that it exactly started, but I know that we’ve had plenty of them a long time since before I was a student here.”

For this drag show, the audience was encouraged to come in their Halloween costumes because of the show’s theme. Students dressed up as fairies, animals and even Taylor Swift.

The queens sang a variety of songs — like “Bad Romance” by Lady Gaga and “Defying Gravity” from the musical Wicked — but added their own twist to the songs to make it more related to Hocus Pocus. Elton John’s “The Bitch Is Back” was no more, it was now “The Witch Is Back” (Winifred’s Version).

The sisters also encouraged the audience to get involved in the show. Students clapped and danced along to songs like “Time Warp” from the Rocky Horror Picture Show and the queens even came up to people in the crowd ready with jokes and playful banter.

“Their level of interaction with the



JACK SPIEGEL/CHRONICLE

Students take photos with the Sanderson Sisters after their drag performance of ‘Summer Orlando Presents: Hocus Pocus Live!!!’

audience, you can definitely tell that they’re all super talented and can really work off of the group they’re with,” said Madison Henn, a first-year journalism major, who attended the event. “Even when (their) computer wasn’t working for a second and they had to cue a new song, they were just playing off the audience and cracking jokes.”

During parts of the show, the sisters borrowed the pride flags from audience members and waved them in the air, with people in the audience following their lead.

“When everyone held their flags up and waved them around, I just thought it was super nice,” said first-year English major Haleigh Newton. “(It was) like a community experience where you just felt completely accepted for who you are.”

Drag performers are no strangers to backlash in the government. Over the past few years, states like Texas, Florida and Tennessee have all proposed drag show bans. A judge in

Texas threw out a bill in September that would have banned drag shows, as the bill stated that “male and female impersonators” would not be allowed to perform in public.

However, drag shows have been a way for people in the LGBTQ+ community to express themselves through an art form. Drag is often considered a symbol of liberation and rebellion in the community, because drag queens were the ones at the forefront of many important events in LGBTQ+ history. This includes the Stonewall Riots of 1969, which sparked the modern LGBTQ+ rights movement.

“I think (drag shows) are really important because it brings people together,” said Lindsey Franco, a first-year undecided major in the School of Communications. “It shows that (people are) valued and seen in the community. It creates a space where people can meet each other and have fun. It’s just a really positive environment.”



JACK SPIEGEL/CHRONICLE

The Sanderson Sisters put a spell on attendees with their performances of spooky classics and revamped pop songs at the Quinnipiac Gender Sexuality Alliance’s annual Drag Show on Nov. 4.

Remembering Matthew Perry

By ZOE LEONE
Arts & Life Editor

In the early evening of Oct. 28, the world was shocked when TMZ announced that Matthew Perry, the notable actor and author, had died. My friend and I stared at each other in disbelief when we heard the news, watching as reactions from social media began pouring in.

Perry died of an apparent drowning, though his official cause of death has been listed as “deferred” as additional investigative steps have been deemed necessary, according to the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner’s Office.

His role in “The West Wing” may have earned him two Emmy nominations, but there’s no denying that Perry’s role as the beloved Chandler Bing on “Friends” boosted him into international fame. The 10-season run earned him another Emmy nomination and cemented his place as a figurehead in pop culture.

While it would be easy to lament in detail about my own memories of “Friends” — to talk about jokes with my aunts and cousins, the “Friends”-themed birthday parties we hosted or the constant stream of live-reaction texts I sent to my friends as I watched it for the first time — it simply wouldn’t be the proper way to honor Perry’s memory.

“When I die, I know people will talk about ‘Friends,’ ‘Friends,’ ‘Friends,’” Perry said in an interview in November 2022. “But when I die, as far as my so-called accomplishments go, it would be nice if ‘Friends’ were listed far behind the things I did to try to help other people. I know it won’t happen, but it would be nice.”

The fact of the matter is Perry was much more than a beloved sitcom character, or what the

current news cycle is only focusing on: whether or not the actor had drugs or alcohol in his system at the time of his death.

Perry’s journey with addiction and recovery was one that he was incredibly open about. But more so than his own struggles, he focused on how his own experiences had given him a self-imposed responsibility to help others, especially those also dealing with addiction.

In an interview with Diane Sawyer on Oct. 29, 2022, Perry said, “I’ve gotta help as many people as I can.” And he did.

Over a decade ago, Perry opened the Perry House out of his own Malibu beach house. The Perry House acted as a transitional home for men who were in recovery from addiction. The sober living facility was an in-between stop from rehab to the “real world,” where they were offered the opportunity to participate in activities such as meditation programs and learning the 12 steps of recovery.

The Perry House ran for two years before closing in 2015, which Perry explained was because the space being used didn’t properly fit the business operating within it. While he hadn’t reopened the business at the time of his death, it was reported that Perry was in the early stages of setting up a foundation that would fund addiction recovery treatments.

In addition to his involvement with addiction recovery — for which he received the Champion of Recovery award from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy in 2013 — Perry also served as a spokesperson for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, which is a non-profit dedicated to reform and innovation

surrounding substance use and mental health disorders in the court system.

His most recent, and personal, act of help came through his memoir, “Friends, Lovers and the Big Terrible Thing,” which was released in November 2022. The book is the most detailed account of Perry’s addiction and recovery, as the actor is one of few celebrities to write their own memoir without the help of a ghostwriter, according to The New York Times.

The novel leaves no confusion to its contents, starting with a prologue which reads, “Hi, my name is Matthew, although you may know me by another name. My friends call me Matty. And I should be dead.”

While it’s easy to write off the vulnerability in the memoir as a celebrity cash-grab, Perry hoped that by sharing the dark details of his own story he might help other addicts. The thought of helping others drove him to continue writing and to continue writing honestly.

In the days since his death, those who knew him personally have come forward to share their own stories about Perry. Many, including actor Hank Azaria, shared how Perry helped them get sober themselves, detailing how he attended Alcoholics Anonymous meetings with them and supported them in the early years of their recovery.

On top of personal testimony, the Matthew Perry Foundation set up a fund in Perry’s name, supported by the National Philanthropic Trust. While still in the very early stages of development, the Matthew Perry Foundation states that its mission is the “realization of Matthew’s enduring commitment to helping others struggling with the

disease of addiction.”

At the end of the day, it would be impossible to discuss his impact on the world without bringing up “Friends.” But Perry was much more than just Chandler Bing, and may he continue to be remembered as such.



VALERIE JARRETT/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Matthew Perry at an event for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals in 2013, a non-profit for which he was a spokesperson for.

How modern hip-hop is rising from the underground

By MICHAEL PETITTO
Staff Writer

Hip-hop is still the No. 1 most listened to music genre in the U.S., according to Statista. However the number of people actually listening is declining year by year.

Record producer Juicy J recently claimed that hip-hop sales are down by 40% in 2023, with the genre not seeing a number one album this year until Travis Scott’s “Utopia” and a No. 1 song until Doja Cat’s “Paint The Town Red,” according to Billboard. This may be due to an overall decline of the genre, and the fact that artists such as Morgan Wallen and Taylor Swift have been dominating the charts this year.

However, the state of hip-hop itself is changing. With the streaming era in full swing and artists now gearing some of their music towards social media platforms, hip-hop is moving into a new era.

TikTok has had a massive influence on the music industry. Sped up and slowed down versions of hip-hop songs have taken over the app. Mainstream hip-hop artists such as Lil Uzi Vert, Cardi B and Offset have participated in this trend in 2023, and it doesn’t seem to be going away anytime soon.

On top of the industry changing, the artists behind the mic are changing as well. As time goes on, more and more of the icons from the 2010s are planning their retirement. Massive artists from this decade who sold a ridiculous amount of records, including Kendrick Lamar, J. Cole and Drake, are likely going to release the last of their albums during the 2020s.

Drake and J. Cole, in particular, will hang it up sooner rather than later, with the former publicly saying he is taking a one-year hiatus from music and J. Cole hinting that his

upcoming album “The Fall Off” may be his last.

With this revelation in mind, artists who have grown their following over the last five or so years are going to have to step up and take the mantle sooner rather than later.

The underground scene of hip-hop is as popular as ever. With an underground composed of lesser-known artists, it’s harder to gain traction. However, with the aforementioned lack of quality in mainstream hip-hop, more and more listeners are turning to the underground for new music and it’s showing in the numbers.

What makes an artist “underground” is a tricky subject to tackle, with different definitions making it hard to tell. But generally, an underground artist is someone with a slight cult following that has allowed them to transcend into the spotlight when given the chance. Eventually, an underground artist can grow enough support and popularity to rise to the mainstream spotlight. Most mainstream artists start in the underground.

Underground hip-hop artist Ken Carson’s new album “A Great Chaos” went head-to-head with Offset’s new release “Set It Off,” and the numbers were a bit surprising. Although Offset sold more album units, Carson’s album was streamed by over 10 million more people during its first week, according to Spotify streaming numbers.

Underground artists have been producing on the Billboard charts as well. Yeat, known for his unique production and language, recently charted at No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 with his feature on Drake’s new album “For All The Dogs.” This is the highest Yeat has ever charted in his career, and with the 23-year-old slated to release a new album before the end of the year, he may see even more success on the charts.

But why should a hip-hop listener care about the underground, and makes them so special? The current pool of underground artists, such as the aforementioned Yeat and Ken Carson are beginning their ascent into the mainstream. Both artists and their unique sounds might be some of the individuals responsible for carrying the next generation of hip-hop.

The growing popularity of the underground scene is one of the more exciting and interesting stories the hip-hop genre has seen in a while. But is it enough to save hip-hop from its decline? Only time will be able to tell.

Hip-hop is one of the most exciting and unique bodies of music currently existing today. There are multiple different subgenres with their own sets of rappers and production styles, which means there is something for everyone. The genre will always have a place in the music industry no matter how big or small that role is. However, in order for hip-hop to advance forward, mainstream artists in the industry will need to step up and bring quality, not quantity, to the ears of millions.

Whether or not the underground scene will have any part in that is still to be seen, but it’s certainly starting to make an impact. This might just change the type of music you’re listening to, and who’s making it.



ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR YOUNGBERG



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Non-‘flashy’ path to Quinnipiac propelling Mason Marcellus to breakout freshman season

By CAMERON LEVASSEUR
Sports Editor

It took Jacob Quillan four games to score his first collegiate goal. It took Sam Lipkin 11. Cristophe Tellier didn’t find the back of the net until his sophomore season. But for Quinnipiac men’s hockey freshman forward Mason Marcellus, it took just 55 minutes.

“People aren’t going to admit that they’re worried about it, but everyone wants to get their first,” Marcellus said. “Being able to get it right away in that first game, and the time that it happened, it was kind of perfect for me.”

Marcellus broke a nearly two-period-long deadlock to force overtime against Boston College on the Bobcats’ banner night, a bit of redemption after his own errant pass gave the Eagles the lead 40 minutes earlier.

“I owed the boys a goal after that first one,” Marcellus said.

Two games later he found the back of the net again, an early tally in an 8-0 thumping of AIC. Then he scored the go-ahead goal in a come-from-behind win over New Hampshire, a no-look backhand out of mid-air that earned No. 6 on the SportsCenter top-10 plays of the day.

“That third goal, Marcellus, that’s nuts,” Quinnipiac head coach Rand Pecknold said after the game. “That’s pretty special, pretty special player.”

Marcellus added another goal the next weekend against Maine, making him just the fourth Bobcat in the last decade with four goals in his first month of college hockey — a feat that earned him ECAC Hockey Rookie of the Month honors for October.

With the departure of six forwards from Quinnipiac’s national championship roster, Marcellus had a role carved out in the Bobcats’ offense from the outset — an opportunity he has fully embraced.

“Rand kind of said (that) he sees a lot of potential in me, but it’s up to me on how much of that I bring out,” Marcellus said. “I personally think I have a lot of potential and I should be a big player on this team as long as I keep rolling and keep playing well.”

Scoring is nothing new for Marcellus. Nineteen of his team-leading 68 points last season

with the USHL’s Lincoln Stars were goals, including a couple on rival-turned teammate, freshman Matej Marinov, a goaltender for the Fargo Force who helped beat Marcellus and Lincoln in the league’s Western Conference Finals.

“I made a few jokes because I scored on him a few times last year and he’s my roommate,” Marcellus said. “But obviously they beat us, so I can’t really say too much.”

But that season almost never happened. Marcellus initially committed to join Quinnipiac in 2022-23, until conversations with Pecknold and Lincoln head coach Rocky Russo led him to stay for a third year of junior hockey.

“I was talking with my coach in Lincoln, and he was like it was probably best if I go back, have a really, really big role on that team and get a lot of ice time and develop that way,” Marcellus said.

That decision worked out for the best for both sides.

“In his first year he really started to understand the compete-level side of things and the effort that he had to make to create offense,” Russo said. “And then an offseason of getting stronger and faster enabled him to have such success last year.”

It’s not the first time in his young career that Marcellus has pivoted or taken an unconventional route. An Ontario native, he moved to the U.S. as a junior in high school to go to prep school in Vermont. There were conversations about going the Division III route, but a 107-point senior year and a point-per-game season in the AJHL landed him an college offer at Alaska Fairbanks, which he jumped on.

“My first year of juniors in the AJ(HL) is where I realized I kind of do have a little more talent than some of these guys so I do have a chance (to play college hockey),” Marcellus said. “It was super rewarding because I took a not super flashy path.”

But after just two preseason games with Lincoln in 2021-22, he decommitted, thinking Alaska would “be a big trip.” That’s where Quinnipiac comes into play.

“I think it was that same week that (Quinnipiac) reached out to me,” Marcellus said. “They offered me a tour on Monday (or) Tuesday, I went on the tour, loved every bit of it.”

It was a dream come true for Marcellus, whose introduction to college hockey came from watching the 2016 Bobcats, a team that won 32 games and stormed its way to the national championship game.

“Quinnipiac was the team that got me into college hockey,” he said. “When I was here, it was like everything I wanted and then I think it was that same week I committed.”

Seven years after watching the Bobcats fall in the national championship, Marcellus watched them finally reach the top of the mountain last spring — this time as a commit. He saw the comeback unfold in Lincoln’s locker room, just minutes after finishing a game of his own.

“Rocky has his own office with a TV, it was ahead of where our TV was,” Marcellus said. “So right when the puck dropped (in overtime), Rocky came running into where we were watching and didn’t say a word, but everyone was like, ‘holy cow, why is he here? What’s going on?’ And then obviously they score 10 seconds in and everyone went crazy.”

Seven months later, now sharing a locker room with many of the players from that national championship roster, he’s hoping to help the Bobcats do it again.

“You’re always kind of judged based on the

last year,” Marcellus said. “I want to be a part of a team, a legacy that has a win. I don’t want to be just a guy that comes in and doesn’t win anything. I think it’s definitely fueling (us) a lot.”

And if the first month of his collegiate career is any indication, Marcellus seems poised to do just that.

“I think he’s going to be one of the best freshmen in the country,” Pecknold said. “His skill set’s excellent. His hockey IQ is elite and he fits what we do so well. He’s an elite character kid. We’re excited for the year he’s going to have — actually for the career he’s going to have for us.”

It’s going to take more than just Marcellus to pull Quinnipiac back to the pinnacle of the sport — the Bobcats have started the season 5-3-1 after losing only four games all of last year. But the 21-year-old freshman, a “tone setter” on and off the ice seasoned by three years of junior hockey, has made his impact known in Hamden. Don’t expect that to end anytime soon.

“He’s a guy that can carry a line,” Russo said. “He can turn the momentum back to your team every time he’s on the ice and he’s not willing to ask his teammates to do anything that he’s not willing to do himself ... guys can rally around him because he’s the first one to do the little things.”



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac freshman forward Mason Marcellus scores his first collegiate goal to tie the game late in the third period against Boston College on Oct. 7.

Aryanah Diaz reaches 1K kills in final stretch of collegiate career

By **MICHAEL LAROCCA**
Opinion Editor

Over 1,500 days ago, a 5 foot, 4 inch outside hitter from Miami made her debut for the Quinnipiac volleyball team. Battling against William & Mary, 17-year-old Aryanah Diaz knocked down the first seven kills of her collegiate career, a respectable debut.

She didn't lead the team in kills that morning, or that season, but she refused to quit on the team or on herself. Five seasons, 120 matches and 993 kills later, Diaz became the second Bobcat in the program's Division I era to record 1,000 kills in her collegiate career.

On Quinnipiac's senior day victory against Siena on Nov. 5, Diaz – now a graduate student, notched nine kills – putting her over the 1,000-kill plateau in front of family, friends and anyone else who made the decision to wander into Burt Kahn Court that day.

With the Bobcats up 9-5 on the Saints in the first set, Diaz received the serve from Siena libero Emily Wood; Quinnipiac setter Damla Gunes then sent a bump set back Diaz's way. Using her robust left-handed swing, Aryanah sent the ball right into the block of Siena's Sina Toroslu and Kayla Jones. It rebounded off of their hands and fell softly out of bounds to Diaz's left. Her 1,000th kill.

Quinnipiac head coach Kyle Robinson promptly suspended the match to present her with

a golden volleyball inscribed with the words “Aryanah Diaz, 1,000 Kills vs Siena 11/5/23.” The pair embraced, and the action of her final home match as a Quinnipiac athlete continued.

“I didn't really think I would reach (1,000 kills) because I played so many different positions,” Diaz said. “But to score it here today on a very special day for our seniors also made my last game nice.”

Heading into Quinnipiac's last home weekend of the 2023 season, Aryanah needed 14 more kills to reach the milestone. Her mother, Yadira, knew this, and decided to decorate a colorful tri-fold poster board in preparation for her daughter's achievement, including a countdown at the top.

“I made it for her throughout the week,” Yadira said. “I'm an art teacher so I just wanted to get that prepped for her. I knew she had about 14 kills left so I thought it would be good to show a little countdown.”

Aryanah insisted she had no knowledge of how close she was to the achievement, but had her suspicions during the leadup to the weekend slate.

“I don't keep track of my numbers,” Aryanah said. “This weekend, the energy was different. I think my mom was a little too excited for a regular home game weekend. So I figured that something was going on.”

Aryanah nearly reached that mark a day earlier,

as a 12-kill performance against Marist on Nov. 4 left her with 998 for her career, just two away. Robinson presumably discussed the milestone with Aryanah during the match, to which she responded with the aforementioned ignorance.

“According to Aryanah, she doesn't know what I'm talking about,” Robinson said on Nov. 4. “I think she's F-O-S (full of shit), but maybe she's right, maybe she doesn't know.”

Regardless, Aryanah only needed to wait less than 24 hours to get those two extra kills. And among the pomp and circumstance of the senior day celebrations for setter Chloe Ka'ahanui and middle blocker Lexi Morse, Aryanah's achievement sparked another level of sentimentality.

Aryanah was recognized on senior day last year as an undergraduate. However, there was a true finality to her performance this senior day as it was the last time the graduate student would step foot on Burt Kahn Court as a Quinnipiac athlete.

“For me it's tough, because these moments are special, but it also signifies the end of something,” Robinson said. “The end is not bad, because the end just brings new beginnings.”

The milestone-reaching kill was not the prettiest of Aryanah's career – not by a long shot – but none of that mattered to Yadira.

“It was an amazing play no matter what,” Yadira said. “I know we were all expecting a

more exciting play, but I think it was a fantastic way to get to 1,000.”

When all is said and done, Aryanah will be recognized as the most decorated player in the history of the Quinnipiac volleyball program, and she isn't done yet.

Some of her accolades include:

- Winningest player in D1 program history (59 wins)
- Second in D1 program history in kills (1007)
- Second in D1 program history in digs (1345)
- Second in D1 program history in service aces (136)
- 2022 MAAC Volleyball Champion
- 2022 MAAC Volleyball Championship Most Valuable Player
- 2022 All-MAAC Volleyball First Team
- 2021 MAAC Volleyball All-Championship Team
- One-time MAAC Player of the Week
- One-time MAAC Student Athlete of the Week

Most of those recognitions are for Aryanah as an individual. But that's never been her style, nor has it been the team's style.

“The team is the priority,” Robinson said. “The individual accolades are cool, but the team is what we're all about here.”

Aryanah could take all of the credit and say she is the best player in program history. From an objective standpoint, she could be right, but she'll never say it.

“I'm (not) thinking like, ‘Oh, I won the award,’ and whatever,” Aryanah said on April 20 while reflecting on the team's 2022 MAAC championship. “I'm thinking more like the team made history, not I made any sort of history. When I sit back, I'm more shocked that this is the first time that this program has done anything like this. I don't necessarily want to put my name single handedly in those victories. This was a very team-(oriented) victory.”

Aryanah came to Hamden as a 17-year-old, ready to play for a program that just hired a brand new coach who was fired from his previous position.

Now at 22, she will leave Hamden after giving everything she had, with the numbers and the accolades to back her up, whether she likes it or not.

No matter where Aryanah travels in life, it seems as if all roads will lead her back to the sport she loves most.

“Volleyball is my life,” Aryanah said. “I grew up in the gym. I'll continue playing if I can get the opportunity, but I don't think I'll get very far away from volleyball.”



Sitting second in program history in kills, digs and service aces, graduate student outside hitter Aryanah Diaz is one of the most decorated Quinnipiac volleyball players of all time.

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Tournament semifinal, the Bears have had a strong season, coming in as the No. 14 team in the country and standing eighth in RPI. This year will be Brown's fourth-consecutive season in the tournament.

“Brown is going to be a great matchup,” sophomore midfielder Madison Alves said. “Their physicality, their strength and their speed matchup really well with us, and vice versa.”

For Quinnipiac, the matchup against such a highly-ranked opponent is an opportunity to not only avenge last season's exit, but also to showcase its growth and depth of this year's squad. Quinnipiac's offense largely revolved around forward Rebecca Cooke last year, who led the country in goals scored. The Bobcats were tied with Penn State 1-1 in the second half last sea-

son, before Cooke got hurt and the Nittany Lions went on to score three unanswered goals.

Last year's loss has also helped the Bobcats become more prepared for this year's tournament.

“It's just going through the full preparation,” Clarke said. “Last year the weather was really bad, we didn't really get to train fully, it was probably the coldest day of the year. So, hopefully this year we'll go and get to train fully and have a better experience.”

This season, the Bobcats have a more well-rounded offense, primed to withstand injuries and setbacks. Quinnipiac is led by Chochol, but has also seen significant contributions from senior midfielder Emely van der Vliet and graduate student forward Lily Schnieders, who have all combined for 19 of Quinnipiac's 42 goals this year.

Kickoff for the opening round match is slated for Nov. 11 at 4 p.m.



Quinnipiac women's soccer watches the NCAA Tournament Selection Show at Rocky Top Student Center on Quinnipiac's York Hill Campus on Nov. 6.



The pick is in

PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Women’s soccer draws Brown in NCAA Tournament

By ZACK HOCHBERG
Staff Writer

Following an unbeaten conference campaign and a 1-0 win over Fairfield in Sunday’s MAAC championship game, the Quinnipiac women’s soccer team will meet the Brown Bears in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

“They’ve earned this trip,” Quinnipiac head coach Dave Clarke said. “It’s not easy to get back.”

The Bobcats, who finished conference play undefeated, were awarded a No. 14 seed in the lower-right bracket of the tournament. The bracket includes No. 1-seed UCLA, No. 2-seed Stanford and No. 3-seed Brown, who Quinnipiac will play on Saturday.

Quinnipiac returns to the NCAA tournament in back-to-back seasons for the first time in program history. The Bobcats fell to No. 2-seeded Penn State 4-1 in last season’s opening round. However, their goals have changed since last season.

“One of our coaches described us as insatiable,” senior forward and championship-winning goal scorer Courtney Chochol said before the conference tournament began. “We’re never really satisfied. Even when we won and clinched first place, we knew that wasn’t our end goal. We know that we want to keep going and keep pushing. We want to get to the finals, we want to win the finals, we want to win the first round of the NCAAs.”

Quinnipiac’s opponent, the Brown Bears, present a formidable challenge. As they boast an impressive 11-2-2 record. Despite their 2-1 overtime defeat to Columbia in the Ivy League

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Quinnipiac, Dartmouth vie for title bid in semifinal rematch

Bobcat rugby eyes first return to NIRA finals since 2017

By JULIUS MILLAN
Staff Writer

The throes of autumn are upon New England. Temperatures are dropping, leaves are falling and Quinnipiac rugby (5-2) is embarking on yet another journey to Hanover, New Hampshire, this week to tackle Dartmouth (5-2) in the 2023 NIRA semifinals.

Quinnipiac started the season on rocky footing, being floored by contenders Harvard and Dartmouth.

But in a fashion similar to last season, Quinnipiac pulled out win after win during October. During a perfect 3-0 month, the Bobcats scored over 50 points in two-straight games against AIC and Mount St. Mary’s. The squad has proven they can blow out opponents and pull out wins in tough games and muddy fields.

Quinnipiac often succeeds during October, but its 5-2 record is something to note. The last time Quinnipiac entered November with two or less losses was 2017 – the year the Bobcats finished their three-peat championship run.

And Quinnipiac has to thank its players for its success.

The Bobcats have enjoyed consistently fantastic play from senior fullback phenom Kat Storey. Be it on offense with her electric runs from more than halfway across the field or on defense through her hard hits, Storey was a catalyst through which Quinnipiac ran through October.

“She’s relentless in her pursuit of winning, but winning together,” head coach Becky Carlson said. “She loves it when her

teammates are succeeding and you can see that in her energy out in the field. When the team’s on, she’s on.”

Storey isn’t the only hero on the squad though. Fellow seniors, prop Hannah Pfersch and second row Anna Van Dyk, have also been excellent this season by way of their stout defense and efficient tackling. Players like Storey have had high praise for Van Dyk and how her play helps energize the team even more.

“Every time I go out on the field I’m grateful to be on a team and to be able to play by her side,” Storey said. “It’s like every single time you see her go it’s just like she’s going through someone. You just know.”

Quinnipiac’s attitude of running through people no matter what has carried the Bobcats back to this year’s NIRA semi finals, but Dartmouth is still a formidable opponent.

The Big Green may not be the perfect team that won 20 straight games from 2021-2023 by way of explosive offense and a defense that rivaled the Great Wall of China, but it has a variety of scorers, highlighted by juniors, wing Sadie Schier and lock Cassie Depner.

Dartmouth’s defense has been incredible during the 2023 season. The Big Green have only allowed 30-plus points once – a Oct. 7 loss to Lindenwood – and have held opponents’ average to 13 points per game.

None of this matters for Carlson, who doesn’t look at her opponents’ records.

“We recognize from our schedule as a

whole that playing Harvard and Dartmouth (earlier) was gonna prepare us for this moment,” Carlson said.

Both squads are 5-2, but Quinnipiac is looking for its first win over Dartmouth since finishing its three-peat run in 2017. On the flipside, Big Green are clamoring for a three-peat of their own, having won in 2021 and 2022.

In its nine-game all-time matchup, Quinnipiac has not been very successful against Dartmouth, only winning two of its first three contests and nothing more. The last four losses to Big Green came by way of overpowering offense and iron defense. The Bobcats scored

more than 10 points during their losing streak just once in a 47-14 defeat in the NIRA semifinals last year. Quinnipiac on average has allowed 46 points during its six-game losing streak to the Big Green.

If there’s any time for fortunes to change and for momentum to keep swinging for the Bobcats, it’s this year. Quinnipiac and Dartmouth will face off in a showdown for a chance at the Bobcats’ fourth NIRA title on Saturday. Kickoff is scheduled for noon on ESPN+.

The winner is likely to face the juggernaut that is Harvard (7-0) in the NIRA Championship on Nov. 18.



JACK MUSCATELLO/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac graduate student forward Gracie Cartwright braces for a tackle during the Bobcats’ home opener against Harvard on Sept. 2.