

NIAGARA FALLS TO QU

Bobcats earn first NCAA tournament berth since 2000 *P. 10*



DANIEL PASSAPERA/CHRONICLE

Amid a carjacking three miles from QU, commuters express safety concerns

By **KATIE LANGLEY**
News Editor

In the aftermath of a carjacking on Town Walk Drive in Hamden, Quinnipiac University students living off campus said they felt uneasy and have increased safety precautions.

The incident occurred on Oct. 27, at 11:45 p.m., according to an Oct. 28, email to students from Chief of Public Safety Tony Reyes.

Reyes wrote in the email that the 21-year-old victim, who was not a Quinnipiac student, was exiting his vehicle in an apartment complex parking lot when he was approached by three individuals wearing masks and armed with a gun.

The suspects stole the vehicle and some of the victim's personal belongings and fled the scene. The victim was not injured.

In response to the Chronicle's public records request for the police report of the incident, the Hamden Police Department said it was "collecting and reviewing" the documents as of Nov. 3.

Reyes also wrote that the victim's vehicle was recovered in Milford the following day.

Multiple Quinnipiac students, such as senior law in society major Morgan Clarke, live in the Town Walk at Hamden Hills apartments where the carjacking occurred. The complex is about three miles from the Mount Carmel campus.

Clarke said that she heard about previous carjackings in the area, but that she and her roommate only found out about the Oct. 27, incident after Reyes' email.

"It wasn't really surprising that something like this has happened," Clarke said.

This incident comes after a series of catalytic converter thefts on Quinnipiac campuses in October 2021 and February 2022. In addition, Hamden police reported that there have been 152 motor vehicle thefts in 2022 as of Sept. 30.

Reyes wrote in the Oct. 28, email that not resisting was the "right thing" for the victim to do and shared further safety tips with Quinnipiac students. He wrote that if students

are approached by a carjacker, they should give up their vehicle and get away as quickly as possible and call authorities.

Reyes also encouraged students to keep their vehicle doors and windows locked at all times, travel in groups and to park in well-lit areas. Also, do not offer to help a stranger who says their car has broken down, Reyes wrote.

"Always trust your instincts," Reyes wrote in the email. "If the situation doesn't 'feel right,' get away."

Students who live off campus said that they've had to take extra safety precautions due to the threat of carjackings.

Margaret Creve-Coeur, a sophomore health science studies major, is from Hamden and commutes to Quinnipiac. She said that crime has always been a concern for her while commuting to and from campus.

"I've always taken those precautions to make sure I carry pepper spray with me and to make sure I park in more light areas, to make sure I park as close as I can to the school," Creve-Coeur said. "... I'm a girl, I'm walking

to my car alone at night and my friends get really worried about me, so sometimes I'll have a friend walk me to my car."

Clarke also said that she carries pepper spray when walking to and from her vehicle and tries to avoid coming home late, but that it is difficult with her work schedule.

"I was definitely very concerned (about the carjacking)," Clarke said. "I was a little worried, my parents were super worried for me because I do come home a little bit late from work sometimes, I don't get home until around 11, and there's not a lot of lighting in my apartment complex."

Clarke said that she appreciates that university public safety is keeping off-campus students informed of crimes in their neighborhood, and said that residents should stay vigilant to keep themselves safe.

"I always lock my car the second I get inside and then when I'm leaving my car, always look to make sure that there's nothing wrong with it."

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QU withdraws application for tennis courts in North Haven, uncertainty of relocation remains

By CAT MURPHY
Staff Writer

Quinnipiac University withdrew its applications to build tennis courts on the North Haven campus on Nov. 1, following more than four months of back-and-forth with concerned local residents and officials.

“We withdrew the application to examine options for the proposal based on our own considerations and feedback we received from the Planning and Zoning Commission,” said John Morgan, associate vice president for public relations, in an email to the Chronicle on Nov. 7.

University officials began looking to relocate Quinnipiac’s tennis courts over a year ago amid construction on the recently renovated Recreation and Wellness Center on the Mount Carmel campus that knocked down the former tennis courts.

Quinnipiac officials initially sought to build new tennis courts on the university’s main campus. The university, which also proposed building eight 50-foot light poles as part of the tennis court construction, would have had to receive a variance from the Hamden Zoning Board of Appeals to build light poles exceeding 35 feet in height, according to Hamden zoning regulations.

The Hamden Planning and Zoning Commission discussed in March 2022 the possibility of adopting a zoning regulation amendment that would permit light poles taller than 35 feet at outdoor sporting facilities, according to the March 8, meeting minutes.

Commissioner Joe McDonagh said during the meeting that “technology has advanced far beyond what the regulations were based on,” and the commissioners agreed that the amendment was worth exploring.

The sports facility lighting amendment was brought before the commission in July. Although the Hamden Police Department submitted a letter of support, only Bernard Pellegrino, an attorney at The Pellegrino Law Firm who represents Quinnipiac, spoke in favor of the amendment, according to the meeting minutes.

Six Hamden residents spoke in opposition to the amendment, and the application was tabled to a September meeting, according to the minutes from the July 26, and Sept. 13, meetings.

University officials submitted applications with the North Haven PZC in May 2022 to build a half-dozen tennis courts on Quinnipiac’s North Haven campus.

The applications proposed replacing a 143-space parking lot at the northwest end of the campus with six tennis courts. The proposal also included constructing eight 50-foot light poles around the perimeter of the courts.

Although the commission initially planned to hear Quinnipiac’s tennis court applications at the commission’s bimonthly meeting on July 11, the hearing was postponed to the Aug. 1, meeting according to the meeting minutes.

However, the applications faced push-back from North Haven residents.

“I just don’t think this is a great idea for this location,” said Ann Clark, who lives less than two-thirds of a mile from the campus, at a North Haven PZC meeting in August. “And apparently, it was a second choice to come to North Haven when they couldn’t find some kind of arrangement with Hamden.”

Local residents have raised concerns about potential increases in light pollution, noise and traffic resulting from the proposed tennis courts.

“This proposal will forever change the way the site is currently utilized from just academics to include outdoor sports,” North Haven resident Tom White said. “The outdoor sports facilities will negatively impact neighbors’ quality of life and their right to quiet and peaceful enjoyment of their home.”

The North Haven PZC continued the application to the Sept. 12, meeting “to allow the applicant to respond to the public comment,” according to the meeting minutes.

University officials addressed residents’

parking and light pollution concerns at the public hearing in September.

“I think the scope of the use has been overstated,” Pellegrino said. “This is, for the most part, going to be a small number of students or faculty playing tennis.”

However, the commission moved to continue the applications to Oct. 3, to allow the university time to provide the commission with a list of local lighting projects designed by the sports lighting corporation Quinnipiac officials plan to contract, according to the meeting minutes.

The commission postponed the university’s applications for the fourth time in four months on Oct. 3, according to the meeting minutes. Sal Filardi, vice president for facilities and capital planning, told the Chronicle on Oct. 21, that Quinnipiac officials were “still investigating” the commission’s request for information and had requested that the hearing be continued to Nov. 1.

However, Filardi raised the potential for further postponement, and said he was not confident university officials would be prepared to discuss the applications in early November.

“To be quite honest with you, we may postpone it again,” Filardi said on Oct. 21. “I’m not sure we’re going to be ready to talk about it the first week of November either.”

Vern Carlson, chairman of the North Haven PZC, said at the Nov. 1, meeting that the applications regarding Quinnipiac’s North Haven campus had been withdrawn by the applicant and would not be heard by the commission without reapplication.

North Haven First Selectman Michael Freda expressed his support for Quinnipiac’s intention to build tennis courts on the North Haven campus in an email to the Chronicle on Nov. 2.

Freda, who said he has been involved in conversations with university officials, said he understood Quinnipiac’s decision to withdraw its applications as “a pause on the initiative.”

CARJACKING from cover
.....
ing suspicious around me and I’m all good to walk inside my building,” Clarke said. “I think the most important thing is really not leaving any valuables in your car.”
When it comes to being on campus,

Creve-Coeur said she hopes that Public Safety will make sure that students get to their cars safely. She suggested that officers stand outside of the Public Safety booths to check ID and Q Cards more thoroughly.
“I get worried when I leave (my car) anywhere,” Creve-Coeur said. “I also know that

if you go to the Hamden Plaza, there’s going to be a lot of security there... I know the town of Hamden is taking measures to make sure that people are safer.”
Reyes wrote that students who believe they are in danger of a carjacking should call 911 and Public Safety at 203-582-6200.



DANIEL PASSAPERA/CHRONICLE

Chief of Public Safety Tony Reyes informed students in an email Oct. 28, that a carjacking occurred on Town Walk Drive.

University officials: Most emergency defibrillators on North Haven campus are out of service

By CAT MURPHY
Staff Writer

Only one-quarter of the automated external defibrillator units located on Quinnipiac University’s North Haven campus are operational, an investigation conducted by the Chronicle revealed.

AED units are “portable, life-saving devices designed to treat people experiencing sudden cardiac arrest,” according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The devices

use electric shock to restore heart rhythm, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Nine out of the 12 total AED units on the North Haven campus have been out of service since at least Oct. 28, the Chronicle found. Each of the inoperable units is marked with an out of order sign directing individuals to contact public safety for assistance.

Vice President for Facilities and Capital Planning Sal Filardi did not say how long the AED

units had been out of service. It is also unclear how long the devices will be inoperable.

“The AEDs are an older model and we are having a difficult time getting the parts needed to repair,” Filardi wrote in an email to the Chronicle on Nov. 4. “I have instructed the facilities team to look into the cost for replacement with newer models.”

In an interview with the Chronicle Oct. 31, Filardi attributed the devices’ inoperation to supply chain issues.

Six AEDs located in the Center for Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences are out of service, the Chronicle’s investigation revealed. The units outside rooms MNH-129B, MNH-145A, MNH-158K and MNH-232 are out of order. The AEDs beside the third-floor entrance to Stair 4 and inside the fitness center in room MNH-193 are also out of service.

The building’s three remaining AED units, located outside rooms MNH-247, MNH-342 and MNH-441B, appear to be in working order, according to the Chronicle’s investigation.

The Chronicle also found that none of the three AED units located in the School of Law seem to be operational. The units located outside rooms SLE-209B, SLE-309B and SLE-409B are marked as out of service.

Each inoperable device appears to have been inspected as recently as February 2022 by Facilities Compliance Services LLC, according to the inspection tags. FCS maintains Quinnipiac’s AED units.

More than 356,000 people in the U.S. experience sudden cardiac arrest outside of

hospitals each year, according to the American Heart Association. The likelihood of surviving sudden cardiac arrest decreases by 7-10% for each minute without cardiopulmonary resuscitation or defibrillation, according to OSHA.

According to a study conducted in 2018 by the AHA, sudden cardiac arrest victims who received treatment from a publicly available AED were more than twice as likely to survive than individuals who received defibrillation after emergency medical services arrived.

Connecticut law requires each institution of higher education to install at least one centrally located AED in its athletic facilities. However, institutions of higher education are not otherwise required by state law to install AED units.

The National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation recognized Quinnipiac as a HEARTSafe campus in February 2022, according to Quinnipiac Today.

The organization founded the HEARTSafe Campuses in 2013 to acknowledge college communities that promote and support, among other things, “rapid public access to defibrillation,” according to NCEMSF.

“The intent of this program is to recognize quality campus-based EMS organizations and their communities and hold them out as examples to other campuses as a means to improve overall cardiac arrest care,” NCEMSF states on its website.

NCEMSF did not immediately respond to the Chronicle’s request for comment.



An investigation by the Chronicle revealed that six AEDs in the Center for Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences and all of the AEDs in the School of Law are inoperable.

Reproductive health lawyer, medical students reflect on health care in post-Roe v. Wade U.S.

By DAVID MATOS
Arts & Life Editor

To discuss the implications of living in a nation where abortion is now illegal in several states, reproductive health lawyer and advocate Jeryl Hayes discussed abortion law in the United States at Quinnipiac University’s Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine on Nov. 3.

Hayes discussed access to abortion, the role of movement building and the state of abortion legislation post-Roe v. Wade, the 1973 constitutional ruling that federally decriminalized abortion. The ruling was overturned by the Supreme Court in June. The discussion was part of the Netter Health Equity Series.

Kizzi Belfon, a second-year medical student, facilitates discussions for the series. Belfon said the Netter Health Equity Series’ events are meant to serve future healthcare professionals and educate medical students about instances of social injustice.

“People really walk away from these conversations feeling empowered,” said Belfon. “It’s what we set out to do with this series. And so it’s really reassuring to feel like we are providing some sort of education and some sort of mindset shifting.”

The conversation focused on the evolving legal conditions for abortion providers as well as the future for aspiring physicians around abortion law.

“No matter how far you want to dig your head into the sand, politics will always kind of affect health,” said Kevin Xia, a second-year medical student who attended the event. “It’s a point that the medical profession doesn’t ignore the fact that these are ongoing issues and they do need to play a role in politics and make sure that people’s health aren’t affected.”

Hayes was chosen for the event from a list of speakers presented to the executive board of the Netter Health Equity Series by the Medical Students for Choice, a national organization with the goal of ensuring that students are fully educated on reproductive health.

Belfon said Hayes was picked due to her work as the building director for If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice, a national non-profit organization of law students and legal professionals that are committed to defending reproductive freedom in the U.S.

“We are committed to doing a meaningful partnership with those who are most impacted and affected by reproductive oppression, which is integral to the goal of achieving reproductive justice,” Hayes said.

The event also analyzed the connection between reproductive and racial justice, as well as the idea that each topic impacts the other.

The term “reproductive justice” was coined in 1994 by a group of 12 Black women in Chicago who believed their demographic and geographic circumstances prohibited their communities from having a choice in their reproductive health, according to Carodozo Law Review.

“Reproductive justice is a framework that was developed and continues to be led by women of color who noticed that their specific experiences were not being fully represented in either the civil rights movement or the women’s rights movement,” Hayes said.

The Netter Health Equity Series was started during the 2019-20 academic year by Nabiha Nuruzzaman, a 2022 medical school graduate. The student-led series aims to create a space for speakers to discuss and educate primarily medical students on social determinants in health care.

“We’re trying to be able to provide a framework for medical students or all students in the health professions to be able to recognize and respond to social injustices in medicine,” Belfon said.

Belfon started her fall 2021 semester seven months pregnant and said she was cautious about her choice of extracurricular activity. However, she said she jumped at the chance to continue the foundation that was set by Nuruzzaman by joining its executive board.

Paola Peralta, a second-year medical student, said she never connected the coalition between medical professionals and legal rights before she went to medical school.

“When you talk about where the rules and regulations lie, it just seems like a lot you have to read through, and that’s interesting to

know how people can navigate that space,” Peralta said.

The discussion with Hayes is the second Netter Health Equity Series event of the 2022-23 school year and its first in-person event.

The event is one of ten events planned for the academic year. Future events will include a mix of workshops and informative talks. The series has not repeated a topic in the last four years, Belfon said.

“Once people have an understanding of these frameworks and understanding of how health inequities (are) present at the individual community and structural levels,” Belfon said. “It really empowers (medical students) to be strong advocates, and I think we see so many health inequities in this series.”



Jeryl Hayes, a reproductive health lawyer, spoke at Quinnipiac Nov. 3, about reproductive justice, racial disparities and abortion laws.

Opinion

Bring awareness to epilepsy

Neurologic diseases deserve more attention from the public

By MILTON WOOLFENDEN
Staff Writer

Blurry vision, uncontrollable full-body spasms, slurred speech and lockjaw. If you have those symptoms, you may have just experienced an epileptic seizure.

Since first grade, I think I have had more MRI scans than most people have in an entire lifetime. That’s because I’ve had epilepsy.

According to Healthline, it affects approximately 65 million people around the world, including 3.5 million Americans. In spite of this, epilepsy does not get nearly enough media coverage.

I do believe, with the proper amount of research and funding, a cure for epilepsy is an attainable goal. It’s something that should be focused on.

Unfortunately, I’m not a science guy. If I was, I would be willing to devote my entire career to finding a cure for the disease.

I’ve suffered from epilepsy in two distinct eras: when I was originally diagnosed in first grade through third grade and from senior year of high school to the present.

When I was diagnosed, my body went rigid but didn’t spasm. I didn’t get blurry vision or lockjaw, but my speech was slurred. During this time, my seizures were always accompanied by nausea. Now, with my current seizures, some of my symptoms have carried over, but there are several symptoms that I never used to get, adding another layer of mystery to the overall cause.

It is this uncertainty surrounding what causes epilepsy that makes me believe it deserves more attention.

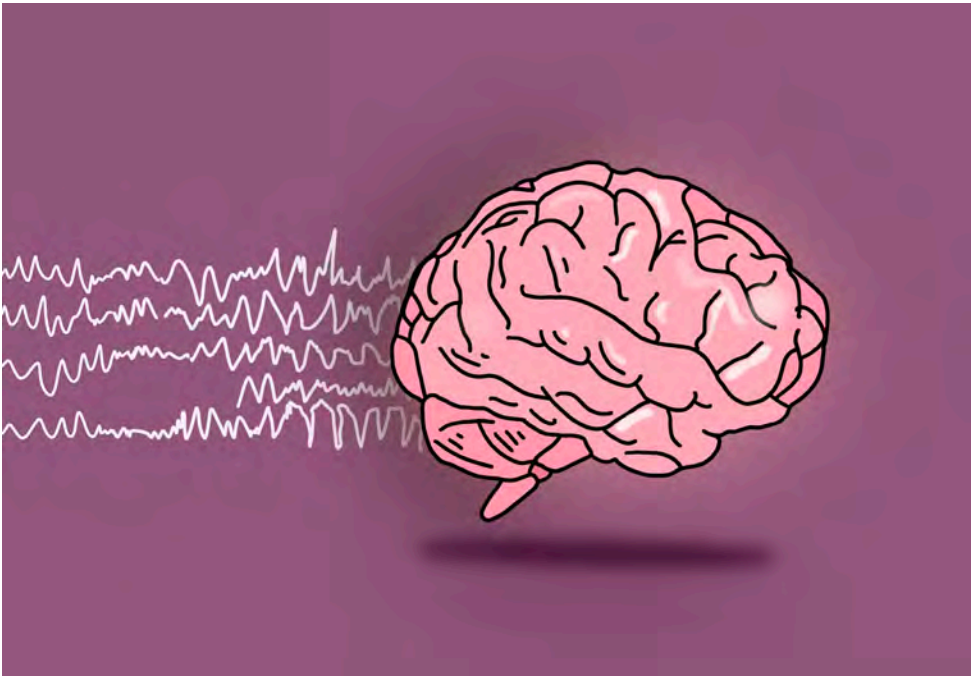


ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH HARDIMAN

All things considered, we as a society have a fairly good understanding of what causes diseases like cancer and what can be done to lower an individual’s risk to catch it while still in the developing stages.

When discussing epilepsy, aside from medication — which doesn’t guarantee the elimination of seizures — we can treat it, but don’t know if there is any possible cure.

I personally suffer from grand mal or tonic-clonic seizures. Unlike focal or partial seizures, grand mal seizures occur on both sides of the brain, according to the CDC. As a result, this means grand mal sei-

zures can include symptoms from the entire seizure spectrum.

During a Grand mal seizure, a person will become rigid, have full-body spasms, and could lose consciousness. A person having a focal seizure will remain conscious and their symptoms will vary depending on the part of the brain where the seizure originated.

It is because they occur on both sides of the brain that grand-mal seizures are so debilitating. It is a complete system failure and a complete reset at the same time. It affects the entire brain, not just a limited portion.

This is where further research needs to oc-

cur. In these situations, you can’t stop a possible seizure. You just have to sit around, feel helpless and wait for a seizure to happen.

While this lack of information can be attributed to the complexities of the topic, it can also be traced back to the awareness and lack of funding for research concerning epilepsy compared to other diseases like cancer.

Although cancer affects millions and warrants the amount of attention and funding it does, 65 million isn’t exactly a small number for those suffering from epilepsy.

If I have a seizure on say Monday afternoon there’s a chance I won’t remember having it when I wake up Tuesday morning.

While there are many terrible symptoms of various diseases, memory loss has to be one of the worst. If there was more attention on epilepsy, maybe we couldn’t find a total cure but at least a partial cure for certain symptoms.

You can treat a disease, but first, you have to figure out how to detect it. In the case of epilepsy, MRIs and electroencephalograms are the most common methods used.

As you can see, epilepsy is not a fun experience. While we may never be able to completely cure it, more research aimed at finding a possible cause and ways to more effectively treat it would be appreciated.

I’m not saying we need to make as big of a deal about epilepsy awareness as we do with cancer awareness. We don’t need to have awareness walks and have everyone wearing purple ribbons. But, we should be bringing more attention to epilepsy awareness than we are at the present time.

Political violence is sharpening American division

By NICHOLAS PESTRITTO
Staff Writer

The phrase “enough is enough” has never needed to be said as much as now. We are at a point in time in our society where it feels like we can no longer have civil conversations with people we do not agree with. The U.S. will struggle to survive if we are not able to find common ground with each other.

With Paul Pelosi, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s husband, getting attacked and almost killed on Oct. 28, the discussion surrounding



PRESIDENZA DELLA REPUBBLICA/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
After being attacked on Oct. 28, Paul Pelosi was released from the hospital on Nov. 3.

political violence has re-opened. This attack has once again shown the growing threat politically related violence poses to our democracy.

Over the past few years, we have seen everything from armed citizens attacking the United States Capitol Building to former President Trump’s private estate being raided by the FBI. Most recently, a conspiracy theorist broke into Speaker Pelosi’s house and attacked her husband with a hammer, fracturing his skull. According to USA Today, he believed in several far-right conspiracies, like QAnon. This is the same conspiracy theory that former President Trump refused to publicly denounce in an Oct. 15, 2020 town hall, per The Guardian.

Dangerous political rhetoric by our elected representatives has encouraged this type of political violence and has convinced people that our government is not legitimate. This can not be ignored and it is time that all of us as Americans do something to prevent more attacks on our government and government officials.

Both liberals and conservatives are contributing to dangerous political theories and forms of violence, but it has overwhelmingly come from the conservative side. Conservative figures and media outlets have pushed many different false claims, relating to the 2020 election and almost anything else beyond that. Bloomberg has reported that on June 27, Kari Lake, the current Republican candidate for Governor, posted a Fox News Interview on Facebook, claiming there was “a mountain of evidence” about hundreds of thousands of fraudulent votes in the state.

Not only has this not been verified to be true, it is extremely dangerous because there are

people that will believe her and will take action on that claim.

A 2021 study from the American Enterprise Institute found that almost three in ten Americans, as well as 39% of Republicans, agreed that “if elected leaders will not protect America, the people must do it themselves, even if it requires violent actions.”

It should terrify us all that our fellow American citizens want to use violence to protect our country because they think our elected representatives will not stand up for their beliefs or the fact that they think they were not fairly elected.

The violent rhetoric that is being used by people in power in our government and the former President is extremely dangerous. For example, former President Trump said on Jan. 6, 2021, “We fight like hell and if you don’t fight like hell, you’re not going to have a country anymore.”

Not only did this make the Jan. 6, crowd more aggravated, it gave them a reason to be there and made their actions acceptable. It made it OK for these supporters of the president to break the windows of the United States Capitol building and even go as far as to kill a police officer.

People have become so attached to these figures that they will believe whatever is said even if it is completely false. According to The Atlantic, 35% of Americans and 68% of Republicans believe that the election was stolen from former President Trump.

Elected representatives, several being Republican, have pushed conspiracies, false information and have increased political divisions to appeal more to the hard core Republican base

founded by the former president. These people have actively engaged in strengthening the arguments for conservative extremists to take violent action against our government.

According to Politico, after the attack on Nancy Pelosi’s husband, Rep. Clay Higgins, a Republican from Louisiana, tweeted and deleted a baseless conspiracy theory about Paul Pelosi’s attacker on Oct. 30.

Without even offering an apology Rep. Higgins automatically pushes a far-right conspiracy theory. Actions like these and this type of rhetoric only emboldens conservative extremists, political violence and divides our country even further.

On the other side of this issue, there are people who acknowledge the problem but do not actively care or try to do anything to stop it from growing. As a country, we are going to continue to be plagued by these instances of violence and it will continue to traumatize the coming generations.

The only way we can get back to a true normal without staying in this new normal is to realize that we are heading down a terrible path and to accept that conservative extremism and the political violence that comes with it, is a direct threat to our democracy.

With the midterm elections having already passed, we can only hope that America made the right decision and sent a clear message to these elected representatives that we will not stand for them to push lies and conspiracies.

We must elect people who will make good faith, common sense decisions on our behalf. It is time for all of America to wake up and see the truth.

Opinion

Take a look outside your major

Extracurriculars provide experiences beyond one’s comfort zone

By A.J. NEWTH
Staff Writer

What are your interests?

The question is simple to many. Most people respond with music or spending time with friends. Others may answer by naming their favorite television shows or sports teams. Once you get to college, the answer shifts.

I believe a lot of students choose their extracurriculars based on their choice of major, despite their personal interests. Business students may gravitate more towards business societies, investment clubs or entrepreneurship organizations, while journalism students may participate in the school newspaper or literary magazines.

College is a high-intensity environment, and the choices that students make when it comes to involvement are essential in what they

choose to do after school. But students should choose their organizations based on their interests, not their major.

It’s important to have diversity in a resume, and some of the best types of organizations to be involved in include student government, debate, academic clubs, foreign language clubs, residence hall associations and community service clubs, according to The College Post.

There are currently 151 clubs and organizations to choose from at Quinnipiac, according to DoYouQU. Students can find a sense of community like joining Greek life, American Sign Language club, political organizations, car club and even fishing club.

When I was a first-year student, I felt like I needed to get involved in ways that would co-

incide with my career goals to look professional on my resume. I found the International Business Society in September 2021, which fit right in with my major. I also showed an interest in investment clubs and entrepreneurship clubs. While those organizations are wonderful, I always felt like I was missing something.

When I joined the Chronicle a few months ago, I was nervous. Not nervous about the process of writing or editing, but more so about how the organization would look on my resume when applying for jobs. I was concerned that employers would see my business major and business society involvement, and then see the school newspaper as a red flag that did not fit my “strictly business persona.”

After writing my first article, that thought was gone. It no longer mattered to me what interviewers would think of a business student who loved writing opinion pieces because I had found an organization that I loved, from the writing aspect to all the people involved.

Having a resume that follows one trend is boring. Employers look for diversity more than anything and being able to demonstrate a variety of experiences shows interviewers that an individual can adapt to different situations and be successful, according to Ellevest Network, a career development network for women.

In some cases, the clubs and organizations from college can even lead to post-graduation jobs, regardless of a major. Being involved in different organizations can not only create opportunities for networking but also may unexpectedly lead to a lifelong career, according to The U.S. News & World Report.

In hindsight, your choice of major does not

really matter. I am currently a business student, but I could graduate with my bachelor’s degree and decide on a completely different career path.

College creates an environment where it seems like all students will eventually find work that relates to their major. However, a 2022 Resume Builder survey shows only 47% of college graduates end up working in their field of study.

I regret thinking that I had to be a journalism major in order to get involved in the Chronicle and realizing that my major does not define me has created countless opportunities. I have found myself branching out to new groups of people outside of the business programs and making meaningful connections.

The degrees that students get from universities serve as prerequisites for the workforce, and although choosing a topic that you would like to pursue in your career is helpful, at the end of the day it’s not that important. Employers value skills, experience and passion more than whether or not the job aligns with a field of study, according to Forbes.

The concept that college is a journey of self discovery becomes repetitive, but it never ceases to be true. I encourage everyone to step outside of the comfort zone provided by their major.

Engage in conversations with individuals with opposing views, study in a new building and join an organization that you think would look out of place on your resume. I find that deviating from extracurriculars that correspond to your field of study can not only be refreshing but can also create a new sense of purpose.

And if you’re lucky, you might just find your passion and your people.



ILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

Nuclear escalation suggests a dark future

Should Russia’s nuclear threats be reason to end in the ongoing war in Ukraine?

By JAMES DOBSON
Staff Writer

Nine months into its war with Ukraine, Russia is having a more difficult time than expected defeating its southwestern neighbor. The Ukrainian military is resisting Russian forces much more effectively than officials in countries like the U.S. initially believed. It’s important that the world remain conscientious of this ongoing war, especially with the potential implications of nuclear weapons being used.

In February, U.S. intelligence officials predicted that the Russian army would quickly overwhelm the Ukrainian resistance and win the war in days. In Russia, officials at the start of the war consistently promised a quick and easy victory to the public.

However, a quick Russian victory has been by no means the outcome of this war. Ukraine has been able to resist invading forces better than expected and recently even regained some land in their counteroffensive movement. This war has cost Russia hundreds of thousands of troops as well as millions of dollars in destroyed equipment.

With the invasion going more poorly than expected, it has become a source of embarrassment for Russia, which had a great underestimation of the resolve of the Ukrainian people to repel the attacking forces.

In light of this, Putin and other Russian military officials have recently hinted at the use of nuclear weapons, causing great concern to the international community. Early in Oct. 2022, prominent Russian official Ramzan Kadyrov called on Putin to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine in response to Russia’s losing of the captured town of Lyman.

Later that month, other Russian officials accused Ukraine of preparing to use a dirty bomb, a weapon that combines radioactive material with conventional explosives, according to the CDC, in the war effort. This raised concerns that Russia

might plan to use a dirty bomb and then blame it on Ukraine.

After remarks like these, United States President Joe Biden declared on Oct. 7, that the risk of nuclear “Armageddon” is at the highest level since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, and the world is understandably on much higher alert for a nuclear conflict.

This fear has led many to advocate for peace between Russia and Ukraine, even if that means the Russian annexation of territories belonging to Ukraine before the invasion began.

So far, Russia has annexed four of Ukraine’s 24 regions, the Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, which together make up about 15% of Ukraine’s land and is roughly the size of Hungary, according to Reuters.

Putin held referendums in these regions where the residents purportedly overwhelmingly voted to join the Russian Federation, however these elections were declared by the United Nations General Assembly to have been staged and illegal under international law, according to The Rule of Law in Armed Conflict project.

However, appeasement of Russia at this stage is the absolute worst route to take in resolving the Ukrainian conflict. Allowing one’s country to encroach on another country’s sovereign territory because the invading country is able to threaten nuclear force would only set the stage for more invasions around the world.

Moreover, this example would easily lead to the amount of nuclear weapons in the world increasing as more countries pursue their own nuclear arsenal, out of fear that being without these kinds of weapons could one day put them in a situation similar to Ukraine.

Despite criticism, U.S. foreign policy has done exceptionally well with its approach to the war in Ukraine.

America and its allies have been providing as much support and aid to Ukraine without having a direct military involvement in their war

with Russia. This has included humanitarian aid among others that have been instrumental in assisting Ukraine’s ability to repel Russia.

This is beneficial not just because it aids Ukraine and its defense, but setting a very important global precedent. A future where nations are allowed to conquer each other as long as they can use nuclear weapons is not a safer world, and it is for this reason that Ukraine must have continued support from the U.S. and other countries around the planet who wish to contribute to a safer world.

From the fall of the Soviet Union up until the 2014 invasion and annexation of Crimea by Russia, Ukraine had been a sovereign state with recognized borders. The country, just like any other sovereign nation, has the right to territorial integrity.

Even Russia has explicitly acknowledged its rightful territory, and in fact explicitly agreed to respect these borders; this is reflected in its signing of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, according to The Brookings Institution. This was when

the U.S., Russia, and Britain pledged to “respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine” and “to refrain from the threat or use of force.” This was in exchange for Ukraine’s complete surrender of their nuclear arsenal, a promise which Ukraine had agreed to and followed through with fully.

Russia’s ongoing invasion of Ukraine is a clear violation of the agreed upon Budapest memorandum and of international law. It has caused untold suffering to the people of Ukraine as they continue to wage their war. Ukraine should absolutely have the right to reclaim their sovereign territory, all the way up until the Crimean Peninsula that was annexed from them in 2014, if they see fit to do so.

If they are pressured into surrendering and conceding territories currently occupied by Russia, the example set would be a very dangerous one. It will only invite more invasion and aggression from actors such as Putin who can use their nuclear capabilities to threaten countries into submission.



KWH1050/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Since the war’s start on Feb. 24, Ukraine has suffered over 16,000 casualties, with over 1,000 being children, according to Statista.



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac’s International Business Society hosts annual dinner

By **AIDAN SHEEDY**
Copy Editor

Clacking heels, distinctive conversations and smooth jazz reverberated around Burt Kahn Court as empty bellies entered the room ready to eat on Nov. 2nd.

Quinnipiac University’s International Business Society has hosted its annual dinner since 2000 to raise money for the Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services, a New Haven-based non-profit organization dedicated to assisting new arrivals to the U.S.

The IB dinner served food inspired by places from around the world through local businesses like Ixtapa Grille, Bangkok Boulevard and China Chef. Tickets were \$8 per person, and the event raised just under \$1000.

IBS President Joseph Coverly, a junior international business and computer information systems double major, was fittingly the first speaker of the night. Coverly said he organized the event with high hopes as the organization more than 70 tickets.

“I truly believe I have one of the best e-boards in Quinnipiac,” Coverly said. “I put them through the wringer and they came out on top.”

Coverly, a Navy veteran and co-manager of the student-run On The Rocks pub, added running this event to his resume, but not without the help of his peers.

“This dinner could have been a big stressor in my life,” Coverly said. “It was a

joy to plan because of how much my e-board had my back.”

After the event, dean of the School of Business Holly Raider said she's proud of her students because of nights like these.

"The very best of business people find the win-wins," Raider said. "The only way that you can do that is understand people's perspectives."

Chris George, executive director of IRIS, spoke after Coverly in the opening remarks. He educated the crowd on the work of the organization and the strong connections and relationships he’s made. He put one of those connections in the spotlight as he invited guest speaker Bashir Watandost, a refugee from Afghanistan, who now works as an employment services specialist with IRIS.

In a moving story of leaving family and political distress, Watandost left an impression in the crowd.

“My favorite part was getting to try all the different food,” Chambers said. “It was really cool, because there was some food there that I had never eaten before.”

The night saw many unique cuisines. Chambers said she tried a samosa for the first time, a savory, fried, cone-shaped appetizer from Cumin India in Hamden. But there was one more component—Irish step dancing.

As an annual tradition, the IBS invites the Quinnipiac Irish step dance team to perform during dinner. Chambers said she was amazed at what club can do on the floor.

“It just seems like they were flying through the air,” Chambers said. “They had so much skill, and it was kind of crazy to see how much they could do in such a short time.”

Mohammad Elahee, professor of international business and the IBS's advisor, said the purpose of this event was to create awareness about international issues, cultures and the world outside of the U.S. through cuisine.

“Everything is global,” Elahee said. “Every business is an international business. Our students have to know how to compete against competitions coming from other countries.”

Elahee said that it’s these kinds of programs that enhance students' global perspectives when going into the future of business.

“This shows that our students are engaged global citizens and they care about society,” Elahee said. “Quinnipiac (helps) students become a more well-rounded person.”

Raider said these types of events like this improve the education for students.

“I think one of the things that gets in the way of good ideas ... is the inability to take on other people’s perspectives,” Raider told the Chronicle. “It’s when you can see the world through multiple alternative lenses that new and different solutions can present themselves.



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

Bashir Watandost, an Afghan refugee, spoke at the International Business Dinner on his new life in the U.S. as a member of Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services.

Don't let low self-esteem dictate your sex life

By DAVID MATOS
Arts & Life Editor

Sexual pleasure is not one size fits all. Everyone has their likes and dislikes during sex, which is why communication with your sexual partner is always crucial. However, sex can easily become a burden when your sexual beliefs and interests are compromised because you're suffering from low self-esteem.

According to an Oct. 16, Verywell Mind article, author Kendra Cherry said that self-esteem generally influences your decision-making, relationships and emotional well-being. Having low self-esteem can also cause most people to "fall short of their potential" or "tolerate abusive relationships and situations," according to Psychology Today.

Decisions made during, before and after sexual intercourse are one's own but can be influenced by ethical values and, of course, your self-esteem. Questions like "Do I feel safe with my partner?," "What are my sexual expectations?" and other questions regarding consent and safety may also get lost or not prioritized when you have low self-esteem. Truth be told, you're more likely to be taken advantage of when your self-esteem is in the mud.

Low self-esteem is individualized and can differ from person to person. Invalidating authoritative figures, detached parenting, bullying, social media and trauma are all common sources of low self-esteem, according to Psychology Today. In fact, according to a 2019 article written by cognitive behavioral psychologist Jennifer Guttman, it's estimated that about 85% of people worldwide have low self-esteem.

According to Options for Sexual Health, some reasons people have sex are physical, emotional, goal-related, based on societal pressure or wanting to increase self-esteem.

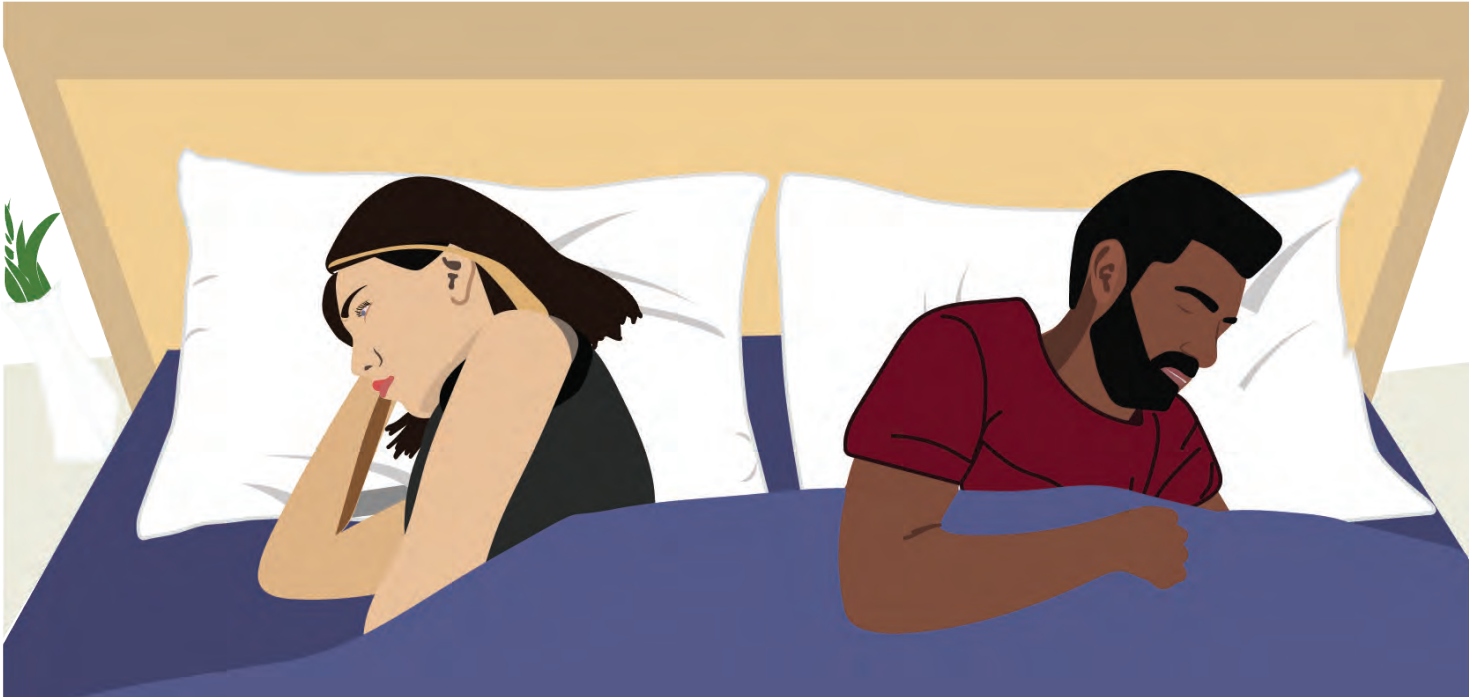


ILLUSTRATION BY MARINA YASUNA

The connection between your mental health and choices made during your sex life is more common than you may think.

Personally, I started suffering from low self-esteem when I started high school in 2015. I began to take notice of my weight, attractiveness and personality after no longer having my support system from middle school. It felt like I was growing a new insecurity seemingly every day. It also didn't help being diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome during my junior year of high school. From that point forward, I never felt attractive, inside and out. I limited the number of selfies I took, I was constantly comparing myself to others and I took on even more weight from all the stress.

Because of my insecurities, when it came to engaging in intercourse, I was more focused

on the needs of my partner than my own out of the fear of losing them. Also, from time to time I would agree to engage in sexual activity with someone I'm not completely attracted to or someone a lot older because they made me feel attractive, something I never felt up to that point. Feeling wanted and desired was enough for me to compromise my own sexual beliefs, and if you're anything like me, stop.

Though I don't have it all figured out, some ways you can work on improving your self-esteem are being more assertive, saying "no" and acknowledging what you like about yourself instead of focusing on the negatives. Something that has helped me is writing positive affirmations on pieces of paper and throwing them in a mason jar and reading out a new one every day. Also, seeking counseling or therapy can be a great way to work through

your self-love journey.

Though having sex can briefly increase your self-esteem, from my own experience, it's not permanent. After that high is gone after engaging in sexual commerce, I often go back to eating my feelings away with Taco Bell and crying about how my pants don't fit me anymore — I wonder why, David.

Everyone makes mistakes, but don't let that mistake stop you from having a more satisfactory sex life instead of one of regret. Try not to rely on other people to make you feel seen and loved when you can do that yourself. Hannah Montana said it best, nobody is perfect. However, everyone is worth self-love.

If you or someone you know needs help, contact Quinnipiac Counseling Services at 203-582-8680 or by email at counseling.center@qu.edu.

I can't hear the snoring haters, I'm catching the Zs

By NEHA SEENARINE
Arts & Life Editor

Over the course of time, my body has grown out of certain habits. I no longer get severe eczema and I think I have a good grasp on my stomach issues. However, there is something I still can't control: snoring.

Snoring is the sound of obstructed breathing. The Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research said factors that cause snoring can be poor muscle tone, bulky throat tissue or a long soft palate or uvula. Also, a person is more likely to snore

if they are overweight, middle-aged or going through post-menopause. Snoring can also lead to sleep apnea, which is when a person briefly stops breathing during slumber or sleep deprivation.

If you ask my parents what the most annoying thing about me is, they wouldn't tell you that I'm not experienced in the kitchen or that I can't park straight. They'll tell you that I snore loudly when we're on vacation.

However, I don't understand why snoring

is my worst trait. I'm asleep in my own bed and not harming anyone. Sure, it could be disturbing the peace if your ear was glued to my bedroom door, but there are noise-canceling headphones available.

Snoring happens to the best of us and there's no reason why anyone should be ashamed.

John Hopkins Medicine reported 45% of adults snore occasionally, while 25% snore regularly.

I hate to say it, but I'm in the latter group even though, I don't have any of the

common characteristics. Apparently, I've been snoring since I was young and I have not heard the end of it.

When I wake up from a nap and I hear that I was snoring, I feel horrible about myself. It's not a nice feeling when you wake up and the first message you're greeted with is about your snoring. I would prefer a "did you have a nice nap?" instead, but we can't all get what we want. I understand those around me don't have bad intentions, but the playful banter is repetitive.

On the other hand, when I'm around someone that's snoring, it doesn't bother me. It might be because I empathize with the other person and I know it's out of their control. I'm also a heavy sleeper, so my ear drums shut with my eyes for bedtime.

The big question is how can someone control their snoring if they're not awake?

There are remedies to help with snoring such as adjusting your lifestyle like cutting back on alcohol consumption before bed or changing your sleep position. I've spent 21 years to figure out that I snooze the least when I'm laying on my back and I won't be adjusting that anytime soon.

People have the option to purchase nasal strips for snoring, they're drug free and available over the counter. However, snoring strips will not treat sleep disorders, they may decrease snoring in some cases according to The Sleep Doctor. The strip may fall off when you're asleep and you're back to square one.

When it comes to sleeping, know you're not in the dark if you snore – it's natural and no one should disturb your slumber even if you're disturbing theirs.



ILLUSTRATION BY SHAVONNE CHIN

Getting to 'Sesame Street' in 2022

By BEN KANE
Contributing Writer

Can you tell me how to get to “Sesame Street?”

For most millennials this question is simple to answer, but what about for the members of Generation Z? Have the millennials just outgrown the famous kid’s television show, or has it slowly lost popularity and traction over the years?

Premiering in 1969, the premise of “Sesame Street,” per the show’s website, was to produce a TV show that was both fun to watch and also educational. The show started with only a few regularly appearing characters: Bob, Gordon, Susan, Mr. Hooper and two of the most famous Muppets ever, Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch.

As a kid, I watched the the show each and every day. Characters like Cookie Monster and Ernie were the reason I kept going back to PBS every morning before school.

It wasn’t until 1984 that the show’s most iconic character was introduced — Elmo. Not only did he become a star on the screen, but off it as well. From stuffed animals to toys and even as a character to meet in an amusement park, everyone, including me, loved Elmo.

Now in its 52nd season, “Sesame Street” can be streamed on HBO Max when new episodes are released and on the station where it began, PBS, but only after a nine-month delay, according to PBS NewsHour.

HBO Max has been under fire lately after Variety reported they were removing over 200 episodes from the show's catalog, the show but "Sesame Street" is still going strong.

I think the biggest reason for the show's success is how it has constantly shifted with the times. In 2001, “Sesame Street” episodes helped children cope with the 9/11 terrorist attacks by showing coping mechanisms for fear and loss.

In 2017, the show helped children understand autism on a better level with the help of Julia, the first ever Muppet with the disorder.

Even the episodes from 2020 focused on helping children better understand racial justice issues in the world by creating a new focus on anti-racism and racial justice throughout its show.

Now more than ever, it is important to educate children on what’s really going on in the world. While yes it’s hard to find the perfect language to use with kids when discussing issues like these, “Sesame Street” provides education.

The use of fun bright characters and songs deliver these messages to kids in a way that they are able to comprehend and remember for a long time. While it’s hard to really remember lots of specific moments as a kid, I do remember the times I spent in the “Sesame Street” amusement park, or singing the “Rubber Ducky” song, or even just crying in the toy store because I wanted the newest Elmo toy.

The older I’ve gotten, the more I’ve not only grown to appreciate how much of an impact it’s had on my childhood, but how important it could be for future generations.

Learning at a young age what’s really going on in the world can be absolutely vital.

Even just at a microscopic level, I remember always being so excited to go to school and do math and sing the alphabet song because I learned that from “Sesame Street.”

The show made me excited to constantly learn and grow my brain, and I guess I never really understood that until now. The decline in viewership of the show should not speak for just how important it really is to the development of children. Tackling modern-day issues and making them digestible for children is exactly what the show was centered around.

Since 1969, it has continued to do exactly what it sought out to do. So for me, I think the answer is pretty easy. I can tell you exactly how I got to “Sesame Street.”



ILLUSTRATION BY EMMA KOGLER

Queer celebrities don’t owe their fans disclosure

By ZOE LEONE
Staff Writer

When the hit Netflix show “Heartstopper” debuted in April, it immediately launched into internet success. The success is due to the portrayal of high schoolers navigating queer identities and relationships. The series, which is based on a set of graphic novels by Alice Oseman, boasted a cast of rather unknown, young actors who were suddenly thrust into the spotlight.

Fans took a particular interest in Kit Connor, the 18-year-old actor who plays Nick Nelson, a teenager coming to terms with his bisexuality. His Instagram following jumped from 200,000 before the show’s premiere, to four million four months later. Among the fanfare, the actor’s own sexuality was called into question on social media and platforms alike for months.

Things took a turn when he was pictured holding hands with a female co-star. Connor, who had taken a break from Twitter due to the constant harassment surrounding his sexuality, began trending on the platform once again as fans accused him of using the LGBTQ communities to boost his career. As the online comments began filling with hate, Connor released a statement of his own.

“back for a minute. i’m bi,” Connor wrote in a tweet posted Oct. 31. “congrats for forcing an 18 year old to out himself. i think some of you missed the point of the show. Bye.”

As fans ripped each other to shreds in the comments and support for the actor began pouring in, Connor became another celebrity to fall victim to the rabid accusations of “queerbaiting.” The word has been thrown around increasingly as of late, but it only goes to show how few people are using it to actually understand its meaning.

It’s a technique used in fiction media where writers and creators hint that a character might be queer in order to attract an LGBTQ audience, without ever actually confirming or portraying any queer representation. To put it simply, real people cannot queerbait.

Nonetheless, Connor is not the first celebrity to be hit with allegations of queerbaiting, no matter how nonsensical they may be. Halsey, who is openly bisexual,

spoke in an interview with Paper about how she’s often accused of using her sexuality as a way to sell albums. Harry Styles, Taylor Swift, Billie Eilish and Bad Bunny have been run through the news cycle for queerbaiting.

As the number of celebrities being targeted grows and fans get bigger and more malicious in their insinuations, an important reminder needs to emerge– queer people don’t owe disclosure, and neither do celebrities.

The decision to come out is a deeply personal one. We recognize it in the people around us, in the communities we center ourselves in and in the friends we surround ourselves with. So why is it a different pressure when it comes to a celebrity?

Perhaps it’s the parasocial relationship that many fans have formed, an inherent emotional bond that starts as one-sided and eventually develops into a belief that one should be privileged to know the answer to this question. Maybe it’s the desire for representation, to see oneself reflected in the people around us and to serve the validation that we’re not alone.

Regardless of the reasons, Connor is another example of why it’s so important to let people explore their sexuality and come out on their own time. Queer people, even famous ones, deserve to be awarded that peace.



ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RIHA

Drake and 21 Savage’s ‘Her Loss’ lives up to massive expectations

By MICHAEL PETITTO
Contributing Writer

Drake and 21 Savage have previously worked together to make hit songs like “Sneakin” and “Knife Talk.” Their long-awaited collaborative album “Her Loss” was released on Nov. 4. It seemed like fans who follow the duo online have been waiting for new music after their song “Jimmy Cooks” debuted at number one on the Billboard 100 in June.

The rollout for the album was a bit peculiar as fake interviews and magazine covers divided the hip-hop community. The promotions consisted of a made-up Vogue magazine cover and a CGI interview with radio personality Howard Stern. The album cover simply features the face of model Qui Yasuka, which was criticized online for being random and unlike a traditional album cover. However, it didn’t seem to matter after millions of people on streaming services waited for the midnight release and got what they were waiting for.

“Her Loss” not only lived up to but, exceeded the massive expectations that came with it. Drake was criticized for his lackluster performance on his last two albums “Certified Lover Boy” and “Honestly, Nevermind.” The former was an industry-driven project that was seen as lazy, while “Honestly, Nevermind” was an awful attempt at a dance album. Drake seemed to hear this feedback as on “Her Loss” he seems to have the hunger and desire to create like he’s trying to get his first record deal again, as he and 21 Savage

dropped what seems like a Grammy’s Album of Best Rap Album contender.

From the first track “Rich Flex,” Drake is once again rapping like he has something to prove. Although 21 Savage sits off to the side for what seems like the first half of the album, his ad-libs and verses provide the perfect complement to Drake’s softly spoken performances. Whether it’s the calm track “Hours In Silence” or the more traditional beat-based rap song “Broke Boys,” it’s apparent that this album has no songs that would warrant a skip.

Although rapper Lil Yachty does provide support in the track “BackOutsideBoyz,” the only feature on the album is from Travis Scott in “Pussy and Millions.” Scott delivers one of his more traditional autotune-filled performances on the track, but he still managed to fit right in with the steady flow of the album.

I was pleased to hear Drake and 21 sample the song “One More Time” by Daft Punk on the track “Circo Loco.” The sample perfectly fits with the flow and rhyme

scheme as it is definitely one of the best tracks on the album.

In a solo track, 21 Savage recorded “3AM In Glenwood,” which also follows the calm and easy-going theme of the album. In his most prominent role on the album, 21 Savage delivered yet another great performance on his growing resume of well-done verses.

The album did not come without its share of disses of other artists.

The line on “Circo Loco,” “Linking with the opps, bitch / I did that for J Prince” refers to Drake and Ye’s meet-up in 2021 for the Free Larry Hoover Benefit Concert, which saw the two seemingly end their beef and perform together.

Collaboration albums are usually forgotten in a rapper’s discography unless it has a massive impact like “Watch The Throne” or “What a Time to Be Alive.” The album already looks like it will be here to stay for a long time. Not every track is a perfect 10, but there are no songs that could be considered bad or below average.

Overall, “Her Loss” is on the same level as established album of the year contenders such as Kendrick Lamar’s “Mr. Morale and the Big Steppers” and Pusha T’s “It’s Almost Dry.” The quality that Drake and 21 Savage brought to this project has not been seen in a collaborative hip-hop album in a very long time. In the next five or so years, it may go down as a classic album in the discographies of both Drake and 21 Savage.



MUSICSENTROPY/FLICKR / RALPH ARVESEN/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS / PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

Kiss and tell with Casey McQuiston’s 'I Kissed Shara Wheeler'

By KATIE LANGLEY
News Editor

There’s no shame in finding respite from a hectic day in a silly romance novel. However, Casey McQuiston’s “I kissed Shara Wheeler” is much more than silly: it’s suspenseful, heartfelt and so very queer.

In truth, “I Kissed Shara Wheeler” isn’t a romance novel at first glance, but a mystery. In a “Paper Towns” by John Green-style disappearing act, Shara Wheeler goes missing the night of her senior prom. Wheeler, a perfect Christian girl from Alabama, leaves a trail in the form of three kisses and a slew of pink note cards, which bring together three unlikely detectives, each of whom received one of Wheeler’s final smooches.

The first detective is Chloe Green, the nerdy, goth, California-native protagonist dead set on becoming valedictorian at a conservative Alabama high school that despises her for daring to stand out. Green’s only true competition is Wheeler, the daughter of the principal and seemingly perfect fit to the blonde cheerleader mold. Green and Wheeler compete bitterly for four years of high school, which is why it takes Green off-guard when Wheeler corners her, kisses her and promptly disappears.

The story intensifies when Green realizes she’s not the only one Wheeler kissed and ditched; she meets Rory Heron, a stoner

and a slacker who spends his free time destroying government property. Ironically, Heron is Wheeler’s next-door neighbor at the pristine gated country club community where they both live. He crosses paths with Green while they both look for clues about Wheeler’s whereabouts, revealing they both received cryptic notes on monogrammed stationery. Heron, we find out, has been in love with Wheeler for years – or, at least, he thinks so.

Of course, the cheerleader has to be dating the quarterback. Smith Parker is the third character who Wheeler leaves behind. Heron and Green begrudgingly involve Parker in their search for more pink notes from Wheeler. What starts as resentment grows into friendship, and it’s revealed that Parker and Heron have a history and that Green’s determination to catch Wheeler might not be rooted in hatred.

Instead of relying on the mysterious soft boy (Heron) who gets the popular girl (Wheeler) in the end, McQuiston presents a “girl-gets-the-girl” story. It’s not an easy journey; both Green and Wheeler are convinced that she hates the other and would do anything – even staging her own disappearance – to win the prize of best in class.

Throughout her journey, Green realizes that the town she’s despised throughout high school, False Beach, Alabama, has more

to say than conservatism and suppression. There’s a whole lot of good there, too. This is relatable to anyone who grew up in a place that didn’t quite fit them. “Shara Wheeler” is about finding your people in an unusual place, and finding new qualities in people you thought you knew.

Take, for example, Parker. What appears to be the stereotypical high school football player on the surface turned out to be my favorite character in this story. We see Smith grow through making sense of his relationships with Wheeler and Heron, which leads him to discover his sense of self and relationship with gender.

Another valuable story of “Shara Wheeler” is the power of queer friendships. Green has a group of theater kid friends, the closest of which is Georgia. Georgia and Green are both gay, but Green, having two moms and coming from the accepting world of California, is able to be out, while Georgia is not. Throughout the book, Green learns that living as a queer person can be more layered than coming out or not; it also has to do with fulfilling your parent’s expectations and responding to the circumstances and place you were born into.

The last quarter of the book takes a complete 360-degree turn after Wheeler’s much-anticipated return. The mystery turns into a story about teen rage and protests against conservative institutions.

McQuiston’s book destroys the idea that media that revolves around gay characters can’t have happy endings, and that teenagers can’t know better than their parents and principals. “I Kissed Shara Wheeler” is a wonderful read, and it’s exactly what my pre-teen self needed.

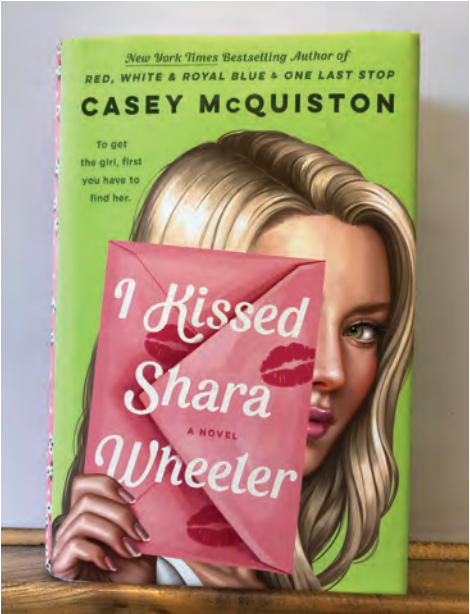


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ALIE TEITZ

Casey McQuiston's "I Kissed Shara Wheeler" tells the story of a girl gone missing and the clues she leaves behind.

Scores
&
Schedule

Wednesday 11/2
MSOC lost 1-0 @ Niagara

Thursday 11/3
WSOC won 1-0 vs Canisius
(MAAC Semifinals)

Friday 11/4
WHOK lost 4-2 @ No. 8 Yale
MHOK won 3-2 vs Colgate

Saturday 11/5
VB won 3-0 @ Manhattan
WHOK won 4-1 @ Brown
MHOK won 2-0 vs Cornell

Sunday 11/6
WSOC won 4-0 vs Niagara
(MAAC Championship)
VB won 3-1 @ Iona

Monday 11/7
WBB lost 82-45 @ No. 10 NC State
MBB won 67-62 @ Rhode Island



OCT. 28 AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

Thursday 11/10
MSOC vs Niagara 12 p.m. (MAAC Semifinals)
MBB @ Stonehill 7 p.m.

Friday 11/11
MXC & WXC @ NCAA Regionals
MHOK @ Brown 7 p.m.

Saturday 11/12
VB vs Saint Peter's 1 p.m.
RUGBY @ Dartmouth 1 p.m.
(NIRA Tournament)
WBB vs CCSU 2 p.m.
MHOK @ Yale 7 p.m.

Sunday 11/13
MSOC @ MAAC Championship TBD
WSOC @ Penn State 1 p.m.
(NCAA Tournament)
VB vs Rider 1 p.m.
MBB @ CCSU 1 p.m.

Monday 11/14
WBB vs Hartford 6 p.m.

Tuesday 11/15
MBB vs Dartmouth 7 p.m.

Tournament bound
Women's soccer brings home first MAAC title in
program history, heads to NCAA tournament



DANIEL PASSAPERA/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac women's soccer scored three goals in the second half against Niagara en route to a MAAC Championship victory.

By ZACK HOCHBERG
Staff Writer

The Quinnipiac women's soccer team used an explosive three-goal second half in front of a packed stadium to win its first MAAC title in program history on Sunday.

After the team won the MAAC regular season title on Oct. 26, Quinnipiac head coach Dave Clarke said the team had three objectives when they started the season.

"81 days ago, we put three goals on the board. Today we accomplished two of them ... No. 1 seed in the MAAC, six shutouts, and everyone has the third goal in common (winning the conference tournament)," Clarke said.

On Sunday, the team accomplished that third goal.

Niagara came out with a lot of energy, generating offensive opportunities and using the Bobcats turnovers to counter-attack. The Purple Eagles almost opened the scoring in the fourth minute when graduate student forward Annie Ibey took an explosive shot toward the Quinnipiac goal but was denied by the post to keep the game scoreless.

Quinnipiac star junior forward Rebecca Cooke took her shot at breaking the tie early but was stopped by Niagara freshman goalkeeper Agnes Stenlund.

The Bobcats continued to prowl for goals. They got their first of the day in the 16th minute. Junior forward Courtney Chochol tried to connect with Cooke on a cross in the box, but instead the ball found the shin of a sliding Purple Eagle graduate student defender Ida Miceli, redirecting it into the net for a 1-0 Bobcats lead.

"We knew after one goal, they would just keep coming, and that's exactly what happened," Quinnipiac senior midfielder Olivia Scott said.

With an advantage on the scoreboard, Quinnipiac settled into its game on the defensive end. The back line was able to control pace and possession for the following 20 minutes of the half, allowing the Bobcats to head into the break with a one-goal lead.

While the first half was evenly played, with both teams registering five shots and one corner apiece, Quinnipiac exploded in the second half.

The Bobcats continuously pushed the ball on offense. Cooke thought she had made the game 2-0 in the 55th minute when she found the back of the net but was ruled offside.

Four minutes later, Cooke didn't let another opportunity go to waste. The nation's leading goal scorer got her foot on a loose ball in the box off a header from Chochol that connected with the post, pushing Quinnipiac's lead to two.

The second goal had Niagara on the ropes. The Purple Eagles backline was starting to fall apart, sloppily clearing balls and getting beat one-on-one, letting the Bobcats create opportunities at will.

"We just stuck to how we play, and how we play destroys teams," Cooke said.

The Bobcats got their knockout blow in the 67th minute on another tough mistake from Niagara. Stenlund took a pass in her own box, but when she tried to kick it out, it

deflected off Chochol's leg and into the net for a 3-0 Quinnipiac lead.

"(There were) two things that we wanted this season and it took (until) the final," Clarke said. "We wanted an own goal on the ball played across the goal and a player sliding in, we got that today, and we wanted one goal where we closed down the back pass and the goalkeeper and we got it today."

Cooke put an exclamation point on her tournament MVP campaign, scoring her second goal of the game as she faked out the keeper in the 79th minute for a 4-0 advantage.

The crowd gave the starters a standing ovation when they were substituted from the game as time ran down.

"It just shows how much the school supports us, how much our families support us, everyone out here, it was really nice and we got a lot of energy out of it," Scott said.

When the final whistle blew, the Bobcats, including some members of the men's soccer team, rushed the field to celebrate their first MAAC championship.

The Bobcats donned dark-blue shirts that read 'we are one' on the back throughout the postseason, and the idea that this team is one family was evident as the trophies were handed out on Sunday.

"It doesn't matter if you're the first player on the field or the last player on the field. Coaches, athletic trainers, everyone, we're all one family, one champion," Cooke said.

The victory sends Quinnipiac to its first NCAA Soccer tournament since 2000.

"We set a bunch of goals in the beginning of the year, and obviously this was the end goal, and it just feels really good to come through with it and all the hard work," Scott said.

The Bobcats are now scheduled to face Big 10 champion Penn State at 1 p.m. on Sunday in State College, Pennsylvania in the tournament's opening round. The matchup is between the 15th and second seeds in their respective regions.



DANIEL PASSAPERA/CHRONICLE

Junior forward Courtney Chochol's (center) 12 assists puts her fifth in NCAA Division I this season.

Out for redemption

After a disappointing 2021 season, men’s soccer looks to return to MAAC glory



DANIEL PASSAPERA/CHRONICLE

The Quinnipiac men’s soccer team is two wins away from its first MAAC title since 2013.

By COLIN KENNEDY
Staff Writer

Success is not a foreign term within the walls of the Quinnipiac men’s soccer program. Winning four MAAC regular season titles since joining the conference in 2013, the Bobcats know what it takes to reach the top of the mountain.

Despite the regular season success, Quinnipiac has struggled to translate it to the postseason, with only one MAAC championship to its name from 2013. However, this group has been defying the odds all season long. The team might just have it in them to make it another special week in Hamden.

To say the Bobcats bounced back from a tough 2021 season would be an understatement. Although finishing the season with a winning record at 9-8, their lackluster conference play kept them out of the playoffs. In this year’s campaign, Quinnipiac wanted to right the ship.

“They’ve tasted a lot of success, and they had to overcome not being a part of that success,” Quinnipiac head coach Eric Da Costa said following a 2-0 win against Canisius on Oct. 29.

This group of Bobcats took the underwhelming 2021 campaign to heart and came out in 2022 with a vengeance. The team finished the regular season with a 11-4-3 overall record and 6-2-2 record within the conference. Despite a 1-0 loss to Niagara, Quinnipiac clinched the MAAC regular season title with a little help from Saint Peter’s, who beat Iona to give the Bobcats sole possession of the title.

Led by captain and senior forward David Bercedo, Quinnipiac has created a dangerous offensive attack. Bercedo leads

the team in goals with 11, which puts him eighth in Division I of the NCAA. The captain was also recently awarded the 2022 MAAC Golden Boot Award, given to the player with the most goals in the conference.

To have the sixth ranked scoring offense in the country, you’re going to need more than just one player to create offense. Luckily, the Quinnipiac roster is filled with guys who love to find the back of the net.

Joining Bercedo on the starting front line are senior forwards Tomas Svecula and Brage Aasen, who both earned All-MAAC First Team honors. Svecula has started all 18 games for the Bobcats this season, adding six goals, and while Aasen has been battling injuries all season, he returned at just the right time for the Bobcats. Although he has played in only nine games, Aasen has four goals to match his four assists.

This team is a tight-knit group, and it’s clear when you see the depth and confidence that it plays with. The roster is deep with players from every class, including graduate student midfielder Alex Holle, senior forward Jason Budhai and graduate student midfielder Noah Silverman.

“They mean everything to me, we have a really special bond,” Holle said following a 2-0 win against Canisius on Oct. 29.

In a team that is filled with veteran players, there are a few newcomers that have left their mark on this group. Freshman midfielder Alexander Stjernegaard has started every game for Quinnipiac, while also leading the team in minutes played. Stjernegaard was recognized for his stellar collegiate debut season, as he was

awarded the 2022 MAAC Rookie of the Year. Freshman defenseman Erik Langwagen has also been a crucial piece to the Bobcats success, tallying over 1,000 minutes played on the season.

Quinnipiac understands that success is fragile, and with home-field advantage the Bobcats have set themselves up to reach the top of the MAAC.

Receiving a first round bye, Quinnipiac will take on Niagara in the semi-final round Thursday, akin to the women’s soccer team who beat Niagara to win the MAAC Championship.

“We measure success by getting into the playoffs, winning trophies and championships,” Da Costa said.

Despite not having won a MAAC title since 2013, the Bobcats are no stranger to the big game, having appeared in four of the last nine MAAC Championships that have taken place since they joined the conference.

It’s clear that Quinnipiac is capable of continuing to score at the rate it has, but the real question will be if they can hold strong on the defensive end in front of freshman goalkeeper Karl Netzell. When the intensity rises in the playoffs, quality offensive chances tend to diminish. The Bobcats will need to raise their defensive intensity to another level if they want to claim the title.

“Offense wins games, defense wins championships,” Da Costa said.

Quinnipiac has been defying the odds all season long, so with two possible games remaining in the MAAC playoffs before a potential NCAA tournament berth, let’s see if the Bobcats have any playoff magic left in them.

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“I was able to perform pretty well having (that) little step forward,” Young said. “As opposed to everybody else who got there and kind of had two weeks to figure everything out.”

Now in his second year in the G League, Young is hoping to take his career to new heights with the Ignite, the League’s premier franchise designed for elite prospect development. Among his teammates is guard Scoot Henderson, the consensus No. 2 prospect in the 2023 NBA Draft.

“With my role, I’m kind of in between,” Young said. I’m younger, but I’m a veteran compared to the younger guys. So I’m able to help them out and also learn from the other veterans that are already here.”

Signing with the Ignite is a decision that comes back to Young’s primary aim as a basketball player: reach the NBA.

“Pretty much all of the NBA teams are going to be watching

the Ignite,” Young said. “(The) ultimate goal for me is to make it to the league, so I thought this was the best situation to put myself in front of as many people as I can.”

Every step of the way, Young has been doubted. It took two colleges, three countries and six professional teams for him to even reach the shadow of the NBA. But on each occasion, he’s risen to the challenge and become a better player because of it.

“His whole life he’s been having to fight,” Stewart said. “He really takes that to heart ... It could have went bad 20 times for Cameron, but he’s highly favored right now.”

Made in LA and strengthened at Quinnipiac, Young’s journey is far from over. But wherever it takes him, history says he’s built for it.

“You’ve got to still believe in yourself when nobody else does, because there are going to be times where people don’t believe in you,” Young said. “You have to be able to show up and showcase yourself anyways, believe in yourself and embrace the negativity.”



MORGAN TENCZA/CHRONICLE ARCHIVES (2019)

Cameron Young was Quinnipiac’s first and only MAAC Player of the Year recipient for his play in 2018-19.



GARRETT ELLWOOD/G-LEAGUE IGNITE/GETTY IMAGES

Former Quinnipiac guard Cameron Young’s journey from Hamden to the brink of the NBA

By CAMERON LEVASSEUR
Sports Editor

For every young basketball player, there is one universal dream: make it to the NBA. But few make it past the high school level and even less college. In fact, no Quinnipiac player has ever graced the hardwood of basketball’s biggest stage. Former Quinnipiac guard Cameron Young is on a mission to change that.

The 6-foot-6-inch Los Angeles product signed with the G League Ignite for the 2022-23 season, marking the sixth professional team Young has played for since the last time he donned a Bobcats uniform in 2019.

Italy, Ukraine, El Segundo, Memphis, Cleveland and now Las Vegas: that much change in such a short period of time would make most people rethink the path they’re on. Cameron Young is not most people.

“It’s my journey,” Young said. “I keep accomplishing my goals wherever I go, no matter how long its taken or whichever route I have to take.”

Young’s rollercoaster journey didn’t just begin after his departure from Hamden. To get the full picture you have to go back to the beginning, back to the halls of then-Westchester High School in LA.

“He was a quiet kid, he didn’t really talk much,” said Elijah Stewart, a teammate of Young’s at Westchester. “He was just a little different.”

Young may not have talked a lot, but those around him did. Growing up in one of the world’s most competitive basketball environments put him under the microscope from the minute he stepped onto the court for the first time as a freshman.

“People just be hating,” Stewart said. “Playing basketball in LA makes you very proficient in working in hostile environments ... you don’t care about hopping on Twitter as a 16-17 year old and seeing people call you a bum, a bust ... it’s just a different type of mindset that you develop from playing there.”

While a tough place to play, the unrelenting mindset that the environment in LA breeds has developed some of the greatest talents in the game today, among them Bulls guard DeMar DeRozan and Lakers guard Russell Westbrook.

“You look at the NBA,” Young said. “A majority of the top all-star players are from LA, I would say. Just in general, it’s definitely become the mecca of basketball in my opinion.”

A two-star recruit out of Westchester, Young wasn’t getting the Division I looks that many of his teammates were. That lack of attention didn’t deter him however, if anything, it just made him work harder.

He played two years at the Junior College level with Arizona Western, averaging 17 points per game as a sophomore to earn the mid-major recognition that eventually landed him at Quinnipiac.

“I just loved the facilities and university in general,” Young said. “I was sold on Quinnipiac.”

But even in Young’s first season with the Bobcats, he continued to face adversity. A coaching staff reluctant to give the then-20-year-old opportunities led to him only seeing action in six games the entire season, failing to record a single point.

An offseason overhaul ahead of the 2017-18 season brought a new group to the sidelines of Lender Court, including current head coach Baker Dunleavy.

Under Dunleavy’s leadership, Young was finally given the opportunity to shine – and that’s exactly what he did – starting all 33 games for Quinnipiac while leading the team in points at just under 19 per game.

“(Dunleavy) believed in me when he first got there,” Young said. “He was able to let me showcase my ability and put me on a platform to be able to show myself.”

While Dunleavy may not have known much about Young when he took over the program, he soon found out.

“The first time the guys played pickup he really caught my eye in terms of talent,” Dunleavy said. “I can’t say enough about his ability but also his growth with us, and Quinnipiac University is a big part of that.”

A relentless work ethic set Young apart from the crowd during his stint with the Bobcats.

“Me and ... (redshirt senior guard) Savion (Lewis) would come in the gym at eight o’clock, nine o’clock at night, Cam comes in at 10 o’clock at night and stays until 12,” redshirt senior guard Matt Balanc said. “Then he’s in there the next morning, (at) eight, nine, just working.”

Young’s talent was even more evident in his final year with the program, so much so that the accolades speak for themselves: unanimous MAAC Player of the Year, AP All-America Honorable Mention, USBWA and NABC All-District teams, the list goes on.

“His final year with us, he was an NBA player in the MAAC in my opinion,” Dunleavy said. “You could go to him in any situation, ball screen, iso, post-up, and teams didn’t have much of an answer for him.”

The season culminated in a 55-point outburst in a triple-overtime win over Siena. That total remains a Quinnipiac and MAAC

record and is the highest single-game mark by any Division I player since 2009.

“I felt like I was at peace most of the season,” Young said. “Between my senior year and grad year ... a bunch of schools were calling me to transfer, but just from having the season I had with the team and coach Dunleavy, it was a no-brainer, I knew I was coming back.”

Like every period of Young’s career, however, there was more adversity on the horizon. Following the 2018-19 season, the prolific scorer declared for the NBA Draft, but after two rounds and 60 picks, his name was not called, leaving Young to pursue options overseas.

“It’s just kind of my story in general,” Young said. “Quinnipiac’s a smaller school, so I was kind of under recruited anyway. Being undrafted, all that stuff, just falls under the same category of motivation.”

Young spent a year in Italy with Pallacanestro Cantù in Lega Basket Serie A before heading east to join the Cherkasy Monkeys for the 2020-21 season in the Ukrainian top division.

His successful stints in Europe were enough to garner interest back at home for the following campaign, where he signed with the G League’s South Bay Lakers last October following a strong tryout. Young would be waived by the Lakers at the end of training camp.

Young was picked up by the Memphis Hustle a month later, where he would see his first G League action, averaging over 17 points as one of the team’s top scoring options, seamlessly transitioning back from the more fundamental European game.

“NBA style is completely different from overseas style,” Young said. “The pace of the game, the three point line’s farther back, the ball’s different. (It was a) big adjustment, but I was actually able to get adjusted quite quick so it worked out.”

After 18 games in Memphis, Young had to pack his bags once more. The Hustle dealt him to the Cleveland Charge in a three-team trade. In Cleveland, he saw his most productive stretch as a professional, averaging 25.5 points on a 50% clip from the field and nearly 40% from three.

Knowing the system helped Young as he joined the Charge’s NBA-affiliate Cavaliers for the NBA 2K23 Summer League. He played major minutes for the club during the tournament, finishing third on the team in scoring.