



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED TO THE CHRONICLE  
Israelis flee a dance party in Re'im, Israel, after Hamas attacked the community with rockets and gunfire on Saturday, Oct. 6.

## Israel and Palestine have fought for decades — this is different

By JACK SPIEGEL  
Staff Writer

“One of my best friends is probably dead,” my brother Or told me on Sunday night.

On Saturday morning, Americans woke up to news of another conflict unfolding in the Middle East. Hamas fired thousands of missiles from the Gaza Strip into Israel. Hamas terrorists also entered Israel by land, sea and air with fighters seen paragliding into southern Israel.

Hamas is the largest of many terrorist organizations based in the Gaza Strip and has fought multiple wars with Israel. It is also the self-claimed governing body of Gaza. To say that Hamas is simply a resistance group fighting for their right to a nation is wrong — It has sworn to destroy the State of Israel.

Over 700 Israelis were killed Saturday, leading experts to characterize this event as Israel’s 9/11. Adjusted for population, the 700 killed in Israel is equivalent to approximately 25,000 Americans.

More Jews were killed on Saturday than any other single day since the Holocaust.

You may not have a personal connection to this conflict, but every citizen of this country and the world should be paying attention to what is happening at this moment.

My first thought when I woke up to the news was if Or was okay.

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# Students voice concerns about how trespasser evaded \$200K worth of new security measures

By CAT MURPHY  
News Editor

The ease with which a trespasser gained access to Quinnipiac University’s Mount Carmel Campus in late September is reigniting concerns among some students about the efficacy of the university’s campus security practices.

The town of Hamden’s publicly available building and electrical permitting records reveal that, between late April and early May of this year, Quinnipiac spent more than \$45,000 constructing three new gates on the Mount Carmel and York Hill campuses — one in the Harwood Gate Lot, one on Bobcat Way behind the Mountainview residence hall and one at the guard booth outside the Eastview residence hall.

University officials subsequently filed a fourth building permit in late September to install an \$18,000 gate in Hogan Lot.

“The goal is to limit unauthorized entry onto campus,” wrote Tony Reyes, chief of Public Safety, in an Oct. 7 statement to The Chronicle. “However, the gate arms are also to help regulate and enforce parking rules at the respective lots.”

Excluding the motion-activated gate arm behind the Mountainview dorm building, Reyes said the new gates are tap-activated and accessible only via QCard.

“The gate arms at the Harwood, Facilities, and Eastview gates additionally have video cameras and intercom systems to communicate directly with the Public Safety Dispatcher who can

give remote access,” Reyes wrote.

But despite the new gates, a man who identified himself only as “Jeff” entered multiple classrooms in the the Center for Communications and Computing and Engineering building on Sept. 28 to advertise tickets to a comedy show.

Although the Department of Public Safety partnered with the Hamden Police Department to arrest the scammer, officials have thus far been

unable to identify or locate him.

Evidently, the ticket scheme is rather infamous at colleges across the Northeast — and another “Jeff” used the same ruse to con Quinnipiac students eight years ago.

But “Jeff” is far from the first uninvited guest to visit Quinnipiac.

Hamden police escorted a group of four unidentified men off the Mount Carmel Campus in

early May for trespassing.

The men entered a residence hall in an apparent attempt to interview students for a social media show. The responding officer confiscated two bottles of liquor from the men but did not arrest them.

In April 2019, Public Safety officers intervened after a suspicious man entered the Carl Hansen Student Center to sell a white substance he claimed was “energy powder,” per Q30 News.

And six months earlier, in November 2018, an Uber driver allegedly followed a female student into a residence hall on the Mount Carmel Campus. Police arrested the driver for stalking, threatening and criminal trespassing but later dismissed the charges.

Each incident raised questions among students about how the individuals gained access to Quinnipiac’s closed campus — and, in the wake of the “Jeff” chaos, some students are again expressing concerns about the adequacy of the university’s security systems.

““Jeff” was just selling tickets, which sucks for all the students who bought tickets,” said Sese Allerheiligen, a sophomore 3+1 software engineering major. “But ‘Jeff’ could have also just easily been malicious in some capacity.”

Although many students applauded the addition of new tap-activated gate arms, several

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PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE  
A car passes the \$150,000 guard booth Quinnipiac University officials constructed behind the College of Arts and Sciences buildings over the summer to monitor incoming traffic at the facilities entrance.



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QU administration launches committee to analyze role of AI

By JACK CROWLEY  
Contributing Writer

In a move that brings to light the significance of artificial intelligence in education, Quinnipiac University officials in August announced the establishment of a committee focused on AI strategy.

Provost Debra Liebowitz, highlighting the news in her fall 2023 update, said the committee will “explore and make recommendations about the practical, ethical and innovative uses and implications of AI.”

The committee is composed of three subcommittees ranging from AI teaching and learn-

ing, curriculum and services and operations.

The subcommittees will collaborate with students, faculty, staff, administrators and external advisors and trustees, to ensure that the recommendations align with the university’s mission and values. Together, the subcommittees will, among other things, evaluate the role of AI at Quinnipiac, make recommendations about AI integration and address responsible use concerns associated with the technology.

Following the release of popular AI chatbots such as ChatGPT, faculty and administrators alike are learning how to deal with artificial intelligence in the classroom.

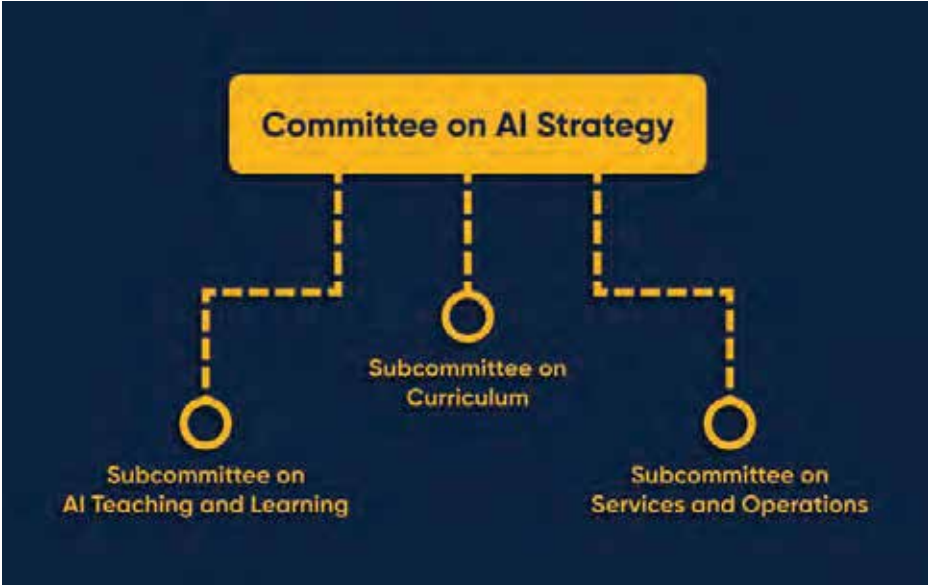


ILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

SAFETY from cover

expressed concerns about the campus’ accessibility on foot.

“While the gates will discourage people from driving onto campus, it’s also really easy to just walk on campus,” Allerheiligen said.

Julia Schnarr, a senior 3+1 film, television and media arts major, also said she was more concerned about pedestrians than drivers, namely because of the campus’ proximity to Sleeping Giant State Park.

“Personally, when people walk on campus, I think that’s a different story — like, if they park at the park across the street and then walk over,” Schnarr said. “I feel like that’s just something people could do, so I worry about that.”

But Christian Borchetta, a junior game design development major, also noted that the York Hill Campus remains relatively accessible by vehicle without a QCard — even with the new gate.

“You can park in Eastview or Westview lot without a pass,” Borchetta said. “You’re not going to go through a gate with anybody that can check your QCard.”

Beyond the new gates, Quinnipiac officials over the summer constructed a new guard booth behind the College of Arts and Sciences to accommodate increased traffic at the facilities entrance amid ongoing South Quad construction.

Reyes said the new guard shack, which building permits indicate cost approximately \$150,000 to construct, has enabled Public Safety officers to better “regulate entry” to the CAS and Hilltop parking lots.

“The booth is staffed full-time and is equipped with audio/video surveillance, all of which help improve campus security,” Reyes wrote of the new booth.

However, several students pointed out that the officers who man the guard stations across campus often inconsistently — or, at the very

“‘Jeff’ could have also just as easily been malicious in some capacity.”

–Sese Allerheiligen  
SOPHOMORE 3+1 SOFTWARE ENGINEERING MAJOR

least, hastily — verify drivers’ parking passes and university IDs.

“I’ve had times where I go to the booth and they made everyone in the car pull out their QCards, and I’ve had times where I go to the booth and they just wave it through because they recognize the driver,” Allerheiligen said, calling the university’s security procedures “superficial.”

JJ Darconte, a sophomore film, television and media arts major, said she too reconsidered the university’s approach to its own safety policies following the “Jeff” incident.

“It made me realize how I’ve never had to show my QCard unless it’s one or two specific guards,” Darconte said. “It made me more upset to realize how many of the Public Safety officers don’t care about the cars coming onto campus.”

And they were far from the only two students who expressed concerns about the details of the “Jeff” incident — other students questioned why “Jeff” was able to access an academic building so easily.

“The idea that he was in buildings was definitely concerning,” Schnarr said. “It did make

“I actually have them use it explicitly in my classroom,” said Jonathan Blake, professor of computer science and director of software engineering. “It doesn’t take very long before the complexity of the programs go past the ability of a generative AI to produce them.”

Blake suggested viewing AI as a tool — and taking it with a “grain of salt.”

“Its power and its efficacy kind of changes discipline by discipline,” Blake said. “It tends to produce results that aren’t 100% correct.”

Sebastian Salazar, a first-year computer science major, agreed that students should at times be able to use AI generation academically.

“It makes sense to allow AI, because in the future, jobs are going to start using AI for really anything,” Salazar said. “So, giving us the option to use AI in our projects or labs makes sense.”

Blake argued that Quinnipiac administrators “need to be ahead of the curve” — proactive rather than reactive — in terms of artificial intelligence use.

“The question for us in academia is how can we actually make sure you guys are the ones most attracted for jobs in this new economy?” Blake said. “We’re working on a minor in AI designed for making sure that Quinnipiac students remain at the top.”

This endeavor is another step for Quinnipiac to stay at the forefront of innovation while ensuring that AI is used as a benefit for students and administration. The committee has set a deadline to report its findings and recommendations by Feb. 15, 2024.

me question campus security.”

Allerheiligen proposed making Quinnipiac’s academic buildings accessible only via QCard.

“The buildings have the capacity to lock and restrict themselves with QCards,” they said. “For as annoying as that would be, I do think that that could be helpful in stopping people who aren’t supposed to get in from getting in.”

Even some concerned parents took to social media in the aftermath of the recent on-campus trespassing incident to suggest implementing stricter building security protocols.

“Maybe it’s time to consider entrance to on campus buildings be by (QCard) scan only,” one Quinnipiac parent, Christine Clark, commented on The Chronicle’s Instagram post about ‘Jeff.’ “This ‘harmless’ scammer could just as easily be someone with intent to cause physical harm to our students.”

But not everyone said they believed Quinnipiac officials would err on the side of caution.

“I think they’re not going to change until something actually forces them to,” Darconte said.



# Professor joins CT task force to address radiologic technologist shortage

**By BENJAMIN YEARGIN**  
Managing Editor

Connecticut Speaker of the House Matthew Ritter appointed Bernadette Mele, clinical professor and chair of diagnostic imaging at Quinnipiac University, to a task force to investigate and address a shortage of radiologic technologists in the state.

Mele has spent her whole life in southern Connecticut. She earned her bachelor's and masters at Quinnipiac, in diagnostic imaging and medical laboratory sciences, respectively. She's also a lifelong Hamden resident and started her career as a radiologic technologist at the Saint Raphael branch of the Yale New Haven Hospital.

She transitioned into academia at Quinnipiac, working her way up from an assistant professor to the chairperson of the diagnostic imaging department.

Mele also was the head of the Quinnipiac faculty senate from 2018-2022, has served on multiple committees and still works at Yale New Haven hospital.

Growing up, Mele focused entirely on self-improvement and wanting to achieve more, but a change in her mindset prompted her to shift to selflessness.

"The way I was brought up was always do better, do better, do better," Mele said. "I obviously want to keep doing better, but now I don't want to do better for me. I want to do better for other people."

Specifically, for the students she teaches, Mele stressed the importance of making the next

generation of radiology techs better than hers.

"I tell the (students) that graduate what I received when I sat for my registry ... your goal is to beat me," Mele said.

This comes amidst a shortage in radiologic technologists — who use radiation from different technologies like x-ray, MRI and CT machines to take images — largely due to the retirement of older technologists and a higher demand for services, Mele said.

Mele will sit on the committee investigating the shortage alongside five other radiology experts. The group is required to report their findings on the shortage by Jan. 1, 2024.

Ryan Vaitkus, a graduate student in the advanced medical imaging and leadership program, feels that another clear reason for the shortage is the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I remember when I was first starting right at the tail end of COVID and a lot of people were simply just overworked," Vaitkus said. "They were dropping out of the profession."

Amid the coronavirus pandemic, over 300,000 healthcare workers left the field, a report from Definitive Healthcare found. Specifically, 85% of healthcare organizations reported some concern over openings for radiologic technologists.

Kelly Chieffalo, a graduate student getting her masters in health sciences, said she saw firsthand the stress that the COVID-19 pandemic put the radiology field under.

"With COVID, everybody was getting a chest x-ray because they were intubated and they want-

ed to diagnose it," Chieffalo said. "People were doing like hundreds of exams in a couple hours."

However, Chieffalo also said she views the shortage as a positive.

"I kind of like the shortage because there's an opportunity to make so much more money," Chieffalo said. "I love what I do."

Chieffalo said she has felt the shortage while working clinically at Danbury Hospital in Danbury, Connecticut. She works per diem, which means she gets paid by the day.

"You can see that there's a shortage because if the next shift doesn't come in ... you have to work it," Chieffalo said. "Since I'm per diem, I only have to work two shifts a month, but I've been working like eight to 10 (shifts) just because they can't get people."

The incoming class of radiologic technologists must fill the shoes of outgoing techs — and Quinnipiac's program continues to grow.

"Our program is growing, especially after COVID," Vaitkus said. "As a whole, diagnostic imaging graduated 18 people. I know the class under us there's 20s and 30s, there's these really big numbers."

Vaitkus plans to go into MRI, which requires another certification to practice, although that hasn't hindered the growth of diagnostic imaging as a whole.

"You need to be an x-ray tech first ... (MRI) doesn't usually have a staff as big as an x-ray department," Vaitkus said. "I'm definitely seeing growth throughout (with the x-ray)."

This committee alone will not solve the shortage — and Mele acknowledged that — but she argued it is a good stepping stone.

"The shortage is not just specific to Connecticut," Mele said. "It's all over the place. It has to be a fix that's sustainable and I think that is going to require many other bodies than us. We're the first step."



PHOTO VIA QUINNIPAC UNIVERSITY

**Bernadette Mele, clinical professor and chair of diagnostic imaging at Quinnipiac University, is among five task force members investigating a statewide shortage of radiologic technologists.**

# Channel 3 partners with Quinnipiac Athletics to offer new outlet for student-produced content

**By ZACHARY REAGAN**  
Staff Writer

Quinnipiac Athletics and WWAX-TV announced a partnership that aims to bring a new audience to Quinnipiac University sports by broadcasting Bobcats' games on the channel.

The sports that WWAX will broadcast include men's and women's soccer, women's volleyball and several others.

WWAX launched six months ago under Gray Television and is a partner station to WFSB, the New Haven area's CBS affiliate.

Michael Kassa, associate vice president for corporate sponsorships, said this will benefit Quinnipiac and its students by offering increased visibility for its athletes. In addition, the partnership will offer opportunities for students to submit their own content, primarily through student media organizations. WWAX will then have more content for collegiate athletics created by local students.

Dana Neves, a regional vice president of Gray Media, the company that owns WWAX, and the general manager of WFSB, was excited about the partnership. Neves' primary responsibility as general manager is focusing on programming for WWAX, so she expressed her gratitude that the deal was able to go through so quickly.

"I want to be complimentary of Quinnipiac, frankly," Neves said. "When presented the opportunity, they met with us right away. They pulled in so many different departments. To have a university with a laser focus on benefitting the students, in turn, benefits us too because we're getting some great content from them."

Zachary Soulier, associate athletic director for partnerships at Quinnipiac, said he found the negotiation process incredibly easy.

"I can tell you just from being in those conversations, it was a sort of love at first sight," Soulier said. "They were looking for quality local content. And of course, in

(the) university, we're always trying to provide students with real-life opportunities. Then also, showcasing the premier talent that we have within our student athletes."

On the athletics side, WWAX plans to rebroadcast Quinnipiac games, with members of Quinnipiac's student media organizations handling all production and on-air responsibilities.

However, Soulier said it was too early in the process to iron out exactly what content the station will produce beyond athletics.

Kassa shed light on a few possibilities to get student media organizations in on the action.

"Some other opportunities could be as simple as rebroadcasting the (Q30 News) telecast

a couple days a week," Kassa said. "Another could be looking at some more long-form content like longer student documentaries, longer-form stories, what have you, WWAX would certainly entertain the opportunity of putting those on the air as well."

On the other side of the table, Neves echoed a similar sentiment. She said she views this deal in two parts, one definite side handling the athletics, and another, more vague side handling future projects outside the sports space.

"My hope is that we start airing documentary pieces, campus news segments, maybe a campus magazine show on this channel to showcase the entire communications department," Neves

said. "Between the people that are in it, and the work they do, we haven't ironed all of it out. The university and our side all have great ideas, but we're taking baby steps."

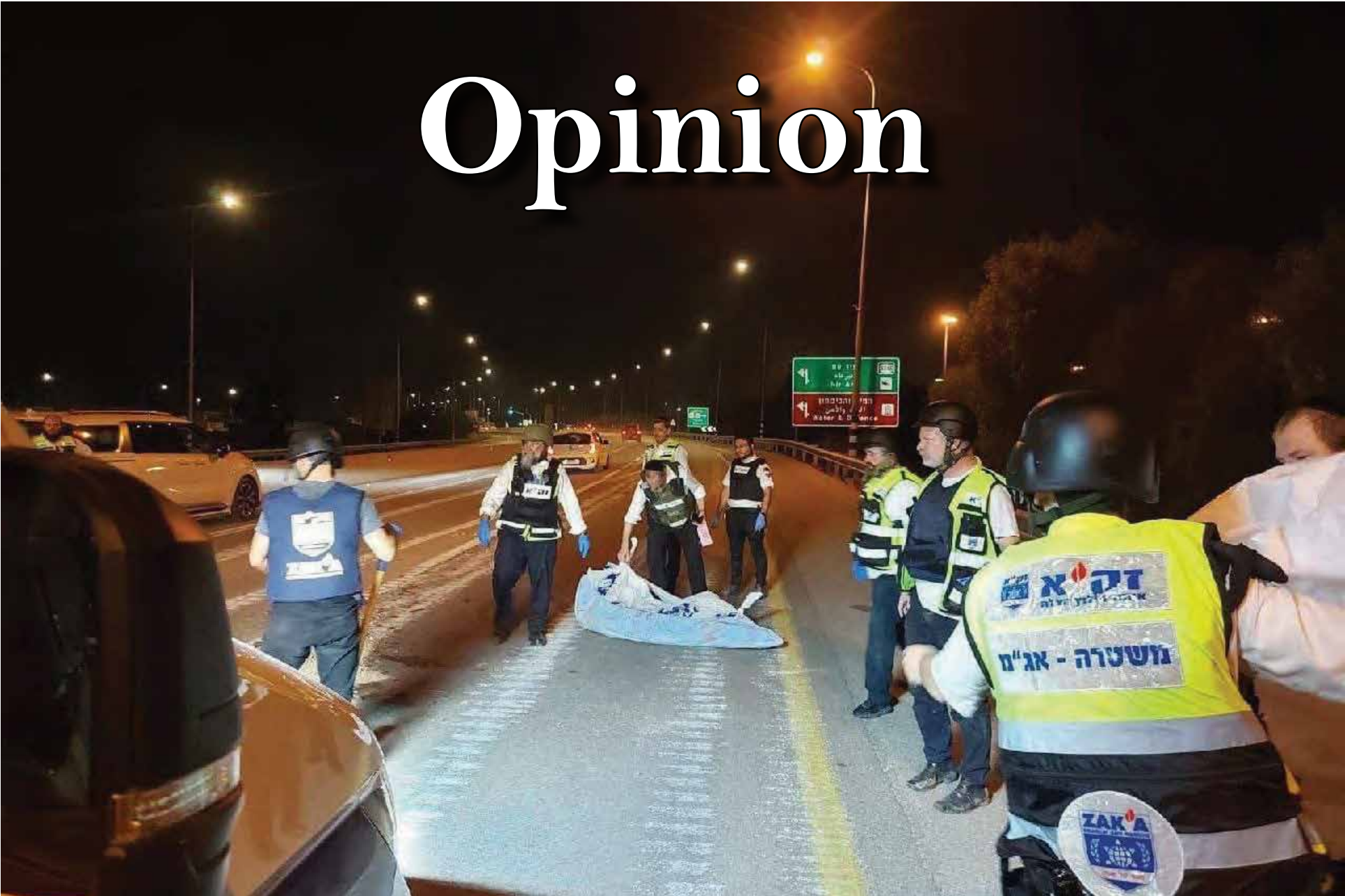
Regardless of the details, everyone surrounding the partnership made sure to mention one thing: involvement in the partnership will benefit students years down the line.

"We're in the process of building a strong foundation at the moment, and it's really sort of boundless in the way that this can grow and the opportunities for our students," Soulier said. "They'll provide us awesome exposure on a continuing level with all of our different athletics events."



ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RIHA





Members of the ZAKA voluntary emergency services retrieve a body from a street in Nir Am, Israel after partygoers fled a music festival at Kibbutz Re'im on Saturday, Oct. 7. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED TO THE CHRONICLE

# ‘Be Strong, Be Strong and Be Resolute’

## An intimate perspective on the war in Israel and a call for resilience

**ISRAEL** from cover  
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In 2019, Or was a Shinshin — Israeli emissary to defer military service one year — to my hometown of Denver, where he lived with my family for six months. Though we were only his host family, we became as close as we could without being blood siblings.

I texted Or to ask how he was doing after I heard the news, to which he responded by saying: “So far so bad ... one of my best friends she’s gone missing near the border.”

Or’s friend was at a dance party near Kibbutz Re’im, about five miles east of the Gaza Strip, the morning Hamas sent its first barrage of missiles. Terrorists then entered the party, shooting anyone in their way. In a later update, Or said that his friend’s phone was located in Gaza. Horrific images surfaced of bodies lying in a tent at the party where there are now reports of at least 260 people killed.

Like many Israelis, Or said that he is going back to the Israel Defense Forces after completing his mandatory service in the intelligence branch earlier this year.

In Israel, every citizen must serve at least three years in the IDF once they turn 18. There are a few ways to defer that service — like the Shinshin program — but at one point or another, all citizens will serve their country, with many staying in the IDF for longer than their mandatory three years.

As U.S. President Joe Biden said this weekend, Israel has the right to defend itself and seek retaliation against Hamas and other terror organizations for their aggressions.

It is important to understand that not all those living in Gaza are supporters of Hamas, and no civilian casualties — on either side — should be condoned. We also cannot condone terrorists using human shields and storing arms

in apartment buildings.

Many anti-Israel activists tend to criticize Israel for bombing civilian buildings and hospitals in Gaza even if there are only a handful of terrorists inside. While, yes, those civilians do not deserve to be caught in the crossfire, the real criticism should be on Hamas and any other organization involved in terrorist actions.

It’s far too simple for people to say that violence isn’t the answer and that Israel doesn’t have to retaliate in the same way. How can you expect Israelis to sit back while hostages are being taken, parties are being hit with grenades and families are left wondering whether or not their children are alive?

This war is also a good reminder that antisemitism is still prolific. This weekend, the Anti-Defamation League reported that antisemitism has spiked on social media. Even Elon Musk, the CEO of X, formerly Twitter, elevated an account known to make questionable statements about Jews as a reliable source for updates.

You can be anti-Israel without being antisemitic. There are plenty of Jews out there who don’t support the Israeli government’s actions in Gaza and the West Bank, and may even consider the Israeli occupation of Palestine an apartheid

— institutionalized racial segregation, like the policy implemented in South Africa during the 20th century. But yet, there are Zionists who believe in the need for a Jewish state.

It is impossible to look at this centuries-old conflict only through the lens of Israel versus Palestine. There are places for conversations to be had about who the land belongs to, but we have to be able to separate the Palestinians who advocate for their rights from the terrorists who seek to destroy Israel. We have to understand that Hamas threatens the many ways of life of Palestinians too, and many Muslims do not support the terroristic organization.

The living conditions inside the Gaza Strip are terrible. It is one of the most densely populated 140 square miles in the world, with 2.2 million people, half of those being children. Hamas is the group in control of the region, leading to a blockade by both Israel and Egypt in 2007. Gaza is a safe harbor for terrorism and leaves the Israeli government with no other option than to fully cut off Hamas and Islamic Jihad’s capabilities.

While civilian deaths are unacceptable, Gazan citizens are victims of the terroristic Hamas regime. What Gaza will look like after this war is far from being known, but Israeli Prime Min-

ister Benjamin Netanyahu, told Gazans who live in areas that Hamas operates to leave, and the defense secretary, Yoav Gallant, ordered a “complete siege” of the Gaza Strip. Gallant also said that Israel will cut off electricity, food, water and fuel to Gaza to fight the “human animals” accordingly.

This is not just another small incursion from the Gaza Strip. This is a full-on war instigated by Hamas and Israel has no other option than to completely neutralize them. Hamas members are executing babies in front of their parents, beheading children and raping women next to their dead friends then parading them through the streets of Gaza with blood dripping from their crotch, as reported by Tablet Magazine.

To call Hamas anything other than brutal terrorists is irresponsible.

Saturday was the bloodiest day in Israeli history, and, unfortunately, the death toll is only going to rise in the coming days. This war came on the 50-year anniversary of the 1973 Yom Kippur War, which is no coincidence.

Many worshippers — including some of my friends — spent the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah and the Sabbath in bomb shelters this weekend. Nobody of any faith should be forced to spend the holiest of days fearing for their lives.

I asked Or if there was one thing he would want Americans to know about the conflict. He said, “I cannot explain how many efforts are being set in place to prevent damaging innocent people in every small attack Israel does.”

Every time I send a text to Or, I worry about whether or not I will get a response from him.

My rabbi back home shared a message to our congregation: “Chazak, Chazak, V’nitchazeik.” In English, this means, “Be Strong, Be Strong and Be Resolute” — and I cannot echo that enough to my brothers and sisters who are fighting for their lives and the lives of those around them in Israel.

“Every time I send a text to Or, I worry about whether or not I will get a response from him.”

– Jack Spiegel  
STAFF WRITER



# Opinion

## How old is too old to serve?

The actions of aging lawmakers reinforce the need for younger candidates

By **LILLIAN CURTIN**  
Contributing Writer

Groundbreaking California lawmaker Sen. Dianne Feinstein died on Sept. 29 at the age of 90. She was a strong advocate for gun control and was a role model for many women.

Her death is sad but, frankly, not shocking. Feinstein was the oldest-sitting U.S. senator and member of Congress. With her age only increasing and mental state decreasing, it raised the question: How old is too old to serve?

According to Pew Research Center, the median age of current national leaders is 62. However, an Axios poll showed that 77% of Americans surveyed agree that there should be an age limit for elected officials and 75% of people think it should be 70 years old or lower.

It's interesting knowing that our last two presidents were over that ideal age. Former President Donald Trump was 70 years old when he was elected, and President Joe Biden was 78.

Former Speaker of the House Rep. Nancy Pelosi is 82. Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa is 90, and he is now the oldest serving member of Congress following Feinstein's death. 80-year-old Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell's recent blunders, such as freezing for extended periods of time during a press conference — first happening on July 26 — also showed the consequences of his advanced age.

This wasn't the first time an elderly political leader has had their mental state questioned. An aide whispered, "Just say 'aye'" to Feinstein on July 27, when she started giving a speech when the House had already moved on to the voting process for a bill. A spokesperson claimed she was just "preoccupied," but many viewers who watched the committee vote don't buy that and blamed her old age.

Not every elderly person is in a poor state of mind. There are many elderly people who are still as sharp as they were when they were 30 years ago. But how can we tell?

Republican presidential candidate and former governor of South Carolina, Nikki Haley, expressed her support for mental

competency tests for elected federal officials over 75 years of age.

Given that the majority of people surveyed in the Axios poll believe the limit should be 70 years old, a mental competency test for 75-year-old candidates doesn't seem like a bad idea. However, this seems like a lot of work just to allow candidates over 75 to run, when it's possible to presume they might not be up to the job.

Shouldn't we just be looking for candidates that can relate to younger voters?

The Republican presidential candidates have taken the debate stage twice, and in the second debate, Commentator Stuart Varney asked whether TikTok should be banned or not due to the claim that it poses a threat to national security.

The candidates were quick to say that TikTok should be banned. But with the oldest Re-

publican on the campaign trail being nearly 80 years old, this makes you wonder, could any of these candidates actually use TikTok?

The only candidate who has proven to be the exception is Vivek Ramaswamy, the 38-year-old millennial candidate who is using (and overusing) TikTok on his campaign trail. Other than Ramaswamy, I would bet money that half of those candidates can't figure out how to use the app. It's important for candidates to know about the "issues" they're talking about, but in this case, most of them don't.

While it may give you second-hand embarrassment watching Ramaswamy attempt to sing "You Belong with Me" by Taylor Swift from the guy's perspective, he is getting a completely broader audience than the others.

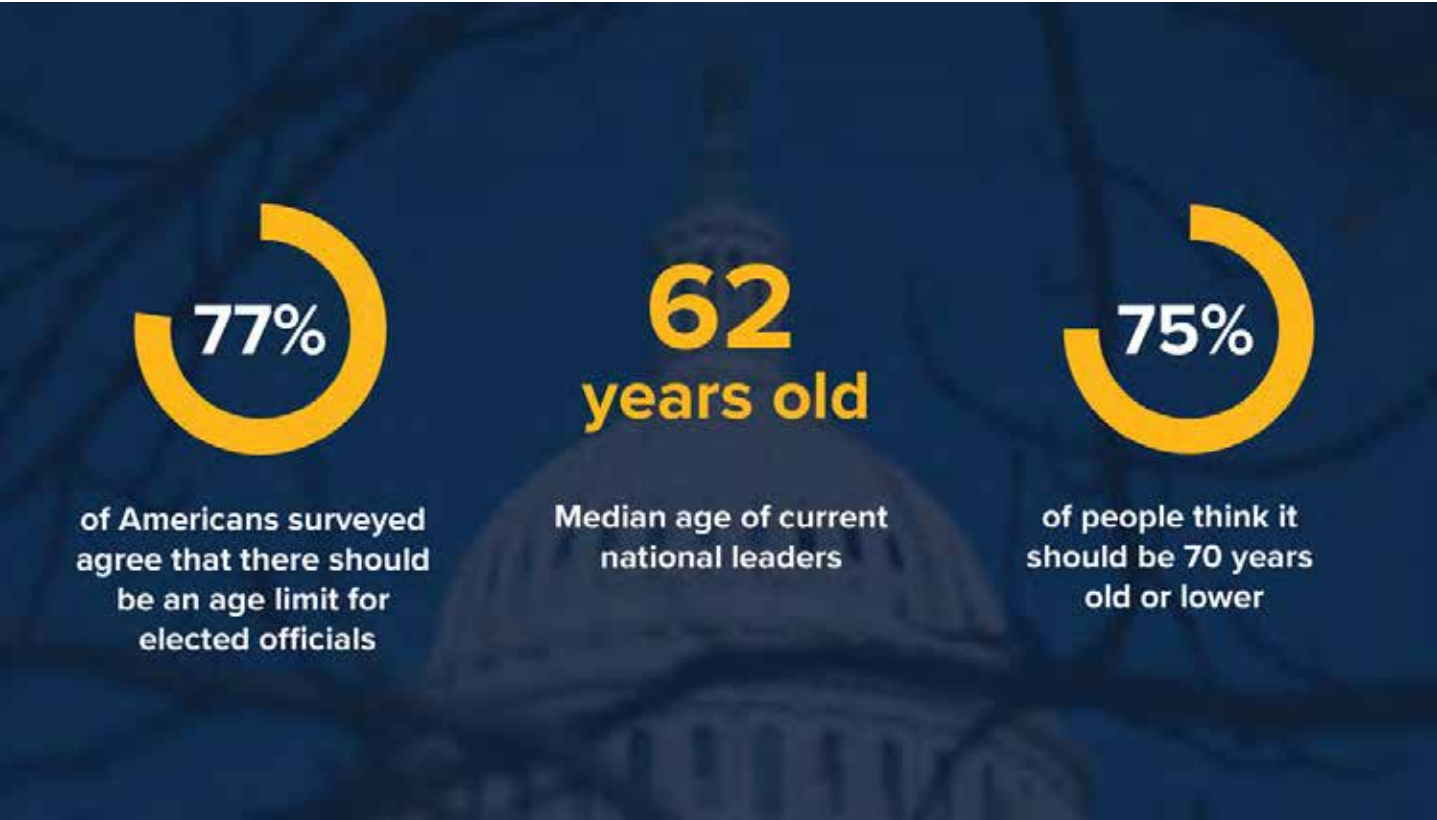
The older generations are notorious for wanting nothing to do with technology that the younger generations love. It's clear

when looking at the candidates, they are less tolerant about issues that involve social media when they're older.

The older the candidate, the less likely they can relate with younger voters. But it's almost like they refuse to relate to them. I don't want to vote for someone in charge of creating a better future when they won't acknowledge that technology is their future. Elected officials should learn to embrace it.

It's important that we can put our trust in our leaders. But it's difficult to do that when we aren't sure which of them are in the right state to lead.

A mental competency test would be assuring and fair and would help our government run more efficiently, but so could looking for younger candidates that are better suited to understanding current issues and relating to younger voters.



## Letter to the Editor: Responding to the On the Rocks criticism

By **LYNZI KING, JOE COVERLY**  
and **SAVITRI GEORGE**

Student Managers at On the Rocks Pub and Grill

First, we thank The Chronicle for its commitment to curating a diversity of topics and perspectives.

As a "by students, for students" endeavor, we appreciate the interest in On the Rocks and creating awareness in the Quinnipiac University community of our mission to bring together the Bobcat community in an entertaining environment conveniently located on campus.

We all have the power to make a positive impact on our shared community. The recent opinion piece published by Opinion Editor Michael LaRocca on Sept. 19 however, chose an ill-informed approach combined with insults about the On the Rocks student team rather than constructive criticism. We are inspired by the many supportive messages from staff, customers and community members who have contacted us in response to the article.

The OTR staff is a tight-knit, dedicated team of students who work hard to support their education. We take personal accountability for our performance, and continuously look for ways to improve. We invite any member of the community for a conversation about service gaps and ideas for improvement.

The opinion piece in The Chronicle was destructive in tone and lacked facts about our operations that would have gladly been offered had we been contact-

ed in the preparation of the piece. For example, we could have shared the marketing plans, collaboration with Chartwells and the data informed approach taken to determine the hours of operation.

The biggest criticism in the article is that On the Rocks isn't open enough; that you want more. Join us in collaboration so that On the Rocks and The Chronicle can come together to create the On the Rocks we all envision and thereby build our Bobcat community for the better.



# Arts & Life



JACK SPIEGEL/CHRONICLE

'It's all about the pink'

## Students journey into Barbieland with a night of conversation

By **ZOE LEONE**  
Arts & Life Editor

Students and faculty alike gathered in Burt Kahn Court on Oct. 5, for a night of all things pink at the "Ideas Live Forever—A Discussion of Barbie: The Movie" event.

Attendees were greeted by an explosion of pink as soon as they walked through the door. From balloons to the attire of nearly everyone in the room, there was no doubt that the door was a segue into Barbieland.

"Ideas Live Forever" was a unique event that strayed away from the activity-centered model of most university events and focused on conversations between students. Burt Kahn Court was transformed from the volleyball team's home to a pink-ified discussion center.

Sixteen tables — all decked out in a "Barbie" theme — were spread across the room, each one with its own topic of conversation for attendees to dive into. Every table was headed by a discussion leader, who was there to help guide the dialogue on a wide range of themes.

For Hailey Tolson, a senior 3+1 biology major and discussion leader, her topic of mother-daughter relationships in the "Barbie" movie was not just about facilitating conversations between students, but also for herself.

"I very eagerly picked this topic," Tolson said. "I've been really thinking a lot about my own relationship with my mother very heavily the past few years and how it's influenced the career path I want to go into. I want to go into maternal fetal medicine, I want to ensure maternal wellness... so I just kind of gravitated towards that."

Attendees finished taking their seats and snacking on pink cupcakes and pink lemonades that had been supplied by English and women and gender studies professor Melissa Kaplan. The event's main organizer, Kim O'Neill, then took to the front of the room to kickoff the night (dressed as fan favorite "Barbie" character, Alan).

"We're not doing yellow and blue (tonight). It's all about the pink," said O'Neill, the director of the women and gender studies program and an associate professor in the English department. "The 'Barbie' movie is not perfect, but it's a movie that so many people have seen, that it offers us an opportunity to get together."

The planning for the night started to unfold during a summer session between the women and gender studies faculty after the "Barbie" movie had recently come out. As they were discussing how the film would influence classes moving forward, Anat Biletzki, a philosophy and women and gender studies professor, suggested running a program around the film.

"We took that idea and ran with it," O'Neill said. "I contacted some professors in media studies and film, television and media arts because they're the experts on media... We really wanted an event that wasn't just people talking at an audience, but everyone getting to talk together."

The idea for small roundtable discussions came from media studies professor Lisa Burns, which proved to be a massive success. Over 120 students showed up to "Ideas Live Forever," with 30 more attending as discussion leaders, according to sign-in numbers.

Students spent 20 minutes at each table, moving around to three different ones throughout the night. Each had a different topic, ranging from "The Best Soundtrack Ever" to "Too feminist or not feminist enough? Critiques of Barbie's feminist messaging." Attendees were encouraged to start their own conversations, though discussion leaders were there to lead interaction with note cards featuring possible topics.

Kira Beckerman, a senior film, television and media arts major, heard about the event through her senior seminar professor, who suggested she attend the event for research.

"I'm actually doing my final research project on patriarchy and the 'Barbie' movie,"

Beckerman said. "Barbie is really such a nostalgic thing, especially for me, I had a ton of Barbies growing up. Also, I love feminist movies and the fact that it's directed by Greta Gerwig... It was just so fun."

As the night drew to a close, students and faculty regrouped at the tables for a cumulative conversation about their ideas and experiences throughout the event. Before attendees were sent out with pink cupcakes in their hands, O'Neill reminded everyone that "just for the record, feminism can be fun."

"I'm honestly confused that not everybody on the whole campus wants to come," O'Neill said. "Because has there ever been a better event?"



JACK SPIEGEL/CHRONICLE

Attendees talk about different aspects of "Barbie" at the discussion on Thursday, Oct. 5 in Burt Kahn Court.



# Olian, Mattel CEO talk business in a Barbie world

By GINA LORUSSO  
Contributing Writer

To kick off Bobcat Weekend on Oct. 6, masses of students flooded the Center for Communications and Computing and Engineering auditorium to welcome Ynon Kreiz, Mattel’s CEO, to the Mount Carmel campus. Hundreds of eager eyes and ears focused in, ready to take a journey into Barbieland. Created by Quinnipiac President Judy Olian, the presidential speaker series is a way to connect Quinnipiac with professionals and leaders from across the country. To begin, Kreiz told his own story, describing how his academic journey led him to become such a successful individual. He didn’t do it alone, however. Partnerships with colleagues throughout his career contributed to him reaching his goals.

“I thought, ‘I’ll find my own path, and I didn’t know what it was, but I knew it had to be special,’” Kreiz said.

Prior to moving from Israel to the U.S., Kreiz received a bachelor’s degree in Economics and Management from Tel Aviv University in 1991. In 1993, he earned his master’s from University of California, Los Angeles Anderson School of Management.

Kreiz was once in the same shoes as many college students, not knowing exactly what they want to do.

Attendees came into the conversation expecting it to be solely based on the film “Barbie.” This wasn’t the case, however. Kreiz and Olian discussed topics like business and marketing tactics, which intrigued students and faculty across all departments.

The conversation was so relevant that some professors made attendance count for extra credit, according to various students.

“It’s always great to be able to bring in someone new to campus to help our students learn more and what they can do to be successful,” John Morgan, Quinnipiac’s associate vice president for public relations, said.

When Kreiz became chairman of the board of directors and CEO in 2018, he had one mission: to transform the company.

“The real approach was to think of people who buy our products, not just as consumers, but as fans,” Kreiz said. “When you have a lot of fans, it’s an audience. And when you have an audience, it changes the conversation of what it is that you’re trying to achieve.”

The concept Kreiz presented to Mattel was to create innovative products and experiences that “inspire the challenging spirit in every child.”

As one of the strongest entertainment businesses, it’s not always smooth sailing; sometimes companies encounter bumpy roads. For example, Kreiz disclosed that brands, such as those Mattel owns, can be suddenly impacted by geopolitics and businesses shutting down — typical issues in today’s economy.

“Your role as a leader is really to create a flexible and dynamic organization that can respond and turn these situations into an advantage,” Kreiz said.

Mattel’s brands like Hot Wheels and Barbie go deeper than just making money — they have certain missions. Barbie explores limitless potential, while Hot Wheels inspires challenging spirit in consumers. According to Kreiz, the company has been working to create more inclusive products relevant to society, like Barbies that replicate celebrities and represent other identities and disabilities.

“I think this is a great idea. It grows my respect for Mattel as a company,” Sabrina Wojdyla, a junior law student in the 3+3 program, said.

As one of the world’s most timeless toys, the Barbie doll has impacted most children in one way or another. When the idea for the movie was introduced, Mattel and Kreiz knew it shouldn’t be a way to sell more toys. The idea was to have the audience resonate with social issues presented in the film through one of the most iconic women in history: Barbie.

“It was not about creating a movie; it was about creating a cultural event,” Kreiz said.

As Kreiz described, it’s not enough to make products to sell. Conventional or not, creating an emotional connection with consumers is how companies thrive. Breaking tradition and presenting the unconventional was all Mattel had in mind during the development process of the film “Barbie.”

By taking something timeless and developing it into something timely, Warner Bros. and Mattel created the highest-grossing worldwide film of the year, according to Box Office Mojo.

Two coffee mugs, two individuals and one poignant conversation left those who attended

with a surplus of motivation. Kreiz made clear that success doesn’t happen overnight; it takes dedication and strategy.

“Kreiz showed me that innovative ideas are risky, but are worth it in the end. This discussion gave me the mentality of if he can do it, so can I,” Mia Sansone, a first-year public relations major, said.

Making this discussion personal, especially from someone so experienced, played a crucial role in keeping the audience engaged. Kreiz leaves QU with straightforward but valuable lessons, preaching the idea of remaining authentic for the benefit of future success.

“Be yourself, don’t be anyone who isn’t you, and work hard,” Kreiz said.



HALEY RUCCIO/CHRONICLE

Mattel CEO Ynon Kreiz discusses business and Barbie during the "Mattel's Transformation and the Journey into Barbieland" talk in the Mount Carmel Auditorium on Friday, Oct. 6.

# 'PAW Patrol: The Mighty Movie' is explosive chaos

By AIDAN SHEEDY  
Photography Editor

Imagine a world where all problems are solved by just a few noble people armed with the world’s most advanced technology. Now, imagine if those people were seven badass Canadian puppies. On Sunday night, I entered the chaotic world of the “PAW Patrol” that had giant explosions and a French poodle played by Kim Kardashian.

The children’s animated series “PAW Patrol” has been on sticky iPads for a whole decade, but no one has ever seen the pups like this. After a meteor crashes into Adventure City, each dog gains superpowers from the meteor’s magic crystals.

While I don’t believe any student needs to go see this movie, don’t take this movie-going experience for granted. The production value and character designs were superb and the studios involved did a great job catering to their audience. Before it even started, the theater played a sing-along preview to the action-packed movie so the kids would already be engaged and stimulated.

That being said, if you are in college and want to watch a stupid kids’ movie, then “PAW Patrol: The Mighty Movie” might be the best thing you’ll make fun of all week.

Here’s how it went down: The opening sequence starts out with a bang — literally. A dark-hooded figure robs junkyard owners Hank (James Marsden) and Janet (Kristen Bell). The perpetrator locks Hank in the house and steals the couple’s giant electromagnet they keep in the yard. As they flee, they crash the magnet into a

propane tank and the whole place blows up.

As I sat in the theater crying laughing over the ridiculously loud chain of explosions, the pups put out the fire and the movie officially began. Dogs, explosions and screaming children — a perfect night at the movies.

Meteor expert and supervillain Victoria Vance (Taraji P. Henson) used the stolen electromagnet in her latest invention, but in Doofenshmirtz-like fashion, the powerful magnet malfunctioned while pulling in the meteor. It’s worth noting that Vance’s evil montage was set to Olivia Rodrigo’s “Brutal.” That was a choice.

The smallest pup, Skye, is a little cockapoo with a pink suit and big ambition. Unfortunately, while the other pups are growing into new beds and uniforms, Skye remains smaller than the rest. Don’t worry, she only complains about it every 10 minutes after that and it doesn’t get annoying at all.

After Vance gets arrested for destroying Adventure City, she is sentenced to a minimum security prison, where she meets her new roommate, the disgraced Mayor Humdinger of Foggy Bottom. Yes, that is his name, and he also is a small burly man with blonde hair, a handlebar mustache and a bright purple suit and top hat. A zesty Mr. Monopoly if you will.

I actually think the studio made his character similar to Donald Trump, which was pretty funny considering the character is a villain. In one scene, Humdinger was asked why he was in jail and he replied, “I

don’t like losing unfair elections,” which gave me a laugh. I think his name is also especially insulting, perhaps a joke for the parents in the room.

Vance and Humdinger easily break out of jail through the sewers “Shawshank Redemption” style. They team up to take down the PAW Patrol once and for all. So they call the PAW Patrol for help in a burning plane and trap Skye and take her crystal. After being rescued, soft piano kicks in and the lights fade. During Skye’s childhood trauma flashback, the audience must listen to an original song performed by none other than Christina Aguilera.

Now that everyone’s either irritated or bummed out, Skye tries to take matters into her own hands by stealing all six other crystals and searches for her stolen piece alone ... at night ... with no phone. My dog, Casper, is also a cockapoo, and he would never do something as stupid as that.

Predictably, Skye gets trapped and the PAW Patrol have to save her. The climax was a long battle scene with giant explosions, driving dogs and a 200-foot-tall Mayor Humdinger. I could not explain how that happened, it just did.

The only noteworthy event after that is Kardashian’s cameo. Dolores is a primp and proper poodle is sitting in a café when one of the pups crashes into her. She is later declined a social media manager position with the team to which she says in a Kardashian dialect, “who wants a job anyway, eww.”



ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR YOUNGBERG

In the end, Ryder and the pups save the day and there was some lesson about believing in yourself or something. If you want to lighten the mood or make fun of something, just go watch some cute dogs make explosions. And remember, “nobody messes with giant Humdinger.”



# Multicultural Student Leadership Council hosts annual Culture Fair

**By JACKLYN PELLEGRINO**  
Associate Arts & Life Editor

The Quinnipiac University Multicultural Student Leadership Council held its annual Culture Fair on the Quad on Oct. 5, where many culture-based organizations set up tables filled with free candy, flags and information on how to get involved.

The event allowed students to walk around and connect with peers who have similar backgrounds to them. Attendees left their information so they can learn about future meetings and events based on the organization of their choice. There were also two food trucks where students could get free Mediterranean food from Taste of

Grill or ice cream from Blue Chip Creamery.

Genesis Paulino, a senior sociology and Latin American studies double major and MSLC president, said the Culture Fair is a way to wrap up culture week and allow the multicultural organizations to showcase themselves aside from the engagement fair. MSLC held events every day during culture week, such as a bingo night, paint night, karaoke night and cooking and self-care based events.

"Multicultural orgs are very overlooked ... we work really hard to have attendance in our events and to have a spotlight and a lot of times we don't have that spotlight," Paulino said. "This being a predominately

white institution, it can be really hard to find a place where you feel seen or where you have a community that feels safe."

Each table had banners draped across the front to showcase the organization and many executive board members made poster boards with some basic facts and photos of the members.

The Black Student Union emphasizes support and representation of students of color on campus, said Hallie Boughner, a junior nursing major and BSU vice president.

"We want (them) to know more about us as an organization and what we have to offer and know us as people too," Boughner said.

Another organization, the Juvenile Urban Multicultural Program, works to decrease the high school dropout rate and increase the college admittance rate, said Todd Bivens, a junior human resource management major and the J.U.M.P. Nation secretary.

"We go around to schools and we talk to young children and basically show them that there's more to life after high school," Bivens said. "(We) encourage them to join any of their nearby colleges, whether it be community college or universities."

The event was filled with first-year students who wanted to join the different organizations and take part in future events. There were also many upperclassmen who decided to get involved in their final few months of college.

Gianna Giffone, a junior biomedical sciences major and Italian Cultural Society president, said ICS is open to everyone who wants to celebrate Italian culture.

"A lot of people that come here are like, 'Oh my grandmother is so Italian and I'm just so far away from it and I want to know

more,' and that's what we're here for is to teach them about it, teach them the culture and the language," Giffone said.

Giffone said she helped people learn the Italian language at the Culture Fair. She had people repeat a word, learn what it means and then she would give them a sticker.

Colin Fanning, a first-year applied business major in the 3+1 Master of Business Administration program said he wanted to see the ICS table at the fair because he is Italian.

"I am a big advocate for expanding the different culture identity groups that are here on campus," Fanning said. "I thought it would be a wonderful way to spread the message and show my support here, just as a member of the community."

The Asian Student Alliance's goal is to create a safe space for Asian students. Members also want to educate people about Asian history and culture, said Naomi Gorero, a senior sociology major and ASA president.

"I think it gives people an opportunity to show that Quinnipiac is very diverse and there's a lot of cultures in Quinnipiac," Gorero said. "It's a very multifaceted university."

Most of the multicultural organizations encouraged students to sign up on Do You QU and follow them on social media to get involved and learn more about future events.

Emily DeFreitas, a sophomore graphic design major, said she wanted to see the ASA table at the Culture Fair because she went to a lot of their events the past year.

"I love getting to learn about all the different cultures and it's great seeing them be represented in the clubs on campus," DeFreitas said. "I love attending the events to learn more and just experience it for myself."



Students visit the Gender and Sexuality Alliance table at the Culture Fair hosted by the Multicultural Student Leadership Council on Thursday, Oct. 5 on the Quad.

# Celebrity wedding culture is becoming its own art form

**By CHARLOTTE ROSS**  
Contributing Writer

We look to celebrities for many things in today's world, from beauty brands to vacation plans, and now, wedding inspiration. Even though I've never attended a wedding, nor plan on having one myself anytime soon, it feels exciting to pretend to share in the fun, even if it's just from the pictures on my feed.

Actress Joey King and director Steven Spiet's Mallorca, Spain, wedding took the internet by storm this past month. Coverage of the couple's weekend-long event was featured all over social media, and even in Vogue Magazine, and it was nothing short of spectacular.

King, known for her versatility across her performances in the Hulu series, "The Act" and Netflix trilogy, "The Kissing Booth," got to leave her acting past behind her for the weekend and step into the role of a princess bride. From the otherworldly venue to her multitude of personally-designed dazzling looks, the couple's wedding radiated timelessness, that, in an interview with Vogue, she stated was "the same way we feel about our love for each other."

Who wouldn't love to tie the knot on the Spanish coast in a dazzling spectacle surrounded by other famous family and friends? If this sounds like your dream, you can make it happen, but like many other big events in today's economy, it will cost you. According to Bustle, King and Spiet's venue alone has an estimated rate of nearly \$50,000 per day.

If a private, more intimate wedding is more your style, there is plenty of inspiration to be taken from actress Anya Taylor-Joy and musician Malcolm McRae's wedding held this past weekend. The couple said "I do" away from the presence of many cameras and public spectators — paparazzi's only glimpse of the bride-to-be was even from a 15th-century balcony at the wedding venue in Venice.

Taylor-Joy, star of the 2020 Netflix miniseries hit, "The Queen's Gambit," is also well-known for her stylish and iconic looks at many red carpets and event premieres. The actress, named a global ambassador for Dior in 2021, surprised many with a first look at her custom embroidered dusty rose Dior brand

wedding gown the morning of her big day.

I think Taylor-Joy's untraditional dress choice was the perfect statement, as I admire anyone who takes the chance to venture away from the status quo. For those also looking to keep up with the fast changing trends of present day wedding culture on their big day, this might be all the assurance you need to take that non-traditional leap of faith.

In fact, you would be joining hundreds of other millennials also in the midst of their wedding planning efforts who are switching out traditional wedding expectations and implementing their own. Special Events, an event news site, says that less-traditional weddings have been on an upward climb for years — speculating Meghan Markle to

be one of the first figures of influence since breaking tradition in 2018 by choosing to walk down the aisle by herself, instead of being accompanied by a father figure.

I found myself wondering about all the other celebrity marriages from prior years that didn't have the chance to be featured in magazines. Celebrities have been getting married forever, so what sparked the recent obsession?

According to CBC News, social media is the culprit. As the popularity of social media only continues to grow, so will our nation's love of all things celebrity related. Whether that makes you happy or not, social media remains the greatest influencing factor of our time. Social media sites Instagram and Pinterest are predicted to continue to rule the wedding planning industry for many years to come, and personally, I'm not disappointed.

Like many other forms of art, weddings take the careful work and the precision of many to make it reality. For large-scale celebrities, however, it takes hundreds of planners, caterers, designers and stylists to achieve the couple's desired vision.

Coverage for celebrity weddings is always in high-demand. Add two world-famous celebrities to the mix, and it can easily escalate to being the event of the year. The whole process is artistically constructed, from the ring to the final song. It may seem tedious and unnecessary to some, but this is what really sets celebrity weddings so far above the rest.

Are you influenced yet?



ILLUSTRATION BY SHAVONNE CHIN



# If you want blood, you’ve finally got it

**By TYLER PLATZ**  
Contributing Writer

Just like the name of its latest album, “Power Up,” AC/DC is powering up once again for its fans who have long awaited seeing them perform live in concert.

The last time AC/DC took the stage was Sept. 20, 2016 during the last show of its “Rock or Bust” tour that supported the album of the same name. However, the last two legs of that tour should have an asterisk next to them as lead Brian Johnson, was unable to perform due to serious hearing loss. Guns ‘N’ Roses frontman Axl Rose filled in during this time.

Being forced to replace a band member is nothing new to AC/DC, as Johnson was chosen as the new lead singer after the original lead vocalist, Bon Scott, died of an overdose in February 1980. Since then, Johnson has been on every album to date, starting with the revered “Back in Black,” the fourth best-selling album of all time at 25 million copies.

Despite the tragic loss of Scott, AC/DC fans accepted Johnson immediately. There never was a competition as to which frontman was better among fans.

“I remember there was just a sea of posters saying, ‘R.I.P. Bon Scott,’” Johnson recalled from his first live performance with AC/DC in a Howard Stern interview. “But right in the middle of it all was ‘Long Live Brian.’”

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, AC/DC was a well-oiled machine, releasing 10 albums with its classic lineup, comprising brothers and guitarists, Angus and Malcolm Young, vocalist Johnson, bassist Cliff Williams and drummer Phil Rudd, who took a break from the band in

1983 before rejoining in 1994.

In the 2000s and 2010s, AC/DC released three albums, the last of these featuring Stevie Young filling in for his uncle Malcolm Young, who was battling dementia, a battle he’d end up losing in 2017.

With Johnson’s hearing loss, Malcolm Young’s passing and bassist Williams mulling over retirement, it seemed the band that had been playing together for 40 years would no longer be. That is until 2020, when the group released “Power Up” as a tribute to Young.

“Power Up” saw the return of Johnson and Williams, who were joined by Malcolm’s younger brother Angus Young and Rudd to reunite the surviving members of the classic “Back in Black” lineup, as well as Stevie in Malcolm’s role as rhythm guitarist.

If “Back in Black” has Bon Scott all over it, for me, ‘Power Up’ has got Malcolm Young on it, this is for him,” Williams said on comedian Dean Delray’s podcast.

All writing credits on the album’s 11 tracks are given to Angus and Malcolm Young, who continued to write music together up until Malcolm’s passing.

“When (Malcolm Young) was first diagnosed with this condition, I said to him, ‘Do you want

to keep going with this?’” Angus Young said in a Howard Stern interview. “He said, ‘Yeah, I’ll keep going until I can’t do it.’”

With a new album, rumors began circulating about a potential tour to support the new music. Would fans ever get to see them play to a live audience again? And if so, when?

The only band member to perform publicly in the last two years is Johnson, who in September 2022 performed live at the Taylor Hawkins tribute concert in London. Though not joined by the rest of the band, Johnson performed AC/DC’s hit song “Back in Black,” along with Lars Ulrich of Metallica on drums.

Fan’s questions were finally answered in April 2023 when the band announced it would be hitting the stage for the 2023 music festival “Power Trip” with a post on Instagram. A three-day event from Oct. 6-8, it included five other bands alongside AC/DC: Guns ‘N’ Roses, Iron Maiden, Judas Priest, Metallica and Tool.

If one word could describe AC/DC’s 2023 reunion, it’s resilience. In its sixth decade in the music industry, the band has stood the test of time and overcome a multitude of obstacles along the way such as retirement, health issues and death.

If AC/DC’s 25-song performance at Power Trip proved anything, it’s that even in their 60s and 70s, the rock ‘n’ roll legends can still put on a show, and entertain their dedicated fanbase at a high level.

What people in attendance witnessed on Oct. 7 wasn’t just a band playing live for an audience again; it was an exclamation point on what AC/DC’s entire existence has been about — a strong connection with its fans that have stuck with the band through thick and thin.



Iconic rock band AC/DC returns for its first concert in seven years at the "Power Trip" music festival on Oct. 6-8.

## QUINNIPIAC’S PODCAST STUDIO PRESENTS



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# Wounded Quinnipiac comes up just short against Boston College on banner night

**By CAMERON LEVASSEUR**  
Sports Editor

On a night that celebrated Quinnipiac men's hockey's comeback national championship victory in April, the Bobcats gave a sold-out M&T Bank Arena a taste of that resilient flair. They rallied from down a goal to force overtime but ultimately fell short, losing 2-1 to Boston College Saturday night.

"I thought it was a great game," Quinnipiac head coach Rand Pecknold said. "I thought they were really well-prepared, obviously they've got some high-end players ... I give them a lot of credit."

Unlike junior forward Jacob Quillan's title-winning goal 10 seconds into overtime against Minnesota, Eagles sophomore forward Cutter Gauthier struck with just under 10 seconds remaining in the extra frame, rifling a shot over the left shoulder of Bobcats senior netminder Vinny Duplessis for the win.

The game marked BC's first win over Quinnipiac in program history in their seventh meeting all time.

"It's always good to win your first game,

and we know what a great program they have," BC head coach Greg Brown said. "Someone had to be the first."

The Eagles waited out the fanfare as Quinnipiac and its raucous crowd of 3,700 watched the team's first national championship banner rise to the rafters, a celebration BC hopes to take to Chestnut Hill in a year's time.

"It's a playbook from coach (Jerry) York," Brown said. "You respect what the other teams (have done), you respect their building, respect what they do, and it was good for our guys to see how excited they were for that national championship. They don't come easy."

Dozens of Bobcat alumni from throughout the program's history joined the team on the ice for the pregame ceremony, including defenseman Zach Metsa and forward Michael Lombardi from the championship roster.

"I enjoyed it, probably even more than I even thought," Pecknold said. "The banner looked great, I loved the gold and I thought that just popped."

But after the pomp and circumstance was over, the Bobcats were ready to drop the puck.

"I've got over 1,000 games," Pecknold said. "So it's just another game. I've got to roll, our team was ready and prepared."

But six minutes into the game, things looked ugly for Quinnipiac. Forwards Collin Graf and Sam Lipkin, the team's leading scorers in 2022-23, were out of the game.

Graf exited less than three minutes in after he was undercut behind the play by a BC forward and crashed head first into the ice.

Lipkin was ejected two minutes later for a slew foot on Eagles freshman forward Ryan Leonard.

With two-thirds of their top line gone, the Bobcats were down to just 10 forwards with more than 50 minutes to play. Junior forwards Christophe Fillion and Cristophe Tellier replaced Quillan's wings on the first line, but Lipkin and Graf's absence forced Quinnipiac to mismatch forwards for the remainder of the game.

"I think we put a lot of our forwards in a tough spot," Pecknold said. "It's a different game when you're playing with 10 forwards ... if you're not breathing heavy, you're going (on the ice)."

Graduate student defenseman CJ McGee

stepped up and played a few shifts at forward, but ultimately it fell to the Bobcats newcomers to pick up the slack — and they did.

Freshman forward Mason Marcellus shined in his first collegiate game. He was strong on his stick and showed poise moving the puck through all three zones, culminating when he knocked home the game-tying goal with five minutes to play to send the game to overtime.

"I thought he was excellent," Pecknold said. "Mason and Andon (Cerbone) both played really well ... For their first college hockey game it's a lot to ask from them. They did really well and they're just going to get better."

Duplessis also impressed in net in his first game as a Bobcat. The BU transfer made 21 saves over 65 minutes, including a partial breakaway save on Gauthier in overtime.

On the other end, Quinnipiac's power play struggled mightily in the game, going 0-7 after the exit of Graf and Lipkin forced both man-advantage units to change personnel.

The Bobcats will be back in action with a home-and-home against AIC this weekend.



Senior transfer goaltender Vinny Duplessis makes one of his 21 saves in Saturday's overtime loss to Boston College.



Freshman center Andon Cerbone rips a shot from the right wing dot against Boston College on Saturday.



Freshman winger Mason Marcellus celebrates his first career goal with teammates in the Bobcats' 2-1 loss on Saturday.

## New talent shines in Quinnipiac debuts

**By ETHAN HURWITZ**  
Sports Editor

Overshadowed by the championship banner above the ice, one of the shining moments of the then-No. 2 Quinnipiac men's hockey's 2-1 loss to then-No. 6 Boston College Saturday was the emergence of the team's newcomers.

The Bobcats — who lost 12 players from last season's squad — brought in talent from both the transfer portal and the incoming freshman class, at all levels of the roster. Although the hosts fell with nine seconds left in overtime, those faces helped give a glimpse of hope to a championship repeat.

The most obvious was senior goaltender Vinny Duplessis. The BU transfer was almost perfect in his debut, the only goals allowed was a turnover-induced odd-man rush and a glove-high snipe (the latter ending the game). His 21 saves kept Quinnipiac's chances alive late, a number of them bringing the crowd to their feet.

"We expect big things from (Duplessis)," senior forward Jacob Quillan told The Chronicle before the season. "He's got big shoes to fill ...

He's been looking good."

Replacing the greatest goaltender in program history is no small task, as last year's starter Yaniv Perets signed a contract with the NHL's Carolina Hurricanes. The former Terrier held his own against a strong offensive team. As the Bobcats' likely starter for the long run, he had a good first showing.

While the new netminder was stopping shots in between the pipes, the Bobcats' offense was sparked by a new goal scorer. In his first collegiate game, freshman winger Mason Marcellus found a loose puck in the crease to even the game at one with five minutes left.

Both Marcellus and freshman center Andon Cerbone came from junior hockey, but their linemate, senior winger Travis Treloar, came in from Ohio State after last season — the same Buckeyes squad that fell to Quinnipiac in the Regional Championship. That trio is made up of players with high expectations, all hoping to contribute early and often.

"They're all really skilled," Quillan said.

"We're expecting them to hop in the lineup right away."

While Marcellus (68 points with the Lincoln Stars last season) was the only Bobcat to etch his name into the box score, other players made an impact in Saturday's game.

The aforementioned Treloar skated well, logging plenty of ice time and making a good impression on his new coach in his Quinnipiac debut.

"(Travis is) great, he was really good," head coach Rand Pecknold said. "I think we put a lot of our forwards in a tough spot."

The reason why Quinnipiac was put in that tough spot was due to the roster shuffling Pecknold had to do early on. Two first line forwards, sophomore Sam Lipkin (charged with a game misconduct) and junior Collin Graf (head injury), left the game in the first period, forcing the Bobcats' offense to do some mixing and matching.

"There were a lot of guys that did really well, I thought Treloar was great tonight, he battled," Pecknold said. "(Graduate student forward Zach) Tupker was really good. He's

gonna be really good for us."

Tupker, a 2022-23 ECAC Hockey Defensive Forward of the Year nominee, was the only Bobcat positive at the faceoff dot in both Saturday's game against BC and Sunday's exhibition matchup with Northeastern, going 19-13 on the weekend.

Freshman goaltender Matej Marinov also impressed in his Quinnipiac debut against Northeastern. The Slovak stopped 36 of 38 shots in a 2-2 tie.

Junior defenseman Davis Pennington, an Omaha transfer, made his presence known against the Huskies. He logged five of his seven shots on the weekend in the game and tallied the game-tying goal late in the third period.

Fellow blue-liner Cooper Moore, a senior transfer from North Dakota, moved the puck well on the top defensive pairing. The Greenwich, Connecticut, native will play an active role in a defense expected to step up offensively.

Despite the loss and exhibition tie, the initial performances from both freshmen and transfers gives the Bobcats confidence about their drastic roster turnover.





The Quinnipiac student section cheer on the men's hockey team against Boston College, a game where tickets ranged up to \$300 for standing room only access.

JACK SPIEGEL/CHRONICLE

# Inflated ticket prices define men's hockey's season opener

**By MICHAEL LAROCCA and CAT MURPHY**

Built long before Quinnipiac became a true “hockey school,” M&T Bank Arena’s ice hockey arena fits 3,386 fans at maximum capacity — at least, officially, that is.

But on Oct. 7, 3,700 people — over 300 more than the arena can technically accommodate — filed into the Hamden, Connecticut, rink for the men’s hockey team’s season opener against Boston College.

The last time a men’s hockey game attracted this many spectators to the bank was seven-and-a-half years ago, when 3,696 people came to watch the Bobcats take down Yale in February 2016.

And while last Saturday’s game against the Eagles was no crowd-favorite “Beat Yale” game, the game held a different allure — it was the first time the Bobcats have taken the ice as the defending NCAA Division I national champions since winning it all in April.

“This is the biggest game of the year besides the Yale game, and we’re really looking forward to it,” said Emily Balboni pregame, a senior software engineering major and a member of the Quinnipiac Pep Band. “We’re excited to show the student body what we’re here for.”

Quinnipiac officials were slated to do on that overcast October evening what no one in the small Connecticut college’s nearly 100-year history had ever done before: hoist a NCAA national championship banner high onto the arena’s back wall.

Thousands of spectators crowded the arena to watch Quinnipiac officials forever memorialize the underdog team — so unknown to most of the nation that play-by-play

announcers required pronunciation guides — with a bright yellow national title banner.

“It’s an exciting night — the banner, the whole deal,” Hamden resident and season ticket-holder Don Barese said. “This town is a hockey town, all around.”

Even Boston College fans expressed their excitement to be in attendance.

“Couldn’t start with a better matchup than playing the defending national champion,” said Hingham, Massachusetts, native Doug Farrington.

Several hundred other fans who could not attend the game — which coincided with Bobcat Weekend — attended a watch party on the Mount Carmel Campus. The watch party’s turnout was so unexpectedly high, in fact, that university officials had to move the event from the quad to the Recreation and Wellness Center.

But for some fans who managed to get inside the arena, attending the banner-raising game proved to be a rather expensive outing.

There are two main ways to purchase tickets to Quinnipiac sporting events at M&T Bank Arena: on the Quinnipiac Ticket Central and via third-party ticket resale marketplaces.

The university’s ticket portal offers students the opportunity to claim one free student ticket per person and buy additional individual tickets for \$25 each. On TicketSmarter, the university’s approved ticket reseller — and on other third-party ticket sites like StubHub and Ticketmaster — those \$25 tickets tend to sell for double, triple or even quadruple that amount.

Six days before Saturday’s game, on Oct. 1, university officials conducted a special ticket release to provide Quinnipiac students the opportunity to attend the game.

Officials announced the special release in a university-wide email on Sept. 28 and reminded students in a follow-up email at 11:50 a.m. on Oct. 1, 10 minutes before the noon release.

Isabella Chambers, a junior nursing major and president of QU Spirit, said even the famed Teletubbies were not exempt from the stressful student ticket process.

“I just had the portal open right at noon and made sure that I got the ticket,” said Chambers, who dressed as the green Teletubby for Saturday’s game. “Then I had to find who else had tickets so that they could Teletubby.”

Amid the campus ticket scramble, junior nursing major Camille Flayhan had to ask a friend to get her a ticket while she was driving.

“I mean, it was stressful,” Flayhan said. “Everyone hyped it up so much — it was fine.”

But once those tickets were gone, they were gone. And for a game as monumental as Saturday’s, tickets were reselling online for well over \$100.

One ticket holder took to Vivid Seats, another third-party ticket resale site, an hour before puck drop to list their tickets to the season opener for \$937 each.

And, as always, some students took to anonymous social media platform YikYak in the hours before the game to sell — or beg for — tickets to the game.

But for every post advertising a game ticket, there were two posts criticizing students for reselling their free tickets at outrageously marked-up prices.

“I know kids spending \$150,” one user wrote in an anonymous post to the Quinnipiac YikYak. “Shit’s actual robbery. Prison.”

Others took to the anonymous posting platform in an attempt to dissuade students from buying the resale tickets.

“PLEASE EVERYONE DO NOT BUY STUDENT TICKETS FROM ANYONE,” one user wrote in an Oct. 7 post on the platform. “YOU’RE GIVING IDIOTS FREE MONEY.”

Several posters, though, did not blame the ticket sellers so much as they did the buyers.

“You guys are ridiculous for selling student tickets you got for free but you’re even more ridiculous if you actually pay,” one post read.

In a post that garnered a lot of attention on the platform, one user put on blast students who paid hundreds of dollars for tickets their sellers got for free.

“If you buy a FREE student ticket for 200 DOLLARS there’s actually something wrong with you,” the user wrote.

Some students said ticket prices deterred them from even attempting to attend the banner-raising game.

“I just felt that it would be impossible to get a ticket, so I didn’t really try,” said Ryan Ziaks, a junior English major. “I know that students would drive the price up, and it just wouldn’t be worth it.”

But the notion of overpriced resale tickets was somewhat lost on season ticket holders like Barese.

“I haven’t thought about (the ticket prices) because we just get our season tickets,” Barese said. “I haven’t missed a home game in 10 years.”

And for a game of this magnitude, Barese said he thought the high ticket prices made sense.

“When people want to come, they pay,” Barese said. “It’s like anything else.”





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