



Fraternity returns to QU eight years after hazing incident

p. 2

CHRONICLE ARCHIVES

By CAT MURPHY
News Editor

The Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity re-established its Kappa Psi chapter at Quinnipiac University this fall, eight years after university administrators suspended the fraternity and levied punishments against several of its members.

Quinnipiac officials in December 2014 initiated an investigation into the fraternity after serious hazing accusations emerged against its members. Upon completing the investigation the following spring, administrators handed down a four-year suspension that left the fraternity ineligible to return to Hamden until 2019.

But now, more than five decades after Tau Kappa Epsilon’s founding at Quinnipiac and eight years after the fraternity found itself wrapped in a potentially chapter-ending controversy, the university’s re-established Kappa Psi expansion already boasts 20 new brothers.

Although Brandon Assi, a senior biomedical sciences major and one of the newest members of Quinnipiac’s TKE chapter, never saw himself joining a fraternity, he said the opportunity to help shape the fraternity’s future enticed him.

“I think, for us, it’s important for us to recognize those things that happened in the past,” Assi said. “We can’t change the past, but we can change our present and we can change the future as well.”

Beyond its nearly 125-year history as a national organization, the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity has a decades-long history in Hamden. First established on the Mount Carmel Campus in 1967, TKE was a mainstay at Quinnipiac for nearly half a century

See **FRATERNITY** Page 2

Committees responsible for advising QU president impacted by key administrative departures

By CAT MURPHY
News Editor

Eight top administrators sit on the committee that advises Quinnipiac University President Judy Olian. In the past year, three of them have left.

The President’s Management Committee is nothing short of a who’s who of Quinnipiac’s upper administration. The university’s chief administrators — Chief Experience Officer Tom Ellett, Provost Debra Liebowitz and Chief Financial Officer Mark Varholak, for example — are members of the eight-seat body that oversees “the day-to-day and strategic operations of the university,” per Quinnipiac’s website.

But the vice presidents of marketing, diversity and development are also among Olian’s closest advisers. And since October 2022, the three people who held those titles have, one by one, announced their resignations.

Daryl Richard, then-vice president for marketing and communications, resigned in October 2022.

Olian notified students and faculty in early January about the impending departure of Don Sawyer, Quinnipiac’s then-vice president for equity, inclusion and leadership development.

She later announced to faculty and staff that Dan Kim, a former senior communications official at Brandeis University, would succeed Richard as vice president for market-

ing and communications in late July.

And approximately a week after Sawyer officially left Quinnipiac at the end of the 2022-23 academic year, Olian announced that Wayne Gersie, Michigan Technological University’s inaugural vice president of diversity and inclusion, would succeed him in late July.

But in mid-September, Todd Sloan, Quinnipiac’s current vice president for development and alumni affairs, became the third member of the committee to announce his resignation in the last year. Olian announced Sloan’s departure to faculty on Sept. 14, and Quinnipiac officials subsequently reposted her communication to MyQ.

Olian wrote in the email announcement that Nick Wormley, a former Quinnipiac student-athlete and the current associate vice president for development and alumni affairs, will serve as the interim vice president until university officials appoint Sloan’s successor.

All three of Quinnipiac’s former administrators moved laterally into near-equivalent vice president positions at other universities after leaving their vice president positions in Hamden.

Richard left his job as Quinnipiac’s vice president for marketing and communications last fall to become Marist College’s inaugural vice president of communications and marketing.

Then, in July, Sawyer finished out his

tenure as Quinnipiac’s chief diversity officer to become the inaugural vice president of diversity, inclusion and belonging at Fairfield University.

And in October, Sloan will leave his post as Quinnipiac’s vice president for development to become Princeton Theological Seminary’s vice president of advancement.

Although these resignations were among the highest-ranking, they were not the only administrative departures of significance in the last year.

In the same 12-month timeframe that Richard, Sawyer and Sloan announced their departures, so did three of Quinnipiac’s nine academic deans.

Lisa O’Connor, then-dean of the university’s School of Nursing, announced her intention to step down at the end of the 2022-23 academic year in November 2022. Larry Slater, a former associate dean of the University of Memphis’ Loewenberg College of Nursing, succeeded O’Connor in June.

Just weeks after the provost announced Slater’s appointment, Chris Roush suddenly resigned his position as dean of the School of Communications in mid-May. Terry Bloom, the school’s former associate dean, will serve as the interim dean until university officials appoint Roush’s successor.

The provost then notified students and faculty on Aug. 30 that Jennifer Brown intended to step down as dean of the School of

Law at the end of the 2023-24 academic year.

While Roush — like the three management committee members — left the university entirely, O’Connor and Brown both plan to return to Quinnipiac as faculty members after taking sabbaticals.

Nevertheless, each of the university’s nine academic deans and the eight members of the President’s Management Committee sit on the university’s Leadership Council. The 23-person body, according to the university’s website, advises Olian on “important decisions involving the university and oversee key areas around the institution.”

Six other senior administrators — including Monique Drucker, vice president and dean of students, Tony Reyes, chief of public safety, and Greg Amodio, director of athletics — sit alongside the deans and the management committee members on the council.

Importantly, it is not clear if any of the departures are related.

“That’s all the information we’re providing at this time,” wrote John Morgan, associate vice president for public relations, in a statement to The Chronicle.

But the reasons aside, the leadership council responsible for advising the university’s president has lost 20% of its members since last October amid the back-to-back departures — and is set to lose another at the end of the academic year.

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FRATERNITY from cover

before being booted for violating the university’s hazing policies.

“It’s cool to say we were the longest on campus,” said J.P. DiDonato, a sophomore political science and applied business double major and another new member of the campus’ re-established TKE chapter. “But we’re really focused on the future and what type of changes we can make and what type of impact we can have on our community and our campus.”

Amid the hazing investigation eight years ago, university officials suspended one student, John Demoulas, for the spring 2015 semester for allegedly asking new members of the fraternity via a group text message to clean vomit in his on-campus suite.

Demoulas, who denied the allegations, filed a lawsuit against the university less than a month after the allegations surfaced in an attempt to overturn his suspension.

The judge presiding over the case denied Demoulas’ request for a temporary injunction to return to campus that spring, but university officials testified that the administrators who levied his suspension had never seen the alleged group text message. Demoulas returned to Quinnipiac for the spring 2015 semester and graduated in May 2017, according to his LinkedIn profile.

TKE is not the only fraternity university administrators have sanctioned in recent years. The Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity received a two-year suspension in June 2018 for “actions that occurred during the Spring 2018 semester,” John Morgan, associate vice president for public relations, told The Chronicle at the time.

Then, in December 2019, Quinnipiac officials suspended the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity for two years after investigating an “unsanctioned, off-campus event,” Morgan wrote in a statement to Q30 News.

But unlike two-year bans, four-year campus bans ensure that suspended fraternities and sororities regain eligibility only once all current members of the offending organization have graduated. Accordingly, university officials frequently impose suspensions of this length in major hazing cases — and not just at Quinnipiac.

At Clemson University, for example, officials in July banned the campus’ Alpha Gamma Rho chapter for four years after an investigation revealed that the fraternity’s initiation rituals caused chemical burns, per the Associated Press.

PJ Malafronte, the Indianapolis-based fraternity’s director of expansion, said that the actions that triggered TKE’s suspension from Quinnipiac eight years ago “did not represent who Tau Kappa Epsilon is and did not represent our values.”

“We can’t change the past, but we can change our present and we can change the future as well.”

– Brandon Assi
TAU KAPPA EPSILON MEMBER

“I think it’s really important to understand that this is a different group of individuals,” Malafronte said of the fraternity’s newest initiates. “The reason that I’m on campus this semester is to help lay the foundation in the right way.”

Nearly one-fifth of Quinnipiac’s 6,000 undergraduate students participate in the institution’s rapidly expanding Greek life community, per the university’s website.

As of fall 2023, Quinnipiac hosts chapters of six North American Interfraternity Conference fraternities and nine National Panhellenic Conference sororities. Five cultural organizations — one fraternity and four sororities — also maintain expansion chapters on the Mount Carmel Campus.

But Malafronte emphasized that the re-established chapter does not aim to be “the stereotypical frat on campus.”

“In my head, there’s a difference between a fraternity and a frat,” Malafronte said. “And we want to be not frat boys but fraternity men.”

Although Quinnipiac’s Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life began receiving requests to re-establish TKE when the organization regained eligibility four years ago, Avery Moses, the university’s director of campus life for fraternity and sorority life, emphasized that “eligibility to return is not a guarantee to return.”

“Students have requested TKE’s return at various points since 2019, but this project has been entirely managed by the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life and Tau Kappa Epsilon staff,” Moses wrote in an April 2023 statement to The Chronicle about TKE’s impending return to Quinnipiac. “We decided to begin conversations about reestablishing in 2022 even though they have been eligible to petition to return since 2019.”

OFSL subsequently announced in a March 2023 Instagram post that TKE would begin reestablishing itself at Quinnipiac during the fall 2023 semester.

“Tau Kappa Epsilon has demonstrated

that they are prepared to be a contributing organization on campus as they once were,” Moses wrote. “The feedback (OFSL) received has only grown on our confidence in this decision to bring TKE back to campus.”

Prior to its 2014 removal from campus, Quinnipiac’s Kappa Psi expansion had accumulated more than 25 chapter awards and nearly 730 lifetime members. Accordingly, Malafronte said, the newest members of the re-established fraternity will have the opportunity to engage with the chapter’s large alumni network.

“The benefit that these guys have is a long history of alumni from this chapter that they have the opportunity to network with, to use as resources, to go to for advice,” Malafronte said. “At the end of the day, alumni is what creates continuity in a chapter.”

John McCarthy, who joined Quinnipiac’s TKE chapter as a first-year student in the spring of 2009, credited the fraternity for making him the man he is nearly 15 years later.

“TKE sold me on becoming a brother of the fraternity for life,” McCarthy wrote in a Sept. 22 statement to The Chronicle. “Unfortunately, a few people making very dumb decisions led to the end of years and years of success on campus.”

But McCarthy, who served in several fraternity leadership positions during his undergraduate career, argued that TKE is “too important to Quinnipiac and to future potential members” to allow the 2014 hazing incident to define the fraternity’s future at the institution.

“As a former hegemon of the Kappa Psi chapter I can say that we have no room for the types of behaviors that got us kicked off campus,” wrote McCarthy, who graduated from Quinnipiac in 2012 with a bachelor’s degree in sociology. “That being said, the situation is over now and it’s time to rebuild TKE at QU as an integral part of the Greek and student communities.”

Amanda Madera contributed to this report.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Six members of Quinnipiac University’s newly re-established Tau Kappa Epsilon chapter pose with PJ Malafronte (back right), the fraternity’s director of expansion, eight years after campus officials banned the fraternity for hazing.

Residential Life allows air fryers, other kitchen items in upperclassmen dorms

By AMANDA MADERA
Contributing Writer

Upperclassmen, did you know you can be your own personal chef? Quinnipiac University’s new dorm regulations now allow students living in dorms with kitchens to have certain previously banned kitchenware items in their dorm rooms.

Quinnipiac’s updated 2023-24 undergraduate student handbook affords students who have access to a private kitchen the ability to keep items like air fryers, toaster ovens and waffle irons — all of which were prohibited prior to this year — in their dorm rooms.

The list of newly approved kitchenware also includes griddles, Foreman Grills and panini presses. However, students are still unable to bring hot plates, crock pots, indoor grills and portable stove tops to campus.

All students living on the York Hill Campus, in Whitney Village or in Quinnipiac-owned off-campus properties can now legally use these items in their dorms, as can students living in certain residence halls on the Mount Carmel Campus, including the Hill and the Complex.

“Giving upperclassmen more responsibility with appliances adds to independent living,” said Caidyn Collins, a junior human resource management major. “It lets people use their appliances that they would normally use if they were at home.”

But why were these items prohibited in the first place?

“Most of the items prohibited have to do with safety concerns. They present a large

risk, especially for students in a communal living environment,” said Mark DeVilbiss, director of housing. “Sometimes a brand new appliance can be deemed as risky at first, but after a few years the university may allow the item to be used.”

After consulting with both the Quinnipiac Safety Committee and the university’s insurance company, Quinnipiac officials decided this fall to allow the kitchenware items. DeVilbiss said both of these groups meet every year to look over the list of prohibited items and sometimes rewrite rules when necessary.

University officials are always concerned with fire safety, but DeVilbiss said “the items have been deemed safe to use in these certain circumstances.”

However, for students living in dorm buildings that have communal kitchens in each building, like in the Ledges residence hall, or on each floor, such as in Mountainview, these items are still prohibited.

“It’s very hard to not be able to use these resources,” first-year psychology major Thalia Padilla said. “It’s a hassle to have to walk all the way to the dining hall to use a toaster.”

Some students in first-year residence halls reported experiencing issues with the durability and reliability of school-provided kitchen appliances.

“It’s really unfair to the students who don’t have the same opportunities as the upperclassmen,” said Alyssa Livorsi, a first-year psychology major. “The appliances in the kitchens are poor. Someone on my floor set off the fire alarm in Mounta-

inview using the stove making an average college student meal.”

Liz Brenes, a first-year nursing major, said she felt inconvenienced by the university’s decisions.

“With no air fryers, protein intake is really hard to reach as someone who exercises regularly,” Brenes said.

Some first-year students understood why university officials decided not to allow students to bring kitchen appliances into the extremely small communal kitchens in first-year dorm buildings like the Irmagarde Tator and Dana English residence halls.

“To put air fryers and toasters in a small room with little to no ventilation and poor fire alarms with teenagers who don’t know how to cook, the alarms would go off everyday,” first-year mechanical engineering major Charlyse LaMantia said. “It makes sense for upperclassmen with private kitchens to be able to use these items.”

Nonetheless, other students felt it was unjust for the university to deny these opportunities to first-year students.

“It’s a little unfair only because the appliances in first-year housing are mediocre at best,” said Wilhelmina Kalish, a first-year mechanical engineering major. “Quinnipiac residential life needs to prioritize communal kitchens more.”

DeVilbiss said students should check the handbook regularly to ensure their appliances are in regulation. He also advised students to bring up individual questions with the Office of Housing or their residential assistant.



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX KENDALL

‘A great Quinnipiac story’: Director of facilities launches podcast about men’s hockey team

By AMANDA DRONZEK
Contributing Writer

In April 2023, the Quinnipiac University men’s ice hockey team clinched its first Division I NCAA title over Minnesota with a 3-2 overtime win. Then-sophomore forward Jacob Quillan netted the winning goal 10 seconds into overtime.

The next morning, Quinnipiac’s associate vice president for facilities operations Keith Woodward pitched a podcast — aptly named “The Tenth Second” — to Chris Roush, former dean of the School of Communications.

Woodward, a Quinnipiac graduate, recently entered his 35th year working at the university.

“I have deep roots in the Quinnipiac community,” Woodward said. “And so when they accomplish this, it just seems like it should be celebrated.”

The podcast tells the history of the Quinnipiac men’s hockey team from its first season in Division III to its triumph as one of the nation’s highest ranking hockey programs in Division I.

“Over a million people watched (the NCAA Frozen Four Championship) when it happened,” Woodward said. “And now they’re kind of hearing a little bit about how it really happened.”

This past summer, Woodward partnered with sophomore film, television and media arts major Justin Marovsky, who works as the audio engineer of “The Tenth Second.”

Enthralled by the school’s dedication to its students, Marovsky, a transfer student, found his home at Quinnipiac last year. There was passion outside of academia. There was pas-



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac University Director of Facilities Keith Woodward pitched “The Tenth Second” podcast the day after then-sophomore men’s hockey forward Jacob Quillan scored the national championship-winning goal 10 seconds into overtime.

sion for success. Marovsky was sold.

David DesRoches, Quinnipiac’s director of podcasting, brought together the dynamic duo. “The Tenth Second,” he said, was an opportunity to “elevate” different elements of the university, including the podcast studio. Most importantly, DesRoches saw a “rags-to-riches” story about the men’s hockey team that was relatively unknown.

Marovsky had never even seen a hockey game — but he had experience in audio editing.

“I got to thank (DesRoches) for seeing my work ... and seeing that I have potential,” Marovsky said.

Woodward and Marovsky spent over 20 hours interviewing current and former coaches, players and staff who have impacted Quinnipiac hockey through the years.

“I felt like I missed out on the national championship,” Marovsky said. “But I was totally wrong about it because I got such an amazing experience with Keith ... It was insane.”

Just as Marovsky’s introduction to hockey was a learning curve, Woodward said he learned a thing or two throughout the production process.

“He asks questions which are so pertinent,” Woodward said. “It makes the content better.”

Not every listener was in Tampa, Florida, for the Frozen Four, and not every listener understands hockey. However, Woodward argued that every listener deserves to share in Quinnipiac’s victory.

“The Tenth Second” currently has upward of 1,000 downloads, and Woodward expects this figure to increase in the coming weeks. The podcast is slated to end by Oct. 4 — just in time for the defending champions to take the ice on Oct. 7. Woodward and Marovsky said they aim to produce bonus episodes around the holidays to engage listeners.

“I hope that people can see the hard work put into it and know that we really appreciate everyone that came in,” Marovsky said.

The ordeal, Woodward said, is “a great Quinnipiac story.”

“Fifty years from now, they’re going to be talking if Quinnipiac never wins another national championship,” Woodward said. “Justin will be somebody who heard from all the players, all the coaches, and will be somebody that people will go back to to say, ‘Hey Justin what was it like?’”

Opinion

Anti-doping rules don't leave any room for error

By **ALEX MARTINAKOVA**
Copy Editor

Doping, or using substances to gain a competitive advantage in sports, has been around since the ancient Olympic games. As of late, athletic organizations have strict rules against the practice. And with strict rules come strict consequences.

Recently, former No. 1 women's tennis player Simona Halep received a four-year ban from professional play just two weeks ago, due to "substantial evidence" of "intentional" doping.

The fact is, the International Tennis Integrity Agency can't really prove whether she took anything on purpose or whether she was administered something contaminated. In these cases, it all comes down to judgment calls.

The 31-year-old tested positive for roxadustat, which is an anti-anemia medication used to treat kidney disease. It promotes the formation of hemoglobin and red blood cells, which increases oxygen going into the lungs, making it easier to breathe during high-intensity activities.

Consuming it is considered doping. Halep stated that before August 2022 —when the test was conducted — she adjusted her nutritional supplements, one of which was contaminated with roxadustat. The amount found in her test serves as evidence of this.

The decision came after a year-long battle to even get a hearing with the ITIA. Despite her best defense, this decision basically ended the Romanian's career.

Halep is just one of the names on a very long list of athletes that were unreasonably punished by a broken system.

Listen, I do not condone any form of doping in the sports industry. It's immoral, results in unfair advantages and creates unnecessary drama that the media loves to prey upon.

There is a huge difference, however, between doping à la Lance Armstrong and simply coming into contact with a contaminated substance.

The World Anti-Doping Code is a 24-page-long list of prohibited substances. The World Anti-Doping Agency updates the list annually. For a substance to get onto said list, it must satisfy at least two of the three criteria: it has the potential to enhance or enhances sport performance, it represents an actual or potential health risk to the athlete or it violates the spirit of sport.



CHRISTIAN MESIANO/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Simona Halep, pictured at the 2014 BNP Paribas Open in March 2014, was recently banned from playing professional tennis after testing positive for an anti-anemia drug.

However, certain substances that make it onto the list can be regarded as only slightly controversial.

Clomifene is listed as a banned anti-estrogenic substance, prohibited at all times. It also happens to be used as a common treatment for women with polycystic ovary syndrome who are trying to get pregnant.

In men, however, it can lead to an increase of testosterone levels. That's why it landed on the list.

Now comes the ethical question. Should this substance be banned across all mediums because it can potentially enhance physical performance in male athletes, even though it is a very common Food and Drug Administration-approved drug for females?

This brings up a bigger topic of gender in sports that does not need to be discussed right now. The point here is that the prohibited list is full of flaws.

Professional sports isn't the only industry affected by this. The NCAA recently decided to ban the popular energy drink, Celsius. Its reasoning? Apparently a study revealed that the caffeine in just one Celsius is equal to drinking five

cups of coffee. And, because coffee is a central nervous system stimulant, it can have benefits for one's mental and physical performance.

The NCAA Sports Science Institute stated it takes the caffeine equivalent of six to eight cups of coffee, two to three hours prior to a competition for the substance to show up on a drug test.

Yet this year, an NCAA panel is calling to have cannabis removed from its banned list. The panel has not yet reached a decision on the matter, as the final hearing is expected to be sometime this fall. However, the panel's reasoning entails the simple fact that cannabis does not enhance performance.

So, hypothetically, if I was an NCAA athlete, I could have a quick smoke before my game, but I can't have an energy drink? Brilliant.

Serious cases, like the Russian doping scandal of 2016 for example, should not be mixed with the likes of others. Most of the time, the investigations are nothing more than a witch hunt.

It is way easier to come into contact with a contaminated substance than you would think. According to the Global Sports Advocates, there are many ways it can happen without anyone's knowledge.

The first way is by eating meat. Cows all over the world are legally fed sport-banned steroids to promote growth. These can then easily show up on drug tests.

Strangely enough, intimacy is on the list as well. Just kissing someone who is on a banned medication or engaging in unprotected sex with that individual could result in a positive drug test later on.

The more obvious way to come into contact with contaminated supplements and prescriptions is through dietary supplements, which are not regulated by the FDA. Therefore there isn't anything preventing an athlete from accidentally ingesting something they shouldn't.

And yet that simple accident has the potential to destroy an athlete's entire career. Most of the time, the athletes are either too old by the time their punishment comes to an end or they have been on the sidelines for far too long to be able to come back to action.

The World Anti-Doping Code is black and white. The world isn't. Something has to give.

Bobcat Buzz



JACK SPIEGEL/CHRONICLE

A worker sprinkles cheese pizzas before the dinner rush on York Hill on Tuesday, Sept. 26.

Rocky Top Student Center's personal pies stole a 'pizza' my heart

By **ETHAN HURWITZ**
Sports Editor

I am a big pizza guy. That's why the Rocky Top Student Center's personal pie station in the York Hill Campus dining hall is the best meal choice at Quinnipiac University.

Down on the Mount Carmel Campus, you get stuck with one large cheese, one large pepperoni and then a random third pizza that looks like someone tossed an entire salad on top of it. Walk up and ask for a slice (or two) and the workers will throw it back into the oven to heat up.

My analysis: no bueno.

The pizza is fine — it's hard to make truly awful pizza — but it doesn't

do it for me. It fills the hunger pit, but do I actually enjoy it? Questionable.

On the contrary, just take a little ride up to York Hill and get some pizza. Now that is a pie students can enjoy wholeheartedly.

Made-to-order, the toppings span entire food groups. Want sausage and ranch? What about bacon and barbeque sauce? Get crazy and just throw an assortment of toppings on there, why don't you?

What I'm saying is that the options are limitless and the pizza is just better. While both campuses cook them in fancy pizza ovens, the upper campus is the one that will roll the dough out in front of you, then

throw it in as you wait.

Now yes, the line is outrageous. If you're lucky enough to walk up and order with nobody ahead of you, congratulations. You just experienced a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and it won't happen again.

But that line comes with the territory. You don't see people lining up for a half-hour just for a single semi-warmed slice down at Cafe Q, nor should they. But up on York, people know what to expect and are willing to wait for their food.

My thoughts on the pies could span paragraphs, but I will cut it short. My pizza is ready.

Opinion

Turn off your phone and re-‘kindle’ your love for books

Societal trends destroyed this generation’s ability to enjoy reading

By A.J. NEWTH
Opinion Editor

I’m ashamed to admit it’s been a while since I’ve picked up a book. I was an avid reader growing up, from “The Chronicles of Narnia” novels, to the “Harry Potter” series, to a casual murder mystery or romance novel here and there. Lately I’ve been meaning to get back into the groove of getting lost in a good book but I can’t seem to fall in love with it the way I used to.

Social media and academic reading culture are to blame.

Reading takes focus and energy, two things that have been decreasing ever since the popularity of social media spiked in the 2000s. Because of the desire for instant gratification and hunger for the next activity caused by smartphones, maintaining a long attention span is a thing of the past.

A study of college students found they now only focus on any one task for 65 seconds, while a study of office workers found that they only focus for three minutes on average. The growing inability to focus is caused by the fixations that individuals have on their phones, per The Guardian.

Social media platforms are addictions. Our attention spans are deteriorating, not to mention the negative impacts that screen time can have on our eyes and brains. This is worrisome as a lot of college students will enter jobs in a few years that will require extensive reading and focus, something social media is stripping away.

College students and recent graduates are the groups that are experiencing the biggest decrease. Several surveys from Gallup show that

recent college graduates show the largest decline in the number of books read from 1990 to 2021. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, reading was one of Americans’ favorite pastimes, with the number of books rising 21% in the year.

While social media is heavily impacting attention spans, it did also benefit the book community. TikTok users started a subsection of the app called BookTok, where users share their favorite novels and promote new stories. This brought books back to life for a moment, popularizing authors like Colleen Hoover and Adam Silvera.

The irony is almost comical, that it took the very social media app that made books insignificant to bring them back. While I’d love to place all the blame on social media, some responsibility belongs to academic institutions as well.

There’s a different kind of hatred I hold for professors who force unnecessary reading on students. I completely understand specific chapters that are mandatory for understanding topics in class, but typically the reading isn’t even needed for the course materials. Buying the textbook is pointless when the only information you need is in the Powerpoints and lectures.

There are several ways schools ruin reading for students, per The Washington Post. Quantifying reading — putting a limit on how much is to be read prior to the next class — is one of them. This makes reading a chore as opposed to something to enjoy. Additionally, writing summaries and reports on the text as if to prove that students read only fosters a deeper hatred for the activity.



ILLUSTRATION BY LINDSEY KOMSON

Now, I know there are many other reasons that the accelerated readers from elementary school haven’t touched a book in college. One of them being that we simply don’t have enough time. College keeps students very busy, so during limited freetime, we may choose a different leisure activity because free time is rare.

However, this doesn’t take away the positive impacts of reading. It improves your focus, memory, empathy and communication skills. When considering our future careers, these are skills that are essential to success. Reading also improves literacy, sleep, motivation and is a proven stress reliever, according to Time Magazine.

You may be thinking, “That sounds great. I should read more. But where do I start?”

The answer is incredibly simple, just pick up a book that piques your interest. If you need in-

spiration, you can find popular stories online or even check BookTok. It helps to try and work reading into your daily routine to help relax your mind. It’s also important to read things you like, and don’t be ashamed to quit a book halfway through if it’s not your taste.

Making space for books you’ll actually enjoy is all part of building a positive association with reading.

The next time I’m settling into bed, I’m going to put the blue light screen down and indulge in a crime thriller like I did years ago. I make plenty of time for social media, so it’s time I make some for classic paper and ink.

Challenge yourself to read tonight (this article doesn’t count) and see if it sparks a love for books that you either forgot was there, or never knew was there in the first place.

How soon is too soon to get spooky?

Wait until October, at least

By BENJAMIN YEARGIN
Managing Editor

I’m not a Grinch. I promise.

I love the holidays like everyone else. The family time, the gifts, the celebrations and the candy. The beginning of October to Christmas is my favorite time of the year.

Also, I want to make it clear that I do believe you should celebrate the fall season with your favorite activities like pumpkin carving, eating pumpkin-flavored things, observing the leaves change and watching some football, too.

But I want every part of the year to get its own time. Halloween’s time should be from mid-October to the end of the month.

I don’t — and never will — understand the rush to start celebrating Halloween in September or even late in the summer. Walking into a dorm and seeing skeletons, pumpkins and small orange and purple stickers on the windows now makes me cringe. It isn’t even October yet.

It’s similar to walking into Costco in August and seeing displays already for Christmas, as documented by the Daily Mail.

For me, seeing decorations that early takes away the fun of having something to look forward to and the special nature of a holiday. Halloween is something I look forward to, so to have it be commodified and advertised way too early ruins how unique it is.

After all, if you decorate in September, by the time Halloween actually rolls around, where is the novelty in the pumpkins and

skeletons around your home?

There’s many traditions that just would not be the same from being celebrated early — trick-or-treating, pumpkin carving and watching spooky movies. They must be done on Halloween or right around Halloween to be truly effective.

I fondly remember carving pumpkins with my brother, sister and mom and roasting the pumpkin seeds in the oven after, which we would munch on. I also remember trick or treating during the “killer clown” era of 2016 — where everyone dressed up as clowns to scare teenagers like me — and being absolutely terrified.

Now imagine if that happened in mid-September. It wouldn’t be the same.

I don’t want to gatekeep Halloween or the fall from anyone, but I think it would suit all of us better to take Halloween and every holiday (I’m talking to you, Christmas) one season at a time.

Halloween starts when you want it to

By JULIA KUSMENKO
Contributing Writer

The scent of dry leaves drifts through the air. The weather begins to turn and the sun sets early. Now that it is officially fall, it’s appropriate to start celebrating Halloween.

Commemorating Halloween at the start of fall means there is more time to enjoy festivities, build excitement and foster memories with those around you.

One reason to partake in Halloween-related activities during the fall season is that it sparks joy. For instance, decorating my house with holiday decorations never fails to put a smile on my face. Whether it’s preparing your costume, watching scary movies or carving pumpkins, who’s to prohibit you from engaging in something harmless that makes you happy.

Celebrating Halloween festivities early also brings people together. The Associated Press National Opinion Research Center reported, “76% of American adults do something to celebrate Hal-

loween,” in 2019.

There’s nothing that compares to going on a haunted hayride or traipsing through a corn maze to spend time with those close to you. With a wide range of Halloween activities out there, engaging in spooky festivities earlier in the season allows for more time to appreciate the holiday.

From visiting haunted houses to baking tasty treats, this holiday encourages people to come together during fall.

I held annual Halloween parties in middle school to prepare for the actual day. Watching films such as “Halloweentown” curled up on my couch or painting pumpkins in my backyard was something special I could share with my friends that made the joy of the holiday last the entire season.

Getting ready for Halloween in September means there is more time for people to build their excitement for the holiday. The anticipation is not understated, as the U.S. Census Bureau reported that about 41 million kids ages five to 14 trick-or-treated in 2021.

With a plethora of costume options, Halloween is a chance for people of all ages to express their creativity. Preparing one’s costume in the months leading up to Halloween allows for anticipation to grow. That way, kids and adults are filled with excitement by Oct. 31.

There will always be people who drag others down for their enthusiasm surrounding holiday festivities. Ultimately, celebrating Halloween at the start of fall is a greater opportunity for the magic of Halloween to engender meaningful moments in one’s life.



ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR YOUNGBERG

Arts & Life

The final season of ‘Sex Education’ never reaches its climax

By **ZOE LEONE**
Arts & Life Editor

When “Sex Education” first premiered in 2019, it was groundbreaking. It rose through the ranks of mediocre Netflix originals and cemented itself as one of the best teen dramas in recent memory.

Now, with the final season of the show having been released on Sept. 21, it feels boring.

“Sex Education” grew in popularity because it was something that had really never been seen before. A diverse group of teenagers, an interesting script with brilliant one-liners and conversations about sex that felt organic made the series worth watching. Storylines about characters from all walks of life, dealing with all kinds of problems, made the audience intrigued and connected.

But with the final season, the only thing the show has going for it are its actors, and even that factor has dwindled. Seven of the original characters were suddenly gone from the series, clearing up room to bring in a whole host of new characters to take their place. While some of the exits — such as Simone Ashley, who rose to new heights of fame after starring in season two of “Bridgerton” — make sense, some of them seem to be a result of misguided choices by the series’ creative team.

These choices take the remaining characters away from Moordale Secondary School — which was shut down after season three’s tyrannical headmaster wreaked havoc on the students — to Cavendish Sixth Form College, which seems more like a woke-ified

wellness retreat than an actual school.

The new characters that come with the setting change are nothing short of over-the-top. While drama is nothing new to “Sex Education,” these introductions are the first time that the show’s representation seems forced and characters feel more like caricatures.

The series has always included a cast of well-rounded characters. From students of different races, ethnicities and faiths to queer and transgender teenagers, “Sex Education” has some genuinely well-written representation. But several of the characters this season, and their awkward dialogue, seem like an attempt to tick another box rather than create fleshed out characters.

Several of the storylines, featuring both characters new and old, simply feel out of place for a final season. With only eight episodes, every minute of every story counts. Unfortunately, most of them are wasted on arcs that never really seem to amount to much. While storylines involving secret paternity, abusive relationships and identity struggles have the potential to be impactful, they barely scratch the surface of any meaning.

The series is the strongest when the characters are together, which is why it seems like such an odd choice that they wait until the final episode to have them really interact with each other. And yet, by the time the series comes to a close, most of them aren’t even speaking to one another. It feels like a fractured ending to a show that seemed to initially be about the things that bind us and a sense of commonality.

Even amongst the flaws that mar “Sex Education”’s final season, there’s still bright spots that will keep long-time watchers seated.

Ncuti Gatwa — who launched to a new level of fame after a memorable role in “Barbie” and his announcement as the new doctor in “Doctor Who” — delivers a performance just as fantastic as in the last three seasons. Gatwa plays fan favorite Eric Effiong, a proudly gay Nigerian teen who stole hearts as he learned to love himself and his identities.

This season finds Effiong struggling to reconcile his faith and his sexuality as he tries to find his place at Cavendish. While his comedic delivery and iconic one-liners make Effiong as lovable as ever, Gatwa delivers a truly stunning performance with the heavier material of his character’s storylines. While “Sex Education” may be ending, this season only confirmed that the actor has a long road of stardom ahead of him.

Another long-term standout that breathes life into the season is Aimee Lou Wood, who plays the quirky and lovable Aimee Gibbs. Gibbs has been on a self-described healing journey after being assaulted on the bus to school in season two. As one of the only consistent and well-written storylines carried over through the seasons, Gibbs’ path to self-empowerment and regaining her sense of self is one of the most honest and beautiful things to come out of “Sex Education.”

And yet, even amongst the good moments, the final season of “Sex Education” is a lot like a ruined orgasm — so close, yet no climax.



ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RIHA

The ever-so-sudden resurgence of ‘Suits’

By **ETHAN HURWITZ**
Sports Editor

Netflix is a weird place. Out of nowhere, you can find a new movie to watch or a show you’ve binged a hundred times. Or in the case of USA’s “Suits,” you can come across a decade-old series that has suddenly become one of the most watched shows in the history of the streaming platform.

Thanks to a lot of chopped up clips all over TikTok and a now-popular fascination with the legal profession, “Suits” has taken over the television world 12 years after first being released. According to Nielsen ratings, it garnered over 3.1 billion minutes viewed in just a single week this past July.

Starring Gabriel Macht, Patrick J. Adams, Rick Hoffman and Meghan Markle — yes, the Duchess of Sussex — the legal comedy-drama tells the story of a powerful corporate New York law firm that changes names so many times, it’s not even worth putting one down, and the constant legal battles that must be won at any cost.

We need to get one thing out of the way first. Everyone in this show is corrupt, shady and borderline criminal. The show does a good — no, great — job of making the viewers fall in love with the main cast of characters, seemingly watering down all the immoral and illegal things done over the course of nine seasons.

It starts off cheesy. A powerful lawyer, Harvey Specter (Macht), hires a college dropout, Mike Ross (Adams), to join his law

firm as an associate. There’s just one problem: Ross never went to law school and will be committing a pretty hefty felony in the process. It is such a bizarre and unusual plot that despite being semi-popular when it first aired, it captured an entirely new audience on Netflix.

Now, as an enrollee of one singular law class in college, I am not an expert of the legal procedures and protocols surrounding subpoenas, depositions and clients. But, as someone with a brain, I know that half of the law rigmarole that goes on in the show is just for entertainment. A problem randomly falls on Specter’s desk? Good thing the firm is able to bend the law to their will to get their way.

It’s not realistic, but that’s why it’s grown on so many people who have binged all eight seasons that are on Netflix (and found a way to stream the ninth somewhere else). Every problem — minor or major — gets resolved, and the round and round soap opera continues to churn out more issues.

But past the chaos of inter-workplace drama and the witty comedic timing, is the constant trend of which character will fall in love with who (spoiler: everyone you expect to end up together, does in fact, end up that way). That ability to keep people drawn in and worked up over these relationships is why so many people are desperate to see if Mike and Rachel Zane (Markle) finally get married, or if Louis Litt (Hoffman) finally finds the right woman.

The writing is dumbed down for the viewers, so they don’t get lost in the mumbo-

jumbo of legal talk. Everything makes sense and is easy to follow for those watching, plus when it’s put on the home screen whenever you open up the app, it is instantly eye-catching.

But it’s a silly show. It’s added the words like “goddamn subpoena” and “take this to trial” into my vocabulary that I do not use in the right context at all. I make jokes about drinking a glass of scotch at 10 a.m. and drinking prune smoothies for breakfast (prunies, as Louis calls them and yes, they are as disgusting as you

can imagine) because that’s all the characters seem to care about. It’s a show about legal proceedings, but it’s relatable to someone who is so far from the legal system that my only court case was being selected for jury duty.

I’ve watched all 134 episodes and it’s a good enough show to watch again and again. “Suits” is a perfect binge-worthy show and maybe that’s why it’s so popular. If life as a lawyer was as exciting as portrayed on the screen, maybe I’d need to change my major.



ILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

PHOTOS: QU Student Programming Board hosts ‘Cookies, Crafts and Coasters’ event

By QUINN O’NEILL
Contributing Photographer

The Quinnipiac Student Programming Board hosted a Cookies, Crafts and Coasters event on Sept. 23. The event, which took place in the Carl Hansen Student

Center cafeteria, featured cookies that were available for both eating and decorating. The craft of the night was diamond-by-coloring coasters. Attendees could try their luck in a raffle, with plushes and blankets as prizes.



The era of natural hair

By SANIYA POWELL
Contributing Writer

My journey with my hair has been a long one. From being in the salon chair every couple of weeks getting texturizers, to a horrible perm that made my hair fall out, deciding to go natural wasn’t a hard decision. Before cutting my hair, I was embarrassed about how fried my ends looked compared to my roots and how my hair was uneven in certain areas. I decided to cut off all of my damaged hair in the summer of 2017. It was a struggle for me to get used to having very short hair going into the school year. It started the love-hate relationship that I had with my natural hair. According to a study conducted by Arizona State University, even Black girls as young as 10 years old have had negative experiences — like being expelled from school or teased — just because of their hair. Kids shouldn’t have to worry about that. The natural hair movement has been re-energized since the 1960s to now. Iconic stars like Nina Simone and Lauryn Hill rocked the natural state of their hair for years. Each style is unique to each person, from a wash-and-go to the fluffy braid-out that took years to perfect. The movement taught Black women to love our hair, but it also taught us the self-hatred of it all. It has made us feel we should look a certain way. I used to love to look up style inspirations from icons like Tracee Ellis Ross and learn

hairstyles like knotless braids and faux dreadlocks. I would try them, but always ended up hating how my hair looked and wishing I had a different texture of hair. Natural hair is always a highly contested topic, from stories on news channels to casual conversations with friends. Social media has made this movement about perception through screens. People judge each other on how big their hair looks or the color and curl pattern. Kristin Rowe, assistant professor in the department of American Studies at California State University, Fullerton, believes that the natural hair movement that was strongly influenced by civil rights, but has now become more complex. It’s essential to look at it from different perspectives. Racist comments can make people uncomfortable with their hair decisions. Like in 2015, Fashion Police host Giuliana Rancic said that the dreadlocks Zendaya was wearing must have smelled of “patchouli and weed.” People just want to be respected by their peers, despite how their hair looks. But Black people face microaggressions about their hair everywhere, especially in the workplace. In 2022, the CROWN Act was passed, codifying protections against hair-based discrimination in the workplace. A report by the Economic Policy Institute showed that “Black women with coily or textured hair are also twice as likely

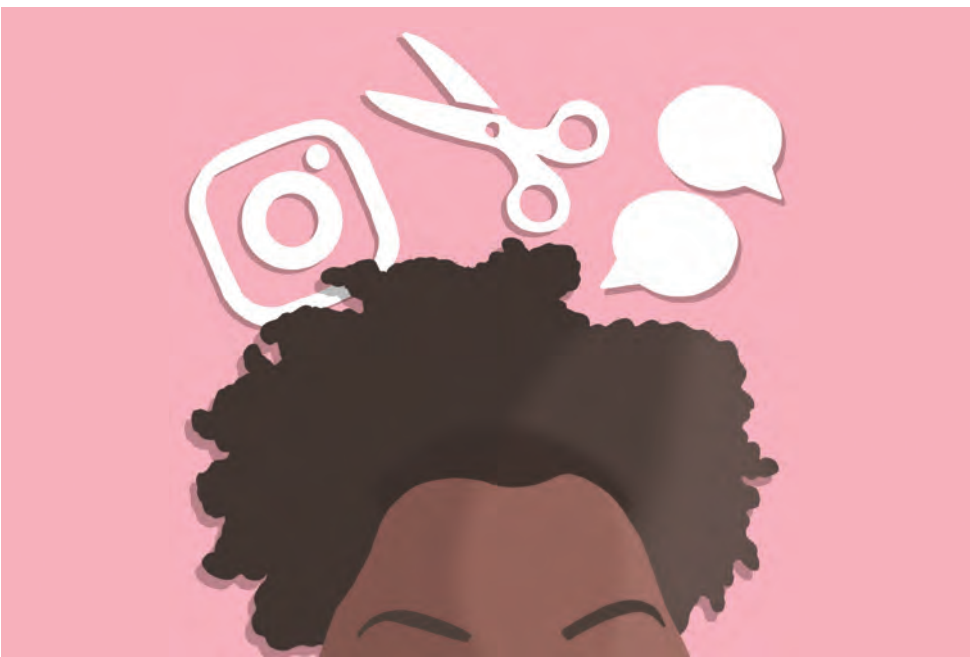


ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RIHA

to experience microaggression at work as Black women with straighter hair.” From personal experience of having my hair be the topic of conversation at work, I was uncomfortable and felt singled out. The workplace shouldn’t be a place where we feel the most microaggressions. There is still a bias about the types and styles of natural hair worn by people of color. People think that certain styles can’t be seen as conventionally attractive in society. According to the Good Hair Study, “Black women perceive a level of social stigma against textured hair, and this perception is substantiated by white women’s devaluation of natural hairstyles.” I have had white people ask me pretty crazy questions about my hair. Instead of taking offense to the questions, I just educate them on what I do with my hair. I believe I am perceived differently with each hairstyle I do. It lets me show the different side of my personality, from the fresh knotless braids making me feel creative, to the coily wash-and-gos which leave me feeling fresh.

Demi Lovato’s ‘REVAMPED’ celebrates reinvention and growth

By JENNIFER MOGLIA
Staff Writer

In early September 2023, seasoned musician and actor Demi Lovato released “REVAMPED,” her ninth studio album and her first album of remixes. It serves as the follow-up to 2022’s “HOLY FVCK,” the first album where the singer adopted a new style leaning more towards rock rather than pop.

During their tour last year in support of “HOLY FVCK,” Lovato, who uses both they/them and she/her pronouns, performed songs from their Disney Channel days and the years following for the first time in years. This shocked many fans, considering how open she has been about how detrimental her experiences acting and performing for the company were.

In an interview with the Call Her Daddy podcast in 2022, Lovato shared that although they are thankful for the opportunities they got at such a young age because of Disney, they were constantly exhausted by the intense workload and pressures that came with being a star on the network. In 2023, she opened up to Billboard about how being in Hollywood as a teenager led to an eating disorder and self-harm habits.

Those experiences alone could have driven someone away from the limelight for good. Add on Lovato’s experiences with being groomed by older men and falling into drug addiction, and you have a very long list

of reasons to run away from Hollywood as fast as humanly possible.

However, instead of associating their old Disney-era-adjacent songs with the painful memories of that period, the singer chose to reclaim their art in a new and powerful way. When Lovato started performing these older songs again in 2022, they added a twist.

She brought an all-women band on tour with her, including legendary guitarist and former member of Alice Cooper’s touring band, Nita Strauss, turning the sugary-sweet teenage pop songs into stadium-ready pop-rock anthems.

These reinvented tracks included fan favorites like “Heart Attack,” “Sorry Not Sorry,” “Cool for the Summer,” “Confident,” “Don’t Forget” and more.

When I got to see Lovato live last year, I was happy to hear these old songs again and reminisce on my childhood, but I was even happier to see that the artist appeared comfortable and even excited to perform them so many years later. It may sound like I read too much into it, but I felt inspired to move past my own trauma and reclaim things I loved from my past just like Lovato did.

Fast forward almost a year after the “HOLY FVCK” tour, and Lovato has released “REVAMPED” via Island Records, featuring studio recordings of those punkified versions of her older hits. Again, I was

thrilled to be able to listen to these versions whenever I wanted, but it meant even more knowing the deeper implications of the album.

Lovato’s voice sounds stronger than ever, hitting higher notes than the original recordings on songs like “La La Land” and “Give Your Heart A Break.” The songs pack an even harder punch knowing that she genuinely loves the music that she’s making and isn’t just doing it to avoid the wrath of the “House of Mouse.”

There are a few fun features on the album as well, from classic rock stars like the aforementioned Strauss and Slash, of Guns N’ Roses, to modern pop-punk and emo heroes like members of The Maine and The Used. This was a particularly smart move in my eyes, since there is so much overlap between

people who were passionate emo kids and fans of Lovato’s Disney shows at the same time.

As a whole, this record is a reminder that no one has to stay the same for their whole life, whether you’re one of the biggest stars in the world or just an ordinary person. Your art can grow with you, even if that art was made at a turbulent time in your life.

Sure, the songs are relatively the same, but I think that this album is worth a listen for the deeper meanings of authenticity and growing from your past, not hiding from it. If there are any other former child stars who resent their old music for any reason and want to fall in love with it again, I would highly recommend giving it the “REVAMPED” treatment.

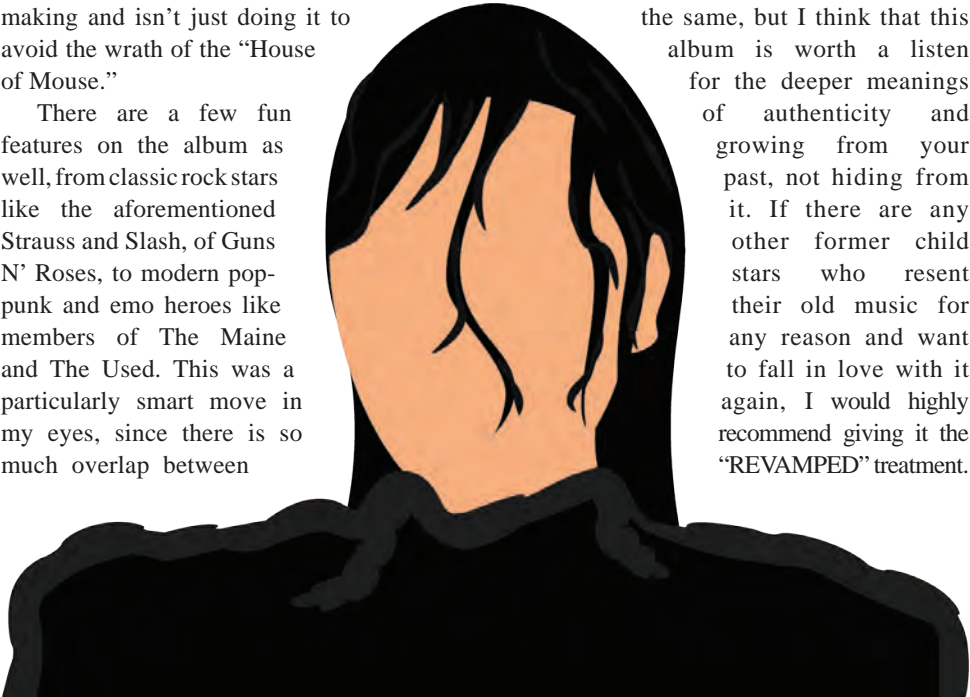


ILLUSTRATION BY SHAVONNE CHIN

Nas: Greatest of his generation

By MICHAEL PETITTO
Staff Writer

Hip-hop legend Nas recently celebrated not only his 50th birthday but the 50th anniversary of the rap genre. The story of hip-hop can not be told without discussing Nas, who rose up to legendary status during the golden age of rap: the ‘90s.

So many legends rose to stardom during this era, from Biggie Smalls, Tupac Shakur, and Jay-Z to Andre 3000, Lauryn Hill, Eminem and more. However, Nas is different from the rest of the pack.

Not only did he release some of the most lyrically crafted and high-quality albums of the ‘90s, he continues to release

albums with the same top-notch quality in the 2020s. Currently, Nas has 17 studio albums, with each one of them adding onto the myth and legend of the Queens native.

Nas (born Nasir bin Olu Dara Jones) launched into the stratosphere of hip-hop when he dropped what is considered by many to be the magnum opus of the entire genre, “Illmatic.” A multitude of rappers from different eras have gone on record saying they were directly inspired by Nas’ debut album, including Lil Wayne, Common, J. Cole and Kendrick Lamar.

Whether it’s the iconic verses on “N.Y. State of Mind” or the smooth and catchy chorus on “The World Is

Yours,” “Illmatic” served as a blueprint for the rappers of generations to come for how to successfully start a discography.

What separates Nas from the other artists of his generation is not only his riveting lyrics and freestyles, but his ability to tell unique and fascinating stories. Whether it’s spitting bars from the point of view of a gun on “I Gave You Power,” detailing his experience of the highs and lows of fatherhood on “Daughters” or telling an entire story in reverse on “Rewind,” Nas is always able to creatively tell stories while also putting the spotlight on important social issues, such as poverty, police brutality and racism.

The Queens rapper has always been able to hold his own against other emcees, including legends from his own time. The most famous rap battle Nas ever participated in was his years-long lyrical sparring match with Jay-Z.

more indirect approach to the rap game, dropping albums on his own time and experimenting with sounds. Some examples are the Jamaican inspired production on his collaborative album with DJ Damian Marley titled “Distant Relatives” to his 2018 project “Nasir” produced entirely by Ye (formerly known as Kanye West). Nas continues to find ways to innovate his own sound that stays refreshing and enjoyable to listen to.

However, the most impressive aspect to Nas’ game in recent years has been his consistency, which he matches with quality. In the 2020s alone, Nas has released two separate trilogies all executively produced by Hit-Boy.

The “Magic” and “Kings Disease” series showcases Nas’ rapping over modern-day beats with his iconic flow and pen game that seems to never run out. It seems as though Nas gets better with time as some of his best material has come out of these sessions with Hit-Boy, including “Magic” and “Kings Disease III,” which both feature Nas delivering quality verses over quality beats.

The six-album run between Nas and Hit-Boy officially came to an end in 2023 with the releases of “Magic 2” and “Magic 3,” coming within just a few months of each other, as both artists are looking forward to starting new chapters in their music careers.

Unlike some of the other rap giants from his era, Nas continues to deliver into the present day, with a wide variety of high-caliber albums in his catalog that will certainly continue to grow until the day he retires. His reputation, discography and passion for hip-hop make him stand out as the greatest rapper from the golden age of the genre.

In more recent years, Nas has taken a



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX KENDALL

Looking back at Nirvana’s ‘Nevermind’ 32 years later

By **MIKE KING**
Staff Writer

Nirvana has repeatedly been labeled a grunge band ever since it released its debut album, “Bleach,” on Sub Pop Records in 1989. While this may be true, the groundbreaking group is so much more than a genre.

Kurt Cobain, Krist Novaselic and Dave Grohl proved this with their breakthrough album “Nevermind,” released in September 1991.

The introductory track, “Smells Like Teen Spirit,” is a wild one to say the least. Cobain’s aggressive guitar tone pulls you in immediately and leaves you wanting more. This is far and away the band’s most popular song, pulling in an astounding 1.7 billion YouTube views. In 1993, the song was nominated for two Grammys — Best Rock Song and Best Hard Rock Performance.

The song served as a '90s teenage anthem and MTV constantly included the music video in its rotation. The popularity of this song also inspired many to follow Cobain’s fashion, as he famously wore flannel shirts and even women’s dresses on stage. The lyrics are confusing, which allowed teens who thought the world was confusing to relate to what Cobain sang.

“Smells Like Teen Spirit” was even referenced in Jay-Z’s 2013 hit song “Holy Grail.” The rapper sings, “Kurt Cobain, I did it to myself, uh . . . And we’re stupid, and contagious.”

The band continued this aggressive tone into its second song, “In Bloom.” This song focused on bandwagon Nirvana fans, as Cobain sings about fans liking the way their songs sound, but they “know not what it means.”

The track “Come As You Are” offers a change of pace, introducing a more pop-oriented guitar tone. Cobain’s lyrics seem to contradict themselves throughout the album, but especially in this song, where he sings “take your time, hurry up.” The nonsensical lyrics have stood the test of time with fans, as the song is certified double platinum and has over a billion Spotify streams.

Nirvana bassist Novaselic spoke about Cobain’s unpredictability in an interview with

Rick Beato in February. “He would say one thing, and then he would change his mind on it,” Novaselic said.

Songs like “Breed” and “Territorial Pissings” prove that having just a three-piece band doesn’t mean Nirvana can’t play as loud as typical bands. Cobain’s guitar chops and harsh vocals help appeal to punk rock veterans and new-wave grunge fans.

Cobain experiments again with odd lyrics in the track “Lithium,” singing, “I’m so excited, I can’t wait to meet you there, and I don’t care.” Fans believe that the song was named after the drug commonly used to treat bipolar disorder, which Cobain suffered from. “Lithium” also defied norms of the time for its substitution of a typical chorus with Cobain wailing “Yeah” over the instruments.

In what’s often cited as an example of Cobain’s support of feminism and equality movements, “Polly” is based on the real life abduction and torture of a 14-year-old girl in 1987. Cobain sings from the point of view of the attacker, bringing in a unique perspective, singing, “Maybe she would like some food, She asks me to untie her.” The band made an effort to play the song live and publicize the story.

“Stay Away” also proves the band’s support for activism, as Cobain concludes the song with a long-winded “God is gay.” This was also something Cobain used to frequently spray paint around his hometown of Aberdeen, Washington.

“Drain You,” often cited as Cobain’s favorite Nirvana song, stands the test of time with an extremely catchy guitar riff. Grohl’s backing vocals also propel this song to a new level of replay value.

“He wrote these really simple songs,” Grohl said in an interview with Howard Stern. “His objective was to make the song as catchy and memorable and simple as possible.”

With such a historic album, it’s only right to see Nirvana still getting recognition in a new age, whether it be through music, fashion or pop culture.



1990s grunge band Nirvana remains a groundbreaking group more than 30 years since the release of its first album, ‘Nevermind.’

“Something In The Way” is one of those songs. The song was recently featured in the film “The Batman,” and has regained some popularity because of it. The band brought in cellist Kirk Canning to give the song its dark undertone.

Cobain sings about his struggles in life and even references his time “underneath the bridge” when he claimed he was homeless as a teenager. He recorded his vocals while laying down on his sofa and producer Butch Vig needed to turn his volume all the way up

to hear his soft-spoken voice.

Vig said this track was the hardest song to record on the album “by far.”

Though it came out nearly thirty years ago, “Nevermind” helped propel Nirvana into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2014.

“It’s all so bittersweet,” Novaselic said in an interview with Jimmy Fallon. “Our friend Kurt has been gone for 20 years. It’s a good way to remember him. He should be here.”

Why Guns N’ Roses needs a new album

By **MICHAEL SINGER**
Staff Writer

Picture this: it’s been 15 long years since the last Guns N’ Roses record, “Chinese Democracy.” It’s also been 30 years since the last Guns N’ Roses record to feature multiple original members, 1993’s “The Spaghetti Incident.”

Three of the founding members — Axl Rose, Slash and Duff McKagan — reunited in the spring 2016. Since then, they have toured relentlessly and have released three previously written singles along the way, 2021’s “ABSURD” and

“Hard Skool” and 2023’s “Perhaps.”

While it’s nice that the band released leftover tracks from the “Chinese Democracy,” the real question is, when are fans getting new, original material?

I think the next few months would be the perfect time to release a full-length record. It was widely reported that Guns N’ Roses are working on a full-length record, as confirmed by Slash back in January 2022. But that was well over a year ago.

Since the confirmation, the band has dug

into the closet and pulled out some deep cuts to play in concert. After the release of “Perhaps,” the band announced that the next single, “The General,” would be released as the B-side of the vinyl copy of “Perhaps.”

On top of Slash confirming that the band was recording a new record, photos surfaced online of Axl and Slash in the studio while on tour, which the band’s management quickly took down.

The band has gone to far lengths to keep things a secret, which also includes delaying the release of “Perhaps” after copies were leaked at a bar this past summer.

As someone who has been a fan of the band since I was a freshman in high school, I have been long obsessed over the idea of new original material.

For the last few years, fans have been fortunate enough to get a McKagan solo album, “Tenderness,” released in 2019. In addition to McKagan’s record, fans also received two Slash records, featuring Myles Kennedy and The Conspirators, in 2018 and 2019. If other members can release multiple solo records, why can’t Guns N’ Roses release a full-length record or at least an EP?

I know that I can speak for a majority of Guns N’ Roses fans when I say that it’s time for new music to be released.

This summer, there have been so many great records from bands coming out of long hiatuses, like Queens of the Stone Age, Mammoth WVH, The Foo Fighters and Greta Van Fleet. So why

should Guns N’ Roses only release one single?

Other great rock bands, like The Struts and Dirty Honey, are slated to release new records this coming fall. Ironically, Dirty Honey is opening for Guns N’ Roses on their fall tour of the U.S.

Since we’re talking about what could be, what if former rhythm guitarist Izzy Stradlin rejoined the band after the falling out with the other members at the start of the reunion? What if original drummer Steven Adler or Matt Sorum from the “Use Your Illusion” record were brought back to round out a full-fledged reunion?

Now, this thought will be a major stretch, but, if Stradlin doesn’t come back, could Guns N’ Roses bring back Gilby Clarke, who replaced Stradlin on the “Use Your Illusion” tour?

There are so many “what if” scenarios that could happen with this band. In terms of former members returning, I know fans are split down the middle. Some fans want former members to return while others are OK with current members Richard Fortus and Frank Ferrer.

In all honesty, I love Fortus and Ferrer. While I would love to see Stradlin, Adler, Sorum or Clarke return, I’m OK with the band as it is.

Guns N’ Roses has become a band wrapped in mystery. It has released music sporadically and fans have been whispering about a new record for years. It is only a matter of time.

With that said, “Perhaps” now is the perfect time for “the most dangerous band in the world” to make the announcement that fans are waiting for.



Famed guitarist Slash has been the lead guitar player for Guns N’ Roses since the '80s.

Back in MAAC-tion

Women’s soccer ‘can’t rely on one player’ going into MAAC play

By **RYAN JOHANSON**
Staff Writer

Being the reigning conference champions doesn’t guarantee future success, it only matters what you do in the present. For Quinnipiac women’s soccer, its non-conference schedule proved that.

Quinnipiac struggled, not scoring a goal in the first 184 minutes of play. It opened up the season with two-straight scoreless efforts against Providence and Dartmouth by a score of 3-0 and 1-0, respectively.

“I think we’ve definitely been on the come up,” senior forward Courtney Chochol said. “I think that the first couple games were a little shaky, but I feel like it’s definitely starting to click.”

After going through that rough patch, the Bobcats found their stride as they scored seven goals through their next two non-conference games against Drexel and Stonehill. This came before their three-game win streak fell in their final non-conference game to Princeton with a score of 4-2.

“I think going into conference play, we know that every game matters,” Chochol said. “In the MAAC, every single game means something and we know that the difference of first and second could be a matter of one game.”

The Bobcats came into the season first in the preseason coaches’ poll, receiving six of the 11 first place votes. Four players made the All-

MAAC preseason team: graduate students midfielder Markela Bejleri and defender Kayla Mingachos, as well as Chochol and senior midfielder Emely van der Vliet.

Last season, forward Rebecca Cooke’s 22 goals led the Bobcats (and the nation), which propelled her to Penn State for her senior year. This year, the Bobcats have taken on a team-first approach, using their depth to their advantage.

“We still have players that came on late who started in the final two years ago. So that sort of goes to the depth of the squad that we’ve put together,” head coach Dave Clarke said after their game against Stonehill on Sept. 4. “But we’ve got to make it an 18 against 11 or 19 versus 13 squad type of game. That will be important.”

The Bobcats’ season is now heading into the heart of MAAC play, which they kicked off with two clean sheet victories over Niagara (4-0) and Canisius (2-0). In the first game, the Bobcats secured the win behind its 15 shots on goal and its nine corner kicks in the game. In the latter, goals from graduate student midfielder/defender Olivia Scott and sophomore midfielder Milena Branco propelled them to the win.

“We have to keep going,” junior midfielder Ana Carlos said. “Keep working hard in practice and in games, fight hard for everything because obviously in conference it matters the most at this point.”

The Bobcats’ home record last season was

10-0, which helped them become them to the No. 1 seed in the MAAC playoffs. This year that’s not the case, as Quinnipiac’s home record currently stands at 3-2 following losses to Dartmouth and Princeton, the former its first home loss since Oct. 20, 2021.

Quinnipiac has an important three-game home stand from Oct. 4 to Oct. 11 against Fairfield, Iona and Marist. If the Bobcats want to repeat as conference champions, these three home games are essential in securing the top seed.

Iona and Fairfield brought trouble to Quinnipiac last season. The Gaels gave the Bobcats their only loss in the MAAC, and the defending conference champions scraped a 3-2 win away from the Stags. The win against Fairfield proved to be the tiebreaker that gave the Bobcats home-field advantage in the MAAC playoffs.

Three of the final four games are away for Quinnipiac with trips to Siena, Mount St. Mary’s and Manhattan scheduled to end the regular season. These three opponents are allowing more than a goal a game so far this season. So if the Bobcats want to pull out as victors in their travels away from home, the Bobcats need to put the ball in the net the way they’ve been doing so far this season, scoring 2.14 goals per game.

The Bobcats have the highest scoring margin in the MAAC, scoring 0.85 more goals per game more than they concede per game. Going away from home for three out of the last four games is

a tall task, but with the teams that they are facing, the Bobcats have the offensive firepower to overshadow the opposition.

Rider is another team Quinnipiac has to look out for down the final stretch. The Broncos are 3-5-1 on the year and 1-2 in conference play, but their record is something that should be overlooked.

In nine games, Rider’s defense has allowed just nine goals. Senior goalkeeper Ellie Sciancalepore trails only Canisius junior Jordan Spencer for goals against average in the MAAC.

The Broncos main struggle is putting the ball in the net, averaging less than a goal per game at the season’s midpoint.

The Bobcats offensive production needs to become a collective offense. Cooke and Chochol had 51 and 26 points between the two last year, to the next-highest scorer, Scott’s 12.

“We said we want to (spread) the goals out,” Clarke said. “We can’t rely on one player. It’s got to be multiple players. Players like (junior defenders) Talie (Lyon) (and) Madison (Manduler), getting goals. Carlos who’s capable as well. So that’s the key thing.”

The Bobcats need players like Branco, Scott and sophomore midfielder Madison Alves to increase their offensive play to get key wins down the stretch. If the Bobcats can get the anticipated production, they have a good shot to repeat as MAAC champions.



Both men’s and women’s soccer teams enter its 2023 MAAC schedule, where the two programs boast nine combined regular season titles.

Aidan Sheedy/Chronicle

Men’s soccer heading in right direction entering conference slate

By **ZACK HOCHBERG**
Staff Writer

Expectations couldn’t be higher for the Quinnipiac men’s soccer team as it heads into MAAC play with a 2-3-2 record.

Under the leadership of head coach Eric Da Costa, the Bobcats are brimming with confidence and show promise of competing for a consecutive title. Their prowess hasn’t gone unnoticed – Quinnipiac was recognized as the No. 1 team in the MAAC preseason poll.

Despite significant roster changes, the team’s strength remains formidable. It’s retained two of their top goal scorers from the previous season in graduate student forwards Tomas Svecula and Brage Aasen, and the dependable 2022 All-MAAC Second Teamer, sophomore goalkeeper Karl Netzell.

Building a successful team requires more than just talent; it’s about developing a synergy among players. Da Costa utilized the non-conference games as an opportunity to forge this very chemistry among his squad. Experimenting with diverse lineups, Da Costa emphasized constant improvement through the games and

practices sessions.

It’s a new mentality here,” Da Costa said. “We’re starting from ground zero and we’re trying to work our way up from there.”

The Bobcats are led by a trio of captains in Aasen, Svecula and senior defender Luke Allen. Aasen and Svecula were both named to the preseason All-MAAC team, while Aasen was also distinguished as the MAAC preseason player of the year. Despite Aasen battling injuries, the duo made significant contributions in the previous season, combining for 31 points. The pair will be crucial up front as the team heads into conference play.

Allen and the rest of the leaders will have a huge role to fill in the locker room, stepping into the leadership role left by former captain David Bercedo, who transferred to North Carolina over the summer for his graduate season.

The Bobcats biggest hole in their starting 11 is in their midfield, thanks to the absences of Jared Smith and Alexander Stjernaard, who like Bercedo, also transferred. Those holes will be filled by graduate student midfielder Dario Ca-

vada and freshman midfielder Franciso Ferreira. Cavada, a transfer from Hartford, has already tallied a goal and an assist, while looking comfortable working in the attacking third.

Ferreira has already made an immediate impact as well, scoring his first collegiate goal in the team’s 3-1 victory against Boston College.

With the reigning MAAC champs trying to figure out how to play together, Quinnipiac’s non-conference results were a roller coaster. The Bobcats dominated Boston College in the aforementioned 3-1 win in their home opener, but also had puzzling defeats, such as a 1-0 loss to CCSU, which Quinnipiac hadn’t lost to since 2006.

However, Netzell feels like the chemistry is starting to come together.

“I feel like I’ve played with these guys for years,” Netzell said. “We only bring in guys that have the same principles, it hasn’t been that difficult to get on the same level and I feel like we’re all on the same page.”

The Bobcats got off to a hot start in their MAAC opener against Canisius on Saturday, jumping out to a quick 2-0 lead in the first

20 minutes, before ultimately conceding a game-tying goal in the 80th minute and settling for a 3-3 draw.

Looking ahead, Quinnipiac will face Bryant in its last non-conference game of the year, before squaring off with Rider on Sept. 30 in their first home game of MAAC play. Following that is a rematch of last year’s MAAC championship game against Iona on Oct. 7.

Iona was tabbed as the No. 2 team in the MAAC preseason poll, followed by Manhattan and Siena. Led by sophomore midfielder Sergio Gonzalez Fernandez and sophomore defenseman Tim Timchenko, Iona has had a strong start to the season, including a close 1-0 defeat at the No. 15 ranked Virginia, and opening their MAAC slate with a 1-0 victory over Niagara. The Gaels have allowed just five goals in five games.

“It’s always exciting to play against the teams you lost against last season,” Netzell said. “So Siena, Niagara, and we know Iona is a good team. We look forward to every game, but especially those three.”

Surf and turf: Cape Cod duo making waves for Quinnipiac field hockey

By COLIN KENNEDY
Associate Sports Editor

Nestled in the corner of Massachusetts, Cape Cod has always been known for its beaches, restaurants and summertime adventures. Now, thanks in part to Quinnipiac sophomore Lauren Knight and freshman Katie Shanahan, the Cape is being put on the map for something quite different than lobsters and clams: field hockey.

Despite living over an hour away from each other — Knight from Orleans, Shanahan from Falmouth — both have found friendship through the sport of field hockey.

In 2018 they both joined Cape Cod Field Hockey Club, which has over 100 members. The Cape has emerged as a hotbed for the sport over the last decade.

“Cape Cod Field Hockey started up right about when we were nine or 10, and at that point a lot of girls across Cape Cod joined,” Shanahan said. “It became very competitive.”

Even though they were teammates for CCFHC, the two didn’t stray away when it came time to go up against each other in high school.

“It’s always fun to play against someone you know,” Knight said. “It makes it a little more competitive but also more fun.”

Knight departed the Cape to join Quinnipiac in 2022, a year before Shanahan arrived. For Knight, Hamden wasn’t initially her top choice.

“Quinnipiac was the first school I talked to, and originally I didn’t want to go to the first school that contacted me, but through the summer I was talking to schools in Virginia and South Carolina,” Knight said. “I realized I wanted to be closer to home.”

Knight’s first season as a Bobcat wasn’t smooth sailing, as she was still recovering from a knee injury that forced her to miss her senior season in high school. The Orleans native only appeared in 11 games during her freshman campaign but saw light at the end of the tunnel in her road to recovery.

“Coming in as a freshman you want to be peaking, you want to be the best player you can, and you want to be in the best health, best mental state,” Knight said. “Thankfully, I didn’t have any torn ligaments but it was a long process of figuring out what was going on.”

For Shanahan, the decision to become a Bobcat was an easy one, despite being one of the top field hockey recruits in Massachusetts. The Falmouth native is a two-time Boston Herald All-Scholastic winner, as well as the 2022 Cape and Islands League MVP.

“She’s coming in as a first-year and our starting center back, and I think she’s very poised and relaxed back there,” Quinnipiac head coach Nina Klein said. “She’s been a great impact, she has a wonderful sweep and she has been really helpful in our outlets.”

Shanahan’s interest in coming to Hamden actually sparked a long time ago.

“I’ve been coming to prospect clinics start-



COURTESY OF PLIABLE MARKETING

Quinnipiac field hockey’s Lauren Knight (left) and Katie Shanahan (right), both Cape Cod natives, pose during an athlete outreach tour with Pliable Marketing on July 17.

ing in eighth grade, and you don’t go to clinics unless you’re really interested in a school,” Shanahan said. “Quinnipiac was always my No. 1.”

It certainly helped knowing that her former teammate in Knight would also be suiting up to play at Quinnipiac. Knight was able to lend a helping ear whenever Shanahan had any questions, especially upon her arrival.

“I’d call Lauren twice or three times a week just asking her questions,” Shanahan said. “It could have been something small like, ‘Where’s this building?’ She also convinced me to take the same major (health sciences) as her as well, so I’d say she’s been really supportive.”

The bond the two have created on the field is beginning to translate off the field in the form of name, image and likeness (NIL). Most notably seen among the more well-known college sports, the two are paving a path for field hockey players everywhere, with a focus on giving back to the community that raised them.

Knight and Shanahan both signed on with the NIL representation company, Pliable Marketing, owned by Quinnipiac alumni Greg Glynn. Former Quinnipiac athletes — women’s ice hockey goaltender Catie Boudiette and women’s golfer Kaylee Sakoda — are also members of Pliable.

“I make sure that I’m recruiting good athletes that are great people,” Glynn said. “If I don’t have both parts of the equation it becomes really hard for NIL opportunities.”

Glynn immediately realized that Knight and Shanahan were perfect fits for his company, with the added benefit of both being Bobcats.

It was a good sign for Glynn when Shanahan asked for their initial meeting to be at 6 a.m.

“I tell athletes I can meet anywhere from 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., you tell me what college kid picks 6 a.m. on a Friday morning,” Glynn said. “I call her ‘6 a.m. Shanahan’ because she’s a go-getter.”

Knight and Shanahan are working on a deal with CRISP, a pizza restaurant in Osterville, Cape Cod. The restaurant that holds a special meeting spot for them, as it’s directly in the middle of where they both live.

When originally approached by Pliable, Knight was hesitant about jumping into the world of NIL, as she wasn’t completely comfortable about the social media aspect. Through many NIL brand deals, athletes are required to post on social media showing off the product.

This time around Knight went to Shanahan looking for advice.

“I’m not a TikTok person, that’s something I like to shy away from,” Knight said. “Now that I’ve watched Katie do it and see all the success that she’s had, it’s a lot easier to get into it.”

Shanahan has certainly elevated her status with NIL deals through social media. She has posted brand deals through her Instagram as an ambassador for Adidas and Seaav, a clothing

company founded by Quinnipiac alumni and former rugby player Mckenna Haz.

Shanahan has been using her platform to give back to her community. This past summer she founded the Falmouth Field Hockey Summer Camp, with the goal of introducing new players to the game without the overwhelming decision of joining a club team.

“Cape Cod FHC is such a big program that it can be overwhelming and not everyone can always fit into their camps,” Shanahan said. “So just starting them out small and then pushing them to Cape Cod FHC was kind of my main goal.”

A perfect example of their relationship can be seen in an unboxing video Lauren is filming for a NIL brand deal.

“Part of the deal is that I do an unboxing video and I was like ‘Oh my gosh, I’m a little nervous for this because what are people gonna think,’” Knight said. “Hopefully she’ll be the one filming it so she can give some thumbs up and down when I say things.”

Field hockey won’t last forever, but the work that Lauren Knight and Katie Shanahan do in their communities is something they both hope will last long after they hang up the cleats.

“I really want to support local businesses on Cape Cod,” Knight said. “It’s a lot of family-owned things and it’s a very small town feeling, so I just want to give back to that.”

TWIG from 12

lan — but he didn’t want what the Quinnipiac program was offering.

“They obviously wanted it back, which I was completely OK with,” Azeem said. “I was like, ‘I don’t even really know what I want ... I don’t want to give it up for nothing.’”

That “nothing” wasn’t truly nothing. It was a signed puck and Stanley Cup hat from Toews. But Azeem’s allegiance with the Detroit Red Wings got in the way of accepting those gifts. He wanted something associated with Quillan and the Bobcats.

“(Azeem and I) were texting back and forth to start,” Quillan said. “To start, he

wanted a jersey, helmet, pants, all that. People above me started working on it, and I guess nobody did anything.”

But getting a jersey — especially a Quinnipiac game-used jersey — is going to be difficult. Just ask Quillan.

“I tried to get a jersey for my grandfather and I couldn’t even get that,” Quillan said with a chuckle. “So I don’t know if I could give him a jersey for a stick back.”

At the end of the day, the main message from those inside the Quinnipiac program is they want the stick back. It’s an important memento of what was the team’s greatest moment.

“There’s obviously meaning to it,” Boon said. “For Quinnipiac, for the university, for

Jake, for the area. Obviously we’d love to have it back. It’s a weird situation ... It’s a huge piece of Quinnipiac history and it’s a national championship-winning goal stick.”

Azeem wants to give it back. It’s not part of his evil mastermind plan to blackmail a collegiate hockey team into giving him the moon and stars in return.

So if Azeem and Quinnipiac finally connect on their goal, what’s the plan? Where will the stick eventually go?

“If they get the stick back, I think they’re gonna frame it somewhere here (in M&T Bank Arena), it would be here forever,” Quillan said. “It’d be nice to have in my house later on, but if it stays here, that’ll be good too.”



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

Quillan was named the Hockey Commissioners Association National Player of the Month for both March and April of 2023.



COURTESY OF QUINNIPIAC ATHLETICS

History-making memorabilia and the cat-and-mouse game that followed QU’s national championship win

By **ETHAN HURWITZ**
Sports Editor

What would your immediate reaction be if you witnessed the game-winning goal of the national championship?

For 21-year-old Michigan native Ali Azeem, it was to watch out for the flying hockey stick hurling towards his head.

“I don’t think I had an emotional reaction,” Azeem said. “I kind of put my hand up ... the next thing I knew, it was in my hand. I was kind of like, ‘What happened?’”

On April 8, No. 2 Quinnipiac turned the college hockey world upside down, as the Bobcats knocked off No. 1 Minnesota just 10 seconds into overtime. Then-sophomore winger Jacob Quillan took a cross-ice pass and backhanded it past Minnesota then-senior goaltender Justen Close to seal the Bobcats’ first NCAA title.

Just over an hour after the puck crossed the goal line, Quillan took to Twitter, now known as X, to ask the world a simple four-word question: “Who got my twig?”

“I wanted to find it,” Quillan said. “I feel like that would be the best way.”

Now, one might ask, why would Quillan need to find his own stick? Well, thanks to one iconic skeet shooting celebration made famous by NHL legend Teemu Selanne, his “twig” was now in the hands of a complete stranger.

“I didn’t even mean to throw it in (the stands),” Quillan said.

Caught up in the emotion of scoring a game-winning goal — something Quillan admitted he dreamed up the night prior — he got down on one knee, pretending to shoot his own glove and threw the rest of his remaining gear up in the air.

His gloves landed back on the ice. His stick,

branded with his name and number, went flying. Right into the hands of Azeem.

“I didn’t actually see who scored,” Azeem said. “I was actually sitting next to a Quinnipiac fan and I showed him. He was like, ‘That’s the guy who scored.’ I was like, ‘You gotta be joking.’”

Amid all the hoopla, Quillan’s own stick — one of three items considered sacred among hockey players, along with the irskates and jersey — was now in the possession of a pharmaceutical sciences student who attends the University of Michigan, a long way from Hamden.

Does Quillan even want the stick back?

“Yeah, I do,” Quillan said. “We were texting back and forth to start ... I gave (head coach) Rand (Pecknold) his number, so hopefully Rand’s working his magic.”

That magic by Pecknold, which includes offering Azeem a pair of tickets to a future Frozen Four appearance and potentially a signed helmet, is still a work in progress. While the stick sits dormant in Azeem’s dorm room, Quillan is holding out faith that it will return to its beholder.

“Rand’s the top dog,” Quillan said. “If anyone can get it, he can.”

Rules around catching game-used memorabilia at sporting events varies in each league. Catch a foul ball or an out-of-play puck and you are free to walk home with it. Grab a loose ball courtside in the NBA or — god forbid — a kicked ball from a field goal at a football game, and security will hound you.

“I’ll use baseball as an example,” Cameron Boon, Quinnipiac associate athletic director of creative content and men’s ice hockey media contact, said. “You’ve seen it happen in

football a couple times ... Inadvertently, a fan catches it and they end up working out a way to get the ball back.”

But what about special occasions, like a rookie’s first career home run or a game-winning ball? Do you give it back? For what cost? Do you demand something in return?

“I reached out to him after the game to try and get the stick back,” Boon said. “He came back with a couple of things and that was kind of it. It never really went anywhere.”

That was it from Boon’s line of communication. After that one email, it was in the hands of Quillan and Pecknold. Even Colorado Avalanche defenseman (and proud Bobcats alum) Devon Toews got in the mix, directly messaging Azeem himself.

Toews was the catalyst, but it was a big goal for the program alums to help retrieve the stick. The pro player even offered Azeem a personalized jersey, something that seems outlandish for just a piece of fiberglass and carbon. But it’s not just any piece of fiberglass, and this wasn’t just any game.

It’s different from a February game against ECAC hockey rival Cornell. In that case, the team wins, goes back to the locker room and there’s ample time to find the stick’s new owner and work out a deal.

But for the ice hockey program’s first-ever national title? It wasn’t that easy.

“When it’s an overtime goal like that, you have the mosh pit, then you have the celebration on the ice with the photo and lifting the trophy,” Boon said. “Then you have the celebration in the locker room. It’s one of those where it was kind of inadvertent, but like everybody is celebrating and everybody’s having such a good time that

you then are leaving the ice and you’re like ‘Oh, shoot, the stick is gone.’”

“I don’t think it matters, whether it’s a stick, a puck, his gloves, his helmet, if he takes his jersey off,” Boon added. “It doesn’t matter what it is, anything that’s associated with that game and with that moment, you’re obviously going to want back.”

But Azeem kept it. Not because he wanted to be a jerk — he wants to give it back to Quil-

See **TWIG** Page 11



CONTRIBUTED BY ALI AZEEM

Michigan student Ali Azeem holds Jacob Quillan’s game-used stick as Quinnipiac celebrates its championship win on April 8.