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Quinnipiac University Bobcats fans celebrate sophomore forward Jacob Quillan's game-winning goal at Eli's on Whitney in Hamden on April 8.

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Quinnipiac president buys \$3.85 million home in Arizona

By CAT MURPHY and DANIEL PASSAPERA

Quinnipiac University President Judy Olian and her husband Peter Liberti finalized a \$3.85 million purchase on Oct. 11, for a 4,899-square-foot home in Arizona, according to property records obtained by the Chronicle.

The records indicate that Olian, the university’s ninth president, and Liberti paid \$1.78 million in cash for a down payment on the five-bedroom, four-and-a-half-bathroom residence at 10929 E Fortuna Drive in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Built this year on a 0.89-acre corner lot in a wealthy neighborhood in North Scottsdale, the single-level home features an attached three-car garage, a heated pool and a veranda, among other amenities, according to the listing. The new home is approximately 35% more expensive than surrounding properties, which have a median \$2.5 million price tag, according to Silverleaf Realty.

John Morgan, associate vice president for public relations, said the home is intended to serve as Olian’s second home.

“Like many other University leaders, President Olian has had a secondary home in addition to her official campus residence,” Morgan wrote in an email to the Chronicle on Nov. 23. “Along with her husband, Peter, she recently purchased a house in Scottsdale, Arizona, after previously owning a home in California.”

Despite Olian’s multimillion-dollar purchase at age 70, Morgan said she has no intentions of retiring in the near future.

“President Olian is not retiring and looks forward to the work ahead at Quinnipiac,” Morgan wrote.

Former Quinnipiac President John Lahey, whom Olian succeeded, retired in June 2018 at age 72 after serving in the position for more than three decades.

Olian currently resides with her husband in a university-owned property on Spruce Bank Road in Hamden.

The university purchased the property for \$6.5 million in April 2018 and spent

an estimated \$1.32 million renovating the property between 2018 and 2020, according to town property records.

Quinnipiac acquired the 30-acre lot, located just behind the Mount Carmel campus’ Hilltop Lot, months after announcing Olian would succeed Lahey. The New Haven Register reported in 2019 that Quinnipiac’s presidents had historically lived in off-campus housing paid for by the university prior to the 2018 purchase.

The university sought approval from the Hamden Planning and Zoning Commission in Oct. 2019 to change the Spruce Bank property from residential to university use. The commission rejected the application, which would have exempted the property from taxes due to Quinnipiac’s nonprofit designation.

Morgan declined to comment on the property’s operational costs.

It is also unclear whether Olian—who, according to property records, sold her \$3 million Los Angeles home three days before taking office as president—has lived in university-owned housing for the duration

of her four-year tenure.

Morgan, who declined to provide additional information on the intended purpose of Olian’s Arizona home, also declined to comment on how much time the president plans to spend at her secondary residence.

The Center for Investigative Reporting reported in 2013 that Olian, then-dean of the Anderson School of Management at the University of California, Los Angeles, had accumulated nearly \$650,000 in travel and lodging expenses between 2008 and 2012.

Olian, whose travel expenses surpassed those of the UCLA chancellor and each of the university’s 16 other deans, submitted doctors’ notes to circumvent the university’s travel policy that prohibited faculty from flying in business or first class without a medical waiver, according to the report.

It is unknown whether Quinnipiac will reimburse Olian for any expenses she accrues traveling between Connecticut and Arizona. Morgan wrote in a separate email to the Chronicle on Nov. 23, that the university does not intend to comment further on the matter.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY LEGACY REAL ESTATE PARTNERS

Quinnipiac University President Judy Olian’s new home includes a heated pool, a three-car garage and a veranda.

Quinnipiac agrees to \$2.5 million settlement in COVID tuition refund case

By MELINA KHAN
Staff Writer

Quinnipiac University preliminarily agreed to a \$2.5 million settlement in a lawsuit filed by two students that sought refunds for tuition and other expenses during the school’s shift to online learning in March 2020.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs, current student Zoey Metzner and former student Dominic Gravino, filed a motion for the settlement’s preliminary approval in the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut on Dec. 2, according to documents obtained by the Chronicle.

The lawsuit was filed in June 2020 on behalf of Metzner. Gravino later joined the suit, as well as two parents of then-students. The former students alleged Quinnipiac breached a contractual agreement to provide an in-person educational experience when it transitioned to remote learning.

The proceeds will be divided equally among all members of the settlement class, which includes all students who were not on a full scholarship in the spring 2020 semester, totalling approximately 9,200 people, according to the motion.

The attorneys wrote that each student is projected to receive “a few hundred dollars in cash,” via check, Venmo or PayPal. The plain-

tiffs’ counsel also applied for an award of one-third the settlement total to cover their fees.

According to the motion, Quinnipiac agreed to settle the case “to avoid the time, inconvenience, costs and uncertainty,” of continued litigation. It also said Quinnipiac’s agreement to settle is so that it can focus on “continuing to provide top quality education and services to its students.”

Quinnipiac denied claims that it breached any contracts with students or that it was unjustly enriched as a result of the shift to remote learning in the spring 2020 semester.

John Morgan, associate vice president for public relations, wrote in a statement to the Chronicle that the resolution of the case will allow university officials to “focus the university’s time and resources on supporting our students’ educational needs.”

“We remain very proud of our faculty and staff and the great lengths they went to ensure our students were able to safely and successfully complete the Spring 2020 semester and earn course credit toward degree completion in the face of an unprecedented global pandemic,” Morgan wrote.

The plaintiffs’ attorneys wrote in the motion that the settlement is “fair, reasonable, and

adequate,” and that by settling, the case “will be accomplished years earlier than if the case proceeded to judgment.” The attorneys did not respond to the Chronicle’s request for comment as of publication.

U.S. District Judge Kari Dooley also ruled at the time that the two parents named as plaintiffs had no standing to sue because the alleged actions were between Quinnipiac and its students.

The students sought a partial refund for “themselves and all other similarly situated students,” for services they alleged they paid for but Quinnipiac did not provide.

“They selected on-campus courses and paid for the in-class and educational experiences that only an in-person program can deliver, such as the ability to access important university facilities, services, and faculty in-person,” the motion said.

Court records obtained by the Chronicle show that the Court approved the class-action lawsuit settlement on April 10, 2023.

“We estimate that payments will be issued to Class Members on approximately July 20, 2023,” the settlement website states. “Any remaining funds after distribution of all checks will be donated to the Quinnipiac university Financial Aid Appeals Fund.”

Accessibility ‘not specifically’ part of South Quad construction planning, university official says

By CAT MURPHY
News Editor

Some Quinnipiac University students with disabilities are questioning the university administration’s commitment to disability inclusivity amid new concerns about the accessibility of the South Quad construction site.

Sal Filardi, vice president for facilities and capital planning, announced the extent of construction-related changes to the south side of the Mount Carmel Campus in an email to the Quinnipiac community on Jan. 20.

The ongoing South Quad construction closed the pathway connecting Bobcat Way to the College of Arts and Sciences buildings through Pine Grove. Alternatively, students, faculty and staff can travel behind The Commons residence hall, down Hilltop Road and up Pine Grove Road to access the CAS buildings from Bobcat Way, according to Filardi’s email.

A subsection of the Code of Federal Regulations addressing nondiscrimination on the basis of disability pertains to the accessibility standards applicable to new construction and alterations.

However, an investigation conducted by the Chronicle indicated that a one-inch speed bump extends into the pedestrian pathway on Hilltop Road.

“It’s not a very big obstacle, but it could still be considered an obstacle,” Filardi told the Chronicle on Jan. 27.

University officials removed the protruding section of the speed bump from the pedestrian pathway in mid-February.

The detour path to the CAS buildings also includes a section of sidewalk without an accessible exit for individuals who use mobility aids such as wheelchairs.

Although the sidewalk features two curb

ramp entrances, the path ends in an approximately eight-and-a-half-inch descent to the pedestrian pathway painted along Hilltop Road.

Filardi said that university officials “didn’t notice” the lack of a curb ramp and were “moving to correct that as quickly as possible.”

However, Filardi said that adding a curb ramp to that section of sidewalk may not be feasible. University officials would instead look to extend the painted pedestrian pathway and add signage labeling the inaccessible sidewalk, Filardi said.

“I don’t think there’s anything else that we can do to make the sidewalks any more accessible,” Filardi added. “I think they’re relatively accessible now.”

Although the pedestrian pathway was repainted on Feb. 3, to encompass the length of the sidewalk, signage identifying the sidewalk has not yet been added.

Several students with disabilities voiced concerns about the accessibility challenges posed by the detour.

Cailinn Stockman, a senior sociology major who has cerebral palsy, expressed anxiety about the inaccessibility of the detour path.

“It was a little bit scary having to navigate (the construction) with the chair because of the uneven surfaces and speed bump,” Stockman, who uses an electric scooter, said.

Paul Ashton, a sophomore film, television and media arts major with a mobility disability, criticized the university’s lack of consideration for students with disabilities.

“I knew about the route, but I didn’t think it would be that egregious,” Ashton said. “It feels like they prioritize their own construction and their own future plans over the students that are



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

The South Quad construction poses accessibility barriers that Sal Filardi, vice president for facilities and capital planning, said university officials “didn’t notice.”

actually there now.”

Kate Palumbo, director of the Office of Student Accessibility, said university officials are implementing individualized accommodations as well as exploring long-term solutions that are “more sustainable throughout the duration of the construction.”

The construction of a temporary shuttle stop in front of the CAS buildings is among the options being considered, said Tony Reyes, chief of public safety.

However, university administrators did not explicitly consider the accessibility of the pedestrian pathway during the construction planning process, Filardi said.

“Not specifically was accessibility part of the process because it was just rerouting on existing campus sidewalks and pathways,” Filardi said. “It’s not like we’ve created some-

thing new that students are walking through for the first time.”

Reyes said that university officials expected students with concerns about the accessibility of the construction-related changes to contact the Office of Student Accessibility.

“Communication went out to the entire community prior to the start of the semester with an explanation about the construction,” Reyes said. “I would imagine that would prompt a student that has any special request to call our respective offices, if that’s going to present a challenge for them.”

However, university officials also chose not to publicize the specifics of the detour route until just before the start of the spring semester, Filardi said.

“We purposely put it out shortly before everybody was coming back,” Filardi said. “We wanted to make sure it didn’t get lost in the email over break.”

Quinnipiac hosts global officials to mark anniversary of war in Ukraine

By ALEX MARTINAKOVA AND LILY PHILIPCAK

Quinnipiac University’s Central European Institute held a conference about the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine War on Feb. 25 in the Mt. Carmel Auditorium in the Center for Communications, Computing and Engineering.

President Judy Olian opened the event with a short speech following a few initial comments from CEI Director Christopher Ball.

“This is a somber moment, commemorating a year-long invasion of Russia on Ukraine,” Olian said. “We have to remember that this is not a happy anniversary, and there is nothing to celebrate other than the admiration and resilience of the Ukrainians.”

The event, titled “Passing the One-Year Mark: How the Ukrainian Displacement Crisis Shapes European and American Policy,” was sponsored by the Novak Family Polish Chair and multiple student-run organizations, including the Quinnipiac Democrats and College Republicans.

The conference featured multiple panels and speakers, including scholars, diplomats, global policy experts and lawmakers such as Connecticut Sen. Richard Blumenthal.

Not a single chair in the auditorium was unoccupied. Many guests trickled in and out as the panels progressed, listening to the panelists talk despite the snowy weather.

Blumenthal talked about his recent visits to the war-torn country. He said he met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy both before and after the war began.

“America has really come together in support of Ukraine,” Blumenthal said. “And my goal is that I go back to Washington and to make sure we continue to do so.”

However, 8 million Ukrainian people, mainly women and children, fled their country in hopes to escape the horrors they were facing, according to the United Nations High Commissioner

for Refugees. Some of those came to the U.S., including to Connecticut, with the hope to either one day return home or start a new life in the U.S, according to Blumenthal.

“(Refugees) should be welcome in this country,” Blumenthal said. “I want to say that I will be offering legislation called the Ukrainian Adjustment Act.”

The Ukrainian Adjustment Act will provide a path to a permanent status for Ukrainian refugees who are currently living under a temporary status in Connecticut.

Blumenthal pointed out that those refugees need assurance that they can safely stay in this country.

“(Ukrainian refugees) are bringing us the talents, the energy, the gifts of intelligence and cultural enrichment, just like those who came here once and made the United States,” Blumenthal said.

The conference also featured a pre-recorded message from Oleksandr Vasiuk, a

member of the Ukrainian parliament who could not attend in person.

“Exactly one year ago, the country of Ukraine woke up to explosions. At that moment every Ukrainian unfortunately felt what war is like,” Vasiuk said. “They’ve experienced how it feels to remain in a country under constant Russian missile attacks, while hiding their children in cold basements with only a prayer to survive.”

Several speakers reiterated the resilience of the Ukrainian people, including Monika Palotai, visiting researcher at Hudson Institute, and Jacek Czaputowicz, former minister of foreign affairs of Poland.

The event also highlighted groups in the local community that are providing aid to support Ukrainians. The Ukrainian Humanitarian and Soldier Relief Program at St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church in New Haven, Connecticut, accepts monetary and item donations.

The Connecticut for Ukraine Refugee Match-

ing Program is for Ukrainian refugees who wish to live in Connecticut, and is administered free of charge by volunteers who are dedicated to finding safe homes. The program is organized by Murtha Culina LLP and the Honorary Consulate of Romania to Connecticut Dana Bucin.

Bucin spoke about Romanian citizens who helped those fleeing from the war in Ukraine at the conference.

“The efforts of ordinary Romanian citizens, lining up for miles at the border with cars to pick up the Ukrainian refugees to house them and feed them in their own homes,” Bucin said.

Bucin said her efforts working as an immigration lawyer in 2022 at the southern border in Tijuana, Mexico, helped around two thousand Ukrainian refugees into the United States. Bucin and Nayla Rush, a senior researcher at the Center for Immigration Studies, attested to the U.S. response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis and brought attention to the antiquated asylum system.

Bucin said the current asylum system takes “18 to 24 months optimistically to resettle refugees in the United States, and it’s actually inept and inadequate for an emergency such as the Ukraine.”

During a panel on global and American challenges, Rush spoke about the European Union Temporary protection. This protection specific to Ukrainian refugees will entail benefits that allow them an opportunity to thrive in the wake of the devastating war, such as access to employment. The protection has been extended to March 2024 to expedite admission that avoids overwhelming the standard asylum system.

“I first went to Ukraine before the invasion. And I came back and I said to my colleagues and the president, that our intelligence gives Ukraine about three to five days before the Russians take Kyiv,” Blumenthal said. “But I knew, these people are going to fight to the last person.”



CASEY WIEDERHOLD/CHRONICLE

Connecticut Sen. Richard Blumenthal speaks in Quinnipiac University’s Mt. Carmel Auditorium on Feb. 25 to mark the one-year anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Opinion

The Battle of Whitney Avenue is a one-way street

By **MICHAEL LAROCCA**
Opinion Editor

If you plan on going to an event where tickets are being sold at an infinite markup, think twice.

The Quinnipiac University community had two treats waiting for it on March 10: spring break and the men’s hockey match up against Yale in the ECAC Hockey Tournament Quarterfinals. That meant at least two uninterrupted days of rowdy Bobcat fans filling the stands of Frank Perrotti Jr. Arena to see their team play its most hated rival in the playoffs for the first time since 2018.

However, what Bobcat nation should have been doing is looking at the Battle of Whitney Avenue for what it is: a sham.

Every year, Quinnipiac officials love to market the buildup to the men’s hockey matchup with Yale at M&T Bank Arena as “Beat Yale Week.” All week long, there are countless events to get the student body filled with spirit. Along with that, people who were lucky enough to get free student tickets try to sell them for an undeserved profit.

This all results in a line of fans building outside the arena as early as six hours before puck drop. Is it an example of successful marketing? Yes. Does that make it any less embarrassing? No.

Quinnipiac vs. Yale should not be seen as a rivalry. Since their first-ever matchup on Jan. 8, 2006, Quinnipiac has played against Yale in men’s hockey 42 times. Quinnipiac’s record is 30-7-5.

Along with that, Quinnipiac is currently on the longest winning streak in the rivalry’s history, having won 12 straight matchups dating back to Feb. 9, 2018.

Yale men’s hockey just has not been that great in recent years. The last time the Bulldogs

finished with a winning record was the 2015-16 season, a year they lost twice against the Bobcats. And before Yale forward David Chen scored in the Feb. 17, 2023 edition of the rivalry, the last time the Bulldogs put one past a Bobcat goaltender was Feb. 7, 2020. Three years and 10 days; it’s just tragic.

Back in 2008, Bleacher Report’s Billy Ray inadvertently summarized Quinnipiac vs. Yale perfectly in an article about rivalries.

“I know it goes against the grain of many fans to believe that anytime your rival wins a game, it is a good thing,” Ray wrote. “But if they lose every game, where is the honor and glory in your team giving them a thorough butt whipping?”

So Quinnipiac wins a lot in this rivalry, and it wins with confidence. But there is a special date in this matchup. April 13, 2013. If a Yale fan is being berated by a Quinnipiac fan, this date is all the ammunition they need to fire back.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The 2013 NCAA Men’s Hockey National Championship Game. The biggest game in the history of both school’s men’s hockey programs at that point. Quinnipiac won all three games against Yale that year, outscoring them by a combined 13-3. It should have been Quinnipiac’s crowning moment. Instead, the lights were too bright for the Bobcats. Yale won 4-0 and Quinnipiac had to wait another 10 years for a national title.

How can one side say with confidence that they own the rivalry when they lost the one game that truly mattered?

Then again, the Battle of Whitney Avenue cannot be considered a rivalry. For it to be a rivalry, both sides need to care. Yale students don’t care.

The last four editions of this matchup hosted in Hamden had an average attendance of 3,410. Two out of the four were sellouts, mind you two



ALEX BAYER/CHRONICLE

The M&T Bank Arena averaged 2,936 fans per game during the 2022-2023 season.

of the games were played during spring break. The last four editions of the matchup hosted in New Haven had an average attendance of 2,617. Only one sellout.

Even then, when Quinnipiac played at Ingalls Rink on Nov. 12, 2022, Bobcat fans visibly outnumbered those supporting the home Bulldogs.

Yale has bigger priorities, like Harvard. The last four times the Crimson came to New Haven, the crowd averaged 2,853 people, and there were no Quinnipiac fans around to inflate the numbers.

Quinnipiac is the little brother that has nothing better to do than pick on their big brother. Yale students are barely aware this rivalry even exists.

“Honestly, I have no idea,” Yale sophomore philosophy major Oliver Guinan said. “I never heard anybody talk about the Yale-Quinnipiac hockey rivalry. Yeah sorry, I have no clue.”

If they are aware of any rivalry, it’s certainly

not with the Bobcats.

“I’ve only been to the Yale-Harvard hockey game,” Yale economics major Avery DiMaria said. “I don’t know if it’s the general consensus, but you only really know all of Yale’s rivalries if you’re closely linked to the hockey team.”

Compare this to Quinnipiac, where the idea of hating Yale is ingrained into the minds of every new student at orientation. While it’s not an official component of new student orientation, not a year goes by without the Battle of Whitney Avenue being mentioned.

It is said that someone shouldn’t put a lot of energy into a friendship if it isn’t reciprocated. Well, the same goes for enemies. Keep that in mind when our Bobcats take on the Bulldogs in the future. No matter how much the university tries to tell you otherwise, it’s just another game. The only difference is that one team had to drive just eight miles to come play.

Don’t turn a blind eye to the earthquakes in Turkey

By **DAMLA GUNES**
Contributing Writer

As you may have heard on the news, one of the worst disasters of the last decade happened in my home country of Turkey, known officially as Türkiye, on Feb. 6. Not just one, but two earthquakes with magnitudes of 7.8 and 7.6 occurred nearly back-to-back and caused tremendous damage to Türkiye and Syria.

The death toll of the disaster surpassed 50,000 according to Relief Web. The earthquake hit southeast Türkiye and caused considerable destruction to ten cities. Immediately after the incident, Türkiye called for international help.

Imagine trying to rescue your family from under the rubble, having no idea if they are alive. Imagine being a little kid and being rescued, only to learn that your whole family is dead. How is this fair? Who is to blame? Nature? Faith? Government? Contractors?

There are thousands dead, thousands of families destroyed and thousands of facilities gone and whatever we do, we cannot bring those people or places back.

Universities switched to online education because the government gave college dorms and facilities to the victims. Many schools announced that they will sponsor the education of the students who have suffered from this disaster, including the high school I graduated from in Bursa.

Since the earthquakes, citizens are trying to help the area with donations. Every part of the country is just working to help the affected area by collecting and donating in short, everything.

Plus, many countries sent help to Türkiye, such as Greece, Italy, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, South Korea and more. The Turkish community in the U.S. also worked



ALEX BAYER/CHRONICLE

The cost of earthquake damages exceeded \$100 billion according to the United Nations.

diligently to collect all types of donations and material needed for the area.

In the first 24 hours following the earthquake, citizens and family members couldn’t get any information because the phone lines were down and help didn’t reach the area the way it was supposed to. In these types of incidents, time is everything. You are basically trying to rescue people as quickly as possible.

The rescue efforts are ongoing, but due to the area’s size, it is still not under control. In some cities, airports are currently being used as hospitals. Above all, the area is one of the harshest environments in Türkiye. Some people who survived froze to death because of the cold. These are some of the reasons people are calling this one of the biggest disasters of the last decade.

Alongside the tragedy itself, volleyball, the sport I gave my life to also brought bad news. There were a group of girls who happened to be in heavily-impacted area of Türkiye because of a

tournament. A big part of the volleyball community in Türkiye is located around that area.

I know what it feels like to be 13 to 14 years old and going to a tournament with excitement. I know what it feels like to leave your home, leave your family and friends to pursue your career goals. I was sharing a very similar lifestyle with them. I left my family and friends to pursue my goals when I decided to commit to the Quinnipiac University volleyball team. I know what it feels like to leave your comfort zone and struggle just to be successful. They were just teenagers. They had their life goals, they had their dreams, now it is all gone.

What a tragedy, right? But how much do people outside of Türkiye care or know about the whole situation? People don’t even realize how severe the situation is. When I read the news about the earthquake, I was so worried I immediately called my parents to check in, even though I knew they were not affected by this incident because we

live in the northwest of Türkiye.

That morning, some people asked me if my family was OK, and when I said yes, they didn’t care to ask about how I was. I was devastated. My heart was ripped apart. So many emotions were going through my body. I didn’t know if I was supposed to feel happy because my family was not affected; but how could I?

My country, a part of my heart, was in a severe condition. The people who were speaking the same language as me were suffering. I couldn’t put the words together when explaining myself. I was scrolling through social media, watching the news and just crying because I was far away and I couldn’t help.

Fellow Turkish students and I tried to raise awareness and spread the news here at Quinnipiac too, however very few people reached out to check in, which broke my heart even more. If a catastrophic incident happened close to Quinnipiac, everyone would go insane. They would share hashtags for awareness, donate to the families who suffered and start protesting. I am not expecting anyone to do this for Türkiye, but I hoped at least the people I called friends would have reached out to me and offered their help.

As Turkish students, we wanted help from the QU community and reached out to President Judy Olian, International Student Services, the Department of Cultural and Global Engagement and the Quinnipiac Athletic Department, who all agreed to support us.

With all of these factors considered, I think everyone can relate to how Turkish people feel, how heartbroken we are. By all counts, this terrible disaster could have happened to anyone, that’s why we need to spread awareness all over the world.

Opinion

Why it’s important to maintain sibling bonds in college

By **A.J. NEWTH**
Opinion Editor

Every time my sister sets a new track and field personal best, I get a text message. The same goes for my brother scoring soccer goals, because instead of being on the sidelines to support them, I’m missing everything while at college.

Moving away from home comes with many difficulties. The most difficult thing about departing for college is leaving younger siblings behind.

I am one of eight, but I have two full biological siblings that are currently juniors in high school and having to watch them grow up from afar has been one of the hardest things I’ve ever done.

My siblings and I have a three-year age gap and participate in many of the same sports and our common interests have always made us close, especially as we grew older. Toward the end of high school, we were on all the same athletic teams. Now, having to hear about their successes instead of being there to celebrate is a unique kind of heartbreak.

No matter the dynamic of sibling relationships, it’s essential to try to maintain them throughout college. For me, this means answering phone calls and reaching out whenever I can.

There are many other ways to maintain sibling bonds. Some suggestions include scheduling a time to call every week, creating a new routine and staying in touch through social media. Other options to maintain a good relationship include sharing goals and accomplishments as well as verbalizing appreciation to one another,

per The New York Times. One of the biggest struggles I faced when moving out of my home was coping with oldest child syndrome, which is a name given to a combination of characteristics possessed by the oldest child in a family. Choosing Therapy, a mental health blog, suggests these characteristics include responsibility, ambition and a drive to care for younger siblings.

I felt guilty for being the first to leave home and for a long time I struggled with the thought that I was abandoning my siblings. I was there for their whole lives, only to disappear as they reach the age where they start learning who they are. I wanted to be home to give advice and work through struggles, but instead I have to support them over the phone.

Most sibling relationships grow strongest during late adolescence and early adulthood. The transition into college is proven to be the time period in which siblings discover a newfound appreciation for one another, coincidentally just as they are about to separate, according to the National Library of Medicine.

Watching my siblings grow into their own people has been a difficult transition for me. I only hear about their achievements when someone remembers to message me and I just watch social media. I sit there waiting for my mother to upload pictures of their milestones, like homecoming dances and driving their first cars. I have never felt so isolated.

Growing up is inevitable and the realization that we aren’t children anymore is sad. Separating from siblings as we become adults is just

another example of things we go through as we grow. I find peace in the thought that although I’m not with them, my siblings are growing into their own people and no longer need me, and I couldn’t be more proud.

However, in some cases, the distance is not an easy adjustment. Trying to manage a long-distance bond with siblings can be hard, and it’s easy for younger siblings to feel hurt and confused. In an article for the U.S. News & World Report, child psychologist Susan Bartell said the best way to handle this is to be patient and give them space to work through their feelings and adjust to change.

I can’t emphasize enough how important it is to stay in touch with your siblings while at col-

lege. It’s easy to get caught up in our own lives while we’re finding independence and creating new memories, but it’s also crucial to remember where you came from and appreciate those who have been by your side throughout childhood.

Everyone looks for a solution to handling long-distance sibling bonds and in truth, there is no easy answer. In order for a relationship to succeed, it needs to constantly be worked on.

I plan on always answering the phone, reminding my siblings that I’m proud of them and acknowledging that I should not feel guilty for leaving. I’ll always be a little sad that I’m missing out, but what’s important is that they’re doing great things and growing into their own people, even if I’m not there to see it.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY A.J. NEWTH

Opinion Editor A.J. Newth has two biological siblings, brother Bryce (left) and sister Sienna (right).

The NHL’s ‘Hockey is for Everyone’ month is a failure

By **JENNIFER MOGLIA**
Staff Writer

Every year, the NHL holds “Hockey is for Everyone” month, usually around February or March. Since it was implemented in 2018, I’ve seen it as a sad attempt at making the LGBTQ community feel included.

Each of the league’s 32 teams holds an event during one regular season home game. Some teams go all out, displaying rainbow-colored graphics and having their players use pride-themed jerseys and equipment.

Going all out, in this case, is still the absolute bare minimum. It feels performative, but it still means a lot to feel represented, even in the smallest ways.

I’ve been to some New York Rangers Pride Nights and they’ve been some of my fondest memories. Seeing my favorite players support a community so close to my heart was empowering.

This year, when I checked to see what my favorite team was doing to celebrate the queer community, I was unpleasantly surprised.

According to ESPN, the Rangers stated in promotional materials prior to Pride Night that players would wear rainbow jerseys and use rainbow tape. When it was game time, they hit the ice in normal jerseys with regular stick tape, immediately facing backlash on social media.

Personally, I was heartbroken. The queer community barely gets representation in sports as is, and to me, this was that last bit of hope being snatched away.

After the game, USA Today Rangers reporter Vince Mercogliano tweeted a statement from the team.

It explained that the team wanted to “bring attention to important local community organizations as part of another great Pride Night,” but to stay true to the “organization’s core values,”

individual players were supported in their choice to “respectfully express their beliefs.”

To me, this translated to, “some of our players didn’t want to wear pride jerseys, and we’re going to cover for them under the guise of ‘free speech.’” This statement is flawed for a variety of reasons.

Pride Night doesn’t only exist to bring attention to local organizations; it exists to make queer people feel welcome in a space dominated by cisgender and heterosexual people.

If the organization wanted to give its players the ability to “respectfully express their beliefs,” wouldn’t the players who wanted to show their support for the queer community be able to?

This wasn’t the only time a Pride Night ended in disaster this season. 10 days before the

Rangers’ fiasco, Philadelphia Flyers defenseman Ivan Provorov refused to skate during warmups on pride night, citing his Russian Orthodox beliefs. According to ESPN, coach John Tortorella saw no issue, claiming that Provorov was just “being true to himself and his religion.”

I don’t know much about the Russian Orthodox religion. However, I did grow up Christian, and on March 23, two Christian players, Marc and Eric Staal, said their religious beliefs were the reason why they wouldn’t wear pride jerseys.

What’s peculiar about the Staal brothers’ statement is that they said “all people should be welcome in all aspects of the game of hockey,” before saying pride jerseys go against their religion.

San Jose Sharks goaltender James Reimer re-

leased a nearly identical statement on March 18, explaining how Jesus asks him to love everyone and how everyone should be welcome in hockey before stating he would not be participating in his team’s pride festivities since it goes against the Bible.

There have been some bright spots throughout this ordeal, including the Sharks redesigning its logo to include pride colors and posting LGBTQ facts and resources on social media. Following the Reimer situation, Brian Burke, president of hockey operations for the Pittsburgh Penguins, openly supported players choosing to wear pride jerseys while on a Sportsnet broadcast. Burke’s late son is openly gay.

I’ve always said that pride isn’t political. Empowering people to love who they love and be true to themselves shouldn’t be controversial. Unfortunately, in today’s social climate, some people, including politicians and lawmakers, feel that it is.

So many people use sports as an escape from the stressors of day-to-day life. To see those stressors bleed into your safe haven is heart-wrenching.

In the five years of Pride Nights leading up to today, fans have received the bare minimum. For as much as I complain, I realize that the bare minimum could be a catalyst for change. Hockey tends to be a very white, heterosexual and cisgender sport, and someone who hadn’t previously been exposed to pride or queer rights could potentially learn from these pride nights.

However, today, even that bare minimum is being taken from us. In a time where pride is unfortunately seen as political, I ask everyone, but specifically NHL athletes, to do what they can to show their support to the queer community. You can do much more than just wearing a rainbow jersey, but putting that jersey on could be the start of some very meaningful change.



JSMJR/Flickr

The NHL has been holding Pride Nights since 2010, according to ABC7 New York.

Arts & Life

Student organizations join forces for an empowering women’s month Paint & Sip event

By AIDAN SHEEDY
Photography Editor

As On The Rocks pub filled up, students felt like they were in their living rooms at home as like-minded young leaders joined in on an evening of paint, pink drinks and “poder” on April 4.

The Latino Cultural Society hosted a collaborative “Women’s Month Paint & Sip” with eight other identity-based student organizations to honor the university’s students of color and give a happy send-off to Women’s History Month.

“With the lack of representation here, it can be really hard for students to see themselves reflected in what can be attainable,” LCS president and junior political science major Emily Diaz said. “Especially during women’s history month, we wanted to bring women of color into the conversation and make sure that there’s representation for all of our women of color on campus.”

This event in particular brought the LCS a nomination for “Event of the Year” at the Undergraduate Awards Ceremony last spring. Of course, the LCS needed to put on a meaningful encore performance, so the organization brought some friends to help.

“As we are building ourselves here within this Latinidad, we are empowering one another,” LCS vice president and junior sociology major Gensis Paulino said. “Having an event where each organization can have some time to shine, represent themselves and also celebrate each other is really important.”

The new collaborators included the Black Student Union, South Asian Society, Gender Sexuality Alliance and the International Student Association, among others. Each organization was given the task of having one influential



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

A student paints Marsha P. Johnson, a prominent LGBTQ+ liberation activist, at the Women’s Month Paint & Sip on April 4.

woman represent it in the paint-by-number kits for the event.

“Many of us are student leaders navigating a predominately-white institution and something as simple as being able to come grab a paint kit to destress means a lot,” Paulino said. “We want to do things that make people not feel like college students, but just people enjoying their lives.”

The figures chosen included the likes of iconic singer-songwriter Nina Simone, representing the BSU, and civil rights activist Dolores Huerta for the ISA. Both Diaz and Paulino noted that at last year’s event, there were only a select few figures that organizations could choose from, but

this time they thought it was necessary to allow organizations to select whomever it wanted.

“I think a lot of times when there is representation, you constantly see the same women and it’s very limiting,” Paulino said. “It might just be a paint kit for some people, but to other people, it’s a way for us to highlight the importance the other people that have (come) before us.”

ISA vice president and senior political science major Genesis Iscoa painted the Chicana icon Huerta and shared the benefits of this collaborative effort.

“Not only is painting a nice way to relax,

it’s also a very good bonding event for everyone to celebrate,” Iscoa said. “I’m just having a great time.”

Not only does this event bring in lots of strong student leaders, but it can make some too.

“Last year at this event, we actually met three of our e-board members,” Diaz said. “So it’s events like this that bring out the best in students.”

Diaz, the face of this event, is no stranger to gatherings of powerful young people as she has racked up quite the resume. In her three years at QU, Diaz has been a MLK Dream Award recipient, an undergraduate student award nominee and is of course the president of arguably the most influential cultural organization on campus.

What Diaz wanted from this event was to honor all the identities that make up people of color.

“A lot of the times when we’re talking about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and multiculturalism, we’re homogenizing people of color as a whole and we’re leaving a lot of people out of the conversations,” Diaz said. “(University initiatives) like the multicultural suite are made for people of color, but even that isn’t even big enough for all of us to fit in.”

A student and woman of color in a predominately white institution, Paulino also sees the systemic issues that QU students face as there seems to be a lack of higher representation, adding to the need for recognition of powerful women of color.

“We see ourselves as the future, but you can’t envision yourself in a place you’ve never seen,” Paulino said. “Even within our staff personnel ... the people that look like us are the people who are working in the (cafeterias), working as janitors, who are very important workers, but they also have a very limited role within the university.”

Post-nut clarity's dreadful aftermath

By NEHA SEENARINE
Staff Writer

There are several moments when our bodies have a sense of relief. It can be from getting out a nasty cough or taking off your socks after a long day. But behind closed doors during intimate moments, we can experience a climatic shift leading to post-nut clarity and its consequences.

The term “post-nut clarity” was introduced to the world on the podcast, “Call Her Daddy” in 2018. Host Alexandra Cooper and former host Sofia Franklyn explained that “post-nut clarity” is when, after a man reaches sexual climax, he urgently contemplates his life for worse or for better.

However, the idea of post-nut clarity happening only to men is bogus. It’s ridiculous to think women don’t get horny too.

It happens to everyone. Post-nut clarity is like when you’re driving through fog and then you can see once you arrive at your destination. All of a sudden, there is a sensational shift in your mind and the internal lightbulb powers on.

In hindsight, post-nut clarity sounds great. It allows the person to think straight after their wave of sexual desire is gone. However, post-nut clarity can lead to uncertain emotions after the deed is done.

The medical term for post-nut clarity is post-coital dysphoria or post-coital tristesse according to a 2019 study by psychologists Joel Maczkowiack and

Robert D. Schweitzer. It can be described as a “condition that can cause feelings of sadness, agitation and crying after intercourse.” The study shares that 41% of men experienced PCD in their lifetime.

There are unwanted feelings that come with everything in life no matter how minor it is. For example, I can feel bad about purchasing the last pack of gum because what if someone needs a fresh, minty breath more than I do? Understandably, there can be a stir of emotions after intimacy.

Sex is tied to an increase in dopamine and prolactin hormones, Kimberly Resnick Anderson, professor of psychiatry at UCLA School of Medicine told Cosmopolitan.

“Dopamine is considered the ‘foot-on-the-gas’ of the sexual car and prolactin is considered the ‘foot-on-the-brake,” Resnick Anderson said. “After the euphoria of orgasm, prolactin may trigger dysphoric feelings.”

Post-nut clarity can come with regret.

Have you ever purchased an item online and thought it was a waste of money afterward? That’s the same feeling that can happen after a climax.

When people are aroused, they don’t have a sense of stability, according to a 2016 study by psychologists Shayna Skakoon-Sparling and Kenneth M. Cramer. The study found that “both men and women experiencing strong sexual arousal may have lower inhibitions and may experience

impaired decision-making.” The main goal is to satisfy the feeling of arousal.

However, sometimes, we forget that people are involved in our desires. When you’re absorbed with personal needs at the moment, you’re willing to see anyone that can help you get the job done. Afterward, the magic is lost and the person doesn’t mean much to you. You might notice your partner becoming distant. There is no way

to control people and how they decide to treat you.

Post-nut clarity is not definitely to blame for why people become distant. However, it’s a part of our hook-up culture when there’s a lack of communication. It’s almost like that one time you decided it was a good idea to eat Taco Bell before a big interview, post-nut clarity also comes with the consequence of remorse.



ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RIHA

Lets talk about gay sex

By DAVID MATOS
Staff Writer

Sex between two men is often a passionate, dazzling and enlightening experience. You can learn a lot about yourself after getting intimate with someone of the same gender, no matter how you may identify in the LGBTQ+ community, if at all.

However, how traditional gay male intercourse operates is somewhat complex and remains a mystery to many, including some gay people.

The lack of knowledge of the do’s and don’ts of gay sex can be attributed to a significant lack of sex education in U.S. schools, especially Catholic schools. Currently, there are 6,429 total Catholic schools in the U.S., according to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

I attended Catholic school from kindergarten until 12th grade — yes, I’d feel sorry for me too. Inevitably, I most certainly didn’t grasp any mastery of the mechanics of gay intercourse from my middle through high school education.

Catholic school sex education failed me. I learned everything I thought I needed to know about gay sex through gay porn. Thank heavens Jesus couldn’t see my 13-year-old self’s Google search history; otherwise, I’d really be in trouble.

Unfortunately, like professional wrestling and my patience for Tennessee lawmakers, gay porn is equally fake. Every jizz shot, grunt and moan is scripted and staged for the cameras.

Thus, much of my expertise — if you can even call it that — comes from real-world experience instead of the fictional world of gay erotic cinema. I’ve made mistakes, and I’m still learning new things about myself and my body every time. So don’t feel like you need to know everything from day one and enjoy your sexual journey.

Albert Einstein might not have thought of gay sex when he said, “The only source of knowledge is experience, you need

experience to gain wisdom.” However, it still applies.

Within gay and bisexual communities, men use the terms “bottom” or “top” and “vers” in describing their sexual preferences and penetrative role(s) during intercourse. However, the meaning of each term varies from person to person.

But generally, a “top” prefers to take control and typically penetrates and receives oral sex. A “bottom” takes on the more receptive role, gives oral sex and is penetrated. Finally, someone who is “vers” is willing to take on either position.

Contrary to popular belief, these descriptors are not exclusive to queer men and each category is not all-encompassing. For example, being a “top,” “bottom” and “vers” is multiplex, but here is a fundamental overview of what it means to be a top and bottom.

Mom, this is your time to leave if you’re reading this.

‘BOTTOMING’ IS A PAIN IN THE BUTT, LITERALLY

Though “bottoms” have a more passive role during intercourse, the preparation “bottoms” go through is admirable.

For one, many douche before “bottoming.” Douching is using water to clean the lower part of your rectum, flushing out the excreta, according to WebMD. One of the simplest ways to do this is by using a disposable enema which can be found at any drugstore.

Before “bottoming,” I suggest avoiding eating hearty meals from places like Taco Bell and Chipotle. Keep it light if you absolutely must eat before “bottoming,” which I would never recommend. Using flushable wipes is also a great way to keep clean and smell great downstairs at all times, which is just sound advice for anybody.

Truth be told, “bottoming” hurts and is hardly enjoyable the first couple of times. Your anus isn’t made to accommodate a



ILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

penis, so it might feel like you’re forcing a square peg into a round hole at first. However, after a few tries and the right amount of lube, it can feel great.

Masturbating with a dildo or finger is also a great way to prepare your rectum for the real thing. Once you’re in the act, take a deep breath, push out and relax your muscles while your sexual partner enters you to minimize the pain.

BEING ON ‘TOP’ ISN’T FOR THE FAINT OF HEART

A “bottom” isn’t a “bottom” without its “top.” Truthfully, there is no right way to top someone during sex, but it does come with a lot of responsibility.

While in the act, it’s good to consider a few pointers. First, start penetration slowly. Bottoming hurts, so be sure all muscles are relaxed before going in balls deep. Next, vary your speed levels and don’t be afraid to switch up positions, consensually, of course. If you’re anything like me, I get bored quickly, so changing it up can lead to a more pleasurable experience for both parties.

Lastly, pay close attention to your sexual

partner’s body language and words. If your partner is expressing pain, maybe it’s best to take a break. Asking your partner what feels good and what doesn’t is a great way to ensure everyone is having fun. It’s easy to get caught up in the moment, but what’s the point if you’re not both on the same page?

SAFE SEX IS THE BEST SEX, NO, REALLY

Finally, everyone should prioritize safe sex. Penetration, especially anal, can lead to the risk of sexually transmitted diseases. Therefore, it’s great to use condoms and other preventative medications, like Pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP. This daily prescription pill reduces the risk of HIV if you plan on engaging in sexual intercourse with a new partner.

Engaging in sex, no matter how you identify, can be an enjoyable and liberating experience. However, don’t feel pressured to do anything outside your comfort zone, and don’t think too hard about the labels. Have fun and always play it safe.

'Parade' will not be silenced

By ZOE LEONE
Arts & Life Editor

The revival of “Parade” came to Broadway on Feb. 21 for its first preview performance. What should have been a night of celebration was marred as ticket holders and buyers were met with a protest from a neo-Nazi group.

“Parade” first opened on Broadway in 1998 and is a dramatization of the real-life story of Leo Frank, a Jewish man in Georgia who was wrongly convicted of raping and murdering a 13-year-old girl who worked at the factory he was superintendent of in 1913. While he was initially not a suspect, mishandled police work, ulterior political motives and harsh antisemitic views changed the focus to Frank.

After his sentence was changed from death by hanging to life in prison by the then-governor of Georgia in 1915, a group of men from the young girl’s hometown kidnapped Frank from prison and lynched him outside in an oak tree. The event would spark the birth of the Anti-Defamation League, an anti-hate organization primarily focused on Jewish people. Alternatively, Frank’s death also triggered the revival of the Ku Klux Klan.

Frank was pardoned posthumously by the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles in 1986. The movement followed a 1982 report by The Tennessean which featured testimony from a worker at the factory who alleged that he had seen the state’s key witness with the young girl’s body at the scene of the crime. This,



ILLUSTRATION BY ELIZABETH LARSON

combined with new evidence that seemed to exonerate him, surged a new wave of belief in Frank’s innocence.

“Parade,” however, is not about Frank’s innocence or guilt. The musical follows the timeline from the beginning of Frank’s arrival to the South and ends with his final prayer before he is lynched. At the heart of the show is Frank (Ben Platt) and his wife, Lucille (Micaela Diamond), and their heartbreaking journey into love amidst the hatred surrounding them.

The neo-Nazis harassed audiences

standing outside the venue, stating that they were paying money to go “worship a fucking pedophile,” according to Variety, and handing out flyers advertising their group. And yet the cast and crew, who were not made aware of the protest until after the show, delivered a performance worthy of rave reviews from critics at notable publications, like The New York Times.

“If there is any remaining doubt out there about the urgency of telling this story in this moment in history, the vileness on display last night should put it to rest,” wrote the

producers of “Parade” in a statement posted to the show’s Instagram account. “We stand by the valiant Broadway cast that brings this vital story to life each night.”

Similarly, Platt also spoke out against the events of the night. In a reel posted to his Instagram, he said the event was “very ugly and scary, but a wonderful reminder of why we’re telling this particular story and how special and powerful art, and particularly theater, can be.”

The extreme antisemitism in the protest brought a wave of support, not just from the Broadway world, but the New York community as well. Two days after the demonstration took place, Mayor Eric Adams took to the stage to speak to the audience before that night’s performance, saying that what had happened “was not the New York spirit we love – this was hatred, this was bigotry.”

While the extremist group may have intended to discourage theatergoers from attending “Parade,” the event seemed to only have an adverse effect. Since the Feb. 21 night preview, audiences have been lining up to secure tickets to the performances, with many of them saying that the display of hatred made them feel a responsibility to come support the show, according to CBS News. It was also reported that extra security was seen outside the theater.

The cast and crew of “Parade” have proven that they will not be silenced. After all, the show must go on.

Taylor Swift's 'Midnights' redefines melancholy

By KATIE LANGLEY
Editor-in-Chief

We can all remember the sleepless nights when rumination and worry, past relationships and new ones, shattered expectations and newfound excitement kept us from closing our eyes. And Taylor Swift just put it all so effortlessly into words.

Amid re-recording her first six studio albums, Swift released her tenth studio album, “Midnights” on Oct. 21. The album’s 13 songs and seven “3am tracks”— surprise releases dropped at 3 a.m. after the original songs – tell the story of 20 sleepless nights throughout Swift’s life.

The album kicks off with a handful of Lorde-esque pop bangers. In the first track, “Lavender Haze,” Swift delves into the difficulty of maintaining meaningful relationships while coping with the momentous public scrutiny of fame, a theme that Swift has been returning to for years.

The second track, “Maroon,” is like “Red’s” older and sultrier sister. In this song, Swift looks back on a previous relationship. No longer is this relationship defined by the color red; it’s “so scarlet it was maroon.”

The influence of Bleachers frontman and Swift’s longtime producer and co-writer Jack Antonoff is tangible in dreamy synth lines and screamable bridges in songs like “Lavender Haze,” “Maroon” and “Midnight Rain.” Antonoff also produces songs for

Lorde, as well as artists like Lana Del Rey and St. Vincent, both of whom worked with Swift on “Midnights.”

Once again, the Swift-Antonoff team owns pop music.

Moving on to the record’s lead single, “Anti-Hero,” Swift once again dives deep into her insecurities. As lead singles go, this track has great radio potential. Swift is a master at crafting depressing lyrics to catchy, optimistic beats. However, one thing I’ve always admired about Swift is her ability to write subtly about self-doubt and doomed overachievement, in tracks like “Mirrorball.” Though poignant, “Anti-hero” is a bit too flashy for me.

The long-anticipated Lana Del Rey collab comes in the fourth track, “Snow On The Beach,” a song about falling in love with someone when you don’t expect it. It’s a dreamy song, fitting perfectly into Del Rey’s dreamy voice. I only wish we got more of Del Rey, who only provides backing vocals in the chorus. “SOTB” was a perfect opportunity for a “Nothing New” (feat. Phoebe Bridgers)-style double-female duet, surprisingly, Swift didn’t take that chance.

One of the most nostalgic tracks on the

album is “You’re On Your Own, Kid.” The song describes Swift’s teenage self and her rise to fame at such a young age – the people she left behind, the childhood she missed, her persistence and self-reliance. The bridge perfectly sums up what it’s like to devote your whole life to a dream and give her “blood, sweat and tears” for notoriety.

Moving to my favorite song on the record, “Question...?,” Swift describes a fling that she wishes she fought harder for. This song, unlike the rest of the songs on the album, uses strictly she/her pronouns. Swift has been known to use the literary “male perspective” in her past in songs such as “Betty” and “Dorothea,” but as a queer Swift fan myself, it is comforting to have a song that feels like I can relate to and hold as my own. “Vigilante Shit,” “Bejeweled” and “Karma” are grouped together in my brain under a tab called “bad bitch songs,” sounding like they came straight out of the “Reputation” era. These three tracks are perfect for drawing on a cat eye before going out with your friends on a Friday night.

In a complete change of pace, the most tender song on “Midnights” is “Sweet Nothings.” With a lullaby-like piano intro

and heartfelt lyrics written by Swift and ex-boyfriend Joe Alwyn– under the name William Bowery– this song perfectly encapsulates the sanctuary of a gentle love in a loud world. “Sweet Nothings” shows the incredible extent of Swift’s poetic ability with lines like “to you I can admit, that I’m just too soft for all of it.”

Unfortunately, I can’t cover every song on “Midnights,” each complex and layered in its own right. However, there’s one “3 a.m. track” that I have to mention.

“Would’ve, Could’ve, Should’ve” makes Swift’s absolutely heartbreaking ballad “Dear John” seem like child’s play. In this song, Swift looks back at the relationship that inspires “Dear John”— when she dated John Mayer at 19 when he was 32. With the knowledge of age, Swift says, “give me back my girlhood, it was mine first.” She recognizes how the relationship changed her as a person forever and returns to the idea that Mayer should have known better than to pursue a very young girl.

Although sonically opposite from previous albums “Folklore” and “Evermore,” “Midnights” feels like the fitting next installment in the Swift timeline. Personally, the album is special to me because I feel like I grew up with Swift. It’s meaningful to imagine Swift looking back at the feelings that inspired past songs, both the beautiful and the ugly.



PHOTOS: Chronicle takes the gold again at SMS

By DAVID MATOS
Staff Writer

Q30 Television hosted its third annual Student Media Showdown in the Carl Hansen Student Center Piazza March 3. Students representing the four student media organizations — Q30, Quinnipiac Bobcats Sports Network, The Quinnipiac Chronicle and 98.1 WQAQ — battled it out to take home the trophy.

The rounds included talent, student media trivia, a Hollywood fashion category and a pageant-style final question. The final two contestants of SMS were WQAQ representative Jennifer Moglia and Neha Seenarine, representing the Chronicle. The competition was close, but Seenarine reigned supreme, winning the first place title for the Chronicle for a second consecutive year.



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Out for redemption

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

By **COLIN KENNEDY**
Associate Sports Editor

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

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

To say the Bobcats bounced back from a tough 2021 season would be an understatement. Although finishing the season with a winning record at 9-8, their lackluster conference play

kept them out of the playoffs. In this year’s campaign, Quinnipiac wanted to right the ship.

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

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

Led by captain and senior forward David Bercedo, Quinnipiac has created a dangerous

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Receiving a first round bye, Quinnipiac will take on Niagara in the semi-final round on Nov. 10, akin to the women’s soccer team who beat Niagara to win the MAAC Championship.

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

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

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

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

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



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac men’s soccer ended the 2022 season with a 13-5-1 record.

Quinnipiac’s first field hockey coach Becca Main announces retirement after 28 seasons

By **ETHAN HURWITZ**
Sports Editor

On February 24, Becca Main, the only head coach in Quinnipiac field hockey program history, announced her retirement after 28 seasons in Hamden.

“I am filled with gratitude and excitement as I announce my retirement from Quinnipiac University,” Main said in a press release. “There has not been a day in three decades that I didn’t enjoy driving onto the Quinnipiac campus – thrilled at the prospect of teaching and learning in a higher education environment with brilliant athletes and coaches.”

Main’s coaching career began in 1995, when the Bobcats were the Braves and the field hockey program was created. Since then, she has taken the team to new heights, including a 2016 invitation to the Big East, a new state-of-the-art stadium and 214 total victories.

“I have been challenged and elevated by my players, assistant coaches, and opposing coaches,” Main said. “Quinnipiac is a magical community where I was able to cultivate a coaching career that afforded me the opportunity to work beside colleagues of such determination and passion.”

This past season, the Bobcats recorded their most wins since 2015, going 8-11.

Main’s resume includes four conference Coach of the Year awards (1997, 1998, 2004, 2015) and three trips to the NCAA Tournament in 2001, 2003 and 2013. Before leaving the MAAC for the Big East, Main also led Quinnipiac to the 2013 MAAC title, the only conference championship in program history.

When she was hired in 1995, Main was also brought along to be the head coach of the women’s lacrosse team, a role she held for eight seasons,

including a 10-win season in 2002.

“Congratulations to Becca on an incredible career leading the Quinnipiac field hockey program,” Quinnipiac Director of Athletics Greg Amodio said in the Feb. 24 press release. “She embodies all of the qualities you could hope for in a leader and it has been a privilege to work directly with her over the past eight years.”

During her playing career, Main was just as fierce on the field as she was off. She was the 1993 Big Ten Defensive Player of the Year during her time at Penn State and was named to the U.S. National Team that won a bronze medal in the 1994 World Cup. After her playing career,

she picked up coaching and was later inducted into the Connecticut Field Hockey Coaches Association in 2005.

Main is part of a select group of Quinnipiac head coaches that have been with the university since the 1990s, including Rand Pecknold (men’s hockey), Tricia Fabbri (women’s basketball), Dave Clarke (women’s soccer) and Mary Ann Powers (acrobatics and tumbling).

“Becca Main has a commitment to excellence that I cherish,” Pecknold said in the Feb. 24 press release. “She is a wonderful person and has done so much for the growth of Quinnipiac University.”

During her tenure, the Bobcats had 94 student-athletes named to the all-conference teams, as well as 27 NFHCA Mideast All-Region selections. Main ends her career 47th out of all NCAA Division I field hockey coaches in career wins.

“This field hockey program is in a great place with eighteen of the most wonderful athletes spearheading the next decade,” Main said. “They are poised to do some huge things and I know they will be the best advocates for the program as they enter a phase with a new coaching staff.”

Former Boston College and Quinnipiac assistant coach Nina Klein took over as head coach on April 28.



PHOTO VIA QUINNIPAC ATHLETICS

Becca Main announced her retirement on February 24 after 28 seasons as head coach of the Quinnipiac field hockey team.

Yeargin’s Yard

How Quinnipiac baseball can evolve in 2023



DANIEL PASSAPERA/CHRONICLE

Senior right-handed pitcher Kevin Seitter pitched a 1.80 ERA with the Newport Gulls in the New England Collegiate Baseball League last summer.

By **BENJAMIN YEARGIN**
Managing Editor

The theory of evolution, also known as natural selection, is how an organism adapts to its circumstances. The Quinnipiac baseball team must go through its own evolution this spring, coming out of another losing season and losing key players to graduation and the transfer portal.

ADDITIONS AND SUBTRACTIONS

Starting with their two biggest losses to the transfer portal, senior left-handed pitcher Brandy Garcia transferred to Texas A&M, a College World Series contender, and senior catcher/outfielder Danny Melnick transferred to Rutgers.

Garcia was Quinnipiac’s No. 1 starter while Melnick capped off last year with All-MAAC First Team honors and NEIBA All-New England First Team honors.

Quinnipiac also lost first baseman Michael Kohn to George Washington, outfielder Andrew McDermott to Queens University of Charlotte, first baseman Ryan Grace to Lesley, and right-handed pitchers Chris Mazza to LIU and Gabriel Romano to John Hopkins.

“It doesn’t matter,” head coach John Delaney said. “If kids don’t want to be here, they don’t want to be here. Some of the kids chose to go, some were told to go.”

To top it off, two veteran staples in infielder Ian Ostberg and left-handed pitcher Anthony Ambrosino graduated.

Another subtraction that greatly impacts the program isn’t someone who plays between the foul lines, it is the former assistant coach and recruiting coordinator Pat Egan, who has taken

over as the next head coach of Sacred Heart.

“You have one of your best friends, a guy you coached with for eight years, you want him to move forward,” Delaney said.

It’s worth noting that the Bobcats bought in their own transfers. Senior right-handed pitcher Sam Favieri and graduate students Frank Craska and Tim Blaisdell transferred from UConn, Lafayette and Hartford, respectively. Sophomore infielder Nick Montagna joined from Pace (NCAA Division II), where he earned the NE10 Southwest Division Rookie Hitter of the Year award. And senior infielder/ outfielder Matt Tesoriero transferred from Catholic University (NCAA Division III).

The million-dollar question is this: who does that leave and how will the Bobcats evolve?

OFFENSE

On the sticks, the four leaders of the offense will be junior outfielder Jared Zimbardo, senior outfielder/right-handed pitcher Anthony Donofrio, graduate student infielder Kyle Maves and junior catcher Keegan O’Connor.

Donofrio, Zimbardo and O’Connor finished the year second, third and fourth on the team in batting average, respectively, and all tallied at least 15 extra-base hits. These three could potentially make up the meat of the Bobcats order, hitting two-three-four.

Maves’ return to the team adds obvious speed as he led the team with 23 stolen bases last year, a consistent bat and someone who sets the tone for Quinnipiac.

“As much as you might see guys in the portal, we returned the biggest pieces on the entire

team,” Delaney said. “You got Maves back, you got Donofrio back, you got Zimbardo back ... tell me a lineup that’s going to be better with those three at the top.”

Another player that will obtain a significant role this season is junior infielder Matt DeRosa. The North Haven native was named an All-Star in the Future Collegiate Baseball Summer League where he hit .339/.391/.424 with 42 hits and six extra-base hits in 37 games. DeRosa has played shortstop, second and third base, and he could start at any of those positions come opening day.

Two more names to watch out for are senior right-handed pitcher/first baseman Sean Swenson and junior first baseman/outfielder Sebastian Mueller. Both had forgettable years last year but with Kohn gone, both will receive more playing time at first or at designated hitter.

PITCHING AND SCHEDULE

In the rotation, the only lock to start is senior right-handed pitcher Kevin Seitter.

Seitter pitched superbly in the NECBL Summer League with the Newport Gulls. He finished the year with a 1.80 ERA in eight games (six starts), allowing a combined seven earned runs and keeping opponents to a lackluster .168 batting average. Though this is a small sample size, if Seitter can pitch close to this level for the Bobcats, they’ll have a great shot to win every third or fourth game.

With junior left-handed pitcher Tate Cope-land missing the season with Tommy John surgery, the other two spots are up for grabs.

Expect Blaisdell to get some nods, he was

Hartford’s No. 1 starter and brings a plethora of experience with three pitches he can locate in the strike zone. Other names to be aware of for weekend starting or long-relief are sophomore Mason Ulsh and senior Jimmy Hagan, who were both injured all or most of last year, Craska and Favieri.

Quinnipiac’s biggest flaw last season was pitching depth, but this season the depth is there. With the names above along with more in store, the Bobcats have guys that can eat innings and have more options than last season.

It’s worth noting the NCAA added a 20-second pitch clock, which hopes to speed up the pace of the game and will force adaptation on every player on the field.

“It’s going to be tough to be honest,” Maves said. “I’m a guy that likes to take my time between pitches ... if you missed a sign (Delaney) would give it again, but now you can’t do that.”

The schedule is more or less the same as years past, a long stretch of out-of-conference games that showcases power five school Iowa, which then evolves into more local teams and conference play. Quinnipiac’s first home game is Saturday, March 18, against St. John’s at 12 p.m.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The Bobcats are hungry this year. The team wants to win and change people’s expectations.

“I think (people) should expect a team that’s going to want to win games ... they’re going to see a tough nine innings of baseball,” Zimbardo said.

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elbowing, creating a golden opportunity for a red-hot Gophers power play.

Quinnipiac killed off the penalty but struggled to keep Minnesota off the board much longer. An unforced turnover in the defensive zone by senior defenseman Jayden Lee sent Gophers freshman forward Connor Kurth streaking on net. Kurth drew Bobcats

sophomore goaltender Yaniv Perets out of position and centered the puck to freshman forward John Mittelstadt for an easy goal.

The Bobcats looked nervous in the first period, but settled into their game after the intermission. Minnesota scored again just under five minutes into the period – a rebound cleaned up by senior forward Jaxon Nelson – but Quinnipiac struck right back.

Metsa made a laser of a pass to find sophomore forward Cristophe Tellier’s stick as

he crashed the net and the Bobcats cut their deficit to one.

“We were kind of nervous to start the game to be honest,” Tellier said. “Pucks were just bouncing off (our) sticks. We just tried to calm it down. Hold onto the puck a little longer, establish our game plan, move our feet and it worked out for us.”

The game went scoreless for the 20 minutes that followed Tellier’s tally, but Quinnipiac dominated play. The Bobcats wore

down a stellar Minnesota defense and eventually found the back of the net not once, but twice in under three minutes of game action to be crowned national champions.

“I don’t even know if it’s really sunk in yet,” Metsa said. “It’s been a crazy journey. For it to be a goal at the beginning of the year and for us to come through ... it’s a dream come true.”



Sports

@QUCHRONSPORTS

By CAMERON LEVASSEUR
Sports Editor

TAMPA, Fla. — Minnesota entered Saturday’s national championship game as the higher seed. It was more talented and highly favored. Gopher fans outnumbered Quinnipiac fans 3-to-1 in Amalie Arena. None of that mattered. It never mattered. The Bobcats erased a two-goal deficit and scored 10 seconds into overtime to claim the first national championship in program history, 3-2.

Sophomore forward Jacob Quillan played hero. Graduate student defenseman Zach Metsa corralled the puck off an early faceoff win in overtime and sent it down the ice to freshman forward Sam Lipkin. The Pennsylvania native found Quillan cutting to the net, and the rest is history.

“I love every single one of these guys,” Quillan said. “We put our sweat and tears in, working every day at the rink. We had a tough way to get to the final, but we battled every day. Feels unbelievable.”

Sophomore forward Collin Graf, Quillan’s linemate, tied the game with 2:47 to play in regulation. The Bobcats put everything they had into the third period, outshooting Minnesota 14-2 before finally getting the equalizer.

Playing 6-on-4 on the power play with an empty net, Graf caught a shot at the left face-off dot and rifled a wrister past Gophers senior goaltender Justen Close.

“Really, if you watch that goal, we scored that goal because Sam Lipkin is doing exactly what he’s told to do,” head coach Rand Pecknold said. “He’s hiding back post, and the goalie knows that and he cheats the pass and (Graf) beats him five hole.”

The opening period got off to about as bad of a start as it could have for the Bobcats. Barely 20 seconds into the game, senior forward Skyler Brind’Amour was called for

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AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

‘This isn’t about me’ Tricia Fabbri reacts to her 500th career victory

By ZACK HOCHBERG
Staff Writer

Quinnipiac women’s basketball head coach Tricia Fabbri embodies what it means to be a Bobcat, and she added to her long list of accolades with the program on Feb. 16, eclipsing 500 wins as head coach.

In the midst of her 28th season at the helm, Fabbri is doing what she has always done — putting her team in a position to cut down the nets in March.

However, Fabbri’s success didn’t start at Quinnipiac. She played under Dianne Nolan at Fairfield, who now serves as an ESPN broadcaster for Quinnipiac basketball games, and one of Fabbri’s mentors.

“I have so much gratitude that I have a person in my life who has become a dear friend, but it is so important, especially in this day and age, back in the day, coaching while having a family, it didn’t happen, but I saw in her how it could happen,” Fabbri said.

With Nolan as a role model, Fabbri began her coaching career starting as an assistant in 1991 for the Stags before taking the head coaching job at Quinnipiac in 1995. Fast forward three decades, Fabbri boasts over 500 wins, two MAAC Coach of the Year awards and three NCAA tournament appearances.

The early days with the Bobcats, who were known as the Braves at the time, were rough — going a combined 33-97 in her first five seasons — but it helped shape who Fabbri is and where this program is today.

Fabbri and men’s hockey coach Rand Pecknold both started coaching around the same time. Pecknold joined Quinnipiac in 1994, just a year before Fabbri. Once Fabbri arrived, the two were forced to share an office.

“I think learning the backstory to how you took those steps to get where you wanted to go, that’s where the story is ... Rand has built a national power, we’ve been to a Sweet 16, and we started literally in a janitor’s closet literally with

a desk, a chair and one phone,” Fabbri said.

Pecknold has never been shy of his support of the other Quinnipiac athletic teams, often sending his players to sit in the stands of their games.

“We basically started out together, she’s a great coach and a great person,” Pecknold said. “It’s a great place to work and I’m really impressed with all the coaches in this building.”

On the court and ice, Fabbri and Pecknold both watched their programs and the university grow, as Quinnipiac went from the Braves to the Bobcats, from NCAA Division II to Division I, and for Fabbri, from the NEC to the MAAC.

Quinnipiac is home for Fabbri, as she has raised a family here in Connecticut.

“It’s been a multitude of different opportunities staying at the same place,” Fabbri said. “Ultimately, having the ability to coach at the Division I level and then also, for me personally, to have a family and not have to relocate with a young family gave me the best of both worlds.”

With Fabbri at the helm, Quinnipiac became a successful basketball program, ultimately capturing its first NCAA Tournament appearance in 2013 after winning the NEC Tournament.

The tournament berth catapulted Quinnipiac’s program, as it made the jump from the NEC to the MAAC soon after in 2013-14.

Quinnipiac made an immediate mark on its new conference, as it advanced all the way to the 2014 MAAC title game before losing to Marist. As a No. 4 seed, the Bobcats were able to upset No. 1-seeded Iona to make it to its second-straight conference championship game and earn a bid to the WNIT Tournament.

The success kept coming for Fabbri’s squad, making multiple runs at both the MAAC and NCAA tournaments, before entering the national spotlight in 2016-17 when it reached the Sweet 16. The Bobcats’ run included upset victories over Marquette and Miami, before ultimately falling to eventual NCAA Champion South Carolina.

“The longevity she’s had, not only coaching

and winning, but running a high-class program and representing the school,” Quinnipiac men’s basketball head coach Baker Dunleavy said. “She’s treated me incredibly since the day I’ve gotten here and I’m so appreciative.”

The banners hanging in Lender Court that signify team success mean more to Fabbri than the fresh one celebrating her 500th win, because it wouldn’t be possible without her players.

Once Fabbri secured win No. 500 against Mount St. Mary’s, her team decorated the locker room, but she didn’t want to celebrate just yet.

“Honestly we got to the locker room and they were ready to do the big celebration, but I actually asked them to stop,” Fabbri said. “Ultimately this isn’t about me or what I’m doing and getting 500 wins, it’s really about us and what we’re trying to achieve this season, one game at a time.”

Fabbri’s focus was never on a regular season game. That game was just a stepping stone for where the Bobcats want to be at the end of the season — cutting down the nets and heading to an NCAA tournament.

“I’m very much old school, we’ll celebrate

when we cut down the net,” Fabbri said. “That’s what we do.”

Like Pecknold and Dunleavy, Quinnipiac women’s ice hockey head coach Cass Turner has seen Fabbri’s excellence up close and is appreciative of it too.

“Her drive to want to be great and to want to create a phenomenal experience for her student-athletes, that’s what’s gotten her here,” Turner said. “And it’s been really, really neat to watch.”

Fabbri appreciates the opportunity at hand to mentor those who are just starting out in their coaching careers, just like Nolan did for her over three decades ago.

“It’s so great to have people in your corner that are going to really tell you (the) truth,” Fabbri said. “That’s what I try to do, when they’re down it’s like ‘hey, onward,’ ... when you have failure that is the greatest opportunity for success.”

Fabbri felt failure early on, never reaching double-digit wins in her first five years at the university, but she’s now secured back-to-back 20 win seasons with her eyes set on bigger prizes: a MAAC championship and the NCAA tournament.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Tricia Fabbri reached 500 career wins with Quinnipiac on Feb. 16 against Mount St. Mary’s.