

WIN-NIPIAC

Quinnipiac Bobcats crowned national champions for first time in program history



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QU professor advocacy group speaks out against stagnant faculty compensation

By KATIE LANGLEY and CAT MURPHY

Members of the Quinnipiac University chapter of the American Association of University Professors poster the Mount Carmel Campus on April 5 with informational flyers about static increases in faculty compensation. The AAUP flyers criticized the disparity between increases in faculty compensation and increases in the cost of living. The Quinnipiac administration elected to increase full-time faculty salaries by only 2% next year, according to the AAUP flyers.

The Office of Human Resources subsequently confirmed in an email to all full-and part-time faculty on Monday that the Board of Trustees had approved university recommendations for a merit-based 2% increase in faculty compensation.

“These changes are the result of ongoing conversations and collaboration with the Compensation and Benefits committee of the faculty senate, school-based leaders, and various staff and offices to evaluate the overall structure of faculty compensation and support at Quinnipiac,” the email stated.

However, Business Insider noted in December 2022 that an annual raise below 7.1% is effectively equivalent to a pay cut in 2023 due to inflation.

“In real dollars, we’ve taken a pay cut instead of having any sort of meaningful raise,” said Laura Willis Calo, associate professor of health and strategic communication and a member of the AAUP.

Part-time faculty were not expected to receive a pay raise this year, according to the university’s AAUP chapter.

According to the April 10 email, signed by Provost Debra Liebowitz and Vice President of Human Resources Elicia Spearman, the Board of Trustees elected to provide part-time faculty members with a corresponding raise when full-time faculty salaries increase.

“For part-time faculty, an important university policy change now means that the course stipend rates will increase annually,” the email stated. “This amounts to a 2% increase in the course stipend rates for part-time faculty effective for the Fall 2023 semester.”

John Morgan, associate vice president for public relations, declined to provide further comment on faculty compensation.

“In real dollars, we’ve taken a pay cut.”

– Laura Willis Calo
MEMBER OF QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY’S AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS CHAPTER

The Social Security Administration set the 2023 cost-of-living adjustment at 8.7% in October 2022, meaning that annual salaries would need to increase by the same percentage to account for the increased cost of living in 2023.

The Social Security COLA is a measure of inflation used to adjust annual Social Security benefits. The Social Security Administration bases the COLA percentage on the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Consumer Price Index, which takes into account the net price change of expenses such as food and energy.

Kimberly O’Neill, associate professor of English and women’s and gender studies and a member of the AAUP, said part-time faculty have been hit particularly hard by the effects of inflation.

“We value the labor of our part-time employees, and they are so profoundly underpaid,” O’Neill said. “Their course numbers max out at Quinnipiac, so they have to hop from university to university just to try to make ends meet.”

Quinnipiac employed more than 1,000 instructional faculty members in fall 2021, approximately 63% of whom were employed part-time, according to the National Center for Educational Statistics.

Adjunct faculty earned between \$4,425 and \$5,275 per three-credit course during the 2022-23 academic year, according to compensation documentation obtained by the Chronicle. O’Neill said the university, which bases its part-time faculty stipend rates on length of service, degree status and course level, had not raised part-time faculty compensation rates since 2018.

Quinnipiac paid its 392 full-time instructional faculty members an average of

\$103,000 in fall 2021, the most recent semester for which salary data is available.

Willis Calo noted that both part-time and full-time faculty pay is comparably higher at many of Quinnipiac’s peer institutions, which has caused some faculty to seek employment elsewhere.

Critically, the NCES benchmark does not take into account academic rank or gender.

“We’re a university that also has a law school and a (medical) school, and that’s really uncommon,” Willis Calo said. “It creates a group of outliers whose salaries are much higher, and so it pulls our mean in a direction that suggests that the average associate professor or assistant professor is making much more money.”

Nationally, the AAUP utilizes the slogan, “faculty working conditions are student learning conditions,” to embody its cause.

“I don’t think that students are always aware that faculty take-home pay is often less than students are paying in tuition, room and board and fees,” O’Neill said. “The amount of money we make — or don’t make — directly affects our ability to be there for students.”

The burden of financial stress often leaves faculty members without the time or resources to assist students outside of the classroom setting, O’Neill said.

“I currently pay \$2,400 a month to keep my kids in daycare so that I can work, and that’s almost as much money as I make,” O’Neill said. “And when you add my mortgage, I can’t pay both.”

O’Neill said that taking on a larger course load to make ends meet sometimes means refusing learning experiences like independent studies, faculty-led study abroad programs and Quinnipiac’s Interdisciplinary Program for Research and Scholarship.

Several members of Quinnipiac’s AAUP chapter expressed particular frustration with the university’s lack of budget transparency.

“At public universities, you can actually look up every single employee’s salary,” O’Neill said. “And so, it’s sort of odd, actually, that we as an institution don’t have any transparency.”

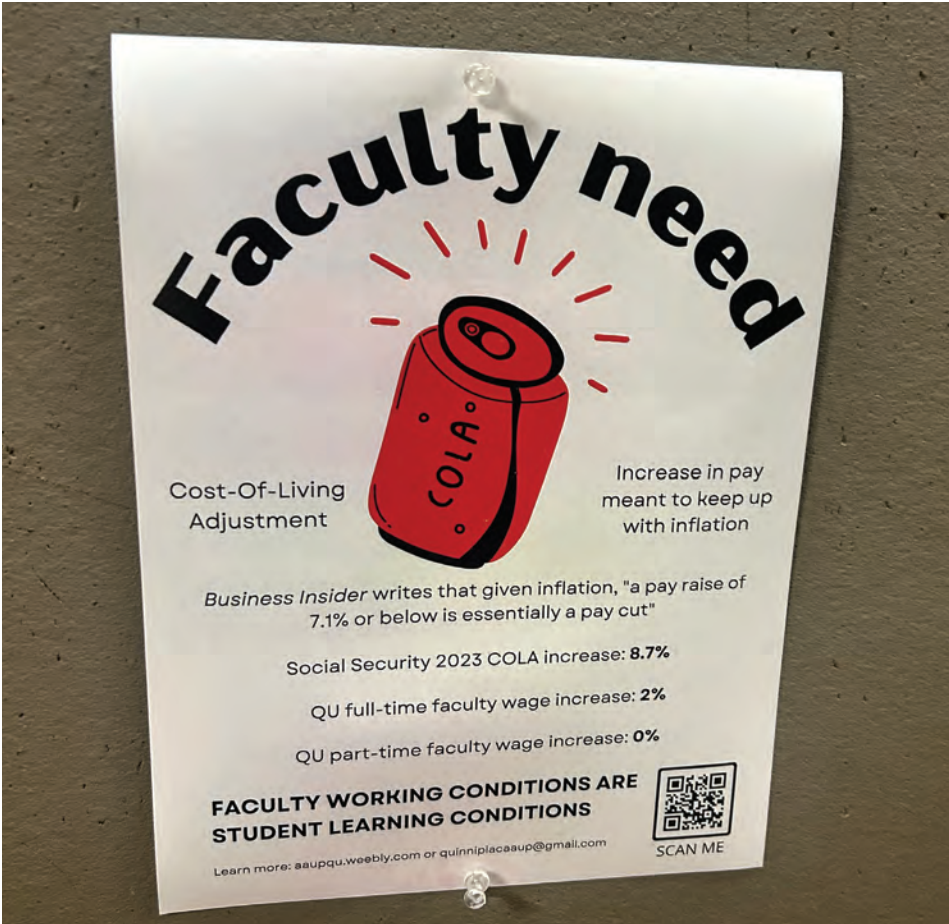
Accordingly, the university’s AAUP chapter aims “to strengthen the voice of faculty in service of Quinnipiac’s educational purpose,” per its website. Notably, the Quinnipiac AAUP’s website is unavailable on the university’s WiFi.

Users attempting to access the Quinnipiac AAUP webpage on the university’s WiFi are prompted with a website security notification before receiving a 404 file not found error message. However, the website loads immediately upon disconnecting from the Quinnipiac WiFi.

Ruth Kaplan, associate professor of English and a member of the Quinnipiac AAUP, said the organization reached out to university officials several times to correct the issue.

“We discovered that our AAUP chapter website was blocked on QU WiFi while we were developing our COLA initiative in March,” Kaplan wrote in an email to the Chronicle April 10. “We were quite concerned when we realized that our website was blocked, and we remain concerned.”

Morgan did not comment on the website’s inaccessibility.



KATIE LANGLEY/CHRONICLE

The Quinnipiac American Association of University Professors’ signs compare the 2023 cost-of-living adjustment to 2023-24 faculty compensation increases. The university has since announced that it will raise part-time faculty pay by 2% in the fall.

Quinnipiac administration increases student organization funding by \$200K for 2023-24

By CAT MURPHY
Associate News Editor

Following a years-long battle between administrators and student organizations, Quinnipiac University raised student organization funding by nearly 30% for the 2023-24 academic year.

According to an April 2 press release from the Student Government Association, the university allocated \$875,000 to student organizations for the upcoming academic year, a \$200,000 increase from the 2022-23 year.

Jacob Cedor, SGA vice president for operations and a sophomore 3+1 international business major, spearheaded the organization's initiative to address a recent uptick in funding requests.

"This funding increase, between our current and incoming undergrads, should impact the student experience of more than 20,000 students, just in the next 10 years," Cedor wrote in a statement to the Chronicle April 10. "The influence this funding will have on making Quinnipiac feel like more of a home for our students is astronomical."

The university earmarked an additional \$200,000 in student organization funding after slashing SGA's program budget for several consecutive years during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most recently, spring 2023 student organization funding requests topped \$550,000. However, a copy of SGA's spring 2023 budget obtained by the Chronicle revealed that the organization funded less than 52% of all requests due to budget constraints.

Students have repeatedly vocalized their frustrations with the lack of available resources since budget cuts began taking effect in 2021.

"We've struggled a lot with limited funding this past semester," said Emily Diaz, a junior political science major and president of the Quinnipiac Latino Cultural Society. "Student leaders like myself are overworked and burnt out, and it creates sort of an imbalance."

University administrators blamed the pan-

dem ic and lower enrollment numbers for student organization funding cuts as recently as SGA's State of QUnion address in February 2023.

"A lot of areas were cut during the pandemic in academic and non-academic things," said Tom Ellett, chief experience officer, at the 2023 State of the QUnion. "We do have 1,400 less students today than we did when the funding was different, and so that has been spread across the whole institution, not just the student orgs."

However, Ellett told the Chronicle on April 6 that university officials allocated increased funding to student organizations in response to increased spending in the aftermath of the pandemic.

"Clubs and organizations were spending their money, where the previous two years, certainly not as much," said Ellett, who worked alongside Cedor to develop the SGA program budget.

Cedor and Ellett also collaborated with Mo-

nique Drucker, vice president and dean of students, and Matthew Kurz, associate dean of student affairs for campus life and SGA's adviser.

"It was a very compelling series of data points that (Cedor) provided in terms of asks that clubs and organizations had," Ellett said. "We thought that that amount that we provided was where we felt comfortable landing for this upcoming year."

In the April 2 release, SGA thanked the Quinnipiac administration "for listening to the student needs and responding with this historic increase in funds."

"Students brought it to the right place, we had a good conversation, some good data points and we move forward," Ellett said. "We're just fortunate that we were able to do that."

Ellett underscored the value of campus engagement, arguing that clubs and organizations enable students to co-create their college experiences.

"I think that the more spirit and connection

we can create as an institution, I think the students are happier," Ellett said. "It also has a sense of creating a sense of belonging for our students to the institution."

Hillary Haldane, professor of anthropology and faculty senator, reiterated that campus life is an integral element of the student experience.

"You're not in the classroom for the rest of your life," Haldane told the Chronicle. "Part of what the co-curricular does is that helps you think about the transferability of that knowledge from the classroom."

However, Ellett highlighted the limits of university resources.

"It may mean that we don't do some other things, whatever those other things are," Ellett said. "I don't know what they are, but you have a finite amount of money."

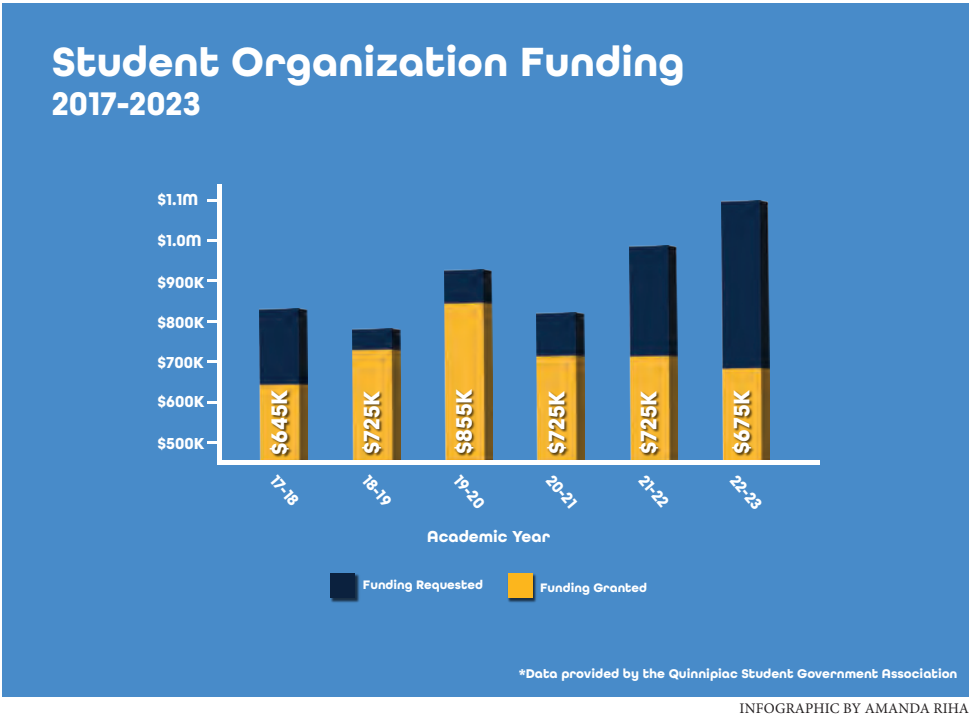
Notably, the Quinnipiac administration is facing criticism from the Quinnipiac American Association of University Professors for failing to adequately adjust faculty salaries to match the increased cost of living.

Quinnipiac student organization leaders nevertheless applauded the university's renewed commitment to program funding.

"Increased funding allows for students to attend programming, to get involved, to find a path for themselves, to network a little bit and learn about what it is that they're interested in," Diaz said. "And so, when we're given that support and allowed to have representation, we're empowering one another to keep going."

Members of the SGA Operations Committee met with representatives from nearly 90 student organizations during the first weekend in April to review their fall 2023 funding proposals, according to the April 2 release. SGA is scheduled to vote on the committee's fall 2023 budget recommendations April 19.

"The question I've received the most from students is about what the process looked like to get the funding increase, and the answer is simple – I just had to ask," Cedor wrote. "I hope this historic increase in funding helps students realize their true power at a university."



Chief Experience Officer Tom Ellett discusses his role at Quinnipiac

By CAT MURPHY
Associate News Editor

Quinnipiac University Chief Experience Officer Tom Ellett addressed questions and concerns about his role at the institution during a 30-minute sit-down interview with student media on Monday.

Ellett separated his title as the chief experience officer into two roles: the administrator and the student advocate.

The administrative side of his title, he said, requires him to engage with university processes that operate beyond the limits of the classroom.

The CXO oversees the One Stop Office, for instance, which handles various financial aid, class registration and parking processes at Quinnipiac.

Ellett, who joined the Quinnipiac administration in August 2020 after serving as a senior student affairs officer at New York University for more than a decade, also coordinates several student advisory boards to address student concerns about on-campus issues such as dining.

"At every school I've been at, food, parking and registration are issues," said Ellett, who has more than three decades of experience in higher education. "And so, the advisory boards that I created have been probably the strongest sense of our sense of reality for me."

However, Ellett told student media that his role as CXO also positions him as a community

leader at Quinnipiac and allows him to work closely alongside the student body.

"I feel really, really blessed with ... some of the relationships I have with students," Ellett said. "And I feel really, really lucky to have met some students who are really going to change the world in so many ways."

As part of his role, Ellett lives among Quinnipiac students in The Commons Residence Hall. The university demolished at least three quad dorms in the first-year dorm building in 2021 to construct a three-bedroom apartment for Ellett and his wife, Gladys Vallespir Ellett, who is also an assistant professor of nursing at Quinnipiac.

"I've been living in residence halls for about 32 of my 37 years in my professional life," Ellett said. "For me, it was really about the idea of, 'How do we immerse more adult presences around students?'"

The CXO's on-campus residency — and the multimillion-dollar renovations his Commons apartment required — faced significant backlash from Quinnipiac students.

However, asked Monday about his decision to live in a first-year residence hall at Quinnipiac, Ellett said he believes residential administrators can mentor students in a way that other faculty cannot.

"I do think it can add something very valuable in terms of just the level of care and concern that can be brought to the residence halls," Ellett said.

He also said the university plans to expand its faculty-in-residence program upon the completion of the first-year residence hall being constructed as part of the \$293 million South Quad project.

"That's a model that I have helped create at other institutions that were exceedingly successful," Ellett said. "It is a movement that many universities have started to do, and I think it's a good thing for Quinnipiac to be doing at

this moment in time."

Ellett emphasized throughout the conversation that he strives to represent the interests of Quinnipiac students above all else.

"There's still other students out there who don't feel that their voice matters, and that's tremendously bothersome to me," Ellett said. "At the end of the day, it's our institution — not mine — it's ours, right?"



CASEY WIEDERHOLD/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac Chief Experience Officer Tom Ellett sits down with student media on Monday to define his responsibilities and discuss his choice to live on campus.

Opinion

No one is above the law

Trump’s indictment sets an important precedent for the U.S. legal system

By **NICHOLAS PESTRITTO**
Staff Writer

Former President Donald Trump has unlocked another unprecedented achievement. He is the first ever former President of the United States to face criminal charges, according to NPR. At this point, should we even be surprised? This is something everyone in the U.S. should have seen coming well in advance.

On March 30, the former president was indicted on over 30 felony charges related to business fraud. A report from The Guardian shows that Trump is facing 34 felony counts of falsifying business records in the first degree.

The Independent reported in January 2021 that Trump made more than 30,000 false or misleading statements during his four years as president, or just about 21 per day.

A man who was our president for four years, lying to us almost 21 times per day while he was in office, has now been criminally charged with lying about his business records. The facts and statistics don’t lie. There were warning signs that something similar to this indictment could come for Trump after he was voted out of office.

The list of negative accomplishments that Trump has added to his resume truly is astounding. Along with being the first president to face criminal charges, he was the first president to be impeached twice and the 11th incumbent president who won their party’s nomination but failed to win the presidency.

He clearly never wanted to lead our country and tell the truth to the American people. Trump’s indictment should stand as another marker to show how much of an



GAGE SKIDMORE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Donald Trump is the first former president to be arrested, according to NPR.

illegitimate president he was.

We also must not underestimate the magnitude of this situation. No former president has ever faced criminal charges, let alone 34 felony charges. Since Trump took office back in 2017, our world has been treading through uncharted waters over and over again — some he played a part in and some he did not. The arrest is the biggest one of them all, the weight that these charges carry should not be misconstrued in the slightest way.

In a March 31 interview with ABC News, Kate Shaw, a law professor at Cardozo School of Law and an ABC News contributor, told ABC News, “this could be a novel theory,” referring to the seemingly newer legal theory

and reasoning behind the indictment. “If it is a federal campaign finance crime, that is pretty novel legal terrain,” Shaw said.

This is such an unprecedented event that the legal theory behind it is being seen as new in comparison to what legal experts have seen in the past.

Trump is not above the law and never should be above the law.

No matter what our political identifications are, we all need to agree that Trump should be tried and presumed innocent until proven guilty. His case must be put to trial and the justice system must be used in its entirety to fully solve this case.

In order for our justice system to be seen

as reliable and credible, everyone must be held accountable, even if it is a former president of the U.S. The process should be the same for everyone including Trump.

Trump did not have his mug shot taken and was not placed in handcuffs upon his arrival to the court.

If this was any other person who went to a court or police station to turn themselves in, they probably would have been forced into handcuffs. They would have had a mugshot taken and the conditions of their treatment would have probably been much more severe compared to how Trump was treated.

It is understandable that Trump may have some exceptions due to his status of being a former president, but will this arrest have the same effects as it would if it was anyone else? Will it force Trump to come to terms with the fact that he was arrested and realize that he did something seriously wrong to warrant criminal charges?

Until Trump comes to terms with himself that he is in serious trouble, he will continue to lie and perpetuate that his indictment is only for political purposes. Until he is sentenced to jail time, Trump will only become more unhinged and his fan base will keep growing more radical.

There are many more questions that need to be asked regarding this indictment, but if there is one idea that needs to be amplified, it is that we need to realize that Trump was a dangerous man as president and he still is. Throughout Trump’s presidency, all the antics that happened should have been warning signs for everyone on what was to come after he left office.

Makeup is not for the male gaze

By **KRYSTAL MILLER**
Associate News Editor

As someone who has been sitting in her room filming fake makeup tutorials and spending every bit of money I’ve had on new cosmetics since the age of 13, I’ve gotten a lot of comments about my makeup throughout the years.

People, mostly men, try to tell me I look so much more “natural” or “beautiful” without makeup. Why can’t I wear every color of the rainbow on my eyelids if I want? Men question why I wear so much makeup or why I spend so much time doing it.

People automatically assume I’m trying to impress someone or I am going somewhere fancy if I decide to put in the extra effort. I spend two hours on my makeup because I feel like it, not to get the attention of a man.

Individuals should be able to wear as much or as little makeup as they want without feeling judged for it. It doesn’t matter if you are going to the beach or the grocery store, you can wear makeup if you want. We do it because we want to feel better about ourselves and don’t need anyone’s feedback on what they think about it.

A study conducted by YouGov found that 63% of men believed women mainly wear makeup in order to trick people into thinking they’re more attractive. It’s not that I don’t love my natural face or am scared for people to see it, I like being able to enhance my features and have fun with it.

For years on social media I’ve heard the joke “take her swimming on the first date” — implying that women deceive men by wearing makeup on dates. That phrase currently has 18 million views on TikTok. YouTubers, such as Nikkietutorials, have also made videos making

fun of this phrase. It is not necessary for a person wearing makeup to disclose how much they are wearing.

An experiment by Evie Magazine that used photos of women wearing both minimal and no makeup found that in every example, men actually preferred the photo with the woman with a “no-makeup makeup look” compared to her bare face.

Videos on platforms such as Instagram show makeup tutorials with “what men think no makeup looks like” versus reality, and in each video the side showing the male perspective features makeup, not a bare face. The search for the phrase “what men think no makeup looks like” has 65.1 million views on Tiktok. No matter how much makeup you do or don’t wear, there is someone that will judge you for it.

Men often say they want a woman with no makeup, but they don’t actually know what that is. A lot of examples on the internet of celebrities wearing no makeup usually have some amount of makeup on. This causes people to believe that’s what skin really looks like without makeup, and makes women even more insecure because they are trying to live up to impossible standards. Don’t feel bad if you have texture on your skin or acne, because it’s completely normal.

Makeup has been a way for me to express myself without having to say anything. It is relaxing to be able to sit in my room and try out different looks I’ve seen on Pinterest, Instagram or TikTok.

Having hours to myself, worrying about only me has helped me through so many difficult moments, because no matter how stressed or sad I am I can always depend on makeup to cheer me



ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RIHA

up and get away from whatever is bothering me. Makeup is a form of self care that doesn’t require a lot of money or time. Whether you just started trying out makeup yesterday or have been doing it for years, it is open to everyone.

Makeup has also led me to finding content creators I would’ve never known about and now watch all the time. Some of my best memories have been getting ready before an event with my friends and being able to do their makeup as well. It also gives me greater confidence going into situations because I know I can be fully myself going into an interview or a presentation.

The National Library of Medicine states that in an experimental study published in 2022, it found that women felt more feminine, attractive, more satisfied with their appearance and had a higher self-esteem with professionally applied makeup compared to no makeup on.

Makeup is also something that anyone can wear or do no matter what you look like or who

you are. There is no size, gender or age limit on makeup and it is something that can connect you with a whole culture of diverse people who have one thing in common: a love for creativity and self-expression.

Drag makeup is an example of this: covering eyebrows with concealer, cut crease eyeshadow, and intense contouring all are makeup trends that started with drag queens. Some drag queens have also started their own makeup brands, such as Trixie Mattel and Kim Chi.

There is no certain way to do makeup or limit on the amount you wear. If wearing just chapstick and moisturizer makes you happy, go for it. But don’t stray away from wearing the amount of makeup you want just because you are scared about what other people will say or think.

The next time you want to question why someone decided to wear that much makeup today, don’t.



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Arts & Life



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

Mujeres poderosas

Nine student organizations join forces for an empowering Women's Month Paint & Sip event

By AIDAN SHEEDY
Copy 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” last Tuesday.

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 Genesis 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 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 DEI (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.”

Here's what you missed on ‘Glee’

By ZOE LEONE
Associate Arts & Life Editor

If you have somehow managed to spend the past 14 years without ever having heard of the show, here’s what you missed on “Glee.”

The series premiered on Fox in May 2009 and ran for six seasons. “Glee” follows a high school show choir and the rather insane twists and turns of the lives of its members (and several over-involved staff members). It quickly became a pop culture phenomenon, earning 33 Emmy award nominations, over a 100 songs on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and a dedicated group of fans known as “Gleeks.”

And while it’s been eight years since the show ended, “Glee” is just as popular as ever. The #Glee tag on TikTok has amassed over six billion views, while popular Twitter accounts like “out of context glee” continue to generate hit tweets about the show that gain thousands of likes.

The show was arguably one of the most controversial of its time. Somehow, it managed to have storylines or jokes that were offensive to virtually everyone. From racial stereotypes to cliché LGBTQ+ characters, the series’ run generally had some form of questionable content in each episode. Whether intentional or not, it’s almost satirical in nature, but even the cast has spoken about the tone-deaf nature of some of the comedy in the modern day.

And yet it still begs the question: why do we still love “Glee” so much?

Perhaps it’s the ludicrousness of it. What other show features teenagers singing pop hits (often better than the originals) amid

storylines featuring rivals being sent to crackhouses, the worshiping of a grilled cheese that resembles Jesus, an act of rebellion in the form of a Ryan Seacrest tattoo or songs about cups and headbands?

The show’s absurd dialogue doesn’t hurt either. With snarky one-liners that involuntarily invoke fits of laughter or monologues about show choir and self-esteem that blabber on forever, anyone who has seen the show likely has a scene or two that has incorporated themselves into their everyday vocabulary. My personal favorites are tied between “Who’s Josh Groban? Kill yourself!” and “You’re all minorities. You’re in the Glee club.”

There’s truly something about each episode of “Glee” that feels distinctly like a fever dream.

On a more serious note, however, “Glee” managed to bring something to the screen that very few shows about teenagers ever

did at that time: representation. While it was often surface-level and riddled with problems, the characters on the show were radically groundbreaking for the time.

“Glee” was one of the first shows to feature LGBTQ+ characters in its main cast. The show aired in the world pre-nationwide same-sex marriage, yet it had multiple same-sex relationships that were featured just as much as any heterosexual ones. And while not always perfect, there was very rarely a time that a queer character on the show was devoid of any allies.

Similarly, the series featured several characters with disabilities. While non-disabled actors played some, none of them were pushed to the background. Out of all the representations “Glee” aimed to provide, the show’s characters with disabilities perhaps broke the most out of stereotypes. Becky Jackson (Lauren Elizabeth Potter), who had Down syndrome, was a mean-girl cheerleader, while Artie Abrams (Kevin McHale), who was paraplegic, was a serial lady’s man who often took center stage with a solo.

There is no denying that the show is a bit of a mess. Many of the episodes have content that has aged poorly, but for those of us who grew up watching it, there is a nostalgia factor that is hard to shake. Whether it was the first time you saw a character that had something in their identity that resonated with you or you were simply in it for the surprisingly fantastic music, there’s something in “Glee” that hits home for everyone.

And that’s how Zoe C’s it.



ILLUSTRATION BY KAYA DONAH

How I love you, ‘Schmigadoon!’

Apple TV+ musical comedy series returns for a second season

By CASEY WIEDERHOLD
Associate Photography Editor

Musicals have overtaken my life since I was young, so it’s no surprise when I discovered the Apple TV+ series “Schmigadoon!” in 2021 that I would enjoy it. The series is a musical comedy with a continuous storyline, so you have to start from the beginning to understand what’s going on.

The first two episodes of “Schmigadoon!” season two premiered on April 5, and I immediately ran to my computer to watch. The episodes of the series run at about 30 minutes each, which is great for a quick watch in comparison to musical shows, such as “Glee.” “Schmigadoon!” takes viewers through different eras of musicals. The first season references the 40’s and 50’s with musicals such as “Brigadoon” and “The Music Man.” Season 2 takes us into the 60’s and 70’s eras of musicals, with the title of the second season referencing “Chicago.”

When I started episode one, I had lost interest at first. The episode displays a sequence of Josh Skinner (Keegan-Michael Key) and his now wife, Melissa Gimble (Cecily Strong) going through their life after finding true love with each other immediately following the ending of the first season. I did not enjoy just how long the sequence was, however, it was a good way to segue into the reasoning for finding Schmicago. Skinner and Gimble are struggling to conceive and so they now are searching for Schmigadoon to find happiness.

Upon returning to Schmicago, Skinner and Gimble are met with a “Pippin”-esque opening number with a narrator, voiced by Tituss Burgess, leading the way to

introduce the pair to their new location. We get glimpses of most of the new characters, including Alan Cumming as a version of Sweeney Todd.

The opening number of the second season was better than the first seasons. I already am humming the lyrics to myself as I carry on with chores around my dorm. It’s a musical number that is not quite as bouncy and uplifting as one would expect it to be, but it sure is a catchy number.

The series is quick to introduce Jenny Banks (Dove Cameron) and the Emcee (Ariana DeBose), who are imitations of Sally Bowles and the Emcee from “Cabaret” Banks has one of my favorite songs of the first episode, a version of “Mein Heir” titled “We’re Kaput.” When “Schmigadoon!” references musicals, they do it right and have everything written as a parody of the original song. Cameron shines in the role of Banks, straying far from her Disney days and bringing the house down with this number.

The first episode ends with Skinner being arrested for the murder of one of Banks’ backup dancers. The creators had shown this in the trailers, so I knew there was a murder. But I’m excited to find out how the mystery is going to be solved. I love a little mystery in my shows because it makes them so much more enjoyable.

I did not hesitate to skip the autoplay and go right to the second episode.

The second episode opens with the narrator introducing viewers to Skinner being in jail and the possibility that he might be put into the electric chair for being accused of murder. From there, we are quickly introduced to Aaron Tveit’s character Topher, a direct inspiration from

“Hair” and “Godspell.” Topher performs a power ballad about trying to find himself titled “Doorway to Where.”

I will take any opportunity to express my love for Tveit, but this musical number was comedic gold. This role of Topher is a turnaround from Tveit’s current role as Christian the composer in “Moulin Rouge! The Musical.” I’m excited to see where he takes Topher and what else his character has in store, since at the end of the episode Skinner and Topher escape the jail on a bus.

Bobbie Flanagan (Jane Krakowski) is the bigshot Bob Fosse, “Chicago” inspired lawyer. Flanagan utilizes her beauty to sway the press into saving Skinner from the conviction that awaits him. I found Flanagan’s scenes to be comedic because the orchestrations in the underscore are seductive, as well as upbeat in certain areas.

Bringing the story back to Gimble, she now works at the club alongside Banks, the

two become a duo that I find interesting. The two are polar opposites and Banks is the optimistic “I want to be a star” type of person, whereas Gimble just wants to save her husband.

I enjoyed getting to hear more of Strong’s vocals. She sang two songs in the second episode and I have a feeling she has more coming. Strong has a strong alto voice, something I love hearing because I am also an alto. I’m so used to singing the lower parts of songs and enjoy hearing them when other women sing the same parts I do.

The second episode dove more into the plot than the first one did. Since the first episode usually sets up the plot for what is going to happen. I have no idea who committed the murder in the series, but I know it was not Skinner and Gimble since they found the body. I love ‘Schmicago’ and can’t wait to see where the journey takes me.



ILLUSTRATION BY SHAVONNE CHIN

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Wrestlemania goes Hollywood, but should it stay there?

By JENNIFER MOGLIA
Staff Writer

My favorite weekend of the year is WWE’s Wrestlemania. Since the first Wrestlemania was held in 1985, it has become the biggest wrestling event of the year, not just WWE’s biggest event.

I love watching my favorite wrestlers wrap up long-term feuds with incredible matches, complete with extravagant entrances and post-match storytelling shenanigans. However, I’ve always been wary of celebrity appearances at the “Showcase of the Immortals.”

From Shaquille O’Neal’s appearance in a battle royal match at Wrestlemania 32 to former “Daily Show” host Jon Stewart costing John Cena a monumental championship win, WWE is no stranger to nailing big names. Even in the middle of a global pandemic, it got football star Rob “Gronk” Gronkowski to host Wrestlemania 36 in 2020.

What has caught my eye in recent years is the amount of non-wrestler celebrities participating in full-length wrestling matches. Sure, there’s something to be said about Cyndi Lauper taking a hit from Roddy Piper or Machine Gun Kelly getting tossed by Kevin Owens, but Nicole “Snooki” Polizzi of “Jersey Shore” winning a tag team match alongside the legendary Trish Stratus? Now, that’s impressive.

There are a few celebrities who have become mainstays in WWE programming as of late, and to my surprise, I haven’t hated it. Bad Bunny is the best example of this.

According to People Magazine, the Puerto Rican rapper and singer was Spotify’s most-streamed artist for both 2020 and 2021 worldwide, with over 9.1 billion streams in

the latter year and 8.3 billion in the former. He grew up a huge fan of wrestling which inspired him to write his song “Booker T,” which he ultimately performed at the Royal Rumble event in 2021.

However, Bunny wasn’t there as just a performer. When notorious villain wrestler The Miz flipped over the musician’s turntable set-up, he rushed to the ring. He created a distraction to get Miz eliminated before performing a devastating move of his own.

I had no idea what to expect when I saw a rapper I wasn’t familiar with carrying out actual professional wrestling spots at a major event, but he absolutely killed it. He did so well that night and on TV in the weeks following that he earned himself a match at Wrestlemania 37, a tag match where he teamed up with Damian Priest against The Miz and John Morrison.

For his first WWE match, Bad Bunny showed an impressive amount of skill, having a better showing than some experienced wrestlers had that weekend. According to the WWE’s website, “Bunny shocked the WWE Universe by taking out Morrison with a ‘Bunny Destroyer’ on the arena floor ... pick(ing) up a win in his debut on The Grandest Stage of Them All.”

Bad Bunny’s presence in the WWE felt different than that of other celebrities who had entered the squared circle in the past. I wasn’t staring blankly at the screen complaining about the appearance being an obvious cash grab – I was hooked, and I definitely wanted to see more.

In the two years since that first match, the musician has stayed involved with the company, taking bumps from Brock



ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR YOUNGBERG

Lesnar at the 2022 Royal Rumble and receiving a Luchador mask from Rey Mysterio. He appeared ringside at this year’s Wrestlemania and even got in the middle of the match between Mysterio and his son Dominik.

His former tag team partner Priest attacked Bunny on last week’s episode of “Raw,” which will seemingly keep him entwined in the WWE Universe for a while. He’ll at least be a part of the storyline until he hosts the Backlash event in Puerto Rico, the company’s second-ever event to be held there, next month.

Another example of a celebrity looking like an absolute natural in the ring, as much as I hate to admit it, is social media influencer Logan Paul. Although controversial in other areas, Paul has been phenomenal since he signed a contract with the company in early 2022.

WWE clearly has a lot of trust in Paul as well, giving him matches with undisputed world champion Roman Reigns and airing a scene where he took out superstar Seth Rollins with one punch. At Wrestlemania this year, he had one of the best matches of night one against Rollins, complete with a plot twist where fellow online celebrity KSI was revealed to be inside a life-sized bottle of Prime, a sports drink developed by the pair.

If Bunny and Paul are any indications, wrestling “purists” should think twice before turning their noses up at celebrities who want to try their hand at becoming a WWE superstar. Gatekeeping your interests only stops those fanbases from growing and prevents you from sharing your passion with others who might fall in love with it. Now, for Wrestlemania 2024 predictions: Harry Styles versus John Cena, anyone?

Charlie Puth leaps into past trauma with ex on new single ‘That's Not How This Works’

By RYAN RAGGIO
Staff Writer

Singer songwriter Charlie Puth and the popular pop-country duo Dan and Shay released a new song on March 31 called “That’s Not How This Works.”

The song dives into Puth’s past relationship trauma, specifically, an ex-girlfriend giving him mixed signals. He shares his experience to listeners with this relatable, head bopper.

The song starts with Puth explaining how his ex left him and found someone else. However, the ex claims that

she needs him. The ex kept him on a leash leading him on repeatedly, which produced the line in the song, “Baby, why, tell me, why can’t you just make up your mind / Quit messing with my head.”

Following those cries begging her to stop, led into the chorus of the song.

“You can’t say you hate me/ Then call me when you’re hurt/ Baby you know that’s not how this works/ No that’s not how this works.”

The line says you can’t tell you hate someone, but when you’re sad and have no one else to go to, you can run back to the person. However, that’s not how it works. The second half of the chorus introduces more powerful lines that flow.

“You can’t walk away then come back to what we were/ Baby you know that’s not how this works/ No, that’s not how this works.”



ILLUSTRATION BY ELIZABETH LARSON

Puth is saying that you can’t get back something you gave away, being with the person you left. Again, that’s not how it works.

Enter Dan and Shay. Their role in the song was to harp on the ex’s attempts to win Puth back. For example, in the second verse, the ex is reminding Puth of things they said when they were together, like being together forever. Another example was when the ex said she needed to drop off all of his clothes, which was another excuse to see him again.

After this verse, the next part mirrors what Puth sang in his verse.

“Baby, why, tell me, why can’t you just make up your mind / Quit messing with my head.”

But this time, Puth sings in a higher octave while Shay Mooney sings in a lower octave of the line, “Quit messing with my head.”

The bridge of the song is quick but powerful, much like the entire song, as it is two minutes and forty-four seconds long. Mooney has the line, “Don’t say that you’re in love with me,” as Puth sings in the background, “Say that you’re in love,” which adds increasing emphasis on how impactful this line is when you hear it from your ex. As much as you want to believe this, it’s not true, which is why this setup was perfect for Puth’s following line to close the bridge, “Cause I know it’s not what you mean.”

The third verse has both Puth and Mooney singing the chorus. When they sing the line, “Baby, you know that’s not how this works/ No, that’s not how this works,” the background drums are played louder and staccato. Staccato notes give more impact to the beat as they emphasize to the words when played and sung together. This was a perfect way to integrate the drums and the meaning of the words as you’re telling your ex, “That’s not how this works.” It’s almost like a feeling of triumph and having the strength to face the facts with your ex to realize she’s playing you.

As the two singers finish the final verse, Puth takes the opportunity to sing his heart out. The producers and Puth layered the final verse to have Puth singing along with Mooney, shouting “no” in the background of the chorus shortly, and putting more emphasis on the higher pitch of a word at the start of a sentence. The most powerful part of the last verse was after he sang the word, “works,” because he stretched out the word and sang the note from high to low, also known as a melisma.

The song ends with Puth saying, “Baby, that’s not how this works.” There are no instruments; however, they inserted Puth singing the line higher and lower than the original to produce a harmonic effect.

If an ex expects you to run back to them, the message Puth gives to the audience is “That’s not how this works.”

National Champions

Quinnipiac knocks off Minnesota in overtime to clinch NCAA title



aidan sheedy/chronicle

The Quinnipiac men’s hockey team scored three unanswered goals to knock off the top-seeded Minnesota Golden Gophers in overtime Saturday night.

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 face-off 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 Bob-

cats. Barely 20 seconds into the game, senior forward Skyler Brind’Amour was called for 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. After senior defenseman Jayden Lee made an unforced turnover in the defensive zone, Gophers freshman forward Connor Kurth went 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 – senior forward Jaxon Nelson cleaned up a rebound — but Quinnipiac struck right back.

Metsa made a laser of a pass to find soph-

omore 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.”



aidan sheedy/chronicle

The Quinnipiac men’s hockey team celebrates with commemorative issues of The Quinnipiac Chronicle after defeating Minnesota 3-2 at Amalie Arena in Tampa, Florida, on Saturday.

Quinnipiac gave Yaniv Perets a chance, and it paid off

By CAMERON LEVASSEUR
Sports Editor

TAMPA, Fla. – Two and a half years ago, Yaniv Perets was unknown.

The now-sophomore goaltender joined Quinnipiac men’s hockey halfway through the 2020-21 season, appeared in two games and only saw nine shots.

“My first priority when I got here two years ago was just to play,” Perets said. “I was just trying to hopefully get a start.”

Now, he’s a Hobey Baker and Mike Richter Award finalist, NCAA record holder and most importantly, a national champion.

As “Party in the U.S.A.” by Miley Cyrus blasted through the Bobcats locker room and shouts from teammates rang out on all sides, Perets sat in his stall and stared at the trophy. He couldn’t believe it.

“I know (the trophy is) right in front of me, but I don’t think it’s hit me yet,” Perets said. “I feel like I’d be in tears ... but just the way you have to be on the ice, so even keel that emotions can’t get to you, so when it’s done, it doesn’t feel real.”

The title was certainly real, as was Perets’ unbelievable play in the run up to it.

The Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Quebec, native posted a nation-leading 34 wins and 1.49 goals against average this season, along with a .931 save percentage, which was two hundredths off the top mark in the NCAA.

He also won the ECAC Hockey Goal-tender of the Year (for the second-straight year), was named Second Team All-American East (for the second-straight year) and was named to the NCAA All-Tournament Team.

Not that any of those things matter to Perets, a man who doesn’t know, nor cares to know his own stats.

“You kind of just quiet out all that extra stuff on the outside and just play,” Perets said. “It’s really just a game at the end of the day ... I just try to keep it light. It’s still hockey, right?”

He follows a lineage of great goaltenders at Quinnipiac, including Eric Hartzell and

Michael Garteig, who manned the net for the Bobcats on their runs to the title game in 2013 and 2016, respectively.

“There’s a lot of similarities with the last two teams,” head coach Rand Pecknold said on March 26. “In all three of them, we have a goalie. You’ve got Hartzell, Garteig and now Yaniv, three special goaltenders at this level.”

In the national championship game, Quinnipiac allowed two goals in what was a rough opening 25 minutes – one off a poor turn-over, the other off an inexplicable bounce off the end boards. But the Bobcats found their game, holding Minnesota to just seven shots

in the final 35 minutes and 10 seconds.

“The guys were going to work, the guys weren’t going anywhere,” Perets said. “It wasn’t our best first period, but ... no one in this room doubted it for a second. Everyone was just like ‘hey, let’s just keep going, let’s just keep going,’ that’s all we know. The guys work so hard in practice and it comes out in a game, and that’s all we know, just keep going, keep going, keep going.”

When sophomore forward Jacob Quillan scored the winner 10 seconds into overtime, Perets was on the opposite end of the ice. He played no part in the play itself, but was every part of the reason the Bobcats got there.

“(When it) went in, my heart dropped and I started skating, I was like ‘oh my god,’ just freaking out,” Perets said. “It was just crazy, but I had no doubt in the guys. I knew we had it.”

Quinnipiac was the only school to offer Perets a chance to play college hockey. He came to Hamden just looking to for a start, and has now written his name into history. But, as anyone would expect, the Bobcats humble netminder continued to deflect the praise.

“Hats off to the guys, the staff, everyone who was part of this, man,” Perets said. “Everyone deserves it, this is absolutely nuts.”



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

Sophomore goaltender Yaniv Perets has recorded a program-record 21 shutouts in his career, tied for third-most in NCAA history.

METSA from 12

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“This is why we came back,” Metsa said. “We talked about it, it’s so hard to make a run like this and actually do it, and there’s times you don’t know if it’s actually going to happen. This team is amazing. We just kept fighting and fighting and fighting. Everyone doubted us, and we proved everyone wrong. I think that’s what’s most special about it.”

He wasn’t a highly touted recruit, nor an NHL draft pick. But that didn’t matter. Metsa came to Quinnipiac and worked for his opportunity to shine, even if it took five seasons.

“Believe in yourself. Don’t compare your-

self to others. Everyone’s got their own path, their own journey,” Metsa said. “Work in the dark, work in silence. You don’t need to show it off on social media and all that. Just put in the work every day and just be consistent with it.”

In 2018, Metsa watched his team play from the stands of an NHL arena. In 2023, hundreds of thousands watched him captain the Bobcats to their first national championship in a different NHL arena. How’s that for full circle?

After 177 games and 121 points in a Quinnipiac uniform, Metsa had his curtain call on Saturday in Tampa. Though don’t be surprised to see him back in an NHL facility sometime soon.



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

Graduate student defenseman Zach Metsa ends his Quinnipiac career with 177 games played, second most in ECAC Hockey history.

RAND from 12

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school teacher.

“It was a grind ... we practiced at midnight, I had a teaching job so I got home from school, (I went to) my job,” Pecknold said. “I’d sleep three to six, I’d get up and go recruit because we weren’t very good ... we practiced at midnight and I got home, I slept three to six ... It was just survival mode.”

On Saturday, in the amount of time it took for you to read this sentence, sophomore forward Jacob Quillan found the back of the net and sent the entire Quinnipiac program into a frenzy.

On the Bobcats’ bench, Pecknold embraced his coaching staff, teary-eyed and with a grin fit for a champion. Later on the ice, his wife Nikki and his four children would join him in the celebration.

Pecknold’s biggest supporter and biggest inspiration for the sport was his father, Wayne, who passed away in 2000. While he was not able to watch his son climb to the top of college hockey, he was definitely in the back of Rand’s head.

“Sorry, I can’t answer it,” Pecknold said, choking up in the postgame press conference. “I missed him ... He’s been gone (for) a while.”

It’s fitting that Quinnipiac’s first NCAA title - ever - comes in ice hockey, the back-

bone of the university. Finally, the moniker of being a “hockey school” can ring true. Wins against Big 10 schools: Ohio State, Michigan and Minnesota en route to the championship just highlight the body of work that Pecknold and his staff have put into the program.

“We were D3, and we were bad D3,” Pecknold said. “You can’t even believe where we were. Some of the guys were here tonight from that first team. It’s incredible to do what we’ve done and to be where we are.”

It is common knowledge that coaches cannot win without good players and this unit of Bobcats certainly rises above the rest, both on and off the ice.

“That’s a big part of the success of this program, is our identity and our culture,” graduate student forward TJ Friedmann said on April 7. “Doing all the little things right, buying into the plan.”

Culture is the big word, brought up in almost every Pecknold press conference. It is the lifeblood of the national champions and that begins with the man at the helm.

Who would have thought that the Quinnipiac College Braves - a Division II independent team with a new head coach - would be the kings of the NCAA? Even Pecknold might not have had his aspirations that high. Regardless, he returns home a champion.

“You can’t put value on what it means for Quinnipiac University,” Pecknold said.



‘The Jet’: Jacob Quillan immortalized with overtime winner

By COLIN KENNEDY
Staff Writer

TAMPA, Fla. — There have been a number of iconic sports plays throughout history; the Philly Special, the Helmet Catch, etc... Quinnipiac now has The Jet. It’s the play call of the historic goal scored by sophomore forward Jacob Quillan 10 seconds into overtime to win the national championship.

Quillan’s goal will be plastered on posters and signs, featured in every Quinnipiac commercial and become the lasting image of the 2023 national champions.

“It’s unreal, the boys put in so much blood, sweat and tears all year,” sophomore forward Jacob Quillan told NCAA Championships. “It’s a dream come true.”

Quillan’s dream is almost one that didn’t come to fruition. During the opening faceoff of overtime, Minnesota senior forward Jaxon Nelson originally won the faceoff, but the puck deflected into the Quinnipiac bench, requiring a second draw at center ice.

After Quillan won the second faceoff it was off to the races, with only two Bobcats touching the puck before he put Minnesota’s title hopes to bed.

“It was a set play, we have Lipkin find the middle and Metsa made a nice pass and Lipkin displayed his skill with the backhanded sauce,” Quillan said. “I went back with it to the opposite side and tucked it in.”

It’s a play that Quinnipiac practiced all season long and executed to perfection when it mattered most. Bobcats head coach Rand Pecknold gave associate head coach Joe Dumais props for drawing up the iconic play.

“We have faceoff plays on all nine dots, that one was Joe Dumais, that’s his play,” Pecknold said. “I gotta give Joe credit on that one.”

The Bobcats were dominant at the faceoff dot all night, winning nearly 60% of all draws. Quillan and senior forward Skyler Brind’ Amour went 24-for-38 at the dot in the game.

“We take pride in being detailed in the dot, it

helps out a lot,” Quillan said.

As soon as the puck hit the back of the net and the foghorn blasted, the celebration was on for Quinnipiac. Quillan flew down the ice and threw his glove into the air, pretending to shoot it with his stick (a nod to NHL great Teemu Selanne) before then launching his stick into the crowd.

“It was a crazy finish,” Metsa said. “I had a great view of it, it was awesome to watch.”

With the goal, Quillan took sole-possession of the program record for goals in a single NCAA Tournament, with five.

“I would have said Quillan was an unsung hero,” sophomore forward Collin Graf said. “After this performance in the Frozen Four I’m not so sure, he’s not very unsung anymore.”

No, Quillan is no longer an unsung hero, he is now a household name with college hockey fans everywhere. “The Jet” will go down as one of not just college hockey’s greatest moments, but in all of hockey.

29 years in the making, Rand Pecknold orchestrates his greatest symphony

By ETHAN HURWITZ
Sports Editor

TAMPA, Fla. — It started off with midnight practices and an office crammed into a janitor’s closet. It ended with a national title and holding back tears on national television. The head coaching career of Quinnipiac’s Rand Pecknold has finally reached its summit.

Pecknold, the head coach of the Bobcats for the last 29 seasons, had won 600+ games, reached multiple Frozen Fours and taken a hold of ECAC Hockey. The one thing he needed to cement his legacy as a legend was the national title. Boy, did he do that this past weekend.

Overtime. 10 seconds in. Goal horn. Bedlam.

“I’m just so proud of these guys,” Pecknold said. “We talked a lot about culture and character, but there was a lot of belief in the third period. We were so positive and we just felt like we were gonna, we were gonna score, we’re gonna tie it and we’re gonna win this game.”

Quinnipiac hockey is entrenched in Pecknold’s blood and Pecknold is, quite literally, Quinnipiac hockey. Despite being located in a small town in Connecticut, Bobcats hockey has taken over the country.

Take ESPN’s pre-game coaches interview, for example. When broadcaster John Buccigross asked Minnesota head coach

Bob Motzko about his impression of this Bobcats team, he responded in only two words: “Rand Pecknold.”

That nation-wide admiration among his peers is why Pecknold is considered one of the sport’s best. And in his long tenure in Hamden, this season may be his best.

A program-record 34 wins, a CT Ice championship, a Friendship Four title, a Heroes’ Hat, an ECAC Hockey regular season title and now the long-elusive national championship trophy. It’s certainly a big step up from his 12-hour shifts as a part-time hockey coach and part-time high

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Zach Metsa caps off legendary career with national title

By CAMERON LEVASSEUR
Sports Editor

TAMPA, Fla. — When Quinnipiac played Colgate at Nassau Coliseum on Dec. 29, 2018, then-freshman defenseman Zach Metsa was scratched.

He was in and out of the lineup as a rookie for the Bobcats, recording just four points during the 2018-19 campaign. He did not appear in six games, including the bout with the Raiders on Long Island.

“Sorry about that,” Bobcats head coach Rand Pecknold said jokingly at an April 5 press conference. “But look where you are now Zach, come on, you’re better for it.”

It was 1,559 days until Quinnipiac played in an NHL arena again. This time, there were infinitely higher stakes – in the NCAA semifinal against Michigan on April 6 and then the championship against Minnesota on April 8 at Amalie Arena in Tampa.

Metsa was in the lineup this time around. No longer a reserved freshman, but rather a grizzled graduate student with five years of college hockey under his belt – and his experience showed.

He scored the dagger to put the Bobcats up two against the Wolverines in the semifinal and assisted on all three goals, including sophomore forward Jacob Quillan’s overtime winner, in the championship game.

“I don’t even know if it’s really sunk in yet,” Metsa said after the win. “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.”

The journey to the national championship started in his freshman year. Metsa bought into a commitment to the process that allowed him to flourish down the road.

“I was battling to just get ice time, “ Metsa said. “I was always raised right. I was always told just keep my head down, keep working, stay in your lane, and that’s what I did.”

A stellar senior class that featured the likes of Chase Priskie, Brandon Fortunato, Luke Shiplo, Craig Martin and Scott Davidson helped instill Quinnipiac culture into Metsa and his classmates.

“Whenever we strayed away they brought us back,” Metsa said. “They showed us the way and a lot of us as we got older and became a part of the leadership group, we were able to pass it down to the younger guys.”

That culture forges a connection between every player that dons a Quinnipiac uniform, something that makes Saturday’s NCAA championship all the more special.

“I saw a bunch of (alumni) with tears in their eyes in the stands after the game,” Metsa said. “It’s unbelievable how deep Bobcat blood runs, and it means so much that we were able to bring this championship back to them.”

As a recruit, Metsa was in attendance when the Bobcats fell to North Dakota in the 2016 title game. As a player, he experienced the agony of three NCAA Tournament losses, four ECAC Hockey tournament losses and a playoff run that ended before it began due to COVID-19.

Despite more than 120 wins over five years with the program, heartbreaking losses year after year left the Bobcats feeling that they’ve “won a lot but haven’t won much,” as Metsa put it on an ECAC Hockey podcast in January and affirmed during the Frozen Four media day.

It’s why he and four other seniors made the commitment to return for a fifth year with the program, one last shot to finally reach the top of the mountain, and they did.

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