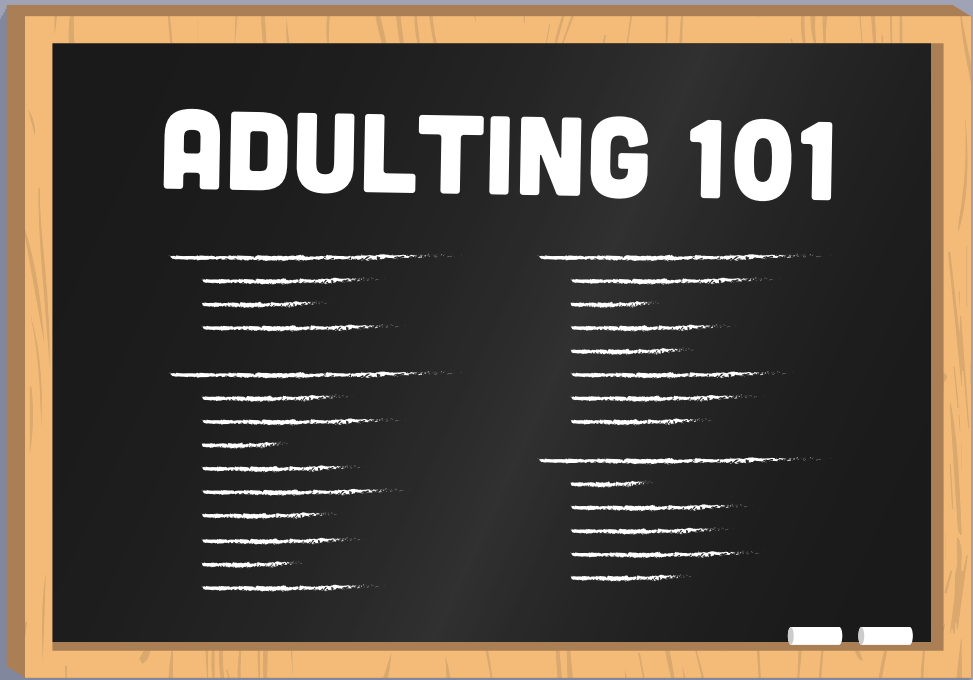


ILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

Students learn skills for life through adulting workshops

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CRANDALL YOPP/FOR THE QULTURE MAGAZINE

ARTS & LIFE P.6: FINDING ‘EUPHORIA’

The Black Student Union is hosting its first fashion show since the COVID-19 pandemic, which will feature a ‘Euphoria’ theme



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OPINION P.4: RETURN OF A SUPERPOWER

Staff Writer William Dean reflects on the future of the United States and how it can return to its pre-2000s greatness



CONNOR LAWLESS/CHRONICLE

SPORTS P. 10: TUMBLING INTO NATIONALS

Quinnipiac acrobatics and tumbling looks to take home its first-ever national championship in Oregon

Quinnipiac admin, SGA launch inclusive excellence survey

By CAT MURPHY
Contributing Writer

Quinnipiac University and the Student Government Association coordinated with a third-party vendor to conduct a survey of the Quinnipiac community on the university’s diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.

The anonymous inclusive excellence campus climate survey opened to students, faculty, and staff on April 4, and will close on April 29.

Don Sawyer, vice president for equity, inclusion and leadership development, and SGA President Nick Ciampanelli announced the campus climate survey to students in an email on March 31.

“Advancing inclusive excellence is a vital pillar of our strategic plan and is a journey to which we are committed for the long term,” Sawyer and Ciampanelli wrote in the email. “We will be surveying the entire Bobcat community to gauge perceptions among all students, faculty, and staff regarding their experience related to inclusive excellence on campus.”

Students received a separate email the same day from vendor Viewfinder Campus Climate Surveys with a hyperlink to the survey. The university is administering the anonymous online survey through the outside vendor “to preserve the confidentiality of participants’ responses,” Sawyer and Ciampanelli explained in their email to students.

According to Viewfinder Campus Climate Surveys, the surveys are “designed to help colleges and universities measure and assess both their strengths and weaknesses around diversity and inclusion efforts for students, faculty, staff and administrators.”

Although Ciampanelli noted that the survey typically comprises an average of 60 questions for students and 75 questions for faculty and staff, both he and Sawyer pointed out that these numbers can vary widely.

“It’s guided by your responses to certain questions,” Sawyer said. “If you’re not a member of (a certain) community, you’re not going to answer those questions, and so, it’s hard to say how many questions each person will answer.”

Ciampanelli said that the university tailored the survey questions to collect demographic data as well as to gather student and faculty opinions.

“The survey asks participants questions related to campus diversity, personal experiences of discrimination, bias, and/or harassment, and perceptions on how the University handles these cases when they arise,” Ciampanelli wrote in a statement to The Chronicle.

Sawyer explained that the university is hoping to utilize the student and faculty responses to identify the efficacy of Quinnipiac’s current diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.

“We want to get people’s responses to some of these questions to kind of set a baseline,” Sawyer said.

“This baseline will allow us to know where we are right now — it’ll highlight things that we’re doing well, it’ll show things where we’re not doing so well, and it gives us a baseline to be able to set a plan to address those issues.”

Ciampanelli added that the university also plans to utilize the survey data to reinforce the longer-term objectives outlined in its racial equity and LGBTQ inclusivity initiatives.

“Although this largely serves to benchmark our current standing as an inclusive campus, its findings also serve a pivotal role in supporting the University’s Strategic Plan of inclusive excellence in advancing the goals established in the 10-Point Plan to Advance Racial Justice and the LGBTQ+ Plan,” Ciampanelli wrote.

Above all else, Ciampanelli stressed the importance of collecting as much survey data as possible.

“I cannot emphasize enough the importance that all students, faculty, and staff partake in this survey,” Ciampanelli wrote. “More participation enables the Campus Climate Survey Steering Committee to conceptualize the institution’s progress in enhancing inclusive excellence and measuring how included Bobcats of all backgrounds feel in our community.”

Sawyer expressed similar feelings, particularly toward gathering student responses.

“We’re hoping that as many students as possible take it,” Sawyer said. “It’ll be difficult to

get a true understanding of what’s taking place on campus and what people feel about these issues without getting a large sample of students who take the (survey).”



ILLUSTRATION BY CAT MURPHY

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Workshops help graduating students learn how to be an adult

By KRYSTAL MILLER
Associate News Editor

Quinnipiac University is preparing its graduating students for their next stage in life through a series of weekly workshops offered virtually and in person March 30 to April 21.

“The adulting workshops we put together as an effort to give our students an opportunity to learn some things they might not yet know before they move off campus or out of their parents homes,” said Charity Kuchyt, associate director of university events.

Kuchyt said these one-hour events were created to help students prepare for gaining independence after college. The workshops cover meal prepping, finances, finding an apartment or home and car care. Students moving off campus are trying to balance other priorities such as their career, which causes learning skills like cooking to subside, Kuchyt said.

“Not everybody has someone that they can call and just ask a question like, ‘how much do I put in to make this recipe?’” Kuchyt said. “It’s not that easy for everyone, and so we want to be able to have and give them a leg up and help out.”

Kuchyt said that an estimated 50-75 students have attended each workshop. For attending all the workshops, students receive the Bobcat For Life cord to wear at commencement. Every session gives students an entry to the raffle for reserved seating at the event.

Briana Wyman, a graduate student in molecular and cell biology, has been to all three workshops so far. Wyman said that one of the most important things she has learned was good

finance practices for the future.

“I think the finance talk was very valuable,” Wyman said. “I don’t know much about how to budget and what accounts for retirement mean and when I should start putting money into them, so this talk was very informative and I learned a lot.”

Alyssa Esposito, a senior diagnostic medical sonography major, plans to attend the fourth workshop. Esposito said she has learned about meal prepping, budgeting, and how to successfully rent an apartment.

“I decided to attend the events because no one ever teaches us how to be adults, they just expect us to figure it out on our own,” Esposito said. “When I saw the opportunity, my roommate and I were like, ‘we should definitely go,’ also, the cord for graduation and the raffle was an added plus.”

Kuchyt said that the series was inspired by Associate Vice President of Community Partnerships and Quinnipiac alumna Karla Natale. When Natale was graduating in 1999, Quinnipiac offered these workshops as courses. Natale thought of how memorable they were to her, so Kuchyt and her discussed what they wished they had known for these current workshops.

“So it’s just trying to pinpoint where the needs were and then being able to fulfill those, we hope to offer even more next year,” Kuchyt said.

The workshop “Vibe Out in Your Own Home or Apartment” was hosted by Dana Cirincione, a Quinnipiac alumna and realtor-associate at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Fox & Roach. She talked about what documents to have

and buying real estate and tips for saving for a down payment.

“I learned that when renting a property, to document everything and to not always just trust the landlord,” Conston said.

Wyman said her favorite workshop revolved around learning how to cook because it was hands-on. The meals included a whole roasted chicken with rice sautéed veggies (carrots, onion, red pepper and zucchini) and then tacos, a taco salad and a vegan taco option.

“We were in the kitchen with the head chef of Chartwells cooking, and he gave us all these great tips on how to create successful meals that meet all your daily requirements of protein, carbs, etc.,” Wyman said.

Esposito said she found the workshops informative and beneficial because she was unaware of the information before the classes. She said she wishes more people would attend because she knows they are also probably scared of adulthood.

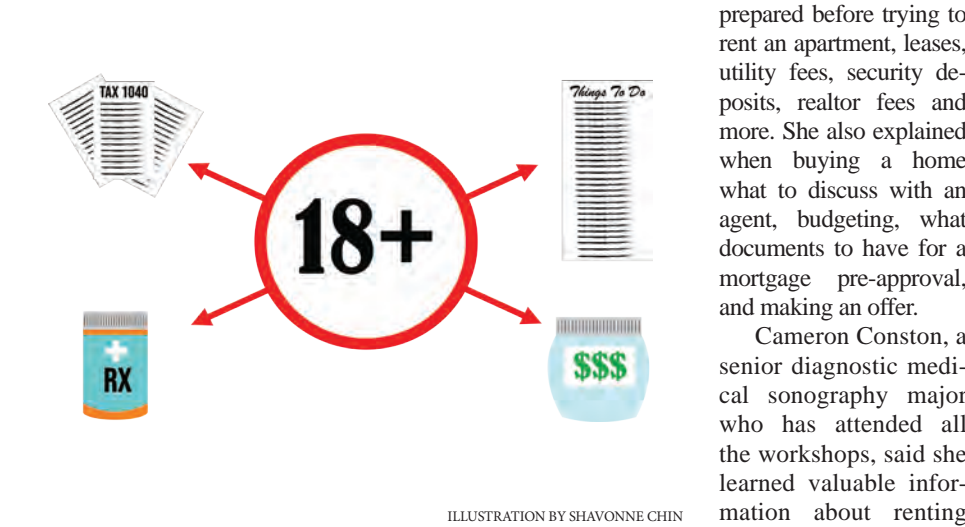
“The most important thing I’ve learned is probably just the fact that being an adult is overwhelming and knowing these things are important,” Esposito said. “If you have this knowledge on budgeting or renting, it’ll make things easier in the future.”

Having the workshops as a series of classes throughout the first and second semester would be a great idea, Wyman said. She wishes she knew about finding an apartment sooner so she could have negotiated the rent price like she learned in the workshop.

“I wish that this was a longer series, or maybe even a fun one credit class that allowed us to learn more,” Wyman said.

The Office of Development and Alumni Affairs has services that are offered to students that aren’t well known, Kuchyt said. One service is a platform called Bobcat Connect, in which Quinnipiac alumni can choose a mentor and connect with others in similar career fields, geographic locations or interests.

“What being a Bobcat means is that you’re always supported by your university and that we want to continue our relationship with the student long after you’re gone through your classes here,” Kuchyt said.



SURVEY from cover

Ciampanelli wrote that the findings of the survey data could prompt policy changes as early as next semester.

“Although I do not know how long it will take to process the data and synthesize results, I believe students should expect to see changes in policies, programs, and DEI initiatives as early as the Fall ’22 semester,” Ciampanelli wrote.

Students and faculty members alike are optimistic about the university’s initiative and its potential implications.

“It’s great that the university is trying to help its growing diverse community to feel at ease, as they are probably looking to reel in more people from different backgrounds to diversify the campus community,” said Valentine Achancho, a first-year mechanical engineering student from Cameroon.

Sam DeFusco, a sophomore sociology and journalism double major who took the inclusive excellence survey, maintained that the survey is essential to promoting inclusivity at Quinnipiac.

“I feel like this is a necessary step in what

the university has been trying to say they already do,” DeFusco said.

DeFusco, who is transgender, is hopeful that the findings of the survey will prompt actionable change.

“(The administration is) always trying to put emphasis on how they believe in all these things, but they don’t actually change anything — they just put on events showcasing diversity in the world,” DeFusco said. “I hope that the university uses this information correctly and uses it wisely.”

Lauren Sardi, a professor and the director of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program who took the faculty version of the survey, also viewed the campus climate survey as a promising effort from the university.

“Now that we do have a more transparent picture of the issues facing us as a campus, it allows us to actually do something with this data,” Sardi wrote in a statement to The Chronicle. “I hope the university will utilize the survey data in a way that helps quantitatively support what fac-

ulty, staff, and students have been qualitatively reporting for years.”

Amelia Cameron, a first-year psychology major who also participated in the survey, applauded Quinnipiac’s efforts to gather student opinions on the culture on campus surrounding diversity, equity and inclusion.


“Obviously, kids aren’t going to be openly homophobic and ableist and sexist and racist in front of administration,” Cameron said. “I think there’s a lot of things that students can point out that the administration doesn’t really see because they’re not living in dorms — they’re not here, living the experience with us.” she said.


Cameron, who identifies as pansexual and is disabled, is also optimistic that the university will utilize the survey data to improve the on-campus atmosphere.


“I just want (the administration) to recognize the environment that we live (in), because I don’t think they really even realize that it’s a problem,” Cameron said. “I want them to know what they’re not seeing.”


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Professor fighting pollution

Biology professor receives grant to continue research in Quinnipiac River

By **KATIE LANGLEY**
News Editor

Quinnipiac University professor of biology Courtney McGinnis has been conducting research on the water quality in the Quinnipiac River for almost a decade. With a new \$18,418 grant from The Community Foundation for a Greater New Haven’s Quinnipiac River Fund to support her work, she isn’t set to stop anytime soon.

McGinnis conducts her research lab each summer with the help of science and engineering students from Quinnipiac. This will be the eighth grant that CFGNH has contributed to fund McGinnis’ efforts.

The group collects water samples and uses a gas chromatography-mass spectrophotometry, an instrument located in the university’s chemistry department used to test for pollutants in the water.

“The students and I are looking for several environmental pollutants, we look for really three different things, we look for phthalates, which are a part of the creating of plastic, we look for plasticizers in general, and these can be things like bisphenol A (which) is probably the most common,” McGinnis said. “And over the last several years we’ve started to find hydrocarbons and these hydrocarbons are typically from non-source pollutants, from roadways or other impervious surfaces and with stormwater it runs into the river.”

McGinnis said that though the Quinnipiac River is not a drinking water source, these materials can make the water unsafe to drink, swim in or consume fish from. Despite posted signs warning visitors, McGinnis said her research group has still seen people using the water in the river for various activities, which could have negative health effects.

“That’s what we’re trying to understand — is the river safe to utilize,” McGinnis said.

After collecting samples, McGinnis said her group investigates where the polluting compounds could be coming from. She said that businesses that have permitted discharges to dump “clean water” into the river may actually be polluting natural ecosystems.

“In the past, we have identified, there are other things (than clean water) from those companies actually in the river and so those have resulted in some fines from the (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection),” McGinnis said.

McGinnis said her research is driven in part by the Quinnipiac River’s classification as one of the “impaired rivers” in Connecticut. Though the water quality has improved in recent years, the river still has evidence of pollution, according to the Quinnipiac River Fund website.

The Quinnipiac River is over 40 miles long, running through towns such as New Britain, Southington, Wallingford, Hamden,

North Haven and New Haven and flowing into the Long Island Sound.

“Having additional data on the health of the river will really help us understand what state it’s in and what we can do to help remedy some of those parameters (that indicate pollution),” McGinnis said.

The Quinnipiac River Fund distributes about \$100,000 yearly to conservation-related projects, according to its website. With the help of the fund, schools like Quinnipiac, Yale University, the University of New Haven and the University of Connecticut have reported on river health. Some topics included looking at salt levels in the river and the levels of heavy metals within its fish.

The research group’s project this summer is titled, “Presence and distribution of pollutants and other water quality parameters.” McGinnis said that she is still in the process of choosing students who will join her during the break.

“This year, as part of the grant we will also be collecting other and testing for other water quality parameters, including coliform,” McGinnis said. “We’ll be looking at both fecal coliform and total coliform, as well as pH and dissolved oxygen.”

McGinnis said she was very excited to find out she received the grant because of the conservation work that she and her students plan on doing.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY COURTNEY MCGINNIS/AUTUMN DRISCOLL/QUINNIPAC UNIVERSITY

Professor Courtney McGinnis recieved her eighth grant from The Community Foundation for a Greater New Haven’s Quinnipiac River Fund.

“I’m really invested in understanding how the health of the river changes over time as well and helping to continue to monitor the overall health of the river,” McGinnis said.

Three law students elected to regional chapter of National Black Law Students Association executive board

By **JACKLYN PELLEGRINO**
Copy Editor

Three Quinnipiac University law school students were elected to the executive board of the National Black Law Student’s Northeastern Black Law Students Association regional chapter on Feb. 26.

Quinnipiac law students Nataly Brown, Fontaine Chambers and Gabrielle Petrie represent the NBLSA’s values. According to NBLSA’s website, the organization’s mission is “to increase the number of culturally responsible Black and minority attorneys who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community.”

Brown, a second-year law student and NEBLSA treasurer, said she always knew she wanted to be a lawyer, but went to school for business because she knew law school was a big financial commitment.

“I love the business field but I realized I still wanted to be a lawyer, to do the law side of business, so to kind of put my two loves together, of business and law,” Brown said.

One of Brown’s mentors, Ashlica Malcolm, told her about NEBLSA and soon after she

joined for an appointed position as parliamentarian. Brown said NEBLSA nominated her for treasurer this year because of her financial background and prior experience.

“I knew I really wanted to be involved and help NEBLSA as much as possible to keep being efficient and keep being effective,” Brown said. “When you’re treasurer, everyone’s giving you their budgets for club ideas and you’re a part of each different event that each club wants to be, and you’re just helping them plan it efficiently and most effectively and cost effectively in the sense.”

The organization’s 54th regional convention was held between Feb. 23-27 at Foxwoods Resort Casino. There was a moot court competition, a mock trial competition and various networking opportunities, according to NEBLSA’s website.

Brown was at the NEBLSA convention because of her previous role as parliamentarian where she had to make sure all the rules and regulations were being followed. She said that her chair nominated her for treasurer and after she accepted, she had to resign from parliamentarian because it was a “conflict of interest.”

Petrie, a second-year law student and NEBLSA Connecticut sub-regional director, said she has always been surrounded by individuals who want to help other people because most of her family works in the medical field. She said she would debate with her father growing up so she was interested in political science and from there she became interested in law.

When Petrie joined NEBLSA she was elected as director of pre-law division during her first year of law school and she began the position in her second year. Later, she was nominated for the Connecticut sub-Regional director position, which she holds currently.

“I’ve been in Connecticut for six years now, I did undergrad in Connecticut,” Petrie said. “I really have a lot of roots and a lot of connections in CT, so I thought this position specifically would be a great opportunity for me and I think I would really handle the job quite well.”

Petrie said that some of her goals are focused in the area of mental health, especially for law students since the pandemic. She said she wants to provide more resources to help people get their foot in the door and make connections with different organizations such as the George W. Crawford Black Bar Association in Connecticut.

Chambers, a second-year law student and NEBLSA vice chair, said she knew she wanted to be a lawyer since she was 11 years old. Despite having no lawyers in her family and not knowing any in the field, Chambers said it was something she wanted to do.

“I knew that advocacy was something that I was really passionate about, especially advocating for disenfranchised voices and communities and groups,” Chambers said.

Chambers said she joined NEBLSA in the spring semester of her first year at Quinnipiac because it was a “fairly challenging” year and she was looking for a sense of community outside of Quinnipiac.

“Especially going to a predominantly white institution, you don’t see too many individuals that look like you, as well as Black attorneys make up 5% and black female attorneys make up around 2%,” Chambers said. “So the mission of NBLSA and NEBLSA, which is an affiliate of NBLSA, is all

about increasing the 5% as well as ensuring that Black students exceed professionally, academically, as well as holistically.”

The vice chair said she chose the role because it’s a very “supportive role.”

“We manage a large board, we are a large region, and a lot of that is ensuring that the regional and national goals flow throughout the entire board and ensuring that we know we maintain that camaraderie as a board as well as ensuring that my board members feel supported and that the chapter members will support it and really ensuring that we are maintaining the values of NEBLSA and NBLSA,” Chambers said.

Chambers thought she was going into the vice chair role uncontested but when she arrived at the convention she found out someone was running against her. During the opponent’s speech she said that even though she was qualified for the role she loved Chambers so much that she rescinded her candidacy because she wanted Chambers to be vice chair. Chambers said that there were “a lot of tears in the room” and “it was an emotional process and I cried a lot.”

“But I think it just spoke volumes that my so-called opponent who is really like a sister in law, in law school, had so much faith in me, and really wanted to see me in the role that she didn’t want to interfere with that and I have the utmost respect and gratitude for her,” Chambers said.

Chambers said she spoke with several previous vice chairs and chairs to ensure she knew what was expected of her in the role of vice chair.

“I believe that if you don’t have fear or hesitation going into the role, that’s not a role meant for you,” Chambers said.

Chambers said one of her goals is to create a sense of community through in-person events and show camaraderie is present through the term. She said she is also passionate about mental health and wants to push more initiatives to ensure students become a “holistic lawyer.”

“But there also is that family bond that NEBLSA and NBLSA create, it’s hard to operate in spaces where you are the only one,” Chambers said. “So being in these types of organizations allows you to really flourish and be your authentic self.”



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY FONTAINE CHAMBERS/AUTUMN DRISCOLL/QUINNIPAC UNIVERSITY

Gabrielle Petrie (left), Nataly Brown (center) and Fontaine Chambers (right) will work to increase the representation of minorities in law during their respective tenures in NEBLSA.

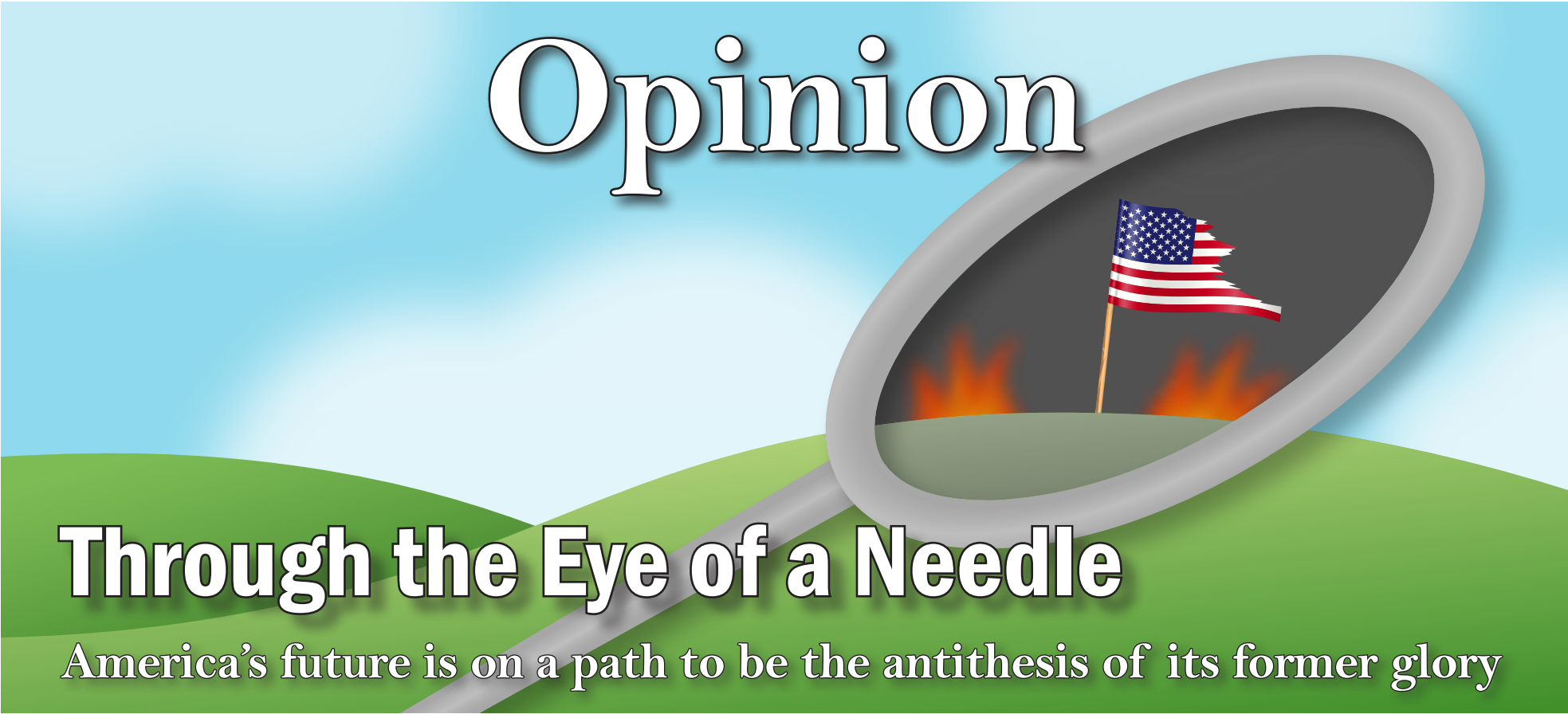


ILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

By **WILLIAM DEAN**
Staff Writer

America’s time as undisputed global hegemon is over.

The U.S. military is in retreat after breaking off attempts at nation building in Afghanistan, the fabled graveyard of empires. In Europe, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is a sign of the times. At home, the economy is burdened by a \$30 trillion debt that grows ever larger with no end in sight. Trust in government sits at rock-bottom level as the nation’s industrial core collapses and the surveillance state grows.

America is at a crossroads. One path leads to the global irrelevance of once-powerful empires like Spain, Portugal and Italy. The other leads to continued success at home and abroad. I see very few scenarios where this great nation emerges a generation from now in a better position than where it is today. The question that now faces this country is how we navigate a world while retaining great power status.

The answer and the steps we must take for continued success are found in the path that led America to global power. For the roughly 130 years that preceded World War I, national policy supported military isolationism, economic protectionism and limited immigration. This focused the government’s resources on stabilizing the domestic situation while ensuring positive foreign relations.

Pax Americana is Dead

If the war in Ukraine has taught us one thing so far, it is that the Pax Americana is over, and has been for some time now. After the Soviet Union’s 1991 collapse, the U.S. effectively ran the world. The country that defeated the Axis powers twice, brought humanity to the moon and introduced the world to computers and the internet became the undisputed international heavyweight champion.

Our main rivals were in shambles. Russia teetered on the edge of ruin as former Russian President Boris Yeltsin struggled to keep the country intact. China had opened up its markets just 15 years earlier and was not yet the economic threat it is today. Even Iran, at the time the world’s fourth-largest military, was defeated in just four days during the Gulf War’s ground campaign.

“Screw an oyster, the world was our Big Mac, and yes, we will have fries with that.”
– William Dean
STAFF WRITER

But we bit off more than we could chew after 9/11, invading Iraq and Afghanistan and conducting illegal special operations in a dozen other countries. NATO formed to combat the Soviet Union and ought to have disbanded the day after its modus operandi collapsed. Instead, the alliance decided to march up to Russia’s border and laid the American empire right on Moscow’s doorstep. The Pentagon expected Russian President Vladimir Putin to do nothing while a hostile alliance encircled his country.

Now, the U.S. is in retreat around the globe. We fled Afghanistan with our tail between our legs, leaving hundreds of Americans behind, opting instead to save abusers from the Taliban’s wrath. In Europe, the military leadership is paralyzed, unsure whether it should start World War III or admit that it can’t establish complete global domination.

An Economy on the Brink

America is \$30 trillion in debt. That’s 30 followed by 12 zeroes – 25% greater than the entire value of the American economy. It will take decades to pay off if we ever decide to.

Three culprits are guilty of creating this monstrosity: Social Security, Medicare/Medicaid and the military-industrial complex. Each year, we pump roughly a trillion dollars into each program. None of these programs are sustainable, the worst of which being social security, which is set to become insolvent in 2033. Medicare and Medicaid are not in danger of bankruptcy for the moment, but the issues with the American health care system are too numerous to list here. With the war in Afghanistan finally over, a dent could be made in the military budget, but the strength of Lockheed-Martin and Raytheon’s lobbyists remains to be seen.

The hollowing-out of American manufacturing is impossible to ignore. The industry remained steady at roughly 17 million jobs from 1965 until the end of the century, but fell by nearly one-third to 12 million in the first decade of the new millennium. The impact on the American middle class was devastating, as “the median income of men without a secondary school diploma fell by 20% between 1990 and 2013,” according to the nonpartisan Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Burdened by record-high inflation and gas prices, destitution looms over the average American.

Uncontrolled Immigration

Since 1965, roughly 780,000 legal immigrants have entered this country each year for a total just shy of 44 million. This accelerated to one million per year in 1990 and has not slowed down since. Simultaneously, some 22 million foreigners who entered the country illegally reside within our borders.

The unceasing waves of those who are foreign-born are urged to retain their cultures, religions and customs. Furthermore, these waves of immigrants are not spread evenly from sea to shining sea. Whole areas,

towns and parts of towns across the country will be occupied by sections of the immigrant and immigrant-descended population.

This is no mark against the character of immigrants, just an observation that America has only one government. Competing interests will inevitably vie for power; why do the foreign-born have a better claim to the American government’s power than the native-born?

We are Not Without Blame

The American people are not blameless in this fall from greatness. After all, we are the ones who bought into it, pretending that the people in Washington, Wall Street and Silicon Valley were our friends. Instead, the financial class sells our prosperity, the tech giants sell our private data and we keep electing politicians who allow them to do it, but the common man is too busy stuffing his face. Of the seven deadly sins, the average American is guilty of all but envy, and this is only thanks to how often we repeat the mantra “greatest country on earth.”

Sloth permeated the masses as the wake and bake replaced the Protestant work ethic. The U.S. got lazy, complacent with the system it created for itself. Screw an oyster, the world was our Big Mac and yes, we will have fries with that.

A Potential Solution

There is a way out of this mess, but it will not be pretty. For a stable domestic situation, America must readopt economic protectionism, military isolationism and limited immigration. These policies have one goal in common: putting Americans first.

Protectionism ensured a strong economy where domestic production wasn’t crowded out by cheap foreign goods. Isolationism prevented the military from becoming

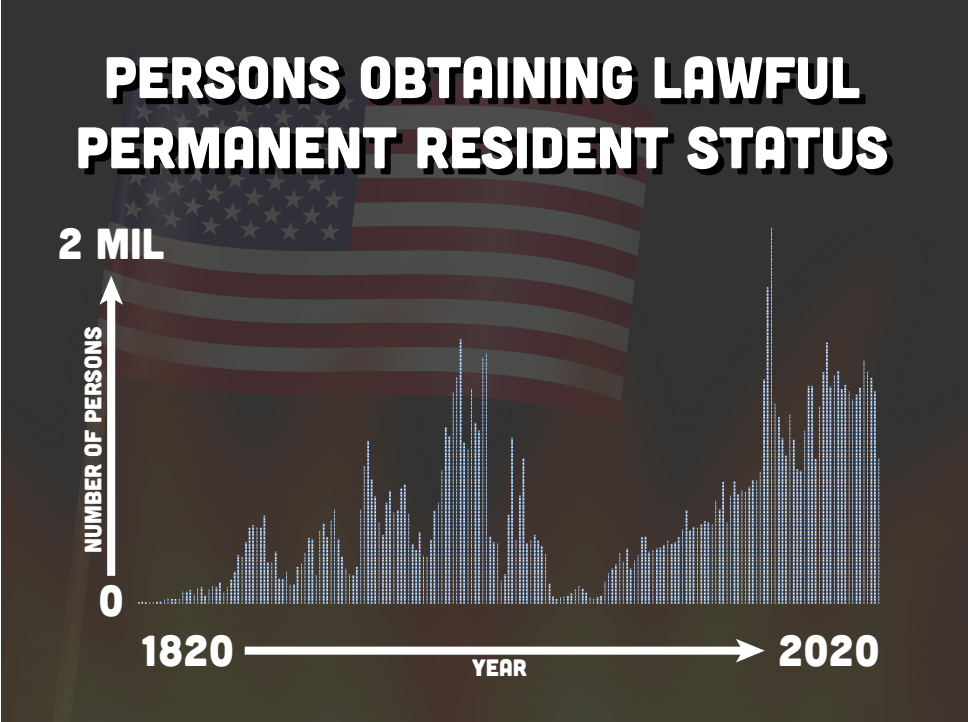
bogged down in foreign conflicts that cost precious American treasure and blood. Limited immigration provided America with a steady flow of new labor while not upsetting the established cultural ethos. Together, the trifecta laid the groundwork necessary for America to grow from a struggling ex-colony into one of the world’s great powers.

Then, around the turn of the 20th century, America abandoned this winning strategy. Protectionist tariffs, which represented 85% of federal tax revenue, were replaced by the income tax and Federal Reserve. Woodrow Wilson’s League of Nations put the country on a path to intervening in the affairs of other nations, culminating in nation building.

Of the departure from these policies, none have been more disastrous than America’s open borders policy. Importing 66 million foreigners in 55 years is nothing short of insanity. American soil does not magically convert immigrants to the American way of life. Historically, the periods of high immigration were followed by decades of limited immigration.

In the first quarter of the last century, America accepted 17.5 million immigrants. The next four decades saw a grand total of 7 million, roughly 80% fewer per year. This pattern is necessary to assimilate millions of new people into an existing culture and nation. The past half-century is the exception to the norm.

Returning to these three policies is no guarantee of success, but I see no other formula that has a comparable track record of success. If we are to have a government of, by, and for the American people, it must put the interests of those people, the American citizens, above all else.



INFOGRAPHIC BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

Opinion

Don't get lost in the weeds, legalize marijuana

By TOYLOY BROWN III
Staff Writer

The U.S. has some repulsive laws, such as ones that allow systemic racism to persist. Existing laws cater to the protection of police officers who grossly abuse their powers, killing law-abiding citizens and walking scot-free after never being charged with murder.

Another atrocious law is federal legislation on cannabis, which, similarly to other unjust laws, happens to undermine Black people more frequently.

Today, recreational cannabis use is legal in 18 states and Washington D.C. It is also decriminalized in 27 states and legal for medicinal use in 37 states.

Federally, however, cannabis is illegal as it is classified as a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substances Act, which was signed by former President Richard Nixon in 1970. Drugs in this category, such as heroin and molly, are viewed as having the highest potential for abuse and severe psychological or physical dependency.

The discrepancy in cannabis law between states and the government is confusing at best and illogical at worst. The only rationale is tied to the profits that the U.S. makes from its prison system as well as its veiled racism.

While the law of the land perceives cannabis as more detrimental than Schedule II drugs like cocaine and fentanyl, a record-high 68% of Americans support the legalization of marijuana, according to a 2021 Gallup poll. This is likely due to many people's understanding of weed's ability to relieve stress and enhance focus.

Dr. Marcel Bonn-Miller, a substance abuse specialist at the University of Pennsylvania, told WebMD that the best evidence for cannabis' medicinal benefits indicates its therapeutic effects to reduce chronic pain, tight muscles and nausea.

As weed grows more mainstream and is not widely considered as hardcore of a substance as the federal law wants us to believe, there should be a more extensive conversa-

tion on why there have been and continue to be people incarcerated for non-violent marijuana-related crimes in this country.

There were nearly 700,000 marijuana arrests in 2018, which accounted for more than 43% of all drug arrests, according to a 2020 report by the American Civil Liberties Union. Additionally, for every 10 marijuana arrests, nine were for possession.

While FBI data showed cannabis arrests fell precipitously in 2020, there is no reason to believe this has remained true as the drop was likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Black people are disproportionately affected by cannabis-related arrests. A Black person was about four times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than a white person, even though Black and white people use marijuana at similar rates, according to the ACLU's data that charted through 2018.

Even with an overall decrease in marijuana arrests nationwide and a greater number of states that have either legalized or decriminalized it, the ACLU has found that the racial disparity had not improved since it began charting arrest rates in 2010.

Why is this the case? The federal government's intent to keep the illegality of cannabis alive is rooted in Nixon's "law and order" presidency and his infamous war on drugs campaign.

This campaign believed the best way to handle recreational use and potential abuse of drugs was by terrorizing people, specifically targeting those who are Black, across the country. While the campaign tried to cloud its racism, arrests and long prison sentences were used to solve the "drug problem" as opposed to treating drug use as a public health concern with a treatment-based response.

The legacy of the war on drugs has a through line from the Nixon presidency to today's continued federal ban on cannabis. Suspicion of cannabis can be used for probable cause that allows police officers to search and detain individuals and have an increased like-



lihood of finding a different charge.

Not only should cannabis be completely legal, but people imprisoned for nonviolent marijuana offenses prior to the states' legalization should be given clemency. The outdated sins that were born from the Nixon presidency should be corrected instead of prolonged.

Incarcerated people should also have their offenses expunged. Removing the criminal brand for the majority of those arrested for cannabis possession will give a chance for an actual semblance of freedom — a better chance to maintain employment and housing, secure government assistance and contribute to their communities. The individuals arrested aren't the only ones affected. The communities they are ripped from suffer too.

Pot smokers everywhere should enjoy 4/20 and hope for a federally legalized tomorrow. The rest of us can hope for the same.

What shouldn't be lost in the weed zeitgeist is the disparate amount of Black people from the past and today who are behind bars for an activity that many don't find an issue with.



By RYAN RAGGIO
Staff Writer

Bobcat Buzz

Becoming well-rounded or becoming a swindler?



ILLUSTRATION BY EMMA ROGEL AND CONNOR LAWLESS

I understand the idea that in order to become a well-rounded student, you need to take courses outside of your major, but I don't see the point. I came into Quinnipiac University as a journalism major, yet I'm required to take a wealth of University Curriculum courses in order to graduate.

At the end of each U.C. course, students are required to complete a breadth reflection, something I've never heard of until I got to college. These reflections aren't difficult, but they're a waste of time. The prompt for the reflection poses questions like, if the course you took will help you with your educational objective, your personal quest and if you liked the class. Every time, I have the same answer, "Taking this course was an experience, however it does not relate to my educational objective."

Completing the breadth reflection is basically asking someone to create a false opinion. What I mean is if you

were in any U.C. class that poses no benefit to you, the reflection you give to the professor is all fluff and that's what I hate about having to take a U.C. course to fulfill a requirement.

We've all heard the phrase, "Fake it until you make it," and I've been told this more often now compared to when I was in high school. It's ridiculous to have to take a course while knowing that it won't help you at all in the future. It irritates me more because the main objective of my major is to write the truth.

An example of having to lie my whole way through, from my experience, is taking sociology this semester. Throughout the course, we are required to do reflective writing on chapters about sensitive topics such as gender. We are also required to have an opinion about the topic and cannot say that you don't. For every reflective writing assignment I've done, I've lied. "Fake it until you make it."

However, there was one U.C. course that I chose to take, regardless of the requirement, because I felt

it would go hand in hand with what I wanted to do in the future. It was Baseball & Statistics. The breadth reflection I wrote was genuine and honest because it was a class that I felt I didn't waste my time in.

Quinnipiac should add more U.C. courses that pertain to a student's major rather than having them take something drastically different. I think it would spark the students interest and be more beneficial to them than a course outside of their field of study. If there were more U.C. courses in communications I would undoubtedly be enrolling in those classes. Having to take the U.C. courses outside of my major is, in my opinion, a distraction from my educational objective. My objective is to enhance my writing and learn more about the different genres of writing to become a more well-rounded writer.

Being a journalism major, we're taught to report and present the truth, but from taking these courses, I've felt obligated to lie.

Arts & Life

A SHOW BEYOND BELIEF

QU's Black Student Union to host Euphoria Fashion Show



The Black Student Union's fashion show will happen on April 22, and it is the first show since 2019 due to COVID-19.

CRANDALL YOPP/ FOR THE CULTURE MAGAZINE

By TOYLOY BROWN III
Staff Writer

“Euphoria” is more than an HBO show, and the word itself is more than just the textbook definition of elation. It is happiness exuded intensely, felt beyond belief. It is jubilation heightened to the utmost degree.

For Quinnipiac University’s Black Student Union, euphoria represents the imminent crossing of the threshold of what the organization anticipates as not a restoration of “normalcy” but a revival to pre-pandemic levels of joy.

“Now when we come out of that (quarantine) stage, and everybody’s going back, (but) not to normalcy,” said Marley Marston, a senior psychology major and BSU’s event coordinator. “We’re just going back to a familiar time and that familiarity is what’s giving us this euphoric stage. So right now everybody’s happy, everyone’s content, feeling great coming out of quarantine.”

The BSU’s Euphoria Fashion Show will open to the Quinnipiac community on April 22, at 7:30 p.m. at Burt Kahn Court.

The enjoyment that the show will symbolize also comes from the organization’s yearning to expose people to its signature event which was canceled for two consecutive years due to the pandemic.

“We were really disappointed when it had to be canceled because of COVID,” said Kyasha Ambroise, a sophomore psychology major in the 4+1 MAT program and BSU treasurer. “So we’re all coming back with so much more drive and passion to make it happen.”

The promise of making this fashion show special also comes with immense anticipation since most members of the community were not on campus in 2019 when the last show happened.

“We’re setting the expectation for the freshmen and sophomores that never were able to see one and now that I think about it, the juniors as well,” said Ja’Vielle Foy, a senior political science major and BSU president. “It’s a lot

of pressure, in the sense that we are now essentially have the opportunity to set a standard for what the show will look like going forward for all people who hadn’t been able to see the literally amazing 2019 show.”

Martson said spectators should expect to be impressed by the artistry of the clothing created by the designers. Flight Vintage, one of the designers for the show, created a new clothing line just for the event.

The energy that it takes to organize an elaborate show also should be appreciated. While rehearsals and detailed planning started in February, Marston said the first booking happened as early as December 2021 and ideas were brewing even before then.

Just as instrumental to the allure of the show are the models who have put in copious amounts of time to prepare and deliver. “It’s definitely not easy,” Marston said. “A lot of them are really putting themselves outside of their comfort zones and doing something that they never thought they would before.”

One of the models taking this leap is first-year health science major Don Pressley. He decided to get involved because he wanted to do something that pushed him out of his comfort zone. He said he wants people to witness the effort he and his fellow models have to display.

“There’s a lot of hard work put into this,” Pressley said. “This is something different that you’re not going to get to see every day. So it’s a new experience for everyone to try.”

Hosting the show will be Ja’sean Johnson-Henry, a 2021 Quinnipiac graduate and a former BSU model. He explained that something that may seem straightforward such as walking a runway is not as easy as it appears.

“There’s a lot that goes into it with foot placements ... showing focus,” Johnson-Henry said. “So a lot of people don’t do it well, and I’m really excited to see how hard that they’ve practiced. I’m really excited to see their hard work come to fruition.”

Johnson-Henry said he was honored to be selected as host because of his experience with the show as well as his reputation for being a fashionable member of the Quinnipiac community.

“I just love to support the Black community on campus, because, as a small community, I feel like it’s important for all of us to not only be connected but to do things together, whether big or small,” Johnson-Henry said.

At the fashion show, outside of the modeling, there will be majorette dancers and a performance from the band Malado! Music and audience participation segments.

“I think for the people who didn’t get to see it, (they) are going to finally feel what it feels like to be a part of that BSU kind of atmosphere at school,” Marston said. “It’s going to bring a whole new vibe to the campus.”

While the event’s “vibrant” and “dream-like” aesthetic, as Johnson-Henry put it, will be one to marvel as well as the animated experience it will create, the show is also representative of the Black creativity that exists at Quinnipiac and in the world.

“It’s not a secret that Black people, especially in America, are kind of the hub for all things, culture, creativity, that we’ve seen across many different spans, whether it’s fashion, music, and art,” Foy said. “So by us having a fashion show, it kind of helps us at Quinnipiac promote that same sort of idea ... the fact that Black people are extremely creative.”

This event will be a doozy and has something to offer for everyone, regardless of if you are a member or not.

“For people who are part of the club, I think it’s important to just support your Quinnipiac BSU family,” Johnson-Henry said. “For outside of BSU, I think it’s important to experience another culture and to experience the different creators that we have and the intelligent minds behind these designs, and I think that their hard work needs to be showcased.”

A SISTER. A NURSE. A PRESIDENT.

Meet Grace Claudio, SPB’s newest president

By MICHAEL SICOLI
Staff Writer

When junior nursing major Grace Claudio learned over Zoom that she was going to be the next president of the Student Programming Board, she was flooded with happiness.

Then she straightened up, refocused and took her pediatrics midterm.

That’s the type of concentration Claudio wants to bring to SPB, a passion needed to lead one of Quinnipiac University’s largest organizations. Helping others is an active part of Claudio’s life, from setting up a bingo night to helping those with developmental disabilities at her local Miller Group Home.

Working with patients through the COVID-19 pandemic may have been a challenge for some, but for Claudio, it was a reminder of why she chose the health care field.

“I think that really reaffirmed my desire to go into nursing, just working with these people,” Claudio said. “A lot of them were not able to see their family, or do things as they were, and they weren’t always able to understand 100% why everything was going on. So being someone who was there consistently, and to help them through, it was really special.”

The call to nursing didn’t drop out of nowhere. Her mother was a nurse as was Claudio’s grandmother. Her father also works on the insurance side of health care. Claudio’s major made perfect sense to her peers, 2021-22 SPB President Shannon Flaherty said with a smile.

“She’s just remarkable. And then she’s a nurse on top of it,” Flaherty said. “And I’m like, ‘Of course you want to save the world, and do this awesome profession.’”

Claudio didn’t join SPB to become its next president. She was always a bit more reserved, thinking before she spoke while choosing her words carefully, something her 26-year-old brother Alex Claudio is acutely familiar with.

“We talk a lot with our friends, but outside of our comfort zone, we don’t talk as much we kind of listen,” Alex Claudio said. “So she’s the same way. She was reserved growing up. She’s actually quieter than me. And I think once she got to college, I think her personality got to show a lot more than high school.”

With that growth came the presidential position she has now earned, which was no shock to her brother.

“Her being president of anything doesn’t surprise me at all. I know she’s always had these leadership abilities,” Alex Claudio said. “She’s 100% the smarter one out of me and her. There’s no other siblings in our family — just me and her — so she is always gotten straight A’s, clubs, music, everything. So her being in this position and going for it is no surprise.”

It was a spirit tempered by each event where being asked “How are you?” and “How’s your week going?” made the difference. Joining the SPB community was a home away from home, and it’s exactly what Grace Claudio wants to keep going.

“I know that’s why I kept coming back and why I didn’t choose to stick with some other organizations I didn’t get that feeling from,” Claudio said. “I feel like SPB was the first part of campus that really welcomed me.”

Take SPB’s event on April 1, “A Night Fool of Surprises,” as an example. As vice president of late-night, one of SPB’s largest boards at around 10 people, Claudio oversees the Friday and Saturday night events that pop up on campus. Run by late-night chair Mackenzie Orlov, the April Fools’ Day event featured Apple products buried in baskets under actual apples, food, a caricaturist and more. But none of that was why Claudio had a smile on her face remembering it.

“Everyone there was very relaxed and open, and that was the feeling I got when I first joined SPB, that vibe,” Claudio said. “That’s why I kept coming back to events, like that really good feeling, that sense of community and belonging.”

Claudio emanates the word community, fitting the word in every sentiment she shares. Flaherty said it was a major reason why Claudio got the position over another candidate — the ability to think about others before herself.

“Staring at the two I was just like, ‘This one wants the org to be better. And this one wants themselves to be better,’” Flaherty said. “So it was just clear-cut.”

That sentiment will be prevalent for Claudio as she begins her presidency. She’s already shaken up the SPB executive board by changing some personnel to fit the vision she has for the organization. Her major goal is to communicate more with students to create the events that people want to attend, whether that’s a big event like Spring Week or a weekly trivia night.

Claudio is aware that the focus and desire to meet and exceed that goal starts with herself.

“I don’t think my position is better than any other position on the board,” Claudio said. “I feel like it’s just going to be my job to make sure to help facilitate everything to help bring in



JACK SPIEGEL/CHRONICLE

Junior nursing major Grace Claudio’s goal as SPB’s newest president is to increase communication with students.

the new people, keep challenging the people who are coming back, just make sure that we’re giving everything that we can to the community.”

Being president of one of Quinnipiac’s largest organizations — a “jack-of-all-trades” as Flaherty put it — is a big responsibility. But the former SPB president touted Claudio’s attention to detail and leadership style as reasons why she has “no doubt” about the success of her successor’s tenure over the next year.

“I’m in such a strange position because I’m so close in age with her, but I feel like I’m watching her grow up in a way,” Flaherty said. “I’ve just watched her develop and grow into such a strong leader.”

Claudio might have started as a shy first-year student, but she said she’s ready to take on presidency. If nothing else, she wants SPB to be a haven of sorts, where even if events are the focus, you can always receive a kind look and a nice word.

“There’s a lot of hardship and negativity in the world for everyone,” Claudio said. “So I think I just want to not be a burden on someone and just be someone who’s reliable to them, and they know that they can feel safe and comfortable around. I think that’s just been kind of like my goal with any interaction I have with anyone.”

BURNING UP THE DANCE FLOOR

QU’s Latino Cultural Society hosts its annual Latin Dance Fest

By DAVID MATOS
Arts & Life Editor

As “Danza Kuduro” by Don Omar and Lucenzo echoed in the background, cries of laughter flooded the dance floor while students tried to make sense of the salsa dance steps they were being taught at this year’s Latin Dance Fest.

To kick off the long weekend, Quinnipiac University’s Latino Cultural Society hosted its annual Latin Dance Fest in Dance Studio B at the Athletic and Recreation Center on Thursday, April 14. The event allowed students to bond with the Latin community on campus through traditional Latin dishes, Latin pop music and dance lessons from professional salsa dancers.

The president of LCS, Stephany Perez-Pinto, a junior biomedical science major, said that the event is an opportunity

to share culture from Latin America with the community at Quinnipiac, a predominately white institution.

“I think especially if you are Latino-identifying, it’s really nice to have a piece of your own culture on campus,” Perez-Pinto said. “It’s nice to see a little bit of your own flavor on campus (such as) dancing with other people that look like you and have the same experiences as you.”

As students entered the dance studio, they were met with a table of food from Collado, a Dominican restaurant in New Haven. The entree of the evening was pernil, a pork and chicken dish, with tostones, which are fried plantains, and rice.

For dessert, a slice of tres leches cake and flan was offered from the New Haven Mexican bakery, La Tapatia. Finally, to wash it all down, students had the choice between a cup of Jarritos mandarin soda or Ting, a sparkling grapefruit-flavored drink.

After attendees finished their Latin-style cuisines, three dance instructors from Latin Rhythm Dance Studio, a Stratford, Connecticut-based dance company, began the evening festivities with a lesson on Merengue, a traditional Dominican style of dance.

Favorite Latin pop songs like “Stand By Me” by Prince Royce and “Suavemente” by Elvis Crespo continued to play while participants were being taught other types of dances popular in many Latin communities like bachata and salsa.

Multicultural Student Leadership Council representative Alondra Santos, a sophomore diagnostic medical sonography major, said that this experience allowed her to “brush up all my skills.”

“My favorite part of this event was being able to connect with my cultural dance, bachata,” Santos said. “I don’t find myself dancing it a lot due to being away at college all the time, it’s just nice to reconnect

sometimes when you’re away from home for so long.”

Last year, LCS’s Latin Dance Fest was held outside on the Quad in collaboration with Quinnipiac’s African and Caribbean Student Union, due to COVID-19 restrictions. Perez-Pinto said that it was less dance-focused and mainly featured games, music and food. However, the multicultural organizations made the best of the circumstances by providing students the opportunity to take a picture with their nation’s flag.

“Basically for all of our events, we just wanna make sure that students, whether they’re Latino or not, have a space to come together and not feel like a minority,” Perez-Pinto said.

Nube Fajardo, a graduate student in the biomedical science program, urged her friends to finish off one of the final weeks of their last semester at Quinnipiac by bonding together in the celebratory cultural experience.

Fajardo said her favorite part of the night was watching her friend, Tulimalefoi Vaofanua, a graduate student in the biomedical science program, learn the dances.

“Definitely getting to learn something new, exposing myself to different types of culture and just learning more about their culture as well is beautiful,” Vaofanua said.

LCS Vice President and the Event’s Coordinator Ana Allen, a senior political science and psychology double major, said that this dance experience also acted as a great opportunity for the Latin population on campus to revitalize their relationship with their heritage.

“A lot of times we are so focused in kind of showing that we know everything, that we have all the dances, but we actually don’t,” Allen said. “So it’s really good to kind of reconnect with your community and, you know, just learn, just start from the basics without any judgment, without any fear, be with your friends and meet new people.”

As the night concluded around 11 p.m., the LCS executive board posed together for a group photo so everyone can remember this magical night of dance, food and Latin American appreciation for a lifetime.



NICOLE MCISAAC/CHRONICLE

Latino Cultural Society Vice President and Event Coordinator Ana Allen practices dance steps at the annual Latin Dance Fest on April 14.

DON'T YOU KNOW THAT YOU'RE TOXIC?

Yes, Britney Spears is pregnant, now leave her alone

By DAVID MATOS
Arts & Life Editor

The 40-year-old princess of pop is finally in a better place in her life.

Britney Spears is engaged, posing naked on Instagram and pregnant with her third child mere months after her 13-year conservatorship ended. Now, in the words of Cara Cunningham, “Leave Britney alone.”

With the surge of social media over the past decade, paparazzi and magazines are no longer Spears’s worst enemy. From her appearance, pregnancy and choice of men, internet personalities are ridiculing her like it’s 2007. It’s time to move on and let the pop star be.

Notable front-page stories from the early 2000s are making a swift comeback into the modern-day pop culture news cycle — Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck are engaged, Lindsay Lohan is acting again and Spears is pregnant. However, being the sole topic of discussion and criticism in the eye of the public was never a success story for Spears.

From a nasty divorce, custody battles, rehab and partying pantiless with Paris Hilton, 2007 was a dark year for Spears, but an amazing one for the press.

Not only are stories from the 2000s making a comeback but the public’s reactions to them, especially to Spears, are as well. The constant attention during one of her most tragic years caused her to suffer a public breakdown, during which she shaved her head and beat a paparazzi car with an umbrella. We all made mistakes and have grown as people in the last 15 years, and Spears is no exception. It’s not 2007.

By making judgmental comments on the star’s actions, people are depriving her of the freedom that was just given back to her not even a year ago. People are also not allowing her the growth she’s earned over the last decade and a half. Spears, and all women for that matter, deserve to not only have full control over their bodies but their life choices, whether we agree with them or not.

While Spears was hospitalized and undergoing mental evaluations in 2008, her father, Jamie Spears, quickly petitioned to put the star in a temporary conservatorship, which was approved. A long eight months turned into an even longer 13 years when Britney Spears’ temporary conservatorship turned into a permanent one.

Everyone deserves help, but nobody deserves to be put in a circumstance of no control after a few hiccups in the road. And no one is entitled enough to be ridiculed by your own family. Yes, I’m talking to you Jamie Lynn Spears.

In her conservatorship, Britney Spears’s father controlled her finances, estate, career path and health. The once seemingly independent pop star living the dream in the early 2000s was now paying for a few public choices she made when she was in her mid-20s for a lifetime. Someone who was once a role model was suddenly perceived as unfit to make her own decisions.

Throughout her conservatorship, one of the most horrendous circumstances Spears faced was that she was not allowed to marry or get her IUD removed to have another child, something that she had publicly expressed she wanted.

On April 14, Spears announced she is expecting her first child with her fiancé, Sam Asghari, whom she met on the set of her “Slumber Party” music video in 2016.

“I lost so much weight to go on my Maui trip only to gain it back,” Spears wrote under her Instagram post on April 11. “I thought ‘Geez ... what happened to my stomach ???’ My husband said ‘No you’re food pregnant silly !!!’ So I got a pregnancy test ... and uhhhhh well ... I am having a baby.”

Spears not only won back her estate, but her uterus.

She has control over her life again and is making big life decisions, something she couldn’t do close to six months ago. It’s time to keep your opinions to yourself and give her peace.

Spears is marrying a 28-year-old dreamboat and is expecting to deliver a baby which I imagine she never thought would be a reality. Tabloids always shamed her for wearing revealing clothing but now she’s freely posting semi-nude photos of herself on Instagram. She’s also completing small milestones in her newfound freedom, like getting her nails painted and driving on her own for the first time in years.

Though fans have grown protective over the celebrity, it’s time we cut the ties and finally treat her like a human being. We should support whatever path she takes, as weird as it may be at times. We must let Spears finally find her peace, and if that means starting a new family, so be it.



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH HARDIMAN

HOOKUP 101: COMMUNICATION IS KEY

By MELANIE CARERI
Staff Writer

Hookup culture. It’s becoming more and more prevalent each day, especially for college students.

Whether it’s a casual one-night stand with a stranger or even a friends-with-benefits situation, college campuses are swarmed with hookups.

However, even though hookup culture is normalized among students, figuring out ways to go about it or how to satisfy a partner’s wants or needs is still a work in progress for many.

If you’ve experienced a hookup, I am sure the question of “what now?” has popped into your mind either before or after sex. So many awkward scenarios can happen, especially if you don’t know what to expect or your partner’s interests.

Although these situations may seem unavoidable, they’re not. One key component in all of this is communication.

A 2013 study done by the American Psychological Association that surveyed 832 college students found that 26% of women and 50% of men reported feeling positive after a hookup while 49% of women and 26% of men reported a negative reaction.



ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RIHA

Another quantitative study done by the APA of 187 participants also found the feelings of both men and women after a typical hookup: 35% reported feeling regretful or disappointed, 27% good or happy, 20% satisfied, 11% confused, 9% proud, 7% excited or nervous, 5% uncomfortable and 2% desirable or wanted.

The numbers speak for themselves.

There are a wide array of emotions that can happen after a hookup. I understand hookups are meant to be casual, but it’s still an act of intimacy that can easily affect someone if there is a lack of communication and respect.

You’ve probably heard that communication is key in a relationship. This applies every time.

Speaking with your sexual partner about each other’s likes and dislikes will make all the difference. Here are some ways you can communicate:

Ask “what do you want?” or “what do you like?”

If you plan on not staying the night, tell your partner ahead of time by saying, “I have to wake up

early tomorrow morning. I’m going to have to leave early.”

If your partner does something that makes you uncomfortable, simply say, “I don’t like this, can we try something else?”

When you sound nonchalant about what you’re communicating, it will be less awkward and your partner will have a better understanding of how to go about the situation.

Remember, if you are on the receiving end of criticism, do not take it personally. You both made an arrangement to satisfy your own needs. If you can speak your mind, so can your partner.

Respect is another huge component. Just because there are no strings attached, doesn’t mean there are no boundaries. A lack of communication can lead to disrespect.

Communication doesn’t just involve talking about your wants and needs, it also involves letting your partner know how you’re feeling. When little things are left unsaid, it can lead to a bigger, more problematic outcome for the other person. There is a huge possibility your partner may feel uncomfortable or upset without you realizing during sex. They may also wind up feeling regretful, abandoned or blue post-sex.

Take, for example, the time my best friend slept with her friend with benefits.

One night, she stayed at his place and when they were under the sheets, everything was great. Things went downhill when he became moody afterward.

He didn’t want to cuddle with her like they normally did, and when they wound up watching a movie together, he sat across the room and told her to “shut up” or “quit smacking your lips while chewing your gum.” He never explained to her what he was actually feeling at that moment. Due to his unpredictability, she was afraid to ask “What’s wrong?” in case he’d lash out even further.

She felt uneasy and vulnerable. Instead of hiding his thoughts and feelings, and putting his negative emotions onto her, he should have said something. More communication in this situation could have avoided unnecessary circumstances.

As a college student, I understand the perks of casual hookups. College students are constantly running around 24/7 and may not have time to fully commit to a person. However, despite the chaos, this makes it even more important to make sure there is mutual understanding between both sexual partners. The more understanding and communication involved, the better the sex will be for both of you.

GOTTA GO FAST TO SEE ‘SONIC 2’

By NEHA SEENARINE
Arts & Life Editor

“Sonic the Hedgehog 2” can be easily marketed as an animated children’s film. However, as a 20-year-old viewer, I can attest that “Sonic 2” was an amazing experience even if I had a better credit score than everyone else in the theater.

“Sonic 2” released on April 8, and within one week it surpassed \$100 million at the box office. The film also had the best opening weekend for a video game film adaptation ever, with a \$71 million debut.

Am I a die-hard Sonic fan? No, and I don’t have to be. When I was younger, I played “Mario & Sonic at the Olympic Games” on the Nintendo Wii and watched “Sonic X” on weekend mornings with my brother, but that doesn’t mean I can win Sonic trivia.

The “Sonic 2” plot is not hard to follow if you didn’t play the original Sega video games growing up. The film adaptation introduces new characters from the franchise like Tails and Knuckles without the audience having to take a Sonic crash course. Their origin stories flowed seamlessly through the movie. I wished “Suicide Squad” took notes from “Sonic 2” on how to introduce characters without taking up too much screen time.

Despite the epic and beloved Sonic characters making it to the big screen, there is only one true star of the film, Jim Carrey as Dr. Eggman.

Carrey proves once again he can do anything. I watch “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” every holiday season and one of my favorite movies is “Dumb & Dumber.” Those two films are decades apart from “Sonic 2,” and Carrey still knows how to put on a show. His whimsical flair brings Dr. Eggman to life on his conquest to capture Sonic for more greed and power.

With the target audience being children, it’s clear that their parents have to accompany them. “Sonic 2” is a film for everyone. The adult characters in Sonic’s life are hilarious.

One of the film’s settings is a wedding in Hawaii. The bride, Rachel, played by Natasha Rothwell, finds out her relationship is a hoax when her partner, Randall, played by Shemar Moore, is revealed to be a cop trying to capture Sonic for government testing. The scenes of Rachel’s outburst after she finds out she was played are enjoyable for adults to watch.

“Sonic 2” is way cooler than the first one. The first movie introduces Sonic and his adjustment to being on Earth. He is taken in by Tom Wachowski, played by James Marsden, and he’s akin to Sonic’s dad, much like Dave from “Alvin and the Chipmunks.” To be honest, I haven’t seen Marsden since 2007’s “Enchanted,” and he’s still as charming as ever. “Sonic the Hedgehog” did not give me as much adrenaline as “Sonic 2” considering I watched it in my living room during the pandemic’s peak.

The sequel curse is broken with “Sonic 2.” This film joins the

list of only two that are better than the originals: “Shrek 2” and “Spider-Man 2.” “Sonic 2” knows how to establish its plot and characters without taking too much time reflecting on the original film. The character development grows throughout the movie’s two-hour runtime without it feeling forced.

“Sonic 2” left audiences with a tease of a third installment in the franchise. Marvel Studios better watch its back because Sonic is going to run his name all over the movie industry.



ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX KENDALL



ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR LAWLESS

By AIDAN SHEEDY
Copy Editor

This article is for comedic purposes only. Actual names and likenesses used in this article are used in a parodic context, and are not a reflection of any actual person.

Honk! Quack!

The Quinnipiac University's Quad is about to get a lot noisier as a new petting zoo will open, allowing students, staff and faculty to pet wild geese, ducks and their ducklings on Earth Day, April 22.

“This is a great opportunity for Quinnipiac to connect with nature,” Head of the Student-Environmental Coalition Thomas Entenmann said. “I’ve always loved animals and Quinnipiac, so I thought ‘Why not combine the two?’”

The petting zoo will require a \$20 fee upfront in either QCash, check or Bobcat Bucks (given to the Legdes residents). For now, the pond will remain as is, but Entenmann said students will be able to rent swimming gear for an additional \$20 fee and swim with the animals in the pond.

“Geese and ducks are such majestic creatures,” Entenmann said. “Students will now understand why and can be up close and personal with them at the same time.”

First-year biology major Emily Sunshine said she is in full support of this initiative as a nature fanatic and annual Earth Day observer.

“I think this is a great opportunity for the animals of Quinnipiac to connect with the other members of our school,” Sunshine said. “All of the animals are just as big a part of the school as we are. As someone who feels connected with Mother Nature, I am in full support.”

For this year’s Earth Day, the grand opening of the zoo will feature a new animal as well. "Terrance the Bear" will make an appearance as the guest of honor to cut the ribbon at

QU to open petting zoo at CCE pond as part of new Earth Day initiative

the ceremony where Quinnipiac President Judy Olian will be in attendance.

Terrance roamed around campus last year's Earth Day, eating students’ food truck leftovers and climbing trees.

“I’m so glad to welcome Terrance back to Quinnipiac after his sabbatical,” Olian said. “He has been missing for a while now, and I’m glad he was able to get back to me and participate in this momentous event.”

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, students will have the day to pet the animals for free but will have to sign a consent waiver in the event of injuries. They are required to put down a \$10 deposit for picking up the animal’s excrement so that the area stays clean for visitors and tours.

“I’ll be happy to pick up after the animals,” Sunshine said. “It’s really something the school should’ve been doing a long time ago.”

Entenmann said he also hopes that with the new renting of swimming gear, a student-only aquatic experience will open shortly after. The newest Quinnipiac employee said he plans to open the creek behind Irmagarde Tator Hall so the swimming gear can be used to literally “swim with the fishes.”

Sophomore finance major Darren Josephsen said he is not excited to hear splashing and laughing from his dorm room on Hill.

“Are they really allowing students to swim in ‘Hepatitis Lake?’” Josephsen said. “That place is so gross. I’m surprised even fish and bugs survive in there.”

But again, Entenmann had a rebuttal. In his eyes, this is another way for the school to capitalize on student behavior and put money toward improving the on-campus experience.

“Students are constantly jumping or playing around in that water,” Entenmann said. “I think having students pay to swim in it can be beneficial if the money can go to something like improving school food or creating more parking spaces, but those are problems that don’t need action right now.”

Scores & Schedule

Thursday 4/14

MTEN won 4-3 @ Fairfield
BASE lost 7-4 vs. Monmouth

Friday 4/15

GOLF 4th of 7 @ Hartford Invitational
MTEN lost 5-2 @ Siena
WTEN won 6-1 @ Siena
BASE won 13-5 vs. Monmouth

Saturday 4/16

WOT&F @ JMU Invite (No Team Results)
GOLF 5th of 7 @ Hartford Invitational
WLAX lost 10-9 @ Canisius
SOFT won 3-2 vs. Rider
SOFT lost 2-1 vs. Rider
BASE won 13-7 vs. Monmouth
RUG won 19-12 vs. Sacred Heart
RUG lost 31-10 vs. Dartmouth
MLAX lost 21-9 @ Virginia



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6 NICOLE MCISAAC/CHRONICLE

Wednesday 4/20

BASE vs. Yale 3 p.m.
WLAX @ Iona 3 p.m.

Friday 4/22

MTEN @ MAAC Tournament 9 a.m.
WTEN @ MAAC Tournament 9 a.m.
GOLF @ MAAC Tournament 9 a.m.
BASE @ Iona 3 p.m.

Saturday 4/23

WOT&F @ Rider
MTEN @ MAAC Tournament 9 a.m.
WTEN @ MAAC Tournament 9 a.m.
GOLF @ MAAC Tournament 9 a.m.
FHOK vs. New Haven 9:30 a.m.
FHOK vs. Yale & Brown 11 a.m.
MLAX vs. St. Bonaventure 12 p.m.
BASE @ Iona 1 p.m.
WLAX vs. Monmouth 3 p.m.

Sunday 4/24

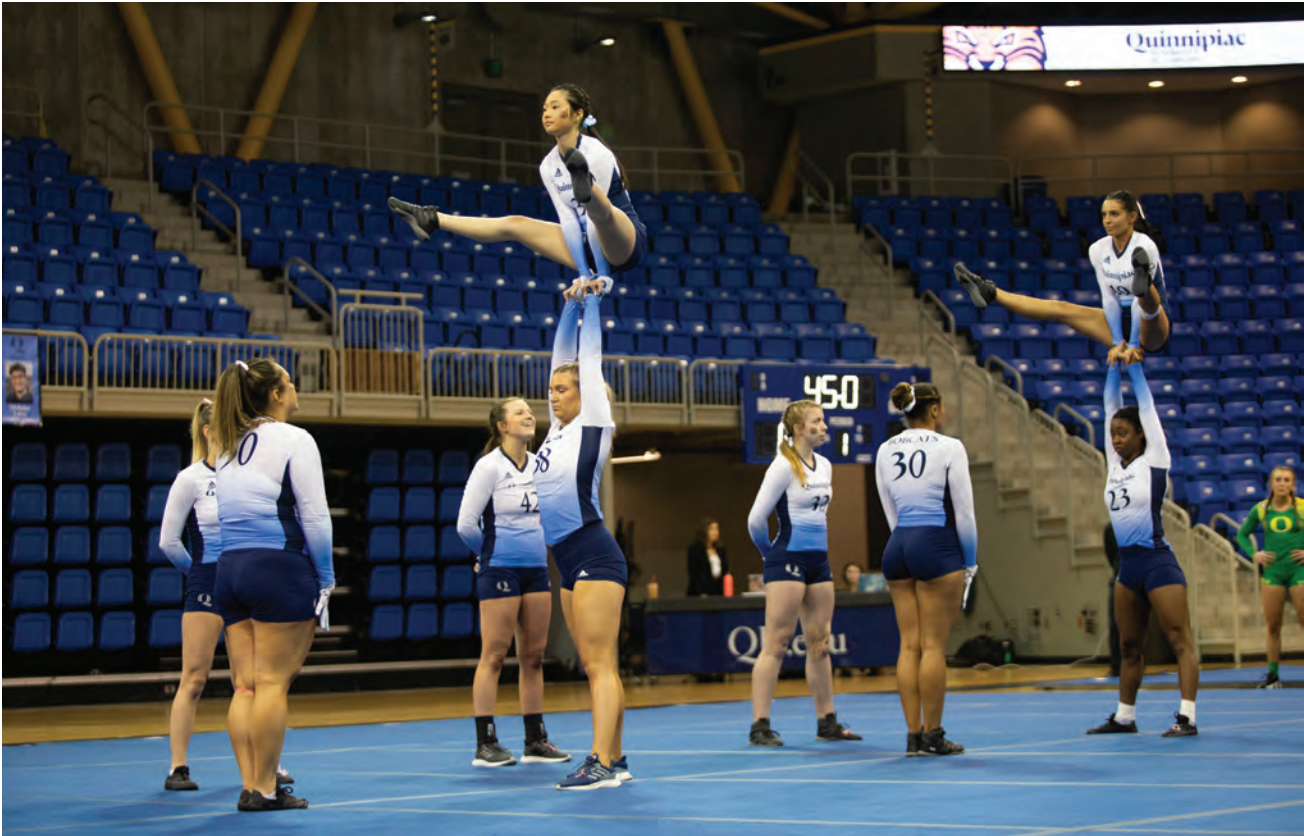
MTEN @ MAAC Tournament 9 a.m.
WTEN @ MAAC Tournament 9 a.m.
GOLF @ MAAC Tournament 9 a.m.
BASE @ Iona 12 p.m.
SOFT vs. Siena 12 & 2 p.m.
FHOK vs. Quinnipiac Alumnae 12 p.m.

Tuesday 4/26

BASE vs. CCSU 10:30 a.m.
MLAX @ Yale 7 p.m.

Duck hunting

Quinnipiac acrobatics and tumbling heads to Oregon with national championship aspirations



CONNOR LAWLESS/CHRONICLE

By CAMERON LEVASSEUR
Sports Editor

What do a Bobcat, Valkyrie and St. Bernard have in common? They’re all heading west with the hopes of bringing home a national championship.

For the 10th time in 11 seasons, No. 4 Quinnipiac acrobatics and tumbling will compete in the NCATA national championships, facing off against No. 5 Oregon, the tournament host, in a quarterfinal matchup on April 28, in Eugene, Oregon.

Baylor, Azusa Pacific, Gannon, Limestone, Fairmount State and Converse round out the eight teams making the trip to the Beaver State.

It’s the first time since 2019 that the Bobcats have had the opportunity to vie for a national title, with COVID-19 causing the cancellation of the 2020 tournament as well as Quinnipiac’s entire 2021 season.

“It’s such an honor to be able to represent Quinnipiac out in Oregon,” senior base Asia Johnson said. “It’s been a long two years ... but I think we’re all super stoked to just be going out there and be able to put our best foot forward to show what we’ve been doing for the last two years.”

The road to the NCATA crown won’t be easy. In the 10 seasons since its formation, only two teams — Oregon and Baylor — have won national championships. Assuming No. 1 Baylor — the six-time reigning national champion — advances to the semifinal round, the Bobcats will have to beat both schools to even make the title meet.

“We just have to recognize that they’re going to put their best stuff out there,” senior base Kyla Roberts said. “So we just need to do the same and enjoy the moment and just put everything on the mat.”

But if recent history is any indication, Quinnipiac has the advantage heading into its matchup with Oregon. The Bobcats held off the Ducks earlier this month when the two teams met in Hamden, sweeping all but the team event, where Oregon’s two-point

victory wasn’t enough to claw back on the overall scoreboard.

It was only Quinnipiac’s second victory in 12 meetings with the Ducks all time, the other coming back in 2018.

“Our first meet with Oregon, we had the mindset of there’s nothing to lose,” Johnson said. “We spent a lot of time talking about the years we didn’t compete and just showing off the Quinnipiac game, so that first meet was definitely putting our best foot forward and being the best version of ourselves.”

Baylor has also made the trip to the People’s United Center this season. Unlike Oregon, however, the Bears left victorious.

Despite Quinnipiac’s loss, the 280.685 points put up by the Bobcats in their matchup with the defending champs is the most the team has scored since a 282.860 point performance against Azusa Pacific in 2018. That season ended with a national championship meet appearance for the Bobcats.

If Quinnipiac is going to make some noise, it will likely come in part to graduate student top/base Cassidy Osher. Osher, the 2019 ECAC Specialist of the Year, led the Bobcats in that April 3, victory over Oregon, outscoring the Ducks in seven of eight individual heats en route to her second straight NCATA weekly honorable mention.

Sophomore base Farrah Chernov is another name to watch out for. The Manalapan, New Jersey, native earned NCATA specialist of the week honors when the Bobcats met Baylor on March 23, scoring highly in eight events, including a perfect “10” in the open pyramid, to push the Bears to the brink.

Ultimately, when the bright lights come on in Matthew Knight Arena, Quinnipiac will be ready to show what they’ve been working toward the past two years.

“The work ethic has been insane the past two weeks,” Johnson said. “The energy at practice has been up through the roof.”



CONNOR LAWLESS/CHRONICLE

The Bobcats face the host Oregon Ducks in their first-round matchup at 7 p.m.

New and old faces

Evaluating women’s ice hockey’s roster heading into 2022-23



CONNOR LAWLESS/CHRONICLE

By CAMERON LEVASSEUR
Sports Editor

Like every other winter sport at Quinnipiac, there has been significant roster overhaul for the women’s ice hockey team this spring. Unlike the other sports, however, that turn-over was caused by graduation, not the transfer portal.

The Bobcats lost graduate student forwards Taylor House and Renee Saltness, defenseman Olivia Konigson and goaltender Corinne Schroeder, as well as senior defenseman Gabby Vitelli and forward Katie Huntington to the slow beat of “Pomp and Circumstance.”

Of those players, only House (16 goals, 26 points) was within the top 10 on the team in scoring this past season.

All things considered, Quinnipiac is in great shape offensively, returning its first line of rising junior Olivia Mobley, graduate student Lexie Adzija and senior Jess Schryver, who combined for 31 goals and 79 points in 2021-22. Bolstering that forward core are rising seniors Sadie Peart and Alexa Hoskin, along with rising junior Nina Steigauf, who boasted point totals of 33, 21 and 25 respectively this past winter.

The Bobcats will miss House’s net-front awareness and knack for scoring clutch goals, but with a forward core led by eight upperclassmen, someone is bound to step into that role moving forward.

Coming into the fold on offense are freshman Sami Bowlby and Madison Chantler.

Bowlby, a product of Burnsville High School in Minnesota, is a fast skater with good hands and a solid passing sense. She supports the puck well as the third woman in but isn’t afraid to drive to the net herself.

Chantler plays a similar style of game, a dynamic skater who’s strong on her stick and good at dishing the puck. She’s a hard-nosed competitor who doesn’t shy away from physical play and works hard to make plays happen.

Rumors have swirled regarding the possibility of Harvard forward Dominique Petrie landing in Hamden for her fifth year, but given that the Bobcats currently have 27 players rostered, the same number as last season, it would appear unlikely at this time.

On the defensive end, losing Konigson may not seem like a massive blow to this roster on paper. But the Minnesota native and team captain was a bonafide leader in the Quinnipiac locker room and also served to solidify the Bobcats back end.

The Bobcats will look to counter that loss with the continued growth of rising graduate students Zoe Boyd and Courtney Vorster as well as rising juniors Kendall Cooper and Maddy Samoskevich. The four each posted double-digit point totals in this most recent campaign, but will be called upon to do more on the defensive side of the ice and maintain a blue-line presence that prevents odd-man rushes.

Boyd, one of two returning alternate captains, may also be called to take a larger leadership role come next season.

While they lost Konigson and Vitelli, Quinnipiac is bringing in top-end blue-line talent in freshmen Tiana McIntyre and Zoe Uens.

McIntyre is a quick thinking pass first defenseman who moves the puck well up ice and does well to get her stick in lanes to break up plays. Her presence in the offensive zone is something that will develop in her time with the Bobcats, as McIntyre tends to get caught pinching from time to time, leading to easy breakouts or odd-man rushes for opponents.

Uens hails from Belleville, Ontario, as does Alexa Hoskin. The 5 foot, 9 inch Kingston Jr. Ice Wolves defender is great at standing up rushes in the neutral zone and is able to utilize her smooth skating and concrete passing ability to invigorate the rush north to south.

Despite the big-name skaters moving on, the biggest absence for the Bobcats comes between the pipes. While 2021-22 was Corinne Schroeder’s only season with the program, it was her goaltending that propelled the team to new heights.

The Boston University transfer opened her season by scoring the first-ever goalie goal in Division I women’s hockey and her legacy in Hamden only grew from there. Schroeder finished the season with a .951 save percentage – a program record – and led Quinnipiac to its first NCAA tournament win – a 4-0 shutout over Syracuse – which she followed with a 73-save performance in a double overtime loss to the eventual national champion Ohio State.

While Schroeder had a fantastic season, she shared the starting load with rising graduate student Logan Angers, who had an excellent year in her own right, and will backstop the Bobcats in 2022-23.

Angers posted an 11-2-1 record while earning top 10 marks in the NCAA in both save and winning percentage.

The Winnipeg native is one of four goaltenders Quinnipiac

has rostered for next season, joined by rising junior Catie Boudiette and incoming freshmen Tatum Blacker and Lucy Phillips.

Boudiette played the role of a bonafide backup during the 2020-21 season, posting four shutouts in as many starts while facing 52 shots. She took a step back during this past campaign, however, only seeing 10 shots in 40 minutes of action, two of which she allowed.

Standing at 5 feet, 6 inches, Blacker is not physically imposing in the net. What she lacks in height is made up for in positional excellence though. Blacker does well to cover her posts and play out of her net on odd-man rushes. When she does give up goals, however, it’s often up high due to her height. Her rebound control also presents a slight concern.

Phillips has a larger presence in the crease at 5 feet, 10 inches, possessing impressive recovery skills on second and third chance opportunities. She actively uses her stick to poke check and shovel the puck away from the blue paint and is also a skilled playmaker that can effectively move the puck up ice.

Carrying four goalies is unusual, but not unheard of, especially given that the NCAA doesn’t set roster limits. It’s unlikely either freshman sees significant playing time this season, but having depth at the position gives head coach Cass Turner and the rest of the staff options if the Bobcats top two begin to struggle.

Though the Bobcats have lost significant talent, they’ve made up for it with developing returners and talented incoming freshmen. It’s always hard to move on, but this roster is primed for success come fall.



Aidan Sheedy/Chronicle

Quinnipiac had its best season in program history, but fell short of a Frozen Four berth.



DANIEL PASSAPERA/CHRONICLE

Kyle Maves: One of one

Canada native brings dynamic skill set, background to the diamond

By **ETHAN HURWITZ**
Sports Editor

America’s pastime. It’s an odd moniker for a global sport. But when you take a look at Quinnipiac’s baseball roster, 97% of the players were born and raised in the U.S. Every player, except for one — Kyle Maves.

The senior second baseman from Burlington, Ontario, came to Quinnipiac in 2019 and immediately made an impact. His first year was a good start for someone who traveled just under 500 miles to get to Hamden, and he improved as his time at Quinnipiac progressed.

What makes his collegiate career even crazier is that he is playing on a schedule unlike anything he is used to.

In Canada, there are only a few high school baseball programs. Instead players compete on travel or club teams. Maves and his travel team played all four seasons, in contrast to the U. S., where games are more commonly played only half the year.

“It’s definitely different,” Maves said. “But there is some good talent there. Getting used to that schedule is the biggest thing.”

Maves doesn’t just excel on the field. He is currently enrolled in the business 3+1 dual-degree program, something that helped make Quinnipiac an easy decision.

“It was the combination of (a) good academic program ... and I felt like the baseball team has a really good culture,” Maves said. “To have those coaches that have that professional experience, that’s kind of rare for college.”

Maves was awarded the MAAC Rookie of the Week in April 2019, has been named to the MAAC All-Academic Team in back-to-back seasons (2020-2021) and after his freshman year, was selected to compete for the Bristol Blues of the Futures Collegiate Baseball League, now known as the New England Collegiate Baseball League.

The senior campaign for Maves is off to a scorching start, batting just under .300 with 32 hits and 16 RBIs. Typically the Bobcats’ No. 2 hitter in the order, he has an uncanny ability to get on base and score. His 27 runs leads the team and with 28 games played he is just under a run scored per game, a ridiculous accomplishment. His on-base percentage is just above .400, good for 23rd in the MAAC.

Quinnipiac head coach John Delaney is a big fan of Maves and gushed about his starting infielder. As a man of few words, compliments from Delaney are not often to come by, which makes his praise for Maves more significant.

“He’s a competitor. He wants to win,” Delaney said. “He competes and brings it to the field every day and that’s kind of his work ethic.”

Not to be outdone, Maves also has a lot of respect for his coach, who he said has helped him grow into a better baseball player and person.

“Through commitment, discipline, being on time,” Maves said. “It is real important for us to build team chemistry and a team culture.”

Maves is not just the team’s everyday second baseman. On April 12, Maves filled in at catcher, a position he had yet to play in 2022 after an injury sidelined sophomore starter Keegan O’Connor. The move exemplified his versatility, and he was able to shine behind the plate. Maves is the Bobcats’ bullpen catcher during offseason workouts — a testament to how the team trusts him at multiple defensive spots.

“That was an interesting experience,” Maves said. “I caught in the winter ... It was a lot of fun and I enjoyed it.”

Switching from second baseman to catcher is not the only example of the adaptability that Maves has shown in his athletic career. In high school alone, he played baseball, volleyball, lacrosse, hockey and basketball. While it may seem like too much for someone else, Maves loved his time as a five-sport athlete.

“I just wanted to try everything out,” Maves said. “I think trying new sports make you more versatile when you come to the baseball field.”

His collegiate career is one for the record books. As of publication, with 22 games left in 2022, Maves has 12 steals on the year, tied for ninth in single-season program history. His 36 career stolen bases ranks him at No. 6 all time in Bobcats history. His ability to swipe extra bases and add another threat to this team’s offensive attack will be surely missed when he graduates.

Although the season has not started the way both Maves and Delaney had hoped record-wise, both of them know they have the ability to turn it around. No matter where Maves’

career takes him, one thing is for certain. He’s going to do whatever it takes to get the job done — even if it involves playing five sports at once.



DANIEL PASSAPERA/CHRONICLE

Senior second baseman Kyle Maves has a .940 fielding percentage and has turned 14 double plays this season.