

JACK SPIEGEL & DANIEL PASSAPERA/CHRONICLE

‘It’s a very cutthroat environment’: PA students say program culture jeopardizes mental health amid lawsuit against QU

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ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH HARDIMAN

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Managing Editor Nicole McIsaac reflects on the toxic cycle of hiding your emotions.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

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The Chronicle graduating class reflects on their time with the newspaper prior to graduation.



JACK MUSCATELLO/CHRONICLE

SPORTS P. 10: YEARGIN'S YARD

Quinnipiac baseball sees strong improvement in bullpen, but not in its consistency.

SGA to create new student organization financing process after fall 2022 budget conflicts

By **AIDAN SHEEDY**
Copy Editor

Quinnipiac University student organizations disapproved of the large budget cuts proposed by the Student Government Association for the fall 2022 budget, resulting in a press release signed by the organizations involved, but the two sides have agreed upon a solution just three days later.

“The Finance Committee and I were able to clarify and elaborate on the SGA budgeting process and we had an open dialogue to understand the concerns of the organizations,” SGA Vice President of Finance and 2022-23 President Elect Owenea Roberts wrote in a statement to The Chronicle. “We gained valuable feedback that will be reviewed by the 22-23 Executive Board. We will make sure to be transparent with any changes implemented.”

The largest slash of funding for the QU Democrats targeted the activity fund, which was a proposed \$750 for the semester, but the final decision allocated \$0 for the events.

Another budgetary slash came at the expense of the speaker series, which had a request for \$10,000, but was only funded \$5,750.

This caused an disapproval from the QU Democrats, as a trend has been observed by other student organizations as well.

President of the QU Democrats, Paul Cappuzzo said he was also content with how the situation was handled.

“It was a very productive conversation,” junior political science and economics double-major Cappuzzo said. “We spoke on a wide range of issues that were discussed in the letter.”

A meeting was held April 25, between SGA and the mentioned organizations to devise a proper solution to the concerns raised in the letter.

The letter was published on the QU Democrats’ and Indigenous Student Union’s Instagrams on April 22, with an undersigning of several organizations: the Multicultural Student Leadership Council, Indigenous Student Union, Asian Student Alliance, Latino Cultural Society, Black Student Union,

Political Science Association, International Student Association and QU Democrats.

The solution involves establishing a new committee for training SGA board members on how to improve budgetary issues, including allocating a budget fairly and swiftly with transparency with the organizations.

Cappuzzo said the new committee will be “committed to a rearranging for finances.”

“That was an idea that we suggested,” Cappuzzo said. “They create this mock budget to show us how it’s done, that way organizations don’t get confused.”

The QU Democrats responded to the decisions made by SGA quickly, pouncing on the massive budget cuts toward the organization’s “campaign activity fund” and its “speaker series.”

In the press release, the organizations added that SGA has a history of defunding multicultural organizations, while prioritizing larger groups like the Student Programming Board.

“The allocation of available funds re-

flects, in an empirical and material way, the ethics of SGA,” the organizations wrote in the press release. “The SGA finance committee uses its discretionary power in favor of large organizations such as SPB, while providing paltry funding for organizations that cater minoritized student groups or organizations devoted to social justice and advocacy.”

The budget process for student organizations to receive funding from the university and SGA requires members of each organization to create a proposal for event funding planned for the upcoming semester. From there, the proposal is assessed by a finance committee and then given to Roberts, who allocates the final budget.

Junior political science major Genesis Iscoa, a former SGA multicultural senator and the vice president-elect for the ISA, said that a formal discussion about miscommunication was something she has been waiting to see happen.

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Recent lawsuit spotlights mental health unease within PA program

By CHATWAN MONGKOL
Staff Writer

In light of a discrimination lawsuit against Quinnipiac University, former physician assistant students told The Chronicle that those in the program have been in an “unsupportive environment” that runs their mental health “into the ground.”

“I feel like Quinnipiac, the PA program specifically, has a really toxic environment, that I think (is) kind of emblematic of a core problem with a lot of medical training, which is very militaristic,” said a PA program graduate who agreed to speak with The Chronicle under an anonymity condition for fear of retaliation.

In March, former physician assistant student Alexandra Faulkner, who was clinically diagnosed with depression and anxiety, sued Quinnipiac for allegedly expelling her based upon her need for disability accommodations. She accused that the university’s “hostile and discriminatory environment” led to more severe mental distress.

The university did not comment on the pending litigation.

Another former PA student Seren Eroll said she was “relieved” when she heard of the lawsuit and proud of her classmate for being able to put it in motion.

“It’s something I wanted to do as well, but I didn’t have the resources to or the mental-emotional capacity to do it,” said Eroll, who was also dismissed from the program in fall 2019 after she failed her end-of-rotation exam.

Eroll said what Faulkner described in the lawsuit is “very accurate,” noting that the PA program has “a very cutthroat environment.” Everyone down from faculty members to clinical preceptors could be very unprofessional, she said.

Part of what the two former students described as toxic included a setting that incentivizes students to keep problems they faced to themselves over fears of retaliation from the program and being unsuccessful in the medical field.

The anonymous PA graduate told The Chronicle their daily routine included being on campus from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on a daily basis with a “tremendous” amount of work on weekends, essentially isolating them from their social life.

“It was a common theme that if you did ask for help, you were essentially singled out and maybe not given a fair chance,” Eroll said. “We would all just encourage each other to not ask for help after that.”

Multiple sources with knowledge or experience with the PA program confirmed the former students’ sentiment.

In a statement to The Chronicle, Dean of School of Health Sciences Janelle Chiasera said she and Chair of PA Studies Tim Ferrarotti have an open-door policy and “always want to hear from students, whether its to share feedback, concerns or ideas on how to enhance their learning experience.”

“Quinnipiac’s PA program is committed to giving all of its students the support they



JACK SPIEGEL & DANIEL PASSAPERA/CHRONICLE

Former physicians assistant students claimed that the environment of the program was detrimental to their mental health.

need and delivering a high-quality academic experience and clinical training that will position them to be exemplary PAs and PA leaders upon successful completion of the program,” Chiasera said.

Ferrarotti did not respond to The Chronicle’s requests for comments. Former Chair of PA Studies Dennis Brown, who is now at the University of New England, declined to comment on the views toward the program and whether he was aware of such concerns during his time as a department chair, from 2012-21.

Another source who also asked for anonymity for fear of retaliation said they hope this lawsuit shines a light on concerns around mental health among health care students. They emphasized the need for more counseling resources because they had seen people breaking down and crying in classes, which they believed wouldn’t have happened with more appropriate support.

It’s something Eroll agreed with. She said her dismissal, her unsuccessful appeal process and her time in the program worsened her anxiety and hindered her self-confidence.

“They definitely need a change in faculty, which would be the best place to start,” Eroll said. “It should be part of the curriculum for (PA students) to go see the school psychologists or the counselor that’s on-site.”

Faulkner’s lawsuit is not the first time Quinnipiac has been accused of discrimination against students with disabilities.

Last year, former nurse anesthesia student Derrick Sutton sued Quinnipiac for failing to accommodate his disability, failing him despite his passing grade and ultimately dismissing him from the program in 2019. Sutton, an African American man, also alleged that he was subjected to “a hostile environment due to his race,” according to the initial complaint.

The lawsuit, filed in New York, was struck down in December 2021 due to the

court’s lack of jurisdiction over Quinnipiac. As part of Quinnipiac’s motion to dismiss, the university challenged the factual allegations citing a lack of evidence of harassment or discrimination. Sutton filed an appeal with a higher court in January 2022.

In 2012, another former student filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice alleging the university dismissed them after they sought mental health counseling services and refusing to refund their tuition.

Even though Quinnipiac settled the case in December 2014, the DOJ found that the university discriminated against the student in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act by “placing her on mandatory medical leave because of her depression.”

“Specifically, Quinnipiac University failed to consider modifying its mandatory medical leave policy to permit the complainant to complete her coursework while living off campus by attending classes either online or in person,” the DOJ wrote.

The Chronicle has filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the DOJ seeking investigation files for the inquiry into the allegations.

As part of the settlement, Quinnipiac created a “non-discrimination policy,” addressing disabilities including mental ones. Said policy can be found in the university’s course catalog.

Former U.S. Attorney for the District of Connecticut Deirdre Daly, lead attorney for the 2012 complaint, did not comment on the lawsuit filed by Faulkner and whether she thinks the non-discrimination policy by Quinnipiac has been efficient. Daly referred The Chronicle to Michelle McConaghy, USAO-CT’s chief of the Civil Division’s Defensive Unit, whose office declined to comment.

BUDGETS from cover

“I just hope it’s not just for show,” Iscoa said. “This is an ongoing issue probably from when I was in SGA.”

“I’ve been on both sides of the story and it does feel sometimes like you spend so much time ... that you are more distant from the student body than you should be,” Iscoa said. “I think it’s important for us to pull them back and ask them first.”

As for Roberts, Iscoa said she under-

stands the pressure that cabinet members have to endure if they want to keep the students happy.

“You’re supposed to be between the administration and student body,” Iscoa said. “But sometimes you can subconsciously go closer to one than the other. There always has to be a balance of who you are listening to. I definitely know what (Roberts) is struggling with — trying to appease everyone.”



INFOGRAPHIC BY EMMA KOGEL

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SGA multicultural and identity senators now two separate roles

By **KRYSTAL MILLER**
Associate News Editor

Quinnipiac University’s Student Government Association made the decision for the 2022-23 academic year to make the multicultural and identity senator position into two respective roles.

Nick Ciampanelli, a senior economics and political science double major and SGA president for the 2021-22 academic year, said the roles were separated to increase representation of the student body. Ciampanelli said the idea had been discussed over the past year and was finalized with the adoption of SGA’s constitutional amendments on March 9.

“Throughout the past three years, the cabinet has found that the multicultural and identity senator positions were pursued to represent and/or advocate for issues related to race and ethnicity,” Ciampanelli said in a written statement. “The creation of an Identity Senator now expands opportunities for students to represent additional intersectionalities as student leaders within the Bobcat community (i.e. gender, sexuality, and disability status).”

Ari Hyman, a junior political science major, was recently elected multicultural senator for the upcoming academic year. She said being of mixed race has helped her create a connection with multiple backgrounds.

“I feel like I have a really good understanding of a lot of different cultures, even the ones that are not a part of our practice,” Hyman said. “So I thought it would be a really good fit.”

Hyman said she is working on getting multicultural flags in the student center to have a visual representation of the student body. She plans to send out a survey to the student body asking if there is a country flag that represents their culture. Hyman said the purpose of the initiative is to bring students closer to their culture.

“I like to think of myself as a bridge between multicultural students and multicultural organizations on campus and SGA,” Hyman said. “So anything I can do to talk to them, communicate, make their experience at Quinnipiac better, I try to listen and make sure that I get that done for them.”

Hyman was previously the multicultural and identity senator in the 2021 fall semester, and said her goals will still intersect with the ones for identity senator, but now her focus can shift more specifically to multicultural goals.

“I think with that being separated, it will specify the duties better so that I can really hone in more, but I don’t think it’s necessarily good or bad,” Hyman said.

Hyman said representation in SGA is improving, but her main goal is to have more students join SGA.

“I really want students of color to be encouraged to run for these positions, because that’s the best way to see a change in SGA,” Hyman said.

Brooklyn Mastracchio, a first-year occupational therapy major, is the recently elected identity senator for the upcoming academic year. She said the purpose of her role is to represent all students of all sexual orientations, gender identities, religious groups, etc.

“As someone who identifies as a part of the LGBTQIA+ community and serves as secretary of the Genders and Sexualities Alliance on campus, I feel I will be able to increase outreach and support for students not only identifying as a part of this community but all communities,” Mastracchio said.

Mastracchio said she is working towards several goals, such as creating an easier process for students to find on and off campus

resources, collaborating with student life and SGA, and working alongside The Department of Cultural and Global Engagement.

Ambar Pagan, a senior political science major, was the multicultural and identity senator for the 2020-21 academic year. Skills such as learning how to listen to the Quinnipiac community and how to represent diverse cultures and identities were among the strengths Pagan said she gained in the position.

“It was a great moment to really form strong connections with different student leaders,” Pagan said. “And then also to really understand what are the difficulties and struggles that are happening at Quinnipiac when it comes to diversity, when it comes to representation, when it comes to inclusivity and what are the solutions that we can do to create change.”

The challenging moments Pagan said she faced responsibility of having to represent so many different people, but it should be a collective effort of the Quinnipiac community. She said that in the position it is important to create sustainable initiatives and continue conversations that go beyond the senator term.

Pagan suggested that in the future, SGA could have a team of people for multiculturalism and identity, because there will be more people having conversations about these topics. She said having two separate senators allows a greater balance of tasks and responsibilities.

“I do think it’s a good idea to separate (the position), because multicultural and culture is something that’s completely different from the conversation of identity, Pagan said. “Although they both intersect it’s really important when you are talking about identity, when you’re talking about gender, you’re talking about so many different voices that many times are silenced, and so it’s really good to have somebody that they can go to.”



JACK MUSCATELLO / CHRONICLE

Brooklyn Mastracchio (left) and Ari Hyman (right) will be stepping into the newly separated SGA roles as identity and multicultural senators, respectively.

Book sharing boxes on campus encourage sharing knowledge

By **KATIE LANGLEY**
News Editor

If you’ve walked around the Mount Carmel campus in the past week, you might have noticed small, wooden boxes suspended on posts. These are Little Free Libraries, a book sharing nonprofit organization brought to campus by former Student Government Association Class of 2024 Senator Morgan Bloom.

The libraries are located next to the School of Business, the Center for Communications and Engineering pond and The Ledges residence hall.

“The whole idea started last spring, where I was just kind of like, textbooks are so expensive and I don’t want to keep going to the library and trying to find knockoff ones online or whatever,” Bloom said. “I was seeing the libraries around my hometown and I thought that those were really cute.”

Bloom said a moment that influenced her idea was when she was taking out her recycling on campus. When she got to the dumpster, she noticed many discarded books.

“I was just kind of like... ‘that’s just a bunch of books in the recycling bin,’” Bloom said. “Sounds like those need a home.”

The nonprofit originated in the Midwest when its founder, Todd Bol, built a small library on his lawn to resemble a one-room schoolhouse as a tribute to his late mother, a teacher. Today, there are more than 125,000 book sharing operations registered with Little Free Libraries.

“Our mission is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Libraries,” The nonprofit’s mission statement reads.

Patrons of the little libraries can take and leave books as they please, and anyone interested in starting a Little Free Library can buy a

kit or finished library online.

Bloom said she liked the concept of “community outreach” through sharing books that the nonprofit provided, so she made a proposal to the SGA executive board. Then, she found faculty members willing to help her with the project from the Arnold Bernhard Library.

“Morgan met with me and my librarian colleague Ronda Kolbin to discuss how the ABL could provide assistance,” Public Services Librarian Robert Young wrote in an email to The Chronicle. “The plan was to set up the LFLs during the fall semester, but unfortunately funding for the project was not available during the fall.”

The initiative was then stalled for two semesters due to a lack of funding. Meanwhile, Bloom said she resigned from SGA in November 2021 due to a time conflict. It wasn’t until she received an email from Young and Kolbin last week that Bloom noticed her initiative had come to fruition.

“I was just kind of caught off guard, and I was like, ‘what do you mean, (the LFLs are) coming up,’” Bloom said.

Bloom said she texted SGA Vice President Chris Longchamp asking about the additions.

“(SGA) had leftover money with the 100k that the administration gave them, and they used some of that money to fund (the LFLs),” Bloom said.

Now that the facilities department has installed the LFLs, Bloom said she is excited to start seeing students use them to exchange expensive textbooks as an alternative to buying online or at bookstores.

“I’m hoping that the whole textbook (exchange) thing will work,” Bloom said. “Because, if it doesn’t, it’s not the end of the world. They’ll still be good book exchange things. But I feel like it’d be cool if we had a little textbook exchange going.”

Delnaz Amroliwalla, a sophomore accounting major, had not heard of the initiative, but said

that it “sounds like a good idea.” When it comes to buying and selling textbooks, Amroliwalla said that she does her transactions online.

“I think (the LFLs are) just easier to be honest, but if you’re looking to get cash for a textbook, (selling it online is) one way to do it, but if you just want to donate it, that’s what people do, too,” Amroliwalla said.

Hannah White, a sophomore heath sciences and occupational therapy double major, said that she uses LFLs around her hometown frequently.

“I have about six (LFLs) near me at home, and I hope to build my own near my house in the future,” White said. “I pass a few on my way home from school, and I always check them out

when I’m in the mood for a new read. I’ve even managed to stumble upon a new favorite book, one that I probably would never have picked up if it wasn’t for the coincidence.”

White expressed that she is excited that the nonprofit is coming to campus, saying that she “can’t wait to watch these libraries grow.”

“I love to read, but with being at school I don’t always have the space for a ton of books,” White said. “I love the idea of being able to give and take books with other readers on campus, and being able to read on my own time rather than fussing with a library deadline, placing holds and managing reading along with general schoolwork.”



JACK SPIEGEL / CHRONICLE

Little Free Libraries is a nonprofit that focuses on “building community” through book exchange.



DANIEL PASSAPERA/QUINNIPAC UNIVERSITY/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

If you want to be better, then do something about it

By **MICHAEL SICOLI**
Former Editor-in-Chief

I’ve been thinking about this article for way too long. This is supposed to symbolize three years of work, memories, stress and teamwork. But that feels utterly impossible because I cannot put to words just this past year as editor-in-chief of The Quinnipiac Chronicle.

It’s second nature to me to give high effort in everything



DANIEL PASSAPERA/CHRONICLE

Michael Sicoli embraced tradition, attending every meeting in a Chronicle quarter-zip and khaki shorts.

I do. It’s something my parents inspire me to have, and I feel like I’m doing them a disservice by giving anything less.

Being editor-in-chief of The Chronicle this past year took everything I had. From the curse of perfectionism to the stress of living up to the faith 2020-21 Editor-in-Chief Brendan O’Sullivan placed in me, it took a tremendous toll on me. I rarely took time for myself and took every mistake personally with the intent to never let it happen again.

And while I’m genuinely happy with the impact I made, it stands as an important reminder to think of yourself.

Don’t get me wrong; I loved a great deal about being EIC. I appreciate and cherish the trust my staffers and editorial board members placed in me. I loved giving a note on every article, whether that was a tip on how to get the story better or a funny comment because the writing was so clean.

Hell, I enjoyed delivering the weekly newspapers. Even now I still struggle to avoid straightening the newspapers when someone leaves the pile a bit ruffled.

I’ve gotten so much out of being EIC of this organization, a position I never thought I’d hold. I always imagined myself as second-in-command at best. I still remember unwrapping a Gatorade protein bar, seeing the congratulatory email and never eating that bar. It just froze me in my tracks.

More times than I could count I questioned if I was even built for this. From beginning to end that mentality stuck through like a knife in the brain. But now, I got through it, and in the immortal words of Kelly Clarkson, “What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger.”

Growing up I had severe anxiety when my parents asked me to order cold cuts from a deli. Now I’m strolling around and starting conversations with people I wouldn’t have looked twice at even a year ago. It was amazing to lead and work with everyone on The Chronicle’s staff and eboard, creating memories I didn’t even appreciate at the time.

Those not on eboard don’t know the “hardship” of having your name memed to kingdom come. Even before this past year, I remember 2019-20 Editor-in-Chief Bryan Murphy’s exasperated sigh every time someone would crack a joke in a meeting. Or 2020-21 Editor-in-Chief Brendan O’Sullivan’s “Hey man,” every time he needed to transition to a new sentence.

Journalism continues to trend toward freelancing and remote work, which makes me treasure The Chronicle’s deadline even more. It’s unbelievably special to see 23 people push each other for their best while still cracking jokes about some obscure inside reference.

It’s a vibe that matched the excitement of my first year at Quinnipiac University, when things were as simple and stupid as my roommate trying to stand on a disconnected bunk bed ladder, or a floor-wide effort to make my friend think he was invisible.

All this I wouldn’t have appreciated had I not shot my shot for EIC. It provided much-needed perspective while making me a more confident and prepared writer as I jog toward graduation.

Toyloy Brown III, my original opinion editor who was also my managing editor, helped me be the writer I am today through constant advice and criticism. I don’t know someone with a more steady hand or reliable voice.

To throw it back further, my fellow 3+1 Chronicle members feel like a second family to me. From an escape room icebreaker to commencement on May 14, it’s been filled with drama, laughter, tears and chaos — family things. This obviously transcends 3+1 — everyone I’ve worked with on The Chronicle made my life better one way or another — and I hope they know that.

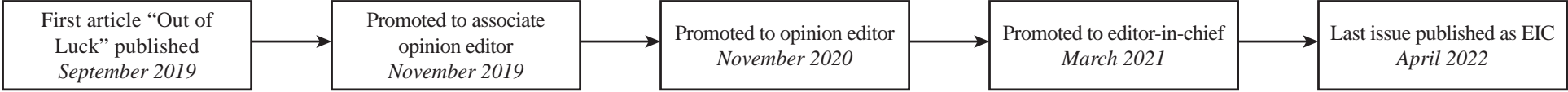
To former Sports Editor Riley Millette, former Opinion Editor Xavier Cullen, former Podcast Producer Brendan Samson, Lachie Harvey and Noah Epstein, my college roommates, thank you. From first-year insanity to a pandemic-ridden second year and whatever the hell this past year was, I always had a home on campus thanks to the people in it. Working with Millette, Cullen and Samson for The Chronicle provided a dynamic that will never be replicated again. Thank you, lads.

And of course, my parents. I would accomplish nothing and aspire for little without them. I will always work hard to mirror their own hard work, and I pray that I’ve made them proud this past year. Thank you.

My next challenge is coming — I don’t know what — but I know Chronicle’s prepared me for it.

Bring it on.

Notable milestones with The Chronicle



Senior send-offs

Plans change



MORGAN TENCZA/CHRONICLE

Emily Flamme has written 81 articles for The Chronicle spanning all four sections.

By EMILY FLAMME
Former Managing Editor

When I applied to Quinnipiac University, I was interested in the dual-degree programs it had. Specifically, the accelerated 3+1 BS in Biology/MS in Molecular and Cell Biology program.

During my first few weeks here, I was so excited for the future research I'd be conducting. Something else I was excited for was the minor in journalism I was pursuing. I thought it would be beneficial for my future career in research to have some background in communications.

I'm sure that would have been true if I didn't go to the involvement fair. I walked into the Recreation Center and had a plan to seek out a club for students interested in science. Plans have a funny way of changing.

My horse-blindness on for anything science were quickly rendered useless by the people screaming at the entrance: The Chronicle. I had no idea what this organization was and even less of an idea why its members were so excited.

They started talking to me and asked what I was interested in. They were met with an emphatic "science." I made the serendipitous mistake to say I was minoring in journalism. I saw about 10 eyes light up.

I attended the first meeting of the semester and signed up to write. It was a story about Hurricane Dorian demolishing the Bahamas. I interviewed a student who was from there and had family still living there. I remember not fully understanding how to write a story, but I didn't care. Interviewing the sources and being able to share their story was so thrilling for me. I wrote every week the entirety of my first semester.

The whole semester went by, and I wasn't even that in-

terested in my biology class. My priority was who I had to interview next or what event I had to cover.

At the end of the semester, I applied for associate news editor. Once I was accepted in the position, I was sure that solidified my future in journalism, so I swiftly changed into the communications accelerated 3+1 program with a major in journalism.

In the blink of an eye, it came time to choose what my graduate degree would be. Over my second year with the Chronicle as news editor, I realized my passion about journalism was actually a passion for communications.

I transitioned to news editor the same week Quinnipiac announced it would be closed for the remainder of the spring 2020 semester due to COVID-19.

Cue the craziest year for the communications industry. A year filled with uncertainty, countless messages in the editorial board group chat (sorry, guys) and thousands of words uploaded to The Chronicle's website about the pandemic.

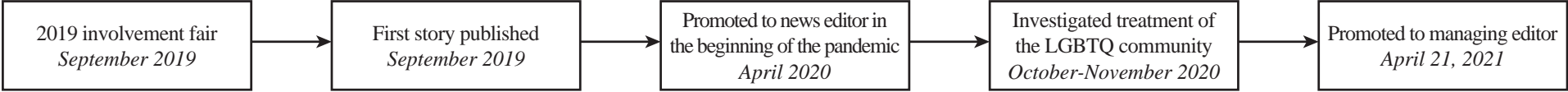
With the policies and updates about the virus, one thing remained: my desire to communicate this with everyone. I remember wishing I could work for the school's public relations team and write stories and create infographics for them, so everyone could be kept in the loop. This is where my enthusiasm for public relations was born.

Despite my desire to work in public relations now, I never would have discovered that unless I went on this journey through this organization. My best piece of advice to anyone is to take your time discovering your interests.

It's nice to have a plan, but life is so much more enjoyable when you make room for self-growth.

Thanks to The Chronicle and its members for giving me the space to learn more about myself.

Notable milestones with The Chronicle



Trusted and rewarded

By TOYLOY BROWN III
Former Managing Editor

My last article for this publication embodies the reality that one of the best things in my life has finally come to an end.

After becoming a staff writer Nov. 13, 2018, opinion editor April 8, 2019 and one of two managing editors Nov. 24, 2020, it's officially time for me to hang it up and leave The Quinnipiac Chronicle's editorial board.

Where do I begin?

I'll start with this: thank you.

I am forever indebted to The Chronicle because it simultaneously prepared me exceptionally well for my future in the journalism industry while also immeasurably enhancing my college experience.

Both of those things happened because of the people, past and present, affiliated with this organization. I do not have the vocabulary or the space to completely express my gratitude to everyone who has helped me in this organization as well as brought me joy daily.

During my freshman year, I joined the school paper along with all the other student media organizations as a general member because I knew gaining experience outside the classroom was arguably more important than any grade I received from a professor.

My game plan was to do everything in my power to be excellent in this craft called journalism, so I could be an awesome sports writer. The growth I've had from my high school sports writing days to now is astonishing and that is almost all thanks to my involvement with the newspaper.

When I became the opinion editor, I improved tremen-

dously as a writer, developed skills in Adobe InDesign, learned how to lead a staff and made awesome new friends.

While all true, it will be a fallacy to say that everything was hunky-dory each step of the way.

During my first full year as an editor my sophomore year, I felt unqualified. I didn't think I was learning fast enough. I was disappointed in my abilities as an editor and doubted if I was good enough to retain my position largely due to the tremendous talent I was surrounded by on a nearly daily basis.

I was also doubtful if I could balance everything on my plate and perform well enough for the school paper. Along with schoolwork and my work-study job, I was a leader in two other student organizations, the Black Student Union and the African and Caribbean Student Union, that rightfully demanded my time for meetings and events.

I spoke to people at The Chronicle about my concerns and was instilled with confidence and trusted to do good work at the paper and balance my duties elsewhere, even if I had to leave early or show up late for meetings.

From spending copious hours in the media suite to covering the Quinnipiac basketball teams at the MAAC tournament in Atlantic City, the memories I've made will last a lifetime.

I'm blessed to have experienced four iterations of this club as someone who is not in an accelerated degree program, and it's still surreal that my time is up. I'm going to miss writing for this paper. Even more so, I'm going to miss the people I was with.



MORGAN TENCZA/CHRONICLE

Toyloy Brown III also served as executive editor of Quinnipiac's For the Qulture magazine during his college career.

Notable milestones with The Chronicle



Find your passion



Connor Lawless has contributed to 339 articles in his career, which is believed to be a Chronicle record.

By CONNOR LAWLESS
Former Creative Director

When I arrived at Quinnipiac, I had no idea what I wanted to do. I ended up choosing journalism as a major on my application as a last minute impulse because I had been the photography editor for my high school paper. I enjoyed photography, but I knew next to nothing about writing journalistically, that skill I would have to figure out later.

In my first semester at QU, one message was drilled into my head again and again — get involved. So after a couple of weeks of settling in, I went back to what I knew and joined The Quinnipiac Chronicle. When I started out, I wrote a few news stories but quickly settled in as a staff photographer and created friendships that would last years.

Something wasn't right with my situation however. I enjoyed my time spent working for The Chronicle, but I wasn't enjoying my courses. The passion and tenacity needed to be a great journalist was just not something I had. Instead, I found myself gravitating towards design.

My true turning point came when I was turned down for photography editor for eboard applications, and was offered design editor instead. I had never done any substantial graphic design before but I was eager to join the e-board and learn more.

That's when I found my passion.

As I prepare to graduate in the coming weeks and I look back on my second semester, it was a crucial one for my future trajectory. Working together closely with former Creative Director Janna Marnell, I learned more through my work at The Chronicle than I ever could've in classes during a semester shortened by the COVID-19 pandemic. With her help and the push for me to become design editor, I

wouldn't have found passion for design and further opportunity and interest in photography.

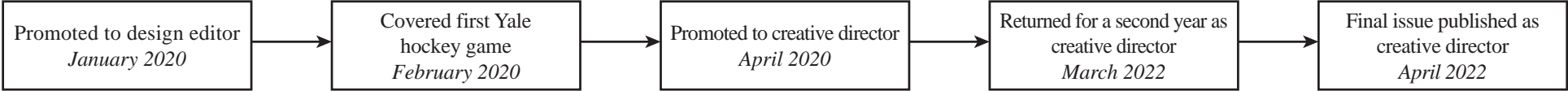
Over the next year as we returned to campus, I changed my major to advertising & integrated communications as I found the work more interesting to me, but I never could let the world of journalism go completely. I kept it as my minor and finished out my coursework. More importantly, I returned to the paper as its creative director, a position I held for two wonderful years. I had a lot to learn then and I still do today, but experiencing the transformation I've seen in myself and my work has been a gift.

Next year I return for a master's in interactive media and design. After that, I don't know where life will take me, but I do know that I will keep chasing my passions. As I grow older, that ideal may become unrealistic, but until then, I intend to live the dream.

“As I grow older, that ideal may become unrealistic, but until then, I intend to live the dream.”

– Connor Lawless
FORMER CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Notable milestones with The Chronicle



Thank you for the opportunity to serve

By CHATWAN MONGKOL
Former Digital News Editor

There were difficult instances during my two and a half years with The Quinnipiac Chronicle. There were times when I wanted to just give up and quit. And there were moments when I questioned why I did this in the first place. But there is one thing that always motivates me to keep doing what I'm doing – you.

Because of you, I know that my work matters, that my energy and time are never wasted and that the job is so rewarding.

I entered journalism with a passion to be an agent of storytelling and to provide people with a platform to access information that's important to them. Mostly, it's asking a lot of difficult questions, tracking down sources, locating statistics or paper trails, speaking with people who might not want to speak to you and hitting so many dead ends. That's not easy.

What makes it easier is knowing that you trust me to tell your stories while providing encouraging, honest feedback and constructive criticism, driving me to improve my reporting and always do better.

Sometimes, when I had interviews scheduled after a long day or on a weekend, I didn't want to do it because I just needed a break. But when I heard the passion behind the stories my sources were telling me and heard how thankful they were for my work, I know exactly why I love being a journalist.

From covering the closure of Ireland's Great Hunger Museum to investigating the shutdown of the nurse anesthesia program, I've learned so much. And thanks to The Chronicle, I've met so many hardworking people who have

always been supportive of what I did.

I've grown so much with The Chronicle alongside my fellow editorial board members who taught me to get out of my comfort zone and always set bigger goals while upholding a high standard of journalistic practice. I'm thankful for that.

The organization and the work I did gave me a head start in my professional career. And as I said, I couldn't be here without your support. I'm excited about what comes next for me, and I hope you continue to show the same support for the work for The Chronicle's next generation of journalists as you have shown me.

As I continue to believe that journalism matters, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to serve and be in the practice.

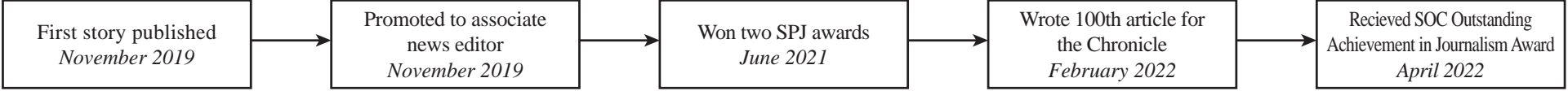
“Because of you, I know that my work matters, that my energy and time are never wasted and that the job is so rewarding.”

– Chatwan Mongkol
FORMER DIGITAL NEWS EDITOR



Chatwan Mongkol became The Chronicle's first-ever-Digital News Editor in November 2021 .

Notable milestones with The Chronicle



Vienna waits for you



Xavier Cullen became The Chronicle’s opinion editor in April 2021 after a stint as podcast producer.

By XAVIER CULLEN
Former Opinion Editor

Childhood comes and goes in the blink of an eye. Just as quickly as we go through high school, we’re forced to pick a college, major and life journey before we know what the outside world will throw at us.

I always knew I wanted to be a journalism major, and Quinnipiac University was the best school for me, so those decisions were easy. That just left the third one to worry about: What would I do with my life once I graduate?

I’ve dealt with several bouts of imposter syndrome as I’ve realized there are dozens of students here that are better than me at what I do. I even live with some of them. While other people got fantastic internships or well-deserved accolades, I felt five steps behind.

Through all the job applications sent and rejection letters received, I thought I wouldn’t make it anywhere. I wanted the world, but that wasn’t feasible. Every kid dreams of achieving their perfect life — chasing the light at the end of the tunnel. Reality soon hits them all that they can’t do so in such a short time.

I still want the world. Badly. But I’ve learned to take a different approach.

I’m 20 years old. I forget how young I am sometimes, and my life isn’t solely defined by how these first few years go. Even if they were, I’d be in a good place. I’ve made inspiring connections, wrote great articles and learned a lot of valuable lessons at Quinnipiac. How can I feel incomplete?

In the words of Billy Joel, “Slow down, you crazy child / You’re so ambitious for a juvenile / But then if you’re so smart / Tell me why are you still so afraid?”

I listened to that song, “Vienna,” so many times this semester. It’s a reminder to myself that I shouldn’t be afraid of

what’s to come. I’ve prepared myself for what lies ahead, so why should I try to rush myself? Doing so would burn me out and take away all my passion.

Instead of doing that, I’ll slow down and see the forest for the trees.

As I depart from The Chronicle, I’d like to thank all of the amazing people who have helped me along the way. Thank you to my amazing roommates — former Sports Editor Riley Millette, former Editor-in-Chief Michael Sicoli, Lachie Harvey, former Podcast Producer Brendan Samson and Noah Epstein. They’ve all been there to give me great advice and much-needed laughter.

Thank you to the friends who I have met at Quinnipiac. I never would have imagined myself as extroverted as I am today, and I owe it to your hospitality and kindness.

Finally, thank you to my family. You gave me the confidence and wisdom I needed in my life to succeed. I would be nowhere without you. You are why I keep trying so hard every day. I love you all.

“My life isn’t solely defined by how these first few years go. Even if they were, I’d be in a good place.”

– Xavier Cullen
FORMER OPINION EDITOR

Notable milestones with The Chronicle



Jump in the deep end

By ASHLEY PELLETIER
Former Arts & Life Editor

I remember the first article I ever wrote for The Chronicle, a review for season three of the Netflix show “13 Reasons Why” called “What was the reason for a third season?”

It was one of the first articles written by a first-year student that year. I wrote three or four more articles that semester before I had to take a work-study job at the Quinnipiac Poll and was told I couldn’t write anymore. I was miserable. I still went to meetings, where then-Arts & Life Editor Jessica Simms and then-Associate News Editor Stephen MacLeod tried to coax me into writing again.

After the fall 2019 semester, I quit the poll and wrote every chance I could. Since then, I haven’t stopped. In my three years I’ve written for The Chronicle, I have written 76 times. Well, 77 now. I covered events, wrote reviews and even started the book of the week column. I worked my way up through Arts & Life, eventually becoming the section head for the 2021-22 school year.

I won’t lie, it wasn’t always easy. There were weeks I’d have to write two or even three articles to fill up the section. There were also times where I thought about quitting because it all was just too much. I even got accused of defamation — twice — but I stuck it out.

Some people in my position may have given up. I was even told multiple times that I might have been happier overall if I quit, but I couldn’t bring myself to do it because I loved the work. There was no greater satisfaction for me than seeing my name in print, than sharing the stories that I thought were important.

Now that it’s over and done with, I don’t really remember all the stress of the job. Rather, I remember all the amaz-

ing opportunities I’ve had because of The Chronicle. I interviewed the performers for Fall Fest and Wake the Giant. I got to write for each section. I wrote stories that meant the world to me.

I’m sure I will find myself writing for The Chronicle again during my graduate year, but there’s a finality about stepping down to make way for Neha Seenarine and David Matos, the new Arts & Life editors.

Regardless of the hard work and long hours I put myself through, I will always remember my time at The Chronicle fondly. I made my best friends through this organization. This journey has set the foundation for my journalism career more than any classroom has. How could I not be grateful for that?

Whether you share my passion for storytelling or not, find something you love, and love it with your whole chest. Don’t wait for these opportunities to happen to you, make yourself happen. Be brilliant.

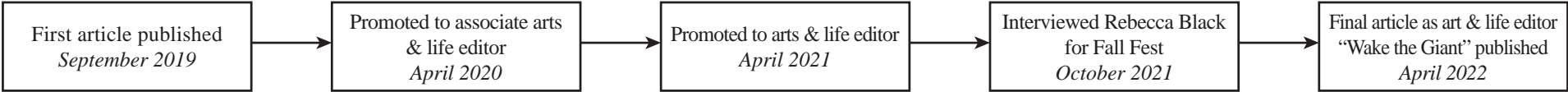
“This journey has set the foundation for my journalism career more than any classroom has.”

– Ashley Pelletier
FORMER ARTS & LIFE EDITOR



Ashley Pelletier started the Generation Zedia podcast during her final semester with The Chronicle.

Notable milestones with The Chronicle



I graduated from the newspaper club



MORGAN TENCZA/CHRONICLE

Riley Millette wrote the first and third most viewed articles in the history of The Chronicle’s website.

By RILEY MILLETTE
Former Sports Editor

Let’s start at the beginning of this theatrical storybook. During my first year as sports editor in the fall of 2020, I worked under the guidance of former Editor-in-Chief Brendan O’Sullivan, one of my predecessors at the position. With the pandemic at full throttle, there was not a single sport being played at Quinnipiac. That made the job of The Quinnipiac Chronicle sports editor a challenge.

During that semester, a professor suggested cutting the sports section from three pages to two. I agreed with her without sounding too excited, and later brought it up to O’Sullivan. He immediately shot it down, saying I could handle it.

I facetiously pleaded with him to relieve me of that one ghastly page, half-joking because we were close friends and half-serious because I wanted a break. but he pushed me when I needed it.

Then there was the group hike we had at the end of the 2020-21 year. I don’t know what great navigator was in charge of that route that teetered us on the edge of a cliff, but I digress. We got ice cream afterwards and sat in a small grass patch making TikToks. What a great way to bookend the year that was.

The 2021-22 year was when the newspaper became really fun. I was much more comfortable in my role and I got closer with everyone I already knew, while meeting new members.

When former Managing Editor Toyloy Brown III, former Creative Director Connor Lawless and I went to Atlantic City for the MAAC Tournament in March, we worked our tails off from Monday to Friday. We had tons of fun covering the Quinnipiac basketball and esports teams, but once our job was done late Friday night, we stayed up into the wee hours of morning with my roommate and Noah Epstein talking about the teams.

We probably talked about basketball more that night than we did the entire rest of the trip.

Then there were the 7:30 a.m. wakeups to go to the media suite on Tuesday mornings with my roommate, best friend and former Editor-in-Chief Michael Sicoli. It was always too early in the morning for us to even speak to each other. When I sat down to write this, I thought I would tell the three or four memories that best stick out in my mind. There are some highlights, but that’s not how I remember my time at The Chronicle. I remember the routine. Every Tuesday was the same.

I would talk about the CDC’s Disease of the Week with former Managing Editor Emily Flamme. I would practice my golf swing with former Podcast Producer Brendan Samson. Then-News Editor Nicole McIsaac would hit me in the head with a piece of paper. Then-News Editor Melina Khan would tell me she’s stealing my job. Then-Associate Sports Editor Ethan Hurwitz would hit the griddy for no reason. Former Opinion Editor Xavier Cullen would make a reference to an obscure TikTok that only I knew.

And we’d do it all again at our eboard meeting on Wednesdays. And I wouldn’t have it any other way. I owe special thanks to my great roommates and brothers for life: Sicoli, Samson and Cullen. They all changed this organization in more ways than they know.

To my co-editor Peter Piekarski, we were in the trenches and we made it out. Hurwitz and Levasseur, you’re in the trenches now. But I know they can handle it, just like O’Sullivan knew I could.

Now let’s play another game of Chronicle “Among Us”, it’s been too long.

Notable milestones with The Chronicle



Samson’s Sendoff: The Final Chapter

By BRENDAN SAMSON
Former Podcast Producer

I remember attending Quinnipiac University’s accepted students day. I had no idea where I wanted to go, and despite applying, the school was certainly not on my radar.

Now, three years and countless obstacles later, I can confidently say I made the correct choice.

When I went to that accepted students day, the thing that hooked me in was student media. I spoke with members from QBSN and instantly could not wait to see the possibilities once I attended Quinnipiac and joined the club.

Now, flip to freshman year, and I did attend the first QBSN meeting and potentially the second. However, what I didn’t do is write or call a single game, because I had already found my club, The Quinnipiac Chronicle.

Much like Quinnipiac, The Chronicle was not on my radar as a club. It didn’t even come to my attention until my current suitemate and former Editor-in-Chief Michael Sicoli wrote his first article about Colts quarterback Andrew Luck’s retirement.

From there, I still didn’t jump right in like most of the other freshmen who had joined, I wrote an article or two and that was it.

Then sophomore season came and my podcast life started. I was the host of the “Chronicle Weekly Report” for the entire year, I dabbled in sports features and even covered a St. Patrick’s Day event for news with former Opinion Editor Xavier Cullen. I also helped run a few meetings, while the boardman, former Associate Sports Editor Jordan Wolff was playing intramural volleyball matches.

I found my groove and pitched the idea to Sicoli for me to become the associate podcast producer. I thought it was my time to take the step to e-board and the title would sound

nice alongside “heir to the boardman throne.”

Then, halfway through this fall, I was thrust into the lead role of podcast producer.

This is where I would say I enjoyed myself the most in The Chronicle, but also grew the most as a journalist.

The section now stands at five podcasts, one of which is the first collaboration between QBSN and The Chronicle that I can think of, and I could not be more proud.

Along with producing podcasts, I had the privilege to write my own recurring column in the sports section about the golf team and most importantly, I met friends that have shaped the entirety of my Quinnipiac experience and that I hope to have for a lifetime.

My full commitment to The Chronicle was delayed, but the lesson I learned, other than “do student media because it’s where you grow the most,” is don’t worry if it takes time to find your place, just make your mark once you find it.

“I met friends that have shaped the entirety of my Quinnipiac experience and that I hope to have for a lifetime.”

– Brendan Samson
FORMER PODCAST PRODUCER



DANIEL PASSAPERA/CHRONICLE

Brendan Samson grew The Chronicle’s podcast section by adding three more programs during his tenure.

Notable milestones with The Chronicle



Arts & Life

YOUR FEELINGS SHOULDN'T BE A MYSTERY

By NICOLE MCISAAC
Managing Editor

If there’s one thing society says you can’t have, it’s feelings. I mean, when something goes wrong, you should automatically feel nothing and move on from the situation. Right? If only it was that simple. There is no reason why showing emotion should be taboo — whether it’s smiling over your achievements or bawling your eyes out at rejection. It’s okay to process what your heart and mind are feeling. And you may be asking yourself: “Why is there such a chokehold behind people showing their true emotions to others and feeling what they have to feel?”

While I can’t answer for everyone in the world, the majority of the time it boils down to a fear of showing weakness, getting hurt, facing rejection or invalidation of what’s going on in someone’s personal life. In a society where a large portion of individuals don’t share how they’re feeling, it could seem like you are the only one floundering among friends or peers. I often feel that those around me are encountering the same obstacles I face in life, or nonetheless share a similar mental state. However, others can start to feel like they must constantly compose their emotions based on reactions from others. Often, people who are feeling such strong emotions are met face-to-face with sayings such as, “you don’t have any reason to cry,” “people have it worse than you” or “calm down.” While the individuals saying those things might have the right intentions, it’ll certainly make the people experiencing those emotions feel invalidated. For some, hiding feelings may correspond to picking up more responsibilities, like telling yourself that you are simply overreacting or feeling the constant need to find a distraction to avoid understanding what is really going on in your brain. Suppressing your feelings is oftentimes the easy way out of an already tough situation to digest.

While some might not recognize the build-up of constant tucked-away emotions can have long-term health effects on individuals in society, it is important to recognize the physical impact that hiding feelings can have on a human body. In addition to feelings of anxiety or depression, a research study from The University of Texas at Austin uncovered that emotion suppression leads to increased feelings of aggression — making those feel worse about the situation at large. By just feeling what follows a situation or decision, one can avoid the amplified emotions that would come later down the line. To put this into perspective, college students encounter this situation before beginning their journey at any university. Leaving their hometown nest for the first time to be thrown into a deep end of the unknown world of higher education can be a time that piles on a lot of emotions that people sometimes don’t know how to process. While many people don’t hone in on how hard that transition can be, it is important to recognize that the outside societal factors presented in a new college environment prohibit students from expressing how they are really feeling. According to a research study published in the National Library of Medicine, students placed in this new environment with unfamiliar people may respond by “being more guarded about expressing their emotions.” “Given the intense emotions that are part of this transition, one critical factor should be the way individuals regulate their emotions,” the researchers wrote in the study. “Recent work has shown that one common way that individuals regulate emotions is through expressive suppression – that is, by attempting to inhibit their emotion-expressive behavior.” Students who are so engulfed in the move-in and process of making friends are often concerned over feeling what society says they need to feel during a large transition in their life. This example is just one in which people can’t truly understand and

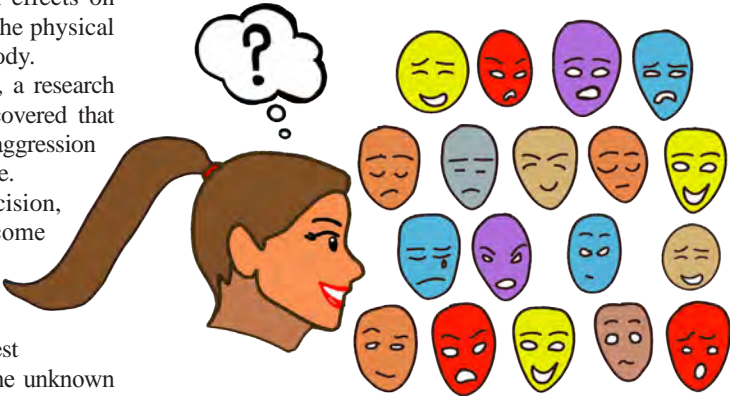


ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH HARDIMAN

process what they need to because of situations in their life influencing them. There have been many instances throughout my college journey that I have felt I was the only person drowning in emotional baggage. And that’s just not the case. By talking to the right people and letting myself feel what my body wanted to feel, I was able to heal from situations that I didn’t think I would recover from. Despite the way society and others may make you feel about your feelings, you aren’t alone and you aren’t crazy. It is important to express what you need to express. Maybe that could correlate with talking to a close friend or family member, journaling your thoughts, letting out a cry or seeking professional counseling. Feel what you have to feel in order to heal and learn from the situation that you are experiencing. It is a critical part of understanding who you are and what you care about in life.



ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR LAWLESS

By MICHAEL LAROCCA
Opinion 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.

Quinnipiac University’s Department of Residential Life announced a brand new outdoor residential hall for first-year students opening for the 2022-23 academic year on April 26. The residential hall, set to be named Lahey Terrace after former President John Lahey, will be the first dorm setting at Quinnipiac to be exclusively outdoors, due to the increase in first-year applications. “Oh, that’s what they used my name for?” Lahey said. “I was told it would be for that business school extension they’re doing, but this is alright I guess. I don’t really care.” With the lack of indoor housing for incoming students being of concern for Quinnipiac, the university made the decision to house members of the class of 2026 in state-of-the-art tents that are able to hold four residents at a time, if they position themselves correctly. “This will be an amazing compromise for students who wish to get a taste of the real world experience,” Associate Director of Student and Residential Comfort Assistance Morgan Bumble said. “Nothing helps assimilate a student to the nightmare-ish tendencies of the New England winter better than waking up to your tentmate being treated for frostbite.” The tents will be placed in predetermined plots across the Mount Carmel campus. Students who wish to sleep warmer at night have the option to purchase a heavy-duty sleeping bag for an extra \$1000 charged to their tuition bill. An alternative will be to have your tent placed near one of the campus’ many propane fire pits if a student obtains a 3.5 GPA or higher at the end of their first semester.

Quinnipiac introduces first-ever outdoor residence facility

“I really don’t know about this,” adjunct professor of water studies Pacific Larson said. “This is just bad.” The university has already made attempts to quell Larson’s suspicions. “Propaganda,” Bumble said of Larson’s statement. “Just straight anti-fire propaganda.” Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences Adam David Roth subsequently relieved Larson of her duties after Bumble’s rebuttal interview. The university stated that students who decide to unstage their tent from its original position will have a hold put on their account until the tent is returned. Students will also be placed on two-month academic probation to dissuade further action for violation. “There is an extremely high demand for dorm space on campus this fall,” Bumble said. “We cannot have students leaving their areas to go camping with Terrence [the Bear] and run the risk of damaging university property.” Lahey Terrace will also be the host to the brand new Environmental Science Living Learning Community, which will allow students from all majors within the College of Arts & Sciences to experience the sights and sounds of suburban Hamden. “This is the wave right here,” incoming first-year political science major Logan Boreiano said. “You people may not know, but I was an Eagle Scout in high school, so this will be just like scout camp, except every day.” Current students, however, are not as welcoming to the idea of outdoor dorming. “Did lockdown make these high school kids dumb?” sophomore nursing major Adrianna Lopes said. “I’m not sure what these tour guides are telling them, but this is not Clemson weather. This is legitimately dangerous.” The university said that it will reassess the guidelines for outdoor housing as the year progresses and the winter ramps up. “This school isn’t going to know what hit it,” Boreiano said. “I graduated high school. How hard could sleeping outside be?”

Scores & Schedule

Friday 4/22

GOLF 2nd of 9 @ MAAC Championship
BASE lost 4-1 @ Iona

Saturday 4/23

WOT&F @ Rider Invite
(No team results)
WOT&F @ UOFSC Invite
(No team results)
GOLF 2nd of 9 @ MAAC Championship
FHOK vs. New Haven
(No results available)
FHOK vs. Yale & Brown
(No results available)
MTEN won 4-3 vs. Siena
(MAAC Tournament)
WTEN won 4-0 vs. Niagara
(MAAC Tournament)
MLAX lost 10-8 vs. St. Bonaventure
WLAX lost 12-10 vs. Monmouth
BASE lost 6-1 @ Iona

Sunday 4/24

GOLF 1st of 9 @ MAAC Championship
FHOK vs. Quinnipiac Alumnae
(No results available)
MTEN lost 4-0 vs. Monmouth
(MAAC Championship)
WTEN won 4-0 vs. Fairfield
(MAAC Championship)
BASE won 10-6 @ Iona
SOFT won 7-5 vs. Siena
SOFT lost 8-5 vs. Siena

Tuesday 4/26

BASE lost 9-6 vs. CCSU @ Dunkin Donuts Park

Tuesday 4/26

MLAX @ Yale 7 p.m.

Wednesday 4/27

BASE vs. Bryant 3 p.m.
SOFT vs. Merrimack 3 p.m.

Thursday 4/28

ACRO @ Oregon (NCATA Championships)
WOT&F @ Penn Relays

Friday 4/29

ACRO @ Oregon (NCATA Championships)
BASE vs. Manhattan 3 p.m.
WOT&F @ Penn Relays

Saturday 4/30

ACRO @ Oregon (NCATA Championships)
BASE vs. Manhattan 1 p.m.
MLAX @ Siena 12 p.m.
SOFT vs. Marist 12 p.m. & 2 p.m.
WOT&F @ Penn Relays

Sunday 5/1

BASE vs. Manhattan 1 p.m.
SOFT @ Iona TBA
SOFT @ Iona TBA
WOT&F @ Yale Springtime Invitational

Tuesday 5/3

BASE @ University of Rhode Island 3 p.m.

Yeargin’s Yard: Recharged

Pitcher and catcher tandems take center stage



CONNOR GORMAN/CHRONICLE

By **BENJAMIN YEARGIN**
Associate Sports Editor

A battery. It’s what powers a household. Some may argue it powers the world, fueling smartphones, computers and a plethora of other gadgets. For the Quinnipiac baseball team, the pitcher-catcher battery is what powers its wins and losses.

The Bobcats pulled off a mini upset within the MAAC and took two out of three games from the Monmouth Hawks, a team that’s currently fifth in the conference compared to Quinnipiac’s eighth. The reason they were able to do it, and the reason they get the majority of their wins, is from strong pitching. In the wins, junior starting pitcher Kevin Seitter and senior starting pitcher Gabriel Romano went a combined 12 innings, leaving the bullpen to only close out six innings.

Even in the one loss against the Hawks, junior pitcher Brandy Garcia went 6.1 innings with 11 strikeouts, though he did allow five runs. With starters being able to go longer into games, the Bobcats don’t have to rely on their bullpen, by far the team’s weakest point. The bullpen has allowed 178 total runs on the year, compared to Garcia, Seitter and sophomore pitcher Tate Copeland’s combined 118.

But, with all the bad happening in the bullpen throughout the year, blowing leads and walking 169 batters compared to opponents 133, there’s still positives to take away from the latest games. For starters (pun intended), the Bobcats go-to relievers as of late have been Romano, senior Anthony Ambrosino and sophomore Matt DeLuca. The trio have allowed a total of 12 runs in eight outings.

Quinnipiac Head Coach John Delaney also has sophomore pitcher Chris Mazza, graduate student pitcher Carter Poiry and occasionally junior outfielder/pitcher Anthony Donofrio come out of the pen to pitch during weekday games.

The bullpen shined against Yale on April 20, who they lost to 19-7 earlier in the season. The combination of Mazza, Poiry, Donofrio and senior pitcher Derek Goldrick held the Bulldogs to three runs after a poor five run outing from freshman pitcher Ryan Hutchinson.

Specifically, Poiry has developed a nasty pick-off move. Against Hartford on April 12, and in the second meeting versus Yale on April 20, the former Murray State Racer picked off one runner in each game.

“If you can’t keep guys from getting good jumps on you ... you make the game too easy for the other team,” Delaney said.

Poiry allowed five runs and hit three batters the first time he faced Yale, whereas in his second outing he allowed zero runs and one walk. He has improved on his command this season, and with the pick-off move he’s developed, he has the potential to become a No. 1 option out of the bullpen.

Now let’s look at the other side of the battery, the catchers. Sophomore catcher Keegan O’Connor and junior catcher/outfielder Danny Melnick have been two of the Bobcats offensive cornerstones. O’Connor is batting .297/.364/.432 with 12 extra base hits and 15 RBIs. O’Connor has also improved defensively, not allowing a passed ball since April 2, against Canisius, and throwing a runner out April 20, against Yale.

Melnick is Quinnipiac’s best hitter, slashing .320/.403/.563 with 10 doubles, five home runs and 19 RBIs. He has shifted more into a designated hitter role, only catching when O’Connor needs a rest, and for good reason. Melnick is the lesser defender of the pair, allowing 12 past balls and six errors.

As the season has progressed, O’Connor and Melnick have both developed chemistry with their pitchers and with the fielders around them. O’Connor has not been afraid to backpick to first, and he has started to implement that into his arsenal.

“A lot of our pitchers do a good job, usually hitting the zone,” O’Connor said. “With the breaking balls in the dirt, they have to have full confidence in me to spike it and keep it in front of me.”

This team has the potential to be great. The Bobcats’ offense has been solid throughout the whole season and when the pitchers go deep into games, they’re a competitive team in the MAAC. But they’re incredibly inconsistent.

Nothing demonstrates Quinnipiac’s inconsistency more than this past stretch of games.

Going into the April 22-24 series, Iona was 1-30 overall (1-11 MAAC), one of the worst records in all of Division I baseball. Being on the outside looking in and with the Bobcats’ recent resurgence in play, it was fair to think this would be a sweep or a series victory. Delaney, however, was cautious with this thinking.

“(Iona) can win any game, it’s zero-zero when you start,” Delaney said. “The approach is no different than any approach in any game. They might have one win, but that’s not the way we look at it.”

The Bobcats dropped the first two games of the series due to excellent Gaels pitching and a stagnant offense. The only offensive action they saw in these games was a home run from sophomore outfielder Jared Zimbardo and a bases-loaded walk from graduate student infielder Ian Ostberg.

Like I said, the pitching has improved and was stellar against Iona, Quinnipiac just couldn’t hit. All bats were going on Sunday when it finally beat Iona 10-6. Donofrio and Melnick both tallied three hits on the day.

The Bobcats have 16 games left, 12 in-conference, so there’s still time to make a push for a higher seed in the MAAC. If they want a winning record, they need to win 14 out of the 16 games.

This team has the potential to be great, only time will tell if they can be consistent enough to embody greatness.



DANIEL PASSAPERA/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac baseball is 14 games under .500 this season.

Teetering on the edge

Quinnipiac softball looks to sneak into MAAC Tournament in crunchtime



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

By **MICHAEL LARocca**
Opinion Editor

Life can be odd when you’re living on the bubble of greatness. It’s as if you’re standing outside your favorite store with all of your favorite things in the window. You just have to muscle up, go in and get them. That’s how Quinnipiac softball is living at this point in the season.

Nearing the final stretch, the Bobcats are sitting quite uncomfortably at ninth place in the MAAC, a conference that only allows the top six teams to play for a championship. With a 4-8 conference record, Quinnipiac is currently 2.5 games behind sixth-place Marist, a team that is squeaking its way into contention with a 6-5 conference record.

This is the make-or-break point in the season that truly good teams live for. With eight in-conference games left to play for Quinnipiac, there is no better time for it to prove that it belongs, and the Bobcats have just the right type of talent to do so.

One can say that Quinnipiac has started to peak at the right time, having won five of its last nine games on the back of its young pitching rotation and timely hitting from its veterans.

The Bobcats are coming off a weekend-split against the visiting Siena Saints, a team who came to Hamden in a complete nose dive, having lost seven straight prior.

Quinnipiac took game one of the doubleheader 7-5, headlined by five innings of one-run ball from freshman pitcher Sydney Horan and an excellent game from senior infielder Bridget Nasir, who went a perfect 4-for-4 with two RBIs, a double and a triple.

The second game of the doubleheader was a different story. Quinnipiac fell 8-5 at the hands of Siena, which broke its eight-game losing streak in the process. The Bobcats’ pitching was turned on its head after sophomore pitcher Tori McGraw was charged with six runs in only 1.2 innings in the circle, putting her squad in a 8-0 hole in the second inning.

However, while still taking the loss, Quinnipiac battled back to make it a three-run game in the sixth, bringing the go-ahead run to the plate, but ultimately stranding the runners. This type of resilience in a two-game set against one of the more talented teams in the MAAC should be the primary building block for the Bobcats throughout the rest of the season.

Through trial and error, Quinnipiac has found a formula for success that can be followed for the rest of the season. The bottom line for the Bobcats to make a run at the MAAC tournament lies with the arms of freshman pitchers Horan, Jaclyn Gonzalez and Taylor Walton.

Whenever these three have entered the circle, Quinnipiac has seen its greatest success. Horan and Gonzalez were credited with nine of the team’s 10 wins of the season, carrying team-low ERAs of 4.64 and 3.55 respectively. With the pair’s sheer talent alongside Walton’s solid relief pitching, the Bobcats will have the best chance at reaching the playoffs if these three can create productive and sustainable performances down the stretch.

Another component of the formula will be creating opportunities for the team’s veterans to flourish offensively. Despite the fairly low batting average many Quinnipiac batters possess, the doubleheader allowed for several upperclassmen to flaunt their clutch gene.

Graduate student utility player Kayla Jensen made great strides in game one, going 2-for-3 and stealing two bases. Jensen did this despite batting .177 and having only two stolen bases on the season going into the series. Nasir had the aforementioned perfect game at the dish in game one and junior first baseman Lala Pascual got on base three times across the two games, driving in a run in the process. These performances were the fuel to Quinnipiac’s offensive fire.

The Bobcats have shown that there is a rough formula for success on this team. The only concern for them down the stretch, however, is how they can perform on the road. Quinnipiac only has three more games in Hamden before playing its final six games on the road, a frightening development considering that the team has gone 4-15 away from the gaze of the Sleeping Giant.

Regardless, the Bobcats have shown throughout conference play that they can make honest attempts at being contenders within the MAAC. The only thing stopping them from sneaking into the conference tournament and making a run for a championship is themselves. That is the odd life of living on the bubble.

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Quinnipiac, most notably Marfo. After leading the nation in RPG, he transferred to Texas A&M after the 2019-2020 season, returning to Quinnipiac for his graduate year during the 2021-22 season.

“It’s hard in this industry to predict the future,” Dunleavy said. “I do know that none of those guys are leaving on bad terms, all excellent students. Those guys have been really good guys in the program.”

The team is certain that they will add proven collegiate talent through the transfer portal and compete for a MAAC championship come next season. After last year, where Saint Peter’s won the conference

title and then went on a deep March Madness run, having the distinction of “MAAC Champion” certainly has more weight to it now.

“That was amazing for our league,” Dunleavy said. “In terms of the exposure it gave our league, to say ‘Hey, if you’re a good team in the MAAC, this is what’s possible.’”

The Bobcats will be on the bubble of the MAAC rankings entering next season, but the roster has enough new blood and veteran leadership to make another special run in Atlantic City in March of 2023.



Aidan Sheedy/Chronicle

Quinnipiac men’s basketball entered the MAAC Tournament as the lowest ranked team.



CONNOR LAWLESS/CHRONICLE

Rebounding from 2021-22

How MBB can rebuild and retool after hot-and-cold season

By ETHAN HURWITZ and SETH FROMOWITZ

After Quinnipiac’s Cinderella-esque run in the 2022 MAAC Tournament in Atlantic City, the Bobcats are expected to experience some serious roster turnover come next winter.

Four Bobcats have entered the transfer portal as of publication, including freshman guard Bernie Blunt, freshman forward Brody Limric and junior forwards Brendan McGuire and Elias King.

The biggest potential departure so far has been McGuire, who entered the portal on March 21. He averaged 4.6 points per game, 2.6 assists per game and 3.0 rebounds per game in 21 games last season. McGuire also missed time last season with a face injury and COVID-19, which limited his playing time in-season.

Quinnipiac head coach Baker Dunleavy spoke to The Chronicle about McGuire’s departure and the conversations around his decision to enter the portal.

“He never asked me if he was going to start ... I knew he would compete,” Dunleavy said. “We really love Brendan and wish him well, but he would have had the opportunity to contribute.”

Now looking at the other big man, King struggled getting time on the court, seeing the floor in only 13 games and averaging 5.8 minutes per game. He transferred to Quinnipiac after his freshman season at Santa Monica (junior college) and was only used as an end-of-rotation big-man, averaging 2.7 points per game in his two seasons as a Bobcat.

Blunt, who was expected to see a lot of time after a late-season injury to senior guard Tyrese Williams, was barely utilized by Dunleavy. He only played 11 games and averaged just under 10 minutes per game.

“Bernie worked really hard, really good player, could really shoot the ball,” Dunleavy said. “Especially at the point guard position, it’s hard to go back and forth. It’s really hard for a guy to get better and I thought Dezi (Jones) ... had to earn that privilege to play and I thought he did a good enough job.”

Blunt’s transfer may be due to Williams’ return. A source confirmed to The Chronicle in early April that the Beacon, New York, native will return for his graduate season. Williams will likely see his way into the starting rotation and be

thrust into a leadership role, with starting graduate forwards Kevin Marfo and Jacob Rigoni leaving. Both Marfo and Rigoni were staples for the Bobcats and bonafide leaders in the locker room, so replacing them will be a tough task for Dunleavy and his staff.

Limric redshirted his freshman season and thus entered the transfer portal on March 24. The six-foot-nine-inch center had high hopes to take over in the offensive paint in future seasons, but with a blurry outlook on future playing time, he now is in the open market for another collegiate program.

“Every discussion in the off-season, we try to have a theme of honesty,” Dunleavy said. “We have a log jam of minutes, especially at the forward position. Bernie and Brody were more honest with me.”

The roster did gain a couple of forwards through the portal. Columbia rising senior Ike Nweke verbally committed to the Bobcats on April 15, and will be a solid big man that Dunleavy can utilize in the front court. Nweke averaged 16 points per game in his final season with the Lions and has already been vocal on Twitter about joining the Quinnipiac program.

“Ike is a versatile forward that will make an immediate impact with our group,” Dunleavy said. “Our entire group is looking forward to seeing what Ike can accomplish at Quinnipiac.”

The Bobcats also added Kenya native Paul Otieno, who played at the JUCO level with Kilgore College for the past two seasons. Otieno tweeted about the Bobcats’ interest in him a few months back and verbally committed on April 20. He brings the ability to contribute on both ends of the floor, as Otieno was a National Junior College Athletic Association Honorable Mention All-American in 2021-22, as well as an NJCAA All-Star.

As Dunleavy enters his sixth season at the helm, many are wondering if this is a win-now year for the coach, who led his team to the MAAC semifinals in March.

“I’d be lying to you if it wasn’t win now,” Dunleavy said. “I think every year (is) win now. Every year is retooling and looking at your current roster and say what we got to do to be the best team we can be.”

Now what does this mean for the future of Quinnipiac basketball? The team had three freshmen on the roster last season and now only one of them remains. Quinn Guth, a guard who

was a preferred walk-on, is now the sole freshman on the squad.

There has been no reported interest between incoming guards and Quinnipiac as of publication. This leaves Guth, the only backup point guard, in line for a big jump from year one to year two. Guth, a Brookfield, Connecticut, native, saw limited playing time, only stepping on the court in six games. He did have one basket in his debut against Western New England and heads into his sophomore campaign as more of an unknown.

Although the four players find themselves in the transfer portal, a return to Quinnipiac can’t be completely ruled out.

Several players that put on the blue and gold have entered the transfer portal and found themselves back at

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CONNOR LAWLESS/CHRONICLE

Junior forward Brendan McGuire scored a career-high 19 points against Niagara on January 23, 2021.