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President Olian pays more than \$3.5 million for new Arizona home

By DANIEL PASSAPERA and CAT MURPHY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Quinnipiac finances rebound after pandemic, form-990 shows

By KATIE LANGLEY
News Editor

In a 990 tax filing form obtained by the Chronicle, Quinnipiac University showed financial gains in the period from July 2020-June 2021. President Judy Olian's salary topped over \$1 million in fiscal year 2020-21 as Quinnipiac's endowment increased by over \$200 million from the previous period.

The fiscal period began July 1, 2020, and ended June 30, 2021, according to the university's form-990, which the Chronicle received by request from Associate Vice President for Public Relations John Morgan.

Form-990 details returns of organizations exempt from income tax, or nonprofit organizations, such as universities. Quinnipiac is listed as a nonprofit under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

The university endowment was valued at \$753,870,095 in FY 2020-21, an over 38% increase from the previous fiscal period, which was reported at over \$545 million, according to the form-990.

In context, Fairfield's Sacred Heart University, which, like Quinnipiac, is a private university with approximately 6,000 undergraduate students enrolled, has an endowment of about \$247 million, according to Sacred Heart's 2020-21 form-990.

Yale University, located about 10 miles from Quinnipiac's Mount Carmel Campus, has the second largest endowment in the country at \$41.4 billion, according to the Yale Daily News. However, Yale has a larger undergraduate population than Quinnipiac and holds Ivy League status.

Morgan said in an email to the Chronicle Nov. 28, that the roughly \$200 million increase in endowment was thanks to "37%

investment gains due to favorable market conditions" during the fiscal period.

Gains from contributions increased by over 15.2% in FY 2020-21 and earnings from investments increased by over 46.7% in the same year. The university reported a loss of over \$4 million in investments in the previous fiscal year, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, the university disclosed more than \$531 million in revenue at the end of FY 2020-21 and an over \$45 million profit in the same year, putting profits up about 45% from FY 2019-2020, which were around \$31 million.

Expenses also saw an increase of about \$18 million in FY 2020-21 as compared to the previous period.

A June 2021 independent financial audit of the university showed that pandemic spending has been lower compared to pre-pandemic spending, the Chronicle reported in April 2022, partially due to a pause on travel and study abroad programs as well as a hiring freeze and pay reduction in 2020. Travel expenses remained slightly lower in FY 2020-21 than in FY 2019-20. However, FY 2020-21 appeared to have cost the university even more than FY 2018-19, reflecting a return to pre-pandemic conditions.

Among the expenses that increased for the university in FY 2020-21 were grants and assistance for domestic students. Foreign individuals, governments and organizations received about \$1.6 million less from the university in FY 2021-21 than in 2019-20.

Olian remained the highest-paid university employee in calendar year 2020, earning a total of \$1,023,183. Unlike other amounts reported in the form-990, salaries are measured by calendar year, not fiscal year.

Olian and all other university employees took

a 20% pay cut in April 2020 due to the pandemic.

In 2020, Olian's base compensation decreased by about 16%, but it increased in bonuses and incentives, retirement compensation, nontaxable benefits and other reportable compensation. In total, Olian's salary only decreased by about 0.055% in 2020 from the previous year.

Morgan declined to comment on if the 20% pay cut has ended as of publication.

"We do not comment on compensation beyond the required disclosures per form-990," Morgan wrote in an email statement to the Chronicle Nov. 28.

After Olian, the next seven highest paid Quinnipiac employees in 2020-21 were as follows:

- Head Men's Basketball Coach Baker Dunleavy (\$749,728)
- Men's Hockey Coach Rand Pecknold (\$615,652)
- Dean of the School of Medicine Bruce Koeppen (\$588,010)
- Chief Financial Officer Mark Varholak (\$574,791)
- Head Women's Basketball Coach Tricia Fabbri (\$421,768)
- Vice President for Facilities and Capital Planning Sal Filardi (\$411,029)
- Former President Emeritus John Lahey (\$312,155)

The total of salaries, other compensation and employee benefits the university paid to employees in FY 2020-21, according to the form-990, was almost \$182 million, a decrease of about \$5 million from the previous year.

The FY 2020-21 form-990 is not yet available online due to delays in IRS processing of nonprofit filings, Morgan wrote.



INFOGRAPHIC BY PEYTON MCKENZIE / DANIEL PASSAPERA/CHRONICLE

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OLIAN from cover

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

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

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

The university purchased the property for \$6.5 million in April 2018 and spent an estimated \$1.32 million renovating the property between 2018 and 2020, according to town property records.

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

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

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

Morgan, who declined to provide additional information on the intended purpose of



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY LEGACY REAL ESTATE PARTNERS

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

Olian’s Arizona home, also declined to comment on how much time the president plans to spend at her secondary residence.

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

Olian, whose travel expenses surpassed those of the UCLA chancellor and each of the university’s 16 other deans, submitted

doctors’ notes to circumvent the university’s travel policy that prohibited faculty from flying in business or first class without a medical waiver, according to the report.

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

Making the season bright

By JACK SPIEGEL
Photography Editor

Quinnipiac University lit the Mount Carmel campus Quad Tuesday night, ringing in the winter holidays with hot chocolate, donuts and Christmas carols. QU Note-able

and The Legends sang songs to the likes of “Run Run Rudolph” and “Silver Bells”. The Quad Lighting was moved to tuesday from its originally scheduled date of Wednesday due to forecasted rain.



JACK SPIEGEL/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac applies to move Mount Carmel shuttle stop again

By CAT MURPHY
Staff Writer

Quinnipiac University administrators are seeking approval from the Hamden Traffic Authority to relocate the shuttle stop on the Mount Carmel campus for the second time this year, according to the commission’s Nov. 14, meeting minutes.

J. Howard Pfrommer, a civil engineer at Nathan L. Jacobson & Associates who represents Quinnipiac, submitted an application to the Traffic Authority on behalf of the university to construct a temporary shuttle stop along New Road, according to the meeting minutes.

The university’s application proposes installing the New Road shuttle stop between the Echlin Center building and the Peter C. Hereld House for Jewish Life, wrote Sal Filardi, vice president for facilities and capital planning, in an email to the Chronicle on Nov. 23.

Filardi said the proposed shuttle stop along New Road “is intended to replace” the shuttle stop currently located in the Harwood Gate Lot.

“It is intended to provide a shuttle stop during the construction of the South Quad buildings,” Filardi wrote. “We are seeking approval now and, if approved, construction could start sometime next semester.”

The commissioners resolved at the Nov. 14, meeting to follow up with Hamden Town Attorney Sue Gruen to formalize the conditions for approval, according to the meeting minutes. Gruen did not immediately respond to the Chronicle’s request for comment.

Pending approval from the HTA, the shuttle stop’s relocation to New Road will be its second since the start of the fall 2022 semester.

The campus’ South Lot shuttle stop was closed just after fall move-in to “accommodate site work for the new buildings on the South Quad,” according to an email sent to the Quinnipiac community by the OneStop Office on July 27.

The Harwood Gate Lot shuttle stop, which was installed in preparation for the closure of the South Lot shuttle stop, opened on the Mount Carmel campus in the early weeks of the fall 2022 semester to replace the previous stop in South Lot, according to the July 27, email.

Tony Reyes, chief of Public Safety, told the Chronicle in September that the stop was temporarily moved to the Harwood Gate Lot to reduce student wait times while the university identified a more permanent location.

“We have been considering shuttle stop locations during the last year as part of the South Quad planning efforts,” Filardi wrote.

However, university officials applied in November to relocate the Mount Carmel campus’ shuttle stop again amid concerns over the traffic implications of its new location in the Harwood Gate Lot, Filardi explained.

“That location is proving to be very congested at certain times,” Filardi wrote.

Six shuttles stop at the Harwood Gate Lot at least once per hour between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. on weekdays, according to the Quinnipiac website.

The three York Hill Express shuttles,



MAP VIA GOOGLE MAPS / PHOTOILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

which arrive at the Mount Carmel and York Hill campuses every 10 to 15 minutes during peak transit hours, each make approximately three to four stops at the Harwood Gate Lot per hour.

The lone North Haven Campus shuttle and two Bobcat Transit shuttles, which connect the Mount Carmel and York Hill campuses with the Theatre Arts Center, Whitney Village and Westwoods, each make at least one hourly stop at the Harwood Gate Lot during peak weekday hours, according to the university’s website.

These data indicate that the Quinnipiac shuttles routinely make between 12 and 17 stops per hour at the Harwood Gate Lot stop during peak transit hours.

Filardi also told the Chronicle that the shuttle stop’s proposed relocation to New Road is unlikely to be its last.

“The New Road shuttle stop is temporary,” Filardi wrote. “Once the three new buildings are completed, the location of shuttle stops will be revisited and future shuttle stops may be in different locations.”

Hamden and QU communities give back to the elderly before the holidays

By JACKLYN PELLEGRINO
Copy Editor

Quinnipiac University community members joined the Hamden community in making holiday gift bags for local senior citizens that will be given out at a holiday celebration Dec. 9.

The university along with the Miller Senior Center and the Health and Wellness Council of the Hamden Regional Chamber of Commerce sponsor the event and various locations throughout Hamden have bins where people can drop off items such as hand lotion, mittens, tissues, blankets, socks with grips or hot chocolate that will be given to any local senior citizen that wants to participate that is over 60 years old.

Suzanne Burbage, the Hamden elderly services coordinator and municipal agent for the town, said that the event began in 2009 and the purpose was to “give a little holiday cheer,” to Hamden senior residents.

Karla Natale, associate vice president of community partnerships at Quinnipiac, said that gift bags are given out at a holiday lunch on Dec. 9, at Thornton Wilder Hall in the building of the Hamden Senior Center and Hamden Public Library and that there are around 100 senior citizens in attendance.

At the holiday party there will be food, music and a visit from Santa.

“For a lot of them, it might be the only gift that they get for the holiday

season and the only celebration they get to do so it’s a fun and special event,” Natale said.

Burbage wrote in an email to the Chronicle that to make a reservation residents can call the café at the Hamden Senior Center at 203-287-0057 Monday through Wednesday and they must also fill out the required state and federal Form 5 to participate. In addition, the center is asking for a \$3 donation for the lunch.

Natale said that some of the bins are placed at Benchmark Senior Living and Mountain View Wellness, both in Hamden, but Quinnipiac students and faculty can drop off items at Alumni House on Mount Carmel campus or to email Natale and she can pick them up. She will be accepting donations until Dec. 7.

Natale said that the senior citizens can benefit from this because a lot of them can’t get out due to the pandemic, especially if they are immunocompromised. To make up for not being able to go to the store, Natale said that the senior citizens will receive a reusable bag full of “goodies.”

“They get quite a bit that can hold them through hopefully most of the winter for most of them,” Natale said. “Then they benefit too just from the companionship there and enjoying a nice lunch that’s served to them and they don’t have to do anything they just enjoy.”

Over the last two years the event was an “outdoor drive through event,” but this year it will go back to a fully indoor event, Natale said.

Burbage said that residents can reserve bags so that everyone who attends the lunch on Dec. 9, gets a gift bag. She said the senior citizens are “very appreciative” and for some of them this will be their holiday if they don’t have families or are away from them.

“It brings a total joyfulness among the crowd,” Burbage said. “They look forward to it every year.”

There are volunteers at the event from a health committee at The Hamden Regional Chamber of Commerce who help to serve and give out gift bags at the event.

“It is a time of just plain happiness and joyfulness,” Burbage said. “It’s been a rough year and continues to be a rough year so we want a respite in between.”

Charity Kuchyt, associate director of university events at Quinnipiac has donated items to the drive in the past and has attended the holiday lunch. She said that we (Quinnipiac) want to be “good stewards” of the local community and to support it in any way possible.

“You want to help in every way that you can and it’s really nice to be able to connect with them (the vseniors) in that way and show them that they are important to us, that we’re thinking of them and that we want to be able to support them and help bring some holiday cheer,” Kuchyt said.



ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RIHA

Opinion

The U.S. cannot afford another four years under Donald Trump

By **NICHOLAS PESTRITTO**
Staff Writer

The disgraced, twice-impeached, ex-president, Donald Trump announced his presidential candidacy for the 2024 election shortly after the 2022 midterms on Nov. 16. This should terrify everyone, whether they live in the United States or not. The former president is a direct threat to our national and international well being.

It is time for the U.S. as a country to move on from Trump. Our country cannot default back to a president with extremely dangerous political rhetoric and an extremist base. It will only make us weaker and more unstable.

CNN reported that as of Nov. 18, the former president is involved in over eight major lawsuits or investigations.

These legal battles include lawsuits or

“The former president and his supporters can no longer act in good faith towards the democratic process in our country.”

– **Nicholas Pestritto**
STAFF WRITER

investigations coming from E. Jean Carroll, a distinguished American writer and journalist, the United States Department of Justice, the Manhattan District Attorney, Georgia’s Fulton County District Attorney and the New York State Attorney General.

Yet, all these lawsuits do not seem to be deterring people from supporting his run for president in 2024. A survey taken from Nov. 2 to Nov. 7, by Morning Consult, a data analysis company, shows that 48% of Republican voters would vote for Trump if the 2024 primary was held today.

The fact that 48% of Republican voters would still vote for Trump is scary. It is like they forgot that his supporters broke into the U.S. Capitol Building and tried to stop former vice president Mike Pence from certifying the electoral college vote on Jan. 6, 2021. This is an event that can not be forgotten and one that needs to be shown more to Trump supporters so they can see what they really caused and how destructive their actions were.

The former president and his supporters can no longer act in good faith towards the democratic process in our country. They have spread conspiracies, lies and outright denied the election results.

Some even believe that Trump is still the president and that the election was stolen from him. A Monmouth University Poll conducted from Sept. 21-25, reported that six in ten Republican voters still believe that President Biden was not legitimately elected. It has already been proven that there was no

widespread election fraud, yet Trump and his supporters continue to push the baseless claims that the Democrats cheated and stole the election. We cannot have this type of person who can continue to lie to the American people as the leader of our country.

Along with all these drastically negative details, there are even more very important events related to the former president that some people in our country seem to have forgotten about. On Aug. 8, Trump’s personal residence, Mar-a-Lago was searched by the FBI. The bureau issued a search warrant, specifying that he could be holding onto classified documents.

According to CNN, the FBI found eighteen “top secret” documents, fifty-four “secret” documents, thirty-one “confidential documents” and 103 “classified” documents.

An NBC News report alleged Trump tried to deflect the truth of the search with an unsubstantiated claim by saying that the FBI planted evidence at Mar-a-Lago. There is so much wrong with this situation that it could put our national security at risk. It is not normal to take documents like these after leaving the White House, and it could potentially impact the political legitimacy of our country.

We must not underestimate the weight and impact of this situation. If Trump is to win the 2024 election and get back into office again, who knows what he will do or what he will take with him when he leaves. Trump has awakened a new era in conservative politics, and it has proven to have disastrous effects on our country. It will only continue to get worse if he is elected again.

Our country will not be able to thrive under another four years of Trump. He will continue to say whatever he deems necessary to get into office again and his reckless behavior will only grow worse. The biggest aspect that will change this coming election is the fact

that he will not be able to run again, due to the U.S. presidential term limits he won’t have to worry about being re-elected, he will not care about what happens and will only care about himself and his interests.



ILLUSTRATION BY SHAVONNE CHIN

Should fans abandon canceled artists?

An artist’s mistakes doesn’t discredit their art

By **ETHAN HURWITZ**
Sports Editor

I pride myself in having a vast music taste. Whenever I am asked what genres I listen to, I almost always respond with “anything.” I also would consider myself a person with morals who always tries to do the right thing.

So why does society publicly pressure me to not listen to the music of troubled celebrities?

Sure, I listen to Kanye West, Chris Brown, Rex Orange County and dozens of other artists who have done some questionable actions and said some pretty harmful things. But I should not be looked down upon differently because of my choice in music.

Separating the artist from their musical works is a crucial aspect of today’s cancel-culture society. If someone was to make demeaning comments on social media, society tends to eradicate all the playtime that person receives. For example, a “Kanye West Essentials” playlist was removed from Apple Music after his latest downfall, according to Apple Insider. However, playing a song that was recorded two decades ago should not be denounced because of an artist’s actions from two weeks ago.

This does not just go for the music industry. Renowned painter Pablo Picasso was often seen as a misogynist, but thousands of people still flock to his artwork in museums without a care in the world. Even Melbourne University art historian Jane Eckett believes he will never be “canceled,” which she said in an article for the Financial Review. Why should I be the one at blame if I just want to listen to “Ignition–Remix” a few times just because R. Kelly has a disturbing personal life?

While many singers and songwriters may spin their own personal lives into their works, they are not harming anyone with their music. The same goes for authors who may have some iffy tweets in their past (I’m looking at you J.K. Rowling) or YouTubers who are accused of illegal activities off-screen.

People should make their own decisions about their listening habits and should not shame others for disagreeing. You can make the choice to skip out on Tory Lanez’s newest releases or turn back the clock to jam out to Michael Jackson.

But for me, I am still going to listen to Thriller every October and no one can stop me.

Disconnect your fandom from your wallet

By **JENNIFER MOGLIA**
Staff Writer

I’m no stranger to having my favorite artists “canceled.” As a fan of pop-punk and hardcore music, I’ve seen bands I’ve listened to exposed as rapists, groomers and worse more times than I can count; at this point, there’s usually a new one every month.

By now, I’m so exhausted that I’m numb; seeing people whose art you’ve connected with revealed to be people that you’d never support is tiring. However, I think how you deal with this situation depends on what you’re okay with, and I know where my line is drawn.

I think that it’s impossible to get every fan of an artist to stop listening when they are “canceled.” There are some people who will be able to preserve their connection to the art, and I can respect them for that. All I ask is that they don’t financially support those artists.

Streaming an artist’s music barely makes them money. Most artists make as little as \$0.0033 per Spotify stream, meaning they’d need just over 300 streams to make one dollar, according to USA Today.

As a result, I don’t see streaming music as being a prominent way for artists to make money. Therefore, I don’t think it’s a huge

deal to listen to artists that you don’t support as people.

However, providing financial support for these artists in the form of purchasing concert tickets or merchandise is where I draw the line. Buying things like t-shirts and vinyl records is the best way to support an artist you love, and, in turn, the best way to continue giving a platform to artists you don’t agree with but enjoy the music of.

If you listen to “Good Life” by Kanye West once every few months and nothing else, I don’t think you’re a part of the problem. If you’re buying tickets to his shows and Yeezy clothing, picking up his albums at your local record store and constantly tweeting about how much you love him, I think you are.

Putting your money where your mouth is, so to speak, is something very important to me. As someone who feels passionately about social justice and inclusion, I cannot imagine handing hard-earned dollars to someone exhibiting obvious hateful behavior.

Separating the art from the artist is a personal choice, and I’m happy for you if you’re able. If so, make sure that you separate your money from their pockets, too.

Opinion

The ups and downs of living on the York Hill campus

By **RYAN RAGGIO**
Staff Writer

During my sophomore year at Quinnipiac University, I lived on the Mount Carmel campus and it wasn't bad. However, I wondered how nice it would be to live on the York Hill campus which is one mile away. My friends lived atop the hill, so when we'd visit, it felt so new to me.

Now, after actually living on the hill for a few months, I've found that it's not all that it's cracked up to be. There are both positives and negatives to living on York Hill.

Being within walking distance from the M&T Bank Arena saves me a lot of time on game days for either hockey or basketball. Instead of having to figure out a way to get there, I can simply walk five minutes through campus.

When I went to the home hockey games last year with my roommates, we'd be stuck in the standstill traffic going down the hill that would last at least 30 minutes. Also, finding a parking spot for the games would be its own battle and we'd have to resort to parking in the parking garage, which is on the other side of the campus from the arena. Now that we're all living up here, these problems don't exist for us and it's more enjoyable when we're cheering on our Bobcats.

Parking has been an issue at this university for longer than I've been a student. Initially I thought that parking up here would be tougher, but it was the opposite.

We have the parking garage and the Eastview and Westview lots to park in. The farthest lot from my dorm is the parking garage, and it is a hike. I choose to park in the Westview lot, which is to the right of M&T Bank Arena. It's not too far of a walk and there's always a spot open. The

location of the spot varies, but it's nothing too outlandish.

The increased availability of parking on the York Hill campus has saved me exponential amounts of time because I'm not circling a parking lot waiting for a spot to open up like I had to do last year at Hilltop Lot behind the New Village dorms. Finding a spot last year was like finding a needle in a haystack.

For everything good on York Hill, there is something bad. The campus isn't as perfect as I have explained it to be so far. It can actually be tricky and rage inducing.

Why does the only place to get food on York Hill close at 9 p.m. and 7 p.m. on weekends? Many students, including me, have class until 9:10 p.m. and would like to

get something to eat after the long day. Some may say to get food down at the main cafe, but that one closes at 8 p.m., making the situation even worse.

In my opinion, the meals on York Hill are higher quality than the food on the Mount Carmel campus. For example, the pizza served on York Hill is made fresh in front of you while on Mount Carmel it's usually been sitting out for a long time. The Bobcat Den, also known as "The Rat" on main campus, stays open until midnight on weekends which is perfect. Last year, I'd always look to snack on something around 11 p.m. and it made me feel better knowing that this option was available. Being on York Hill has definitely made me schedule my time differently.

Speaking of scheduling my time differently, the shuttle system has been a laughable mystery to me. I appreciate everything the drivers do for us and I'm not discrediting them. However, there have been instances where the system failed.

I have class at 11 a.m. most mornings. Normally, I'd wake up at 10:45 a.m., throw on some clothes and walk to class. Now, being on York Hill, I'd prefer not to walk to class, so I take the shuttle. I now wake up a half an hour earlier to catch either the 10:30 a.m. or the 10:50 a.m. shuttle.

On top of this, each shuttle goes to different places as each shuttle is differentiated by color. For example, Blue Bobcat goes all-around Hamden, Yellow Bobcat goes from York Hill to main campus only and the North Haven shuttle takes students to the North Haven Campus. Shuttle rides from York Hill to main campus take about seven to eight minutes. If you are late to a shuttle, you don't want to be stuck with the Blue Bobcat.

The shuttling system is inconsistent. Recently, I was coming back from a meeting and was at the shuttle stop around 9:50 p.m. Around 10:25 p.m., instead of continuing to stand in the rain, I walked into the Center of Communications and Engineering and called a friend to pick me up. Depending on the shuttles adds more time to my day and adds more annoyed students to the list of displeased passengers. To reiterate, I do appreciate the service the shuttle drivers do for students, but you have one job, to drive back and forth between the campuses.

All in all, the change of scenery from living on the Mount Carmel campus to living on the York Hill campus is nice. With that, there will always be the ups and downs when there is change.



DANIEL PASSAPERA/CHRONICLE

The York Hill Cafe, located in the York Hill campus' Rocky Top Student Center, closes at 9 p.m. most days, causing trouble for hungry Quinnipiac students with classes at night.

Jet lag and why it needs to be left behind

By **ALEX MARTINAKOVA**
Staff Writer

If you're someone who enjoys traveling, we would get along very well. I've loved traveling since I was a little kid. That's exactly what I did to get here to Hamden, Connecticut. — I traveled across continents, sat on a plane for nine hours and moved there.

Because of the distance and time I would've spent away from my home in Slovakia, I thought it was a good idea to book a plane ticket back home for Thanksgiving break and fly back to see my friends, family and my dog. She was a priority on this trip.

Let me tell you, it was a very bad idea.

Don't get me wrong, it was incredibly pleasant to see my friends after three months, and I was very glad to know that my dog has not forgotten about me. Even seeing my family wasn't as painful as I was expecting it to be. However, had I known better, I would not have booked the ticket and would have spent the money on a little treat for myself. Why? Very simple answer, jet lag is ruining my life.

For those who have never traveled across multiple time zones and might not be familiar with the word, jet lag is defined in the Oxford Dictionary as "extreme tiredness and other physical effects felt by a person after a long flight across several time zones." I like to point out the word extreme, even if it might come across as slightly dramatic. Anyone who has ever suffered from it will be on my side in this, the feeling of jetlag is very

hard to explain without cursing.

Now jet lag itself is bad, which is an understatement, but if you do what I did — which is travel to Europe and back in under a week — once that double jet lag hit me, I regretted every single decision I ever made.

Traveling for longer periods of time and flying is exhausting. Since there were no direct flights, I had to make my way to JFK International Airport, fly seven hours to Zurich, Switzerland, and land on the following day. I then waited for the connecting flight to Vienna, Austria and then drove another 45 minutes to my house. I then did the exact same thing backwards, except now the flight from Zurich to JFK took eight and a half hours and I had to get up at 3 a.m. I did this all in under a week.

Exhausted doesn't even cover it. The first night I got back, I slept for 13 hours straight. I was furious too, because if you possess my luck you'll get your bag either searched or forgotten every single time you fly. Jet lag shouldn't be too difficult to deal with, the symptoms last anywhere from a few days to a few weeks, as they are supposed to be present for one and a half days for every time zone crossed according to the Mayo Clinic.

I crossed six. That means it would've taken around nine days for me to get used to the time zone back home. I left after six days. You do the math. I'm too tired for it.

I've been told that I could've just stayed behind for the break and wouldn't have to deal

with double jet lag, but as an international student, there isn't much for me to do once the university closes. The Department of Cultural and Global Engagement, does provide an option to stay with students who volunteer their homes, but I do not celebrate Thanksgiving. After three months, I wanted to go home, just like everyone else. Is it my fault that I'm now falling asleep while walking and can't even see the screen as I type? Absolutely, but it won't stop me from complaining.

I know that time zones are important,

but not even three coffees can make my brain function logically right now and I would not complain if they decided to delete time zones off of the face of the Earth. If it would let me sleep the lag off, I'm all for it.

So what have we learned? Don't cross twelve time zones in six days, because no matter how you structure the equation, the math will not make sense for your circadian rhythm, your biological clock and you will fall asleep in your favorite class. Not that that had happened, it's purely a made-up example.

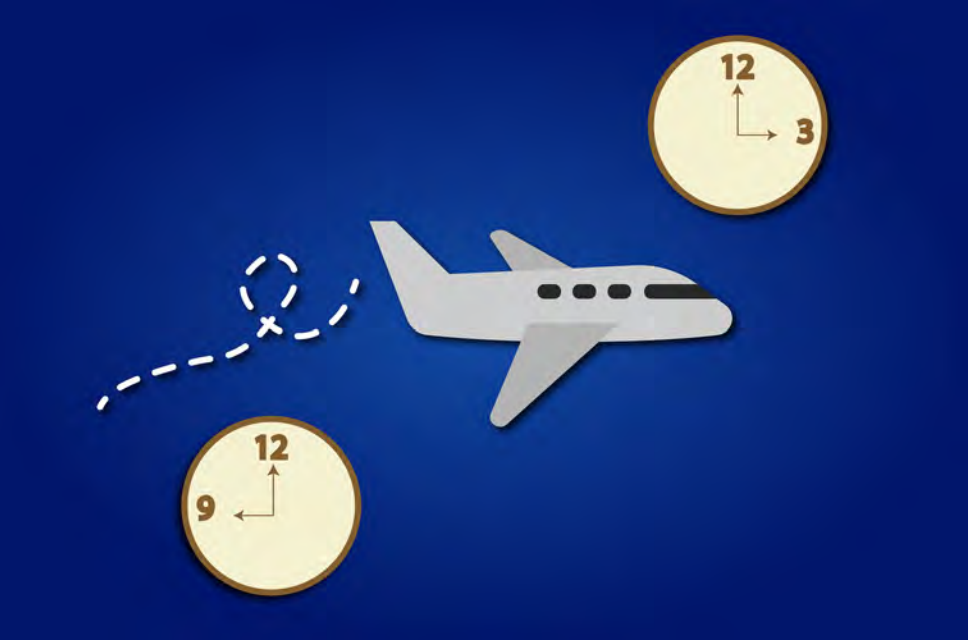


ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RIHA AND PEYTON MCKENZIE

Arts & Life

Are Turnstile’s Grammy nominations a good thing?

By JENNIFER MOGLIA
Staff Writer

As someone who mainly listens to punk and hardcore music (with a side of Taylor Swift, Phoebe Bridgers and Lorde), the annual Grammy Awards aren’t something that I pay a ton of attention to. However, when the nominations for the 2023 show were released on Nov. 15, a few categories caught my eye.

Turnstile, a hardcore band formed in Baltimore in 2010, is nominated for three awards, all in the rock category. “HOLIDAY” and “BLACKOUT,” from their 2021 album “GLOW ON” were recognized in the “Best Rock Performance,” “Best Metal Performance” and “Best Rock Song” categories.

My initial reaction was to be shocked – I’m not used to bands that my friends and I have seen in rooms that hold no more than 500 people get nominated for major awards. My shock quickly turned to happiness and excitement when I realized how huge this is for the hardcore community that surrounds this band.

Turnstile’s journey to the top, though long overdue, has been a bit rapid over the past year or so. The release of “GLOW ON” on Aug. 27, 2021, seemed to catapult the band into the mainstream after previously existing in an extremely niche subgenre.

The album received praise from outlets like Rolling Stone, Forbes, BBC, The Guardian, Billboard, NPR and more. In support of the LP, the band has performed on “Jimmy Kimmel Live,” “The Tonight Show With Jimmy Fallon” and “Late Night With Seth Meyers” over the past year.

The NHL’s Los Angeles Kings even used “BLACKOUT”

in a hype video for the 2022 playoffs. All of this popularity seemed unusual for a band in an unpopular genre, but it certainly felt deserved.

Another unique thing about the year that Turnstile has had is the lineups the members have chosen to take on tour. Gone are the days of punk bands exclusively touring with other punk bands; Turnstile just wrapped up a month on the road with indie rocker Snail Mail and rapper JPEGMafia.

The response from the hardcore community to all of this success has been largely positive. Since its rise to popularity in the 1970s and 80s, hardcore has always been about outsiders finding unity with each other in a world where they don’t always feel welcomed. According to Total Guitar Magazine, “in the early 80s, many New York kids, alienated by mainstream culture and turned off by the pomp of hair metal bands like Mötley Crüe and Ratt, took solace in the welcoming vibe of Sunday hardcore matinees at legendary New York club CBGBs.”

For example, the straight-edge movement of the 80s all started with a 46-second song by Washington DC hardcore band Minor Threat. Lyrics like “I’m a person just like you, but I’ve got better things to do than / Snort white shit up my nose, pass out at the shows / That’s something I just don’t need,” were all about feeling empowered by not drinking alcohol or using drugs, something that was seen as unusual by mainstream media.

This sentiment still rings true. I’ve seen most people saying that these big wins for Turnstile are wins for everyone involved in hardcore, whether you’re in



ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR YOUNGBERG

a band, you go to shows, or you run your own label or zine.

This is exactly how I feel. I’ve been listening to Turnstile for almost four years, and to see a band I’ve loved for so long get recognition almost makes me feel like a proud mom. It gives me hope that other hardcore and punk bands will see more success and get recognized for their hard work and talent for years to come.

However, some members of the hardcore community don’t see it the same way, feeling like the band’s success and popularity make it less of a hardcore band. It makes sense to some extent – hardcore started out as a counterculture movement with a do-it-yourself attitude, and in many ways, it still is, but it’s time to stop thinking mainstream success equals “selling out.”

Of course, it’s natural to feel protective over your favorite artists and even want to gatekeep them when large numbers of people start to like them. I may have wanted my favorite bands to stay my little secret in the past, but as I’ve grown up, I’ve realized that I should be happy that the

music I love is being heard by more ears, not jealous that I’m no longer the only one listening.

Turnstile’s vocalist and bassist Franz Lyons put it best in an interview with Revolver when he said, “all we really want to do is make music that feels good.” Since the beginning, this band has been focused on songs that feel like emotional and physical catharsis, helping fans feel empowered enough to sing along at the top of their lungs and jump off of stages like they’ll never hit the ground.

How can you be mad at a band for spreading messages like that? How can you be mad at people for feeling like those messages resonate with them?

Although I’m used to being disappointed by major awards shows, I do hope that I get to see Turnstile win some Grammy Awards in 2023. Even if it doesn’t turn out that way, I have no doubt that these nominations are a huge step in the right direction for Turnstile and every hardcore band out there right now – when one of us wins, we all win.

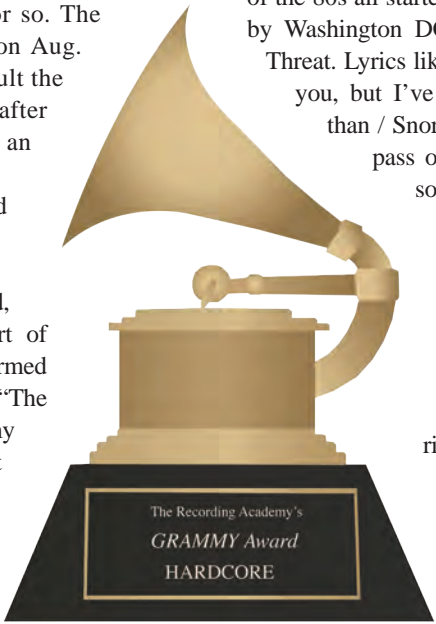


ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR YOUNGBERG

‘Paralyzed’ for Big Time Rush

By NEHA SEENARINE
Arts & Life Editor

Big Time Rush performed its song “Paralyzed” at the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade on Nov. 24, to promote its release the following day. However, although streaming music platforms like Spotify marketed “Paralyzed” to be a new song, this is not the case.

“Paralyzed” was written 11 years ago, but this is the first time Big Time Rush fans can enjoy it on their preferred music outlets.

From 2009 to 2013, the band had its own self-titled sitcom on Nickelodeon. “Big Time Rush” followed a friend group of hockey players from Minnesota that moved to California to pursue a music career.

Each episode had a song that signified the plot. The show released an episode on Sept. 24, 2011, titled “Big Time Rocker,” which followed the band’s record label having issues with Big Time Rush’s capability to perform rock music. The episode concluded with the band successfully tackling the rock genre with “Paralyzed.”

In a smart marketing move, Nickelodeon released soundtracks of the music that was performed in the show’s episodes. However, “Paralyzed” was left out.

There’s no clear answer why “Paralyzed” was not released with the Big Time Rush’s albums in the 2010s. The only way to listen

to the song is by either fast-forwarding “Big Time Rocker” to the end or watching a fan-created lyric video on YouTube.

I’ve been a Big Time Rush fan since the show’s release and I’ve noticed people on social media amplifying their want for “Paralyzed” to be on streaming platforms for years. To be quite frank, people will

want what they can’t have.

The band took a hiatus when the show ended but returned to releasing music in 2021. Big Time Rush discussed “Paralyzed” being released earlier this year, but nothing was set in stone. On Aug.13, the band tweeted asking its followers, “How badly do you want us to release PARALYZED?” The

demand in the replies was high.

Big Time Rush re-recorded “Paralyzed” and released it on Nov. 25. We’ve seen artists re-record their music like Taylor Swift after losing ownership of the master tracks of her first six albums or Aly & AJ creating an explicit version of “Potential Breakup Song.” I like to believe Big Time Rush released “Paralyzed” solely because the fans love it so much.

It’s about time “Paralyzed” became accessible to fans. It’s not new and that’s OK. I had an early shift on Black Friday and I was fist-pumping to this song at the stoplight at 7 a.m.

“Paralyzed” is an absolute masterpiece. It’s a classic boyband song with elements of love and angst.

“I see you walking, but all you do is pass me by / Can’t even talk, ‘cause words don’t come into my mind / I’d make a move if I had the guts to / But I’m paralyzed, paralyzed, p-p-p-paralyzed,” can be relatable to anyone who’s had a crush on someone, but is too shy to speak up. Also, one listen to this song and it’s stuck in your head all day.

Since its return last year, Big Time Rush has released new songs, which were largely a hit or a miss. Most people are more familiar with its past content, so the band releasing a song from 2011 brings back nostalgia and love from its fans.



BIG TIME RUSH/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/PHOTOILLUSTRATION BY PEYTON MCKENZIE

‘Disenchanted’ is everything one could wish for

By **DAVID MATOS**
Arts & Life Editor

Living in an imperfect world where the idea of a “happily ever after” is more of a concept than reality can be quite upsetting to someone who was raised on the notion of a true love’s kiss and a talking chipmunk.

“Disenchanted” follows Giselle (Amy Adams) as she embarks on a new chapter but this time, she brings her perfect fairy-tale world to her.

The Disney+ sequel made its debut on Nov. 18, fifteen years later after the 2007 film “Enchanted.”

“Enchanted” observes Giselle as she makes sense of a place where there is no happily ever after — New York City. See, Giselle comes from the magical fairy-tale kingdom of Andalasia, an animated world reminiscent of past Disney films like “Sleeping Beauty” or “Cinderella.”

In Andalasia, every negative emotion or trouble is seemingly non-existent, a stark contrast to our society where we don’t have talking animals to clean up our messes or sew our clothes. I mean, we do have Amazon and Taylor Swift, so I guess it’s not all bad over here.

“Disenchanted” continues seamlessly a few years after “Enchanted” left off. Giselle, now unhappy with the small living situation in New York City, comes up with the idea to pack up her home and move her stepdaughter Morgan (Gabriella Baldacchino), husband Robert (Patrick Dempsey) and

their baby Sofia to the fictional suburban town of Monroeville.

Morgan, the now angsty teen, is not supportive of the decision to move out into a town that is more reminiscent of Andalasia than the noisy streets of Manhattan.

With this, Morgan struggles to adapt to Monroeville and is growing old with Giselle’s “glass half full” persona. Frustrated with how things are now going in Monroeville, Giselle takes things into her own hands and uses a wand gifted to Sofia by Andalasia’s Prince Edward (James Marsden) and his wife Nancy Tremaine (Idina Menzel) and wishes the live-action town of Monroeville into a real-life fairy-tale kingdom.

“Enchanted” was my favorite movie as a child. After the film was released on DVD in March 2008, it became customary to watch the entirety of the angelic Giselle’s adventure in New York City every weekend with my mom and sister for a year.

I particularly connected to the grand storytelling, comedy and lovable characters of the first film, and “Disenchanted”

undoubtedly brought back that same spark. I had goosebumps halfway through the 118 minute run-time of the Disney+ film because I felt like a kid again. I was enthralled by Adams’ effortless ability to recreate the happy-go-lucky Disney princess-esque character I connected with as a 6-year-old.

As part of the plot, Giselle’s lovable personality is traded for one of a wicked stepmother, which was a nice contrast and further showcases Adams’ abilities as an actress.

Her villainy discourse with Malvina Monroe (Maya Rudolph) was also one of my favorite moments of the film, along with their hilarious and fun duet “Badder.” Overall, the chemistry between characters like Giselle and Robert was brilliant despite some of the actors not having played these characters in over a decade.

Though the familiarity of the first film was present in “Disenchanted,” it still held its own, and in some ways, was better than its predecessor. For one, it strongly incorporates the fairy-tale element of the world of Andalasia.

The point of the first film was to erase Giselle’s

world of Andalasia, whereas “Disenchanted” totally immerses the viewer into the fantasy land instead, and as a fan of fairy tales, I was completely satisfied with this decision. Also, the costumes in the latter half of the film when Monroeville turned fairy-tale mode were unbelievably eye-catching, further throwing the viewer down the well of the fantastical world of Andalasia.

My only critique of “Disenchanted” is the soundtrack not being as catchy as its predecessor film. With absolute bangers like “That’s How You Know” and “Happy Working Song” in “Enchanted,” it was somewhat disappointing leaving its sequel not having remembered a majority of the songs. Though the songs were particularly bad, most were missing the campy and fun melodies from the original. Not even Menzel’s strong vocals can save the soundtrack. Sorry, Elsa.

Overall, the film was a perfect continuation of its previous film and I was not bored once. I went into viewing this film unsure as sequels notoriously aren’t as good as the original, but I am elated with how “Disenchanted” came out and was undoubtedly worth the wait.

Watching the actors step back into their roles and even some actresses like Rudolph, Yvette Nicole Brown and Jayma Mays take on new characters was like a dream. I could see myself watching this film on repeat, following the routine I had with the DVD release of the introductory film. I couldn’t recommend the film enough to anyone who is a fan of fun, magic and Andalasian lore.

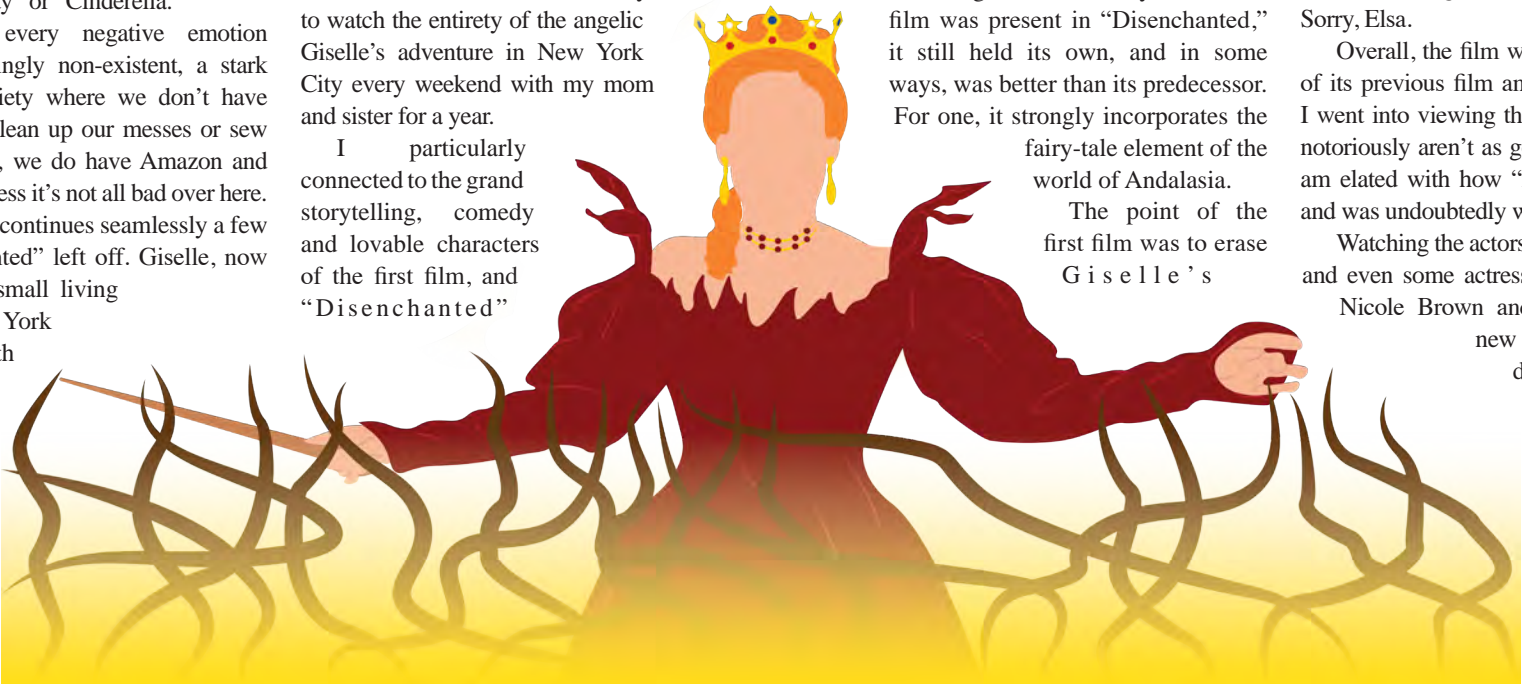


ILLUSTRATION BY SHAVONNE CHIN

‘The Fabelmans’: A peek behind the curtain of a cinematic master

By **JACK MUSCATELLO**
Associate Multimedia Editor

There are few filmmakers working today with as expansive a resume as Steven Spielberg. From introducing the blockbuster in the mid-70s to leading the rise of visual effects spectacles, the director has tried almost every conceivable way to tell a story on the silver screen.

But his latest work, the semi-autobiographical “The Fabelmans” is by far his most personal.

The drama, which released in theaters on Nov. 23, follows a young Sam Fabelman as he struggles to harbor his passion for film within the confines of his disjointed family. His father Burt Fabelman maintains a loving yet direct view of his son’s interest, often cautioning him against his wild ambitions. Opposite him is his mother Mitzi Fabelman, who embraces a more fluid and deeply emotional perspective, constantly pushing Sam Fabelman to embrace his talent and push further with each project.

Sam Fabelman exists as a stand-in for Spielberg himself, who penned the screenplay during the pandemic and treats the film as a fundamentally reflective piece. He goes to great lengths to break down his life’s calling, shedding light on the complex dynamic he shared with his parents, his Jewish heritage and his ever-present desire to craft a visual story worth showcasing.

As he has done throughout his career, Spielberg routinely favors reactions from his cast, prioritizing extended shots of tearful smiles and angry eyes during extended conversations and heated arguments. The

performances across the board elevate each scene, hitting silent moments of buried emotion and loud outbursts with equal strength.

Newcomer Gabriel LaBelle shines as Sam Fabelman. He does much of the heavy-lifting with his eyes, and allows the pretentiousness of the character’s youthful aspirations to come across as charming and honest. Paul Dano affords Burt Fabelman an ideal balance of affection and sincere rigidity, making him a surprisingly emotional staple in the story from start to finish.

But the easy standout is Michelle Williams, who makes a strong case for Oscar recognition as Mitzi Fabelman. She provides so much complexity to the role, bringing out the best of her motherly instincts while also unearthing a problematic selfish tendency that drives the core conflict in the story. Much of the film’s weight rests on her shoulders, and she nails each scene flawlessly.

The technicalities, as one would expect from Spielberg, are as top notch as ever, with help from his frequent collaborators. The cinematography provides a strong, glowing aesthetic to each frame, visually echoing the wonder and awe that befalls Sam Fabelman throughout. The editing gives each scene ample time to breathe, and showcases the best of the script’s dialogue-heavy interactions. John Williams’ score adds to the reflective tone, carrying the weight of his decades-long partnership with Spielberg through soft, piano-driven pieces.

What is arguably most impressive, though, is the film’s biggest selling point: its deeply

personal perspective.

For most of his career, Spielberg has kept his personal life largely reserved from the public eye, preferring to channel his regrets, anxieties and struggles through his characters on screen. The child actors in his earlier works carried out thoughtful representations of his youthful spirit and inherent curiosity. Over the years, his lead characters evolved, transitioning into stories with a more realistic edge, larger conflicts and resolutions that often lacked simplicity.

With “The Fabelmans,” the director has found a perfect middle ground. He retains all of the grace and magic synonymous with

his escapist projects of the 70s and 80s, but meshes this brilliantly with the much more difficult drama that has been his focus for the past 20 years.

He hasn’t lost touch with his adolescent mind, but he also doesn’t hesitate to be critical of it. Where the film could have easily devolved into an exaggerated sequence of self-congratulatory boasts, Spielberg pulls back his curtain, welcomes the audience in and engages with the best and worst moments of his pivotal coming-of-age. It’s a rarely honest work within an industry built on visual illusion, and demands to be seen.

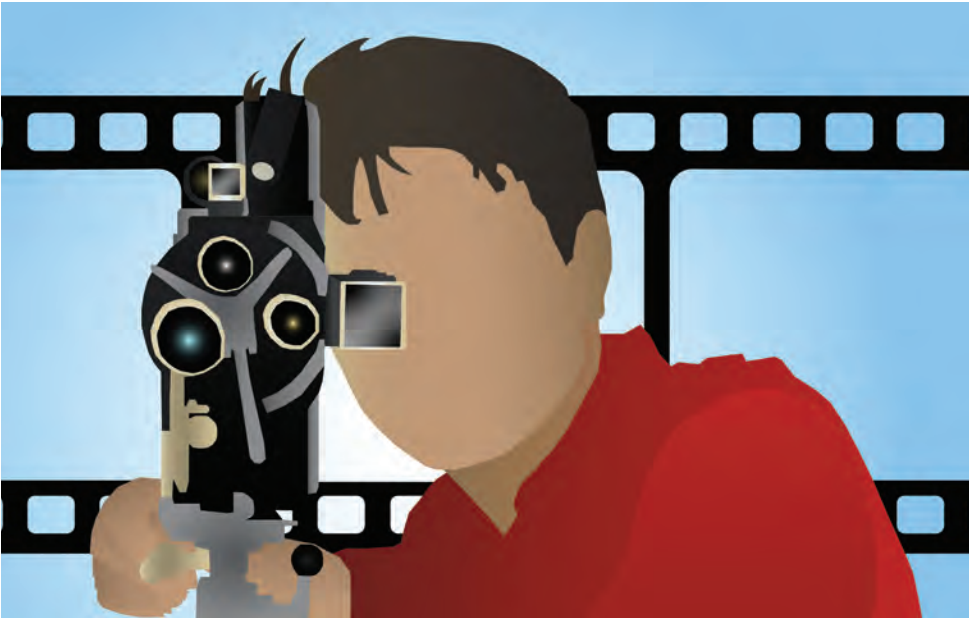


ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR YOUNGBERG

First half of 'Manifest' season four is not a plane wreck

By **NICOLE MCISAAC**
Managing Editor

If you spend hours scrolling and looking for a new TV show to binge-watch on Netflix, look no further — the four-season-long drama “Manifest” is exactly what you need.

After being produced by NBC for three seasons, the conglomerate cancelled the continuation of the show on June 14. The 2018 American series follows an emotional and supernatural rollercoaster, one that I doubted to be interesting before giving the show a try.

With utter disappointment from committed fans of the show, Netflix swooped in and made its emergency landing by announcing the final season would continue on its online streaming platform. The first half of the final season, or 10 episodes, was released on Nov. 4, while the second half is anticipated to be released sometime in the spring of 2023.

While some viewers predicted how the storyline would end before its arrival, I can confidently say that the show has lived up to its expectations. After using all my free time within a week to finish the 10 episodes, I am left in anticipation of what is to come next.

The development and plotline from a heartbroken and grieving family, the Stones, as they healed from their mother Grace Stone (Athena Karkanis) dying two years ago revealed a lot about who the characters really are. You see the husband and father, Ben Stone (Josh Dallas), fall into a spiral and completely lose himself as a person — all while still searching for his stolen child that was kidnapped by Grace Stone’s murderer.

While there are points in the season that do feel a little dragged out, this first half of

the season was everything I wanted it to be and I could not stop binging it.

However, if you think someone important will die in this season, boy are you right. Tears will be shed and emotions will be felt — so be sure to grab yourself a box of Kleenex, popcorn and maybe a bottle of wine.

If you aren’t familiar with the show whatsoever, the storyline follows a group of passengers that are traveling back from their vacation in Jamaica to New York City on Montego Air Flight 828.

After some turbulence and screams, the flight winds up going missing for five and a half years with no evidence of crashing or

rationale. Everyone who awaited their loved ones’ return ultimately presumes they are deceased and life simply goes on.

Where you’d imagine the story stops there, it doesn’t.

With no damage to the plane and no signs of aging to the passengers at all, flight 828 ends up returning at an airport in Newburgh, New York. The 191 passengers and crew members reunite with their families and friends, some fighting personal feats as loved ones moved on with their lives.

As time goes on and the storyline advances, members of Flight 828 start to realize one thing: they all are connected

through supernatural forces, otherwise known as “callings.”

Despite each season of the show progressing differently, I think it’s fair to say that it is quite easy to become emotionally attached to the characters in the show.

While the series mostly follows the progression of passengers Ben Stone and his sister Michaela, as well as their family, the emotional ties and connections portrayed within the show forces viewers to obtain feelings regarding other characters within the series.

Take characters such as doctor and passenger, Saanvi Bahl (Parveen Kaur), and Michaela Stone’s partner at the New York Police Department, Drea Mikami (Ellen Tamaki) — although these individuals were not the leading characters within the storyline, their ties and connections with those curate emotional connections to them.

Although the full fourth and last season of the show has yet to be released, I believe the first half of the season fulfilled all thoughts and predictions about what was next. While I may be biased since I literally drove past the show being filmed on multiple occasions in my hometown, I think this show has a lot of value, strong acting and life lessons embedded within its episodes.

Plus, who doesn’t love a good supernatural show to tune out reality to?

Despite admittedly not being a fan since it started in 2018, I am so glad I finally listened to my mom and tuned into this show. With only 10 more episodes until it is officially over, I can promise you this series is far from a plane wreck.



ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH HARDIMAN

Lindsay Lohan makes a triumphant return to the screen in ‘Falling for Christmas’

By **DAVID MATOS**
Arts & Life Editor

We’ve seen the main character in any film or television show have a change of attitude after being diagnosed with amnesia countless times. It’s a plot that has seemingly become a crutch in Hollywood, however, throw in rom-com queen Lindsay Lohan, a handsome love interest and the holiday spirit and I’m sold.

Netflix released “Falling for Christmas” starring Lohan and Chord Overstreet on Nov. 10. The holiday romantic comedy follows spoiled hotel heiress Sierra Belmont (Lohan) as she experiences a life-changing bout with amnesia after a skiing accident with her

hoity-toity and social media-obsessed fiancé Tad Fairchild (George Young).

Lohan forgets her identity after the accident and finds herself temporarily cared for by attractive widowed cabin owner, Jake Russell (Overstreet), and his daughter Avy (Olivia Monet Perez).

“Falling for Christmas” is everything a made-for-streaming holiday rom-com movie should be. It was an overwhelmingly positive Hallmark-esque film that is perfect for grabbing a comfy blanket, a cup of hot cocoa and getting into the holiday spirit. The film will make you smile ear to ear by the end of it, which is everything I can ask for

from any holiday rom-com.

Though the film’s plot is nothing that hasn’t been done before and frankly, I had a bit of deja vu during my viewing of this film, Netflix comedies tend to fall into a bit of a formula. My expectations for something new and innovative were reasonably low, especially for a Netflix original film.

We’ve seen the uppity and clumsy heroine have a change of attitude during the holiday season as she meets another straight single character from a more humbled background before. Also, as aforementioned, we’ve also seen the amnesia plot far too many times.

Nothing about this film challenges the status quo. Nonetheless, the main draw is that Lohan, who is best known for her legendary filmography of the early 2000s, is making her comeback to acting with this film.

With reputable chick flicks like “Freaky Friday,” “Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen” and “Mean Girls,” Lohan was one of the most recognizable redheads in Hollywood over a decade ago. Lohan is also no stranger to acting out plots we’ve seen before, as exemplified through her arguably most iconic role in the 1998 remake of “The Parent Trap,” which kickstarted the young actress’ career.

Though Lohan has a history of familiarity with her films, her relaxed and confident approach to each of her roles appeals to many millennials and members of Generation Z, including myself.

Lohan’s newest role as the amnesia-stricken heiress in “Falling for Christmas” is not precisely her most relatable of

characters, given there are few people who can say they never worked a day in their life but are still rewarded the "vice president of atmosphere" position, at a flagship resort in Aspen. However, by the end of the film, you can connect with Belmont and her growth from a pampered adult to an ordinary woman who can now make her own bed, showing the range in Lohan’s acting abilities.

Her chemistry with Overstreet, who is best known for his role as Sam Evans in the Fox series “Glee,” and Perez were particularly my favorite asset of the film. I loved seeing Belmont and Russell organically grow from strangers to lovers despite their differences in lifestyle and routine. I also enjoyed watching the heiress bond with Avy. It’s not every day a child who lost their mother is accepting of a new woman in their father’s life, so it was a breath of fresh air to see a different kind of relationship blossom in a seemingly formulaic holiday film.

Overall, the film is a good time and I couldn't ask for a better movie to kickstart the holiday season.

Though “Falling for Christmas” is not particularly innovative in its plot, it’s still a fun and happy movie and acts as a great resurrection point to Lohan’s acting career. I cannot wait to see what’s next for the actress, because, I don’t know about you, but I loved hearing Lohan’s discernible voice on my television screen as a child of the early 2000s. Now, as a young adult, I’m more than ready for Lohan’s comeback tour in the early 2020s.



ILLUSTRATION BY CONNOR YOUNGBERG

No shame in the hairy game

By **A.J. NEWTH**
Staff Writer

If I had a nickel for every time I heard someone say had to shave for their sexual partner I would be paying someone else to write this article. Shaving should not feel like a chore or a checklist item before getting intimate, it should be a personal decision.

There’s nothing taboo about pubic hair. We all have it and we all have different preferences about what to do with it. However, the choices we make with our bodies should never be influenced by others' opinions.

A 2016 JAMA Dermatology study found that more than 80% of women in the U.S. groom their pubes regularly, with more than 60% opting to go completely hairless. Additionally, 50% of men regularly trim or shave their private areas.

A simple Google search of “what do I do with my pubes,” will prompt a response of countless suggestions between trimming, shaving, waxing or letting it grow. Everyone seems to have advice for what the perfect pubic area looks like when in reality there is no such thing.

There are plenty of different factors that play into the maintenance of hair in personal places. Some people choose to shave while others prefer a waxing method. Many individuals prefer hair removal before sexual activities, with 73% of men and 56% of women favoring trimmed hair or even no hair at all, according to a 2018 Healthline article.

The first time I encountered a conversation about body hair was in elementary school. A classmate had made

a remark about one of my friends having too much arm hair, when in truth you could only see it because of her skin color. That same friend became one of many women I know who shave their arms because of the way others perceive them.

I can understand that many individuals choose to shave for aesthetic purposes. Having a hairless area can seem more comfortable or more attractive to sexual partners, specifically when participating in oral sex. Pubic hair also contains most of the odor molecules from private areas, so shaving may change a personal smell, per Medical News Today.

However, hair should be talked about in a more positive way because of how natural, healthy and helpful it is to our bodies. In a 2020 Allure article, professor of anthropology at Penn State Nina Jablonski said body hair helps keep us warm, protects our skin from things like abrasions and chemicals, as well as disperses odor in specific areas like underarms and pubic regions.

The hair on our bodies is more than just a societal topic of debate, health also plays a big role in the decision of shaving. An article from Healthline says removing pubic hair can make one more susceptible to common infections like urinary tract or yeast infections. Removal can also irritate the skin which is more sensitive in private areas, and lead to uncomfortable razor burn or ingrown hairs.

A big reason why humans choose to shave is because we live in a society where imperfections make us undesirable.

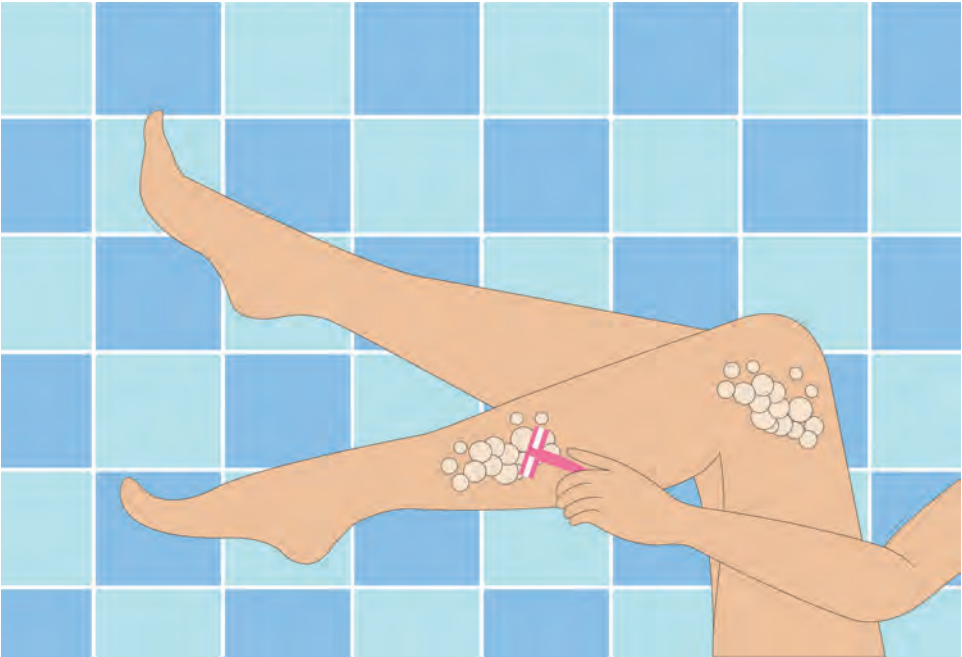


ILLUSTRATION BY EMMA KOGEL

We are influenced by the media to find attraction in clean, smooth skin, like that of cartoon characters or dolls. The economy monetizes this concept, and the body hair removal devices market is expected to be valued at 3.4 billion U.S. dollars by 2025, according to Grand View Research.

Not only are women and men being pressured into shaving to be considered “attractive” or “clean”, but industries are actually profiting off of the shame that stems around body hair. In a Psychology Today article, philosopher Heather Widdows said body shaming plays a big role in the insecurity that can come with having body hair. She said that stopping body shaming will not prevent people

from worrying about body hair and that there will always be internal pressure to remove it.

With that being said, when making a choice to shave, wax or stay natural with pubic or other body hair, the decision should only involve the person whose body it is. Shaving will have no immediate effect on the general pleasure level of sexual activities, but for some individuals it may be the difference between enjoyment and discomfort on both sides.

At the end of the day, your body is your business. Do whatever makes you feel comfortable, safe and happy, no matter what others have to say.

Is the era of the Brazilian butt lift deflated?

By **MELINA KHAN**
Editor-In-Chief

In a world of FaceTune, TikTok filters and Instagram influencers, it can be hard to discern what’s real and what’s carefully curated and perfectly edited online. The popularity of social media in our world today can have a trickledown effect on social norms. When the appearances of celebrities who take up our feeds start to change, societal standards sometimes follow.

Most popularly, the Kardashian family regularly monopolizes social media and the global pop culture universe. Despite being plagued by years of plastic surgery rumors, the most recent speculations could affect the way bodies are embraced in the media.

The Kardashian sisters, namely Kourtney, Kim, Khloe and Kylie Jenner, have been known for their big posteriors and curvy figures since they launched into fame with their reality show, “Keeping Up With the Kardashians,” which ran from 2007 to 2020.

They have tried to dispel rumors of certain plastic surgery procedures over the years, most notably that their big butts

are actually implants. In a 2011 “KUWTK” episode, Kim Kardashian underwent an x-ray of her butt to prove that she did not have implants.

The episode in turn led people to believe the sisters had undergone a type of plastic surgery procedure that enlarged their butts using fat from other areas of their body, commonly known as a Brazilian butt lift. The Kardashians have never confirmed whether they in fact have gotten the procedure, but a search of the term “Kardashian BBL” on Twitter or TikTok suggests a general consensus on the matter.

According to the Cleveland Clinic, a BBL is a procedure that augments the look of a person’s butt by removing fat from other parts of the body and inserting them into the butt, in turn causing your butt to be “bigger, stick out more and have an even shape.” As a result, the areas of the body that had fat removed “will have smoother body contours.”

The sisters’ big butts and small waists were part of their platforms for many years, most notably in Kim Kardashian’s 2014 Paper Magazine cover, which showcased the entrepreneur balancing a champagne glass on her butt.

And as the sister’s popularity increased, so did the popularity of the BBL. The American Society of Plastic Surgeons found that in 2017 alone, more than 20,000 BBLs were performed nationwide. It also said the number of procedures had “more than doubled” between 2013-2018.

But earlier this year, speculations that some of the sisters may have had their BBLs reversed began swarming social media.

When Kim Kardashian wore the dress worn by actress Marilyn Monroe when she sang happy birthday to President John F. Kennedy in 1962 to the Met Gala earlier this year, she said in an interview with Vogue that she lost 16 pounds over the course of a couple weeks to fit into the

original dress. This situation was seemingly the impetus of Kim Kardashian’s changing figure, as she went on to say in an interview with TODAY that the experience inspired her to continue eating healthy and losing more weight.

Rumors that Khloe Kardashian had a BBL reversal also flooded Twitter in June, after a paparazzi photo of the Good American co-founder went viral for her slim frame. “And just like that... the BBL was gone,” user Samantha Bush wrote in a post that was retweeted more than 11,000 times.

Some critics in the media have tied the Kardashians’ changing figures with the men they are dating, and allegations of cultural appropriation of the body types they had previously signaturized have been raised in the past. After Vogue declared in 2014 that “we’re in the era of the big booty” due to celebrities like Kim Kardashian and Jennifer Lopez, the publication faced public backlash by people who said attributing big butts to these public figures erased the countless women of color who embraced natural curvy figures for decades before the rise of the KarJenners.

Though the Kardashian family did not invent the BBL, they have been arguably the most prominent figures who have strived to maintain a small waist and big butt over the last decade. But as their figures seemingly start drastically changing, time will only tell if it will decrease the popularity of the BBL. If BBLs are out, the harmful societal promotion of the size 0 might begin to be promoted as idealistic in its place.

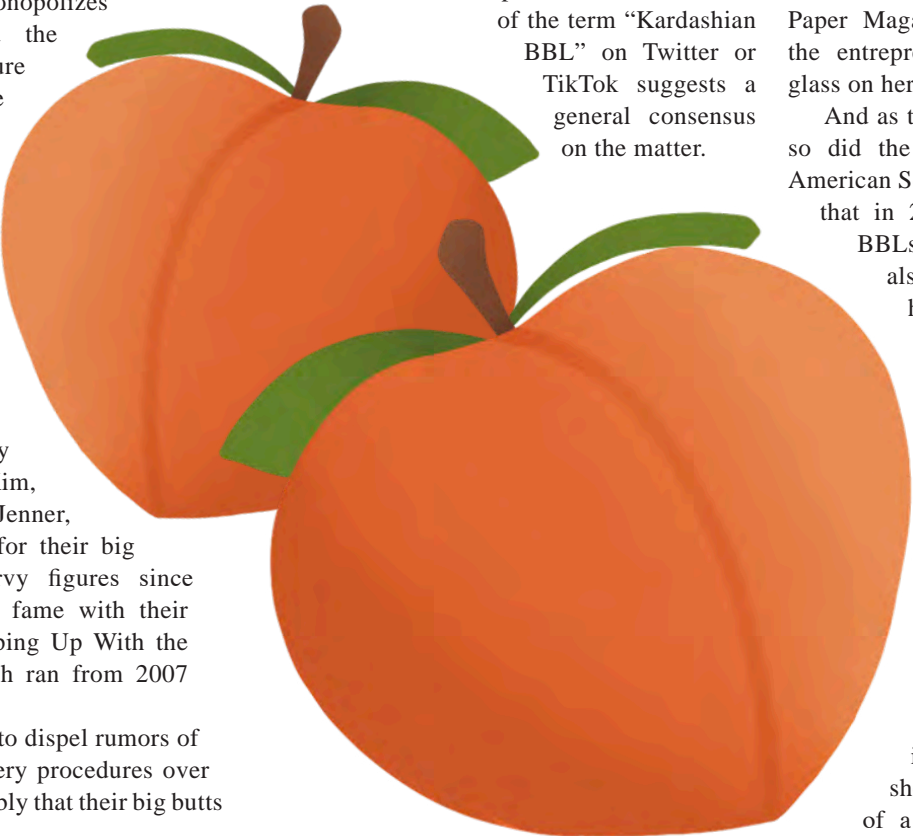


ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA RIHA



JACK SPIEGEL/CHRONICLE

How MSOC midfielder TJ Wilder found himself at Quinnipiac

By BENJAMIN YEARGIN
Associate Sports Editor

You can take the kid out of Miami, but you can’t take Miami out of the kid.

Quinnipiac men’s soccer junior midfielder Terrance “TJ” Wilder was born and raised in Miami, and the impact the city left on him is evident.

From his accent, to the Florida rappers – Kodak Black and CP3 – that he listens to pre-game, to his old hairstyle – bleached braids on one side, normal braids on the other akin to the late Florida rapper XXXTentacion – Miami is interwoven into Wilder’s being.

So why would he come to New England – specifically Quinnipiac?

“None of my family went to college outside of Florida,” Wilder said. “Half of the people I know in Miami have never seen snow, they’ve never been up North. If I never went to school outside of Florida, I would’ve never experienced snow, I would’ve never thought of coming to New England.”

With a team culture that has players from all over the world, Wilder being authentically himself adds a unique mark to an already diverse squad.

“He brings that energy,” junior defender Jared Smith said. “He’s the guy that when everyone is feeling down, he’ll come in and lift your spirits up.”

On the field, Wilder’s playing style can be described in one word: finesse. His fancy footwork and unmatched speed allows him to navigate the midfield and move up the field with ease.

Wilder attributes dancing, which you can see on his Instagram, to some of his capability to move his feet so well.

“Everybody on the team says I have the footwork, because I can dance,” Wilder said. “It makes me more free, I can play loose.”

Playing loose and being smooth was part of the reason Wilder was nicknamed “Suave,” which can be traced back to when he was in middle school and could talk himself out of different situations.

“When I was little I was always smooth and slick, I knew how to get out of things,” Wilder said.

Wilder appeared in 16 games and tallied five shots this season for a Bobcats team that won the MAAC Championship and appeared in the NCAA Tournament, but lost to Vermont in the first round.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac men’s soccer ended its season with a loss to Vermont in the first round of the NCAA Tournament

through his sophomore year of high school. “He is the type of player that put our mind at ease when he had the ball.”

While things came easy on the field for Wilder, coming to Quinnipiac was anything but easy for him in the beginning.

“My first week here, you can ask anyone around me, was the worst,” Wilder said. “I had a deeper accent, so no one knew what I was saying, so I was just getting annoyed.”

Top that with the fact that Wilder didn’t receive playing time his first year, it was a stressful fall for him.

But such a big shift in environment requires anyone, even “Suave,” to build a support system. An anchor for Wilder throughout his time at Quinnipiac is Smith, who has been his roommate all throughout college. They lift each other up, as friends do, on and off the field.

“There’s been times where I messed up in one of the games and I was really upset about it,” Smith said. “He came over to me and he’s like ‘bro you got this ... just do your thing.’”

With “J-Rad,” as Wilder calls him, and other teammates like senior midfielder Jason Budhai and junior defender Rom Wasserman around him, Wilder started to feel more comfortable in Hamden, which added that authenticity and spark to the locker room.

Whether it be having a ventriloquist dummy that the team calls “Brazy,” which reminds Wilder to be intense on the pitch, or his dancing in the locker room, Wilder adds a vibe to the team that no one can match.

Now, with a MAAC Championship under his belt and up to two more years of college left, Wilder will take on a bigger role in the offense. With Bercedo, Svecula, Budhai and graduate student midfielders Noah Silverman and Alex Holle all potentially leaving, Wilder will be in a key position to start and earn the Bobcats another MAAC title.

After he leaves Quinnipiac, Wilder has one thing in mind, stay in soccer, either through coaching or continuing his career. The Miami native recently began coaching, and enjoys being able to guide the kids in his community.

“I enjoy coaching and training the little kids, especially the people who can’t pay for travel or have the things other people do,” Wilder said. “Give them a mentor, something I didn’t have.”

No matter where Wilder ends up post-Quinnipiac, he will leave a unique mark to everyone around him. “Suave” exudes an aura of smoothness and confidence that has guided him throughout his life.

Tournament roundup

Up north, out west, across the pond and back home: How the four Quinnipiac winter teams fared in tournament action last weekend

By CAMERON LEVASSEUR
Sports Editor

Ice hockey and Northern Ireland are two things that typically don't go together, but the No. 2/4 Quinnipiac men's ice hockey team played a role in the beginnings of a culture shift over the weekend.

The Bobcats brought home the Belpot Trophy as champions of the sixth annual Friendship Four tournament in Belfast Saturday afternoon in an enthralling 3-2 shootout win over then-No. 17 UMass.

Because the teams were tied after overtime, the game goes in the books as a tie. But regardless, a positive result against a ranked opponent is a boost for Quinnipiac in the PairWise rankings, where the Bobcats now sit No. 3 in the nation. A poor strength of schedule makes success in every game like that crucial to securing an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament if the conference play-offs don't go the Bobcats' way.

And that's not to mention the obvious confidence boost that winning a championship gives a team, especially as Quinnipiac

heads back into ECAC Hockey play.

"I'm proud of this group," graduate student defenseman and team captain Zach Metsa said on NESN+ following the win. "We stuck with it, sometimes I thought it'd be easy to get distracted out here but we were able to dial it in and get two wins and it feels great."

At 10-1-3, the Bobcats hold the highest winning percentage in the country, though that certainly didn't come easy. Tight games, especially against conference opponents, define Quinnipiac's season thus far, but under that pressure is where this team thrives.

"We find ways to win," head coach Rand Pecknold said on the BBC broadcast. "We don't blow anybody out. It's a grind every game, but we always talk about 'embrace the grind' and we're good at that."

With balanced scoring up and down the lineup and continued consistent play from reigning All-America sophomore goaltender Yaniv Perets in net, it will be the Bobcats applying the pressure down the midseason stretch as they ride the momentum from this tournament victory.



JACK SPIEGEL/CHRONICLE

Men's hockey jumped to No. 2 in the DCU/USCHO poll this week.



JACK SPIEGEL/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac men's basketball went 2-1 on its trip to Quebec.

By ETHAN HURWITZ
Sports Editor

The Quinnipiac men's basketball team has been rock solid up to this point, so much so that it has been on top of the MAAC for the entire year so far. After starting the regular season on a historic 5-0 start, the Bobcats were able to travel to Quebec for the latest installment of the Northern Classic.

While it heads back to Hamden with a sour taste in the mouth after dropping the finale on Sunday, Quinnipiac was able to shine on the international stage and improve its already-historic record to 7-1, the best since 1969-70.

"I think we are able to keep fresh bodies on the floor because we have depth," head coach Baker Dunleavy said on Nov 15. "We can be really good defensively ... we are seeing what it should be like."

The team was able to utilize that new-found depth during the stretch of games. While sophomore guard/forward and East Carolina transfer Alexis Reyes was out with an illness after not practicing all week, the likes of graduate student Ike Nweke and junior Paul Otieno paid dividends in the front court.

In the three games, the forward duo combined for 50 points and 55 rebounds across 169 minutes. Those additions, who Dunleavy has called their two best players so far, helped knock off formidable foes in Stephen F. Austin (in what I think was their best game of the year) and Montana State.

And the one loss to heavily-favored Hofstra came down to the wire. The Bobcats were faced with a double-digit deficit constantly and were able to pull to within just one score before the final horn sounded.

The weekend can be seen as a success, not just because of the wins in the box score, but because of the continuous breakout by junior guard Luis Kortright. The Bobcats' best pure scorer has been the team's most reliable player all year and continued that in Quebec, averaging 11.6 points per game.

Kortright's consistent ability to produce off the bench, along with the solid backcourt of redshirt senior Matt Balanc and junior Dezi Jones, provide Dunleavy with a roster that complements each other on both ends of the floor.

As the Bobcats head into play, they will look to use the success up north to help climb north in the conference standings.

By CAMERON LEVASSEUR
Sports Editor

Led by three goals from sophomore forward Maya Labad and stifling defensive play, No. 4 Quinnipiac women's ice hockey brought home the Nutmeg Classic tournament title this past weekend.

The Bobcats dominated Bemidji State 5-0 in the semifinal game before grinding out a tough 1-0 win over No. 15 UConn in the championship.

The goaltending tandem of junior Catie Boudiette and graduate student Logan Angers was perfect in net, stopping all 34 shots they faced on the weekend, each recording a shutout.

The pair has only given up 13 goals on the season, a mark that puts them second in the NCAA and first for teams with more than 10 games played. Consistent play between the pipes was a major factor in Quinnipiac's success last season and has not diminished, even with the loss of All-USCHO First Teamer Corinne Schroeder.

"They work hard together," head coach Cass Turner said. "I think a lot of this is happening because of just how good all three of them were last year. Corinne Schroeder really pushed them to get better and they pushed one another."

Up front, Labad's big tournament put her in a tie for the team lead in goals, but she is not the only one having a standout season on the scoresheet. A dynamic second line connection between junior Olivia Mobley and graduate student Shay Maloney has propelled the Bobcats' offense.

The two have combined for 41 points on the year, 18 of which on scoring plays involving both players. That, combined with the scoring prowess of freshman linemate Madison Chantler (7-3-10), has kept this offense amongst the nation's best even with graduate student forward and co-captain Lexie Adzjia out with injury for the past month.

Consistent play on both sides of the puck and a commitment to the process has led to Quinnipiac tallying 14 wins in its first 15 games, including five over ranked opponents. With this championship win, it seems as if the Bobcats are just one step closer to their ultimate goal: an NCAA Championship.

"Our team is hungry to keep getting better," Turner said. "We want to have things that we're the best in the country at, and I think that they take that to heart and they really dive in and commit to one another to try to make those plays and be that team."



CAMERON LEVASSEUR/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac women's hockey has won 10 Nutmeg Classics.



CONNOR LAWLESS/CHRONICLE ARCHIVES (2022)

Quinnipiac women's basketball is 3-3 so far on the season.

By JENNIFER MOGLIA
Staff Writer

In the 2022 Christmas City Classic, the Quinnipiac women's basketball team lost its first game to Kent State 58-55 and won the consolation game 67-64 over host Lehigh. Neither the loss nor the victory was decisive, an indicator of what could be coming the rest of the season.

Saturday's game against the Golden Flashes was a battle for momentum from start to finish with a final score that was heavily impacted by foul calls against both teams. Sunday's contest between the Bobcats and the Mountain Hawks was evenly matched for the majority of the time, but a hectic final quarter allowed Quinnipiac to pull ahead.

The star of the weekend was undoubtedly senior forward Cur'Tiera Haywood, who opened the scoring in both games. She recorded a team-leading 13 points on Saturday and 11 on Sunday.

Haywood was third in points on her team against Lehigh, despite fouling out of the game with one minute left in the fourth quarter. She continues her hot start to the season, where she has recorded at least 10 points in all but one game (the season opener at then-No. 10 N.C. State).

Graduate student guard Rose Caverly scored eight points against Kent State, then nearly doubled it the next day with a team-leading 15. Freshman forward Ella O'Donnell, in her first collegiate start Sunday, recorded a career-high 14 points.

The biggest takeaway from the weekend is that both games were decided by one possession. The Bobcats team did not look like the team that beat Hartford by over 50 points on Nov. 14.

In addition, sophomore guard Jackie Grisdale was named to the Christmas Classic All-Tournament Team for her week-end performance. She was the Bobcats' best defender in both games, holding her matchups to only five total points.

Quinnipiac will have to focus on sustaining offensive pressure and fighting to keep momentum swinging in its direction. When things were going the Bobcats' way this weekend, they were on fire, but when they weren't, disaster struck.

The team's next game will be on Dec. 4, at 12 p.m. against St. Francis Brooklyn, who has only won one game so far this season. With only two consecutive victories so far, it'd be the perfect time for the Bobcats to start a winning streak.



EPHEMIA NICOLAKIS/QUINNIPIAC ATHLETICS

Quinnipiac volleyball defies odds with MAAC title and NCAA bid

By **MICHAEL LARocca**
Opinion Editor

For the first time in program history, Quinnipiac volleyball is going dancing, not like the team was surprised.

"I think there were a lot of people that doubted us," senior hitter Aryanah Diaz said. "I think some of it came from within the school. So I want those people to know that we don't have anything to prove, we're just going out there and giving it our all, fighting as much as we can."

The Bobcats drew the top-seeded Wisconsin Badgers, the defending national champions, in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Dec. 2.

Heading into the MAAC Tournament a few weeks ago, I was optimistically skeptical. At least as much as someone who followed this team all season could be.

"By the next time I write a volleyball column, we might just see this team be champions," I tweeted after my previous column from Nov. 15, was released.

Was I expecting to be right? That's up for debate. However, I was certainly not ready to watch this team go on a run for the ages.

As the MAAC Tournament's sixth seed, Quinnipiac was able to knock off the No. 3 Iona Gaels in four sets in the quarterfinals before defeating the No. 7 Rider Broncs in straight sets in a rematch of the 2021 MAAC semifinals.

After the Bobcats' beat the Broncs, they advanced to the program's third-ever conference championship game, and for the third time this season, they faced the No. 1 Fairfield Stags.

Fairfield was one of the few MAAC teams that Quinnipiac could not beat during the regular season, getting swept off the court both times. This time however, things were different.

The Bobcats played one of their most complete matches of the season, taking the MAAC title in four sets, punctuated by a kill from graduate student middle blocker Nicole Legg.

"You've got to be patient and put the time in to actually learn how to win," Quinnipiac head coach Kyle Robinson said. "That's what we've been doing all season. I think a lot of people thought we were just not good. I was like, 'No, we're pretty good, but you have to work at it.'"

The team came alive against the Stags both offensively and defensively. Five Bobcats were able to reach double-digit kills while preventing any Stag from reaching that milestone themselves. Not even the MAAC Player of the Year, KJ Johnson, could get there, as she was held to eight kills on .121 hitting.

While the championship is what matters most in the end, Quinnipiac also dominated the 2022 MAAC Volleyball Awards.

Diaz was named to the All-MAAC First Team, Legg was put on the All-MAAC Second Team, and setter Damla Gunes was the only Quinnipiac freshman to make the All-MAAC Rookie Team.

Diaz was also named the MVP of the MAAC Tournament, and the Giovagnoni/Gunes duo were also members of the MAAC All-Championship team.

With the program's historic run in the books, Quinnipiac will now be looking forward to playing the defending national champions.

Even though the Badgers are at the pinnacle of the sport, there is no fear in the Bobcats as they get ready for their trip to Madison this week.

"It's definitely going to be a crazy atmosphere," Quinnipiac assistant coach Katie Urycki said. "I think the overall message is that they have gotten here for a reason. Their hard work, their skill, everything that they've put in their mindset, the fight that they had in the tournament, nothing changes."

Despite the optimism, history is certainly not on the new MAAC champions' side.

MAAC champions have lost 60-consecutive sets in the NCAA Tournament dating back to Dec. 6, 2002 when Manhattan volleyball took the first set of their first round loss to the Temple Owls.

A MAAC team hasn't won a match in the NCAA Tournament since 1995 when Siena beat Colgate 3-1 in the tournament's play-in game. That victory for Siena is actually the MAAC's only win in the NCAA Tournament since the conference earned an automatic bid in 1994. Needless to say, these Bobcats will have their work cut out for them.

Wisconsin secured its program's fourth-straight Big Ten regular season championship and also won its last 18-straight matches heading into the NCAA tournament, dating back to Sept. 25, when it lost in straight sets to the then-No. 8 Minnesota Golden Gophers.

Big Ten schools have a great volleyball tradition as well. Since the turn of the millennium, schools that are current members of the conference have won 11 national championships, including six from Penn State alone. Playing against schools like this might require an adjustment for the Bobcats.

Having the chance to play in the UW Field House will put Quinnipiac in an environment likely no player has ever seen before. The venue in Madison boasts a 7,540-seat capacity, a far cry from several hundred people usually in attendance at Burt Kahn Court.

However, the unusual crowd size does not worry the Bobcats, at least not publicly.

"I think the cool thing about Wisconsin and their atmosphere is

that they have classy fans," Robinson said. "So as much as they're rooting for their team, they'll show us respect ... The atmosphere can be a little overwhelming, because it's a lot of people for these young athletes for their first time playing in front of such a large crowd, but I think our athletes are prepared."

The Badgers also pose a unique challenge for the Bobcats when it comes to physical size. Quinnipiac's tallest player is Legg, who stands at a solid six feet, three inches. Wisconsin, however, has six players listed at that same height or taller. One of those players includes sophomore middle blocker Anna Smrek, who stands at six feet and nine inches, five inches taller than the MAAC's tallest player.

While Quinnipiac players like Diaz are sick of people saying their height can be a disadvantage, it will play a real factor on Friday. However, the team is coming up with ideas to work around it.

"I don't want to give away all my secrets," Diaz said. "I have some shots that I can pull out, definitely some skill that I think you only gain as a short hitter. I'm definitely gonna try to work around the block, using the block, things like that that I've done before."

This is an unprecedented time for Quinnipiac volleyball and Quinnipiac athletics as a whole, and for now, I don't think anyone wants it to end.



EPHEMIA NICOLAKIS/QUINNIPIAC ATHLETICS

Head coach Kyle Robinson has led the Bobcats since 2019.