Arts & Life

OISS hosts Winter Olympics watch party for Jade Barbirati

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Quinnipiac women's ice hockey first-year forward Jade Barbirati is representing Team France at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan.

To celebrate and support her journey, Quinnipiac's Office of International Students & Scholars hosted a campus watch party as Barbirati competed.

Many of her Quinnipiac teammates filled the room, cheering her on and celebrating the milestone together.

"This is a really cool opportunity for our team," senior goaltender Calli Hogarth said. "One of our best friends is playing and (the watch party) is a good opportunity to show support."

Originally from Savoie, France, Barbirati's watch party was also meant to highlight French culture as she represented her home country.

Sarah Driscoll, director of International Students & Scholars, organized the event to ensure Barbirati's roots were recognized and celebrated.

"This allows our community to come together and celebrate our students and where they come from, where they call home," Driscoll said. "Even just featuring foods from Jade's home country, it's just a nice way to come together as a community."

French-inspired snacks, such as croissants and French meats and cheeses were set out for spectators to enjoy, adding to the celebratory atmosphere of the morning. The room was decorated with French flags alongside flags from other countries, reflecting both Barbirati's roots and the diverse international community on campus.

"It's super cool she's been able to make such an impact on our team this season and now she gets the opportunity to do it for her country," junior defender Brynne West said.

The strength and support from the Quinnipiac community was evident throughout the event, creating an atmosphere of togetherness and pride. While the Olympics are an athletic competition, they are also a moment for communities to rally behind the ones they care about, even from across the world.

"I hope she feels proud and recognized," senior goaltender Tatum Blacker said. "This is such a cool opportunity and it's so rare for someone, especially her age, to be making it to the Olympics. I hope she knows we have her back and are supporting her from Hamden, Connecticut."

Barbirati's achievements on the Olympic ice highlight the pride and support the Quinnipiac family has for one another — a sense of Bobcat spirit that echoes even from across the world.



RYLEY LEE/CHRONICLE

Director of International Students and Scholars Sarah Driscoll watches women's ice hockey forward Jade Barbirati and Team France compete in the Olympics.



RYLEY LEE/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac women's ice hockey team watches teammate Jade Barbirati at the Olympic watch party in the Carl Hansen Student Center on Feb. 5.



RYLEY LEE/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac women's ice hockey head coach Cass Turner gets interviewed by NBC Connecticut about one of her players competing in the 2026 Winter Games.

Bad Bunny's Halftime Show was a subtle revolution

By ZACHARY REAGAN
Staff Writer

In 2026, it's getting increasingly difficult to decide who you can trust. Between the scores of artificial intelligence (AI) deepfakes running down social media timelines, animosity of modern partisan politics and horrifying celebrity scandals, there's a lot of doom in the world to sulk over.

However, the only thing more powerful than hate is love. Rapper and singer Benito Ocasio (Bad Bunny) has stuck by this core message, both for his Super Bowl LX Halftime Show and his most recent work and 2025 Grammys Album of the Year, "DeBÍ TiRAR MáS FOToS."

While it wouldn't have been my personal pick, there's no denying his influence and the rawness of his musicality. His sound is an international bridge, branching far out of the tiny island he calls home. Bad Bunny doesn't just call Puerto Rico home, he sings its praises relentlessly. This was the main overarching theme of "DTMF," to showcase the beauty and share the memories of a homeland in distress.

Ocasio's ascension to streaming domination and Super Bowl fame hardly came easy, though. Puerto Rico's environment can be unforgiving, and in some years is subject to multiple natural disasters. Colonizing powers siphon the island's natural resources and leave Puerto Ricans little. Many never get off the island at all. To say Puerto Ricans are a resilient people would be a gross understatement.

Bad Bunny's goal is to restore their hope and share in their joy. Not just the people of Puerto Rico, or even the wider Latino community. After joking on SNL that English-speaking Americans had four months to catch up, he made a more inclusive message on the day of.

"I know I told them they had four months to learn Spanish," Bad Bunny said. "They don't even have to learn Spanish. They (can) learn to dance."

It's an admirable move considering all the exclusivity he's had to endure. It would be so easy for him to continue to talk only in Spanish and make most Americans feel like they're on the outside looking in. And while many still did, considering Turning Point USA's substitute with Kid Rock, Bad Bunny's Halftime show was the most-watched in history.

The show itself was a 13-minute whirlwind of Latin culture. Bad Bunny stood at Levi's Stadium to put the community on the biggest stage in America. The show started with the creeping intro of "Tití Me Preguntó," off of his 2023 album "Un Verano Sin Ti." It was the perfect song to set the tone for a party as one of his biggest trap hits.



ILLUSTRATION BY LILIANA MIRABELLA

In the opening shots, Bad Bunny cruises through a hallway of sugar cane, a nod to the bloody history of the island's agricultural roots. He makes his way up to street vendors selling cold drinks or jewelry and uncles on the street playing dominos. It's an easy way to show off the goings on of your average Puerto Rican residential street.

Then, the feed cuts to a crowded house lined in the front with dancers for "Yo Perreo Sola." The energy stayed high, but close lookers could make out some faces in the crowd. The biggest names included rapper Cardi B, actress Jessica Alba, singer-songwriter Karol G and actor Pedro Pascal. While promoting the Puerto Rican community, Benito made sure to uplift a ton of other Latin voices and personalities.

After another incredibly bouncy number in "EoO," Bad Bunny found himself surrounded by two rows of violinists as the intro to "MONACO" began. I have to take a moment to appreciate the camera work here. The dolly shot was such a fun way to do the intro, plus the editing of the whole show matched the energy really well, with flashy, quick cuts to match the rhythm.

The camera then moved up toward a wedding, where two Bad Bunny fans were married right there, on the spot. They made way for singer-songwriter Lady Gaga, who did a fantastic "Die With A Smile" remix with a Puerto Rican brass band supporting her. The couple was ushered off camera, likely having one of the quickest first dances of all time before the wedding band launched into megahit "Baile Inolvidable."

This sequence was where that core message of love was most felt. Aside from the less subtle interpretation of the Halftime show becoming a live wedding reception, Benito made some more popular references to the culture. The most prominent was when he lifted a child off a makeshift chair-bed as he made his way across the dance floor. The shots of grandfathers dancing with their grandchildren and the newlyweds' first official dance made my heart swell with pride at what he had accomplished so far.

Then, came a seamless transition into "Nuevayol," my personal favorite off the album. Needless to say, I was practically bouncing off the walls as the horns shook the walls of my shoebox dorm room. It also contained one of my favorite cultural references, Toñita, the old woman who hands him a shot is the owner of the Caribbean Social Club in New York.

This has become one of my favorite Halftime Shows ever, in large part due to how dense it was. After he gifted his Grammy to a younger version of himself and a string of political statements, followed by a stellar singer-songwriter and actor Rickey Martin cameo. Once forced to sing in English to chart well in the United States, Ricky Martin sang an all-Spanish song about anti-colonialism with the biggest pop star in the world.

"Lo Que Paso en Hawaii" opened this sequence, a song that speaks to how the United States colonized Hawaii, and to not forget what happened there before it happens to Puerto Rico. The next track, "El Apagón," called out the ongoing power crises in Puerto Rico. The third finished with the closer of the show, "DtMF," as he shouted, "God bless America." Bad Bunny listed every country on the American continent, making a beautiful statement on unity and how you can't beat the power of love.

While rapper Kendrick Lamar decided to call his most public enemy a pedophile in front of nearly 200 million people to make his point, Bad Bunny decided to be a bit more subtle. His messages blended with the party so seamlessly that I thought about it later and danced along.