Arts & Life

Introducing Mr. & Mrs. Taylor Swift

By GRACE CONNEELY-NOLAN
Arts & Life Editor

The day is finally here — the world's most coveted singer-songwriter is engaged.

Year after year, album after album, there has been no shortage of speculation and scrutiny over Taylor Swift's love life. Her choices in men, the overanalyzing of who entered her life — or didn't — it was always public information, an easy joke and hot gossip.

On Aug. 26, Swift and Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce announced their engagement on Instagram, with a post showing Kelce down on one knee in a rose-covered garden.

Surrounded by an estimated 800 pounds of greenery and thousands of flowers in Kelce's backyard in Lee's Summit, Missouri, the scene was magical. The announcement also featured an absolute rock on her finger: an old mine brilliant cut diamond designed by Kindred Lubeck. The diamond's cut, dating back to the 18th century, has a vintage charm with antique stones worth about $500,000.

The post, captioned "Your English teacher and your gym teacher are getting married" with Swift's track "So High School" playing in the background, has already gained 35 million likes.

After two years of dating, Kelce is now the lucky man who gets to call himself Swift's fiancé — the first who has risen to the occasion, who appreciates all that she is while embracing her unique level of fame and success — a proud partner and pillar of support.

But since the beginning of their story, the couple has received an immense amount of attention — both positive and negative.

The spark ignited after one of Swift's Eras Tour concerts in the summer of 2023, when Kelce expressed interest on his "New Heights" podcast.



ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY KATZ

During her tour, it became a fun tradition for fans to make beaded bracelets with references to Swift's songs and albums, trading them with one another as a way to connect before the show. Kelce attended and, as per tradition, attempted to give her a friendship bracelet with his phone number on it, but failed to catch her after the show.

"I was disappointed that she doesn't talk before or after her shows because she has to save her voice for the 44 songs that she sings," Kelce admitted on the podcast.

It wasn't until Swift attended a Chiefs game on Sept. 23, 2023, alongside Kelce's mom, Donna Kelce, at Arrowhead Stadium, that fans began to speculate about their relationship.

Her repeated appearances at games fueled even more buzz, and the couple officially went public the following month at an "SNL" after-party, stepping out hand in hand. While some believed the relationship was initially for PR to boost sales and media attention for both Swift and the NFL, the pair has since proven otherwise.

As their relationship has grown, they have kept it relatively private — neither flaunting it nor keeping it hidden. In doing so, they have quieted the rumors and shown that what they have exists for no other reason than to make each other happy.

While fans are thrilled for Swift, many are equally excited for what this will mean for her music.

As one of the millions who grew up listening to her songs, I may be a couple of years behind her, but I feel fortunate to have witnessed all the milestones she sings about.

From the age of five, when I stood shoulder to shoulder with my sister watching her "You Belong With Me" music video, to shuffling all my favorites on my culminated playlist, Swift's illustrious career connects with fans like no other.

Her discography spans nearly her entire life, debuting her self-titled album in October 2006 at age 16. Widely known for her autobiographical songwriting, she tells stories of love, heartbreak and resilience across multiple genres. Each album reflects a distinct aesthetic, solidifying her as one of the most influential artists in music today.

With her new album, "The Life of a Show Girl," set to release in Oct., one can only imagine what her new songs will reveal — likely themes of stability, longevity and commitment.

Whatever direction her music takes, fans are sure to be listening closely. Swift has a way of turning moments into stories that fans hold on to, relate to and belt out at sold-out stadiums.

Her engagement, while a personal milestone, also marks the next step in her career, bringing a fresh perspective from an artist who has never stopped reinventing herself.

Perfectionism, panic, repeat: the college recipe

By EMILY ADORNO
Marketing Director

If you watched "The Bear" or pay attention to memes, you know the temper of Jeremy Allen White shouting "Yes, chef!" while pots crash, knives slam and the kitchen spins out of control. It's messy, intense and stressful. Yet somehow, it feels familiar.

For a lot of us, college life isn't too different. Swap hot pans for overheating laptops and the kitchen for the library, and suddenly Carmy's (Jeremy Allen White) kitchen chaos looks a lot like the library during finals week.

Season three of "The Bear" doesn't sugarcoat it. It brings you right into the mindset of obsession, perfectionism and burnout, which are many of the exact thoughts college students battle when juggling assignments, internships and late-night meetings.

Watching Carmy unravel under the pressure hits close to home because we've all been there. Running on the overpriced dining hall Celsius, chasing perfection and wondering if the three extracurriculars you're a part of will be enough on your resume.

At its core, "The Bear" is about ambition and the toll it takes. Carmy measures his worth through his work. If the food isn't perfect, he isn't perfect.

Here at Quinnipiac, we pride ourselves on being ambitious. This emphasis can impact the value we hold on our academic success. One bad grade or a missed deadline can feel like the end of the world.

The problem is that hustle culture tells us this is normal. If you're not working 24/7, you aren't trying. But just like Carmy, we know deep down that running on fumes isn't sustainable. The more we push, the more we crack.

Looking solely at season three — not everyone loved it. Some critics said it was brilliant, cinematic and a bold step forward. Others thought it dragged or tried too hard.

Thankfully I am not a media critic, just an avid consumer. That said, I felt this season encapsulated the true struggle of feeling like some days you're on top of everything, and other days you're wondering what exactly you signed up for.

That's why it works. Because student life is like that too. Equal parts motivating and frustrating, with moments that feel both exhausting and unforgettable.

So what recipe can we as students actually follow from the messaging created in this kitchen chaos? I promise a lot more than just cooking metaphors.

Reminding ourselves that humanity is more important than perfection is like starting with a clean workspace. Carmy showed the audience that pushing himself past the breaking point was nothing to brag about and it is something we need to recognize and prevent.

And as much as we all love an aesthetic plate, the perfectionism that looks good on Instagram is not what really matters. Showing up, trying and growing — even when it's messy is still progress towards important goals.

It is also important to recognize that the best moments in season three aren't about food; they're about people. The same goes for college. Those 2 a.m. conversations in the dorm or study sessions with friends often mean more than the grades we're chasing.

Maybe the reason "The Bear" hits so hard is because it's not just about food. It's about pressure, just like the kind we live with on campus.

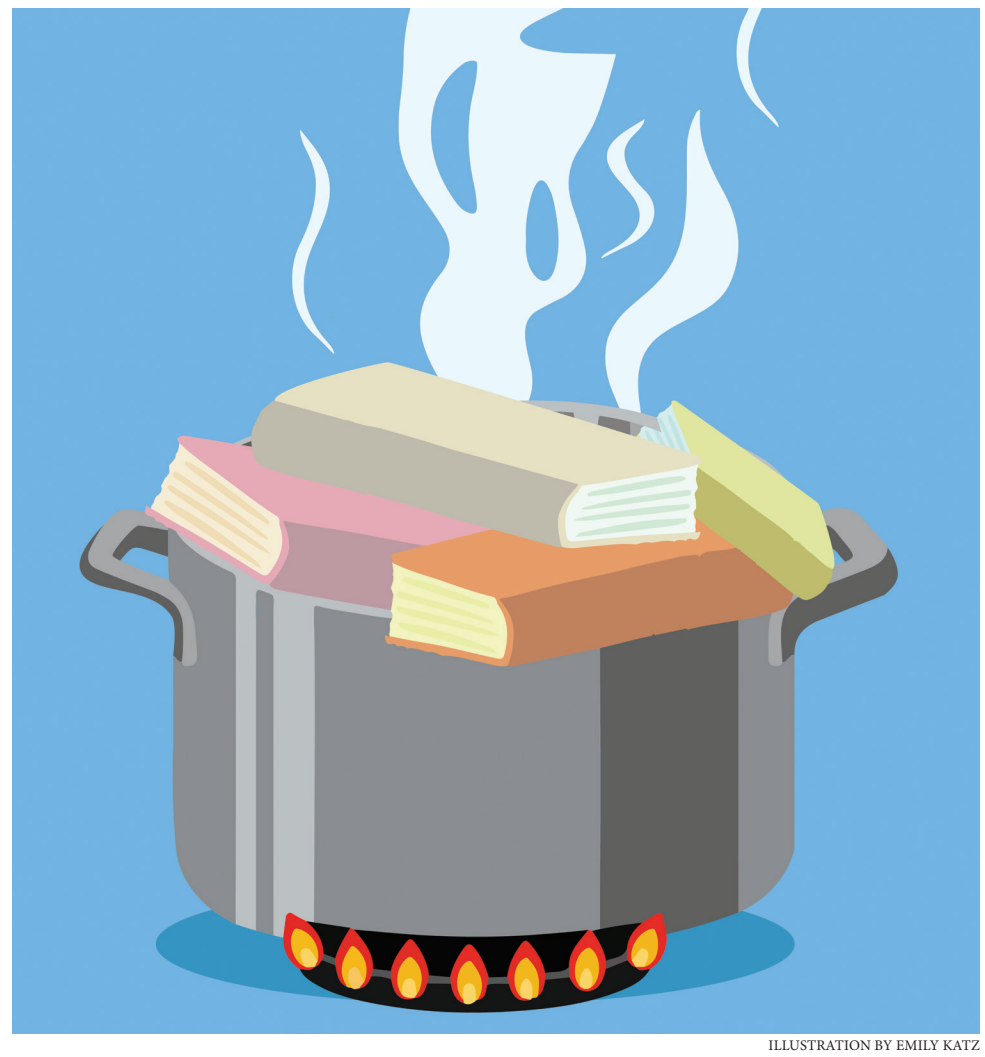
ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY KATZ

College often feels like a never-ending shift in a Michelin-star kitchen: always busy, always urgent, always one mistake away from disaster. But if "The Bear" teaches us anything, it's that no one can live like that forever.

Kitchens and students both need to cool down sometimes. Hustle culture tells us to keep turning up the heat, but the truth is, the best meals (and the best lives) need time to simmer.

So yes, chef. But also, yes, making mistakes. Yes, friendship. Yes, time for yourself.