Gay marriage supporters rally at the State House on Beacon Street as lawmakers debate inside.

Marriage debate riles students

Rose Francois
Journal Staff

Days of debate over the fate of gay marriages in Massachusetts have ended in a stalemate.

In terms of reaching a conclusion, neither opponents nor advocates of gay marriage gained ground on the matter.

As is stands right now, the Commonwealth is set to recognize gay marriages beginning May 17, which has created intense dialogue across America.

In the aftermath of the Legislature’s indecision, those on both sides of the issue are uncertain about a possible outcome.

For proponents of same-sex marriage, this is about equal rights.

"It's all based on inequity," says回老Gregory Smith, a student at Suffolk. "What's to stop them from rewriting the constitution for something else they don't like?"

Those in favor of gay marriage say that are either for or against same-sex marriage.

"I believe marriage should be between a man and a woman, but I don't support discrimination," said Charles Cherry, a 21-year-old senior at Suffolk and self-described "liberal with a conservative background."

If politicians rewrite the constitution "that's deliberately saying, 'We in Massachusetts don't like gay people. Gay people should not have rights,'" said Cherry.

Three amendments to the constitution were proposed and all were voted down during debates on Feb. 11 and 12.

Those against same-sex marriages argue that they are not trying to discriminate against gays; rather they are trying to protect the sanctity of marriage and traditional family values.

Those who do not support gay marriage are divided on the issue.

"I believe marriage should be between a man and a woman, but I don't support discrimination," said 18-year-old Fena Fenalon of Suffolk.

The current controversy has changed many minds of people that are either for or against same-sex marriage.

"I believe marriage should be between a man and a woman," said Charles Smith, 21-year-old government major at Suffolk.

The debate has changed his opinion.

"Before, I was against gay marriage but for civil unions," Charles Smith said.

"But 'separate but equal' is impossible. The dominant group will always be better off."

Come November, when the presidential election takes place, same-sex marriages will be a key issue.

The remaining presidential nominees have been strategically avoiding the topic of gay marriage.

Current Democratic leader Sen. John F. Kerry has repeatedly echoed by others. The possibility of the constitution being amended "makes me nervous," said Mallory Brader, a gay, male Republican, who is running as a conservative background.

If politicians rewrite the constitution "that's deliberately saying, 'We in Massachusetts don't like gay people. Gay people should not have rights,'" said Charles Cherry.

According to Monahan, "Reducing the overall number of classes needed [to graduate] will also reduce the core and divisional requirements."

President Dave Rodrigues said the discussions are in their infant stages. "We really want to get to the heart of what Dean Greenberg wants," he said.

In other developments, the Housing Committee, with newly appointed chair Emily Ruskowski, is planning to explore adopting a wireless Internet system for the Donahue building, according to Vice President Becki Harlow.

"Emily is going to talk to other universities in the area that have wireless capabilities," Harlow said.

"That doesn't make me nervous," said Mallory Brader, a 21-year-old senior at Suffolk.

"We're starting off small," Rodrigues said. "We would do our research and decide where it would be best and most used".

Before SGA would approach the administration with a proposal, "We're going to do what's best for the university."

There is still interest in installing ATM machines on campus, Harlow said. "Citizen's [Bank] has given us a new proposal to see SGA, page 2.

Improving troupe laughs it up

The Student Government Association, fresh off winter hibernation and eager to act on concerns of the student body, is working with the administration to explore lightening the required course load by one class in order to graduate.

Associate Dean Kenneth Greenberg has been conferring with SGA's academics committee about the possible policy change.

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**Student suffers discomfort in lab accident**

Rumors swirled around areas of campus last week that an explosion occurred in a chemistry lab when fire trucks and an ambulance gathered around Donahue with the Suffolk police. According to Dr. Steven Paterson of the chemistry department, on Feb. 11 a "minor accident" occurred in the organic chemistry lab when a student conducting an experiment with sulfuric acid accidentally came in contact with the substance, which "is one of the most dangerous acids there is." The student, who was wearing protective clothing, suffered minor injuries and declined medical treatment.

**Greek Festival returns**

Suffolk University's Hellenic Club will be hosting its fourth annual Greek Festival on Feb. 19. The event, which will be located in the Donahue Cafe, will last from 6 to 10 p.m. and feature authentic Greek food and music. Members of the Hellenic Club will be performing and teaching traditional Greek dances at the festival. Admission is free, however donations will be collected to help benefit the Hellenic Cardiac Fund.

**Long-time member of community retiring**

Lou Connelly, an active member of the Suffolk University administration for over 36 years, has announced that he will be retiring as sports information director. Connelly, '76, was chosen as Suffolk's first public relations director in 1987 and went on to hold the position for nearly three decades. Coach Jim Nelson called Connelly's experience "invaluable in promoting the positive image of athletics on behalf of our student athletes."

**Thieves break into Beacon Hill homes**

There has been an outbreak of burglaries in the Beacon Hill area, according to The Beacon Hill Times. Burglars broke into nine homes over the ten-day period since Jan. 26. Break-ins occurred at Smith Court and Cambridge, West Cedar, Garden, Chestnut and Joy streets. Thefts occurred during the day and thieves entered the houses through windows and stole jewelry, laptop computers and cash. Police are urging residents to call 911 if they "see someone they think even remotely suspicious," according to the neighborhood paper.

**SOULS group help feed the hungry**

SOULS, Suffolk’s Organization for Uplifting Lives through Service, participates in a "Super Club" each week to assist with meal preparation for more than 150 guests in need. A group of Suffolk University students and faculty feed the hungry at the Paulist Center at 35 Bowdoin St. on Thursday nights. All students are welcome to participate and can meet the SOULS group in the Donahue lobby at 4:45 p.m. on either night.

**Roger Williams scholarship angers students**

Controversy erupted this week at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island, where the student run College Republican’s are now offering a scholarship of $250 that is only eligible to the school’s white students. The award, which the organization characterizes as a protest against minority scholarships, requires visual proof of the applicants “whiteness” as well as an essay on “what being white means to you.” Due to nationwide coverage and outside donations, the scholarship is expected to rise to more than $2,000.

**Students apply for commencement speaker**

Applications for the 2004 student commencement speaker are now available in the Dean of Students Office in the Ridgeway building on the third floor, The Hub in the Donahue Lobby and the Student Activities Office in the Donahue building. The deadline to submit applications is 4 p.m. on March 26.

**Frat aims to unite campus**

Jenn O’Callaghan  
Journal Staff

Suffolk’s new fraternity, Kappa Sigma, plans to focus on community service and upholding academics as it embarks on its rookie season.

Fraternity brother Josh Giudici said that Kappa Sigma “is not your typical fraternity. We have to do a good job. Otherwise, we wouldn’t exist.”

Aside from social aspects, the fraternity has a defined community service focus that will continue after members have met the initial 25-hour community service requirement. The fraternity’s community service hours will likely be fulfilled working in connection with SOULS, Suffolk’s Organization for Uplifting Lives through Service, according to Grand Master of Ceremonies Scooter Walper, a junior.

Another requirement of the fraternity is good academic standing, as the members need to have a minimum grade point average of 2.5, a tad bit higher than the requirement for other clubs.

Since becoming a colony, the fraternity’s brothers have elected officers and chairs of the various committees. The committee is formed to focus on specific aspects of the fraternity like academic standing of members.

By meeting the 25-member requirement, the frat was recognized on Jan. 30. In order to obtain a charter and become a recognized chapter, they will need 50 members.

The Kappa Sigma fraternity is sponsoring several events for “Rush Week” to recruit members. Upcoming “Rush Week” events include a night at Jillian’s on Feb. 18.

There will also be a movie night with pizza and soda at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 19 on the fourth floor of the Donahue building.

On Feb. 21, there will be an opportunity to play intramural sports with some of the fraternity brothers.

The events are open to everyone, so the group hopes to get the entire Suffolk community closer together, according to members.

The events will allow people to get more information on the fraternity and meet members.

It will also allow the fraternity brothers to recruit people who will best represent the fraternity, according to Walper.

In addition, the fraternity brothers have received pins that serve as a visible symbol of being a pledged member, according to fraternity brother Kevin Koening.

**Students rehearse for an ‘Adaptation’ of May’s play**

The cast of Suffolk’s latest theater performance “Adaptation” run through their lines in preparation for opening day on Feb. 19. Based on the script by comedic writer Elaine May, the play is being produced by Suffolk’s Theatre Department and directed by student Mike DiLorenzo.

General Manager of the Theatre Department Jim Kaufman describes “Adaptation” as a ruthless satire “depicting one man’s life as a game show” in which Phil, being portrayed by Alex Pollock, must play a Parcheesi-like game through the seven stages of his life. Adaptation will be running from Feb. 19 to 22.

**SGA eyes expanded resources**

SGA from page 1

al,” she said, adding that if the cash machine does not get a certain number of hits, or meets the required number of times it needs to be used to remain active, then Suffolk would have to pay an extra fee. Harlow said members of the administration have expressed interest in having a machine on campus “free of charge” to the university.

“Let’s make a deal is what they are saying to get the best deal for the students,” Harlow said.

On the administrative side, the Office of Student Life is making a change to that students who are elected to the executive boards of student organizations must now maintain a minimum 2.3 grade point average to hold their elected positions, including all elected members of SGA. The change was made to ensure students are set and in play.

The Boston Intercollegiate Government will meet at Northeastern University this evening to discuss the backlash of the riots that took place following the Patriots’ Super Bowl victory.

“TI feel that individuals are responsible for the damage caused,” said Rodrigues, who serves as vice-chairperson for BIG. “It shouldn’t have an adverse effect on the student population as a whole.”

At their next weekly meeting, SGA representatives hope to pass a new, more clearly written treasurer’s manual to outline the channels and processes for monetary issues within student clubs. It is an essential document for clubs dealing with money issues.

From planning events to fundraising, “this document shows the way for any club” to deal with money, according to freshman representative Max Keskoff, whose campaign slogan for next year is “Blast off with Keskoff.”
Improv groups take comedy skits Seriously

Eleni Bourinaris
Journal Staff

Students for Performing Arts kicked off the long weekend with an evening of comedy on Feb. 13 as improvisational groups Nu+Improv'd, This is Pathetic and Suffolk's Seriously Bent ushered in the laughs for the second annual Eat My Improv Festival.

Laughter was superfluous in the C. Walsh Theatre even before Nu+Improv'd opened the show. The audience was a diverse mixture of Suffolk, Northeastern University and Emerson College students craving a chuckle.

The performance started with a fair warning: “Please turn off your cell phones because if they ring I'll steal them.”

Nu+Improv’d is an improvisational performance group from Northeastern founded in 2002 by Chad Cooper. The group consists of about 15 members targeting a predominantly college student fan base.

They opened the show with an urgent newscast: A dmgged-up Snow White has been taken hostage by midgets and is being held at knifepoint. Kelly Reagan, a doctor who graduated from Suffolk with a degree in “midgetology” claimed that their program is “below the bar,” literally. According to her very thorough studies, “midgets can be very irate people.” Snow White, played by Amanda Nesi, didn’t mind the situation because Snow White “hasn’t been played in sooo long.” Nu+Improv’d performances can be found at their regular spot, After Hours once a month at 9 p.m.

Emerson’s comedy troupe, This is Pathetic, is a 15-year-old tradition that has evolved through the years. It started with a specialization in puppetry and mime, but has grown into social satire through sketch, improv and film.

The comical quintet opened the show with a parody of “Harry Potter,” who demonstrated a lot of pent up sexual energy. “There’s something with my wand, it’s vibrating,” Potter explained to Hermione. Aware of the problem ahead, Hermione expressed her uneasiness when Harry’s wand vibrated in his sleep. Harry tried to convince Hermione to try the vibrating wand and ended the scene with Harry screaming, “Baby Jean, Baby Jean. I told you not to play with big objects” in a frenzy of X-rated comedy.

Created four years ago and produced by College of Arts and Sciences and New England School of Art and Design students, Seriously Bent is Suffolk’s in-house comedy troupe of seven students specializing in sketch and improv. Each of Seriously Bent’s 12 skits was a different game.

“The Dating Game,” hosted by Tim Enright, brought in a bachelor, Brian Liberge, who had to choose a date based on their personalities. Chris Aguiar played a man obsessed with math.

When asked about the perfect date, Aguiar said he’d go out for pizza and then proceeded to discuss fractions - to all math majors out there, it’s a major turn off. Unicorn Tony Passafiume was out of the running early in the game, once he started to scratch himself and harass the mathematician next to him. Anna Nicole Smith was the last contestant, moaning in the background, played by birthday girl Caitlin Kenny. After taking a bottle of Trim Spa, Smith left the stage dateless and the bachelor lost the game because he couldn’t think of the celebrity’s name.

Due to time and scheduling constraints, Eat My Improv was Chris Aguiar’s last performance with Seriously Bent. Aguiar, who has been with the Performing Arts Center for two years, is moving on.

Suffolk students display their improvisational talents in Seriously Bent on Feb. 13, with a parody of “Harry Potter,” who demonstrated a lot of pent up sexual energy. “There’s something with my wand, it’s vibrating,” Potter explained to Hermione. Aware of the problem ahead, Hermione expressed her uneasiness when Harry’s wand vibrated in his sleep. Harry tried to convince Hermione to try the vibrating wand and ended the scene with Harry screaming, “Baby Jean, Baby Jean. I told you not to play with big objects” in a frenzy of X-rated comedy.
Staff Editorial

Toga! Toga! Toga!

Say what you will about fraternities. They have arguably caused more chaos, mayhem and general disorder on college campuses throughout American educational history than any other student institution. Fraternities are the epitome of collegiate immaturity and misbehavior. Fraternities bring to mind images of beer kegs, promiscuous, unprotected sex and the inimitable toga party. Fraternity life has been upheld as the comic ideal in movies such as "National Lampoon's Animal House," the spirit of its decadent hedonism preserved in an immorality in posters of John Belushi's bourbon-chugging Bluto in dorm rooms around the country.

At many colleges and universities, Greek Life is a dominant social factor, an institutional element that has existed for as long as the schools themselves. Fraternity rows house hundreds of brothers and hold innominate parties year round. And while the majority of these organizations hold their true, actual goals to be those of community service and brotherhood, classically speaking the attitude of college administrations toward their respective fraternity chapters has often been at least mildly disapproving.

At Suffolk, the issue of fraternities is a delicate one; the now-defunct Suffolk chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon first lost its national charter and was then ousted from the university between 2000 and 2001. Their example was certainly a bad one; TKE's most memorable offense (and the list was not short) involved scorecards and incoming freshman women. Scattered TKE paraphernalia can still be found floating around club offices on the fourth-floor of the Donahue building.

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Not to say that TKE was ever a proper frat, Suffolk has been without Greek Life for some time. Quite recently, however, a new player has sprung up: a nascent chapter of Kappa Sigma began its first rush earlier this semester.

The question, then, is do we want this? Suffolk's social atmosphere has always been a bit deficient as compared to other Boston schools, especially campus-based ones, though that seems to be changing. If Kappa Sigma can contribute positively towards a more lively social milieu in this most central of Boston's colleges, we say good luck, more power to them and don't forget to send us free press passes to the first party.

L e t t e r t o t h e E d i t o r

A life for a life, Conte says

Dear Suffolk Journal,

I write this in response to last issue's letter to the editor letter written by self-proclaimed human rights advocate Jake Hess as a response to my Feb. 4 column "Just for the record:"

"Mr. Hess refers to me herein as what results from a society built on the principle of retributive violence."

This begs the question, what is wrong with a society based on retributive violence?

If someone punches you in the face, then you should punch back. If you don't punch back, then you can expect at least a few more punches to the face.

When a country or organization attacks us, then we must respond. If someone kills little girls, then they should be killed themselves.

It's a pretty simple equation.

Joseph P. Smith killed 11-year-old Charlie Brucia.

There is surveillance tape of him abducting her. God only knows the terror she experienced as he mentally killed her.

I personally think that this "human" would kill an animal for showing ankle. Instead we went into Afghanistan, kicked human excrement should be shot on scum who kill little girls?

I do not think any self-proclaimed "human" would kill an 11-year-old girl.

Also, I want to know if Mr. Hess also plans to be an advocate for victims.

Where is Charlie Brucia's advocate?

Sincerely,

Michael Conte

Have an opinion? Let us know.

Deadline for opinion columns and Letters to the Editor is Friday by 5 p.m. for publication the following Wednesday.

Letters to the Editor can be submitted online at www.suffolkjournal.net or sent in via e-mail to suffoljournal@hotmail.com.
Foibles with the fuzz

Tristan Benozer

seen circumstances as an event occurred on the evening of Feb. 15 that I simply must share with anyone who still believes in democracy.

Sunday night was my roommate's birthday, and we decided to celebrate by having a party.

Something happened that night that I will never forget.

Around 30 or so people attended our celebration - an abnormally low amount of people compared to past bashes.

The party was going along fine, the music turned down low to avoid upsetting the neighbors on a Sunday night, with breathing room between each person (not common in our house) and plenty of beer to spare.

At around 10:30 p.m. the fabulous Boston Police Department rang our doorbell demanding to be let in.

I immediately turned down the music as I opened the door for them. I told the officers I was also a resident of the building and asked me if I knew what we were doing.

I was hesitant to go outside and speak protecting anyone in this situation.

He shrieked at me as though I had hit him in the face and asked me, "What the fuck are you doing?"

I told him he had just told me to take the tap out, but the red rage in his face had now consumed his entire body. It appeared as though we would be eating steamed pork now.

Mr. Flash approached me angrily, coming but one centimeter from my face and told me that I was a "fresh prick" and "if no one was around I would beat your ass!"

At this point I had become genuinely scared of physical harm but of law enforcement in general.

Seemingly no longer here to help the community and myself in my current situation, they would apparently rather manipulate an unarmed citizen with slander, idiotic comments and brutal force.

The motto of every police department is "to protect and serve." It seems to me that they were not protecting anyone in this situation.

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**Opinion Feature**

**Popular politics: petty pluralism and the consolidation of the left**

The upcoming 2004 election has grabbed the attention of many citizens. Surely any statistic on the matter would show that the driving factor in the so-called mad rush to the polls is Bush.

Why? Plain and simple: people are unhappy, even many of those who voted Bush.

During the 2000 election, despite a tie in the electoral college, Bush was re-elected by only 271,000 votes. This is more than a single state. The reason? As the one defining characteristic that all these leftist groups share is a disdain for the current state of government, or for the condition of the world in general - political views with your commune? Not necessarily; in fact, in today's world, one has to get a hell of a lot more specific than the general left.

Countless categories of political thought have been thrown or have thrown themselves into the realm of the left. But the one defining characteristic that all these leftist groups share is a disdain for the current state of government, or for the condition of the world in general. Fair enough, everyone on the left wants change, and most would prefer it to be radical in comparison to today's conservative politics. But the question then becomes, how do we bring about this change?

Working within the system - which is a risky assumption to make since followers of political philosophies such as Anarchists and Communists fail to the left, yet they wish to change the system itself - one needs, as we have discovered, the support of the plurality, not the majority.

While the left has had its moments of glory, the followers of any particular leftist organization at any particular moment never amount to much more than roughly 1 percent of the voters.

According to the posted results of the 2000 presidential election, 4 percent of the vote cast were neither for Gore nor Bush. Of this 4 percent, most were leftist organizations: Green Party, Nader, 2.73 percent; Reform Party, Buchanan, 0.43 percent; Libertarian Party, Browne, 0.32 percent; Other, 0.22 percent.

Furthermore, of all these numbers, only 50 percent of the population votes at all. If we as voters could consolidate our votes for a single leftist party, the left would have 4 percent and not be divided. This is the major problem with the efficacy of today's politics.

Just as Democrats are concerned Bush will be re-elected due to the division of the Democratic party between many candidates, so too will the left never gain much ground because of the division of loyalty among the myriad leftist organizations.

There are at least eleven leftist parties out there: Alliance for Democracy, Green, Peace and Freedom, Proportional Representation, Labor, Socialist, Independent, New Party, Nobody for President, Progressive, Worker's, to name a few.

If one day we could consolidate the 4 percent vote into one party, the leftist candidates would seem more electable, which would in turn drum up more support.

Many people who vote Democrat and some who vote Republican may now vote for the left.

Maybe even that 50 percent of the population who do not vote will actually participate in their government. If enough people vote for the left, they may one day become a viable party, and receive true recognition.

This holds in it the potential for transforming our pretend two party system into a real true three party system.

Practically speaking, the consolidation of the left still requires a plan, a mission. As hard as leftist organizations work, fund-raise and gather support, they always seem to hit a brick wall; they can only gain so much support before their momentum plateaus.

Divisive voting causes this metaphorical wall. It's not that everyone voting left doesn't want to change the world, it's just that each party fighting for change is slightly different, or located so far from its counterparts that it didn't know they existed.

So, several small groups of people vote for their own organizations, while new ones are created every day, instead of supporting one that already exist so they can combine their power and accomplish more.

As for the slight difference between each party, that presents a big problem. Each party has its own agenda. The agenda of most leftist organizations is the same; however the rank of the issues in their list tends to differ.

For example, one group may think it is most important for women's rights to be at the top of the list, allowing immigrants to be in the wayside, whereas another group may place immigrants first on their list, and worry about the women later.

Since most people involved in leftist politics feel very strongly about their views, few are willing to compromise.

The first thing leftist organizations need to do is compromise, compile a joint agenda, which tries to solve one problem at a time, even if you have to allow your idea to take the back seat for a while.

Many countless people in the area of activism and politics get burnt out and give up because so little progress is made.

Politicians in modern society have lost a true leader, one who has united the leftist movement as a whole.

Hopefully one day someone will accomplish the union of the common goals of the leftist parties. Maybe then America will be a true democracy, where votes count, and citizens are taken care of by a government that views the words “for the people” as more than a cursory motto.
The ‘Rising’ Keene: author revitalizes horror

Chris Dwyer
Journal Staff

The horror genre can tumble in two different directions: lazy, cliché-ridden and unimaginative or intelligent, malevolent and terrifyingly evil.

Thankfully for us, writer Brian Keene stays in the latter.

In The Rising, Keene exhibits a pure horror novel filled with all of the staples we have come to love, including zombies, blood, gore and some classic macabre, all with an astute overtone that makes this apocalyptic tale of survival one to remember.

Keene answered The Suffolk Journal’s questions about The Rising, its upcoming sequel, and other projects he has on the backburner, amongst some old-fashioned horror gabbing.

Suffolk Journal: The Rising delves into an apocalyptic world, a plot tinge that many recent horror movies (“28 Days Later”) attempt to convey. Do you feel that early type of mood is a necessity when tackling a horror novel with zombies?

Brian Keene: I don’t think it’s a necessity—but it makes for great fun. Hugh B. Cave, Ray Garton, and even Stephen King have written zombie novels that didn’t involve apocalyptic settings.

But for The Rising, because the scale was so grand—there was just no other way around it. Plus, it’s always a treat to play God and destroy the world in your own image (laughs).

SJ: What are some of your influences as a writer? Do you draw inspiration from films as well as other writers?

BK: My influences vary, and they’ve changed over the years just as I’ve changed. In childhood, it was the Marvel, DC and Charlton comics of the ’70s—stuff like Steve Gerber’s “Defenders” and “Man-Thing,” and Jack Kirby’s “Captain America” and “Kamandi: Last Boy on Earth.”

Film-wise, my earliest influence was “Land of the Lost,” a ’70s Saturday morning live-action show with dinosaurs and reptile people and UFO’s and other neat stuff.

Later on, it was films like “Phantasm” and “Dawn of the Dead,” and horror authors like Richard Laymon, Stephen King and HP Lovecraft.

I was a big fan of the pulp stuff too: books by Edgar Rice Burroughs and Robert E. Howard.

And there are still things that influence me. One of the wonderful things about being an artist-type of artist is that you never lose that creative edge. Your muse soaks up everything you like like a sponge.

If I had to pick four authors that had the most direct impact on my current writing, it would be Richard Laymon, Elmore Leonard, John Steinbeck and Robert E. Howard.

SJ: Many forms of the horror genre are quite predictable (ie: recent slashers films), how did you create a story that is continuously unpredictable?

BK: I think it’s because I love the genre that I’m writing in. I immerse myself in it. I know the things that make me groan when I see them in a movie or read them in a book. You know, the killer has them trapped in a house and they say “Let’s all split up!”

Or the monster is chasing our heroine and rather than hiding in the woods, she runs down the middle of the road. Or my favorite: the hero has a six-shooter and he fires 14 shots!

Predictable plot points like those drive me insane so I made a conscious effort to avoid them.

SJ: I would consider The Rising to be an “intelligent” horror novel. Sure, horror staples such as the terror and gore are all there, but the book doesn’t have the “cheese” factor that many zombie tales have. How did you convey this?

BK: It was hard, and I’m still not 100 percent sure that I succeeded. I guess because when I’m working on something, I really do have a tendency to ‘become’ the character.

While I’m sitting at the computer, the world around me doesn’t exist. I see the character’s world through their eyes. So I see what’s going on, what’s realistic (if anything in a zombie novel can be called realistic) and what’s not.

SJ: Here’s a question that can’t be avoided: being a hardcore horror fan like yourself, how do you feel about the upcoming “Dawn of the Dead” remake?

BK: When I first heard about it, I cringed. It was like the executive producer was saying, “I’ve watched ‘The Walking Dead’ on cable, so we’ll do this.”

But then I heard the script just wasn’t that bad. So I thought, “Well, if they can really pull this off…”

While I’m sitting at the computer, the world around me doesn’t exist. I see the characters’ world through their eyes. So I see what’s going on, what’s realistic (if anything in a zombie novel can be called realistic) and what’s not.

SJ: Do you have any upcoming projects for which you’re working on right now that you can reveal?

BK: A lot of attention, but nothing that I can talk about publicly yet. Several studios have expressed an interest.

But it would make a kick-ass movie, wouldn’t it? (laughs)

I recently had another story optioned by Hollywood, Fodder, a novella I co-wrote with British author Tim Lebben.

That one takes place in World War I and features a character loosely based on classic dark fantasict William Hope Hodgson, the author of The Night Land and The House On The Borderland.

Chesapeake Films picked up the option for that so hopefully we’ll have more news soon.

SJ: Speaking of feature films, what have you been watching in terms of the horror genre?

BK: I’ve actually been re-watching older favorites. A lot of the new stuff just hasn’t done it for me.

“Freddy vs. Jason” was fun because it delivered exactly what it promised, and nothing more. I enjoyed “Dog Soldiers” and “28 Days Later,” but that’s about it.

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I’ve enjoyed some of the new Japanese horror flicks too: films like “Battle Royale” and “Ring.”

SJ: What has the reaction been like on your current tour?

BK: Very much so. Regardless of what genre you’re writing in, be it romance or horror or sci-fi or mainstream fiction, a writer’s first job is to tell a good story.

No amount of flowery prose or clever style can cover up a bad story. And the only way to tell a good story is to give the reader characters they care about, characters that they can identify with, that they feel they know.

Jim, Martin, Baker, even Frankie, we all know somebody like this in real life or we’ve crossed paths with them before.

All writers, to some extent, are also auto-biographical with their fiction. Some will own up to that and others won’t, but the fact remains that it’s true.

To tell a compelling story, you have to write what you know.

There’s always a little bit of me in each of my characters.

In the case of The Rising, it was in Jim. I’m a divorced father and I don’t have much contact with my son. I know the pain involved with that, so it was easy and cathartic to write about.

While reading this book, one can just imagine the potential to turn this thing into a feature film.

Have you gotten any attention from Hollywood about a possible movie coming out of The Rising?

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SJ: What has the reaction been like on your current tour?
“50 First Dates” is not just another Adam Sandler movie. This romantic comedy is actually romantic, and the comedy isn’t half bad either.

Straying away from his usual goofball antics, Sandler proves to critics that he can be the “heartthrob,” or at least a damn good leading man.

Commitment phobic Henry Roth (Sandler) is a marine life veterinarian in Hawaii who woos women tourists into sleeping with him.

Once he gets his “kicks,” he makes up every excuse in the book in order to leave the women with a clear conscience and no follow-up phone call.

In a predictable turn of events, Henry meets Lucy (Drew Barrymore), and falls for her immediately.

Lucy was in an accident and has no short term memory.

Henry begins a quest to make Lucy fall in love with him, each and every day.

With the help of Lucy’s over protective father (played by Blake Clark) and her steroid-pumping, ego-maniacal brother Doug (Sean Astin), Henry attempts to invent little ways for Lucy to recognize and remember him the next day.

As “Saturday Night Live’s” Maya Rudolph puts it in her cameo, most men “don’t even open the car door” for their girl-friends after a while, but Henry makes her fall in love with him again every day.

Short-term memory loss has been quite a touchy subject in movies, previously only allowing for a serious look as in “Memento.” “Groundhog Day” tried to make it funny, but “50 First Dates” takes it one step further. Audiences are treated to incredible comic relief from Rob Schneider’s character Ula, (Henry’s Hawaiian, pot smoking, shark-loving, hip-pie best friend), a fellow marine-life veterinarian whose gender is questionable, and a lisp­ing Sean Astin who does a complete 180 from hobbit Sam in the “Lord of the Rings” series.

Drew Barrymore and Adam Sandler have an undeniable chemistry which only got better the second time around. “50 First Dates” is definitely a good date movie since it can make anyone feel romantic, which can be very convenient... since “there’s nothing better than a first kiss.”

Ours returns to Boston with fiery new lineup

Amanda Bellamy
Journal Staff

Standing on the smoldering ruins of alternative rock, Ours emerged from a year and half long hiatus to play old favorites and preview new songs on the Paradise Rock Club’s stage Friday night.

Carrying the torch abandoned by alternative rock gods such as Chris Cornell and Jeff Buckley, opening act A Wish for Fire continues the tradition of singing about grief, amor and sex over a whining guitar.

Before launching into a song called “Lay Down My Love,” lead singer Owen Beane gave a small disclaimer, “no, it’s not as dirty as you think.” Channeling the late Buckley, Beane croons with the same intensity and carries each song with his vocals. In “Wide Open Skies,” Beane laments, “through the holes in the sky of the night, I can see a piece of the light.”

Despite his slight figure, Jimmy Gnecco dominates any stage, on this night garbed in a vintage leather jacket and jeans so small his girlfriend probably couldn’t squeeze into them.

In July of last year, guitarist Dave Milone left Ours, prior to entering the studio to begin work on the band’s third album. He was eventually replaced with two guitarists; Locke, who specializes in bowed guitar and the aloof Vinnie.

Opening with “Miseryhead,” the new lineup didn’t miss a beat as Gnecco wailed, “I’m in a cloud; it’s pulling me down, breaking me down.”

The band blazed through unreleased material and older songs from their debut album, before the supporting members took a seat. Gnecco welded an acoustic guitar to his electric guitar in favor of an acoustic and obliged the crowd by playing “Meet Me in the Tower,” a poignant and powerful song which anchors the band’s debut album, Distorted Lalibabas.

The crooner insisted the crowd sing along, and to finish the tune, the audience sings Gnecco’s words to him.

To finish the show, Gnecco and company played the scheduled closing number, a new track entitled “Use Me.” The 8 minute opus reached its fevered pitch when Gnecco began beating a tribal drum, at one point kicking the drum. If “Use Me” is any indication, the forth coming third album from Ours doesn’t lack any of their previous efforts’ luster.

Please Attend

The English Department Open House

When and Where:
Thursday, February 26th, 1:00-2:30pm
Fenton 134A

Featured Event: English Majors Share Stories from the Working Worlds of Law, Literature and Education (begins 1:15-1:30)

✦ Refreshments and snacks will be provided
✦ Learn about courses offered in the department
✦ Meet other English majors and minors
✦ Meet the English faculty and staff

Questions or Comments?
Please contact Dr. McKinley (s8625) or Dr. Rich Miller (s8722)

Sponsored by the English Department
The Mars Volta: Changing the face of prog rock

Lark Rissetto
Journal Contributor

Many bands seem to face the challenge of having to either reinvent their music album after album or paint their musical style into a corner.

Post-hardcore band At the Drive In was one such band that faced the latter. It seemed that in 2001 At the Drive In would be a long-time player in the music game after their successful European tour, however some members of the band felt otherwise.

Vocalist Cedric Bixler Zavala and guitarist Omar Rodriguez-Lopez wanted something more. They wanted a concept record that would explore the vast cavities of the human psyche and leave a listener feeling completely dumbfounded and yearning for more.

That record idea came when the two, joined by drummer Jon Theodore, bassist Juan Alderete and keyboardist Isaiah Owens, formed the critically acclaimed band The Mars Volta.

In June of 2003 The Mars Volta released De-Loused in the Comatorium, a record that gives new meaning to the word “eclectic.”

The album is based on the life and times of close friend and artist Julio Venegas, a man so wraped with personal pain that he ended his own life in 1996. Julio’s lifelong battle with drug addiction and his eventual suicide made such an impact on Cedric and Omar that they decided to abandon their post-hardcore cage and start a project of mass proportions.

The story, written by Cedric, is part fiction and part non-fiction. It tells of Julio attempting suicide by overdosing on heroine, failing and then ending up in a coma for a week.

Each song portrays a different adventurous dream that Julio is having while unconscious and in the end Julio awakes from his slumber, but chooses to kill himself anyway.

Although the songs are lyrically written in a stream of consciousness-type style, the music is executed brilliantly. The record contains an amalgamation of recognizable influences ranging from Led Zeppelin to Bjork to Fugazi and never does a song displease.

The album is packed with moments of progressive rock genius marked with mind-numbing improvisation by both Omar and Alderete.

Each song cascades into the next making the listener internally feel Julio’s journey and perhaps it is Cedric one must thank for the pleasure.

His vocal work is absolutely genius, containing an element of being completely out of control, but still maintaining sanity. His voice morphs into a sound beautifully similar to Icelandic siren Bjork on tracks like “Drunkship of Lanterns,” and becomes strikingly similar to the majestic croon of Robert Plant on the track “Take the Veil Cornet Tick.”

The rest of the band cannot be left in Cedric’s dust, however, because it is the entire package that makes the experience possible.

The drums and bongos can make one feel like one is listening to a Santana song, while the virtuosity of Omar’s guitar work makes the song seem like a Zeppelin tune.

The mesh of sound creates sheer musical brilliance.

The Mars Volta are not the only ones to thank for the album’s success. Of course, it also didn’t hurt that music veteran Rick Rubin produced the intricate record.

The Mars Volta have created such an impact with their music that they are now currently on tour with powerhouse A Perfect Circle and are rumored to be opening up for them April 30th at the Worcester Centrum.

Check Out the Mars Volta if You Like:
Bjork
Led Zeppelin
Santana
Fugazi
At the Drive In
Sparta
Pink Floyd

The Mars Volta segway into the vast rock unconsciousness on De-loused.

Centrum.

Photo courtesy of Universal Records

Chore for Tuesday,
Feb. 24:

Attend the Financial Aid Workshop
At 1 p.m. in the Donahue Cafeteria

Sponsored by: the Hispanic Student Association & The Office of Financial Aid

Reminder: March 1 is the undergrad deadline!!
Apply on time!!
Horror author chats about new novel, projects

Keene from page 7

for you to sign their book.

BK: Ha! Yeah, you've got them, and I love those guys, because they are the heart and soul of this business. But you're surprised.

A lot, and I mean a lot, of the people who are buying this book are little old ladies who bend over and whisper to me how much they loved it, like it's a guilty pleasure or something.

There are also a lot of blue-collar guys, reading it on their lunch break and yuppies passing the time with it on their commute to work. It's a very broad mix of society.

It's funny, five years ago, on my first book tour, it was a very rock 'n' roll style show. I was still underground, and the fans were primarily those you mentioned. I'd do things like sign breasts and slam tequila shots and chew on worms; anything to get the buzz, get more readers.

But as I've gotten older and gone mainstream, my audience has done the same. The original readers are still there, but mainstream America has climbed aboard the bus too.

It's neat to watch them interact with each other, even on my website's message board.

SJ: Have you read The Zombie Survival Guide by Max Brooks (son of Mel Brooks)?

It's categorized as "humor," but any horror fan could see that it's very straightforward and serious, not to mention very convincing.

BK: I loved it! My editor at Batman-Dell, Rich Sanfilippo, sent it to me for Halloween, and I devoured it in a weekend. I think it's required reading and should be on the bookshelf of every survivalist compound in this country.

SJ: Fear of Gravity is being released soon, and it seems like it's a departure from horror. Tell us a little bit about it.

BK: This is a new collection of short stories. Eighty percent of them are never before published, and a few are reprint from various anthologies.

All of them are horror stories, but for the most part, they deal with real-life horrors. "Duck," for example, deals with the monsters that hijacked those airplanes and flew them into the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

"Marriage Causes Cancer in Rats" is a bridge between the first novel and the upcoming sequel.

"Babylon Falling" explores the horror of war and takes place during the current conflict in Iraq.

There are a few more traditional tales, but for the most part, I wanted to explore the things that haunt us everyday.

My hardcover publisher, Delirium Books, is releasing it as a signed limited edition and that will be the only version available.

It will probably sell out before it ever makes it's way to the bookstore shelves, the limited editions usually do, so those that are interested might want to stop by my website, www.briankeene.com, for more info.

One specialize neat thing is this: those that order the book get The Rising: Necrophobia with it for free. This is a special chapbook that contains four new stories set in the world of The Rising and provides a bridge between the first novel and the upcoming sequel.

SJ: Finally, can we get an inside glance at the sequel to The Rising? It's tentatively titled More Than Infinity, correct?

BK: Yes. No. Maybe. All of the above.

The hardcover, due out from Delirium Books at the end of the year, is indeed called More Than Infinity.

The paperback, due out from Leisure Books next year, is called City of the Dead.

They are the same book but Leisure wanted a different title, something that sounded more "horror," which would make it easier for bookstores to categorize.

Without giving too much away, the sequel picks up exactly where the first book left off but on an easy task, since I never envisioned a sequel when I first finished The Rising). The pace is faster, the plot is thicker, and the danger is more perilous than anything from the first book.

Most of the sequel will take place in New York City, a New York City overrun by the undead. Most of the characters that survived The Rising will be back, and there will be many new characters too.

But one thing I know for sure, this time around, nobody is safe.

SJ: Well Brian, thanks for your time. Kids on being one of the top voices in horror! We hope to see you soon here in the Northeast.

BK: Thanks Chris! I appreciate the kind words. Hope to get to Boston for the release of City of the Dead or my next mass-market novel. Terminal, but either way, I'm gonna get there!

Check out www.briankeene.com for more information and to order The Rising.

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Interested in writing Arts and Entertainment?
We're always looking for music and movie reviews.
Drop by Donahue 428 or send us an email at suffolkjournal@msn.com
A movie like "Barbershop 2: Back In Action" resembles "Chiefs" for the black community. Everybody does indeed know your name but instead the cast is hilarious as well as a controversial sequel. The sequel to the 2002 box office hit is a surprising mix of comedy, subplots, politics and controversy.

Run by Cedric, played by the talented Ice Cube, the story starts with a flashback on how Eddie (Cedric the Entertainer) became a fixture to the barbershop crew after hiding there while running away from the cops in the late 50s. It continues to show the returning characters, Eve, Troy Garity, Michael Ealy playing Terri, Isaac and Ricky, respectively. The movie's main plot is centered around Quentin Leroux (Harry Lenix) deciding to build Nappy Cutz right across the street.

Obviously, Nappy Cutz is a beauty salon right next door which holds the dream to all hair salons; indoor movie's main plot is centered around the battle of the 14 day countdown of Nappy Cutz's opening. The six performances are, Starbacks, Blockbuster and Subway. The movie revolves around the battle of the 14 day countdown of Nappy Cutz's opening and the entire crew trying to figure out how to save their business. From barbecues for the regulars to ameliorating the shop's image (no swearing, no loud music and politely greeting all customers), the battle also comes from the cast trying to save the shop's image to going from a "Chiefs"-like environment to sell-out.

Overall, the movie has many strong points. It is obviously funny yet allows the viewer to reflect on some serious issues instead of just laughing for 90 minutes at a few jokes here and there. It does seem to try and squeeze in too many different storylines, plots and character traits that aren't embroidered enough to make a difference in the story so it ends up feeling like too many things desperate for attention. Queen Latifah makes a star side character, as the owner of the beauty salon right next door which will soon be a spinoff and turned-into a movie.

The director tried to jam in too many different issues, from love, to politics, to friendship, to controversy to make this movie well-balanced and easily definable. It is worth the ticket money, if not for the laughs and what Cedric manages to sell us, then for the appreciation of trying so hard, and succeeding, in making this "not another black movie."

Jenn O’Callaghan
Journal Staff

Bon Jovi’s "This Left Feels Right: Live" limited edition DVD is disappointing.

Bon Jovi has successfully destroyed many of their hit songs in these new re-arrangements. All of the band’s lively and energetic songs have been slowed down and made into ballads. Knowing how a song like "It's My Life" sound and should be performed, and then seeing it poorly re-arranged and performed is surprising. Some of the re-arrangements aren’t too bad; but, overall, the idea to re-arrange so many of their hits was a bad idea.

Other performances have re-arranged songs with success; but, this attempt falls flat.

For a concert video, it is extremely dull. Jon Bon Jovi hardly moves around, preferring to stand behind the microphone and sing without passion. He fails to be engaging at any point throughout the concert. It completely lacks even a hint of the cal energy that fans expect.

In this concert, Jon Bon Jovi moves and sings. He also interacts with the crowd. The six performances are, unfortunately, the only part of the DVD package worth watching because it shows the Bon Jovi fans recognize.

The Suffolk Journal only accepts advertisements that fit the sizes listed below. The Journal does not run classified advertisements, but recommends an 1/8 page ad. Any advertisement that does not conform with the set sizes is subject to a creation fee.

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V-Day heartbreak for Suffolk

Eleni A. Bourinaris  
Journal Staff

The stands of Boston University’s Walter Brown Arena were filled with parents, girl friends and Suffolk alumni for the Valentine’s Day men’s hockey game on Feb. 14. The atmosphere wasn’t as romantic as the Rams had anticipated after their 4-1 loss to Lebanon Valley College.

Despite Suffolk’s strong defense, Lebanon Valley scored three goals within the first seven minutes of the game. After the third goal Rams fans were yelling to pull the goalie. Joe Paladino, third goal Rams fans were yelling minutes of the game. Anthony Lattanze who scored the final goal of the game.

In the first period Lebanon Valley’s Doug MacCormack scored the first goal, assisted by Alex Beatrice, assisted by Ryan Curry in the finals of the Curry Invitational, 32 saves seem like a breeze.

In the second period, the Suffolk Rams were left struggling the rest of the game behind the Flying Dutchmen.

Suffolk and Lebanon Valley College face off during the Valentine’s Day men’s hockey's game.

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Blais, from Sault Saint Marie, Ontario, has a flair for ice hockey and a record for firsts. On Feb. 5 Blais recorded the first NCAA shutout against Nicholls’ College in a 1-0 win for Suffolk. Thirty saves in a game is quite a feat, but when you’re voted “Goalie of the Year” after 54 saves against Curry in the finals of the Curry Invitational, 32 saves seem like a breeze.

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Lost love equals Yankees gain in A-Rod deal

Brian Messenger  
Journal Staff

Zimmer-down, cowboy. You didn’t really think Boston would enter spring training as the clear favorite in the AL East, did you? That would be too easy, like the monkey on Sox Nation’s back looking down and asking if we’d like a piggy-back ride.

What’s that? We’ve got Curt Schilling and Keith Foulke now? That’s true, but didn’t you get Steinbrenner’s valentine? In a blockbuster deal that sent second baseman Alfonso Soriano to Texas, Alex Rodriguez (a.k.a. the best player in baseball) was lassoed the Lone Star State’s biggest hardball attraction.

In the eyes of baseball fans, players and owners across the country the A-Rod trade buzz was all much ado about nothing. Except, apparently, in the eyes of George Steinbrenner, a man whose team’s payroll is so gluttonous that it makes Major League Baseball’s small-market (but still multi-million dollar franchises) look anorexic.

With just one motion of his evil magic wand, the Bombers’ Big Cheese brought the MVP shortstop to the Bronx, leaving the New York lineup stuffed and the rest of the American League sick to their stomachs.

Who will be the starting nine for the Yankees this season? Well, besides a hele at base second base their lineup is pretty much determined.

They signed center fielder Kenny Lofton, who will more than likely be their starting nine for an ALCS Game 7 flashback?, at the tail-end of the lineup. Now a Yankee, Alex Rodriguez is likely to become an unpopular figure around these parts. Truly a testament to how mercurial the nature of being a Sox fan is.

So we go from the top of our wish-lists to the top of our shit-lists, all quicker than in a New York minute.

How soon his handsome face now resembles that of Derek Jeter’s. Both are all-star shortstops working for The Bronx. Both are young, highly marketable individuals. Both are nationalized pretty-boys and both are loved by the fans. That doesn’t mean anymore now, does it? (Insert Yankees Steak sauce here).

So we didn’t get what we had originally wished for but it’s still good to have Nomar and Manny back this spring. These guys are the Sox and the Sox areus.

As for the Yankee pitchers, they picked up Kevin Brown and Javier Vazquez during the off-season, but they also lost Andy Pettitte, David Wells, and Roger Clemens. Unless Steinbrenner can get his money-grubbing paws on Greg Maddux, the Red Sox will surely go into 2004 with a better equipped pitching staff.

A-Rod aside, let it be known: Red Sox Nation is hungrier than ever. And if this year’s THE YEAR, wouldn’t that make Sox fans happy?