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Uplifting holiday spirits, SOULS reaches out

Coffee with a conscience
Fair trade campaign continues, signatures turned into Sodexho management

Brian Messenger
Journal Staff

Suffolk junior Woodrow Curley is on a mission. Fresh from an afternoon gathering signatures in the Donahue Cafe, he arrived for an interview with The Suffolk Journal holding a 16oz Starbucks coffee cup that read, "It's time for mistletoe kisses."

But Curley wasn't drinking Starbucks. He was merely reusing the cup a friend planned on throwing away for his organic chai tea. In fact, Curley's the man spearheading the effort to remove Starbucks coffee from university cafeterias altogether.

If successful, Curley, along with the group Suffolk Students for Peace and Justice, would help bring locally roasted and Fair Trade Certified Equal Exchange coffee to Suffolk.

"Fair trade isn't a flavor, but Starbucks seems to promote it that way," Curley explained. "Fair trade is an economic practice."

During the week of Nov. 15-19, SUSPT collected nearly 400 signatures in the Donahue Cafe in support of their efforts to bring fair trade coffee to the university. After sending them to General Manager of Dining Services and Sodexho employee Tom Fuller, the group will now wait for his reply, all while continuing their efforts to gain the student body's support.

"For Suffolk consumers ... [Starbucks] only offers one blend of Fair Trade Certified coffee," Curley said. "It's a mild blend ... it won't sell."

According to Fuller, who has been working at Suffolk for five years, Sodexho ordered this blend within three days of Curley's proposition to purvey fair trade coffee. In opposition to SUSPT's claim that just one percent of Starbucks' beans are actually Fair Trade Certified, Fuller, after speaking to a Starbucks representative, said, "Although it's not a huge number, it's actually closer to five percent."

"As a local general manager, I don't have a whole lot of say from who we buy from," Fuller said. Fuller admitted that Sodexho "negotiates deals that cover the whole United States and North America," which makes it harder to break existing contracts in order to do business with local companies.

According to Curley, Equal Exchange operates out of Canton, Mass. and was founded in 1986, during the US embargo on Nicaragua. "They were created specifically to help coffee farmers," he said, and the first roast in the country to use fair trade beans.

"We are in such close proximity to Equal Exchange ... for us see COFFEE, page 4"
Senior class goes to SGA for final vote

Senior Class President Jess Pappas and Treasurer Chris Aguiar presented the request for $19,250 to fund Senior Week events. The SGA finance committee approved the request Tue., Nov. 30 by a vast majority. The request now heads to Thursday’s Student Government Association meeting where it will be voted on by the entire board.

Evening of Holiday Entertainment

The Performing Arts Office has planned an evening of Holiday Entertainment for Tue. Dec. 7 at 7pm. The show will feature Suffolk’s Chorus, Dance Team, and the co-ed a cappella group, The Ramifications. The free event will be held in the C. Walsh Theatre.

Help needed to decorate Beacon Hill

SOULS is seeking volunteers to help dress Beacon Hill for the holidays. The event will take place Sat., Dec. 4 from 10:30 am-3:00pm. This popular holiday event will also offer free snacks and hot cocoa. To volunteer RSVP with SOULS via e-mail: souls@suf­f­olk.edu

Program Council plans holiday ball

Program Council presented their request for funds to the SGA finance committee Tue., Nov. 30 to supplement the upcoming holiday ball being held Fri., Dec. 10. This request was also approved and will go forth to be voted on by the SGA general assembly.

Tickets continue to be sold for the annual dance being held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The $15 tickets are available at the HUB, located in the Donahue Lobby.

The last Journal issue of the semester is Dec. 8.

We will return after the holiday break on Jan. 26, 2005. Visit our website at www.suf­f­olkjournal.net for more information on ad rates.

New technology transforms university classrooms

‘Rebel’ billionaire interacts with Suffolk via satellite lecture

Christopher DeFillippi
Journal Staff

In order to stay ahead of the curve as colleges compete to become the most “wired,” Suffolk’s Educational Technology Committee is geared towards acquiring the latest information technology and integrating it into the university’s curriculum.

Physics Professor Walter Johnson, the chair of the committee, is already using the latest technologies for his courses.

“Now, I can teach a course here to a collection of students in Dakar,” Johnson said.

Much of this technology is already in place. Nov. 30 marked the final day in a series of lectures delivered by prominent speakers beamed into the Suffolk Law School via satellite, as part of the graduate Corporate Education Program.

During the final lecture, Richard Branson, Virgin CEO and Chairman and star of the reality series “The Rebel Billionaire,” talked to a gathering of about 25 viewers, mostly graduate students.

By calling a number on their cell phones, the students had the opportunity to ask Branson questions about his business as well as the business culture in general.

Suffolk was only one of several organizations participating in the event, as there were calls from (among other places) Bentley College, the headquarters of the Kellogg Cereal Corporation in Battle Creek, Michigan and a call from NASA.

At Suffolk, the arrangement was relatively simple. The attendants sat at about seven tables as images of Branson appeared on a large screen in the conference room.

“The oldest of these technologies is video conferencing, where you have to be in the room with the camera,” said Johnson.

Johnson was quick to point out that the technology has gone much further.

Through the use of the cameras and microphones in the Donahue Media Center, Johnson can provide a video and audio feed to students abroad, such as those he’s taught in Dakar.

As opposed to video conferencing, such as the Richard Branson lecture, this process allows for greater two-way communication.

“Well, you’re connected, students have head phones and microphones and can talk to me and each other instantly,” Johnson said.

“Students are used to this. If you have 20 people sitting in a room, you can talk to me in a window where the microphones don’t work.”

He also uses Horizon Wimba, the program that integrates these technologies, to display graphs and write physics equations with a tool similar to MS Paint.

Director of Campus Computing Thomas Dellicicchi, also a member of the committee, lauded the benefits of this technology.

“An instructor, anywhere can hold a live class on the web with audio capability,” Dellicicchi said.

“And the whole thing is archived, so the student can go back to it at any time. It’s a canned class, discussion points and it’s always there for student review.”

Johnson agreed the recording capabilities were particularly useful. “Students stuck overseas and who can’t get back in time, say, because of post-9/11 security concerns, now won’t fall behind,” Johnson said.

“These programs will give Suffolk a competitive edge,” Dellicicchi stressed, however, that the technology would also benefit students on the main Boston campus.

“I don’t want it to be thought that this is just for students in Madrid and Dakar,” Dellicicchi said.

“You want to think about it more as an online learning.”

Programs such as Blackboard, which, among other things, allow professors and students to post general discussion questions online, are being integrated into increasingly more courses at Suffolk.

Although he expressed that face-to-face interaction with a professor is in some ways superior, Dellicicchi said that online discussion do have advantages.

“You know how you sometimes have students who don’t want to raise their hands,” he said.

“Well, here, they’ll participate more. They can even post anonymously,” Dellicicchi said.

He said he has found the new technologies are being used.

“At first, Blackboard was mostly just the sciences, but now, you name it, and there are professors using blackboard for it,” he said.

“They put up the goals of the class, discussion points and it uploads major parts of the textbooks they’re reading.”

Since the college started using Blackboard a little over a year ago, instructors have used the program for 285 courses as of this fall.

Voices of Suffolk

Q: “What gift are you most looking forward to getting this holiday season?”

“Money.” Melody Vuong
Junior

“A guitar.” Marc Charette
Freshman

“An ipod.” Brian Anastas
Junior

“A laptop.” Laura Gallo
Junior

“Plane tickets for spring break.” Lisa McGovern
Sophomore

Compiled by: Jenn O’ Callaghan
Young woman overcomes adversity on the streets

Claire Jeffers  
Journal Staff

The rape of a young Beacon Hill resident on Nov. 14 has left a sense of shock and caution among students at Suffolk. Some say campus security has done what they can to help prevent another similar scenario from happening, but others feel there is more to be done.

Sophomore Heather Cox was around the Beacon Hill area at the same time the rape took place, returning a movie at Mike's Movies on Cambridge Street.

"It was so close it kind of hit home," she said. A resident at the 150 Tremont dormitory, Cox now takes extra care while walking around the neighborhood. "If I do walk by myself I stay on the main roads, or I walk with my boyfriend or a group of people," she said. "Everyone is a little more cautious."

Just last week, Cox offered to take her friend to the airport, just to be on the safe side. While a member of Suffolk's volleyball team this fall, Cox would typically walk home with her teammates.

She recalls that campus security was sometimes slow to react when asked to unlock doors or assist them at a nearby building. As for the situation at hand, Cox said she does not see what else campus security can do at this point.

Freshman Shannon Slattery feels that Suffolk Police have made a strong effort in terms of getting information out to the student body. "I think they're doing the best they can," she said. "They've done a good job at gathering meetings and sending out notices."

Slattery, also a resident of 150 Tremont, feels that students should be allowed to carry mace or pepper spray in order to feel more protected. Students are warned at the beginning of their freshman year that these items are not allowed on campus grounds, but many find it necessary to protect themselves while in the city. "My safety and my protection means more to me than the rule of not being allowed to have [mace]," Slattery said.

"If women are walking around with prostitutes and rapists, they should be protected," in order to possess information out to the student body. "I think they're doing the best they can," she said. "They've done a good job at gathering meetings and sending out notices."

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While posing about the rape, Ruiz could not believe that something like this could happen on Beacon Hill. "It could've happened to anyone. I don't walk by myself, but it's just unfortunate that this girl was by herself."

As a commuter, Ruiz thinks that Suffolk should put together a list of people who commute on the same subway or commuter rail lines.

In that case, she explained, if someone wanted a "buddy" to walk to the train station with, they could easily call or e-mail someone to coordinate with.

Amy Farnsworth  
Journal Staff

Every day the homeless line the streets - some panhandle for money, others sell the newspaper "Spare Change." Some people wait on street corners in hopes for a bed for a night from the local shelter. As winter draws nearer, the fear of hypothermia becomes a reality for the homeless. With limited space in many shelters, a number of homeless people are left without a place to spend the night.

"I really needed blankets. The ground is cold and hard; you need something under you. I would get army blankets from shelters," said Crystal Evans, 23. "The stuff that people donated really helped me to survive. I would've died last winter."

Evans spent last winter on the streets of Boston and Cambridge. Evans' homelessness began in February of 2001, when she suffered injuries from a car accident that left her with a broken neck, a traumatic brain injury and a seizure disorder.

Her brain injury caused her to suffer from ataxia and vertigo, speech problems and short term memory loss.

The injuries made it hard for Evans to hold down a job, as she lost nine jobs in 16 months following the accident.

"Without a job Evans couldn't obtain her health insurance or benefits and without health insurance for her medication and rehab she was left with little money to survive on."

She applied for Medicaid and Social Security Disability in New Hampshire, but was asked to provide medical documentation of her injury. In order to receive the documentation for her case, she would need to have medical insurance. But without insurance, she said, she could not receive the proper documentation.

In the summer of 2002, Evans received a job and housing through a Section 8 voucher, but due to complications with her brain injury and rent, she became homeless again in February 2003.

Evans traveled to Massachusetts when she discovered the state offered free health care to low-income residents. She spent time at a shelter in Gloucester, Mass., but over time the shelter began to run out of beds.

Evans then traveled to Boston and applied for the Section 8 voucher to obtain housing, Medicaid and Social Security Disability. In May 2003, she was approved for Medicaid and began to receive treatment and health benefits for her brain injury.

In July 2003, Evans then received Social Security benefits that allowed her to begin physical therapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy. Although Evans had all of the benefits and income she needed, she still did not have housing. The Section 8 wait-lists were two-to-three years long; all Evans could do was wait for a place to live.

When Evans wasn't spending a night in the shelters, she would stay below the Tannery in Harvard Square, where she could keep dry and relatively warm. Sheltered from the wind, she would spend the night with a friend, a homeless veteran and a retired Cambridge policeman, who would protect her and provide body heat.

When the shelters were closed, Evans would spend her time in the Boston Public Library, updating accounts of her daily life in an online Live Journal as "the anonymous homeless girl."

Before Evans became homeless, she paid for three months of her cell phone bill and for storage with a check she had received from her previous job. Evans would set a cell phone alarm every 15 minutes, and when the alarm went off she would get up and move around in order to prevent hypothermia.

"Despite my brain injury, I felt that I could never be homeless," Evans said. "When it became too cold outside, Evans would spend hours in the MIT library reading a book she needed for a class at the Harvard Extension School. Because of her brain injury, Evans was able to attend school for medical assistance. Other times she would ride the line back and forth for a few hours and sleep on the train. At night she would sit at the Diesel Café and write her school papers on an old laptop a friend had given her. When she was bad class, she would enter the classroom with her arms full of duffel bags.

During her time on the streets, Evans wore a fleece sweatshirt and boys' clothes. She would cover everything but her eyes in order to not reveal her gender and avoid the possibility of being raped.

Evans never panhandled to survive. Instead she found other ways to live. She ate from dumpsters and soup kitchens and collected cans for money. Some days she would participate in walks and events in order to get a free meal and a t-shirt. In order to keep her mind off being homeless, she spent time volunteering at the Ronald Swaner Foundation and working with the homeless, including helping organize events and a "Hot Meal。“ Homes, page 11
New exhibit showcases wonders of Senegal

Christopher DeFillippi
Journal Staff

On Friday, Nov. 19 adjunct Professor Keri Martin and students who have studied photography with him showcased color photographs they had taken in Senegal over the past two years in the Project Space gallery at the New England School of Art and Design. The photographs on display captured a wide variety of the indigenous people as well as their artwork, costumes, rituals and the Senegalese landscape.

"I was proud of all of the art work and just wish that we had more space for each student's photographs," said Martin of the student contributions.

The title of the exhibition, "God's Bits of Wood," was taken from the title of a 1961 novel about the Senegalese War with the French colonists. The title specifically refers to the Senegalese term for children and loved ones, a common theme throughout the exhibit.

A photo by Suffolk graduate Nicole Wang, the image consisting almost exclusively of varying shades of brown and gold, featured a wide-eyed young girl standing in front of a parched desert landscape. Suffolk graduate Victoria Masters shot a colorful arrangement of children's dolls that were lined up so that they appeared to be dancing.

"You could tell, some of these children had never seen blue eyes before," said senior Carol Lee Mayon, who had taken a number of photographs of children. "They'd look up at you like you were a monster from outer-space."

The gallery was decorated with various items brought from Senegal for the purpose of decoration. Some of these included a small wooden sculpture of a goateed old man smoking a pipe, handcrafted clay pots, and hand-woven baskets and placemats positioned near books of additional photographs. Professor of History Robert Bellinger, with his friend Kimani Lumsden, provided musical accompaniment for the evening, drumming out traditional music indigenous to Guinea.

"Dr. Bob Bellinger and fellow drummer Kimani really called the African spirits of hospitality, goodwill and protection into the gallery with their excellent drum work," said Martin of the performers.

Some of the more common images associated with Africa, images of warfare and starvation, were absent from the showing. Most of the photos were of beautiful landscapes, intricate tribal costumes, and humorous scenarios.

One of these included a photo by Suffolk graduate Fiona Greety of a man and a woman sitting casually in a doorway of a building painted brightly green and emblazoned with an ad for FujiColor film.

Martin showed off a photograph of a painting he had taken of a Senegalese shaman wearing a colorful head-dress, red and black face paint, and holding a 10,000 franc Central African note in his mouth.

"This is a shaman who you could pay to not curse on people," Martin explained to a few on-looking guests. He then noted that the shaman would often curse participants in wrestling matches, where spectators often gambled on who would win.

The exhibit also included paintings. There were several paintings and charcoal drawings of traditionally dressed women and children by Martin's wife, Verjik-Abramian Martin.

Suffolk graduate Victoria Masters contributed an abstract painting of a woman's silhouette, floral patterns and drums made with black, peach, and orange spray-paint and stencils.

"God's Bits of Wood" is on exhibit until Dec. 23. Although another photography trip to Senegal is not being planned at the present time, there may be a trip to Madrid in the fall.

http://suffolkjournal.net
The Performing Arts Office is proud to present:

An Evening of Holiday Entertainment

featuring:

The Suffolk University Chorus
The Suffolk University Dance Team
The Ramifications

Tuesday
December 7th
7:00 p.m.
C. Walsh Theatre
reception to follow

The Performing Arts Office &
Common Grounds Coffee House

Open Mic Night
Bring a song, an instrument or just a friend!

Wednesday,
Dec. 8th
7:00 p.m.
Don. Cafe
The View from Wonderland

Making the wrong, right

By Mike Conte

Anyway, I was bored Thanksgiving night, so I decided to rent "Wet Hot American Summer." I had bought 20 minutes of it on Comedy Central and wanted to see more of it.

Thus I traveled to my local video store in Revere, named Video IV. This establishment has meant a lot of things to a lot of people and has been home to many zany events. I might be overstating it’s importance, but screw it, it’s my column.

Peek and start talking to the clerk his girlfriend; when I both know and am good friends with. After swiftly checking out the porn section talking very loud about porn titles in the vain attempt to make the woman there very uncomfortable, I go to look out my movie.

I eventually spotted "Wet Hot American Summer" and walked triumphantly with it. I didn’t get a chance to watch the damn movie till Saturday night.

I did go out that night to Boston and a bar called Headhunters on Newbury, but I got home early. Anyways, I watched the movie and loved it. I recommend everyone get out after finishing reading this excellent paper and watch this movie.

It was so good that I wanted to watch all the special features. One feature not to be missed is "The Real David Hyde Pierce," in which one of the only people caring for the Bush reactionaries, pro-corporate agenda, the Democrats legitimized the Bush candidacy by the right and submitting one of their own.

John Kerry’s determination to escalate and “win” the Iraq war, opposition to all civil equality for homosexuals and support for corporate globalization left working people and progressives with no real choice in the election. Voters had to choose between two candidates that advanced a nearly identical political agenda - and why would anyone take a cheap imitation (Kerry) when they could have the real thing (Bush)?

Many are quick to blame the rise of the Christian right and Bush’s bigoted campaign strategy for Kerry’s loss. We must remember that both 30% of the eligible American electorate voted for Bush; the Republicans won by a 53% and 43% of eligible non-voters - who overwhelmingly represent poor and young people - did not show up on Nov. 2. Had Kerry offered these Americas - many of whom are thoroughly disgusted by the Bush administration’s repul­ lible - a solid agenda for social change, this large pool of disen­ chanted non-voters could have delivered a resounding victory for the Democrats. But it went to Bush.

Instead, Kerry chose to mimic the Republicans by standing against homosexual rights and playing up his religious leanings.

Some campus ‘progressives’ have speculated that the Kerry camp will learn these lessons and develop a more liberal plat­ form. In fact, the exact opposite is happening - the Democrats are accelerating their shift toward the political right. This is most evident in their selection of Senator Harry Reid to replace Senator Daniel as Senate Minority Leader. Reid is well known for his opposition to a woman’s right to choose and support for Christian fundamentalism. It was so good that I wanted to watch all the special features. One feature not to be missed is "The Real David Hyde Pierce," in which one of the only people caring for the Bush reactionaries, pro-corporate agenda, the Democrats legitimized the Bush candidacy by the right and submitting one of their own.

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Humorously Speaking

The Great Holiday Shopping Fiasco

By Michael Frazzetti

It was an early Friday morning, not the usual time for anyone to be seen driving anywhere on the roads. Where were all of the other cars you ask. Every person was at Wal-Mart and the local shopping mall, waiting to wreck havoc in the aisles while juggling their children, televisions, appliances and toys. You believe me! The pre-medicated holiday hordes made it possible for me to get a $30 DVD player and I was definitively the guy who reaped the savings from the Thanksgiving giveaways.

Despite my painful hangover from Wild Turkey and my new gut from all the turkey and fixings, I rolled out of bed (literally) and made my way to the local mall.

Upon my arrival, I was welcomed by a mile-long line at the mall entrance that was mostly filled with Caravans and Suburbans, packed to maximum capacity (15 people) with nauseatingly annoying children, reckless parents and grandparents with aisle-blocking walkers. My assumption that grandparents stayed home and watched The Price is Right and cuddled their grandchildren, their eyes glued to the tube to watch cartoons, was completely wrong.

After making it through the engravedway, was just a pre-test. I now faced the high chance of a long wait. This is where the four-letter words and flip-finger flippers trying to find a spot is always a challenge and since it is too early in the morning for people to be leaving the mall, the walking method will not work.

I circled a few lots and finally I came to a spot where my car would fit conveniently between two beady vehicles. I knew there would be two different colored racing stripes on the side of my car when I started driving. A little after 1 a.m. Whitaker ran him down with his car.

Kevin Whitaker, 19 of Nashua, New Hampshire, was riding shotgun with his intoxicated friend before the collision. Due to laughable drunk driving statutes Whitaker will face a maximum of 40 years in jail.

Rich Hegerich's life was tragically cut short by a drunk driver. At UNH he was a member of the men's track team and a member of the methamphetamine community, was on a drug binge for about a week lead­ ing up to the murder, according to a friend and drug associate at the time of the event.


The hate crime theory was further fueled by statements made to police and the media by KRITIN Price, McKinney's girlfriend, who now admits to "20/20" that her statements were false and intended to lessen the burden on McKinney by portraying his vio­ lence as a panic reaction to an unwanted sexual advance.


By Garrett M. Quinn

Drunken motorists rule the roads

After a night of celebrating his 20th birthday with friends, Rich Hegerich's life was triangu­ larly cut short by a drunk driver. The University of New Hampshire student was walking home alone the night of Nov. 21, when fellow UNH student Kevin Whitaker, 19 of Nashua, New Hampshire, ran him down with his car.

Kevin Whitaker was so drunk that he did not stop after the collision and continued driving. A little after 1 a.m. Whitaker was arrested at his church after he read the Bible verses about homosexuality. He was charged with driving while intoxicated and leaving the scene of an accident. Due to laughable drunk driving statistics Whitaker will face a maximum of eight years in jail and a $2,000 slap on the wrist, if convicted. Hopefully he is charged with vehicular homicide and receives his just due because Rich never will.

"He was always looking out for other people," said Rob Miller, his volleyball teammate at Hanover High School where he graduated. "He was active in his local parish as a Eucharistic Minister, too. At UNH he was a member of the men's swim team. Friends and family described him as a "leaving her head, leaving her heart, leaving her body.""

Unfortunately, Rich's story isn't a new one.

On the night of Nov. 23, Matt Lynch, 21 of Scituate was riding shotgun with his intoxicated friend driven by Scituate was riding shotgun with his intoxicated friend driven by
justice for oppressed people so long as capi-

talism - which ensures that unelected, unac-
countable, and avaricious businesspeople
control both the vital resources people need
to live a fruitful life and the means to pro-
duce them - is the cornerstone of our politi-
cal system. Parties like the Democrats -
which are bought and owned by and com-
prised of the corporate oligarchs that control
this country - will never make such changes,
as it would be antithetical to the exploitative
system they're committed to and benefit from.

We progressives have three choices. First, we
can do nothing. Second, we can resign our-
selfs to the so-called "reality" of this awful
system and continue to hopelessly
ly back a burlesque mockery of an opposi-
tion party that currently opposes virtually
everything we believe in. Finally, we can
resurrect the rich tradition of American
struggle and fight for a better country and
world.

As the relatively new saying goes, a bet-
ter America (and world) is possible.

Lapdogs for the Democrats and self-
styled "realists" will no doubt object that
theses changes are "impossible.

Under the current profit-driven system,
and using their strategy of synchrophasically
hanging onto the coattails of the Democratic
Party, they are correct. We can never expect

"You got opinions?
We got space.
Email articles to
suffolkjournal@hotmail.com"

Open Office Hours
with
PRESIDENT SARGENT

Tuesday, December 7, 2004
1-2:30 p.m.
One Beacon Street - 25th floor

PRESIDENT DAVID SARGENT INVITES YOU TO
MEET WITH HIM TO ASK QUESTIONS, EXPRESS
CONCERNS, SUGGEST IDEAS, AND
TELL HIM HOW YOU FEEL
ABOUT SUFFOLK.

PLEASE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
THIS OPPORTUNITY TO
MEET AND SPEAK WITH THE PRESIDENT.

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY.
HE WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

"Who has put me here?"
-Pascal

Isaiah 40:26
Lift your eyes and look to the heavens:
Who created all these? He who brings out
the starry host one by one, and
calls them each by name...

Psalm 139:13–14
You made all the delicate, inner parts
of my body and knit me together in my
mother's womb. Thank you for making
me so wonderfully complex! Your work-
manship is marvelous...

Real Life
BOSTON

More about our college ministry at RealLifeBoston.com
Audiences should move away from 'Closer'

Amanda Bellamy
Journal Staff

Clive Owen and Julia Roberts in the revealing look at modern relationships. The collective brilliance of Julia Roberts and Law eclipse a young actor in small films like "Gattaca" and "The Talented Mr. Ripley," lately he seems unable to play characters that aren't Jude Law. "Closer," opening Dec. 3 is no exception. The collective brilliance of Julia Roberts and Law's movie stardom, eclipse a potential-revealing and honest film. Based on a London stage production, "Closer" attempts to take an insightful and revealing look at modern relationships. Some may champion the film as perceptive and biting, but the characters are base, immoral and selfish.

Two couples, the successful and older Clive Owen and Julia Roberts and inexprienced, younger Natalie Portman and Jude Law redefine conventional relationship boundaries. Despite being responsible for the most vulgar dialogue of the film, Owen as Larry delivers the most enjoyable performance. The scene-stealer gives a dynamic performance, fluctuating from devious, to angry, to funny. He could easily charm the pants off of anyone.

As Alice, Portman proves herself a reliable and endearing actress yet again. Her manipulative, yet vulnerable Alice plays well against Owen's cheeky Larry. Yet Alice's random and charming persona is reminiscent of her equally endearing character from "Garden State." However, separating Alice from Sam, is the purposeful infliction of pain on others. Alice the stripper is cunning and crafty, deceiving the entire audience for a minor and pointless surprise ending. A chance encounter between the sprite from New York and London obituary writer, Law, leads to a reckless romance.

Law eventually pens a novel, detailed Alice's past a stripper. While posing for a portrait, Law falls hard and fast for photographer Anna, Roberts. Roberts and Law carry on an affair, despite their romantic entanglements with Portman and Owen. In a predictable twist, Owen and Portman take to bed in hopes of revenge.

However, when Owen encounters the baby-faced Portman in a strip club, the following private lap dance proves the most entertaining and provocative. Portman sheds her child star image along with her lingerie. Physical attraction rather than love prevails throughout this movie and is best played in this memorable scene.

With ridiculous ease, the characters change beds and partners. Law shows little remorse as Portman breaks down in his arms.

The two have shared a three-year relationship, in which Law has been seeing Roberts for one year. During this time Roberts has married Owen, despite her affair.

While the filmmakers are trying to challenge viewers, they repulse us instead. There is little more than lust tying these four characters together. Each professes their love, but display very little.

As Portman says in the film, "Where is this love? I can't see it, I can't touch it, I can't feel it." Audiences will be murmuring the same thing.

Chick lit dominates the best of 2004

One of the Journal's Staff writers lists her top five books of the year.

Diana Rossi
Journal Staff

First off, let me just say that I did not read "The Da Vinci Code," nor do I have any desire to, so it will not be on this list. Deal with it. Other than the phenomenon that was the cult of the "Code," 2004 did supply a few other noteworthy books amidst a plethora of celebrity autobiographies and political satire. I did not read any of these because I am a "chick" and I like "chick" books. The closest I came to reading anything like this was listening to my roommate recite excerpts from George Carlin's "When Will Jesus Bring the Pork Chops?"

From all the books I did read, I have compiled a little list I like to call "The Books That Didn't Suck in 2004." Catchy title, huh? On it you'll find a not-so-sappy love story, an emotionally powerful tale of self-reliance and empowerment, a quirky and believable turn of events, Emma's secrets, at least a little bit of themselves in Patty Taylor. Sophie Kinsella, of the Confessions of a Shopaholic series, introduces us to a brand new lovable character in her hilarious love story, "Can You Keep a Secret?" For fans of Bridget Jones' Diary came a wry, coincidental story about Emma Corrigan, a woman who spills all her deep, dark secrets to a handsome stranger on a plane.

Emma thought nothing could get worse than a complete stranger knowing every humiliating detail, until it turns out that her handsome stranger is actually Jack Harper, her company's elusive CEO. In a predictable turn of events, Emma and Jack begin a secret love affair until Emma learns that Jack has a few secrets of his own. Kinsella continues to do an amazing job of creating a character that could very well be your best friend. Emma's secrets, at least some of them, could be your own and to be completely honest, some of them are.

Go on, you can admit it. It's ok to lie about your weight to your boyfriend, or to pour orange juice into a snobby co-worker's plant, or even to admit that you have no idea.
MFA offers free admission for tight budgets

Deborah Levison
Journal Staff

Don't people say that the best things in life are free? While that may be true, a trip to the Museum of Fine Arts is almost free, but nonetheless can fall into the "best things" category. All Suffolk students in the College of Arts and Sciences have free general admissions to the MFA.

This is a great opportunity for everyone from CAS other than the exhibits that the museum usually carries, there are special exhibits like the highly praised Art Deco exhibit that will run until Jan. 9.

This exhibit is amazing for its diversity in materials. There are photography, fashion and paintings among other media that all explore and celebrate the sophisticated design which composed Art Deco.

This particular exhibit has a special rate of $7.00 for students with the valid CAS sticker. Compared to the full-price of $22.00, it is safe to say that this is a pretty good deal.

There is a wide-range of events to do in the MFA other than the art collections. All of these are available to students at discounted prices. One of the most popular choices is the film program which has special screenings of local, regional and foreign films. There are also showcases of different films that have never been seen in Boston.

The best part about this particular program are the film festivals held at the museum. For example, throughout this year they have done the Boston Jewish Film Festival, the Boston French Festival and the Festival of Films from Iran. Other programs include musical performances such as flamenco, tango and opera recitals. There are also concerts with folk, jazz and world music.

Frequent lectures are offered about the exhibits held at the Museum. One can visit the Museum and join a free tour (which are held throughout the day) and will be able to learn about almost all sections of the museum in depth.

There are free guided tours on the Museum itself, art of Asia, art of the Americas, art of Europe and an introductory tour of all the Museum's collections. Other lectures include the dramatic reading of Homer's "Iliad". The poem is performed by five actors that bring to life the fundamental scenes of Homer's tragedy.

The film is directed by David Muse, assistant director of the Shakespeare Theatre along with commentaries by Gregory Nagy and Francis Jones, professor of Classical Greek Literature at Harvard University.

Classes and workshops are also available to the public. In December there will be a one-day workshop for teenagers and adults on fusing glass. These classes will begin with a special introduction to the Museum's collection of glass art and techniques needed for the specific course.

The students go from the MFA to Diablo (in the Mission Hill district) to work. All the materials are provided including area for stained glass and flame working, a kiln area for slumping, fusing and metal casting.

All their classes are offered in an introductory level, but spaces are limited and so it would be wise to register early.

So, instead of staying in watching Sex and the City re-runs or playing Playstation during a rainy Saturday afternoon, go to the MFA for a cheap yet educational and pleasantly artful day.

The Museum of Fine Arts is accessible through the green T line, E trolley at the Museum stop.

The 5 books you should have read this summer

BOOKS from page 9

what NATO stands for. Emma Corrigan is the new Brigdet Jones - expect the movie version anytime now.

Ok, this might be breaking the rules of the whole "Best of 2004" thing, but my favorite book of 2004 is "The Five People You Meet in Heaven" by Mitch Albom.

This book came out in 2003, but technically, since I read it in 2004, I can put it on my list.

Wait, you know what? This is my list, so I can do whatever I want. I don't need to explain myself to you!

"The Five People You Meet in Heaven" is about a man who dies saving a young girl from a collapsing ride at the amusement park he works at. While in heaven, Eddie meets up with five people who had an impact on his life that he may or may not have known about.

Among them is: his wife, the namesake of his amusement park, his army captain, a man whose life was changed forever by Eddie as a child and one last surprising person. In meeting these people, Eddie learns the secrets of his life, why things happened and what his purpose was.

With "The Five People You Meet in Heaven", Mitch Albom gives us a powerfully original story about life and the after life, making us forget everything we ever thought about death.

On a side note, on Dec. 5, ABC will be airing its movie version of this compelling novel, starring Jon Voight, Ellen Burstyn, Jeff Daniels and Michael Imperioli.

So, if you don't want to read the book (even though I strongly recommend it), you should at least watch the movie, because this is one story everyone should know.

If you are looking for something to do over break and you're just a little sick of drinking yourself into oblivion (hey, it could happen), read at least one or all of these books.

Give yourself a rest from "The Da Vinci Code" or whatever other heavy, popular, "it" book of the moment you are reading, and pick up a "chick" book.

You'd be surprised at how much you might like it.
New student group stands behind Palestine

Rose Francois
Journal Staff

A controversial new group on Suffolk's campus this semester is raising eyebrows and awareness.

Suffolk Student for Palestine is an organization dedicated to increasing knowledge on the political and human rights issues of Palestinians. Though the group has had much to endure since they've become an official organization, gaining that status was a huge relief, "We faced a lot of trouble getting registered last year," said President Jake Hess. "We had trouble finding a faculty advisor.

The concept of the organization had been in the works even since last year, when a group of students sharing the same ideas about Palestine wished to become a registered club.

Earlier this semester, this goal was finally realized when Robert LaFayy of the Government Department took on the role of faculty advisor for the group. "A lot of people are afraid to come out in support of Palestine," said Hess. Proponents of Suffolk Student for Palestine feel that it's important to tell the tale of the other side of this age-old conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, a side that many in the organization do not believe is ever shown in America. "Support for Palestine is just seen as wrong," said Hess, who believes that those who show support for Palestine are "stereotyped anti-Semitic.

It is evident that not everyone is so enthusiastic about the new group; there are those on campus who object to its very existence and what is being advocated. "People are generally interested in what we are doing ... but we have had a few combative instances," stated Hess. There have been occurrences where individuals passing by the organization's table, set up in the Donahue lobby, have argued with members of the organization.

One such instance that Hess recalls was when a person of the opposing viewpointfortune the conflict, all Palestinians should be killed or sent to Jordan.

Member of Students for Palestine who are confronted with such anger attribute it mostly to a lack of information. "They don't show any knowledge of the issue," said Hess, regarding individuals who attempt to argue based on what he sees as stereotypes and misinformation.

Hess and his supporters find that the U.S. media have covered the conflict with so much bias that many citizens believe stereotypes that negatively affect their view of Palestinians. "Always a touchy subject, support for Palestine is welcomed change for new members. Seeing people that actually care about the occupation is one of the main reasons that freshman Yonma Saleh joined the organization. The 18-year-old psychology major was interested about the group after a friend mentioned it to her. "I feel that the issues are important," Saleh said. The group's first event, a presentation of the film "Palestine is Still the Issue," was held on Nov. 4. On Nov. 29, the group observed the International Day of Solidarity, designed to highlight the plight of Palestinians, and supporters were encouraged to wear black armbands on campus. The day was also the anniversary of when Israel and Palestine were officially divided by the United Nations in 1947. An important part of the Students for Palestine's overall agenda is to raise awareness of US and Israeli policies that the organization sees as disparaging to Palestinians.

The United States' involvement in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict has always been a controversial subject and one that divides many in the United States. Members of the Suffolk Students for Palestine want more than anything for the university to take away new information from their group. "There are two sides to every story," stated Saleh, who hopes, "people will get more information about the situation and get more involved.

Homeless in the city

McDonald House and the Children's Hospital. On Christmas Eve of 2003, Evans received the present she had finally been waiting for. After spending 12 months on the streets, she obtained housing through the Section 8 voucher after filling out more applications. Evans continues to volunteer.

Free lance for various publications and work to a homelessness activist. Currently, she is working to get a scholarship which will enable her to put together a resource guide and computer database for the homeless - which would give detailed information about shelters in the Boston area. While she was homeless, Evans stressed the importance of the items she found at the shelters. "While at a shelter, Evans knew a girl who had just been hired at a new job, but the girl was going to be fired because she did not have a white work shirt. There weren't any shirts, so I donated. And because she got that shirt she was able to keep her job.

Palestinians. Always a touchy subject, suppression of the items she found at the shelters. While at a shelter, Evans knew a girl who had just been hired "Palestine is Still the Issue," was held on Nov. 4. The group observed the International Day of Solidarity, designed to highlight the plight of...
Rams put losing streak 'on ice'

Just as everyone at Suffolk University was getting ready to go home for a much-needed week of rest, relaxation and turkey, the Rams hockey team earned their first win of the young 2004 season.

Suffolk snapped their three-game losing streak at Steretti Rink in the North End on Tuesday, Nov. 23, when they defeated Western New England College by a score of 4-3. The win lifted the Rams to 1-3 overall.

Senior Bill Corcoran led the way for the Rams with a goal and two assists, giving him a total of four points on the season. Freshman see HOCKEY, page 11.

University Dateline

For more information for getting your event listed in Dateline contact the Student Activities Office at (617) 573-8320.

**Wednesday, December 1**

"Finals Fuel" for Commuter Students
Free Beverage during Finals Week
Coupons available at the HUB
Career Doctor
11:30am-12:30pm Sawyer Lobby
Peace Walk Noon-12:30pm
Meet outside Donahue Building
Basic Understanding of the Catholic Church 3-4pm Interfaith Center, Donahue 540
Graduate Information Session 6-7:30pm Omni Parker House Hotel
Commuter Pizza Dinner for Celtics Game Ticketholders 5:30pm D-535
Celtics vs. the Milwaukee Bucks
Sponsored by Program Council
7-10pm Fleet Center
Residence Hall Catholic Mass

**Thursday, December 2**

Suffolk Samaritan Awards Ceremony
Noon-1pm Donahue Lobby
S.O.U.L.S. Food for Thought
Noon-1pm S.O.U.L.S. Office Donahue 424
Suffolk Students for Palestine 1pm Donahue 218A
Defeating Peace: US/Israeli Policy Discussion 6pm Law School, Room 285

**Friday, December 3**

Who's Who Applications Due Today
Due by 5pm Office of Student Activities
Buddhist Meditation and Mindfulness 11am-Noon Interfaith Center, D-540
Yoga/Qi Gong 1-2pm Interfaith Center, Donahue 540

**Saturday, December 4**

Decorate Beacon Hill for the Holidays
9:30am-12:30pm Meet at the Donahue Lobby
SSOM Undergraduate Day
1-4pm The Rack
Graduate Student Holiday Ball
6pm-Midnight Holiday Inn Select at Government Center

**Sunday, December 5**

New York City Day Trip
5pm Departure Tickets at the HUB

**Monday, December 6**

Career Doctor
11:30am-12:30pm Donahue Lobby

**Tuesday, December 7**

Relaxation Day
Massages, Regression Tables, Relaxing Music, and More
Noon-2pm Donahue 403