Adjunct faculty vote to form union

Chris DeFillippi
Journal Staff

The adjunct faculty of Boston University have spoken: they want to unionize. In a meeting attended by 293 of Suffolk's 314 adjunct faculty, the attendees voted 2:1 in favor of having Suffolk Affiliated Faculty represent the part-time professors in negotiating wages and benefits. This will make Suffolk one of only a handful of private universities in the country with unionized faculty.

"I didn't really know what the margin of victory would be," said philosophy professor Robert Rosenfeld, chair organizer behind Suffolk Affiliated Faculty. "Normally, adjunct faculty unions win. I expected a pretty good margin of victory. It's not like Emerson's [adjunct faculty union] vote which was a 3:1 but I'm not surprised by the result."

The secret-ballot vote occurred on Jan. 25 at 10 a.m. in the National Labor Relations Board's Boston office.

One of the key reasons adjuncts have voted for the union is that it may help them get a pay increase. According to the "College of Arts and Sciences Part-Time Faculty Handbook," adjuncts receive between $2,640 and $3,980 per three-credit course they teach.

The union also seeks, among other goals, greater job security and health benefits.

The union vote ends nearly a year of planning, most of which has taken place in secret. Rosenfeld recalled that it was hardest to get adjunct faculty participation in the earliest stages of organizing, such as a part in which professors signed their names to cards that expressed their support for the union. Ultimately, over 150 adjuncts signed the cards.

"The resistance I encountered was more during the card-signing drive," Rosenfeld said. "People were worried that there might be retaliation along the lines."

Provost Patricia Meservey said "absolutely not" to the idea that she would impose unionization on the university, unless the board determined unionization was in the best interest of the university.

According to Baker, her first action as the new director is to play catch up. "Chris did an amazing job setting up this department. There is so much going on," she said.

The first play she will direct, "Painting Alice" by Bill Barney, will premiere Feb. 23 and follows the Rough and Tumble tradition of using local playwright scripts.

To Baker, theater should be active and physical, the same attributes that gave Rough and Tumble its name.

"But what will active and physical theater do for the students? To this Baker answered, "The resistance I encountered was more during the card-signing drive," Rosenfeld said. "People were worried that there might be retaliation along the lines."

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Purchase might be thwarted if property is declared landmark

SUSANA GUTIERREZ
Journal Contributor

Members of two city groups recently expressed their hopes that the former Metropolitan District Commission building, located at 20 Somerset St., will be designat ed a landmark by the city of Boston. The site in dispute, where Suffolk University has been planning to build a new 792-bedroom dormitory and stu dent center, was up for discussion at a hearing of the Boston Landmark Commission at City Hall on Jan. 24.

The property is slated to be sold by the city to Westo n Associates, with whom Suffolk plans to sub sequently embark on a $120-million demolition and reconstruction project.

Built in 1938, the former home of the MDC is attracting attention from local residents because it once housed the reservations and historic sites division.

"While the landmark commission - responsible for rating all potential city landmarks as an aid in the selection process - did ultimately vote to control the site of demolition until further consideration could be made at the preliminary hearing, University officials last week expressed optimism their plans to build would proceed in a timely fashion.

The University's plans to purchase the 20 Somerset property have not been formalized, and building would probably not commence until the Fall 2007 semester.

If the MDC building is designated as a landmark, the plans for the dormitory, complete with dining facilities and a redesigned public plaza, would likely have to be scrapped.

An "illustrious agency whose history is worth preserving... The building at 20 Somerset represents this rich history and it is most fitting to preserve such an important contributing building."

SUSAN PARK
Member of the Boston Preservation Alliance

"The Metropolitan District Commission [was an] illustrious agency whose history is worth preserving... The building at 20 Somerset represents this rich history and it is most fitting to preserve such an important contributing building."

JOCelyn St. Laurent
Journal Staff

It is that time of year again - the time to pull out a calculator and look at the past year's tax reports. It is time to fill out and complete financial aid applications.

This year, there may be a change in the guidelines for applying for a Stafford Loan, Assistant Dean of Enrollment and Director of Financial Aid Christine Perry said recently. It would not be a formal change, but that changes might be taken place soon.

"The government would like to move from fixed to variable [interest rates]," which will be more costly, Perry said.

Currently, the Stafford Loan has a variable interest rate that never exceeds 8.25 percent.

With the Stafford Loan, undergraduate students can borrow up to $2625 their first year, $3500 sophomore year and $5500 for the remaining time.

One final note, if students can borrow up to a total of $18,900.

However, only $8500 of that amount is covered by the financial aid packages.

Another goal of the union is to attract new students to the school.

The union seeks that professors receive consideration from the administration and an appeals process, as opposed to just discovering that their class has been removed from the syllabus.

"It would involve an appeal process, a judicial procedure," Rosenfeld said. "It has to involve something more than not re-hiring somebody."

"We're going to lower the threshold for qualifying for [health insurance]," said Rosenfeld. "We're probably going to ask; for the next two years, we'll be disappointed if we get less than Emerson [which is four-year]."

The union is recognized by the American Association of University Professors, which will be providing assistance to the Suffolk adjuncts, such as some funds, guidance and a negotiator.

The union will also support from within to make up a broader negotiation team.

The University administration will most likely not bring in outside help for the negotiations, but will rely on its normal legal counsel. As a result, some other representatives for the negotiating team have not been determined.

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Members of the part-time faculty union will certainly be mixed. Suffolk Affiliated Faculty's organizers asked the club Suffolk University and asked if it could assist in promoting the union in the early stages of organizing.

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SGA: re-building e-board and free newspapers

Garett Quinn
Journal Staff

After a week marked by threats of impeachment, allegations of the theft of confidential documents and the ultimate resignation of four members SGA, the student government returned to some semblance of normalcy this week.

In a town-hall-style meeting with Provost Patricia Meservey and Dean of Students Nancy Stoll, SGA President Allison Motenko announced the return of the Newspaper Readership Program, which some felt would destroy part of Suffolk's campus.

They also dealt with the pressing issue of the new vacancies on the SGA Executive Board.

The Newspaper Readership program was the result of a deal brokered by The New York Times Co. and SGA, which includes the delivery of the newspapers to locations across campus.

"The New York Times and Boston Globe did well at all locations, but The Financial Times was only successful in the Sawyer Building," said Motenko. "So it will only be available in Sawyer."

The papers will begin distribution at Suffolk Feb. 15 and will include 50 copies of each paper.

The program could cost the university as much as $7500, said Motenko.

The deal outlined with the New York Times Company includes a provision so the University will not get stuck having to pay for papers that are not read by the students.

Motenko said he is very excited about the reestablishment of this program. "This will show students that SGA, in the most direct way, is working for students."

Stoll and Meservey, in a scheduled Q-and-A with SGA, appeared before the entire body, answering questions on subjects ranging from the future of wireless Internet at Suffolk to a change in the housing rules for juniors and seniors.

Their discussions with students ran so long that they stayed after the meeting to answer more questions from the body. The session was extended.

Motenko had to cut off discussions with the administrators because the body needed to take up the business of nominating replacements for the SGA executive board.

Only elected members with at least one year of service can be nominated for a position on the executive board.

The resignations of Rachel Koskoff and Emily Ruskowski called for the positions of vice president and secretary to be filled. Each position comes with a unique set of responsibilities.

The secretary, as stated in the SGA constitution calls for the secretary to record the minutes of meetings, take charge of filing of SGA archives, assist new members of the body in the rules and bylaws of SGA and to be a public face of the organization.

Seeking this position are senior Senator Emily Ruskowski and sophomore Senator Caitlin Mengher.

If 17-year-old Walsh is elected he would be the youngest member to hold a seat on the executive board of SGA.

The vice president is responsible for presiding over the Student Judicial Review Board and dealing with matters of constitutionality.

Of course like all vice presidents in government the SGA vice president is to stand in as acting president when he is unable to carry out his duties.

Seeking this position are several Senators: Junior Senator Max Koskoff, junior Senator Wayne Atkins and sophomore Senator Costella Pisacane.

The race between Koskoff and Atkins should be a very interesting one - the two share an apartment together in the Back Bay area.

Elections will be held this Thursday, February 2 at the regular SGA meeting at 1 p.m.

SU may face obstacles in property buy

Michael Walsh and sophomore Senator Caitlin Mengher.

"There is no doubt that SU may face obstacles in property buy. This is an illustrious agency whose history is worth preserving," stated Susan Park, a member of the Boston Preservation Alliance. "The building at 20 Somerset represents this rich history and it is most fitting to preserve such an important contributing building."

John Norton, another proponent of the landmark designation and a volunteer for a local civic group, explained that part of Boston's attractiveness and allure are found within the historic edifices surrounding Suffolk's campus.

"Many people have moved into Beacon Hill because of the abundance of historical sites and buildings," Norton said. "The history of the Metropolitan District Commission's building is certainly worth preserving."

Speaker tackles gender equality in the EU

Kristin Morrell
Journal Staff

On Jan. 26, Suffolk's series of Distinguished Visiting Scholars began for the spring semester with Christiane Lemke, who gave a lecture titled "Gender Equality: How important for the European Union."

The turnout was approximately 40 students and faculty and lasted about an hour and a half.

Lemke, a professor of Political Science at Hannover University in Germany, called attention to serious issues regarding gender equality in the European Union.

She discussed such issues as the feminization of the poverty gap, where women are 15 percent more likely to face poverty than men and are more likely to lose a position because they are raising a family.

Lemke also mentioned Europe's growing problem of "parental leave" instead because it would guarantee their position when they decide to return. This leave is offered despite the woman's marital status.

This focus on equality includes making the pay equal for both men and women, raising the issue of equal pay for equal work.

In this case, women are most often paid less for doing such jobs as assembly line work, which were created specifically for women.

"It was a good lecture," said junior Danielle Murphy. "Women are just as good as men."

Lemke, who currently holds the Jean Monnet chair in European Political Science, is a graduate of the Free University of Berlin to where she received her Ph.D. in 1978 and also writes for a wide range of journals.

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An article in the Jan. 31 issue of The Suffolk Globe addressed that, even in Massachusetts, the Democrats are in trouble. The rank-and-file organization of the party are largely in the 40's, and the positions of the party seem to be alienating pretty much everybody except the socially liberal types and the FDR-era Democrats too stubborn to leave.

You can't extrapolate much from Suffolk; we're an over-worked, under-rested medley of all sorts of types who are going to college for all sorts of reasons. But we do have a lot of Democrats here. And with animosity as intense as the Democrats have within their own party, who needs Republicans?

Suffolk is like a microcosm of why the Democratic Party is in trouble. You have all of the factions of the party: the feminists, the college professors, the Hispanics, the blacks, the radical progressive, the poorer kids chain-smoking in front of the Donahue building and the condescending foreign kids chain-smoking in front of the Sawyer building. Get them all into the student activity center and what do you get? Each group dives off into their own little cliques. We swear, it's like an episode of "O."!

If you doubt the importance of cohesion in a party, look at the Republicans. Just last year, the U.S. soldiers in Iraq death toll exceeded 2,000, a major American city was almost wiped off the map and a significant chunk of Congress was on the payroll of a guy who made a name for himself cheating Indians for everything they were worth, and which is kind of like eating candy from a baby, except the baby doesn't have any candy to steal and lives in a trailer in a desolate rural Hillscape.

The amazing thing is, Bush's approval ratings is still in the 40's. Party loyalty is the only thing keeping this administration afloat. If a Democrat tried this type of chicanery, he would be stoned in the public square and Joe Lieberman would throw the first rock.

The Boston Globe article went on to say that a key problem is a lack of grass roots volunteers for the Democrats. If Suffolk students are any representation of the breakdown of the Democratic Party, we can determine one thing: there is a lot of diversity in the party. Democrats shouldn't talk about it so much.

Hear us out on this one:

When you talk about your differences, it can lead to all sorts of new understandings and really broaden your horizons. But think of how much easier it is to raise money from people who are almost exactly like you? Remember the last time you hit your parents up for cash?

If the Republicans are all the same. It's just that the culture they've come from (polite company, the heartland) has mastered the language of common man agreeableness. There are differences, of course: the 40's are a climate, which is kind of like eating candy from a baby, except the baby doesn't have any candy to steal and lives in a trailer in a desolate rural Hillscape.

"SNL's" Linda Richman, I ask anyone eager to see SGA "fixed" to consider the following: the Student Government Association is neither a government, nor an association. We are a lobbying group. In layman's terms, we are advocates. Inasmuch as this distinction is often lost even on the members of SGA, who sometimes cling to the idea that they're participants in a microcosmic U.S. Senate, this distinction is not strictly a matter of one's semantics. In fact, it is a distinction that goes to the core of how SGA operates and is viewed by the Suffolk community.

A government makes and enforces laws. The moment they are passed, those laws are enforceable and operational. Although the members of the SGA frequently give up their activity periods, nights and weekends to pursue concepts that they believe will improve Suffolk, SGA does not make laws. SGA does not have the power to institute classes, dismiss professors, install wireless Internet, or provide more financial aid. These powers rest with the administrators of Suffolk. As the students' advocates, SGA members should only be expected to tirelessly campaign for the adoption of those ideas and behaviors that students want or we feel they would benefit from. To expect the SGA to have any other impact is simply wrong.

As lobbyists, SGA must advocate within the university structure, which (even with the best of intentions on all sides) can take an extremely long time. Lobbying happens in the open (as it did at our recent public meeting with Dean Stoll and Provost Meservey) and lobbying happens in the hallways, classrooms and boardrooms of Suffolk.

Over a number of months and years, like any lobbyist group, SGA has achieved a myriad of successes and failures. In just this semester, consider the following great American Language will be taught at Suffolk next year (after two years of lobbying), vending machines have been added to Miller Hall, over $500,000 in new financial aid initiatives have been proposed, and professors were advised to avoid requiring needlessly expensive textbooks.

On the other hand, we are still lobbying for wireless Internet, a third activity period, a greater role in the Suffolk budgeting process, campus-wide recycling, extended cafeteria hours and inexpensive textbook options. The unfortunate reality is that while we hope to be successful in each of these quests, we will likely only achieve a few of our goals. No lobbying group is successful all of the time (for example, the Democrats who fought against Alito's confirmation).

Understanding the role the SGA is supposed to play within the Suffolk community is only the first step toward "fixing" the group. SGA members need to continuously focus on crafting persuasive arguments and proposals and worry less about emulating the partisan, divisive, and often childish behavior of our nation's elected leaders; they are bad role models.

In turn, members of SGA need the collective SUPPORT and COL-LABORATION of every student at this institution, including that of The Suffolk Journal. A lobbying group is only as powerful as its membership. Working together, with realistic expectations and a greater understanding of what the student body desires, will enable SGA to be the most effective advocates for you.

We welcome you to our weekly meeting, every Thursday at 1 p.m. in Archer 365, our office on the 4th floor of Donahue, or contact by any other means.

Thank you.

Allan Motenko
Class of 2006
President, Suffolk University
I have a new idea for a reality television show. I wasn't really thinking too hard about this one, but I figured it'd be worth a shot.

While reading last week's edition of the Journal, I felt as though everything I read had to do with the Student Government Association and its affairs absolutely.

My idea for this new hit reality TV show isn't going to be "Lost 2: The Boston Edition." On second thought, it's not even lost.

No, my idea is that we just put random video cameras in SGA meetings and hit the record button.

Why would I do this? Easy. SGA has all the makings of a great television show. It is reality, it has drama, it has comedy, it has tragedy and it even has super cool spy-like plots. Last year, I sat in on a meeting. My idea for this new hit reality TV show isn't going to be "Lost 2: The Boston Edition." On second thought, it's not even lost.

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Bob Dylan may have been right when he sang the song, "The Times They Are A-Changin," but I don't know if he fully grasped the concept that politics and society have a tendency to be cyclical.

We are in the midst of weird times here in Massachusetts, but much of this nagging anxiety we feel over the matters at hand could be thought of as similar to the angst teenagers feel when they're convinced there is no light at the end of the tunnel, thinking their parents will just never understand.

Being a young person in Massachusetts, it seems nearly everyone around me is a strong supporter of the left-wing policies and attitudes associated with this state's administration and longstanding traditions.

Some would say having a Republican governor in Mitt Romney is just the proverbial chicken coming home to roost and that he was here to clean up a wasteful Massachusetts just as he did the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, UT. Others think it is just really weird.

It may be a coincidence, but history has shown that the term "conservative" has been synonymous with economic decline and tightening of the noose around wily little social issues such as homosexuality and abortion. Generally speaking, though, when the "liberals" are in power, the economy seems to be bell, running itself straight to the head of the pack in terms of more jobs, better infrastructure and education plenty for all.

At the same time, liberal behavior can seem unsettling to more modestly behaving people, not necessarily attuned to the northeastern way of thinking but who may reside here for prospects of higher-end corporate business that Boston at times is famous for.

Those same people may scoff at the idea that a state so supposedly liberal and freethinking could cling so much to its quickly deprecating Catholic parishioners who are drowning in scandal. Many of us are feeling the squeeze right now that the rest of the country is going through collectively.

The Big Dig may be unique to Massachusetts, but it's not the only massive infrastructure project putting towards completion. Taxes may be high, as we are indeed deserving of the name "Taxachusetts" but these taxes are distributed well comparatively to other states around the country.

We have amazing educational systems that currently are suffering under economic hardship, but the structure they were formed under is still in tact.

We also have higher standards of living than many states, compared to some southern states such as the ones on the Gulf Coast who are now decimated after the hurricanes of this past August.

What must happen is that Massachusetts continues to work for its policy of liberal progression in political, social and economic reform. We mustn't allow our tradition of letting people live as they please within obvious limits, regardless of the sudden shift to the right in the southern portion of the country.

Despite the governor, the president of the United States and a soon to be appointed judge in the Supreme Court, the natural tendency will likely be to maintain or at least revert to the natural way of operation and administration. The oddity that is a Republican governor in a mainly Democratic state will hopefully soon be a thing of the past and Massachusetts can get back to being Massachusetts once again.

James Moreau

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Meetings: Thursdays, D428, 1 p.m.

Write for the Journal... or the nuns will get you.

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Tuesday, February 7
Sawyer 421

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BU premiers indie comedy ‘Mutual Appreciation’

Director/writer/professor Andrew Bujalski debuts his second film since 2003 hit ‘Funny Ha Ha’

Daniel Johnson
Journal Staff

Andrew Bujalski’s newest film “Mutual Appreciation” debuted last Friday at Boston University. The movie follows the success of his 2003 film, “Funny Ha Ha,” which was named one of the Ten Best Films of the Year by The New York Times.

The plot of the film, in the most basic sense, revolves around a 20-something musician who recently departed from his fellow bandmates, though how this occurs goes without description.

The musician/protagonist, Alan, then decides to move along with his life by both furthering his relationships with his friends and finding a drummer to perform with during concerts.

Bujalski’s work cannot truly be easily summarized, however, as many of the stand-out moments in the film revolve around off-topic comments made during conversations in various scenes.

Bujalski explained this method after the film’s showing by saying, “One thing that happens all the time is that you completely lose the thread of what you’re talking about.”

The movie, filmed in black and white has a relaxed feel throughout the majority of the film’s showing by saying, “One thing that happens all the time is that you completely lose the thread of what you’re talking about.”

“Mutual Appreciation” warrants repeat viewings, to which Peary would no doubt agree with as he ended the presentation saying, “Come back, tell your friends about it and let’s make this into a great movie.”

Photo courtesy of Andrew Bujalski

Andrew Bujalski is ringing in 2006 with a teaching job at Boston University and a new independent comedy “Mutual Appreciation.”

Pretty persuasive

Rebecca Glazer Font
Journal Staff

Almost nobody saw the indie flick “Pretty Persuasion,” which is too bad because it’s a dark comedy with biting commentary on race, gender identity, intolerance, materialism and most of all, fame.

Evan Rachel Wood plays high schooler Kimberly Joyce, an actress attending an exclusive Beverly Hills high school and contending with her self-absorbed, coke-snorting, yet doting father (a hysterical James Woods).

The mischief begins when Kimberly convinces two of her friends to accuse their English teacher (Ron Livingston) of sexual harassment.

The students even get a local reporter (“Ally McBeal’s” Jane Krakowski) to spin the story in their favor.

At first the audience is led to believe “what a poor guy,” but this feeling soon dissipates. In one scene Livingston has bought his wife (a clueless Selma Blair) the exact same grey skirt uniform his students wear and then talks her into wearing it while reading a student’s essay quite suggestively.

Through a series of flashbacks during the trial we see what each student has against their English teacher.

It is our main character Kimberly Joyce, however, who keeps us watching. Through a carefully-constructed web of lies, jealousy, rivalry and her all consuming desire for fame, do we start to realize what is really going on.

Through all this we find ourselves liking, even rooting for Kimberly.

Be sure to watch the last five minutes of this film, because that is where the last revelation is made and explained.

Still the movie itself was smart, funny and sharp.

Definitely go to the video store and pick this one up. You won’t be disappointed.

Photo courtesy of Samuel Goldwyn Films

Now out on DVD, the passed over flick “Pretty Persuasion” is well worth the rental.
Averi: from Suffolk dorms to sold out shows

Suffolk alums transform from student slackers into Best Local Rock/Pop Band

Jenna Pecoraro
Journal Contributor

Thursday years ago in the basement of the 150 Tremont St. dorm, Averi performed their first show. Now they have accumulated several awards including a 2005 Boston Music Award for Best Local Rock/Pop Band and opened for national artists, such as Matchbox Twenty, Goo Goo Dolls, Guster and Barenaked Ladies.

With each year bringing new horizons, Averi continues to grow and evolve into the rockstars they were meant to be. Averi, named from the character Shug Avery in Alice Walker’s novel, “The Color Purple,” first formed in 1998 while attending Suffolk University. Soon after learning several songs, Averi made their debut performance to a packed house in the basement of the Tremont dorm.

The following months brought the recording of a three-song demo and a performance at Suffolk’s FallFest in the C. Walsh Theater.

Looking beyond Suffolk, Averi played a few shows around Boston and made their formal introduction to the music scene in 2000, with the release of their first five song album.

The summer of 2001 brought more shows and the desire to record a full length album, leading Averi to look up with producer Mike Denneen (Howie Day, Fountains of Wayne) and release Direction Of Motion in 2002.

Over the next year Averi’s increasing success and popularity would land them their first headlining show at the Paradise Rock Club, selling out in advance.

This past February, Averi released their highly acclaimed album, Drawn To Revolving Doors, produced by Scott Riebling (American Hi-Fi, Letters To Leelo). Filled with more of the heart-penetrating lyrics and chords Averi supporters have come to love, DTRD reached number nine on the Billboards Hitseekers Charts and earned them the name “Wicked Good Band” by FNX and Newbury Comics.

In 2005, Averi soared to the top of the Boston music scene picking up four Boston Music Award nominations and playing dozens of sold out shows.

Averi’s largest performance of the year, and undoubtedly of their careers, was the nearly sold out show this past November at the Avalon Ballroom.

Drummer Matt Lydon, described the Avalon show as “the culmination of years of hard work. It was simultaneously the reinforcement for us that this IS working, we are doing the right thing and we can’t wait for 2006.” Each year proves to be better than the last for Averi and 2006 looks to be no different.

With the recent departure of lead singer/songwriter, Chad Perrone, Averi welcomes Mike Golarz, formerly of Elcodrive, to the band. Perrone played his final show with Averi at the Avalon and is currently working on a solo album to be released in upcoming months. Golarz, from Fairhaven, Mass., made his debut appearance with Averi in a hometown show on Dec 29.

His strong voice and energetic stage presence gave him a smooth transition into Averi. Golarz brings his own style to the band giving Averi their same saxophone infused pop/rock sound with a new, fresh edge. The new Averi lineup will step into 2006 with high spirits looking to take on the future and bring their music to a higher level.

Averi has been working on writing and recording new songs with Golarz and looks to put out a new album later this year. With each Averi album receiving more national acclaim, fans and music critics alike can only patiently await to hear what Averi has in store.

The internet and word of mouth has allowed Averi’s music to spread far beyond New England leading 20,000 copies of DTRD to be sold in most states and 22 countries around the world.

With intentions of traveling to the West Coast and up into Canada, Averi wants to reach new fans across the continent with a full-time tour. Boston-area supporters have long known and encouraged Averi throughout the years stemming back to their days at Suffolk.

No matter where Averi performs, the passion and dedication to their music will always be present. From the smaller clubs to the bigger stadiums in the future, Averi will continue to rock whatever stage they step on.

Lydon recalls, "There’s never a time when I don’t think back to years when we were playing in the Suffolk dorms at 150 Tremont for 100 people- but as hell down there- and getting a rush from that...and now when we get a chance to play in front of a few thousand people, those memories still flash and are still important to us.”

Although the future is always unknown, Averi takes it head on with determination and their eyes set forward. At the rate Averi’s success is increasing, it won’t be long before they become more than "Boston’s Best Local Band.”

They might look like your typical goofball band, but Averi is getting serious after collecting awards like a 2005 Boston Music Award for Best Local Rock/Pop Band and opening up for major acts like Guster and Barenaked Ladies.

So...the Boston Globe cut jobs in its arts section, BUT WE DIDN’T! Write for The Suffolk Journal - suffolkjournal@hotmail.com

Staff Sounds

Lark Rissetto - The Like Are You Thinking What I’m Thinking? - I saw them open for Tori Amos this summer and they rocked. Oh... and chick hands kick ass.

Diana Rossi - James Blunt Back to Bedlam - I love his voice and “Goodbye My Lover” is enough to make me cry.

Amanda Bellamy - Living Things Ahead of the Lions - This is probably one of the best anti-war albums since Green Day’s American Idiot, which we need more of.
Say When shoot their first music video

Kevin Du

Punching, dancing and vibrant colored clothing. The music starts as bodies of excited and hyper teenagers throw themselves to the song and the band. The lead singer, who has a 1950's style microphone, sways to his own voice.

Staring deep into the eyes of his adoring fans, the band rocks out as if it’s their last time playing for a crowd. A drink is thrown at a man trying to portray a pimp and a lonely, yet dorky young man sits in the back of this high school dance. This is everything one would find at a normal high school dance. Too bad it’s not real.

It’s not a real high school dance, but it is supposed to portray one. All of these fun and exciting elements are all part of Say When's video shoot for their song “Whoa!”

Hooking up with the same production company that had bought a few of their songs for the independent movie "Remedial Attraction," F.R. Perro, Inc. had agreed to shoot the band’s very first music video. With the plot being based during a high school dance, the set was filled with balloons, streamers, a live band, and of course, dressed up teenagers.

Say When is a five-piece ensemble based in the Boston Area. Originally coming from other parts of the U.S., the band is comprised of karaoke-influenced lead singer Maxwell Latif, guitarist Zack Starikiv, guitarist John Zaremba, and the two newest editions, drummer Mark McCarthy, and bassist Mike Marvaglio.

After forming in 2002, the band has been on a mission of non-stop touring. With the energy of a pop-punk band and the crowd-pleasing etiquette of 80's metal, Say When has been selling out New England shows and packing in New York Clubs.

With a growing fan base and their name being exposed to industries, a video was in demand.

The band made no exceptions when it came down to inviting all of their fans to attend and partake in the video. They spread the news all over myspace.com, telling all their friends and family to be dressed to impress on Saturday, at 10am, about 40 to 50 formally dressed teenagers arrived on set, which was located at Newbury College.

Consisting of mostly girls, the band was extremely excited that fans and friends came since it was very early in the morning and the band had performed a show the night before in Worcester.

Button-down shirts, slicked back hair, pretty dresses, and hair ribbons filled the set as each person was directed to dance and sing along with Latif.

Director Chip Perro and his crew handled and directed the video shoot beautifully.

Shooting from different angles, sides, and scenarios, there was no boring point to the shoot.

With Perro’s vision of the video moving smoothly, the band couldn’t help but add some impromptu to the shoot, including switching instruments during the song and an overly excited fan getting dragged away by security for touching the lead singer.

Part of Perro’s vision of the video also included a choreographed dance sequence, a lover’s quarrel, and the band’s signature geek, named Andy, stricken with a case of good luck.

The band also had to replay the same song so many times throughout the shoot that everyone just got sick of it.

The last scene of the shoot takes place on stage with the entire band and all their fans rock out to the music. As the director checks angles and continues shooting, his producer Deborah instructs the excited fan’s dance movements. Showing the non-professional dancers how to sway, jump, and move their bodies to the rhythm gave everyone a smile on their faces. With everyone screaming “Whoa!” and having such a great time, if someone were to walk onto set, their first instinct is to believe someone’s throwing a party, not shooting a video.

Everything ran smoothly and the words “that’s a wrap” brought everyone to cheers and screams. Now, with the video in post-production, fans are anticipating seeing themselves on film and will permanently have one single word indented in their heads forever. “Whoa!”

Finale: it’s a happy ending

Taylor Beckett

Sometimes all we crave is something sweet. Finale is in Harvard Square, located off the Harvard T stop on the Red Line, is able to satisfy this sweet craving. The atmosphere is romantic, yet casual- the perfect place for a date or just a group of friends out for a night on the town.

The menu itself only has about 10 desserts listed, but each one is more than $20. Finale also offers a take-out countervise, which is the perfect spot for a romantic date or just a group of friends out for a night on the town. Finale offers a take-out counter if you wish to take the dessert home.

For irresistible desserts at a modest price, Finale in Harvard Square is the place to go.

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Photo courtesy of Sony Pictures

2003’s “My Life Without Me” is one of the movies you should be watching, according to staff writer Diana Rossi’s new column (see review on page 10).
The best movie you’re not watching

Staff writer Diana Rossi gives her first installment of her column about the hidden gems of cinema, both old and new

Diana Rossi
Journal Staff

"My Life Without Me," written and directed by Isabel Coixet, adapted from the short story "Pretending the Bed is a Raft" by Nanci Kincaid, follows the story of Ann (Sarah Polley), a 23-year-old woman struggling with life and death and the meaning of it all.

Ann lives in a small trailer in her mother's (Deborah Harry) backyard with her two small children and her often unemployed husband, Don (Scott Speedman). When Ann collapses and goes to the hospital to get a check-up, it is discovered that she has tumors in both of her ovaries and they are spreading at a rapid pace. She has two months to live.

Ann decides not to tell anyone about her illness, instead living her life to its fullest, following a list of things to do before she dies, which includes recording birthday messages for her daughters for every year until they're 18, smoking and drinking as much as she wants, and making love to and falling in love with another man (Mark Ruffalo's Lee), "just to see what it's like."

As Ann's story unfolds, it becomes increasingly clear that she will not have a happily ever after ending.

Hollywood magic will not come into play and she will not miraculously recover. The movie, instead, follows her every thought, her every move, as her life goes from surviving, but not really living, to living, but inevitably not surviving.

As she battles with the inner turmoil of living her life and keeping her secret, Ann's most emotional scenes come from her inner dialogue as she struggles to explore the more difficult questions of life, ultimately answering them herself.

She deduces that "lies are your only company" and comes to the realization that, "now you feel like you wanna take all the drugs in the world, but all the drugs in the world aren't gonna change the feeling that your whole life's been a dream and it's only now that you're waking up."

In her most acclaimed role, Canadian Sarah Polley gives a stunning performance as Ann.

She plays her as sort of devoid of any emotion and it creates something gut-wrenchingly beautiful and poignant.

"My Life Without Me" delivers a pure and undeniably touching story that with one false move could have been written off as "just another chick-flick tear-jerker."

With high-caliber performances from everyone involved in the film (including a then nine-year-old Jessica Amelle) and a real, true story devoid of the old Hollywood stand-bys that more often than not ruin a film, "My Life Without Me" remains a breath of fresh air as a low-budget drama that makes no apologies for keeping things a little more real.

Sarah Polley gives a stunning performance as Ann in 2003's "My Life Without Me."

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**Bonus* Plague Ground, by Chris DeFillippi

So, I was thinking, what with the way our fast-paced society goes, we don't have much time to reflect on life, spirituality, and God.

Oh, God! That's so deep!

May I must insist it's not.

Engraved on these tablets are the answerers thee seek.

Huh... it says here that God's "pretty old" and that only people "who aren't jerks" go to heaven... oh, and he really does look like a bearded guy on a cloud, although sometimes he'll turn into a swan or an eye in a pyramid to avoid monotony.

So I was thinking... if God can change his identity, and identity is largely defined by its permanence, one must ask... does God exist?

Oh, God! That's so deep!

No! Bad hippies!

Open Office Hours

With President Sargent

Tuesday, February 14
1:00 - 2:30 P.M.

One Beacon St., 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!!
Sports Opinion: The African Cup is a rare celebration for the troubled continent

Andy Bemba  
Journal Contributor

Founded on June 7, 1957, the African Cup of Nations is both a soccer tournament as well as the oldest pan-African institution, even older than the body in charge of it, which was founded later on. To Africans, this is more than a tournament. The African Cup of Nations is a celebration, the only moment when we can think about other things than all the unfortunate events that touch the continent; the African Cup of Nations is not just a simple commercial event, it is a sacred ritual.

In a continent where deregulation of institutions is the norm, the African Football Confederation has proven that it is a strong and still promising institution. In the context of African institutions, which often bend to the procedures of their Western counterparts, the African Cup of Nations stands out. It resists the pressure of Western institutions, such as in the way that it takes place every two years, as opposed to the Western convention of playing every four.

The first tournament took place in Khartoum (Sudan) in 1957. Three countries participated in this tournament: Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt, with Egypt becoming the first winner.

Since then, 11 different countries have lifted the cup namely Egypt (four times), Ethiopia (once), Ghana (four times), Congo (once), the Democratic Republic of Congo (twice), Cote d'Ivoire (once), Sudan (once), Morocco (once), Nigeria (twice), South Africa (once), Cameroon (four times), Algeria (once), and Tunisia (once).

16 countries are involved in the final phase of the tournament that is taking place in Egypt from Feb. 20 to Jan. 10. Most people will agree that the nations who are most likely to be champions this year include Cameroon, with the marvelous Eto'o Fils, the striker of FC Barcelona and teammate of the fabulous Ronaldinho, Cote d'Ivoire with the excellent Drogba, striker at Chelsea and Nigeria, with the awesome Okocha. Senegal, which has been one of the top National squads, with the controversial but skillful El Hadji Diouf, and Henri Camara is still struggling to find its way through this tournament.

Cameroon and Cote d'Ivoire are assured to play the second round of the tournament. However, let us not forget that Tunisia and Egypt are big contenders as well. The restless Mido, with the Egyptian national team and the former Brazilian Dos Santos with the Tunisian national team have in their ranks good players who have a lot to prove. The restless Mido, by scoring goals in different ways including a long distance shot, dribbling three or four opponents before scoring, with a ball at rest and so on. There are few more exciting sights in African football today than that of Eto'o in full swing.

Let us watch as the tournament is unfolding to see who will be the next nation ruler of soccer in the continent. As we say in French, Vive le foot!