Plans and problems
for 20 Somerset St.

James Moreau
Journal Staff

The Beacon Hill Civics Association voted to oppose Suffolk University's plans to purchase the 20 Somerset St. property to build a high-rise, 792-bed dormitory. The BHCA is reluctant to have more students living on the hill out of concern that more students will result in more under-age drinking, more promiscuity and vandalism. BHCA board member David Thomas, who owns several properties on the hill, said he would not rent to students out of concern for what they would do to the neighborhood, according to the Beacon Hill Times.

The group met again on April 24 to continue discussing the problem of resident students. Beacon Hill's objections didn't stop Suffolk from discussing how it plans to use the 20 Somerset St. property in a meeting on April 25. The meeting was a general forum held in Donahue 311 at 1 p.m. There are several floor layouts already made, but none of the ignated spaces are set in mortar at this point. There were representatives from the administration, Office of Student Life, Office of Residential Life and the CBT architecture firm at the forum.

The first floor layouts consist of the entrance way from the plaza located on the corner of Ashburn and Somerset. Upon entry, there will be a cafe and eatery located in the main lobby which will be available to the public, including Suffolk residents, commuters, the Beacon Hill community and workers at the McCormick federal building. There will be security access points further into the building, from which only properly identified students and faculty will be allowed to pass.

The first security checkpoint will lead into a proposed fitness center with weight rooms and two elevators to the bottom four to five stories of the building.

see HILL, page 2

SGA presidents: past, present and the future

Garrett Quinn
Journal Staff

In the academic year of 2002-2003, the Suffolk University Student Government Association began an immense overhaul. President David Rodrigues initiated an effort to rewrite SGA's constitution.

The effort wasn't complete until the following year, after his graduation. Nonetheless, he is credited by many for putting in motion an effort to restructure and reform SGA. The SGA of today would not be recognized by anyone who attended Suffolk before the 2003-2004 year. The organization has made a complete turn around as far as efficiency is concerned.

According to Rodrigues, the organization in its current state is much more capable of handling student concerns than its predecessor. After spearheading such an effort, what does one do after graduation?

"I did my best to impart some words of wisdom on him," said Rodrigues. The two have been close ever since Koskoff and Rodrigues first met, when they were a freshman and a senior respectively.

"I always saw this instinctive quality in Max and I think that will serve him well for years to come," Rodrigues said.

Rodrigues transferred from Bunker Hill Community College his sophomore year and joined SGA after some prodding from two friends.

"It was one of the best decisions I've ever made," he said. Rodrigues says he saw immense potential in the body but at the time, as a newcomer, he didn't feel it was effective.

Rodrigues chalks that up to an SGA embezzlement scandal two years prior to his arrival involving the sitting President Jason Koskoff, who stole $1,200 from SGA using an illegal ATM card.

"The organization was in transition and it was a very difficult time for the organization. Its credibility had been shot and it was not respected," he said. It was then that Rodrigues saw a chance for things to change. The summer prior to his senior year, Rodrigues began working on a new constitution for SGA.

"It was written as to clarify things," Rodrigues said. "It removed things that were not necessary and replaced them with a more efficient and effective executive leadership.

The actual constitution SGA uses today is a descendant from the one he wrote as President. What Rodrigues does today is also very different from what he did as SGA president.

"The position of SGA president didn't give me the skills, it gave me character to do the job I do now," he said. "It helped make me the person I am today. What I do today is very different from what I did before."

Currently, Rodrigues works as a Legislative Aide for State Representative Robert Spellane. Before working for Spellane, he worked for State Senator Jarrett Barrios as a campaign manager and as an assistant. When asked if he was planning on running for elected office one day he said, "I am not ruling anything out. I got a long way to go before I can hold an elective office."

Rodrigues' successor, Becky Harlow, considers herself a rebel. She's not a very intimidating one at that, standing only 5'6" but Harlow has had her share of fights.

Her involvement in political action and advocacy began her sophomore year in high school when she took on the school system for allegedly allowing teachers to park in handicapped parking spaces.

Harlow said she challenged the school system as a "one woman campaign" placing flyers mentioning handicap parking laws or teacher's windshields.

She brought the local paper on board and eventually she won. "The teachers were shown that they had to park in the town lot adjacent to the school and town swimming pool."

Harlow joined SGA on a whim, "I didn't even think I had chance at being elected," she said. Her freshman year Harlow decided to run in a class representative and won. "I didn't think I'd win. I'm not a slick person. You know the politician type," she said. She, like her predecessor, said she didn't say much. "I spent my freshman year learning."

see SGA, page 2

A “Fair” day on Temple Street

Alex Kelly - Journal Staff

Left to right, secretary of Program Council Courtney Sprague, sophomore Clarence Flanders, sophomore Lauren Piontkoski and PC's Campus Life Chair sophomore Carlye Crosby wearing their “I [heart] PC” shirts during Suffolk’s Temple Street Fair on April 20.

Editors' note: Packet and school publication names have been changed to protect student identities.

SGA, Beauty in the everyday, Photo Essay/8
Despite some opposition Suffolk moves on with plans for new dorms

DORMS from page 1

floors.

There will be a separate path to four high-speed express elevators which will service upper residential floors. The first, second, third and fourth floors will be set up as a multi-level student center. Most of the offices that are currently located on the fourth floor of Donahue will be found on the third and fourth floor of the new building. There will be sixth floor and upwards, there will be floors to accommodate up to six hundred students. The new plan is that there will be floors with homogeneous rooming schemes, such as an entire level of singles, or doubles, or apartment-style dorms. They will be fully accommodated with working kitchens, living at Suffolk are no exception. Bathrooms. There will also be a separate floor of live-in staff apartments. Currently, there are plans to have ICA'S on every floor instead of every other floor like the current dorms.

The fifth floor will be the transition floor which will divide where residents can go upward and where everyone else must stay on the lower levels. The security issues are the largest hindrance of the planning of the floor layouts. With the residents being so radically separated from the rest of the building, a higher than normal inconvenience will be placed on them if they wish to access certain parts of the building during the day that anyone else could sneak through. Access to the entire building will be cut off, so that only residents could travel the premises, after a certain time of night. Aurelio Valente, director of student activities and service learning, stressed that "security is a driving force in how things are organized and sectored off."

Though this was an open forum, with opinions from students both desired and needed, very few students were not members of the Suffolk Community Government Association who showed up to give their input on the project. Some of the concerns raised were about where a weight room or game room would be placed, or what the students thought could be done away with. Other suggested their own additions to the plans.

Various ideas floating around were wireless Internet access throughout the building, a copy room and a computer. Nancy Stoff, the dean of students, said that "we are still in the very early stages and the time frame about will have to be influenced by student opinion."

Suffolk’s purchase of the property has not been finalized, but it made it into the due-diligence stage, which means the University is getting close. If the purchase goes through, the combined cost of purchasing the land, demolishing the building and erecting the dormitory is expected to run roughly $70 million, according to Academic Provost Patricia Meservey’s comments at a Suffolk Board of Governors meeting on May 11, 2005. If construction begins in a timely manner, the new dormitory should be completed by 2009.

An open door from depression

In order to help combat depression and other mental illnesses in the Suffolk community, the Suffolk Counseling Center is to give students the tools to develop skills to help themselves, including genetics and environment. It’s possible that a family history could mean a person is predisposed to suffer from depression. Outside factors such as stress can also increase a person’s susceptibility to the disorder.

An open door from depression

Clinical depression is a serious disorder that affects about 10 percent of the general public, according to student survey responses in a study by the National Mental Health Association. Depression frequently leads to suicide, the rates of which are disproportionately high among college students.

Depression is prevalent among college-aged individuals and students at Suffolk are no exception. According to Lynda Fields from the Suffolk Counseling Center, there are many different types of depression.

Dysthymic depression is the form that most likely affects Suffolk students, and it is a low-level chronic depression that is characterized by feelings of unhappiness and low energy. Dysthymic depression is not as disruptive to one’s life as major depression, or bipolar disorder, but it may make the person have a hard time enjoying life.

Major depression at Suffolk was what led Fields and Paul Korn, who also works for the Counseling Center, to work on the Action for Depression Awareness Prevention and Treatment, or ADAPT, program. The program’s intent is to raise awareness of the signs of depression and steer sufferers towards treatment. Fields said that with depression, “early detection is crucial, and recognized that combating the environment factors that lead to depression is imperative.”

The ADAPT program is also working to combat the stigma that is often associated with seeking counseling. Many students feel there is something wrong with getting help.

Fields said the hopes that the program will do a “better job on campus at getting people to feel okay about going into counseling.”

There is also the Live Journal site, accessible through Suffolk’s main website, that can be used by students to express their feelings anonymously.

If students don’t want to participate in the sessions that the Counseling Center is offering, they can always write their problems in the Live Journal and obtain help in a different way.

Depression can be identified as a two-week or longer period of time in which a person experiences emotional and physical symptoms such as loss of appetite, trouble sleeping and feelings of being easily agitated. It can impact a person’s health, emotions and thinking. Depression can be influenced by one’s environment, including genetics and environment. It’s possible that a family history could mean a person is predisposed to suffer from depression. Outside factors such as stress can also increase a person’s susceptibility to the disorder.

Though some cases of mild to moderate depression can resolve themselves in approximately six months, treatment is often required. Free treatment is available at the Counseling Center, which is located on the third floor of the Ridgeway building. Students can walk in from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. every day. Services are available for students suffering from dysthymic and other types of depression. There is individual one-on-one counseling and also a referral service for long-term treatment over winter and summer breaks. The main goal of the Counseling Center is to give students the tools they need to better manage stress in order to help combat depression before it starts.
Theories on war and peace

Kevin Du
Journal Staff

On Wednesday, April 19, theorist Dr. Benjamin Barber, known best for his international best-seller "Jihad vs. McWorld," gave a lecture to the Suffolk students and faculty in Donahue 403.

With one of the largest student attendances for a public lecture (it was standing room only), Barber caught the attention of everyone in the room, including those who may or may not agree with him.

His lecture was titled "Is Civic Education Possible in Jihad vs. McWorld?" The event was open to the public and representatives of the Suffolk University Student for Peace and Justice said they were excited to bring this event to the Suffolk community.

The topic and main point of Barber's lecture was citizenship. Barber expressed concern for democracy and citizenship, and detailed how these issues relate to matters of politics, culture, and education in America and abroad.

He said that in light of all the debates over American government, it is up to the people, not just the system, to help resolve and fix these problems with the government and society. "Everyone knows their rights but not their responsibilities," Barber said.

He added that "Democracy is the art of living." He said citizenship must be learned, and power must be responsibly used. The best and only acceptable democratic means for learning responsibility is through empowerment. He described democracy as the right of people to make their own mistakes. "We are born with the right to be free but we have to grow the ability to be free," Barber said.

Another topic addressed was America's focus on the social and mental problems of other nations. Debates about terrorism and illegal immigration may have caused society to lose sight of what is important. "We don't have enough towns or places where citizens can talk to each other," said Barber. He cited all the malls and other places where people walk by each other, not bothering to interact with each other unless they have to. Under these circumstances, people start to lose touch with each other.

He noted that only when a disaster such as a tragedy occurs does people start truly interacting with each other. Barber said that it is imperative that citizens volunteer and find ways to engage with the world around us. He said that civic acts such as voting are not enough. If people feel engaged as citizens, then neither terrorists nor criminals can make individuals feel fearful or disempowered. Barber also stressed the importance of education. It's in school where children can learn not only about government, but also citizenship. He added that this is not just the special interest of parents, or of kids going to school, but it's the interest of America that the youth are educated as engaged citizens.

He said, if we valued citizenship, we would give national service and civic education more attention.

Identifying schools as immensely important, we need to make them into models of critical learning, civic, and active citizenship.

In an excerpt from his novel titled "Fear's Empire," he stated that "It is hard for the U.S. to be the beacon of freedom that Bush's speech celebrated -- and the world so adores -- when it has in many places come to be seen as the maker of war the world most fears... It is hard to lead a global struggle for human rights when the U.S. holds enemy aliens prisoners without rights and when Americans who criticize the preventive-war policy are vilified."

Barber's honors include a knighthood from the French Government, the Berlin Prize of the American Academy of Berlin, and the John Dewey Award. He also writes frequently for a number of news publications.

Barber teaches at the University of Maryland and has worked as a consultant to President Bill Clinton, New Jersey Senator Bill Bradley, Vermont Governor Howard Dean, and former German President Roman Herzog.

Peace walks call for end to conflict

Ipek Mentesh & Amy Nelson
Journal Contributors

Every Wednesday, members of Suffolk University's faculty, staff, and student body take a walk around campus to encourage a peaceful solution to the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq while recognizing those who have died.

Harvard professor Stephen Bloomfield started these silent peace walks after the 2003 prisoner abuse at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

Organized vigils were held at Harvard Yard and eventually word spread to Suffolk about this silent protest.

At noon, participants gather in front of the Donahue building with a banner bearing the words "Suffolk University for Peace," and a flag with the peace symbol on it. They embark on approximately a 40-minute walk, stopping at five campus buildings to read out names of the soldiers that died in Iraq.

The reading of the names and the ringing of a bell after each name is the only time when participants speak aloud.

Marta Richardson, a Suffolk chemistry professor, has been taking part in the peace walks since they were first held at the University.

She said it is a personal experience, and everybody has a different reason for walking.

"For me, it is a way to quietly express some outrage and make people aware of the carnage that is going on," she said.

Although she believes the war is "absurd," she said a war that started on 9/11, she finds it important to recognize the sacrifices of those who served and to honor those who have died.

Melissa Morgan, a doctoral intern at Suffolk University's counseling center, is a frequent member of the peace walk as well.

She said the Peace Walks are generally "well accepted by everyone."

"If people feel engaged as citizens, then neither terrorists nor criminals can make individuals feel fearful or disempowered," Barber said. Barber also stressed the importance of education. It's in school where children can learn not only about government, but also citizenship.

"We don't have enough venues or opportunities to really address the moral problems of other nations," Barber said.

Another topic addressed was "Is Civic Education Possible in Jihad vs. McWorld?" He noted that "everyone knows their rights but not their responsibilities."

He said, "It is hard for the U.S. to be the beacon of freedom that Bush's speech celebrated -- and the world so adores -- when it has in many places come to be seen as the maker of war the world most fears... It is hard to lead a global struggle for human rights when the U.S. holds enemy aliens prisoners without rights and when Americans who criticize the preventive-war policy are vilified."

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SQA is planning the formation of the Blue Sky Committee, which will try to find a way for the student body to obtain more insight into the school's budget and have more of a voice on how those funds should be spent. Now the only question is how exactly to do it.

Provost Patricia Meservy said that while there are "no details at this point" about how the budget information will be compiled for SQA and SGA, president-elect Max Koskoff said there's no plan for a government to exactly SQA will work with the administration to get the information, there's a lot of optimism surrounding the initiative.

"The Blue Sky Committee is a way for students to inform the University of the investments they'd like to see made, whether it's wireless Internet or more financial aid," Koskoff said. "It lets students tell us how the University should spend its money."

He added that because SQA bylaws do not explicitly allow the use of funds for providing scholarships to students, the Blue Sky Initiative would, ideally, give SQA greater sway in encouraging the University to put more money aside for scholarship.

American Sign Language to be offered in the fall and spring

Starting this fall, students will be able to learn a second language without learning any new spellings or pronunciations. A course on American Sign Language is being offered this fall at Suffolk. College of 2006 Senator and SGA Treasurer Karine Malani, who initially brought up the idea to offer ASL as a class, said that the class should be beneficial to students who have trouble learning a new language. "Offering sign language expands Suffolk's reputation in a class that represents diversity," Malani said. "It thought it was a great opportunity for the University to diversify," Malani said. "The deaf are a huge portion of the population in the U.S., so if we get overlooked time and time again." SGA President Alan Moteiko said that the course, which will offer a second component in the spring, should satisfy a cultural diversity requirement.

The University is accepting of all different kinds of people, all different kinds of viewpoints, and the only ones makes us more accepting," said College of 2007 Senator Ryan Feltman, who also worked on the legislation.

News Briefs compiled by Chris DeFilippo
Opinion

Plague Ground by Chris DeFillippi

Dear Editor,


In the article, "Those Pesky Suffolk Students on the Hill," your editors correctly gave credit to the students for running their own recreation on the Hill. I am a 35-year-old mother of two small boys who, on Patriot's Day, witness the destructive behavior of college students in our neighborhood. At 1:30 p.m. I had to call the Boston police to respond to four college students scrambling at the top of their lungs for over a half an hour and then proceed to try and pull down a "Do not enter..." street sign on the corner of Myrtle and Living Streets.

My sons, aged 2 and 4 did not understand why "those bad guys" were behaving that way. I know at the time, they did not see much harm in destroying city property.

They were probably just letting off steam (I hate to accuse them of drunken behavior even if that is how they were acting). But when you get a little older and you begin to understand what makes a neighborhood feel special and safe, and when you see just how far your tax dollars DO NOT go in a city strapped for cash just to pay the basics, you can't justify what I and several other mothers at the Myrtle Street playground witnessed that afternoon.

And when you have to try and explain to your children why young men in shaving wigs, drinking beer and behaving worse than any 2-year-old, you get sick.

I know the neighborhood very well, and it is a mix a different populations, contrary to popular belief. Your students are not the only group of hard-working people living on the Hill. But when you get a little older and you begin to understand what makes a neighborhood feel special and safe, and when you see just how far your tax dollars DO NOT go in a city strapped for cash just to pay the basics, you can't justify what I and several other mothers at the Myrtle Street playground witnessed that afternoon.

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And when you have to try and explain to your children why young men in shaving wigs, drinking beer and behaving worse than any 2-year-old, you get sick.
With a little help, SGA never a madhouse

The Student Government Association (SGA) has accomplished the following this year:

- Wireless internet - coming in the fall to a significant part of campus
- Over $50,000 in new financial aid and scholarships that will begin in the Fall of 2007
- Approval and implementation of American Sign Language (sign up now for Fall 2007)
- Tentative approval for new course evaluations in the College of Arts and Sciences for the Fall of 2007, which hopefully will include published data on students' ratings
- New vending machines for Miller Hall
- Expanded Sodaeto Cafe hours in the Residence Community Council (as opposed to the Residence Council with Residence Community Council)
- Started an unprecedented dialogue with the University regarding professors with English-language difficulty, especially as it relates to student-concerns raised about the Math Department. The discussions are continuing and plans are developing to improve the delivery and style of instruction immediately.
- Purchased a new foosball table for the Student Activity Center.
- Managed the Student Activity Fee responsibly and completely computerizing the process and treating student organizations respectfully
- While space constraints do not allow me to list all of our successes, it is to note that this year's Student Government accomplished more concrete initiatives for peers than any other SGA has in my time at Suffolk, and perhaps even more than any other SGA in the last decade at this University.
- Ordinarily, I'd leave you with those facts and move on, but because this is your weekly opinion piece, I feel the need to add more information: "Antonio Salazar" is not the writer's real name. SGA is a lobbying group, dependent on the trust and credibility it establishes with the faculty, staff and administrators of the University to accomplish its goals.
- If friendships relationships constitute "brown-nosing," then the entire SGA, not just one person, is guilty as charged. If "brown-nosing" achieves the kind of improvements to student life that SGA has achieved this year, then I sure hope SGA "brown-noses" even more next year.
- SGA is a serious group, trying to address serious problems and it needs serious people to help them. Every editorialist that takes the time to write a hatchet piece in the Journal, yet can't be bothered to spend any time experiencing the problems themselves at an SGA meeting is not helping.
- They are understudying the effectiveness and spirit of SGA to promote their egos. Moreover, anyone content to cast stones at SGA's problems from afar or through pseudonyms, yet too spineless to put their name on an election bulletin and be part of the solution, needs to find some intestinal fortitude. For those of you that read the Journal every week and wonder, "What does SGA do for me?" I refer you to the previous list. If you will feel that we haven't helped you, then you need to help us.
- SGA needs the qualified and motivated students currently sitting on the sidelines to be part of the action.
- Run for office, or at least communicate needs and suggestions to those that do. Do more than pick up the paper every Wednesday and shake your head in disbelief. Ironically, only when students decide to stand together with Student Government and not against it will an ideal SGA exist.
- Thank you, not only for the opportunity to represent you, but also for the friendships and memories that I've treasured along the way. Suffolk is an extraordinary place filled with extraordinary people.

Sincerely,
Allan Menesko
President, Suffolk University Student Government Association

Running marathon means more than pics

Many people ran the Boston Marathon for different reasons, some ran for the glory of it all, some ran for a charity of their choice and some even ran for the love of the course itself.
I am writing this in regards to the previous issue of The Suffolk Journal. First of all I am flattered and thankful that The Journal put Jorge Rivera and me on the front page of the Journal, but on the other hand I don't feel good about being in the limelight, I found janitor Ryan Fattman's picture was at the back of the Journal. No doubt that Jorge and I did accomplish something big by finishing the marathon, but Ryan did it even for a better cause.
Not only did he finish it (with a better time than us as well) but he also raised a large amount of money, $2,500, for the American Liver Foundation.
I believe that he should have been on the front page of the paper, not us. Hopefully in the future the front page picture will not be based on popularity, but on people who actually deserve it.

Adi Utama
Class of 2006

http://suffolkjournal.net

Olive branch extended from Hill to Suffolk

I'd like to take a moment to respond to the April 19 Viewpoint in The Beacon Hill Times. "Those Pesky Suffolk Students on the Hill." It made me smile and personify why I do not entirely despise college undergraduates like I thought I did. From the images of smart, like-minded and rational people, I'd like to invite Mr. DeFulippi and Ms. Bellamy to come and visit us on Hancock, Joy, S. Russell, Myrtle and Irving Streets on three separate occasions.

The first visit should take place during the day/early evening to meet the many residents that live here on the North Slope. We can have a little barbeque and we'll have a couple of beers. You will quickly learn that we are not the "Brahmin Bluebloods" you picture us to be.

This part of the Hill is made up of diverse backgrounds, ethnicities and beliefs. I, myself, actually hail from New York, with family roots in the Bronx. Half my ancestors were part of the huddled masses that came through Ellis Island from Naples and Calabria in the beginning of the 20th century. I worked my way through Boston University with loans, grants and jobs up the Stairs. Good luck should be my middle name, although I had to attend bartending to (college students!) to support a growing business. I started there, in no Brahhin or blood of blue here. And if you met my many neighbors, you'd quickly come to the same conclusion. It'll be fun!

A second and visit should take place on a Thursday, Friday or Saturday night between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. to witness firsthand how your fellow students are representing you. And that's more than just a few bad apples. I understand from your article that you might be busy with schoolwork, but take a little study break, to expand your education. Fresh air is good for more than anything.

You might walk away with a new understanding of why we, "Brahmin Brahblodhs" are making all kinds of noise about those "Pesky Suffolk students." Believe me "pesky" will not be the word you'll use! Be prepared to be appalled, disenchanted and, because you sound like nice people, ashamed of your fellow classmates.

After that, if you're really game, I'd like to invite Mr. DeFillippi and Ms. Bellamy to come and visit us on Hancock, Joy, S. Russell, Myrtle and Irving Streets on three separate occasions.

I spoke for all my neighbors when I say, we do not want to despise you. It would be nice to have an injection of youth in a neighborhood. Although known lots of students like yourselves over the years that are working hard to get an education and appreciate its value. I was once myself, believe it or not, not too long ago. I truly relate.

Your real issue is with your fellow students, which I was happy to see in the conclusion of your article. It's not fair to you that they are misrepresenting your community. I also imagine it's incredibly frustrating to have to put through the preconceived notions of those of us have of you - guilty until proven innocent. It's not as you Beacon Hillers want to be, but sadly, it's how we are becoming. After your three visits here, you'll begin to understand why.

So I am going to do my best to change your preconceived notion of Beacon Hillers and extend the olive branch. You - not happy with the behavior of your fellow classmates. Neither are we. Let's sit and chat about what we can do to work together to change things. Revelling each other isn't going to help, working together will. Get in touch with me through this paper to set up a time for that barbecue! Bring the holing buns!

Dina M.A. Moeller
Beacon Hill Resident

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

The Suffolk Journal

5

SGA suffers, won't recover

While I understand Suffolk University's Student Government Association is hardly a chapter of MENDOSA, one would think the members would, for the most part at least a little bit intelligent. Their inaccuracies were especially apparent at SGA's last meeting, when discussing club budgets for next year.
Senator Talancely came forward with a bold change to the budgeting process. A number of senators, including myself, expressed concern about the move, board strongly disagreed with the proposal but instead of just voting it down they chose to drag their feet around a majority of parliamentory trickery to dilute the process. As a result, a good hour of this meeting was spent debating interparliamentary bylaws and rules of parliamentary procedure rather than debating the actual issue of the budget.
Until recently, SGA had a young man named Michael Walsh fighting to change all this. Walsh came onto the SGA scene at a jun­ior at the young age of 17, and became SGA's "Doggie Hower" - prescribing a variety of cures for SGA's many ailments. Tirelessly fighting for justice within SGA, Senator Walsh could almost always be seen around the office looking like he slept well and was fresh the next morning.
Recently, his fellow senators acknowledged Senator Walsh's accomplishments and asked him to take an executive board position of secre­tary. However, Walsh soon began taking a lot of flak as his schedule started to become stretched too thin. He had been so busy fighting the larger issues facing SGA that he let his helper responsibilities such as the publishing of SGA's minutes go by the wayside.
Soon Walsh's opponents began attacking his ability to produce the minutes rather than attacking the substance of his arguments even when the minutes had no rele­vance to the debate at hand. This conflict all came to a fiery climax at SGA's last meeting.
Unfortunately, this story does not have a happy ending. SGA recently suffered a terrible loss as Senator Walsh resigned his posi­tion in SGA.
Of course, this would never have happened under President Scanlon, another man who could appreciate a man like Walsh, who was dedicated to the larger issues SGA faces, but whose burning desire was to implement his platform. President Scanlon's departure only exacerbated the SGA's problems.
With the resignation of Senator Walsh, SGA has entered its darkest hour and we should all mourn our loss. Wayne Atkins, Senator of the Class of 2007

http://suffolkjournal.net
As students, we walk up and down Temple Street and Ridgeway Lane on a daily basis. However, these streets are more than just brick buildings, trees and students running late to class.

I wanted to take a closer look at what we do not generally observe, like the gum on the pavement, to the very top of the Archer building. I realized that there is much more around us if only we took the time to enjoy it.

If we took just a moment and actually looked at what is truly around us, we may discover that there is more than just a school, tests, and homework, but a small and unique piece of Boston that everybody speeds through without taking a good look at. We rarely appreciate the beauty that encompasses Suffolk.
Yes, Dresden
The Dolls bring the circus to town

Amanda Bellamy
Journal Staff

Hometown cabaret heroes, The Dresden Dolls brought the circus home Friday night at the Orpheum. With a sword-swallowing heroine, "German" techno outfit and pre-show block party, fans got more than they paid for.

Prior to the show, fans gathered outside to listen to an accordion player, paint faces, play hopscotch, work on chalk drawings and gawk at human statues.

Fully costumed in their freakish finest, fans ran the gamut from the middle-aged to the teenaged. As the crowd mingled and mingled, Dolls lead singer Amanda Palmer joined the party. She handed out flowers and posed for pictures to the delight of fans.

Inside, fans were treated to a juggler and mime before being lead to their seats to watch opening act, Porsches on the Autobahn, a pseudo-German pack of young men dressed in tight pants and sunglasses.

The Porsches pranced around stage and performed songs like "Masturbation Asphyxiation" and "New Song Happy Dance."

While Porsches on the Autobahn may have been an inside joke gone too far, Hummavine played a significantly better set. Lead singer Holly Brewer took the stage like a goth nymph, with the most striking vocal range that has been clearly visible to the majority of fans.

"Amsterdam," Brewer hoisted a beer and screamed "Back Stabber!" with Palmer. The unashamed and unedited song transitioned into a cover Jacque Brel's "Amsterdam." Brewer hoisted a beer and shouted the front row as she sang the acoustic drunken tale of a sailor in the famous port.

Viglione and Palmer continued the intimate interlude with another cover, of T-Rex's "Cosmic Dancer," dedicated simply to their friend Bob. The intimate ballad "Bitterish" followed and was joined by Humanwine's lead singer, Brewer. Their voices combined to form the perfect, sorrowful mix.

Palmer asked the crowd, "You tired of hearing stuff from the new record?" To which an almost unanimous voice answered, "No!"

After explaining their inability to attend a concert in their youth, The Dolls played on and the crowd dispersed, putting their ripped stockings, liquid blue eyeliner and bowlers hats away for the next few weeks.

Dolls drummer Brian Viglione set a dramatic pace for their hometown gig on Friday, April 21.

Yes, Virginia.

Kevin Du - Journal Staff

Circus performers entertained the crowd between bands, filling the night's quota for sex and violence.

Doll's drummer Brian Viglione set a dramatic pace for their hometown gig on Friday, April 21.

Yes, Virginia.

Kevin Du - Journal Staff
Against Me! upstage Alkaline Trio at Avalon

Nickolas Papadopoulos

The unflinching realism of the film is heightened by the use of actual footage of the World Trade Center, to witnessing the final shots of fire around the Pentagon.

The band didn’t bother speaking to the crowd, but instead let the their music welcome them by playing “Rice and Bread.” This fast-paced song with periodic breaks had the crowd singing along from the start. They grabbed the attention of everyone in the Avalon that night, even those who were there to see Alkaline Trio and had no previous knowledge of Against Me!

The band played songs from all three of their albums, and other songs that were released on 12” vinyl. The folk sound of the music is most evident in songs like “Pints of Guinness Make You Strong.” The song addresses a sad story of a woman who lost her lover in a fatal accident and lives lonesome for the rest of her life. The song begins with a beat you might expect out of a western movie’s introduction.

Another song they played, “Cliche Guevara,” is reminiscent of the Misfits style of harmonizing. Against Me! added their own flavor to the harmonizing by bringing in softer-folk guitar.

Another essence of Against Me’s music are their acoustic songs. Some of them, “Sink,Florida,Sink” and “Cavalier Bierual,” are reflective of acoustic dub-style songs like Sublime’s version of “River’s of Babylon” and “Mary.”

One of the more interesting parts of the band is its drummer. Behind him was Alkaline Trio’s drum kit that was so large it had to be set up on stage before their set even began. Drummer Warren Oakes’ simple set up of cymbals only had a top hat and a crash. He was dwarfed by the monstrous drum set that sat behind him draped in black fabric.

The band played song after song, usually without stopping in between. When they did stop playing they would make minor adjustments to their instruments and keep on playing.

Not one word was spoken to the crowd or to each other. It gave the message that they were there for the sole purpose of playing music, not to waste time talking.

The enthusiasm of the crowd was apparent from the size of the mosh pit formed on the Avalon floor and the crushing crowd directly in front of the stage.

After their set was finished they put down their instruments and walked off stage. There was no encore, or any verbal acknowledgement of the crowd from the band. They simply walked away completing their set and the crowd at the Avalon could not have been anymore satisfied with the performance.

My friend Josh said, “I couldn’t imagine any other band having the courage to get up on that stage after a performance like that. Alkaline Trio was totally upstaged.”

Art imitates life in new post-Sept. 11 movie

Daniel Johnson

Nearly five years after the September 11 terrorist attacks, the first theatrically released film to depict the tragedy has been completed.

"United 93" shows the events that unfolded from 9/11 from the point of view of the passengers on the fourth flight, which bears the same name as the movie. The motion picture is told in real time, and mirrors how the world first saw the hijackings: from seeing unsuspecting passengers board the ill-fated flight, to viewing the shock of air traffic controllers as the first plane hit the World Trade Center, to witnessing the final moments of the attacks.

The unfaltering realism of the film is heightened by the use of actual footage of the World Trade Center being hit, as well as shots of fire around the Pentagon.

When asked if there were any worries about using these images, the film’s director, Paul Greengrass commented, “I thought about it, and I think it’s a fair point, and it didn’t seem to me that there was any alternative in order to make this film,” said Greengrass. “It’s an image of our time. We’re not the first people to have shown that. I mean probably millions of times you know on television, in newspapers, and the Internet.”

While Greengrass ultimately decided to use the images, he also went on to describe the importance of handling such footage with care. “You can’t discuss 9/11 in any meaningful way and airbrush out the terror and the fear, and the destruction, said Greengrass. “That doesn’t justify you being gratuitous or any of those things, but it happened and we have to be prepared to look at it and I don’t think it helps us to never see it.”

One portion of the project that some may argue over is the authenticity of the film’s second half, which takes place almost entirely on United 93. Although the flight never reached the target the hijackers had planned, no survivors emerged after the plane crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, making a first-hand account of the event impossible. As the production notes for the film describe the filmmakers involved with “United 93” set out to depict an realistic interpretation as possible.

Various interviews were held, including those with family members of the passengers and crew of the flight, members of the 9/11 commission, air traffic controllers and both military and civilian personal involved with 9/11.

Viewing the motion picture outside the context of being “That 9/11 movie,” the film is unlike standard theatrically released fare. There are few characters and the ones included could hardly be considered individual protagonists.

The film rather revisits the narrative style of Sergei M. Eisenstein in its use of having a mass protagonist. Few names are mentioned and little to no information is given on separate people. More focus is given to the force that binds the passengers and crew of United 93 together.

In the same vein as this binding emotional power, Greengrass went onto describe the feelings involved in satisfying the film’s audience, “You come away from that film and you go well, ‘Was that a worthwhile attempt to grapple with this most painful and difficult subject?’ If you feel it is and then it will have done its job, if it doesn’t then I’ll have failed.”

“United 93” opens nationwide on April 28, and to donate to the Flight 93 Memorial Fund visit www.united93movie.com.
'Le Grand Bleu' displays passion and the depths of human force

Valeria Mecozzi
Journal Staff

There are too many layers to a movie like 'Le Grand Bleu' (The Big Blue) for a simple review to do it justice. This movie is in no way new. In fact, it is almost a decade old, but was a flop in the U.S. Set in various places around the world, starting in Greece and traveling around to Peru, Manhattan, Sicily and Southern France, 'Le Grand Bleu' tells the fascinating (and partially true) story of Jacques Mayol, the world's pioneer in the sport of free-diving.

He is played to perfection by the beautiful Jean-Marc Barr. Jean Reno plays Enzo, the world's greatest free-diver who has rivaled and competed with Jacques since both were children living on the island of Amorgos. This is possibly Reno's best performance. He plays the Italian brute to perfection: hilarious, arrogant and genuine. Both men share an avid relationship with the sea; it is Enzo's religion, or so he says, but for Jacques, it is much more. He belongs to the sea, not on land. The story begins in black and white imagery directed by the amazing Luc Besson, following a young boy who spends his days diving to the bottom of the sea. The timid boy grows up to be Jacques, a man who, unlike Enzo, doesn't compete in free-diving for the recognition but because of passion.

The world's diving champion Enzo wants Jacques to compete against him because he is the only man in the world who can beat him. The movie turns into a story of the eternal, and tragic, competition between the two men.

A love story also blossoms in this movie between Jacques and Johana, played by Rosanna Arquette. Jacques is inexperienced, but Johana falls for his ingenuity and gentleness and she follows him around the world so their love can continue.

But the more Jacques competes, the more obsessed he becomes with the sea and his desperation to be a part of it becomes traumatic to their relationship. He is too deep into the water to be a boyfriend, a lover, a human being like everyone else.

Yet this movie is not solely a love story, nor is it about competition in the world of sports. It is not a comedy, or tragedy, and has no interest in teaching you a lesson about life.

But it will leave you stirred, humble and hungry for a passion to fulfill. "Le Grand Bleu" takes you to the depths of the sea, where it is dark and frightening, and where you can finally see the depths of human force, friendship and passion.
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SU students debut 9/11 love story ‘Begin Again’

Kristin Morrell
Journal Staff

The Studio Theater was filled to capacity on April 20 as students and faculty waited eagerly for the very first showing ever of “Begin Again,” a musical about a Sept. 11 love story. The show was a workshop production, not a finished product; almost like a dress rehearsal. In the run up to the performance, as well as the production itself, Suffolk theater students worked alongside industry professionals, and even helped fine-tune the script.

“It was great working with all of the kids,” said Laura Harrington, a professional who worked on the script and lyrics. “They were so committed.” Jenny Giering helped the students with music production.

As the lights dimmed, the scene opens on a husband and wife in Brooklyn apartment where they wake up late to their alarm clock. They kiss each other goodbye and walk, out of their flat that while Des, played by soprano Cassandra House, waits at the door, hesitant about walking out. A chorus of students dressed in black stand in the background of each scene, providing mood and exposition.

The audience soon realizes that this is a love story of a young married couple, still struggling with the memory of Sept. 11, who meet again back home where Des, played by senior Aaron Pitre, hops the bus to work, feeling absolutely helpless in the face of Des’ emotional problems. Both husband and wife have an eventful day outside of the home. Des is mugged by a homeless girl that steals her cell phone and her watch while AJ is coaching a 12-year-old boy in baseball. The 12-year-old suggests AJ cheer his wife up by building her a tree house.

They meet again back home where Des is scrubbing the sink with a toothbrush, not wanting to talk about her problems. Her husband calls her out on this, the two begin to fight and ultimately he walks out the door.

At this time, Des goes to a restaurant to look over the file of an orphan whose parents died in the Pentagon on Sept. 11. Des could never bring herself to read it before. Meanwhile, AJ is still frantically looking for her. Des ultimately ends up helping out the girl that robbed her get back on her feet reminding her of how much she loved helping kids as an elementary school teacher. AJ comforts the kid he was teaching to play baseball when he learns he’s upset about his mother’s remarriage.

After AJ and Des help out the kids, they realize they need to work on their own problems. They meet romantically on the Brooklyn Bridge because AJ can’t get home; he gave up all of his money and tokens to buy a bouquet of tulips for Des. The production ends happily; Des and AJ move slowly towards each other, kiss and make up.

“They were remarkable and wonderful,” said Harrington of the students in the performance. “It was an amazing experience.”

With very little in terms of props and set changes, the production ran smoothly and definitively won the crowd over.

At the end, the performers received a standing ovation. The whole production was filled with amazing singing and even some comic relief to break up the more serious scenes.

Overall, it was a great success and a great idea for a new kind of musical. It captured what people were truly going through after the cataclysmic events of Sept. 11.

Look for “Begin Again” in the future, perhaps on stage in a larger venue.

The experimental production was a success.
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Packet pick-up will take place during final exam week, May 1-5 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday and Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

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Profiles in leadership shown in SGA presidents

and observing,” she said.

Her sophomore year she ran for Secretary and vice president of her class at the urging of her fellow members.

Eventually, her junior year, she served as vice president under President David Rodrigues. “Dave taught me a lot actually,” she said.

Finally her senior year she completed her progression through the SGA hierarchy and was elected SGA President. “The things I learned in SGA I use everyday. I didn’t just learn things as a President either. I learned things as a representative and as an (executive board) member,” she said. Among those she said learning how to “keep her cool under pressure” was the most important.

One year removed from college, Harlow works as a property manager for Avalon Bay Communities, a real estate investment trust, and was promoted within the last year. She works in an administrative/managerial role. “As far as her political future goes, Harlow isn’t sure. “I like management but it’s a little hard to stick it to the man,” she said. “You can’t be a rebel in corporate America.”

Current SGA President Allan Motenko has less than a week’s worth of college left. The Resident Assistance at 150 Tremont St. has been involved in Student Government all four years of college. Allan is technically the first SGA president elected for an entire year under the new constitution. He thinks the organization is light years ahead of where it was his freshman year. “We focus much more on the needs of students now and beyond the financial needs, too,” he said. “We’re much more assertive and act as a lobbying organization now. That is a role the organization never took on before.”

Motenko admitted he nearly left SGA after his freshman year. “I was very frustrated with the organization,” he said. “It seemed immensely inefficient and unsure of its purpose.”

Motenko admits that he got ahead of himself. “I spoke with a social studies teacher from high school after my freshman year, and he said that I was looking at change as an event not as a process,” Motenko said. “He was right.”

Motenko isn’t sure of what he is going to do after graduation besides going to law school. “I am still looking for a summer job at this point,” he said. Motenko said he plans on running for elective office eventually and most likely as a Democrat. “I believe government has a responsibility to help those that need help,” he said.

All right, we're outta here.

Thanks for reading, and hope you have a great summer.

If you have any interest in writing for our summer issue, coming out in June, or for the fall, e-mail us at Suffolkjournal@hotmail.com