Ride Along stats point to other universities

Alex Pearlman
Journal Staff

For the past four months, Suffolk University’s Office of Neighborhood Response, along with Ann Coyne, Acting Associate Dean of Students, has been compiling statistics about the newly created Ride Along Program.

The statistics show that the numbers of Suffolk University students disturbing the peace are much lower than those of other universities.

“We expected that [the students] would be from Suffolk,” said Nicole Solano, secretary to Richard Grealish of the Office of Neighborhood Response. “It’s mostly kids from Emerson. People always think it’s [Suffolk] because we’re right on Beacon Hill, but Emerson is only across the Common.”

In addition to Emerson College, students from Emmanuel College, Boston University, Boston College and Northeastern University have been caught by the Ride Along Program.

The statistics released show that in October, 86 students from other colleges were cited, along with 35 in September and 21 in November. Meanwhile, only 28 Suffolk students were caught in October and 18 in November.

Starting with the month of August and ending with November the compiled figures break down the number of incidents, which have occurred in Boston and the number of students the Ride Along Program has apprehended.

The summary also draws the differences between the number of Suffolk students who have been referred to the Dean of Student’s Office for disciplinary action versus those who were only given warnings. Also included were the number of residence halls that were caught, who the incidents were reported by (Office of Neighborhood Response, Boston Police or Suffolk Police), and the different sanctions issued, which include warnings, fines, probation, parental notification and alcohol/drug education, among others.

The numbers show that most of the incidents that the Ride Along Program responds to are in Beacon Hill with a total of 18 incidents in the last four months, while the North End is a close second with 10 incidents. Beacon Hill residents have responded positively to the Ride Along Program, according to Solano. “[The residents] like it. They like that someone’s taking action.”

Grealish, as part of his job as the head of the Office of Neighborhood response, does follow ups with neighbors of students who have been caught by the Ride Along Program.

“We’ve had positive responses,” said Solano. “Neighbors will tell Mr. Grealish, “Yeah, she had a get-together, but it was nothing outrageous.” Although the response to the released statistics has been good from both Suffolk University’s Office of Neighborhood Response as well as residents of Beacon Hill, many feel that the Ride Along Program is doing little, if anything, to deter student partying.

“[Students] are just more aware that there are consequences,” said Solano. “We know people want to party, we’re just trying to keep it to a limited amount. We’re going to keep working on it because that’s what residents want. We want to get rid of Suffolk’s bad name.”

Trader Joe’s pays alum to drink

Chris DeFilippi
Journal Staff

It wouldn’t be too unusual for a Suffolk grad to spend some time abroad doing a pub crawl across Europe. It’s a different thing entirely to get a paycheck for it.

Robert Bradford graduated from Suffolk’s Executive MBA program in the fall of 2005. Near the beginning of the 18-month, Saturdays-only program, he began working for Trader Joe’s, the hip grocery-store chain that specializes in hard-to-find food and gourmet grocery stores in Milton and Hingham—be discovered he was a bit of an oddity at the company.

“I’m like the Antichrist in my office because I have an MBA,” he said. While joking, he was also acknowledging a point that he would address several times throughout the lecture; a large part of Trader Joe’s success has been its willingness to sidestep common corporate practices that distract from the company’s overall mission.

The company does almost no advertising outside of the occasional leaflet. It doesn’t take on any debt, which is almost unheard of in food services. It does not see TRADER, page 3

SGA and students want answers

Casey Frost and Colleen Koperek
Journal Contributors

Following an Open House held on the weekend of Nov. 18 and 19, a Journal staff member discovered the Nov. 15 edition of The Suffolk Journal was missing from all racks and displays in the Donahue, Ridgeway and Sawyer buildings on Monday, Nov. 20. While the University has not yet taken any steps to investigate the matter, SGA is considering establishing an Investigatory Committee.

These editions were removed or in some cases covered up with older editions from weeks prior. Though it is still not clear who tampered with the Nov.15 editions of the Journal, the student response is clear: we have a right to know.

“People, even taking a tour, have a right to know what’s going on at school,” said Freshman Rebecca Shaw, a Public Relations major.

The Nov. 15 issue’s front page featured an article about the many ways students sneak alcohol into the dorms and a short piece on a sexual assault in the 150 Tremont Street dorms.

“Because the sexual assault was mentioned, it makes it even worse that the papers were taken,” said Junior John Cordaro, an Electrical Engineering major.

“Something like that needs to be known.”

The Nov. 29 edition featured an article about the missing papers and has proven to be very controversial, provoking much discussion amongst students, especially about First Amendment issues such as freedom of speech and see REACTIONS, page 2
**NEWS**

**Grads move into the Garden**

For this coming graduation in May, Suffolk University’s undergraduates may find themselves sitting across the aisle from faces they’ve never seen in their four years of college. In light of the Centennial Celebration theme throughout this current academic year, the President’s Office has scheduled the graduation of Suffolk University’s undergraduate, graduate and law schools to all take place at the TD Bank North Garden. The “spectacular” Centennial Commencement will begin at 9:30 a.m. on May 20, 2007.

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**You’ve Got News**

**Missing papers may spark students’ interest**

**REACTIONS** from page 1

freedom of the press.

"I think it infringes on freedom of press and speech, although the timing might have to do with freedom of speech comes first," said Senior Heather Cox, a Sociology major.

"Parents aren’t stupid, they know that college students drink," said Junior Noel Moore, a Public Relations major.

"You’re [writers] working for the Journal to better your skills, and they took that away. By doing that, they could make it a bigger deal, it could go on to bigger things," said Senior Shanna Gallagher, a Public Relations major.

The question of how much freedom of press is allotted to the student-run University newspaper is addressed in the Student Handbook: "The Suffolk Journal must provide sufficient editorial freedom and financial autonomy for the student publications to maintain their integrity of purpose as vehicles for free inquiry and free expression in the community," and goes on to state, "the student press should be free of censorship and advance approval of copy, and its editors and managers should be free to develop their own editorial policies and news coverage."

"I don’t look at it as censorship, but as therapy," said Junior Michael Millet, a Print Journalism major.

"It’s quite an epic story," said a chuckling Sophomore Wes Larson, who now on our website and automatically receive an Email Edition of the paper with every new issue. It’s the best way to stay informed... and it’s free.

**Suffolk senior debuts feature-length flick**

"The hit independent movie "Clerks" had a budget of roughly $28,000 and, from a technical standpoint, consisted of black and white footage of people complaining. The feature-length independent movie "A Week of Fiction," which was created by Suffolk University students and premiered on Dec. 6, in is color, is relatively action-packed, includes shots from all over Boston, has an original musical score and only cost about $5,000. Kevin Smith, eat your heart out.

The movie, described by its creators as a "romantic thriller," features a struggling novelist trying to figure out how to get inside a murderer’s head for a story he’s writing. He concludes that the only way to find inspiration to write about a murderer is to become one.

Just like the struggling novelist, the Suffolk students who created "A Week of Fiction" also had to overcome some challenges — except in this case, the inspiration came before the execution.

"It was very educational, it was a lot of fun, it was a lot of people’s first feature project, so it was a learning process for all of us," Peters said.

Aside from making several revisions of the script, the crew had to assemble a cast (a process which took about a year), find equipment, put together a musical score and assemble a production team.

The total process took thousands of man hours and volunteers from colleges across the city, including Boston University, Emerson College, Berklee College of Music and Northeastern.

"The fact that a project this expansive only cost $5,000 (or Larson’s self-described "life savings") was primarily due to the volunteer efforts of college students.

"Most every student worked for free," Faneuf said. Two professional actors were hired to play the lead parts, but aside from that, most of the budget went to the bare necessities. "Insurance just by itself was over $1,500," he added. Another cost-saver was advancements in video technology. The team was able to shoot the movie on video, instead of on the more-expensive film, without sacrificing quality.

Suffolk students and recent graduates were involved in every step of the production. "I represented my role as a sociopathic rapist in "A Week of Fiction,"" said Brenden O’Halloran, a spring 2006 Suffolk graduate. "Oddly enough, the first film role I had at Suffolk was in a truncated soap opera, from years back, and now again I’ve been cast [as a sociopathic rapist]. I don’t know what that says about me, but yeah.

Senior Jen Bagley, who served as general manager of WSUB in the 2004-2005 year, took on a number of odd jobs. She worked as a production manager, meaning she was responsible for "all the grunt work that nobody else wants to do," the professional sense: setting up lights, get food, anything like that.

After an actor got sick on the day of a shoot, Bagley also wound up playing the part of a friend and coworker of the female lead.

Junior Gustave Cadet, the current general manager of WSUB, hired his services as an editor.

"Considering it’s the first feature-length film I’ve worked on, there were some challenges, but nothing unreasonable; the director had a vision of what he wanted and he was very clear about it," Cadet said.

He added that he appreciated the opportunity to network and get some professional-level experience.

Joshua Matthew Peters, who graduated in May 2006, worked as a script supervisor, meaning that it was his job to make sure that there was continuity in the movie (e.g., make sure that the lighting and costumes are the same if the day in the story is supposed to be the same).

"It was very educational, it was a lot of fun, it was a lot of people’s first feature project, so it was a learning process for all of us," Peters said.

While the movie will be premiering tonight, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. at Coolidge Corner Theater in Brookline, other runs of the movie have not been ruled out.

Faneuf is hoping other theaters will pick up the movie, knowing that there was continuity in the movie, and in independent film contests, to compete with movies "with thousand times more budget.

As of the night of Dec. 4, there were 175 tickets left for the premiere. Faneuf emphasized, however that "college students are not rich enough to produce" anything anyone interested in seeing the show should be able to do so by their tickets at the movie’s website, awofmovie.com.
Beacon Hill says 'no' to Suffolk's new dorm

Caitlin Castello and Tara Lachapelle
Journal Contributors

"It's not about building dorms, it's about real estate. It's about location, location, location," said Tim Padera, a Beacon Hill resident and member of the Beacon Hill Civic Association (BHCA).

On Nov. 15, the BHCA held a meeting at 74 Joy St. in response to Suffolk University's plan to build a new student center and dorm at 20 Scooteret. Suffolk's proposal has been met with a roaring reaction from Beacon Hill residents, who strongly object to the plan.

"My family and I have been residents of Beacon Hill for 55 years," said Gail Mooney. "We love it and we plan to do everything to preserve it."

The new dorms are expected to be 22 stories tall and house 550 undergraduate students, a reduction from the initial plan for 31 stories for 800 students.

The BHCA has voiced their opinion to Suffolk and are planning a letter-writing campaign, where it will petition to Mayor Menino's office and the office of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

"If Suffolk is not stopped, the result will be rapid degradation of a lovely part of the historic district," claimed representatives of the BHCA, "which middle-class resident owners have worked hand over generation to upgrade and restore with the patient 'sweet equity' and community spirit."

The BHCA claims that Suffolk has kept the Beacon Hill community in the dark about the new dorm proposal. According to a BHCA spokesperson, Ana Maria Camargo, Beacon Hill is at a tipping point, "When does Beacon Hill tip into becoming a party school?"

Representatives of the BHCA demand that Suffolk must create a new comprehensive master plan that reflects its new strategic direction. Suffolk's Government and Community Affairs office was unwilling to comment on this issue.

"Beacon Hill has seen a drastic increase in public disturbances involving Suffolk students. Our community is unable to absorb an additional influx of students," said representatives of BHCA.

"Meanwhile, Boston is literally begging for a new development in the Downtown Crossing and South-of-Washington neighborhood. THAT would be a Student City we all could welcome!" Students, on the other hand, would disagree. Jordan Waller, a sophomore at Suffolk who attended the BHCA meeting, said, "I believe Suffolk gets all the blame for this because we are the closest school to Beacon Hill and it's easier to point the finger at us. I personally think they only brought up Downtown Crossing because it's as far from Beacon Hill as they could suggest."

A representative of the BHCA recommended to attendees of the meeting that they call the police more often whenever there is a disturbance.

Although they have no future plans to involve students with their campaign, they advised residents to try to make friends with their student neighbors in an effort to start friendly relations in the mixed neighborhood.

"Suffolk is turning into a martyr," said a Beacon Hill resident. "It's just a ploy."

Have drinks, will travel

TRADER from page 1

any market research, although it does out- source work to a company that polls cus-
tomers occasionally. The stores don't sell
tissue paper towels, glasses or scouring pads - things you might find at a traditional super-
market - just food and drink.

"You can't be all things to all people," Bradford said of this last
point. "Nobody says 'oh, I got this great can open-
er at Trader Joe's.'"

"Our target audience is unemployed
PhDs: they're sophisticated, they've been
interested in selling to a
company like Trader Joe's." Mayrely Amaya, a Global MBA student,
said she was impressed by the lecture.

"It was wonderful... it's great he's trying
to get producers from all over the world," she said.

"I even have a driver, no
[alcohol] supplier wants
to be the one I died from."

Robert Bradford

Bradford's job, finding new foods and
drinks to sell, is as simple as the rest of
the company's business plan.

"The executive program's been around
since 1975 and [the mentor program] was
an important concept for us to begin to put
in place because it's an extremely intense
program," Barretti said of the mentorship
program.

"The executive MBA program puts a
lot of pressure on students in terms of their
family life, their work life and their school
life. So the mentor program is designed for
the students to give students access to peo-
ple who have been through it and to gain
from them some ideas of how to deal and
manage these time pressures that they have
to talk about some of the things that come
up with the program."
**Staff Editorial**

One stop forward, two stops back on the MBTA

Poor little Somerville might finally get some love from the T. Since 1990 the MBTA has promised to extend the Green Line through the city of over 77,000, a population currently criminally underserved by the city's only subway station, Davis Square, on the western edge of town.

But now as part of the settlement that insures that the blue and red lines will finally be connected at Charlestown (coming 2011?) the T has committed to finally fulfill their promise of the Mirrart extension at a cost of $559 million.

Sticker shock? Consider that residents of Somerville have poured the same percentage of their taxes into the T as residents of Newton, slightly larger at 49,000 residents but served by 10 stations, for one tenth the service. Compared to the MBTA's mismanagement elsewhere, $559 million seems like a minor fee.

Consider the massive waste of funds that is the unwanted Greenbush commuter rail line which, due to some absolutely ludicrous concessions, bloat that project’s price tag from $215 million in 1994 to estimates between $512-$515 million today.

Cast-iron fences were a requirement in the historic districts of communities along the line to preserve the neighborhood’s character, at the additional cost of $2 million.

Elsewhere, there’s the $30 million tunnel under Hingham Center, the decision to paint signal boxes along the line green, rather than the standard bare silver, to better blend into the leafy environment, and $500,000 to cover the costs of tunnels under the Greenbush right of way for formerly endangered turtles.

All this for a grand total of 8,400 new riders, each at a cost of $61,000, or roughly the cost of buying each of those riders a new Range Rover Sport with some sweet options like a cherry wood dash thrown in.

Yet the positive news of the recent settlement is tempered by the fact that the Medford extension has on the MBTA’s "to-do list" since 1990 and the only reason for the recent settlement was the T’s own idiocy in removing the Government Center/Medford connector tunnel from that "to-do list.

As long as these and other such items as the four new commuter rail stations along the Fairmount commuter rail line and additional parking at commuter rail stations remain on the "to-do list" there is little communities can do to force the T to actually begin construction on the promised projects.

So while we might be optimistic that the T will do the unthinkable and increase service rather than rescinding it keep in mind that there are no signs of tunnel construction at the end of Cambridge Street.

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**Letters to the Editor**

**Opinion**

This morning when I opened up the latest edition of The Suffolk Journal, I came across an article that caught its least, amazingly ignorant.

For those who haven’t read the last opinion published in The Suffolk Journal, the best summary I can provide is one that will fall along the lines of "an unscientific biased attack on anti-depressants.

The article wasn’t shocking to read, but I think most people would think of the article as targeting anyone with a mental health issue.

I found it interesting that some would take the time to write an article that compares Coca-Cola with psychopharmacological medications that have been researched and engineered by some of the greatest minds in the world.

As for the "mutant" mice we are all told about, I don’t argue that they are relevant to the research provided to the readers. We are told that MAO-A is an enzyme with metabolizes serotonin. Fair enough. However, are you aware that MAO-A also inhibits the metabolism of norepinephrine and epinephrine?

"MAO-I"S have little, if any, influence on norepinephrine and have nothing to do with the mono-amino oxidas inhibitors (MAO-I) in our mental view of neurochemicals.

Mr. Garrison, you have been terribly misinformed. There are actually antidepressants in use today called monomine oxidase inhibitors, or in plain English, "MAO-I-S. These labels are the names of Icaruboxazid, Moclobemide, Phenelzine, Tranylcypromine, Nialamide, Iproniazid, Iproclozide and Toloxatone.

If yourulfant statements about violence and a lack of MAO-A in the brain were correct, then do you honestly believe that the medical healthcare system would dispense them to the suicidal, chronically fatigued, and depressed? I would consider them to be antidepressants in use today.

Sticker shock? Consider that residents of Somerville have "helped people" get off of antidepressants, I would consider them to be antidepressants in use today.

Yet the positive news of the recent settlement is tempered by the fact that the Medford extension has on the MBTA’s "to-do list" since 1990 and the only reason for the recent settlement was the T’s own idiocy in removing the Government Center/Medford connector tunnel from that "to-do list."

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So while we might be optimistic that the T will do the unthinkable and increase service rather than rescinding it keep in mind that there are no signs of tunnel construction at the end of Cambridge Street.

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**Build the dorm off Beacon Hill**

In the past 60 years, generation of students have found it necessary under pressured from ever expanding governmental, medical and educational institutions including, unfortunately, Suffolk Universität.

Without public disclosure or discussion, the Suffolk administration has been insidiously increasing enrollment and converting Suffolk from its traditional and very important role as a commuter school catering principally to students who, generally for financial reasons, reside in their parental homes and attend college for students whose residences nearby, some in Suffolk dormitories.

Suffolk has admitted at contracts dormitories to attract greater enrollment so it’s doing this to relieve pressure on private housing stock. Since 1993, the number of students has increased by 63 percent. Now they want to expand this trend by constructing an additional dormitory for 350 undergraduates with a student center for the entire 8000 student body.

The land area of the densely populated Beacon Hill neighborhood just isn’t big enough to handle the increase in student population, and the general fear of residents is that Suffolk secretly plans to lease more dormitories in this vicinity after the 20 Somerston is completed.

The impending influx of 8,000 students to the new student center actually equals the approximate resident population of Beacon Hill.

Fortunately, downtown Boston contains other sites ideally suited to house Suffolk students near their classrooms. The North End Area and the North End District, where some Suffolk buildings are already situated, are two neighborhoods which are likely to welcome student life and where students can pursue normal student activities without disturbing permanent residents.

The Chicago Tribune, for example, has reported that Loyola University Chicago students like their quarters in the Chicago Loop for more than conventional campus dorms and don’t mind the commutes into the city as long as they don’t have to walk the further than the walk to class in Boston would be.

Furthermore, such partnerships keep the debt off the school’s balance sheet, a matter that should appeal to Suffolk which will have $325MM in debt if it builds 20 Somerston Street with no appreciable endowment.

Suffolk needs increased enrollment to manage this debt, and present and future Suffolk students will be paying off that debt through higher tuitions fees. For example, the estimated $1200 monthly rental charge Suffolk currently projects for 20 Somerston Street may actually be less expensive for the residents who are sharing a private apartment.

In addition, Suffolk is paying the City of Boston in lieu of real estate taxes on all the buildings it owns an annual amount that is significantly less than it pays its School; a change in this inequity might push costs to students even higher.

Why, then, is the Suffolk administration pursuing this out-of-date approach to 20 Somerston when each better alternative is available for both residents and students? The guessed are manifold. Lack of concern for residents and students is one reason. Lack of creativity and experience in real estate development is another. The politicians shorthanded this state of affairs. They need either. Lazziness is another reason—just doing the usual political thing to get the votes. A closer look at the situation site is easier for them than initiat­ing the proper long range planning for housing their expanded enrollment.

John Nucci was hired to produce 20 Somerston Street and erroneously believes he would lose face admitting another course is better than his present direction.

We can restore harmony between residents and Suffolk students. The Suffolk student government should investigate the many questionable matters related to 20 Somerston Street. The bottom line is that the Suffolk University student body should wake up and insist that the SGA exert real power to ensure that there are better places for its dormitories than Beacon Hill.

We are entitled to a college experience that is free from the extra police patrols Mr. Nucci has instituted to protect the residential area so that students can sleep in peace. It is the residents of this neighborhood in the fight for dormitories in locations that are better for both groups.

Yours truly,

Bernard Borman
The Suffolk Journal will return January 24th, until then...courage

QUESTION: 4

Please name an image or metaphor which best represents your personal response to the following:

1) The 20th Century
2) The Number 100
3) Suffolk University
4) College (for a senior)
5) College (for a young person who cannot go)
6) College (for an adult who did not go to college)
7) The 21st Century

To celebrate the Suffolk Centennial, Professor Wesley Swick is creating a new theatrical work, CENTENNIAL, about a hundred years, which will premiere in the newly restored C. Walsh Theatre in March, 2007. Over the next few weeks, we will post a series of questions. Your responses are an integral part of this new work. When you respond, you will be listed as a project contributor in our program.

Please e-mail your responses to suffolkcen1@yahoo.com

Opinion

Mankind in peril, nurses to blame

The light brown leather purse was large but not exceedingly so, hanging from a matching strap that was slung over the per-
son's right shoulder. The silver buttons that held closed it glinted in the train's overhead lights, catching my eye and making me want to turn away.

I threw a look in my mouth.

Oh, maybe that last part didn't happen, but as I sat on the T waiting for that annoy-
ing robotic voice to call out my stop and let me off, I couldn't help but wonder if any of you own one?

To me the man-purse was like a unicorn or our nation's foreign policy - a made up thing found only in the dreams of little girls and President Bush. Alas, unfortunately, they are real, and they have been haunting my dreams ever since that fateful day on the train where my manhood would be scarred forever.

Is it to blame for this travesty of epic gender-bending proportions? Is it "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," or Metrosexuals in general?

Though you may want to blame either or both of these fabulous groups, you are wrong and should refrain from doing so lest you desire a well-moistured slap to the face, for neither group is in the wrong. Despite their unfailing participation in this rabbibo-

ruse, they are, nonetheless, still just mere participants in something much greater.

There is, a sinister scheme being carried out at this very moment that threatens the very essence of it to be a man. Ball-scratching, unkempt, nature, like the redwood forest home of the white owl, is slowly being demolished.

I love myself, and I don't want my preci-

ous, endearing attributes assaulted by the one enemy that seems to follow me where-
ver I go. It is this enemy that is threatening me, and if you men reading this love your selves and your disgusting, disheveled ways you will need my warnings.

Advertiers think you're women. They perfected the art of manipulating women in the 90s, resulting in hysteria over dry facial skin, facial hair, facial wrinkles, anything else that has to do with our faces, the way we smell, and whether or not we dress well. The trick is to avoid being duped by these greedy, heartless fro men is to first recognize their plan and then do everything possible to avoid falling for it.

For example, when you're watching TV and a commercial comes on that tells you that without their new deodorant you smell horrible, and it's likely to begin with. And, although you may desire a fresh keg that has just started to produce sweet, delicious lager.

The advertisers will pump us and play beer pong with our souls, but when we're spent, they'll send us right back to the liquor store, empty, naked, curled up in a fetal position, shivering, rocking back in forth.

How can we possibly accomplish this you may ask? It's very simple, they connect to us emotionally instead of logically by attacking our insecurities.

In this way women are like an empty emotional keg tapped a long time ago, while men are a fresh keg that has just started to produce sweet, delicious lager.

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The way that advertisers implement their plan is very easy to identify but much hard-

er to resist. As with women, the marketing machine has determined that if we sell a prod-

uct they must convince the target demo-

graphic that we need the product that they're selling.

For instance, try taking a shower, or, for lack of wanting to get wet, try rubbing a car freshener all over yourself. If you feel like killing the proverbial two birds with one stone, get a cheap knock-off of "Febreeze." This way you can make yourself and your room smell nice, and according to recent studies women like things that smell nice.

If you men, like I, want to help save our kind from the onslaught of market-

ing ploys trying to convince us that we are ugly, smelly, and hairy, try thinking for your-

selves, being logical, and making logical decisions for a change. We need not follow the ladies into their lemming-esque march of death.

Axe body spray (see: Tag body spray) isn't really all that different from deodorant, or even cologne for that matter. That "hard to trim" spot wasn't really all that hard to trim to begin with. And, although you may think there is some place to keep your extra belongings, men were not born to wear purses... unless of course they're from Europe.
Holiday season brings blockbusters and cheer

Amanda Bellamy
Journal Staff

Eragon
The product of a 15-year-old author's imagination, "Eragon" quickly became a bestseller in 2003 and like any successful book, studios were quick to buy the rights. Set for a Dec. 15 release, "Eragon" is the tale of a young boy chosen to become the new Dragon Rider and save the world. With a blue dragon named Saphira (voice of Rachel Weisz), newcomer Edward Speleers (Eragon) must fight the tyranny of King Galbatorix (John Malkovich).

With a promising cast, rounded out by Robert Carlyle, Djimon Hounsou and Joss Stone, "Eragon" promises to deliver all the mindless blockbuster fun you could possibly want from a holiday fantasy film. Although, let's hope this isn't going to be another talking-dragon disaster like "Dragonheart."

Dreamgirls
With Oscar buzz already surrounding the "American Idol" reject, Jennifer Hudson's performance in "Dreamgirls" is receiving more attention than her exponentially more famous costars. Beyoncé's latest star vehicle opens Dec. 15 in limited release and nation-wide on Christmas Day. Adapted from the Broadway musical of the same name, "Dreamgirls" boasts suspicious similarities to the story of the Supremes during their heyday in the '60s. Eddie Murphy and Jamie Foxx also star in the musical.

Rocky Balboa
On Dec. 20, "Rocky Balboa" returns for the sixth installment of the series written and directed by Sylvester Stallone. After virtual fight predicts Rocky would win against current champ Mason "The Line" Dixon, the retired boxer takes to the ring again. Aside from the faithful, Rocky may hold little appeal considering the more dramatic films this season. The tagline says, "It ain't over 'til it's over," and for Sly's sake, let's hope it's over. Spoke too soon. "Rambo IV" is set to begin filming this January.

Night at the Museum
Ben Stiller plays Ben Stiller, yet again, in Dec. 22's "Night at the Museum." The befuddled buffoon routine he's perfected over the years will come in handy when museum exhibits come to life during the night shift. Chased by dinosaurs and assaulted by mini-displays, "Night at the Museum" could be redeemed by the supporting cast.

Robin Williams, Owen Wilson and Dick Van Dyke should prove to be excellent counterbalances to Stiller.

The Good German
Steven Soderbergh, the director that brought audiences "Ocean's Eleven," "Traffic" and "Erin Brockovich," has teamed up again with George Clooney to make "The Good German" opening on Dec. 25. Co-starring Cate Blanchett as Lena, a woman with many secrets, "The Good German" is a highly stylized tribute to classic film noir style. Critics are predicting Soderbergh has sacrificed substance for style, but who cares when Clooney stars as a dedicated and hunky journalist.

Pan's Labyrinth
Easily the most inventive and creative offering this holiday season is director Guillermo del Toro's "Pan's Labyrinth," coming to theaters on Dec. 29. If you haven't been worshiping at the feet of del Toro, now is the time to start. "Pan's Labyrinth" is the story of a young girl who creates a fantasy world to escape post-war Fascist repression. Already praised by the Cannes Film Festival, "Pan's Labyrinth" could add much needed legitimacy to the fantasy film genre.
Guide to giving: Because love is conditional

Peter Decoteau
Journal Contributor

It's your birthday, Jesus, and to celebrate, I'm gonna follow in your divine footsteps by buying a bunch of useless crap... and maybe I'll even get some stuff for other people, too.

We've come a long way since the days of frankincense and myrrh, and aside from the benefit of not having to figure out what the hell frankincense and myrrh are, we now have the dubious distinction of subtly hinting (or out-right stating) that our love for our parents knows no bounds - unless of course they fail to buy us the newest video iPod, in which case they obviously don't love us and are undeserving of our affection.

If they don't like this mentality, just remind them that you didn't make the rules, Jesus did, you just follow them.

For those of you who don't celebrate Christmas, worry not, because there's plenty of other religious affairs serving as excuses to demand gifts as well.

So in the spirit of faith, family get togethers, undeserving love, and beautiful, blind consumerism, I offer up my priceless advice of how to demand for the holidays.

1. Playstation 3/300x360 - Because nothing says "I love you" more than spending countless hours onelay and hundreds - if not thousands - of dollars on something that will provide for you further reason to hole up in your room and avoid talking to your relatives (especially the one that bought it for you).

And remember, receiving a Nintendo Wii just means that they kind of like you, but not enough to warrant any kind of physical affection.

I mean, hey, if they don't love you enough to splurge on the real deal, they definitely don't deserve, or even necessarily want, a hug from their second most disappointing child.

2. The newest available cell phone your network has to offer - Because the one you got two months ago for your birthday is completely obsolete and can't even download Justin Timberlake's song "My Love" so it can play semi-homeroetically every time your best friend calls! What's up with that shit?

3. The late '80s-early '90s style big-ass cell phone - Partly because small cell phones are just became passe like two minutes ago.

4. iPod speakers - Because that song now sucks, mostly because Zack Morris was the man.

5. A 12-pack of Harpoon's Winter Warmer - Because it tastes like Christmas morning, and also because it's important to get drunk before the fringe relatives get to your house at noon.

6. A diamond-encrusted, heart-shaped necklace - Because I want the women reading this to think that I'd actually buy this for them if we were dating, when in actuality I'd probably buy them the new video game I've been wanting so I can ask to borrow it since they don't actually have the video game system it requires... and then I'd buy myself some cds... and a big-ass cell phone.

7. A hideous sweater - Because you're bound to get at least one anyways, so you might as well mentally prepare yourself for the "This is really ugly but I have to pretend to like it for the next six hours" face. Once again, being drunk helps, because everybody knows that when you're drunk, you look good in anything.

8. A gift card to CITGO - Because, even though you don't own a car, these places are open 24/7 and will quench your thirst for three cans of BeefEroni and a Slim Jim at four in the morning.

9. An MBTA January T pass - Because their loyal, speedy and reliable service comes complete with courteous employees, all day and night availability, no unnecessary price hikes, and a general respect for your patrons. Wait, I'm still thinking of CITGO... The MBTA sucks... and I still need that pass.

Well, that's about it for my advice to you on what to demand for the holidays.

Just remember that even if you don't celebrate Christmas or believe that Jesus was our savior we can still all live by his teachings and follow in his footsteps by spending inordinate amounts of money on pointless shit in the hopes that the pointless shit that we demand from others will be delivered to us... just like Jesus delivers us all from evil.

Because that's what the holidays are all about.
The Suffolk Journal
Wednesday, December 6, 2006

'Turistas' go to Brazil, borrow from 'Hostel'

Tabitha Dio
Journal Staff

"Turistas" is a film directed by John Stockwell that tells the story of a group of tourists that get stranded in a Brazilian village after their tour bus flips over. They find a secluded beach where the group parties all night long only to wake up in the morning to discover that they have been robbed.

Stranded with no money or passports, they are befriended by a local villager who leads them to a remote house in the Brazilian jungle where he claims they can relax and be safe. The group soon finds out that something is wrong and a series of unimaginable events soon follow.

"Turistas" can be compared to the 2005 release "Hostel." While there is a lot less nudity and sex scenes (anyone who has seen "Hostel" knows that the first 10 minutes of the film is basically soft-core porn) "Turistas" still has hot girls that take their shirts off to keep the males entertained.

The movie also has plenty of blood and gore and gruesome scenes to make the audience squirm. If the two movies were to be compared, "Turistas" is a watered-down version of "Hostel." It has a plot that isn't very hard to follow, and the blood and gore is nothing most people haven't already scene in other movies. Though the film has some memorable moments, there is no one scene that can be equivalent to the eyeball scene in "Hostel."

There are no surprises in this film, so you can expect the typical horror theme which consists of a group of young, naïve, good-looking people who become stranded in a remote place only to become victims of a sick and twisted serial killer who enjoys torturing his victims in unthinkable ways.

The film's ending could have used some revising, but for anyone who saw "Hostel," "Turistas" may be worth considering.

You know it's a bad movie when Josh Duhamel is the most famous actor involved.

Dear Santa,

Somehow Santa's mail was mistakenly directed to the office of The Suffolk Journal. And since we aren't afraid of violating federal law, here are a few of the more entertaining requests sent to the jolly guy.

Dear Santa,

This Holiday Season bores me. Do you want to play a game of basketball? How about you and your elfen flunkies versus me, and the revolution?

Owww,
Prince

Dear Santa,

Last Christmas I gave you my heart, but the very next day you gave it away. This year, I want the return of my heart. You don't have to give it back, just let me know you love me and that's enough.

Yours,
George Michael

Dear Santa,

Can I have a righteous blade of burning and maybe a red right hand of hatred so that I may slay my goblin foes?

Cheers,
Malther the Destroyer

Dear Santa,

Please may I have a collaboration with K-Fed? My career could use a boost and I'm dying to see the sex tape he made with Britney.

Love,
Joey McIntyre

Dear Santa,

Could you please bring my daddy home from his fishing trip in Montana? Or, at the very least have something terrible happen to his Donnie Darko looking friend?

Thanks,
Suzie

Dear Saint Nicolas,

YOUUUUUUU GUYSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS GET ANY SPAAAAAARE CHANNINNGE?

Looooooooooove,
John Harrington

Dear Santa,

Wanna cyber?

xoxo,
Mark Foley

Dear Santa,

OMFG THIS RULLY WERKS I CAN'T BELIEVE IT SEE EVERY1 HWO LOOKS @ YUR MYSPACE PROFILE

Love,
That one stupid broad who sends out all those idiotic bulletins

Thanks,
Jesus

Dear Santa,

YOU KNOW SOMETHIN MEAN GENE, THE HULKSTER AND SANTA GO WAY BACK. BACK AT SUMMERSLAM SANTA WAS BACKSTAGE TO WISH ME LUCK AGAINST THE IRON SHEIK AND YOU KNOW BROTHER, WHEN THESE 26 Inch pythons put the Sheik in his own camel clutch and all the little hulkamaniacs were going wild Santa was part of that. But you broke my heart at Survivor Series Santa, when you turned your back on me and joined Mr. Perfect. The lions of little hulkamaniacs cried, "Say it AIN'T SO, BROTHER!" But you know something Claus, at the Royal Rumble I'm already scheduled to be in the rumble but I'm calling you and perfect out to a handicap match in the steel cage. So whatcha gonna do brother Claus, and whatcha gonna do mr. perfect when hulkamania runs wild on you!?

Hugs and kisses,
Hulk Hogan

Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas is a level 49 thetan audit onboard that sweet ass ship Tom Cruise gets to ride on. Also, when do we get to ride in Xenu's space DC-9s?

Love,
Kirstie Alley

Dear Santa,

Please remind people the reason for the season. And I'd also like a new iPod, I dropped my old one.

Thanks,
Jesus

You know it's a bad movie when Josh Duhamel is the most famous actor involved.
Papoose emerges as the voice of New York City

Janssen McCormick
Journal Staff

This space was supposed to be a random mish-mash of reviews of some albums that have come out in the past month as well as a token year end list with my picks for such generic categories as album of the year, single of the year, etc. At least it was until Nov. 30 when I heard Papoose’s response to Sean Bell’s slaying, “50 Shots.”

Since then I’ve had a radio rip of the track in constant rotation—on my home stereo stack on loop, in my headphones while I’m walking around and in my car. It’s a paralyzing song from the opening as DJ Kay Slay memorializes a list of victims of the police and discusses the Sean Bell case to the chorus of Sam Cooke’s 1964 hit, “A Change is Gonna Come.”

The beat drops in, surprisingly up-tempo for what one would expect to be a mournful song. Instead of the lyrical gymnastics Papoose is known for, the verses are blunt; acting as a conduit for the emotions many felt in the days following the murder.

He deflects the officers’ decision to launch a hail of gunfire at the vehicle Bell was riding in, calls out the detectives (Mike Oliver said his gun jammed, he the main one) and the 12-year veteran and don’t know how to use a gun “we’re dumb” if your clips was loaded to the top/and your gun jammed. Oliver said his gun jammed, he the main one/12-year veteran and don’t know how to use a gun/think we’re dumb / if your clips was loaded to the top/and your gun jammed, he the main one/12-year veteran and don’t know how to use a gun/think we’re dumb / if your clips was loaded to the top/and your gun jammed.

Papoose spits, a bittersweet reminder of hip-hop and American culture “50 Shots” is a reminder to all the vague whiners on the situation, urging New Yorkers to rally against undercover NYPD officers (“If a nigga don’t say he cop when he come up on you, blast him”).

Kay Slay’s violent rhetoric plays tug of war with Papoose as the people of New York who are “sick and tired of being sick and tired.”

But for all his ability to distill a week of anger into verse Papoose’s most effective moment comes when he goes silent and 26 seconds of gunshots, 50 shots exactly, dispelling any idea that Bell’s slaying was an accident.

On “Everything I Love” off of Press Play Diddy proclaimed himself “The heart of New York... a part of the city” as a sort of long-term institution, yet on “50 Shots” Papoose embodies the soul of New York at this exact moment.

So much of the hip-hop press is at an impasse, looking for the next Illmatic, the next Reasonable Doubt, Pap might be that dude when he releases The Nacirema Dream in January.

But today January seems decades away despite the fact that “50 Shots” has no commercial viability, little chance at radio play despite the fact that “50 Shots” has no commercial viability, little chance at radio play outside of New York, and a shelf life that won’t last beyond another media cycle.

And that’s why it’s the most powerful song we’ve heard in a long time, an ephemeral local story ripped from the heart of hip-hop and American culture “50 Shots is a reminder to all the vague whiners on those cash grab "Give Bush the Boot" compilations of the heights a great protest song can reach. Song of the year.
Spain’s ‘Volver’ hopes for same success in U.S.

Tabitha Dio
Journal Staff

"Volver," written and directed by Pedro Almodovar, is a story about three women who overcome hardships in their lives to find happiness in the end.

This isn’t just another "chick flick," though. "Volver" is a comedy-drama that will keep surprising the audience with new secrets and plot twists until the end.

The film first opened in early spring in Spain and became an instant hit. Due to its popularity, the film made its way over to the States and is currently playing at the Kendall Square Theater in Cambridge and other select theaters.

"Volver" tells a story about a thought-to-be dead mother named Irene (Carmen Maura) who comes back to resolve past issues with daughter Raimunda (Penelope Cruz) and console her other daughter Sole (Lola Duenas) who both live in Madrid, Spain.

Dealing with past regrets, Irene must come to terms with what she did in the past and try to make up for it. Raimunda is a young mother who has a teenage daughter that killed her husband and Raimunda struggles to cover up the murder. Sole runs an illegal hairdressing business out of her apartment.

When Sole is the first to find out about their mother’s return, she must try to keep it a secret from Raimunda until the time is right. Sole tries to hide her mother in her apartment by telling her customers that her mother is actually a Russian beggar she found on the street whom she decided to take in to help her with business. Irene doesn’t want Raimunda to know that she is around, so every time Raimunda visits her sister, Irene must scramble under the bed to hide.

"Volver" is filled with comic relief as the stories of these three women are told. The climax of the movie is when Raimunda eventually comes face to face with her mother and past secrets are finally revealed and mother and daughter are able to reunite.

"Volver" will keep you guessing at what will happen next and its use of humor provides the necessary comic relief in order to make the film a success. Not many people, if anyone at all, will recognize the other actors in the film, but Cruz is popular enough to draw in a crowd.

"Volver" probably won’t be seen in many theaters because it is an international film that is filmed entirely in Spanish. Though there are English subtitles, not many people like having to read the spoken lines and this could hinder the film’s popularity.

For those people who don’t mind the subtitles, they will find "Volver" to be a film worth seeing.

The background music may be a little over dramatic at times and the unnecessary closeup camera angles of Cruz’s chest and bottom may seem random, but overall, Cruz’s lead role as Raimunda is what made this film a success in Spain, and it will soon make its mark on American film as well.

Penelope Cruz adds star power to "Volver" stunning International film.

Photos courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics

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Hockey team looks ahead to winter season

Daniel Ryan
Journal Staff

With only four seniors and six juniors on the team, Suffolk's men's hockey team ranks among one of the youngest teams in the ECAC (Northeast division), if not the nation. However, a 1-7-1 start hasn't dampened the spirits of the Rams or head coach Chris Glionna.

The Rams' record doesn't tell the story of their play so far this season, as four of the seven losses have been by only one goal. Coach Glionna feels that his team has definitely played with heart, saying "I think we are happy with how competitive the team has been." Considering how young and inexperienced, in the ranks of college hockey, the Rams are overall, Glionna adds "As the team matures, those (four) one goal losses will turn into wins. The future is very bright."

Even with seven losses, Coach Glionna feels that the team has been playing well, and that the areas of improvement are less weaknesses than they are signs of simple inexperience on the young team. Glionna says that one area that needs improvement is consistency, adding "We are out shooting many of our opponents and taking fewer penalties, but we will have some break downs at certain points and our opponents will capitalize.

This will improve with maturity." Coach Glionna also added that the addition of sophomore Alex Olson at the semester break will "help in all aspects."

Though the wins have not come in bunches yet, the Rams have done many things well thus far. Sophomore John Rocchio and assistant captain junior Dan Pencinger are one of the league's deadliest scoring tandems, with Rocchio ranking first in the league in scoring with 2.29 points per game (combination of goals and assists) and Pencinger ranking fourth with 1.78 points per game. Rocchio was also named the ECAC Player of the Week last week, scoring four goals and adding three assists (seven points) in only three games.

The younger players on the team are also contributing. As Glionna said, "I am very excited in the play of our younger kids. It is a big transition to play college hockey and they are getting better every day." The Rams as a team are also putting up some solid numbers, having the league's third ranked penalty kill and seventh ranked power play (in a league of 15).

The coach believes that there have been many important and memorable moments for his team in this young season, both on the ice and off. "On ice, I think the 3-3 tie on the road against one of the top three teams in the league, (Nichols) will be something we can use as a measuring stick," he said. He added, "also, playing well against a top non-conference team like SUNY-Brockport is important nationally." Off the ice, the team members have been model citizens: "Off ice, I am very happy with our Toys for Tots drive and our work in the classroom. We are also working on a project with an inner city school."

Even though the results have not been there so far this season, Glionna praised his team's toughness and positive attitude. "These guys play hockey in one of the toughest leagues in the country while not having a stable rink situation, many volunteer in the community and they still carry a full workload."

The Rams' next official home game isn't until Jan. 16, against Tufts, but Suffolk hockey fans will have a chance to cheer on the team over the Christmas break. Coach Glionna sought support from the Suffolk community, hoping that "many of the students will come out to the Cod Fish Bowl at Umass-Boston to root the team on after Christmas." Umass-Boston is easily accessible from the Red Line, and should have plenty of Suffolk fans in the stands. The first game of the tournament is vs. Umass-Boston on Thursday, Dec. 28 at 5:00 PM, with the second game being on Friday, Dec. 29 at either 2 p.m. or 5 p.m. vs. either Skidmore or Framingham State.

Photo courtesy of Dan McHugh