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Students stop thief on Hill with bike lock

"I didn't really think. I just grabbed the nearest blunt object and ran out into the courtyard," said Travis Nichter.

Professor brings sci-fi to Boston

Tara Lachapelle
Journal Staff

Dr. Deborah Geisler may teach media law and event planning, but she can also teach you a thing or two about Darth Vader, the Enterprise and elves.

Dr. Geisler is an associate professor of Communications and Journalism at Suffolk and a huge fan of Science Fiction. She attained her B.S.C. and M.A. from Ohio University and Ph.D. in communications from Southern Illinois University, and began special events management work in relation to Sci-Fi in 1989.

As former chairman of the 2004 World Science Fiction Convention and committee member of this year's Boskone 44, Dr. Geisler, along with many others, celebrates the Sci-Fi classics, authors, and artists through the events of the New England Science Fiction Association, or NESFA.

NESFA is a nonprofit literary organization with nearly 400 members and the host of the Boskone conventions, which have given Dr. Geisler the opportunity to travel all over the United States, Europe and Canada.

Each NESFA hosts a Sci-Fi convention called Boskone, attracting fans from all over the country. Inspired by the Lensman series of space operas, an early genre of science fiction, by author E.E. Smith, the convention takes its name from a fictional empire in the books. This is the 44th annual Boskone convention held in Boston, taking place at the Westin Waterfront Hotel from February 16-18th.

Geisler says Boskone is a fun way of celebrating fantasy and the human imagination though diverges from the stereotypical Sci-Fi event in which fans often dress like their favorite characters or pay to take pictures with stars like William Shatner.

"This is not a costume show like some may expect," said Dr. Geisler. "These are fans who really enjoy fantasy literature and television."

Dr. Geisler first began reading Sci-Fi when she was 9 or 10 years old. "I really got hooked on it because of fairy tales," said Geisler. "My mom read a lot of Sci-Fi and I started eating it up."

Andre Norton, one of the first women Sci-Fi authors of the 1960s, was one of Dr. Geisler’s favorite authors growing up. Andre Norton’s real name was Alice Mary Norton, but chose to use a pseudonym so that readers would not know her gender.

Dr. Geisler, who had the opportunity to meet Norton in 1989, has also met other numerous authors, scientists and Nobel Prize winners, as well as people from NESFA.

Colleen Koperek - Journal Staff

John S. Forrester
Journal Staff

In a quiet Beacon Hill studio, senior Travis Nichter was sitting with his laptop, finishing his organic chemistry homework. Little did he know that he would be spending the rest of his day filling out a Boston Police report instead of going to class.

On Friday, Feb. 2, Nichter and his friend, senior Ben Gaetani, thwarted a thief’s attempt to run off with a neighbor’s computer. Confronting the burglar with a baseball bat and bike lock, the pair managed to recover the laptop and chase the housebreaker away.

Around noon Gaetani noticed a figure standing outside of Nichter’s window, and asked his friend if he was expecting anyone.

“I always see people walking by. So it wasn’t unusual to see someone through the blinds. I said ‘No, that’s a maintenance man.’”

Momentarily forgetting about the man, Nichter and Gaetani continued to prepare for class. After a few minutes, Nichter glanced through the cracks of the blinds to see the “maintenance man” on the fire escape.

Thinking that something was amiss, Gaetani urged Nichter to take a closer look out of the window into his courtyard, which faces the rear side of several other apartment buildings.

“I looked through the blinds for a better look and I saw a guy with a silver laptop in his hand.”

Convinced the man was a thief, Nichter, an avid cyclist, grabbed his bicycle lock and went outside.

“I didn’t really think. I just grabbed the nearest blunt object and ran out into the courtyard,” said Travis Nichter.

Colleen Koperek - Journal Staff

Suffolk University, long known as a commuter campus, houses only 19 percent of its students, which means that the majority are commuters. Since the changes implemented on Jan. 1 in the form of various single-word, double-capitalization, Charlie-themed fares, Suffolk commuter students have been affected positively and negatively.

The most obvious change, resulting from the new Charlie system, is the eradication of tokens. In place of long lines waiting for T personnel to dole out easily lost coins, there are now long lines of confused patrons waiting for machines to spit out flimsy tickets or rechargeable plastic cards. According to the MBTA website, fares can be purchased at any of the “500 full service fare vending machines” with cash, credit or debit cards.

Perhaps the most notorious characteristic of the Charlie cards and tickets is the fare increase on all subway lines.

Instead of paying the previous rate of $1.25, rides now cost $1.70 with a CharlieCard or $2.00 with a CharlieTicket. This raises the price of a monthly T pass by 15 dollars, from $44 to $59. Also, free above-ground travel on outbound sides of the B line has been discontinued. No FREE OUTBOUND.

Thusly, Suffolk students probably found out about Charlie and the changes through word of mouth.

"I heard about it through word of mouth, and looked online at the [MBTA] website," says sophomore James Bucknam, a regular Red Line rider. "I like the card... also the fare increase saves me money because there are no more exit fees in Braintree," says Bucknam.

Colleen Koperek - Journal Staff
Black History month celebrates diversity

Stephen Keaton
Journal Contributor

February is nationally recognized as Black History Month, and members of the Suffolk University community have developed a wide variety of events to help celebrate this occasion.

Jacinda Felix, director of the Office of Diversity Services, organized the programs. She is concerned with informing students of the achievements of African-Americans and focusing on important topics in colleges and universities regarding diversity.

One thing she would like to stress is that every student can participate in the upcoming events. "Everyone should be celebrating. Black history is American history. It's everyone's history," says Felix. She points to the lack of black history in current school textbooks, and remarks how "schoolchildren learn a very white history."

Felix is looking for more meaningful participation from students than simply large crowds. At some of the events, for example, she hopes students will share their personal stories and raise awareness among others.

When asked about an event dealing with eating disorders, Felix recalls a story about African-American women suffering with personal stories and raising awareness among

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As director of Diversity Services, Felix stresses the importance of diversity at Suffolk. "Everyone from President Sargent down strives for diversity. You won't always find that." She points out that the entire student body can feel free to drop by her office to chat.

During Suffolk's Black History Month celebration, Felix urges students to be active. "There is something for everyone. I hope everyone can make one event."

Students, faculty, administration, and others attended the opening ceremony of the university's celebration on Thursday, Feb. 1. Both Felix and President Sargent welcomed keynote speaker Dr. Tracy Robinson-Wood and her lecture entitled "Black: Privilege, Power, and Resistance."

Robinson-Wood, Professor of Counseling & Applied Educational Psychology at Northeastern University, studies the connections between race, gender, class, and culture. She explained the origins of Black History Month, and provided the audience with a partial list of the many inventions created by African-Americans.

Some of the questions Robinson-Wood explored were "Where is black people's history?" and "Why are certain histories forgotten?" Her speech was divided into eight guiding points, as well as personal stories dealing with herself and her colleagues. One major point she made is the fact that race blurs such characteristics as dress and profession.

In addressing the topic of Affirmative Action, Robinson-Wood challenged the audience to consider the possibility that white people gain a tremendous amount of opportunity simply because of their race. She also cited scientific studies that prove that human beings are 99.9% equal with regard to DNA.

Following her lecture, Robinson-Wood took questions from the audience, which sparked conversation among its members.

Black History Month continues at Suffolk through Feb. 28. For more information, visit www.suffolk.edu/diversity.

Voices of Suffolk

What do you think will happen to the two suspects involved with the Adult Swim marketing flasco in Boston?

"I think that because of the way Boston handled the situation the two men will be heavily persecuted. I do not believe now knowing the context of the situation the two men had they should be punished as the state is trying to achieve."

Mike Scarano
Sophomore

"We all know the city of Boston blows things out of proportion sometimes; and yet the panic this caused was unnecessary. I think the police should be reprimanded for the mockery they made of the courts."

Anton Dubarry
Sophomore

"I do not think much will happen; for the most part they will be treated as agents of Turner media. I think they will be excused for their actions. I suggest community service, even jailtime for the events that happened."

Kesham Persad
Freshman

"I believe that they will eventually have to serve some time or have probation, as well as be fined."

Jameson Yee
Junior

Boskone 44 explores fantasy

GEISLER from page 1

Hollywood, such as the makers and stars of the Indiana Jones movies.

"We don't really get off on meeting the actors," said Geisler. "It's the directors, writers and producers who really share our interest."

Dr. Geisler not only assists in the planning and production of these conventions, but has been the Guest of Honor at past events and will be the Guest of Honor in May at the Kansas City convention.

She will also be taking her Conference Management and Promotion class to Boskone 44 to tour backstage and meet the convention service manager.

"Students will be getting hands on experience," said Dr. Geisler. "It's a neat advantage that can help students do different special events planning like for non-profit organizations."

Featuring various speakers known for their writing or "behind the scenes" role in science fiction, visitors may also take part in panel discussions on books or films, demonstrations, and network with other Sci-Fi fans. NESFA organizes anywhere from 60 to 70 events at each conference, aimed for all ages and interests.

Dr. Geisler has spent numerous hours on the conventions and thousands of dollars when she was chairperson in 2004. "We don't get paid, but we do it as a labor of love," said Dr. Geisler. "I've been a volunteer for quite a while now and I love creating a way of getting people together who truly enjoy science fiction and science fact."

As part of the convention, Dr. Geisler coordinates the Mike Ford Auction and Extravaganza. The auction is in memory of John M. Ford, a Sci-Fi and fantasy writer, and the proceeds go to his memorial fund organized by the Minneapolis Public Library.

Donated items will be auctioned off, such as books, manuscripts, artwork and other memorabilia. There will also be vignettes about John Ford along the walls of the auction room, telling readers who pass by about his many contributions to past Boskone conventions.

The convention holds a large art show of classic Sci-Fi art, such as works by Gary Lippincott and Hubert Rogers. Numerous authors will be attending and signing autographs, including the popular young adult authors Jane Yolen and Bruce Coville, and the best-selling author George R.R. Martin, who the New York Times named the "American J.R.R. Tolkien."

David Gerrold, who has written episodes for many different television series, including "The Twilight Zone," "Star Trek" (Gerrold penned the famed "Trouble with Tribbles" episode) and "Babylon 5.0," is this year's Guest of Honor.

Gerrold's book, The Inevitable Human, is also featured by NESFA Press as this year's Boskone Book.

This year's special guest is Br. Guy Consolmagno, who is the astronomer to the Pope. With a Ph.D. in astronomy and a religious calling, Br. Consolmagno has managed to combine the two areas of study that are often in conflict with each other. He's looked at [whether or not] aliens and other life forms exist and how it pertains to religion," said Dr. Geisler.

Boskone 44 will also include a gaming area, Anime videos, vendors of Sci-Fi memorabilia, and the Dragonslair, a children's area for storytelling and arts and crafts.

The convention puts much of its focus on today's science and technology - cell phones, internet, iPods - at which one time existed only as concepts in human imagination. "Science fact so easily used to be science fiction," said Dr. Geisler.

Boskone 44 explores what used to be fantasy and what still is, and features events and programs for Sci-Fi fans to enjoy. "It's a lot of fun," added Dr. Geisler.
Don't Forget!!

- SGA nomination papers are due Feb. 14th at 5pm to the Student Activities & Service Learning Center.
- There are positions available for Class 2008 (7 spots), 2009 (7 spots), & 2010 (7 spots).
- If you still need nomination papers they are available at the Office of Student Activities & Service Learning, and The HUB Information Center, SGA Office D424, and on Campus Cruiser under announcements.

* This Thursday February 8th, SGA will hold an Open House from 4-5pm in D403. Light refreshments will be served.

From Georgia to Tuscany; Mayes comes to SU

Todd Olsson
Journal Staff

Widely published poet and essayist Frances Mayes spoke at Suffolk University's Sargent Hall last Thursday, Feb. 1. Her speech, entitled "The Adventure of Life," enlightened the audience on her literary journey from a struggling poet to writing a best-selling novel.

Mayes was born and raised in Fitzgerald, Ga in 1940. She earned her BA from the University of Florida and her MA from San Francisco State in 1975, where she would become a Professor of Creative Writing. Mayes' literary intuition and curiosity would eventually lead her even further from that small, Southern town her passion for words began in.

After publishing her first books of poetry, Mayes and her husband divorced. Normally a trying time for anybody, Mayes instead believed the best was ahead of her. "I always loved [Italy]- the cuisine, art, landscape. Italy is endless; you need five lifetimes to explore it, so it seemed like an adequate replacement for one man ... The best moves you make in life are the ones that come from that deep instinct inside," Mayes' deep instinct would inspire her to write four books about Tuscany, one of which was a two and a half year New York Times best-seller and a movie with Touchstone Pictures.

Mayes bought the house that would make her famous in 1990 in the small town of Cortona, located in Tuscany, Italy. The house, made up of 13 rooms, is located on a hillside facing south with five acres of property. It was overgrown with brambles, blackberries and ivy. "I hate ivy now," joked Mayes. "Gradually over the years, we have restored this place."

"I think the most profound change was that sense of time," said Mayes of her new life in Italy. "Being at home and not pushing up against time, the way I inevitably do in my American life." The excitement of a new place, new friends and exploring the countryside took over Mayes' life. Mayes' academic resume alone insists she has mastered poetry, but her new home slowly inspired her words to stretch beyond the confines of a single line. "I was weaving myself in to the life of that place, and subconsciously with writing in prose," said Mayes of beginning to write novels.

Mayes also shared embarrassing, humorous stories with the audience throughout the speech. Years ago, Mayes and her new husband bragged to their Tuscan friends about fermenting their own wine.

The couple invited the neighbors over for dinner, cracking the first of 12 bottles. Mayes' deep instinct would define her new skills of the prose form. "Sometimes when you publish a book," Mayes said, "you realize it has its own fate that will lead you."

"A Year in the World" is Mayes' latest publication. The idea for the book came to Mayes on a train ride to Florence, where she began listing places she wanted to visit. She fantasized about living in these places and suddenly uttered the word "Portugal" aloud.

Mayes traveled to 12 different locations around the world, studying what it meant to be anyone had ever tasted," joked Mayes. "I liked the movie quite a bit," said Mayes. "I was very worried about what was going to happen when Disney came to town, but [Cortona residents] are such an anciently-sophisticated people, they weren't bothered at all." Mayes has defined her entire career through travel. Although she has been all over the world, she still has sight-seeing to do – India is next on her list.

Mayes currently resides in both North Carolina and Tuscany. Now interested in writing non-fiction, her current project is a memoir of her Southern roots. "I think I probably will write poetry again one day," concluded Mayes.

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Opinion

Take this hike and shove it

You know you are getting old when you can say, "I remember when the subway cost 85 cents and going outbound above ground was free!" However, I found myself saying exactly that as I searched my wallet for two dollars to get on the T last month. It is not really the 50 cent raise that upsets me, that is just a pet peeve. The thing that I really want to know is where is my money going!

Already, The T has cut costs with the new automatic Charlie Card machines. I don't see any improvements on the train tracks (with the exception of the rare green line B or C train), there does not seem to be more trains running than usual, the Big Dig still is as big and the screeching wheels are still as shrill as ever. So where is my extra hard-earned 50 cents that I could have spent on Starbucks coffee going?

The other bone I have to pick with the MBTA powers that he is the now infamous Charlie Ticket. Whoever thought up this ticket should actually have to use it on a daily basis. With the previous monthly passes, all you had to do was slide it through a card reader and you were on your way.

Now, it takes twice as long to get on the train anywhere outbound past Kenmore Square and just to get into the subway stations elsewhere.

All because of these newly installed machines where one must insert the ticket, wait for it to register then wait for the wretched machine to spit it out. It is as if the MBTA is trying to drive us mad by missing trains due to slow machines and one shudders to think that soon we'll be paying more money for the subway than motorist pay at the Callahan Tunnel.

For a brief time I wanted to band Suffolk students together to demand the MBTA come to their senses and change things back to the way they were about three years ago. I came to my senses and realized that even though I need to get up 20 minutes earlier to get to class (because of the Charlie Card) and I cannot get my second capuccino at Starbucks (because of the extra money I have to shell out for the new price of admission) it's not worth it.

I've resigned to the fact that the MBTA is a necessary evil to get around Boston. People will grumble, but whether it is $1.50 or $2.00 or even a Charlie Card the MBTA will prevail. Just wish that all these new changes were good changes.

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Letter to the Editor

In my past two and a half years at Suffolk University there were abundant resources I could take advantage of if needed. Suffolk University is, without a doubt, an institution of higher learning where a student gets out what they put in. Yet, in my last two semesters before graduating last December, there was an air of hostility and overwhelming ambition emitting from many of Suffolk's students who were and currently are embedded in the fabric of student life.

I can't understand why some students are so upset that a new dormitory building won't be erected at 20 Somerset. I'm not pro-Beech Hill at least, but I can definitely say that a new dorm won't intrinsically make Suffolk University or Beech Hill a better place. A new dorm would actually make matters worse in terms of increased class sizes and fewer opportunities for students and faculty to interact. For Suffolk students who happen to support themselves and cannot live in the dorms for whatever reasons (impossibly long waiting lists, ridiculously expensive), there should be a viable alternative to living on campus. Why not live on Beacon Hill, you say?

Well, for starters I have not seen a single rental price, divided any which way that tally up to less than $800 dollars a month for a shanty-sized at hole without utilities included. Now, for students who wish to bite the proverbial bullet and still live in the area, they need to deal with a rag-tag team of aggressive and rude real estate agents and Operations & MITBA's trumped Response representatives. Since when did planning for a new dorm overshadow defending the interests of current students; many of whom never or rarely cause excessive amounts of noise in their residences?
Bush plagiarizes self with 'new' Iraq proposal

The previous edition of The Suffolk Journal featured two opposing editorial pieces over the issue of President Bush's proposed escalation of the war in Iraq. Outfitting my piece opposing such an increase was one written by Dennis McElhigott in support of it. McElhigott is just plain wrong on several counts. The comedy of errors begins in the first sentence, as McElhigott frames the escalation as President Bush's "new approach" to Iraq, a statement that represents either benign ignorance or genuine distortion.

This surge is not a "new" idea, three similar surges have already been implemented as part of the effort to calm the sectarian violence and enforce the rule of the Maliki government. According to all the information we have, none have had a lasting effect on the security situation.

This is not a "new direction," its one that has already been tried and has already failed. McElhigott, however, seeks to console the readers by assuring us that John McCain and Joe Lieberman, those senatorial pillars of wisdom and rightly-guided bipartisanship, have said a "troop increase would quell the violence." While that is a very nice thing for these two men to say, each of whom have a nearly unimpeachable record of executive compliance, they are wrong.

All of the evidence available, particularly the NIE on Iraq that was released last summer, proves that the United States' presence in Iraq does not "quell" violence; rather it contributes to the cycle of violence and makes the situation worse, not to mention giving jihadist organizations a powerful recruiting tool.

The smart money is on my side: almost every world leader, global public opinion and leaders of both political parties in Congress, the military leadership, American public opinion, Iraqi public opinion and the Iraqi government agree with me. On the other side are Joe Lieberman, John McCain, Bush, and Barney his dog. McElhigott speaks of our need to fulfill our "commitment" to the Iraqi people. In such case, how should we proceed when overwhelming majorities of them want us to leave? When almost three-quarters of them believe it is justified to shoot at American soldiers?

As has been pointed out in a number of places (including various Globe articles this past year or so), Massachusetts is losing population. And, it seems, (according to a Globe article published Jan 28 City:Region section), Boston wants to retain recent college graduates. The problem?

As stated in the Globe article, the cost of staying in/around Boston after college is prohibitive for most recent grads. Housing costs of course are a big part of the problem. So, State Senator Brian Joyce wants the state to offer students a $10 thousand loan to stay in the Commonwealth after graduation. The loan would be specifically for the purpose of acquiring lodging. In and of itself, this plan probably does not seem too bad. If nothing else, Joyce reasonably believes that if recent grads stay in the state for a few years, they might find themselves attached enough to stick around longer. And, believe you me, people who take this ride will stick around. Part of the loan's terms require debtors to stay in Massachusetts for at least 5 years.

Under those conditions, one had better hope to find a good job in the region, as they will not be able to hunt in many other places. (And, who would not want a good job, after eating an extra $10 thousand in loans on top of whatever student debt they may have?)

Of course, if Joyce has his way, nobody who takes this ride will be making too much money. One stipulation of the loan program is that the graduates who take the money can't make not more than 135 percent of the median income for where they live. Now, I really do not feel like transcribing charts and what-not, but generally, income and housing prices synch up pretty closely. So, what does this mean? It means that somebody carrying, say $80 grand in student debt, plus another $10 thousand in housing debt would be forced to choose between two less than palatable options: 1) a home in an area where the housing loan would go further, and suffer a possible cap on income or 2) a home in an area where the loan will do less good, but with a higher income limit. (Boy oh boy, and they only have to stick around the state for five years.)

While this plan is not out-right poisonous, it is not exactly inspired. The initial expense would, in theory, be recovered as people paid off the loan. And, those who stuck around would probably contribute to the economy in some meaningful way. But, the initial expense could be avoided. And, if somebody is going to stick around, Joyce's proposed loan scheme would not be much of a deciding factor.

While I have no plans to leave Massachusetts. But, I would not take this ride. Why? Because I may well decide I have had it with a state known across the nation for criminality and ineptitude. Do you want public works projects that are not only a decade or so behind schedule, but also cost both blood and treasure? Massachusetts has that. How does a track record of governors known for either, bungling, grandstanding, or both grab you? We got that too.

So, who wants to talk about Mitt "Stormin' Mormon" Romney's health care plan that seems to be getting stickier every week?

With what all that, I am amazed that rather than offering loans for people to stick around, this state has not tried to come up with a way to penalize people for leaving. Even so, a distressingly high number of people may still decide to leave.

While this state has a liberal tradition, (which is nothing to be ashamed of and of itself), our leaders, at both local and state levels, need to understand that they are not the only game in town, or town in the game. This state does a good job of attracting students, and enjoys some benefits from that. But, if Massachusetts wants to keep potentially useful graduates around, it will probably take more than a restrictive and limited loan to sell that idea.

Nicholas Forgione

Senator proposes new indentured servitude loan

This screed is to point a finger, and laugh, at Massachusetts' latest attempt to keep students in the city. (Yes, I know the title imputes Boston, but as the city is the capital of the state, why not, huh?)

As has been pointed out in a number of places (including various Globe articles this past year or so), Massachusetts is losing population. And, it seems, (according to a Globe article published Jan 28 City:Region section), Boston wants to retain recent college graduates. The problem?

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Arts & Entertainment

The Suffolk Journal Wednesday, February 7, 2007

2007 Grammy Predictions

Arts and Entertainment editor Alex Kelly and Editor in Chief Amanda Bellamy take a stab at Grammy forecast.

Record Of The Year
"Be Without You" - Mary J. Blige
"You're Beautiful" - James Blunt
"Not Ready To Make Nice" - Dixie Chicks
"Crazy" - Gnarls Barkley
"Put Your Records On" - Corinne Bailey Rae

Amanda - I would love it if the Chili Peppers got it, but JT will win it. It's going to go with "When You Were Young" because the song is a little more dynamic than "Chasing Cars." Amanda - I choose to believe The Killers can do no wrong.

Alex - Tool will win this hands down. 10,000 Days was an enormous album for them. Amanda - I think "Crazy Bitch" would look hilarious printed on a statue, but Tool will always be warmly regarded.

Best New Artist
James Blunt
Chris Brown
Imogen Heap
Corinne Bailey Rae
Carrie Underwood

Amanda - Since Milli Vanilli touched the Best New Artist award, it's been more of a curse than a blessing to rising stars. Thusly, I hope Carrie Underwood takes the award home. Seriously, "Jesus Take the Wheel" has to be the year's worst single.

Alex - I think "What You Know" - T.I. will win this one. It's a toss up between "Chasing Cars" and "When You Were Young." I'm going to go with "When You Were Young" because the song is a little more dynamic than "Chasing Cars."

Best Rock Song
"Chasing Cars" - Snow Patrol
"Dani California" - The Red Hot Chili Peppers
"Lookin' For A Leader" - Neil Young
"Somewhere Baby" - Bob Dylan
"When You Were Young" - The Killers

Amanda - I love me some Johnny Mayer, but I'm betting the Red Hot Chili Peppers will walk away with this award. Best Alternative Music Album

Gnarls Barkley - St. Elsewhere
The Black Keys - Rubber Soul
The Killers - Sam's Town
The Yeah Yeah Yeahs - Show Your Bones
Death Cab For Cutie - The Photo Album

Amanda - With highly original lyrics like "I could have another you in a minute/matter fact he'll be here in a minute" how could Beyonce not win. Best Recordbreaking Rap

"Touch It" - Busta Rhymes
"We Run This" - Missy Elliott
"Kick, Push" - Lupe Fiasco
"Undeniable" - Mos Def
"What You Know" - T.I.

Alex - Busta Bussest! Po' sho. He was everywhere this year. I hope he gets it! Mos Def deserves it too, but I don't think there's a chance against Busta Rhymes, Missy and even Lupe Fiasco.

Best Rap Song
"It's Goin' Down" - Yung Joc
"Kick, Push" - Lupe Fiasco
"Money Maker" - Ludacris ft. Pharell
"Ridin' Dirty" - Chamillionaire Featuring Krayzie Bone
"What You Know" - T.I.

Alex - Chamillionaire will take this one without a question. "Ridin' Dirty" song almost defined 2006.

Best Contemporary R&B Album
B'Day - Beyoncé
Chris Brown - Chris Brown
20 Y.O. - Janet Jackson

Amanda - Certainly a Grammy will pale in comparison to the honor of being parodied by Weird Al.

Best R&B Solo Performance
"In My Own Words" - Ne-Yo

Alex - Beyoncé is obviously going to take this Grammy. Not that I'm a huge fan of Beyoncé's, but I will give credit when credit is due. Her album was a phenomenal display of R&B and she had really good collaborations on it too.

Best Traditional Pop Vocal
We Run This - Missy Elliott
"What You Know" - T.I.

Amanda - I have some Johnny Mayer, but I'm betting the Red Hot Chili Peppers will walk away with this award. Best Rap Solo Performance
"Touch It" - Busta Rhymes
"We Run This" - Missy Elliott
"Kick, Push" - Lupe Fiasco
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This is not your average Gym Class

Kevin Du
Journal Staff

Rock and hip-hop have always been two very different genres. They're both respectively creative on their own, but when mashed together the end result may not be too pleasant to the listener's ears. But once in awhile, there are bands that are able to break that barrier and create something unique, creative and just plain enjoyable. With Rage Against the Machine, Red Hot Chili Peppers, and even the Beastie Boys being the front runners of this genre-fusion, there is a new breed of musicians ready to do the same.

Gym Class Heros (GCH) formed in 1997 when vocalist/MC Travis McCoy and drummer Matt McGinley became friends during a high school gym class in Geneva, New York. The two later joined forces with guitarist Mito Bonacci and bassist Ryan Geise and GCH was born.

The band started off playing birthday parties, clubs, and festivals which eventually led to numerous larger venues throughout the northeast, including two years on Warped Tour (2003, 2004). During this time, GCH released four self-produced CDs: Hed Candy (1999), Greasy Kids Stuff (2000), For the Kids (2001), and Papercut Chronicles EP (2004). After hearing the song "Text Driver" off of Papercut Chronicles, which pays respect to various rock artists such as Death Cab for Cutie, Taking Back Sunday, and Early November, Pete Wentz, bassist for Chicago's pop-punk assemble Fall Out Boy, became interested in GCH and invited the band to one of his shows. Travis met with Wentz on June 10, 2004 in Buffalo and formed a relationship.

GCH then went on to join Wentz's label, Decaydance Records, which is an imprint of Sony. With each track varying from the other, it's irrefutable that GCH are a band that use live instruments, not relying on the usual samples and generic beats that most hip-hop and rap artist use. The majority of the tracks on the album are infused with sharp lyrics, melodic music with beats that could give you a stiff neck from nodding along.

Stand out tracks such as "Papercuts" and "Cupids Chokehold" (which features backing vocals from Patrick Stump) and elements of Breakfast in America" are what truly draws the line between GCH and everyone else. The latter track is catchy and will have every listener, whether they are a hip-hop or just pure rock fan singing along, toe-tapping and even dancing in no time.

With a great sense of humor with his lyrics and an ear for strange melodies, McCoy has no fear about what he writes. "You shouldn't be afraid to write melodic songs," says McCoy. "The girls love melody."

While writing the new album, As Cruel As School Children (Decaydance, 2006), McCoy dealt with his newest challenge: writing with producers and their new guitarist Lumumba-Kasongo and bassist Eric Roberts joined the group. The band was finally complete and whole.

At first listen, Papercut Chronicles sounds like a straight up hip-hop album, but dig a bit deeper and you'll notice it's more than that. GCH are a band that use live instruments, not relying on the usual samples and generic beats that most hip-hop and rap artist use. The majority of the tracks on the album are infused with sharp lyrics, melodic music with beats that could give you a stiff neck from nodding along.

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While writing the new album, As Cruel As School Children (Decaydance, 2006), McCoy dealt with his newest challenge: writing with producers and their new guitarist Lumumba-Kasongo. "It was different because I was used to being the writer of the music and lyrics but it was great working with Disashi," say McCoy. "Being able to work with others and seeing how they create was a great experience."

On July 25, 2006, GCH released their second major label album, As Cruel As School Children. The album opens with the single "The Queen and I." On first listen, the track is a radio-friendly pop tune, but vocalist Travis McCoy says there is a bit more to it. "It's a personal song about girls who fancy alcoholic beverages, girls who like to have too much of a good time," says McCoy. "I have weird underlying issues with females and alcohol. This song is kind of closure, though you'd never get that vibe from listening to the song. "New Friend Request" is all about MySpace.com, the wildly popular networking site with over 100 million users worldwide. "It's intended to be funny," explains McCoy. Travis spins out a tale about meeting a girl online with some witty lyrics that anyone who has ever used MySpace can relate to. "I didn't take it personal when you ignored my request to be your friend but I spied my guts and hit send! I waited two weeks for a response and got nothing/ Honestly, it only made me want you more." The video for the single depicts MySpace.com as the bands personal dance club, rejecting and admitting patrons which are chosen by McCoy himself.

When asked about how he felt the new album was doing, McCoy said, "It's like watching your kids grow. It's like having a child and sending him off to school and you watch something you created grow up and develop. It's a great feeling."

Since signed to Decaydance Records, some of GCH's long time fans have felt they have "sold out," but McCoy's response was simply, "I just don't worry too much about that. There's always going to be someone who says you sold out. I've done that myself as well but it's a part of this scene and you need to look at the positives. We know who our fans are!"

As Cruel As School Children truly shows what the band can do musically and it opens up the world's eyes and ears to McCoy's gift not only as a MC, but also as a writer and artist. The album deals with everyday emotions such as love, and even controversial subjects like the hate-crime awareness track, "Shoot Down the Stars."

With each track varying from the other, it includes: "The disco beats mixed with hard rock riffs, endless baselines, and a leader who truly epitomizes what a front man should be. For any fan of different genres, GCH can easily satisfy any music lover's tastes."

Top Movies of the Week
1. The Messengers $14.7 Million
2. Because I Said So $13.1 Million
3. Epic Movie $8.4 Million
4. Night at the Museum $6.4 Million
5. Smokin' Aces $6.1 Million

Source: Rotten Tomatoes
Incubus gives a ‘Stellar’ show at Orpheum

Janssen McCormick
Journal Staff

Beginning their career with two acclaimed albums, Sweden's Watain have released the spiritual successor to Dissection's Storm of Light's Bane (Nuclear Blast, 1995) everyone was clamoring for before Jon Nodtveidt offed himself. The only problem is that in the four years between sophomore effort Canus Luciferi (Drivkar Productions, 2003) and Sworn to the Dark (Season of Mist/ Norma Evangelium Diabolic, 2007) fans expected Watain to build off of the manicidal speed and chaos of their first two albums— not become a tribute band.

Though the album does have some moments that bring to mind Watain's previous efforts, the feeling that the band has watered down their sound to garner new fans. Such sentiment is clear everywhere from E. Danielsson's subdued vocals to the unspirited blast beats H. Jonsson could have copped from any anonymous death metal breakdown of the past five years. Disappointment sets in quickly as opener "Legions of the Black Light" grinds to a halt at 1:44 with the first of many Dissection-esque riffs, entertaining fourteen years ago for sure, but perhaps a great indicator today that Watain has run out of ideas.

At least on Canus Luciferi, an album whose middle third was written by other bands, the band kept their unique sound. Here, the only reference to the band's primal past comes in the opener with E. Danielsson's chant of 'chaos' before launching into another mundane Dissection-influenced solo.

It's really a shame as late last year labelmates (and songwriting contributors to Canus Luciferi) Antonius and Katharsis laid their improved production budgets into excellent third releases which solidified their individual sounds while at the same time pushing those sounds to new extremes. Whether it's a matter of lack of talent or desire for a more "accessible" sound (as seen from the band's recent interview with MTV.com), Sworn to the Dark does neither.

Former Swedish black metal greats fall back into the pack

Watain delivers a mediocre but accessible third album.

Photo courtesy of Sony Records
Suffolk students help recover stolen laptop

MBTA from page 1

Backman, who estimates he saves $1.60 a day in spite of the fare increase, "The CharlieCard will help in the future," he continued.

Says senior and Blue Line customer Alex Mourino, "I read the Herald online everyday and talked to friends about it when I was in Spain, so I knew it was coming," says Mourino, but "as far as the CharlieCard is concerned, it's inefficient because it's highly unorganized. My final thoughts are, if it's not broke, don't fix it." Although students are split over the effectiveness of the CharlieCard, most students can sum up their thoughts on the fare increase in one word: ridiculous.

"The fare increase is ridiculous, I mean prices have to go up, but show us the upgrades before increasing the fare, show us where the money goes," continued Mourino.

"It's ridiculous, I'm about to pay for parking," says senior Nicole Adinastino and Orange Line traveler.

"There are no immediate benefits, especially if you have to stand outside for 30 minutes to get on a train that's not moving at all," Karla Schallies, a senior and D Line traveler, says that "the fares are now way too expensive." Schallies also says that "it takes about 10 minutes earlier, just to get on a full train." Despite this, she points out that "at least now the T recycles!"

Krista Florio, a sophomore, Blue Line regular and Hub worker, says that "it's common to hear students say the price increase is ridiculous. I think the fare increase has been kind of crazy, and I haven't seen any changes in service."

She continues, "no one likes change; it's just a matter of getting accustomed to it." Outlining another adjustment by the MBTA, Florio reports that many students were upset about the decision to run semester passes from February to May, instead of the previous January to April system.

Rachel Tuttle, a freshman and E Line commuter, agrees that the changes in the semester pass schedule were not beneficial. "It cost me $50 a week to get to class in January. I think the Charlie system is unorganized...it's a waste of paper."

Anton Dubarry, a sophomore and Blue Line straphanger says "I think it's pretty much been a positive, I know how to use it and it's convenient."

Despite this, he feels that the fare increases "may not seem like a lot, but it adds up."

Looking forward, most students seem to agree that it will take time for the city and its commuters to adjust to the new system. Until then, Suffolk students will have to cope with Charlie and his changes.

Charlie struggles to make it in Beantown

The nearest blunt object and ran out into the courtyard," he said.

Nichter said he approached the man and "bumped chests" with him while wielding the bike lock in the perpetrator's face.

"I think he was just as surprised as I was. He goes, 'take it,' and then he took off behind me."

Chasing the man up Joy Street then onto Myrtle Street towards Suffolk, Nichter looked behind him to see Gaetani following close behind in his socks carrying a wooden baseball bat. The pair followed the thief until the end of Myrtle Street.

"He ran across Dome as all the classes were being let out," said Nichter. After the chase, the pair called the BPD to report the crime.

The neighbor's stolen silver Toshiba laptop, Nichter and Gaetani later found out, belongs to Suffolk sophomore Cody Moskovitz.

Moskovitz entered his apartment around 4 p.m. after a day of classes and baseball practice and immediately knew someone had entered his Myrtle Street apartment.

"I noticed some things on my window sill were moved around, and the window screen was completely warped," said Moskovitz, "basically that's when I took a look around my room and noticed my laptop was missing."

After calling his roommate and the Boston Police, Moskovitz rang a friend of his with whom he had plans, to explain his absence.

As Moskovitz recanted the night's events, the friend, who happened to know Nichter, connected the stories and told Moskovitz that Nichter prevented the thief from taking the laptop. Shortly thereafter, Moskovitz retrieved his property from the Boston Police.

So far, according to a spokesman from the Boston Police, the case is still under investigation and no suspects have been arrested.

"I am very gracious to my neighbor for looking out for me and taking action against it," Moskovitz said.

Besides making sure his windows are locked and doors are secure when leaving, Moskovitz believes that the incident taught him a greater lesson than merely checking locks and bolts.

"Be more cautious is the most important thing I took away from it," said Moskovitz, "not taking anything for granted."
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Men’s team topped in heart-breaking fashion

Daniel Ryan
Journal Staff

The Suffolk men’s basketball team found themselves in another thriller on Wednesday, Jan. 31, this time losing in heart-breaking fashion to the Lesley University Lynx, 93-90, on a three pointer as time expired. The loss dropped the Rams to 6-15 overall, while posting a 5-7 record within the Great Northeast Athletic Conference.

The Rams got another strong performance from senior John Murphy, pouring in 32 points while adding 5 assists and 2 rebounds. Sophomore Brian Small also had a solid game, scoring 25 points, grabbing 6 boards and recording 2 steals.

The Lynx got a huge game out of junior Joseph Chatman, who had 24 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists. Chatman scored a three in the last second that one the game for Lesley.

The Rams begin their march to the playoffs

Eric Piazza
Journal Contributor

Ice Hockey

The men’s hockey team played two conference games this week. On Wednesday, Jan. 31 they traveled to Western New England where they were victorious 4-1.

The goals were scored by four different players, Mike Mondello, Kyle Taylor, and Scott Zanelli each scored to give Suffolk the 3-0 lead in the second period. Junior Andrew Redvanly (Hillsdale, NJ) lit the lamp and had two assists.

The Rams faced off with Fitchburg State Saturday afternoon looking for their third straight win. Home ice was not enough to carry the team while catching a great game of hockey at the Ridgeway gym vs. Johnson & Wales.

For anyone who hasn’t been out to catch a game yet, this is a great opportunity to support the team while catching a great game of basketball at the same time.

SPORTS CALENDAR

February 8
Women’s Basketball vs. Johnson & Wales

February 10
Women’s Basketball vs. Southern Vermont

Men’s Basketball vs. Daniel Webster

February 11
Men’s Hockey vs. Nichols College

February 13
Men’s Hockey at Curry College
Lady Rams win the battle of Boston Common

Tim Rosenthal
Journal Staff

The Suffolk Women's basketball team bounced back from a two game slide, defeating the Emerson Lions 63-51 in the first game of a Commuter Association doubleheader this past Wednesday night.

The Rams' press held Emerson to just 12 points in the first half. The full court pressure was working, creating a multitude of turnovers. "Holding a team to just 12 points in the first half, I'll take that anytime," said head coach Ed Leyden.

The second half was a bit of a struggle at first for the lady Rams as Emerson cut the once safe 14 point lead to 9 late in the game. Suffolk had the chance to put the game away many times but could not connect on the opportunity. However, it didn't matter, as the Emerson squad missed five consecutive free throws late in the game.

About the second half comeback of the Lions, coach Leyden stated, "Emerson is a well-coached team. We have a lot of respect for them."

On any team, defense is a main point of the game. Suffolk is ranked number one in the conference on defense and have made it clear that they are a force to be reckoned with. "We emphasize defense consistently, which always gives us a chance to win," said coach Leyden.

The leading scorer of the game for the Rams was Stephanie Zito, with 24 points (8-19 from the field, 2-5 from three point land), coach Leyden is very happy with the way Zito has played this year. "Stephanie puts a lot of time into shooting. She puts her heart into shooting, thus opening up the inside game."

After defeating Emerson, St. Joseph University and Albertus Magnus last week, the Lady Rams improved to 13-7 with a 7-1 conference record in the GNAC, good for second place behind Emmanuel College.

The lady Rams have five more games before the GNAC tournament. "Our goal is to be playing our best basketball at the end of the year and this year we think we have a good chance to win the league," coach stated. Leyden added, "We have to take it one game at a time. Our goal is to play the final game in the GNAC tournament."

Coach Leyden is excited about his team's chances in the post-season. "There is a possibility of making the NCAA tournament. This is the best and most athletic team I have coached and the excitement of the games having a lot of meaning is really important."

The Lady Rams will have a stretch of three consecutive home games starting on Feb 8th against Johnson and Wales. Come cheer on the team as the Suffolk Women's basketball team will attempt to march towards the top of the conference.