20 Somerset gets green light for construction

BRA unanimously approves Suffolk University's $68 million plan

In an effort to unify the New England School of Art and Design with the rest of the Suffolk campus, Suffolk University's plans to expand into the former Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) building at 20 Somerset Street, and are now one step closer to being realized after the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) unanimously approved Suffolk's $68 million plans for the project at a BRA board meeting last Thursday, Jan. 28.

"This building will be a shining example of the community process at its best," said John Lucchi, Suffolk University's vice president for External Affairs in a recent press release. "20 Somerset has been designed in close collaboration with task force members and neighbors who have shared the goal of creating a building that will benefit Suffolk students and the city of Boston for generations."

In addition to art studios and a gallery, 20 Somerset will also hold faculty offices and state-of-art classrooms for the College of Arts and Sciences and will have energy-efficient lighting and heating. The proposed plans include not only the 112,000 square foot, ten-story building, but also the renovation of Roemer Plaza, an unused, abandoned space on the north side of the building.

The plaza will be renovated into an open space with grass and benches for student use and will commemorate the MDC's record of preserving parks and other green space in the city. The 20 Somerset project is part of the Institutional Master Plan (IMP), which lays out Suffolk's intentions for growth and expansion over the next ten years. After the original idea that 20 Somerset would be used as dorm space to house more students on Beacon Hill was met with anger by Beacon Hill residents, the Boston Redevelopment Authority appointed a task force made up of members from the surrounding neighborhoods, including Beacon Hill. "Suffolk has worked very closely with neighbors on Beacon Hill and other members of the community on this project, and it has gone extremely well," said Greg Gatlin, Suffolk's Director of Public Affairs. "A community task force and other neighbors have been very much involved with providing input into the design of the building."

According to a press release, both task force members as well as neighbors contributed to the design of the building and the adjacent Roemer Plaza. The $68 million 20 Somerset project, as well as the construction at Downtown Crossing's Modern Theatre, both of which are part of the IMP, are expected to be financed by tax-exempt bonds issued by the Massachusetts Health and Educational Facilities Authority, which offers tax-exempt financing to nonprofit organizations such as universities, said Gatlin.

Moving quickly, Suffolk University plans to start construction of 20 Somerset by fall 2009, anticipating a 2011 grand opening. "This new academic building will allow Suffolk to remain competitive and enhance its students' educational experience," said Mayor Thomas Menino, who has approved of the 20 Somerset plan from the start, in a press release.
Friday, Jan. 30
2:28 a.m.
10 Somerset St.
Received report of a domestic incidence in front 10 Somerset. Report filed.

10:34 a.m.
Donahue Building
Trespassing warning issued to female at 41 Temple Street. Report filed.

Saturday, Jan. 31
4:17 p.m.
10 West St.
Received report of smoke alarm at 10 West. Report filed.

10:12 p.m.
150 Tremont St.
Alcohol confiscated at 150 Tremont. Report filed.

Sunday, Feb. 1
1:09 a.m.
10 Somerset St.
Received report of a smell of marijuana at Miller Hall. Report filed.

3:06 a.m.
150 Tremont St.
Received report of harassment at 150 Tremont. Report filed.

Student Government Assoc. plans new student union

Alyssa Mitchell
Journal Staff

Hoping to establish a central location for students to retreat to during down time, Suffolk is in the initial stages of creating a student union center. The Student Government Association has begun the process of organizing ideas for the center, which President Sargent hopes will be completed before he retires. SGA has created a committee specifically designed for gaining student opinion for the project.

"For the past few years Suffolk University, as an administration, has wanted to see this idea for a student center," said Shane Martin, Vice President of SGA.

"Last year at SGA it was decided to begin this process and create a committee. We want to see this happen. We want to be able to give our opinion so that there is a student voice in this center."

The projected student center will combine many of the aspects found in other areas scattered throughout the campus and place them all in one location for students to enjoy.

"I imagine that the student center will be a great place for students to all congregate together," said Martin. "Hopefully, the center will be a place that includes dining facilities, a work place for students to do homework, and enough space for each campus club and organization to have its own office."

So far, SGA has already held one meeting in reference to the student center, but they are hoping their future meetings will attract more Suffolk students. SGA is also looking to recruit students to be members of their committee in order to make sure that the center is designed with students' interests in mind.

"Basically the purpose of the committee is to formulate ideas and see what Suffolk lacks in terms of student services," said SGA President, Brian LeFort. SGA plans to use the influence of other universities that are similar to Suffolk in the Boston area as a beginning reference. They also plan to survey students and see what they want, and go to different departments and ask what they lack in services and what they would like to do.

"I hope that through the student center committee, we are able to show the absolute need to have a student center on campus," said Martin. "I feel that through this committee we will be able to inform people of the importance of a student center and the demand that we experience due to the lack of such a facility."

Though a location has not been decided upon, LeFort does not envision the center being a part of any of Suffolk’s current locations. According to LeFort, since there are roughly 5,000 students on campus, the committee is looking for a place that is able to accommodate at least a few hundred students at a time. The goal for the committee is to establish a proposal for the center by the end of the year, even if it is in draft form and that way, they will be prepared for when the administration is ready to move forward with plans.

Both Martin and LeFort believe that the addition of a student union center will be both positive and beneficial for the university and its students, as it will better organize campus life and hopefully encourage more student involvement on campus.

S.O.U.L.S. wins annual service award

Ethan Long
Journal Staff

Suffolk University has received the annual Excellence in Service Learning Seal for its S.O.U.L.S. program, located on the second floor of Donahue Hall. The university joins less than 300 other universities in the Northeast who also have had this recognition given to them. The university has also been mentioned in the 2008-2009 edition of the Guide to Service-Learning Colleges and Universities, which helps students, teachers, and guidance counselors to find matches for educational opportunities.

"We are very proud to have received this distinction," said Nancy Stoll in a press release. "Suffolk's Organization for Uplifting Lives through Service, or S.O.U.L.S program has been helping students achieve a greater sense of personal growth through community service since 1997. S.O.U.L.S. has information for different events and that one can volunteer at around the city including the New England Aquarium, the Boston Public Library, and Habitat for Humanity. According to a press release, service learning, which puts community service onto the educational level, has been linked in correlation with positive academic outcomes for students who participate. Service learning may also sometimes include college credit.

S.O.U.L.S. will host its 12th annual service day on Friday, April 3rd. Over 200 participants gave their time to various agencies around the metro area last year. Signups start this month around Suffolk, including the Hub and the Students’ Activities Office on the 5th floor of Donahue.
Palestinian student aims for peace

Victoria Acosta-Rubio
Journal Staff

Suffolk University freshman Yusaf Bashir was raised in the Gaza Strip next to an Israeli military base. In 2004, his life took a dramatic turn when he was shot in the back by an Israeli soldier while he was standing outside his house waving goodbye to a friend who contacted the German embassy.

Bashir was taken to a hospital in Tel-Aviv and was treated by Israeli doctors, but he was left paralyzed. "I was supposed to die or be paralyzed for the rest of my life, but something brought me back to the world to do what I am supposed to do and send this message," Bashir said.

Bashir, whose parents and family have lived in the Gaza Strip for generations, will also speak about the lack of diplomacy between Israel and Palestine and the unfortunate way the people in Gaza are living, without much food, electricity or options to move. "Violence is never going to be the solution [in Gaza]," said Bashir.

The negotiations are being made between a four-member negotiating team and a lawyer representing the school, the same lawyer who represented Emerson College during negotiations with their adjunct professors six years ago.

"Things will happen if you don't have a union and you don't get a contract," said Martin. "Not all adjuncts are in the union. A lot of people have joined, but we need more."

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Adjuncts, University close to finishing year-long negotiations

Alex Pearlman and Caitlin Costello
Journal Staff

Negotiations between Suffolk's adjunct professors union and the university are close to coming to an end according to the Suffolk Affiliated Faculty (SAF) Union president, Ken Martin. Negotiations have been on-going for the past year and the adjunct professors are looking to set up new rules, Martin said in an interview with the Journal yesterday.

The number of adjunct faculty and full-time faculty is around fifty-fifty, said Martin. "This is a nation-wide movement. We are a group of people who share general lives and have been vulnerable to our employers," said Martin, who has been teaching as an adjunct for 25 years.

An adjunct professor does not have a class to teach. "Things will happen if you don't have a union and you don't get a contract," said Martin. "Not all adjuncts are in the union. A lot of people have joined, but we need more."

The negotiations are being made between a four-member negotiating team and a lawyer representing the school, the same lawyer who represented Emerson College during negotiations with their adjunct professors six years ago.

"We want to get what [Emerson] got, but in some ways their [contract] is better," said Martin. Suffolk's spokes-
man declined to comment.
Student-run charity makes children smile

Jeff Fish
Journal Staff

Since 2000, a non-profit organization called Smile Train has been responsible for over 500,000 cleft lip and palate surgeries for children in over seventy-five impoverished countries around the globe, and sophomore John McDonnell has brought the charity to Suffolk.

The surgeries are free of charge for the families of these children. These families "don't even make a dollar a day. [The kids are] ostracized, and can't even attend schools because they can't speak right or eat properly," said McDonnell.

McDonnell was inspired to open the Suffolk chapter when he saw a documentary called "Smile Pinki," which chronicles experiences of a girl named Pinki who was born with a cleft lip and the surgery that corrected this deformity, which is generally caused by the mother's malnutrition while the baby is in the womb.

"I'm involved in Program Council, but I wanted to grab hold onto a special cause," he said.

According to McDonnell, the surgeries only cost $250 dollars and take forty-five minutes. About five-thousand babies born in the US are born with cleft lips every year, and they are fixed in the hospital at birth.

One of the aspects that drew McDonnell to the Smile Train was the cost-effectiveness. There are only forty-two people on the staff, and unlike many charities, ninety-five percent of donations actually go toward the surgeries.

Operation Smile, a similar organization, is admirable, but not as efficient, according to McDonnell. Operation Smile sends doctors to areas like Cambodia and the Philippines for a certain amount of time, and the doctors eventually leave, even if there are children that still need surgeries. Smile Train, on the other hand, trains doctors specifically for cleft lip and palate surgeries, and they stay in their designated country permanently.

McDonnell, along with his co-founder, sophomore Broderick Dodd, contacted Smile Train and were officially notarized as a chapter. Smile Train gives the Suffolk chapter resources to promote their group, like t-shirts, wrist bands, pamphlets, and other marketing tools.

The Suffolk chapter of Smile Train had a dinner fundraiser last semester where they raised $300, enough to provide one surgery. Soon, the group will be starting a monthly tabling series, in the Sawyer and Donahue lounges that will provide information on Smile Train's mission, and the group hopes to end the semester with another dinner fundraiser.

The group's main goal, however, is to raise awareness among students. Since they are a fledgling group, Smile Train does not yet have a budget from the Student Government Association, but will next year, allowing them to "have a more expansive program," said McDonnell. "I'm going to try to be as interactive as I can, encourage more student involvement and recruitment, and more visuals.

If you're showing students what change and impact they have with their donations, it'll get the message out to a wider base."

For more information, contact McDonnell, Dodd, or sophomores T.J. Golden, Ryan Young, Nick Holt, Russell Dukett, and Carrie Ray. Also, visit the Smile Train website at www.smiletrain.org. The group meets Tuesdays at one o'clock in Donahue Room 302.
Tehran, Iran — Thirty years after the Iranian revolution, the country celebrated by launching their first satellite into orbit, making Western governments uncomfortable with the idea that the satellite could be used to launch ballistic missiles. The satellite was launched on Monday night and Iran maintains that its purpose is benign, claiming that it will be used for telecommunications and research, reported the BBC. Despite assertions from Tehran's government that the satellite is a peaceful one, White House spokesperson Robert Gibbs said, "This action does not convince us that Iran is acting responsibly to advance stability or security in the region."

Moscow, Russia — Raul Castro, President of Cuba and the brother of former President Fidel, visited Russia this week, the first time a Cuban leader had visited since the Soviet Union collapsed, according to Al Jazeera. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev hosted Castro for eight days, during which the two met at a hunting lodge outside of Moscow and spoke informally. Castro's presence in Russia is an alleged attempt by the latter to strengthen its influence in South America. Russia has also recently formed a friendship with Venezuela's President, Hugo Chavez.

Andry Rajoelina, Madagascar — The mayor of Madagascar's capital announced on Saturday that he is now in control of the country, "essentially announcing a coup," reported the New York Times. Rajoelina spoke to a crowd of about 3,000 protesters and defiantly called the democratically elected president a dictator before announcing that he will take control of the government and set up a transition team to take over.
The Boston Herald recently reported the possibility of Suffolk renting storefront space at 150 Tremont to Sal's Pizza, a restaurant chain with locations in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. According to the Herald, some of the residents next door at 151 Tremont, Tremont on the Common, are against this possible arrangement because of the "undesirables" they claim that Sal's will attract.

While the university should always consider what its neighbors have to say before making decisions on its property issues, it shouldn't let the capricious scruples of a few prevent a good idea from being carried out. If a deal is in the works, Suffolk should rent the space to Sal's. Our position is obviously self-interested to an extent. What student wouldn't want a pizza place to set up shop on the ground floor of a dorm? Students living in 150 Tremont would quickly come to appreciate the location, just as those in 10 Somerset enjoy having Cafe Quattro right next door.

By opposing Sal's, the neighbors would be fighting to maintain an image of the area that isn't based on reality in the first place. One only has to walk a block down from 151 Tremont to a McDonald's, or cross the street to the Boston Common, which -- in case you hadn't noticed -- has been looking a little worse for wear. That's not to say these people live in a bad area, it's just not as pure and picturesque as some of its residents might like to believe.

Contrary to the reasoning of some of 151's residents, a place like Sal's would actually be good for the neighborhood. Walking around the area, one can't help but notice the number of vacant storefronts. Suffolk would be doing its part to increase the value of the area by renting to a company that can not only fill its empty space but stay in business.

The residents at Tremont on the Common ought to lighten up about Sal's. Everyone loves pizza. While it's easy to highlight the so-called atrocities used against these people, citizens often forget that the majority of detainees at "GITMO" want all of us dead. There are probably some in there because they were in the wrong place at the wrong time, but the majority of inmates at Guantanamo are not innocent. The information we've gathered from many of them has exposed threats to this country and led to the capture of prominent terrorist leaders. This information is not gathered easily. It takes extreme measures to get extremists to talk, and these tactics have helped to keep the United States safer.

However, I understand President Obama's intentions: to send a message to the rest of the world, and to throw a bone to the Left. But the biggest problem with Obama's plan is the lack of one. Obama has set a one-year deadline to find new locations to hold the approximately 245 detainees in GITMO but has yet to explain how this will be accomplished. Other countries seek to handle the detainees at Guantanamo in the same way we handle other prisoners. But, these prisoners are not US citizens, and therefore should not be granted the same rights as citizens. The Supreme Court made a poor decision last year in allowing GITMO detainees to have trials in the US court system. One of the problems with their decision is that in giving accused terrorists the same rights as citizens, we're giving them the right to see all the evidence that's been gathered against them. But unlike a normal criminal case, this evidence is based on sensitive intelligence, and if it were revealed, it could easily lead to the deaths of our agents and the destruction of our sources.

The most likely resolution to Obama's plan is that the detainees will be moved somewhere else, essentially forming another Guantanamo facility with a different name. In an attempt to quickly implement change, President Obama may have inflated the problem at Guantanamo, with no strategy to back up his goal.
'Eat My Improv' gives food for comedic thought

Ashley Maceli
Journal Staff

With skits involving exaggerated characters, crazy concepts and hilarious lines, Seriously Bent made it clear at this past weekend's Eat My Improv show why they were the improv group to win the East Coast Regional Championship title this past October. They had continued on to the Annual College Improv Tournament and won second place in a very close match against The Improv Mafia from Illinois State University.

Seriously Bent, who performed last, consists of John Curtis, Kelly Dooley, Alec Lawless, Trevor Livingston, Courtney McMahon, Nick Mandella, Mitch Manning, Corey O'Rourke, Christian Roberts and Nick Wilson. Running jokes, including a blind man who used his leg as a walking cane, were great to see pop out of nowhere. It was shocking to see how all of the members of Seriously Bent could express their imaginations to entertain the best they can, and indeed they did.

For the finale of the show, Seriously Bent took an idea from the audience to create a song. The group beat-boxed and made up clever rhyming lyrics to a song about how even though they had a strong love for yogurt, they needed to give it up for a New Year's resolution. The comical lyrics, such as "Oh no, I ain't no ho. I'm just enjoying my fro-yo!" were what made this skit the best one of the night.

Cold weather got you down? Take a step back to appreciate its pleasant aspects.

All photos by Ethan Long

For the last skit, everyone from Brandeis University's TBA group and Suffolk's Secret Movie Club acting crew, as well as Seriously Bent joined together to do group improv scenes about photo cameras. The groups performed scenes about MySpace photos as well as scandalous photos, but then shifted over to regular improv scenes. It was great to see members from all of the groups join together to create even more humor and comedy. Taylor Connelly, a Suffolk graduate, came out to do a short stand-up act to get the audience ready for Seriously Bent. Connelly was quick with his jokes about going to an all-boys school and troubles with his cat, among others. From the volume of the laughter, it seemed Connelly's jokes were well perceived and liked. Connelly presented himself like a true comedian and performed his talent extremely well.

The Saturday show began with Trevor Livingston and Mitch Manning, both members of Suffolk's Seriously Bent, who were the show's emcees. After they introduced the show and warmed up the audience, one of Suffolk's Seriously Bent members, Nick Mandella, came out for some stand-up comedy. Mandella also loosened up the audience by poking fun at Suffolk and some of the types of students common around campus. He finished up by making the audience release their first big laughs as he danced and sang to "Love Shack."

Secret Movie Club, featuring Jeremy Brothers, Evan Kaufman, Patty Barrott, Matt Catanzano and Quinn Beswick, came up next. They started off by playing out scenes about dogs, then moved into some scripted performances which were more entertaining. The group got more funny as they presented their "Worst Uncle Ever" skit and another about a sketchy co-worker who kept a knife in his shoe at all times. One skit was based on "Les Miserables" and would not make sense to anyone in the audience who had not seen the play or read the novel.

Seriously Bent then invited Brandeis University's improv group TBA to perform. TBA asked the audience for an idea to run the improv on. One audience member shouted "soccer ball!" which then started a series of hilarious skits that kept switching at a fast pace, but would then return to another skit from earlier and continue the story from where it left off.
Sorry, but I'm a little lost...

Matt Altieri
Journal Staff

There are very few times in my life when I am completely embarrassed. I had the feeling several times when I was a freshman asking where classrooms and buildings are. Suffolk can be overwhelming for the average freshman. With seven buildings all over the downtown area, housing, classrooms, as well as one library, the map of Suffolk completely overlooks the strange layouts inside these buildings. Actually, finding the classrooms is a lot harder than finding the buildings themselves.

The floors of Donahue and Archer are connected to each other in the most confusing manner. The third floor of Donahue leads to the second floor of Archer. Some stairwells cannot even reach the second floor of Archer. How embarrassing would it be, as a junior, to have to approach the oh-so familiar cigarette smokers in front of Donahue and Archer and ask them for directions? I knew exactly how embarrassing it is. I found out when I tried to attend my first lab.

On the first day of my physical science lab, I was shocked to find that when I went up the stairs after entering the main door of Archer, it skipped from the first floor to the third. CampusCruiser said that my physical science lab was in Archer 264. When I approached a student outside of Fenton and asked him where that was, he said that it was "almost nearly impossible to get to." Just my luck.

What I found, a half an hour later and very late for my lab, was that there was a stairway on the third floor of Archer that led downstairs to a strange subbasement which I had never seen before. Upon entering the room all I could do is wonder - why hadn't I ever known about this room before? How many people before me had made the similar mistake? And as a junior, I could only imagine how many freshmen who took their sciences first semester would have been so overwhelmed by finding this room.

Suffolk University needs to do a better job explaining to students how to get to their classes. We may be able to find our rooms eventually, but Suffolk could make it much easier to navigate these massive mazes of Beacon Hill.

"How embarrassing would it be, as a junior, to have to approach the oh-so familiar cigarette smokers in front of Donahue and Archer and ask them for directions?"
Radiohead + Hov = Jaydiohead

Suffolk Journal: You put this album out for free on your website. Do you have any commercial interest vested in this album, or is it purely an artistic pursuit?

Max Tannone: I mean, I had no plan or desire to make any money. From a legal standpoint, I really couldn’t, both Jay-Z and Radiohead are copyright holders. It was just something I did for fun, I put it out there and it caught on, it was just an artistic experiment I guess.

MT: I think it’s going to be how it’s been. There have been many mash-ups since “The Grey Album,” and it has stayed the same. It’s still regarded as the best. I think the good ones will stay, and the bad ones will be forgotten. You don’t need a big studio anymore, you can just produce something from your bedroom.

SJ: The internet has completely transformed the way music is being distributed. Do you see the music industry being different than it is today? Do you think there’s going to be continual uphill battles between the industry and the internet, or do you think the music industry is going to have to be restructured?

MT: I’m completely in favor of remixes, it’s cool that you can mix and put it online, you don’t need PR, a publicist, a manager. If it’s good, it will speak for itself, it will happen naturally.

SJ: Are you afraid of being sued by either Jay-Z or Radiohead?

MT: No, Definitely not. I know from [a prominent journalist] that Jay-Z is aware of the album and has heard it. If I was selling it, I think it would be taken down in a couple of days, but it’s out for a couple of weeks, and I haven’t heard anything. Plus, I don’t know what grounds they could sue me on.

SJ: Is Dangermouse (creator of "The Grey Album") aware of the project? If so, has he said anything to you about it?

MT: I’m not really sure.

SJ: What made you want to do the project?

MT: I did a lot of the songs years ago, and I really enjoyed making them, so I did the whole album. When I thought of the name, I thought it was funny, and it really influenced me to get the project complete.

SJ: What else are you working on right now?

MT: I’m working on some mixes for this website, Label:Life, some other projects, a lot of people want me to do another mash-up album, I’m just trying to keep options open. I work on stuff every day, whether it’s beats, mash-ups, or working with different sounds, so yeah, I got some stuff going.

SJ: Has this project gotten you a lot of attention that you hope will help get you exposure for future projects?

MT: Yeah, it’s already gotten me some exposure. It wasn’t really the intent when I made the album, I didn’t think it would catch on. Hopefully it will lead to some more production work, beats, remixes, so yeah, I hope it does.

SJ: Have you spoken to either Jay-Z or anyone from Radiohead about the project?

MT: No, I haven’t spoken to anyone directly. I know Jay-Z has heard it.

SJ: Why do you think the music industry has taken so much action against mash-ups like yours and Dangermouse’s "The Grey Album"?

MT: Well, in that particular situation, "The Grey Album" came out in 2004, this is five years later, there’s a big difference. Before, record companies were sending out cease and desist letters, threatening possible exposure. Before, record companies would catch on. Hopefully it will draw attention that it’s going to be continual uphill battle between the industry and the internet, or do you think the music industry is going to have to be restructured?

MT: The main reason was that I wanted to pick my favorite songs from both artists, it also gave me more choices about what sounds good together, and allowed me to produce the sounds, Radiohead has a lot of different sounds, it was more prominent, I think the contrast is better for the listener.

SJ: What made you want to sample from Jay-Z and Radiohead’s entire catalogues, as opposed to sampling just from individual albums?

MT: The internet has completely transformed the way music is being distributed. Do you see the music industry being different than it is today? Do you think there’s going to be continual uphill battles between the industry and the internet, or do you think the music industry is going to have to be restructured?

MT: Structural changes are already happening. iTunes, Amazon, and Wal-Mart are already offering MP3s. Within ten years, there won’t be any cassettes, no one will buy music in stores, except for maybe a niche market, such as vinyl. Most people are going to get their music through the internet, legally, or otherwise, and record companies are starting to realize that. Physical sales have been going down, while digital sales have been going up, year after year, it only makes sense to go in that direction, it’s going on all around, I have no idea what’s going to happen, but it’s led to a great deal of empowerment. Some small band can put out a record and put it online, you don’t need PR, a publicist, a manager. If it’s good, it will speak for itself, it will happen naturally. But it will be interesting to see, change is already happening.
**SOUNDS**

Elizabeth Mul len

Journal Staff

Maybe it was her sequined vest, maybe it was her wide and contagious bright white smile, maybe it was her upbeat song about how kind Canadians are, or maybe it was her vivacious stage person al ity. Whatever the reason was, Billerica native BJ Snowden was able to bring warmth and happiness to the crowd at her performance this past Saturday at PA’s Lounge in Somerville. In a recent telephone inter view with The Suffolk J ournal, Snowden emphasized that this is her main goal. “It makes me happy to see other people happy because there are so many problems today in the world,” she said. Snowden certainly did just that on Saturday, accompanied by her keyboard and her 86-year-old mother on backup vocals for select songs. With catchy choruses that even a new listener could learn before the end of the song, Snowden led the crowd into singing along with her tunes about Judge Joe Brown, Daisuke Matsuzaka, and Canadians, among others. She has a lot of musical influences, and describes her sound as having inspiration from “jazz styles, eclectic, experimental... Some people have called me indie-pop, indie-rock, alternative, and they sometimes call me an outsider because there’s no category for me!” she said, laughing.

Since Snowden began playing piano at three years old, she has garnered attention for her work from notable ranging from the B-52s to Fred Schneider to Jon Stewart to Jimmy Kimmel, who featured her on the late night show’s “Future Talent Showcase” in Sept. 2005. “I think I only got about 20 minutes of sleep the night before,” she said. “It was really exciting to be on the show. I tried to get back on there again.”

She has also re-leased two al­bums: “Life in the U.S.A. and Canada” and “In My Memory of Father & My Life In Canada’s Atlantic Provinces.” Her love for all things Canada stems from a trip she took a few years ago throughout our neighbor to the North’s province with her family, which inspired songs like “In Canada” where she sings “In Canada folks treat you like a queen / In Canada they never will be mean / In Canada they treat you like a king / You feel welcome, it makes you wanna sing.”

For Snowden, performing her music is a family affair. She used to play many shows with her son, Andres, “who is 25 go ing on 55,” and even had her 86-year-old mother jump in for backing vocals on some songs during her show Saturday night. Her musical career began when she started teaching herself to play piano and sing as a young child, and continued her education at Boston’s Berklee College of Music, where she learned more about music theory. “The main focus was to get happiness to the crowd at her show, I tried to sleep the night before,” she 86-year-old mother jump in for backing vocals on some songs during her show Saturday night. Her musical career began when she started teaching herself to play piano and sing as a young child, and continued her education at Boston’s Berklee College of Music, where she learned more about music theory. “The main focus was to get happiness to the crowd at her show, I tried to sleep the night before,” she

In an interview with The Suffolk Journal, Snowden stressed that her main goal is to produce music that will make others happy, and joyfully recalled how “the Village Voice said my music can make even the stoniest face happy!”

For Bowie, performing her music is a family affair. She used to play many shows with her son, Andres, “who is 25 going on 55,” and even had her 86-year-old mother jump in for backing vocals on some songs during her show Saturday night. Her musical career began when she started teaching herself to play piano and sing as a young child, and continued her education at Boston’s Berklee College of Music, where she learned more about music theory. “The main focus was to get happiness to the crowd at her show, I tried to sleep the night before,” she

**In Canada** BJ would be queen

Elizabeth Mul len

Journal Staff

I hate repeating myself release after release / this real-reel is nothing more than a diary’s song. Fake Problems’ frontman Chris Farron in “Level with the Devil,” emphasizing the fact that the bands newest album and their S i deOne Dumm y Records debut “It’s Great to be Alive,” (SideOneDummy, 2009) set to be released on Feb. 17, is as different from their first as the days of the week. With the new disc, the Flor ida natives are expanding on their folk-punk beginnings that ran rampant on their first album “How Far Our Bodies Go,” (Sab ot Productions, 2007) bringing in new influences ranging from reggae to rockabilly, experimenting with more upbeat and catchy rhythms, and even adding a “seven-piece horn section comprised of University of Nebr aska students and teachers” according to the band’s website. The band’s s trength can be found on both discs in their memorable s i ng-a-long style choruses, w hich only be come stronger on their album. The result is a more mature and innovative sound that still carries the indie-folk-punk spirit flawlessly. The album aptly kicks of f with “1234,” an upbeat in tro that literally sets the tempo for the rest of the disc. The song transitions unnoticeably into the incredibly catchy choru ses of “The Dream Team” that will definitely be a mainstay at their shows in the upcoming months on their tour with Murder By Death. The stron gest track on the album is “Alligator Assassin,” which has a rockabilly feel with a storyline that features Farron taunting a hypothetical alligator to attack him. The song’s hooks are perfectly arranged to provide a great accompaniment and add suspense to the story. It’s like the Stray Cats with double the cajones.

“Level with the Devil” and “Diamond Rings” are a great one-two punch, with the incredible catchy melodies of the end of “Level with the Devil” providing the perfect environment for the driving bass line of “Diamond Rings.” On top of that bass line is a dialogue chorus with echoes of an Andy Gibbs-style falsetto, that might typically sound goofy but Fake Problems have managed to work it in and still retain their dignity. “There Are Times” is a brutally honest type of love song. This song, the third to last of the album, starts off the trio of slower-paced songs that provide a nice wrap-up and fade out to the disc. The album will be released on Feb. 17 on the SideOneDummy label. The band will be opening for Murder By Death on Feb. 7 at The Middle East Downstairs.

**Fake Problems’ have real talent**

Elizabeth Mul len

Journal Staff

At the Drive-In "Relationship of Command" Pre-Mars Volta and Sparta. Not exactly punk, not exactly emo, but it’s the best music of its time. -Matt Altieri

**New American Part One (4th World War?)**

Badu is the most welcome su­prise to the Bonnaroo lineup that blows Coachella’s out of the water. -Clay Adamczyk

Architecture in Helsinki "Places Like This" Australia’s version of Animal Collective, but with a touch of twisted Seaside Street whimsy and loads of dance beats. -Shoshana Akins

"Orchestra of Wolves" -Shoshana Akins

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"Orchestra of Wolves" -Shoshana Akins
Revenge looks sweet when coming from a father who is willing to do anything, including kill anyone who crosses his path, in order to rescue his daughter. "Taken" (Europa Corp, 2009), directed by Pierre Morel, is an action thriller worth seeing in theaters. With a lot of recent action films being over-the-top, it's refreshing to see a movie that is easy to follow as well as fast paced.

Liam Neeson, known for his role as Jedi Master Qui-Gon Jinn in "Star Wars: The Phantom Menace" (Lucasfilm, 1999), plays Bryan Mills, a former secret agent for the CIA who retired to get closer to his daughter who he had neglected over the years because of his love of his time-consuming job. After Mills agreed to let his daughter Kim, played by Maggie Grace, go on a vacation with her friend unsupervised, he waited around for the promised phone call telling him she had landed. Impatience sets in when the phone call doesn't come. When Kim finally answers, the kidnapping begins and the pace of the movie picks up.

Mills, calm and collected, gathered as many details about the situation from her before she's taken so that he can do what he's good at, which is finding people and killing them. Mills won't let anyone get in his way during his search for his daughter, who is being sold in sex trafficking by her kidnappers. He is told he has only 96 hours before she is gone for good, so he moves swiftly and tries to make negotiations.

The skills in hand-to-hand combat he learned in his CIA job, including being able to snap necks and steal weapons, were used to his advantage. It was clear Mills would do whatever it took to get his daughter back.

Neeson put on a flawless performance. His car chases and fight scenes made the movie flow, and his torture scene was thrilling. The movie was short, at a little over an hour and a half, but it was packed with entertaining moments.

An action movie needs a good story behind the crashes, fights, and explosions and that is what "Taken" has. It's year but it is definitely worth the time and money to see.
Delia Mooney
Journal Staff
February 4th - February 10th

Got questions about love? Then attend the This is your "Brain on Love" at the Museum of Science on Wednesday, Feb. 4th at 7:00 p.m. Helen Fisher, chief scientific adviser to Chemistry.com, will lecture about love and the scientific reasons behind our thoughts and emotions. The show is free, but get there early because it is first come first serve.

The comedy productions of Bastards, Inc. take the stage at the ImprovBoston Theater on Thursday, Feb. 5th. They are said to be hilarious! Take the Red line to Central. Doors open 8:00 p.m. Tickets are $10 for adults, but students are only $7.

Jill Cheng, Founder and President of Cheng & Tsui Company Inc, will be this year's guest speaker. Along with her presentation there will be Chinese New Year festivities and a dinner buffet! The event is located at the Sargent Hall, Main Function Room 1st floor and is free, but they ask that you RSVP.

For those who are majoring in graphic design or just interested in learning more about it, Krzysztof Lenk, an international graphic designer, will be speaking at Northeastern University. Lenk has been a Partner and Design Director at Dynamic Diagrams. This years theme is "The Cultural Aspects of Doing Business in China."

Test your salsa moves at Mambos Salsa Fridays on Feb. 6th. Dance lessons begin at 9:30 p.m. but the party doesn't start until 10:30 p.m! Dance away to Boston's DJ's playing popular and classical music, salsa, merengue, bachata and the cha cha. All ages are welcomed and it is $10 for members and $15 for guests. Mambos is located on 306 Stuart Street in Boston. The famous movie, Dirty Dancing, be speaking at Northeastern University. Lenk has been a Partner and Design Director at Dynamic Diagrams. This years theme is "The Cultural Aspects of Doing Business in China." Jan Cheng, Director at Dynamic Diagrams. This event takes place on Tuesday, Feb. 10th and runs from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Answers to Last Issue's Word Search Puzzle
Be sure to check the next issue for the answers to this week's puzzle.

Across
2. anything that serves as a stimulus and initiates or precipitates a reaction
4. to hesitate in fear or doubt
5. a spoon and fork
6. to approve or agree
8. used to mark off explanatory or qualifying remarks in writing or printing
9. to insert (one thing) tightly between two other things of different character or quality
12. without refinement, delicacy, or sensitivity
13. a woman joined in marriage
14. distance across a circle
15. having little length
16. unfavorable, adverse, of unsound physical or mental health
17. a border or case for enclosing a picture, mirror, etc.

Down
1. not specific or definite
2. any thing that serves as a stimulus and initiates or precipitates a reaction
3. pronoun for a female
4. to hesitate in fear or doubt
5. a spoon and fork
6. to approve or agree
8. used to mark off explanatory or qualifying remarks in writing or printing
9. to insert (one thing) tightly between two other things of different character or quality
11. a clever or mischievous act
12. without refinement, delicacy, or sensitivity
17. a border or case for enclosing a picture, mirror, etc.

by phil flickinger (www.blundergrads.com)
men's ice hockey
Conference: 3-6-1
Overall: 4-13-2
1.28.09 vs UMass Dartmouth, L 4-1
1.31.09 vs Stonehill, L 8-5
2.3.09 vs Tufts, L 4-1

women's basketball
Conference: 3-4
Overall: 10-8
4-1 1.31.09 @ Lasell, W 60-53
2.2.09 @ Newbury, W 89-45

men's basketball
Conference: 2-9
Overall: 3-15
1.29.09 @ Mt. Ida, L 81-79
1.31.09 vs Lasell, W 112-107
2.2.09 @ Emerson, L 70-51

player of the week
Back in just his second game after having an appendectomy, Ram senior Brian Small led the Rams to their 112-107 upset of GNAC foe Lasell College. Small scored 38 points, collected 11 rebounds and 9 assists, just missing a triple double. In his first game back against Mount Ida College, Small dropped 22 points and grabbed 14 boards in a two point loss for the Rams.

BRYANT SETS MSG RECORD
Los Angeles Lakers shooting guard Kobe Bryant scored 61 points in a win against the Knicks on Monday, and broke the record for most points in a game at Madison Square Garden in the process. The previous record for a visiting player was 55 by Michael Jordan, who accomplished the feat in 1995. The record for a Knick was 60, set by Bernard King in 1984. Bryant hit all 20 of his free throws, hit three three-pointers, and was 19 of 31 from the field. In the last 4 seasons, Bryant has also put up games of 60, 62, 65 and a career high of 81.

KNIGHT LOOKING INTO A COMEBACK?
Legendary college basketball coach Bob Knight may be ready to come out of retirement, according to an Atlanta newspaper. The Atlanta Journal & Constitution reported that while there has been no contact between the two, Knight would accept the head coaching position at the University of Georgia if it were offered to him. Knight, who retired in 2008, has coached for over 30 years and has 902 career victories. Georgia fired head coach Dennis Felton last week after a subpar start to the season, which saw the Bulldogs lose their first five SEC games. Georgia tired head coach Dennis Felton last week after a subpar start to the season, which saw the Bulldogs lose their first five SEC games.

PHELPS CAUGHT IN MARIJUANA FLAP
Michael Phelps is making waves again, however this time it's out of the pool. The swimming star, who became a national hero after his eight gold medal performance in last summer's Olympics, was shown using a glass marijuana pipe in a photo released by a British tabloid. News of the World, the tabloid that broke the story, said the photo was taken at a party at the University of South Carolina last November, and portrays Phelps apparently smoking marijuana. Opting to not put any positive spin on the situation, Phelps instead decided to offer an apology for "regrettable behavior," and assured that it wouldn't happen again. Phelps garnered millions of dollars in sponsorships after his success in Beijing, and thus far his sponsors, including Speedo, Visa and Omega, have said they'd stand by the swimmer. The International Olympic Committee has also accepted Phelps' apology, but South Carolina police are, according to ESPN.com, looking into pressing charges against Phelps for the incident.
Men’s B-Ball beats GNAC foe Lasell and coaches help beat cancer

Mike Giannattasio
Journal Staff

With a 3-15 record, the Suffolk University Men’s Basketball team is hoping that they can finish off their season strong. The Rams started off the year 0-8, but they have seemed to progress since that losing streak came to an end.

On Saturday afternoon, the Rams pulled off a 112-107 upset win over Great Northeast Conference leading Lasell College (22-6 overall) at the Regan Gymnasium.

"Lasell was a big win, as we knocked off the first place team in the league," said Nelson, who named head coach and assistant director of athletics Allan Ray for five games (suffered an eye injury in practice),” said Nelson. "Freshman players Mike Gibson, Luke Barrett, and Jevic Muteba have verbally stepped up. The three of them are going to be big-time players in this league. Now that we are finally healthy, I think we are ready to make a run at the playoffs.

In order for the Rams to capture a playoff berth, Nelson said they have to improve on many different aspects for the rest of the season.

"We need to continue to take care of the ball," said Nelson. "That has been our biggest weakness all year. We’ve won the three games that we’ve turned the ball over less than 15 times. We are also playing a lot of young guys big minutes, and we will continue to do so. This is valuable experience for them as we prepare for the future.

Yesterday, the Rams lost an away game to Emerson College 70-51. They are back on the road tomorrow as they play at St. Joseph’s followed by another away game at Albertus Magnus on Feb. 7.

"They are two long trips, St. Joseph’s and New Haven, Connecticut, and both are very tough places to play on the road," said Nelson. "If we want our guys to be mature, play hard, and take care of the ball. When we do those things, we are a very good team, no matter where we play.

With the regular season coming to an end on Feb. 21, Nelson believes the Rams can definitely make the playoff spots if they win the majority of their remaining games.

"We are still fighting to get in to the playoffs," said Nelson. "We have seven games left, including a re-match with Lasell. We feel that five wins will get us in, so we need to win at least three out of the final seven.

We have two tough games on the road coming up at St. Joe’s and at Albertus Magnus. After that, we have a very favorable schedule, playing four out of the last five games at home. We definitely think we have enough talent, and we are playing well enough right now to make a run.

Besides the huge win, this game was special in another way as the team participated in the Coaches vs. Cancer event, as coaches on both teams wore running shoes to show their support for cancer research and awareness.

"I think that it’s very important for us as coaches to do what we can to help raise awareness for cancer research," said Nelson. "This is not to say Ovechkin is all good. Some report him being less than cordial with fans at times, and his somewhat reckless style of play at times has led to him being branded a bit of a dirty player. But the point is, it’s dear from watching him play that Ovechkin loves the game, and his youthful enthusiasm is contagious.

He had players on both sides smiling from ear to ear during this weekend’s festivities, and it’s hard to watch his pinball-esque goal celebrations without wanting to jump up and join in. While he’s despised when one’s team is playing against him, one would be hard-pressed to find a hockey fan who can’t appreciate Ovechkin’s talent and passion for the game. Sports teams wait for years for players like this one who has top-tier talent, a love for the game and an outgoing personality to sell it to the masses. No offense to Sid the Kid, but perhaps the NHL’s marketing masters should start pushing Ovechkin as the face of the league. They’d better hurry though. It may only be a matter of time before he scores a goal and jumps through the boards celebrating.

The Coaches from both Suffolk and Lasell College took part in the Coaches vs Cancer program event by wearing running shoes on the sidelines of the Jan. 31 game at Regan Gymnasium. From left; Suffolk Assistant Rich Fazzi, Suffolk Head Coach Adam Nelson, Lasell Assistant Bruce Reese, Lasell Head Coach Aaron Galletto, Lasell Assistant Patrick Orozcko, Lasell Assistant Matt LaVangie.
Commuter vs Resident student dodgeball pictures

Two students implement a team attack on the opponent.

Two students firing dodgeballs at their opponents.

Commuter vs Resident Dodgeball - PANDEMONIUM

The unglamorous side of competitive dodgeball: getting hit by a big rubber ball where the sun doesn't shine.

Some students huddle while they get ready for the next match.

Cardinals fans run 'rag'-ged by Steelers' Terrible Towels

Dan Ryan
Journal Staff

After reaching the first Super Bowl in franchise history, one would have assumed fans of the Arizona Cardinals would have come out in droves to support their team's quest for football's ultimate prize. The underdog Cardinals played an inspired game, coming back from a 13-point deficit to take a 23-20 lead with under three minutes to go, only to have Santonio Holmes and the Steelers literally (Holmes) and figuratively (Holmes) and figuratively snag victory from the jaws of defeat.

Despite the loss, the Cardinals still put on a great performance. It's unfortunate that the performance of Cardinals' fans wasn't so great. By many accounts, Tampa, the site of this year's Big Game, looked more like 'Steelers South' than a neutral site. The Terrible Towels were out in full force, visible in the thousands, waving vigorously well before kickoff. Mike Celizic of NBCSports.com wrote a column titled "Steel Nation Invades Tampa," making Steelers fans seem like locusts, swarming to Tampa by the thousands, all in the name of supporting the team. By contrast, the Arizona faithful seemed few and far between. It's safe to assume that there were in fact Cardinals fans at the game, but their cheering could barely be heard over the thunderous din of the towel-waving Steelers fans.

In James' Super Bowl tickets and travel can get fairly pricey. However, even the Nielsen Ratings for the game were a disappointment. An Arizona standpoint, Pittsburgh had the highest ratings in the country, with a 33.6 share. The second highest rating, 52.6, were in Norfolk, VA, hometown of steelers coach Mike Tomlin. Phoenix, on the other hand, came in at ninth, with a 47.5 rating, behind uninterested markets like Buffalo, NY, Richmond, VA and Cleveland, OH.

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Even population figures fail to counter the numbers. The Phoenix metro area has a population of 4,179,427 according to 2006 Census estimates. The same estimates put the Pittsburgh metro area at 2,462,571, a little more than half that of Phoenix. With twice as many people, wouldn't it stand to reason that the good people of Arizona could have put up better numbers? Maybe, as Michael Holley put it on WEEI on Tuesday, everyone was just out golfing, enjoying Arizona's mild winter weather. Maybe Phoenix area residents, like many football fans, couldn't believe that the Cards were actually in the game, and forgot to watch. Or maybe the Steelers just have the more passionate fan base.

The question of whether the Cards fans could have pushed them to a win will never be answered. In any case, I give the Cardinals fans a big thumbs down. After the immense effort it took for their hometown squad to make it to the title game, the least the fans could have done was throw some championship support behind their team.
in 1995, Travis Roy's life was changed forever. The freshman at Boston University suffered a devastating neck injury that left him paralyzed on the ice.

Crushing his fourth and fifth cervical vertebrae, Roy has lost all mobility below his shoulders, with the exception of limited motion in his right arm. Though his injury Roy has dedicated his life to raising money for spinal cord injury research and rehabilitation. Along with establishing the Travis Roy Foundation, Roy has also become a motivational speaker and has appeared at schools across the country, teaching students the importance of facing life's challenges with a positive outlook.

"The great thing that sports teaches you is to go out and play the game, even when you are losing," said Roy. "There is always some value in hanging in there and finishing. In athletics you never give up, you never quit. That has certainly been with me since my accident."

Speaking to a packed audience at the C. Walsh Theater last Thursday, Roy shared his story and his guidance to Suffolk students and faculty. The event, which was organized by the Student Athlete Advisory Committee who received a grant from the Great Northeast Athletic Conference, was sponsored by the Office of Disability Services and the Athletic Department as well. Roy began his speech with a emotional video of the game against the University of North Dakota that would be the beginning and end of his hockey career.

"When he hits the board on the video, your heart stops," said Jess Ferreira, his teammate. "I was crying my eyes out." Roy stated that he knew as soon as he hit the boards that something was seriously wrong. Spending the next four months in a hospital bed, Roy felt helpless and dreaded all the pain his injury was causing those who loved him.

"I just wanted to take all the pain and suffering from everyone else," he said. "Just let me deal with it, nobody else." It was not until he was released from the hospital into the Shepherd Clinic in Georgia that his outlook began to change. The transition from hospital bed to wheelchair was difficult for Roy because it became a reality that the rest of his life would be spent in a wheelchair, but he embraced his new surroundings and was grateful that the rest of his life would not be spent in the hospital bed instead. "Sometimes a change in scenery is all it takes to turn your perspective around," said Roy. "At Shepard I realized I still had so many opportunities if I was only willing to take them. A positive attitude will always take you further in life than anything else."

Before reaching college and becoming a Division I hockey player, Roy had established many different goals for athletes when he first started to speak I could see tears. I being no different," said Nelson. "Travis and his comments reached into the souls of our student athletes and those in attendance. The realization of what can occur in a moment's time is certainly sobering."

Despite everything Roy still maintains a positive attitude. Enjoying everything from the view of the sunset sky from his Comm. Ave condo to the taste of great food to all the moments he spends with his family. Though admits he would not choose this life, he does feel that this life has more value.

"I believe there are times when we choose our challenges and there are times when our challenges choose us," said Roy. "I can sti laugh, and I can still cry. I am just now realizing through life instead of skating."

Ovechkin is numero uno

Dan Ryan
Journal Staff

In a league that is experiencing a tidal wave of young talent, Sidney Crosby of the Pittsburgh Penguins is usually considered the "face" of the National Hockey League. He drives merchandise sales, appears in commercials and draws big ratings in nationally televised games. Ask any non-hockey fan to name a current hockey player, and chances are the name "Crosby" will be heard more than a couple of times. Crosby can shoot, pass, put the puck in the net with the best of them, and, though a bit shy, is a good ambassador for the sport.

He has been marketed by the NHL more than a couple of times. Crosby can shoot, pass, put the puck in the net with the best of them, and, though a bit shy, is a good ambassador for the sport. Yes, Montreal, where they boo everything that moves, sometimes including their own team. He was dancing during warm-ups, and after a practice breakaway attempt on Bruins goalie Tim Thomas and falling into the boards, laid on the ice motionless for a moment. Un-doubtedly causing heart palpitations throughout the O.C.- Metro area, before bolting up with a huge grin on his face.

When asked what happened, with the fans, he said, "Eight responded, while pointing to Centre Bell's rafters). I can laugh, and I can still cry. I am just now realizing through life instead of skating."

The Suffolk community welcomed Travis Roy as a guest speaker. From left, Athletic Director James Nelson, Travis Roy, and Head Athletic Trainer Jeff Stone.

Ovechkin page 14

see OVECHKIN page 14