Freshman SGA senators propose gun legislation

Alex Pearlman and Drew Pemnett
Journal Staff

Last week, the Journal received an anonymous tip that two freshmen SGA senators, Joe Peru and William Gardiner, were introducing a bill into the SGA senate with provisions for Suffolk Police Department officers to carry firearms.

The tip, which included the original text of the bill (formally known as SGA R-09-02.01), was given to a Journal reporter on the condition of anonymity.

Historically, the issue of Suffolk police officers carrying guns has come up every five years or so. "[The issue] is something that has been brought up for years, mostly by students," said SGA President Brian Lefort. "It's worth bringing up if the students want to. If the University seems like they're willing to take it on, maybe we'll take it on."

However, the University's policy on SUDP officers carrying firearms has been made clear a number of times. The issue of campus police officers carrying firearms has been considered very carefully several times, and we have concluded that this is not a wise thing to do," said Suffolk spokesperson Greg Gatin in a statement. "As with all University policies, particularly those regarding the safety of our students, faculty and staff, this policy is reviewed regularly by top University officials."

The bill in question is only one page long and reads as follows: "A Resolution Calling for the Issuance of Firearms to Suffolk University Police Officers, Whereas: The Suffolk University Police Department is responsible for ensuring the safety of the student body and university staff and whereas: Given the University's environment, Suffolk students are frequently exposed to the potential dangers that exist in an urban setting; and whereas: Suffolk University Police Officers are not currently permitted to carry firearms, which does not allow for an adequate response in the case of an emergency on campus; therefore it be resolved: The Suffolk University Student Government Association hereby demands that Suffolk University Police Officers be issued firearms."

After receiving the text of the bill, the Journal contacted the anonymous source who said, "I feel that SGA has buried this piece of legislation in order to hide it from the students. As someone who feels so deeply about the issue, I felt that it needed to be brought to someone's attention. Otherwise we are depriving the student body."

In order to go into committee, the bill would need to pass through the Student Judicial Review Board (SJRB), which would then decide whether or not to do so. After SJRB reviews the bill, the SGA senators will vote on it. But, with a bill of this magnitude and controversy, the administration would also need to sign off on whether or not Suffolk police officers will carry guns.

Campus safety, however, is the main driving point of the bill, and some students feel that they could be safer, despite Suffolk's proximity to the Boston Police Department, the Massachusetts State Police, and the National Park Service, all of which not only carry guns, but would respond should an emergency situation arise on Suffolk's campus.

"Right now, the [Suffolk] cops have to fear for their own safety from gunmen because they're ill-armed," said sophomore Karl Hoffman. "The police are here to protect the students and I don't feel they can do an adequate job [without firearms]."

Jim Wilson, a senior, agreed that the Suffolk police should be adequately equipped with both tasers and firearms and should

see GUN page 3

Negative opposition flyers taint SGA elections

Alex Pearlman
Journal Staff

Suffolk's campus has been besieged by campaign flyers as the Student Government Association's (SGA) Executive Board election campaigns get into full swing. From posters to slogans, the nine candidates have gone out all to make themselves known to the student body in hopes of getting the most votes.

However, the negative side to this, the first public SGA election with multiple candidates competing for the same positions, is that some opposition posters have also begun to show up around campus.

To post a flyer or poster, a candidate must have that flyer or poster approved by either Student Activities or Residence Life, depending on where they want to post a flyer.

On Feb. 27, negative posters that showed a burning American flag and read, "Suffolk Under Brian Lefort" were found posted on walls in both Miller Hall and the Sawyer building and none of the posters had approval stamps.

Lefort, current President of SGA, said of the negative posters, "It's frustrating to see that people will do that. I don't understand why people can't have a clean election."

Student Activities approves flyer every day and on Tuesdays and Thursdays someone will sweep the hallways of the school buildings and take down all illegal flyers and throw them out.

However, the Residence Halls have their own rules about posting flyers, such as any poster or flyer that is posted on a residence door is legal. Still, none of the flyers opposing Lefort were found on doors; they were all legal and hung on walls.

"It's all about free speech and [students'] ability to post flyers," said David DeAngelis, Director of Student Activities. "But let people have the right to run a fair campaign."

Lefort also feels that fair campaigns are important to the election process.

"Everyone deserves to have their voice heard," Lefort said. "If [someone wants] to debate me...come find me, I'm open for discussion."

There are currently no leads as to who was behind posting the negative flyer about Lefort.

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Fused to comment on this issue. John Silveria, Assistant Dean of Students for Student Activities and Service Learning, said that when or if a candidate came to Student Activities with a complaint about a negative campaign poster or flyer, Student Activities will investigate the situation and attempt to find a way to rectify it.

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news
BRIEFS

Candidates drop out of SGA Election

SGA secretary candidate Daniel E. Mann, 2012, and presidential candidate Olena Savytska, 2011, have both dropped out of their respective races. "I'm throwing my support behind Brian Lefort," said Savytska. Their resignations will be made official tomorrow.

POLICE BLOTTER

Wednesday, Feb. 25

1:18 p.m.
150 Tremont
Student caught stealing from Tremont Street Dorm cafeteria. Report filed.

1:50 p.m.
Donahue Building

Thursday, Feb. 26

6:13 p.m.
Sawyer Building

Sunday, March 1

6:38 p.m.
10 West

Tuesday, March 3

9:46 p.m.
10 West
RA requested police respond to a marijuana call, nothing found.

Club started on Facebook debuts on campus

Shoshana Akins
Journal Staff

Who knew that Facebook could serve more of a purpose than homework procrastination and incessant friend creeping? For four Suffolk students, Facebook is what inspired them to bring a brand new club to the Suffolk's repertoire: the Foreign Policy Forum, a club meant to foster debate among students and to serve as a venue for them to share their views.

"One of my friends posted an article about a foreign policy issue on Facebook and tagged me so I could critique it," explained Phillip Smyth, the club's president. "Brian Higdon [another club leader] added to my criticism, we connected, and it went from there."

Once Higdon and Smyth began speaking about the similarities in their opinions, Smyth brought in David Sionti, whom he knew from a class, to the brain tank for his strong political views and Ed Plamowski, whom he knew from hearing his political talk show on Suffolk Free Radio.

This foursome, after becoming friends outside the confines of the Internet and sharing their common interests, realized that there was no club available for students interested in discussing purely foreign policy; not politics, not media-swayed discourse, just students' opinions on what is going on in the world.

"The main goal of the club is to become educated on the issues in the world through discussion," said Higdon. "To focus less on superficial rhetoric and more on what's going on reality."

The Foreign Policy Forum will not only be used for student-to-student discussion, but to also bring in outside speakers who are prominent in the field, go to events involving foreign policy in the area, and go on trips related to the topics and purposes of the club.

The club is also hoping to put out a publication similar to a blog so that other Suffolk students, club members, and anyone else who sees the site can talk and post comments, articles, and links about current foreign policy issues.

The ambitions, goals, and purposes of the club do sound similar to those of others already on campus and have raised some concern. The Forum wants to assert that it will not be stepping on any other club's toes and is instead very willing to work with these similar clubs.

"We are planning to work closely with Model UN and other political, ideological, and religious groups on campus," said Smyth. "But we are still different from those groups; we have a different operating system, you represent yourself as an individual with your own views, and you do it all on your own. We are not here to 'steal' other clubs' members."

Plamowski is actually the treasurer of one of those competing clubs, the Political Science Association, and he believes that the Forum is separate from the rest and will be beneficial to the student body.

"We want to establish something through which students can channel their intellectual thoughts on foreign policy," said Plamowski. "Suffolk needs an open forum of sorts through which issues of foreign policy can be discussed."

The club has not established a meeting time or place as of yet but a Facebook group has been set up where updates and information are posted on a regular basis and can help students connect with the leaders of the Forum.

UNITY WEEK

February 28 - March 6, 2009

Unity Week is a collaborative effort by students, faculty and administrators and has traditionally consisted of entertainment, speakers, dialogues, open classes, food and music. These events not only recognize the diversity represented within the University, but also affirm the value and vitality that this pluralism brings to the individual and collective experience here at Suffolk.

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Featured Event:

MARCH 5

Unity Week Showcase
7pm, C. Walsh Theatre

Suffolk University's Unity Week debuts on campus today with the annual Unity Week Showcase. The event, which kicks off the Unity Week festivities, celebrates the diversity of our student body and community, and encourages attendees to explore the culture and traditions of different cultures.

The Showcase will feature a variety of performances, including a choir, dancers, and musicians, representing a range of cultural backgrounds. The event is open to the public and is free to attend. For more information, please visit www.suffolk.edu/unityweek.
Panel discusses internet and politics

Ron Smith

Facebook, MySpace and Twitter became more than just social networking sites after the immense role they played in the last election, according to Suffolk University professors Gloria Boone, Linda Gallant and Nina Huntemann during a panel discussion last Thursday regarding new media, democracy and technology.

During the discussion, which was moderated by CJN Chair Dr. Bob Rosenthal, Boone, Gallant and Huntemann illustrated how the internet, and other media outlets, affected the political process.

"Although both [books and the internet] have had significant impacts on human behavior, the internet is much younger then print and has already had a significant impact on knowledge," said Rosenthal.

Gallant began the discussion with a PowerPoint presentation, which questioned whether the internet brings people together or fragments society. Gallant focused on how the internet, although not a direct form of communication like physically speaking, creates communities, which can bring people together for a common cause, as exemplified by the election results.

"The audience can engage in synchronized real time or a synchronized social interaction," said Gallant. "But you [create communities]. This is important to politics."

According to Gallant, through July 7-34, 2008, then Senator Obama had 16 online communities that supporters could join within Facebook, Twitter and various other communities on the internet.

"Consequently, Hillary Clinton had six. Furthermore, on Facebook specifically, in the General Election, Obama had 79 percent of voters while McCain had 21 percent. Although Gallant explained the prolific role the internet plays in politics, she expressed little concern about what that does to face to face contact.

"I don't think [the internet] will completely replace the way we talk to people," said Gallant. "It will not completely replace the handshake."

Boone delved into more ways technology in general has been used in politics and how far we've come since the creation of the internet, according to Boone, in 1993 the White House website was created, followed by the first campaign site in 1994 for Senator Diane Feinstein (D-California). However, in 2004, technology and politics reached a new high when zip code targeting was introduced.

This process allowed candidates to pinpoint the income, education and even the car a person drives through their zip code. With this information, candidates could target their audiences and get the vote out about specific issues.

"We need to step outside this type of event being an option — it's a privilege. Diversity is not optional."

Bill proposes guns for SUPD

Rani Smith

The Suffolk Journal Staff

Rebecca Environmental studies major, Arianna Galbush, sophomore at Suffolk University, spoke about the results of the election, the key to the election was technology. The internet was used as a tool to target their audiences and get the vote out about specific issues.

"You don't have to import knowledge," said Rosenthal.

"Although Gallant explained that the separation method was the most controversial, it was very difficult for me to accept the NCBI approach of not directly addressing racial slurs and offensive statements," said Jessica Ross, a sophomore at Suffolk University and vice president of the Black Student Union on campus. As an advocate for equality and an ally to multiple subordinated groups, I believe strongly in addressing injustice immediately, directly and effectively.

"While creating blameless dialogue with someone who has offended is often very challenging, the results that follow are what Robert Dungay, Director of NCBI Canada, describes as "real power." "Real power is getting people to re-evaluate and change in a positive way," said Dungay.

Both Dungay and Shabazz stressed that choosing to have dialogue over directly confronting an issue is most useful in situations where a person needs or wants to maintain a relationship, such as with a family member or co-worker. Directly addressing a slur or comment is necessary and pertinent in instances of continued use.

"The ability to slow down and initiate dialogue in order to understand where [people] are coming from," was the most applicable and valuable skill learned at the Summit, according to Adrienne Dono- van, Suffolk University graduate student in the Higher Education Administration program. "Continued dialogue is where true enlightenment comes from."

"Having a varied skill set is vital in actively dealing with oppressive behavior, racism, and bigotry, but these skills alone cannot create change.

"Dungay emphasized the importance of mingling and interacting with other social groups, testing comfort levels, and ideally forcing yourself to be uncomfortable. "Comfortable can be a liability," he said.

And professionals are not the only ones that see value in uncomfortable situations.

"Being comfortable hinders one's awareness...this then leads to ignorance, which is disadvantageous to creating an equitable, socially inclusive society," said Ross. "People need to feel uncomfortable so that they may be challenged to think beyond their own social circles."

NCBI leaders and summit attendees concluded that testing stigmas and stereotypes is perhaps the best approach to creating long-term change.

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This week, the Journal spoke with Presidential candidates Brian LeFort and Chris Cataldo and Vice Presidential candidates Nick DiZoglio, Sarah Flanagan and Mike Gesualdi. We asked them all the same questions and for the purposes of this article, LeFort will be referred to as BL, Cataldo will be CC, Flanagan will be SF, DiZoglio will be ND and Gesualdi will be MG.

1. How can SGA improve the school?

BL- The SGA is here to link the administration with students to improve the atmosphere at Suffolk University, and listen to the students and step in when the University might not know about a certain issue.

CC- SGA is one of the most important clubs and SGA is a group that needs to be more transparent.

ND- In the past we’ve done amazing things. We help students every day.

MG- The SGA slogan is “Your voice heard on campus.” To me, it’s failed to do so. People talk about doing stuff, like passing legislation for new clubs, but besides that not much has been done.

SF- SGA can improve the school by making sure all students have access to all clubs and activities and information about them.

2. What do you plan to accomplish if elected?

BL- I plan to work more with commuter students, talk to OCHO and collaborate with them more to help make it more successful. I also want to help make the SGA work more with clubs and improve relationships. I also want to have YouTube videos to address student concerns.

CC- We need to create a Campus Cruiser or Facebook domain where we can post legislation, whether is passed or failed and have students offer constructive criticism and also have every senator and e-board members’ contact information. I want to help lower fees and make books cheaper by eliminating package deals and have universal ID’s to give students access to all university buildings. We also need a student union and I’m disappointed it wasn’t lobbied for as much as it should have been. It would include a cafeteria and offices for all clubs.

ND- I have a lot of ideas that have been green lighted by VP Stoll. I want to make sure that commuter students’ needs are met because they represent seventy percent of the student body and we need to keep that base attracted. We should bring a commuter breakfast to the University and Sodexo should have month to month inspections, have a shuttle bus for NFS AD students, and bring TVs to dorm lounges.

MG- I want to honestly put the [SGA] slogan into place. We don’t need ambassadors, we need leaders. There’s a lot of arguments internally and we’re supposed to be here to better the student body. We need more commuter involvement. I also think that after people log in to the internet, it should redirect to a page with Suffolk events. I’m not making promises, but I’m going to voice people’s concerns. If anyone has a big idea, I’ll push for it to improve the student body.

SF- I want to do a monthly get together, like Welcome Week, that connects all students, also commuter students.

3. How long have you been a member of SGA and what have you accomplished?

BL- I’ve been the SGA for three years. I was the Senate Student affairs chair. I was on the SRJB committee (Student Judicial Review Board) for two years, and I was on dining services and bookstore advisory committees. I have knowledge of many aspects of the Student Government and I know how to manage the organization. I’ve worked on the RAM account and I’ve worked with the bookstore to improve book orders. As President, I’ve started the club outreach program where senators are assigned to different clubs on campus.

CC- I started this year and I’ve worked with the student affairs committee and we’re slowly making improvements, like having nutrition values in the cafeteria and having meal combo discounts. I’ve also started pushing the universal ID. I’ve pushed my ideas and principals.

ND- I’ve been on SGA since freshman year. On the finance committee I’ve fought for breakdown and on the Housing and Facilities Committee I’ve fought for handicap accessibility at the University.

MG- People are always talking about what you’ve done in SGA instead of what you’ve done on campus. It’s not about what you can do for SGA, but what you can for the student body. I’m a member of College Democrats, the Senate Finance and Student Affairs committees, I’m the freshman class treasurer, and a work study at the Suffolk Business Office. I’ve met a lot of people and clubs.

SF- I’ve been with SGA a year and during that time I was on the academics committee. I started the prose, profs, and pastries. This year I was on the Student Union Committee.

4. What are the most important responsibilities you’ll have next year if elected?

BL- As president I know the responsibilities. I have to interact well with others and understand where they’re coming from. This is not a one person show. I need to manage the organization, talk and communicate with the administration for the students and communicate with the senators because my opinions might not always represent the student body.

CC- I take this election extremely personally. I want to be that person to inspire and motivate the organization and the campus, to be that leader, to motivate other candidates and not be a middle man in the SGA. My most important responsibility is keeping all my promises, and striving to get everything done on my platform.

ND- My most important responsibility is keeping all my promises, and striving to get everything done on my platform. I’ll work the SRJB (Student Judicial Review Board) to get new clubs more quickly. The more clubs we have, the more Suffolk grows. I want to build the first Boston College Student Government Association where Boston area colleges share ideas and work together. Brian LeFort is trying to do this. I want a conference with other college SGA presidents and vice presidents.

MG- I need to help make sure students are involved and increase commuter and dormitory involvement. As Vice President, I’ll have more responsibility, but I’ll have a voice just like any other kid. I’m a regular student and I want to show we’re all the same thing.

SF- Definitely number one is the SRJB being available to answer questions.
Saturday, February 21, 2009

Sky Diving, Surfing, Swimming, Swinging...

From the Blogs:

Suffolk Life as a Sophomore...

Down Under in Australia

Shall we go...shall we do it? I thought, "is it too late to say no?" But before I could even finish my thought I was free falling, without a chute. Nothing but sky surrounded me. I have never felt anything like it in my life. In what seemed like forever, the parachute opened and it was a smooth ride from there. My instructor pointed out things we saw on the way down, as we did twists and turns and were getting closer to the ground. He had me practice landing while still in the sky, and soon we were landing smoothly on grass, which was nothing. I surprisingly felt so safe the whole way down and even landing. Words cannot describe how amazing the jump was. I would do it again in a heartbeat and I think everyone should do it at least once in their lives. I was unbelievable. Seriously. Do it.

After jumping I had a rush like no other, I felt like I could go run a marathon, until about 45 minutes later when I sat down, and passed out from the adrenaline fading and my lack of sleep catching up. As you can obviously tell...

We waited for the other groups and watched videos of the jumps.

We then headed to the beach, where we had surf lessons, and I have to admit, I am getting a little better. I actually got up on my board about 4 or 5 times (2 being by myself without the instructor pushing my board and telling me when to stand) I'm telling you, its wayyyyyy harder than it looks, harder than skydiving, and scarier because the fins on the board could crack your head after you get flung off of the water, which also wasn't as deep as it seemed. (I know, such a bad move...) Just another thing to add to my crazy list of the day.

Following the intense rope jumping session we headed to dinner at a place called "Cheeky Monkeys" down in the city of Byron Bay, which had a very cool hippie, peace, love kind of feel. We ended the night at a club called "La La Land" where the bus brought us back to Bond by about 2am this morning. Talk about exhaustedddd. :) Next up is Scuba Diving at Whitsundays, where I'll be Sailing on a boat for 3 nights and checking out the Great Barrier Reef. I love Australia.

Posted by Haley at 10:05 PM

Haley Brennan is a sophomore at Suffolk and is currently studying abroad in Australia's Gold Coast.

All photos courtesy of Haley Brennan at http://haleybs.blogspot.com/
Staff Editorial

As the SGA election draws near, students are beginning to take a step back and really ask themselves what the various candidates can bring to Suffolk University. The Journal is pleased to see that this election has gained so much attention, that all the candidates are doing everything they can to convey their messages to the student body. Taking student politics seriously is an excellent step to improving the social atmosphere of the school and providing students who aren’t a part of SGA with a reason to get involved. From new buildings to poor quality cafeterias, the issues that this new SGA will tackle will need the most intelligent, responsible leaders that our student body can select.

However, during elections one often forgets how the media should be a watchdog for democracy. Let’s not kid ourselves—the Presidential election has seen some of the most biased and manufactured coverage. Whether you believe in Barack Obama or John McCain, the mere thought of a journal endorsing candidates for any position is a disturbing idea. We urge all students to vote in the SGA election, as your satisfaction with the University is one of the most important issues in your lives, whether you realize it or not. Think long and hard before you vote in the SGA election on March 9, but make sure your vote is your own.

The Suffolk Journal

The life or death of the human being?

Gory Benjamin
Journal Contributor

On Monday, the Los Angeles based Fertility Institutes announced on their website that they would soon be offering patients the option of selecting the hair, eye color, and skin tone of their children. The title of the release read: “PREDICTIVE GENOMICS TO BE AVAILABLE: Eye color, hair color, cancer tendency and more. Limitations apply, New!” The New York Times, Los Angeles Times and most other major news sources picked up the story, resulting in public outcry. On Tuesday, March 3, the Fertility Institutes released a new statement on their website saying that the eye and hair color program had been suspended and that they “would no longer be investigating the genetics of pigmentation of any body structures.”

Before we automatically admonish those who would have us all become genetically designed, we should consider why that prospect is so distasteful. The reason is often given that if we unlock all the secrets of the genetic code, new and exciting forms of discrimination would arise. Humans would no longer be judged by the content of their character, but rather that of their DNA.

We need to make a definitive statement against progress for the sake of progress. The Fertility Institute has suspended their trial selection service for now. The next clinic that develops will have all become genetically designed, we should consider why that prospect is so distasteful. The reason is often given that if we unlock all the secrets of the genetic code, new and exciting forms of discrimination would arise. Humans would no longer be judged by the content of their character, but rather that of their DNA. The problem is that it fundamentally alters the pattern of human existence as our collective unconscious has come to understand it over the last 200,000 years of existence. Each individual has always thought there was something mysterious and magical about the way that they came into being. They would look up at the night sky and see the stars and have a vague understanding of that great infiniteness that was within their soul and the sky. They shared similar character.

"Humans would no longer be judged by the content of their character, but rather that of their DNA"

"Humans would no longer be judged by the content of their character, but rather that of their DNA"
University library fails to enforce its own policy

Drew Pennetti
Journal Staff

I used to believe a library was a quiet place that would allow students to read without people talking around them. I was able to hold onto that belief until I came to Suffolk University. As a commuter student, it is difficult for me to travel back and forth in between my classes, but it is still easier to go back to my apartment than to try to work on the fourth floor of the library.

I try to avoid the library as much as possible because there is absolutely no enforcement of the rule in the library of being quiet on the ‘quiet’ floor, the fourth floor, which is greatly needed. About a week ago, I attempted to get my reading done for a class on the fourth floor. I went to a corner in the library that seemed quiet at the time, although I could still hear other people’s conversations. I was able to get through half of my reading when a group of students sat across from me, and began to discuss a presentation for one of their classes. I asked them to be quiet, but they continued their discussion. I asked them again to be quiet, and asked them if they could do anything about the talkative students. I just received the answer that it is sometimes quieter on the other floors. I traveled around the school, searching for a place where I could get my reading done.

I feel that the enforcement of the noise policy in the library is ridiculous. If people cannot abide by the honor system of keeping their conversation to a minimum, then it is Suffolk’s duty to enforce their own policy of being quiet on the fourth floor. If this cannot be done the school should offer noise cancelling head-phones at the front desk, or offer another room in the library that students can read without the need to constantly asking other students to respect the rules that Suffolk has put in place.

but first we have a suggestion for you: The Reader

Ethan Long
Journal Staff

With all of this Belding hub-bub around campus I think it’s time to take things a little more seriously. What some are saying about Mr. Belding is extremely untrue. America’s Favorite Principle? I think not. While there have been some great actors and actresses who have played the role of high school principal on television, only one man can take even the most delinquent students and turn them into star pupils. That man is George Feeney. Throughout the entirety of “Boy Meets World,” William Daniels played the part of teacher, assistant principal, principal, college professor, neighbor, and good friend. Who else is so dynamic that he not only travels throughout the high school and college that Corey, Topanga, and Shawn attend, but always able to tend to his garden when Corey needs to seek advice. Whenever you’re in a tangle and you just need a breather outside, who better to help you with lively advice than your seventh grade history teacher? He was there for everything, good and bad. He saw Topanga grow from a young girl into a wife and homemaker, and what better winter vacation idea than to spend a weekend snowed in at your assistant principal’s cottage in the mountains?

When the students got into relationship troubles, Mr. Feeney would always give advice. But once Corey and Topanga were married, Mr. Feeney decided that he would forget about his ex and find new love in Pennbrook College’s dean, and eventually the two would marry. In the last season, many things became apparent, including the fact that the main characters would have to go off and face the world. Mr. Feeney was there for the entirety of the show and the entirety of their lives. Throughout the last episode, we see many of the familiarities. Corey needs Topanga-related advice, he had to himself; “You’re supposed to stand by the fence. Your best advice comes from the fence.” Mr. Feeney stands by the fence and helps Corey understand his problem, and helps him come to a conclusion using his garden as a metaphor. I wish I had my own Mr. Feeney. When I get into arguments with my friends or parents, I sometimes walk outside hoping to find a fence, garden, and familiar mustached Briton standing there to guide my way. Whenever one of Shawn’s old relatives or Eric’s jobs fell through, Mr. Feeney would be there, standing at his garden or in the hallway handling the young men direction and guidance. That is why Mr. Feeney far surpasses Mr. Belding as best principal. Class is dismissed.
America's favorite principal—Mr. Belding

Many of us grew up on shows like "Saved by the Bell," so it was no surprise that students were pumped to see the show's star, Mr. Belding, at an appearance at Suffolk last Thursday evening in the Donahue Cafeteria.

The night began with a short montage of Haskins' acting work, including clips from his role as Principle Belding on "Saved by the Bell" which was his most popular work, at least among Suffolk students. Everyone cheered and clapped when Haskins came onto the stage.

He first recited his famous lines from the show like "Hey, hey, hey! What's going on here?" and did his signature laugh on command. He later explained that the director, Don Barnhart, always wanted to do more with it. "College was my playground," said Haskins. "I played ball, got involved with theater, and just did everything I could. Acting was always something I would keep coming back to though. I always wanted to do more with it."

Haskins also advised students to treat one another well and to improve society. "You are the world, it's in pretty bad shape but it's yours. You're gonna work it out. I want you guys to do something in the next two weeks...Do a random act of kindness."

He also encouraged students to have faith in themselves by shouting their names as loud as possible. "I want you to remember how good it felt to say your own name."

"Saved by the Bell," was a great part that developed well for Haskins. He has appeared in many other popular shows including "The Dukes of Hazzard," "7th Heaven," "Jag," and most recently "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia." Getting the part of Mr. Belding was no walk in the park, though, Haskins said. "After my second audition I called the producer and asked how I did. He later told me that they weren't going to bring me back until that phone call," said Haskins.

"I only had two lines in the first episode and I thought to myself 'Oh no, maybe they don't really like the character but I just worked hard and did my best, and slowly the producers gave me a bigger part," Haskins said, recalling his time on the show.

"My favorite episode was the one when Mr. Belding's brother Rod came because even with his own brother, Mr. Belding always did what was right for the kids. It really showed he was a good character," said Haskins.

"Everyone went crazy over the kids. They had tons of fans," Haskins said he knew the actors would be swarmed at promotional mall events. His sense of humor and his stories about the show, including gossip about which of the kids were really together, made for an entertaining night. He stopped to look at his phone occasionally, saying "My phone is blowin' up man," and kept the students laughing all night.

"The episode with the graduation, which was my second favorite, was a lot of people went on to do other things," said Haskins, "Unfortunately, none of the cast really stayed in contact."

"It's cool to look back at the history of the show. We filmed on [NBC's] stage 3, which is where Jay Leno does his show now. Back then, we were across the hall from Johnny Carson. It was just a really fun time," said Haskins.

There is a reunion of sorts for "Saved by the Bell" on the stop-motion sketch comedy show "Robot Chicken." The skit titled "Saw by the Bell," features of the all original cast members, with the exception of Tiffani Thiessen, doing voiceovers to a "Saved by the Bell" meets "Saw" kind of thing. Mr. Belding is Jigsaw. The night ended with some "Saved by the Bell" Trivia, an autograph session, and photo ops with America's Favorite Principal, to which Haskins stated, "Take that Feeney!"
Habitat for Humanity benefits through 'Multisensory Aesthetic Experiences'

Ashley Maceli
Journal Staff

The soft-rock alternative band from Virginia Beach, Mae, have decided to take their musical talent and guide fans to help them raise money for Habitat for Humanity. This past Saturday, Mae performed at the Habitat for Humanity Portsmouth ReStore.

Drummer Jacob Marshall sat down to do an interview with The Suffolk Journal prior to the show. "Mae stands for 'Multisensory Aesthetic Experience'," Marshall explained as he discussed some of the band's background. He did a college research paper in aesthetic theory that helped him come up with the idea for the band. "The idea was that if you could bring more of your senses into the experience that it would create a more complete moment," known as multi-sensory aesthetic experience. "It is a goal for our band to be as much of a Multisensory Aesthetic Experience as possible" Marshall pointed out with a big smile on his face.

Mae began the show with their first song release of 2009, "The House That Fire Built." Fans cheered and sang along with the song that asks every one to light a fire and spread the cause. Mae then played some of their older songs from their first album "Destination: Beautiful" (Tooth & Nail Records, 2003) such as "Skyline Drive" and their first song ever, "Embers & Envelopes." They also played some songs from their story-book album, "The Everglow" (Tooth & Nail Records, 2009), including "This is the Countdown" and their single "Suspension." From their more rock-based album "Singularity," (Capitol Records, 2007) Mae played songs from their first ballad "Just Let Go" to their fast-paced single "Brink of Disaster."

After their label change from Tooth & Nail Records to Capitol Records in 2007, Mae has now decided to be unsigned and follow their goal of helping others. With the help of ex-band member Mark Paddock, who now owns a recording studio in New York, they are recording all the new songs with the current members of Mae, including Dave Ellings, Jacob Marshall and Zach Gehringer. The goal that Mae is pursuing, throughout 2009 sort of follows the Radiohead album download ideology, with a little twist. The 2009 project, "Spread the Fire" consists of Mae releasing a new song each month. To receive the new song, one must visit the Mae webpage (www.whatismae.com) and make a donation of at least one dollar. Not only do fans get the new song, but they receive a full digital album art booklet and a letter from the band.

The songs are broken into three EP's of four songs each. The first one is titled "(m)orning," the second, "(a)fternoon" and the final one, "(e)vening." So far, Mae has released the first two tracks of "(m)orning," which include "The House That Fire Built" and "Boomerang," and the March release track will be entitled "A Melody, The Memory." After Mae releases these EP's in 2009, they will be digitally re-mastered and re-released in 2010, and will be digitally remastered and connecting each other, similar to the style of "The Everglow."

The new material will continue to grow into a bigger story with more music, "(m)orning" will continue into "(m)usic, (a)rt and (e)ducation." "(a)fternoon" will then develop into "(m)ulti-culturalism, (a)nti-poverty and (e)nvironment." Finally, "(e)vening" will continue to "(m)otivate, (a)ffect and (e)merge" their fans. Each part will develop into a chapter of a three part story, that Mae and their fans will tell together.

Mae first began by hosting private acoustic shows after their set for fans during their tour with Motion City Soundtrack and Anberlin two years ago. Mae partnered with Toys for Tots and told their fans prior to the show to bring in a toy for entry to the private acoustic show. In a matter of three weeks, Mae had collected over 6,000 toys. Marshall stated that the charity aspect made Mae feel that they "could take their music and invite people to participate through the music, and make the music be the bridge, to connect all these different people to focus on one issue, one problem," and become the solution to that problem.

Mae's first project will donate funds to their local Habitat for Humanity in Virginia to help build a home for a woman named Rhonda, who is a homeless single mother. Mae needs to reach a goal of $65,000 to build Rhonda's home. So far, Mae has collected almost $10,000, but they still need another $55,000 to complete the project. If this trend continues, Mae will not only be able to build Rhonda's home, but also help tackle other projects through Habitat for Humanity.

"What is next for Mae after this project? They will continue to "reach the world through the Internet" as Marshall said. Mae is enjoying this idea of having their fans help build their journey, and is hoping to continue with more humanitar­ian projects of their choosing. "Mae "has the tool, but [they] need the army now, to take the tools to run with it, and to see the potential of what is possible by opening the door."

"To help "Spread the Fire," go to Mae's webpage, www.whatismae. com, and download. Supporting their cause will put a brick into the home of a family that truly needs it.

Pianist not hindered by disability

Shoshong Akins
Journal Staff

Born weighing one pound five ounces with 'hangs to collapse, lost sight at the age of three months old, diagnosed with autism at age five, and is called one of the best sa­vant pianists of her time. This is the story of Brittany Mairer. On March 3, Mairer and her mother, Tammy Mairer, came to Suffolk University to perform a concert as part of Unity Week. The concert mainly consisted of Mairer present­ing her amazing talents, which is she can play any song on the piano from pop to clas­sical by just hearing it once. "At the age of six, she began playing 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star','" commented Tammy acon­dently as her daughter played. "And the next song she picked up was a Beethoven symphony after listening to it with her father on the way to school." The concert went on like this with Brittany's amazing pi­ano skills and her mom adding stories and information about people with disabilities. It was like an information session about Mairer's life, her strug­gles with autism, and troubles of disabled people put to music.

Tammie did most of the talking, explaining Brittany's story and helping the crowd participate in the performance. "She is quite a ham so you will have to clap a little louder," said Tammy with a playful wink. The crowd did not need to clap much, what a great talent her daugh­ter had. "It immediately stirred their spirits. But the crowd did not need to clap a little louder," said Tammy with a playful wink. For the rest of the performance, the band did not need much encouragement since Brit­tany's ecstatic smile, enthusias­tic movements, and her obvious joy of performing music immediately stirred their spirits.

Brittany played a range of songs, some of which were her own personal favorites and others requested from the crowd. The crowd emotionally sang along when she played "Let It Be" by the Beatles but also get excited and clapped their hands to the beat when she played The Foundations' hit "Build Me Up Buttercup," a song that Brittany bravely played at Carnegie Hall when all the rest of the per­formers played classical pieces. "Brittany wanted to play it and shake things up," said Tif­fany as Brittany smiled proudly next to her mother and theatric­ally hit the notes. "So we did." The other reason that Mairer came to perform was to inform the Suffolk commu­nity about the lack of music programs for disabled peo­ple and to get the word out about her organization, the Brittany Mairer and Friends Foundation, which her mother started to aid with this issue.

Once her mother realized what a great talent her daugh­ter had, Tammy moved the fam­ily from South Carolina to New York City where they hoped there would be more opportu­nity for Brittany to perform and learn. "Only a few days after they arrived, the Mairers were contacted by NBC Dateline, CNN, and Montel, all of who wanted to do a story on Brit­tany's touching journey. After see PIANO page 10
Nervously shaking while chewing gum, Jimmy Fallon walked out through the curtains to the fantastic sound of The Roots as he told America that he's hopped up to be let into their homes. "Smart men would leave now," he told the audience. It was the first episode of "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon," premiering just a few weeks after Conan O'Brien left to host "The Tonight Show." Of course, as Fallon is shown preparing for the show in his dressing room, O'Brien was there packing his "Billy the Large Mouthed Base" plaque into the many boxes in the room. The show's opening monologue was pretty normal for a late night show, hit and miss. The first few jokes received small amounts of laughter, but a few of them were genuinely funny. The audience was at the top of their game, calling out just as they had during O'Brien's show. "In California, a 16-year-old boy had sex with his 24-year-old teacher," Fallon told his audience. From the back, a man yelled "OH YEAH!" Everyone laughed.

During the ending of the monologue, Fallon started the "Show Jammin' the News" segment that includes his house band and will most likely become a staple of the show. The Roots played a smooth jazz number while Fallon talked about the stimulus bill and Nancy Pelosi. Singer Black Thought, who goes by his real name Tariq on the show, would make conversation, try to ask questions that didn't get answered, and pose for loads of pictures, graphed albums, and the occasional "Best Buddies" plaque into the many boxes in the room.

The first episode of "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon" wasn't groundbreaking, but it wasn't bad either. In the end, the show had one quality that it displayed throughout the entire night: it was classy.
A bunch of jacked mafia guys getting manicures and going tanning does not usually set a promising tone for an epic action movie, but when most of them die within the first minute the perfect tone is set for a movie where each character has to watch their backs and their every action at all times. "Gomorrah," (Fandango, 2008) provides an exclusive glimpse into the Naples, Italy Camorra secret society that is shocking and chilling to the bone. The movie is based on the Italian bestseller "Gomorrah: A Personal Journey Into the Violent International Empire of Naples' Organized Crime System" by Roberto Saviano, which has thrown Saviano into so much trouble with the Camorra that he is now permanently under police protection. The script follows five stories of people involved in some way with the Camorra, some of which find great success within the society and some who meet their untimely demise. The most disturbing stories are those of Toto, a boy of about 12 who wants to join the society and acts as a drug runner, and that of Giro and Marco, two teens that idolize Tony Montana and opt to be gangsters outside of the Camorra. The youngsters dive into the mob world and experience all of the sex, drugs, and violence involved in it, providing a stark contrast to the glorified mobster lifestyle prominent in most of Hollywood's gang movies. The film references the serious consequences the Camorra's backdoor dealings bring, including the effects on the environment from their lucrative hazardous waste disposal businesses. Rather than make gang life seem attractive, "Gomorrah" exposes the true horrors that these groups bring to the world, much like the Biblical story of Sodom and Gomorrah that the title's play on words refers to. Director Matteo Garrone uses simple tactics to make this movie extremely effective. The quick cuts in some scenes and drawn-out single shots in others set the pace for the scene at hand, the soundtrack is fitting and never overpowering, and the set of gritty homes and warehouses provide the perfect background to the story of the gritty underbelly of Italian culture. The one way in which the film fails is that it does not explain the gravity of the Camorra organization early enough in the film. Granted, the stories presented are baffling to the average viewer, however, they could easily be simply five unique stories or representative of five million stories. After the film, short clips of information pop up on the screen, informing the viewer that the Camorra are responsible for 10,000 deaths over 30 years, immense amounts of political and social corruption, and use their illegally obtained profits to invest in legal projects to get more politicians on their side. It alleges that the group even has contributed funds to the rebuilding of the Twin Towers. These factoids would certainly change the way people view the actions taking place onscreen. "Gomorrah" is playing this week at the Kendall Square Cinema.
The FELT Club supports the local Boston music scene on Thursday, March 5th with some of Boston's original rock bands. Burning Ace Entertainment and Promotions Presents Silent Season, Caldera, One Bullet Solution and Prevalence. Plan for a long night for the event beings at 8 p.m. and will run to about 2 a.m.

The 6B Lounge presents Top 40 night Friday, March 6th. From 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. a DJ from Boston Party Marker will play today's hit songs while you enjoy yourself on the dance floor. There is no cover charge and the 6B Lounge is located at 6 Beacon Street.

Saturday, March 7th The Boston Bruins take on the Chicago Blackhawks. They will play at the TD Banknorth Garden at 1:00 p.m. Visit Ticketmaster for tickets.

Explore the life of John F. Kennedy at the JFK Library and Museum on Sunday, March 8th. With three theaters, periods settings and 25 dramatic multimedia exhibits, you will get experience the life and leadership of JFK. The museum is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Museum of Science talks technology! On Monday, March 9th at 2:30 p.m. the M.O.S. will break down the make-up of technology and explain exactly what it is.

On Tuesday, March 10th, the Institute for Executive Education will sponsor a Leading the Business of Nonprofits presentation. Four successful business professionals will speak at this event; Trish Gannon MPA '97, executive VP Finance & Planning, CFO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston; Mark Kripp, MPA '06, Interim VP Operations, Director of Finance with Oxfam America; Michael Weekes, President/CEO, Massachusetts Council of Human Service Providers; Celeste Wilson, EMBA '98, Executive Director of Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston. Event plans to run from 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on the 1st floor function room in Sargent Hall and lunch will be served. Tickets are $15 for students and alumni.

Answers to Last Issue's WordSearch Puzzle
pelican
bluejay
pigeon
sparrow
chickadee
pelican
parrot
duck
eagle
peacock
puffin
hawk

by phil flickinger (www.blundergrads.com)
MANNY BACK IN LA-LA LAND

After an offseason of uncertainty, Manny Ramirez is returning to the Los Angeles Dodgers. The former Red Sox outfielder signed a two-year, $45 million deal with the team he finished last season with, ending a winter of rumors and negotiations surrounding the slugger. As recently as last week, Ramirez turned down a one-year, $25 million offer from the Dodgers. After arriving in Los Angeles last year, Ramirez hit .396 with 17 home runs and 53 RBI.

MEN'S TENNIS RANKED FIRST

The Suffolk Rams Men's Tennis team was ranked first in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference's annual preseason poll, garnering three first place votes and 22 voting-points overall. The Rams, who finished last season with a record of 8-5 (3-1 GNAC), will begin the season on Mar. 12 versus MIT. Johnson & Wales, Emerson, Norwich and Albertus Magnus, in that order respectively, round out the poll's top five teams.

MARCH 15, 2009

The Office of the Bursar would like to remind ALL STUDENTS that the Spring Semester due date is March 15 , 2009

Please remember: You must have a $0.00 balance in order to participate in priority registration for the Summer and Fall 2009 Semesters.

You may securely make your payment online by visiting:

www.suffolk.edu/Bursar

or choose 'Make A Payment' located in the menu to the right.

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 8:45 to 8:30 Friday 8:45 to 3:00 (617) 573-8407

UEFA CLAMPS DOWN ON RACISM

In a move rarely seen or deemed necessary in American sports, UEFA announced that the organization would back referees who elected to stop matches due to "racist behavior from fans." According to ESPN.com, a stopped game would be considered a 3-0 loss for the home team. The decision was announced at a "Unite Against Racism" conference in Poland, which will host the European Championship in 2012. Racist incidents have occurred at soccer matches throughout Europe, where crowds have occasionally chanted epithets or racially insulting terms at opposing players.

BRUINS ADD TWO NEW FACES

Opting to make two smaller moves instead of a huge deadline day splash, the Bruins acquired forward Mark Recchi and defenseman Steve Montador yesterday, bolstering their roster for a Stanley Cup run. In exchange for Recchi, who has two Stanley Cup rings, the Bruins sent defenseman Matt Lashoff and forward Martins Karsums to the Tampa Bay Lightning. The Bruins also received a draft pick in the deal. Montador, acquired to add depth on the blue line, came from the Anaheim Ducks in exchange for forward Petteri Nokelainen. Both are expected to be available for tonight's game.

FAMILIAR FACES TO REMAIN IN SAME PLACES

Two big name football players agreed to contracts to remain with their respective teams yesterday, as Kurt Warner re-signed with the Arizona Cardinals and Ray Lewis agreed to terms with the Baltimore Ravens. Warner, who was said to be fielding an offer from the San Francisco 49ers as well, will be paid $23 million over two years, $19 million of which is guaranteed. Lewis, long the life-blood of the Baltimore defense, has, according to ESPN, agreed to a three-year deal that will pay him between $20-23 million to remain a Raven.
Thumbs down to Cassel’s trade to Kansas City

Don Ryan
Journal Staff

Going into last season, expectations were high and revenge was on the mind of the New England Patriots. After an 18-1 season ended in disappointment, anything less than a Super Bowl title wouldn’t suffice. That all changed in the season’s first game, when Tom Brady went down with a knee injury, ending his 2008 season after it was less than an hour old. With Brady out of the picture, the mantra went from “win the Super Bowl!” to “keep your pride intact,” with few people expecting the Pats to make much noise with the untested Matt Cassel at the helm.

In any case, Cassel and Vrabel are gone, and Brady appears to be ready to take the reins once again. The Patriots season Cassel had, it seems like he could have fetched much more. There are plenty of teams out there who are looking for a quarterback; like Detroit, Tampa Bay and maybe even Denver.

In fact, there were rumors circulating that the Patriots had mixed a three-way trade that would have sent Cassel to the Broncos, who would have sent their quarterback, Jay Cutler, to the Buccaneers. The Patriots would have received a first and fourth round pick in this deal, much better than just one high second rounder, now.

However, reports were flying around that Bill Belichick put the kibosh on this deal to spite a former employee, who has won a Super Bowl title wouldn’t suffice.

In a piece on ESPN.com, Tim Graham spoke to Michael Lombardi, a national football post writer who has a good relationship with the Pats organization. Before the trade occurred, Lombardi told Graham that Cassel’s return should be equal that of Eli Manning’s, when his rights were traded from the San Diego Chargers to the New York Giants on draft day in 2004. In return, the Chargers got the rights to QB Philip Rivers, a third round pick in 2004, and a first and third round pick in 2005. Granted Cassel probably shouldn’t be compared to Manning, who has won a Super Bowl in his career, but Cassel was more proven now, after one season under his belt, than Manning was coming out of college.

The Offices of the President and Student Affairs

invite you to

Open Office Hours

With President Sargent

Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2009
Time: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Where: President’s Office
73 Tremont Street, 13th floor

President David Sargent invites you to meet with him to ask questions, express concerns, suggest ideas, and tell him how you feel about Suffolk.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to meet and speak with the President.

No appointment necessary.

World Baseball Classic

Sure to be a grand slam

Don Ryan
Journal Staff

For casual baseball fans, the yearly ritual that is spring training gets old pretty quickly. Sure, it’s fun for a couple of days to see players back in action, playing long toss and stretching as a team. New arrivals get their preliminary interviews out of the way, and, in what seems to have become a tradition, players “apologize” for using steroids.

However, after a week or two, the whole scene gets pretty dull. Big names very rarely play entire games, with most games instead being split squad match-ups or games versus lesser opponents (see Red Sox vs. Boston College). Yes, for a while, spring training is great: it’s a signal of the end of winter and the very beginnings of the baseball season, the true sport of summer. However, as the spring tends to draw out for a bit too long, an injection of life is a good thing.

Enter the World Baseball Classic, 2009 edition. With the 2008 Olympics marking the last time (for the present) that baseball will be a part of the summer games, the WBC, held in Toronto this year, is now the
Men’s B-ball 2008-2009 wrap-up
Team looks forward to bright future

Matt West
Journal Staff

The 2008-2009 Men’s Basketball season has come to an end; with positive and negative aspects to look back upon and analyze in the coming weeks. After finishing with a less than desirable 3-22 record, the team will put their sights on next year, and the off-season work that can be done between now and then.

Youth and inexperience may have been leading factors in the team’s season-long struggle, but the talent on this roster is undeniable and seemed to shine through on many occasions.

The season did have its high points, with big wins on the road against Norwich and at home against division leader Lasell. Three of the team’s four top leading scorers this year were underclassmen; including sophomores Allen Ray with 8.2 points and 5.1 rebounds per game, Mike Flemming with 7.5 points per game, and freshman Mike Gibbons with 12 points per contest. Gibbons, who was named to the GNAC weekly honor roll on February 24, 2009, reached double-digits in scoring an impressive fifteen times.

The team’s struggles from day one can be attributed to their inexperience. With these struggles, though, came an understanding of the game itself. “We turned the ball over too much; we’re still trying to understand that basketball is a game of runs,” said Head Coach Adam Nelson. He continued saying he is “teaching, learning, and staying with it.”

In addition, senior Brian Small finished up an extremely impressive four year career with the Rams by averaging 17.3 points and 9.0 rebounds a per game. To supplement his tremendous play on the court, he excelled in the classroom, being named to the Academic All-America team by ESPN the Magazine. Finishing ninth all-time with 1,383 career points at Suffolk, Small was one of only two players from New England area schools to garner this impressive academic award among Division II and III colleges.

Said Small regarding this year’s young, but solid team, “This year was obviously a disappointment, because we thought last year was really considered our rebuilding year, so we thought we’d be able to win some more games this year. Even though I’m a senior we’re still considered a pretty young team, so I think in the years to come that we should be able to get to the point that we were striving to be already this year.”

He concluded by saying it was “a little disappointing because we didn’t have more wins, but we practiced hard and played hard every game, and sometimes the ball just doesn’t go your way.”

Although the final box score was not what the team had anticipated coming into the year, the long season taught coach Nelson and his young team a lot. “The most important thing for our returning guys is to get into the weight room and lift,” he said. “One thing about our league and Division III basketball in general is that it’s big and tough and physical.”

Looking back at the season, Nelson went on to explain how well he thought his team played, despite the final outcome of many games. “The positive is that our guys played hard, we were in a lot of games, and we won some big games. We know from a basketball standpoint that we are very talented, our problem is that we need to get older.”

The coach complimented his team and was unequivocal in his praise, stating the way in which they carried themselves throughout the year was exemplary. “Overall, our goal was to be already this year.”

Coach Adam Nelson. He concluded by saying it was “a little disappointing because we didn’t have more wins, but we practiced hard and played hard every game, and sometimes the ball just doesn’t go your way.”

The 2008-2009 campaign came to its end this past week, ending a tough season for the Rams. Although the statistics show they struggled considerably throughout the year, the majority of their games were very close, with eight of their losses coming by 10 points or less. Change is likely to occur, but with this young, impressive squad, the future is bright.
The Suffolk Journal

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THE SUFFOLK JOURNAL

THURSDAY • MARCH 5, 2009

SPORTS

Cody Moskovitz
Ben Paulin
Journal Staff

NCAA violation ends Hockey team's hopes of playoff push

Cody Moskovitz
Journal Staff

The Suffolk Men's Ice Hockey team returned to Beacon Hill, assuming that they would be playing a first round playoff game on the last day of February. Instead, they came to find out that the team and the athletic department had committed a Self-Reported Administration Secondary NCAA violation, and would be forced to vacate 7 of their ECAC conference games, and as a result, would not be allowed to compete in playoff competition.

Just days before their final regular season match-up against Southern New Hampshire University alumni, Athletic Director James Nelson received a notice from the ECAC that there was an ineligible player on the team's roster and that he would have to check his records to investigate the situation. After looking into the official school records, Nelson noticed that a mistake had been made. "There was a special provision called a hardship waiver, which allows students to withhold a year of eligibility," said Nelson. A total of ten full seasons to complete 8 semesters of athletic eligibility through their college career. Nelson described the mistake as a "misinterpretation of the rule." The assumption was that the player, who Nelson could not name, would be granted a hardship waiver during the second semester of his freshman season, and that he would be OK to play during the spring semester of the 2008-2009 season. Unfortunately, the player was not given this permission from the NCAA, and thus the spring 2009 semester would qualify as the player's ninth semester of competition, making him ineligible. Upon review, Nelson admitted that "there was no appropriate basis for the student-athlete to be granted a hardship waiver." Nelson acknowledged that it is his responsibility to adhere to NCAA Compliance rules, and that he holds himself to blame for this matter.

"We were looking forward to the opportunity to play in the playoffs, and to have the season end so abruptly, just completely sucks," said senior captain Billy Galvin. Fellow senior, defense-man Bryan Meyers had similar opinions about the situation. "It was kind of a shock and surprisingly it disappointed people because we worked hard all season. As a senior it's not a happy way to go out," said Meyers. "Once we found out about it, everyone stuck together as a team. We have a very close team this year. Obviously we worked hard and had success all season and just because we had one guy who was ineligible, to take it away from everyone is very disappointing." Instead of competing in the ECAC playoffs, the team's season has now come to an end on a sour note. "Suffolk accepts the findings and rulings of the NCAA and the ECAC. There is no basis for an appeal," said Nelson. "Although it's frustrating at this time, to not follow the rules would have been an even greater transgression...It is only just that the correct teams participate in the playoffs."

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Team manager Melanson is a Ram at heart

Tyler Duke
Journal Staff

Despite not being a Suffolk University alumnus, it's hard to disagree that 89-year-old Charles Melanson is a very important person in the Suffolk community. Team manager of the Suffolk men's basketball team, Melanson has been attending every home and away game for 42 years and unquestionably plays a huge role in the team's history.

Charlie's story begins in 1967 at a local family YMCA, where Charlie began exercising there to lose weight (under doctor's orders). As it turns out, the Suffolk Men's Basketball team also held their practices there, so Charlie began enjoying watching them play.

After watching a few practices, Charlie took it upon himself to gather up the basketballs that were left in the center of the gym and put them back on the cart. "I liked helping out, and one day after practice the head coach at the time approached me," said Charlie. "He said, 'You like doing that? You come with us.'" Thus began Charlie's position as team manager for years to come. Now the team manager for both the basketball team and baseball team at Suffolk (Charlie would later focus solely on basketball since traveling to the baseball fields became difficult for him), both teams couldn't ask for a better man at the job. Arriving an hour before the start of a game, Charlie would clean out locker rooms before games, keeping them neat and organized.

"I didn't have to do what I did - it was all volunteer work and I loved every minute of it," said Melanson. Charlie said that although he had so many good memories of his time with the team, he always enjoyed working with the team. "I just really loved being the equipment manager and helping out in anyway I could," he said. As it grows up in Cambridge, Charlie is a local to the Boston area and always played a large role in his community. During the 60s, 70s, and 80s he attended Monday night city council meetings where he became good friends with Walter Sullivan, a man who drove Charlie well and always put them back in the center of the gym and put them back.