Democratic candidates debate at Suffolk

Alex Pearlman
Journal Staff

Sen. Ted Kennedy's senate seat is up for grabs next month, and while many thought the race for the next junior senator from Massachusetts would be a long and dramatic one, it seems that the opposite is happening.

The four democratic candidates came together on Monday at the Suffolk Law School building on Tremont St. for a peaceful round-robin of questions, not a formal debate, on the issues facing the voters of Massachusetts, specifically college students. The debate was co-hosted by the Boston Herald and Suffolk University.

Celtics co-owner Stephen Pagliuca, Congressman Capuano, City Year founder Alan Khazei, and Mass. Attorney General Martha Coakley took the stage with moderator Shelly Cohen, editorial page editor of the Herald.

Suffolk University Vice President for External Affairs John Nucci introduced the group, noting that Cohen, who has provided political "insight in the pages of the Herald and has done so for many years" and who is a professor at Suffolk in the Communications and Journalism department, was half of the brains behind the operation, along with Managing Editor Joe Sciacca.

Cohen started the questioning by saying that during the last presidential election, young voters came out in droves to elect President Obama, however, last month in New Jersey and Virginia, those voters stayed home. "What can you do or say that will bring the young voters out?" she asked.

Because of the seating arrangement, which from left to right is Brown, Capuano, Khazei, and Coakley, the candidates were able to address each other directly, with a question-and-answer format. Cohen also mixed up the seating arrangement for the discussion, which she described as "a round-robin type of questioning." This format allowed the candidates to influence each other's answers, as well as engage in back-and-forth discussion among themselves.

Brown is 'decent' at Suffolk GOP event

Jeff Fish
Journal Staff

While the candidates for the Democratic primary have garnered much attention recently, whoever wins on Dec. 8 will most likely have to face Republican front runner Mass. State Senator Scott Brown to fill Ted Kennedy's Senate seat. Brown visited Suffolk Monday night in an event hosted by the Suffolk GOP.

The relatively small room on the fourth floor of Donahue was only filled with a handful of students who asked Brown questions after a brief opening statement. Each seat had campaign literature and bumper stickers, which Brown asked guests not to take if they were just going to throw them away because his campaign is on a tight budget compared to his Democratic opponents.

"It was decent," said Suffolk GOP President Karl Hoffman. "The number of attendees were not the numbers we were necessarily looking for. It's a tough time [to hold the event]. A lot of people forgot because of Thanksgiving break."

Brown began by discussing domestic issues like the health care bill that is currently being debated in the Senate. "[The Health Care Bill] is not good for Massachusetts or Massachusetts Businesses," said Brown, who said that the Mass. health care system, which was enacted in 2006, is a good plan and "we shouldn't get rid of our plan for a one-size-fits-all plan throughout the country."
GOP gears up for election

Angelo Bray

The Suffolk GOP has been extremely active this semester, according to President Karl Hoffman, planning various events around campus, fundraising, and now becoming involved with upcoming senate and state elections.

"I think it is safe to say that we have had a very busy fall, and we look forward to continuing with the momentum we have going into the spring," said Hoffman. Suffolk GOP is contributing to the U.S. Senate Race, welcoming all candidates to come to events and speak to all interested students. The club is currently working with Scott Brown, a Republican running for Sen. Kennedy’s seat, who spoke and answered questions at Suffolk on Monday.

Nine Suffolk GOP members volunteered at the fundraiser and meet and greet for Brown’s campaign, which was held in Wrennath. Mitt Romney attended as well and spoke to about 200 supporters regarding his endorsement of Brown.

State Senate candidates Eric Dalhberg and Brad Marston have also visited Suffolk and members are working for the Congressional race as well, with candidate Bill Hudak, who has already spoken to the club. "We look forward to the upcoming election and really have worked to get our members chances to work with these candidates and their campaigns," said Hoffman.

The Suffolk Republicans are coming right off the heels of their annual Care Package Drive, which recently concluded. The drive collected monetary donations benefiting service men and women stationed overseas. Approximately $900 was raised. The club’s budget covers shipping fees and materials. Approximately 100 pounds of items are donated per $300, according to past years, resulting in Suffolk donating about 300 pounds this holiday season. The care packages include items such as body powder, baby wipes, and deodorant, as the men and women overseas are not supplied with sufficient hygiene products. "We hope to receive photos back showing the troops receiving the packages right after Christmas break," said Hoffman.

Additionally, members of Suffolk GOP tabled in the lobbies of the Dohurah and Sawyer buildings, offering free coffee each morning during elections. The club also co-sponsored one of Program Council’s “Moel o’ Reel” movie nights, allowing them to collect donations at the door of the event.

"Through all of these efforts and the eagerness of the faculty, administration, and students of Suffolk University, we will most likely reach our goal of $600," said Hoffman.

Hoffman also mentioned that Suffolk GOP is considering holding the Massachusetts Alliance of College Republicans Spring Convention at Suffolk, saying it would be "great publicity for our University."

Suffolk Democrats support Capuano, prepare for election

Matt McCuaid

With the special election for the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy’s seat only a week away, campaign activities have been picking up. There are four candidates running in the Democratic Primary for the Senate Seat: Attorney General Martha Coakley, Representative Michael Capuano, businessman Steve Pagliuca and City Year Founder Alan Khazei.

The Suffolk Democrats have chosen to endorse Michael Capuano. "We basically listened to representatives from the Democratic Campaigns and we decided that we were ultimately going to endorse Michael Capuano. We were lucky enough to have him come to Suffolk and have him speak two weeks ago, and now we’re just gearing up for the primary on Dec. 8," said Capuano.

Suffolk Democrats President Kristin Diamond. "We’re going to be doing a lot of get-out-the-vote work over the next week."

The decision to choose Capuano was made after careful consideration by the SU Dems. "After hearing all the candidates speak, we really thought that Mike spoke to us the most, he was the most qualified candidate for the job and he would be able to fill Ted Kennedy’s seat."

The Suffolk Democrats have been coming out in full force to do everything they can to help Capuano win the primary, as the winner of the primary on Dec. 8 will most likely be the successor to Kennedy’s seat, considering Massachusetts is a Democratic stronghold.

"He’d be someone of his own mind, not just another person in congress."
Suffolk student manages mayoral campaign

Derek Anderson
Journal Staff

Suffolk’s political touch stretches farther with sopho-
more Pat Johnson who recently has worked on the Setti War-
ren campaign, the mayor-elect of Newton. His experience
working with political campaigns dates back farther than
Warren’s campaign; Johnson’s had his share of experience
working as the President of the College Democrats of Mas-
sachusetts since April of 2009.

Johnson started his political work by co-founding a Young
Democrats chapter in his ju-
ior year of high school. He
then volunteered for the Obama
campaign in his senior year,
working in Mass. and New
Hampshire. Soon after he got
an internship with Mass. Demo-
cratic Party, working with John
Joseph Moakley. 2008. Now a
Political Science major at Suf-
folk and a member of the Suf-
folk Democrats, Johnson is the
President of the College Demo-
crats of Massachusetts, work-
ing on multiple campaigns,
much recently on Setti Warren’s.

“In November, two weeks
after the Obama campaign, I met
Setti Warren. I started working
for him part-time in Feb. 2009,
then started full time as a cam-
paign manager May 1 and served
on his campaign until Nov.
when he won,” said Johnson.
As a campaign manag-
er for Warren, he worked in
multiple areas, from event-
planning to fundraising. “One of the things I worked
really hard on was develop-
ing an internship program for
high school students for the
campaign. In Newton we got
a lot of high school students
involved. We just knocked on
doors, made phone calls af-
after phone calls,” said Johnson.

I got the opportunity to
go knocking on doors with
they’re running, and I think
that shows a really positive
and good part of democracy.”

According to Johnson, working on a local campaign
is very different
from a na-
tional campaign.

“In a national campaign you’re just kind of just
a small piece of the pie, where you work on one
small task. A lo-
cal campaign like this, you’re part
of it. You have your foot in every
different faction of the campaign,”
said Johnson.

Johnson has always been in-
terested in poli-
tics, dating back to his high school years.
He was inspired by Gov-
ernor Deval Pat-
rick’s campaign in
2006 where he realized it wasn’t
difficult to get involved. He
was motivated to make it as a
Democrat under the Bush Ad-
ministration and felt they were
a reason to get into politics.

Megan Costello, a Suf-
folk alumni, also worked on
Warren’s campaign alongside
Johnson. She was in charge of
volunteer coordination and
also of Election Day operations
during the Warren campaign.

“[Warren’s] campaign
was unique in a sense of or-
ganization. It was a positive
team that worked really re-
ally hard,” said Costello.

Costello’s interest, much
like Johnson’s, has also al-
ways been present in her life.

“I’ve always been really in-
terested and passionate about
politics,” said Costello. “It’s a
way to make a change in society.”

When asked about fu-
ture projects, both Johnson and
Costello said they would continue to do political work
now, but the future is un-
told and they were unsure.

“I’m not set on this for the
long run, but on the short term,
I enjoy it,” said Johnson. “It’s re-
ally an amazing time we’re living
right now. Even in both par-
ties, there are a lot of young
people, new people getting into
office. There are a lot of new
people, a lot of diverse people,
not just from one party, which
for office and I think that’s real-
exciting. As long as that’s hap-
pening, it fun to be a part of it.”

Scott Brown speaks to Suffolk students

see BROWN page 5

Brown said that the health
plan has lessened the burden
to the state and insured 98
percent of Mass. residents. He
thinks that if different states
want to adopt a similar plan
he would be willing to help
and would not be opposed to
Federal aid to those states. “I
believe that everyone should
have health care. It’s just the
manner of how we get there.”

Brown then talked about
the economy and the need to
“streamline the red tape and
enforce regulations” on Wall St.
“Barney Frank and Chris
Dodd said ‘no to Bush,” when he
told them to enforce the
regulations. Brown said that
this contributes to the cur-
rent state of the economy.

While speaking about the
economy, Brown mentioned the
amount of U.S. debt owned by
China. “Every time we sneeze
we need to check with China to
see if we can wipe our noses.”

“I have a history as an in-
dependent thinker, leader and
voter,” said Brown before he
opened himself up to questions.

The first question con-
cerned the trial in New York of
alleged terrorist Khalid
Sheikh Mohammed. “I think it’s
the worst mistake we’ve ever
made,” said Brown. “It sets a
precedent for military prison-
ers. He’s an enemy combatant
and he should get a military tribu-
nal like every [other military com-
batant].”

Brown was also asked why
he supports char-
ter schools when
they take mon-
ey away from pub-
lic
schools. “A charter school is a pub-
lic school,” said Brown, citing
that they are funded by pubic
money. “I believe in choices
and there are schools [in Mass.]
that are failing. Quite frankly,
competition is good. It’s good
for education. It’s good for
business.” Brown acknowl-
edged that there may be some
school closures because of their
failing standards or the econ-
omy and stressed that charter
schools were necessary for stu-
dents in failing school systems.

Brown was asked about his
position on the troop surge
in Afghanistan in light of the
debate that took place at Suffolk
City Hall as results were coming in.

Johnson with Setti Warren night of the Sept. 15 Preliminary election, at City Hall as results were coming in.

“Every time we sneeze we
need to check with China to
see if we can wipe our noses.”

“Every time we sneeze we
need to check with China to
see if we can wipe our noses.”

“When we need to win this one.
People seem to forget 9/11,”
said Brown, who supports the
troop surge and gave Obama
credit for relying on the gener-
aux on the ground. He talked
about the importance of free-
dom in the area, particularly
women’s rights. He described
the Afghan society as “a soci-
ey so controlled that it’s prob-
ably not worth living over there
for a lot of people.” Brown
pointed out that the candi-
dates on the Democratic side
“disagree with the President.”

Brown also expressed con-
cern over Iran’s nuclear ambi-
tions, stating that it “makes
no sense that Iran w o u l d
w a n t nuclear energy,”

because they al-
a r e a d y
h a v e
v a s t
amounts of oil in their coun-
try. Brown suggested that
strict sanctions on Iran be
implemented and that Rus-
sia and the European Union
will have to “jump in.”

When asked about the Pa-
triot Act, Brown said that it
needed to be “tweaked,” but
said he was in support of it,
referring to the incident of
the Sudbury man who planned to
shoot people at shopping malls.

“That would not have been
stopped if not for the Patriot
Act.” He also said that there
needs to be more communica-
tion between government agen-
cies. According to Brown, all of
the agencies had information
that 9/11 would happen, but it
slipped through the cracks be-
cause of lack of communication.

Brown spoke for roughly 20
minutes before he had to leave
for a radio appearance on WBZ.

“It’s good to see that both
sides can come to a campus and
get their views across,” said SGA
President Brian LeForte, re-
ferred to the Democratic Senate
debate that took place at Suffolk
earlier on Monday. “I have to
give credit to the Suffolk Col-
lege view of things.”

Although Brown is the
presumptive Republican nomi-
nee, he will face Jack E. Rob-
inson on the Dec. 8 primary.
Dems answer students' questions

right sat Pagliuca, Capua-
no, Khazei and Coakley, each anser-
question began with the
the candidate seated after the
one who answered the ques-
tion before. Thus, Pagliuca an-
swered the first question first,
and then Capuano answered
the second question first.
Each of the candidates
had similar answers, although
each had stand-out observa-
tions. Pagliuca called young
voters "cynical" because of
recent problems with govern-
ment. Capuano pointed out
that in this election in particu-
lar, young voters' individual
votes mean more because they
might not get another chance
to do so as senators. At least "not
until you're my age," he joked.
K hazei pointed out that
many issues like genocid
in Sudan or climate change
can be dealt with by sen-
ators and its young peo-
ple's futures that aren't at
issue. Coakley echoed Khazei's
sentiment about futures of
education, student loans and
health care being at stake.
The next question was posed
by the first of three Suffolk
student panelists, senior
Manny Vega, Editor in Chief
of the Suffolk Voice. Vega
asked if the candidates sup-
ported the health care bill, see-
ning as "many recent college
grads are living without health
insurance. They can't find
jobs that provide it and they
can't afford private insurance
options that are available."
Capuano started off by assur-
ing the audience, saying he
voted for the bill in the House.
Khazei strongly responded
to the question, saying that as
a senator, he would repeal anti-
trust exemptions for insurance
companies, forcing better com-
petition in the marketplace.
Both Coakley and Pagliuca
said that they support univer-
sal health coverage as well.
In response to a senior inter-
national relations major, asked,
"Our generation is being held
responsible for paying off $12
trillion worth of debt. What
will you do to make sure that
those companies that have re-
ceived federal bailout or stim-
umulus money are being held ac-
countable? Will you reassure
us that congress will stop giv-
ning money to the same compa-
ies that have already failed?"
Khazei called the debt "un-
conscionable" and suggested
that part of his plan, should
he be elected, is to return to
Clinton-era tax rates. Coakley
said that "Washington was asleep
at the switch," and noted that
she was one of the first Attor-
ney General's offices to go after
Goldman Sachs and predatory
lenders. Pagliuca said that he
has been on the ground, creat-
ing jobs and called for a plan
that we need to first help fix
the country's corrupt regime
and offer assistance to Pakistan.
Kat, another online view-
er, asked how the candidates
planned to make college more
affordable. Coakley, Pagliuca
and Khazei all said that they
wanted to increase Pell Grants
and search the federal budget
for the money to make college
affordable to anyone who want-
ed to attend. Capuano, how-
er, spoke about his personal
problems with his son's student
loans, and the extra mortgage
he took out on his house. "I'm
the only one on this stage that
has gone through this. It's criti-
cal and it's very, very real." 
All in all, there was no clear
winner, as the event wasn't a
real "debate." However, all the
candidates gave some surprise
answers and came out having
better informed their audience
on their positions on the issues.
A real-time blog with
commentary by Suffolk stu-
dents during the debate can be
found on the Herald's website.

Democratic consultant talks about primary

With only one week left
until the primaries that will
decide the two nominees
for Sen. Ted Kennedy's Senate
seat, Democratic consultant
Jane M. Utley Marsh spoke to
the journal to shed light on the
race and the Democratic can-
idates aspiring to fill the seat.
Marsh works for the public
affairs firm the Dewey Square
Group and has worked on nu-
merous Democratic campaigns.
"All of [the candidates] have
embraced Ted Kennedy, but they
know they'll never get another
Ted Kennedy, but they will
come out and vote as possible,
said Marsh. "They all bring some
different traits to the table. Coak-
neau has gone to great lengths
to define himself like Kennedy in
speeches and public appearances."

After the primary, the
Democratic nominee will most
likely run against Republici-
nan State Senator Scott Brown.
"It's important to continue the
campaign and get big support
in the general election, said
Marsh. "[The winner] will have
to run again in 2012, so it will
benefit them from Dec. 9-Jan.
19 to get as many people to
come out and vote as possible,
and help them politically
prepare for the 2012 election."

As for Tuesday's most likely
victor, Marsh said, "Look at the
polls. It's Coakley's race to lose."
Meet the candidates: Dems on the issues

All photos by John Gillooly

Alan Khazei

Why did you decide to run for U.S. Senate? Alan co-founded City Year, which inspired President Clinton to create AmeriCorps, which has resulted in 575,000 Americans to contribute 700,000 hours of service. Alan wants to take his years of service as a private citizen to Washington.

What makes you the most qualified candidate? Alan has helped create four pieces of national legislation. As a private citizen, Alan already has experience working with Washington.

What are your stance on: Health Care? Alan supports passing the Senate health care bill and is the only candidate over 7 million jobs. Alan supports investing in competitive New Jobs Stimulus that will create the economy around.

What are your plans to help turn the economy around? Alan Khazei proposes an innovative New Jobs Stimulus that will create over 7 million jobs. Alan supports Job Creation Tax Credits, increased tax benefits, and support for small businesses and fully funding the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act.

Answers courtesy of alankhazei.com

Stephen Pagliuca

Why did you decide to run for U.S. Senate? Steve has experience with business and creating jobs, which he will bring with him to the Senate if elected.

What are your plans to help turn the economy around? Steve supports President Obama's efforts to gather all the facts before making his final decision on the strategy for Afghanistan. However, he is wary of sending more troops to Afghanistan without a compelling strategy that outlines how they will be used and the strategic goals their deployment will support.

Education (specifically higher education)? Alan supports investing in charter public schools, increasing teacher pay and accountability, expanding the school day and year and paying for the full cost of college for each year of community service.

What plans do you have to help turn the economy around? Alan Khazei proposes an innovative New Jobs Stimulus that will create over 7 million jobs. Alan supports Job Creation Tax Credits, increased tax benefits, and support for small businesses and fully funding the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act.

Answers courtesy of stevepagliuca.com

Martha Coakley

Why did you decide to run for U.S. Senate? Martha has gotten real results for our families. She has put away child sex predators, protected our seniors from abusive nursing home operators, and stood up to the big insurance and pharmaceutical companies that drove up the cost of our healthcare and committed fraud.

What makes you the most qualified candidate? Martha has 20 years of experience in legislative forms; not only in the U.S. House of Representatives, the State House of Representatives, City Council, the PTA, anything. [None of the other candidates] have ever worked in a legislature at all.

What are your stance on: Health Care? Martha supports President Obama's efforts to gather all the facts before making his final decision on the strategy for Afghanistan. However, she is wary of sending more troops to Afghanistan without a compelling strategy that outlines how they will be used and the strategic goals their deployment will support.

Education (specifically higher education)? Martha believes an array of strategies should be employed to help students afford higher education. As Senator, she will support an expansion of college tax credits, growth of public institutions of higher education, and efforts to strengthen the community college system.

What plans do you have to help turn the economy around? Martha calls for stricter regulation of financial services and greater consumer protections, including the creation of a Federal Consumer Protection Agency.

Answers courtesy of marthacoakley.com

Michael Capuano

Why did you decide to run for U.S. Senate? Michael Capuano has been talking to people in Mass. who want people who can combine the philosophical view comparable to Ted Kennedy with ability to get something done. I'm the only person with that combination.

What makes you the most qualified candidate? I have 20 years of experience in legislative forms; not only in the U.S. House of representative, the State House of Representatives, City Council, the PTA, anything. [None of the other candidates] have ever worked in a legislature at all.

What are your stance on: Health Care? Michael Capuano thinks we need to do two things, stabilize cost of health insurance, and increase amount of health care. Without one or the other it is not health reform.

Afghanistan? I think we should come home. We have accomplished our mission. Al Qaeda is no longer in Afghanistan. We have accomplished our mission. We should no longer be there.

Education (specifically higher education)? "To me it's accessibility, [College] is unaffordable for too many kids. We need to knock down prices by increasing federal grants, lowering the price of student loans, making it simpler, and providing more options. [The cost of education] is putting a significant burden on too many kids going to college."

What plans do you have to help turn the economy around? "Two things—one, we have to put financial system under thoughtful regulation and two the government needs to create jobs. Private entities are not going to do this. Only fed government is willing and capable to do that."
Staff Editorial

Many around campus these days have seemed cynical and down, which is no way to start off the holidays. Why are the students of Suffolk so depressed and snarky? Well, mostly it's because of the combination of a boring, wordy, and silly defense of President Sargent's salary by Provost Barry Brown last month and the critical and slightly mean articles about Suffolk that have recently run in the Boston Globe and Boston Herald.

SGA is working to rectify these situations and clarify what exactly is going on. Next week, an open SGA forum will be held in the C. Walsh Theatre. Vice Presidents Nucci and Flannery have already agreed to come, as well as Provost Brown. However, the SGA is still unsure about whether Vice President Nick DiZoglio will likely make little difference. Sargent needs to address the student population in person to ease the collective pain of knowing that his 2007 salary amounts to the tuitions of 103 undergraduates at this university, which will undoubtedly make this PR nightmare that Suffolk's in the middle of even worse.

What it comes down to now, as this issue of the Journal is going to print, is that President Sargent hasn't said that he won't attend the forum, but he hasn't agreed to either. And he needs to. President Sargent needs to face the students and let us know that even though Provost Brown apparently speaks for him now, he still cares about us.

Suffolk's mission to provide access and opportunity

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to your article "Suffolk's next challenge" (Nov. 17) as it categorizes Suffolk University's enrollment statistics.

The average entering grade point average of the current freshman class was 3.0. This includes the 100 new undergraduates admitted conditionally, to whom Suffolk University provides extra academic support. When did a B become a "mediocre" grade? The entering grade point average of our honors students is 3.94.

The university and its academic entities have won accolades from sources ranging from The Princeton Review, which has listed Suffolk in The Best 368 Colleges for six years, to US News & World Report, which in 2009 ranked the university in the top tier for master's programs.

I am proud to be a part of a dedicated staff that has enrolled thousands of students over the past 20 years while remaining true to our mission to provide opportunity and access. There are people behind every application, with individual stories to complement their grades. I know that we will never forget to treat each applicant with individual attention and consideration, conscious of their individual strengths and their promise for future success as dedicated, hard-working, productive citizens.
India music is independent no more

Ethen Long
Journal Staff

The 1960’s gave us the beginnings of psychedelic rock; the 1970’s gave us punk rock, and the 1980’s gave us hip-hop. The 90’s started the jungle beat and boy band crazes, and this decade; while I’m not sure what to call it, maybe the “double oh’s”, gave us “indie” music. This is where my problem rests. See, by reading each other type of genre, one could be able to figure out what type of music they would expect. Hip-hop would have rhyming over beats, while boy bands would sing in unison about love and how they just got paid. What should one expect from a band labeled “indie”? What does the term even mean anymore? See, the term indie has changed meaning in the last decade or so, and now it’s just ridiculous.

Indie rock was originally the label of music made by bands that were under the radar of most, thus being independent from major labels. The bands could record and release products themselves, often with a low-fi, do-it-yourself quality, and became extremely popular for bands to promote themselves. Blogs and other websites would check these bands out, since most of them were recording at home or small studios and uploading their music to such websites as MySpace.com. These bands were independent, but started to be eaten up by critics who had stumbled upon them. So long were the days of word of mouth; the Internet took the world by storm and sharing ideas, music, and tons of other things became as easy as the click of a button. Certain bands were received so well that they were picked up and signed by major labels, yet are still considered indie artists. Well here we go. Isn’t the whole idea of an indie artist the fact that they’re producing things independently? A band that is helped by a label isn’t independent, in fact, they’re very dependent. At some point, the term “indie” became less about production and more about genre. Bands labeled “indie” range so far apart in terms of style and production that there shouldn’t really be an umbrella term for them. You can’t group a band that uses synthesizers and grows in the same genre with bands that use lifeless female vocals and tarcy guitars. Yet, for some reason, they are.

Arcade Fire, whose popular song “Wake Up” was heard across the country in the ads for Spike Jonze’s “Where The Wild Things Are,” started out as an independent band, releasing their first EP by themselves. Soon enough, they were picked up by Merge Records (Spoon, Conor Oberst) and supported by them. Eventually their music was brought to the ears of David Bowie, who played with them during a televised concert in 2005. Although they’re still considered “indie” music, they aren’t that independent and rely heavily on the label for production costs and distribution.

So, since indie music no longer refers to the way original indie artists produced and distributed their music, it is really that appropriate to refer to such a huge range of artists as “indie,” whether they still are independent or dependent of labels? I mean, I would still consider bands that have done everything themselves as “indie” bands, but it’s hard to see why bands on major labels such as Sony (The Ting Tings) can still be labeled as indie bands. I heard “That’s Not My Name” on radio stations all the time, and saw the video on MTV countless times. Sure, they might have started out as an “indie” band, but they’ve turned into a mainstream pop band, and should be relabeled as such.

Stop labeling things that aren’t independent as “indie” because it just doesn’t make much sense.

France and Switzerland hinder religious acceptance

Derek Anderson
Journal Staff

I’m not quite sure what has gone wrong with France and Switzerland, but they should immediately fix the discrimination they’re making law. Recently, Switzerland has banned the building of new minarets (distinctive architectural spires that accompany Islamic mosques) and France is working on a country-wide ban of full body burkas. The idea of even considering these actions blows my mind. It seems like hundreds of steps backwards from where we are now. The acceptance and understanding of culture and religion will be halted by these radical laws made by these countries.

Switzerland’s ban on minarets has surprisingly been voted into action by the right-wing SVP (Swiss People’s Party). The government has said that they wish the people would vote against the ban because it will cause an uproar among overseas and harm Switzerland’s image (from a sky.com/sky-news article). The ban has been made because the people of Switzerland have interpreted the minarets as “political-religious claims to power.” Apparently, it really matters that Muslim people are coming to Switzerland to pray at these towers. Clearly, this is a plan by the Muslims to gain global domination. Give me a break. This censorship not only makes the country look horrible, but will damage the tourist pull and business in the country as well. Nothing good could come from such a ridiculous law.

France is a whole different story. They want to outlaw burkas from being worn, as President Nicolas Sarkozy told lawmakers, according to CNN.com/ Europe. This makes no sense whatsoever. To ban burkas is also banning the practice of the Muslim religion. It is not a question of woman’s rights. It seems painfully obvious that if Muslim women that wear burkas were, in fact, offended and degraded, they would remove them if they lived in France. It’s the general principle of tradition. If Muslim women want to wear burkas, why not? Let them. It’s not degrading if they want to wear them. There’s no reason to make a law banning them. It’s a huge infringement on religion and shows intolerance to Muslims in general.

France and Switzerland need to reconsider. And it needs to happen quickly. It shows these countries in a horrible light and seems to be a global step backwards. Not all Muslims are terrorists and thirst for global power. Terrorists take from every culture, including France and Switzerland. It’s a close minded decision that I can see causing problems in the very near future.
The poetry of David Ferry

Poet and writer David Ferry recited some of his poetry and translations to a small audience in the Suffolk University poetry center on Nov. 19. Although the setting was a more intimate one, the experience was enriching.

Appearing before a predominantly older crowd, teaching assistant Mitch Manning and Professor George Kalogeris introduced Ferry. The poet was described by Kalogeris as having a “tradition of keeping the words simple and clear” with a “meter always in socialize with one another.”

After his introduction, Ferry took to the podium with a hoarse voice and strong presence. He delivers his poems and translations in a monotonous voice, but is still audibly impacted upon the audience. Ferry had assurance in his voice and meticulously spoke each word. He delivered a well-prepared reading to an eager audience.

He began with translations of the *Odes of Horace*, including the comical eighth ode of the second book, “To Barine,” and the 16th ode of the first book. “It starts so amusingly, [and] then the intensity of the poem is so fantastic,” said Ferry about the 16th ode. Eventually Ferry moved on to recite his own poetry starting with “Street Scene.” One of the most moving poems included in the group was the “White Skunk.” Initially, this poem had the crowd laughing, but the underlying sadness was soon conveyed. Ferry’s poetry is often very personal. “Living and dying, one way or another [has] been true in my poems from the beginning,” said Ferry about common themes included in his poetry. Other translations, such as those from *The Aeneid*, were read. Ferry made these old texts easy to understand even if one is not familiar with them. His translations provide a way for more people to be exposed to these ancient works.

Ferry has a well-established career through his work as a poet, writer, and translator. He has published multiple books, which were posed to these ancient works. Ferry had assurance in his voice and was soon conveyed. Ferry’s socialize with one another.

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What Will We Be?
Risking street cred with mainstream label

Nick and Nora's Infinite Playlist, Banhart has never really hit it big and doesn't seem to be dying to do so.

For once, Banhart has made an album that is universally digestible, dancing on the line of fault or fortune by doing so. Maybe it is because of this new partnership with a major company, or maybe he has decided to comb down the hair, start wearing a shirt, and begin to sing words that actually can be distinguished as English. We hope not.

The artist's previous albums have been a strange mix of random paths. His fourth album, *Nite Rojo* (Young God, 2004), asserts his true journey into freak-folk. He then he diverges off onto a dusty country road with his next album, *Cripple Crow* (XL Recordings, 2005), and later meanders into the unknown with *Smoky Rolls Down Thunder Canyon* (XL Recordings, 2007). With *What Will We Be*, each song is its own adventure, taking you from the beach to the mountains to a city street corner in the span of three minutes.

The beginning of the album doesn't seem to be that monumental in its leaps of emotions but instead takes little skips down different trails. From the jingling, percussion-filled first song, "Can't Help Smiling" to the true, easy walking folk melody, "Goin' Back," *What Will We Be* appears to have turned Banhart into a dirty, long-haired Jack Johnson. Though enjoyable and very pleasing, the possibility of a sell-out hangs in the air...

By the middle of the album starting with "The First Song for B," that fear is dispelled as Banhart's charming yet deadly warble kicks off onto a dusty country road with his next album, *Cripple Crow* (XL Recordings, 2005), and later meanders into the unknown with *Smoky Rolls Down Thunder Canyon* (XL Recordings, 2007). With *What Will We Be*, each song is its own adventure, taking you from the beach to the mountains to a city street corner in the span of three minutes.

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Oscar season is 'Up in the Air'

Ryan Bingham lives above everyone else, and he likes it. It's only fitting that Jason Reitman's next film, after his 2007 hit comedy Juno, would be more of an adult film, dealing with a man who just doesn't want to settle down, but wants to continue his life "Up in the Air." (Cold Spring/Paramount, 2009) as the title suggests.

George Clooney (Ocean's Eleven, Batman and Robin) plays a man who can never stay in one location for long. He is sent across the country to various locations, hired to be the man who has to terminate employees at countless different companies. His reason? "People do crazy shit when they're fired."

The movie, adapted from Walter Kim's 2001 novel of the same name, starts off with Alex Goran (The Departed's Vera Farmiga) introduced as Natalie Keener, a young woman, top of her university class, who has just started to integrate digital resources into the company. The character, played by Anna Kendrick (Rocket Science, Twilight), proves to be the exact opposite of Bingham. While he enjoys traveling around the country with no certain future, she has moved in with her boyfriend and is enjoying the settled life as she awaits her future with him. Keener's new system will be bringing all of the companies' employees out of the air and into the chairs. Bingham, being the old dog of the company, isn't too pleased, but they let him stay in the air for a bit longer.

Soon enough, Bingham is again alone in a hotel, staring out the window as snow falls. He's seen America, he's seen every city, but he hasn't really been anywhere. "He's seen America, but he hasn't seen America. He's seen every city, but he hasn't really seen them," Reitman said.

Bingham barely ever ventures out of the hotels he stays in, yet he tells others that he's surrounded with people. He's a man who is all over, but inside, alone. He enjoys being on the run from a settled life.

If timely issues and clever writing are what you want to see at the movie theater, then Up in the Air is a breath of fresh air for you, as Oscar season is starting. Up in the Air is very entertaining movie that will make you chuckle as well as fear the future job markets that students all across the country are joining.

"Up in the Air" opens nationally Dec. 11.
Making vampires un-cool

Twilight, or as it should be known, The Adventures of Mary-Sue and Sparkles the Vampire, is an over-hyped piece of literary garbage written by Stephanie Meyer about a young girl that falls in love with a vampire.... that sparkles. New Moon (Summit Entertainment, 2009), the second book in the Twilight saga has recently been released into theaters. To answer the first and obvious question, yes the movie does indeed follow the book, unfortunately this isn't a particularly good thing.

First of all, the movie had almost no likeable characters. The protagonist, Bella Swan, was a whiny, self-centered brat that couldn't function properly without a boyfriend in her life, going so far as to endanger her own life over a guy that dumped her. She leads on her friend Jacob (the only likeable character in the entire movie) but then immediately runs back to Sparkles (a.k.a. Edward Cullen), the second he shows back up in her life. Edward, the love interest in this crap-fest, was absent from most of the movie. The only times he ever really shows up is when Bella is risking her life and he advises her against it in ghost form. The minor characters in this movie were all superficial and, for the most part, irrelevant.

Another big problem in this movie is the acting. Kristen Stewart is once again displaying her anemotly singular facial expression. Robert Pattinson looks like a cross-breed between a homeless man and a corpse. Taylor Lautner was by far the best actor, which is not saying very much since he tends to switch between very happy, very sad, and very angry and frustrated. Also, in some of the dialogues, the characters weren't even looking at each other. Not to mention the script read like a bad soap opera.

The plot of this movie sucked mostly because nothing really happened in this movie. Edward dumps Bella, she cries happy, very sad, and very angry and frustrated. Also, in some of the dialogues, the characters weren't even looking at each other. Not to mention the script read like a bad soap opera. The plot of this movie sucked mostly because nothing really happened in this movie. Edward dumps Bella, she cries about it, starts a "just friends but I also kind of like you" relationship with Jacob (a.k.a. being a tease), then goes running back to Edward. There was something about a vampire named Victoria that wanted to kill Bella but that never really went anywhere. Then again, this is Stephanie Meyer, so it's really not surprising that this movie had little to no conflict in it. Also some parts of the movie just seemed wrong and unnatural. Like when Bella discovers that Jacob is part of a werewolf pack, a supposed secret that no one could ever know about, the other members of the pack act very nonchalant like it was no big deal. The werewolves themselves weren't anything special either. When one of the thoughts of werewolves they expect a half-human, half-wolf hybrid. Instead, what you get is...really big, regular-looking wolves. But then again this is Stephanie Meyer and if someone can ruin vampires with the notion that they "sparkle" in the sunlight, then it's also not hard to believe that they would ruin werewolves as well.

So in the end, the only people that will probably end up liking this movie are Twilight fans and they'll probably see it regardless of what people say about the...every. For everyone else this movie is a crappy romance movie and an even crrapper vampire story.

While you were out: 'Curb Your Enthusiasm'

On Nov. 22, Larry David's hit HBO series Curb Your Enthusiasm wrapped up its seventh season. While the exploits of Larry David and company may not have delivered as much Seinfeld as people originally expected, the seventh season of David's hit series still delivered more than enough laughs to compensate.

For those not familiar with the show, Curb Your Enthusiasm follows the daily life of Seinfeld co-creator Larry David as he breaks social conventions and routinely offends and angers everyone around him with petty and bizarre antics. The story arc of season seven focuses on David getting back together with the Seinfeld cast to make a reunion show, with David's ulterior motive being he can cast his ex-wife Cheryl in the show and hopefully win her back.

The genius of Larry David is that he does all the things we want to do, but don't because it's not appropriate in polite society. Larry offers to help out his friend Marty Funkhouser with his mentally ill sister, but when Funkhouser asks him if he was serious about his offer, Larry responds, "Of course not!" Larry's blantly self-serving attitude is also a constant source of humor. Larry dates a woman in a wheelchair solely to get himself into an exclusive concert, and when deciding whether to do the Seinfeld reunion and win back his wife, or let a TV executive die of Lyme disease for his own perversive revenge, Larry flips a coin.

Many are quick to criticize Larry's actions and manners as selfish, petty, immature and obnoxious, but how many of us find ourselves wanting to do the same thing Larry does, only finding we lack the courage to follow through? When Larry scuttles off his best friend/manAGER Jeff Greene's daughter at a party because listening to her sing is painful, no one can deny his actions are rude, but does anyone want to listen to her awful renditions? Larry overreaches when he screams at a slow golfer to hurry up (subsequent­ly causing the golfer to die) but how many times have you been frustrated by someone taking too long to do something and wanted to do the same thing?

It can also be said that many times Larry means well. Larry pays for his niece's college tuition and goes as far as wearing pants so he can protect a secret for Jeff. Larry means well when he has a friend of his pretend to have a disease to reassure Michael Richards (Kramer) and lets Leen stay in his house even after his family leaves.

In short, season seven of Curb provided a great deal of laughs while simultaneously making us think about the unconscious social conventions surrounding our everyday lives. Not everyone may agree with Larry's unconventional approach to dealing with people, but his complete disregard for etiquette shows an audacity that is hard not to admire.
The Wilbur Theater: where music and fun go to die

Clay Adamczyk
Journal Staff

I admit that I wouldn’t know if the Wilbur Theater is a nice place to see comedy. They do have Bob Saget (of all people) this week, but the Wilbur is without a doubt the worst venue to see loud music. My disdain toward the theater began with a TV on the Radio concert last fall, and the experience was far from pleasurable. First off, the security is extremely pushy. They rush you in, leading you through two or three ticket checkpoints, and at the end they take your physical ticket, making it difficult to see if you save them as keeppasses. No big deal yet right? Next, patrons learn that there are three levels of general admission, so even if you think you will be on the floor up against the stage, you may be corralled into a small pen behind the floor, or worse, standing in the back! Different colored wristbands mark these sections and you will be ejected if caught hopping sections. You are also forced to enjoy the show while the under-filled floor taunts you. Even all this wouldn’t be so bad if the sound quality were a little better. I don’t know what’s going on, but the PA system was built with only comedy in mind, but even with TVOR’s horn section, the sound was never quite full. After that one time, I vowed to never return to the Wilbur Theater. I thought it would take nothing less than a Fugazi reunion or Ian Curtis returning from the dead and only performing at the Wilbur to bring me back to that piss-hole again. Then Sonic Youth had to play there two nights back-to-back. I was trapped. I sucked it up and bought tickets for both nights. Needless to say, Sonic Youth was amazing both nights. A bad venue can’t really take away from a bands sheer awesomeness, but the Wilbur tries. I get there the first night and am lead through the same round after round of ticket checkpoints, only there are a few more now that they start ejecting folks. No thank you $6.00 Bud Lite, but at least this time my general admission ticket put me on the floor. I took my place at the front of the stage and was blown away at how full the music sounded compared to my previous experience. This time, however, it was only because I was hearing sound directly from the band's amps. It turns out the theater’s PA speakers are located a few yards from the end of the stage, making the vocals almost inaudible to anyone trying to get close to their favorite band. It’s frustrating to say the least, but what happened next is intolerable.

When Sonic Youth broke into “Death Valley ’69,” a song that SY dug deep to bust out, the audience simultaneously erupted in to a dance frenzy. There was a lot of jumping around, but it was nowhere near a mosh-pit. Still, it was enough for one fascist dance-nazi of a bouncer to crush everyone’s good mood. Not only did he come in grabbing people telling them to “calm down!” but also remained in the center of the crowd to make sure the dancing didn’t start again. How could this be? I was absolutely flabbergasted. It was “Death Valley ’69!” It was Sonic Youth! Who couldn’t dance? How could they stop us? The Wilbur Theater knew who they were booking for two nights, what did they expect us to do, stand still? With a band that is unforgettable, the way the Wilbur handles live music performances is unforgivable. Hopefully bands will wise up to the Wilbur’s awful atmosphere and book themselves somewhere better.

Celebrating poetry

Looking House (Grey Wolf Press, 2009), as well as a few from his other book, Full Moon Road (Grey Wolf Press, 2000). He spoke mostly about the barbaric nature of war, of the courage it takes to stand up to those who would make war and say “I will have nothing to do with this.” Merchant read very compelling anti-war not only the physical sense of war, but all war between the mind and spirit.

Do You Like Music? Books? Movies?

Then write about it!
Meetings Tuesdays at 1PM D537

Suffolkarts@gmail.com
Delia's Picks

On Campus

Distinguished Scholar in Residence Robert Brustein will be conducting a reading of his play Mortal Terror on Monday, Dec. 7. Brustein is the founding director of the Yale Repertory and American Repertory Theatres. The reading will take place at 4:00 p.m. in the C. Walsh Theatre.

Off Campus

The month of December has finally arrived and what better to kick off the Christmas season than the annual tree lighting ceremony in the Boston Common from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Come enjoy holiday entertainment such as carolers, performances and Santa. Mayor Menino flips the switch on Dec. 3.

Easy Sudoku

2 7 3 6
3 6 5 2 7
5 1 8 2 7
8 4 6 4 7
6 4 7 5

Crossword Puzzle:
For when class is boring

ACROSS
1. Automobile suspension component (10,5)
11. Exultation
12. Child who has no home
13. Zooms
14. Middle Ages equestrian shield
16. Welding gas
18. Management
19. Company
20. Untidy
21. Mint cocktails
22. Detriment
26. Remain
27. Small tuned drum
31. Scandinavian
32. Commander
33. Diver
34. Thereto (2,2)
35. Terrace (abbrev)
36. Smart
37. Said to attract attention
40. Passed easily
42. Small amounts of land girdled by water
43. Strike forcibly
45. Eat between meals
46. Extra tax
47. Demanding scratching
49. Corncrake
50. Internal environmental control
51. Place of learning
52. Negatives
53. Circulate
56. Immature animal
57. Supernatural being
58. Supplications
59. Coarsely ground foodstuff

DOWN
2. Excitedly
3. Edible mollusk
4. Saucy
5. Hebrew fifth letters
6. Button-shaped top of the mescal cactus (6,8)
7. Floated
8. Vetch seed
9. Manipulates
10. Mysterious aerial objects
13. Sniff
14. Relating to wind
15. Increased
17. Thermoplastic yarn
19. Young wolf
23. Curses
24. Harm seriously
25. Zest
28. SW New York city
29. Town in S California
30. Pierces with horns
36. Polite
38. Moved back and forth
39. Carried
41. Middle Eastern sailing vessels
44. Right of precedence
48. Meek
49. Corn crake
50. Internal environmental control
51. Place of learning
53. Duct for smoke
54. Supports
55. Hop dryer (Brit)
58. 21st letter of the Greek alphabet

by phil flickinger (www.blundergrads.com)
# Men's hockey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Result</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Curry</td>
<td>6-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>Wentworth</td>
<td>7-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>Assumption</td>
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*at Steriti Rink in the North End*

# Men's basketball

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<th>Result</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>7-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 3</td>
<td>Curry</td>
<td>5-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>Lesley</td>
<td>3-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td>Regis</td>
<td>8-0</td>
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*5 vs. Lesley, 1 p.m.*

**Team standings**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Women's basketball (GNAC)</th>
<th>Men's Basketball (GNAC)</th>
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<td>1. Norwich 0-0-0</td>
<td>1. Albertus Magnus 0-0-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Curry 1-0-0</td>
<td>2. Rivier 0-0</td>
<td>2. Emerson 0-0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Nichols 1-1-0</td>
<td>3. Simmons 0-0-0</td>
<td>3. Norwich 0-0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Becker 1-2-0</td>
<td>5. Mount Ida 0-0-0</td>
<td>5. Suffolk 0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Salve Regina 0-2-0</td>
<td>8. Emmanuel 0-0-0</td>
<td>8. Emmanuel 0-0-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Lasell 0-0-0</td>
<td>9. Lasell 0-0-0</td>
<td>9. Lasell 0-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Johnson &amp; Wales</td>
<td>10. Johnson &amp; Wales 0-0-0</td>
<td>10. Johnson &amp; Wales 0-0</td>
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*All standings are current as of Dec. 1.*

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**Sports briefs**

**Weis era over in South Bend**

Charlie Weis' oft-tumultuous tenure as head coach of the Notre Dame football team is over, as he was fired earlier this week after finishing this past season with an unremarkable 6-6 record. Weis arrived at Notre Dame fresh off of great success as the New England Patriots' offensive coordinator, and was expected to bring the Fighting Irish back to greatness. He led the team to back-to-back BCS bowl game appearances in his first two seasons, but went 16-21 since then. According to FoxSports.com, the 21 losses in three seasons are the most ever by the Notre Dame football program in any three-year span. Weis, who had six years left on his contract, finished his Notre Dame career with a record of 35-27.

**Iverson to return to the Sixers?**

Just a few weeks after he was supposedly pulling retiring from professional basketball, Allen Iverson met with the head coach and general manager of his former team, the Philadelphia 76ers, for more than two hours in Dallas on Monday. Reports on ESPN.com suggested that the two sides were talking about Iverson making a return to the Sixers, as the 39-year-old is expected to miss significant time with a broken jaw. Yesterday, Iverson was scheduled to meet with John Thompson, his former coach at Georgetown, who said last week that he intended to try to talk Iverson out of retiring, as Iverson has never won an NBA title, and likely won't get the chance this season if he re-joins the Sixers: the team is currently in 13th place in the Eastern Conference.

**Jeter named SI's Sportsman of the Year**

Under a month after leading the New York Yankees' to their MLB-leading 27th World Series title, shortstop Derek Jeter has another award to put in his trophy case: Sports Illustrated's Sportsman of the Year. Jeter was selected by the magazine on Monday, and in winning the award he became the first Yankee to receive the honor. Jeter hit .334 this past season, while belting 18 home runs and driving in 66 runs. He also had 30 steals, won another Gold Glove and passed Lou Gehrig to become the Yankees' all-time hits leader. Sports Illustrated has been naming its "Sportsmen of the Year" since 1954. Last year's winner was American Olympic hero Michael Phelps.

**Messi named Europe's top footballer**

Argentine striker Lionel Messi was awarded the Golden Ball as the European Footballer of the Year earlier this week in what was one of the most lopsided votes in the history of the award. Messi received 473 points out of a possible 480, and finished with 240 more points than second-place Cristiano Ronaldo. Playing in Spain's La Liga for Barcelona, Messi led his club to a Champions League title, a La Liga title and a Copa Del Rey title. Barcelona is the first Spanish-league team to win all three, known as the "treble." Messi scored a remarkable 38 goals in 51 matches over the course of the year, while also agreeing to a contract extension to remain with Barcelona through 2016, one that will see him earn around €9.5 million per year.

**Kansas in top spot in Coaches' Poll**

Kansas, 5-0 on the young college basketball season, were the top team in the latest ESPN/USA Today Coaches' Poll. The Jayhawks were followed closely by another Big-12 team, Texas, of the season, one with huge NCAA Tournament implications.
Point/counterpoint: Rask or Thomas?

With Thomas faltering, time to give the youngster Rask a chance to prove himself

Don Ryan
Journal Staff

Though the head coach and general manager may be denying it, there seems to be a bit of a goaltending controversy brewing down on Causeway Street. Coming off of a season in which he won the Vezina Trophy as the league's best goalie, Thomas was expected to shoulder the bulk of the load in the Boston Bruins' crease, with youngster Tuukka Rask serving as his back-up.

Many in the B's organization and fan base are extremely high on Rask. With that in mind, some scratched their heads when Thomas was re-signed to a four-year, $20 million deal last April. It wasn't so much the money that was an issue, but the length of the deal: Thomas will be 38 when the contract expires. With Rask, the Finnish Phoenom, waiting in the wings, why sign Thomas for that long of a term?

Thomas' slow start to the season did little to quiet a segment of B's fans who wanted Rask to get his shot at the number one job, and when Thomas was sidelined recently due to an undisclosed injury, Rask not only seized the opportunity, but took it and ran with it.

Rask dropped his first game against the Islanders, a 4-1 loss that featured a putrid effort by the team as a whole. However, Rask started and won the next four games, all of which were on the road. Rask was the losing goalie in last Friday's 2-1 shootout loss to the Devils, but he played well enough to win. In the six games he started while Thomas was on the shelf, Rask went 4-1-1, and allowed an infuriating goal to Tuukka Rask.

On the season as a whole, Rask is 7-2-2 with one shutdown. His GAA of 2.02 is second-best in the NHL, and his .929 save percentage is third-best. In comparison, Thomas has a record of 6-6-3, a save percentage of .915 (15th) and a GAA of 2.36 (10th). Thomas is tied for the league lead in shutouts with three. The box scores show it's far from a slam dunk to say that Rask should be start-first shot he faced. The second goal he allowed was not his fault, as it came on a power play that turned into a 5-on-3 disadvantage when Patrice Bergeron was felled by a slap shot. However, with the B's holding a 3-2 lead with under 20 seconds to play, Thomas allowed an infuriating goal to the Sens' Milan Michalek to tie the game. The goal came as Michalek was nearly below the goal line, and he simply flicked the puck on goal. The puck squirted through Thomas' legs, and the game was tied.

To his credit, Thomas took the blame for the goal, and bounced back to win the game in a shootout. The point is, though, that Rask has played better as of late, and led the B's during what was arguably their best stretch of the season thus far. Thomas has been deemed the number-one goalie, and one has to wonder if it has anything to do with his contract or with

The Bruins currently have a great "problem": two strong goalies. The question is, who should start: the proven veteran Tim Thomas, or the upstart rookie Tuukka Rask?

Matt West
Journal Staff

The Boston Bruins have dealt with their fair share of injuries so far this season, with Milan Lucic, Marc Savard and Tim Thomas missing significant time. As a result, they have yet to catch fire and win at a consistent rate like they did last season. Thomas, in particular, has struggled this year, and hasn't played well enough to squeak out a shoot-out victory against a tough division opponent. With the win, the B's are right back in the mix, currently one point behind Buffalo in the Northeast division.

Trying to be tight-lipped a la Bill Belichick, Thomas, head coach Claude Julien and the rest of the Bruins staff have been mum on the severity or even location of the injury. For the team, and to some extent the fan base, pushing Thomas out the back door in hopes that Rask will evolve into one of the better goaltenders in the league is a bad idea. At this point in his young career, Rask is not ready to handle full-time duties, having only started a total of 16 games in his short career.

When a team wins or loses games, the first person everyone looks at is the goalie. For Thomas this season, many of the blame has fallen on his sluggish offense not generating enough scoring chances to win games at a consistent rate.

When Savard, a guy who plays a Sidney Crosby-like role in the Bruins' offense, is out with his upper body injury, Rask's shortcomings are magnified as he is left with a defense that can't generate scoring chances. Even with his struggles this year, Thomas still has a fair-convertibility .933 save percentage and 2.10 goals against average on career highs.

With Manny Fernandez holding down back-up duties last season and young stud Tuuka Rask primed to battle him for minutes, Thomas thrived while leading the Bruins to a their first regular-season Eastern Conference championship since the 2001-2002 season. This year, with his numbers down a bit, pundits are quick to jump on Thomas for not performing up to lofty expectations.

A lot of Thomas' struggles can be attributed to the mysterious injury he has been battling. After missing the previous six games before Saturday night's overtime win against Ottawa, Thomas returned to net and played well enough to squeak out a shoot-out victory against a tough division opponent. With the win, the B's are right back in the mix, currently one point behind Buffalo in the Northeast division.
Catching up: basketball and hockey updates

Men's basketball off to fastest start since '99-'00

Don Ryan
Journal Staff

The Rams started off their season with a 91-45 loss to the University of New Hampshire, a loss that doesn't count against the Rams' record and serves as little more than a chance for the team to cut its teeth against some high caliber competition.

Despite the pre-season loss, the Rams came flying out of the gate, starting the season with a four-game winning streak.

The Rams started off the year by beating Eastern Nazarene College on the road, and followed up that win with two straight victories in the New England College Invitational Tournament (over Maine-Presque Isle and New England College). The Rams won their first three games by an average of 14.3 points.

According to the Suffolk Athletics 'Department, the three straight wins marked the first time a men's basketball team had started the season 3-0 since 1999-2000.

The wins didn't end at New England College, however, as the Rams returned to Beacon Hill and beat Salve Regina in their home opener by a score of 73-71.

The Rams undefeated run ended last Saturday, as the team suffered an 85-50 defeat at the hands of MIT. The Rams currently sport a record of 4-1, and they have yet to start the GNAC portion of their schedule.

Coming up huge for the Rams early in the season have been two youngsters: freshman center Matt Pepdjonovic and sophomore guard Mike Gibbons. Both were honored by the GNAC on Nov. 24 for their performance over the past week. Gibbons received Player of the Week honors after averaging 18 points over the course of three games, including one game in which he scored 35. Gibbons was also named to the New England College All-Tournament Team.

Pepdjonovic was named GNAC Rookie of the Week after averaging a double-double (17.7 points and 12.7 rebounds) in the Rams' three victories. Pepdjonovic was named to the NEC All-Tournament Team as well.

The Rams will be in action next tomorrow night when they take on UMass-Boston at home at 7:30 p.m.

SU soccer programs receive academic award

Don Ryan
Journal Staff

Despite the fact that their seasons drew to a close weeks ago, Suffolk's men's and women's soccer teams and their coaches received a prestigious award earlier this week: both teams were given the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Academic/Adidas College Team Award for the 2008-2009 academic year, according to a release on the Athletics Department website.

The award is given to squads whose team GPA is 3.00 or higher on a 4.00 scale. The NSCAA has been giving out the award each year since 1996. The NSCAA is, according to its website, the largest association of coaches in the world.

According to www.GoSuffolkRams.com, Suffolk accomplished a rare feat in having both its men's and women's soccer teams selected for the award, as only 97 colleges and universities in all of college soccer (Divisions I-II) had both programs honored. One of the 96 (other than Suffolk) was the Rams' cross-Common and GNAC rivals, Emerson College.

The women's team, which was honored for the second-straight season, had a team GPA of 3.00. The men's team had a team GPA of 3.07.

Nationwide, there were 326 women's programs honored, compared to 141 men's programs. A complete list of the colleges receiving the award can be seen on the NSCAA's website (www.NSCAA.com).

Suffolk hockey undefeated at home, but off to an inconsistent start

Don Ryan
Journal Staff

The men's hockey team had an up-and-down week, losing two out of three games. The team started off the current stretch of games with a 5-4 loss to Johnson & Wales, an ECAC Northeast opponent. The game saw Suffolk climb out of an early two-goal deficit to take a 4-2 lead in the third period. Johnson & Wales then scored three unanswered goals in the game's final 15 minutes to win the game.

The Rams got two goals from Andrew Flynn and one goal each from both Pat Welch and Niles Moore. Welch also assisted on one of Flynn's goals.

The Rams followed up the loss with a 3-2 win at home vs. Southern New Hampshire University. This game saw the Rams blow another two goal lead before Ryan Fitzpatrick scored eight minutes into the third period to give the Rams a lead they wouldn't relinquish. Jeff Rose turned in another stout performance between the pipes, allowing just two goals on 27 shots.

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Thumbs down: Please, NFL, no more Lions

After years of futility, it's time to let another team play on Turkey Day.

Turkey, stuffing, yams, pie, family; those are just some of the many traditions that come along with the Thanksgiving holiday every year. I, along with pretty much everyone else, look forward to Thanksgiving every year because it is a relaxing holiday that allows me to reflect upon my many blessings.

Here in the Detroit area, many of us also look forward to watching the Detroit Lions play what they refer to as “football” year after year. The “tradition” that I am referring to is the Lions’ 19-19 record in their 38 years of existence. In contrast, the Dallas Cowboys, one of the most storied NFL franchises, have made the playoffs 29 times in their 49 years of existence, and the New England Patriots have reached the playoffs 16 times in their 49 years of existence. It's time for Commissioner Roger Goodell to stop letting the Detroit Lions play on Thanksgiving. They're a more dysfunctional group of individuals than your crazy extended family who you only see on the holidays. Goodell should let a good team like the Colts or the Patriots have an annual Thanksgiving Day game. I mean come on, they are the “Patriots” right?

And if the Lions continue to get the opportunity to play on Thanksgiving Day every year, at least people around the world can take solace in the fact that if the tryptophan in the turkey doesn't make you sleepy enough to take a nap after dinner, then watching the Detroit Lions sure will.

Agree with Alex? Is he way off? Email feedback to suffolk-sports@gmail.com!

Intramural basketball rosters due by Dec. 3

Roster forms for next spring’s intramural basketball season are still available, and all rosters must be submitted by Dec. 3. Roster forms are available in the Athletics Department Office in room 204 of the Ridgeway building.

Games are played in Renan Gymnasium, and will be held throughout spring semester. Last year’s season saw over 15 teams participate. The league is open to all undergraduate students. Teams are made up of five to eight players, and all games are played 5-on-5. Any team that forfeits two games will be eliminated from competition. League playoffs are usually held after spring break. For more information or with any questions, email Coach Cary McCollum at cmccollum@suffolk.edu.

- Dan Ryan

Second SU table tennis tourney tonight

A number of campus organizations are combining to host the second Suffolk University Table Tennis Tournament tonight from 6-8 p.m.

The tournament will be held in the fourth floor lounge of the Donahue Building. Food will be available, and top prizes will include gift cards ranging from $10 to $100. To sign up, contact Craig Cullinane of Diversity Services by email at cullinane@suffolk.edu.