McCarthy seeks 'access, excellence' for Suffolk

Derek Anderson
Journal Staff

With a full C. Walsh Theater and over 350 online viewers watching a live stream, Suffolk's new president, James McCarthy, held little back during his first official "town hall" meeting yesterday.

"I want to emphasize that this is the first town hall meeting. There will be regular meetings like this, it will be interesting to watch how the attendance waxes and wanes over time," McCarthy said in his opening. He told the audience that the format will almost always be the same—he will talk for a while alone, and then open the floor for questions and discussion.

Over the next hour and a half, the audience asked questions about everything from the university's budget to the city's crime rates.

U.S. appeals court shoots down Prop 8

Photo courtesy of Flickr user Craig C.

Proposition 8, a California voted-in ban on same-sex marriage was historically overturned yesterday.

see PROPS page 5

A letter from the editor

Our apologies for the headline controversy

Dear Journal readers,

In last week's issue, we accidentally ran a profane joke sub-headline in an article about the Student Leadership and Involvement Winter Involvement Fair. I want to sincerely apologize on behalf of the Journal staff and make it clear that we in no way harbor ill feelings toward SLI, nor any of the staff or students that work there.

The subhead was put in as a joke that unfortunately slipped through our editing process. We were having trouble with that page earlier in the evening and believe that an older version made it into the paper, but there is still no excuse for what happened.

continued on page 14

Stargazers start new club

Soleil Barros
Journal Staff

The newly founded Suffolk University Dark Nights Club hosts a weekly meeting for students interested in astronomy. As members of the e-board returned from studying abroad in Spain with Raul and Carlos de la Fuente Marcos, they reminisced on the lectures on supermassive black holes, pulsars, quasars, Uranus, and globular clusters. Although Suffolk does not offer any astronomy courses, as of last spring, students have received a recent break in the astronomical community on campus.

"We took astronomy courses while we were in Spain and wanted to take an astronomy course once we returned and couldn't. We see DARKNIGHTS page 4

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**POLICE BLOTTER**

Wednesday, February 1
11:25 p.m.
10 West

11:34 p.m.
10 Somerset

Thursday, February 2
1:40 p.m.
150 Tremont

Friday, February 3
9:15 a.m.
150 Tremont
Confiscation of false ID. Report filed.

Saturday, February 4
2:23 a.m.
Law School
Report of a violation of campus policy at 120 Tremont Street. Report filed.

Sunday, February 5
5:40 a.m.
Public

5:29 p.m.
150 Tremont
Alcohol confiscation at 150 Tremont. Report filed.

Monday, February 6
2:24 p.m.
Public

**S.O.U.L.S. **discusses sex trafficking in Boston

Ally Thibault
Journal Staff

S.O.U.L.S., hosted their monthly Food For Thought discussion on Wednesday, focused on sex and human trafficking, in America and abroad. Featuring guest speakers Rebecca Merrill and Allison Duchcek, of the Boston Initiative to Advance Human Rights (BITAHR), the event aimed to raise awareness and advocacy for victims of human trafficking.

The issue of trafficking has “a greater need for public awareness,” Suffolk junior Alex Soto, a Campus Partnerships Scholar, at S.O.U.L.S., said as she introduced the guests.

Merrill, alumni of Suffolk University Law School and executive director of BITAHR, shared sobering statistics and horrifying stories of sex trafficking and explained how her organization tries to help.

“Sex trafficking happens right here in Boston, in the U.S.” Merrill said. “It’s very tangible, it could be happening to someone you know.”

Merrill said the average age of a sex trafficking victim in Massachusetts is only 12 years old, while nationally the average age is somewhere between 11 and 14 years old.

Merrill described shocking stories of a teenage girl kidnapped at an MBTA stop who was then trapped into prostitution and a Northeastern freshman lured in by a seemingly caring older man who forced her to work the streets of Boston’s Theater District.

Before BITAHR’s work, the laws concerning sex trafficking in Massachusetts placed equal blame on pimps and prostitutes, failing to realize the complexities of the issue and the horrors that young women are subjected to as sex slaves.

BITAHR was instrumental in convincing the Massachusetts legislature to take action and establish an explicit, comprehensive state law to ban sex trafficking since the federal law, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, has been ineffective.

“It was a long road to change the minds of the legislature and the DA to see women as victims and not criminals,” Merrill said. The new Massachusetts law lingered in the legislature for six years before being passed and put into effect in December 2011.

And for what reason was the law needed? Merrill said the new law remains largely untested and that her organization “still has a lot of training to do on this law”.

Allison Duchcek, a development associate at BITAHR and a Suffolk senior, Duchcek described other ways in which BITAHR aims to help victims of sex trafficking.

The organization provides business training for recovering victims in order to “empower women and rebuild their self-esteem.”

She also explained how BITAHR promotes public awareness by using the arts to get people engaged in the issue of sex trafficking victims. BITAHR works with musical artists to set up fundraisers and concerts to promote the facts on sex trafficking while raising money for their new initiatives and campaigns.

BITAHR also sponsors film forums, like the one at Suffolk’s Modern Theatre last weekend, showcasing the issue of sex along with human trafficking and feature panels including experts and survivors.

The films are not intended to be sob stories that leave the audience depressed, but are instead focused on “empowering people and telling them how to get involved,” Merrill said.

Through art, skills training, and legal advocacy, BITAHR hopes to change the language of society when it comes to dealing with the very real, local and global, issue of human and sex trafficking.

“Sex trafficking happens right here in Boston, in the U.S. It’s very tangible, it could be happening to someone you know.”

“Sex trafficking happens right here in Boston, in the U.S. It’s very tangible, it could be happening to someone you know.”
McCarthy ensures school's survival is not at stake

from PRESIDENT page 1

half, McCarthy covered the full spectrum, explaining his goals, why he was at the institution, as well as answering questions from audience members.

"I've now had four and a half days on the ground experience, so I can elaborate on some of the things I was going to find before I got here," he said. "I will say for so good, no major surprises, everything is as I expected it to be."

From there, McCarthy reiterated "history, mission, and location," the major reasons why he chose Suffolk and why he was drawn to the institution.

"[The] history of Suffolk is critical to where we've been, and I'd say it is critical to where we ought to go," he said. Wrapped up into it is the mission. The mission is to provide access to professional, higher education, to people whom access had been denied."

I want to say very clearly," McCarthy continued, "our history of providing access is the foundation upon which this university was built and it ought to be the foundation on which it is built going forward. There should be no backing away from commitment to access. Access and excellence go hand-in-hand. It's not access or excellence, it's both."

During his address to the crowd, McCarthy stated that many of the questions he was asked in his initial interviews were most likely the same questions everyone else had. Discussing his own life and goals, he brought a Latin phrase to the table to help explain his first steps as the new president: "Primum non nocere."

"Formal proper translation is First, do no harm. It's what every doctor is supposed to be doing," he said. "The biggest challenges we have can be expressed as a series of balancing acts," he said. "One the one hand, a huge challenge we face is the absolute need to keep tuition costs as low as possible... we have to keep costs in line."

On the other hand," he continued, "we have to provide students, and faculty and staff, with the facilities and the resources, the financial aid they need to fully participate in the Suffolk education."

"We will absolutely commit to, absolutely..." he stressed to the crowd, "there will be faculty, staff, student participation in the recruitment of all senior leadership at the university going forward," he said, eliciting an eruption of applause from the audience.

The school's daunting debt was also brought up, and McCarthy did not hesitate to address it, along with the recent Boston Globe article titled "Alleged Suffolk University's new president: Challenges await NYC educator; debt, academics among key issues."

"So as it turns out, yes, we have $300 million in debt," McCarthy said. "But we also have at-risk-but-who's-counting millions of dollars in assets... and as it has been pointed out, and from my days working on a college newspaper I know this, the people who write headlines are not the people who write stories. The process of writing a headline is often quite separate from the process of writing a story. Look, I knew those numbers before I read that article. It doesn't bother me."

Valerie Epps, a professor at the law school, took the microphone and said, "First a comment, and I think we all feel this, it's very easy to see why the board of trustees picked you. You're obviously very good at your job."

"I have to lean on a podium a bit, but yes," McCarthy responded with a laugh. "...it's also wonderful to see a leader who's cheerful and upbeat, because I think it becomes a self-fulfilled proposition," said Epps.

The questions and discussions still stayed on the serious side, however, and the long-term survival of the university regarding the recent issues was mentioned.

"I'm not worried about the long-term survival of Suffolk University because our history" ensured McCarthy. "I'm not worried about that. Which isn't to say that we don't have hard choices to make, but I think it's all manageable. I wouldn't be here if I didn't think that.

Students, staff, and faculty took to the new president well, providing cheerful and encouraging comments once the forum ended.

"It's great how open and honest he is," said Sarah Fraenkel, a sophomore and SGA senator. "[He'll] be exciting to see what he does to make this school better."

"It's important that he made a strong commitment to involve the [Suffolk] community in decisions moving forward," said Jarrett Wadbrook, a senior and SGA senator.

McCarthy was also pleased with the turn out of the meeting.

"I was impressed with how many people were here and watching online," said McCarthy, adding that he was impressed that how quickly the first person asked a question. "People didn't shy away from asking tough questions."

McCarthy closed the discussion with another reminder of his willingness to communicate with the Suffolk community, encouraging audience members to email him questions that time did not allow him to ask.

"Remember, if you didn't already remember, you have my email address," he said. "It's jmccarthy@suffolk.edu."
SU Dark Nights make space moves

from DARKNIGHTS page 1

wanted to have an amateur astronomy club where we could all gather together and talk about astronomy," said president Hannah Stein.

It's different when you're in a dome and part of the architecture while in an observatory," she added.

Last spring, members of SU Dark Nights proposed the idea as a new organization to Suffolk's Student Leadership and Involvement (SLI) Office, and were approved with enough time to plan ahead for the 2011-2012 school year. Students involved in the club attend public observatories each week, share different documentaries on space and discuss new breakthroughs in the astronomical society.

While in Spain, the students involved in the course traveled to the Canary Islands to view the second largest observatory in existence. "I've been twice. It's actually one of the most incredible experiences I've ever had. I learned so much in a week's time; professors Raul and Carlos de la Fuente Mar­cos really promote everyone learning," said Vice President Natalie Favati.

The SU Dark Nights meet every Tuesday during activity hour, when they host weekly lessons based on what sparks the interest of the members in attendance. Last week's topic was focused on black holes. In the past, the club has presented guest speaker Jay Bernal, a student physics major to give a presentation on anti matter. "There isn't a class here and we can't envelop it in an academic way, through a class we decide to get together this way." says Stein.

With much self-promo­tion, the club's first meeting attracted 20-25 students. Presently there are 12-15 devoted members part of the star-loving club.

"I hope to take charge next year and continue the club while recruiting more members. We are making space moves," said Treasurer Pat O'Brian. "I enjoy being able to work with people who are really interested in astrology, and make it more appealing to people who may have not known anything about astrology before."

Michelle Lim
Journal Staff

Most undergraduate students living on campus at Suffolk are probably aware of the scrambled eggs and omelets served at the 150 Tremont and Miller dining halls as an option for breakfast. But most aren't aware that Sodexo, Suffolk's dining service, obtains their eggs from caged chickens.

The issue has not gone unnoticed, thanks to senior Kristin Alvarez and junior Caroline Mcheffey among others. These students have brought attention to the budding issue due to their actions. To consider the switch from battery cage eggs to using eggs from non-caged chickens, Sodexo demanded support from the students. First, they pitched a presentation concerning the inhumane practices the chickens undergo to the Student Government Association (SGA). Alvarez and Mcheffey then collected 500 student signatures garnering to increase their stance—an amount of students no other group has paralleled to support a matter. In addition, Alvarez got groups such as Suffolk Free Press and the Environmental Club to support their efforts.

After drafting a bill that would later be proposed to Sodexo, senior and SGA senator-at-large Jarrett Wadbrook took hold of the preliminary statement written by SGA members including Senators William Cerullo, Vito Gallo, Natalie Breen and Riley Sweeney. It was Wadbrook who finalized the bill and sent it in to SGA for approval in November 2011. The bill was passed by the SGA and subsequently brought to Sodexo.

"It will be better off for Sodexo to change over and shy away from battery-caged eggs because it's good for a school to take in students' opinions and not to support inhumane treatment of animals," said Wadbrook.

Being a vegetarian for a third year due to opposition of animal cruelty is the reason Wadbrook follows through with the completion of the bill.

Involving taking action with The Humane League, a Philadelphia-based organization supporting animals' rights has opened a Boston office, to support the idea against the purchase of battery cage eggs fully developing at Suffolk with the help of SGA. The Humane League eventually presented itself to the Sodexo team. While the jury is still out, it is hopeful that Sodexo will switch over to using eggs from non-caged chickens in the near future. Perhaps the largest obstacle to reaching a decision is the increase in tuition costs. While Sodexo is calculating exact costs, estimations range that the meal plan will increase about $6 to $7. Meanwhile, on average, meal plans at select universities can increase up to $75 yearly for no particular reason. More importantly, health risks are highly associated with battery cage eggs.

Mcheffey, also a vegetarian for over three years and passionate about animals, strongly attests to Sodexo discontinuing the purchase of battery cage eggs.

"It's a very small switch that changes quite a bit for not only animals, but human health, the environment, and worker conditions," she said of the matter.

Although there is no exact date set, students hope that Sodexo agrees with the students who feel strongly against these practices and that the eggs for breakfast next year come from cage-free chickens.
**Prop 8 ruled unconstitutional**

Jeff Fish  
Journal Staff

California's voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage was ruled unconstitutional yesterday by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

"Proposition 8 serves no purpose, ... other than to lessen the status and human dignity of gays and lesbians ..." in San Francisco, according to an article from the San Francisco Gate.

The 2-1 ruling marked the first time a federal appellate court has overturned a state law defining marriage between one man and one couple to marry. "Proposition 8 serves no purpose, and has no effect, other than to lessen the status and human dignity of gays and lesbians in California, and to officially reclassify relationships and families as inferior to those of opposite sex couples," said Judge Stephen Reinhardt in the majority opinion, according to the Gate.

Although the court ruled Proposition 8 unconstitutional, the ban in California remains in effect while the case makes its way to the Supreme Court, according to the Gate.

Even if the Supreme Court does take the case, it could strike down Prop 8, but not rule on gay marriage as a whole, said the Gate.

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**Suffolk shows interest in One Franklin**

A.P. Blake  
Journal Staff

On Thursday, it was announced that developer Millennium Partners had purchased a 50 percent stake in the One Franklin project in Boston's Downtown Crossing neighborhood. One Franklin is the name of the project which resulted in the demolition of the historic Filene's building and left a crater in the ground for years. It has since been considered one of the largest development blunders in the city's history and has been Menino's top development priority for getting back on track.

In 2006, the Filene's building was vacated following a merger between Filene's and Macy's, and the subsequent consolidation of stores. New York-based developer Vornado Realty proposed a $750 million, 500-foot tower on the site which was approved by the city. The project was to contain a mix of retail, offices, and residential units. The demolition process began and was completed in November 2008 when the project came to a halt amidst a global economic recession. Vornado Realty could not secure any loans to move forward with construction and - claimed they did not have the funding to hand on proceed.

The already troubled Downtown Crossing neighborhood was left wounded as vacancies became more common and crime rose. Steven Roth, chairman of Vornado Realty, then made comments at a public talk in New York which stated that a good tactic would be to let properties become a blight to a city in order to receive more financial incentives from local and federal agencies. Appalled by Roth's statements, Menino quickly threatened to seize to the property through eminent domain. Eventually, the city revoked permitting for the site and ordered Vornado to put it up for sale. "Millennium Partners agreed to take a controlling stake in the development project at One Franklin - the Filene's site," Menino said on Thursday, according to the Boston Herald. Millennium Partners is best known in Boston for their Millennium Place towers, completed in 2001 and host to the Ritz-Carlton hotel. The developer is also proceeding with construction of Hayward Place, across Washington Street from the Paramount Theatre. This statement comes a week after the Boston Herald said Suffolk was interested in Filene's.

The proposal under the direction of Millennium Partners still includes a vibrant mix of retail, offices, and residential, but is being proposed at 600 feet - 100 feet taller than Vornado's proposal. The firm is also envisioning the tower itself to be thinnier, and has retained Handel architects, designers of Hayward Place, Gary Handel, to design their new proposal.

"The downtown is going to be transformed as this and other buildings open in the area," an anonymous city official told the Boston Globe. Millennium Partners has 60 days to submit a revised development plan to the Boston Redevelopment Authority. The developer and city officials alike hope for construction to break ground within a year.

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**Anonymous hacks Boston PD**

Hacker group Anonymous protested the police brutality events involved with Occupy Boston by hacking the Boston Police Department (BPD) website (BPDNeau.com) last Friday. The website, typically listing police reports and news, was redesigned to embed KES-Onyx's "Sound of Da Police" music video over a black background with red text reminding the raiding of Occupy camps and kicking protesters off public parks. Three days later, the website is still down. Anonymous hacked the site back in October to re­venge the hundreds of protester arrests in Dewey Square, in an effort to "put the authorities and their hate­ful activities on display in perpetuity." An article on BostonHerald.com suggests the hacker group is "likely to strike again."

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**Record number of dolphins wash up on Cape Cod shores**

In just one month's time, almost 130 dolphins have stranded themselves on the shores of Cape Cod, tripling the annual average. Katie Moore, a manager of marine mammal rescue and research for the International Fund for Animal Welfare, told the Boston Globe that the standings represent the largest single-species standing on record for the northeastern United States.

Out of the 129 dolphins stranded, the IFAW has been able to successfully release 37 of them, while 92 others have died. Rescuers of the mammals are unsure of the cause (or lack thereof) and the sheer numbers of dolphins stranding. Moore told the Globe that weather could be the root cause, saying "If we have different weather patterns, we could have a distribution of prey." The IFAW research and rescue manager also went onto say that the hook shape of the Cape contributes to the danger for dolphins as well as other marine mammals.

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**Komen for the Cure VP resigned**

Karen Handel, Vice president to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure resigned Tuesday, saying the breast cancer charity should have stood by its politically explosive decision to cut funding for Planned Parenthood, according to the Globe. Handel opposed abortion as a candidate for Georgia governor, claiming she was actively engaged in efforts to cut the grant, and said the charity's reversal hurt the Cure's mission according to reports by the Boston Globe. The grants, totaling $680,000 last year, went to breast-screening services offered by Planned Parenthood, which provides a range of women's health care services including abortions. Susan G. Komen for the Cure, reversed course after its decision ignited a three-day storm of criticism. According to an anonymous source, who spoke to the Globe on condition of anonymity for fear of repercussions, claimed a driving force behind the move was Handel, who was hired by Komen last year as vice president for public policy after losing a campaign for governor in Georgia.
Nigeria violates child labor laws in gold mining operation

Ivan Favelevic
Journal Staff

For the past two years, gold mining has caused Nigeria to have an upswell of optimism. However, the process of mining the gold has "caused one of the worst outbreaks of lead poisoning in modern history," reports Human Rights Watch.

The Zamfara state in northwest Nigeria has been the center of a major rise in homebrewed mining operations which, coupled with the high levels of lead on the ground, has caused an increased level of lead poisoning for the locals. The Human Rights Watch made a study in late 2011 which showed that children are exposed to lead dust by processing ore in the mines. In turn, the lead is attached to their clothing and is brought home, which then spreads to the compounds and villages. Several operations crush the deadly ore at home, making the level of lead in the air multiple times that of the allowed level. The water and food has also been contaminated, bringing the number of children exposed to toxic levels of lead to 1,500, according to Human Rights Watch. Infortunility and miscarriages also affect the region.

"Zamfara's gold brought hope for prosperity, but resulted in death and backbreaking labor for its children," said Babatunde Oluboji, deputy program director at Human Rights Watch. Over 400 children have died since the amateur mining began and the death toll is consistently rising. "People living in Zamfara State should not have to trade their lives, or their children's lives, for the chance to mine gold and make a living."

Doctors without Borders and the United States Centers for Disease Control has treated more than 1,500 children with acute lead poisoning, but the Human Rights Watch thinks this number is a mere estimate of the true amount. The problem is hard to control, considering that a mere cleaning will not deal with the lead spread around the children's home or village. While lead poisoning is rarely fatal, it can cause severe cognitive and developmental damage, especially to children. Medical workers in Nigeria reported that the ore in the Zamfara state is so toxic that some villages face a 40 percent child mortality rate.

Late last year, the Nigerian government put up a huge cleanup effort trying to clean up the largest and most contaminated village in the area, Bagega, which may have up to 2,000 children at risk. However, without adequate funds, the cleanup effort is quickly becoming null.

While the Nigerian government has ratified the International Labor Organization Convention No. 182 to prevent the worst forms of child labor Zamfara's rogue mining sector is employing children as young as 8 in some areas, severely violating child labor laws, said the Human Rights Watch. "By failing to address this epidemic," said Oluboji "the Nigerian governments need to educate people about the risks of lead, put safer mining programs in place, end child labor in gold mining, and dramatically expand treatment and environmental cleanup programs."

'Baby Doc' Duvalier returns to Haiti

David A. Fredrick
Journal Contributor

From 1971 to 1986, Jean Claude 'Baby Doc' Duvalier ruled Haiti as the successor to his dictator father Francois 'Papa Doc' after his death. He returned to Haiti last year after living in exile in France for the past 25 years. By doing so, he has opened himself up to be prosecuted for many crimes against humanity including torture, disappearances, rape, and assassinations. He has allegedly embezzled somewhere between $300 million and $800 million dollars during his reign as the Haitian president.

During the father and son rule, thousands were murdered and tortured in the feared Fort Dimanche, crimes that he will not be put on trial for as he will be charged with only misappropriation of public funds for which Jean Claude could spend up to 5 years in prison.

There has been no date for a trial set yet, but the ruling may be challenged by some of the alleged victims of Duvalier. Some of these people are victims of Duvalier's armed forces and the National Security Volunteer Militia (also known as the Tonton Macoutes) but their charges were no included in the recommendations to the judge that they fell outside the statute of limitations in Haiti's constitution.

During a news briefing on the Jan. 31 in Geneva, Rupert Colville responded saying "Very serious human rights violations including torture, rape and extrajudical killings have been extensively documented by Haitian and international human rights organizations to have occurred in Haiti during the regime of Duvalier, Impunity for such serious crimes cannot be allowed to prevail and we urge the relevant authorities to ensure that justice is, albeit belatedly, delivered to the many victims of human rights abuses committed under the government of Mr. Duvalier."

Duvalier's lawyer, Reynold Georges said that Jean Claude would appeal any decision to put him on trial for financial crimes because the Supreme Court has already cleared him of such charges in the past. "The thousands of Haitians who suffered under this regime deserve justice."

As the U.N. and many rights groups have urged Haiti to put Duvalier and his officials for crimes against humanity.

The judge's ruling will be challenged by lawyers who represent the victims of Haiti who only wish to bring justice and avenge those who have been wronged. Duvalier still lives a very comfortable life, frequently dining out and even having a few unauthorized trips outside the capital.
Violence spreads through Syria

By Matthew P. Bacon
Journal Staff

The civil unrest currently taking place in Syria has been widely discussed since it began last March. The Syrian people have been protesting against their President, Bashar al-Assad, who took power after his father, Hafez, died in 2000. Although the protests turned violent many months ago after Syrian forces fired on peaceful protestors, the violence has been escalating dramatically over the last couple of weeks.

Over the weekend, a massacre took place in the Syrian city of Homs. As of Monday, it was reported that over 300 civilians had died in the city since Thursday. In total, it is estimated that over 7,000 people have died during the 11-month crisis.

As war was raging in Homs, the U.N. Security Council was voting on a resolution against the Assad regime. The resolution ultimately failed due to vetoes by over 300 civilians had died in the city since Thursday. In total, it is estimated that over 7,000 people have died during the 11-month crisis.

As war was raging in Homs, the U.N. Security Council was voting on a resolution against the Assad regime. The resolution ultimately failed due to vetoes by Russia and China. Both countries have trade relations with Syria, and Russia supplies the Syrian government with arms, along with operating a military base in the country. The vetoes were met with harsh criticism from Western nations, especially the U.S. and France. On Monday, the U.S. announced that it was closing its embassy in Syria and removing its remaining staff for their safety. In further condemnation of Syria and the Homs massacre, U.S. President Barack Obama has called on Assad to resign and for the country to hold democratic elections.

From Dec. 26 through Jan. 28 the Arab League had a monitoring mission in the country. Unarmed observers wearing Arab League uniforms examined the situation inside the country in order to compile a report to give to the United Nations. The League withdrew their observers on Jan. 28, citing the “critical deterioration of the situation.” The report compiled was presented to the U.N. before they voted on an earlier resolution against Assad, which was also vetoed by China and Russia.

The situation in Syria is delicate and hazy. Opposition groups claim that they are fighting a corrupt government that tramples on the rights of its people and attacks them when they protest about it. Assad's government claims it is defending itself against armed terrorists that are attacking citizens and soldiers alike. They also claim that the media has been manipulating the conflict to make the Syrian government look bad. It is very difficult for news agencies to confirm reports of what is happening in Syria because the government has heavily restricted journalist activity in the country.

The rejection of the U.N. resolution leaves Syria's future up in the air. Both Assad’s government and opposition groups have shown no signs of backing down, each side growing bolder as the violence escalates. Although the international community is trying to diplomatically help the rebels, veto-wielding Russia and China are blocking all attempts. No one can say for sure what direction Syria is heading in.
Europe

LONDON, England — The last known WWI veteran, Florence Green, passed away yesterday at the age of 110 in her home in England. While Green did not see combat first hand, she served in the Royal Air Force as a waitress in an Air Base in Northern England. She was officially declared a veteran after researchers found her records in 2010, reports the Huffington Post. "I met dozens of pilots and would go on dates," she said in a 2008 interview. "I had the opportunity to go up in one of the planes but I was scared of flying...I had the time of my life." Green was the 10th oldest person in England, dying just days prior to her 111th birthday. She will have a full Air Force funeral with a bugler and Union Jack. She is survived by two daughters, a son and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

South America

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner announced yesterday that the country is to make a formal complaint to the United Nations about "militarization" in the Falkland Islands. According to the BBC the announcement comes days after the British government sent a high tech destroyer to the disputed South Atlantic islands in a move it called "routine." Furthermore, Prince William is set to begin air training missions in the area. The Argentine government has managed to gain support on the issue, gaining a backing from Brazil, Chile and Uruguay in blocking any ships or planes flying the island’s flag from their ports. In the speech, President Kirchner said that the islands are a "war trophy" for England after the two month armed conflict in 1982.

Middle East

MIRANSHAH, Pakistan — The BBC reports that 10 suspected militants have been killed by an unmanned U.S. drone in Pakistan overnight. The attack took place six miles from Miranshah, North Waziristan near the Afghan border. Pakistan has previously stated that these attacks violate their ethical code. "Eight militants were killed and two wounded," said a Pakistani official, "militants have surrounded the camp and are removing the bodies." Attacks of this sort have killed hundreds over the years, with the U.S. claiming it is a necessity in the ongoing war on terror. This attack included senior al-Qaeda and Taliban leaders.
It's 4:34 a.m.

Do you know where your Journal editors are?

Working on the paper!

Come join us!

Tuesdays @ 1 in Donahue 537.
suffolkjournal@gmail.com

The Journal Takes On Issues...

- Walking Dead comes back Sunday
  Plus 6000 points

- McCarthy's 'first' town hall
  Plus 9000 points

- Paul Pierce breaks Larry Bird's record
  Plus 5000 points

- New S.C. friends for Derek, Mike, and Alex
  Plus 2500 points

- Look at Mike's new haircut!
  Plus 1100 points

Patriots lost the Super Bowl

Minus 46,000,000 points
Total points this week = -45,976,400

It's been a rough week. Here's to a better one next week!

Across
1. Largest animal ever to have inhabited Earth
2. Blog money-maker
3. Country where motorized ambulances were first used
4. Former VP Dan Quayle's first name
5. Product of the mass of a body and its linear velocity
6. Chocolate of antioxidants
7. "We be ..."
8. Official PA state beverage
9. Concert venue located in popular cities
10. Liquid plants need for photosynthesis
11. City where Karl Marx wrote "Das Kapital"
12. Another version of a song
13. Thing of bats
14. What pheasants are called in their younger brood days?
15. Atmospheric gas screening out the sun's ultraviolet radiation
16. Number of countries in British Commonwealth
17. Company to manufacture the first diesel-run car
18. Mountain chain with Mount Everest
19. Gas forming 80% of Earth's atmosphere
20. Traditional Hallowe'en candy
21. Where were the last USA Olympics of the 20th century held?
22. History
23. Many OPs are also these
24. Outermost layer of the Earth
25. Plant with flowers but no proper leaves
26. Where Anne Frank passed away
27. Queen Elizabeth II's youngest son
28. Largest animal ever to have inhabited Earth
29. Down
30. Country where Air Pacific comes from
31. Natural phenomenon that 'meanders'
32. The VS-300 was a type of what?
33. Chinese gooseberry fruit
34. Tried to buy rights of "Silze Beach USA"
35. Aka the Manassa Mauler
36. Most common gas in the atmosphere
37. Worn by OeadmauS
38. Fastest animal on two legs
39. Bruce Willis' real first name
40. Yes, no, maybe ...
41. Number of lights in spectrum when light is separated
Poets hype Poetry Center with readings

Ally Thibault
Journal Staff

Suffolk's Poetry Center, located on the third floor of the Sawyer library, was packed with students and the general public last Thursday night. In addition to all seats being full before the 7 p.m. start time of the poetry reading event, attendees lined the walls and occupied carpet seating.

As poets Melissa Green and Tom Sleigh drew such a crowd, Professor Fred Marchant expressed pure pleasure with the turnout. Marchant, director of Suffolk's creative writing track in the English Department and director of the Poetry Center, introduced the two poets.

Green passionately read poems filled with historical and mythical allusions. The Winthrop native's style evoked a sense of grandeur and eloquence, using old-fashioned adjectives to painstakenly describe every detail in her poems.

In her "Chrismartia" piece, Green puts a twist on the clichéd baptism metaphor as the narrator details watching the salty sea crash over granite and rock. The raw beauty and terrible awe of the scene are masterfully wrapped up in the last line: "I've forgotten my prayer I ever knew."

Green's works center around creating a dialogue with the past by interacting with the lives and ideas of historical figures. "Prophecy" is inspired by Virginia Woolf's claim that she heard birds speak to her in ancient Greek as she was descending into madness. "First Snow" uses a Renaissance fresco and its many ornate layers of paint as a metaphor to describe the many layers of life and perception that exist in our world.

The most elaborate of Green's historical influences are found in her series of poems about Mad Maude. Looking back at the origin of mental asylums, Green pulls the characters Tom of Bedlam and Maude as the original mentally ill and heart sick. The poems tell a story of Maude's constant searching for her Tom as the two bounce back and forth from mental institutions to freedom.

The story of Tom and Maude becomes a tragic love story of a crazy, mistreated woman who merely wants to be with her lover. Her madness and the abuse she suffers from it at the asylum are cured by her love, as she claims, "my iron chains don't itch when Tom is here." Overwrought with symbols of oppression and squallor, Maude longs for Tom: "Waiting in Bedlam/Covered in piss and shame/I wait."

Next, Marchant introduced Sleigh and what he called his "Homeric" epic poetry. Sleigh, a professor at Hunter College and resident of Brooklyn, has visited Suffolk in the past for a panel discussing the plight of Leba non after its civil war. As a journalist in southern Lebanon, Sleigh used his observations and insight to compile his poetry book, "Army Cats."

Sleigh's poetry features absurdist humor and biting sarcasm that had everyone laughing out loud. In "Army Cats," Sleigh compares soldiers and tanks to lazy cats lounging in the sun. One cat is so revered by all that the audience finds the devotion to it ridiculous as Sleigh claims, "women lift up their skirts as she drifts down the Nile."

In his next poem, Sleigh shifted from the far away war to his own childhood. "Self-Portrait with Shoulder Pads" details a fight he and his twin brother were forced to have during a high school football team practice. The audience burst with laughter as the poem depicted his old coach yelling, "Timmy hit Tommy/ Tommy hit Timmy."

"Spacesuit Set Adrift" uses an abandoned astronaut suit in outer space as a metaphor for growing old. Sleigh describes the suit being cast out from a rocket ship and its slow descent out to deep space. The suit goes through a life cycle as a human would.

"How she loathes infinit," the narrator says, as the space suit is destined to roam around space forever alone. "She dreams of a mothership, of gravity," Sleigh says of the suit, but she never finds either to anchor her again.

The poetry of Sleigh and Green, although stylistically different, was a hit with the audience as the room seemed to fill even more after the reading ended. Fans rose to meet the poets and look at some of their books for sale. The Poetry Center remained occupied for at least another hour before people cleared out to await the next reading.

Your Week: Top club nights

Angela Bray
Journal Staff

Re:SET is bringing Petrol in for this week's party. James Gerard, Greg Teves and William John will be blowing The Phoenix Landing with strong disco, house and techno. [19+]

We've has booked Effy Ahmed of Hot Creations to grace Felix Nightclub with British house music. Boston-based Tamer Malki and Sergio Santos are lined up to play house and techno with the lives and ideas of historical figures. [21+] Berlin-based Deepchild will be playing a live set Thursday night at Middlesex Lounge. Known best for deep house, tech house, minimal, progressive, and other styles alike, the Australian DJ/producer will mesmerize ears with his sounds. Make In New residents David Day and Alan Manzi will also hit the decks. [21-]

The RAW-Boston "Activista" Indie Arts Showcase will be after-partying at Red Sky Lounge with beats provided by Batwings, DJ Cousin John and Danny Satori. [21+] GLOW Boston's electro/ house/remixes dance party will be a night of white this week at Think Tank. White Rabbit DJs Jay K and Damien Paul will spin with residents Glowkids and Fuse, and someone lucky will win tickets to Winter White Tour. [19+]

Tokuh Performance Art presents its first of two AcousticElectronica shows on Friday, fusing classical and electronic dance music. The party, at Oberon, features music, art and dance. [18+]

White Rabbit's Wonderland at RISE is all EDM party. This week, East Coast rave legend and Columns of Knowledge founder DJ Knowledge will headline with DJs Damien Paul, Jay K and Mike Swells also lined up. House music icon Tommie Sunshine will headline after-hours until 6 a.m. [18+]

Orlando Voorn will flood Good Life's downstairs with house, techno and hip-hop Saturday night. Locals Dark & Stormy and Mr. McNeill will handle opening duties. Upstairs, The Deck Bros will cover of hip-hop, reggae and classics. [21+]
Yes.Oui.Si presents 'The Salon'
Art gallery kicks off year with new showcase

Meagan Kennelly
Journal Contributor

With violin in the ear, wine on the pallet and art on the walls, Yes.Oui.Si celebrated the opening of a new art exhibition, "The Salon," last Thursday night. The exhibit showcased the work of an all-female cast of artists: Alexa Guariglia, Lena Gustafson, Kira Leigh, and Jordan Piantedosi. The group of Boston-based artists kicked off Yes.Oui.Si's first exhibition of the month of January to be used as a studio space.

Located in the Fenway, Yes.Oui.Si is a quaint space rich with character and personality. Entering the crowded, low-lit space filled with college students and hipsters alike, one may have thought they took a wrong turn and landed at a college fraternity party. However, no flip-cup and Jay-Z was playing; instead, violin sounded in the background and conversation revolved around art.

The first piece was a large, vibrantly painted buffalo skull hanging on the wall of color. The pieces were created of anything from gauche and ink to acrylic and nail polish. "I think it's great," explained Jacqueline Porter, 22, of Somerville. "I like the bright colors. A lot of the pieces give me a 60's, 70's, psychedelic kind of vibe, but my favorite would have to be the art that uses words. I use quotes as pictures for my walls all the time, I like how everyone can interpret words and phrases differently."

Alessia Brugnara, a junior at UMass Boston, agreed. "This is my first time coming here and I think it's a really cool place. The atmosphere is real relaxed and I like the idea of the group exhibition they did. You get to see a lot of different styles of artists come together and it makes for a great show."

Yes.Oui.Si opened as a DIY, multi-sensory exhibition space just last year as a place for artists of all disciplines to come together. Anything from concerts to art shows to film screenings take place throughout the year.

"We try to engage and connect people with the arts," said Olivia Ives-Flores, founding partner and curator of the event. And it seems to be working. The space has gathered quite a following from the neighboring communities here in Boston. With its one-year anniversary on February 11, Yes.Oui.Si will be hosting a live concert with limited edition tees.

Chris Brown + dance music?

Chris Brown will officially be performing at the Grammys on Sunday, but not how one would expect. He will joindeadmau5, Foo Fighters, David Guetta, and Lil Wayne for a first-time tribute to dance/electronica music. Lil Wayne and Chris Brown don't exactly do electronica and Foo Fighters aren't a representation of dance music. Watch out for outraged electronic dance music fans...

Halftime show obscenities

Madonna may have owned the spotlight during her Super Bowl halftime show, but M.I.A stole the limelight. M.I.A flipped the bird to the audience during her appearance, sparking a mini-controversy in the world of live TV. While this scandal didn't incite the outrage that followed Janet Jackson's now infamous wardrobe malfunction during the 2004 Super Bowl halftime show, the FCC still might take action. If NBC incurs fines from the incident, M.I.A will have to pay up according to a TMZ report. The FCC levied a $550,000 fine to CBS for Jackson's behavior in 2004, but a federal appeals court recently dismissed the fine. If the 2004 case serves as any precedent, it is unlikely that M.I.A would have to pay for her actions. Maybe next year we can have a halftime show without something stupid distracting from the performance — maybe.

Good-doer Kutcher

Ashton Kutcher turned 34 yesterday, and according to E Online, he donated the day to fighting the exploitation of children. Kutcher posted a video to Causes.com in which he told fans he would match dollar for dollar all donations to his and Demi Moore's DNA Foundation. He said donations would specifically be used for technology tools for fighting child pornography and the sexual exploitation of children.
The Lot F Gallery is neatly tucked away on the top floor of a generic Boston building and can be easily overlooked by the average passer-by. Owner James Wormser and Co-owner Kate Ostreicher hosted "Three," inviting friends and members of the public into their ultimate gallery, which also serves as the living room to their flawless home.

"My friends lived here before it was a gallery," said Wormser. "Friends used to have wild parties in this section of the apartment building. I wanted to make it more professional."

Wormser and Ostreicher have hosted 24 previous events over the past two years.

"Our first show was with Todd Robertson. The title of the show was 'Grandma's House.' Todd had collected stuff you would find in a grandmother's home and spray painted monsters all over them," explained Ostreicher. "People really liked his work."

This month's exhibit featured local artists Sean Flood, Nick Ward and Josh Falk. A room full of visitors and friends gathered in the gallery space to view the pieces displayed, enjoy refreshments, and converse with one another. The friendly atmosphere welcomed an eclectic group of art-appreciating individuals.

"It's cool to see something like this happen in Boston. The scene has been kind of low, and it's just really cool to see it rising," said Nathan Mosquera, 26, of his first visit to Lot F Gallery. "Let F is well put together, I like it."

Flood provided four different paintings, including "Christine Sunbathing," which was finished just in time for the event. The painting is a play on an old master's painting of an old, dead Christ in a tomb with a bright yellow backdrop and a modern day woman basking in the sun. Another one of Ward's favorite pieces offered an understanding of one's words encrypted into a large painting. The oil painting of a blonde woman was surrounded by sentences written in bee's wax.

"All of the text is written by the woman posing," said Ward. "I have always been interested in people and what they are thinking; that's why I started painting people, that's what I find most interesting."

Falk approaches art with a different medium, displaying eight photographs placed on wood panels. "Bed of Blades," Falk's favorite, features an enlarged "behind the glass feel" photo of grass blades from a unique point of view. The piece is a five-panel inkjet photographic print mounted on a wood laminate. The inspiration behind Falk's work is derived from Boston's urban environment and how, in certain areas, it often meets the woods' natural life. Falk is also a member of Project Super Friends [projectsf.com], a collective of artists, designers and musicians solely founded on friendship and family.

"Stay young, don't get caught up in one road, try everything possible, work in every medium. Try everything if you really want to do. That's how you find what you really like to do," said Falk. "I like to work in many mediums: sculptures, wood, photos, anything I can get my hands on."

"You can't judge artwork by looking at a photo of it on a flyer, you have to actually come in and see it to really appreciate it," said Wormser. "That's why I print our event flyers in black and white."

Various Artists
"How to Make It in America mixtape"
If you ever see me around the city and wonder what I'm listening to, this is probably it!
-Soleil Barros
Film forum raises trafficking awareness

Alexa Barrios
Journal Staff

Globally, 27 million people are trapped in modern day slavery, according to the Boston Initiative to Advance Human Rights (BITAHR). Of those trafficked, 79 percent are sexually exploited. Suffolk's Modern Theatre was a full house Saturday afternoon as Najibullah Qurban's film, Dancing Boys of Afghanistan, was featured as part of BITAHR's 2012 Fighting Trafficking Through Film forum. BITAHR is a group committed to combating the commercial exploitation of people and helping women and children to attain protection and fulfillment of their human rights.

Co-sponsored by Suffolk University Law School, Culture 1D and The No Project, the forum featured eight full-length documentaries over the course of three days last week. The other films included Whistleblower, Red Leaves Falling, Price of Sex, Fatal Promises, Very Young Girls, Sacrifice, and Call_Response.

"People don't want to talk about sex trafficking," said Ben Harel, assistant producer of the forum. "We're trying to teach people what to do next and connect them with stories. If people connect, then they will act." Dancing Boys of Afghanistan is about an uncommon form of sex trafficking called bacha bazi, or "boy play," which is a current issue in Afghanistan. Boys in their early teens are taken off the streets or from poor families, dressed in women's clothing and forced to dance in front of crowds of men who eventually bid on the boys and then take them home. "The Bacha bazi form of slavery was almost done away with and it's come back worse than before," said Jacqueline Zimowski, founder and executive director of the No Human Trafficking awareness-raising foundation. "There is obvious gender bias, and boys just don't get enough press which makes it harder to get eradicated."

As stated on their website, the BITAHR film forum was established to address the need for greater public and academic awareness of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation and sex trafficking. The forum uses the power of film and holding a panel of survivors, filmmakers, activists, academics and members of the community in order to develop an understanding and spreading the word on sex trafficking. "The role of media, as seen, has become very important," said Phillip Martin, a senior investigative reporter for WGBH Boston public radio, during the discussion panel following the film. "Human trafficking is happening in our midsts, and is becoming even more popular than drug trafficking." "Empathy is important, people need to relate to these stories," said Stefanie Friedhoff, a special projects manager at the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University, on getting people involved. "The role of journalism is to create witnesses and providing larger audiences to get the word out." After Friday's showing of The Whistleblower, a movie inspired by real events, Kathryn Bolkovac, the woman on whom the film was based, joined the panel discussion. "It was inspiring to hear her speak," said Charmine Poh, a junior at Tufts University. "The movie was harrowing, and I think it's great that Hollywood actually made a film of this nature."
The reporter who wrote the article had nothing to the headline and the editor who did write it has been placed on a three-week suspension. We have made it clear to the administration that the article had nothing to the headline and the editor who wrote it has been placed on a three-week suspension. Although he made a mistake, it does not take away from the years of hard work he put in. The Suffolk Journal is the student newspaper of Suffolk University, and we at the Suffolk Journal are fully committed to the highest standards of journalism. Since the Suffolk Journal is the student newspaper of Suffolk University, we have a duty to the students and faculty of the university to provide them with accurate and timely information. The Suffolk Journal is the student newspaper of Suffolk University, and we at the Suffolk Journal are fully committed to the highest standards of journalism. Since the Suffolk Journal is the student newspaper of Suffolk University, we have a duty to the students and faculty of the university to provide them with accurate and timely information.
America needs to tread lightly with Syria

Matthew P. Bacon
Journal Staff

One of the most talked about and debated issues of today is the raging civil strife in Syria. President Bashar al-Assad has been leading a brutal military crackdown against originally peaceful protestors who wish to see an end to his regime. Although the conflict is now eleven months old, the violence has been rapidly escalating over the last few weeks. The situation has become so dire that some now consider the conflict an all-out civil war. People are now beginning to whisper rumors of foreign intervention, despite the fact that Russia and China vetoed a U.N. resolution that would have demanded al-Assad to stop the violence. The Syrians themselves have been calling for international help, citing the NATO intervention in Libya.

Intervening in Libya was a bad idea, and intervening in Syria is an even worse idea. For one thing, U.S. intervention in Libya cost us 2 billion dollars. If we were to intervene in Syria, the cost would be at least that much again, but most likely more. The American taxpayer is tired of supporting military opera-
tions in countries that simply don't mean much of anything to the average American. If anything, the U.S. should be concentrating on the cuts that President Obama proposed for our bloated military. We should be putting our money back into our country. We all know that our economy could use some help. And stop using our military to curry favor with foreign leaders. At its root, that is what the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are about.

Republicans claim these measures are necessary to protect against voter fraud, but the polls on Election Day, ef-fectively turning away people without licenses, an original copy of a birth certificate, and most college students (as college IDs are not considered valid government IDs). Republicans claim these measures are necessary to protect against voter fraud, but the polls on Election Day, effectively turning away people without licenses, an original copy of a birth certificate, and most college students (as college IDs are not considered valid government IDs).

Democrats claim that they unfairly target racial minorities and poor people. Massachusetts debate on voting laws would make voting more accessible, especially for young people (who currently have the lowest registration and voter turnout rates).

If these aspects become part of the state's election laws, they will be in stark con-trast to measures currently being debated in other states. According to NPR, more than two dozen states are consider-
ing new Voter ID laws this year. These laws would re-
quire showing a picture ID at the polls on Election Day, ef-fectively turning away people without licenses, an original copy of a birth certificate, and most college students (as college IDs are not considered valid government IDs). Republicans claim these measures are necessary to protect against voter fraud, but the polls on Election Day, effectively turning away people without licenses, an original copy of a birth certificate, and most college students (as college IDs are not considered valid government IDs).

Simplifying and increasing voter registration is a must

Ally Thibault
Journal Staff

Massachusetts voters could be seeing some pro-
gressive election law changes soon, as the state legislature's Election and Committee on proposed reforms that aim to increase voter turnout.

With measures like “pre-
registering” for sixteen and seventeen-year-olds, per-mitting seventeen-year-olds to participate in municipal elections, and making voter registration forms available in public libraries, new election laws would make voting more accessible, especially for young people (who currently have the lowest registration and voter turnout rates).

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“The New Democracy Coalition claims that nearly 200,000 residents are unreg-
isters and a disproportional amount of them come from minority racial groups and low-income earners.

Automatically registering citizens to vote would obviously ensure that everyone in the state who is eligible to vote would be able to cast a ballot on Election Day without having to worry about paperwork or address changes within state lines. All citi-
zens over 18 who want to vote could simply just do it with-
out any other steps involved.

Overall, the new pro-
posal could pave the way for other states to ditch their new ideas that suppress vot-
er turnout and instead fol-
low Massachusetts’ footsteps in attempting to expand the pool to include everyone in our most important and vital civic duty.
T expansion project overdue

A.P. Blake
Journal Staff

After years dragging their feet, state officials announced last week that the Green Line Extension project — or GLX as it has been dubbed — will begin with Phase One this year.

The GLX entails the replacement of Lechmere Station and the construction of two branches north of Lechmere, to Union Square in Somerville and College Ave in Medford. The $20 million first phase includes the replacement and widening of numerous commuter rail bridges on the Fitchburg and Lowell lines, which the Green Line would parallel, plus Cambridge, Somerville, and Medford. The phase is expected to last about eighteen months and the next phase is expected to last about eighteen months.

As someone who has followed and advocated for the project for a couple years, the news is certainly welcome for a number of reasons. For one, Somerville both needs and wants this project, and it will play a pivotal role in the Boston area’s growth and transportation needs for the 21st century. The cities of Cambridge, Medford, and Arlington are also on board for this project and have been furious with the project’s delays on the part of the state. Now that funding for Phase One is fully secured and construction on the verge of breaking ground, there is certainly cause for celebration.

However, it is clear the state’s transportation officials are still maintaining their sluggish pace. Last year, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation was able to replace at least one bridge every weekend on Interstate 93 in Medford and did so for ten weeks until fourteen bridges were replaced. And just three months ago, a railroad bridge in Dorchester was completely swapped out and upgraded within 72 hours. At this time, MBTA officials are claiming the soonest any Green Line trolleys would be rolling through Somerville is the end of 2018, but the latest would supposedly be mid-2020. Considering the glacial pace at which this project has been moving, I’d say 2020 is optimistic at best. Planning for the GLX can be traced back at least as far as the 1960’s, but was finally required by law as mitigation for Big Dig construction emissions. The state has continually failed the residents who have so strongly advocated for the Green Line Extension and there has been very little, if any, opposition which is outstanding considering the scope of this project.

In the meantime, the state has continued to throw money down the drain on studies for a commuter rail project to Fall River and New Bedford which would cost twice as much in comparison and serve a fraction of the ridership that the GLX would carry. It is time for us to reign in such disastrous projects and tell the state the Green Line Project is important. Urban rapid transit should be taking precedent over other projects, especially where both economic and environmental benefits are at stake. The announcement that Phase One is set to commence does not signal an end to the fight for the people involved, but merely the beginning of holding officials’ feet to the fire.

MBTA places burden on local students

Brent R. Kirsby
Journal Staff

Currently, the MBTA is having a lot of money problems and the state wants to raise the rates as much as fifty percent. Well, according to a Boston Globe article from November 2011, there was a record high of approximately 1,350,000 patrons who used all forms of transit in the year, which is ridiculous. The MBTA is having a hard time paying for celebration. They are placing the problem on the people that use public transportation. The MBTA could have saved a lot of money if they weren’t so wasteful for many years.

For example, the MBTA can save $6.75 per one-way ticket. The two proposed systems of the MBTA are to raise the fees forty-three percent and cut the following routes and systems: bus route reductions and hope to save twelve million, eliminate all Ferry routes, eliminate Commuter Rail service on the weekend and save $5.7 million, and eliminate the E branch and Mattapan Trolley service on the weekends. This proposal is going to affect 9.6 million people. The second proposal is to save 78 million and this proposal would affect almost 38.8 million passengers. The quest to save money would eventually hurt so many people, so what is the point of having a public transportation system in the first place?
Dodgers re-sign Cy Young winner

The Dodgers faithful haven't had a whole lot to cheer about lately, but they can smile at least for today as the franchise was able to re-sign pitching star Clayton Kershaw. Los Angeles was scheduled to have a February 14 arbitration hearing if they were unable to sign the left-hander before that date. Kershaw and the Dodgers agreed on a two-year deal, worth $19 million. The team's new general manager, Ned Colletti, said "It was a full-length process. We had one-year discussions, two-year discussions and four-year discussions. There were a lot of different things in play at the time," Colletti said in the same interview. Kershaw proved to be the most dominant pitcher in the National League in 2011, playing on a $500,000 salary last season.

Ricky Williams retires from NFL

It's been a long, strange road for running back Ricky Williams, but after 11 NFL seasons he's calling it a career. Originally drafted by Mike Ditka's New Orleans Saints in 1999, Williams had his best years with the Miami Dolphins, with three 1,000 yard seasons with the team. The 34-year-old rusher debated retiring after being suspended by the NFL for the 2006 season due violating the league's substance abuse policy. The former Texas Longhorn went to the Canadian Football League that year, and then returned to the Dolphins the following year. Williams would rejoin the NFL in 2007 and just two seasons later posted his last career 1,000 yard season. He finished his career playing with the Baltimore Ravens in 2011, where he posted 444 yards in a contributing role to starting running back Ray Rice.

Jeremy Lin stepping up for Knicks

The New York Knicks might have found themselves a diamond in the rough, as second year point guard Jeremy Lin has recently blossomed into a star. After scoring just 32 points total in his first 22 games, Lin came off the bench against the Nets on Saturday and ended up scoring 25 points, while dishing out seven assists and grabbing five rebounds to boot. The Harvard grad then started Monday against the Jazz, and scored 28 points, to go along with eight assists and two rebounds. Originally undrafted, Lin bounced from summer league team to summer league team before signing with the Golden State Warriors in July 2010. After being waived by the team during the first week of training camp this season, Lin was signed by the Knicks in December. With Carmelo Anthony out for two weeks and point guard Baron Davis still recovering from injury, Lin is going to be counted on more and more in the coming weeks, and he definitely seems up to the challenge and pressure of playing home games at Madison Square Garden.

Bryant moves up on scoring list

Kobe Bryant recently moved into fifth place on the NBA all-time scoring list, passing longtime teammate Shaquille O'Neal. Bryant scored 28 points Monday night in a losing effort against the Philadelphia 76ers, putting his career total at 28,601. Bryant is the all-time leading average scorer in terms of average PPG averaging 29.4 points per game. Bryant now stands behind Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Karl Malone, Michael Jordan, and Chamberlain in terms of total career points.
Super Bowl XLVI: deja vu all over again

Athanasios Armenis
Journal Staff

History does in fact repeat itself.

It was deja vu in the closing moments of Super Bowl XLVI on Sunday night as Eli Manning and the New York Giants constructed an 88-yard game winning drive, knocking off the New England Patriots, 21-17 for the second time in just four years.

Manning, who captured his second Super Bowl MVP, went 30 for 40 with 296 yards, was able to keep two defenders on the left sideline, opening the game, going 9 for 9, which put him as the first NFL quarterback to start off a game with that many consecutive completions. Brady also developed a similar rhythm as his streak of 16 consecutive passes during the second quarter carried into the second half, eclipsing the record of his childhood superstar, Joe Montana.

Manning, who recorded five catches for 73 yards, was able to keep two feet in bounds, on a picture perfect pass from Manning, as he leaped over two defenders on the left sideline, giving the Giants a fresh set of downs deep in Patriots territory.

New England and Tom Brady, who had an 18-15 lead with four minutes remaining, nearly converted on a second and long play to wide receiver Wes Welker as Brady spotted a small hole in the Giants secondary, throwing a perfect spiral which was dropped by this season’s NFL leader in receptions for 26 yards. Gronkowski, who broke the single season records for tight ends but did have one costly interception on a deep play to wide receiver Mario Manningham, who reaped to be a couple steps slower then usual during Sunday’s showdown against Baltimore, seemed to limit the Pro-bowl tight end. Manning was able to lead the Giants to another Vince Lombardi trophy as New York won their fourth Super Bowl in franchise history and their second in just four years.

“It’s been a wild season,” said Manning during an ESPN interview. “We had a great, tough bunch of guys who never quit, and had faith in each other. I’m proud of these guys sticking together,” said Manning postgame.

Everyone recalls the ending of the 2007 season, as the Giants knocked off the Patriots, 17-14, putting an end to New England’s “perfect” 18-0 record season. Four years ago, the Giants were a two-touchdown underdog entering the Super Bowl, while impressive championship to their dynamic head-coach, quarterback duo.

Hakeem Nicks (in white sweater) and the rest of the New Giants celebrate at the Giants parade in New York City on Tuesday.

With the victory, Coughlin and Manning add yet another championship to their dynamic head-coach, quarterback duo.
Madonna rocks the Super Bowl halftime show

Caitlin Lezell
Journal Staff

The Super Bowl XLVI halftime show was provided by none other than Madonna. Patriots and Giants aside, Madonna had been getting just as much hype in the past few weeks, assuring viewers that it was going to be an entertaining performance, free of any wardrobe malfunctions.

Skeptics were not sure if Madonna would be able to pull off such a show after a few years out of the spotlight, but she did indeed deliver. Madonna proved to the world that she has still got the reign of Queen of Pop.

From the lights to the costumes (with no mishaps, as promised) to the stage props, Madonna transformed the Lucas Oil Stadium into a spectacle that no one could have predicted. Let's cut to the chase: the best part of the performance, hands down, was the last song, Madonna's classic "Like a Prayer." She couldn't have ended with anything better. It was turned into a duet with Cee Lo Green, with both sporting beautiful though admittedly a tad over the top black robes and accompanied by a full choir. She concluded by disappearing into a cloud of smoke, while the field was lit up with the words "World Peace," which was absolutely tacky, but still pretty darn cool.

Madonna's other songs included Nicki Minaj, M.I.A., while her marching band was elaborate, sexy, and fun, and her choir, though probably unnecessary, also did a great job. As for Madonna, a 53-year-old mother of four, she can still move. From riding the shoulders of one of the LMFAO guys to the suggestive cartwheels and leg splits, Madonna during her performance of "Like a Prayer" during the Super Bowl halftime show at Lucas Stadium.

Other guest performers were the hits "Vogue," "Music," and a new single "Give Me All Your Luvin'." Her costumes and the stage transformed from ancient Rome to the 1980s to a high school marching band performance, all within twelve minutes, and her voice, though probably unnecessary, also did a great job. As for Madonna, a 53-year-old mother of four, she can still move. From riding the shoulders of one of the LMFAO guys to the suggestive cartwheels and leg splits, Madonna during her performance of "Like a Prayer" during the Super Bowl halftime show at Lucas Stadium.

Super Bowl ads fail to live up to expectations

Alex Mellion
Journal Staff

There's a reason that 100 million people tune into the Super Bowl every year and it's usually not to watch the game, but rather the commercials. This year's ads failed to live up to lofty expectations, as some companies decided to run 60 second ads instead of the standard 30 second ones. This decision led to loss of interest from plenty of viewers. Not all of the commercials were disappointing however, as there were definitely a few standout ads.

My personal favorite commercial on Sunday was the Chevrolet Camaro ad, featuring a recent college graduate misinterpreting his graduation gift from his parents. Aspiring New York filmmaker Zach Borst won a contest sponsored by Chevy with this ad, in which the grad's parents intend on giving him a refrigerator for a graduation gift, but unfortunately for them, he thinks that the neighbor's Camaro, which is parked in front of his house, is his gift instead.

Hilarity obviously ensues as the grad starts screaming and jumping around declaring that it is the "best day ever." He even manages to convince a passing woman to marry him, which adds to the seemingly homicidal, yet funny dog. The ad shows a dog burying what one would think to be a bone, until his owner sees a sign for a missing cat and puts two and two together. The dog bribes the man with a bag of Doritos, along with a note saying "you didn't see nuthin'," and when the man asks the cat, the man plays dumb.

That ad was the winner of the Super Bowl "Crash the Super Bowl" contest, and was reportedly created on a paltry budget of just $20. With the Doritos ads being the most consistently funny commercials year in and year out, it's no wonder that the contest each year in an attempt to create the next legendary commercial.

My least favorite commercial, although I'm sure 99.9 percent of females will disagree, was the H & M spot featuring David Beckham, or more accurately, David Beckham's body. While the ad made the girls I was watching the game with drool, it didn't interest me, and I could have done without it. Though if you're reading this David Beckham, I'd like to hire you to be my personal trainer, if you're not too busy out in Los Angeles playing for the Galaxy.

All in all, this year's ads were above average at best. Some were instant classics, while others were instant duds. My wish for next year's commercials? More dogs and less of David Beckham's body.
Women’s basketball looking to make noise in GNAC playoffs

Alex Hall
Journal Staff

Each year at Suffolk you can expect a few things to be consistent. You know the best place to catch second-hand smoke is outside Sawyer, there will usually be a high profile fall concert, and that the women’s basketball team is contending for the conference.

During coach Ed Leyden’s time with the program, the Lady Rams have averaged 17 wins over the past decade and are marching ever closer to that mark with just three regular season games remaining.

Suffolk has won seven of its past 11 games, and stand at 14-7 overall this season.

Suffolk will need to continue controlling the game to overtake the conference. The way they’ve been able to most of the season, as they have just two more conference games left to move up from their current position as the fourth seed.

“I hate to sound cliché, but we’re taking it one game at a time right now,” said Leyden. “We can’t control what other teams do, but we hope to be in the top four, knock out their current position as fourth seed from their current position as the fourth seed.

The first word that eludes losing players to other teams, do, but we hope to be in the top four, knock out their current position as fourth seed from their current position as the fourth seed.

Sophomore forward Jenifer Buysa is following up her impressive first year at the college level leading the team in field goal percentage, proving to be one of the top producers on the offensive side of the ball.

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Men’s hockey looks to snap 18-game losing streak

CJ Haddad
Journal Staff

The first word that comes to mind when looking at the Suffolk men’s hockey team season this year is disappointing. After collecting two wins to start the season, it looked as if the loss of their number one former goaltender, Jeff Rose, wouldn’t be the factor that overshadowed the season.

18 games later and the Rams have not yet found the win column. Currently boasting the top scorers in college hockey has been leading the way in terms of rebounds on the squad this season, averaging over six rebounds a game each. Three others also find themselves averaging over four points of rebounds on the scoreboards, currently boasting the third best scoring margin in their conference.

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The Rams have not tallied a win in the ECAC conference, posting a 0-10 record. The Rams have also scored nine power play goals against non-conference teams, while netting only five against those who belong to the ECAC.

In the last four games, Suffolk has been outscored by a wide margin of 26-7, including being shut out by Becker College on January 28.

There have been some achievements though, for his players who now get to see ice time due to injury.

“Sophomore Charlie McGinnis and Jon Stafauer have been our best players almost every night,” said Glionna. “There have been some achievements though, for his players who now get to see ice time due to injury.

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