Tuition increase lowest in decades

Ethan M. Long
Jeff Fish
Journal Staff

Monday evening, members of the Suffolk community received an email from the Office of the President informing them of the university's tuition increase, to $30,672, which will be instituted for the 2012-2013 academic year. This increase, at three percent, is the lowest in 36 years. "Clearly, we've been trying very hard to balance the fact that costs are increasing, and the same time be sensitive to students and their families. We always like [tuition] to be lower" McCarthy told the Journal. He expects Suffolk's tuition increase to be on the low end compared to other universities. Between the 1975-1976 and the 2008-2009 school years, tuition increases were never below six percent, according to Interim Vice President of Marketing and Communications Greg Gatlin. Between the 2009-2010 and 2011-2012 school years, the tuition increase hovered around 10 percent, lower than it had been in decades, he said. Since the recession began during the 2008-2009 academic years, tuition at Suffolk has increased 18.5 percent. McCarthy also stressed that as far as room and board goes, the actual room rates will remain unchanged. The extra $100 added reflects food and other costs. "We've done well this year to control costs [and] we'll see TUTUITION page 4

Sigma Alpha Epsilon becomes official

Melissa Hanson
Journal Staff

Suffolk's very own fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, has been chartered as an official fraternity as of Feb. 18. "We are getting bigger; our recruitment is always occurring," said international student and freshman Maurice Natal who was recently initiated into the fraternity. He says the fraternity has a great group of people who have helped his transition into the first year in Boston. The fraternity now includes 42 members, but was officially started by 11 founding fathers in September 2009. Disappointed to see no Greek Life at Suffolk, they decided by their sophomore year to work on creating a fraternity in order to develop brotherhood bonds that would last a lifetime. Fraternities have to start as colonies before they can become chartered. The Suffolk fraternity originally had 11 members as a colony, with only five of those members still remaining to see it officially chartered. This was a big step for the fraternity, according to President Jared Pelletier and Chartering Chairman Michael Gesualdi. Getting the charter for the fraternity took two years worth of work. Gesualdi and other members see FRATERNITY page 4

Romney carries two

Score two more for Mitt Romney, who won both Arizona and his home state of Michigan in the Republican presidential primaries last night, according to reports from the Associated Press. More notably, Romney swiped two more states against his current GOP rival Rick Santorum, who has been neck and neck recently. Michigan was an extremely close primary, with Romney tallying 41 percent and Santorum claiming 38 percent with returns of 82 percent of Michigan's precincts, said the AP. Arizona was a bigger win for Romney who got at 45 percent to Santorum's 26 percent with 52 percent of Arizona's precincts counted. Candidates Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul put little work in campaigning for either Arizona or Michigan and focused their efforts toward the 10 states involved with the Super Tuesday primaries and caucuses, reported the AP. With Romney's victory in Arizona, he has 152 delegates, while Santorum has 72, Gingrich has 32, and Paul has 19, according to a count by the AP. It takes 1,144 to win the Republican nomination in Tampa Bay this summer.

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POLICE BLOTTER

Wednesday, February 22
4:37 p.m.
Public

6:49 p.m.
Law School

8:51 p.m.
Public
Report of an assault and battery that took place off campus.

Thursday, February 23
10:07 a.m.
Law School
Vandalism report at the law school. Report filed.

1:59 p.m.
10 Somerset
Medical assist at 10 Somerset. Report filed.

Friday, February 24
11:14 p.m.
Sawyer Building

12:43 a.m.
Archer

Saturday, February 20
9:12 p.m.
150 Tremont
Suspicious person at 150 Tremont Street. Report filed.

Sunday, February 26
3:43 a.m.
150 Tremont
Medical assist at 150 Tremont St. Report filed.

Monday, February 27
12:38 a.m.
150 Tremont

Career Summit aims to alleviate anxiety about students' future

Derek Anderson
Journal Staff

With graduation inching closer each day for seniors, Suffolk’s third annual Senior Career Summit, being held this Friday, is ready to help graduating students kick off their job search and teach attendees how to properly market themselves in order to be successful in their futures.

"It’s a kickoff for our graduating seniors to get them in job-search mode," said Paul Tanklefsky, the director of career services and cooperative education at the university. "It can take three to six months to find a job, and four months from [the day of the summit] brings you to June 1."

The summit started in 2010, after the unemployment rate in Massachusetts broke over nine percent, in order to really prepare soon-to-be graduates for what was ahead.

"It’s our goal that each student will leave the event a more knowledgeable and savvy job seeker," said Tanklefsky in a release. "In this job market, you need to be informed about key job hunting strategies and empowered to action."

During the three-hour summit, numerous speakers will address those who attend, including Jim Klocke, the executive vice president of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Andrew Graff, CEO of Allen & Gerritsen who will present on personal branding, and a panel of employers from four different fields—finance, public relations, non-profits, and health care. The newest addition to the summit is Klocke’s presentation.

"We really wanted an expert from the Boston area to speak on the Boston economy, which we haven’t had in the past," said Tanklefsky. "That’s a major addition to the event this year. We added that component which we thought was important."

Tanklefsky also emphasized the importance of students being able to brand themselves as they enter the post-graduate world. The panel is "a good cross-section of employers," he said. "Sometimes they have different perspectives, but other times they’ll agree."

Most of the attributes they’re looking for in candidates are relatively similar, he said. To make the summit more accessible to students, some of the seminars were scaled back from the previous two years, said Tanklefsky.

"We sensed if we could do one less [seminar], just to make sure it was a tighter event, it would keep students there," he said. After the panels, attendees will also have the option of getting their resumes reviewed and ask any questions they may have. Getting these revisions now makes for perfect timing come the Career Connections 2012 Full-Time Job Fair, taking place Wednesday, March 7 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn. Over 40 employers are expected to be at the fair.

When asked for some basic advice, Tanklefsky responded, "It’s perfectly normal to feel angst at this time of year with graduation looming.

"I think, most importantly, seniors should give themselves the time they need to get their heads around their career goals and their job search. This is a good place to start."

The Senior Career Summit is happening this Friday, March 2, from 1 to 4 p.m. in 120 Tremont St, Room 295. Space is limited, so if students wish to participate, they must RSVP to careers@suffolk.edu.

Tanklefsky also mentioned that career services remain open throughout graduates’ careers. "It also goes to remind seniors that these services are available through all their working careers."

"As alumni, they have access to the office virtually free of charge" he said. "It’s not unusual at all. The contract we have with them is for life."
Unity Week to celebrate diversity

Collaboration between many student groups sets up exciting week of fun, knowledge

Ally Thibault
Journal Staff

Suffolk is celebrating its annual Unity Week, full of events that strive to bring the community together through promoting diversity and student groups on campus. The week is possible through the work of Suffolk’s Program Council and Student Leadership and Involvement, as well as the participation of a vast range of student organizations. Many student groups have collaborated to host a diverse range of events for the Suffolk community. The event-packed week features something for everybody, including tasting cultural foods, enjoying sports games, watching theatre productions, and participating in trivia and scavenger hunts.

Maioile Kranis, a sophomore RA involved in Unity Week, has partnered with Program Council along with multiple other student groups at the Unity Week committee meeting that invited all groups to help plan and participate in the week. The committee allowed for a lot of student groups to get involved,” Kranis said. It is important for as many groups as possible to be active in the events and planning “to build unity on campus,” Kranis said.

The kickoff event is the Unity Week Showcase, spotlighting the artistic side of Suffolk’s diverse cultures and talents at the C. Walsh Theatre on Thursday, March 1. The event will feature singing, dancing, poetry, and fashion from around the world. The Performing Arts Office will feature performances from some of its groups during the event as well. Diversity Services will be hosting its fifth annual Multicultural Summit this Saturday, March 3, which aims to teach students how to communicate with culturally diverse leaders and members of this year’s Alternative Spring Break trips, who will soon be dealing face-to-face with these issues of social justice. The Interfaith Center is hosting special events this week to promote learning about and accepting all beliefs. Along with hosting its regular events, like Hatha Yoga sessions on Thursdays at 1 p.m. and studying religious practices and texts, the Interfaith Center will add some spice to its lineup with Tarot Card Readings and a panel discussion on dialogues between religions on Tuesday, March 6.

The Residence Hall Association, along with the help of other groups, is holding a citywide scavenger hunt, calling Searching for Different Perspectives, on Saturday, March 3. Groups of students will race around city with a list of clues to discover diversity themed items, hoping to win a prize.

The Think Fast Trivia Night will also bring groups of student together to compete for the $200 prize based off their knowledge of our city, pop culture, and university.

On Sunday, March 4, there will be a faculty versus student basketball game in the Ridgeway gym. Promoting school spirit and community, students can sign up for the team to take on their professors or just come by to watch an entertaining, energetic sports game.

The Modern Theatre will be host to the opening of Deported / a dream play, produced by Boston Playwrights’ Theatre in association with Suffolk. The professional production will be running at the Modern until April 1.

A full list of all the events, times, and locations can be found on Suffolk University Unity Week’s official Facebook page events tab (http://www.facebook.com/pages/Suffolk University-Unity-Week/).
BSU concludes month with luncheon

Soleil Barros
Journal Staff

Recognizing the approaching end to Black History Month, the Black Student Union hosted their annual Soul Food Luncheon Tuesday, inviting not only their members, but welcoming all of the Suffolk community to celebrate. Mashed potatoes, cornbread, and ribs were a few of mouth-watering entrée items available to attendees.

“I looked at Black History Month from a historic perspective; it is a great time to reflect and recognize the history,” said senior Mason Marino. “It should be celebrated beyond the month of February.”

The aroma from the food being served in the fourth-floor conference room was an easy attraction to students who happened to be passing by, unaware of the luncheon. Students were visibly relieved, as they gathered with their friends to enjoy a free lunch that is a bit different from the usual. “Those are some solid ribs,” said graduate student Eva Woodward. “I’m from Oklahoma, and we have some really good ribs. I was surprised at how good they were at the luncheon; I’m happy about that.”

The luncheon brought an end to the series of events that the Black Student Union hosted in order to celebrate Black History Month. “It is all about just learning about the culture, I attended a lot of the Black Student Union events this month, it is all about just learning,” said junior Alexandra Soto. “Michael Curry, the speaker at the opening ceremony was really interactive and informative.”

Events prior to the luncheon included a lecture by speaker Michael Curry of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on leadership, and his involvement in the local Boston community. On Feb. 7, the Black Student Union hosted their annual Heritage Trail event, escorting students on a tour of the historic sites around the city of Boston.

February is recognized as black history month in effort to unite different members of the community with the common ground of recognizing the efforts put forth years ago in history. The events hosted by the Black Student Union have been intended to spread recognition and support to the Boston community. "A special part of Black History Month is coming together that happens, a celebration almost," says Woodward. "The most unique thing is many people come together and are able to feel the support and the energy."

The Soul Food Luncheon highlighted the concept of unity, diversity and sharing. According to Pelletier, the members at Suffolk may who have not recognized the importance behind Black History Month and all it represents before attending the event.

Affordable tuition still high priority at Suffolk; zero percent increase unrealistic

from TUITION page 1

The student body has a responsibility to work towards the goal of making college affordable. Tuition has been increasing at the rate of 34 percent. The increase is unrealistic according to Pelletier, the student government senator. "I’m kind of upset about the tuition increase because a lot of my friends are seniors and it’s not going to affect them," O’Brien said. "I don’t know what the new president’s game plan is, he’s just coming in making things more expensive even though there’s rumors that they’re going to have to start cutting costs with teachers and such." However, as McCarthy stated in the e-mail, “If Suffolk University is to remain true to its founding mission of providing access to an affordable and transformational education that makes a difference in the lives of each of our students, then we must control costs to achieve our mission.”

The tuition increase was a several month process, said McCarthy, who started almost a month ago. McCarthy was involved in the final stages of the decision. “It reflects our understanding of the challenging financial situation that many students and their families continue to face, even in an economic recovery,” McCarthy wrote in the email. McCarthy said that most of the university’s costs are for personnel and that health care, which will probably go up by more than three percent next year, is a critical component on personnel costs.

It’s the lowest increase but it’s still an increase on something that’s already way too high for the quality of education we’re getting,” said O’Brien.

Fraternity aims to grow stronger in years ahead

from FRATERNITY page 1

March 1 - Out of Province Inspection
• Out of Province Inspection was completed. Owners were at the event, escorting students on their annual Heritage Trail event, escorting students on their annual Heritage Trail event.

The fraternity especially encourages new members to plan events in order to promote brotherhood bonding. Suffolk’s two sororities, Sigma Gamma Rho and Theta Phi Alpha, have also collaborated with the fraternity, especially during Greek Week, which is to take place the week following Spring Break.

Greek Week will include a diection between the fraternity and sororities. There will also be a Greek formal and service day. At the end of the week, one of the Greek groups will be awarded an unofficial trophy.

Recruitment is important to the fraternity members. Each year, they need to be sure that worthy students will be able to run the fraternity the way graduating members have during their time at Suffolk. “I want it to be the biggest thing ever,” said Gesualdi. This semester there will be about 10 new members.

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Alexa Barrios
Journal Staff

As a graphic design major and Spanish minor, Kaela Gallo manages a full schedule, which includes a heavy workload, a job at the New England School of Art and Design, a graphic design internship at Small Planet Institute, and of course, volunteering alongside the many members of S.O.U.L.S. (Suffolk’s Organization for Uplifting Lives Through Strength) community.

"I have learned more from my volunteering experiences than anything I could have learned in a classroom," said Gallo, S.O.U.L.S.’s volunteer of the month. "I encourage everyone to participate in S.O.U.L.S. Even if it’s just for one event, it helps you get to know the kind of person you are." Initiated during her high school years, Gallo has had a strong history of donating her time, effort, and care to the community. Having studied abroad at Suffolk’s Madrid campus during her first year, Gallo did not find much opportunity to volunteer, but her interest was to get heavily involved after returning to Boston.

"Kaela’s work has gone above and beyond what we expected," said Tim Albers, Assistant Director of Service Learning, on the deciding factors of Kaela’s recognition. "People contribute in many different ways, and Kaela has put in a lot of her time, effort, and talent into this organization."

During the spring of 2010, Gallo was introduced to her passion for volunteering and social justice by means of the Alternative Spring Break, a program that allows interested Suffolk students to participate in diverse reconstruction and volunteer support activities.

"When picking a student for volunteer of the month, we consider those with a good sense of involvement," said Albers. "Kaela is sweet and unique, and shared many of her own personal talents with us, which is what led us to pick her as volunteer of the month."

Gallo’s first Alternative Spring Break experience took place in Meridian, Mich., constructing homes with Habitat for Humanity. Gallo willingly committed to the trip without knowing many of the other students involved and took the initiative to befriend her fellow peers and the individuals she had worked alongside.

"Kaela was even able to generate strong connections with her "graffit" contractor and his family, whom they were building the house for. "He kept his guard up at first, but when he finally opened up we got to know him on a different level," said Gallo on working with her contractor. "Getting to know his family and helping them out was such an amazing experience."

Having grown from her time with the Alternative Spring Break program, Gallo still strived for more volunteer experience. With great thanks to her hard work, leadership skills, and Spanish minor, Gallo not only landed the role of leading her next Alternative Spring Break trip to Georgia, but is also deemed leader for the 2012 Alternative Spring Break trip to El Salvador.

"I had such positive leaders, I wanted to be that person for some else. I wanted to have a hand in creating a change," said Gallo. "Volunteering on these trips has not only changed how she sees life, but also her perspective on friendships and career aspirations."

"Sophomore year after ASB, I realized there was more to advertising that what I had planned, and actually more than what I had prescribed myself to be," said Gallo. "Now I see myself in a nonprofit field of graphic design.”

Gallo is currently pursuing a job with City Year, an AmeriCorps organization where individuals work within the inner-city school system for a period of one year, encouraging students to stay in school and keep on track to graduate.

Mock Trial to go national

The Journal would like to congratulate the Suffolk University Mock Trial Team for placing eighth out of 25 and qualifying for the National Competition over the weekend. In recent years, the National Champion schools have included Harvard, New York University, and University of California Los Angeles.

Fairey dusts off court battle, faces six months jail time

Famed artist behind the iconic “Hope” campaign poster, Shepard Fairey pleaded guilty in Manhattan Federal Court Friday, charged with one count of criminal contempt for destroying documents, manufacturing evidence and other misconduct. The “Hope” campaign poster features then-Senator Barack Obama for the 2008 presidential campaign. The Associated Press claims copyright issues revolving around the inspiration behind the iconic image. Fairey claimed that the use of an AP photograph was the basis of the poster, reports Reuters. In an effort to conceal this falsehood, according to United States Attorney Preet Bharara, Fairey generated numerous fraudulent documents, attempting to delete multiple electronic documents that would have proven his claim false, reports Reuters. Shepard Fairey and the Associated Press had previously settled the copyright case in January 2011, with Fairey agreeing not to use unauthorized AP photos in his future work. Fairey, 42, currently faces six months in prison and one year of supervised release, plus a $5,000 fine. Fairey will be sentenced March 22.

Allston “Gat” City; aims at cabs

A 49-year-old man was arrested Monday morning after witnesses told Boston Police officers he was carrying a BB handgun in a busy Allston intersection, at times aiming at taxi cabs, reports the Boston Globe. Paul Lugumira of Watertown was arrested with charges of possessing a dangerous weapon. Officers were approached by witnesses who claimed to see Lugumira pull the large black handgun out of a duffle bag, and pull down the side of the weapon, at the intersection of Commonwealth and Harvard Avenue said the Globe. After broadcasting the suspect’s description and his last seen location and general area, officers were able to locate the suspect at 190 Harvard Ave., carrying a large BB handgun.

Harvard killing animals... again

Controversy follows a Harvard Medical School research facility direct noncompliance issues in the last 19 months, reports the Globe. Other animals in the care of the research center have also suffered fractures and other injuries over the past three months, according to a federal inspection that was released Monday. The United States Department of Agriculture cited Harvard following three severe incidents. The school could face fines due to the failure to comply with federal animal welfare regulations. Harvard officials and the Agriculture Department report, posted on the agency’s website, attributed the December 27 death and the non-fatal dehydration of a second monkey to employees’ failure to check a water dispensing system that had malfunctioned sometime after both monkeys arrived at the center Dec. 7, reports the Globe. Another monkey’s leg was fractured in January, after being caught under a door, and a group of rhinos macecuses escaped from their pen, resulting in an injury to one monkey’s foot. All three incidents were deemed “direct noncompliance issues” meaning there is a direct impact on the well being of animals. In 2011, there were 25 direct noncompliance issues at research facilities nationwide.
IAEA believes Iran is nuclear capable

Matt Bacon
Journal Staff

The situation currently unfolding in Syria is getting worse every day, despite the democratic approval of a new constitution this weekend.

Opposition forces claimed that 138 people were killed across Syria on Monday. The worst violence occurred in the Homs province, where 68 civilians were massacred at a government checkpoint while attempting to flee the heavy shelling of the Baba Amr neighborhood of Homs. The BBC reported on this incident and stressed that it is hard to confirm stories from the country because of government rules severely limiting the access of journalists to Syria. Violence is also intensifying in northern Syria, where several towns came under artillery bombardment from the government.

The increase of violence is continuing in the face of fresh sanctions imposed on the Syrian government by the European Union. According to the BBC, some of these sanctions include "a freeze on the European-held assets of the Syrian central bank" and "travel bans on seven close associates of President Bashar al-Assad." Despite growing economic sanctions imposed on Syria by the international community, the country's economy is not showing signs of slowing down to the point where it would have a major effect on the current regime.

On Monday, the government also announced the results of a referendum on a draft for a new constitution. According to state-run Syrian news, the constitution passed with a resounding 89.4 percent voting in favor of it. 57 percent of eligible Syrian voters cast their vote on Sunday. The new constitution is dismissed by both Western nations and Syrian opposition groups as false reform that will allow Assad to hang on to large amounts of his power.

Earlier last week, two well-known Western journalists were killed in a rocket attack in Homs. Veteran reporter Marie Colvin of London's Sunday Times and award-winning French photographer Remi Ochlik died when rockets hit a makeshift media center in Baba Amr. Two other journalists were wounded in the attack, and remain inside Homs. The International Committee of the Red Cross sent an envoy into Homs to rescue the journalists, but for reasons still unconfirmed the ICRC left Homs without them.

While the violence escalates, the international community has still not figured out a way to respond to the crisis. While many Western nations like America and the EU are imposing economic sanctions on the Syrian government, Russia and China are still blocking an official unanimous condemnation by the UN. Some individual politicians, like Senators John McCain and Joe Lieberman, have come out in support of arming the Syrian rebels. Regional superpower Israel has remained surprisingly silent on the issue, who has a lot at stake with the future of their Syrian neighbors. The ICRC is currently attempting to negotiate with the Syrian government to allow for a daily cease fire during which aid can be delivered to civilians in Homs. While the talks don't seem to be going their way, they have been able to distribute limited aid to some civilians in Homs.

Though the international politics may be complex, and details hazy, all reports from Syria indicate that the government is indeed slaughter its own people in an attempt to quell what started out as peaceful protests. Syrian forces are not distinguishing civilians from armed rebels, as they are shelling entire neighborhoods at a time. The country is sliding closer and closer to civil war each day, with no signs of a diplomatic solution in sight.

IAEA believes Iran is nuclear capable

Matt Bacon
Journal Time

The International Atomic Energy Agency released a report following their recent visit to Iran that expresses concern over the intention of the country's nuclear program.

While the increasingly hostile nation insists that its nuclear program is strictly for civilian energy purposes, the IAEA claims that Iran is not cooperating with their attempts to fully investigate the program. "As Iran is not providing the necessary cooperation, the agency is unable to provide credible assurance about the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran," The BBC quoted the report as saying. The agency was also concerned about one particular site called Parchin, where Iranian officials did not allow IAEA inspectors during their visit. The IAEA has stated before that they believe Iran is receiving help from a "foreign expert" in developing a nuclear weapon at Parchin, a claim Iran vehemently denies. The report also identified an aggressive expansion movement in the nuclear program. They are opening several new enrichment facilities, and are now enriching uranium at levels of 20 percent.

The release of this report comes at a time of strained tensions between Iran and the West, most notably Israel and America. Israel has publicly stated that they are considering a pre-emptive strike on Iran's nuclear program, which they consider to be an existential threat. Iran has responded to international pressure with nothing but defiance, threatening pre-emptive strikes of their own, along with cutting off oil exports to Britain and France. The increasingly isolated and pressured government has also challenged U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf, and has threatened on a couple of recent occasions to block off the Strait of Hormuz, where about 1/5 of the world's traded oil passes through.

Iran's building aggression is not only directed at the international community, however. CNN recently reported on the human rights situation in Iran, which has deteriorated rapidly since a government crackdown on civil strife following elections in 2009. Following the incident, which was on the brink of being an all-out uprising before brutal government retaliation, the Iranian government has greatly restricted freedoms that we take for granted here. Many publications have been banned, and the government's control over the media has been extended. It is a crime punishable by years in prison, fines, and sometimes even death, to criticize the regime or express opinions that do not share the goals of the Iranian government. "In Iran today, you put yourself at risk if you do anything that might fall outside the increasingly narrow confines of what the authorities deem socially or politically acceptable," Ann Harrison of Amnesty International's Middle East and North Africa program told CNN.

With tensions already high in the area, these new reports coming out of Iran about both its nuclear ambitions and human rights abuses are sure to only make things worse. The standoff between the regional Middle Eastern powers and the Western world is far from over, and will only get more heated in the days ahead. While many Americans view Iran as "their problem," Israel and the European Union will also be major players in the continued shakeout in the Persian Gulf.
Having spent the first half of February travelling and taking on exploits of a more precarious nature, I found myself spending the latter half simply relaxing. Beginning with the monotonous registration for classes starting in March as well as reading, in excess, it has provided an excellent introspective atmosphere. I even decided to delve into thoughts on the future, graduation perhaps, all which are quite scary and often avoided at all costs. At least I managed to find an internship picking flowers and herbs with a family who sells tee in Northern Italy for the month of July. I have heard of worse plans I suppose. It will be nice to sit outside all day, under the harsh sun, feeding into the green, organic lifestyle that is so often criticized, yet seems to be a life of perpetual happiness.

The dreary international headlines have been putting a somber tone on life abroad at the moment. With American soldiers burning the Koran in Afghanistan and hundreds of Syrians dying every week, you feel obligated to go out and make a difference somehow. It is not the easiest of tasks, especially in Western Europe where safety and assurance surround you at all costs. The immanence of civil war in the Middle East is a scary topic and it means so much more destruction is on its way. After going to a forum on ethics in the EU today, there did not seem to be much light shed with the general consensus that simply the wrong people are in power and today's political atmosphere is too overwhelmed with corruption. We can only hope morals are stressed even more on all of our politicians.

Trying to conjure a story better than my last week's trip to Istanbul just doesn't seem possible. I could try, but two weeks of book reading and café visiting is simply not the exciting adventures one wants to hear about from abroad. I have been renouncing any and all English speaking friends and have no option but to speak German with everyone I know. It is far from the only means to fluency. Learning dialects and natural dialogue are simply not present in a formal education. It is an experience to value and take full advantage of abroad. I can imagine you would only realize it until you are surrounded by only your Muttersprache (English) back in the U.S.

Meeting people traveling through Europe and hearing all of their stories put the abroad experience in a whole new light. I was lucky enough to help out a girl working on organic farms and in bakeries across Europe and she had quite a few stories to tell and advice to give. While abroad, signing up for Couch Surfing as well as other travel and work programs is a useful and wonderful idea. Spending all of your time in hostels only goes so far, and staying on a couch is 100 percent cheaper. The community is one of the more welcoming and happy to help groups of people out there and signing up takes no more than a few phrases and background information. The world has so much to offer those curious and open enough, but it is easy to go by without even knowing about it. I wholly recommend trying as much of these institutions as possible while we have the chance. The dreary February weather has begun to subside and we have been lucky enough to see 45 degrees over the past weekend. Glorious! Oh, how those flowers better start blooming before I get to them in July.
NORTH KOREA - North Korea has stated they are prepared to fight a war against both the U.S. and South Korea after the two nations started their annual military drills on Monday, considering the training “to be practice for a preemptive strike” on North Korea, reported CNN. Kim Jong Il’s recent death has caused a transition in leadership as his youngest son, Kim Jong Un, replaces his father. The most recent talks and negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea were the first with Kim Jong Un in power, and ended with little known progress last Friday, said CNN. North Korea regularly “denounces them as a provocation.” Kim Jong Un recently visited troops, ordering them “to make a powerful retaliatory strike at the enemy, should the enemy intrude even 0.001 mm into the waters of the country where its sovereignty is exercised,” the Korean Central News Agency reported.

LONDON, England - The infamous phone-hacking lawsuit between Rupert Murdoch’s News of the World and singer Charlotte Church and her family has been settled for £600,000, or $952,000, Church’s lawyer told CNN on Monday. The publication was closed down last summer over the discovery that employees for News of the World had been hacking people’s phones and bribing police. Among those hacked, Church has been the only one holding out on a settlement, but recently gave in because News International, a British newspaper publishing company linked up with Murdoch’s News Corp., was to dive into Church’s mother’s medical records, Church told CNN. Police are still conducting three investigations, looking into illegal activity of British journalists, reported CNN. Even with Church’s settlement, the lawsuits are not over for News International, who is still being sued by Cherie Blair, the wife of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, claiming her voicemail was also hacked.
**February 29, 2012**

Compiled by Kleoniki Papadopoulos

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**Aries**

(3/21 - 4/19)

Finish all those projects you started and never got around to. This week you are prone to work hard and get things done.

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**Leo**

(7/22 - 8/22)

Stick to what you know this week, and don’t try anything new. It’s also a great time to wrap up any big projects you’ve been putting off.

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**Taurus**

(4/20 - 5/20)

If there is something you need to know this week, a little bit of digging will reveal it to you. Talk groups up, and you’ll have it all.

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**Virgo**

(8/23 - 9/22)

No loose strings will be left after this week for you! Everything will fall into place easily, so catch up on your sleep.

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**Gemini**

(5/21 - 6/20)

Running into old friends is a high possibility this week, but that might just be because you are shining in the spotlight.

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**Libra**

(9/23 - 10/22)

You're working hard this week, but everything is mixing up. On the other hand, secret love affairs and ex-lovers showing up is prominent.

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**Cancer**

(6/21 - 7/21)

You’ll have your opportunity this week for an elevator pitch or a second chance with an old boss. Chances are, you’ll look great, too!

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**Scorpio**

(10/23 - 11/21)

Prepare for some deja vu in your work place, maybe it would be better if you took a vacation. You’re in the right mood for one.

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**Sagittarius**

(11/22 - 12/21)

An old flame is about to surprise you, but don’t let it stop you. Get creative at work and you’ll see your job improve.

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**Capricorn**

(12/22 - 1/19)

Act on that spark of a relationship you’ve been feeling; it has potential. This week you might find someone relatives asking for help, too.

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**Aquarius**

(1/20 - 2/18)

You’re in for a rough week; everything that can go wrong will go wrong. Keep your act at the most premium level it always is, though.

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**Pisces**

(2/19 - 3/20)

Retrace your steps, but wear new shoes this week! Keep charging those batteries, because the rest of the year looks bumpy.

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**The Journal Takes On Issues...**

- Hipsters
  0 points

- Ivan’s comedy hour
  Minus 2012 points

- The Journal takes Seattle
  Plus 2012 points

- Welcome back, Ethan
  Plus 2100 points

- George Clooney + Stacey Keibler
  Minus 2100 points

- Quattro pear pizza
  Plus 800 points

- Tuition up again
  Minus 800 points

- Pipe leak at Jeff’s house
  Minus 630 points

- Mike G and Alex rock Disney World next year.
  Plus 630 points

**Total points this week = 0**

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On a side note, the **Journal** is taking a brief hiatus. Between our trip to Seattle to the Associated Collegiate Press Conference and Spring Break the week after, we’ll see you on March 21! Enjoy your break!

Love,

The Suffolk Journal
Retention Scholars host first Cultural Pageant

First annual event celebrates diversity, talent at the Modern

Ally Thibault
Journal Staff

Suffolk students represented various countries from around the world as they competed through song, dance, and inquiries before Retention Scholars last Friday.

Six students, donning sashes declaring their chosen countries, participated in a talent competition. The focus was on diversity to determine who would win the pageant's crown.

Contestants included Jeffrey Numero as Mr. Haiti, John Beksha as Mr. Canada, Sabrina Morton as Miss USA, and Issatta Comber, 2014, as Miss Cape Verde. Camilla Akbas as Miss Iran, Kalia Pimentel as Miss Cape Verde, and Rosa Estrella as Miss Dominican Republic.

The show opened with introductions by the hosts, Andy Deossa, 2013, and Issatta Comber, 2014, as they invited the audience to join them in celebrating diversity, acceptance of all students’ beliefs and values regarding culture and diversity.

The musical talents of both these contestants were then challenged by Miss Dominican Republic’s merengue dancing, as her bright red, flouncy skirt swirled around her quick-moving feet. Miss Iran performed a traditional Persian dance routine, circling a man with her sultry moves and jingling skirt.

Miss Cape Verde sang an a cappella version of Temptations’ “My Girl,” dedicated to her father, who used to sing it to her as a child. Finally, Mr. Canada shared his belief in “maintaining your culture as part of your everyday life,” to stay connected to family and help through troubles and changes in life.

Mr. Haiti reiterated why he chose to represent the island nation, telling the audience that Haiti is “so diverse,” more so than many Americans realize.

Miss USA spoke of Suffolk’s dedication to celebrating and accepting diversity through its vibrant cultural clubs out of the Office of Diversity Services.

“Everyone has a place at Suffolk,” she said, applauding the university for its dedication to accepting everyone.

Miss Dominican Republic spoke about culture and its influence on our lives. She also complimented Suffolk’s culturally oriented clubs, saying they have helped her meet more people who understand the culture she comes from and, ultimately, feel more accepted and at home at Suffolk.

Miss Iran promoted the importance of diversity among our students.

“Embrace your differences or else you’ll just be like everyone else,” she said.

Miss Cape Verde spoke about the importance of community, of everyone coming together as one for good causes.

“Everyone is the same in at least one aspect,” she told the crowd and judges.

Mr. Canada shared his belief in “maintaining your culture as part of your everyday life,” to stay connected to family and help through troubles and changes in life.

He said the most important aspect of this mantra is to be yourself.

The questionnaire was followed by dance performances by Suffolk’s hip-hop dance crew, Wicked. With neon-colored outfits and high-powered moves, the dancers entertained the captivated audience as they waited to hear who won the crown.

Before announcing the winners, the judges reminded everyone that Retention Services exists for all of us.

“We’re here for you, we want you to be comfortable here at Suffolk,” said Samiera Pierre-Vil, a Retention Scholar.

Ultimately, Miss USA took third place, Mr. Haiti second place, and Mr. Canada was awarded first place and a new iPad. After the show, everyone was invited to a free reception at 150 Tremont for food and dancing.

"Everyone has a place at Suffolk."

"Embrace [your differences] or else you’ll be like everyone else."

"Everyone is the same in at least one aspect."
Filmmaker Bob Rafelson visits, speaks at Suffolk

David Frederick
Journal Staff

The audience at The Modern Theater was filled with anticipation last Tuesday when Emmy-winning filmmaker Bob Rafelson visited to discuss his career with Suffolk's own scholar in residence, National Medal of Arts recipient Robert Brustein.

The night began as they both spoke of their high admiration for one another and then moved on to why Rafelson decided to be a filmmaker. He first joked that he wanted to deceive us all, then went on to say it was easy for Americans to see talent in film, but that we had a problem in finding the talent in it for ourselves. After screening a key scene of Five Easy Pieces, in which Jack Nicholson's character breaks down while trying to make peace with his deaf/mute father, Rafelson commented the scene was done in one take and was a challenge to shoot. "An audience member asked Rafelson how he was able to convey such an emotional response from Nicholson. "You take the gun and pull back the trigger halfway and that usually does the trick," he joked.

Rafelson went on to explain how Jack is one of his dearest friends and although they would argue, they always had a great working process. There were a few re-writes and the emotional monologue was delivered in one take. After the first take, Rafelson said he kept giving Nicholson a hard time about his performance and that he pestered him to the point where he walked off the set. He then praised Jack's brilliance and said his original plan was to make around 10 films with Nicholson, which he actually worked close to six. One notable element to the discussion is Rafelson's hilarious sexual mindset. He said he had already chosen the names for films Head and Five Easy Pieces. He called his first film Head because he wanted his next film poster to say "from the guys that gave you Head," regarding the "controversial" sex scene he directed between Nicholson and Jessica Lange in The Postman Always Rings Twice, he said in order to not receive an X-rating from the MPAA, he toned down the color in the film (but after showing them that, he reverted back to normal when the prints were sent to theaters).

Rafelson also talked about working with Arnold Schwarzenegger and how he believed he was a very smart man. When asked about his film style and his obvious love for foreign film as an influence, he said growing up it was easier to sneak into foreign films than American films. When asked if he thought the lifestyle of "New Hollywood" filmmakers, combined with new directors like Spielberg and Lucas, which stopped what the "New Hollywood," Rafelson jokingly he responded with a short yes. When asked if he would ever want to film again, he simply said no and that he set out to accomplish what he wanted to do. He said he doesn't have much else to say, is happy with what he has done and is now happy to enjoy life with his family. (He originally entered the biz not just for art, but also for the lifestyle which eventually caught up to him.)

Your Week: Arts, Clubs, Culture

[Theater, Wed. - Fri.] American Repertory Theater Institute performers are showing "Bob: A Life in Five Acts" is a quirky rag-to-riches-to-fame-to-fall-to-legends-to-the-love-of-living-life tale at Oberson. [$15]

[Theater, Thurs. - Mon.] At the Boston Conservatory, The Full Monty is a blockbuster musical following a group of unemployed steel workers who find a daring way to make some quick cash. [$10-$25]

[Poetry, Thurs.] Boston Poet Laureate Sam Cornish joins forces with Roxbury Repertory Theater to create a moving performance piece from selected poems and prose at the Boston Public Library. [Free]

[Music, Fri.] Multi-award-winning singer-songwriter Rose Cousins' third album, We Have Made A Spark, braves weight topics in her trademark blissful-fool style at Club Passim. [$15]

[Nightlife, Fri.] White Rabbit brings the rave to Boston at Rize. After-hours until 6 a.m. [$15, 18+]

[Celeb, Sat.] Rapper Maino will be doing a meet-and-greet and Laced Boston.

[Nightlife, Sun.] Get up for Tastycake, Boston's signature disco party at Middlesex Lounge. [Free, 21+]

Compiled by Angela Bray and Kristin Baker (Suffolk PAO Director)
The Journal takes on the Oscars

The Academy Awards on Sunday night proved a few things that were already buzzing back and forth: Meryl Streep is indeed the best living actress currently walking the earth. Billy Crystal still isn’t funny. George Clooney was shown on screen, as expected, probably more than any other celeb. The Bridesmaids continue to stay hilarious. The Artist and Hugo were (much deserved) award bound, winning multiple Oscars. And Woody Allen won again, and was, again, a no show. Like a boss. Overall, it wasn’t too shabby of an awards show.

-Derek Anderson, managing editor

This year’s Oscar ceremony seemed pretty bland as they picked the worst guy to be host, yet again. It seemed as if Cameron Diaz and Jennifer Lopez were already trashed within the first hour, until it seemed as if everyone in the room was trashed. There were a few political speeches which seemed to be totally ignored as Meryl Streep once again won an Oscar, surprising nobody. Advertisements for GBC or whatever were dumb, as they didn’t really give the audience an explanation as to what it was exactly. Perhaps the strangest part of the entire show, however, was how young Scorsese’s date was. Seriously? Come on!

-Ethan Long, news editor

The Academy Awards is easily my favorite awards show to watch every year, and it was great to have Billy Crystal back hosting. He was on his A-game with the one-liners for sure. I was a bit shocked to see The Artist win Best Picture after the night started with Hugo taking so many awards, but the film was a great throwback to the early days of cinema and I can certainly understand why it took home the night’s most coveted award.

-Alex Hill, arts, sports editor

As usual, I haven’t seen any of the Best picture nominees, but I’d like to see several of them including The Artist, Hugo, and The Iron Lady. The category I most cared about this year was best song, which was “Man or Muppet” from The Muppets. I loved The Muppets and I’m a big Jason Segel fan, so I was happy for him. He just looked so starstruck on the red carpet and he looked like he was about to cry when “Man or Muppet” won. My biggest qualm with the awards was how badly Harry Potter was snubbed. It should have been nominated for Best Picture as a nod to an incredible movie franchise. Alan Rickman not only should have been nominated for Best Supporting Actor his moving performance as Severus Snape in the Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2, but he should have won. Rickman is an amazing actor and Snape was the role of his lifetime.

-Jeff Fish, editor-in-chief

**Sushi + grill grub = yummy**

Meagan Kennelly
Journal Staff

After months of a “coming soon” sign posted in the Cambridge Street window, Fin’s Japanese + Sushi Grill has opened in Beacon Hill. Fin’s now has four Boston locations: Cleveland Circle, Kenmore Square, Symphony, and Beacon Hill. Being a big sushi lover myself, I have visited all four. All menus are anticipated exotic fish tank. For the main course, I ordered two new sushi rolls ready has it covered. I highly recommend, and in the spirit of Japan, Itdakimasu! But I am now giving those a second thought!

-Fin’s now has four Boston locations: Cleveland Circle, Kenmore Square, Symphony, and Beacon Hill. Being a big sushi lover myself, I have visited all four. All menus are anticipated exotic fish tank.

For the main course, I ordered two new sushi rolls (grilled eel, cucumber, avocado and tobiko wrapped with shrimp), Hawaiian Maki (mango, avocado and spicy tuna) and Double Match Maki (sweet potato tempura and fresh pineapple covered with baked salmon, strawberries and shredded sweet potato on wasabi mayo sauce). I have to say the Double Match Maki took the cake. This was my first attempt at sweet potato in sushi and it was definitely a good thing. I am usually skeptical of trying out-of-the-ordinary things in my sushi like pickles and asparagus but I am now giving those a second thought!

-To sum up, the food was great and each dish came precisely one after the other. The plates all looked amazing, the server was filled just as I finished, and the staf was pleasant. There’s not much more to ask for, but if you can think of something, I’m sure Fin’s already has it covered. I highly recommend, and in the spirit of Japan, Itdakimasu!
Brunett doesn't cut it with 'Gone'

'This is awesome!' vs. 'Really?'

Moegen Kennelly
Journal Staff

It's obvious Brunett doesn't cut it with 'Gone.'

Nett just never made it happen for negligence or its main character should be suing the Oregon police department for negligence or checking herself into an insane asylum. Unfortunately, though, writer Allison Brunett just never made it happen in his latest film, Gone.

There were times during the movie when I thought, "this is awesome!" and times when I thought, "really, that's what you came up with?"

To put one word on these mixed emotions I would have to say it was average.

By the middle of the film, I thought I was either one step ahead of every move the character was making or there was an amazing plot twist at the end that was going to somehow blow it out of the water. Without giving too much away, I have to disappoint by informing you there was no plot twist. It was excruciatingly predictable. There was a certain suspense, but it was really just waiting for something that never came, and there were a few jumps but even those were predictable, like cats jumping out of closet doors. So with that, I was disappointed. I left feeling like the movie was unfinished, like a lot could have been done with it that wasn't.

The movie opens with some strong visuals of Oregon's Forest Park, the place the viewers slowly begin to learn is where Jill Conway (Amanda Seyfried) is dumped in a hole to await her death after an abduction a few months back. But was she?

When her sister Molly (Emily Wickersham) appears to be missing, Jill runs to the police department, like any person would do. It is here we learn a lot more about Jill that we didn't know, like when she came crawling out of Forest Park crying 'abduction' there were no battle wounds, no sexual assault, no forced entry into her home, no dugout holes with bones at the bottom like the one she described, there was nothing, no sign of an abduction.

When police started poking holes in her story, Jill apparently went looney tunes and was involuntarily admitted to a mental institution (for the second time). So you could see where the question, "But was she?" would come from. Unfortunately, it was so poorly done that I could indeed see the attempt at making her look crazy but there was not one point where that thought actually crossed my mind. In fact, the angry/depressed/ anxious-ridden Jill Conway wasn't very believable, crazy or not. She was an untruthful, pistol-popping, police-chasing criminal who was way too top for me. There were as many holes in the character as there were in the plot. Seyfried did what she could with this helpless character.

Whether you believe the character or not, the police department doesn't, so the entire movie you are watching them do nothing and Seyfried do all the work. Every guy she comes in contact with has the same "rapey-eyes" as the next, making you guess every single male in the movie is the abductor. Finally, get this, she just calls him on her cell: "Hey wanna meet up?..." "Sure, why not?"

I'll let you see what happens from there.

The good news is, it is so fast paced that if you shut off your analytical thinking for a good 90 minutes, you will most likely not catch all of the major flaws in this movie. In fact, it will probably be quite comical, like how number one on my "abductor list" (who happened to be a police man) randomly disappears from the entire film to give chicken soup to his sick mother?! It's priceless. It is for this reason I can't decide whether the film is terrible or written for pure entertainment, not intending to be analyzed as non-fiction.

I don't recommend seeing "Gone" in theaters, as it really doesn't leave much of an impression. But, if you're curious, catch it On Demand and see what side you're on: pure genius or what the hell were you thinking?

'Chronicle,' more than a 'buddy movie'

Ally Johnson
Journal Staff

What would happen if a person settled in reality were to stumble upon the extraordinary; if a human were to obtain super human advantages?

'Chronicle,' the directorial debut of Josh Trank, documents three teenagers after they've encountered a mysterious hole in the ground, no sign of an abduction, no sexual assault, no wounds, no sign of an abduction. So with that, I was disappointed. I left feeling like the movie was unfinished, like a lot could have been done with it that wasn't.

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Whether you believe the character or not, the police department doesn't, so the entire movie you are watching them do nothing and Seyfried do all the work. Every guy she comes in contact with has the same "rapey-eyes" as the next, making you guess every single male in the movie is the abductor. Finally, get this, she just calls him on her cell: "Hey wanna meet up?..." "Sure, why not?"

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The movie's script was strong and unique enough that it didn't need to rely on a gimmick. Instead, the use of this particular camera style got distracting for most of the movie, and the use of it was turned into a way to apply convey chaos without the luxury of a large budget.

The movie's third act is one of the most gripping I've seen recently. It doesn't allow you to take a breather and allow what has just happened to settle. Instead, it throws you into each scene after the other causing a tense viewing, not yet allowed to fully comprehend.

This film is being marketed as a "buddy movie" with the majority of the main characters being the three boys facing the daunting prospect of abilities that put them above other beings around them. The troubled Andrew (Dane DeHaan) questions if there's a reason for it; if this is just another case of survival of the fittest and he's not a super human. Andrew and Matt (Alex Russell) are the nice guys who only wants to help his cousin, Andrew. Steve (Michael B. Jordan) is the cool guy, who never would have befriended Andrew had it not been for the mysterious hole that led them to their new powers; their new lives. The movie succeeded in its casting, with actors who have worked in film before but aren't yet recognizable faces.

If they had been it would have proven difficult to suspend our disbelief because this film is one of the most realistic movies released this year. The usage of the handheld camera technique is the movie's main flaw. The movie is much more than a buddy movie. Yes, it touches upon the ties that lie within, which makes the dark twist even more threatening. It causes the stakes to rise because now the audience is invested. This film is about human nature, the lust for power and control, and how that want can cause consequences of a substantial nature. There is no set label for this movie. The movie is clever in the way that it examines the idea of a motive. If a person is driven to the point where Andrew was and is consumed with anger, what would their reaction be? The movie doesn't dive into that, instead leaving it to the audience to determine what we feel. Even if, like me, you don't know what that is.
Staff Editorial

"I believe in an America where the separation of church and state is absolute... I believe in an America that is officially neither Catholic, Protestant nor Jewish—where no public official either requests or accepts instructions on public policy from the Pope, the National Council of Churches or any other ecclesiastical source..." - John F. Kennedy, Sept. 12, 1960.

Rick Santorum’s response to Kennedy’s speech Sunday morning on “This Week”? He denounced Kennedy’s claim that the separation of church and state is absolute, adding “You bet that makes you want to throw up. What kind of country do we live in that says ‘You bet that makes you want to throw up.’”

Really, Rick? Really? It’s hard to believe such insanity is not only being considered, but even accepted as a view for a potential president of the United States of America. This country claims to be proud of its freedoms and openness, but yet people decide that a hack like Santorum can be in the running for leader of the free world? Don’t we have that specific document stating that everyone has a right to freedom of religion? Yes. It’s called the constitution. It’s the first thing written guys. The First Amendment. It couldn’t be any clearer.

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” Read it and weep, Rick. Santorum mentioned the amendment on “This Week,” but seemed to know very little about what he was actually ranting about. The 1st Amendment is a two-way street. Yes, you’re allowed to hold your radical religious views, but don’t expect everyone to roll around with? What belief system are these athletes walking around with? What belief system do they hold if something as aggressive, demeaning, and scarring as sexual assault is even an option? Isn’t it just two troubled young men, but a way of life and a trend of actions that is encouraged.

According to the Daily Free Press, these incidents are causing a backlash among the students regarding the way they were handled, notably with far too little awareness. Student Allison Francis called the Student Health Services to request a hotline for sexual assault victims and was met with an operator saying, “What? We don’t have anything like that here.” It’s the job of the Health Services, of the college community to have something like a hotline in place; to be prepared. The needs of the survivors should be obvious and provided for.

Sadly, Campus departments have shown signs of succumbing to the idea of passing off the blame rather than addressing it as what it is - rape culture. It’s what we live in and trying to skate the issue environment. It’s the fear that it may not be just two troubled young men, but a way of life and a trend of actions that is encouraged.

While there’s been a surge in action in trying to supply support for survivors, there needs to be a more immediate step up in the actual progress of lessening the amount of sexual violence against women. Today in the media, we see an overflow of forgiveness being given to the abuser. We see an abuser, such as Chris Brown, glorified and awarded. It’s easy to try and gloss over the hardships of the actual abuse. Discussions of rape make people uncomfortable. But a moment of discomfort is worth the knowledge that everything in a person’s power is being done in order to protect these young women from harm and the threat of sexual abuse.

"Today in the media we see an overflow of forgiveness being given to the abuser."

BU hockey culture needs to change

Ally Johnson
Journal Staff

Max Nicastro, a 21 year old defenseman for Boston University’s Hockey team is the most recent person to be charged with the alleged assault of a female student. This is the second reported case of sexual assault since December.

An array of questions has been proposed as to what type of atmosphere these players are living in, and what type of attitudes are being promoted, even encouraged. Students are disappointed over this, since these young men on the team are highly regarded on campus.

These two offences beg the question, what type of mentality are these athletes walking around with? What belief system do they hold if something as aggressive, demeaning, and
Ten years and billions of dollars will still leave Greece with a greater amount of debt than GDP. The newest bailout, in the midst of gloomy unemployment figures, huge tax increases, and major cuts in social benefits, will at least postpone a Greek default, but it has not by any means solved or stabi-lized the crisis. Greece's debt issue and the Eurozone bailouts for the nation can be seen as a larg-er-scale, more dramatic reenactment of the U.S.'s bailout of the auto industry in 2008. The sovereign body, be it Greece or auto makers, has suffered years of mismanagement that has finally exploded into a major issue affecting a much larger body, the EU for Greece and the American economy for the auto industry. The analogy isn't perfec-t but it helps frame the issue into more understand-able terms. The debate over whether to bail each out of the entities' problems could also be quite similar, but the Greek problem has inspired so much fear and unease for the world, it's barely even been a ques-tion. The American auto bail-out was framed as a neces-sity to keep the U.S. economy afloat but many still bitterly speculate that we could have gotten by without it. The 2008 bailout was also markedly dif-ferent as it sought to help an industry within a nation, not an entire nation itself. While the EU has gripped on injecting billions into Greece's pockets, it is still seen as a dire necessity. But why? Is it truly the EU's job to ensure the economic stability of all its members, even if it means bil-lions of dollars and decades of trouble? The majority of the cash is coming from Germany, the EU's strong backer of eco-no-mic success, even though German-Greek relations have been strained since the days of WWII. German Chancel-lor Angela Merkel told the Bundestag (Germany's lower house in parliament) that she knows some believe Greece is a "hopeless cause," but she claims, "The opportunities of this new [bailout] package outweighed the risks." Waiting ten years to realize only a minor reduction in Greece's debt, at the expense of private banks, many coun-tries', economies, and severe austerity to the Greek people, is not what most would call an "opportunity" — it's more akin to a slowing of the economic decay in Greece. As panic and fear of the potential repercussions of a Greek default cloud the minds of the EU, cash will continue to be thrown at Greece and the nation will continue to im-pede the progress of the Greek citizens. If the EU could see through the looming pre-dictions of a world-wide, maybe bolder, possibly more effective solutions could be rea-che. When taking Greece off the Euro and leaving each na-tion to its own devices. Instead of pretending we can fix every issue with more intervention, maybe the EU needs to realize what the U.S. could not during the 2008 auto-industry crisis — bankruptcy and defaulting are the natural ways of financial markets to fix deep economic problems. The economic world has sat with its face buried in its hands for almost four years, desperately trying to save each faulty market from the brink. This approach has only prolonged failed markets, not reformed them into recovery. Although it's harsh and argu-ably ethically wrong, it could be time to let failures fall and work through even tougher economic times to restructure better systems based on a quarter of spending decades and billions of dollars to prop them up.

It is time to be realistic about the current fiscal cli-mate of the world and realize that the strategy is not worth undertaking, especially when failure seems to be the only achievement.

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Ally Johnson
Journal Staff

As the debate for who gets to control a woman’s body and in which ways, continues, cracks are beginning to shine more prominently. Scott Brown has stated his belief in allowing individuals to uphold their faith and Mitt Romney has decided that once again, he can’t seem to really make up his mind. Rick Santorum has outdone himself in being offensive when he referred to the usage of contraceptives as a “sexual license.”

The debate is arguing the idea of two things; the rights humans have over making their own decisions regarding their bodies, and the idea of religious liberty, to be able to practice your religion without interference. Mitt Romney believes that President Obama’s decision to have employers provide insurance to cover birth control is violating the rights of religious freedom, while also agreeing with the law proposed. Baring the incredulity at the idea of Mitt Romney feeling oppressed, this claim of his (in typical Romney fashion) contradicts his own former beliefs. In 2005, Romney required all of Massachusetts, including Catholics, to provide emergency contraception to rape victims. This goes against plenty of Catholics’ beliefs; some see the morning after pill as a form of abortion.

Instead, it’s seemingly still just a power struggle. They want power over the decisions women make; the power of whose god gets the larger say, power of authority, and whose word is final. They argue yet ignore the basic facts lying straight ahead of them.

Romey has yet to learn that in order to gain support, he must avoid hypocrisy when discussing matters of women.

In a country where so many are aggressively and passionately against abortion, you’d think a contraceptive known to prevent the chance of that would be encouraged and embraced.

Photo courtesy of Rickr use: teafortown.com

Contraception debate lacks common sense

Medical marijuana crackdown goes way too far

Michael Christina
Journal Staff

A recent article from Rolling Stone revealed that over the past year, the Obama administration has been discreetly cracking down on medical marijuana. This is not too surprising being that it is an election year. But here’s the kicker. The article states that what the Obama administration is doing “goes far beyond anything undertaken by George W. Bush.”

I would like to repeat that. The article states that what the Obama administration is doing “goes far beyond anything undertaken by George W. Bush.”

Now, I know that all of you pot-smoking Obama-loving liberals out there are wondering how this could be possible. So let us walk through exactly what has happened over the past four years, shall we?

In the administration’s first two years, then Attorney General Eric Holder stressed that the Justice Department would only go after medical-marijuana providers “who violate both federal and state law.” This meant that while all forms of marijuana would remain illegal under federal law, the feds would adhere to state protections for providers of medical marijuana. A memo written in October 2009 by Deputy Attorney General David Ogden advised federal law-enforcement officials that the “rational use of its limited investigative and prosecutorial resources” meant that the medical-marijuana patients and their “caregivers” who work in “clear and unambiguous compliance with existing state law” could be left alone.

The memo sent a clear message that the feds would only intervene if providers were allowed to operate as a front for a criminal activity.

Enter Michele Leonhart.

A holdover from the Bush administration, Leonhart is staunchly against the use of medical-marijuana. She is also the current head of the DEA, thanks to a nomination by President Obama. Weeks after she was confirmed in January 2011, a paper called “The DEA Position on Marijuana” was updated with headlines such as THE FALLACY OF MARIJUANA FOR MEDICAL USE and SMOKED MARIJUANA IS NOT MEDICINE. This led to an almost immediate attack by federal prosecutors on legal dispensaries across the country. Dozens of dispensaries were raided, and provisions made it possible to go after some of the most legitimate and respected providers of medical marijuana in the country, including HarborSide Health Center in California.

It would be easy to make this just another pro-pot piece, touting the fact that seventy percent of Americans are opposed to the use of medical marijuana. And to be honest, I do firmly believe that possession and usage of weed should be legal regardless of it is being used for medical purposes or not. Its effects are clearly not as harmful as those that come from the consumption of alcohol, yet you can find beer and wine directly in the aisles of your local supermarket. (Who hasn’t heard of the argument a million times?)

My problem lies within the Obama administration allowing for this sort of crackdown to take place. Ever since President Obama has come into power, he’s been lowering the rate of the action going on. Why? Because he’s allowing for this sort of crackdown to take place. Ever since President Obama has come into power, he’s been tampering with the law proposed. Baring the incredulity at the idea of Mitt Romney feeling oppressed, this claim of his (in typical Romney fashion) contradicts his own former beliefs. In 2005, Romney required all of Massachusetts, including Catholics, to provide emergency contraception to rape victims. This goes against plenty of Catholics’ beliefs; some see the morning after pill as a form of abortion.

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Rick Santorum believes it should be a right to ban contraceptives all together, which he believes would solve the problem of abortion. He’s missing a key fact though. He’s allowing for his fear of his religion being tampered with, plus the notion that contraceptives can be a form of abortion, to cloud basic truths.

Contraceptives have been widely known to stop pregnancies. Why then would you take away the prevention that could be lowering the rate of the action that so many people, needlessly and obsessively, worry about. The right to a woman’s body is her own. Whether she uses birth control or not, or whether she gets an abortion or not. It’s her body, and it’s her choice. However, the debate drags on, seemingly never-ending, and people continue to disregard basic, proven fact.

Romney was quoted as saying, “We must have a President who is willing to protect Americans first right, our right to worship God.” No, we must have a President who protects our rights as human beings, and our right to control our own bodies.

Robert F. Kennedy once said that the violence of the drug war was so great that he would not support anyone running for president if they were not willing to end it. And I believe strongly in that. In this day and age, that can only get you so far.

So to me, this just represents one more reason that I cannot take anything politicians ever say at face value. My one hope is that this really is just a consequence of an election year. Michelle Leonhart once said that the violence of the drug war was so great that he would not support anyone running for president if they were not willing to end it. And I believe strongly in that. In this day and age, that can only get you so far.
BRIEFS

Jason Varitek set to retire

Jason Varitek, who has been the Red Sox catcher since 1997, will announce his retirement from Major League Baseball this Thursday. Varitek, 39, was offered a minor league position but has not been at the team’s spring training this season. He has struggled since the team last won the World Series in 2007, batting only .218. Last year he batted only .220 in just 68 games. Varitek helped the Red Sox win two World Series championships in 2004 and 2007. His list of achievements also include being a three-time all-star, a Silver Slugger Award winner, a Gold Glove winner, and he has also caught four no-hitters, a MLB record. Varitek served as captain of the team since 2005. His 1,488 games as catcher with the Red Sox is a club record.

Braun’s suspension overturned

Ryan Braun’s 50 game suspension was overturned last Thursday by baseball arbitrators. The NL’s reigning most valuable player won his appeal of a 50-game suspension triggered by a positive drug test in October. Braun, 28, is believed to be the first MLB player to win such an appeal. In December, ESPN reported that he had tested positive for synthetic testosterone during last season’s playoffs. Braun was offered a minor league position but has not been at the team’s spring training this Thursday. Varitek, 39, was offered a minor league position but has not been at the team’s spring training this season. He has struggled since the team last won the World Series in 2007, batting only .218. Last year he batted only .220 in just 68 games. Varitek helped the Red Sox win two World Series championships in 2004 and 2007. His list of achievements also include being a three-time all-star, a Silver Slugger Award winner, a Gold Glove winner, and he has also caught four no-hitters, a MLB record. Varitek served as captain of the team since 2005. His 1,488 games as catcher with the Red Sox is a club record.

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Driver gains followers after wreck

While popular belief tells racing fans that NASCAR drivers carry few items in their car with them during the race, Brad Keselowski decided to have his iPhone ride shotgun in Daytona. The race was delayed for some time after a freak accident involving a truck carrying jet fuel. As were many fans and drivers during the delay, Keselowski was bored and took to the Twitterverse to update his followers on when the race would resume. “#NASCAR prez said hopefully we’ll be back racing in 30 minutes.” The Miller Lite car driver tweeted. During the delay, he also took questions from his followers regarding the battery life left in his phone and updates regarding the continuation of the race. As a result of his headline-grabbing tweets, Keselowski gained 130,000 followers. CNET writer Amanda Kooser expects NASCAR to “put its foot down” if tweeting from the track catches on.

NFL moves kickoff for Obama

Alex Hall
Journal Staff

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell announced last Tuesday that the league will kickoff the 2012 season Wednesday, Sept. 5 to avoid President Obama’s speech scheduled for the next day at the Democratic National Convention. The New York Giants and an opponent to be named later will play in the NFL’s opening game, which will mark the league’s first Wednesday-day game in over 60 years. The game will be played on NBC at 8:30 EST, with CBS Sports believing the G-Men’s most likely opponent to be the Green Bay Packers. NFC Sports believes that the New Orleans Saints and the Pittsburgh Steelers are also strong candidates to face the Super Bowl champions. It has been reported that the game will be in New York’s backyard in MetLife Stadium.

While the NFL decided to start their Thursday kickoff in 2002, a scheduling change has occurred under the current format. According to the league, the last Wednesday contest was played Sept. 22, 1948 between the Los Angeles Rams and Detroit Lions. The Rams blew out their opponent in the LA Memorial Coliseum by a score of 44-7.
MLB spring training: A look into the American League East

Alex Holl
Journal Staff

With Boston and much of America enjoying a mild winter, spring has been teasing its arrival, even more so now with MLB Spring Training underway. The American League East has been one of the most competitive divisions in baseball, and the deadline rotation Tampa Bay boasts, they are poised to compete in 2012.

Baltimore Orioles

The Orioles have struggled ever since Cal Ripken Jr. hung up the cleats in 2001, but as they showed Boston when they closed the door on their rival's postseason aspirations last year, they're on the upswing nowadays.

When talking about that game where Baltimore upsets the Red Sox, Orioles shortstop Robert Andino said to the Baltimore Evening Sun, "We showed off the baseball world and everyone realized that we can compete, and we're not going to be a doormat."

As always, the Orioles aren't sure if second baseman Brian Roberts will be healthy for opening day, but with Adam Jones, Nick Markakis, Matt Wieters and Mark Reynolds, there are some good offensive pieces in place to help. The key this season is to get to April. If the Orioles can improve upon last year's mediocrity, they'll be every bit capable of competing in the East.

Toronto Blue Jays

The Jays had a rough go of it over the past two seasons alone, the Jays' out-fielder has blasted 97 balls out of the park.

"He's become one of the best hitters in the league," Toronto manager John Farrell told The Boston Herald. Bautista isn't the only Blue Jay that will make pitchers nervous however, as second year third baseman Brett Lawrie will look to build off of his impressive first season in the majors.

Like Baltimore though, Toronto will need its pitching staff to improve upon last season's mediocrity. Projected No. 1 and No. 2 starter, Ricky Romero and Brandon Morrow, have been inconsistent, but with Josh Beckett showing up again this year, as he's been a tad inconsistent since joining the Jays, there's reason to hope.

New York Yankees

To the surprise of no one, the Yankees have the biggest splash of all. East teams in free agency, grabbing starting pitcher Michael Pineda from the Seattle Mariners and former Los Angeles Dodgers' starter Hiroki Kuroda.

With just a few signs on the dotted line, New York Yankees manager Joe Girardi has a few names in the rotation and in the batting order, but like last season, everything depends on if the new signings can fit in with the team, but that didn't exist in 2012.

New closer and former Oakland Athletic Andrew Bailey spent much of last year on the disabled list, and posted a 3.14 ERA through his 41 innings in 2011.

Carl Crawford is still nursing a foot injury, but ESPN's Joe McDonald says Crawford's ankle is progressing faster than expected. As always, the Yankees will need to hope the good Josh Beckett shows up again this year, as he's been a tad inconsistent since coming to the Bronx.

Boston Red Sox

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Boston Red Sox manager Bobby Valentine has spent the past few years behind an ESPN desk, so it will be interesting to see how he handles managing a ball club again.

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Boston Celtics: rebuild or one more push?

Athanasios Armenis
Journal Staff

Danny Ainge has had just as much luck with basketball players over the past four years as Kim Kardashian. Since completing the blockbuster deals that landed 14-time NBA All-Star Kevin Garnett alongside sharpshooter Ray Allen, the Celtics general manager has shifted from the smartest man in Boston to nearly the most brainless operator this city has ever seen.

For the past decade, the city of Boston has set a precise standard when it comes to their sports. Winning is the city of Boston has set a precedent when it comes to basketball. Winning is the standard when it comes to the all-star break.

The Celtics are old. They have a nucleus of players that are each above 34 in Pierce, Garnett and Allen and a young, pure point guard with loads of talent who can not seem to get over his ego. In other words, they have commanding trade assets.

The re-building stage for Boston has yet to initiate. However with Garnett and Allen's contracts coming off the books at the end of this season, Ainge could quite craftily erase any memories of the 21-year drought was broken up at the end of the 2010-2011 season, was set to become an unrestricted free agent and giving away the anchor of the defense Kendrick Perkins for a top-ten point guard in the NBA, he has shown a lack of discipline while playing in Boston.

He most recently was suspended for two-games for throwing the ball at an official after a bad call and proceeded to publicly express his dissatisfaction after the front office shipped away Perkins last February.

Parity wars with Garnett and Rondo would immediately create a buzz in Boston but should strengthen the Celtics chances in the long run. Brandon Bass, who has been one of the lone bright spots for Doc Rivers and his staff this season, could quickly jumpstart the floor from all five positions, including the point.

His connections with Gasol, tie back to when they won two titles together in Los Angeles and with Avery Bradley still on the Celtics roster and a young talent such as Goudelock coming off the bench, Rivers could mix and match and see what works best.

A starting five of Gasol, Bass, Pierce, Allen and Odom would immediately give the Celtics a bigger chance at making any noise in the playoffs then when they currently have sitting at eighth in the Eastern Conference. Marlon and Goudelock would also strengthen a lousy Celtics bench that sits at 27th in the league, contributing only 25.7 points per game according to NBA.com.

Ainge needs to break up this unit of players who obviously have not mixed and matched the right way in order to compete at a high level. Instead, the Celtics look like they're taking steps in the wrong direction and banking on the hopes of signing an elite superstar over the off-season, which is a risky approach.

The last top-tier free agent signing the Celtics made in the off-season was Dominique Wilkins in 1993 after Red Auerbach scratched, clawed and eroded the ball at an official after a bad call and proceeded to publicly express his dissatisfaction after the front office shipped away Perkins last February.

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Bittersweet week for women's basketball team

Alex Mellion
Journal Staff

It was a good news, bad news week for the Suffolk women's basketball team, as they lost in one tournament, but got selected to play in another. The Lady Rams lost Thursday night to Emmanuel 87-58 in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference semifinals.

Suffolk couldn't overcome a balanced offensive attack from Emmanuel, as they had four players in double figures scoring. Suffolk would never be closer than two points, when the score was 12-10 Emmanuel, very early in the first half. Emmanuel would go on to outscore the Rams 35-17 over the rest of the half, and never looked back after that.

Despite the blowout, Suffolk senior Meghan Black was able to achieve a significant milestone, as she reached the 1,000 point plateau with 26 seconds to go. She finished with a team high 14 points and eight rebounds, while Mary Garon and Jacqueline Vienneau added 13 and 12 respectively.

It wasn't all bad news for the lady Rams however, as the team found out on Monday that they will be a part of the eight team Eastern College Athletic Conference championship.

This is the sixth consecutive year that the team will be a part of the tournament, and they will be seeded fifth, traveling to Colby-Sawyer College Wednesday for a 7 p.m. tipoff. The Rams were victorious over Colby-Sawyer once this season on December 6.

Wednesday's matchup with be played at Coby-Sawyer College, and the winner will advance to Saturday's semifinals and face the winner of the top-seeded Keene State College/Regis College game.

Suffolk posted an 18-9 overall mark for the 2011-12 season and finished fourth in the GNAC with a 10-3 conference mark.

Vienneau, Pepdjonovic named GNAC All-Conference selections

Mike Giannattasio
Journal Staff

Suffolk University women's basketball junior Jacqueline Vienneau was selected as second-team All-Conference by the Great Northeast Athletic Conference for the 2011-12 season, according to the Suffolk Athletic website, gosuffolkrams.com.

Vienneau had a career year for the Rams, as she led the team in scoring with 12.8 points per game. She also led the team with 4.3 assists per game, which was also third among players in the conference. Furthermore, Vienneau became the first player in Suffolk's history to record 300 assists this season, reaching this milestone on February 18 in Suffolk's 82-67 victory against St. Joseph College.

On February 1, Vienneau hit her 100th career three-point field goal and has now totaled 117 shots from behind the perimeter in her three seasons.

On the men's side, junior Matt Pepdjonovic was selected as second team All-Conference by the GNAC this season.

Pepdjonovic had an outstanding season for the Rams, as he averaged 17.0 points per game and 13.6 rebounds per game, which led all players in the conference and is currently the second best among all NCAA Division-III men's basketball players in the country. Pepdjonovic also led the league with 3.2 blocks per game, and this was also good for fifth best in the nation.

Pepdjonovic reached a career high point this season when he scored his 1,000th career point on January 17 in Suffolk's 98-56 loss at Tufts University. He became the 26th player in Suffolk's history and the 53rd player in GNAC history to reach this achievement.