Marijuana bill hearing attended by students

Ally Thibault
Journal Staff

Students from Suffolk University's NORML (National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws) chapter attended a public hearing at the State House on March 6 to support Bill H.1371, a piece of legislation that seeks to fully legalize, regulate, and tax marijuana in a manner similar to alcohol.

The committee's chairman, Representative Eugene O'Flaherty (Chelsea), clarified that the meeting featured so many unrelated bills because many other bills were being discussed at the hearing as well. "Sometimes you get to go on right away, other times you have to wait awhile," McSoley said. As he has previously attended public hearings to support marijuana legalization, he was quite accustomed to the process.

McSoley, a senior, gave personal testimony at the hearing in front of a packed house, leaving many spectators to standing room only space. Although he and several other Suffolk supporters arrived at the State House at 1 p.m., they had to wait over two-and-a-half hours before McSoley could say his piece because many other bills were pending.

McSoley explained that the meeting featured so many unrelated bills because "prevention action is necessary to better U.S.-Afghan relations." He added that over time, he has come to realize that "sometimes you get to go right away, other times you have to wait awhile." McSoley explained that this haphazard mix of bills wasn't uncommon. "Anyone can come in and give a testimony on a bill. The order of speakers is completely random so you never really know when you're going to get called up," he said.

After hours of hearing about a proposed assisted suicide bill and trash dumping issues in Lawrence, McSoley finally got his chance to testify. Dressed professionally in a jacket and tie, the Suffolk senior began his pitch to the committee. The chairman cut him off early on.

Interior Design program at NESAD third in country

Lauren E. Spencer
Journal Staff

Suffolk University's New England School of Art and Design (NESAD) interior design program was recently ranked third among "America's Top 10 Interior Design Schools" by DesignIntelligence Magazine. This was NESAD's second year making the list; the first time they appeared they were in it," said Nancy Hackett, co-director of NESAD's interior design program. "So when you get a ranking from your peers, it really does mean something."

This type of recognition is a great honor for the program, but it also serves as motivation for enrolled students. "It certainly makes the students who are currently in the program understand why we're so tough on them," Hackett said. "It kind of validates the kind of pressure that we put on them, but I think it also makes them feel good that they're third in the country with some [big-name design schools]. It makes them feel as though their education is the best in the country, and I think it is."

While the students' and teachers' passion for excellence can be attributed to the program's achievements, the success of NESAD's alumni can be credited as well. "We have plenty of graduated students in the greater Boston area in all kinds of firms," explained Hackett. "But they've spread now to New York, to D.C. to California, to Texas, so it gives us a national presence that we wouldn't have had without 10 years of graduates in the master's level and 15 years of graduates in the bachelor's level. As the students mature and they get positions of leadership, they get noticed."

In addition, the ranking strengthens the program's reputation, especially in terms of prospective graduate students. After hours of hearing about a proposed assisted suicide bill and trash dumping issues in Lawrence, McSoley finally got his chance to testify. Dressed professionally in a jacket and tie, the Suffolk senior began his pitch to the committee. The chairman cut him off early on.

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Sawyer Business School turns 75

Michelle Lim
Journal Staff

Known for founding Suffolk as a law school in 1906, Gleason Archer’s School of Management—now known as the Sawyer Business School—is commemorating its 75th anniversary this year. Another brainchild of our institute’s leading figure, the Sawyer Business School succeeded the Law School and the College of Arts and Sciences (1934). Archer established the formerly known School of Management in 1937 as the third installment to constitute Suffolk University.

Today, the Sawyer Business School is one of the top 300 business schools in the region.

Chair of the accounting department and associate professor Lewis Shaw, who has spent 16 years at Sawyer Business School, attests to its success and attributes the surge in success to current Sawyer Business School Dean William O’Neill, who “brought a new vision of goals” to the school.

The subsequent name change occurred in 1995 on behalf of a Boston entrepreneur and Suffolk benefactor named Frank Sawyer. Althought having never attended college himself, Sawyer was a businessman in his own right. From humble beginnings as a taxi driver in Boston to setting the stage for customer service in the taxi industry, his foundation of the Checker Taxi Company in 1921 broke down barriers by serving as one of the first to welcome passengers of any race as well as hire them. Further accomplishments of Sawyer involved the addition of the taxi services Town Taxi and Red Cab, while significantly aid ing the development of Avis Rent-a-Car. His benevolence extended to academia with the belief of deep respect for education and a tolerance towards those whose financial needs impeded them.

Like its honorary namesake, the earlier accolades of the Sawyer Business School include the Executive MBA program in 1975 and the MBA Online program in 1999. As the first of their programs to be initiated in the New England area, the preliminary stages of the business school forecasted the significant success to follow. Indeed, many more than 200,000 college students from all over the globe presently, Sawyer Business School’s popularity has been nothing short of in demand. Among some of the key events, Sawyer Business School’s mission statement today is to create successful leaders in hopes of their capacity to give back in public service, much akin to Frank Sawyer and his views. The deep-rooted values of Sawyer Business School are set in stone, but the sole goal of the business school goes beyond success to deeply interact with the community.

Deeply involved in the Sawyer Business School’s mission statement today is to create successful leaders in hopes of their capacity to give back in public service, much akin to Frank Sawyer and his views. The deep-rooted values of Sawyer Business School are set in stone, but the sole goal of the business school goes beyond success to deeply interact with the community.

The Sawyer Business School proves it can stand the test of time.

I was stabbed six times and left for dead

from SUNORM page 1

into his speech to tell him “slow down” as he seemed “nervous,” but McSoley didn’t let that stop his momentum.

He thanked the legislators for “for keeping an open mind in hearing issues that [they] may or may not be comfortable discussing” as he began to give facts and figures that educate members about marijuana. Many of the legislators sat absent-mindedly when MeSoley refused, he met an awful punishment.

McSoley testified that “prohibitions is the cause of violence, not the plant itself.” and if it were legalized, then the violence would end. Also, he added that legal regulation would keep marijuana out of the hands of children. Currently, McSoley cited, according to the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, “marijuana is more readily available to teens than alcohol or cigarettes.”

After McSoley finished his testimony, a few committee members asked questions. One member said he didn’t feel marijuana legalization was a state issue and instead should be taken care of at the national level. McSoley agreed that something needed to be done at the national level but urged the legislatures to embody Massachuse tts’ “progressive spirit” and set a standard for the country. Another member of the committee expressed her concerns about people driving under the influence of marijuana. McSoley replied that this issue would be easily addressed by legislation—just as drinking alcohol is legal— but drunk driving is illegal, marijuana could be legal with punishments for driving while high. The member continued to voice her anxieties over this aspect without seeming to acknowledge McSoley’s straightforward answer.

But, nevertheless, the crowd of students was pleased by McSoley’s testimony, as many spectators congratulated him as he walked out of the room and several local media outlets pursued him for interviews and photos.

“I don’t want to be pessimistic, but since it’s just a public hearing, the committee doesn’t have to pass on bills it doesn’t regard less of public support behind them,” McSoley explained. “I hope my testimony played to their emotions and started to change their minds,” he told the Journal, but it is clear that there is still a lot of work for supporters of marijuana legalization to do before this bill can become a reality.
Student account: Alternative Spring Break

Collin Lazell  
Journal Staff

“...you will be remembered here long after you leave...” were the words of Chief Kirk Francis of the Penobscot Indian Nation, and for the 24 of us who participated in Alternative Spring Break in Passadumkeag, Maine, last week, the feeling was absolutely mutual.

The Penobscot Indian Nation can be found throughout Northern Maine, with their primary location on Indian Island, right outside of Passadumkeag. There are over 2,000 Penobscots still today, and about 500 live on the island. Within the past year, Suffolk University obtained an incredible land donation in Passadumkeag, which includes two gorgeous houses, a massive stable, and over 80 acres of barely developed land running right along the Penobscot River. It was the right word - consisted of the Penobscot Nation Boys & Girls Club, along with several smaller rooms, and layed down a hardwood floor in their community center, in the classrooms during the day, and then playing with the children of the club in the afternoons and evenings.

I am grateful to have been a part of this pioneer group to this Suffolk property that was able to start this beautiful friendship with the Penobscot Nation. I have joked to friends that I left my heart in Passadumkeag, but in all seriousness, I am just so much more at peace now than I was before I left. My heart, mind, and soul are in such a better state. This emotional and spiritual experience has taught me so much more about simply listening, loving, and living.

I write this encouraging Suffolk University to take full advantage of this beautiful new property it has been given and to continue to develop this incredible friendship with the Penobscot Nation. I encourage each one of you to take the time to educate yourselves on the history and plight of indigenous peoples across the globe and, furthermore, I encourage each one of you to take advantage of Alternative Spring Break at least once while at Suffolk.

Thank you Penobscot Nation, and thank you Alternative Spring Break.

Invisible Children founder arrested for alleged indecent exposure

Jason Russell, 33, co-founder of the anti-LRA organization Invisible Children, was arrested in San Diego, Calif., after being found "in his underpants" under the influence of unknown substances allegedly containing "crack" and "tranquilizing drug." Under police supervision, Russell was detained and transferred to a local medical facility for further evaluation and treatment, according to a San Diego Police Department spokesperson. "Kony 2012," a documentary about Joseph Kony and his Lord's Resistance Army, made up of children abducted from their homes, went viral earlier this month. While the video urges viewers to donate to Invisible Children, critics have become wary about the nonprofit's spending as well as the fact that no civil case currently exists in Uganda, with the LRA signing a treaty in 2008. Nevertheless, Joseph Kony fled the country and is still at large. Invisible Children released a statement which said, "Russell was unfortunately hospitalized yesterday suffering from exhaustion, dehydration, and malnutrition." The statement also mentions that the past two weeks "have taken a severe emotional toll on all of us. Jason especially, and that till manifested itself in an unfortunate incident."

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Massachusetts 10th least corrupt states with a C grade

How corrupt and corrupt is the state of Massachusetts? The State Integrity Investigation, a $1.5 million public collaboration designed to expose the negative and highlight the positive practices of each state, released the results of a nationwide survey on Monday scoring the Massachusetts at an average "C+" letter grade. Massachusetts' top score received an "A," and the lowest score high enough to receive a "B." Massachusetts ranked No. 10 in the country with a score of 74 out of 100. The State Integrity Investigation said that its research was gathered by journalists in the state who conducted interviews based on "clear scoring criteria," which is then reviewed by editors at Global Integrity and the Center for Public Integrity and further examined by experts in the state independently, according to the organization's website. The state's lowest scored criteria was in "Accountability," while Massachusetts outright failed, and its "Legislative Accountability," which landed a "D." Massachusetts scored a solid "A" in its "Redistricting" criteria, however, and scored a "B" in "Political Financing."
Preventive action is necessary to better U.S.-Afghan relations

Michael Smith
Journal Contributor

In the past four months, three instances have proven to shake the bonds between the United States and Afghan governments. It began with the discovery of a video of four U.S. marines urinating on the dead bodies of Afghan people, and was followed by the burning of Korans in a landfill. More recently, Sergeant Robert Bales, 38, killed 16 Afghan civilians in one night. The Korans were reportedly put in an office where they were mistaken for trash, put in a landfill and burned.

On Sunday, March 11 Bales left his base at night, travelled to two villages by foot, and killed 16 civilians in their homes. Upon returning, he confessed what he had done.

Each instance gave rise to strong opposition among the Afghan people. This desecration of the Koran incited protests, which ended with the deaths of handfuls of people, both protestors and U.S. troops. These protests were increased following the recent murders. Tension between the U.S. and Afghanistan runs high as they demand Afghan trials for the perpetrators and push for an accelerated end to U.S. occupation in Afghanistan.

The reactions by the people have been severe, and not without due cause, but every story has two sides. Many view on war are black or white. Generalizations are made and there is more to the story than most people get. But in order to understand the implications of these events for the war as a whole, we have to understand everything else.

One of the biggest dilemmas in Afghanistan is the Taliban. One also has to consider why someone would support the Taliban. As of 2011, the Asia Foundation reported that "the number of people who said they sympathized with the aims of Taliban had dropped to 29 percent." The wording is vital. Support may come for the Taliban because some may feel it is a better means to live than what the present government offers. There may be others too who oppose foreign intervention and are very dissatisfied with the present government. It all amounts to how they have to live their lives. They may see the Taliban as the only other viable option without necessarily supporting all of their ideals.

However, one cannot ignore that support could be entirely genuine. Strong belief systems along with charismatic leaders and troubled situations can prove to be a breeding ground for radical ideas and actions.

And although there are many that may support the Taliban, many don't. A veteran, who wished to remain anonymous, commented on the dichotomy, saying "Some of the civilians would talk to us. Some would tell us where the enemy had put roadside bombs and tell us not to drive there."

"Many of the civilians," said the veteran, "have children and don't want their kids to get hurt." With the knowledge of where these devices were, the Explosive Ordnance Division would then disarm the bombs.

The Taliban, through acts of violence and murder, support of Al-Qaida, human trafficking and oppression, act as a common enemy for the United States and those Afghans who work with the U.S. soldiers. It is on those grounds that U.S. involvement can be appreciated.

The only way to think about the Afghan war, however, is through the purposes of the U.S. As long as there remains a potential threat in the country, the U.S. will probably not abandon it. With the understanding that the U.S. will stay in Afghanistan, these opinions do not relate to whether or not we should be there, but how we could perform best with the United States' goals, especially considering the actions of the past few months. We should, however, be able to act in the general interest of the Afghans.

Transferring power back to the Afghan government means both improving their government and attempting to eliminate Taliban-related threats. Leadership from an effective government that is neither violent nor oppressive, while still allowing the individual rights of the people, would help to create the stability that many people in the country want. This kind of government, without opposition from a violent regime, would allow the country to grow.

It seems, in this mode of thought, that the best option for the United States national security, and most likely Afghanistan's as well, would be to work together to create a stable government with no radical opposition. British Broadcasting Corporation surveys show that many Afghans oppose the Taliban. Waverering, but significant numbers also show that U.S. involvement is generally supported.

The events of the past four months have put a damper on the ties between the two governments, making cooperation more difficult and potentially strengthening the forces that both parties are trying to control. Even if the government and civilians understand that the actions recently committed by American soldiers, are in fact, isolated and not in line with U.S. ideals, one cannot ignore that they happened. People should not have to accept the vulgarity or disrespect of troops urinating on corpses or the burning of their sacred book, and civilians should not live in fear of being killed in their homes. Further trust can be difficult, especially considering Afghanistan's past.

Many agree on the final goal of U.S. involvement. But conditions can become worse, tensions can increase. When this happens, the goals are detracted from and people begin to question if the goal is worth the costs of American occupation. This shouldn't need to be asked. The U.S. has to take responsibility. Though these actions were not in line with the ideals, methods and goals of our military, an apology is not enough and the big picture must be taken into account. It is the job of our government and military operations to gain better control over the situation in order to prevent anything more like this. Psychological screening could be more thorough and the army must ensure that respect is kept towards the Afghan people and their culture. One shouldn't think of how to properly punish activities like these, but to act preventively to ensure they will not happen. Even if this means fewer troops are available to be stationed in the country, the reduction in military personnel is worth stable ties with the Afghan government and civilians.
world BRIEFS

Europe

LONDON, England – British soccer player Fabrice Muamba suffered a heart attack as his team faced off against Tottenham in an FA Cup Quarterfinal. The Bolton midfielder collapsed during the game last Saturday and was quickly rushed to a hospital. Once news of his cardiac arrest reached officials, the game was suspended. The-23-year old Congolese player was screened for heart defects four times prior to the incident, reports the Professional Footballer’s Association (PFA). “It’s still very early in the process,” said Bolton Manager Owen Coyle. “There is still a long way to go but there are encouraging signs ... and we pray he continues to improve.” The PFA has spent over $10 million on prevention for heart deficiencies over the past 20 years.

Asia

HATHRAS, India – fifteen people are dead after a taxi collided with a train in an unmanned rail crossing on the Madu tracks. The express train collided with a Jeep carrying 17 passengers as it was crossing the tracks on Tuesday, railway officials said. Railway accidents are common in India, the country with one of the busiest rail networks. Safety issues have been ignored over the past couple of years as the outdated trains are faced with overcrowding and lack of supervision. A recent report by an Indian government agency calculated the deaths due to train accidents to be roughly 15,000 a year in the world’s second most populated country.

South America

LIMA, Peru – The Peruvian government has cancelled a visit by the British ship HMS Montrose as an act of solidarity towards Argentina in its dispute over the Falkland Islands. Peruvian Foreign Minister Rafael Roncaglilo told news agencies that it respected and supported Argentina’s land rights over the islands. “This decision has been taken in the spirit of Latin American solidarity commitments undertaken in the framework of Unasur (Union of South American Nations) with regard to the legitimate rights of Argentina in the sovereignty dispute over the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding waters,” said Roncaglilo. Argentina and England have been at odds over territorial claims in the Falkland Islands, a conflict which lead to a short lived war 30 years ago. The Falkland Islands currently belong to England.
ICA exhibit figures colors

Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) presents an imaginative display of color and form in its new exhibition, "Figuring Color."

The exhibit, organized by ICA Senior Curator Jenelle Porter, features the works of four artists: Kathy Butterly, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Roy McMakin, and Sue Williams.

Separately, the various paintings, installations and sculptures hold the agendas of their creators, but in unity they serve to educate about the use of color and form in representing notions of the body, both physical and mental.

Ironically, a literal representation of the body never appears in the exhibition. "Each work in 'Figuring Color' uses color to represent a metaphorical body - a body rendered as vessel, pure color, abstraction, line, field, or allegory," Porter said in a press release. "At the beginning of the exhibition, color is used to evoke a physical representation of the body that becomes increasingly emotional as you move through the galleries."

Each of the four "Figuring Color" galleries communicates a new theme particular to the experience of color, form and the body.

The first gallery serves mainly to emulate the physical and exterior aspects of the body. Warm, fleshy colors blend coolly with the provocative forms of the art.

Butterly's small, glazed ceramic sculptures, whose promiscuous form and blend of fleshy and bright colors are intended to provoke, humor, and shock the viewer; certainly possess their own personalities.

A striking work by McMakin also resides in this gallery. A flesh-colored chair with a rounded bottom reminiscent of a human behind, it serves both to remind of the body (it is an object directly in contact with the body) and imitate it through its color and shape.

The second gallery introduces the use of color and form in its new exhibition. "Figuring Color."

The third gallery does well to portray a somber grey. Seen in the final gallery space are the lively works by each of the four artists, together for the first time in the exhibition. A small but significant encore appears near the exit, "Untitled (Pear)," Gonzalez-Torres' blue-tinted mirror, inviting visitors to view their own reflection.

"Figuring Color" will exhibit until May 20, 2012.


"Swinger" (2002) by Sue Williams.

"Untitiled (Lover Boys)" (1991) by Felix Gonzalez-Torres.
'Jeff, Who Lives at Home'

Ally Johnson
Journal Staff

Jeff, Who Lives at Home is one of those quiet films. It refuses to hit you over the head with a theme or meaning. It's a film that purposely spends the entirety of its time searching for its point. It doesn't meander through its plot, it isn't distracted, nor without a point in general. It's a film centered on the characters and their emotions rather than their motives.

Jeff, played by Jason Segel, believes in signs. He subscribes to the idea that nothing is without meaning and that everything and everyone is interconnected. He knows that he knows nothing about everything and everyone.

Mark Ingram, D-Lux and Phoenix Landing! Residents Re:Set Wednesdays at The Seaport World Trade Center.

Laura Mahony
Journal Contributor

The Help, written and directed by Tate Taylor, stars Emma Stone, Viola Davis, Octavia Spencer, Alison Janney, Bryce Dallas Howard, and Jessica Chastain. Based on the novel of the same name by Kathryn Stockett, the story follows the lives of two Jackson, Mississippi housemaids, Aibileen Clark (Davis) and Minny Jackson (Spencer), who are constantly belittled and beaten by their white authority figures. Trapped in their unforgiving lives, it's not until a compassionate and caring, aspiring white writer (Stone) comes along that the story begins to unfold and the Civil Rights era of the 1960s is recognized and reflected.

The Help is emotionally involving. I can't remember the last time I felt so in touch with the characters I was presented with. You feel like a part of their world just by watching. Their story is one that has the power to make us feel, to make us feel the pain in each and every racist remark or action.

Continue reading online:

Photo by Angela Bray

The Help: beautifully presented, unrealistically told

[Wed., nightlife] It's the one-year anniversary for Re:Set Wednesdays at The Phoenix Landing! Residents Mark Ingram, D-Lux and Randy Dreshers spin underground house music. [$5, 18+]

[Thurs-Sat., theater] Recent Tragic Events, a dazzling, thought-provoking whirlwind about fate and the seemingly random connections we make in life, will be at the Factory Theater. [$10]

[Thurs., nightlife] Make It New has Casero, Alan Manzi and Baltimororder playing house at Middlesex Lounge. [Free, 21+]

[Thurs., nightlife] Guest DJs Eludis and Rivas spin house, electro and top 40 mixes alongside residents Glowkids and Fuzz at GLOW Boston; Blast Energy will also be sampling energy drinks. [$15, 18+]

[Fri., dance] Boston Ballet company dancers perform classical ballet to contemporary works at the Strand Theater. [Free]

[Fri., nightlife] UK bass duo 16Bit come to Middle East Downstairs from West London; local talent make up the opening lineup. [$15, 18+]

[Fri., nightlife] Grand opening of enw nightclub Naga in Central Square. [$10, 21+]

[Fri-Sun., visual art] CraftBoston showcases and sells one-of-a-kind and limited edition pieces in contemporary art, craft and design from over 200 artists at the Seaport World trade Center. [$15]

[Sat., nightlife] Retro attitude is encouraged for Middle School Dance as DJs Damien Paul, Death Star and Poke Smot spin dance music from the 70s, 80s and 90s at Good Life. [$5, 21+]

Compiled by Angela Bray and PAO's Kristin Baker.

Continue reading online:

Photo by Angela Bray
You may be shocked by this, but Massachusetts fared pretty well in a recent nationwide survey that tried to measure the risk of corruption for each state. Actually, they fared well if you measure the standards through the eyes of an eighth-grader trying to convince their parents that a passing grade is acceptable. The Commonwealth received an overall grade of a "C".

Now we say you may be shocked by this due to the recent transgressions that have been committed by many politicians up on the Hill. Between former Speaker of the House Sal DiMasi's corruption conviction, former state senator Diane Wilkerson getting caught showing a bribe down her bra, or the massive patronage scandal that rocked the probation department (just to name a few), it is hard to imagine Massachusetts could even come close to a satisfactory grade. It may be because the test itself may be a little too lenient.

Advocates for the Freedom of Information Act claim that Massachusetts is one of the worst states in regard to responding to public records requests, while state agencies claim the problem is due to scarce resources. It has also been said that the laws themselves are not providing a proper amount of transparency. Massachusetts, after all, is one of 10 states that don't even have limited rights to view legislator's records.

So, then the question becomes why hasn't there been more done to deal with this problem? What is going on in the State House that requires information to be confidential? One major problem may be that the people who make the laws actually like operating within the current system, which makes it very hard to see a change coming soon. This could all change, though, with just a little persuasion by voters.

This issue is of dire importance. Transparency within the government is essential, yet in Massachusetts that doesn't seem to be the case. It is easier for politicians to operate under the current system because they do not have to answer to constituents as much as they should. This needs to change, and until it does we have one word for the Commonwealth: Unsatisfactory.

Moshing ban
an example of overregulation

Michael Christina
Journal Staff

When I heard that mosh pits were being banned in Boston, my first thought was that a couple of idiots had done something so over the top that it forced the city to step in. I mean, why else would something like moshing become a major safety concern for cops unless someone had gotten severely injured at a concert? Turns out, this just represents another overreaction by the powers that be because of the apparent lack of understanding for a particular culture.

Last week, The Boston Herald reported that the House of Blues had been cited by police for a license violation stemming from mosh pits during a February 21 Flogging Molly show. It was reported that close to 60 concertgoers engaged in "aggressive mosh pit dance." It also should be noted that no serious injuries were reported. Cops have since vowed that this type of behavior will not be tolerated anymore in the city of Boston.

My main problem with this decision is that, at least in my mind, it has been made without a proper look into what the slam-dance culture is actually about. I have to say that all of my experiences going to concerts where moshing was prevalent have been positive. Sure, the floor can get very aggressive at times. What needs to be understood, though, is that no one is ever forced into a pit. It is all by choice whether a person wants to hop in or not. It also needs to be understood that whenever anyone is knocked down, it is always proper etiquette that the pit slows down until the person is picked up.

I have certainly been knocked down during a few pits in my life, and every time there was someone there to pick me up immediately. In turn, I have always showed the same respect and have picked many fellow pit dwellers when they have fallen.

I recognize what it must look like from an outside perspective. The music is violent and mosh pits can amplify that particular intensity. But the point is it is not to go out with the implicit intention of hurting someone. It is instead meant to be a productive and often times positive output of aggression. We are all there with the same purpose—to have a good time. That's all. It may not be the Mayor's idea of a fun night out, but different things make different people tick. To automatically assume that something is harmful just because you may not fully understand it is unacceptable.

The House of Blues is a great venue for metal concerts. Unfortunately, this doesn't seem like it will be the case anymore. With the banning of moshing in Boston, many bands will probably move their concerts back to Worcester and the suburbs where it is still permitted. And that sucks for all of us who actually enjoyed going to concerts in the city.

I've never seen severe violence at any metal shows I have ever gone to. I have certainly seen severe violence just leaving random bars and clubs downtown. So under this current line of thinking, shouldn't drinking be banned to prevent possible injury in the future? I almost just laughed as I typed that. Of course drinking will never be banned because it brings in too much money for the city. Maybe it's just easy to ban moshing because of the nature of the culture. But when you start banning things based on what you are doing, it certainly can lead down a slippery slope. Take note Mayor Menino.
Kony campaign is a worthy undertaking

Victoria Greenleaf  
Journal Staff

If you have been anywhere near a computer in the last two weeks you are probably familiar with the Kony 2012 campaign, but how much is really known about it?

Joseph Kony is an African war criminal who heads a brutally violent rebel group called the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). This group has been abducting children to act as fighters since running out of willing members and abducting “wives” for existing members. All members are encouraged to rape, mutilate, and kill innocent civilians—usually with blunt objects. In 26 years, the LRA has abducted roughly 30,000 children and displaced around 2.1 million people.

Invisible Children is an organization which, for the past nine years, has been working to end Africa’s longest-running armed conflict. Although U.S. troops and military advisors are currently deployed there on a “time-limited” mission to help, they only have about a year to capture Kony, after which the mission will end and the window of opportunity will close.

Since the video has gone viral, millions of people across the Globe have stepped in to raise awareness—Facing shadow of promoting world peace, yet it has created quite a stir among Internet-using youth.

I hear people frequently talking about the Kony 2012 campaign, but it’s surprising to me that in reality, they don’t have a firm understanding of how dire it is. It makes me wonder whether or not this is an issue many people actually care about, or if it’s merely another passing Internet fad. It is true that a huge international problem such as this one needs more than just Internet promotion. Even with the great power that is the Internet at our fingertips, we seem to neglect what really matters and how a true political situation should be handled—with heart, perseverance, and action. Raising awareness is only the first step, but the rest cannot be done by everyday Internet users, it has to come from the politicians, influential figures, and government officials of the involved nations. The video demands international justice, but what it really does is show the youth of the world what just they are going to inherit when they gain control. Anarchy, war, injustice, and violence are quickly overtaking the peace, hope, and unity that should be so much more prominent.

I am tired of seeing more problems than solutions, and if the Occupy Movement, Arab Spring, or the SOPA and PIPA fiascos are any evidence, this is an issue many people don’t have a firm understanding of on the political front; you make the stance in the smoke-free campus.

Disdain for smokers has joined the movement, reblogged the video, and posted on Facebook, but the time for the political figures and peacekeepers to take action has come, and they need to step up to the plate and take the swing for all of us.

Smoke-free campuses show major discrimination problem

Ally Thibault  
Journal Staff

On March 1, Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government instated a new controversial smoke-free campus rule that forbids smoking on any Harvard owned outdoor property or even within 25 feet of building entrances or windows. Harvard has championed the policy as necessary to ensure public health while brushing aside the concerns of its smokers.

A press release on the school’s website proclaims the new rule as a measure meant to “promote good health” and “reduce any impacts from smoke upon [its] staff, faculty, and students.” While the document admits that this may be an “inconvenience for book posts, Tumblr reblogs, and Retweets have all helped to get the message of international justice to the people. Political figures and influential celebrities have also begun taking their part in solving the problem before it’s too late.

Recently, the viral video has been criticized in Uganda, where the rebel group LRA originated. It caused such a swell of negative feedback that the head of an Ugandan Charity Show has suspended the video from being screened, and although they support the capture of Kony, they felt that the conflict portrayed in the video was over-simplified and inaccurately featured quotes from students and staff alike praising the smoke-free policy. The staff member quoted, a smoker, believes the new policy will help her quit by preventing her from smoking on her breaks. While this may be a positive force for her, it is much more than “inconvenient” to other smokers.

If a student, faculty or staff member has a only a quick break between classes or job tasks to have a cigarette, then under the new policy they would need to leave the campus grounds to do so—an opportunity that may not be possible or practical.

One must remember that people on campus are all adults and have the legal right to smoke if they please. And smoking is often not so much the adult’s choice on a whim but actually a real addiction.

The thought of a university or any kind of entity controlling the amount of cigarette smoke in the airspace around it is laughable. If Harvard believes that second-hand smoke within 25 feet of their property is dangerous, how does moving it down the block stop the wind from taking it away? And how much does second-hand smoke really affect a passerby heading for a doorway?

The real reason behind this policy seems to center more around empowering a “nanny state” institution that thinks it knows what’s best for everyone—the smoke-free policy is essentially just hidden discrimination toward smokers.

Disdain for smokers has been widely accepted by our society as a whole. Besides Herman Cain’s bizarre campaign ad that tried to re-introduce smoking as cool, all other mainstream references to smoking have big red slashes through them. You’re not breaking any laws by smoking outside, but someone will still glare at you like you are.

There is a subtle, yet clear message in the smoke-free policy - Smokers, Harvard doesn’t want you standing out front; you make the school look bad.

It seems unlikely that Suffolk would ever try to implement a similar policy since our campus isn’t a contained area, but other schools in the area are considering the policy.

Smokers infamousely dominate the sidewalk space in front of Sawyer, but you’ll never see them in a candid snapshot series depicting student life on Suffolk’s website. Why not? Is Suffolk ashamed of its students for a legal, personal choice they make? Since when do universities have the power to decide what person smoke, acceptable and which should be condemned?

As schools in the area implement smoke-free campuses in the name of the public good, remember smokers are people too and shouldn’t have to be caged like animals for lighting up a cigarette or hidden from campus view,
Aries (3/21 - 4/19)
You are at the top of your game this week, and with this you'll find a new life resolution interesting. Consider something to reduce selfishness.

Taurus (4/20 - 5/20)
As the new moon energizes your goal setting, Jupiter gives you luck fortune; focus all of this on your professional life, and you're in for a good week.

Gemini (5/21 - 6/20)
Take hold of the steering wheel, because this week your life can handle a few sharp turns. Your reputation is open for tweaking.

Cancer (6/21 - 7/21)
The new moon this week focuses on your learning. Strive for high goals and absorb information from all sources.

Leo (7/22 - 8/22)
In this week of resolutions with the new moon, the best thing to do is focus on how to better handle shared things.

Virgo (8/23 - 9/22)
It's time to fine tune your close relationships. Become aware of your behavior and how it affects the people around you.

Libra (9/23 - 10/22)
Improvement can be found in every aspect of your life this week, particularly in your health. Get fit and live a most premium life!

Scorpio (10/23 - 11/21)
The new moon brings you the insight to review your romantic life in a new way. Also, make sure you are experiencing enough leisure time.

Sagittarius (11/22 - 12/21)
Although this month is centered on fun occasions, this week needs to be about your life at home. Make sure all is well.

Aquarius (1/20 - 2/19)
The new moon is giving you the boost you need to figure out how to spend your money. Make it efficient and fitting to your needs.

Pisces (2/19 - 3/20)
As there is always room for improvement, this week is all about your image. Adjusting your reputation or appearance will work well.

**Planet sight-seeing**

Venus among planets seen by the naked eye

- Michael Smith
  Journal Contributor

- If you have been out during the beginning of the evening for the past month there's a chance you've seen two very bright stars near the horizon. If you've been with me I will always stop, point them out and say "Look, it's Venus and Jupiter."

- Most people without a background in astronomy or stargazing don't believe me, but it's true.

- Since the end of February, this phenomenon could be seen, and it will be visible for a few weeks, especially if things like buildings or trees are not blocking the horizon to the west. As someone who has been stargazing for a few years, something like this is somewhat rare. To begin, Venus can sometimes be seen at night, but usually not for long. Most of the time to see this planet you will have to be up at 4 a.m. before the sun rises. Now, not only has the planet been visible in the night for about a month, but for at least a few hours at a time.

- To add to the relative rarity of this phenomenon, the planet is also seen right next to one of the other brightest things in the sky, Jupiter, an occurrence called a "Jupiter-Venus Conjunction."

- Both are the brightest objects in the sky except for the moon and the sun, which means they are brighter than the brightest star, Sirius, of the Canis Major constellation. Brightness is measured by something called apparent magnitude. Objects with an apparent magnitude of five or above are difficult or impossible to see in the city. When the number gets smaller, or negative more it reflects that the object is brighter in the sky. Venus has an apparent magnitude of somewhere between 4 and -5 while Jupiter tends to fall between -2 and -3. For comparison, the brightest star, Sirius, has an apparent magnitude of around -1.5.

- The planets give off light in the same way as the moon. They owe their brightness to the fact that they reflect light from the sun as opposed to producing light, the way the light of a star is generated. Venus is the brightest not only because it is the closest planet to the earth, but because all of its atmospheric gases reflect much of the sun's light towards us.

- If you want to find these planets, there are a few tricks. You will most likely see them by looking across the horizon in the evening and finding the two brightest things in the sky, but because all of its atmospheric gases reflect much of the sun's light towards us.

- If you are in the west, you can find the North Star, named because it remains in the same place (directly north) no matter what time of night (or day) it is. Knowing which direction is north, you can find the west. One more thing to note about the difference in appearance between stars and planets—planets will emit a solid light, while stars "twinkle."

- As time passes, both planets will come closer to the horizon each evening. Though they will still be in the sky in April, they will be more difficult to see because of how low they are, and an even later sunset will mean the sun will mask their light for more time into the evening. Regardless, this event, though not extremely rare, is worth seeing if you have interest in the stars. Venus and Jupiter are not the only two planets visible this month. Opposite from the two aforementioned planets is Mars shining its red hue in the night sky. Less spectacular than these three planets is Saturn, which modestly shows itself near the moon, and Mercury, which could only be seen after sunset during the first week of March.

**Horoscopes**

Compiled by Kleoniki Papadopoulos
Afshinios Armenis  
Journal Staff

The Boston Celtics have been consistently inconsistent. Since the second half of the shortened NBA lockout season has begun, the green have posted an 8-4 record where the season finally looked like it was taking a turn in the right direction.

Rajon Rondo was playing at a high level, Paul Pierce was finally scoring with a purpose and Kevin Garnett continued to anchor an unpredictable defense that seemed to give hope to Celtics fans around the league that even on the fifth year of a three year experiment “Danny Ainge signed up for, maybe just for a second, things could actually pan out.

After back-to-back overtime victories against the New York Knicks and Houston Rockets, it looked like Boston was putting their disappoenting first half behind them.

Rondo’s 18-point, 20-assist and 17-rebound performance against the Knicks put an end to the constant trade rumors and with St. Patrick’s Day around the corner, the luck of the Irish seemed to creep its way into the aging locker room.

For the assumed clash between the two clubs turned into a walk in the park for Philadelphia, as the Celtics only chances of winning the alleged, “critical” matchups were immediately eliminated as soon as they stepped foot on the court. The former champs are in the midst of an eight game road trip where they have found themselves on the losing end of three of their five matchups including a nail biter against thearchrival Lakers.

In this game, Rondo missed an acrobatic attempting at a game-tying three-pointer in the closing seconds and an untimely turnover at the buzzer where the1529 Sacramento Kings outscored Boston 68-44 in the second half, handing them their 20th loss of the season.

This was one of them that you just throw away, and Pierce, “You don’t even go to a tournament if you’re just throwing. Just throw this one away. You can’t explain it. We know this team isn’t 30 points better than us. We know we’re a better team than we showed.”

For Celtics fans though, it’s quite obvious that right or wrong. The Celtics are 1-6 when playing the second games of their back-to-backs on the road and constantly produce lackluster efforts when traveling to travel.

The former champs are on a tear this month as well, entering the last two and a half weeks, Boston has posted an 8-4 record since losing to the Rangers in the Winter Classic. Captain and top defenseman Zdeno Chara has stated that he would not play again this season after sustaining a concussion earlier in the year.

To top it all off for the Flyers, their decades long goaltending crisis has finally been solved by the fact that Captain Sidney Crosby, arguably the best player in the world, returned from a concussion towards the tail end of their win streak in a 5-2 victory over the Rangers at Madison Square Garden on March 15.

The concussion was sustained by Crosby last year, and had kept him sidelined for all but ten games this season prior to his collision against the Rangers. The fact that the Penguins put themselves in position to win the Eastern Conference without the healthier of the world’s best player only makes his return that much more important for the rest of the teams in the East.

It seems as though for the last couple of months, everyone had written off the Philadelphia Flyers as legitimate contenders. The team was being coasting at a .500 pace in the midst of their longest win streak from Pittsburgh, with an 11 game win streak that was snapped with 9 seconds left in overtime against Philadelphia this Sunday. The Penguins have been the best team in the league over the last month, and have shown no signs of slowing down. The importance of the loss can only be fueled by the fact that Captain Sidney Crosby, arguably the best player in the world, returned from a concussion towards the tail end of their win streak in a 5-2 victory over the Rangers at Madison Square Garden on March 15.

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Suffolk looking to increase student attendance at games

Jim Nelson hopes to change

Journal Staff

ing Organization and other one of many options for stu­

hops on a bus provided by

years, Suffolk has provided

which makes it difficult for

play their games in places

women’s soccer team as well

play their games in the fall foliage season.

In regards to baseball, the dates and times of their games

are what prove to be the biggest challenge in scheduling

buses for students.

“The 3:00 p.m. games

during the week make it

hard, but we are looking into

setting something up for even­
ging games - preferably later

in April when the weather is

a little bit warmer,” said Nel­

son, regarding the athletic de­

partment’s plans for the up­

coming baseball season.

Nelson hopes that

through the help of the vari­

ous organizations working

with the athletic department

that Suffolk can provide

transportation for its students

to at least two home games for

each soccer team next season.

Plans are also being worked

out in regards to the baseball
games at the moment.

Men's baseball struggles during opening stretch

Cl Haddad

Journal Staff

As the weather starts to

warm up here in New Eng­

land, the Suffolk University

men’s baseball team has been

hard at work down in Flori­
da where they have officially

thrown out the first pitch.

Last season, Suffolk post­
ed a 24-21 record overall,

-reaching the Eastern College

Athletic Conference semi­

inals but losing to the top­

seeded Endicott College.

This year, the Rams are

again looking to make some

noise in the Great Northeast

Athletic Conference and once

again punch their ticket to an

ECAC tournament berth.

Head Coach Carey Mc­

Connell continues to be the

driving motivation for this

year's Rams squad. After a

victory versus Johnson and

Whales during the GNAC

tournament last season, Mc­

Connell recorded his 400th

win as Suffolk University

skipper. McConnell was

hired in 1996 and has since

won five GNAC Coach of the

year awards and four GNAC

championships.

Last season was also the

13th consecutive year Suf­

colf has posted a 20 or better

season.

Two freshmen will look to

continue their first-season

success with the Rams. Devan

Jones (SS) and Jake Cintolo

(3B) will spend a lot of time next to each oth­

er as they each play short-stop

and third-base respectively.

Last season, both players

received NEIBA (New Eng­

land Intercollegiate Baseball

Association) second team

honors and were two of 52

selected.

Cintolo was impressive at the plate to say the least,

breaking the Suffolk Univer­
sity record for hits in a season

with 77 (previous record 69).

The third baseman finished

the season with a .383 batting

average and drove in 31 runs.

Jones finished the 2011

season right where he started,

in the three-hole for coach

McConnell, a lot of pressure

for a freshman. Jones must

have enjoyed the pressure

as he posted a .361 batting

average and led the Rams in

RBIs with 45. This freshman

also led the team in extra base

hits with seven home runs, 12

doubles, and four triples.

McConnell was encour­
gaged by his young right side

of the infield.

"Both Devan and Jake

had tremendous freshman

campaigns and we hope they

continue to build on their

early accomplishments to

have productive successful

careers here at Suffolk," said

McConnell. "Both players are

tremendous workers and are

both students of the game,

which should bode well not

only for them as players but

us a program."

In their first 10 contests of the season, Suffolk has found

itself in the win column only

three times.

Sophomore first baseman

Mike Muse has stood out as

he leads the team with a .368

batting average, five RBI, and

one home run. Sophomore

short stop Devan Jones leads

all Rams with nine RBI.

On the mound, junior

right-hander Jhonneris Men­
dez has been impressive

through two games. Mendez

posts a record of 2-0 with a

1.20 ERA. Mendez has also

fanned 14 batters in 15 in­
nings of work.

The Rams have returned

home from Florida and will

play away at Babson this af­
to

ernoon.

Their next home game will be played on Saturday

in a double-header against

Rhode Island College.