Donahue and Archer on the market

Thalia Yunen
Journal Staff

Suffolk University announced Tuesday its plan to sell the Donahue and Archer buildings, according to Vice President of Government and Community Affairs John Nucci. The buildings, which are located on Temple Street and share hallways connecting the two, are being sold by real estate company Jones Lang LaSalle. Nucci said there is no specific deadline on when to close of the sale, and "We're going to do our best to market the property."

News of the move was also announced to faculty Tuesday via email by Interim President Norman Smith. It was not clear what price will be asked for the properties, and JLL could not be reached for comment.

The two buildings host classrooms used by the College of Arts and Sciences. Donahue is also home to the financial aid office, registrar's office, and bursar's office.

A transition for the buildings was already in place, as all classrooms were planned to move into Suffolk's new building, 20 Somerset, starting in fall 2015. The Boston Business Journal first wrote on Friday that Suffolk was interested in selling the buildings.

Smith said in the email that the buildings will likely be occupied by Suffolk until the end of the 2015-16 year.

"One of the core planning principles of our master plan with the city of Boston has been to move much of the classroom activity away from residential Beacon Hill," Primarily, the reason for the sale is simply that we are excited and looking forward to the opening of 20 Somerset in the fall," said Nucci. However, in an interview with The Suffolk Journal in December 2012, former president James McCarthy said the university was not planning to sell the Donahue and Archer buildings because they were home to the financial aid and bursar's office, as well as the C. Walsh Theatre. The Archer building was

"What we had requested of Sodexo is that they survey all neighborhood eateries and assemble all the prices being offered for comparable products, then take an average price for each comparable product and re-price the product at the same price point, fountain soda will be included."

If you've bought food on campus this semester, you may or may not have noticed a drop in prices.

During winter break, Interim President Norman Smith partnered with Sodexo to reduce prices of food and beverages for all vendors on campus, the change being one of many steps in his mission to centralize campus and improve Suffolk's visibility.

In an email sent to the Journal, Smith said, "Sodexo, at my request, conducted an outside survey of all commonly served items and reduced prices so that all on-campus prices are below the neighborhood average. In some cases, like salads, the prices dropped by $1."

According to Inside Suffolk, Suffolk University's internal publication, Sodexo management conducted this survey on food outlets like Pret A Manger at Downtown Crossing, Starbucks at Government Center, and Panera Bread on Tremont Street.

According to the publication, Smith wanted to make changes after noticing the "large number of students and staff who would come into 73 Tremont each day with food bags from outside vendors."

"Cafe 73 in particular has experienced many changes. According to Sodexo, the updated menu will include flatbreads and other offerings, all sandwiches will be served with kettle chips, packaged and fresh juice in a grab & go cooler will be sold at a reduced price point, fountain soda will be included. In the future at cross-campus pricing, and new combos, bundles, and value offers featuring fountain beverages will be included."

"What we had requested of Sodexo is that they survey all neighborhood eateries and assemble all the prices being offered for comparable products, then take an average price for each comparable product and re-price the product at the same price point, fountain soda will be included."

Smith, Sodexo slash dining costs

Thalia Yunen
Journal Staff

Art Loan Program canceled

Senior Lab Instructor Paul Andrade offers his thoughts on the terminated program.

See story on page 4
New ad campaign aims to build image of university

Heather Rutherford
Journal Staff

In the heart of Boston, Suffolk University has been ranked by the Princeton Review among the best colleges and business schools in the country, and is among "Boston's Global Top 5." The university's new advertisement campaign was in motion to not only accentuate its positive image, but to tell its success stories to build upon its positive reputation.

Suffolk University's Chief Marketing Officer Dan Essex worked with Ramapo College in promotion and advertising agency that specializes in higher education integrated marketing, according to its website.

"If this campaign hits the right note, it's going to have the impact we're looking for," Essex said. The motivation behind the new advertisements comes from Interim President Norman Smith's vision to bring light to Suffolk's accomplishments, he said.

Suffolk's previous marketing strategy put in place by former president James McCarthy included advertisements displayed around the city. Devito/Verdi, the company who created ads for that campaign, is well-known for its keen ability to turn heads with its provocative ads. Smith's first action in office was canceling the campaign.

"Stamats has come to the university, they've met with the president and faculty, and they've met with a number of people here on campus to get to know the university," Essex said. "This is the first step in a long process to build the image of the university."

"This is the first step in the long process to build the image of the university."

-- Dan Essex

Stamats creates higher education marketing for institutions including the University of South Carolina, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Hastings College, Providence College, Norwich University, University of Michigan, Buena Vista University, and Ramapo College.

The overall tone of this campaign is to "position Suffolk as a success story," Essex said, stressing its rankings and the fact that Suffolk is one of the top five global universities in Boston.

In addition to new advertisements that can be seen on the MITA, and recently featured in The Boston Globe and The Boston Herald, a new brochure sent to students portrays the university in a new light.

"Brochures were distributed to high school and college counselors to build the visibility of the university," Essex said. The new advertisements are primarily focused on increasing Suffolk's visibility in the greater Boston area.

Brochures that were also sent to current and prospective students exemplify the university's points of distinction, profiles its students and alumni and their success stories. It "gets across the student experience and benefit of getting an education in the heart of Boston," said Essex.

Being an alum himself, Essex points out that he is "really focusing that we are centrally located, and the opportunities and outcomes of that experience."

The new ad campaign is hoping to help the university become closely aligned with Boston's top schools.

"Anytime you can put Suffolk in the same tone as Harvard and MIT, that's the message we're trying to get across," Essex said.

Suffolk moving toward a more centralized campus

From SALE page 1

the original home of Suffolk Law School, and was built in 1920, with a two-story addition added in 1937. Donahue was constructed in 1966. According to a school spokesman, the city assessed the properties for fiscal year 2015 at $29,081,956 for Archer and $16,068,980 for Donahue.

The plan to put these buildings on the market comes after Suffolk sold the Fenon building last summer.

Beyond the offices and classroom buildings, there is also the main common space for students. The fourth floor has seating and pool tables for students, and also has space for multiple student clubs.

Nucci said all of the current uses in Archer and Donahue will be absorbed by 20 Somerset. However, in the email sent by Suffolk, the department director said some faculty offices will move to 73 Tremont, graduate programs will move to the Law School, and that some of the activities held in Donahue and Archer will be able to move to

vacated space in Sawyer. Activities that take place in the C. Walsh Theatre will also be moved to other facilities in downtown, Nucci said.

"We are working on a plan to replace those activities that take place in the C. Walsh Theatre. Activities may be absorbed into other facilities about the campus," said Nucci.

Dean Kenneth Greenberg, who will be stepping down from his position as dean and moving into teaching next year, said, "I've been around Suffolk since 1978. Archer and Donahue are part of my life. There's a nostalgic feeling and I'm sad to see them go."

However, Greenberg noted that it is a wise decision for the university.

"The bottom line is the university is obligated to use students' money in the wisest and most efficient way possible," said Greenberg.

Theatre Department Chair Marilyn Plotkins was visibly upset regarding the plan to sell both buildings. She had learned only a few minutes before interviewing with the journal that the buildings were officially on the market, although she said that she knew this was coming for two years.

"We are hopeful the university will be able to procure space for the multiple-use capacity that we now enjoy," said Plotkins.

Patrick Heaton, the director of the office of orientation and new student programs was startled to hear the news was official for seeing an article from the Boston Business Journal on the matter.

"I'm curious about the university plan," said Heaton. "I'm particularly interested in what will happen to the Theatre Department and the C. Walsh Theatre."

Surprise spread to students as well.

"I was just confused," said Devin Longland when she learned of the plan to sell the buildings. As a student employee of the office of orientation and new student programs, she was curious as to where the buildings' clubs and offices would go.

"It just seems kind of silly," said Longland, a senior in the psychology department. "Would you jump the gun?" SGA President Tyler LeBlanc was more optimistic about the plan.

"I think it's exciting," he said. "It just means that there's other opportunities on the horizon as far as space."

SGA is planning on supporting clubs as they prepare to vacate current offices and move into another space.

"That's our biggest thing right now that we're pushing forward with administration," said LeBlanc. "We want to make sure that there is student space, student hang out space, space for clubs and organizations."

Whether students and faculty agree with the change or not, it is clear that Smith's plan to centralize the campus is in effect.

President of the Beacon Hill Civic Association Mark Kiefer said the group has "long supported" the conversion of changing the university buildings into 'low impact' housing, particularly focusing units for families.

"While many final decisions remain outstanding, we presently see great promise for improved conditions for virtually all activities currently operating in the Temple Street buildings," Smith said.

Melissa Hanson, Haley Peabody, and Will Senar contributed to this report.
Brigitte Carreiro
Journal Staff

"There's so much potential for anyone to do anything. Anyone can succeed in this world. As long as you want it and have that drive and self-motivation, you're going to succeed." So said senior Will Dasco, an accounting major getting ready to jumpstart his career.

With graduation looming, seniors are making major decisions that will shape their lives following the end of their Suffolk University career. For some, this can be an intimidating process.

"Choosing your career is obviously one of the most significant decisions you will make in your life, and when you want to find a career that makes you happy and fits your interests, not knowing exactly what's going to happen can be stressful," said senior marketing and management student and SGA Secretary Dennis Harkins. "But it's also exciting!

Searching for a successful, enjoyable job as a student and SGA Secretary, Harkins said, can be difficult, but for Dasco, working at Hillstone Restaurant in Faneuil Hall for the past couple of years has made his choices easier.

"I feel like I've changed as an individual by working there," he said. "I realized I wanted to move up in the company."

As a result, Dasco accepted an offer for the restaurant's management program and will soon be moving to Washington, D.C. to pursue a full-time career in restaurant management.

Finding success after graduating from college is an objective that most will strive toward for many years. Some Sawyer Business School students are feeling the pressure, but are using it to motivate them to achieve their goals.

In addition to finding a job, students will make the decision of whether or not to pursue graduate school, which Harkins decided early on was something he wanted to do.

"Given that graduate degrees are almost a requirement now for many careers, I wanted to continue my education while I'm already in the mindset of being a full-time student," Harkins said.

He plans to start a one-to-two year graduate program in September and is looking into the Suffolk, John F. Kennedy School of Government, and Boston University programs.

According to Dasco, pursuing a business degree was not always his plan. Starting as a biology major to fulfill a childhood dream of working in medicine, he realized that the program was not the right fit for him and moved on to the business school.

"I've always been very business-oriented. I always knew that it was my alternative to medicine," he said.

Harkins also took time to realize what he wanted at Suffolk, and said that he spent almost two years figuring out his path.

As an accounting major, Dasco said that although careers in the field are very high in demand, he feels that searching for a job is still extremely difficult.

"I don't think it's ever been easy, and it's especially difficult nowadays," he said. "We're competing with 60 other schools, so you need to do everything you can to make yourself stand out."

Dasco said that the demand to find a job immediately after finishing college is definitely an obstacle.

"Everyone talks about 'the real world' as if it's this anomaly. As a senior, you feel so much pressure to get out there and find the job of your dreams," he said.

Despite the difficult search, Suffolk provides resources that Dasco believes are invaluable. He mentioned that SBS provides helpful professional development, resume-building and bringing business representatives to campus.

"Suffolk has all of these seemingly simple things that people write off," he said. "There are some brilliant people that work at this school and genuinely want to help students. People just need to take advantage of the resources."

Harkins agrees, and said that figuring out exactly what to do after graduating college is both difficult and thrilling.

"It can be stressful, but it's because it's one of the most exciting decisions you'll make about your future," he said.

Sodexo adjusts rates, competes with average street prices

Sodexo, the food vendor for Suffolk University, has extended beyond campus to serve the East End and city residents. In the past couple of years has introduced a program partnership with AppGard, which, according to Sodexo, will be similar to that of CVS and Starbucks' loyalty reward program. Sodexo is currently waiting for the IT department to approve the utilization of Suffolk IDs for this program.

"Hopefully this will reduce the exodus of those students and staff who are most financially challenged and add to the positive reaction of everyone else," said Smith.

In addition to this, Suffolk will also be introducing a program partnership with AppCard, which, according to Sodexo, will be similar to that of CVS and Starbucks' loyalty reward program. Sodexo is currently waiting for the IT department to approve the utilization of Suffolk IDs for this program.

In regards to NESAD, there has been no firm decision made on moving NESAD closer to Suffolk's campus, although Smith said the intentions are to try to move it closer to the central campus.

Both President Smith and Nucci have confirmed that there will be an upcoming Campus Forum where Smith will address many of the changes happening at Suffolk.
Partnership with NESAD canceled

Suffolk University has canceled its Art Loan Program with New England School of Art and Design. In the past, this collaboration between NESAD faculty allowed for work by the faculty to be displayed in offices in the 73 Tremont building, according to Paul Andrade, a senior lab instructor at NESAD. However, the Suffolk Law School’s Art Loan Program is still in effect.

The program began eight to 10 years ago at the Law School and has since grown. According to Andrade, the Law School had a small budget for artwork, most of it from a corporate loan program with some of the established Newbury Street galleries. The Law School invited faculty to join the program, and faculty could submit their work for approval.

According to Andrade, if the artwork is borrowed, the university takes it on loan and pays the artist a yearly fee until the asking price of the piece is paid. All of the work is priced on equal loan terms rather than by an appraiser on an annual contract with each artist.

To clarify, Andrade explained that if a piece is accepted by the university and the artist to be worth $500, the artist will have a contract with the university to be paid $100 per year for five years.

Andrade, whose artwork was on display through the program, said he thought the program was a great way to connect a somewhat segregated campus.

“It got a lot of us engaged in going over there and looking at the space and we got to meet some of the deans. We got to meet some of the students who got to look at the work on an everyday basis,” said Andrade.

“I know it made me feel that they respected what we were doing and they respected that we are creative people and they didn’t forget about us.”

“Just pure conjecture, I believe the school is looking for a way to use those funds that are more student-centric.”

— Paul Andrade

When faculty needed to decorate a blank wall, they could request the artwork straight from NESAD. It’s nice to have original work whether it comes from NESAD or if you go to another gallery. When you have original work, it says volumes about what you value,” Andrade said. “Obviously, Suffolk doesn’t value posters, they value something called artists. They value something that is handmade, made in a limited amount of time. It was a really nice thing that they’ve done.

A Suffolk University spokesman did not respond to a request for comment. College of Arts and Sciences Dean Kenneth Greenberg said he was aware of the cancellation but was not aware of any reason for it.

Andrade, who has 34 pieces at 73 Tremont, said he has spoken with administrators and faculty about Art Loan, and said the general consensus is that they love the program. He said people in the building requested his work and believes this is because his art is full of bright colors and is very similar to modern art without being challenging or controversial.

Faculty was informed six months before the cancellation that the program would not be continued in 73 Tremont, although the Law School’s program is still ongoing. However, a specific reason for the eradication was not provided, according to Andrade.

Andrade was affected by the cancellation, and although he wishes for it to continue, he understands the university had a reason for terminating it.

“I felt like it was an end of an era. I felt that the school couldn’t afford to place their resources in that department,” said Andrade. “Just pure conjecture, I believe the school is looking for a way to use those funds that are more student-centric.”

In a separate effort, the Student Government Association has created a program in which student work from NESAD is on display in Sawyer Library.

Friends come together after sophomore’s home destroyed by blaze

Melissa Hanson
Journal Staff

It is widely known that the people you meet your freshman year of college can easily become your closest friends for the next four years, and perhaps beyond.

Sophomore Francesca Nardelli, Caroline Stern, and Niki Russell are no exception. Friends since freshman year, Stern and Russell found out Nardelli’s home in Walpole burned to the ground and perhaps beyond.

Suffolk University has canceled its Art Loan Program with New England School of Art and Design. In the past, this collaboration between NESAD faculty allowed for work by the faculty to be displayed in offices in the 73 Tremont building, according to Paul Andrade, a senior lab instructor at NESAD. However, the Suffolk Law School’s Art Loan Program is still in effect.

The program began eight to 10 years ago at the Law School and has since grown. According to Andrade, the Law School had a small budget for artwork, most of it from a corporate loan program with some of the established Newbury Street galleries. The Law School invited faculty to join the program, and faculty could submit their work for approval.

According to Andrade, if the artwork is borrowed, the university takes it on loan and pays the artist a yearly fee until the asking price of the piece is paid. All of the work is priced on equal loan terms rather than by an appraiser on an annual contract with each artist.

To clarify, Andrade explained that if a piece is accepted by the university and the artist to be worth $500, the artist will have a contract with the university to be paid $100 per year for five years.

Andrade, whose artwork was on display through the program, said he thought the program was a great way to connect a somewhat segregated campus.

“It got a lot of us engaged in going over there and looking at the space and we got to meet some of the deans. We got to meet some of the students who got to look at the work on an everyday basis,” said Andrade.

“I know it made me feel that they respected what we were doing and they respected that we are creative people and they didn’t forget about us.”

“Just pure conjecture, I believe the school is looking for a way to use those funds that are more student-centric.”

— Paul Andrade

When faculty needed to decorate a blank wall, they could request the artwork straight from NESAD. It’s nice to have original work whether it comes from NESAD or if you go to another gallery. When you have original work, it says volumes about what you value,” Andrade said. “Obviously, Suffolk doesn’t value posters, they value something called artists. They value something that is handmade, made in a limited amount of time. It was a really nice thing that they’ve done.

A Suffolk University spokesman did not respond to a request for comment. College of Arts and Sciences Dean Kenneth Greenberg said he was aware of the cancellation but was not aware of any reason for it.

Andrade, who has 34 pieces at 73 Tremont, said he has spoken with administrators and faculty about Art Loan, and said the general consensus is that they love the program. He said people in the building requested his work and believes this is because his art is full of bright colors and is very similar to modern art without being challenging or controversial.

Faculty was informed six months before the cancellation that the program would not be continued in 73 Tremont, although the Law School’s program is still ongoing. However, a specific reason for the eradication was not provided, according to Andrade.

Andrade was affected by the cancellation, and although he wishes for it to continue, he understands the university had a reason for terminating it.

“I felt like it was an end of an era. I felt that the school couldn’t afford to place their resources in that department,” said Andrade. “Just pure conjecture, I believe the school is looking for a way to use those funds that are more student-centric.”

In a separate effort, the Student Government Association has created a program in which student work from NESAD is on display in Sawyer Library.

Friends come together after sophomore’s home destroyed by blaze

Melissa Hanson
Journal Staff

It is widely known that the people you meet your freshman year of college can easily become your closest friends for the next four years, and perhaps beyond.

Sophomore Francesca Nardelli, Caroline Stern, and Niki Russell are no exception. Friends since freshman year, Stern and Russell found out Nardelli’s home in Walpole burned to the ground and perhaps beyond.

Nardelli headed back home, with Stern next year. But now, she said she is just trying to figure out what is going on.

As Nardelli looks for a permanent place to stay, her friends have been helping her along the way, offering up their apartments for temporary shelter.

Nardelli, who thinks she might want to work with Nike someday to design athletic wear, had been saving money in a plan to get an apartment with Stern next year. But now, she’s not sure if that is in the realm of possibility.

For now, she said she is "just to know there are people willing to help out."
Venezuela's empty shelves

Venezuela suffers basic goods shortage, crashing oil prices

Dani Marrero
Journal Staff

Long lines outside of supermarkets waiting for basic items such as butter, diapers, and bottled water have been observed in the streets of Venezuela recently, as reported by multiple Suffolk students who visited their home country during the winter break.

Photos of empty shelves at stores controlled by the national government have been circulating social networks as President Nicolas Maduro warns other Latin American governments to "not stick [their] stinking noses into the affairs of the Venezuelan people," as reported by AP.

"The government has become filled by dishonest, selfish government officials."

- Daniel Billembourg

Daniel Billembourg, a sophomore from Venezuela, describes the Venezuelan government and politics as "backwards."

"The Venezuela my father and grandfather knew is very different of the Venezuela of today," he said.

The shortages come after Maduro has been struggling with the falling oil prices. According to the New York Times, the price per barrel has dropped to $38 last month from $96 in September.

While Venezuela is accustomed to seeing a shortage and regulation of staples, the wait time of the lines at the markets has become to hours-long, and law enforcement has had to step in to regulate traffic and monitor lines, as reported by NYT.

Certain goods are regulated so that citizens cannot acquire more than a specified amount weekly, according to The Washington Post, so the government has started using a system "based on government identification numbers," contributing to the longer waiting periods. But not only are households being deprived of basic goods. The economic crisis has also affected restaurants and hospitals in the country.

McDonald's is no longer serving french fries, as potatoes are out of stock, according to NYT. They have been replaced with arepas, a flatbread most popular in Venezuela and Colombia made of cooked flour or corn maize.

On more essential items, such as medicine, hospitals and clinics have been scrambling to find the medications they need to carry out their usual business.

"We are getting to a breaking point," Dr. Gaston Silva, the head of cardiovascular surgery at the University Hospital of Caracas, said to NYT. "If one thing is lacking, O.K. If there are no automobile parts, we'll see. Food, that's problematic. But health care, that's more problematic. Where will it end?"

Surgeries are being postponed and clinics are being closed due to lack of necessary materials needed to take care for their patients. Doctors have started reaching out for help in the U.S. to send medications for emergency surgeries and procedures.

"The government has become filled by dishonest, selfish government officials," Billembourg said.

"The government has become filled by dishonest, selfish government officials."

- Daniel Billembourg

Jonathan Acosta
Journal Staff

After living abroad for more than four years, every time I get to go back home means a lot to me. Overtime, I realize how great my decision was of leaving Venezuela when I was 15.

The first time I went back I was still a teen, and, for me, nothing had changed in my city. All the business were still busy, and life in Lecheria was still the same.

But after year, I found myself going back less and less often. In this last trip I took to Venezuela, it had been more than two years since the last time I had visited.

My ignorance about the actual situation of my country was shown at the moment my plane landed in. All the passengers need to go to the gate three to pick up their luggage, as instructed by the pilot. But what I didn't know was that gate three was just a connected walkway to the back of the plane. Everyone would have to jump over other people picking up their own luggage to reach to the back door of the plane and wait until someone throw our bags to the pit of angry people.

Three days passed before I went out to explore the city, only to discover the mess I was living in. Driving around town, I saw that most of the supermarkets had lines of more than 200 people waiting outside, and when I asked my mom why that was happening, she replied, "It is diapers day." How come a country as rich as Venezuela has people waiting in line for three or four hours outside the supermarket because they haven't had any diapers for the past two months?

How will this society recover from this shift that has families using fabric as diapers, like in the ancient age, and then wake up at 5 a.m. the next day to wait a four hour line to get disposable diapers?

Right after the diapers episode, I went to fill up my car at the gas station. Knowing that Venezuela has been an exporter of oil for the past century, I was not shocked when I saw how much I payed to fill my Ford Fiesta. I payed six bolivares, which actually shocks me how much this is in dollars.

One dollar right now is 186 bolivares. So for one average Venezuelan, the minimum wage is not even close to what they would actually need to survive and maintain a family in the country.

By Jonathan Scoota Abi Hassan/ Journal Staff

Venezuelans wait in line outside of supermarkets in the city of Lecheria.

Jonathan Acosta Abi Hassan/ Journal Staff

After living abroad for more than four years, every time I get to go back home means a lot to me. Overtime, I realize how great my decision was of leaving Venezuela when I was 15.

The first time I went back I was still a teen, and, for me, nothing had changed in my city. All the business were still busy, and life in Lecheria was still the same.

But after year, I found myself going back less and less often. In this last trip I took to Venezuela, it had been more than two years since the last time I had visited.

My ignorance about the actual situation of my country was shown at the moment my plane landed in. All the passengers need to go to the gate three to pick up their luggage, as instructed by the pilot. But what I didn't know was that gate three was just a connected walkway to the back of the plane. Everyone would have to jump over other people picking up their own luggage to reach to the back door of the plane and wait until someone throw our bags to the pit of angry people.

Three days passed before I went out to explore the city, only to discover the mess I was living in. Driving around town, I saw that most of the supermarkets had lines of more than 200 people waiting outside, and when I asked my mom why that was happening, she replied, "It is diapers day." How come a country as rich as Venezuela has people waiting in line for three or four hours outside the supermarket because they haven't had any diapers for the past two months?

How will this society recover from this shift that has families using fabric as diapers, like in the ancient age, and then wake up at 5 a.m. the next day to wait a four hour line to get disposable diapers?

Right after the diapers episode, I went to fill up my car at the gas station. Knowing that Venezuela has been an exporter of oil for the past century, I was not shocked when I saw how much I payed to fill my Ford Fiesta. I payed six bolivares, which actually shocks me how much this is in dollars.

One dollar right now is 186 bolivares. So for one average Venezuelan, the minimum wage is not even close to what they would actually need to survive and maintain a family in the country.

By Jonathan Scoota Abi Hassan/ Journal Staff

Venezuelans wait in line outside of supermarkets in the city of Lecheria.
Dani Marrero  
Journal Staff

About 50 people would show up every week at A.N.’s home to attend the secret Christian sermon led by her father in a town near Ho Chin Minh City. Fearing persecution by Vietnamese authorities, most religious ceremonies were usually held in houses where they hoped to share the word of God without disturbances.

But A.N., a Suffolk junior and international relations major, recalled one instance where the police knocked on her door during a sermon on Sunday morning.

“In Vietnam, we faced a lot of persecution,” said A.N., who has chosen to remain unnamed for fear of retribution if she tries to re-enter Vietnam. “The police would come and they would take everyone to police station and ask questions. One time, they came to my house and did that, but my dad was hiding, so they didn't find him. But they kept asking us who the leader was.”

The weekly gatherings would begin at 5 a.m. every Sunday lower the chances of being seen. Home churches, as described by A.N., are common in Vietnam.

“In the context of Vietnam,” she said, “it is very different. We don't have that many Christians. For example, in my class, I would be the only one who was a Christian, and at that time it wasn’t accepted.”

A.N., 23, was born in 1991 in Ho Chin Minh City, but grew up in a smaller city nearby. She attended public school in Vietnam up to 11th grade, where she describes the education consisting of “just memorizing a lot of things. You don’t really have your own thinking.”

In 2006, a friend of her father who was a pastor in Dorchester invited them to take over the church he was leading at the time. Because of personal issues, the friend had to move to Texas and needed someone to fill the vacancy.

A.N., trying to get prepared for her transition to an American high school, took a gap year to study English in Vietnam. However, it was the first time the church in Dorchester was inviting a foreigner to become their pastor, and navigating through the paperwork required by immigration took them longer than anticipated.

A.N. returned to school in Vietnam a year later, but continued taking English classes with a private tutor.

Her family finally moved to the Fields Corner neighborhood in 2009, a place known to be home to a large Vietnamese community in Dorchester.

“The first night we got to America, I saw all the Vietnamese signs,” A.N. recalled. “I asked my parents, ‘Is this really America?’”

A.N. enrolled in Excel High School in South Boston, a public school that has a large Vietnamese student population. She repeated 11th grade by choice.

“I started 11th grade here because it’s hard to just have one year to prepare for college,” she said. “A lot of kids my age went straight to community college, but because they didn’t really know English, a two-year program would take them four years.”

Her three years of English classes in Vietnam paid off upon arriving to Massachusetts; she was able to opt out of ESL courses and take regular English classes.

But another challenge arose when she graduated from Excel. Without a social security number, she could not apply for financial aid.

In 2010 and 2011, I was supposed to be applying for colleges,” A.N. said, “but I couldn’t apply for financial aid because I didn’t have one.”

In 2011, my dad passed away, and that’s when my mother and I applied for refugee status. We got approved in about six months.”

With her refugee status granted, she applied to Suffolk and was awarded the Nathan Miller scholarship, which provides full-tuition coverage for students that attended a Boston public school.

“I decided I actually wanted to move to another state where we have family,” A.N. said. “But I applied to Suffolk, and they covered all of my tuition. So we decided to stay.”

A.N. would like to visit Vietnam and her family that still lives there one day, but because of her refugee status, it is not recommended that she return until she becomes a U.S. citizen. But she plans to stay in the U.S. after graduation.

“My mother and I just have more opportunities here,” she said.

Cuba and US discuss differences, diplomatic talks ensue

Will Senar  
Journal Staff

The U.S. has announced plans to ease diplomatic relations with Cuba after more than 50 years of placing the embargo.

“We are taking steps to increase travel, commerce and the flow of information to and from Cuba,” said President Barack Obama in a statement, on Cuba policy changes. “This is fundamentally about freedom and openness and also expresses my firm belief that freedom and openness of people to people engagement.”

This move to ease relations has been seen as a way to get rid of sanctions that has been around since 1961. Ten presidents have been in power since then, and there has been no progress on the Island toward a democracy, nor has it been an effective approach, as described by Obama.

The Senate has also been trying to push for a lift of all travel restrictions from the United States to Cuba. USA TODAY reported that a bipartisan group of senators are introducing the bill.

"Americans simply ought to have the right to travel wherever they want to unless there's a compelling national security reason," Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., said to USA Today. According to The AP, the U.S. and Cuba closed two days of historic talks which saw some progress in diplomatic relations between the two countries. But there is still some differences over the role of human rights.

However, according to The AP, there are discrepancies whether there were talks about human rights. Roberta Jacobson, the most senior official to visit the country in more than 30 years, said the U.S. raised the issue in the morning but Josefina Vidal, Cuba’s top diplomat with the U.S., said there was no mention of it.

Also reported by The AP, Gustavo Machin, deputy chief of North American Affairs for Cuba, said the delegations talked about U.S. human rights problems, like Michael Brown in Ferguson and Eric Garner in New York, in the afternoon session. They also complained about the detention of prisoners in Guantanamo Bay.

Judge Isaac Borenstein, a visiting professor at the Suffolk Law School and someone who calls Havana as his hometown, mentioned that when he and some law students travelled to Cuba in January, they were well received during the trip, and that locals were welcoming to the law students.

"They have a different system," said Borenstein. "Do people go about their business like we do? Yes, on a day-to-day basis. Except for being a different culture, I didn't notice harsher conditions for Cubans."

There has also been a demand from Cuban President Raul Castro to return Guantanamo Bay and a complete lift of the trade embargo. However, Borenstein feels that the nature of Guantanamo will not be a dealbreaker for the negotiations.

"It hasn't killed the negotiations. From a Cuban perspective, I can see that they're a sovereign nation and don't want an American base there ... I could see, working that issue out we work out a relationship that ensures a relationship," said Borenstein. "I don't see it as a deal breaker. Guantanamo, it's more symbolic, now we don't need one as opposed to 50 years ago, I don't think it's an issue as people think."

Dani Marrero  
Journal Staff

The church in Dorchester where A.N.'s family first congregated when they arrived in the U.S.

The church in Dorchester where A.N.'s family first congregated when they arrived in the U.S.

Fleeing religious persecution, student moves to US from Vietnam

Fleeing religious persecution, student moves to US from Vietnam
The attack in Paris at the Charlie Hebdo headquarters is now classified as terrorism, according to NPR. The two brothers responsible for the shooting had been followed by the French authorities and were identified as textbook cases of radicalization, according to The Independent.' The Independent reported that a recent graduate of the University of Lille, Sylvain Gaulier, who was known to the authors of Charlie Hebdo, is now in prison. Gaulier was reported to have been radicalized after his return to France, where he lived in Lille, France, after attacks in Paris.

Protests in support of Charlie Hebdo in Lille, France after attacks in Paris.

*Alexa Gagosz*
*Journal Staff*

The attack in Paris at the Charlie Hebdo headquarters is now classified as terrorism, according to NPR. The two brothers responsible for the shooting had been followed by the French authorities and were identified as textbook cases of radicalization, according to The Independent. Gaulier was reported to have been radicalized after his return to France, where he lived in Lille, France, after attacks in Paris.

Protests in support of Charlie Hebdo in Lille, France after attacks in Paris.

*Alexa Gagosz*
*Journal Staff*

The attack in Paris at the Charlie Hebdo headquarters is now classified as terrorism, according to NPR. The two brothers responsible for the shooting had been followed by the French authorities and were identified as textbook cases of radicalization, according to The Independent. Gaulier was reported to have been radicalized after his return to France, where he lived in Lille, France, after attacks in Paris.
Suffolk performers gear up for bustling spring season

Haley Peabody
Journal Staff

As yet another semester begins for Suffolk students, both the Theatre Department and Performing Arts Office are gearing up to present their spring line-up of performances, a season that will be packing both the C. Walsh and Modern Theatre with events to dazzle and delight the Suffolk community as well as the surrounding Boston public.

In the coming weeks, both the Theatre Department and PAO will be presenting their highest anticipated events of the spring semester.

The PAO will be presenting their main stage production for the season, "Spring Awakening." This annual production, which alternates each year between a musical and a play, is the centerpiece of the PAO's work during the spring semester.

"With this slot we like to do things that have newer voices and contemporary playwrights," said Kristin Baker, director of the PAO.

Contrasting the performances PAO sponsors during the fall semester, such as Fall Fest and Dinner Theatre, performances that are typically light-hearted, the main stage production in the spring tends to be slightly more somber and serious in nature.

"We're looking for a play that has something to say to the Suffolk community and start conversation," said Baker.

"Spring Awakening" is a musical that tells the story of German teenagers in the 19th century that are discovering the troubles of the world around them, as well as their own sexuality. The musical, which is based on a traditional German play, is an emotionally demanding piece that is paired with a powerful score.

"The material is hard. We're asking our actors to go through a lot when they take on these roles and we're also asking our audience to explore some dark and difficult things," said Baker.

Due to the emotional nature of the show, the PAO will be hosting several talkbacks with the cast, as well as opportunities for cast members and students to speak with the counseling center. In addition, the PAO will be partnering with the library, World Languages and Cultural Studies department where Professor Jay Rossellini will be hosting a discussion about the origins of the play as well as German culture during the time the show is set.

Rossellini's talk will take place at 1 p.m. on Feb. 12 at the Poetry Center and "Spring Awakening" will take place Feb. 19-21 in the C. Walsh.

In the Theatre Department, the main production of the semester, "Spring Showcase," is currently deep in the rehearsal process, although the cast is facing the challenge of coping with lost rehearsals due to snow days.

"The showcase is the soul of the department," said Professor Marilyn Plokkies, chair of the Theatre Department. "We encourage all of our students to write and direct, not just act.

The "Spring Showcase," a performance written and directed entirely by students, is an annual production that the Theatre Department puts on in their Studio Theatre, located on the fourth floor of the Archer Building. The show will feature four one-act plays and will be held from Feb. 19-15.

In addition to the "Spring Showcase," the Theatre Department will be hosting several events in both the C. Walsh and Modern Theatre throughout the semester.

"Spring Awakening" will take place in Suffolk's Modern Theatre from March 6 to April 4.

The Theatre Department is also working on a production called "The Marathon Project," a multi-media production by two seniors in the Theatre Department who will be looking back on the Boston Marathon two years after the tragedy. The project, although produced by the Theatre Department, is almost entirely created by the students involved.

"Shockheaded Peter" will be presented in Suffolk's Modern Theatre from March 6 to April 4.

GrooveBoston brings Suffolk together to 'Rage for a Cause'

Haley Peabody
Journal Staff

Suffolk University was taken by storm by GrooveBoston on Thursday. Presented by Promotions Council and the Student Government Association at Royale Boston, GrooveBoston brought a unique dance party experience to students just outside campus.

The night was filled with booming, upbeat dance music and remixes of popular songs as well as light displays.

"Some people have been calling it a rave but its not. Its really a concert experience," said Joe Nordlie, committee chair of PC traditions and special events committee.

GrooveBoston, which caters strictly to college students, is a truly unique experience, tailoring each of their shows to the audience of students they are performing for. Although they generally perform in the Northeast, GrooveBoston has created shows across the country for various different colleges.

"It's more of a reactive approach than a proactive one," said Nordlie. What makes GrooveBoston unique is that "as the night goes on, they determine what lights to use and music to play based on how the audience is reacting, resulting in a unique show designed for that specific audience while the performance is still going on.

The theme of this year's tour is Cohesion. This theme of unity and togetherness was exemplified throughout the night as dancers from different majors and campus organizations joined together to enjoy a night of music and dance.

In addition to hosting the nighttime event, GrooveBoston also invited select groups on campus for a backstage VIP tour in the afternoon to learn more about what GrooveBoston does as well as how they create their shows.

Although GrooveBoston seeks to bring an unforgettable night to college campuses, they also strive to use music to make a difference. GrooveBoston has partnered with the House of Blues Music Forward Foundation to create the Rage for a Cause campaign, a partnership in which GrooveBoston will donate a portion of the proceeds they receive to music education programs.

The event had a turnout of 425 students.

"I definitely see it as successful," said Nordlie. "I was happily surprised with the turnout and everyone I talked to had a great time."

The event proved to be successful for students, Rage for a Cause, and even Program Council itself.

"This event tested PC's programming ability as well as our outreach ... it was something we enjoyed and look back on as successful," said Nordlie.

In addition to GrooveBoston, PC will also be working with Royale Boston in order to create Suffolk's Spring Concert, starring pop star Jessie J.

"Although it's expensive, it's the best option," said Nordlie of the venue.

Although PC had considered several different venues, they decided that Royale was the best option because of its proximity to Suffolk. The spacious and elegant atmosphere of Royale made it a perfect fit for GrooveBoston as well as other PC sponsored events in the future.
TradHon spices up Jamaica Plain restaurant

Jamin Buffafarro
Journal Staff

In December, President Obama announced the United States will be working to reform its relationship with Cuba, citing cultural ties between the two countries despite their political differences. Regulations have imposed a divide between the two million Cuban-Americans and the country where they live, work, and raise families. Despite the ongoing troubles of the political affairs between the two nations, Cuban culture and heritage is present in Boston.

Recently, I came across the Old Havana Cuban restaurant in Jamaica Plain. Located about a block away from the Jackson Square Station stop on the Orange Line, a friend and I stopped in, hoping to get a taste of Cuban culture.

Old Havana is set in a charming building decorated with checkerboard walls and many mirrors. A large print of a map of Cuba is on display and traditional music plays over speakers. Soft, multi-colored lights hang down from the ceiling and there are plenty of tables for eating, drinking and relaxing.

As soon as we entered, we were greeted by the bubbly Wendy Tejeda, who owns and operates the restaurant with her partner Sixto Lopez. We chose a tall table by the window while Tejeda brought us a basket of fresh garlic bread along with the menus, and made sure we were comfortable.

As we browse the menu, a nearby table with a family of three greeted us and shared that they are regular patrons of Old Havana.

We chatted for a while and after they shared their top must-try dishes, my friend and I checked out the menu for ourselves.

The menu is concise, with appetizers, sandwiches, and sections for beef, chicken, seafood, and vegetarian options. Everything on the menu is authentic Cuban fare, from a myriad of tropical fruit-based smoothies to homemade black beans and rice. We decided on three appetizers to start: Homemade Corn Tamales, Pork Croquettes, and Churros with Salas de Guava.

The tamales are wrapped in a plantain leaf and have a savory and creamy texture. The croquettes are crunchy with a creamy pork filling that pairs perfectly with the spicy sauce served on the side. The churros are sweet and come with a side of cinnamon sugar. Each churro is topped with salas di guava made from guava fruit, a wonderful balance to the savory tamales and croquettes.

I chose to wash the appetizers down with a fresh mam-ey shake, the national fruit of Cuba. It was thick and creamy without being overly sweet.

For the main course, we chose two of the dishes that were suggested to us: shrimp and mofongo, a mashed plantain dish, and shredded beef with rice and beans. The jumbo shrimp were set in a sweet and spicy sauce filled with an assortment of peppers. The mofongo has a consistency similar to stuffing and is savory and multi-textured.

The flavor is rich, with a mild sweetness from the plantains and the traditional elements of Cuban spices. The shredded beef was extremely tender, and peeled apart easily with a fork. The beef has a full-flavored sauce with a fresh variety of peppers. The rice is sticky, textured, fresh and steaming underneath the cup that helped form it into a dome on the plate.

The black beans come served in their own crock, steaming hot and sitting in a black bean broth. The flavors of the authentic cumin spice give the black beans a zing, and they ended up being my favorite element of the whole meal (although the mofongo was only a thread behind). We finished the meal with Cuban coffee: double shots of Cuban espresso served in small cups and made frothy and sweet.

After the meal, I had a chance to talk with Tejeda, and she told me about her experience bringing authentic Cuban cuisine to Boston.

"I have been here for one year," said Tejeda excitedly, obviously passionate about the business she has built at Old Havana. "I love the American people and they love to eat here. They are very grateful for the food."

The Old Havana Cuban Restaurant in Jamaica Plains is a fantastic place to start your relationship with Cuban culture. The warm and inviting Cuban heritage that people like Tejeda share with the city is one of the many experiences every Suffolk community member should try during their time living in Boston.

Warning, some of the dishes served at Old Havana are best experienced by calling 30 minutes before arriving to give the chefs a chance to make their preparations for the authentic, scratch Cuban cooking, meaning no pre-made sauces or ingredients. Call ahead to ask about these options.

Old Havana Cuban Restaurant
349 Centre St.
Jamaica Plain, MA
(617) 477-4248

"Warning, some of the dishes served at Old Havana are best experienced by calling 30 minutes before arriving to give the chefs a chance to make their preparations for the authentic, scratch Cuban cooking, meaning no pre-made sauces or ingredients. Call ahead to ask about these options."

"Warning, some of the dishes served at Old Havana are best experienced by calling 30 minutes before arriving to give the chefs a chance to make their preparations for the authentic, scratch Cuban cooking, meaning no pre-made sauces or ingredients. Call ahead to ask about these options."

Jamin Buffafarro/Journal Staff

"Lucky Man" - Sam H.
The Verve
"This Song is Not About a Girl" - Heather R.
Flume and Chet Faker
"Uptown Funk" - Bruno Mars
Mark Ronson
"Work It" - Abbey W.
Missy Elliot
"Work It" - Heather R.
Flume and Chet Faker
"This Song is Not About a Girl" - Abbey W.
"Warning, some of the dishes served at Old Havana are best experienced by calling 30 minutes before arriving to give the chefs a chance to make their preparations for the authentic, scratch Cuban cooking, meaning no pre-made sauces or ingredients. Call ahead to ask about these options."
Seriously Bent hosts fourth annual ‘Eat My Improv’ show

Katherine Yearwood
Journal Contributor

Seriously Bent, Suffolk’s hilarious and outrageous improv team, hosted their fourth annual “Eat My Improv” competition in the Modern Theatre Saturday.

Captains of the Seriously Bent team, seniors John MacGregor, Stephanie Kay, and Zach Barker, were the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. As expected, their chemistry was on point and every time they stepped out on stage to introduce the next group, they always found a way to make people laugh.

The event featured shows from other improv groups from around the Boston area including, Sarah Lawrence’s Feral Christine, Northeastern University’s New and Improv’d, Emerson College’s Stoop Wa-fel, and a few other groups as well.

All of Seriously Bent’s improv shows are entertaining with their elements of sex, human abnormality, personification, role-playing and storytelling – this event was no exception. It was interesting to see Suffolk students working with students from other schools to put on a show for the Suffolk community.

Jacki Mancini, a freshman at Suffolk, referred to the show as, “incredibly hilarious and something everyone in high school and older can enjoy.”

“I’ll be honest,” said Mancini, “I’m a real sucker for sexual innuendos. I have to say I liked the group’s content because they know what college kids really laugh at. I liked it when they got the crowd involved; it showed how well they can im-prov.”

For those who have never been to an improv show, an improv performance is a comedy show that generally works by having people come up on stage and interacting with the audience. The group on stage will ask the guests to shout out things such as verbs and nouns that pop into their heads. The performers choose one of those words and use it as a theme for a skit, an indicator that signals the actors at random to move on to a new skit, or it can have an impact as a theme for a skit, an indicator that signals the actors at random to move on to a new skit, or it can have an impact on the type of character being portrayed.

Throughout the show, the audience was constantly laughing and clapping, whether it was at a skit where a father was disciplining his kids or one of those words and use it as a theme for a skit, an indicator that signals the actors at random to move on to a new skit, or it can have an impact on the type of character being portrayed.

As expected, Seriously Bent’s chemistry was on point, and every time they stepped out on stage to introduce the next group, they always found a way to make people laugh and get the audience involved. They even found a way to make people laugh while announcing their win at the New England regionals College Improv Tournament over the summer in June 2014. Due to their win, they are traveling to Chicago to compete on a national level.

To ensure their trip to Chicago goes smoothly the Seriously Bent team needed to raise money, so they hosted an auction during the event. There was an open auction and a silent auction as well. The open auction was for two tickets to Improve Asylum and the crowd loved it. People kept raising their hands to be the lucky bidder to take home the coveted prize box.

The auction ended with the tickets selling for fifty dollars, one lucky bidder, and a room full of disappointed fans who lost out. After the auction, it was Dungan’s first improv event and she said she “enjoyed it” and found it to be “very funny.” Although she enjoyed the overall event, she thought some groups were better than others and that of the performers, Feral Christine was the best group along with Seriously Bent.

French anniversary edition of Monopoly will contain real euros

The high-stakes game of Monopoly, where players from a thimble to a top hat can shell out $500 bills for dream property, is celebrating the French edition’s 80th anniversary this year and is fulfilling every player’s fantasy: a game board that will include real money. Shipped to stores around the country Monday, greedy consumers, who have been waiting, were unable to purchase by early Tuesday. The game is on sale now and customers are rolling the dice, passing "Go," and hoping they’re one of the lucky few to bring home the covered prize box.

ARTS BRIEFS

Harper Lee to release sequel of To Kill a Mockingbird

Scout Jean Louise Finch, Alabama’s iconic fictional heroine and the young narrator of Harper Lee’s timeless novel, Go Set a Watchman, is reappearing this July in print as a young woman in Lee’s second novel. Go Set a Watchman. Lee’s 504-page sequel was written before To Kill a Mockingbird, but was only discovered recently. The novel is centered on Scout, who now lives in New York, and the return to her famous hometown of Maycomb as a young adult to visit her father, Atticus. While she occasionally addresses the press, Lee has not commented on the new release. However, HarperCollins U.S. General Books Group and Cananda will be printing two million copies set to be on stands July 14, 2015.
Beyond the Constitution: Why a Supreme Court ruling won't bring LGBTQ justice

Dani Marerro
Journal Staff

When the U.S. Supreme Court announced last month it would decide whether same-sex marriage is protected by the Constitution, I was underwhelmed at the news. In the "suggested" related articles on the sidebar of the New York Times, where I read the announcement, there was an article on the continuing protests in New York City and Boston organized by the black Lives Matter movement.

How apt, I thought.

Decades after Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks, and almost two centuries after Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, their movement still lives and uses the same language and chants against racism. So how, I question, is a federal government ruling effective when establishing social justice?

According to our laws, black people should be equal in this country by now, yet we still witness thousands take over the streets in dozens of cities to protest against police brutality and socioeconomic inequality. This comes decades after black people, like LGBTQ people now, were seeing for once the federal government take responsibility for their rights.

If the black struggle is any indication of what to expect after the same-sex marriage ruling -- that is, how the Supreme Court will rule in favor of acknowledging that it is protected -- this victory could consist of brief celebrations from the LGBTQ community and long preparations for the social backlash after.

People of color know that laws only serve as theoretical assurances that equality will take place. We also know that words on paper promising to protect us, which are signed and backed by political officials who, more often than not, are upper-class, white men, are rarely reflected beyond the documents and onto the streets.

Laws that are put into place trying to undo the systematic oppression that people of color, LGBTQ folks, women, immigrants, and low-wage workers have long endured require more than a couple of sympathetic politicians to truly carry out social change.

For those of us who fall into more than one of those groups, the concepts of justice and equality are an unpredictable balancing game when one of our identities receives more legal protection than another, more social acceptance than another. Queer immigrants of color know this battle better than anyone else.

Although knowing I cannot be legally fired because I am queer is a hell of a good thing, it won't change the discriminatory states and words exchanged in daily casual interaction. It will also not change that conservative business owners think it is their own constitutional right to kick me out of their restaurant because I impede their freedom of religion.

These are small acts of violence against us, and laws do not penetrate the social constructs of discrimination deep enough to get rid of them. Laws are only reflections of the ideas the people at power entertain and believe in.

Laws bring down ideological and interpersonal oppression with it — "trickle down" justice, if you will — is as unproductive in social justice as it is in economics. It only makes those at the top feel good about themselves while the rest of us get worse off.

Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT civil rights organization, released a report last month with a breakdown of each state's protections offered to lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender citizens. The report highlighted that, despite the fact that 36 states and D.C. allow same-sex marriages, discrimination continues.

Even Massachusetts, the first state to offer marriage licenses to same-sex couples, is behind on laws that protect transgender people that regulate accommodations in public spaces, such as restrooms. This is another example of how equality walking down the aisle does not translate to justice for the LGBTQ community.

The federal government taking action on this is a progressive move and long overdue for the gay rights movement. However, to think of it as the ultimate end goal of the movement is a mistake.

Even if all 50 states were handing out marriage licenses by the summer, so long as sexual diversity is in the realm of taboo, and gender is still tied to only male and female, the light at the end of the tunnel for justice for the LGBTQ community is still looking bleak.

By flickr user Jason Scott
MBTA reaction to Red Line panic was insensitive and unnecessary

Katie Dugan
Journal Staff

Smoke surrounded an inbound Red Line train car after its propulsion system failed as it was pulling into Quincy Center on Thursday morning, according to the Boston Herald. As smoke began to surround and fill the vehicle, naturally, the passengers became panicked.

They tried plying the train doors open, but they would not budge. They pressed emergency buttons and pulled emergency handles, but no MBTA workers were coming to help them, passenger Kimberly Perkins, who was in the train car, told NECN. Bystanders on the platform immediately noticed the chaos and began breaking the windows so the passengers stuck inside could escape.

It was pretty clear the passengers were shaken up by the ordeal, however, they weren’t about to get any sympathy from the MBTA, whose officials later apologized for their initial inaction, saying that there was “absolutely no reason for riders to break the windows” because “there was no danger and no one was injured,” according to Boston Magazine.

MBTA spokesman Joe Pesatori said transit officials were working to open the doors by the time a man began to break one of the train’s windows, and that “there was no need for him to do that.”

Though MBTA officials later apologized for their initial insensitivity, they seem to think that the riders had the luxury of knowing that they were not in immediate danger. I can only assume passengers in a smoke filled car reacted as reasonably as possible when the doors weren’t opening and the only other way out would be through a broken window.

The MBTA’s officials need to learn a thing or two about crisis communication. Accidents happen all the time, especially on public transportation. Thursday’s incident on the Red Line came just weeks after a metro tunnel in Washington, D.C. filed with smoke, causing the death of one passenger and the hospitalizations of dozens more, according to NECN. Why would the MBTA try to downplay its customers’ fear for their lives?

There also appears to be no clear protocol or evacuation plan for when a subway car starts smoking. Must we remind you, MBTA, the average train-rider is not an expert on all things evacuation protocols, and that multiple reports from witnesses and passengers on the train claimed there were no MBTA employees in sight when the incident occurred?

I’m sure many passengers were relieved to hear that the smoke was nothing serious, but what if a similar incident happens again, only to be far worse than a common malfunction? Will passengers hesitate to escape the train all out of fear that officials will publicly say they overreacted, rather than sympathizing with them and working actively toward a solution to prevent this from happening again? Governor Charlie Baker publicly stated that he too was “disappointed” in the MBTA’s response to the accident, according to ABC News.

After an outburst of negative responses from the public about how the situation was handled, the MBTA released a public apology. “It was never the MBTA’s intention to question what the customers were feeling or experiencing ... at Quincy Center,” Pesatori said in a statement Friday. “The MBTA apologizes for the unsettling experience created by the mechanical issues with the Red Line train.”

The MBTA’s response to the incident was just unprofessional. It was their duty to take responsibility for what happened. If they had just done that initially, it would have spared them the embarrassment of the governor’s statement and the negative responses.

One option, Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.) said the pipeline would employ 20,000 people, according to Newsweek, but he failed to mention that most jobs created would be temporary, and would only last one to two years. The U.S. State Department found in their report on Keystone XL that only 35 jobs created by the pipeline would be permanent.

Not only does this pipeline make little sense economically, it also would create the possibility of an environmental disaster to our nation’s crops, ecosystems, water supply and wildlife. The pipeline would stretch across the Midwest and end in Texas, including a stretch over the Ogallala aquifer, one of America’s main water sources for drinking and irrigation. In Alberta, Canada, leak in pipelines have heavily polluted major water sources such as Cold Lake.

Additionally, the National Drought Mitigation Center has confirmed major droughts in Oklahoma and California for this year, making it critical for us to protect what water we have not only for our health, but for our farms as well. If the aquifer were to be contaminated, some of America’s largest farmlands on the Great Plains would lose water for irrigation.

The pipeline also poses significant risks to our environment, given that phase one of the Keystone pipeline had 12 significant oil spills during its first year of operation.

Not only would American have to deal with losing land and taxpayers would also have to pay for the cleanup costs. In 2010, taxpayers indirectly subsidized British Petroleum when the oil pipeline company cut $10 billion from the oil companies’ cleanup costs. According to a report from the International Forum on Globalization, the pipeline could produce $100 billion in profit Charles and David Koch, the brothers who run Koch Industries, and many other Republicans’ top campaign contributors.

"According to a report from the International Forum on Globalization, the pipeline could produce $100 billion in profit Charles and David Koch, the brothers who run Koch Industries, and many other Republicans’ top campaign contributors."
Parents: Ignore anti-vaxxers, protect your kid

Sam Humphrey
Journal Staff

Vaccines? I prefer to go -cough- all-natural!

It is just more than a month into 2015, and the number of measles cases reported in the U.S. has surged past the totals for nine of the past 15 years. More than 50 years after the first vaccines against measles were introduced, it is frightening and concerning that many parents still refuse to vaccinate their kids against something as treatable as measles.

Just how many American parents refuse to vaccinate their kids? Concrete numbers, or even estimates, are hard to come by, but given that the idea still enjoys support among politicians, younger adults, and the well-educated, the number seems to be in the range of “far too many.”

Open being asked if he thought parents should be required to vaccinate their kids against measles, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie said he and his wife chose to do so, but “parents need to have some measure of choice in things as well so that’s the balance that the government has to decide,” according to NPR.

His vague answer points either to a desire to not alienate parents, who have the right to dictate how they protect their children, or an ignorance of how important vaccinations are to keeping historically devastating diseases just part of history.

Another Republican, who might face off against Christie in the 2016 presidential election, put it more bluntly. “I have heard of many tragic cases of walking, talking children who wound up with profound mental disorders after taking vaccines,” Republican Senator Rand Paul told CNBC in an interview. He also said most vaccines should be voluntary, and that the decision to vaccinate their child or not is “an issue of freedom” for parents.

His remarks sound eerily similar to a claim made by former Representative and 2012 GOP presidential candidate Michele Bachmann, who warned against the supposed dangers of vaccines. Bachmann claimed to have met a mother during the campaign who said a vaccine against the HPV virus given to her young daughter had caused “mental retardation” in the girl. According to PolitiFact, what began as a criticism of Texas Governor and fellow candidate Rick Perry’s mandate that school girls receive the vaccine turned into an ill-conceived anecdote into a fairly big news story that followed Bachmann.

“I didn’t make any statements that would indicate that I’m a doctor, I’m a scientist, or making any conclusions about the drug one way or another,” she told reporters four days later according to Politico. She was just, you know, taking an unverifiable anecdote from a faceless mother and turning it into a talking point meant to rouse the crowd against a supposed big-government intrusion from Perry.

Perhaps scarier than any politician’s stance is what our peers feel about the issue. In a Pew Research Survey from August 2014, a whopping 41 percent of adults aged 18-29 said parents should decide whether or not to vaccinate their children with common immunizations. The number of respondents who think vaccinations should be mandatory increases as they get older, perhaps because older generations have a better memory of when things like measles weren’t so easy to protect against.

Whether the straw-man stories are about vaccines for measles or HPV, parents should ignore the anecdotal stories from politicians like Paul and Bachmann. At a time when immunizations — and requirements from schools and universities that students are vaccinated - are so common, it is downright disheartening to think the country may be taking a step backwards in trusting the medicines that are available to us.

If parents truly want to protect their children, they should recognize the important advances against diseases our country has made in the decades since these vaccines were introduced.

The New England Patriots won the Super Bowl because of their execution, and not for any other reason. Everyone will remember the final play of Super Bowl XLIX, with Seattle Seahawks quarterback throwing an interception in the final seconds of the game at the one yard line.

Sports analysts are talking about the final play call by Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll, asking why the team wouldn’t have run the ball with top running back Marshawn Lynch in the back field. The coach’s explanation made sense. His goal was to save time on second down and conserve his final timeout.

Unlike hero, corner back Malcolm Butler, seized the moment and jumped the pick play like a pro. His heads up play took the ball away from Seahawks receiver Ricardo Lockette, sealing the game for the Patriots.

But no, lets not talk about how the Patriots overcame a fourth quarter comeback. Lets not talk about how the defense bent but didn’t break in the final moments. This is football. It is about production, not “what ifs.” People can sit at home and shovel chips into their mouths, crying about what could have been, but not what happened.

The Patriots, the world champions, made a play. Why isn’t anyone talking about “what if” the Patriots didn’t give up a game-tying touchdown before halftime and left shark (and Katy Perry)? Will we dissect every play throughout the game just to make excuses on why the loser is the loser.

It goes for the Patriots imperfect season as well. The “greatest offense of all-time” could not crack 20 points, but everyone will only mention the lucky “helmet catch.”

Same goes for the Jermaine Kearse circus catch. Fans need to stop seeking a scapegoat when their team loses or almost loses.

Dissecting a football game is not as complicated as some uneducated fans will admit. It is all about what the production is, not the “what ifs.”

Enough of “if he didn’t.” Guess what? He did. Now finish your chips and be quiet.
urbancantina

MODERN MEXICAN GRILLE

NOW OPEN: NORTH END'S FIRST MEXICAN RESTAURANT

OPEN EVERY DAY
8am - 11pm

SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS AND FACULTY
EAT FOR HALF PRICE
THROUGH APRIL 20th, 2015

BREAKFAST
MONDAY-FRIDAY 8am-12 pm
SATURDAY-SUNDAY 8am-9am

LUNCH & DINNER
MONDAY-FRIDAY 11am-11pm
SATURDAY-SUNDAY 4pm-12am

OFFER EXCLUDES SATURDAY AND SUNDAY BRUNCH, SPECIALS, AND DRINKS

JUST COME IN AND MENTION YOU ARE A SUFFOLK STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER!

857-753-4616

76 SALEM STREET
BOSTON'S NORTH END

URBANCANTINABOSTON.COM
URBANCANTINABOSTON.GMAIL.COM

TACOS ~ BURRITOS ~ ENCHILADAS ~ QUESADILLAS ~ NACHOS
BRIEFS
SPORTS

• offense, had marijuana metabolites in his system. Silva, the Browns' receiver Josh Gordon this season.

off the field problems have proven to hurt the team more than he has helped. He was expected to be a free agent in the 2014-15 season and was suspended the final game for sub stance abuse test Jan. 25 for alcohol. Previous offenses and Program for Substance Abuse. He failed the league's drug-related offenses, whereas Diaz is expected a firmer report to the octagon after he broke his leg in a title fight against Chris Weidman back in 2013. In part of a statement against the use of any illegal and/or performance enhancing drugs, stimulants or masking agents by its athletes." Silva

against Chris Weidman back in 2013. In part of a statement
against Chris Weidman back in 2013. In part of a statement

return to the octagon after he broke his leg in a title fight against Chris Weidman back in 2013. In part of a statement
against Chris Weidman back in 2013. In part of a statement

drug-related offenses, whereas Diaz is expected a firmer
to contend for a title. With a 27-36-7 record (61 points), the Brownes seem poised to make the Stanley Cup Playoffs once again. And with a team who seems to get better every game, their chances continue to improve. The Bruins are 8-1-1 in their last 10 games with impressive victories against elite teams such as the New York Rangers, New York Rangers and Tampa Bay Lighting. Not to mention, a victory against the defending champion, the Los Angeles Kings.

One of the most important factors in the current improvements has been the emergence of the 18-year-old winger David Pastrnak. "Pasta," as he's lovingly referred to, began to show promise at the NHL level against the Philadelphia Flyers on Jan. 10, when he netted two goals and was a plus one.

In his next game, this time against a dangerous Lightning squad, Pastrnak found the back of the net two more times, scoring a plus four on the evening. Since then, his production has leveled off a bit, but the youngster has undoubtedly cemented a position on the roster, and has proven to be a threat on the ice.

In addition to Pastrnak's play, net minder Tuukka Rask — who you might as well shoe in as a Vezina Trophy candidate annually at this point — has been outstanding. During their 8-1-1 streak, Rask has played nine of those contests, allowing only 14 goals.

After a slow start for the Finnish goalie and the Bruins, Rask isn't sporting his usual numbers, but he's steadily working his way back to an excellent mark. He's won three of his last four games, with the only loss coming against Colorado in overtime. And in Boston's victory against the Blues last week, Rask treated fans to a save of the candidate, in the process of stopping 43 of 45 shots against one of the most offensively gifted teams in the Eastern conference.

This isn't the Bruins of last year who pummeled everyone in their path en route to the top seed and a President's trophy. This is the beginning of a new era in Boston Bruins hockey. Captain Zdeno Chara isn't any spring chicken, and Patrice Bergeron seems poised to take the "C" in the coming years. Dougie Hamilton is improving everyday on the blue line, and the critically acclaimed Pastrnak's future looks bright.

Again, maybe they're not the most dominant Bruins team in the past few years, but if you think back to any of the recent champions, including the 2011 Bruins — and excluding the 2013 Chicago Blackhawks — none of those teams were ever the undisputed best team in hockey. It's all about who gets hot at the right time, and which team has a prototypical "clutch gene."

Remember, this is the NHL, not the NBA.

Seven and eight seeds can win in the playoffs, while one and two seeds are no guarantee. The Bruins have a chance to be the best any other playoff contender.

Browns receiver Josh Gordon suspended one year

Troubled wide receiver Josh Gordon for the Cleveland Browns has been suspended for one year, according to ESPN. Gordon is a repeat offender for violating the NFL Policy and Program for Substance Abuse. He failed the league's substance abuse test Jan. 25 for alcohol. Previous offenses involved marijuana. Gordon was suspended for 10 games in the 2014-15 season and was suspended the final game for team conduct violation. In 2013, Gordon appeared to be one of the brightest young receivers with 1,646 receiving yards and nine touchdowns for the Browns, ESPN said. The Brownes spent a compensatory draft pick on the Baylor star, but his off-the-field problems have proven to hurt the team more than he has helped. He was expected to be a free agent in 2015, but since he did not meet the six game requirements this season.

The Ram Report

Team standings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women's Basketball</th>
<th>Men's Basketball</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Emmanuel 5-0</td>
<td>1. Nicholls 5-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Saint Joseph's (Me.) 4-1</td>
<td>2. Johnson &amp; Wales 5-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. River 4-1</td>
<td>3. Salve Regina 5-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Suffolk 4-2</td>
<td>4. Suffolk 4-1-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Norwich 4-3</td>
<td>5. Wentworth 3-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note that all standings are GNAC records

Men's Basketball

vs. Saint Joseph's (Maine), Dec. 5, 6 p.m.

Women's Basketball

@ MCLA, Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m.

Suffolk Journal Staff

Sammy Kurwitz

UFC: Silva and Diaz fail drug test

Saturday night, Anderson "Spider" Silva defeated Nick Diaz in the main even of UFC 183. Tuesday night, the two fighters reportedly both failed their drug tests. The consensus greater of all-time of mixed martial arts, Silva, tested positive for the anabolic steroid drostanolone, Diaz, recording his third offense had marijuana metabolites in his system. Silva, the former UFC lightweight champion, has never had any drug-related offenses, whereas Diaz is expected a prisoner being a three-time offender. Silva made his return to the octagon after he broke his leg in a title fight against Chris Weidman back in 2013. In part of a statement from the UFC, they said, "UFC is disappointed to learn of these initial results. The UFC has a strict, consistent policy against the use of any illegal and/or performance enhancing drugs, stimulants or masking agents by its athletes." Silva won in a unanimous decision against Diaz in a non-title bout.

Suffolk sports deal with bad weather

As we know, if you do not like the weather in New England all you have to do is wait a day or two and it could be vastly different.

-Carey McConnell, athletic director

"The snow days are a challenge because we don't own the rinks we skate in," Glionna said. "When we have to cancel, it makes rescheduling very difficult."

Men's hockey (10-6-1) has managed to squeeze in most practices, along with two out of three scheduled games since the start of the spring semester. Unfortunately for the Rams, their last game resulted in an overtime loss against Johnson & Wales, 3-2.

"Our athletic department does a great job to keep us on the ice as much as possible," Glionna said.

Suffolk athletics will have to stay focused heading into the final weeks of their corresponding seasons and try to avoid a few victories into the win column.

"With three weeks left in our season, I hope the weather cooperates the rest of the way," Nelson said.

"With three weeks left in our season, I hope the weather cooperates the rest of the way," Nelson said.

"With three weeks left in our season, I hope the weather cooperates the rest of the way," Nelson said.

"With three weeks left in our season, I hope the weather cooperates the rest of the way," Nelson said.
Snowstorms cause major setback for athletics

Jeremy Hayes
Journal Staff

The historic amount of snowfall has all of Boston cold, including Suffolk University’s winter athletics.

Men’s hockey, men’s basketball, and women’s basketball are the three winter sports currently playing, but the abundance of snowfall this semester has interrupted each squad’s season.

Men’s basketball head coach Adam Nelson has not been pleased with Mother Nature at all.

“This weather has been a disaster for us,” Nelson said.

“We have had a stretch from Jan. 19 to now where we have not played.”

Nelson is referring to the two home games against Lasell and Saint Joseph’s of Maine, which were postponed due to the severe weather. It has been a total of 23 days since men’s basketball (7-10) has played a single basketball game.

“We have also missed a ton of practice time due to the weather,” Nelson said.

“We have been trying to be proactive with the recent storms. For example, with this most recent storm, we were scheduled for an off day on last Sunday, but came into practice figuring that Monday would be an issue with the weather, which it was.”

The Suffolk campus was closed Monday for a snowstorm following a blizzard, so Nelson felt Sunday was the best option for the team.

Suffolk is in the heart of Boston, so snow is not a surprise to say the least for these teams. The problem is having these storms follow each other immediately, one after the other, causing Suffolk athletics to have long droughts without practices.

“I’ve been coaching since 1996, and have never had this many practices canceled or games postponed,” Nelson said.

“It has been a huge

Job well done

New England Patriots win first Super Bowl title in a decade

Ian Kea
Journal Staff

Entering the University of Phoenix stadium, Bill Belichick could not have known the New England Patriots savior to win Super Bowl XLIX would have come from a division two, University of West Alabama alumnus and undrafted rookie Malcolm Butler.

After a spectacular play made by Seahawks receiver Jermaine Kearse with less than two minutes remaining, Butler was bound to be the next Patriots scapegoat if the team lost. After a running play by Seattle’s Marshawn Lynch to the Patriots goal line, the Seahawks decided to switch formation was set and the ball snapped Butler won the battle of the undrafted free agents and picked the ball off of Seahawks veteran receiver Ricardo Lockette.

After being swarmed by nearly every major TV station in the nation, Butler simply said, “I just had a vision that I was going to make a big play and it came true, I’m just blessed, I can’t explain it right now. It’s crazy.”

Not only was the ending of this Super Bowl one for the ages, it was also a Super Bowl that solidified a legacy. At the end of the game, Bill Belichick tied Steelers’ Chuck Noll with the most Super Bowl wins by a single head coach and Brady tied his boyhood idol Joe Montana and Hall of Fame legend Terry Bradshaw for the most Super Bowl wins by any other quarterback in NFL history.

“It’s great. It’s just another one under his belt, he is going to go down as the greatest quarterback to ever play this game,” Revis told the media postgame. “He is clutch. He is Michael Jordan. He is Tom Brady. You put him in that category of Magic Johnson, all of them, man. Go down the list. He is one of the greatest to ever do it.”

If not Brady, then there’s little question Patriots receiver Julian Edelman would’ve been the Super Bowl MVP. After taking nine big hits and gaining 109 total yards, Edelman fired back at doubters.

“You go in, we’re getting our teeth kicked in by Kansas City,” Edelman said. “You lose that game, we come back, we win some games and now we’re Super Bowl champs. What did Trent D’Alto say? That the Patriots are the worst team? They can’t win? You know, it’s unbelievable to hear that guy say that. It’s embarrassing for him.”

Darrelle Revis gave Brady the ultimate praise.

“It’s great. It’s just another Super Bowl record 36 passes to win his fourth title, along with his third Super Bowl MVP.

Trent Dilfer say? That the Patriots are the worst team? They can’t win? You know, it’s unbelievable to hear that guy say that. It’s embarrassing for him.”

Jeremy Hayes
Journal Staff

Boston accumulated 40.2 inches of snow since last Monday, according to the National Weather Service.

Before the “Gronk party bus” left the parking lot, tight end Rob Gronkowski said in true fashion after being involved in a post-victory brawl, “Screw it. I’m throwing some haymakers.”

Through the adversity and controversy brought by “deflate-gate,” the Patriots stand as one, champions. The city of Boston has now completed the “Grand Slam of North American Sports” with Boston’s four major sports teams winning championships in the last six years. Ecstatic Suffolk University freshman Nathan Espinal of Salem, described the state of euphoria on Sunday as, “Pure excitement. I saw a team win something that was completely, undoubtably well deserved.”