HeForShe: pioneering gender equality

Dani Marzaro
Journal Staff

Through an initiative known as HeForShe by the United Nations Women, an agency of the U.N. promoting women's empowerment and gender equality, students across the U.S. have started adopting chapters on their campuses to fight gender inequality. At Suffolk, freshmen Sofia Lesko and Heidi Dumesich reached out to U.N. Women upon hearing about the opportunity to establish a chapter on campus, making Suffolk the second campus in the U.S. to work with HeForShe, according to Lesko.

"The United Nations probably thinks I'm the most annoying person," Lesko, a creative writing and entrepreneurship major and president of HeForShe at Suffolk, said jokingly. "I emailed U.N. Women, and hit the send button once every three days for like two weeks."

HeForShe is a feminist movement aiming to be inclusive of men in the struggle to end all gender inequality, a movement that has historically been led and guided by women as described on its website. It runs on the principle that feminism is "not only a women's issue, it is a human rights issue," and that equality is beneficial to men as it is to women facing discrimination and violence.

Emma Watson, a graduate of Brown University and the U.N. Women Global Goodwill Ambassador, made a speech in September about HeForShe at the U.N. headquarters in New York. The speech was widely shared on social media and boosted the launch of the initiative.

"HeForShe is about equality, and they're trying to specifically target men," Dumesich, international business major and vice president of HeForShe on campus, said. "Emma Watson, in her speech, spoke about how feminism is a word that has become not very popular, so I think HeForShe is not trying to be a 'feminist' movement. Men are just as affected by this as women are."

— Heidi Dumesich

HeForShe official logo

Both President Sofia Lesko (left) and Heidi Dumesich (right) hope to bring representatives from U.N. Women to Suffolk to speak about the core values of HeForShe.

Emma Watson, in her speech, spoke about how feminism is a word that has become not very popular, so I think HeForShe is not trying to be a 'feminist' movement, but a gender equality movement. Men are just as affected by this as women are.

On campus, Lesko and Dumesich are making efforts to recruit male students for HeForShe. Many male students from the theatre department have already joined, the two said. But starting a social movement on campus, as fresh as it is, has been a challenge.

See HeForShe page 2

First comes passion, then profit

By Brigitte Carreiro, Journal Staff

Some students' main worry when deciding how to spend their college years is finding a lucrative job, but New England School of Art and Design seniors James Helenski and Taylor Leonard have been focusing more on where their passion takes them.

"I think art really does provide a really holistic approach to actualizing yourself," said Helenski, a fine arts major and philosophy minor, about his reason for choosing to pursue art.

"I've been mostly focusing on applying to residencies and trying to further my professional artist career rather than finding a job to support it," they said. "For the most part, it's getting to go somewhere new and making art."

See SENIOR page 3
Suffolk senior creates app to lighten laundry load

**With roots at Suffolk, Esdale digs back in**

From Essexdale page 1

This year is implementing the new branding of the university, he said. He was recently trying to show prospective students what is great about Suffolk, he said. "The fact that we are a global institution and most of our graduates are employed within a year are things we need to get out there in a big way," he said.

Reflecting on his time as a Suffolk student, Esdale believes his experience has shaped the person he is today. Living in an off-campus apartment in Allston, he was able to get the most out of what he called one of America’s greatest college towns.

"Living where I lived, I was able to also make friends from Northeastern and BU," he said. "I would walk across the Common for my internship, then walk across the Green for class."

On being both an alumnus and an Essexdale, Esdale said it is much more than just a job. I'm really invested because of the fact that I feel like I never left," he said. "It feels like a connection to Suffolk. I am 110 percent invested in this role."

Hearing experiences of students and talking to parents at admitted student events is a constant reminder of Esdale's time at the university. He has witnessed Suffolk's evolution.

"I'm excited for the new academic building that is 20 Somerset, and that's something a lot of alumni don't realize because they don't get back on campus," he said. "Esdale hopes to be sitting at the same desk for the next 10 years, and hopefully coming a long way in terms of a market perspective," he said. "I'm proud of my affiliation with Suffolk and that's why I came back, it's something I take seriously."

If Esdale could change anything about his time spent as an undergraduate at Suffolk, he would have increased his involvement outside of the classroom.

"I definitely did not get involved enough ... I've made a point to go to more now that I'm back," he said. "I feel like a complete student creates app to lighten laundry load

Currently, NimNim employees are using one of their own cars for all of them to run their pick up and delivery service. Sahani hopes that they can get a business vehicle by April. The app supports local businesses since NimNim has partnered with local dry cleaners to provide the service while Sahani and company deliver and pick up the clothing or shoes. NimNim promises their customers that they can pick up the clothing or shoes in 24 hours, with the exception of shoe repairs. Sahani said they insist from their partners that the job be done in a day so that they can provide the utmost convenience for their customers.

"We partnered up with laundromats, dry cleaners, and cobbler's in the city so we're supporting local businesses. And keeping the businesses running well, as well. Bringing them more income and revenue," said Sahani.

NimNim's team consists of five members: the Sahani brothers, Habib Julian, an engineer, and Kaitlyn Tanyer, a social media manager, who also goes to Suffolk. Sahani declined to name the engineers. According to Sahani, this small team is doing all the heavy lifting, both literally and figuratively.

NimNim used to be marketed solely by word of mouth but now they are trying different ways to market it. They will be moving into social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

"We really want to take advantage of social media," Sahani said.

Their business has been consistent. Sahani said they get orders on a daily basis. Customers shower them with compliments for their service and share the app with friends.

"Referral is big to us and we love it. Customer satisfaction with a personal touch because NimNim is your personal concierge for the tasks you don't want to do. That's the way you should look at it," Sahani said.

The name NimNim was inceptioned because the creators wanted a name that was catchy. Sahani said that people like the name and it puts a smile on people's faces.

Currently, NimNim focuses on serving East Cambridge and Boston and their ideal customers as of now are young professionals living in the area, especially since their service can be costly. They also want to focus on where they are right now before they decide to expand and serve different parts of Greater Boston.

Sahani also thinks that there hasn't been a change in the way dry cleaning has taken over, but he believes that NimNim can disrupt the stagnant routine of doing these chores and they could come up with the standards for the market.

"In NimNim, our tagline is convenience delivered on demand. NimNim wants to be the perfect personal concierge because that personal touch because at the end you're giving your personal items which need to be washed in the right manner," Sahani said. "And NimNim is the right trustworthy source that you need to get your things cleaned."

Students look to Smith, UN Women to kickoff event for gender equality

From HeForShe page 1

HeForShe is, does not come with its share of backlash from the community. Lesko and Dunbar are finding that they already have to address negative reactions at Suffolk from other students.

"Most people have been very supportive," said Lesko, "but then I know people that make constant jokes about it. Remember at my orientation there was a presentation by upperclassmen that said to be careful of the gender and race jokes that you say that could offend somebody without realizing it, but a lot of people still do."

On campus, Lesko said she frequently hears discriminatory remarks from other students. She hopes to work in solidarity with existing organizations on campus, such as those that work with LGBTQ issues, to address this problem.

Lesko and Dunbar are working with U.N. Women to bring a speaker to Suffolk this semester as the first event for HeForShe on campus. The event will mark the official launch of the initiative at Suffolk.

"They're going to have two or three representatives from UN Women to give a speech and to give the core values of HeForShe, and how the university can make a difference in the global movement. Depending on the turnout, (U.N. Women) bring a HeForShe celebrity in. Many male celebrities have joined since the Emma Watson speech," Lesko said.

Lesko has been in contact with President Norman Smith in hopes he can join their kick-off event as a speaker.

Both men and women should feel free to be sensitive. Both men and women should feel free to be strong... It is time that we all perceive gender on a spectrum not as two opposing sets of deals."

-- Emma Watson, in her speech on gender equality at the United Nations Headquarters
Hope for the Homeless, a new, nonprofit organization started by Suffolk freshman Amanda Hogg, is working to lend a helping hand to the homeless of the Boston area.

Hogg, a native of Maine and sociology major with an early childhood education minor, started the organization about a year and a half ago as a way to create a community that strives to acknowledge the homeless of this city.

"The mission is to show homeless people that they haven't been forgotten or overlooked in our society through little acts of kindness," said Hogg.

The idea for Hope for the Homeless first came to Hogg when Hogg approached a homeless man on Tremont Street, only to find that he was intelligent and unresponsive, she said.

"I called 911 and the paramedics came, and they really kind of baffled me that no one took the time out of the day to notice this man, and I know I've noticed people on the street and saw him but I couldn't figure out why no one stopped," she said. "That prompted me to do something and remind people that just because they're homeless doesn't mean they're not smart and they're not people."

Though the organization has only recently gotten its feet off the ground, Hogg said that she is already getting lots of positive feedback and is gaining a following, with more than 50 people who are on board with Hogg's cause and who wish to volunteer their time for fundraising and other events.

"Currently it's just me running it, but I have received emails from a few other students of the Suffolk body who would like to join the cause and help me as an administrator," she said. "A lot of people really think it's a great cause and a good idea, and a lot of people are really adamant about joining."

As of now, Hope for the Homeless is only Suffolk-based, though Hogg desires to expand beyond the university in the future.

Hogg said she hopes her goal of getting the homeless and making them feel acknowledged will be accomplished through fundraising that can support the organization's endeavors.

"It's my plan to hold fundraising events, where we would receive donations for clothes, food, and money," said Hogg. "Clothes would either be handed out to homeless shelters or homeless individuals on the street, food would be given to food pantries, and money would be sent or deposited into our acts of kindness, like say, go to Dunkin Donuts and buy coffee and just hand it out to them."

On top of donations, Hogg said that she would be actively going out into the city to directly lend a hand to helping the homeless.

"I also plan on volunteering my time at soup kitchens, and I'd like other group members to do that as well. So it would be an organization where we do things together," she said.

Hogg said she wants to make Hope for the Homeless an official Suffolk University club organization.

"I looked into starting it as a Suffolk club [first], and that's a long process, it doesn't just happen overnight. So it's my hope to get members first, and that would make the process of starting a club or organization through Suffolk easier," she said.

When asked how she balances schoolwork with starting an organization, Hogg said that she does not see it as a challenge.

"I don't really consider it so much balancing. I make the time because it's something I'm passionate about," she said.

Hogg's mission to create a better society for the homeless can be found at bostonhope.org/homeless-weekly.com.

"Time needs to be taken out of our days to care for them and respect them. They're still individuals, and we're not sure where they came from before in life, so they should be respected and pointed out," said Hogg.

By Brigitte Carreiro

Hope for the Homeless' student pays it forward

Brigitte Carreiro, Journal Staff

"Push your passions. A job will fall into place," she said.

Hogg plans to pay it forward by accepting donations of food, clothing, and money and donating them back to shelters and homeless persons living on the street.

Her mission is to show the homeless that they have not been forgotten about.

"I also plan on volunteering my time at soup kitchens, and I'd like other group members to do that as well. So it would be an organization where we do things together," she said.

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"Push your passions. A job will fall into place," she said.
POLICE BLOTTER

Friday, February 13
4:33 p.m.
Miller Hall
Larceny from building. Investigation.

Friday, February 13
1:33 p.m.
Law School
Larceny from building. Investigation.

NEWS BRIEFS

Students respond to Suffolk holding class on President Day

Less than a week before Sunday’s winter storm hit Massachusetts, Suffolk decided to hold makeup classes on President’s Day. The MBTA announced that it would shut down on Sunday, and there would be limited train service on President’s Day because of the holiday and the winter storm. Students turned to Facebook and Twitter to vent their frustrations about Suffolk holding class. The reaction was a resounding negative: students wrote that they could not get to campus because of the T’s alternate and canceled routes.

Suffolk deleted that post sometime between Sunday and Tuesday.

On Tuesday, a separate post on Suffolk’s Facebook said, “This snow hasn’t been easy on anyone. Please use the comment section below as a #RamNation bonding forum to vent all your snow-related frustrations and/or share fun stories from the past couple of weeks.”

Students took to Facebook to vent their frustrations, and most complained about the MBTA. General Manager Beverly Scott, whose resignation was effective in April, said that if there is not another snowstorm, the MBTA should be back to normal in 20 days.

Suffolk names new executive director of Career Development Center

Teresa DiMagno has been named the new executive director of the Career Development Center, the Center that works with students from the Sawyer Business School and the College of Arts and Sciences. “I am excited to play a role in preparing Suffolk students to meet present and future economic, technological and global demands,” said DiMagno.

DiMagno will provide “strategic direction for the Career Development Center that will complement the university’s approach to professional preparation and lifelong employability. This includes career-related curriculum and partnerships aimed at developing internship, mentoring, networking, and job opportunities for students and graduates,” according to Suffolk’s website.

DiMagno served as assistant dean of academic advising and experiential learning at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York. She holds a Masters of Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University, a master’s in English language and literature from the University of Michigan, and a bachelor’s in English and general literature from Binghamton University, as well as certifications in several areas, including career development facilitation, according to the post on the website.

Mock Trial Team heading to nationals

Suffolk’s Mock Trial Team is pictured above after their win at the Boston Regional Tournament.

Heather Rutherford
Journal Staff

As the Suffolk University Mock Trial Team takes home a trophy for their win at the Boston Regional Tournament, they are preparing for the next stage of competition at the Opening Round Championship.

The team, founded in September 2006, will compete for the third time in the championship. Hosted by Pennsylvania State University in March, the Mock Trial Team will compete against other top schools including Columbia University, Rutgers University, Brown University, Yale University, and Tufts University.

The Opening Round Championship consists of two judges, who rank each team based on points. The team with most points on ballot wins out of four rounds. They will compete against 34 other teams, and the top seven teams move on to the national tournament in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The team finished among the top seven teams at the Boston Regional Tournament by taking on the roles of the prosecution/plaintiff or the defense and another team from another school takes on the opposing role.

“Tps a huge accomplishment for our team and ultimately our school,” said team president Zachary Werth. Werth is currently a junior at Suffolk, and became president this year after joining the team his sophomore year.

The Mock Trial Team is the only competitive team at Suffolk that competes with predominantly Ivy League schools, according to Werth.

The team meets twice a week in order to prepare for competition, and averages 20 to 25 hours a week of practice, Werth said. During practice, the team builds cases, perfecting their direct and cross examinations for the courtroom, and run through specialized drills to improve their skills, Werth said.

“We also do scrimmages against other schools through the year on top of tournaments, so we are constantly doing mock trial,” Werth said.

In order to prepare for the championship, the team meets to fit in “lots and lots of practice,” Werth said. “We have to develop a natural relationship with each other so that our witnesses don’t look scripted,” he said.

Werth expects other members to also prepare outside of practice. “I want everyone to come in with questions so they can learn something,” he said.

The team invites past members, law school students, and lawyers to practices to give students their expertise, he said. “We’re student-run, but we have a team of direct coaches.”

Being on the team gives students the opportunity to experience the courtroom in a realistic setting by putting them in an attorney or witness position “while litigating a case in front of a judge and jury inside the courtroom,” their Facebook page says.

“If you give a better performance, your team gets more points,” Werth said. One member on the team, Johnny Quezada, a government major with a background in acting, is able to give a convincing performance when she plays a mother of a victim on the stand, he said. “She can cry on demand, and I hand her a tissue. It’s a performance,” said Werth.

After graduation, Werth hopes to turn what he has learned through mock trial to real life experience. “If I plan on going to law school … my dream is Columbia University. I want to be a litigation lawyer,” he said.

Not only does the Mock Trial Team give students at Suffolk a real life representation of what they’re studying, Werth said the team spends so much time together that they are like a family.

The team also grows close with other schools in competition. “That’s the most rewarding part, meeting new people from other teams, we build a lot of friendships and connections,” he said.
Suffolk’s Asian clubs welcome Lunar New Year

Haley Peabody
Journal Staff

Students packed the C. Walsh Theatre last Wednesday night to enjoy an evening of culture and celebration as they rang in the Chinese Lunar New Year.

The show, which was performed almost entirely in Chinese, was a collaborative effort between different organizations from around the campus including as student groups. All of the performers, while unique, brought a hearty dose of Chinese culture to Suffolk.

Although mainly organized by the Chinese Student Association and Taiwanese Student Association, several other campus organizations such as Student Leadership and Involvement, Teochew Union, and the Center for Learning and Academic Success were involved in the planning and production process of the event.

"Without them we couldn’t do it," said Mark Chen, president of the Taiwanese Student Association.

Both the TSA and CSA said they had tremendous help from Wayne Chin, the operative director of the C. Walsh Theatre.

"He has been tremendously helpful," said Chen.

The collaborative effort from across campus made the event possible, especially since the scheduled rehearsal times were canceled due to the extreme weather that caused the university to close both Monday and Tuesday.

"We weren’t prepared as we could have been due to the weather but we were glad that everybody was helping us," said An Wang, president of the CSA.

Despite the bad weather, the event had a large turnout with approximately 300 people in attendance.

The night opened with a traditional lion dance performed by several students. The performers, dressed in black, danced underneath ornate lion costumes, that weaved playfully through the audience and onto the stage.

Following the lion dance were several dance numbers performed by students as performers from outside the Suffolk community.

Two dancers, who are professors at Harvard, performed a number known as the Beijing Opera. The performance, which was a combination of dancing, singing, and music featured brightly colored costumes and makeup.

Other performers who were called in from outside the Suffolk community included the Red Star Comedy Theatre of Boston University. The comedy troupe performed a sketch entirely in Chinese, although English subtitles were provided on a screen behind the performers. The performance was well received by the audience as the theatre resounded with laughter.

Following the comedy act, three Suffolk students, Jiayang Yu, Yuruo Jin, and Wang, performed a talent act consisting of music and painting. While Yu and Wang played the erhu and Guzheng, two traditional Chinese Instruments, Jin painted to the rhythm of the music, showcasing the romantic landscape she created as Yu and Wang played the final notes of their piece.

"Guzheng is an instrument with over 2,000 years of history... It is personal to me," said Wang.

In addition to performers, Suffolk alumni Rita Wong also took part in the celebration. Wong donated assorted gift bags on behalf of Angel Beauty Inc., a salon located in Chinatown. Packed with face masks and hair treatments. These gift bags were just another element that the crowd undoubtedly enjoyed.

Following the event, a buffet spread of fresh sushi, steamed vegetables, fried rice, and milk tea was set up in the fourth floor lounge of the Donahue building for all attendees to enjoy.

Both the TSA and CSA meet weekly on Tuesday at 1 p.m.

Aftermath of violence disrupts Gaza Strip further

Alexa Gagosz
Journal Staff

It has been six months since hostilities between Israelis and Palestinians in Gaza have ceased, but the Gaza Strip has grown worse as thousands remain displaced and violence has increased.

After "Operation Protective Edge," where Israel launched hostilities against Hamas, the Israeli government is holding talks in hopes of rebuilding what was destroyed six months ago.

One of the problems lies in the country's economy. Billions of dollars in aid have yet to be honored that were donated from countries across the world including the U.S. according to the Post.

The Washington Post at the rate the country has been going so far, it will take decades to rebuild what was destroyed six months ago.

One Palestinian sympathizers believe the Israeli government is holding onto the donations, as they have Hamas security forces still exerting control on their side of the three trade and travel crossings, which are between Egypt, the Gaza Strip, and Israel, according to the Post.

"Israel is choosing to withhold at least 127 million dollars worth of tax revenues that they collect on behalf of Palestine," said Hamdoun.

"Israel is doing so in response to Palestine's decision to sign the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which investigates war crimes in situations where states are unable or unwilling to do so. Israel does not want this to happen, which only exposes their guilt and fear," Hamdoun said.

Israel's reason for supporting the ICC move is that Palestine is not a state and only states can ask for investigation from the ICC. The idea that Israel is not allowing donations or building materials into Palestine needs to be taken into context.

"The idea of funding and support for Israel in the form of financial aid and political backing," Hamdoun said. "The U.S.'s reason for supporting Israel's condemnation of the ICC move is that Palestine is not a state and only states can ask for investigation from the ICC. The idea that Israel is not allowing donations or building materials into Palestine needs to be taken into context.

"The idea of funding and support for Israel in the form of financial aid and political backing," Hamdoun said. "The U.S.'s reason for supporting Israel's condemnation of the ICC move is that Palestine is not a state and only states can ask for investigation from the ICC. The idea that Israel is not allowing donations or building materials into Palestine needs to be taken into context. This is a new occurrence."
Interfaith Center is safe zone for diverse student population

Dani Marrero
Journal Staff

In wake of recent attacks and shootings around the world, including actions from the terrorist group known as the Islamic State, the Charlie Hebdo shooting in Paris, the Chapel Hill shooting in North Carolina, and, most recently, the attack in Copenhagen, Denmark, a conversation on religious acceptance and pluralism has sparked on social networks.

At Suffolk, a community with a diverse student population, those conversations are relevant to the many backgrounds and traditions that co-exist within the university. The Interfaith Center serves as that medium between different belief systems and for religious backgrounds to have open dialogues on different traditions and communities.

Daily, the center offers spaces for mediation and prayer. It also offers discussions on specific religions that are open for all students to attend.

"It's interesting." University Chaplain Rev. Amy L. Fisher said. "More people who are not part of the religion that we are talking about will show up to learn more about it. That, to me, is the most important part of coexisting.

Students on campus who stop by the Interfaith Center are interested and willing to learn of traditions that are different from their own, according to Fisher.

After the Chapel Hill shooting last week, which took the lives of three students and a police officer, the Interfaith Center offered space for students and faculty of different faiths to meet and how they differ. The Interfaith Center strives for religious acceptance, counseling services, and concerns about ethics or morality.

Fisher explained that the Interfaith Center offers is on eastern traditions and western traditions. Students can use the center located on the fifth floor of Donahue for spiritual guidance, counseling services, and concerns about ethics or morality.

Fisher can be reached at interfaith@suffolk.edu or via Twitter @RevAmyFisher.

The Interfaith Center is located on the fifth floor Donahue.

WORLD BRIEFS

Russia | Conflict in Ukraine

The Russian President Vladimir Putin urged the Ukrainian government on Tuesday to allow the country's troops to surrender to the rebels in the town of Debaltseve. Putin had said to BBC that he hoped the rebels would let any captured troops released by the rebels to their families, according to BBC. Despite the ceasefire agreement last week, BBC described the fighting on Tuesday as "fierce fighting" throughout the town, where rebels told reporters they controlled most of the areas. The U.N. Security Council announced to news outlets they called for an end to the violence immediately. On a visit to Hungary, Putin had said he hoped the ceasefire agreement would be observed by both sides and that the conflict would not be resolved by military means, according to BBC. Putin told BBC the fighting in Debaltseve was "understandable and predictable."

Columbia | Child Soldiers

Ivan Marquez, the Colombian rebel leader of the group the FARC told a radio program the recruitment of those under the age of 15 is "out of our policy" and they will be discharging all of those under that age, according to reports by BBC. Marquez also admitted to having 13 children fighting in the ranks. He said they were there because being orphaned. Human rights groups have been accusing the FARC's of forcefully recruiting children, according to BBC. Colombia's Ministry of Defense released figures, stating that since 2007, more than 2,600 children under age 18, left FARC by either being captured by security forces or by fleeing the group on their own.

L'Association Francophone's Celebré le Mardi Gras

The French club celebrates Mardi Gras on Tuesday afternoon with crêpes and cake.
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TACOS - BURRITOS - ENCHILADAS - QUESADILLAS - NACHOS
Studio 8H celebrates 40 years of SNL greats

"The show, while it was likely hoping to appeal to all audiences, truly was a 'thank you,' not only to the cast who made it happen but to the devoted fan base who kept the show alive."

Jimmy Fallon and Justin Timberlake on the Red Carpet at Saturday Night Live's 40th Anniversary celebration.

The special also provided punch lines and a recollection of past glories that came alive in SNL's new digital short, the power ballad "That's When You Break," which poked fun at all the laughs cast members let slip during scenes. While laughs were certainly belowing Rockefeller Center's Studio 8H, Jerry Seinfeld, who hosted the Question and Answer session, was some what tongue-tied while fielding questions from audience members like Michael Douglas, John Goodman, James Franco, Larry David, Tim Meadows, Dakota Johnson and Sarah Palin. His cheekiness and incompa-

raible ability, however, to hop-scotch his way through even the most delicate social issues like women's rights and Sarah Palin's request to help get SNL producer, Lorne Michaels, on-board to pay for her to run for president in 2016 with Donald Trump as her running mate, definitely played a role in the show's overall success.

"I don't think there's a number too big," Seinfeld humorously replied.

The 40th anniversary's memorable and bizarre renditions of performances that changed the landscape of TV comedy was endearing, daring and dumbfounding. Harnessing the old and the new, the star-studded event was a special like nothing else.

Steve Martin to Murphy the essence of the show since it began in 1975.

"Sadly, history has taught us that opening the show with a musical number leads to predictably and party crasher numbers from audience that were both hysterical and embarrassing, soliloquies and dance moves that were both bizarro and animated. While hats-off to both Fallon and Timberlake's upbeat ditty, Rachel Dratch's mid-song appearance as Debbie Downer captured the unpredictable and party crasher essence of the show since it began in 1975."

"The show, while it was likely hoping to appeal to all audiences, truly was a 'thank you,' not only to the cast who made it happen but to the devoted fan base who kept the show alive."

Ferrell's impression of Jeopardy host Alex Trebek has exhausted himself on Studio 8H's stage many times as he dealt with the foolish class of comedians SNL placed to graze the line of scandal and comedy. Frantically hosting his way through yet another hilarious question-answer parody, Ferrell faced off against Darrell Hammond as Sean Connery, Norm Macdonald as Burt Reynolds, current cast member Kate McKinnon as Sarah Palin, Burt Reynolds, current cast member Kate McKinnon as Matt Damon, Amy Poehler, Tina Fey and Jane Curtin.

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The 40th anniversary's memorable and bizarre renditions of performances that changed the landscape of TV comedy was endearing, daring and dumbfounding. Harnessing the old and the new, the star-studded event was a special like nothing else.
New action-comedy recycles predictable themes

Katherine Yearwood
Journal Contributor

Action-comedy, "Kingsman: The Secret Service," came out in theaters Friday and although it proved to be both funny and exciting, the film presented unoriginal themes and a predictable plot line. When the protagonist Eggsy is a toddler, a mysterious man visits him in his home. As a suit comes to his house and informs him and his mother that his father was killed on a secret mission. The last thing that this man tells Eggsy before he leaves is, "take care of your mother."

About 17 years later, Eggsy is living in a rundown apartment with his mother, abusive stepfather and younger sister. At this time he crosses paths with the man in black again, only this time the man takes him to a men's suit shop. After explaining who he is, he tells Eggsy that, "A suit is a secret weapon, it makes something of himself in order to improve the life of his family. Throughout this process of trying to stop the enemy's plot, the man in the suit becomes somewhat of a father figure to Eggsy.

"I've got nothing to lose," he says. In any case, the movie is somewhat of a cliché. Here you have a young 21-year-old kid who lost his father, is amazingly smart, and yet lives a rundown life.

Embracing on a mission to prove himself worthy of becoming a part of the Kingsman organization, he hopes to make something of himself in order to improve the life of his family. Throughout this process of trying to stop the enemy's plot, the man in the suit becomes somewhat of a father figure to Eggsy. Looking after him and giving lessons on how to become a gentleman, it is apparent that the man in black empowers Eggsy with the loss of Eggsy's father.

During this transitional time, the leaders in the Kingsman organization are working to identify and catch a man who killed one of their own agents. However, when they finally identify the killer they realize something more devastating than they could ever imagine.

"The film is filled with mildly unbelievable people, but no more so than other action movies. They are close to what you would imagine another human being would be, they are not a flat character," said Keisha Lamarre, an 18-year-old freshman at University of Massachusetts Boston.

This kind of role - the unrelated father figure - has been more times and for more years than the audience can probably count. However, despite these cliché production choices, the movie deserves props for being able to portray this kind of overdone relationship as well as it did.

While this movie is not the most original production around, Lamarre said, "it wasn't as horrible as I thought it would be. The plot didn't suffer from all of the action in the film. It kept up a reasonable pace, the plot felt natural and nothing screamed nonsensical.

"I would recommend this movie to a friend depending on their taste. If they are into action, they will enjoy the movie. If they are into serious dramatic films, then I would not recommend it for that person. But, if they are into movies filled with nonsense and lighthearted characters then this movie is great for them," she continued.

People laughed at the funny parts, were dead silent when things became tense, and applauded at the characters' ability to overcome adversity. This movie may not go on to top the charts and is unlikely to take home an Oscar, if movie-goers are seeking a film full of spies, weapons, fights, lessons on how to be a proper gentleman and cheekiness, then it is a movie worth seeing.

Comedy queens chronicle 20 years in the limelight

Jonathan Acosta
Abi Hassan
Journal Staff

The Batman and Robin dynamic duo of comedy, Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, have changed the way the world views women in show business and comedy in the last two decades. So, it came as no surprise that in the last several years, both Fey and Poehler released books that detail their groundbreaking careers and the humorous details of their everyday lives.

Four years ago, Fey opened up about what it took to be a revolutionary leader for women in comedy in her book, "Bossypants." Fey gave the public a new reality, as well as rules on how to become a success in comedy in her book, "Bossypants." "I've got nothing to lose," she fends off a few artist at your photo shoot will work methodically on your eyelids with a series of tidy little brushes for a hundred minutes... at reality..."
"Although "Girls in Peacetime Want to Dance," remains consistent with the style that Belle and Sebastian have maintained throughout the years, it is in no way stale -- it has simply been revamped to embody a slightly more electronic vibe."

The song is a near perfect combination of upbeat and eerie as Martin raspily sings, "Boy, if we were to be friends, subtle is the art required to draw the evil from this lonely pile."

Although "Girls in Peacetime Want to Dance," remains consistent with the style that Belle and Sebastian have maintained throughout the years, it is in no way stale -- it has simply been revamped to embody a slightly more electronic vibe. Their attempt to experiment with this new style is victorious.

This new sound is most apparent on the track, "Play for Today," a song that you can't help but groove to as vocalist Sarah Martin sings out powerful lyrics, "Life is a rope, death is a myth, love is a fraud, it's misunderstood. Work is a sentence, family's a drag, this house is a trap."

In addition to mastering their new sound, Belle and Sebastian also showcase their knack for telling unique and detailed stories through lyrics. One of many examples of this can be found on the track, "The Cat With The Cream," where Murdoch sings out, "Sitting at the old kitchen table, mother's up the stairs with her new boyfriend, Cathy's staying in to make sure nothing happens."

Although this is the meldest track on the album, next to "Today (This Army's For Peace)," the record has its fair share of party tracks. "The Party Line" is just one of those tracks that will leave you itching to dance. The song, which was the album's first single, fade in slowly and reserved, but almost instantaneously transforms into a catchy, cool melody layered with the moody voices of both Murdoch and Martin.

"Perfect Couples" is another dance track, although its sound is far more relaxed than "The Party Line." The song talks about a man not going, but eventually develops a well-paced rhythm that is easy to move to. Similarly, "Poor Had a Little Faith?" has the same familiar sound that delivers another hearty dose of the band's familiar sound.

Belle and Sebastian will be kicking off their U.S. tour at the House of Blues on March 30.
STAFF EDITORIAL

While it was fair that Suffolk University chose to hold classes on President's Day after a barrage of snowstorms canceled multiple Mondays, it was unfair that employees across every university department did not have to report to work. The students' outcry sound like a childish complaint. And, it is a complaint. However, not requiring employees from certain departments to come into work while students and professors had to trudge through snow and battle with limited service from public transportation sends the wrong message.

Does Suffolk value the safety of its employees more so than its students and professors? Those who live off-campus had to wait for trains in cold temperatures through snow, while professors were questioning why mainstream media outlets have been reluctant to label Hicks as a terrorist for the crime he allegedly committed. Others were sure race and religion played a part, and that because Hicks' is a Caucasian-American and not Muslim, he would never be charged with this label. We have no doubt that the way they looked and the way they believed had something to do with it. Hicks' Middle East heritage and not Muslim, he would never be judged for the crimes committed against Muslims in America. Because of the way Muslims are portrayed in the media, innocent people of the Islamic faith are held accountable for the actions of minority.

The ongoing question is: why do mainstream news media outlets have an agenda against Muslims? News stories tend to focus on the heinous acts committed by ISIS but do not care to talk about the crimes committed against Muslims in America. Because of the way Muslims are portrayed in the media, innocent people of the Islamic faith are held accountable for the actions of minority.

The Office of Counseling, Health, and Wellness being closed Monday was inconsiderate. What if a student needed a safe place to talk? What would have happened to a student needing medical attention?

There are multiple hospitals in Boston and national hotlines to assist with such matters, there is no denying that having these services available to students on campus is crucial. The bottom line is that every employee, regardless which department they work for, should be on campus when the university is open and classes are in session.

Students tweeted about their travel problems. Some skipped class entirely because they could not get into Boston. Far fewer students were dotted around campus Monday as places like the Counseling Center, Diversity Services, the Financial Aid office, and others were barren. At least some students and professors were there. They dedicated the extra time to take the commute on a national holiday. Diversity Services and Financial Aid did send aweet reminding students their office would be closed. But that does not excuse the fact that they were inaccessible to students seeking assistance.

The shooting is not the first in a line of crimes attempted against Muslims because of their faith. According to Al Jazeera, just a day before the shootings, Mustafa Muttan, a young Somali Muslim was shot and killed in his apartment in Alberta, Canada, and on Friday, a mosque was set on fire in Houston, Texas. The Providence Journal even posted a picture of a non-profit Muslim school in Rhode Island which was vandalized with Islamophobic graffiti on Saturday.

In a nation known as a "melting pot," with people of different races, religions and backgrounds, white privilege still seems to be at large in the U.S. If the roles were reversed and it was a Muslim who shot and killed three people, the crime would have been perceived as an act of terror, resulting in headlines.

However, because Craig Hicks does not come from a Middle Eastern background and is not Muslim, the media merely excuses him as someone who is a troublemaker and just obsessed with parking. Inside Edition even mocked the victims' deaths by using the tragedy as a segue into a story on how to find good parking at the mall.

In order to be a truly valuable member of this society, it is imperative that you not only acknowledge injustices but also examine the privilege you may experience in daily life. Your friends of other races and ethnicities may be living in the same place as you, but in a life riddled with fears and inequalities.

Yes, we're all equal when it comes to how we deserve to be treated in this world. But you are doing yourself and others harm if you decide to choose ignorance over acknowledgement. Take the time to educate yourself on what's happening around you. God willing one day the world will be at peace and no one will have to be scared for his or her life because of the color of his or her skin or faith.
Cheaper rides from Uber may not be worth risking your safety

Alexa Gagos Journal Staff

Uber, a ride sharing service known as “hip” or “fresh” within its market, has had a string of problems across the world this year — and recently, a driver was charged with assaulting a passenger.

Uber has had a history of problems all around the world, including the fact that many countries have banned the app all together.

Even after the extra dollar surcharge UberX customers have to pay for “safe rides” with “safe” drivers, there are problems with the ride-hailing app.

Early on Feb. 8, Boston Uber driver Abderrahim Dakiri was charged with indecent assault and battery against a passenger, according to a statement from Boston police. The passenger was a 38-year-old woman who was with three of her friends in the beginning of the ride. The driver dropped off the three friends and had to bring the woman to a different destination. During the ride, the driver touched her “indecently several different times.”

In a separate incident in December, Boston Uber driver Eric “Tobias” Tarazi was charged with kidnapping and raping a woman, according to a statement from the Middlesex district attorneys office. It was unclear from the statement whether he was working a shift at the time.

As someone who is not only an avid customer of Uber, but also a woman, I am appalled by the background check “approved” when he was hired, as the Boston Globe reported. The Uber app is on my phone, and my friends and I use it every Friday and Saturday since the MBTA is usually shut down by the time we are headed back to the dorms for the night. It’s often cheaper than a regular cab, and it’s safer than walking back to the residence halls. At least, that’s what we thought.

Emil Michael, a senior vice president at Uber, suggested a private dinner in November while he believed Uber was absolutely the most “ethically challenged” company in Silicon Valley.

As a company that is allegedly popular with Congress, according to the Times, one would think Uber would be more impressive when it came to making sure the drivers were safe and trustworthy. Unfortunately, it doesn’t seem as though it is one of the company’s main priorities.

In my previous rides with Uber, I’ve had drivers that were great, while others I hope I never have again. On one of my rides, I was very sick and heading to a job interview, it wasn’t close to a train station, and I had absolutely no energy to walk. I ordered an Uber, and it was very fast and efficient to get me to my destination. And I had a positive experience with the driver.

What can Suffolk do about so many snow days?

Patricia Negron Journal Staff

If there is one thing uniting all the people in Boston, it is our hatred for the record-breaking snowfalls we’ve had this winter.

Boston has broken its record for most snowfall in exactly one week on Feb. 2, going up from 31.2 inches on Jan. 8, 1999 to 34.2 inches, according to the National Weather Service. Boston also broke its 30-day snowfall record this winter twice during the storm on Feb. 9, first with 61.6 inches at 7 a.m. and then with 68.2 by the end of that storm, which reminded us just how old the MBTA is when it had to be shut down the next day.

Suffolk, along with the rest of the universities and colleges in Boston, is trying to reschedule missed classes as best it can, considering how many snow days we’ve already had. These cancellations have been completely necessary considering both the constantly harsh weather conditions and the problems with the T.

On various occasions, Mayor Martin J. Walsh has closed Boston Public Schools or Martin J. Walsh has closed down Boston Public Schools and asked universities and colleges in the area to close so

By Flickr user Adam Fagen

they were going to spend “a million dollars” looking into the personal lives of journalists who criticized the company, according to The New York Times. Michael later apologized.

Instead of researching the people writing about the company, they should be spending that “million dollars” on more extensive background checks on their drivers.

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What can Suffolk do about so many snow days?
With a month of partial service ahead, MBTA’s woes put into perspective

Sam Humphrey
Journal Staff

What else is there to say about the dire situation of the MBTA?

Until Monday, it seemed as if I had read every article left about the T’s woes. The past month saw transit passengers across the region have been left out in the cold when their trains were immobilized, usually after extreme cold or heavy snowfall. Two weeks after a Red Line train started sparking and smoking inside the Quincy Center station due to a mechanical issue, another was trapped for two hours not far from the station, as the third rail was covered in ice, according to NECN.

And these are just two of the most well-known examples. Thousands of commuters have faced daily delays. Faulty trains gave way to substitute shuttle buses on parts of the Red and Orange Lines; each bunch of the Green Line had its own problems, warned the T’s website.

Then, the T’s General Manager Scott Mirkin said Monday night that it may take 30 days for the system to return to full service. That is, provided “we don’t get hit with a storm like the last one,” she said, according to The Boston Globe.

Just think, less than a month ago, Bostonians were up in arms about the possibility of late-night T service being cut at the upcoming end of its trial period. Some of its supporters were workers who pulled late shifts and the city’s young adults who wanted to stay out late, according to The Boston Globe. Now the same people who wanted the T to run later so they could stay out are probably more worried about whether it will be open to get them to school or work.

But if the past month or so has been filled with days of frustration for the city’s commuters, it seems hard to find an appropriate word for what the employees and managers of the MBTA have faced as they worked to keep it running. Whatever Scott called it, by Wednesday she was fed up, and resigned just hours after the Massachusetts Department of Transportation’s board of directors gave her a vote of confidence, according to the Globe.

Given the almost unfathomable waterfall of problems crashing down on our transit system this winter, any extension of late-night T service is now a luxury, and would be a foolish one to waste the T’s already-strained resources on. So too are the pie-in-the-sky items on the T’s wishlist, like the already-underway South Corridor project or the controversial Urban Rail project which would run a bus rapid transit system between a handful of disconnected towns around Boston.

These projects and the scopes of others listed on the T’s website, must be prioritized. Projects that improve safety, accessibility, and reliability across the system should be ranked and resolved as efficiently as possible. Expanding projects must get the boot.

What good does expanding a crumbling MBTA do for the hundreds of thousands of commuters who use it to get to work and school? While a bigger system that serves more communities would be nice, the T must first fix the maintenance issues that plague those of us already losing service.

As the use of Blackboard and other technology on campus.

MBTA passengers waiting for the Red Line were stacked two and three deep on the platform at Harvard Station. Once the train arrived, the interior lights were out in one car.

Indictment of reckless cop a welcome check on power

Sam Humphrey
Journal Staff

Horrible details surrounding the shooting of Akai Gurley came to light last week at the arraignment of the New York City police officer who shot him.

Officer Peter Liang was indicted by a grand jury on six charges for accidentally shooting and killing Gurley, an African-American man, in a Brooklyn housing project in November, according to The New York Times. His indictment comes after a tense year for relationships between law enforcement community and African-Americans.

In 2014, grand juries chose not to indict police officers in the deaths of African-American men Eric Garner of Staten Island, N.Y., and Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, who were killed by police officers.

"Someone who is meant to defuse dangerous situations cannot walk around with his finger on his trigger... If Liang can’t appreciate the power of his weapon, then he cannot be trusted with the badge.”

While on a patrol through the Louis H. Pink Houses housing project in East New York, Brooklyn, Liang entered a dark stairwell with his gun drawn, according to The Times. At the same time, Gurley and an acquaintance were in the stairwell above Liang and his partner, Shawn Landau. Liang’s gun discharged, and the bullet ricocheted off a wall and hit Gurley, fatally wounding him.

Liang’s conduct after his gun discharged is far more disturbing than his apparent "mistaken“ shooting. He discharged a loaded 9mm with negligent use of force by Feb. 24 no later than 5 p.m. All students are encouraged to run.

Our regular weekly meetings are held every Thursday at 1 p.m. in Donahue 311. We welcome and encourage all students to attend our meetings. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at sga@suffolk.edu.

Have a great week!

Student Government Association

A word from SGA

Dear Suffolk Students,

We hope you are enjoying your week and staying warm in this weather!

The Student Government Association would like to thank the Information Technology department for attending last week’s meeting to discuss the changes of our school’s website as well as the use of Blackboard and all technology on campus. Thank you for all the wonderful work you have done to create progress at Suffolk.

SGA would also like to announce that nominations for executive board have been closed as of Feb. 12.

Congratulations to all the students who were nominated! Students can meet their executive board nominees on Feb. 26 at 1 p.m. in the C. Walsh Theatre.

Also, to all students who would like to run as a SGA Senator for their class or as a Senator-at-Large, election packets will be available in D433. Elections packets must be turned into the SGA office by Feb. 24 no later than 5 p.m. All students are encouraged to run.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Anthony Bosch sentenced to four years in jail

Anthony Bosch, the mastermind behind the Biogenesis scandal, has been sentenced to four years in federal prison in Florida. Bosch, 51, is most well known for supplying a plethora of major league baseball players with performance-enhancing drugs, while posing as a doctor under the pseudo-name "Dr. T," according to ESPN. He has also supplied drugs to other athletes, including high school-aged players seeking an athletic edge. Throughout the investigations regarding those major league baseball players who chose to utilize the façade clinic, Bosch has been extremely cooperative, and as a result, avoided a more severe punishment. In October, he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute testosterone. Throughout the scandal, Bosch has received multiple threats from anonymous people to refrain from speaking on the subject, and to avoid getting those involved into trouble with the law. Bosch is expected to testify if Yuri Sucart and Lazaro Collazo go to trial, according to ESPN.

USA Rugby Sevens comes up short

The United States Rugby Sevens team's impressive run came to a halt last week in their game against the critically acclaimed New Zealand All Blacks. The U.S. entered the tournament as a tenacious sleeper pick to win, but failed to reach the finals. The squad tied South Africa — a team who was pegged to defeat the U.S. handsomely — which put them in a great spot early on. The U.S. proceeded to shut out the hapless Canadian team by a score of 20-0, which lead them into the semi-finals against New Zealand. After staking themselves to a quick 7-0 lead, the All Blacks came roaring back, scoring 26 points and holding the U.S. to just one more try, to come away with a 26-32 win. Things continued to go downhill for the U.S., as they were blown out in the consolation game 31-0 by South Africa.

THE RAM REPORT

Team standings

Men's Basketball
1. Albertus Magnus 15-0
2. Johnson & Wales 13-3
3. Anna Maria 11-5
4. St. Joseph's (Me.) 10-6
5. Lasell 6-9
(7) Suffolk 5-10

Women's Basketball
1. Emmanuel 11-0
2. Suffolk 6-2
3. Norwich 6-3
4. Saint Joseph's (Me.) 6-3
5. Johnson & Wales 6-3

Women's Hockey
1. Nichols 8-1-2
2. Salve Regina 8-3-1
3. Johnson & Wales 7-5
4. Wentworth 5-5-1
5. Western New Eng. 5-5
(7) Suffolk 4-5-1

*Note all standings are GNAC records

Woman's Basketball
vs. Mount Ida, Feb. 21, 1 p.m.
Men's Hockey
vs. Wentworth, Feb. 21, 7 p.m.

Men's Hockey could not handle Curry

The men's hockey team put up a fight Saturday evening, but it was not enough to pull out a win.

The Rams struck first in their ECAC Northeast game against Curry College on a goal from leading team scorer, sophomore forward Triston Turner assisted by junior defenseman Shaughn Shields. Nearly three minutes after, Turner struck gold again on a power play. The Rams struggled to produce any offense from then on out going one-for-five on power plays and letting up five goals with no offensive reaction to counter leaving the squad with a 5-2 loss.

On Monday evening, the team let up early giving up two goals to the Curry Colonels in the first period. The Rams showed flashes of resistance with scores from Turner and from freshman forward Anthony Galloway but ultimately couldn't close at home suffering a loss with a final score of 4-2.

After back-to-back losses to Colonels on Saturday and Monday night, the Rams find themselves in a between a rock and a hard place in the ECAC Northeast. With five straight losses to conference foes Curry, Salve Regina, Johnson & Wales and conference leader Nichola, the Rams are 4-5-1 in conference play and 10-10-1 for the season overall. Despite a tough season, they have a lot to work with in the future and showed it so far this season.

The Rams have lost five conference games in a row. They have three games left this season.

In the ECAC Northeast, the Rams have four players in the top-28 for scoring in conference play. Turner is the seventh leading scorer in the conference with a league high nine goals, plus two assists. Senior forward Tim Spooner is fifth, junior forward Mike Cherpak along with sophomore forwards Simon Leahy and Justin Selip are tied at 25th for scoring in conference play. Not only do the Rams have offense for the future, but they also have a valuable asset in goal in the likes of Brandon Smolarek a junior from Chesterfield, Missouri who has the sixth highest save percentage in conference play at .921 in 10 games played. The Rams, along with having a conference leading goaltender, are also fourth in overall team defense allowing on average 2.9 goals per game.

The team has had problems combatting one of their biggest weaknesses, capitalizing on power plays. The Rams are 7-for-45 on power play opportunities ranked sixth out of eight teams. The remaining games for the Rams are set against a wireless Becker and middle of the pack Wentworth. The Rams can show, although this year may not have been theirs, they are determined and ready for next season knowing more of what can be expected and more of what needs to be done to get to the top of the ECAC Northeast.
Multiple franchise tag options on table for New England Patriots

Jeremy Hayes
Journal Staff

The NFL's off-season officially begins this week with teams having access to use their franchise tag on an antiticipated unrestricted free agent.

The Patriots, now reigning champions, will be busy this off-season with 11 players considered starters, with possible options for the top corner Darrelle Revis leading the group as the most expensive and valuable player.

Revis is unlikely the option for the franchise tag because the Patriots are expected to work out a better contract with him instead of paying him a second year option which would cost $20 million.

The possible options for the franchise tag consist of starters, safety Devin McCourty, running back Shane Vereen, and running back Stevan Ridley, who missed the 2014-15 season with an ACL injury.

The reason the two running backs are an unlikely choice for the tag is because it would be about an $11 million hit on the salary cap. Since franchise tag contracts are only one year and the player tagged earns a top-10 salary at his respective position, tagging one of the running backs would hurt the team as much as losing them financially.

This leaves the media favorite McCourty. He is the realistic option for the franchise tag, but the salary cap for a tagged player would be about $9.6 million. His contract would still be very costly, but he is also the most sought after safety heading into free agency. If the Patriots cannot negotiate a deal with McCourty, tagging is an option.

The hardest part about deciding who to use the franchise tag on is tagging a player the team hopes to sign an extension.

The Patriots, under Bill Belichick, have failed to re-sign five of the eight players they tagged. Meaning, if a player does not sign an extension within a year, the franchise tag contract hurt the team's salary cap.

In the 2014 off-season, the Patriots chose not to use their franchise tag. They re-signed receiver Julian Edelman and chose not to re-sign cornerback Aquib Talib, who went on to sign with the Denver Broncos, it all comes down to if this

Patriots' expected free agents are willing to negotiate a new contract before free agency starts. Like Edelman last year, some players are open to sign with the team and take less money, which they would make with another team.

The Patriots do have another option up their sleeve: tag kicker Stephen Gostkowski.

The idea of tagging a kicker is not popular, but is still realistic. In 2014, the New York Jets tagged kicker Nick Folk.

It is all about money in the NFL and how a team can save Gostkowski $4.12 million for a kicker's salary. He was solid kicking field goals this season going 35-for-37 and has proven he is one of the top kickers in the NFL.

This option is cheap and realistic for the Patriots, but it is also important because kickers do not grow on trees. The Detroit Lions went through three different kickers this past season because they could not find someone trustworthy.

Whoever the Patriots tag, it is important to be aware of the salary cap, but also retain the players who are vital to the organization.

(From top) Stevan Ridley, Stephen Gostkowski, and Devin McCourty are all potential franchise tag options as the 2015 off-season kicks off.

Other Patriots who remain unsigned are cornerback Darrelle Revis, running back Shane Vereen, and guard Dan Connolly.

Benson Henderson was furious after a controversial decision against Donald Cerrone on Jan. 18 at UFC Fight Night 59.

Using anger as fuel, Henderson impressively proved technique is far more important than strength and size in mixed martial arts.

The loss was Henderson's second in a row, giving him the first losing streak of his career. After the fight, in his in-octagon interview with Joe Rogan, Henderson declared he wanted to get into the octagon "next week." Obviously not what he meant literally, but it was made clear he wanted to get back into the cage as soon as possible.

After Stephen Thompson was forced out of his bout with searching-for-prospect Brandon Thatch, there was an opening, and a big one. The fight would be five rounds, and take place just hours away from Thatch's hometown of Denver. Henderson was presented with the challenge and accepted.

Henderson is a former UFC lightweight champion. He has long been a staple in the division, and has bested elite fighters like Gilbert Melendez, Nate Diaz and Frankie Edgar twice, amongst others. He would have to move up a weight class into the stacked welterweight division.

Still, "Hendo" accepted.

Despite this, the talk around the fight was that Thatch would be a challenge due to his size and power, but Henderson would prosper.

Henderson weighed in at a perfect 170 pounds, while Henderson weighed in at 169.

"I was a little disappointed with a one pound discrepancy. But when Henderson stepped off the scale to stare down Thatch, even some of the experts began to change their picks. Thatch absolutely towered above Henderson, his body coated in cannabinoid, as if all of Henderson's credentials had been tossed out the window due to the big — sorry, really big — size difference.

How is this a fight? The small, quiet fighter taking on the large, scary looking opponent. Come on, fight fans, we've been here before. Was there ever a doubt that Henderson would be able to utilize his superior technique to squeeze out a win?

No. People seemed to lose sight of Henderson's credentials, as soon as they saw how imposing Thatch was face-to-face.

So what did Henderson do? Well, in the words of Bruce Lee, Benson Henderson was, quite literally, "like water.

As the fight began, Henderson used his superior speed to pick apart Thatch round by round. Henderson landed a huge variety of strikes, round by round. Henderson used his superior speed to pick apart Thatch round by round. Henderson landed a huge variety of strikes, round by round. Henderson used his superior speed to pick apart Thatch round by round. Henderson landed a huge variety of strikes, round by round. Henderson used his superior speed to pick apart Thatch round by round. Henderson landed a huge variety of strikes, round by round.
Women’s basketball extend win streak against Saint Joseph’s

Jeremy Hayes 
Journal Staff

The Rams in Reagan Gymnasium were thrilled to see their women’s basketball win their fourth straight game Tuesday night.

The Lady Rams, 7-2 in the conference, defeated GNAC opponent Saint Joseph’s Monks 68-61.

The women on the Rams and Coach Ed Leyden seemed excited but calm in their one-sided victory, and they even received a post-game visit by interim president Norman Smith.

"It was great for the team to get attention from the president," said Leyden. "This team represents diligence, hard work, honesty and I think people can see we play really hard. We’ve been doing it for a long time so it was great that he recognized the kids.

The game itself showcased that the Lady Rams have plenty of defensive strength against the 6-4 Monks.

Seven of the nine players who participated in the game had at least one steal. The starting five had nine steals amongst them, with Alex Quadri leading the way with three.

Guard Shelby Santini showed off her quick hands with three blocks in the game, playing tight defense the whole game.

The game started out neck-and-neck, but the Lady Rams got more comfortable as the first half progressed. They managed a double-digit lead for a majority of the game.

Up by 10 in the final minutes of the second half, the Lady Rams kept the Monks out of the game with their fast paced offense and pressuring them on defense.

The Lady Rams’ leader in points this season, Iluma Quadri, started the game with no points on five shot attempts (she went on to finish the game with nine points). Her in-game struggles prove the team could still produce offensively.

Kelsey Schiebel had a solid offensive game with 14 points. She shot .500 from the field and managed five rebounds from the guard positions.

Heading into the playoffs next week, the Lady Rams looked confident on the floor. The defense has been key all season, but now the offense is shining through with selfless passing.

The team as a whole made 11.6 points per game as a leader, and one of the best scorers I’ve ever played with," said Meister. "Unfortunately, he’s been battling injury, so we have got to see for a few games now what it will be like without him, and a lot of players have stepped up and are playing well."

"As long as we stay together and play well together, and work hard in the offseason, then myself and the other guys will be ready to step up," said Meister.

Both games are conference opponents. The Lady Rams have fallen short of a GNAC championship in year’s past, but their odds are looking fair with a good seeding and in-game execution.

In his 21st season, Leyden is no stranger to the postseason. The Lady Rams are currently second in the GNAC standings, which they can potentially lock with two wins.

"I think this is the fun part of the season," said Leyden. "Every game is big and I’m grateful they are meaningful and we are playing out our schedule. We’re fighting for a big thing, we are fighting to win our league, which is cool, and it is a lot of fun."

Men’s basketball falls short at home to Anna Maria

Sammy Hurwitz 
Journal Staff

With just two games remaining in the regular season for the men’s basketball team, it’s almost time to shift the focus to next year’s outlook.

Fifty percent of this year’s squad is comprised of juniors, which bodes well for next season. Jake Meister, the Rams’ junior forward of New Jersey, is very optimistic about the team’s potential for next season, for multiple reasons.

“We return with basically all players except for two,” said Meister. "We have possibly eight seniors next year. And six, including myself, will have played four years together at that point, so we all kind of know our own roles and statuses as players."

Despite the role recognition — as is the case with any college team beginning a new season — leadership roles are bound to change, and Meister is a prime candidate to see a workload increase in leadership.

"Coach has wanted me, more this year, to be vocal and more of a leader. So going into my senior year I definitely look forward to being more of a leader, and making sure we stay focused on what we want to accomplish," said Meister.

Averaging 30 minutes and 11.6 points per game as a junior, Meister is already in the upper echelon as far as numbers on the team. As a senior, those numbers should increase. And they will need to.

Guard Sam Nwadike, who leads the team in minutes and points per game with 34.5 and 20.9 respectively, is on his way out. Nwadike, a senior, has taken to the role of point catalyst this year, and his massive production will undoubtedly be missed.

"As long as we stay together and play well together, and work hard in the offseason, then myself and the other guys will be ready to step up," said Meister.

The Rams need to finish out this season strong. The team will play two more times this week. First, they will face Lasell Thursday. Then the team wraps up with a matinee at Emmanuel on Saturday.