CJN department gets a glimpse of 20 Somerset

Haley Peabody
Journal Staff

As construction crews continue to work on finishing the interior of Suffolk University's new academic building, 20 Somerset, faculty and staff from the department of communication and journalism had the opportunity to tour the new building, where much of their department will be located in the fall.

Dr. Jane Seed, an associate professor in the department, was especially excited about the new workspace for students. She said she hopes the department will be able to attract special analytics software for public relations students to utilize.

"We have to wait and see how it functions. It's all new, that's the good news," said Seed enthusiastically as she looked around the soon-to-be social media room.

The CJN department will call 20 Somerset its new home. The fourth floor will be split into two sections: one for social media and another for media production.

On the media production side of the floor, there will be a large space where students can work communally on different projects, as well as two private media suites for editing and production. There will also be a workspace dedicated entirely to media production studies, as well as a new equipment storage space.

Other members of the department expressed their excitement upon seeing their new workspace for the first time. "I'm really excited for it, it's a nice welcome change. It's a much more communal area than Ridgeway and will help foster relationships between faculty and professors," said Mike DiLeo, a staff assistant in the CJN department who has worked in the Ridgeway building for the past 10 years.

The social media side of the floor will feature a large room with conference tables designed for advertising, public relations and journalism students to come together and work on projects and assignments.

In addition to the conference and lounge area, the room will also feature a media wall equipped with television screens and stations to engage in social media.

The space will also feature

See SOMERSET page 3

Dean selected for College of Arts and Sciences

Heather Rutherford
Journal Staff

After months of extensive searching and numerous interviews, Suffolk University's College of Arts and Sciences announced Monday the next dean to succeed Dean Kenneth Greenberg for the upcoming academic year.

Maria Toyoda, one of three finalists, was officially appointed as the eighth CAS dean by the Board of Trustees and is set to join the Suffolk community on July 1. Toyoda takes on the role of the dean of CAS after being associate dean for Interdisciplinary Studies and Global Initiatives in the CAS at Villanova University.

The other finalists were Dr. Parice Rankine of Hope College of Michigan and Dr. Jeffrey DiLeo of the University of Houston-Victoria.

"Toyoda first heard of Suffolk University two years ago when she met some of our students in Costa Rica," said Professor Robert Allison, a co-chair on the dean search committee. "She was so impressed with them that she Googled Suffolk that night."

Toyoda was also impressed with what Suffolk had to offer its students. According to Allison, Toyoda saw the university's commitment to using all of what Boston can provide with its location, and to sending students around the world with programs in about two dozen countries.

Before her tenure at Villanova, Toyoda was a research scholar at Stanford University's Institute for International Studies, her concentration involving politics of finance.

"The CAS dean search committee was swayed when they discovered Professor Toyoda, Allison said, as she stood out for her vigilant insight into the struggles universities face in the 21st century. "Maria is a stellar teacher, innovative scholar, an educational leader, a skilled administrator, and the right person to lead the CAS into our next phase," said Allison.

An email sent to students from Suffolk said that Toyoda has experience that will be crucial for the advancement and development of the college's curriculum, including her "study abroad initiatives and international research programs."

The email also paid thoughtful gratitude to Greenberg, who will remain at Suffolk to teach full-time in the history department, for his service as the CAS dean for more than a decade.

Created by Journal Staff using Piktochart

See SOMERSET page 3
Strides taken toward awareness for sexual violence by BARCC

Katherine Yearwood
Journal Staff

As someone who experienced sexual abuse as a child and again in college, Boston City Councilor Ayanna Pressley knows the shame and the loneliness that comes with sexual violence. Participating in Sunday’s Boston Area Rape Crisis Center’s annual Walk for Change, Pressley said in a speech that there must be zero tolerance for this kind of culture.

More than 1,000 supporters, sporting white BARCC T-shirts and exercise pants, came together in Brighton to help raise awareness and money for victims of sexual violence. T-shirts hung in the wind like flags, many of them representing traumas and pains experienced by sexual assault survivors.

The walk’s kick-off started at 9:30 in the morning with guest speakers talking about the importance of the event. Pressley in particular gave a speech on sexual violence that moved the crowd to applause. “Standing here as a survivor feels good to stand among my tribe. Rape is a crime that does not discriminate,” she said.

According to Albers, research has shown that calling on others to help as a bystander will prevent diffusion of responsibility, and will increase the likelihood of a positive outcome. A video that was projected for the audience depicted a fictional scenario in which a sexual assault occurred, followed by how it could have been prevented by bystanders.

In the middle of the crowd, Dr. Jean Joyce-Brady gave a speech on sexual violence that moved the crowd to applause. “Standing here as a survivor feels good to stand among my tribe. Rape is a crime that does not discriminate,” she said.

Typically, Albers said, sexual assault is heard of between males and females, but it is crucial to understand that it occurs within all communities and populations. The burden of reporting sexual assaults in the LGBTQ community is increasing, because there are other factors at play.

What could prevent this community from reporting an assault could be “in terms of feeling safe, and coming out and actually acknowledging gender orientation,” he said.

The message for bystanders is that when recognizing a sexual assault situation, do not assume someone other than yourself will be the bystander. With bullying, situations are more often to repeat themselves, and could have a worse outcome than the last.

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Medical officials address management of pandemics at Ford Hall Forum

Lack of communication between the medical community and the public was the topic of interest at Thursday's Ford Hall Forum, where a panel gathered to share their unique experiences in the field and discuss how society as a whole responds to viruses and pandemics.

Moderator Jean McGuire, executive director of the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity, began the conversation by sharing an anecdote about a doctor who wanted to inform a patient's wife that the patient was HIV-positive, but could not because of how difficult a conversation it was. Such a story portrayed how society struggles to deal with medical issues.

The panel featured Associate Hospital Epidemiologist at the Boston Medical Center Dr. Nahid Bhadelia, Executive Director of the AIDS Action Committee Carl Sciortino, and distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Law, Biethics, and Human Rights at Boston University George J. Annas.

"The name of the forum tonight, just the word 'Virus,' it's kind of a scary word. If it was called 'Bacteria' or 'Disease' or 'Public Health,' those are safer words. Viruses are kind of scary," said Sciortino.

Sciortino, a former Massachusetts state representative, said state quarantine laws have changed since he was in legislature. What Sciortino said he doesn't understand is why the public is still uninformed of various drugs that could help HIV patients live through their disease, and that secrecy and that shame have real effects for people and public health.

Sciortino also lamented that Americans are particularly terrible at dealing with uncertainty. For example, he used the imbalance of communication with those averse to the idea of vaccinating their children. Annas supported this with a thought on the circumstances that surrounded the concern with Ebola in the U.S.

"When it becomes enough concern with what is going on in the the U.S. and not globally," said Annas. "It kind of depends on who's dying, doesn't it? It's interesting," said Bhadelia. "I think it depends on where it is."

"For example, anecdotally, there were 10 doctors and nurses with me in November. Four of the people down there had to either quit their job or redid," said Bhadelia. "They were basically told, 'If you go down there, don't come back.'"

Bhadelia said viruses test the limits in the public health defense, and that these pathogens seem to accentuate economic differences within communities. She added that those in lower socioeconomic classes seem to suffer more from epidemics than those in higher classes, as most medical facilities lack the capital to combat epidemics.

Because diseases like Ebola share symptoms with other diseases, they can be extremely hard to diagnose, Bhadelia said. Some were threatened with losing their jobs if they requested to take leave to treat Ebola patients, she said.

The panel discussed how medical issues are handled on national and international levels.

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Ford Hall Forum panelists discussed how national and international societies respond to pandemics and viruses.

New building to include student space and full cafeteria

CJN faculty had the opportunity to scope out the fourth floor of the Somerset building.

The CJN department is set to move into the 20 Somerset building in August.
Zoo New England works to spread the message of conservation in all of their programs.

Zoo New England pushes for conservation

Will Señar
Journal Staff

During Saturday's sunny morning, researchers gathered in the Tropical Forest classroom at the Franklin Park Zoo to discuss the importance of environmental issues for Zoo New England's third annual Science and Conservation Day.

Zoo New England has worked with different agencies to spread the message of conservation and is continuing this relationship. They invited local and international conservationists to share knowledge in their field of study and how they have worked with local communities to save different animal species.

From the rare snow leopard in Eastern Asia to the Blanding's turtle found in New England, researchers shared how they have worked with local communities to save different animal species.

"Don't sit idly by while these animals disappear in front of our eyes."

-- Linehan

State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg visits Suffolk, talks pay equality

State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg discussed the wage gap between men and women in Massachusetts on Monday in the Donahue building. Goldberg will be fundraising to help women in the workplace, especially women of color and immigrant women, who are apt to experience more marginalization in the workplace.

NEWS BRIEF

Korn Ferry rep meets with community

SGA on Tuesday met with a representative from Korn Ferry, the recruiting firm Suffolk has hired to help them conduct their presidential search, in the Law School to share their hopes for Suffolk's next president. According to SGA President-elect Colin Loiselle, the conversation with Representative David Mead-Fox went well. "I thought it was a very productive conversation," said Loiselle. "It was more so us conveying our concerns that we have and the hopes we have for the new president." Loiselle said Mead-Fox held a forum with university faculty and staff before meeting with SGA and met with members of Suffolk's Student Bar Association after meeting with SGA. Members of SGA were contacted directly by Kent Cullinane, senior administrative associate in the president's office, to participate in the forums.

CORRECTIONS

Because of incorrect information provided to a reporter, an error appeared in last week's edition in an article about the Suffolk Environmental Club's Earth Day Fest. The club did not actually have a permit rejected by the city's Parks and Recreation Department for space in the Boston Common, but rather, the permit was rescinded due to overbooking. The club is working on alternative plans for the event's location.

An error appeared in last week's edition in an article about alumni engagement at Suffolk because of incorrect information given to a reporter. Steve Skiffington has been nominated for the alumni representative to the trustee board, but is not set to start this fall. IntroMaps is the name of the geographical database that connects alumni in the city with others in the database. Panorama is an e-newsletter that serves as a way to communicate events, news, and job opportunities online.
Students commemorate, remember 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide

By Sahag Kavlakian,
a member of the Armenian Student Association

April rolls around, the flowers are blooming, the birds are chirping, and what seemed like endless piles of snow are starting to dissipate. It is hard to believe that a month that brings so much life and happiness could have once been a month of unimaginable death and mourning.

April 24 will mark the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, a piece of history that is too often ignored and brushed aside.

Starting as early as 1902, the Young Turks of the Ottoman Empire began systematically slaughtering the minority Christian Armenians living within their empire. With the outbreak of World War I, the collapsing Ottoman Empire saw its opportunity to set operations into full gear. On April 24, 1915, hundreds of Armenian lawyers, doctors, government officials, and intellectuals were taken from their homes in Constantinople and marched to their deaths.

At the same time, thousands of the poorest Armenians were killed in the streets of the capital by "butcher battalions." These merciless murderers rounded up Armenians like sheep, drowned them in rivers, threw them off cliffs, crucified them, and burned them alive, littering the Turkish countryside with Armenian corpses and permanently staining their hands with innocent blood.

Sadly, this was only the beginning and the onslaught continued and worsened until 1923.

Of the nearly two million Armenians living under Ottoman control at the time, 1.5 million men, women, and children were sent on death marches through the desert where they were beaten, raped and brutally murdered in a barbaric attempt to exterminate and "ethnically cleanse" all Christian Armenians from the Ottoman Empire.

Those who survived were either forced to convert to Islam or exiled from their homeland. Many fled to Syria, Russia, and the U.S., forming diasporas in major cities such as Aleppo, Moscow, Los Angeles, and Boston. They left with nothing, some fortunate enough to have the clothes on their backs. All property, personal belongings, and family heirlooms were left behind and confiscated by the Turks.

April 24 is now a day of mourning for Armenians across the world as they take time to commemorate and remember the victims of the genocide. Turkey has made its number one priority to deny the genocide at all costs. They have tried for a century to wash their hands of the blood. But the more they deny and lobby against the genocide, the more Armenians across the world fight back for justice.

If you stand for justice, stand with us on April 24 as we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Manuscript Museum - Yerevan, Armenia.

The Gomidas Composer Sculpture by the Yerevan Conservatory entrance.
Airstrikes on Yemen ground continue

Despite push from Iranian officials to end attacks, Saudi Arabian militants continue violence

Alexa Gagosz
Journal Staff

Saudi Arabian officials rejected Iranian calls to end the airstrikes on their neighbor, Yemen, Sunday when militants dropped bombs on a military camp in the Yemeni city of Taiz, killing eight civilians, according to NBC News. Freshmen Mohammad Hafiz moved to the U.S. three years ago from Mecca, Saudi Arabia, to study English before attending Suffolk. He said he supported Saudi Arabia in continuing the airstrikes even after Iran called to end them.

"The Saudi Arabian government has been saying that Iran should not get involved. And I agree with them," said Hafiz. "Saudi Arabia has a good relationship with Europe, with the United States, with Canada, with so many different countries around the world, so it would be smart for Iran to not get involved."

Hafiz's mother can trace her roots back to Yemen. Hafiz does not believe in war, killing, or attacking different countries, he said.

"Everything Saudi Arabia is doing is a response," said Hafiz. "Killing is not an option, at least, it's not the first option."

The Houthis insurgency in Yemen, also known as the Sa'ada conflict or war, began in June 2004 when head of the Zaidi sect, Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi, launched an uprising against the Yemeni government. The government believed that the Houthis were looking to overthrow the government and implement Zaidi religious law. The government also accused Iran of directing and financing the rebels, according to BBC.

In August 2009, the Yemeni army launched an attack against the Houthis in the Sa'ada province, where hundreds of thousands were displaced because of the fighting, according to BBC. The process that took place marked the clashes between not only the Yemeni government and the Houthis, but also the Houthis and al-Qaeda. Since the resignation of President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi and his ministers in January, Houthis have declared themselves in full control of the government by putting together a Revolutionary Committee led by Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, according to CNN.

The U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for Hadi to be restored as president in February, according to BBC. President Hadi appointed his prime minister on Sunday, a move that Reuters said was in hopes of improving the chances of a peaceful settlement to the Civil War.

Vice President Khaled Bahah is known as being popular across Yemen's spectrum of parties and is seen as a figure that could possibly calm tensions and bring parties to a negotiating table, according to Reuters.

Hafiz believed that Bahah was the best choice for Yemen's vice president, that he would bring parties together for peace.

Yemen has since been bombed by Saudi Arabia and the Sunni Arab allies for the past two weeks in hopes to slow the advancement of Iranian-allied Houthi militias toward the port city of Aden, according to Reuters.

The U.N. has been warned on the growing humanitarian crisis in Yemen and said the majority of the people killed in the conflict are civilians, blaming both Saudi-led coalition and Houthi rebels.

Secretary-General Ki-moon said to Reuters on Sunday he was concerned about the fighting and urged for peace talks.

BBC reported that Yemen is becoming a "violent cauldron" where the competing parties and interests of the Houthi rebels, Sunni tribes, Saudi Arabia, al-Qaeda, Iran, and Islamic State are "forming a toxic mix."

The violence there has increased the point where the U.S. and U.K. have completely evacuated their staff and closed down their embassies, according to reports by BBC.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraq

The group known as the Islamic State has lost more than a quarter of their territory to Iraq since August, according to BBC. Pentagon spokesman Colonel Steve Warren told BBC it was too easy to say that conditions were turning around, but he did say that the airstrikes and the Iraqi ground forces had "unquestionably inflicted some damage." Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi wants the U.S.-led coalition to step up its air campaign and involvement against the Islamic State. The frontline has been pushed both west and south in Irbil, Bahia, Baghdad and Kirkuk, Warren told BBC. The coalition bombing helped contain the Islamic State forces, although the only way to push them back is through the use of troops, The Kurds in Iraq and Syria have proven to be the most persistent forces in doing so, according to BBC.

Iran

The U.S. Senate reached an agreement on the Iranian nuclear deal Tuesday, according to the Huffington Post. Senator Bob Corker, who is the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told The Washington Post that they struck an agreement with Democrats. "We have reached a bipartisan agreement that keeps the congressional review process absolutely intact, full of integrity," Corker said to The Washington Post. The deal still requires the president to submit any final agreement in front of Congress, as they have a say on whether or not the president can lift any sanctions on Iran in exchange for the restrictions on the deal. The deal reduces the Senate's time frame to consider the lifting of sanctions, according to the New York Times.

Nigeria

It has been a year since 219 girls were abducted by the Nigerian militant Islamist group Boko Haram. Protestors around the world have vowed to remember them by demonstrating in the capital city of Abuja. At the present, 219 girls were present to represent each of the missing girls, according to BBC. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the world should "never forget the kidnapped Chibok girls." There have been reports of sightings of the girls, but none have been found, according to BBC. The young women demonstrated by wearing shirts that said, "#NeverToBeForgotten" and "#365DaysOn" as they sang and chanted "solidarity forever," BBC reported. Marches and demonstrations have also been held in the U.S., U.K., and France, according to Al Jazeera.

Boko Haram claimed the kidnapped girls were converted to Islam and were forced to marry. A witness told BBC that they saw more than 50 of them alive in the town of Gwoza three weeks ago.
As seen on campus

Study abroad visit to the Vatican

Seeing images of Vatican City is one thing, but actually standing in the center of St. Peter's Square is another. I remember observing the beautiful architecture and colonnades surrounding the square, and then Pope Francis appeared. It was something I had not anticipated seeing, but completely surreal.

- Connie Lai, Journal Staff

Members of the Armenian Student Association gather in the Sawyer Business School lobby. The 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide is this month.

Interested in writing, photography, graphic design, or social media? The place for you is The Suffolk Journal! Email suffolkjournal@gmail.com or stop by D637.

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Laughter fills Wang Theatre for jester Jerry Seinfeld

The hit show “Seinfeld” may have been a self-proclaimed show about nothing, but producer and star, Jerry Seinfeld at the sold-out Wang Theatre on Friday reassured the audience that there are a lot of laughs about everything still left in his career.

During his 70-minute set, Seinfeld’s deadpan jokes and catchy wit that made his NBC show a household name for the last three decades captivated the audience. His knack for sounding like a moderately grumpy, technology-hating “average Joe” father of three may have been a self-proclaimed show about nothing, but producer and star, Jerry Seinfeld at the sold-out Wang Theatre on Friday reassured the audience that there are a lot of laughs about everything still left in his career.

Despite the obvious difference in wealth and power between Seinfeld and his audience, he did a fantastic job in fooling us we are one in the same. Changing up and refreshing punch lines to make subjects that everyone in the audience could relate to, like public bathrooms, the ridiculously boring nature of golf, Facebook, PopTarts and caller ID, he unearthed comedic genius from the mundane.

Seinfeld is no stranger to stand-up, having started his career going out on tour and doing comedy specials. Solving the everyday problems of his neurotic cohorts on his sitcom show, he has been the famous funnyman with an ability to deliver a healthy amount of sarcasm that people of all ages can understand.

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Shaking up the conventional introduction where the comedian typically provides a slick delivery of all the mishaps that occurred before stepping on stage, Seinfeld ran out and despite his popularity on-screen, appeared to be surprised by the packed house in front of him.

Of course, Seinfeld interpreted his experience for the audience and broke down the crowd into two groups: the people who wanted to be there and the others who were there out of peer pressure, boredom or any other conglomerate of reasons why they had nothing better to do on a Friday night than see an, “old, rich, tired guy rant.”

From purchasing the tickets, coordinating between multiple parties on pre- and post-show plans coupled with the delicacy a man must exercise when asking his wife if she is ready, Seinfeld congratulated the audience on all the effort it took to get from their home to the venue.

“My job is to slightly distract you while you sit in a different chair,” he said to kick off the show. Pinpointing the emotions and reactions we all feel but rarely express, he set the tone for easygoing and relatable quick humor that left the crowd roaring from the get-go.

For lovers of “Seinfeld,” moments of his performance highlighted his ability to morph the smallest observations into a brilliant commentary on modern society.

“I could text you this whole out of here,” he said. Seinfeld is open about his hatred of texting and it’s influence on face-to-face interaction that wasn’t present when he first appeared in the limelight.

He even joked fun at the postal service and its attempts to stay afloat against the surge of technology. Mocking the recent increase of the cost of a stamp by another penny he joked, “Just make it a dollar. If you have money leftover, get a stamp by another penny he joked, “Just make it a dollar. If you have money leftover, get a stamp by another penny he joked, “Just make it a dollar. If you have money leftover, get a stamp.

“Evolution of the Kid”
-Sammy H.
Alina Baraz
“Pretty Thoughts”
-Heather R.
Fifth Harmony
“Reflection”
-Thalin Y. and Brigitte C.

“Seinfeld” is an American television sitcom that ran for nine seasons on NBC. Created by Larry David and Jerry Seinfeld, the latter starred as himself living in Manhattan’s Upper West Side in New York City with a handful of neurotic friends and love interests.
Toro Y Moi brings unique sound to new album

Haley Peabody
Journal Staff

The sounds of cars racing menacingly blur into high-pitched, synthesized notes on the opening track of Toro Y Moi's latest album, "What If." The album, which was released April 6, embodies Toro Y Moi's atypical sound, delivering a hearty dose of his irresistible, muted, and electronic vibe.

Toro Y Moi, also known as Chazwick Bradley Bundick, began his music career with Carpark Records in 2010 and has since branded himself as a trailblazer in the "chill wave" movement, a genre that is driven by synthesized sounds and short, straightforward lyrics.

Along with his carefully crafted yet subtle electronic sound, Toro Y Moi's songs exemplify a psychedelic style jazz that is both modern and reminiscent of popular 1960s tunes, easily sounding as if they could flow freely from a jukebox.

Despite working to create the best product in his genre, Bundick's originality brings out the uniqueness in each of his tracks. One example of this is the song, "Empty Nesters," which starts off with scratchy and deadened, "I love yous," that then explode into the sounds of upbeat guitars working brilliantly in tandem with Bundick's subtle vocal work.

"The Flight," the third track on the album, is especially reminiscent of portions of songs from the famous Beatles album, "Abbey Road." The subdued notes expertly mimic chords found in the famous "Golden Slumbers" medley.

Building on mellow beats similar to bands like Neon Indian and Sleigh Bells, Bundick's tracks such as, "Half Dome" and "Yeah Right," are ethereal, mixing electronic syncopation with lyrics that tell a real life and relatable story.

"Let's hang out soon/I'll give you a call/I'll be around/I think I'll go now/What do you need?/Stay for a while/Oh let's go get high," are lyrics from "Half Dome."

In addition to pairing simple lyrics with soothing beats, Bundick also has the talent to break free from other artists while still harnessing various elements and ideas from a myriad of genres.

On his track, "Lilly," Bundick morphs synthesized beats into an intricate piano solo in the song's final seconds, a clear indication that despite his brilliance within his field, he is not afraid to branch out and take risks on more traditional approaches.

"I've done electronic R&B and more traditional recorded type R&B stuff. I just wanted to see what else was out there. It's all coming from the same mindset and point of creativity. It's just me trying to take what I already have, and then take it further," said Bundick in a statement.

Although the majority of the tracks on the album have a much more relaxed vibe, Bundick sprinkles in the perfect amount of upbeat melodies in several tracks such as, "Spell It Out." Despite his lack of recognition in mainstream music, Toro Y Moi performed at the annual Coachella festival in California over the weekend.

"What If" is available to stream for free on Spotify. Toro Y Moi is expected to perform at Boston's Paradise Rock Club on May 3.

Top Tracks
"The Flight"
"Spell It Out"
"Run Baby Run"

Theatre Department's 'Shockheaded Peter' takes on the C. Walsh Theatre

Suffolk's Theatre Department presented their adaption of Carlo Goldoni's 1753 comedy "Shockheaded Peter" over the weekend in the C. Walsh Theatre. The show, which featured original lyrics by Caitlin Langstaff, Oded Gross, James Prendergast and Tracy Young, ran for four performances.
Attempts to prolong the show and keep the audience engaged was made with confetti cannons. "Here It Goes Again," ending the song with colorful streams of light from his priest.

The first cannons went off for their song "Last Leaf," acoustically on guitar in the middle of the crowd. The entire band is very talented and their live performance was equally impressive to their record tracks. Which is typically not the case for most artists these days. Not to mention that nearing the end of their concert, the band performed their own rendition of Led Zeppelin's "Black Dog," which displayed their flexibilities.

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Their song "Hungry Ghosts," was released in October 2014. The entire concert, the band covered in confetti as well as their hit, "The Writings on the Wall," another song from "Hungry Ghosts." The entire band performed a song with confetti accumulating all over the stage. In the same way the audience during their performance was equally impressive to their record tracks. Which is typically not the case for most artists these days. Not to mention that nearing the end of their concert, the band performed their own rendition of Led Zeppelin's "Black Dog," which displayed their flexibilities.

The microphone stands became colorful streams of light during "Obsession." Each song had its own personalized color scheme. It gave each song a personalized tone and flair through color. "This Too Shall Pass" brought on more confetti, as did "Turn Up the Radio." Another cool thing they did and admitted was a little nervously, was that they sampled sounds of the first scene of the show as foot stamping; asking the audience to replicate sounds that of a bi-hat cymbal, xylophone and other various sounds. This created a little tune specific to the audience and location of the show. They dabbled around with it briefly, but it was still a very interesting thing to witness and be a part of as an audience member.

For the encore, the band came out in matching white jumpsuits, and performed elaborate choreography to "A Million Ways." Following this, the lights went down, and the band kicked the night off, the cleverly played their hit song "Here It Goes Again," ending the night on a high note. What was most impressive was the band's approachability, humility and invitation to many of the audience members on stage that reminded people of the real merit of good music and togetherness.

For the positives that the show possesses, the pilot episode bookends were like a fast film on YouTube than one that is made in a studio by professionals. The lighting was almost non-existent and the camera placements and shifts felt forced. Despite its cliché style and dialogue, Daredevil remains unique and exciting enough to stand-alone. While it may not be "Breaking Bad" in terms of hype and twists, the action sequences in the show should be enough to keep viewers entertained.
At a time when homosexuality and different gender identities are becoming more accepted, it seems ridiculous that some organizations still legally offer “conversion therapies” that attempt to change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity. These conversion therapies are usually offered by licensed mental health professionals as part of religious organizations, but the very nature of these therapies is extremely unethical because it is based on the conception that a person’s identity is wrong and shameful, and needs to be cured.

Fortunately, President Barack Obama took another powerful and historic step in favor of LGBT rights last Wednesday and called for a national ban on conversion therapy. Considering that many mental health associations oppose the practice, a national ban was necessary years ago.

The American Psychological Association removed homosexuality from its list of mental disorders in 1973, and has formally opposed conversion therapy since 2009. “The most important fact about these therapies,” is that they are based on a view of homosexuality that has been rejected by all the major mental health professions.”

Despite this move by the APA, many licensed professionals are still legally allowed to practice conversion therapy, despite the serious ethical problems posed by attempting to change someone’s gender identity or sexual orientation. Religious freedom does not cover anyone’s right to manipulate another person’s identity, even if they are the person’s parent or therapist. Obama’s decision was sparked by a petition addressed to him on the White House website, asking for a bill to be called “Leelah’s Law,” in honor of 17-year-old Leelah Alcorn, banning any type of sexual orientation conversion therapy. Alcorn died in December and was one of many adolescents who have experienced depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts after going through conversion therapy. She posted her suicide note on Tumblr after being forced onto the internet before being forced to go through with conversion therapy. She was isolated and homeschooled by her parents, who wanted to change her gender identity, she struggled. Other respectable health and mental health associations, like the American Psychological Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Counseling Association, among others, also oppose conversion therapy, according to the APA’s website.

These practices should not be called therapy, and licensed therapists, counselors, social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists who either support or practice this “therapy” should be stripped of their licenses. It is unethical to treat sexual orientations and gender identities as a mental disorder, so why is it legally acceptable for them to operate and mentally scar so many adolescents? The International Healing Foundation, for example, offers conversion therapy to their clients, but refer to it by terms like “transformations” and “healing seminars.”

“Some clients” experience unwanted SSA [same-sex attraction] and seek to explore the possibility of change, while others embrace their homosexual feelings and live a gay life. We support the individual’s right to fulfill his/her goals and dreams,” their website reads.

The licensed therapists from IHF shouldn’t be allowed to conduct practices that have been proven harmful, even if they’re calling it by another name. The very essence of conversion therapy is unethical, as it contradicts an individual’s right to be true to themselves. It’s a big step forward. I would ask those licensed mental health professionals who support or practice conversion therapy be stripped of their licenses until they complete certain workshops that will hopefully develop their empathy, and help them understand and respect different gender identities and sexual orientations.

Patricia Negron
Journal Staff

Protestors at Exodus International’s annual convention in 2009. The group shut down in 2013 after many of their counselors opposed conversion therapy and quit. Their former president, Alan Chambers, later apologized for the damage caused by the therapy.

By Flickr User Kevin Zdzielewicz

National ban on conversion therapy was necessary years ago

It’s a good week for women’s rights and equality at Suffolk University. Officials finally announced who will take over for Kenneth Greenberg as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Long awaited by staff and students, the Board of Trustees at their April 10 meeting approved the appointment of Maria Toyoda for the position.

Toyoda is a highly qualified candidate, with experience in many areas stemming from her current position at Villanova University. She has skills in politics and finance, according to a statement from Suffolk University, and holds a bachelor’s degree from Stanford University and master’s and doctorate from Georgetown University.

But what is also exciting about Toyoda is that she is a woman.

Having an intelligent woman in a position of power at the university helps add to the diversity that Suffolk seeks to deliver to students and the community. Toyoda will lead the university’s largest college and will have the opportunity to connect with students and improve CAS during a time of change in Suffolk’s 109-year history.

Even decades after the civil rights movement and the women’s rights movement, it is still a struggle for women to break through the glass ceiling and earn wages as high as their male counterparts.

The dean of CAS earns one of the highest salaries at Suffolk, according to tax documents, and it will be a step in the right direction to see a woman earning salaries comparable to the university’s highest paid men.

This isn’t the only victory for wage equality on campus this week. On Monday, state Treasurer Deborah Goldberg visited campus to discuss just that.

With a group of aims in Donahue, Goldberg spoke about the wage gap and working to fight for equal pay, especially for women of color and immigrants.

And nearby campus Tuesday morning, Mayor Martin J. Walsh discussed pay equality at the Omni Parker House with local women leaders.

It’s a great week to be a woman at Suffolk.
For many reasons, Tsarnaev should not get the death penalty

Katie Dugan
Journal Staff


Despite the horrifying nature of his crimes, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, who was found guilty last Wednesday of all 30 counts he faced for the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, should not be given the death penalty.

Tsarnaev and his late brother, Tamerlan, were responsible for the deaths of four people and the injuries of many others.

The are many reasons the death penalty is wrong and backward-looking. It was abolished in Massachusetts nearly 30 years ago, and no one has been executed in Massachusetts in 67 years, according to the Massachusetts Death Penalty Information Center.

The cost of executing a civilian is alarmingly expensive. Many people believe the death penalty is more cost effective than housing and feeding a prisoner for life. But the death penalty's complexity, length, and conclusion drive the costs through the roof, making it much more expensive.

According to Equal Justice USA, a national organization that advocates for a fairer justice system, more than a dozen states have found that death penalty cases are up to 30 times more expensive than comparable non-death cases. In reality, capital punishment is an inefficient program that impedes law enforcement, delays closure for victims' families, and devalues millions of dollars that could be put toward protecting lives.

Not only do death penalty cases cost money, they take up a lot of valuable time. In the time it takes to pursue one capital case, law enforcement could probably investigate, prosecute, solve, and prevent other crimes.

There are many legitimate economic reasons why the death penalty is unsound, but there are moral reasons as well. The very nature of the death penalty comes from a place of revenge, not justice. This is a deeply difficult time for families who lost loved ones in the attacks, but research suggests that executions do not give victims' families closure, according to CNN. Killing Tsarnaev won't bring back lives that were lost or heal those who were injured.

The death penalty punishment aims to prevent the criminal from inflicting any more harm. However, based on research done by the Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty, there is no proof that it actually reduces the crime rate. In fact, the death penalty should fall under the eighth amendment, which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment.

Like many people from New England, I was saddened and distraught when I heard news of the bombings. The Sunday after the bombings, I came into Boston with my parents to attend Suffolk's Accepted Students Day. Afterwards, we went to Copley Square to view the makeshift memorial. It was the most moving memorial I had ever seen. People left their running shoes and baseball hats along with hundreds of flowers and American flags. Despite the sadness, the atmosphere of the city on that day came from a place of resilience, not defeat.

We must continue to look forward, leave the attackers in the dust, lock them in a cell somewhere and forget about them. Revenge is a very burdensome emotion. If we want to genuinely make this terrible day a thing of the past we must look positively toward a future, not to a painful past. That is what it means to be "Boston Strong."

Living off campus allows for success after college

Ian Kea
Journal Staff


Suffolk isn't a typical four year boarding university, most students know that. Boston schools with limited housing, like Suffolk, set their students up for a more prepared future inside and outside the classroom by having the majority of students live off-campus after their first year.

A university that doesn't guarantee students four years of housing can turn some potential applicants away, but the thought of having your own space can help convince others that Suffolk is the school for them. Not only does the prospect of having a place to call your own make living away from home a little easier.

Coming from outside of New England, going home is not an easy task to do, especially during the holidays. During winter break, for example, Suffolk required on-campus students to move out of the dorms by certain time on a certain date.

I had to pay nearly $400 round trip for a flight that worked with Suffolk's schedule. But if I had left two days later, I could have saved $100 less. Although convenient, the dorms are pricey, costing students more than $15,000 for just eight months of room and board for a student in a double room, according to Suffolk's website. Singles in the dorms can be even more expensive. The cost of a full year's rent in my future space in the North End, in addition to the cost of food, come out to be just less than Suffolk's room and board for a full, eight-month school year.

Off-campus living can also have a more homey feeling and reduces time spent traveling. The winter break spreads out over five weeks and it can be a little too much time with parents after being away from them for so long. Being able to spend a week or two with family and then come back to your apartment makes a real difference. It gives you a safe haven, and another place to call your home.

Living off campus also prepares you for the future of living on your own, away from your parents. From having to go grocery shopping, cook, pay rent and utilities bills on time, as well as doing all the little necessities in between such as replacing a light bulb, living on their own teaches students to become independent.

An apartment setting also gives you more flexibility with what you can and can't do. An apartment is more space than the dorms. In my apartment, I am able to just bring friends up to my space, and guests can stay more than a couple days without a problem.

I decided to get an apartment to establish residency in Massachusetts. I want to go to law school eventually, and after I receive my bachelor's degree, I am planning to go on my own financially. I want to make life as inexpensive as possible, so by becoming a Massachusetts resident I can save money if I were to attend UMass Dartmouth for law school down the road, instead of attending UMass Amherst.

Off-campus living gives you a glimpse of what life will be like once you land your first job and able to live away from the limitations of your childhood home. Along with receiving an education, living off campus during college gives you an education all of its own.
The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority has faced problems from poor management, inefficient spending, and excessive employee absenteeism for years, according to an analysis of experts' new report on the agency's operations released last week. The report is a win for Governor Charlie Baker, who commissioned the report and has insisted the agency must be reformed before the state increases funding to fix its problems.

The MBTA's service was hampered this winter as a record amount of snow fell on the Commonwealth, shutting it down entirely for two days. Problems with the agency have been apparent for years, and were addressed in earlier reports, but the most recent one titled, "Back on Track," is far more in-depth and specific than its predecessors, according to an analyst of the report, available on the MBTA's website.

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What is most worrisome, are the unbelievable rates of employee absenteeism, with MBTA employees missing an average of 57 workdays per year. Additionally, about 30 percent of MBTA employees are authorized to take unscheduled, intermittent days off under the Family and Medical Leave Act. The act allows eligible employees up to 12 weeks of job-protected leave time to care for personal medical problems or sick family members, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. But the high level of employees certified to take leave at the MBTA is "disruptive to productivity," according to the report, which says the agency must crack down on workers who abuse the FMLA and other forms of leave.

Absenteeism averages at the MBTA are about twice as high as other agencies across the country, and about four times as high as the transportation industry, according to the report.

Anyone who relies on the MBTA for their daily commute should be worried. When employees don't show up for work there is no guarantee that there will be someone available to replace them. This unpredictable factor could translate into canceled service and angry commuters.

At a time when it is crucial for the MBTA to make improvements, how can the agency improve if it can't even manage its workforce?

I do not envy anyone who worked for the MBTA during this past winter. Inadequate equipment, furious commuters, and powerful storms must have made their jobs unimaginably trying. But if the problem of absenteeism is this severe, it didn't start this winter, and it won't end when warmer weather comes and commuters' anger from the winter recedes. Reforming the agency will require a change in its workplace culture, and that starts with good management at the top.

Baker cannot turn the agency around by himself. But this latest report shows he's serious not only about identifying what is wrong at the MBTA, but about finding and implementing changes to put the agency back on track.

The MBTA needs major reforms before new revenue from SGA

The Suffolk Journal

A WORD FROM SGA

Dear Suffolk Students,

Thank you to all of our student leaders on campus for attending the SGA leadership awards last Tuesday. Congratulations to all student and faculty leaders who were nominated and who won awards! We hope you all had a blast!

Our annual overnight LEAP conference will take place from April 17 to April 18. Please make sure all guests fill out their available in the SGA office on the fourth floor of Donahue by April 15.

At last week's SGA meeting, the Senate passed a resolution that updated our previous position on the Food and Drug Administration's policy regarding gay and bisexual men donating blood. The new resolution encourages the university to host blood drives that raise awareness about the policy denying men who have had sex with men for one year, and encourages the administration to acknowledge the discriminatory nature of the policy. Thank you for all your support in our progress to make this important change.

Our regular weekly meetings are held every Thursday at 5 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

Interested in joining The Suffolk Journal?

It's not too late! We are always looking for writers, photographers, cartoonists, editors, and more.

suffolkjournal@gmail.com

THE SUFFOLK JOURNAL

MBTA needs major reforms before new revenue

Sam Humphrey
Journal Staff

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority has faced problems from poor management, inefficient spending, and excessive employee absenteeism, according to a recent report on the agency's operations released last week. The report is a win for Governor Charlie Baker, who commissioned the report and has insisted the agency must be reformed before the state increases funding to fix its problems.

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The MBTA needs major reforms before new revenue

Maria Baluch
Journal Staff

Dove's campaign does not give women a choice

Dove, a soap and personal care products manufacturer, launched a campaign last week on its YouTube page called, "Challenge Beautiful." The social experiment involved setting up two doors at random stores, labeled "beautiful" and "average" in cities such as San Francisco, Shanghai, Delhi, London and Sao Paulo. Women who approached these stores had the option of walking through either door, depending on how they perceived themselves.

According to its YouTube page, Dove launched the experiment to "prove that beauty is a choice and the power of this choice is in your hands." After watching the video, it wasn't surprising that many of the women in the video chose to walk through the "average" door.

Although slightly empowering for those who chose "beautiful," the social experiment failed those who decided they were "average" by emphasizing their insecurities. People are self-conscious as it is, so why make them even more uncomfortable by making them public

Two women approach the two doors in a video for the #ChooseBeautiful campaign. One woman chooses the "beautiful" door and says she didn't really feel good about herself afterwards, while another one says, "It was my choice and now I will question myself for the next few weeks, maybe months."

Unlikely, the company who owns Dove, released an official statement on its website that "Dove believes feeling beautiful is a personal choice and women should feel empowered to make for themselves, every day." But if the skincare company wanted to empower women and make them feel good about themselves, why did they only give these women the opportunity of choosing either of the two physical traits? Why not qualities that asked how they see their "inner beauty?"

It's not really giving women much of a choice of how they should perceive themselves when they are only given two options. Maybe some of the women in the video had certain concerns or insecurities with their looks and this experience critiqued their looks in an offensive manner. Or rather, the ones who wanted to walk through the "beautiful" door were hesitant because they didn't want to seem vain.

The campaign was just two boards labeled "beautiful" and "average" - a marketing tool to get women to buy Dove products and feel beautiful even if they think they're not.
Red Sox escape Nationals

The Boston Red Sox defeated the Washington Nationals Tuesday night by a final score of 8-7. The win improved their overall record to 6-2. Justin Masterson, the Red Sox starting pitcher, was rocked, surrendering seven earned runs over 4.2 innings. Lucky for him, the offense — accompanied by Washington's shaky defense — was able to bail him out. Dustin Pedroia went 3-4 with a home run and a walk, Brock Holt went 2-4 with an RBI and Mookie Betts had an RBI double and stole a base. The aforementioned Washington defense committed three errors, leading to three unearned Boston runs. The Red Sox and the Nationals will finish out the series Wednesday at Fenway Park, starting at 1:35 p.m. Gio Gonzalez will get the nod for the Nationals, and Wade Miley will start for the Red Sox.

Celtics clinch playoff berth

The Boston Celtics have clinched a berth in the 2015 NBA playoffs, after the Brooklyn Nets lost to the Chicago Bulls Monday night. This marks the Celtics' first playoff appearance in the post Pierce, Garnett and Rondo era. The Celtics were dubbed by ESPN to be the NBA's 25th best team before the season started, while the Timberwolves and Knicks ranked at 22 and 15, respectively. Now, days away from the end of the regular season, the Celtics have traded Rajon Rondo and Jeff Green and are playoff bound. In contrast, the Timberwolves and Knicks own the worst two records in the NBA. The Celtics will take on either the Atlanta Hawks or the Cleveland Cavaliers in the first round, with games beginning this Saturday afternoon at 3 p.m.

Sefolosha claims injuries are from police

The Atlanta Hawks' shooting guard and small forward Thabo Sefolosha, 30, will miss the duration of the season, as well as the entire playoffs. He suffered a broken right fibula and ligament damage after being charged for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest, according to ESPN. On Tuesday, Sefolosha admitted that the injuries he sustained were a result of the police covering the scene. "On advice of counsel, I hope you can appreciate that I cannot discuss the facts of this case," said Sefolosha, according to ESPN. "Those question will be answered by my attorney in law. I will simply say that I am in great pain, have experienced a significant injury and that injury was caused by the police." Sefolosha declined to comment any further regarding the situation.

Alex Rios on 15-day disabled list

The Kansas City Royals still have the best record in the MLB at 7-0, but the team suffered a loss that won't show up in the loss column. The Royals placed right fielder Alex Rios on the 15-day disabled list yesterday after a ball struck him in the hand Monday, according to ESPN. Rios suffered a non-displaced fracture of the fifth metacarpal. The Royals are the only unbeaten team remaining, and Rios was the team's most effective hitter in the opening week. He has posted a .321 batting average, drove in eight RBI and smacked a homerun. Lorenzo Cain will be moved to right field, and Jarrod Dyson will take over in center field, according to Yahoo Sports. The Royals will play their first game without Rios against the 1-6 Minnesota Twins on Wednesday.

Qusrawi trains in Jiu-Jitsu

From JIU-JITSU page 16 forcing them to tap out. A submission can be a choke, an armbar, a leg lock, or an omoplata amongst many others. Qusrawi's personal favorite: the kimura. To pull off this submission, a fighter must grab their opponent's wrist, slip their other arm under their opponent's arm, grab their own wrist and crank the opponent's arm behind their back. The force from the kimura should force a tap out from the opponent, in an attempt to avoid serious damage to their shoulder. Sounds fun, right? Well, according to Quswari — an advocate of the martial art — it is. "Do jiu-jitsu," said Quswari, adamantly. "It's fun, it's interesting. It's the only sport where you can fight someone, put your heart and soul into it, and then at the end you can be friends."

The Ram Report

Team standings

Baseball
1. St. Joseph's (Maine) 10-0
2. Suffolk 6-3
3. Johnson & Wales 5-3
4. Lasell 6-4
5. Rivier 5-6

Softball
1. Suffolk 12-2
2. Simmons 10-4
3. Johnson & Wales 10-4
4. Albertus Magnus 9-4
5. Saint Joseph's (Maine) 11-5

Men's Tennis
1. Ramapo 9-2
2. Norwich 6-1
3. Johnson & Wales 4-1
4. Albertus Magnus 5-1
5. Suffolk 6-2

*Note all standings are conference records, excluding men's tennis.

Baseball
@ Rivier, April 15, 7:05 p.m.

Softball
vs. Norwich, April 16, 3 and 5 p.m.

Men's Tennis
vs. Anna Maria, April 18, TBA
Rams build momentum heading toward playoffs

Sammy Hurwitz
Journal Staff

The Rams started off the week in impressive fashion, sweeping a doubleheader on Sunday against a conference rival Albertus Magnus.

The Rams narrowly won the first game 3-2, following a complete game effort of starting pitcher Josh Desai. The senior tossed seven innings, surrendering four hits and two runs while striking out ten.

Offensively, shortstop Sean Amon got the scoring started with his RBI double in the bottom of the third, followed by Julian Plana’s RBI single to put the Rams up 2-0. After Jon Lapolla walk, JC Collette and Luke Ronchi were both hit by pitches, forcing home what could be the game winning run for the Rams.

In the second game, the team broke out offensively, scoring eight runs and only allowing four. The offensive onslaught was led by the Rams first four batters who combined for seven RBI, eight hits and two walks. First baseman JC Collette also added an RBI to the mix, giving the Rams their second win of the day, and sixth in their last nine games.

On the mound, sophomore Tim Conroy and junior Cal Carroll split the time with 3.2 and 3.1 innings, respectively. Conroy, the starting pitcher, struggled, giving up three earned runs and walking as many. However, his effort was enough to keep the Rams aloft before turning the ball over to the bullpen.

“We didn’t play our best baseball Sunday, so I think we could use that as a positive since we still got the two wins...” said Carroll.

On Tuesday, the Rams’ brief winning streak came to halt, as the team lost 6-2 to Lasell in a makeup game originally scheduled for April 8. After the loss, the team’s record stands at 10-13, with a 6-4 record in April.

On Wednesday, the team will take on Wheaton, a non-conference opponent, followed by another non-conference matchup against Eastern Connecticut State University, and two doubleheaders against Norwich and Saint Joseph’s of Maine, both conference matchups.

“We need to take care of business this week with the rest of conference play. It’s crazy but you have to be mentally tough,” said Carroll about the team’s packed schedule. “You got to want to be out there. We love playing baseball, especially for Suffolk. We have a lot of pride, and we love playing everyday. It’s awesome.”

The Rams games on Wednesday and Thursday will both begin at 3:30 p.m. Games one and two of Friday’s doubleheader will begin at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., while Saturdays games will start at noon and 2:30 p.m.

PRO SPORTS COLUMN

Missing playoffs could force Bruins to impotent roster

Jeremy Hayes
Journal Staff

The Boston Bruins might look like a completely different team next season, and it all depends on when the first domino falls.

With the Pittsburgh Penguins clinching the final Wildcard spot in the Eastern Conference, the Bruins will miss the playoffs for the first time in eight seasons.

There are many uncertainties casting a shadow over the team’s future heading into the off-season, but there is the possibility the team will implode starting with the upper management.

If general manager Peter Chiarelli or coach Claude Julien are fired, it will send the Bruins in a new direction. Julien told NESN’s Jack Edwards after a press conference on Monday, Chiarelli announced to the media that defensemen Adam McQuaid and Daniel Paille would not return to the team, according to NESN. Both players are on expiring contracts and are expected to hit the free agent market.

At the end-of-the-season press conference on Monday, Chiarelli announced the management had begun talking with forwards Gregory Campbell and Matt Bartkowski, both expected to be on the trading block.

Even if both do return, it is apparent the organization is already planning to retool the team. If they avoid a possible “team self-destruction,” the Bruins will have some salary cap space to make a few more moves. They will also have to decide if they want to bring back other expiring contracts like center Carl Soderberg and defencemen Adam McQuaid and Matt Bartkowski.

The other elephant in the room is trade possibilities. The Bruins have large contracts between captain Zdeno Chara, forward Milan Lucic, and goalie Tuukka Rask. Whether it is Chara’s old age or Lucic’s final year coming up, there is a good chance one of these $6 million-plus players will be on the trading block.

With a lot invested into the future of Rask, he is an unlikely a trade option. And after this disappointing year for the Bruins, it might be time to part ways with the 7-foot captain. Chara was the original piece to the kick-start of the contending Bruins, but his decline in play might be enough for the Bruins to explore trading the Slovakian.

The other option many fans believe in is to do nothing. Walk away from this season like it was a bad dream and make no major changes. This is actually a likely scenario, but the end result could be a repeat of this season.

Whatever happens to the Bruins, odds are the front office will make decisions they think will make the team better, no matter who stays and who goes.
Student training in jiu-jitsu

Omar Qusrawi prepares for the Boston Open

Sammy Hurwitz
Journal Staff

While most athletes at Suffolk can be found on a field, at the rink or on the court, there are a select few who choose to hone their abilities elsewhere. Omar Qusrawi is of the latter.

On a typical day, he can be found across the street from the TD Garden, at Combat Sports Boston, wearing a gi while working on his craft on the mat. Qusrawi, a junior at Suffolk from Ramallah, Palestine, has been a martial artist for more than four years, training primarily in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (BJJ). It's commonly referred to as "the gentle art." There's no punching, no kicking and no throwing knees. But with the right amount of technique, BJJ can win a fight without harming either competitor, and Qusrawi knows just how to make that happen.

"I'm a blue belt," said Qusrawi, a public relations major. "The way the belt system works is there's white which is the lowest, blue which comes after that, then there's purple, brown and black." Despite blue being just the second color awarded to students, moving from any one belt to another is a long, difficult process. And getting to blue is no cakewalk. Students must prove their skill level is deserving of a new belt by training often, exhibiting a strong understanding of technique, applying said technique, and of course, competing. Lucky for Quswari, another chance for him to show the fruits of his labors in the gym have paid off waits just around the corner.

"In my first competition I was a bundle of nerves the whole way through. Once I got that out of the way, it just turned into preparing for the next fight."

-Omar Qusrawi

On Saturday, one of the major local tournaments, known as the Boston Open, will take place. Quswari has taken part in events like these many times before, and at this point in his career, has developed a system that best prepares him for the physical chess match that is BJJ.

"In my first competition I was a bundle of nerves the whole way through," said Qusrawi. "Once I got that out of the way, it just turned into preparing for the next fight. I'll change my diet a couple weeks before hand, then I'll taper off [my training] two weeks before the competition, and make it a little bit harder the week of.

With his dreadlocks tied back, and his blue belt wrapped firmly around his gi, he finds the gym at Combat Sports Boston to be a home away from home, despite it being approximately 5,497 miles away from Ramallah.

"Five minute rounds," shouts Qusrawi's coach, as all the fighters bump fists to show mutual respect, before the bell rings signifying the beginning of their next round. Quswari then grabs his opponent's lapel — the elongated collar of the gi, which extends vertically down the chest — and begins to battle for a dominant position, and ultimately a submission. In BJJ, the goal is to lock an opponent into a submission.

See JIU-JITSU page 14

Softball continues dominance in conference play

Jeremy Hayes
Journal Staff

The softball team currently sits alone at the top of the GNAC standings.

Although the Lady Rams lost to conference opponent, the Simmons Sharks, last Sunday, it was the team's first loss this month.

In the second game of the doubleheader, the Lady Rams led heading into the sixth inning. The Sharks scored two unearned runs in the top of the sixth, one on a wild pitch and the second on a walk with bases loaded.

The Lady Rams lost by a final score of 8-2. Infielder Madison Eucalito did not let the loss get too her or the team's head.

"We weren't too happy about the loss," said Eucalito, a freshman. "But we bounced back today and became the team we were before. It was a team effort. The team showed that we learned from the loss." The Lady Rams bounced back in their two make-up games against Johnson & Wales Tuesday afternoon winning both games, 10-2 in game one and 4-3 in game two.

With the wins, the team improved their April record to 13-1, and their conference record to 14-2.

"They work hard, and all our hard work has paid off. Between all of them, I couldn't ask for better coaches."

-Madison Eucalito

Coach Jaclyn Davis is in her third season with the Lady Rams, and her team continues to prove they listen and believe in her abilities at the helm.

"It's been great," said Eucalito. "She got us bonding since day one. She had us all do a scavenger hunt across the school campus to bond at the beginning of the year. It's been a real pleasure playing for her and has been great for the team.

Eucalito is only in her first year, but she identifies the team chemistry from the coaches and the players.

"Both our assistant coaches [Lauren] McCart and [Jennifer] Jacob are amazing too," said Eucalito. "They work hard, and all our hard work has paid off. Between all of them, I couldn't ask for better coaches."

The Lady Rams do not have an easy road to the playoffs. Starting Thursday, they will play six games in three days. They will play their final home game this Thursday in a doubleheader against Norwich, followed by a doubleheader at Emmanuel Friday. On Saturday, they will face their final conference opponent, Saint Joseph's College of Maine, in another doubleheader.

In softball and baseball, home-field is important because the home team gets to bat last. With only four conference games left, the Lady Rams look to maintain the No. 1 seed heading into the postseason to have home-field advantage through the playoffs.