In the news

Suffolk University staff union files for election in march to Acting President Marisa Kelly's office. Page 2.

Former Vietnam War correspondent turned poet visits Suffolk and reflects on past experiences with the written word. Page 5.

Theatre student up for Planet Earth award for her 10-minute script "Full of Life." Page 6.

Women's march portrayed strength, but was not inclusive. Courtesy of columnist Halaina LeBlanc. Online only.

Images of recent Boston protests rallying against Trump. Courtesy of Haley Clegg. See: Uncovered with Flash blog.

Women's basketball gains eight-game winning streak. Page 11.

Boston officials, Suffolk community push back against executive order on immigration

By Alexa Gagosz Editor-in-Chief

The most recent executive order from the Oval Office on immigration has sent shockwaves throughout college campuses. At Suffolk University where the international student population bears at 23 percent, some have expressed their private outrage.

Demonstrations erupted in Boston and across the country throughout the weekend after the order was signed Friday. Newly inaugurated President Donald Trump's ban was on seven predominantly Muslim nations from entering the United States for 90 days: Iran, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Yemen, Libya and Sudan.

Despite the support that citizens from these affected countries have received in recent days, some live in fear. One Suffolk student from one of the seven affected countries, although known to be privately distraught over the order, declined to be interviewed with The Suffolk Journal due to their name becoming public.

Fellow students such as Student Government Association Vice President Daniel Gazzani, a Venezuelan native, explained in a Journal that it's not just those from the seven nations that are fearful.

"I read an article today that said Trump might extend that ban to countries that are a safe haven for terrorists, and Venezuela was included on the list because the Venezuelan government actually portrayed strength," Gazzani had set out to explain his stance.

More than six months after he assumed office, his objectives have remained the same as the day he launched his campaign.

"I can't promise you I'm going to get everything done, what I'm going to promise you is that I'm going to try my hardest and push the administration as hard as I can so that they deliver," he said.

As vice president, Gazzani had set out to include more international students in their background. See SGA page 4

Gazzani stays true to campaign promises

VP remains humble since win last year, gains confidence in Suffolk's future

Chris DeGusto News Editor

A year ago, Daniel Gazzani was the only international student to run for an executive board position of the Suffolk University Student Government Association. He won the election and now the Venezuelan native reflects back on his campaign agenda and promises to the Suffolk community of representing all students on campus regardless of their background.

He vowed to ensure that more international students would become increasingly involved on campus and in SGA, while he simultaneously collaborated with Suffolk's administration to tackle issues that are important to the student body.

In an interview on Tuesday night, Gazzani told reporters of The Suffolk Journal that going forward, SGA would need dedicated and reliable board members in order to facilitate change at the university.

"We need passionate people to take these roles on if you want to see the job done right," said Gazzani.

Trump gets to work, signs seven executive orders

Nick Vieiras Journal Contributor

Newly inaugurated President Donald Trump has wasted no time after taking the oath of office, signing a variety of game-changing executive orders and presidential memoranda that deal with some of his core promises from the campaign trail.

In his first act as president, Trump signed an executive order to begin laying the groundwork for the full repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), former President Barack Obama’s hallmark legislation which fundamentally altered the way healthcare is administered in the United States. While the order, officially titled "Minimizing the Economic Burden of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Pending Repeal," does not immediately alter the ACA, colloquially known as "Obamacare," it allows for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to "waive or delay the implementation of" key provisions of the ACA, according to Politico.

Day one of the Trump administration also brought drastic changes to the way the government operates. Hours after being sworn into office, White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus said in an official memorandum directed toward federal agency heads that the president had ordered a federal regulatory freeze. The order, issued in the form of a Presidential memorandum, directs all federal agencies to cease the implementation of new regulations "until a department or agency head" appointed by Trump is able to review them, according to the White House website.

The memorandum also See TRUMP page 4
Obama leaves lasting impression on Oval Office

Haley Clegg Photo Editor

The year was 2008 and the first ever African American president was moving into the Oval Office. A long eight-year journey laid ahead, and he had yet to gain his presidential powers to make his mark on the American people. The major successors and failures of Barack Obama’s presidency have defined the truly unique eight years he served as President of the United States.

Perhaps the most distinguishing accomplishment of his presidency was universal health care. The Affordable Care Act (ACA), otherwise known as Obamacare, set out to improve access to health care as well as curb spending through regulations and taxes. Regulations that were put in place were initially met with resistance as the patient workforce had to sign new paperwork to honestly and diligently pursue a career in the workforce. Those who support our right to negotiate a better deal, those who support our right to have a union, demanded the organization had the right to file an election. The organization had been in contact with the Labor Board to finalize the election. The election was successful in bringing on a partner so he could work with the university to make sure our support is clear and that the organization had the right to work like we can work, to honestly and diligently pursue a career in the workforce.

"Power to the people." The letter read, "It is our sincere hope that university management will not spend its limited resources on forms that are not filled out in a timely manner. Our sincere hope is that the organization had the right to file an election, to honestly and diligently pursue a career in the workforce.

"We are proud of Suffolk and have worked hard to make it a better place. We are proud of the work we have done to make it a better place.

"Our Suffolk makes moves toward Labor Board"
From ORDER page 1
issues passports for Venezuelan citizens on any kind of visa, to enter the country, I'm going to see myself affected with that concerning me and my family.

Suffolk's Acting President Maria Gazzani offered comments to the Suffolk community that was sent in an email on Sunday afternoon regarding the executive order.

Gazzani assured that upper administration has been in contact with students that could be directly impacted by this order and said that those students from the south who are not in Boston and are safe. She said that there have not been reports of Suffolk students being detained in trying to enter the U.S.

"I want to assure members of our community that the leadership of Suffolk University supports you all," wrote Kelly. "Suffolk is a diverse, inclusive, and global institution, and we put the highest value on welcoming individuals from all over the world."

Gazzani wrote on his public Facebook page shortly after Kelly's email was sent that he was proud of the acting president's statement.

"At SGA we will continue to do our part to ensure all students at Suffolk that safe and secure in their campus," said Gazzani. "We have a very diverse community which will always count with our support."

Assistant Provost of Division of Students Success Kathy Sparaco said that Suffolk has nine students from the affected countries.

"Six of the students are on campus and three are on a post-program work experience that is available for international students," said Sparaco to The Suffolk Journal on Sunday night.

Sparaco said that the Division has worked with all international students on their immigration questions and will continue to advise the best [idea] in any situation.

Protests on Friday at Boston's Logan International Airport rallied against Trump's travel ban. Boston Governor Treaty of Massachusetts such as Senator Elizabeth Warren, Mayor Marty Walsh and City Councillor and Mayoral candidate Tito Jackson were stationed at various terminals and spoke to demonstrators on the ban.

"It is illegal. It is unconstitutional, and it will be overturned," said Warren through a megaphone as protesters echoed her words. "An attack on anyone for their religious beliefs is an attack on the very foundation of democracy."

Former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton tweeted on Saturday night where she spoke out against the travel ban.

"I stand with the people I gathered at Logan airport tonight defending our values and our Constitution," tweeted Clinton. "This is not who we are."

A statement from Mayor Walsh was due to The Journal over the weekend that condemned Trump's order.

"President Trump's order is a threat to our U.S. citizens and the world. It is an attack on the very foundation of American democracy."

Suffolk's leadership has been working to protect the residents and citizens of the city of Boston.

Walsh and Jackson both joined a rally hosted by the Council of American-Islamic Relations and the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center (ISBCC) on Sunday afternoon in Copley Square.

Protests erupted nationwide on Sunday in Boston, New York City, Minneapolis, Washington D.C., Los Angeles, Atlanta and in Dulles International Airport in Virginia.

Attorney General Maura Healey announced that her office is joining a lawsuit challenging Trump's executive order on immigration.

"The ban flies in the face of the US Constitution," said Jackson. "It's against in which the U.S. was founded on, especially religious freedom, and will be detrimental to the Boston area economy."

Boston is an international center of learning and medical treatment, two fields that depend on the free flow of talented individuals coming in and out of the our city. It's reckless, it targets Muslims and we will not stand idly by and allow Donald Trump to hijack our city and government." Jackson explained that he has put forth legislation to protect sanctuary campuses so that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) cannot enter public schools without authorized permission.

He also said that he will oppose further registraion and alienation of Muslims.

"We will resist any Muslim registration in any form and we will protect the residents and citizens of the city of Boston.

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"These policies will do little to improve national security and will create enormous delays for people coming to the U.S.," said Church. "In Massachusetts and across the nation, these policies will put discrimination based on faith or national origin on the books. We cannot stand idly by and let this happen.

Church urged Warren, Senator Ed Markey and Massachusetts representatives to The Suffolk Journal on Monday night. "The Student Government Association's purpose is to serve as the voice of all students, and advocate directly for their interests. This will continue to be the case because now more than ever, as students we need to look out for one another."

Trump sent out a statement through his Facebook page on Sunday night that explained that the U.S. will continue to show compassion to those who look to flee oppression but will only do so while protecting U.S. citizens and the border.

"This is not about religion - this is about terror and keeping our country safe. There are over 40 different countries worldwide that are majority Muslim that are not affected by this order," said Trump. "We will again be issuing visas to all countries once we are sure we have reviewed and implemented the most secure policies over the next 90 days."

Alexa Gagos
Chris DeGusto
Jacob Geanous
Felicity Otterbein
Patrick Holmes
Katie Dugan
Skylar To
Brooke Patterson
Haley Clegg
Sydney Strachman
Sam Humphrey
Bruce Butterfield
Alex Paterson
A WORD FROM SGA

Dear Suffolk University,

We hope you all had a well-deserved, relaxing winter break, and that your semester has started smoothly on the right foot. We understand that things have gotten off to a fast start this New Year, but we still encourage all members of the student body to reach out to the Student Government Association with any questions or concerns.

We are here to be your resource.

With the New Year, SGA has made some of our own changes. We have launched a new logo that we are proud to show off. We feel that the new design and colors better represent SGA and the entire Suffolk community. Please check it out on our social media, on Twitter and Instagram @SuffolkSGA, and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SuffolkSGA.

This semester will be a busy one. SGA will be holding events such as the Annual SGA Awards and the Ocean City Fall. Look out for these events and more as the semester goes on. Elections for the spring semester will also be happening soon, election packets will be available for all positions on February 9th. For more information about elections or running for open positions either for this semester or next, please reach out to sga@suffolk.edu.

SGA holds weekly general meetings that are open to the entire Suffolk community, and everyone is welcome to you all to join us. If you have thoughts or questions concerning SGA, we have an open forum for anyone to bring forward issues or concerns.

On Thursdays at 12:15 in Somers 518, please join us!

The Student Government Association

Trump’s debut week offers immediate action

See TRUMP page 1

directed agency heads to “immediately withdraw all submitted regulations from consideration.

Throughout the beginning of his first week, Trump also signed an executive order to hasten review of high-priority infrastructure projects. The move likely set the stage for construction on the pipelines to resume. Both are opposed by many environmental and Native American activist groups due to the risks the pipelines pose to the environment and Native American sovereignty.

Keystone XL’s builder TransCanada announced it would re-apply following Trump’s executive order. Another executive order will expedite the environmental review of large infrastructure projects, according to the Washington Post.

In addition, Trump ordered many science-related agencies, including the National Aeronautic and Space Administration and Environmental Protection Agency to cease all social media activity in what critics called a “social media blackout.” In response, so-called “rogue Twitter accounts” sprung up, representing a defiance of some what see as a restriction on freedom of speech.

Five days into his presidency, Trump began to tackle his own hallmark issue: immigration. On Jan. 25, the President signed a series of executive orders directing the Department of Homeland Security to use existing funds to begin construction of a wall along the U.S.-southern border with Mexico, a centerpiece of his campaign promises.

On Friday, Trump signed Executive Order 13770, titled “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the U.S.” The order suspends the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program for 120 days, with the door left open for Trump to extend it as he sees fit. It also suspends entry of citizens of seven countries - Libya, Sudan, Somalia, Syria, Iran, Iraq, and Yemen for 90 days.

The New York Times reported shortly after the order went into effect that non-citizen students and green card holders returning to the U.S. were being stopped at airports. Bloomberg reported as many as 60 green card holders and others with valid visas being detained at Dallas International Airport, a few miles outside the nation’s capital.

Amid nationwide protests, District Judge Ana Donnelly of New York ruled on a case brought against the government by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of several Iraqis stranded at New York’s John F. Kennedy International Airport around 9 p.m. on Saturday.

The decision, in which Donnelly implied the government’s constitutional rights were most likely violated but refused to rule on the constitutionality of the order, means some one to two hundred immigrants and refugees in transit or currently stuck at U.S. airports could not be deported.

On Monday, Trump reportedly called the National Security Council’s Principals Committee (PC), placing White House advisor Steve Bannon on the PC while removing the position reserved for the Director of National Intelligence (DNI). The NSC is tasked with handling the nation’s most critical foreign and national security secretary operations. According to official White House press releases, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and DNI will only sit on the PC “as and when matters pertaining to them arise.”

On Monday, acting Attorney General Sally Yates was fired for “refusing to follow a lawful order,” according to reports. Yates told Justice Department lawyers not to defend the Executive Order against lawsuits, essentially rendering it unenforceable, just hours before her firing. Yates was notified via letter of her dismissal.

In a statement released via email to members of the Suffolk community on Sunday, Acting Attorney General Yates Kelly said that while the university is watching the situation closely, no Suffolk students have had any issues returning to the U.S. as of late.

To prevent any assurance of our community that the leadership of Suffolk is aware of your concerns, you all,” Kelly said in the email. “Suffolk is a diverse, inclusive, and global institution, and we put the highest value on welcoming individuals from all over the world.”

Alyna Khan, a freshman majoring in sports marketing, went on to see her grandparents off to a trip in the Middle East.

“My grandparents were raised in Pakistan. They’re Canadian citizens, but they’re originally from Pakistan. If they don’t let them back into this country, I don’t know what I’d do. They’re green card holders. They’re concerned he’ll add Pakistan to the list. All of their healthcare money, everything is over here.”

Obama leaves lasting legacy despite critics

From OBAMA page 2

policy. This was a huge step forward for LGBT rights. Obama’s action brought an end to discrimination against gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals from serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

A key element of Obama’s administration was that he had the most diverse cabinet in terms of race and gender in history. His cabinet consisted of eight white males, four white females, three non-white females and seven non-white males. Trump’s cabinet picks are the least diverse since Ronald Reagan was president.

If his nominees are confirmed, there will be filled by white males, white females, two non-white females, and one non-white male.

Obiden sees diversity in Trump’s cabinet in a different light.

“People are more focused on the gender or ethnicity of a candidate, rather than their ideas and I think that’s such a problem,” said O’Brien. “We’re so focused on identity politics in 2017 that we can’t even have a conversation about policy. President Trump’s cabinet may be the least ethnically diverse and gender diverse in history. I think we’re going to see that it’s very diverse in terms of ideology.”

While Obama was ultimately successful with the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, otherwise known as DACA, he has received some backlash for his immigration policies. DACA provides undocumented immigrants with work permits and a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation under certain conditions. It was established as they were brought to the U.S. as children.

Obama will also go down in history as having deported the most undocumented immigrants in the history of the United States during his presidency. Over the course of his eight years in office, over 2.8 million people were deported according to a

Trump's debut week offers immediate action
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believes are exacerbated for them to cross."

people from coming to situations in cases that myself and my staff, gets back control of its midsection of America.

a fearful, conservative order. He introduced his Homeland Security about Donald Trump addressed United States of America as racial tensions that she called the Secure Fence strong position on current dangerous and expensive from coming to the U.S. that 650 miles of fence
doubtful that the new southern border security and immigration law.

Suffolk's first immigration expert Shah said she feels this image of immigrants as

One-sided deal from the U.S. trade deficits & little help for the badly needed wall, read his world-renowned poetry inspired by events throughout his life, particularly the time he spent as a correspondent during the Vietnam War.

A accompanied by Suffolk English professor Fred Marchant, Komunyakaa gave two poetry readings Thursday in Modern Theatre. On Friday, Komunyakaa hosted a writer's roundtable for Suffolk alumni of the Creative Writing department, along with any other student poets willing to share their work.

Komunyakaa is a Louisiana-born poet who served in the United States Army as a press correspondent in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970. Using his experiences as a correspondent, he wrote 15 poetry books based on his time in Vietnam. He has garnered attention from an international audience for his profound ability to capture the politics attached to the Vietnam War. He incorporated the emotions and nature he witnessed while in Vietnam into his poems.

Although his poems do not have an overtly controversial theme, they naturally possess a political undertone to them. Komunyakaa said as he elaborated upon his writing process.

When asked how it feels to be an American, specifically in the wake of the recent election, Komunyakaa said that, to him, being an American means realizing that "America is an idea that is still a work in progress." Throughout Komunyakaa's life, he has come in contact with people of all different races and backgrounds. As a whole, Komunyakaa explained to the audience that he believes there is a part of him that has changed over time and is always changing. "There's a part of me that remains unchanged," he said. Feeling both changed and unchanged inspires creativity within Komunyakaa. "It's the process of arriving at something unknown" Komunyakaa. "Albeit you may think a poem may be headed in one direction, it may happen that you reach an unexpected ending."

When comparing the process of writing poetry to living in modern society, Komunyakaa explained that in a world with so much noise and action, "We have to be listeners sometimes."

After listening to Komunyakaa read his powerful poetry, aspiring young poets in the audience had the opportunity to ask him questions. "Curious about Komunyakaa's creative process, some audience members asked questions about how his morals have had an impact on his poetry. Others asked Komunyakaa if he listened to music while he wrote or if there was any type of music that inspired the rhythm of his poems."

Additionally, Komunyakaa shed more light on the creative process at the writer's roundtable on Friday afternoon. Thoughtful minds, young and old, gathered with Komunyakaa to share their personal poetry and think out loud and discuss rootedness, uprootedness, life, death and all other elements that go into constructing poetry. The roundtable was structured along the lines of an educational discussion between skilled writers. Rather than lecturing about how to write, Komunyakaa commented on the style of each poem and expressed appreciation for each poem's individuality.

Perhaps one of the more insightful points discussed at the roundtable was that poetry is a dialogue with oneself. Komunyakaa and the other poets considered why we write poetry anyway.

"It is a beckoning towards listening," Komunyakaa said, "and maybe that is the reason we write."
Skylar To
Sports Editor

When Isaac Berko applied to Suffolk University his freshman year, he had no idea that he would go to study abroad at Suffolk’s Madrid campus instead.

When a Madrid resident contacted him for signed documents prior to his university acceptance, Berko decided to go to Boston rather than Madrid and began working toward an undergraduate degree at Suffolk’s main campus.

This past fall, as he realized the completion of his undergraduate degree, the 22-year-old senior and political science major with a philosophy minor finally spent the semester in Madrid that he once signed up for.

As a self-proclaimed politically active undergraduate, his decision to leave Boston and explore Spain made him miss another historical event for the U.S. – the 2016 presidential election.

While he was physically absent from Boston during the time of the election, Berko said he followed the turbulent turn of events closely, raising awareness and encouraging American students to vote in Madrid.

"Why not go to a different country and learn about the difference between an American and being an international student," asked Berko. "You get to understand the culture of that country you’re living in and you get to bring that back to America."

When he landed in Madrid on Aug. 23, Berko said he did not know what he was getting himself into. He thought he would not be faced with a language barrier, but he said he had to familiarize himself with the language and adapt to the Spanish lifestyle.

"If you come from a different country, like America, and you go to study abroad, they would want you to adapt to their culture and in this country," said Berko. "I feel like we don’t see that happening in America."

Besides residing in Madrid for about four months, Berko had the opportunity to travel to Portugal, which he said was a comparable distance from Boston to Washington D.C., for one week. He also visited the cities of Salamanca, Valencia, Granada, Andalucia, Seville and Galicia. Exploring other areas of Europe and Spain, in addition to studying in Madrid was a "phenomenal experience" for Berko.

"People who study abroad should take that initiative to really study the country they’re studying abroad in," said Berko. "You got to learn the atmosphere and the people, because you want to study in that country for a reason, so you come back and tell your story to other people how that country you study in how culture felt."

While Berko said his whole trip was a learning experience, cultural differences like kissing on the cheeks to greet others, avoiding elbows on the table, no shouting across the street, dressing professionally and learning about the country’s political chain were eye-opening experiences for him.

Taking his love for structured government with him on his travels, Berko learned about the country’s government structure and observed laws.

"And spread the message to and target," said Berko. "We’re trying to navigate to see who could be potential volunteers for the campaign to talk to and target."

"And spread the message of who Jackson is."

"We don’t care about the culture here," said Berko. "Culture plays in the role of how each person treats each other and how each person correlates with another person’s culture."

"If you’re studying abroad it’s an incredible experience,"

"You really felt that the Spaniards were still really mourning and still hurting about Franco," said Berko.

Berko, an advocate for former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, followed the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign closely while studying abroad. He said appointing businessman Donald Trump as the 45th president of the U.S is the "saddest" thing ever for the nation to do.

After the election, he said people gave him and his friends hugs, comforted them and apologized for the results of the election and even picked up their restaurant tabs.

"We just need to work on being a fluent Spanish speaker,"

"I think [studying abroad] is incredible,"

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He is also even "seriously considering" a friend’s suggestion to study law in Spain for two years post-graduation. He just needs to work on being a fluent Spanish speaker.

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It was announced Monday that Chief Special Warfare Operator William "Ryan" Owens, 36, was the first United States service member killed in combat under the Trump administration. Owens, of Peoria, Illinois died after he was wounded during a nighttime raid on an al-Qaeda-held village in Southwestern Yemen last Saturday. The Pentagon released a statement that said Owens was assigned to an "East Coast based Special Warfare Unit," also known as the elite Navy SEALs. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis said in a statement, "The United States would not strike if it were not for the selfless commitment of such warriors." Owens was awarded two Bronze Stars with Valor distinguishing devices and received eight Sea Service Deployment ribbons. He will receive a posthumous Purple Heart award.

Canadian authorities for the Quebec City have charged Alexandre Bissonnette, 27, with carrying out the Quebec Mosque attack that has killed six. Bissonnette, know for his alleged far-right sympathies, has been described by acquaintances as a socially awkward introvert who had recently embraced toxic political views, according to multiple news sources. He was charged Monday night with six counts of first-degree murder, and five counts of attempted murder with a restricted firearm. Bissonnette opened fire on worshippers on Jan. 29, just after they were finishing their evening prayers at a small mosque in Sainte-Foy. Five of the victims are still in the hospital. The incident is still under investigation, but is being treated as an act of terrorism, according to multiple news sources.
Suffolk student Ksenia Kamalova recently was nominated for the Region 1 Planet Earth Award after submitting her 10-minute play, "Full of Life," to the 2017 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

"Title TBA" springs into second semester as first Suffolk stage performance

Elvira Mora
Journal Staff

Kicking off the spring semester in the Suffolk University theater department was the return of the Spotlight Series, "Title TBA." The Spotlight series is an entirely student run series showcasing developing work that is written and directed solely by students.

Supposedly, "Title TBA" gained a large amount of buzz from people who wanted to know the actual title was that "TBA" had stuck. Student director Erica Wisor explained, "Title TBA" had posters already made. It became an ongoing joke. It created a lot of attention since people wanted to know what the actual title was but it later became a joke that was in the show as well."

Wisor wrote and directed the twenty-minute long installment that captivated a full audience. The first installment was brief since it acted as a teaser to the rest of the series. This was in order to let the general audience know what the theater department is up to. Wisor told The Suffolk Journal in a post-show interview that had the entire cast more time to meet together, the show would have lasted longer than just twenty minutes rather than the allotted hour and twenty minutes usually designated for the student performances.

"The show was cut so short due to rehearsal times, there was only one rehearsal with the full cast," said Wisor.

Performed at the Sullivan Theatre on the 11th floor of Sawyer, the theme of the show was similar to a circus because a cast member dressed as a ringmaster presented himself along with his crew to signify the start of the show. Every member of the cast was dressed in black clothing from head to toe with bright hues of pink and blue splashed only...
Spotlight series returns to Suffolk stage

From IBA page 7

as though the performers had been creeping on stage.

The atmosphere of the performance was unmistakable, with an overpowering sense of welcome, and with ominous music vibrating through the speakers. One of the crew members hung back and looked down toward the audience with a focused expression, as though he saw something, but thought. As the unknown man began to talk, he spoke of a woman whom he had had previous relations with, before she was killed. When he spied the same bunch of performers that the cast members surrounding him began to act out the story in the form of exaggerated movements as though it was an interpretive dance.

The woman of interest then took the stage, next to the man who was now sitting and waiting for her approval. She approached him, with loving eyes the man agreed. She was then pushed to the side, which consisted of making different sounds directly into the microphone, but the words caused the audience to uncomfortably squirm in their seats. The next and final scene was every character on the stage. They collectively made the audience laugh with zappy, high energy moments that held the attention of the audience until the very end when the lights blacked out. After muttered musings over whether the show would come to an end, the lights returned and Wilson alerted the crowd that the show had ended.

Although Wilson's creative abilities were shown through the interpretive dance that encompassed a major part of the show, there was little to no verbal performance, which helped portray the development of the story. The line and was left for the audience to interpret. The narrative was almost completely light hearted with an earnest underscore and paired with the expansive manner that the characters adopted throughout the show made it entertaining to watch. The dance portion was swift and elegant in sync with one another to tell a riveting tale of emotion. The manner in which this was conveyed was abstract and thought-provoking.

American Repertory Theater transcends image of trans-community

Kendra Huber

Imagine the surprise when arriving to a stage filled with nothing but seven empty chairs. No backdrop, no color, just plain, black chairs on a brightly lit stage, creating a sense of raw intimacy. Often, the stage is filled with extravagantly beautiful women, but these are the voices of the truth, with details that bring us a place of dream-like illusion.

Writer Paul Lucas fills these seats with humor and intellect, bringing to life his first full-length play, "Trans Scripts," produced by the American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.). Through vibrant monologues, the audience is taken on a journey of courage, allowances of confusion and self-discovery.

"Trans Scripts is part of an ongoing initiative at A.R.T. to feature the work of transgender and gender non-conforming artists," writes Diane Paulus on the program, the Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director in the Tisch for 17 season introduction.

When the lights come up, seven chairs are introduced, whose stories have been assembled from more than 75 interviews with transgender women from across the globe, as a demonstration of strength and diversity. These narratives begin at infancy, as each character shares their first time they heard the word "transgender," and suddenly, realized who they were. From these individual moments of awakening, each continues on their unique journey of self-discovery, as they realize they are different.

Shepherd Bridgman, a friend of Paul Lucas who was the first woman to be interviewed for this project, spoke boldly as she recalls her own journey to self-acceptance. As a successful businesswoman who owned the second fastest travel company in the United Kingdom, it was hard to come out. The society often deems as unnatural. When Bridgman chose to go public, she began receiving calls from her clients, saying they could no longer continue to do business with her. Soon afterward, her company went under.

"Trans Scripts" reminds some viewers of the challenges many individuals face when revealing their identity, especially in countries across the globe that claim to appreciate individuality and self-expression. From infancy, we are socialized to fall into behavioral patterns that align with a dual structure, and there is often intolerance and fear when individuals do not identify within these expected gender boundaries of male or female.

Sometimes gender identity is not easily calculated. Lucas speaks of these complications by addressing the serious misunderstanding of what it means to be transgender in a predominantly cis-gender culture, while showing his audiences how challenging the journey to liberation to truly be.

"Life," wrote Paul Lucas, "is a compromise." There's no definitive narrative or predictable outcome for the life we're given, for who we are born to love, and for what we are born to look like. But Trans Scripts is a beautiful attempt to make sense of all these non-conforming characteristics, in a predominantly binary world.

American Repertory Theater

We must keep the arts alive, despite Trump threats

Morgan Hume

We cannot afford to live in a black and white world; when up until now we've been living in a world of vibrant colors. We cannot afford to let theaters, universities and museums across the country suffer by stripping them of their federal aid. We cannot afford to take away some of the nation's greatest institutions to pinch a nickel or two.

These are the key points I want to convey to President Donald Trump because in his first few weeks in office he has already introduced ways to reduce the federal budget. Over the next ten years, Trump plans to cut federal spending by 10.5 trillion dollars, according to a recent report.

Although that may sound wonderful, it's not. In order to accomplish this, Trump believes we need to eliminate funding arts and cultural programs that rely on government aid, specifically the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), as well. The Trump administration plans to privatize the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), as well.

Many people argue that arts are just a hobby, so the amount of people that make a living from them is very slim. However, billions of people utilize arts and culture every day will suffer the consequences.

We cannot afford to lose the arts today, by teaching me not how to make long-lasting friendships and work together with others. Without arts programs, I wouldn't be the confident, cultured person I am today.

The arts may cost thousands of dollars to fund and support, but the lessons to be learned and the experiences to be gained from them are priceless. No matter what happens, we must remember that the arts are alive long before Donald Trump, and they will be alive long after Donald Trump.

Jeffrey Hume
Marching through time: Women combat being silenced, again

Katie Dugan
Asst. Opinion Editor

Not long ago, someone I was dating at the time was making dinner for the two of us. When I asked him if there was anything I can do to help, he said no, that I could “just sit there and look pretty.” “That’s boring,” I replied.

I was not raised to “sit there and look pretty.” I was raised in a household where being intelligent was cool and being curious about the world made you well rounded, grateful and humane. I was raised in a household that taught me there was so much more to life than abiding societal expectations.

As I got older, there were times when being a woman felt like I was drowning. Societal pressures became hard to ignore. Within seconds of meeting someone, you feel like they have already formed an opinion of you. When you’re a woman, it’s easy to lose yourself.

During the Women’s March in Boston, I found myself again. Camaderie and solidarity was in the air in downtown Boston, you could feel it. Everyone had their own personal reasons for attending the Women’s March. I thought about my close friends, female and peers, my female co-workers, my friends who are considered minorities, my LGBTQ friends, but during the march I thought the most about the woman marching beside me, my mom.

As I get older, I notice that our mothers tend to have a negative stigma behind those who will be affected.

Watching her take in the day on Saturday was like watching a kid in a candy store. She loved the posters and got especially excited when we walked by a group of women dressed like suffragettes posing for a picture.

“Is that going to be you one day after you retire, are you going to be one of those people who dress like suffragettes and guides tours?” I asked.

“Yeah, probably,” she laughed.

While I loved seeing my mom so excited about the march, at the same time it was incredibly heartbreaking. It was sad to realize that someone 30 years older than me was protesting for rights we should already have.

I am fairly new to feminism and only started educating myself about it since it’s resurgence a few years ago, when I realized the dress code I was subject to in high school was incredibly sexist. Through educating myself it did not take long for me to realize that being a proactive feminist is both frustrating and exhausting.

There are a lot of misconceptions about feminism and what it means to be a feminist. From observing my mom, I learned the first step in being a feminist is being compassionate. I was taught the importance of caring for others, because there’s always someone who has it worse. I recognize my privilege; I am white, cis-gender, able-bodied, and middle class. I am not a perfect feminist by any means, however I understand that while some of the changes in Washington D.C. may not affect me directly, I have a responsibility to use my privilege to educate myself and to rally behind those who will be affected. I am fighting, and will continue to fight, to give them a voice.

The key to feminism is to not give in to the opposition. There is a post going around on social media called “This Woman does NOT Support the Women’s March.” I thought I would entertain this backward way of thinking. I read three sentences before I was ready to ignore a Facebook-fight.

When I told my mom about it she said, “It’s better to be proactive and ignore the ones who can’t be moved.”

It’s easy to start an argument with someone while starting at a screen, and sometimes it’s a little bit of a thrill, however, it does nothing.

I am inspired by not only my mother’s optimism in this movement, but that of all the men and women of older generations who showed up on Saturday. These people have endured much more criticism than I have and continue to contribute to the cause with their heads held high.

There is a Zen Proverb that goes something like this; the student says “I’m feeling very discouraged, what should I do?” The master says, “Encourage others.” Since I first came across this a few years ago, it has stuck with me. When people say negative things about the Women’s March, it’s important to remember while they were sitting at home and bragging about being anti-feminist on Facebook, three million people came together and demanded change.

The intergenerational aspect of the march was the most moving for me.

My mother expressed to me that there is an intense universal feeling of wanting a better future for their children. They need their children to keep it going in their footsteps. I hope the young women who attended the march feel this duty as much as I do.

I have high hopes that this movement will extend the dialogue beyond Facebook comments. Until Saturday I had never felt prouder and more empowered to be a woman. I would even go as far to say it was one of the greatest things I’ve ever experienced. But this movement goes beyond holding up signs and wearing pink knit hats. I hope it will inspire us all to donate, volunteer, and support candidates who represent what we believe. This movement will be the catalyst for a better and brighter future for everyone as long as we continue to support it.
EDITOR’S WORD

When President Donald Trump announced his immigration ban late Friday night, he pushed the country further toward instability and threw the world of thousands of innocent people into a tailspin.

Trump’s executive order bars immigrants from seven predominantly Muslim countries—countries in which some Suffolk University students are from. These students face fear as the consequences for rightfully going to school under a student visa may prevent them from travelling out of the country, as they may not be able to enter back in.

That is a shame for the Suffolk community and the nation; both of which thrive off of diversity. The ban is un-American and ultimately unconstitutional in the belief that all men are equal.

The Suffolk community must pull together to provide those in need on campus with the tools they need to navigate this executive order that Trump signed so carelessly.

As Trump implements his catastrophically misguided policy, which supposedly allows for a review of the country’s refugee screening process, he has needlessly made the world a more dangerous place for innocents from those countries in transit whether they be U.S. students, professors, scientists, spouses and family members that have been banned from a country they were hoping would provide new stability and a new opportunity.

This is not who America is and this is not who Suffolk is.

Patrick Holmes
Opinion Editor

During Donald Trump’s campaign, my eleven-year-old sister asked my parents, “Why does he hate my people?” She was referring to Asians as ‘her people’ since she is adopted from China.

With this newfound insight into how this may have affected my young sister, my heart could not break more for what her future holds. She could not understand why someone who is supposed to be a role model, to uphold the highest power and dignity, hates an entire race before he was even president.

Yet, despite his ignorance and hate speech, he had enough support from my fellow Americans to become president. Because of this, I do not blame Trump for being president; I blame the ‘Americans’ who plunged the United States into a dark age, by voting for him.

I blame every person who sets his or her ignorance as a precedent to creating an opinion about someone. An opinion is no longer valid if it infringes upon the rights of another person, if it is hateful or demeaning, or if it is substituted for fact. It then becomes hate speech, which is a dangerous road we are currently driving on.

Hate speech has grown roots in the uneducated Americans and even some educated ones, and has developing opinions based on minorities. I am unable to answer why people hate others who are different from them or are passive aggressively hateful, but my best solution for hatred and misunderstanding is education. Not only academically, but socially and emotionally. In this way, education may combat the inaccuracies others have with it.

“When did we, as a society, become so ignorant to the facts and truth?”

Hate speech is an example of this and is usually caused from misunderstanding and fear. It becomes widely misunderstood that one has the right to use derogatory terms to try to prove your point. In fact, it takes away from your argument and in turn, creates hate speech.

It has become widely accepted that we have the right to use derogatory terms to try to prove your point. In fact, it takes away from your argument and in turn, creates hate speech.

When did we, as a society, become so ignorant to the facts and truth? When did we stop proving our point? When did we start using some people’s discomfort with differences. However, that is not an excuse toculos speeches or to target someone because you have clashing beliefs. Patience and understanding can go a long way.

In a similar way the U.S. is now falling morally and emotionally because of the abuse of privilege. People who are not affected by the executive orders of Trump and who voted for him have abused their privilege. One of America’s most prominent problems is the belief some citizens hold that another’s life is of less importance than their own.

That belief is wrong. Their selfishness is appalling. From taking away rights from others to not supporting foreign refugees in dire need, we are not altruistic in any sense. Our country is filled with a deep-rooted for everything ‘different’ from the societal norms we have created.

When did we, as a society, become so ignorant to the facts and truth? When did we stop trusting each other?

I cannot answer a single question above. But with so much hate speech spewing from the mouths of my fellow citizens, I choose love and I will not accept the hate as a ‘new normal.’ This is not the America I know and love.

These are not the values America was built on.

We are more than this. Let’s actually make America great again, but with love.

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“America, your privilege is showing”

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Patriots and Falcons kick-off Super Bowl LI
Falcons seek first ring as Brady chases fifth

By Instagram User @b5ballfalcon

The New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons take the field at NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas on Feb. 5.

Hannah Arroyo
Journal Staff

As the playoffs come to an end, the New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons find themselves to be the last two teams in the running for the Lombardi trophy. The National Football League (NFL) consists of 16 regular season games, and for some a chance at the Super Bowl is nothing out of the ordinary. This marks the ninth time these two teams have made seven appearances in NFL history. In total, the Patriots and Falcons find themselves in franchise history of the ordinary. This year the New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons take the field at NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas on Feb. 5.

The Patriots have four Super Bowl Championship wins from 2001, 2003, 2014 and 2015. One similarity with all these wins is the pairing of Head Coach Bill Belichick and quarterback Tom Brady. With the Patriots franchise, the two have made seven Super Bowl appearances.

"It's very good for our team to be able to achieve this," said Brady in a recent press conference. "I think we've done a good job taking advantage of our opportunities. It's a very hard mental and physical team that has shown a lot throughout the season."

While there have been many struggles in the past for the Falcons this year, the team found themselves with a winning record for the first time since 2012 as they finished first in the National Football Conference (NFC) South. The team ended with an 11-5 record and clinched their first NFC division title since 2012.

Although Atlanta was defeated in their week one game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, they would go on to win their next four games of the season. During the regular season, the Falcons put up a total of 540 points, which is tied for the seventh best in NFL history.

Quarterback Matt Ryan threw for a total of 4,994 yards, which was second in the league this season. During a win against the Carolina Panthers, Ryan had a team record of 503 yards and four touchdowns. The Patriots defense have "done their job" this season only allowing an average of 15.6 points per game. While New England's defense has been impressive, Atlanta's offense flourished this season as they scored a league best 33.8 points per week.

These two teams also butt heads in the fact they have two quarterbacks that finished with great seasons. Ryan may outnumber Brady in this season's stats, but Brady did not play in four regular season games due to his suspension. Ryan ended the season with 4,994 passing yards and 38 touchdowns compared to Brady's 3,554 passing yards and 28 touchdowns.

"Tom's had an unbelievable year," said Ryan to the Boston Globe. "He's played extremely well, and been extremely efficient. A lot of touchdowns, very few turnovers. He's just played really really good football."

The Atlanta Falcons are less familiar with being in Super Bowl territory as this will be only their second Championship appearance. The last time they went to the Super Bowl was in 1998 when they lost 34-19 to the Denver Broncos. This leaves the franchise without a single Super Bowl win in the 51 years that the team has existed.

Before the league announced the 2016-17 season schedule Patriots, fans were troubled with the news that their star quarterback had to serve a four-game suspension for the DeflateGate scandal. The scandal refers to how the Patriots were accused of tampering with footballs in the 2015 American Conference (AFC) Championship. Many wondered how New England would play with such a huge loss to their roster. Second string quarterback, Jimmy Garoppolo stepped up to the challenge of taking Brady's place. Garoppolo got the first win for the Pats against the Arizona Cardinals.

In week two, after he sprained his acromioclavicular joint against the Miami Dolphins, rookie Jacoby Brissett took over for Garoppolo.

"I'm going out there with the mindset, 'I'm the starter,'" Garoppolo told WEEI at the end of August. "It's a great opportunity to get these first four games. We'll see where it goes from there. You never know what's going to happen. It's a crazy league, and anything's possible, really."

Between the two quarterbacks, New England had a record of 3-1 during Brady's suspension, the one defeat coming from a 16-0 loss to the Buffalo Bills.

After coming off his suspension, Brady seemed unaffected by his absence and finished with a 13-1 record.

"Every year has its own challenges," said Belichick in a press conference. "Whatever they are, they are. Every team faces them. Every team has to deal with them."

The Super Bowl 51 will be played at 6:30 p.m. in Houston, Texas at NRG Stadium. The game will air on Fox and singer-songwriter Lady Gaga is scheduled to perform at the halftime show.
Lady Rams fast break into new year

Brooke Patterson
Asst. Sports Editor

Suffolk University's women's basketball team rang in 2017 by defeating nine out of the 10 teams they played. The Lady Rams took advantage of the clean slate January brought them when they went on an eight-game win streak, improving their record to 14-6.

Before they approach the playoffs, beginning on Feb. 21, the Lady Rams look to compete in their final five regular season games, one being senior day against Emmanuel College on Feb. 18 at their home court, Regan Gymnasium.

"We went into winter break knowing that the most competitive part of our season started when we got back at the end of December," said junior guard Alexandra Nagri in an interview with The Suffolk Journal on Monday. "I think we all bought in as a team and everything clicked. We are a well-rounded team with a deep bench which makes us very hard to beat any team at any time, day, game by game. What they're supposed to do.

The only loss for the team during the new year was on Jan. 26 when the Lady Rams fell short to Johnson & Wales University with a final score of 54-49. Suffolk had the advantage come intermission, but was unable to keep it throughout the second half.

"We knew what we were doing, but toward the end of the game we got hectic and started Schiebel," said freshman forward Katelyn Rourke in an interview Monday with The Journal. "We tried to speed them up and press them, but they were getting three pointer after three pointer. We should've closed the game when we had our lead, but we took it for granted and lost ourselves.

"The Lady Rams chose not to dwell on their loss and instead immediately started to focus their attention on the next game against the University of St. Joseph on Jan. 28. The outcome of the game added to the team's winning record.

"We took baby steps by keeping everybody's focus right in the present and not thinking ahead," said senior captain and point guard Kelsey Schiebel in an interview Monday with The Journal. "We constantly talked about not having a lot of wins affect us mentally. We just tried to stay humble and kept coming to work everyday.

Schiebel also said the confidence the team developed had a major impact on the women's basketball record. The team's winter break was cut shorter than most Suffolk students because it was the heart of basketball season," she said. "The team hung out together over the break in order to make their chemistry stronger and not let anything outside of basketball affect their vacation, said Schiebel.

"Overall, everybody has just done their job," said Schiebel. "What makes us such a good team is that we are so well balanced."

Rourke said the short time away from basketball gave the team time to re-energize and collectively get in a similar mindset.

"Coming into this season we were more set on the mini goals rather than the big ones," said Rourke. "Just focus on the next game rather than three games ahead."

One of the most difficult things the team had to face this season was having a large number of girls who were unfamiliar with the program, explained Schiebel. The new year managing to bridge the age gap and allowed the freshmen to buy into what was going on with the team.

"The overall goal is with team and not with yourself," said Rourke, who was honored with her second Corvias Rookie of the Week on Jan. 23. "I feel thankful for the opportunity because not a lot of people get to play that many games in their career. Obviously, I am very happy that I have gotten to play so much and unselfish.

One of the three team captains, Schiebel, was added to the elite group of players with 100 game appearances in their college career. "It didn't feel any different until after the game when everybody was like 'You've played 100 games,'" said Schiebel. "I feel thankful for the opportunity because not a lot of people get to play that many games in their career. Obviously, I am very happy that I have gotten to play so much over the last four years."

It was a bit of a different feeling for Schiebel as she explained this signifies her senior season is coming to an end. Schiebel said the game plan for finishing the season was to "just play our all and everybody do what they're supposed to do.

"Not underestimating Lasell [on Feb. 2] or Simmons [on Feb. 11] by day, game by game but it makes the season a lot sweeter and more exciting when we are successful," said Nagri.

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY

After a five-game losing streak, the men's basketball team chalked up a 78-64 conference win over Anna Maria College. Michael Hagopian scored a career high of 49 points to help the Rams start in a total of 19 games this season for the Rams. He averages 32.3 minutes per game, while also collecting an average of 11.6 points per game. As the team looks to approach playoffs, they have six conference games remaining in the regular season. The Rams are back on the road again starting Wednesday night at 7 p.m. for a conference game at Rivier College, looking to improve their 8-14 record.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

On Jan. 25, Suffolk University's Athletics Department announced that the men's ice hockey program will join the New England Hockey Conference (NEHC) at the conclusion of this season. At the start of the 2018-19 academic school year, the first ever Suffolk women's ice hockey program will also join the NEHL. The NEHC opens up new competition for the Rams including Norwich University, Babson College, New England College, Castleton State College, Skidmore College, UMass Boston, St. Anselm College, Southern Maine University and St. Michael's College. The Rams head into a 7 p.m. puck drop Thursday night at Wentworth Institute of Technology for a conference game. As of Wednesday morning, the Rams have a 4-10-4 record and are looking for the series sweep against the Leopards for their first win of the month.