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Hong Kong faces string of kidnappings that ultimately affect international students at Suffolk.

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Images of Patriots parade after historic win in overtime. See: Uncovered with Flash blog.

Stay tuned: See how conditions have altered with the Presidential Search Committee. See story next week.

Ramifications place fourth in annual ICCA competition.

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Coming up: Cheerleading looks to be recognized by Athletics department as a varsity sport See story next week.

PERSPECTIVE

CHAIM WIDGER

"Is that really a good reason to hold back research that can save lives?"

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Officials push the breaks on travel ban

Leaders, students speak out against "unconstitutional move" by president

Alexa Gagosz
Editor-in-Chief

The recent executive order on immigration from newly inaugurated President Donald Trump has sent shockwaves throughout Boston and the nation. Boston officials such as Mayor Marty Walsh and Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey have become vocal on their disapproval that could ultimately affect those who reside throughout the Commonwealth as well as the thousands of international students who travel to Boston to receive an education in America's "college town." Some of these comments from officials have gone as far as a lawsuit that Healey's office announced against Trump to challenge the executive order last week.

Solicitor General of Washington State Noah Purcell announced on Tuesday night that the federal government has "flip-flopped" on how it defines the executive order and who it also includes.

The Department of Homeland Security announced on Saturday that it suspended all actions to implement the immigration ban and said that it will continue the standard inspections of travelers that were conducted prior to the executive order being signed.

Suffolk University's Acting President Marisa Kelly, who holds the top office of a university that bears an international population of 23 percent, offered comments to the Suffolk community in an email affirming the university's support to those students affected.

City Councilor and Boston's mayoral candidate Tito Jackson emphasized that students are the ones that "keep it real" in politics; discussed importance of involvement in today's political world.

Jackson already on the job

By Chris DeGusto, News Editor

During a turbulent and explosive time for American politics, officials across the political spectrum are divided by either the progression within the country to move forward or they are struck by the newly inaugurated style of the executive branch.

In local government, the ability to please all constituents and appease the smaller matters is sometimes harder. However, for some, it's part of the role that one fills when elected into office.

Boston's District 7 City Councilor and mayoral candidate Tito Jackson believes that while the future needs to be built on the nation's history, progress needs to be made by taking a step forward, even if that interprets to resisting against and questioning what is above those means.

"We are the birthplace of the American..."
NEWS BRIEFS

LAW ALUMNI HELP FREE DETAINED PROFESSORS

Two Suffolk Law School Alumni, Susan Church and her husband, Deroy B. Demissie, helped to free two Tunisian professors who were detained at Logan International Airport on Jan. 29. Both immigration attorneys, Church and Demissie, collaborated with Matthew Segal from the ACLU to file a temporary restraining order in federal court that resulted in the freeing of the two UMass Dartmouth professors, Mazdak Tootkaboni and Arghavan Loughalam. Tootkaboni and Loughalam have lived in the United States for over 10 years and were returning from an academic conference in France. The ruling by federal judges in Boston delays the enforcement of the ban for seven days.

SUFFOLK PROFESSOR NAMED DISTINGUISHED LECTURER

Suffolk University professor, Kenneth Greenberg has been named by the Organization of American Historians to a three-year position as a distinguished lecturer. He will conduct lectures on his areas of research interests such as slavery, history and Nat Turner, the man famous for leading a rebellion of slaves in 1831. Turner will be the topic of Greenberg’s first lecture as part of the William B. Crawley Great Lives Lecture Series, at the University of Mary Washington, in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Greenberg was the writer, Manelk C. Fornos and of the film, Nat Turner: A Troublesome Property, nationally broadcasted on PBS. The lecture took place on Tuesday, and was nationally broadcasted on C-Span.

BETSY DEVOS CONFIRMED AS SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

On Feb. 7, the United States Senate approved Betsy DeVos as the Secretary of Education, with a decisive vote from Vice President Mike Pence. DeVos has said that she supports expanding educational choice through charter schools and vouchers, despite having limited experience with the public school system. Two republicans, Senator Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, voted against DeVos, possibly indicating future adversity on some of the president’s controversial legislative priorities. Collins and Murkowski say they had been influenced by the thousands of messages they had received urging them to vote against the nomination. According to a senate historian, this was the first time a vice president had been called to the Capitol to break a tie on a cabinet nomination.

CORRECTION

In last week’s story “Gazzani stays true to campaign promises,” reported that SGA Treasurer Cameron Viola had said that voting turnout was thanks to efforts by Vice President Daniel Gazzani. This was reported by the source but not confirmed with Viola.

Check it out! The Sawyer Library and Moakley Archives announce new column

The Sawyer Library and Moakley Archives have a new column with The Suffolk Journal. View the entirety of February’s column on TheSuffolkJournal.com to see featured news on the two as well as highlight historical research collections that are related to current events. Above: View of the circulation desk, turnstile and card catalog at the Suffolk University library in the 1940s.

First round of nominations for SGA’s executive board in, campaigns soon to follow

Chris DeGusto
News Editor

Two members of Suffolk’s Student Government Association (SGA) were nominated for the position of the next president during last Thursday’s meeting, junior and Chair of the Diversity Committee Devarth Dixit and junior and current SGA Vice President Daniel Gazzani. In this first round of nominations, there were two nominations for Vice President, class of 2018 Senator Levi Smith and class of 2020 Senator Yairi Batalvi. For the position of secretary, class of 2018 Senator Kim Ginsberg and class of 2019 Senator Morgan Robb were nominated, and for the position of Treasurer, former SGA finance committee member Logan Tropiano was the only one nominated last Thursday.

Due to current position holders President Sean Walsh, Secretary Brianna Silva and Treasurer Cameron Viola scheduled to graduate at the end of the spring semester, each of these three roles on Student Government Association (SGA) will need to be filled as a result of the elections. In addition to these leadership roles, senators for the class of 2019, 2020 and a senator-at-large for diversity are also offices that will be looked at to be occupied. Walsh will be in charge of conducting the election, which will have finalists after Silva meets with the nominations committee on Mar. 1 to make these selections.

Dixit, who said that his nomination was not necessarily surprising to him in a post-meeting interview with The Suffolk Journal, explained that he is excited for the elections and eager for his campaign.

“I feel that after devoting two years to SGA, I am ready to take on that role [of president] now,” said Dixit. “I’m excited to see how things go, and I’m really excited for the elections. Considering me and Dan are really good friends it’s going to be a nice and clean one.” Dixit is on board with how SGA is currently being run, but does have a set of goals that he wants to work on as a member of the student government association, expressing that he wants SGA to be a “louder” voice of the students.

“I feel like we should side with the students first considering we are the student government association,” said Dixit. “When it comes to where we have conflicts, with the faculty for instance, or basically anything, I think we should side with the students considering we are their voice, and the largest organization on campus that can kind of resonate [the students’] voice. I just want to be a louder SGA of sorts, and have a bigger impact on students.”

SGA is “the voice of students on campus” according to the university’s official website and claims responsibility “to make sure that the faculty, administration and trustees of the University hear and understand the opinions and ideas of students.”

Gazzani, who also accepted his nomination to campaign for President, said in an interview with The Journal on Jan. 31 that collaboration and constructive feedback are important elements SGA members continuously need to have with one another.

“That doesn’t mean to shy away from the fact that when somebody does something wrong, you have to call them out,” said Gazzani. “At the end of the day it is that teamwork that is going to allow you to learn from your mistakes and hopefully perfect yourself and improve from that so you can accomplish whatever you are set to do.”

Gazzani said that SGA partnering with Suffolk’s upper administration is key to handling critical issues regardless of who wins the student government elections. While SGA executive member campaigns begin in the coming weeks, the university continues to hunt for a new leader as well. Gazzani said he believes SGA needs to be in the president’s office on their first day of assuming this role at the university.

“As soon as the new president takes office, I think we should be right there that day making sure we brief them of everything that has been going on, letting them know what our student’s concerns are,” said Gazzani.
Officials say ban may disrupt metro universities

Dear Suffolk University,

We hope you all enjoyed the Patriots parade right through our campus! It is certainly one of the perks of going to school in Boston!

In SGA news, the first round of executive board nominations were last week, and the second will take place this at our meeting this Thursday. We would like to congratulate all of those nominated, best of luck campaigning!

Election packets for all other positions are now available! All class senator and at-large positions are available for anyone to run for to be representatives for the 2017-2018 school year. We encourage anyone interested to pick up a pack, in the SGA office in Sawyer 324C, at the SLI front desk, or at the HUB to do in Som. For more information, there will be an election info session on Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 12:30 p.m. in Somerset B18.

Next week is Commuter Student Appreciation week. Look out for commuter-centered events hosted by OCHG all week, and even an on-campus ice cream event on Wednesday.

We want to continue to remind students that SGA is here as a resource for all. If you have any questions or concerns about any part of life on campus, please email sga@bucks.suffolk.edu. And the SGA meetings are open for anyone to come to and even share concerns during our open forum.

Meetings are Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. in Somerset B18. Please come out and join us!

-SGA

From TRUMP page 1

by the ban. Members of the Student Government Association’s executive board such as President Sean Walsh and Vice President Daniel Guzzani commended Kelly’s efforts.

The executive order included an immediate ban of all refugees from Syria and on seven predominately Muslim nations from entering the United States for 90 days, including the war-torn country of Syria. Some Suffolk students that are directly affected by the ban have remained silent under fear. Assistant Provost of the Division of Student Success Kashy Sparraco told a Journal reporter last week that Suffolk has nine students from the affected countries. Despite the national support, some of these students have declined to be interviewed by The Suffolk Journal because of their concerns for themselves and their student visas. In the interfaith Center’s weekly “Muslim Conversations,” the travel ban has been recently discussed within the group’s circle.

The metro colleges in Boston had a total of 47,895 international students in 2015, according to a report by the Institute of International Education.

Senior broadcast journalism major Matt Durkin said it was the “right thing to do” when Healey challenged Trump’s order and Kelly stood by Suffolk’s diverse community.

“Boston is one of the founding cities of America that was built on diversity and has a world class education that attracts people from all over the world,” said Durkin in an interview on Tuesday night.

On the weekend that the executive order was signed, demonstrations erupted throughout the United States’ major cities and airports alongside those who waited for loved ones to be released from detention. In Boston, government officials had joined passionate protestors at Logan International Airport including Walsh, U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren and City Councilor of District 7 and mayoral candidate Tito Jackson. Each of them were stationed at different terminals and roared dialogues that continued the resistance against Trump. The following morning, another protest erupted around Copley Square, where these same politicians were scattered in the crowds of citizens in a display of objection toward the White House, which was hosted by the Council of American-Islamic Relations and the Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center (ISBCC).

Massachusetts officials from either side of the political spectrum have expressed support of these actions against the new president, including Republican Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker. “Massachusetts is a global community and we all benefit from the shared experiences of our partners from around the world to support our economy and educational institutions to make our state the best place to live, work and raise a family,” said Baker in a recent statement. “The recent executive order puts this at risk, will not improve our security, and the lack of guidance associated with such an abrupt and overwhelming decision is problematic for all involved.”

The governor, who was recently criticized for “not voting” in the 2016 presidential election but criticized Trump when the now president was a candidate, explained in the statement that his administration has worked with the Attorney General’s office in the lawsuit against Trump and supports Healey’s choice to challenge the executive order.

“We look forward to the courts resolving this matter expeditiously,” said Baker, who did not vote for Trump in the primaries.

The executive order continued to urge other states to take a stronger stance to support the bill called the “Safe Communities Act” that has called for “no state support” for a Muslim registry and also bans any arrangements for federal officials to authorize local law enforcement as immigration agents.

Former interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Massachusetts native Nicholas Lepore said that Healey has served as a “knight of the rule of law,” and has shown “unmatchable courage in the face of injustice.”

“The ban is unequivocally unconstitutional based on the Establishment, Commerce and Equal Protection Clauses of the Constitution,” said Lepore. “The Rule of Law, even when pushed the farthest limits, will always preserve justice above the prejudices of our executive.”

In a recent interview, Councilor Jackson explained to The Journal that the president has “complete and total disregard for the American Constitution” and displayed that in his recent executive order. He said that the “City of Boston would have the right to sue the federal government.”

The Councilor explained that the ban against those from international communities will cause a downward attendance of Boston’s major colleges, an attendance that is crucial to the city of Boston and its universities.
Revolution, and I think this is the beginning of a second American Revolution— one of hope, one of unity, one of solidarity,” said Jackson to Journal reporters in a recent interview as he explained that the city of Boston should lead in these times of division and the rest of the country, he hopes, will follow. With the nation’s eyes fixed on newly inaugurated President Donald Trump’s next move, Jackson said the young people of today should be ready to position their next pawn.

“With Trump having taken a side and placed value on the international community, especially those who are studying in the United States as international students. "I think with a number of international students that we have in the city of Boston, it would be catastrophic for us to blink in the face of adversity, in the face of a bully and in the face of a demagogue," said Jackson.

According to Jackson, Trump’s executive order has prompted a perception as hazardous. While the courts wrestle with this issue, the impact of Trump’s executive order is felt by countless students in the city of Boston. International students alike are concerned of what may come next by way of the pen of America’s newest president. Some who, looking ahead, have questioned the safety of their student visas, according to a recent article in The Journal. Oterbein, Jackson said that the impact of Trump’s executive order is felt by countless students in the city of Boston. International students alike are concerned of what may come next by way of the pen of America’s newest president. Some who, looking ahead, have questioned the safety of their student visas, according to a recent article in The Journal.

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Abduction stokes Hong Kong separatists

Suffolk student weighs in on China’s political tension

Patrick Holmes
Opinion Editor

One of China’s richest, most politically influential men has been missing for nearly two weeks after an alleged abduction from a Hong Kong hotel.

Xiao Jianhua, a self-made billionaire with political ties to the family of Chinese President Xi Jinping, was allegedly taken from the Four Seasons Hotel where he lives in Hong Kong by a group of Chinese public security agents on the early morning of Jan. 27, according to multiple news sources and those briefed on the incident.

As the incident continues to unfold, critics have called into question the issue of Beijing’s arbitrary power and tendency to meddle in Hong Kong’s political theatre.

Hong Kong’s mini-constitution bars outside police forces from operating in Hong Kong, so as it stands this abduction is illegal.

Hong Kong police later confirmed Xiao was taken to the mainland, allegedly to assist with investigations, according to the South China Morning Post.

Social media posts allegedly from Xiao that appeared following his disappearance denied he was in Mainland China, instead stating he was receiving medical attention. The posts were removed a short time later.

Interviews with Tang, a sophomore business major at Suffolk, is from Guangzhou, China but was born in Hong Kong. Due to his origins, he is very familiar with the controversy surrounding “mainland” China versus Hong Kong.

Guangzhou is considered to be similar to Hong Kong because it is liberal leaning so the move from Hong Kong was not too different for his lifestyle, he said.

“As of right now, I do not feel affected by the political turmoil, but many Hong Kongers do since they view the “mainlanders” as impolite,” said Tang in an interview with The Suffolk Journal late Tuesday night. He also said that Hong Kongers do not appreciate people from the mainland and have animosity toward them due to the tourism in Hong Kong.

Xiao’s abduction echoes a similar incident that took place in 2015 when five booksellers were whisked to the mainland by China’s internal police force. The official explanation for their absence was that they were illegally distributing unauthorized books on the mainland, but some believe they were detained over a planned publication of a book about the romantic life of President Xi.

One of those kidnapped was Swedish citizen Gui Minhai, who has remained in detention for 15 months since being abducted.

Tensions between Hong Kong and China continued to grow, which has led to an emerging separatist movement that has tried to take root in Hong Kong politics and gain strength over the last few turbulent years.

“I think Hong Kong should be able to decide whether or not they want independence and China is meddling too much in our business,” said Tang. He went on to talk about the recent elections of how Hong Kong citizens vote for senators that they vote in elections.

Last year, self-identified separatists won six seats in Hong Kong’s legislature. The election followed two years of China tightening its grip on political reform within the territory.

Two months after the election, China’s communist government blocked two separatists, Sixtus Leung and Yau Wai-ching, from taking seats in Hong Kong’s legislature, according to the New York Times. Both Leung and Wai-ching are members of the emerging Chinese separatist movement Youngspiration, that has energized a coalition of unsatisfied Chinese youth.

The Umbrella Movement was held in defiance of Beijing’s refusal to allow Hong Kong citizens democratic reforms. This movement is what inspired the six new separatist legislators, according to the New York Times.

“After the Umbrella Movement, China cleared the streets so they looked better than before the protests, almost erasing it and giving them the option to only vote for senators,” said Tang.

“This caused the Hong Kongers to riot and many believe this was a tactic to slip away when he was being disrespected to their free speech.

Leung’s level of trust from the public began to slip away when he and his media platform were removed from a public platform which citizens found as a threat to their free speech.

Leung’s political future remains in jeopardy. His term ends in March and separatists are gaining popularity among the youth of Hong Kong. The next election will take place on March 26. However, many Hong Kong residents have lost hope due to the election not being a true one, according to the New York Times. A 1,200 member pro-Beijing committee will choose the list of candidates for the election. With a uniform committee, the independent political future of Hong Kong does not look bright.

Hong Kong legislators scuffle during last year’s controversial swearing in ceremony
WORLD BRIEFS

RUSSIA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Vladimir Putin approved a controversial law Tuesday that would decriminalize domestic violence in Russia, according to the Guardian. The amendment has sparked outrage among critics who believe it sends the wrong message in a country where estimates show one woman dies every 40 minutes from domestic abuse. The new law states that the beating of spouses or children that results in bruising or bleeding, but not broken bones, are punishable by 15 days in prison, or a fine, if the incidences do not occur more than once a year. Previously, abusers were given a maximum sentence of two years in prison. Some defenders of the law claim that it protects the traditional Russian viewpoint that family is sacred. Priest Dmitry Smirnov, head of the Russian Orthodox Patriarchy's Commission on Family Matters said the state's involvement in personal family affairs is a "western imposition on Russia."

AUSTRALIA | TERROR PLOT

Two unnamed teenagers, both 19, have been accused of "conspiracy to do an act, or acts, in preparation for, or planning, a terrorist acts or act," according to the Australian Federal Police. The teenagers are allegedly married. At the time of their arrest early last year, the male suspect was charged with collecting documents on how to create an explosive device likely to cause death or injury to the group. Immediately upon entering the room was a slide containing a myriad of information about European culture, experiences, and traditions, including: what meetings would cover for the rest of the semester, including food, music and dances. The association has been motivated to come together with other European students who wish to travel to Europe to learn how to prosper in a foreign land.

AFGHANISTAN | BOMBING

A suicide bomber has killed 19 people after detonating at the entrance of Afghanistan’s Supreme Court. This was the latest in a series of attacks on the country's judiciary, according to The Mainichi, a daily newspaper in Japan. The attacker targeted court employees and civilians as they were exiting the building from a side door in downtown Kabul, according to the Interior Ministry. While the motives of the attacker are still unknown, officials have speculated that the attacker was a member of the Taliban. The insurgents have been at war with the U.S.-backed government for 15 years and have increasingly targeted the judiciary since the execution of six convicted radicals last May. The U.S. Embassy in Kabul called it "an attack on the very foundation of Afghan democracy and rule of law."

While a group discussion over the group's plans, various people shared ideas about what they'd like to see the association do. They discussed learning traditional dances, having movie nights or cooking seminars, as well as going on field trips to historical locations in order to further understand the culture.

Culture is an integral part of every European nation.

According to Beloussova, food has a special way of connecting people despite where they come from. "I love food and I always love showing my friends different dishes, a huge focus is food. In a way, this shows people that you don't have to be European yourself to be a part of this community," said Beloussova.

One of the long-term goals that the leaders hope to achieve is to receive enough funding for everyone involved in the European Student Association to fly to Europe and experience it first hand.

The European Student Association will host meetings every other Thursday in Sawyer Room 132.

For more information contact, pstojka@suffolk.edu or visit their Facebook page European Students Association (@ SuffolkESA).
In an emotional rollercoaster of heartache, loss and forging of new relationships, filmmaker Felicia Lowe conveys the trials and tribulations of her journey to discovering her mother's past and the extent of the toll of the Chinese Exclusion Act had on her family.

The screening of this film was hosted by the Communication and Journalism department, the History department and the Rosenberg Institute of East Asian Studies. The film was shown during Professor Mickey Lee's Research Methods in Communication class. Lee initially held the event for her class with a screening of the movie last Monday, followed by a Skype interview with Lowe on Wednesday.

"A Suffolk alum decided he wanted to set up an institute to bring speakers, filmmakers, like Felicia, to campus," said Lee in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal regarding the event being open to the public thanks to Suffolk University's Rosenberg Institute of East Asian Studies.

The film follows four Chinese women and their relationship to each other regarding family history. Lowe, a former journalist, reveals in her film how she came to know an entirely new side of her mother through her own daughter. In the film, Lowe explains how her mother was secretive about her past and would not consider her own daughter privy to such information. Lowe's daughter, Alana had been assigned to find an old family photograph and inquire about the origin of it. After finding a picture of her grandmother and asking why it was originally taken, it was then that Lowe and her daughter caught a glimpse into their mother's otherwise cloudy past.

"Like Chinese couplets, each verse distinct, yet related. Together they can tell a story, like mothers and daughters," said Lowe in her film.

In a well-constructed presentation, Lowe was able to convey the tense situation that revolved around the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 where Chinese immigrants were barred from entering the United States. Through careful investigation and research, Lowe discovered that her mother had been informally adopted into a Chinese family who had Hawaiian citizenship and recently suffered from the loss of their own daughter. Lowe's grandmother asked the family to take her daughter in as a replacement, so that she would be able to start a new and potentially prosperous life in the U.S.

Through careful deceit and tedious loopholes in the American government system, Lowe's mother was able to successfully arrive on the mainland of the U.S. and be reunited with her long lost sister who had married into a family who had obtained American citizenship. With this glimpse into the past, Lowe is able to offer her audiences a snapshot of what it was like to suffer through a terrifying and lonesome time.

Professor Lee remarked on how she was able to meet with Lowe last year to discuss the film screening, only to discover that both Lowe and Lee's mother hail from the same town in China.

The pair have remained in contact since their initial meeting and Lee said how she thought Lowe was "very brutally honest."

In a Skype Question and Answer session with Lee's class, Lowe reflected on some of her creative decisions regarding the editing process of her film, as well as her personal take-away from the final product.

"My story is personal, but at the same time represents thousands of other people's stories," said Lowe.

She remarked on the similarities between the current immigration status in the U.S. to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, and said how she believes her film gave some insight on what it's like to be on the inside of the alienation and discrimination.

"We have a bit more compassion for the past," she said.
Suffolk University’s a Capella group, the Ramifications, returned to the ICCA stage for the quarter finals and placed fourth in the competition.

On Saturday night, Suffolk University’s a cappella group known as the Ramifications took center stage at the Berklee Performance Hall to unleash a moving set worthy of applause. As the second act out of eight to perform, they had the chance to define the beginning of the competition and give the audience a taste of what they had to offer.

The group ended up placing fourth but they were up against stiff competition from other Boston schools such as Northeastern and Harvard. But even with fourth place, they were in a strong enough position to qualify to perform, as some groups were cut in auditions for the competition. Moreover, only the first and second place groups were able to move on to semifinals.

This wouldn’t be the first time the Ramifications qualified to perform at the International Championship of Collegiate A cappella (ICCA) Quarter-final and it’s possible for them to compete again if they continue their hard work.

“It was very cool to prepare for the ICCA’s and have the goal to become cohesive as a group,” said senior Connor Milligan.

“It was cool seeing the hard work other groups put in just like we did.”

The group performed four years ago and were presenting themselves again after building up their group due to many seniors who graduated and finally being in a position to compete again. According to Kristy Fitzpatrick, a sophomore in the Ramifications, the group worked tirelessly for three weeks to perfect their three numbers as well as choreography and with what little time they had to create their set, they delivered an inspiring performance.

The Ramifications started off with “Light Me Up,” with Suffolk senior and soloist Ammi Hosur who took center stage to start the group off with strong vocals that left the audience speechless. After that performance, it might’ve been necessary to take a light to calm down after the excitement.

“We were all super nervous because a lot of us had never actually performed for ICCAs but I think we really put our hearts into the music and really made something beautiful,” said sophomore Jenna Locke. “It was a wild experience but a great one at that!”

When Hosur performed, she seemed to be giving it her all with poised movements and breathless transitions. There was a smooth blend within her vocal range and the group enhanced her solo by keeping their instrumental lower than her vocals. Her diction was clearer than the group before her which helped the audience connect to the song and emotion accompanied with it.

“The ICCA’s were such a great experience,” said Hosur about the group’s performance. “I’m so proud of all of the members and how hard they’ve worked.”

Furtheing their set, the group seamlessly transitioned into their next song, “G-Train,” which was a duet between sophomore Kane Harper and senior Xanana Kanani. The feelings from “Light Me Up” to “G-Train” contrasted each other well and left one questioning how the group would end their performance since they already portrayed two very different sets.

The Ramifications were very diverse in how they chose which songs and in what order they flowed. A duet in between two solos perfectly portrayed the abilities of many of the members including Harper who was one of the few men within the group.

The sensitive emotions from “Light Me Up” led to the sexy excitement of “G-Train” that left the audience wanting more from the duet as faces eagerly watched the performance. The choreography that accompanied the song helped one better visualize the tension between Harper and Kanani. The only downfall of the performance was that Harper’s mic left the audience wanting more from the duet as it’s possible for them to continue their hard work.

On Saturday night, Suffolk senior Lyndsey Bianco “It brought us all so much closer together and we were really happy with the outcome of our set.”

Where credit is due, the instrumentals provided by the group’s vocalists were the heart of the performance as they supported the soloists and the duets monumentally. The Ramifications would not have had as strong of a performance without the help of the entire group and the certain tones and sounds that left space for more.

What there didn’t need to be more of was the outpouring of support from others in the audience that cheered and congratulated The Ramifications before and after their act, which showed the large fan base they possess that support them.

The group should be proud of their performance and with so many others proud of them, fourth place was an accomplishment to say the least. Although only first and second placing groups were able to move on to the semifinals, The Ramifications left a lasting impression on their supporters and others in the audience.

“We win or lose we feel like we accomplished something awesome,” said Bianco.

Until next time, Rams.
In a decision that will have a chilling effect on a major government agency's ability to disseminate information, President Donald Trump on Jan. 24, according to CBS News. This means that the EPA staff are banned from awarding new contracts and grants. According to the EPA website, their mission is to ensure that "all Americans are protected from significant risks to human health and the environment where they live, learn and work." To accomplish this mission, the EPA issued grants to state environmental programs, non-profits, educational institutions and many more organizations. The grants were provided to educate the public on environmental issues and to inform the public of the myriad of environmental issues this country is faced with. This abrupt ban is a colossal insult to the environmental legacy left by former President Barack Obama who formally entered into the Paris Agreement, an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that affirms the important role that ecosystems, biodiversity and land use can play in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Trump is making it his mission to dismantle eight years worth of progress. Some Republicans, especially Mitch Romney, traditionally have not supported the EPA, and called it "job-killing and a threat to economic growth." Despite these claims, never being supported by evidence, it continues to be a main argument against environmental groups. However, according to a 2012 report released by the White House's Office of Management and Budget, the EPA can stimulate economic gains. The regulations have brought benefits to the economy that far outweigh their costs. This study said the EPA creates jobs by requiring pollution cleanup and prevention efforts and saves the economy by avoiding pollution-related negative health effects. One would think our business-minded president would pay attention to such research.

Despite the stack of evidence that has proved the environmental efforts are economically efficient, and proved climate change is real, Trump has been very outspoken on his belief that climate change is a hoax. Funding climate research is vital to not only a healthy planet, but also healthy humans. The current status of the earth's climate and a multitude of other problems is a very real and very terrifying concern.

As astrophysicist Neil Degrasse Tyson said, "The good thing about science is that it's true whether or not you believe it." Last year was the hottest on the historical record and the third hottest year since record-breaking year, according to the New York Times. Of the 17 hottest years recorded, 16 of them have occurred since 2000. Michael E. Mann, a scientist at Pennsylvania State University, said about "75 percent of the warming in 2016 would have less than one-in-a-million odds of occurring. In addition, the amount of global sea level rise would have less than one-in-a-million odds of occurring."

On the other hand, some environmental crises are not a result of greenhouse gases or not using fluorescent light bulbs. Some easily preventable environmental dilemmas are the direct result of city officials being indifferent toward the needs of the community.

When residents of Flint, Mich., began to complain about their tap water in 2014, and said the water was being poisoned and foamy, city officials repeatedly told them there was nothing to worry about. A few weeks later, the water tested positive for Escherichia coli bacteria. "It's cold," and residents were told to boil their water. On Feb. 26, 2015, the EPA notified the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) that is detected harmful levels of lead in the water at the home of a Flint resident.

About five months before the EPA stepped in, the General Motors plant in Flint refused to use the water because it was ruin ing car parts. According to CNN, the city arranged for them to use a different water line, while the residents had to use the contaminated water.

The city of Flint contains more than 90,000 residents, and 41 percent of them live below the poverty line.

The Flint water crisis revealed a very suspicious issue of classism among the city officials. Residents have complained and pleaded for drinking water for months, but when a big company responsible for the growth of Michigan's economy demands better water, they received it, no questions asked.

The EPA gave the residents a voice when the people who were supposed to help them for them would not listen.

The EPA's involvement in the Flint water crisis propelled the effort to get Flint the assistance they desperately needed.

We need organizations like the EPA to continue to have a strong fundraising network.

It is clear that we cannot always trust the people in charge to look out for us and keep our best health and safety in mind. We need the EPA to represent us with evidence, and others refuse to acknowledge. Cutting this agency's is a death wish for the environment, and for humans.

Businessman to president: Treating a country like a company

"The point is that you can't be too greedy."
- Donald Trump
"The Art of the Deal," 1987

Donald Trump has signed many controversial executive orders just a few months into his presidency. His executive order blocking the continued construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) and the beginning steps to repeal Obamacare, are the two leading decisions that have left America in shambles and the American people with hatred in their hearts.

The pipelines will make it easier for businesses but the potential to pollute the water that flows through tribal land. By signing this order, Trump has approved a death sentence for many people, and it could get worse onward since Obamacare will disappear, along with many poor Americans who cannot afford healthcare.

The citizens of the United States are fighting to protect their rights against a president who has possessed.

Only a little more than a month into his presidency, it seems Trump does not value the lives of the American people. His executive order to ban refugees and other people has been met with a monumental uproar. It's hard to tell if Trump really believes that all Muslims are terrorists or if he is just using his power as president. It is even clearer that it has to do with power since the ban does not involve the Muslim countries he does business with.

The need for power and control has inflated the ex-businessman's ego. He still has conflicts of interest with his company versus the presidency. On those grounds, it should be simple to impeach him, yet many still support him and his actions.

Although still holding support from his followers, Trump's approval ratings are the lowest a newly inaugurated president has possessed.

The citizens of the United States are fighting to protect their rights against a president who has possessed.

A cabinet full of liars can only go so far before it starts to lie about it's lies. As that might not be enough, a quote from George Orwell's novel 1984 comes to mind: "The party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final, most essential command." The purpose of our country is to become a dictator-run dystopia, Trump needs to either start being truthful or be impeached, or a president, or the American people need to impeach him.
EDITOR'S WORD

Calling all American thinkers, readers or general enthusiasts of fact. The very fabric of our constitution is being called into question every day, yet The Suffolk Journal has maintained a staff of less than two dozen consistent writers for more than five years now. Newspapers are slowly going bankrupt and the same case can be made about American morals. Have we stopped caring? Is it not surprising anymore? Or is it general apathy?

Journalism needs the educated public more than anything right now, but you would never know yourself. Grab a pen, notebook, laptop, bar napkin or whatever you have these opportunities, but many doubt whether this has potential benefits, but many doubt whether it is ethical. I believe it is both. The objections raised as ethical concerns are dubious, and are based either on a lack of understanding of what the experiment actually did, or on gut feelings and reactions which can't be rationalized morally. Very few people doubt this has potential benefits, but many doubt whether it is ethical. I believe it is both. The objections raised as ethical concerns are dubious, and are based either on a lack of understanding of what the experiment actually did, or on gut feelings and reactions which can't be rationalized morally. Many people find the idea of human-animal chimeras deeply unsettling, but "unsettling" is simply not a good enough argument for impeding medical advancements that can save thousands of lives.

The scientists, who reported their research in the journal "Cell," are hoping to get fully functioning human organs to grow inside other animals, which could solve the organ shortage and save thousands of lives. Others have raised ethical concerns around the implications of mixing human DNA with those of other animals. These fears are mostly misguided, and the positive potential of this advancement far outweighs the negatives. There is certainly a crucial need for ethical discussions as humanity advances into science-fiction levels of technology. However, these discussions must be based on an informed view. Some media outlets have published articles along with creepy images of half-pig-half-human faces, which do nothing but promote misinformation about what these results actually mean. No, scientists did not create half-pig, half-human creatures, or make human in a pig's body. We must also be aware of problems with animal abuse and well-being. But the prospect of growing transplantable human organs inside animals raises no new revolutionary ethical concerns.

First of all, no animal was actually born, and the embryo itself contained only .001 percent human cells. Certainly, the hope is to increase that number enough to create a fully functioning organ, but in the context of this research the goal is focused on specific organs that are needed for transplantation, such as the kidney or liver. There is no way the animal would develop human cognition, as the cells will not form brain tissue. The argument that it is wrong because it is unnatural is also flawed, as most "unnatural" arguments in ethics tend to be. These kinds of concerns often have religious roots, or are based on the idea that humans have a dignity separate from other animals that will somehow be undermined. Is that really a good reason to hold back research that can save lives? Surely the more human lives we can save, the more dignity we will have. In any case, our aversion to the unnatural is purely a matter of our emotional psychology, and not valid reasoning. That is not to say we shouldn't have these discussions, but that these discussions should be based on critical reflections rather than gut feeling or traditional values.

As with any medical science research, there will be strict institutional oversight in place. We must critically reflect on our deeply rooted repulsion toward the idea of transplantable human organs inside an animal, and realize that avoiding this unexplainable discomfort is less important than saving lives and improving our scientific understanding.

Deplete the list:
Continue the research to save lives

Chaim Wigder
Journal Staff

There is a serious medical problem that is too little acknowledged: organs are in high demand. Every ten minutes, someone is added to the national transplant waiting list, and there are simply not nearly enough donor organs to meet this need. Recently, a group of scientists at the Salk Institute in California attempted to solve this problem by developing a way to grow human organs inside of pigs, brewing up a storm of controversy (and some hysteria) about the prospect of "human-animal hybrids." Very few people doubt this has potential benefits, but many doubt whether it is ethical. I believe it is both. The objections raised as ethical concerns are dubious, and are based either on a lack of understanding of what the experiment actually did, or on gut feelings and reactions which can't be rationalized morally. Many people find the idea of human-animal chimeras deeply unsettling, but "unsettling" is simply not a good enough argument for impeding medical advancements that can save thousands of lives.

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Rams charge final three, Hagopian breaks record

Not only did sophomore guard Michael Hagopian break Suffolk University men's basketball record for most points in a game once, but he later surpassed his own record.

Hagopian has played in almost every game so far this season and has scored 30 plus points in two back-to-back games, one against Rivier University where he broke his own record with 36 points. In the 2015-16 season, the highest amount of points that Hagopian had scored in one game was 14. This season he has recorded more than 14 points in seven different games.

"I was in another zone, playing with a lot of confidence," said Hagopian in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal. "This is something that I have pictured for so long, and worked so hard for, so to see it happening right now is an amazing feeling."

Hagopian said his teammates and coaches could account for the great deal of confidence he has on the court. He explained their encouragement keeps him going and that he works hard not only for himself, but for all of them.

The Rams currently hold a record of 6-15 as they play their last three games in the regular season this month. The Rams struggled early in the season as they had a total of two wins in the months of November and December combined. While the team's record may show they have few wins, many of their losses have been way too close. On Nov. 22nd, the Rams lost to Emerson College by just six points. This was also the case when the team lost by three points to St. Joseph's College on Dec. 2.

Hagopian said the team's biggest challenge this season has been not starting each game with enough energy and therefore losing close games. Despite the team having more losses than wins, Hagopian has showed how ready he is to play each game. Suffolk's first victory of the season came off a 64-48 win against Wheelock College. As the team nears the end of the season they find themselves with three conference games to play going head to head against Johnson and Wales University, Anna Maria College and St. Joseph's College.

"To prepare for the last stretch of the season, we are bringing energy to each practice, and taking this last stretch one game at a time," said sophomore forward Steven DiPristo in an interview with The Journal last Thursday. "There have been a lot of learning experiences for the entire team, and we are striving to get better and play to our potential every possession on the floor."

Suffolk started this month off with a 86-62 victory over Rivier University on Feb. 1st. This was their second straight big win as they had previously won their last game to Anna Maria College 78-64 on Jan. 28.

At the Rivier game, Hagopian opened the scoring for Suffolk notch back-to-back triples. Suffolk showed no mercy and had an eventual lead of 12-4 at 4:28 into the match. Hagopian could not be stopped as he scored the last 14 points of the first 20 minutes and the Rams 45-36 lead at halftime.

After the half, Suffolk continued to dominate as they established a 20-point lead with the game at a score of 64-44. The Rams continued to roll over Rivier and ended the game with a final score of 86-62. After setting a career record of 34 points in his previous game against Anna Maria, the Rams ended the game with 40 rebounds, 22 assists and a 54.9 shooting percentage.

Game leaders of the night were freshman guard Thomas Duffy with 12 rebounds and sophomore forward Micah Querusto with 10 assists.

DiPristo said his coach is the most prepared he has ever seen and before every game each player is familiar with their opponent's motions and style of play. He explained his coach motivates each player to play not only for themselves, but for each player by their side.

"Coach [Jeff] Juron makes sure that we have success both on and off the court, and demands the best from us on the court, as well as in the classroom," said DiPristo.

Coach Juron has not responded to communication with The Journal regarding this article as of Tuesday night.

With the end of the regular season concluding on Feb. 18 at Saint Joseph's College in Maine, sophomore guard Jim Djema is hopeful for what the future of the program holds.

"I see success for this team. We have many years together and a very hungry group of guys," said Djema in an interview with The Journal on Sunday. "They enjoy grinding day in and day out and with that type of work ethic, you will get nothing but success."

The Rams play their next game on Feb. 13 at home versus Johnson & Wales University at 3 p.m.
In what many have called the “best Super Bowl of all time,” while others are still trying grasp how the comeback was possible, the New England Patriots bled red and blue while clutching their fifth ring in a first ever Super Bowl overtime.

After flying out of the gate to a 28-3 lead, the Atlanta Falcons gave up 31 straight points, including 19 in the fourth quarter to a New England team that had embodied resilience all year.

Patriots wide receiver Julian Edelman grabbed a memorable “gravity-defying” reception in the back of the end zone, in the back of Patriots fans minds was the overhanging scandal dubbed “Deflategate” that left Brady suspended for the first four games of this now concluded season.

Patriots owner Robert Kraft, added that the past two years events have made this “unequivocally the sweetest” Super Bowl win according to ESPN. “This means the world. Second time here at Suffolk University where they’re coming straight through campus in the last three years I’ve been here,” said Student Senate President Jonathan McTague in an interview with The Suffolk Journal during the parade on Tuesday. "You don’t get this anywhere else."

While Brady expressed his honor of having NFL commissioner Roger Goodell present the team with the Lombardi trophy, players threw shirts that read “Roger that!”

The duo has long been regarded by some sports writers, broadcasters, former players and fans as the best quarterback tandem of all time high 14 receptions.

Tom Brady, who threw 34 completions on Sunday, eclipsed former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Joe Montana and former Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Terry Bradshaw for the most ever Super Bowl wins. Adding to the records was Patriots running back James White, who hauled in a championship all-time high 14 receptions. Joining Brady, at a now record five Super Bowl victories as a head coach was Bill Belichick. The duo has long been regarded by some sports writers, broadcasters, former players and fans as the best head coach-quarterback tandem of all time and solidified another place for themselves in history with a 34-28 win over the National Football Conference (NFC) second-seeded Falcons.

“"Fire up the duck boats, the #SuperBowl Champs are coming to town!" wrote Boston's Mayor Marty Walsh in a tweet late Sunday night. Walsh referenced the celebratory parade on Tuesday, one of familiarity to Boston residents in Boston's history. "Attention managers of Boston, I hereby declare [Tuesday] a citywide holiday. [TUESDAY] WE DANCE IN THE STREETS," said Brady.

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