Discrepancy between candidates fires week before ballots cast

Chris DeGusto
News Editor

In the midst of campaign season for Suffolk University’s Student Government Association (SGA), discrepancy arose between vice presidential candidates Yasir Botalvi and Levi Smith on Monday night.

On whiteboards in the lobby of Suffolk’s Sawyer building, some candidates for the various SGA executive board positions have drawn messages in hopes to yield the votes of students. A notice about Smith’s campaign portrayed a bulleted list of his qualities, accompanied by checked off boxes. On Tuesday, Smith issued a public statement on his Facebook with a corresponding video that showed Botalvi’s personal Snapchat account; Botalvi posted to his story a clip of the whiteboard Monday night with an additional box checked off that read “copies Yasir.”

Botalvi, in an interview with The Suffolk Journal on Tuesday said that he was not the one who wrote this on the whiteboard. Smith’s Facebook post said that he was disappointed in Botalvi’s actions.

“I am severely disappointed in Yasir, and betrayed as colleague, as I originally thought his character wasn’t capable of a decision like this,” said the statement.

Botalvi said to Journal reporters that his Snapchat account is personal, and added his Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Pinterest are all being utilized along with his personal website as outlets for his
Campus forum lectures inclusivity during Trump’s immigration crackdown

Alexa Gagouz
Editor-in-Chief

Few seats were left open on Thursday when students, faculty and staff from the different divisions of Suffolk University gathered on the second floor of Sargent Hall for a campus forum on President Donald Trump’s Executive Order.

Following a bitter few weeks of rolling news segments on the recent travel ban for seven predominantly Muslim nations, some within Suffolk’s international community live in fear of their rights as a student being revoked. The campus forum, called on by Acting Provost Sebastian Royo, a member of Suffolk’s Global community himself, said that in the 26 years he has been living in the United States, this was the first time he has felt on edge. “This is the first time since I’ve moved here that I’ve felt uncomfortable, where my accent has made me self-conscious,” said Royo, who was born in Spain during a dictatorship.

Royo, who said that he had come to the U.S. and was only supposed to remain in the states for a few years as a student, explained “life happens” and it’s why he could stand in front of a crowd of students as one of their leaders. In a panel-style lecture, Senior Director of the Division of Student Success Kathy Sparaco, Director of Health and Wellness Jean Joyce-Brady and Clinical professor of Law Ragini Shaw sat at the bowl of the lecture hall and each gave a mini synopsis of what the travel ban Trump has enacted and how they will affect students at the university. Acting President Marta Kelly was not in attendance due to a fundraising trip, according to Royo, but “fully supported” the forum and the backing the university has offered to students and staff.

Royo, who introduced each of the panelists, said the event was a direct reflection of Suffolk’s founding of acceptance and opportunity. Royo cited Suffolk’s founder Gleason Archer who gave executive to Law school to minorities in an age where only a certain type of person—white, middle to upper class male—was able to receive an education. Royo said it is critical, as a higher education institution, to not turn a blind eye,” said Royo in response to how some international students may be affected by the travel ban and whether they will be able to leave the country in fear of possibly not being able to return. “This goes much farther than politics, this is about values.”

Joyce-Brady, who discussed the “stress” in Americans that was cited in a recent report by the American Psychological Association, published this past January, that the anxiety of the future of the country continues to rise among citizens on both sides of the political spectrum.

The original travel ban executive order by Trump had impacted populations of Counseling, of Americans with a loss of trust with the federal government and hypervigilance, according to Joyce-Brady.

Shah, however, broke down the legalities to the executive orders, even while they are strung up in court alongside Sparaco, who pointed out that international students were crucial at American universities for both consumer and perspective reasons.

The question and answer section of the forum had lasted only 10 minutes before the event had come to a close.

Stabbing in Boston Common, injuries non-fatal

Alexa Gagouz
Editor-in-Chief

One man was stabbed on the Boston Common on Monday night, police said.

The man, who remained unnamed as of Tuesday night, was stabbed around 6:40 p.m. on Monday close to 139 Tremont St., according to Boston Police. A witness told a reporter on Tuesday that the physical altercation between the two people had progressed from a verbal fight.

The victim was rushed to Tufts Medical Center with injuries not considered to be life-threatening.

Suffolk University student and Journal Opinion Editor Patrick Holmes was walking by the scene of the crime, which was taped off by Boston police officers who were lingering around the area. News stations were parked in the Common on Monday night after the incident.

Suffolk’s Police Department (SUPD) did not send a service alert, or “timely warning,” to the Suffolk community on the stabbing. SUPD said the department was not aware of the crime on Tuesday night and it was placed under investigation.

In order to receive this alert, which is determined by the Chief of SUPD and/or the Emergency Manager, the crime must be serious or be a continuing threat to students and employees, according to the university spokesperson.

"Regarding the incident last night in the Boston Common, Boston Police had secured the scene and had a suspect in custody, therefore SUPD determined that there was no serious or continuing threat to the campus community," said the university spokesperson on Tuesday.

Vice Presidential candidates hit road block on campaign trail

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campaign, Botolvi said photos and videos posted to his Snapchat are not an endorsement of what is pictured. He said that he realized this was not something he should have posted, and deleted it.

Botolvi said that this incident was a non-issue. "It’s Levi making an issue on the election," said Botolvi. He added "If anyone is making this campaign negative it’s Levi."

SGA President Sean Walsh currently runs the election process for all executive board positions. While he did not defend or condemn either party in an interview with The Journal on Tuesday night, Walsh clarified the rules and procedures of the SGA elections.

"No one’s broken any rules whatsoever," said Walsh of the campaign.
Vice Presidential candidates ready for election, future of Suffolk

Suffolk University has manifested a diverse and politically adapted population of students, some of which have been eager to create and enact change within the university. Suffolk's Student Government Association (SGA) will be welcoming a new Vice President for the 2017-2018 academic year; three candidates have emerged, each with a unique outlook and direction they wish to help steer the university in if elected.

By Chris DeGusto, News Editor

Botalvi wants SGA action to push Suffolk the top

Suffolk's Student Government Association (SGA) will be welcoming a new Vice President for the 2017-2018 academic year; a position that SGA senator Yahir Botalvi says he hopes to attain.

"We have so much promise and so much potential," said Botalvi. "Suffolk can truly be a world-class institution - we can really be one of the Americas great schools because here we are in the heart of this amazing city"

With Suffolk being located in downtown Boston, Botalvi said one of the priorities he intends to tackle if elected SGA Vice President is the lack of campus cohesion. A lack of structure has created a feeling of disconnect in the community of Suffolk's community to intertwine, and while he said certain organizations and individuals on campus are producing great students, there are not enough. He has been working to launch a Suffolk University mobile app, and currently has a working prototype developed, which he said is intended to be a "one stop shop."

"In order to engage in repairing campus cohesion, Botalvi intends to initiate a "Welcome Week" at the onset of the academic year. Incoming students are brought into the university community at orientation but then are without any contact with Suffolk while they are here. Botalvi said needs to have concrete evidence to provide around campus security. The criminal justice major said that Suffolk's campus safety is not lacking, but that the increased focus on what doesn't work.

"Welcome Week" at the onset of the school year is intended to be a "one stop shop." Wood intends for one of his primary focal points if elected SGA Vice President to center around campus security. The criminal justice major said that Suffolk's campus safety is not lacking, but that the increased focus on what doesn't work.

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"There's a bunch of students that don't know. They don't know where things have moved in the building, and I think that communication from the faculty to students needs to be better."

Wood spoke of the procedures and processes that have been put in for in order to engage in repairing campus safety, such as the check-in points in 73 Tremont. He said this is an issue, and said that implicit bias training would provide a level of accountability and prevent a similar situation from happening again.

"You're a Suffolk student, you're a Ram at the end of the day," said Smith. Smith said releasing content at optimal times on social media is one way to promote SGA in order to express to students that there is an organization on campus to field their concerns. With students able to utilize SGA and ask questions, truly cares about them, Smith said this can open up doors. In order to open the doors up to students, Smith said that emphasizing student clubs and organizations on campus is a vital component.

"They're like the circulatory system of Suffolk. They're the blood, they just make Suffolk flow," said Smith.

Smith said one of the most crucial aspects of the role of vice president is gaining the trust of the Suffolk students in order to collaborate with those in need in order to resolve problems. Not only does Smith believe student groups need to be more involved in the community, but administration needs to as well.

"At the end of the day these initiatives may not be in the spotlight," said Smith. "And with strength comes more attention and marketing. And that's important because (Suffolk) growing."

Personal success is not a factor in Smith's outlook, as he said collaborative success is vital and he gives credit to the current SGA executive board. He said he believes the transition between executive board members this year will be smooth, due to a strong infrastructure that has been cemented within the students.

Alongside SGA, Smith said the university is also heading in the right direction. Even through recent publicity events, Smith's view of Suffolk as a whole has not swayed.

"I have never lost faith in Suffolk, ever," said Smith.

Coast Guard vet looks to get feet wet in polities

Student Government Association (SGA) Senator-at-large for commuter students and Vice Presidential candidate Matt Wood found his way to Suffolk in a non-traditional fashion. Having served four years in the Coast Guard and taking time off from school to gain experience in the workforce, Wood has his sights set on the position of vice president for SGA's executive board.

"I have a bunch of life experience - I'm older than most of the people here," said Wood in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal. "Older doesn't always win, but with that comes experience. I've been able to see different situations, and see what works and what doesn't work."

Wood intends for one of his primary focal points if elected SGA Vice President to center around campus security. The criminal justice major said that Suffolk's campus safety is not lacking, but that the increased focus on what doesn't work.

"I don't think that the communication of these tools is resident-ships white," said Wood. "There's a bunch of students that don't know. They don't know where things have moved in the building, and I think that communication from the faculty to students needs to be better."

Wood spoke of the procedures and processes that have been put in for in order to engage in repairing campus safety, such as the check-in points in 73 Tremont. He said this is an issue, and said that implicit bias training would provide a level of accountability and prevent a similar situation from happening again.

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Kelly stands behind transgender student rights, some critique motives

Alexa Gagosz
Editor-in-Chief

Acting President Marina Kelly announced in a letter to the members of the Suffolk community an email on Friday afternoon that she and the rest of the university will continue to support of the bathroom bill to ensure that transgender students have a choice, despite the recent withdrawal from the bill on the federal level.

On Wednesday, President Donald Trump's administration withdrew from former President Barack Obama's directive for schools to treat their students in accordance with the gender they identify with instead of the gender that is listed on their birth certificate.

"While I am disappointed with the decision and the rollback directive, please be assured that the federal change will have no effect on students here at Suffolk, nor should it affect students while in Massachusetts," wrote Kelly in the email.

In addition to Kelly's message, Suffolk has gender-inclusive restrooms in most of the buildings where some students do not have to choose between the "male" and "female" restrooms. According to the Office of Diversity Services, they were created in order to eliminate any violence or harassment that some individuals may experience if they go to the so-called "wrong" restroom.

Jamiezen Helenius, a graduate of 2015 graduate of the New England School of Art & Design and a person who continued close relationship with the art school as the workshop manager for the woodshop, said in an interview on Monday night this act by Trump was not a surprise.

"The thing that upsets me the most in all of this nonsense is that most articles I have been reading from media outlets and folk's reactions to the decision is that people are making it sound as if it were ever safe to be trans at school, at work, or anywhere else for that matter," said Helenius. "We have always been under attack, and not just in bathrooms.

Four buildings that are owned by Suffolk do not have gender-inclusive restrooms according to the university's website: Modern Theatre, 150 Tremont St., 73 Tremont St. and one Beacon St.

"We are a diverse University, and that diversity is our strength," wrote Kelly. "We take pride in being an exceptionally inclusive community, and we are committed to ensuring that every student, faculty, and staff member feels welcome at Suffolk." Despite some members of the Suffolk community who have been supportive of her efforts, other students and students of color question the efforts made by Kelly and upper administration.

For Helenius, Kelly's message to the community did not have their approval just yet, and said that the administration still has more to improve on.

"As someone who has been a part of Suffolk as both a student and an employee, I can decidedly say that there is very little effort, on the part of the administration, to be exceptionally inclusive and mindful of the realities of trans students and employees," said Helenius.

He added, "The gender neutral bathrooms on campus are a physical representation of queer students and their allies that fought for them, not by the administration.

"As much as I appreciated my time as a student, and enjoy working here, I find it hard to share President Kelly's sentiment about our university when my generation, as well as students of other generations, has proven otherwise," said Helenius.

Efforts on diversity at Suffolk shows progress with long road ahead

See DIVERSITY page 3

Kelly's statement sent out on Friday afternoon, which addressed the repeal of former President Barack Obama's executive order that protected the rights of transgender students across the nation, was, according to Young, the administration's way of "washing their hands of the situation." Young said the statement does nothing to outline the university's plan to actively protect their students' rights identified under Title IX.

"I think the administration has the capability of doing better than it is right now and just seems unwilling to. As someone coming from multiple marginalized backgrounds, this is unacceptable," said Young. "They need to take responsibility, rather than just saying it'll be okay."

The task of ensuring that marginalized communities feel included in the different schools of the university has become an expectation of the ODS. Students and staff across the country might turn to the ODS to influence change in policies surrounding diversity, even when they are not in a position to do so.

"Our office falls under the Office of Student Affairs and our main focus is the undergraduates. We can work with the grad school and law school but only to a limited degree. We do educational, social justice and diversity training," said Rivera. "We are not in a position to say this is policy, we are brought into the conversation regarding diversity in policies. We have no influence on the curriculum or how diverse the curriculum is.

The ODS and student affinity groups have had influence in the changes at Suffolk, but only because they are invited to conversations about what to do in an effort. Those with administrative power are the only ones who have capability to create policy that protects the students. Any step taken by the Office toward inclusivity is strongly tied with their budget, while student groups are limited by their ability to communicate with the Dean.

For specific reasons, the ODC combines their budget with affinity groups, who receive their budgets from SAC, to ensure programming and professional development orders of cost to students. The ODS sends students and staff to "Creating Change," a conference that promotes the forward progress of the LGBTQ+ community and allies, and the National Conference of Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education, which provides a multicultural forum for students of various ethnicities from a variety of higher education institutions.

"For the heritage months, we put in equal amount of money for each month to make sure there is equity," said Rivera. "We need to build relationships with student groups so they try to co-sponsor events. In October when Latina/Latino Heritage Month crossed with LGBTQ History month, they decided to look for a someone who could speak on intersectional matters. They worked with student groups to secure Eliel Cruz to speak of his experience as a bisexual, Christian man of color. The ODS also worked in tandem with the Black Student Union to secure Shaun King to be the keynote speaker for Black History/Month."

"Inshaun King's was almost eight thousand dollars and I had to say 'if we can do this we can pay the bulk of it, but financially we can't pay anything else for Black Her/History Month," said Rivera, who added that BSU agreed to work with SUI for the rest of the month with their own budget.

Some sources said the work that can be done by student affinity groups is the reason they are now housed under the Student Leadership and Involvement office (SLI) that meant for the restructuring of the school a few years ago. Assistant Director of the ODS, Cameron Breither and Rivera both said that BSU agreed to be "exceptionally" inclusive and mindful of the realities of trans students and employees, which is exactly the kind of work the ODS, the Task Force and student affinity groups have been doing this past year.

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"I would love to see them under our roof again, even if it's through a more intentional partnership with SUI, because right now they're housed under SLI. From what I understand before right now, not so later.

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Rothchild recounts grim scenes from Gaza

According to Rothchild, Gaza has been under military rule since 1967 and had Jewish settlers, but in 2005, the settlers were removed from a blockade of the strip. Hamas is a Palestinian Sunni-Islamic organization that currently governs Gaza. Rothchild explained that Hamas took control in 2007 when they won the civil war against Fatah. Since 2007, there has been a severe restrictive siege. For decades, Gaza faced rocket fire from militant groups and a growing devastating humanitarian crisis. Between 2008 and 2014 there were three massive assaults on Israel, including one in June 2014 where 30 rockets were launched from Gaza into Israel.

"Both times [it went to Gaza], we were invited by the Gaza community mental health program, which is an incredible mental health program providing psychiatric care," said Rothchild. "So I was doing things like providing services, interviewing and mostly documenting facts from the ground."

The 2014 invasion led to many fatalities in Gaza and Israel. Specifically, 74 Israeli's were killed and 100 civilians were injured. In Gaza over 2,100 individuals were killed, including 500 children and more than 100,000 people were left homeless. Children were traumatized by the war and estimated about 270,000 were in need of psychiatric care, said Rothchild.

Rothchild displayed images of prominent buildings that had burnt down, such as the ministry of finance and mosques that she saw while "reporting from the ground" in Gaza, but Hamas was doing reconstruction on the mosques. Rothchild emphasized that if a military group completely destroys an area, this doctrine will act as deterrence where confrontation will not be beneficial.

"The level of desperation and poverty was just appalling," said Rothchild about a man from Shujaiyya who met with two wives, 42 children and grandchildren and so many families who died, and the trauma and destruction. They survive and live in very hard circumstances, she said.

In Gaza City, although some parts were bombed, it still appeared to be functional with cars and roads. Rothchild was able to see vegetables and fruits from across the city because it was so fertile. But Gaza City has also faced a major problem of a lack of electricity. Rothchild witnessed donkeys pulling carts of fuel in order to provide energy to the city.

"His idea was that people will take pictures of a kitten much more than they will take pictures of a hungry Gazan child," said Rothchild. "It was a political commentary of that fact."

Rothchild continued, showing the students the eastern neighborhood of Shujaiyya. Like many places in Gaza, Israeli forces clashed with Hamas militants and Shujaiyya was heavily damaged by shelling in 2014. During the second Lebanon war, the Da'liya doctrine was developed in Shujaiyya after Israel destroyed the Da'liya district in Beirut. The doctrine stated that if a military group completely destroys an area, this doctrine will act as deterrence where confrontation will not be beneficial.

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Walsh stands with sanctuary city

Mayor Walsh speaks with multiple news sources after his speech at the Roxbury ISBBC.

Evlira Mora
Journal Staff

More than 300 people gathered at Boston’s largest mosque on Friday to hear Mayor Martin J. Walsh speak about protecting religious diversity and immigration.

Boston’s Mayor said that he called the press conference because he was “disturbed and angered” by the news coming out of Washington D.C.

“The White House is advancing the most destructive and un-American threats made during the campaign,” said Walsh to the crowd.

“The latest executive orders and statements by the president about immigrants are a direct attack on Boston’s people, Boston’s strength, and Boston’s values.”

The Roxbury Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center (ISBBC) hosted the mayor and his team of city officials to assure Boston residents that politics at the nation’s capital will not harm them.

Walsh used his platform to offer a direct message to anyone who feels threatened by today’s political climate.

“You are safe in Boston,” he assured, as the crowd immediately responded with applause and loud cheers.

“I will do everything lawful in my power to protect you,” said Walsh. “If necessary, I will use City Hall itself to shelter and protect anyone targeted unjustly. We will not retreat one inch from being the welcoming, diverse, global community that’s made us one of the most successful cities in the world,” said Walsh.

Walsh also said he will continue to stand with Boston residents amid the mayores of the city of Boston. "I was sworn in to represent all of the people of Boston. That’s my responsibility as the mayor. That’s a responsibility I take very seriously and that’s a responsibility for as long as I am blessed to be in this role," he continued.

Shortly after Trump issued the executive order that temporarily banned citizens from seven predominantly Muslim countries entrance into the United States, Walsh recalled seeing the mayor join protesters at Logan Airport.

"For a religious leader to question a person’s citizenship is disturbing," then-candidate Trump said at a rally in South Carolina shortly after the incident last February, calling himself "a good Christian."

Walsh felt threatened by today’s political rhetoric. The mayor attended a rally in Copley Square on Jan. 29 in order to support Muslims after the president's travel ban was issued. He also joined protesters at Logan Airport.

"If necessary, I will use City Hall itself to shelter and protect anyone targeted unjustly. We will not retreat one inch from being the welcoming, diverse, global community that's made us one of the most successful cities in the world." - Mayor Martin J. Walsh.

Pope Francis elicits praise, criticism for Trump comments

His Holiness Pope Francis, leader of the Roman Catholic Church, has received increased media attention in recent months and the reason was nothing to do with the institution he is charged with leading. It’s because of President Donald J. Trump.

The Pope’s involvement in the 2016 presidential election began a little more than a year ago with a series of comments directly attacking Trump’s controversial plan to erect a border wall along the United States’ southern border with Mexico.

"If people want to live here, they’ll live here. They can use my office. They can use any office in this building,” said Walsh.

Walsh also said he will continue to stand with Boston residents amid the mayors of the city of Boston. "I was sworn in to represent all of the people of Boston. That’s my responsibility as the mayor. That’s a responsibility I take very seriously and that’s a responsibility for as long as I am blessed to be in this role," he continued.

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Pope Francis elicits praise, criticism for Trump comments

His Holiness Pope Francis, leader of the Roman Catholic Church, has received increased media attention in recent months and the reason was nothing to do with the institution he is charged with leading. It’s because of President Donald J. Trump.

The Pope’s involvement in the 2016 presidential election began a little more than a year ago with a series of comments directly attacking Trump’s controversial plan to erect a border wall along the United States’ southern border with Mexico.

"If people want to live here, they’ll live here. They can use my office. They can use any office in this building,” said Walsh.

Walsh also said he will continue to stand with Boston residents amid the mayors of the city of Boston. "I was sworn in to represent all of the people of Boston. That’s my responsibility as the mayor. That’s a responsibility I take very seriously and that’s a responsibility for as long as I am blessed to be in this role," he continued.

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Miniseries rekindles decades old fight with “Feud”

Felicity Otterbein
Arts Editor

Bette Davis reportedly once said about her Hollywood arch-nemesis Joan Crawford: “The best time I ever had with Joan Crawford was when I pushed her down the stairs in ‘Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?’”

They were beautiful, stunning and brilliant both on and off the screen. Their lives seemed to be a never-ending parade of glamour and success. Davis and Crawford embodied elegance and grace, traits they both exuded in efforts to make the other pale in comparison.

A longstanding feud between the two huge names in Hollywood toward the end of the so-called Golden Age of cinema, Davis and Crawford were known for their transformative abilities on screen and their famous ruthlessness toward each other off-screen.

To convey such entertainment, Ryan Murphy has created a new miniseries appropriately titled “Feud,” which follows Davis, played by Susan Sarandon, and Crawford played by Jessica Lange through the tumultuous time leading up, during filming and after the production of “Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?”

Murphy made an excellent decision casting Davis and Crawford in roles that are not only headstrong, but also soaring. The Golden Age of cinema was a time where actors and actresses had talent beyond their reach. Knowing that, Davis and Crawford premiered on Sunday, March 12, and will air through April 23.

Two huge names in the current Hollywood day and age. Sarandon and Lange are so well known and so fantastically versatile that they seemed to have no difficulty slipping into such iconic characters. Not to mention that Sarandon looks uncannily alike to Davis.

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In an era where it was difficult for women to be taken seriously in their profession and the constant dismissal of those who were deemed “headstrong,” Davis and Crawford were icons and role models for young women to idolize. The Golden Age of cinema was a time where actors and actresses had talent and fear held by both actresses; that they would one day fade out of the Hollywood spotlight and

By Felicity Otterbein, Arts Editor

In a rip-roaring performance of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," Suffolk University Students earned a well-deserved standing ovation at the Modern Theater Friday night. Complete with special guests picked from the audience, amongst them was the Assistant Dean of Students at Suffolk, John Silveria. He was pulled up on stage with two other students as well as audience member and wife of Performing Arts Office Office Coordinator Antoine Gagnon, Irene Daly. Silveria was gracious, yet had some difficulty controlling his giggles while trying to spell his assigned word, "cow." The audience erupted into fits of hysteria when Silveria asked the mediator to use his word in a sentence.

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From BEE page 7

Opening number of, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," the company set the tone for the evening with a set of choreographed dances and gentle harmonies. Complete with the quirks and ticks of every preteen, the students created an air of amusement to quickly captivate and hold the audience's attention. By far, the most memorable performances included Greene's character, Lowe's character, Lockie's character, Fields character and Martin's character. Greene's character, a boy with an aggressive allergy problem, has a "magic food," which claims helps him to visualize the words he has to spell. Greene, with an impeccable stuffy and whiny voice, was perfect for this role. He sports extremely high-waisted shorts held up by suspenders and is continuously upset when his name is routinely mispronounced throughout the show. Lowe's character is portrayed as an overachiever who performs an entire song regarding her hobby, winning. She discusses her ability to speak six languages, her undeniable athleticism and overall boredom, with her continued success. Lowe does an excellent job conveying that disinterest and manages to perform almost the entire show with a grim and unamused expression. Ostrovsky quickly earns the heart of the audience when she earnestly convinces the judges to let her compete sans entry fee after she assures them that her father will be attending the competition because he promised her that he would be there to support her. Throughout the production, she reveals that her mother has been gone for months on an excursion in India, while her father never seems to be around despite his promises to support his daughter. She claims she took the bus by herself to get to the spelling bee and that her only friend is the woman who keeps in her bathroom. Dedicating an entire song to her parents, she laments over the relationship she has with them and wishes that she could do something to mend it. Out of the entire group of participants, only Olive and William become friends. Arguably the most intriguing character was Coneybear, Martin's character. Sporting a helmet on his head, goggles, a tie-dye cape and a sock puppet, Coneybear is the most bizarre out of all the personalities on stage. Claiming he knows no words, his character is overcome, rather possessed, by this sock puppet who uncannily spells out every word correctly. Almost as though he is in a trance, Coneybear quickly shakes off the possession and resumes wearing a toothy grin and gentle personality. Dedicating an entire song to his family claiming he is not that smart, he accepts that fact and claims that he would rather focus on being a good person. The youngest of the group, Schwartz and Grubeniere, Fields character, is a scrawny stereotypical nerd complete with headgear and a speech impediment. Shrivil and shrewd, Fields does the character justice with an impeccable job selling the image of an awkward, yet undeniably passionate, schoolgirl. The performers did an unquestionably fantastic job. The level of work put into a production such as this one was extensive and did not go unnoticed. Every dance step, every lyric, every rehearsed line of dialogue was impeccable and impressive.

Creator Murphy fans old flames in recreation of Crawford vs. Davis series.

From FEUD page 7

being replaced by newer and younger actresses.

While the show appears to appeal to the more sympathetic viewers who might empathize with the two aging stars, a more serious undertone is taken regarding the level of seriousness depicting the dismissal of women when they are deemed "too old," for roles usually taken on by a younger person. In an almost devastatingly tragic way, the show touches on the aspects of ageism and blatant disregard for disposable talent. The two women, obviously worn out and tired from having worked desperately for what they felt passionate about only to, in return, not receive the same affection and admiration from the careers they chose for themselves. Ultimately being forced to accept that their glory days were quickly disappearing behind them, the women are depicted as appearing to be washed up and desperate for work. This fact is one of the major reasons the women decided to pair up to make "Baby Jane," with the hope that they would be catapulted back into the picture and award scenes. Amidst the dramatics, the endless flow of alcohol and the bombardment of continuous insults hurled across the screen, the audience is able to relax in an odd sense of comfort. This comfort that stems from the fact that while these women were dealing with such a tough and unpaved route to stardom and success, the film industry has become increasingly more progressive. Lange herself is a striking 68-year-old who has continued to reap the affection bestowed upon her from the glowing success from "American Horror Story." Juxtaposed to Crawford who was in her mid-50's when she filmed "Baby Jane," and was presumed to be finished with her career.

A powerhouse of talent and dripping with Emmy potential, the series is set to premiere on FX on March 8.
EDITOR'S WORD

The editorial board and writing staff of the The Suffolk Journal works furiously to ensure each story is written and published with unconditional integrity. As journalists, we strictly maintain a professional level of neutrality. Nonetheless, we are indeed members of Suffolk University, and as students we are entitled to certain opinions regardless of our status within our profession.

On Tuesday, a vote was cast in which Journal colleagues selected Daniel Gazzani to bear an official endorsement with the name of The Suffolk Journal firmly behind it. We believe Gazzani is the candidate that will most accurately and efficiently represent not only the student body, but the very ideology that Suffolk epitomizes.

While The Journal has nothing but the utmost respect for candidate Devarth Dixit, we are confident in the abilities that Gazzani possesses and the potential that he embodies. Gazzani's genuine charisma and relentless dedication are qualities that we constantly aspire to emulate at The Journal as well.

As recent university issues have arose, supplemented by the political climate this country faces, the leaders we intend to be mirrored by are most accurately described by a single word; passion. Gazzani illustrates the essence of passion, and we stand by him.

Patrick George
Journal Contributor

President Donald Trump's claim to fame may be his ability to create an extraordinary amount of jobs, in the political comedy and punditry industry. For the last two years, Trump has enraged the general public for both his comments—preference for heroes who aren't prisoners of war, lewd comments about women, and his policies such as the Muslim Ban, Border Wall. It's almost too easy to find a tidbit to grasp onto, but in doing so we should be mindful of the validity of these stories and avoid the hysteria of "fake news." The concern, however, is this constant criticism of Trump, will not do us any favors when it comes time for him to act presidential.

While reading the news, I saw myriad headlines referring to Trump's inevitable rise to authoritarianism. Jack Goldsmith, the former head of the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) for President George W. Bush, had a different concern. He believed Trump might possibly be "too weak" to respond to a national security crisis. Goldsmith, who has written for "Lawfare," reasons, "Weak presidencies enhance the likelihood of a foreign policy crisis that weak presidents are ill-suited to redress, and indeed that often bring out the worse in a weak president—especially one who is thin-skinned, unformed and impulsive."

Goldsmith is right. Checks and balances is a foundational principle of American democracy, but the principle is not meant to pummel the executive into inaction. Another increasingly difficult story to ignore is the proliferation of leaks. If there are leaks coming from deep-state sources, as alleged by "The Atlantic" and other sources, they only serve to make us more vulnerable. The release of this information is performed by career officials not held responsible by an electorate, and they should not be making the decisions they are to release this information.

For example, for every justification provided for the leak of his memo on reopening black sites, there is a rebuttal leak about his interaction with the Australian Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull. I will give credit where it is due; he is right that National Security secrets should not be leaked regarding his dealings with North Korea, as he said on Twitter: You don't need to look very far to criticize Trump for a legitimate misunderstanding of his duties—turning his Mar-a-Lago resort into a public situation room, and his botched immigration ban rollout is sufficient. There is no need to fabricate stories or risk national security.

It is an ever-important role of public officials and private citizens to be kept abreast of the president's actions. It is even more important to be critical of the president's policies, and combat him if you disagree, without reprisal. But criticism based on the person's character and not his policies will do more harm than good, particularly in the realm of national security. Given the public role of the President, there is a fine line between warranted criticism and character assassination. The public has a responsibility to walk that line and err on the side of caution—even if our Commander-in-Chief chooses not to.

Patrick George
Journal Contributor

Trump is stronger than the leaks

"Those are the alternative facts!"

"But hey—I can get away with anything."

Claire Schneider/Political Cartoonist

White students should indulge in diversity

From RACE page 9

The white population at Suffolk could contribute more by organizing nonviolent protests against the order outside Suffolk buildings, or have the president of the international student association condemn the order. Instead, there have been some students just sit back, indulge in privilege and watch the nation get divided by a man with no political experience because it has no impact on them or their friends.

My expectations for society are high and I believe that they need to do more to better this world. More people should ask themselves, "How can I help?" when it comes to racism, sexism, Islamophobia, homophobia and other hate speech.

The white population at Suffolk could make us more vulnerable. It is an ever-important role of public officials and private citizens to be kept abreast of the president's actions. It is even more important to be critical of the president's policies, and combat him if you disagree, without reprisal. But criticism based on the person's character and not his policies will do more harm than good, particularly in the realm of national security. Given the public role of the President, there is a fine line between warranted criticism and character assassination. The public has a responsibility to walk that line and err on the side of caution—even if our Commander-in-Chief chooses not to.

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Journal Contributor
February has been a month dedicated to the struggles faced by the Black community, which was first recognized in 1976 and to celebrate those who have been marginalized. It also recognizes important people of color through history.

Elvira Mora
Journal Staff

As a Latina woman, I can empathize why this month is necessary. The hope is for more white people to become allies not only with the Black community, but with anyone of color. There should be more white people who recognize past history and use numerous past events to actively learn how they can help to prevent history from repeating itself.

It is essential to celebrate Black History Month (BHM) collectively between all races and nationalities in order to become a step closer toward a sense of basic equality. Although this month was relevant and meaningful, Suffolk’s limited promotion of celebratory events regarding BHM is a bit alarming, especially when claiming to be a diverse university. When the university put out their weekly emails regarding events, there were barely any that were highly advertised.

There were no flyers except to call attention to the Black and White Affair, a dance held at the Boston Hyatt Regency, as well as an invitation “to raise soul food” at weekly meetings, both hosted by the Black Student Union. Besides that, no other events were overtly publicized.

The representation of people of color is extremely important; however, Suffolk failed to show its support and to honor its “diverse” community.

On a national level, black figures in pop culture and film have displayed solidarity in celebrating their heritage. Beyonce is a well-known figure who happens to be of color and recently announced that she is having twins. Her album “Lemonade,” released last year was a stylistic example of her culture and many others.

Moreover, a hip hop group called, “A Tribe Called Quest” gave a politically charged performance at the Grammys as they chanted “We the People,” and invited individuals to come together despite their respective backgrounds.

Events occurring on campus through its social media accounts, flyers and emails instead of each individual club attempting to get their message across and reach a smaller audience. There needs to be a more organized and succinct way to reach the Suffolk community to celebrate diversity.

BHM is a critical aspect in celebrating people who have struggled in society for hundreds of years. As human beings, basic equality and well being of every individual should be practiced. Suffolk needs to recognize people of color not only in February, but also consistently through the year. It’s time to praise diversity and our peers of color.

“The representation of people of color is extremely important; however, Suffolk failed to show its support and to honor its “diverse” community.”

Elvira Mora
Journal Staff

OPINION

Black History Month: Suffolk leaves students wanting more

Students of color need to feel more appreciated

Originally from Nigeria, as an incoming freshman, I was under the impression that Trump would be in a diverse community with students from many different backgrounds; this observation was true.

This past fall semester was my first at Suffolk University and my expectations were high but eventually were not met. One of the reasons they fell flat was because professors had not been making an effort to reach out or contact students to find out how they could go about or understand the executive order regarding the Muslim Ban.

The white population at the university makes up 44 percent of the ethnicities and takes up important roles as students and faculty. They are the majority and could create a more involved role by making minority groups feel welcome in class, at work and in the dorms because as of right now, they do not do well.

During the presidential election between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, I was under the impression that Trump was certain to lose only because he had made shocking, obnoxious and shameful remarks about people in terms of religion, gender and ethnicity.

In one of his speeches, when referring to Mexicans, Trump said, “They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.”

Moreover, president Trump expected Barack Obama to hold African Americans accountable for crime because of his race and position of power. Trump had said “Our great African-American president has not exactly had a positive impact on the thugs who are so happily and openly destroying Baltimore,” on Barack Obama, who has done more for America than other U.S. Presidents.

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These are examples of Donald Trump’s lack of basic knowledge about social awareness and the reasons behind why I thought he would lose the
Captains' Corner: Rams take the diamond

Brooke Patterson
Asst. Sports Editor

Katie Dugan
Asst. Opinion Editor

The Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) office announced on Feb. 16 that the Suffolk University baseball team was selected to win their third GNAC championship this 2017 season. The Rams sat on top of the coaches prediction poll with 59 points. In 2016, the Rams finished their season with an overall record of 33-13. The team obtained the GNAC postseason title and advanced to their sixth National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II regional tournament. The Rams returned four members of the winning 2016 roster as captains for their upcoming season: Sean Cameron, Matt Brenner, Brady Chant and Chuck Gibson.

Sean Cameron, #11

Playing one of the most defensively demanding positions for Suffolk's baseball team, senior shortstop Sean Cameron will be looking to have another successful season. "Shortstop is always looked at as a sort of leadership position and I kind of welcome that, but really, I don't look at being a captain any different," said Cameron in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal. A transfer student from Roanoke College in Salem, VA., Cameron will be heading into his third season as a first-year captain for the Rams. Cameron was seen by his team as a leader and in the fall was elected to be one of four captains for the Rams this season.

"It's cool that my teammates thought of me as a captain, but really I just try to go out there and give it my all everyday, practice or game, no matter what," said Cameron. Cameron plans to defend the Rams two-time GNAC champion title and make another run in the NCAA regional tournament.

As a captain, Cameron said he tries not to think about the responsibilities behind being a team leader, but acts the same way he does on a daily basis. He also explained that the team is filled with a lot of upperclassmen, so most players are aware of what is expected of them. "If it's not broken, don't fix it," said Cameron.

Besides being more comfortable with the coaches and being an upperclassmen, Cameron does not emphasize anything new that comes with being a captain. He plans to lead the Rams loudly and do the same thing the team has done over the years.

Matt Brenner, #7

Playing in a career total of 90 games for Suffolk's baseball team so far, senior catcher Matt Brenner looks to see that number increase as his final season approaches. Voted by his teammates during the season, three-peat last year, that was our best season in my four years here, so most players are aware of what is expected of them.

As a captain, Brenner feels it his role to push his teammates and ensure they are performing to their full potential. He wants to help his team succeed and compete every day to the highest of their abilities, while also being the person that the underclassmen on the team can look up to. The global business major hopes to give the underclassmen beneficial objectives to carry into future seasons.

"This is my last season so I hope to finish strong with the senior class I came in with," said Brenner. "It's not broken, don't fix it," said Cameron.

Besides being more comfortable with the coaches and being an upperclassmen, Cameron does not emphasize anything new that comes with being a captain. He plans to lead the Rams loudly and do the same thing the team has done over the years.

Brady Chant, #4

While Brady Chant is more soft-spoken than his teammates, he is a leader in his athletic performance and demeanor. "You just set an example. We kind of just set a tone. We try to relay that to the guys who haven't seen it before," said Chant in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal. Chant, junior and centerfielder, is the youngest among the four captains on this year's baseball team, and was not expecting to be chosen as a captain, as it typically a responsibility awarded to a senior.

"Brady's an amazing baseball player, but is still one of the hardest workers players on the team," said senior second baseman BF Neil in an interview with The Journal on Thursday. "Even though he is only a junior on the team, it was an easy decision to vote for Brady to be one of our captains." Chant, of Warwick RI, wants to start the season strong by bringing the team further in regionals.

"We've been to regionals two years in a row. The pitcher said that he was disappointed that to the guys who haven't seen it before," Chant. Chant is proud of how far his team has come and is looking forward to leading them to success."I plan to lead by example by showing up everyday and working to my best ability," said Brenner in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal.

Wearing number seven for the Rams in their 2017 season, Brenner, alongside his teammates, plans to "three-peat" this season and take home their third GNAC championship. He does not plan to stop at winning the GNAC, but also hopes the team makes a run at the NCAA regional tournament.

Chuck Gibson, #9

Senior Chuck Gibson and first time captain is hoping to continue the "dynasty" that is Suffolk Baseball. Gibson, a pitcher for the Rams from Malden, Mass., is entering his fourth year on the team and hopes to be the team's number one starter this season. He aims to end his senior year on a high note by leading his team and winning their third GNAC in a row. The pitcher said that he was honored to be voted captain of such a successful team.

"Hopefully we will leave our mark there and hopefully leave a culture that follows in our footsteps," said Gibson in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal.

When it comes to his teammates, Gibson utilizes his no-nonsense leadership style. "I feel like we are just to keep everyone in check," said Gibson, "I think part of our success last year, that was our best season in a long time and I think that's because there weren't any egos, we all just came together." The entrepreneurship major hopes to lead his teammates on the field, but also noted the importance of his teammates performance off the field. As a captain, he makes sure that everyone is staying on top of their grades and overall doing well in their classes.

"Most of us aren't going to be playing baseball after college," said Gibson. "We've a lot more responsive when it actually means something."
Softball swings into new season, catches warm weather

Hannah Arroyo
Journal Staff

After finishing last year with the winningest season in Suffolk softball program history with a 33-9 record, the Lady Rams kick off their 2017 campaign in Arizona in early March for some spring training action at the Tucson Invitational.

This is the first time that Suffolk’s softball team has traveled to Arizona in their 33-year program history. The Rams will play five double headers starting March 11 versus Central College and ending March 16 against Dickinson College.

Five-year Head Coach Jaclyn Davis said that the team has been preparing to face some “fierce” competition in the Copper Conference (GNAC) double headers.

“It’s the nature of the sport and the nature of weather that we start somewhere warm,” said Davis in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal.

“We’ve never been to Arizona before. We just want to try something different.

In Arizona, the Rams will also face teams such as the University of Puget Sound, Stevens Institute of Technology, Greenville College and Hamline University.

“There’s some really good competition out there [such as] some regional competition that we don’t normally,” said Davis. “I think that will be important to us both in terms of preparing for conference play, but also so that people start to understand who we are and that we can compete at a high level with teams that are in other regions and in other parts of the country.”

Davis officially announced this seven-day spring training trip along with their 40-game full regular season schedule that features eight double headers at East Boston Memorial Park. The Lady Rams play their first game back from Tucson on March 24 versus Emerson College. The schedule includes eleven Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) double headers.

Since Davis’ coaching era at Suffolk, the team has played consistent softball and improved their program record. Her first season with the team resulted in a losing record of 16-25. Just last season, the Rams succeeded in doubling that number of wins with a record of 33-9. In 2016, Davis was also awarded with the honor of GNAC Coach of the Year.

“I think that you can absolutely expect to see a bunch of hungry softball players. They want to be successful so badly not only for themselves, but for the university,” said Davis. “I wish more people could be there to watch them play, because they really do leave it out on the field every single day.”

Suffolk’s 19-rouser team remains nearly the same this year as they only graduated two seniors last season. Captain and junior Lindsay Pagano said that the team’s chemistry has been building up throughout team events like getting together for suppers and events. Pagano said that she knows people are going to expect a lot from her team this season.

“Our [33-9] win season was such a feat last year and obviously we hope to surmount to that or pass it this year,” said Pagano in a recent interview with The Journal. “We’re looking to those returners to come back with strong seasons and help lead us back to that winning record.”

“This season, the team also added four new freshmen to their roster. As a captain, Pagano said that she and her team have helped to make sure that these new girls not only adjust to the pace of the game but play better together as a team.

“With only four freshman it was not that hard for us to get to know the upperclassman with the amount of time that we have spent together since September,” said freshman outfielder Samantha Jacobs in an interview with The Journal. “I think that we have a very strong team chemistry. On and off the field everyone has each other’s backs.”

Junior outfielder Sydney Littlefield said that regardless of her team’s record they just hope to go win the GNAC this year. She said that they have been one of the most successful teams in Suffolk softball and that their success would not be complete without a title.

“We have worked really hard to be in the position we are at, and we feel that if we continue to grow as a team we are capable of playing long after our spring classes are over,” said Littlefield in a recent interview with The Journal.

The Lady Rams 2017 season begins at the Tucson Invitational in Arizona on March 11 against Central College (IA) and Augsburg College (MN).