AMERICA, IS IT FINALLY TIME?

The United States has suffered from a string of mass shootings that have occurred in churches and schools alike. As some call for gun control, others look to arm university police.

SEE PAGES 2 - 4
Suffolk University's Student Government Association (SGA) has sent out more than one Firearm Survey in recent years, with one dating back to 2009. At that time, Suffolk students had a general consensus of not approving the Suffolk Police Department (SUPD) being armed. In the most recent survey that was sent to the Suffolk community on Dec. 13, 2017, it displayed different results as nearly 54 percent of the population that completed the survey said they would feel safer within the university's area if sworn SUPD officers were armed. Some of the below statistics were of incidents that occurred in houses of worship, elementary and high schools, universities, airports, shopping malls and other locations where most Americans feel safe.

Notable mass shootings in the US since 2009*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number of People Killed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>Binghampton, New York</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August 3</td>
<td>Manchester, Connecticut</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September 6</td>
<td>Carson City, Nevada</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>Aurora, Colorado</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August 5</td>
<td>Oak Creek, Wisconsin</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>December 14</td>
<td>Newtown, Connecticut</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>Herkimer, New York</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September 16</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>Santa Monica, California</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 26</td>
<td>Hialeah, Florida</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There's nothing stopping anyone from just walking in and adding Suffolk to the list of school shootings.

-Vice President of Rampage Show Choir and Social Media Manager of the Performing Arts Office Kevin Landers

School shootings since Jan. 1, 2018:

- Parkland, FL
- Bronx, NY
- Oxon Hill, MD
- Philadelphia, PA
- Winston-Salem, NC
- Gentilly, LA
- Mobile, AL
- Benton, KY
- St. Johns, MI
- Dearborn, MI
- Denison, TX
- Italy, TX
- Marshall, TX
- Maplewood, MN
- Seattle, WA
- Los Angeles, CA
- San Bernadino, CA
- Sierra Vista, AZ

Thousands gathered on Saturday in protest in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. to mourn after the deadly school shooting on Valentine’s Day in Parkland, Fla. that was carried out by a 19-year-old and former student of the high school. This shooting was the 18th school shooting of the year, just 43 days into 2018.
A Divided Campus:

After boundless mass shootings, Suffolk split on armed officers

Chris DeGusto
News Editor

Nick Viveiros
Journal Staff

Two hundred and thirty-eight. That's the number of school shootings that occurred since Dec. 14, 2012, when a small town in Connecticut felt the violent impact of a gunman who claimed the lives of twenty innocent children and seven adults. A total of 121 victims had lost their lives in school shootings since, according to The New York Times. Up until last week.

The United States' history with gun violence is far-reaching. Americans own 270 million firearms, around 90 weapons for every 100 people, according to the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. The United States has a gun homicide rate that is 25 times more than other countries such as Denmark and Germany.

One response at Suffolk appears to be increased support for equipping members of the Suffolk University Police Department (SUPD) with firearms. Currently, none of the 29 trained, full-time sworn officers are armed.

Support for the proposal to arm officers has jumped since 2009, when a similar survey asked Suffolk students if they believed SUPD should be equipped with firearms, according to SGA President Dan Gazzani in a recent interview. Gazzani told a Journal reporter that an "overwhelming" amount of students were against arming SUPD per documents from the 2009 survey. SUPD has often worked with Boston Police Officers to communicate strategies and procedures necessary to prepare for an event of such magnitude. But it is clear that support for arming the officers is gaining favor.

This past fall, Student Government Association Senator Dan Redznak, a sophomore majoring in criminal justice, began to draft a proposal to arm SUPD officers. Redznak and two other

Students who had survived the Florida school shooting on Valentine's Day met with victims of the Orlando Pulse Nightclub shooting before they headed to the state's capital to demand gun reform.

See SUPD - 4
From SUPD - 3

senators, former Senator Matt O’Brien and Res Life Senator at-large Alexander Marcus, started the push in the fall. "I got going on a draft of a resolution to put this into action," Redznak told a Journal reporter in a phone interview on Monday. "We had an open forum that any student could come to. We had SUPD there, Boston PD there. I drafted up a rough resolution based on that." Redznak and those who support his proposal insist that safety is their top priority. University police officers often put themselves in compromising situations, such as when escorting students through the Boston Common or Downtown Crossing at night.

Across campus, some students reflected Redznak's position. Freshman Chris Anderson told Journal reporters that he believes arming SUPD would provide a sense of safety to students, and would be adequately prepared to handle any situation at Suffolk. "We're in downtown Boston, and there's a lot of suspicious charters that I walk by everyday," said Jack Graves in a recent interview with The Journal. "Grave's a sophomore majoring in law who supports arming SUPD officers. "My roommate and some other friends saw someone get shot across the street."

Not everyone has shown support for arming SUPD. Some students interviewed by The Journal expressed apprehension when faced with the prospect of armed officers on campus. Some questioned the necessity while others believed it could lead to heightened tension of interactions with the officers. "I don't want it to be escalated," said Psychology Club President Mykala Luk. "I've seen how bad things can go with police officers with guns. I feel like at a school there's too much to risk. Not that they're unqualified or anything, but I feel like it's too risky."

Others expressed doubts following a spat of negative interactions between police and people of color. "We have qualified officers who are already conducting so much police brutality (nationwide). It would make me uncomfortable," said Leighandra Sheppard, vice president of Sisters on the Runway. "And I know it would make the black community at Suffolk uncomfortable."

Not every student was so clear cut in their answers. Some saw the merits of both sides, trying to balance the need for a safe atmosphere with a general unease about firearms on campus. A smaller percentage of 11.37% who answered the question in the SGA survey regarding arming SUPD answered that they "might or might not" feel safer.

"I've mulled it over and had discussions with several people about it, and there are good arguments for and against it. And I don't just say that to say that, I say that because on one hand, SUPD are trained professionals," said Matthew Cuberus, president of the Suffolk University College Democrats. "That being said, I don't see the necessity for them to have them."

"Living and going to school in the middle of the city, there's a lot of things that could go down really quickly," said Hebron in a recent interview with The Journal. "It only takes a second for someone to harm you with a gun. The police will get here fast, but not fast enough. If SUPD were armed, we'd have more protection."

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The Suffolk Journal is the student newspaper of Suffolk University. It is the mission of the Suffolk Journal to provide the Suffolk community with the best possible reporting of news, events, entertainment, sports and opinions. The reporting, views, and opinions in the Suffolk Journal are solely those of the editors and staff of The Suffolk Journal and do not reflect those of Suffolk University, unless otherwise stated.

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Mueller takes aim at Russia
Indictments in Russia-Trump probe continue rolling

Alexa Gagosz
Editor-in-Chief

Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s office released a 14th indictment that targeted the Dutch attorney Alex van der Zwaan on Tuesday morning in relation to the investigation into Russia’s meddling with the United States’ 2016 presidential election.

The indictment accused van der Zwaan of making false statements to the FBI “willfully and knowingly,” including communication with lobbyist and American political consultant Rick Gates and an individual labeled as “Person A,” according to the indictment. The Russian government denied that it meddled in the Donald Trump campaign during the Kremlin’s first remarks on Monday after the first wave of 13 Russian nationals were indicted Friday. The charges against the Russian nationals were on charges of conspiring to defraud the U.S., according to multiple news reports.

The indictment described in detail that actions against the Russian President Vladimir Putin, Dmitry Peskov, told BBC News that the indictments provided “no substantial evidence” of Russian interference. As for van der Zwaan, who is originally from Moscow, has said he does not identify as a Trump or President Vladimir Putin supporter in recent interviews with The Suffolk Journal. Korolev told a Journal reporter that Russian citizens, as a general population, supported Trump throughout the campaign trail much more than Democratic nominee and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. However, this same support may not have trickled into the Trump presidency, according to Korolev. “One of the major reasons for that is simply because Clinton had expressed herself rather hostile toward Russians, whereas Trump has always been fond of Russians and wanted to extend our beneficial business partnership. The Russian media also did a fine job of portraying Trump in a much better light,” said Korolev. “But that was a year ago.”

Mueller laid out the charges against the Russian nationals as well as three Russian entities on Friday, according to multiple reports. The evidence has proven interference by the Russians time and time again,” said O’Brien to The Suffolk Journal on Tuesday afternoon after news broke of van der Zwaan’s indictment.

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Mueller charges numerous Russian nationals in probe

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U.S. political system, which began as early as 2014 when the Russian organization Internet Research Agency began interference that included the 2016 elections, according to the indictment.

The Russian nationals had allegedly posed as citizens of the U.S. and operated social media pages and groups that would attract American audiences under false personas. Two of these Russians are said to have traveled to the U.S. in 2014 in order to gather intelligence for such operations, according to Mueller's indictment.

For sophomore PPE major Geoffrey Scales, who has actively identified as a Trump supporter said that the recent indictments serve as a telltale sign that "something happened" with Russia.

"Whether that be their own interference in our election or some sort of collusion with the Trump campaign, the truth needs to come out," said Scales to The Journal on Tuesday night. "Whether President Trump likes it or not."

Throughout the weekend, Trump went on a "Tweet storm," after the indictments were released.

"I never said Russia did not meddle in the election, I said it may be Russia, or China or another country or group, or it may be a 600 pound genius sitting in bed and playing with his computer," Trump tweeted early Sunday morning. "The Russian "hoax" was that the Trump campaign collided with Russia - it never did."

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters during a live press conference on Tuesday afternoon that Trump "has been very hard on Russia."

Trump continued to look to Twitter in order to broadcast his opinion on the indictments throughout President's Day.

"Obama was President up to, and beyond, the 2016 Election," Trump tweeted Monday morning. "So why didn't he do something about Russian meddling?"

For O'Brien, he said it is time for Trump to step up and admit Russia's interference.

"Now it's time for our president to condemn Russia for their actions," said O'Brien. "If he won't, it's time for the people to do it for him."

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Thermal baths in the iconic Hotel Gellért, which opened in 1918 and has been a popular scene for many Hollywood films

The world at-large

Mass casualties in Syrian violence

As of Tuesday night, BBC reports the death toll of the Syrian government rain down bombs to have reached 250, 59 of whom are children. This has been the worst violence in the Eastern Ghouta area since 2013. The area affected included a minimum of 10 towns across Eastern Ghouta, only stopping when the United Nations called for a ceasefire to allow aid to those affected as well as the wounded to be taken to safety. The situation worsened once it was revealed the United Nations called for a ceasefire to allow aid to those affected as well as the wounded to be taken to safety. The situation worsened once it was revealed the United Nations called for a ceasefire to allow aid to those affected as well as the wounded to be taken to safety. The situation worsened once it was revealed the United Nations called for a ceasefire to allow aid to those affected as well as the wounded to be taken to safety. The situation worsened once it was revealed the United Nations called for a ceasefire to allow aid to those affected as well as the wounded to be taken to safety.

Nigeria sends first Olympic bobsled team

The three-person team of Seun Adigun, Ngozi Onwumere and Akuoma Omeoga are both the first Nigerian team and the first bobsled team from Africa. Of the three women, Adigun has seen the Olympics before, as she represented Nigeria in the 2012 London games for the 100-meter hurdles. The team is made up of Americans, able to represent Nigeria as they are all born to Nigerian parents. Despite the milestone for the country, the excitement for those in Nigeria remains minimal, according to and end up just causing we. This is the reality of Oxfam, as Haitian workers, who had already warned about the sex scandals happening with the leaders of the company, bring the truth to light, according to BBC. Oxfam, along with other organizations, have been attempting for years to help Haiti's sex workers with sexual health clinics and HIV/AIDS testing programs, for the future of the young mothers and their infants. It has recently been unveiled that instead of helping these victims, the company has been hurting them since 2011. Men in senior positions in the company, including country director Roland Van Havermeiren, paid local prostitutes, some of which were majorly underage, for sex. This action proved that these men, were "exploiting some of the most vulnerable people in the poorest country in the Americas, all while being paid to advocate for their well being" according to BBC. Employees of Oxfam, who were concerned about their future of the company were unable to speak on the matter openly, as their employment was threatened. This scandal mimics that of UN peacekeepers, who had multiple accusations of rape and past cases of abuse when they were sent to "aid Haiti." This is Haiti," said a previous Oxfam worker to BBC. "Anything can happen here.

As agencies rush to the aid of struggling countries, some employees slip through the cracks of organizations trying to help and end up just causing we. This is the reality of Oxfam, as Haitian workers, who had already warned about the sex scandals happening with the leaders of the company, bring the truth to light, according to BBC. Oxfam, along with other organizations, have been attempting for years to help Haiti's sex workers with sexual health clinics and HIV/AIDS testing programs, for the future of the young mothers and their infants. It has recently been unveiled that instead of helping these victims, the company has been hurting them since 2011. Men in senior positions in the company, including country director Roland Van Havermeiren, paid local prostitutes, some of which were majorly underage, for sex. This action proved that these men, were "exploiting some of the most vulnerable people in the poorest country in the Americas, all while being paid to advocate for their well being" according to BBC. Employees of Oxfam, who were concerned about their future of the company were unable to speak on the matter openly, as their employment was threatened. This scandal mimics that of UN peacekeepers, who had multiple accusations of rape and past cases of abuse when they were sent to "aid Haiti." This is Haiti," said a previous Oxfam worker to BBC. "Anything can happen here.
Importance of Inclusivity

Shown above are symbols of gender identity. While the list is extensive, it’s important to recognize every and all identities in today’s growing climate. Left to right: transgender, female, male, intersex, with a plus sign to recognize all other gender identities.

Felicity Otterbein
Arts & Culture Editor

Perhaps one of the more active and engaged groups on campus, the Queer Student Union (QSU) has set out to advocate for the well-being and inclusivity of students campus-wide. According to QSU President Joe Piemonte, the group was started more than 10 years ago as the Rainbow Alliance, but has been more active in the past two years.

“We are a group that comes together to build community, advocate and educate as our main focuses,” said Piemonte, a junior history major in an interview with The Suffolk Journal Tuesday evening.

Piemonte said that QSU events and programming are designed to educate and promote safety amongst students. Events like Sex Toys 101, a workshop on Tuesday night led by blogger Sarah Brynn Holliday, are developed to encourage sexual freedom and education for those who continue to explore sexuality and identity. The group was also responsible for the recent displaying of the AIDS quilt in the lobby of Sawyer in order to promote education about World AIDS Day.

“We talk about current political issues or current events, and then what the future holds and for programming on campus and what people would like and if we should continue with what we had in mind on the e-board,” said Piemonte.

One of the more recent events Piemonte was particularly proud of was the first-ever Second Chance Prom, which took place Friday in the Nancy Stoll room. Geared toward students who experienced a high school prom in a way that made them feel uncomfortable or incapable of expressing who they were, Second Chance Prom allowed students to have another opportunity to experience prom in a way that they envisioned and with who they envisioned going with.

“The whole reason we put it on was kind of as a ‘do-over’ at prom, and your second chance to go to prom with who you wanted or what types of articles of clothing you picked to express how you looked, any type of that - was what we were trying to get at. It was a ‘Be Yourself’ prom,” said Piemonte.

According to Piemonte, the goal of the QSU events set out to build a bigger community. He feels as though these events offer opportunities to meet new students and invite them to experience other events, programming and general meetings.

“While the group itself is comprised of students who are educated in terms of LGBTQ+ events, terminology and information, Piemonte said they try to continue to be allies inside and out of the classroom.

“We work with other groups in order to make sure that people are being treated fairly or if they have questions on guidance, we want to be a resource to them.”

- Joe Piemonte
QSU President

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QSU continues to advocate for inclusivity on campus

"We are a group that comes together to build community, advocate and educate as our main focuses."

-Joe Piemonte
QSU President

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they can easily ask us," said Piemonte.

The Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion does host other groups, but Piemonte noted that they occasionally get favored because their advisor is Assistant Cam Breither.

"Cam is always like 'well we're a resource tool! It's a joint thing, Cam can always answer a question but sometimes if Cam thinks that 1 or somebody else can answer a question, they'll push it to someone else," said Piemonte.

Breither declined to comment and said all press inquiries should be directed to university spokesperson, Greg Satin.

Piemonte said that QSU has worked with other groups and organizations on campus, and while it has historically been with cultural groups, they are always looking to branch out and work with other campus groups.

"We've wanted to do something with the comedy groups to do like comedy with LGBTQ themes. But honestly if anybody has any ideas we'd love to do them, we just have never thought of them," said Piemonte. QSU will be hosting two more sex-related workshops and are currently planning programming surrounding Women's History Month in March.

Piemonte said that he is very excited for the upcoming Suffolk University Pride Month in April. While it is currently labeled as "Gaypril," Piemonte said that the group is working on changing the name to something more inclusive, rather than excluding identities that do not fall under the "gay" spectrum.

"Our big event is we're bringing Shangela to campus, she's going to come and do a show. That will be happening during Gaypril. It's going to be our final huzzah, end of the year, Shangela moment," said Piemonte.

To learn more about general meetings and to participate in future programming, contact QSU at qsu@su.suffolk.edu and follow them on Facebook @QSUQSU.

Connect with Felicity by emailing fotterbein@su.suffolk.edu

Arts Commentary
Bad Bunny: Scene from ‘Peter Rabbit’ sparks boycott from angry parents

By Jacquelyn Jarnagin, Journal Contributor

Sony Pictures “Peter Rabbit” sparked a major outrage among parents of children with life-threatening allergies on its opening weekend.

During one particular scene of the film, Peter Rabbit, voiced by James Corden, and four of his friends come up with an idea to exact revenge on their nemesis, Mr. McGregor, voiced by Sam Neill, the gardener. In order to steal vegetables from the garden, the rabbits decide to use a slingshot to fire blackberries at McGregor to distract him. This might sound like an innocent plan that would look comedic on camera — except Peter and his pals were fully aware McGregor has an allergy toward blackberries.

The scene goes even more downhill after the rabbits laugh whilst firing berries toward the gardener. One blackberry flies into McGregor’s mouth, causing him to choke and start to go into anaphylactic shock. McGregor pulls out his Epipen and injects himself with it before letting out a sigh of utter exhaustion. This is a far cry from Peter Rabbit, who kid himself inside a watering can while Mr. McGregor tracked him down.

According to The New Yorker, Kenneth Mendez, president and CEO of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, toot to social media last Saturday and delivered an open letter to Sony and the filmmakers.

"Making light of this condition hurts our members because it encourages the public to not take the risk of allergic reactions seriously."

-Kenneth Mendez
CEO
Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America

"Making light of this condition hurts our members because it encourages the public to not take the risk of allergic reactions seriously." Mendez was not the only one outraged by the film. By Sunday, hundreds of parents with allergy-prone children took to social media, criticizing the movie and voicing some concerns about how the movie will affect the way children ("Peter Rabbits") intended audience, after all! treat themselves or others who have allergies.

A trending subject on Twitter was #boycottpeterrabbit. "Someone I love has a food allergy," stated Twitter user @Cheyelybey02, "It's not fun, it's affecting especially when they are children." Sony Pictures makes a kids movie and a character is attacked with a food he is allergic to and causes anaphylaxis.

Some experts have even chimed in on the matter. Dr. Andrew Adesman, chief of developmental and behavioral pediatrics at the Cohen’s Medical Center in Queens, New York, spoke to The New York Times. Adesman believes Peter Rabbit flinging blackberries into McGregor’s mouth is darker than Wilde E. Coyote pursuing the road runner because Peter made light of a serious condition. There’s some research out there suggesting what is depicted in this movie is a real-world experience for some children with life-threatening food allergies." Adesman told The Times. "I can understand the movie’s creators wanting to make light of it, but it can be very dicey.

In response to the controversy, Sony Pictures issued an apology statement to parents and children alike. According to Entertainment Weekly, the company admitted they were wrong to joke about the condition.

"Food allergies are a serious issue." Sony said in a joint email to The New York Times, "Our film should not have made light of Peter Rabbit’s arch nemesis, Mr. McGregor, being allergic to blackberries, even in a cartoonish, slapstick way. We sincerely regret not being more aware and sensitive to this issue, and we truly apologize."
No more excuses, America.

For too long, mass shootings have been written off, with a multitude of answers, solutions and no action. Now, a solution is past due. It’s time to change.

By Patrick Holmes, Opinion Editor

"This is a plea for the voices that can no longer speak; the ones silenced by a discharged bullet."

"Time is up, the curtain must rise and action is mandatory to save future victims of mass shootings because it is inevitable that more will occur."

"We should not want to prohibit anything but rather improve the ways we buy, use and store these weapons."

A curtain of depression in the United States has not lifted since the first mass shooting in 1966, cutting between the line of progression and digression.

We are stagnant. We are complacent to the deaths of innocent lives that thought, “it won’t happen to me.” Seventeen souls were lost in Parkland, Florida by a 19-year-old with a legally purchased AR-15. But those are just numbers, right?

It should seem obvious that politicizing shootings will not benefit the tragedy and if anything, it dehumanizes the victims. They are just another statistic added to the body count, conveniently transformed into a info statistic added to the line of progression and digression.

Mass shootings are not just a gun problem nor are they just a human problem. There are a plethora of explanations as to why shootings happen, but to begin the healing process, society needs to be more empathetic.

It’s time to expand empathy and sympathy to not only the people we are close with, but the entire human race.

To a country unsettled by mass shootings, this is not the end.

Mass shootings are a product of lenient laws and careless individuals, independent of their political preference. There is much that can be achieved by not banning guns, but creating more efficient laws around the purchase of firearms. We should not want to prohibit anything but rather improve the ways we buy, use and store these weapons.

The second amendment was written before the development of semi-automatic weapons and developing the technology, yet the right to bear arms has not been touched since it was first written in 1791. This fact is not dependent on a political affiliation and both parties should consider revaluation, especially considering many semi-automatic guns have been used in mass shootings since 2004, according to the Washington Post.

Time is up, the curtain must rise and action is mandatory to save future victims of mass shootings because it is inevitable that more will occur.

Both society and our gun laws are to blame for the deaths of innocent human beings.

These may not be the only reasons but it seems clear that these two aspects must progress for any real change to go into effect.

There are many statistics and psychological answers that can be determined by examining the shootings that have occurred in the U.S.

Yes, there can be comparisons drawn from other countries and the laws they have enacted. There are many explanations to what can be the answer to mass shootings.

If we claim to love this country so much, it’s time to start acting like patriots and keep our citizens safe within these borders.

Connect with Patrick by emailing pholmes2@su.suffolk.edu
EDITOR’S WORD

We are the media and we’re not just here to get a story. We’re here to tell people’s stories. Nowadays, the media has been painted as bloodsucking leeches just here to get a story. Were painted as bloodsucking leeches and voices to only be prohibited us from excelling. This behavior is currently hindrance, it’s an insult. Nowadays, the media has been here to tell people’s stories. We are the media and we’re not just here to get a story. We’re here to tell people’s stories. If we are supposed to be looking up to and leaning on for advice have become the ones who are now holding us back and prohibiting us from excelling. Their words are not only a hindrance, it’s an insult. We take our duty seriously. So please, allow us to do our job in its entirety here, for you, so we can do it well when we leave.

This behavior is currently unobtainable when we face obstacles put in place by university officials that hinder these attempts at practicing necessary future skills. It’s disheartening when we attempt to feature student work, groups and voices to only be immediately silenced by those who are supposed to be pushing us forward. The ones that we are supposed to be looking up to and leaning on for advice have become the ones who are now holding us back and prohibiting us from excelling. While our experience may be limited, we get stronger with practice. In turn, we are exposed to multiple channels of communication and conducting intelligent conversations with field experts. To have to now utilize a single channel is not only a hindrance, it’s an insult.

Signed, a CONCERNED Suffolk student

A Sequel

From a prior article written from Patrick Holmes published on Nov. 2, 2016 titled “Signed, a hopeful Suffolk student.”

Patrick Holmes
Opinion Editor

I still have faith in my university, even after more than a year of standing by and watching the daily struggle of who will obtain top position at Suffolk. Holding onto this faith has shown to be a struggle, one that leaves me concerned with each passing day, week and semester.

I would be lying if I said I was not disappointed. Higher administration has taken more than a year to appoint a new president and as of Tuesday evening, one has not been chosen. With this amount of time and no stable leadership, I am a concerned Suffolk student.

Moreover, this university has lost its luster that once came from the facade they portray but more often than not, I cross paths with fellow peers who do not know the word "extracurricular." The university recycles the same students into the multiple clubs and organizations, while a large portion of the student body seems to not be involved. Whether this is because of too many commuter students, or lack of guidance and encouragement from campus. As a prior Print Journalism major, it was made clear to me that my education was less important due to the rumor that Journalism is a dying profession and that Film and Media Studies is a popular choice among students. Thank you for the support, Suffolk.

I used to be encouraged to pursue what I wanted but Suffolk has shown its true colors. This university seems to have biased intentions from every corner of its walls, playing puppeteer amongst their puppets, those who they can manipulate with silence or punishment. This can only go so far.

Suffolk has the potential to be a leading university and that is why I still have a sliver of faith. First, they need to be transparent with their students, faculty and staff. While taking classes on to study Public Relations, the number one mistake that large companies and organizations make is not being honest and upfront with the public; lying or refusing to answer will only exacerbate the situation, leaving a disastrous wake.

Second, students not only need a voice, but they need to find it as well. The current situation and atmosphere is not entirely due to the inner workings of upper administration but also seems to be the lack of motivation and responsibility taken by many students.

We are what make Suffolk a university so it’s past due that students make a tsunami instead of a wave. There needs to be change enacted at Suffolk and the student body is where it needs to begin.

This moment in time is the tip of the iceberg, whether Suffolk can pull itself back together or go down with the ship. I’m concerned, but I still have faith in Suffolk.

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Lady Rams leave lasting impression
Graduating seniors seek championship in last run

Brooke Patterson
Sports Editor

The walls of Regan Gymnasium were dressed up with posters and blue-and-gold streamers as the Lady Rams beat the Blue Jays 80-60.

"It helped this season because it was our two voices combined that occurred in the game against St. Joseph's, Connecticut, where the Lady Rams beat the Blue Jays 80-60.

"The competition aspect of sports has helped me in more ways than I can count, but I think that my teammates and coaches played a big part in who I am."

Nagri has been an active member on the Lady Rams roster since her freshman year, where she has played in 102 games and notched for 131 career steals. In her four years as a Lady Ram Nagri scored the most amount of points during her sophomore year. In her final season, Nagri, overall, scored 128 points with a 28.8 three-point percentage.

Unfortunately for the guard, her senior season ended early with a sprained ankle injury that occurred in the game against St. Joseph's College of Maine on Feb. 6. "I wanted more than anything to be on the court playing my last couple of games but I have now accepted it and realized that I can be helpful on the bench and still use my leadership skills to lead the team to success," said Nagri.

Bourikas, a fifth-year senior, has been a member of the Lady Rams for all five years. During her sophomore year she suffered from an ACL injury which put her out for the entire season, allowing her to redshirt and obtain another year of eligibility to play.

"The competition aspect of sports has helped me in more ways than I can count, but I think that my teammates and coaches played a big part in who I am."

"Bourikas" makes everyone better," says Nagri. "She is constantly encouraging everyone and is always working her hardest. She has always been a team-first player and that shows in her game."

Junior forward Shannon Smith made a speech prior to the senior day game on behalf of Bourikas and the type of individual and player she is, "[Bourikas] is one of the most skilled players that I have ever had," said Leyden in an interview with The Journal on Tuesday.

Both Nagri and Bourikas are two of my favorite players that I have ever had," said Leyden in an interview with The Journal on Tuesday. Both Nagri and Bourikas are great competitors, great people and terrific teammates. Nagri is probably one of the best competitors that I've ever had and Bourikas is one of the most skilled players that we've ever had.

The seniors seek to earn a final-season championship in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) championship. The Lady Rams playoff run will continue Thursday at No. 2 seed Emmanuel College for the GNAC semifinals.

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The Suffolk University men's basketball team reached new heights during the 2017-18 regular season, as they achieved a milestone that had not been touched for more than 15 years. With a 15-11 record, the Rams notched their best regular season record since the 2001-02 season and also managed to pull out nine wins within the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC), the most since their 2005-06 campaign.

As a result of their success in the regular season, the Rams scored sixth in the overall seedings for the GNAC, which meant they would have to travel to play Saint Joseph's College of Maine in the GNAC quarterfinals.

In a nail-biter finish that came down to the final seconds, the Rams edged out St. Joe's 69-65. This would be the first time the Rams were able to advance as far as the GNAC semifinal since 2001-02 season and also managed to pull out nine wins within the GNAC. The Rams achieved a strong record with a young team overall, as the group does not contain one senior. The young talent mainly stems from players such as Duffy, who leads the team in points with just more than 16, as well as freshman guard and sophmore guard George Grillakis, who has won several GNAC Rookie of the Week awards, while averaging 12 points per game.

Head coach Jeff Juron had similar comments in regards to the tough times leading to better paths for the following season. "Our group shared some painful experiences last season. We competed hard but came up short more often than not," said Juron. "I think that experience continues to motivate the group."

One major point of the season came against Albertus Magnus College on the Rams' home court. The Rams went up against the GNAC's best team and battled until the very end until they came within a fingernails distance of victory, as they were edged out 88-84.

Hagopian believes the game helped the team overall in terms of confidence. "Competing with Albertus Magnus and almost beating them was huge for us. Of course, we weren't satisfied with the outcome," said Hagopian in a recent interview with The Journal. "However, it did prove to us that we could be really good. It shows that we are capable of beating anyone. We were proud of our efforts but next time we want to come out on top."

Duffy and Hagopian led the way for the Rams, both nailing down 27 points for the team. Hagopian, a third-year starter, is one of the Rams oldest players as a junior. He has started a total of 76 out of a possible 77 games in his collegiate career. The standout guard has 18 points per game this season while maintaining a steady field-goal percentage at nearly 45.

"This program had struggled for a little while and it feels amazing to be a contributor to its success," said Hagopian. "It definitely wasn't easy, and we're nowhere close to being done. We haven't reached all of our goals."

Hagopian added that the overall goal for this team as they continue their season into the GNAC tournament will be to win the league and make it to the NCAA tournament. The Rams have now won four games in a row, proving they are gelling at the perfect time. They will now play Johnson and Wales University on Thursday for the GNAC semifinal.

"That versatility can serve both well," said sophomore guard George Grillakis said the overall youth of the team has given young players valuable experience throughout the past two seasons. "Last year we lost quite a few close games," said Grillakis in a recent interview with The Journal. "This year, we have won quite a few close games because of the experience we now have in these situations."

"Competing with Albertus Magnus and almost beating them was huge for us. Of course, we weren't satisfied with the outcome," said Hagopian. "It definitely wasn't easy, and we're nowhere close to being done. We haven't reached all of our goals."

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