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Suffolk Journal, vol. 81, no.14, 2/21/2018

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Suffolk Journal, "Suffolk Journal, vol. 81, no.14, 2/21/2018" (2018). *Suffolk Journal*. 662.
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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

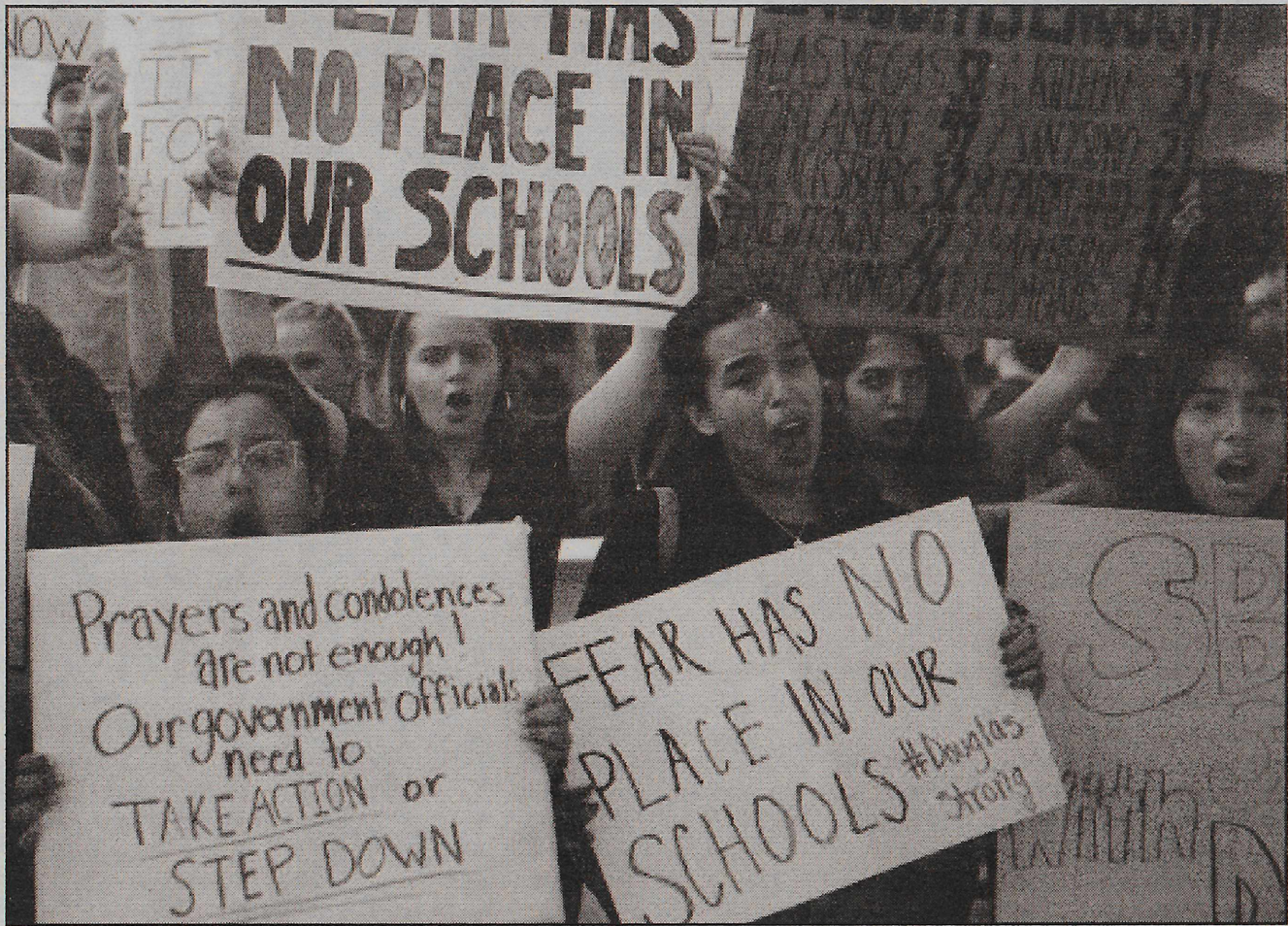
Notable mass shootings in the US since 2009*

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.

| 2009 | | | 2012 | | 2013 |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| April 3 Binghamton, New York 15 killed | | | July 20 Aurora, Colorado 12 killed | | March 13 Herkimer, New York 5 killed |
| August 3 Manchester, Connecticut 9 killed | | | August 5 Oak Creek, Wisconsin 5 killed | | September 16 Washington, D.C. 13 killed |
| September 6 Carson City, Nevada 5 killed | | | December 14 Newtown, Connecticut 28 killed | | June 7 Santa Monica, California 6 killed |
| | | | | | July 26 Hialeah, Florida 7 killed |

“ 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



By Twitter user @thehill

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.

2015

May 17
Waco, Texas
9 killed

June 17
Charleston, South Carolina
9 killed

October 1
Roseburg, Oregon
10 killed

December 2
San Berdardino, California
14 killed

2017

May 28
Shooting Spree- Mississippi
8 killed

September 10
Plano, Texas
9 killed

October 1
Las Vegas, Nevada
59 killed

November 5
Sutherland Springs, Texas
26 killed

2018

February 14
Parkland, Florida
17 killed

2014

September 14
Bell, Florida
8 killed

2016

June 12
Orlando, Florida
49 killed

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. Last Wednesday the nation watched and mourned as reports poured in from Parkland, Fla. about the 239th school shooting since Sandy Hook. Seventeen people were killed in this most recent attack. One teacher died trying to lock the door of his classroom. A fifteen-year-old student perished holding open a door for others to evacuate. Now the number of deaths has risen to 138.

The question many are asking: at what point will these school shootings spark change instead of being looked at as another statistic?

"There's nothing stopping anyone from just walking in and adding Suffolk to the list of school shootings," said Vice President of Rampage Show Choir and Social Media Manager of the Performing Arts Office Kevin Landers in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal.

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. On any given day, four Americans per hour will die by a gun, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

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.

A student survey conducted by the Student Government Association and scheduled to be released later this week was obtained by The Journal. In the survey,



By Twitter user @qjplus

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.

53.45 percent of those who answered the question about arming SUPD said they would "definitely" or "probably" feel safer if university police were armed. In comparison, 35.18 percent said they would "definitely" or "probably" not feel safer.

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

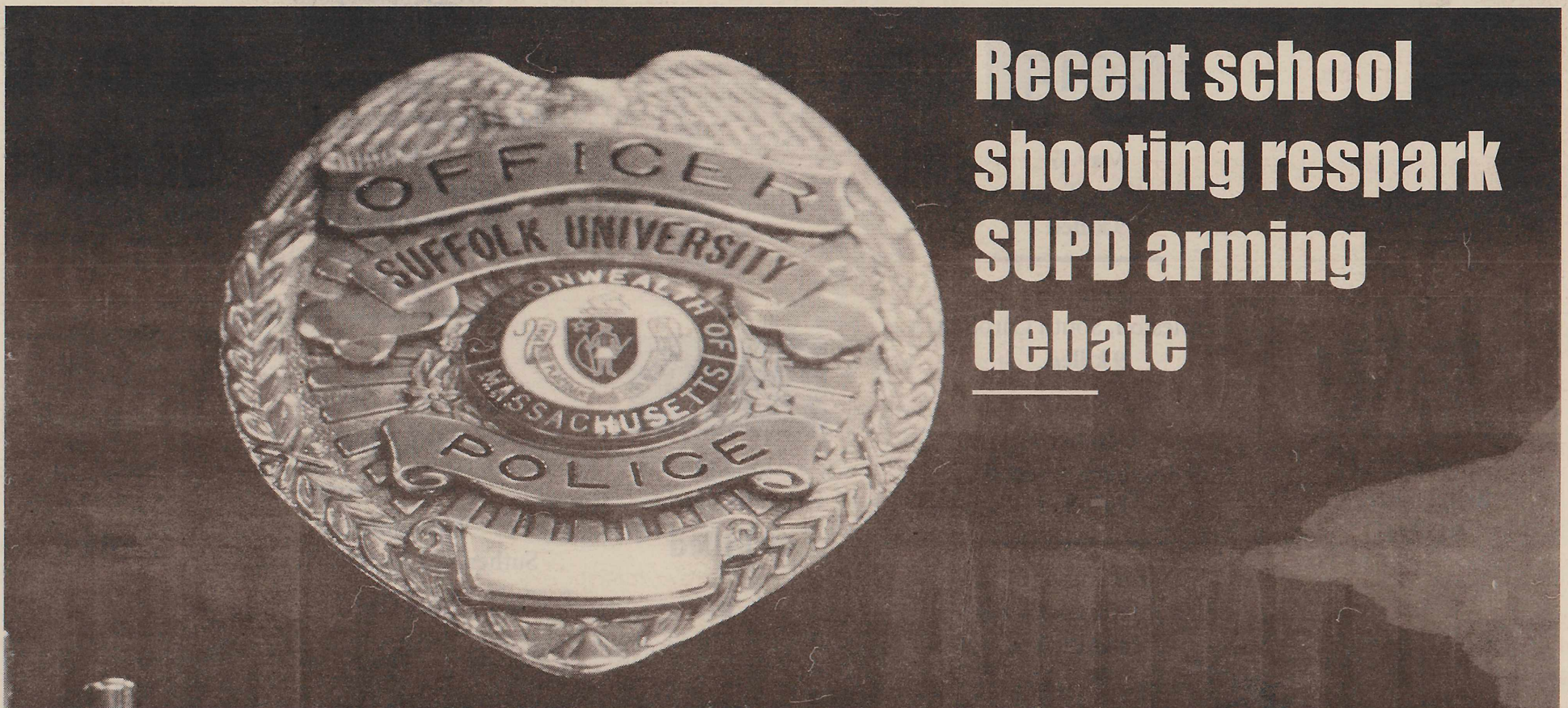
against arming SUPD per documents from the 2009 survey.

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

See SUPD - 4



Hannah Arroyo/ Asst. Sports Editor

Recent school shooting respark SUPD arming debate

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.

While his primary concern is safety, Redznak also said that arming SUPD officers will give them greater legitimacy in the eyes of both students and the public.

"I think our officers get kind of overlooked as second-class officers," said Redznak. "I know they're the subject of a lot of jokes and stuff. I think part of what this resolution does is send a message that our officers are to be taken seriously, as seriously as they are on other campuses."

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. Graves is 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. "We'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 spate 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 Leighsandra 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 Cubetus, president of the Suffolk University College Democrats. "That being said, I don't see the necessity for them to have them."

Whether or not the issue will become divisive as the process continues remains to be seen. Redznak assured Journal reporters that the process will be a transparent one, drawing on comments and feedback from students, faculty, and administrators.

"We were elected to represent the students. I know this is my bill, but if the general consensus is no, we have to respect that. At the end of the day

it's about the students. So if they're not comfortable with that yet, then there's really not a lot that we can do."

But for some, including sophomore Aaron Hebron, the decision to arm campus officers is a clear one.

"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

The independent student newspaper of Suffolk University since 1936.

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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.

Spokesperson for Russian President Vladimir Putin, Dmitry Peskov, told BBC News that the indictments provided “no substantial evidence” of Russian interference.

As for sophomore Politics, Philosophy

and Economics (PPE), History major and former Republican turned Democrat Matt O’Brien, the indictments did not surprise him.

Senior Business Information Systems major Alexi Korolev, who is originally from Moscow, has said he does

a general population, supported Trump throughout the campaign trail much more than Democratic nominee and former Secretary of State

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 indictment described in detail that actions against the

“The evidence has proven interference by the Russians time and time again.”

- Matt O’Brien,
Suffolk sophomore PPE major

“The evidence has not identify as a Trump or President Vladimir Putin supporter in recent interviews with The Suffolk Journal on Tuesday afternoon after news broke of van der

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

See Russia - 6

Mueller charges numerous Russian nationals in probe

From Russia - 6

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 400 pound genius sitting in bed and playing with his computer,'" Trump tweeted early Sunday morning. "The Russian 'hoax' was that the Trump campaign colluded 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.

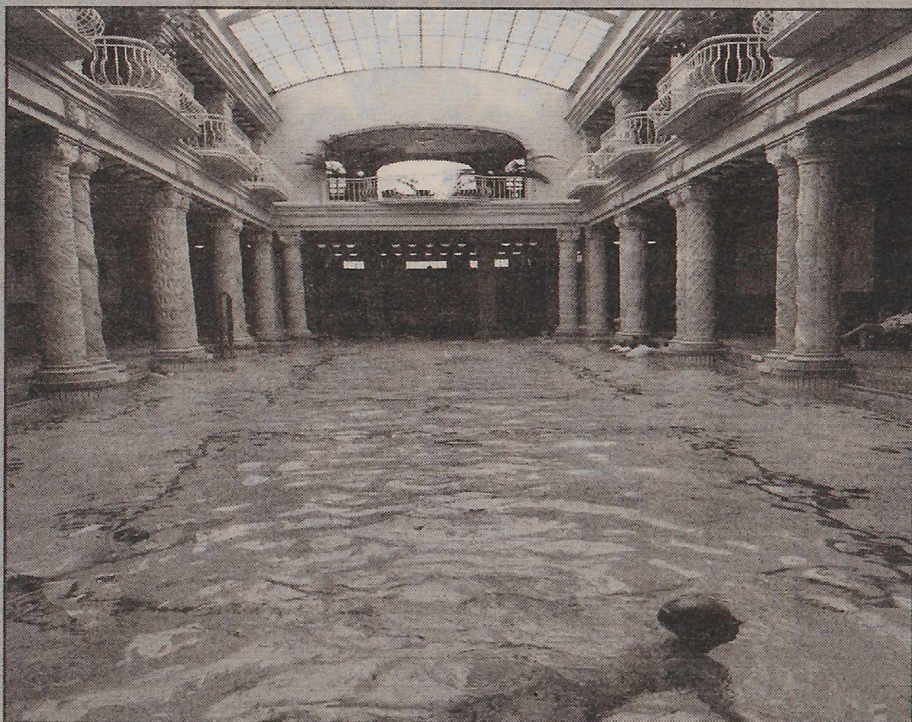
"Now it's time for our president to condemn Russia for their actions," said O'Brien. "If he won't, it's time for the people to do it for him."

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Scenes from a journalist in Budapest

Assistant World News Editor Amy Koczera went into Europe with ambitions of achieving numerous goals this semester. She is looking to explore the foreign streets on a daily basis, discovering new architecture and landscapes. She writes every day about her experiences in her own personal blog, advocatesanthology.com, while posting pictures for The Suffolk Journal.



Amy Koczera/ Asst. World News Editor & Prague Correspondent

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, 50 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 how hospitals had been reportedly targeted directly, which may be considered a war crime according to UN coordinator in Syria, Panos Moutzidis. The hospitals affected were Marj, Saqba and Douma as they were left partially functioning, while a hospital in Zamalka and Arbin completely shut down. This lack of aid added to a pre-existing shortage of food, with bread now costing 22 times the national average and 12% of children under five years old being malnourished. This massacre exists as the Damascus government sent troops to confront troops from Turkey attempting to push back Kurds in northern Syria. To force pro-government fighters to retreat, Turkey fired shells near those advancing. As Turkey fired these shells, it proves to try to oust the Kurdish militia, who have control of the area and call on Syrian military for help. Russia's foreign ministry recently confirmed that there were numerous Russian citizens, as well as citizens of other former Soviet states were killed or wounded in a recent battle allegedly in the eastern province of Deir al-Zour last week.

Nigeria sends first Olympic bobsled team



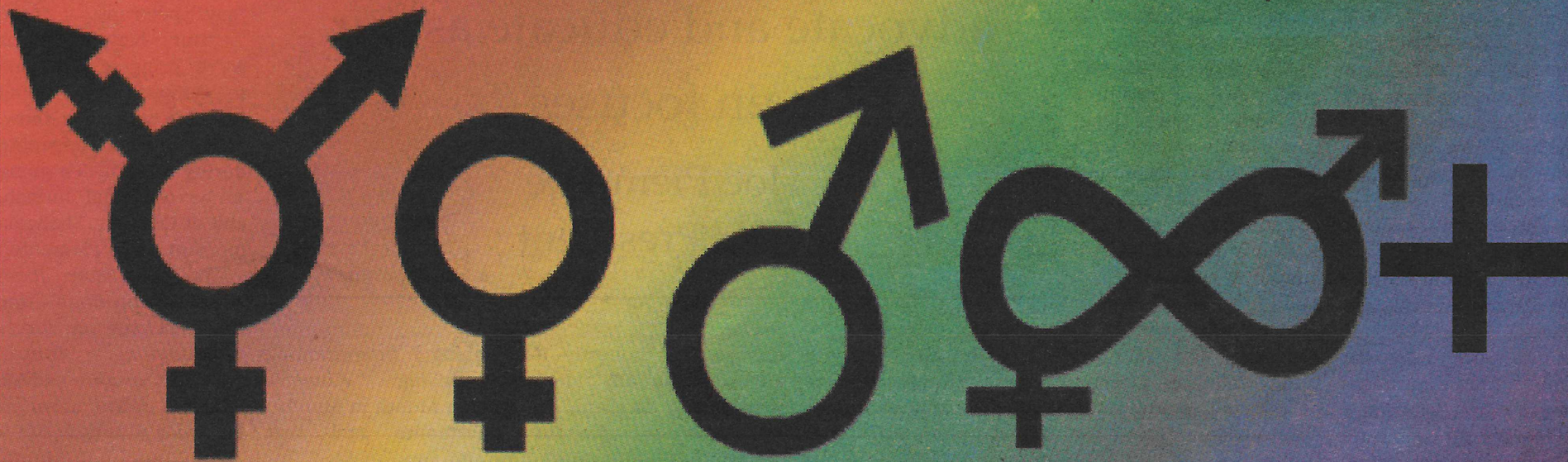
The three-person team of Seun Adigun, Ngozi Onwumere and Akuoma Omeoga are both the first Nigerian team and the first bobsled team from Africa. Of the three women, Adigun has seen the Olympics before, as she represented Nigeria in the 2012 London games for the 100-meter hurdles. The team is made up of 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 NPR. "Outside social media, the excitement is basically zero," Lagos-based writer Emmanuel Dairo in an interview with NPR. "Very few even know there is a winter games going on, and even fewer care. None of those I've interacted with, online or off, have mentioned the Nigerian team, never mind the winter games, even once." It was stated how in Africa, football (also known as soccer to Americans) runs the world, very little attention is paid to other sports. Due to the lack of support, Adigun turned to GoFundMe, raising \$150,000 dollars to support team expenses and even starting the Bobsled & Skeleton Federation of Nigeria. Adigun and her teammates hope to inspire Nigerians living in colder countries to represent their parents' home country of Nigeria in the Winter Olympics.

Oxfam workers prey on young Haitians



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 Hauwermeiren, 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.

QSU promotes diversity on campus

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

"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

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. We also are a resource to faculty and administrators, so if anybody has a question

QSU continues to advocate for inclusivity on campus

From QSU - 7

they can easily ask us," said Piemonte.

He also included that students are not alone when seeking information about inclusivity and diversity around campus. Piemonte said that both deans and faculty have approached QSU members with questions about what appropriate sentiments to include in classroom discussions, as well as what kinds of language to avoid in order to remain inoffensive and correct.

"We work with the Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion a lot. Most of our events are co-sponsored with them, and our monthly family dinners are held in there. Every last Monday of the month we have dinner in

there," said Piemonte.

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

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

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

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 that is 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 @SuffolkQSU.

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

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

**-Joe Piemonte
QSU President**

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. Tom 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 flinging 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 hid 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, took 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," Mendez said in his letter, "and this cavalier attitude may make them act in ways that could put an allergic

"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**

person in danger."

Mendez was not the only one irked 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 Rabbit's" 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 @chelybelly02, "it's not fun, it's terrifying especially when they are children. @SonyPictures 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 Wile 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 outrage."

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."

Connect with Jacquelyn by emailing jjarnagin@su.suffolk.edu

O

OPINION



FAST FACTS:

11 percent of Sports journalists are women, according to a 2016 study from statista.com.



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Tuesday meetings at 12:15 p.m.

FEBRUARY 21, 2018 | PAGE 9

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

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 infographic for the world to judge.

Most people will skim over the facts without a second thought besides a "prayer," soon forgetting the new reality that the loved ones of the victims will have to live with and endure on a daily basis.

Please do not forget the lives lost, the dreams crushed and the futures erased.

This is a plea for the voices that can no longer speak; the ones silenced by a discharged bullet. This is for the names that will never be signed again and the faces left memorialized in photos.

You will be remembered.

But to do so, the society created by the U.S. must progress. The curtain must be lifted and the prayers

silenced. Action should be demanded, not requested and a life should mean more than just a number scrawled on the incident report.

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 innocent deaths, 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.

However, let's encourage solutions instead of answers. Let's find out how to stop it instead of why it happened. Nothing can be done to repent the actions of another, but there are steps to be taken toward terminating these calamities, more than "thoughts and prayers."

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.

"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."

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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 out to get a paycheck only to use and abuse and move onto the next warm body.

We're here to say — that's not the case. As aspiring future journalists, we're working hard to develop not only our reading and writing abilities, but our opportunities to be compassionate and understanding human beings. We're here to tell your story, not sell your story.

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 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.

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.

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 emboldened me to welcome my acceptance letter. Gone are the days where I remained a hopeful Suffolk student, optimistic about the future of this university and the many naive dreams I had for the future.

Suffolk may look like a student-driven university 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 campus. As a prior Print Journalism major, it was a large portion of the student body seems to not be involved.

Whether this is important due to the because of too many rumor that Journalism is a commuter students, or dying profession and that lack of guidance and Film and Media Studies is encouragement from a popular choice among

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.

"Gone are the days where I remained a hopeful Suffolk student, optimistic about the future of this university and the many naive dreams I had for the future."

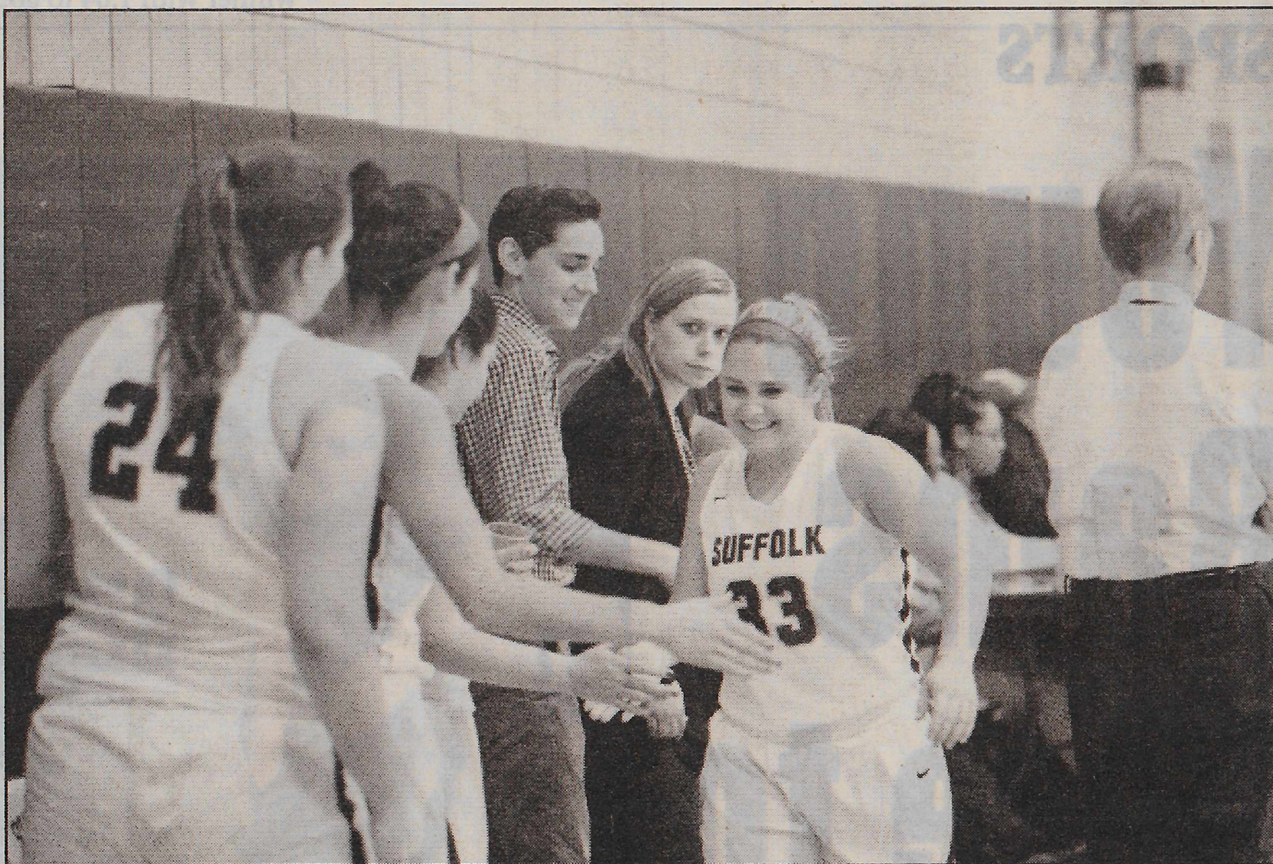
faculty and advisers, there needs to be a societal change in the way students view activities on and off campus.

The university does not have clear intentions for its future but shows lack of empathy toward the Communications and Journalism Department, supposedly one of the largest departments on

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

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Courtesy of Suffolk Athletics

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 two women's basketball seniors stepped onto their home court for the finale of the Lady Rams regular season.

Co-captains Alex Nagri and Georgia Bourikas were honored at a ceremony prior to Saturday's game against the University of Saint Joseph's, Connecticut, where the Lady Rams beat the Blue Jays 80-60.

"It helped this season that it was our two voices leading the team because not only are we the seniors but we are two starters," said Bourikas in an interview with The Suffolk Journal on Tuesday. "I think [the two of us] helped the younger girls especially to show them how [Nagri and I] came up in this program together and stayed with each other and learned to play well with and for each other."

The two Lady Rams have contributed to the women's basketball program's success with a combined total of 1,769 points, 688 rebounds and 219 steals. The seniors made history together when they both played in 100 career games for

the Lady Rams on Feb. 1 against Anna Maria College.

"Playing sports in college takes a special kind of person. It's definitely not for everyone but it has definitely helped shape me into who I am today," said Nagri in an interview with The Journal on Monday. "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 preseason 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

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

co-captain also has played in a total of 106 games, averages 14 points per game and has started in all of the Lady Rams' 26 games this season.

"Overall it has been a great experience playing with this team. I have made some of my best friends to the point where it's like having a second

Gudauskas thanked her co-captain for her passion, time and energy she devoted to the Lady Rams.

"It will be hard to replace their roles, they both have been significant players on the team their entire careers," said Smith in an interview with The Journal on Tuesday. "But next year we'll have to have people step up and take larger roles."

The two co-captains, under head coach Ed Leyden, have led the Lady Rams 11-women roster to a winning record of 20-6 this season.

"[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 Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) championship. The Lady Rams playoff run will continue Thursday at No. 2 seed Emmanuel College for the GNAC semifinals.

"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."

**- Senior Co-Captain
Alex Nagri**

of eligibility to play.

This was her second senior day and according to Bourikas, she is the first woman in program history to be recognized as a senior two years in a row. She explained how she debated even being recognized at this years senior day, but did not want Nagri to go out alone.

"[Bourikas] makes everyone better," said Nagri. "She is constantly

is.

"She's the glue to the norms we preach here," said Smith in front of the family and friends crowded in the gymnasium.

The shooting guard is a prominent member on the Lady Rams' roster who found herself in the record book for multiple honors. Bourikas joined the 1,000-point club this season and now has a total of 1,081 points. The

family," said Bourikas.

With the gymnasium splashed with decorations in honor of these two Lady Rams on Saturday, it is clear they will be missed as members of the team.

Junior guard Marissa Gudauskas also spoke before the Lady Rams' crowd about Nagri's defense abilities and how she was able to learn an abundance of defensive skills from the senior.

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Young Rams here to reside



Brooke Patterson / Sports Editor

Joe Rice
Asst. Sports Editor

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 Atlantic 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 2007 and fourth time ever in the program's history.

Junior guard and captain Michael Hagopian led the way with 25 points for the Rams. Sophomore guard Thomas Duffy also surpassed 20 points for

the 10th time this season. The core of the Rams roster will be back for at least one more season. 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

"That versatility can serve both well."

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

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 15 points per game this season while maintaining a steady field-goal percentage at nearly 45.

Hagopian has been through the ups and downs of the Suffolk men's basketball program

and is exhilarated with how the Rams have become resurgent as of late.

"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.

"This program had struggled for a little while and it feels amazing to be a contributor to its success."

- Michael Hagopian, #10

forward Brendan Mulson who has won several GNAC Rookie of the Week awards, while averaging 12 points per game.

Head coach Jeff Juron had strong words in regards to the overall play of both Duffy and Mulson. He noted they both had strong seasons and spoke on how they have helped the team overall.

"[Mulson and Duffy] have impacted the game in multiple ways," said Juron in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal.

close games because of the experience we now have in these situations."

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

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