Hannah Arroyo/ Asst. Sports Editor

'GRIT disqualified
All four members of 'GRIT' ineligible after breaking first rule of election packet

Chris DeGusto
News Editor

On Tuesday in a briefing released to candidates and sent to The Suffolk Journal, all members of "GRIT" were disqualified by Student Government Association (SGA) Student Judicial Review Board (SJRB) after weeks of hearings regarding eight appeals that were filed. SGA executive board elections in March prompted controversy that spread across campus via word-of-mouth in the aftermath of team-like slate GRIT completing a full sweep of next year's executive board positions. "It is the Student Judicial Review Board's majority opinion and decision (4-1) that the members of Team GRIT be disqualified from candidacy in their respective race," read a statement by SJRB Tuesday night.

Team GRIT, which composes of Logan Trupiano, Hope Burnside, Connor Peterson and Karline Kanji, were the subject of these appeals, which SJRB deemed sparked two issues of consideration: did handing out lollipops to potential voters violate the first rule of the Elections Packet; are members of Team GRIT liable for the actions of an individual GRIT member? SJRB compiled their ruling based on hard evidence such as pictures, screenshots and Resident Assistant or professor testimonies. Other pieces of evidence were considered in the ruling, as SJRB said "character witnesses, character testimony, first-hand witnesses and second-hand witnesses were used to gauge the severity of the sanctions."

Rule one of the Executive Board Nomination Packet reads that, "Candidates or their supporters will not impede the progress of persons who wish to walk through the polling area. No slips of paper or novelties of any size may be handed to the potential voters passing through the polling area. This includes slips of paper attached to other items. No posters, flyers, slips of paper, or signs be hung at the express stations or computer labs."

SJRB reasoned that the distribution of lollipops by Burnside to students while "giving a speech about Team GRIT," violated this rule. The review board ruled that upon having purchased and handed out the "novelty items," Burnside informed Trupiano and Peterson. See GRIT - 3

Presidential Search controversy boils over, trustee resigns

John J. McDonnell

President

& Jacob Geanous, World News Editor

Last week as reported first by The Suffolk Journal, Suffolk University Board of Trustees member John J. McDonnell submitted his letter of resignation, effective on Monday, due to concerns with the recently completed presidential search and called for an independent outside investigation to take place. See SEARCH - 3
Suffolk Law loses a faculty legend

Alexa Gagosz, Editor-in-Chief

For the past 32 years, Professor Jeffrey Wittenberg has brought humor to an otherwise grueling topic for most law students, chanted law codes line-by-line during a first lecture and pushed students to the edge until they realized their full potential. Fueled by perseverance, Wittenberg was determined to teach the next generation of lawyers since becoming apart of Suffolk Law’s faculty in 1986 until he passed unexpectedly last week.

“He was a beloved husband, father and grandfather. We are so happy he was able to do what he loved—working with students and faculty for over 40 years,” said Wittenberg’s wife Diane, to a Journal reporter late Tuesday night. “So few people are able to do what they love and be great at it. He was one of the lucky ones.”

Son-in-law Peter Lurie, who acted as the family’s spokesperson, said the Wittenbergs appreciated the tremendous outpour of support from the entire Suffolk community.

“The family feels a tight bond with Suffolk,” said Lurie to a Journal reporter on Tuesday night.

Wittenberg’s son, Richard Wittenberg, received an MBA from the Sawyer Business School and their daughter Kimberly Lurie is a graduate of Suffolk Law and now works as an adjunct professor at the SBS and Lurie’s brother Jerry is a Suffolk alum, according to the family.

“Wittenberg was a uniquely talented teacher, possessor of a great sense of humor and a loyal, steadfast friend and colleague,” said Suffolk Law Professor Emeritus Richard Perlmuter. “His death is a terrible loss to his family, friends and students and truly diminishes the Suffolk Law community.”

Perlmuter was described as Wittenberg’s best friend by the family, the two co-authored multiple books together and Perlmuter’s eulogy was read at the funeral.

“The Law School is grieving Jeff Wittenberg’s passing,” said Law Dean Andrew Perlman to a Suffolk Journal reporter this week. “He was a beloved professor for thousands of Suffolk Law alumni.”

Throughout his teachings, Wittenberg, 73, focused on contracts, product liability, sports law and commercial law and was remembered by his students as a professor who demanded a lot but showed unblemished warmth and compassion.

“He also was a wonderful colleague with a sense of humor that could leave us crying with laughter,” said Perlman. “Today, we’re crying tears of sorrow from losing one of Suffolk Law’s greats.”

Students have described him as the “toughest” professor and said they had “fears” walking into his IL contracts course, but said they ended up learning more than they expected. Some law alum described him as the only professor that taught over the course his entire career, yet he was warm and attentive to all of us.”

Holahan recollected the first few weeks of Wittenberg’s class with “Easily one of the best parts of the Suffolk Law experience was attending his class.”

-Suffolk Law alum John Cronin, (06)

“His joy in teaching law was imparted to more of who were fortunate enough to attend his classes,” said Holahan, who graduated from Suffolk Law in 2013. “I can only imagine the vast number of students he taught over the course his career, yet he was warm and attentive to all of us.’

When I look back on his class, two things jump out in my mind,” said Cronin. “He was a true champion of the Socratic method and loved cold calling on students to test whether they had prepared for class. I was called on a lot. It kept me - and the rest of my classmates - on my toes and really motivated us to put in the time and preparation to succeed, but also to be unafraid to be wrong occasionally.”

Cronin described Wittenberg as “persistent,” and that persistence was often unsettling as he would not typically let his students off the hook.

“Even in the end, though, always helped you get there,” said Cronin.

Cronin remembered one of Wittenberg’s favorite quotes that he would often utter with a glimmer in his eye: “There is nothing better than being a good lawyer.”

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Professor Jeffrey Wittenberg worked at Suffolk since 1986 until his unexpected passing

Red Sox playoff loss to the Yankees in 2003. Cronin described Wittenberg as “persistent,” that persistence was often unsettling as he would not typically let his students off the hook.

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-Born in Denver, CO in March of 1945, Wittenberg later received his Bachelor’s from San Francisco State University and his Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Hastings. He was admitted into the Bar Association in both Illinois and Minnesota.

“Professor Wittenberg, known for his wonderful sense of humor and kindness, was admired by his colleagues and many friends in the Law School and beyond,” said President Maria Kelly in a statement sent to all students on Friday. “His presence will be greatly missed.”

Prior to coming to Suffolk, he served as a law clerk on the Minnesota Supreme Court and practiced law in Chicago. He has also taught at multiple different law schools, including John Marshall University, University of Mississippi, and the University of Pittsburgh, according to his faculty page.

“His passing is a great loss for the University, and we will sorely miss him,” wrote Kelly.

Wittenberg is survived by his wife Diane, his children and seven grandchildren. Donations could be made in Wittenberg’s memory to Operation Delta Dog in Chelmsford, MA.

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of this. The statement from SGRB indicated that this situation should have been relayed to the Elections Committee. SGRB said that all members of GRIT “either knowingly or unknowingly failed to do so,” according to the statement. It was determined that because information and knowledge about the passing out of lollipops was not reported by the other members of GRIT, SGRB ruled that all team members were at fault because of the inattention, and it might hold regarding election packet rule number six.

“Choosing to disqualify the winners of the election is choosing to ignore the voice of the students,” said Trupiano in a statement to The Journal late Tuesday night. “GRIT is incredibly disingenuous in the petty politics and the poor judgement displayed by SGRB. We are not sure what steps we will take moving forward. What we are sure of is that SGA has terribly mismanaged the situation.”

Trupiano also said that GRIT is encouraging students to read the investigation report to see how SGRB came to this conclusion to disqualify the candidates.

SGRB addressed this in order to void election packet rules, it would have to be determined what a “novelty item” means, and concluded that this wording was put in place as a “catch-all” in order to ban anything besides paper to be given to students while voting in the “polling area.”

“The generic lollipops became a novelty once it became associated with a cause or purpose,” SGRB concluded. Additionally, SGRB had to determine what constitutes a “polling area.” While SGA bylaws and the elections packet do not define what a polling area is, SGRB made a decision on what has acted as the designated area in these past elections. Students voted at the locations of the elections which were voted on Internet connected devices. SGRB determined that while using a device does not constitute a polling area, once the device is being used in an effort to vote, that is when a polling area is thus created.

SGRB strongly recommends the Elections Committee reread the elections packet to address the ambiguity of the rules of campaigning. SGRB also recommends the implementation of a ‘Candidate Conduct Screening’ test for candidates who wish to run for the executive board of SGA, SGRB’s statement read, and continued later in the document, “Word choices, definitions, inclusion of social media usage rules, and character screenings are some of the possible ways to update Suffolk University SGA elections process.”

SGRB’s statement outlined that the runner-up for each executive board position will be given the post. This would mean that if the role is accepted, Morgan Robb is president, Doug Bonsello is vice president, Tyler Dahn is secretary and Michael Royce is treasurer.

While this has been a long process, I believe that the SGRB has done their due process and talked to everyone involved. I am confident in their ability and grateful for their efforts in coming to a decision. I think that our student body needs to be led in an ethical way and I plan to do that,” said Robb in a statement to The Journal late Tuesday night. “There is a lot of noise surrounding Suffolk right now, both inside and outside of campus, and [SGA] needs to be an example of a rule-following and stable organization. We need to hear the concerns of students and act in their best interests only. I am happy that I get the chance to do right by our student body and be the one to represent them.”

Appeals within the allotted time frame in regards to SGRB’s ruling after weeks of hearings and discussion would employ the office of the Dean of Students to make a concrete and permanent decision.

Connect with Chris on Twitter @ChrisDeGusto
Nick Vieiros | Journal Staff

As tension between the administration of President Donald Trump and the press continue to rise, many are beginning to ask if there is cause for alarm. Never before has a president been so callous in his criticism of whom with he disagrees.

Three journalists and law experts spoke at Sargent Hall about the impactful role of the media in the current political climate during the administration of President Donald Trump. "This administration is the hottest thing to happen to my career," said Sonja West, a professor at University of California School of Law in her opening remarks. The biggest unknown about the Trump era will be the current state of national affairs is a simple one: Do we need to worry? "Yes," she said, "but probably not as much as you think. Our First Amendment protects our rights to speak, publish and broadcast."

West contends that the First Amendment contains two separate clauses, one concerning free speech and the other free press. The press should be independent of the West is the "neglected child," its existence barely acknowledged by the Supreme Court. Not all of the panelists downplayed the threat that free speech and democracy. "Traditional journalism is in trouble," said in a clear, arguably in crisis," said Tom Patterson, Brodies Professor of Government and the Press at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. "That is a threat to our democracy."

The panel comes as the relationship between Washington and the media shows under Trump, known for his disdain for what he has called the "fake news media." Trump's long and strong attacks on the media during his campaign, and reached a climax in December when he called members of the media "enemies of the American people."

"It didn’t start with Trump. It started with President Richard Nixon," said Patterson. "The right has systematically attacked the press’ accuracy and tendency towards fairness."

This push for distrust of the media stems from a lack of equality in the political media. As the media tried to push back against the inequality, politicians feared a loss of power. "I think that we are in an information war," said Florence George Graves, the founding director of the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism at the University of Delaware. "At the heart of it is a fight over democracy. Who gets rights in a democracy?" She said that over the years, the United States has failed to recognize that as oppressed groups have not successfully gained equal standing with their un-oppressed counterparts.

"Now I love white men — I’m married to one — but they’ve been in charge so far," said Graves. The panel was part of the Edward I. and Sydell Masterman Speaker Series. Edward, a Suffolk graduate, served as a corporation counsel for the City of Boston before going into private practice in the world of eminent domain and real estate law.

"It’s a pleasure to be here, even though I said I was not in political journalism," said Jim Masterman, son of Edward and Sydell. Edward’s appreciation of the press led to his funding of the speaker series named in his honor. "He read the paper every morning, and still does."

City approves for Suffolk to lease the 1047 Commonwealth Ave property for student housing last week

Alexa Gagos | Editor-in-Chief

The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) approved Suffolk University to lease 1047 Commonwealth Ave for additional student housing in City Hall on Thursday.

The space will be available for housing Suffolk student housing. In the fall, according to Vice President of External Affairs John Nucci.

Nick Vieiros | Journal Staff

Suffolk University announced the endowment the Carol Sawyer Parks Chair in Entrepreneurial Studies by Suffolk Trustee and alumn Carol L. Parks. The chair is currently valued at more than $1.8 million, and is the first endowed chair for the Sawyer Business School, which itself is named after Park’s late father, Frank Sawyer. The chair is meant for the director of Suffolk University’s Entrepreneurship Programs, a role currently filled by the marathon runner who was appointed as the first endowed chairholder for this new program.

The goal of the new program is to provide funds for the development of new entrepreneurship initiatives and other educational programs. This coincides with Moker’s recent work in partnering with Boston organizations like BUILD.org, a project that promotes college readiness by providing low-income high school students with entrepreneurship experience and opportunities. Parks has been a Suffolk Trustee since 1986, making her one of the longest running Trustees second only to Francis Flannery who once served as Suffolk vice-president and treasurer.

Sarah Sellers, the nurse, and unexpected top runner, places No. 2 in Boston Marathon

She was hoping to make it into the top 15, but full-time nurse and Arizona resident Sarah Sellers surprised herself by finishing with a time of two hours and 44 minutes, just five minutes behind first place Desiree Linden. Sellers originally signed up for the marathon because her younger brother was doing it, according to the Washington Post. Sellers works full-time as a nurse in Tucson and would find time to train before work at 4 a.m. or after work at 7 p.m. Sellers stood out in her non-sponsored outfit, as the women around her were known on the international level. "Looking at my time going into the race, I shouldn’t be on the same page as any of the top 20 women, they’re in a different league than me," said Sellers in an interview with the Washington Post. Despite these thoughts, Sellers has been keeping pace privately, using the money, which she told The Post would go to paying off her and her husband’s student loans. Sellers hopes to qualify for the 2020 Olympics and pursue her goal of finishing the full marathon. "I mean, I still can’t believe I finished second," said Sellers. "I’m going to wake up and this will be a dream."

Alumna lights up Boston with art non-profit

A Suffolk University alumna is lighting up Boston in a big way. Lyn Burke, Suffolk class of 1989 and daughter of Massachusetts state legislator John P. Burke, wanted to provide a platform for the artists of Boston to come together with the public. Using her regional background from her political science degree, Burke founded “Lights of Boston” in 1999. Burke was not only working on her non-profit, Illuminus 2018, the first long running Trustees second only to Francis Flannery who once served as Suffolk vice-president and treasurer. This coincides with Moker’s recent work in partnering with Boston organizations like BUILD.org, a project that promotes college readiness by providing low-income high school students with entrepreneurship experience and opportunities. Parks has been a Suffolk Trustee since 1986, making her one of the longest running Trustees second only to Francis Flannery who once served as Suffolk vice-president and treasurer.

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SU approved by BPDA for more student housing

The Suffolk Journal

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SUMUN reflects on its most noteworthy year

Jacob Geanous
World News Editor

Suffolk University's Model United Nations club (SUMUN) is winding down one of their most prolific academic years in recent memory. SUMUN collected more than 15 different awards at Model UN events at both Harvard and Northeastern University, as well as at conferences in New York City and Washington D.C. Most recently, SUMUN was challenged with the task of representing Egypt in the National Model UN conference in New York City. They were tasked with taking on the responsibilities of Egyptian delegates in mock UN geopolitical proceedings. The current climate of the UN and the influential characteristics of global superpowers must be taken into account, which adds realism to the conferences, said senior SUMUN member and government major Hamza Hammad. The result is that the tactics and responses that are elicited during the faux-UN proceedings parallel those that are likely to take place at UN headquarters in New York City. "It puts an immense amount of pressure on the delegates, especially those representing countries from the global south like Egypt," said Hammad. "If you know that you have the whole military depending on you putting a certain amendment down in a resolution, you're going to fight for it."

Ultimately, SUMUN won a 'Distinguished Delegation award,' which is a team award that translates to second-place honors and four individual outstanding delegate awards. "For the fourth year in a row, Suffolk University's name has been said in the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations in New York, as a result of SUMUN's hard work and award success," SUMUN Senior President Yazed Abu-Ghazaleh said in a statement to The Suffolk Journal. "SUMUN members have been working tirelessly since the beginning of the year to understand Parliamentary procedure, resolution writing, negotiations, and so much more." According to Abu-Ghazaleh, 70 percent of SUMUN's members are freshman and sophomores and 20 percent of members are international students. As Abu-Ghazaleh prepares to graduate in May, he said he believes this is a promising sign that the club will be in good hands, also citing excitement in the new SUMUN president-elect Angela Cutone, a junior government major. "I am beyond pleased with the outcome [of the election], because I know that the elected leadership will make SUMUN a better and stronger team next year."

Cutone said she plans to ramp up outreach efforts as president to slightly change the direction of SUMUN. She said she wants the focus of the club to shift more towards hands-on learning, instead of lecture-style meetings. "I want people to actually go out there and actually debate and negotiate," she said in an interview with The Journal. "We notice that practice does make perfect. I'm a big procedure person and I love parliamentary procedure. That's my thing, and so I've been taking notes on how to improve the club."

SUMUN's award winning 2017-2018

An Outstanding Delegation team award
2 Distinguished Delegation team awards
11 total Outstanding Delegate awards
Position paper award for NMUN
Verbal Commendation for CSW
Diplomatic Award for DISEC

"It has been a true honor working with [Angela] this year, and I have absolutely zero doubts that her leadership will make SUMUN a better and stronger team next year." Cutone said she plans to ramp up outreach efforts as president to slightly change the direction of SUMUN. She said she wants the focus of the club to shift more towards hands-on learning, instead of lecture-style meetings. "I want people to actually go out there and actually debate and negotiate," she said in an interview with The Journal. "We notice that practice does make perfect. I'm a big procedure person and I love parliamentary procedure. That's my thing, and so I've been taking notes on how to improve the club."

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Arabian nights continues Suffolk’s cultural education

YALA gets university on dancing, singing in homage to Arabian heritage

Katherine Yearwood

Suffolk University’s Hanane Houini hosted the third annual Arabian Nights, that had swarms of people flowing in and out of the basement of 20 Somerset. The event, which was co-sponsored with Young Arab Leaders Association (YALA), had friends greeting each other with smiles, hugs and handshakes as they celebrated one another’s different backgrounds in a unified embrace of Arab culture.

Guests made their way down the stairs seeking to discover the fantastic scene that unfolded. Music thundered on speakers from corner to corner, wetting the audience appetite for the entertainment to come.

“I wanted [the audience] to enjoy a rich, and beautiful we have been celebrating for years,” said Sara Ghattas a Suffolk University senior majoring in Global Cultural Communications and double minoring in Psychology and international business and Vice President of YALA. “As an organization committed to fostering young Arab leaders, part of that duty and responsibility is assuring them there is so much to be proud of. There is so much good in our culture that’s clouded with doubt and fear – it’s our job to clear the horizon to show other Arabs and other students the radiant sun that ebbs with our passion and pride of our Arab family countries.”

The event offered multiple forms of entertainment, such as a runway fashion show featuring traditional Arab fashion. Models wore long colorful silk and velvet robes as they walked amongst the part of our traditional dress, that’s what we wear at weddings and events,” said Sara Farooq a Suffolk University Sophomore majoring in International Business and Management. “So, I just felt proud that I could show that to other people that go to the same school as me.”

Like a firecracker, a belly dancer jumped out utilizing the red scarf around her neck. Shorova set the audience on fire as she grabbed men and women from their seats, inviting them to dance on stage with her.

The event had numerous foods and art forms for the audience to consume. While some performers were high energy, others gave a more soothing rhythm for the audience.

Mohammed Mejaour was the opening musical act for the night with a solo flute performance. “Just hearing a new style of music was pretty interesting,” said Suffolk University Senior finance major Patrick Hennessy. “Most of the stuff I was improv, I was improvising on different scales,” said Mejaour. “I’ve been [performing] since I was seven, it’s always a pleasurable experience.”

Mejaour played three different instruments, tambourine, drum, and an Arabic flute called Ne, throughout the night while sporting a red, green, yellow, and black Moroccan hat that read Allah in Arabic scripture on it.

Mohammed Mejaour performed at the Arabian Nights hosted by YALA.

Mohammed Mejaour (right) and Ghassan Sawalhi (left) performed at the Arabian Nights hosted by YALA.

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Staging the stigma, senior thesis tackles mental illness

Felicity Otterbein
Arts & Culture Editor

Some of the most prominent issues in society are those that we cannot see until they are dragged into the spotlight. Questions about mental stigma, senior English and theater double major Aria Sergany is putting forth a production geared toward mental health awareness - or the lack thereof. As her senior thesis, Sergany has been researching mental illness for the last two years, originally inspired when a childhood friend who was diagnosed with schizophrenia committed suicide.

"I mean, I think the biggest thing for me is just that I don't necessarily hear the conversation happening enough," said Sergany in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal. "The Universe in You," follows a scientist, Doc, and their assistant, "Frog," as they try to find the cure for sadness. On their quest, they conduct experiments on five college students suffering from various mental illnesses - using Doc and Frog as anchors to continue the plotline.

Sergany said that when she initially started writing this production, she knew she wanted to talk about mental illness and suicide in particular.

"I just wanted to do something and I couldn't stop thinking about it. And I just started talking to people and I was honestly shocked at the fact that people wanted to talk to me," said Sergany in reference to how she first got started on this production.

Sergany told The Suffolk Journal that she didn't think anybody wanted to tell their personal story, but she quickly realized that many of the people she reached out to ended up sharing far more than she could have imagined when starting the writing process. Her only regret is that she wishes she could share every story that was told to her.

"Though, perhaps what's the most interesting aspect of Sergany's production is the criss-crossing concepts within it. Combining scientific research with performance art is not unheard of, but seems difficult and nearly impossible. Taking topics like body dysmorphic disorder and schizophrenia seems to be easily represented on the stage due to the fact that directors and playwrights can write off scenes as "art."

However, in Sergany's case, she has spent the last two years conversing with licensed cognitive psychologists, psychiatrists, law students and faculty, psychologists and college students affected by various mental illnesses in ways that allow her to present stories in an intelligent yet theatrical way.

Sergany decided to use college students as part of Doc and Frog's experiments due to her extensive research leading up to the performance. She said that most of the people she interviewed who experienced mental illness were around her age, including some who she considers friends. These interview subjects ended up acting as the inspiration for the characters in her production and she said that she's tried to stay as true to their stories as possible.

"Especially, I feel like [mental illness] might happen but like amongst people my age, but as soon as it's intergenerational or like even like two generations above us, nobody wants to talk about it because it's uncomfortable and I think that just like telling these stories is worthwhile," she said.

"The Universe in You" opens this Thursday at 8pm in the Sullivan Studio Theater on the 11th floor of the Sawyer Building and will run Apr. 18-22. Tickets are free and can be reserved online http://tiny.cc/yuniversitynow.

Connect with Felicity on Twitter @otter_fo

Commentary: Kendrick Lamar first rap artist to win Pulitzer Music Prize

Christopher DeGuasto
News Editor
Joe Rice
Asst. Sports Editor

At 16-years-old, there was only one person in our group of friends that had a car. Our group used to drive around in a Nissan Sentra far past sundown, blasting Kendrick Lamar's "good kid.m.A.A.d" city record until the speakers began to die out. Some of the most exciting times of our high school days featured scenes like this. Now, years after packing into that tiny Sentra night after night, the artist that gave us theme songs for 2012 just won a Pulitzer Prize for his latest album, "DAMN."

The seven-time Grammy winner is the first rapper, and first musician outside of the categories of classical and jazz to win this award. In the words of the Pulitzer Board, Lamar was awarded the achievement due to his "vivid, poetic writing, in which lyrical substance and artistry imbue and heighten the cultural meaning of his music, with a particular focus on exploring the ways in which America has "subverted" its promise of freedom and self-determination for African Americans."

Lamar's "DAMN." has been a huge success and was released back in April of 2017. When we talk about 2012, we always include the part where we were playing Lamar all summer. The thing is: "good kid.m.A.A.d city" didn't come out until October. We called two long-time friends while writing this article; they both could have sworn that we were listening to Lamar that whole summer of 2012. For some reason all those late nights, the random adventures, all the memories we made have been associated with his music, when in fact the timeline doesn't make logical sense.

So earning a Pulitzer Prize, to us, reaffirms how much of a cornerstone Lamar is to fans of music. Lamar has now done something untouchable to rap legends of the past: Tupac Shakur, Biggie Smalls and Dr. Dre being the first to come to mind that have not been able to achieve this feat. With this recent achievement, Lamar has now staked himself as the most influential rap artist of our generation and perhaps of all time. It is difficult to confidently say he is the best rapper of all-time due to the fact that rap had not reached its peak until just recently. Shakkur, Smalls and Dre, though legendary to most fans of the genre, were typically seen by the mainstream media as rappers with bad reputations during their time due to the "gangsta rap" style.

In all honesty, we never thought we would see the day where a rap album would be winning any sort of prestigious award. It just goes to show how far the genre has come. The reputation of rap has gone from bad to better respected to a matter of mere twenty years. As a result of the evolution from hard-hitting beats with heavy lyrics to an overall more melodic tone that will make you want to dance while still delivering those piercing lyrics, in Lamar has completely shifted the perception of rap. In 2018 toward the end of our careers at university, Lamar is still a mainstay in our earbuds, car speakers and the occasional college party. Weary high-school fans back in the day were skeptical, while others praised Lamar was the next big thing. Now there's no debate. Repeated plays on the radio, vinyl records being collected and new releases being worshipped by fans has given Lamar the platform to not only alter the rap game, but social movements that are sweeping across the globe.

The flow of Lamar's lyrics from each line of poetic brilliance is all too distinct; his popularity has only grown stronger as he refuses to miss his raspy voice, and has all fans saying DAMN. 

Connect with Chris & Joe on Twitter @ChrisDeGuasto & @joephrice1997

By Facebook user Aria Sergany

"I mean, I think the biggest thing for me is just that I don't necessarily hear the conversation happening enough."

-Aria Sergany
Director

By Facebook user Aria Sergany

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Political parties clash:

College campuses seem to be majority liberal, leaving conservative ideas in the shadows

Letter to the Editor

I see that some intolerant liberal students are rejecting conservative ideas on their campuses and maybe even affirmative action for allowing conservative ideas in the shadows.

Trump handily beat Clinton in part because a lot of decently moral people are getting really fed up with liberal judgmentalism, liberal self-righteousness, liberal name-calling, liberal violence and hate, liberal divisiveness, liberal intolerance, liberal closed-mindedness, liberal bullying, liberal bigotry and liberal discrimination.

Many colleges in this country have been discriminating against conservatives and conservative speech for years, like by implementing bizarre, totalitarian, Orwellian "speak codes."

The legal group by the acronym FIRE (Foundation for Individual Rights in Education), which defends conservative teachers and students who have been discriminated against by liberal bigots on various college campuses could probably provide you with a lengthy list of such cases.

The civil rights of conservatives are under attack on many college campuses.

And it's no big secret that many professors are liberal.

Hopefully students are aware of all the one-sided, liberal propaganda they are massively being exposed to. And hopefully they are aware that they are essentially paying the liberal indoctrination in many cases and are being cheated out of a decent education.

Baseball brawls are part of the game

Just like in many other mainstream sports, aggressive behavior is involved in the entertainment on the field. Baseball is not any different, especially when rivalries run deep.

From BASEBALL - 11

As if it has to be put in print, unlike faster paced sports, baseball is a sport that takes more of an acquired taste to enjoyably watch.

It tends to be slow moving and viewers who are either not familiar with the rules, or are simply uninterested, may have a hard time finding the reasons why so many people would watch such a tedious exchange of balls being thrown past people, hit with a stick then picked up and thrown to another person.

But for those who watch hockey, or make a move past baseball, is there not a hope that someone will drop the gloves? Or for those who enjoy NASCAR, what if there is a pileup from one driver attempting to make a move past another? The possibility of drama between players or competitors, or something going horrendously wrong, is something baseball lacks in general. But as seen last Wednesday, baseball is much more entertaining with the possibility of a bench-clearing brawl.

Given the team's history, these types of incidents will only make watching the two teams compete more exciting. When there is a chance that relations between players may get dicey, those who are uninterested will have all the more reason to watch.

Both teams, being forces in Major League Baseball (MLB) contain some of the league's biggest superstars. The Yankees' acquisition of Giancarlo Stanton, one of the most renowned power hitters in the league, will supplement the already mighty power hitters Aaron Judge and Gary Sanchez who were on the Yankees roster prior to Stanton waving goodbye to Miami and welcoming his role on the Yankees with open arms. The Yankees also hold one of the most feared closers in the league, Aroldis Chapman, whose arm can hurl some of the speediest fastballs ever in baseball, many of which exceed 100 mph.

Let us not forget that the Sox are not without talent. Though David Ortiz has retired, the Red Sox lineup has men who can swing it in J.D. Martinez, Mookie Betts and Rafael Devers. Also, a solid pitching staff including the crafty Rick Porcello and Chris Sale and the gritty power throwing closer Craig Kimbrel.

Thus far, neither team has disappointed. Both teams are expected to be stellar, and coupled with a harsh history; rivalries such as this one are just what baseball needs to keep viewers on the edge of their seats.

The game also did something crucial: add wood, if not gasoline, onto the fire that is the Red Sox and Yankee rivalry that dates back multiple decades.
Editor's Word

It's about to be 4:00 in the morning.

We have been staring at our computer screens for what seems like an eternity.

The office is now out of food. Cannibalism may soon need to be an option—only kidding.

We'll type this out hopefully before the sun comes up and everyone is back on campus for Wednesday classes. The point isn't that we don't have anything to write about, or we're tired, or our computers have been accidentally unplugged by an errant kick to the wall socket for the hundredth time. The problem is that there is simply too many heavy things going on right now to narrow it down to one.

We have a raving maniac dominating headlines and shooting massive ballistic missiles across the ocean. We have a university that is back on the shaky legs that we thought were steady now.

Everything is expensive. Everything.

So, in the end it looks like it's going to have to be a time for introspection. This is how it works. We try to put our voice in the topics that headline every week. It isn't necessarily coming tonight. But to leave you, the reader, with a visual that you may find amusing, or disheartening, or entertaining; that looks like we have it.

See, we're not always so serious.

Attempting change: State by state, how effective is gun reform?

Changing gun rights on a federal level could be a better solution instead of the newly implemented laws that leave too much to the imagination.

As a nation, the issues of gun rights and violence have been rather tumultuous in the last few years. In the wake of an belligerent public uproar regarding gun laws in the U.S., Vermont has passed more regulations on firearms in an attempt to help curtail the ability to obtain firearms without proper vetting or background checks. According to a recent Wall Street Journal article, "The Vermont bill also marks a significant shift for a state that, despite its liberal reputation, is a largely rural place with a high rate of gun ownership and few historic gun regulations on the books."

As a citizen of the U.S. and a Vermont native, this may not do a great deal for the state initially. States cannot lead in gun reform because people are able to purchase guns out-of-state, where laws may not be as strict.

The passing of these regulations will have a limited immediate effect. According to freshman computer science major Jace Laquerre at the University of Vermont in an interview with The Suffolk Journal, "The true outcome of the law change will be the destruction of 241 years of [a] responsible gun culture in Vermont."

Laquerre has served as a delegate at the Republican National Convention and was recently on a CNN segment with David Hogg and other gun activists discussing gun reform in America. He also testified to the House Committee on Judiciary in Vermont, fighting for the new gun laws to allow age exceptions to certain people.

"Vermont has had a long standing tradition of exceptional firearms freedoms and some of the lowest crime rates in the nation," said Laquerre. "The new laws in reality are unenforceable and will do absolutely nothing to increase the safety for Vermonters or our schools."

It is true that the majority of people in Vermont do not believe that the state needs gun reform. Most people believe in the right to own firearms and vast amounts of people contain gun owners within their families or are gun owners themselves.

Vermont has a massive hunting culture, no different than that of upstate New York and New Hampshire, two of its three neighboring states.

As a result of the sweeping ban, magazines rifles will be limited to ten rounds for long guns and fifteen rounds for handguns. The new law will also raise the gun buying age to 21, with exceptions for those who have passed hunter safety, but also expands checks regulations will curtail and bans bump stocks. However, the magazine limit will only apply to magazines not sold to magazines people already own from prior to the law change.

"It would be naive to think that these regulations will curtail the use of such magazines when these weapons sold prior to the law change are not prohibited."

Despite background checks being implemented, there is no reason to believe that a minor could not get access to a gun or extended magazines given that neighboring states do not have similar laws and there is no one at the state borders searching for vehicles or checking whether someone purchased or obtained firearms out of state.

In regards to magazine round capacity limits, since the law only applies to new sales, the use of these magazines will continue despite the law change. It would be naïve to think that these magazines were sold prior to the law change. Those that are still in circulation can still be used to continue atrocities - and the ownership of higher capacity magazines, despite the change, is completely untraceable under law given they were purchased legally before the law change.

The ability to enter another state, purchase these items and head back into Vermont is an issue that is severely unenforceable.

Similarly, there are also certain regulations regarding firearms that differ from Vermont’s laws, and around Independence Day, lots of Vermont residents will head to other states to purchase their fireworks where the laws are less strict.

Though setting regulations now will pave way for a new culture in generations to come, for immediate results, the issue of gun control should be dealt with at a federal level.

Setting laws that are difficult to enforce will have limited effects on current gun behavior in Vermont and if more states follow through with similar regulations on a state level, they will experience the same dilemmas.

A house divided cannot stand. This cannot be dealt with in Tallahassee, FL or Carson City, NV, the states of two recent shootings. It certainly cannot be dealt with in Montpelier, VT either.

This is an issue that needs to be dealt with in Washington, D.C.

Connect with Ryan on Twitter @ryanareld
MLB rivals collide

Ryan Arel  Asst. Arts Editor

The atmosphere is different in Boston when the Yankees are in town. Normally most games go without violence, but last Wednesday, Tyler Austin of the Yankees claimed his bat on the plate and took a few steps toward the mound after getting hit by a pitch, which was followed by some nasty words from Red Sox pitcher Joe Kelly.

Needless to say, Austin did not take his base, but rather, charged the mound.

The Red Sox and Yankee benches cleared twice last Wednesday, the first being after a heated discussion between Brock Holt of the Red Sox and Tyler Austin of the Yankees that amounted to nothing but a discussion. The second time came when Red Sox pitcher Joe Kelly appeared to attempt to retaliate by trying to drill Austin with a fastball in the seventh inning, being successful once.

The Yankees outplayed the Red Sox for a 10-7 win. The Red Sox took a loss for the season, but gained something much better for their fans when it comes to games against the Yankees – publicity and an even better viewing experience for Boston Red Sox v. New York Yankees games. The game also did something crucial: saw wood, if not gasoline, onto the fire that is the Red Sox and Yankee rivalry that dates back multiple decades.

Are fights, bench-clearing brawls and bad words exchanged between players bad for baseball?

See BASEBALL - 9

Members of the Boston Bruins Foundation selling tickets for the 50/50 raffle.

Don Porcaro  Journal Staff

In the first round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs, where the Boston Bruins faced off against the Toronto Maple Leafs, the Boston Bruins Foundation held the usual 50/50 raffle, but this time, the proceeds reached far beyond the charity.

The foundation, which was established in 2003, is a non-profit organization that helps other charitable groups with goals of bettering the lives of children. So far, they have raised more than $28 million for various causes in the area.

Due to the recent tragedy faced by the Humboldt Broncos hockey team, the foundation found it a fit place to donate the proceeds to those impacted by the tragedy. As the raffle closed, more than $211,000 was raised to benefit families affected by the tragic bus crash.

“The hockey community is a very close knit family and whenever tragedy occurs, the response is always incredible. It’s no surprise that our fans rallied to support. The Humboldt Broncos and Officer Sean Gannon, of Yarmouth, MA. Once again, the volunteer turnout was strong, this time with the support of police officers from towns around the county, who donated their time as well to help raise money for the family of Gannon.”

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Connect with Don by emailing dporcaro@su.suffolk.edu

Connect with Ryan on Twitter: @ryanarel

runner Matt Durkin

Weather no match for marathon runners

From RUN - 12

the evening of Sunday, April 15, to pay respects to those affected by the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings. In addition, the Red Sox held a moment of silence on Sunday at Fenway Park during the seventh inning of the contest against the Baltimore Orioles, showing the deep sentiment the city feels for the tragedy. Due to the rain, the Red Sox traditional Patrons Day game was postponed.

“People are very connected to the marathon especially from the bombing and they want to be supportive of everyone,” said Durkin.

“I think the spectators knew that the runners needed their support and they couldn’t get over how many people were out there. It was way more spectated than when I played in 2013. It was such an humbling and incredible, people coming out.”

Remick ran in 2013, but due to a medical condition, she stopped the race halfway and missed the bombings. She stated that the pride was much higher at the marathon the year following the bombings, and that the tragedy simply pushed people to love the city of Boston even more.

“I also ran in 2014, and the energy was even more intense and exciting than normal,” said Remick. “Ever since then, I feel like Boston has become even more special than it already was.”

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More than just a game

Ryan Arel  Asst. Arts Editor

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rigid temperatures, strong winds and pouring rain did not stop Boston pride spreading from Hopkinton to Boylston Street Monday at the 122nd Boston Marathon. Due to the abrasive weather conditions, many runners debated on backing out of the race, including American winner Desiree Linden, as she told reporters at the finish line. This year’s marathon had nearly 3,000 runners drop out prior to the race. Of the 26,948 who did start the race, 1,202 did not finish, according to the Boston Athletic Association (BAA).

One of those who did finish was Suffolk University alumnus Matt Durkin, ’17, who also ran the Marathon in 2015. He described the running conditions as being some of the worst he has ever seen. Despite entering the race into such harsh weather, Durkin said that the fan base that came out for the race was astounding and just what the runners needed given the weather.

“In the best way I could explain it was like getting put through a car wash for five hours with thirty mile per hour winds,” said Durkin in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. But the spectators, he said, “were absolutely incredible, all ages from babies to elderly, and they were there from Hopkinton all the way to the finish line.”

Tens of thousands of loyal fans lined the streets of the course, despite the weather and officials announced that about 9,000 volunteers lined the 26.2 mile course, from beginning to end.

Michigan native and two-time Olympian Linden, who lost the Marathon in 2011 by a mere two seconds, crossed the finish line at 2:39:54 p.m. and became the first American woman in 33 years to win the Boston Marathon. Linden ran the entire race in 2 hours 39 minutes 54 seconds according to the BAA. With this historic win, she recorded an average pace of 6 minutes and 6 seconds per mile.

Linden took the lead right before the 22nd mile and was able to hold it through to the finish line. When Linden was rounding Coolidge Corner, the announcer told spectators on Boylston Street that her “face of concentration was unmatched.” “Honestly, at mile 2, 3, 4, I didn’t feel like I was going to make it to the finish line,” Linden told reporters after Marathon officials and Governor Charlie Baker bestowed the gold-dipped crown on her head. Linden had slowed after the sixth mile to wait for fellow elite runner Shalane Flanagan for a bathroom break and told reporters that she told Flanagan that she “might not make it” and was ready to help Flanagan with the rest of the race. In the men’s race, Yuki Kawauchi of Japan, after trailing Kenyan runner Geoffrey Kirui earlier in the race, closed the gap at Kenmore Square and beat out Kirui for the win running the 26.2 miles in roughly 2 hours 16 minutes.

“I couldn’t get over how many people were out there. It was way more than when I did it in 2015 when it was rainy and cold but this was a completely different experience,” said Durkin.

“It was almost fake, that’s how hard the rain was pounding down.”

Durkin, who holds a degree in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in Marketing, is currently the executive director of the nonprofit organization The Durkin Foundation. The nonprofit provides services to those who are affected by Alzheimer’s Disease and Intellectual Disabilities as well as providing assistance to those in the military struggling with settling in back home.

“I ran with myself and two other people [and] the team raised $54 thousand for the foundation,” said Durkin. “I’m excited. We’re in our first year so we’re hoping to get a couple more bibs and become an official Boston Marathon charity within the next couple years.”

Suffolk adjunct faculty Nicolle Renick also ran Monday. She too struggled with the cold, saying that even when training in 20-degree weather she felt warmer.

“The wind was brutal, and it raised steadily the entire time until mile 25.8. I could already feel at mile eight in Natick that the wind was draining a lot of energy from me,” said Renick. “The worst part was Wellesley; the rain poured really hard in some spots there.”

In her fifth Boston Marathon, Renick ran for the Alzheimer’s Association in honor of her father who was diagnosed with dementia, saying that she is very happy to have “stumbled upon” the amazing group of people. She finished in 5 hours 25 minutes 39 seconds.

“I had run my first marathon in Maine in October 2010, and wanted to run Boston for the Alzheimer’s charity team, so just three days after I completed the Maine Marathon, I sent in my application,” said Renick in an email to The Journal. “I am forever grateful that I stumbled upon this amazing group of people. Seventy-nine percent of all fundraising dollars go to care, support, research, awareness and advocacy activities for the Alzheimer’s Association.”

Prior to the marathon, there was a vigil held in honor of all fundraising dollars go to care, support, research, awareness and advocacy activities for the Alzheimer’s Association. People are very connected to the marathon especially from the bombing and they want to be supportive of everyone.”

- Suffolk alumnus Matt Durkin

Durkin’s time was nearly twice that of Kawauchi, an elite runner, but he was determined to finish his charity run and happy to see the spirit of both fellow runners and the crowds.

“I couldn’t get over how many people were out there. It was way more than when I did it in 2015 when it was rainy and cold but this was a completely different experience,” said Durkin.