Chief of Police leaves Suffolk; Accepts position at Tufts

Gerard “Chip” Coletta, chief of security and police for the Suffolk University Police Department (SUPD), will be leaving the university on Nov. 1. SUPD Capt. Kenneth Walsh will step in as interim chief until a replacement is found.

Coletta has been the Chief of Police at Suffolk since February 2013, and is moving to Tufts University in order to serve as interim Chief of Police there. He said he was contacted by Tufts and told they were looking to replace their current chief of police, who is leaving.

“I just got a really good opportunity” said Coletta in an interview with The Suffolk Journal on Tuesday. “I had to do what was best for me and my family, but it was a really difficult decision. [Working at Suffolk] is a great job. I really love it here.”

Coletta said the move to Tufts is a career advancement.

“In terms of area responsibilities, it’s a much larger college with a much larger police department,” Coletta said.

Suffolk faculty and staff received an email about Coletta’s departure Monday night.

The news came from Director of Title IX & Clery Act Compliance, Sheila Calkins, as SUPD works under her office and reports to her directly. In the email, Calkins wrote about the impact Coletta has had on Suffolk.

“[Coletta] has built strong connections and relationships throughout the University and with our external law enforcement partners, including the Boston Police Department, the Massachusetts State Police and federal law enforcement,” Calkins wrote in the email.

See CHIEF - 5
The World Languages and Cultural Studies department has unveiled a new major to foster global awareness.

The new major was created out of a need for more language and culture studies after the removal of the French major from Suffolk. After several years of developing the major and six drafts of the proposed curriculum, the director of the program, Professor Barbara Abrams, believed the right team had been crafted with the help of Dean Toyota and Dean Celovsky. Partnerships with departments such as history, English, communication, and journalism, and government created the new major.

For students, the major is an opportunity to foster global awareness, both studying here at Suffolk and abroad. The typical teaching strategy always been to teach language first and culture second, but students should expect a new strategy: studying a culture to better understand the language.

"It has all the possibilities to put forth a global citizen who functions in a global environment, who can communicate and function in the world," said Abrams.

Beyond students, the implementation of the global cultural studies major is a force of change for Suffolk as an institution, whose reputation of a commuter school has been steadily transforming into one of an international school.

"Global Experience" is one of the pillars in place for Suffolk’s 2025 strategic plan. Through this initiative, the university looks to foster a global environment and “offer an education that prepares students to be global thinkers who can succeed in a rapidly evolving employment landscape and in an increasingly global community,” according to the plan.

"If you’re asking for global in your strategic plan, who better to do it than the people who actually function and speak and work in different languages and work in different parts of the world and come from different parts of the world," said Abrams.

For Jonah Andersen, a transfer student from a fine arts major,” said Andersen.

"I found [the major] to be quite broad it seemed different places on earth. So being able to draw on different structures for example, you allow to create entirely new structures," said Andersen.

"Students can pick from three concentrations: interdisciplinary arts, regional practices and culture, and conflict and communication. Many of the classes students can take to obtain the 41 credits needed to finish the major also count for general education requirements. Students also receive advising for the major and for their concentration, giving them two academic advisors in their major.

Since the major is interdisciplinary, students can have classes in history, English, black studies and theater.

"I found [the major] to be quite broad it seemed different places on earth. So being able to draw on different structures for example, you allow to create entirely new structures," said Yalikun.

Baili Yalikun, a freshman, is passionate about languages and hopes the new major will help her learn about different cultures and see how languages have formed and evolved. She hopes to tailor the major to fit her dream of being a French translator.

Yalikun switched from the French major, and was suggested to look into global cultural studies.

"Since it’s a brand new major, they want a student to present it they want student representation to talk with students about what this major is and get more information out of it," said Yalikum about her title.

Studying abroad while at Suffolk will hopefully see changes with the addition of the new major.

The world languages department plans to look into enhancing study abroad opportunities to offer students a wider variety of places to study in correlation with the major.

"We’re doing research to find programs in North and South Africa and more programs in Asia. The world is not just the United States and Western Europe," said Abrams.

The major continues to expand, adding on a potential fourth concentration next semester through the Sawyer Business School. The ability to minor in global cultural studies is planned to roll out next year.
Suffolk continues support for Light the Night walk

From LIGHT - 1

Suffolk’s team Love for Lara was created in 2013 by Melanie Berkmen, a biochemistry professor whose niece Lara Berkmen died from leukemia at age 14. The team started one year after her death. Since Berkman is one of the faculty members on the honors program committee, she first organized the “Love for Lara” team with honors students. “Lara was such a good student and I know she would have been in the honors program,” said Berkmen in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “That is why I wanted to get the honors students involved.”

The Love for Lara team has since been opened for all students. Suffolk’s biochemistry and oncology support clubs are involved in it as well. “It wasn’t hard to create this team because so many people love Lara, and as soon as she passed away, I wanted to remember her and do something in her memory and I knew other people would want to too,” said Berkman.

Lara Berkmen was born in Wellesley, Mass. on July 19, 1999. When she was five, her family moved to Manhattan for four years. Soon after, Lara attended fourth grade in Connecticut until seventh grade, in September, when she was diagnosed with leukemia. Lara spent the following year in the hospital, with her mother, Nevin Berkmen, by her side. She would be relieved by Melanie and Lara’s father, Oguz Tanrikulu, on weekends.

“She wanted to become a writer. The Make a Wish Foundation approached us and asked Lara what she wanted to do while she was sick,” said Nevin in an interview with The Journal. “Lara didn’t want to meet a celebrity or go to Disney World, she wanted to become a writer and share her story of survival, which she was very hopeful for at the time.”

Despite an exhausting treatment process, Lara fought to keep up with her academics throughout her battle with leukemia. “She was such a diligent child, she was always trying to study and keep up with her school work during that time,” said Melanie Berkmen.

Lara passed away on Aug. 15, 2013. After her death, her family made it their mission to know exactly why she had died. Nevin said a possible part of the reason Lara had died was because the doctors had mis-diagnosed the type of leukemia Lara had. The Berkmen family sued the hospital after it admitted to mis-diagnosing her.

“It took two and a half years of fighting. Whatever strength left that we had, we used it in her honor to save future children,” said Nevin.

“We used to be next-door neighbors and live in the same house, basically,” said Shektman. “We moved to a different state and later found out Lara had been diagnosed. For me to picture her so young is heartbreaking.”

Alexia Baugniet, an oncology management honors student and senior at Suffolk, has been the captain of the Love for Lara team for two years. “My goal was to get the Suffolk community involved and learn more about this organization. I focus on anything to do with cancer research, I’m there and ready to support as much as I can.”

As the walk continued, Bethany Buenteo from Houston, Texas walked to honor the loss of her father, Carlos Rene Buenteo.

Carlos died from acute myeloid leukemia at age 70 on Sept. 19, 2019. “I called the Massachusetts Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to walk in Boston since I was not able to do the one in San Antonio,” said Buenteo in an interview with The Journal. “My father always told me he was blowing me kisses, now I am honoring and raising awareness for him.”
Suffolk students to react to Governor Baker’s vape ban

“One of the experts said the cause of the illnesses and vaping products until Oct. 25, 2019, will last for four months until Jan. 25, 2020. During that time, the sale of vaping products in Massachusetts of any kind will be illegal from the use of all e-cigarette products. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), thirty-three people, including at least one in Massachusetts, have died. Symptoms of vaping-related illness include “rapid onset of coughing, weight loss and significant breathing difficulties,” according to NFR. Additional symptoms include nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Although symptoms typically occur within days, it can take weeks for them to fully develop. The CDC advised users to “consider refraining from use of all e-cigarette and vaping products” until the cause of the illnesses is discovered. Students say vape products aren’t the problem. “If you look at the overall use of cigarettes and lung cancer—I don’t think that [vape products] are the main cause of smoking-related illnesses,” said Shan Shiraze, a finance major, to The Journal while smoking JUUL outside Sawyer building. “I think the whole situation was over exaggerated,” said Shiraze. “There was not enough sufficient evidence and actual proof for the ban.” Senior Gabby Dulong told The Journal she doesn’t smoke anything but JUUL, one of the most popular vaping brands in the nation. “So it’s annoying I have to buy pods from New Hampshire. I’m an adult, I can choose what I put in my body.” For many, the ban raises a myriad of issues, from the ethics of the ban to having to travel out of state to purchase vape products. How businesses across the state—and outside of it—have been affected. The vaping industry is a lucrative business; according to the BBC, the global market for vape products, including JUUL, is now worth around $19.3 billion. But after the ban went into effect, retailers were forced to pull all vape products from their shelves, which for some meant closing up shop. Stacy Portziky, a vape shop owner in Newton, spoke with WBUR about the effect the ban had on her business, Vape Daddy’s. “Right now, we’re just we’re sitting on it,” Portziky said, referring to her shop’s inventory. “We can’t do anything with it. We’re in a really tough spot.” “I do feel awful for the businesses that aren’t able to operate due to the ban, and the families that this affects,” Dulong said. “It’s hard as a parent to provide in the economic climate as it is, but Baker really didn’t think of all the people who own these vape shops that make money off adults paying money for these products.” States surrounding Massachusetts continue to sell vape products and some, like New Hampshire, even sell these products to anyone over the age of 18. According to WBUR, New Hampshire businesses that sell vape products and are close to the Mass. border have seen a surge in sales of the products since the ban was implemented. “I don’t smoke anything but JUUL,” senior Gabby Dulong told The Journal. “So it’s annoying I have to buy pods from New Hampshire. I’m an adult, I can choose what I put in my body.” Caroline Fletcher, a psychology and advertising major, said in an interview with The Journal that people who vape won’t stop. Rather, they will find other ways to obtain vape products. “Or they’ll just smoke cigarettes as an alternative,” said Fletcher. Some worry the ban could lead to spike in cigARETE USE. A real concern for many is that former tobacco users will return to tobacco products like cigarettes. As of publication, there are no plans to ban cigarette arities in Massachusetts, although a national ban on menthol-flavored tobacco products has been hotly debated. “I’d hate to see all the people, young and old, who have used vaping to quit more harmful smoking methods go back to those methods, despite years of avoiding it,” said Hannah Bakiri, a junior. Jacob Murphy, a sophomore journalism major, said none of his friends who vape have turned to cigarettes, or vice versa. “Everyone I know who vapors only started with that, they didn’t go from cigarettes to vape,” Murphy said, in an interview with The Journal. Noah Forgue, a government major, said he has

This week in SGA...

SGA senators approved two resolutions at the Oct. 17 general meeting.

The first resolution states that Suffolk University should label every single-toilet public bathroom on campus as “Gender Inclusive.” It also calls for the university to install menstrual care product dispensers and special trash containers for them in every women’s bathroom and single-toilet bathroom.

Suffolk’s newest residence hall at 1 Court Street, which is set to open next fall, should also include gender inclusive bathrooms and menstrual care product dispensers in all single-toilet public bathrooms, according to the resolution.

The document co-authored by Commuter Student Senator at-Large Lukas Phipps and Class of 2022 Senator Abhy Patel, who is also chair of SGA’s Housing and Facilities Committee.

See VAPE - 5

Caroline Enos / News Editor @CarolineEnos

SGA also passed a resolution that calls for SGA to support lingual diversity and inclusion as many students are bi-lingual and international students make up 23% of Suffolk’s population.

The resolution also seeks to protect students from being penalized for speaking a language other than English in class when it does not disrupt the professor’s lesson, as well as “affirm there be no singular official language at Suffolk University,” according to the resolution.

It was written by SGA’s Diversity Committee and Phipps, the committee’s chair.

N

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Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker made waves when he moved to outright ban the sale of all vaping products in the Bay State, leaving many at Suffolk wondering what’s next.

Baker’s ban, which was unanimously approved by the Public Health Council on Sept. 24, will last for four months until Jan. 25, 2020. During that time, the sale of vaping products of any kind will be illegal in Massachusetts. “One of the experts said that, ‘We don’t have time to wait. People are getting sick and the time to act is now.’ I couldn’t agree more,” the Republican said during his declaration of a public health emergency. The move comes after a spate of vaping-related illnesses and deaths nationwide. Just under 1,500 cases have been reported as of Oct. 15, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Thirty-three people, including at least one in Massachusetts, have died. Symptoms of vaping-related illness include “rapid onset of coughing, weight loss and significant breathing difficulties,” according to NFR. Additional symptoms include nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Although symptoms typically occur within days, it can take weeks for them to fully develop. The CDC advised users to “consider refraining from use of all e-cigarette and vaping products” until the cause of the illnesses is discovered. Students say vape products aren’t the problem. “If you look at the overall use of cigarettes and lung cancer—I don’t think that [vape products] are the main cause of smoking-related illnesses,” said Shan Shiraze, a finance major, to The Journal while smoking JUUL outside Sawyer building. “I think the whole situation was over exaggerated,” said Shiraze. “There was not enough sufficient evidence and actual proof for the ban.” Senior Gabby Dulong told The Journal she doesn’t smoke anything but JUUL, one of the most popular vaping brands in the nation. “So it’s annoying I have to buy pods from New Hampshire. I’m an adult, I can choose what I put in my body.” For many, the ban raises a myriad of issues, from the ethics of the ban to having to travel out of state to purchase vape products. How businesses across the state—and outside of it—have been affected. The vaping industry is a lucrative business; according to the BBC, the global market for vape products, including JUUL, is now worth around $19.3 billion. But after the ban went into effect, retailers were forced to pull all vape products from their shelves, which for some meant closing up shop. Stacy Portziky, a vape shop owner in Newton, spoke with WBUR about the effect the ban has had on her business, Vape Daddy’s. “Right now, we’re just we’re sitting on it,” Portziky said, referring to her shop’s inventory. “We can’t do anything with it. We’re in a really tough spot.” “I do feel awful for the businesses that aren’t able to operate due to the ban, and the families that this affects,” Dulong said. “It’s hard as a parent to provide in the economic climate as it is, but Baker really didn’t think of all the people who own these vape shops that make money off adults paying money for these products.” States surrounding Massachusetts continue to sell vape products and some, like New Hampshire, even sell these products to anyone over the age of 18. According to WBUR, New Hampshire businesses that sell vape products and are close to the Mass. border have seen a surge in sales of the products since the ban was implemented. “I don’t smoke anything but JUUL,” senior Gabby Dulong told The Journal. “So it’s annoying I have to buy pods from New Hampshire. I’m an adult, I can choose what I put in my body.” Caroline Fletcher, a psychology and advertising major, said in an interview with The Journal that people who vape won’t stop. Rather, they will find other ways to obtain vape products. “Or they’ll just smoke cigarettes as an alternative,” said Fletcher. Some worry the ban could lead to spike in cigARETE USE. A real concern for many is that former tobacco users will return to tobacco products like cigarettes. As of publication, there are no plans to ban cigarette arities in Massachusetts, although a national ban on menthol-flavored tobacco products has been hotly debated. “I’d hate to see all the people, young and old, who have used vaping to quit more harmful smoking methods go back to those methods, despite years of avoiding it,” said Hannah Bakiri, a junior. Jacob Murphy, a sophomore journalism major, said none of his friends who vape have turned to cigarettes, or vice versa. “Everyone I know who vapors only started with that, they didn’t go from cigarettes to vape,” Murphy said, in an interview with The Journal. Noah Forgue, a governement major, said he has
MA passes brief state vape ban

From VAPE - 4

seen more cigarette use on campus since the ban. "I don't think (the ban) is going to solve anything," said Forgue. "I think people are going to find whatever ways they can find to vape and smoke anyway, so I think it's counterproductive."

Not all on campus think the ban is a bad idea

"I think it's good because there are too many young kids getting addicted to nicotine," senior Mari Monahan told The Journal. "I mean, there's always going to be ways to get (nicotine), but at least (the ban) eliminates part of the problem."

Despite pushback and several legal challenges, Baker maintains that a ban was the right thing to do. "We didn't enter this one easily," he told reporters at an event in Blandford, Massachusetts. on Oct. 10. "We appreciate a freshman psychology major, said short-term effects of vaping may already be seen. "I was talking to someone who works at Boston Children's hospital. Kids who vape are coming for CAT scanning [lung diagnostic] and the pictures of their lungs are pitch white because of mucus," Woolery told said The Journal. "I feel that breathing is more important issue in the state. "[Ban] should focus on the trains instead of vaping," Forgue said.

Walsh to be Chief of Police

From CHIEF - 1

remember that students make mistakes and bad decisions, just like the officers did when they were young. "One of the philosophies I have tried to impart to our campus police officers is that by and large, our entire consistency—the people who we deal with—the students are all good kids."

From interacting with the students he serves to the various departments that work with SUPD, Coletta has said he fondly remembers his time at Suffolk. However, his command staff at SUPD has been "one of the best things about working here," he said. "We all get well, we all have similar philosophies," said Coletta. "We have really good support services. They are not afraid to call us with any issues they may have and vice versa. Those are the kind of things that make a job like this worth it."

As for parting words, Coletta gave advice to both the Suffolk community and Walsh as he enters the role of interim chief. "For the university as a whole, I'd like to see the entire community—students, faculty, staff—support the police department, and for the police department to continue to have positive interactions with the community," said Coletta. "(For Walsh), he knows the operation. He knows what needs to be done."

Colin Cavanaugh / Graphics Editor

Walsh to be Chief of Police

From CHIEF - 1

Coletta said helping the department become more professional is one of his proudest achievements at Suffolk. "We have instituted a lot of processes to make it easier for the officers to do their jobs," said Coletta. "If you ask others in the university, people have a better opinion of the department. Not that it was a bad department before, but just that it needed some updating and improvement."

These processes include a new document management system and new training practices. While he has had an impact on how the department runs, Kenneth Walsh, SUPD police captain and emergency manager, said Coletta has also had an impact on him and has acted as one of his mentors.

"Chief Coletta has got more energy than probably anyone I've ever met," Walsh said. "He is the hardest working guy I've come across. He has taught me a great deal about policing, and also about higher education policing."

Coletta also looked back fondly on the campus police officers here and how they make a difference at the university through their everyday interactions with students. "They learn very quickly as campus police officers how important it is to understand what their mission is," said Coletta. "Their mission is to provide safety and security for students who are here for a limited amount of time, being young adults, newly on their own, that have their own concerns and a lot going on in their own lives, with new environment and trying to learn."

"We want to make it as easy as possible for them by making them safe and secure here, by doing our job," said Coletta.

To him, it's also important for officers to
Bostonians march in solidarity with protestors in Lebanon

Murat Metshin
Journal Contributor
@MMetshin

Last Sunday, more than 100 members of the Lebanese community gathered in front of the Boston Public Library to march in solidarity with protestors in Lebanon demanding corrupt government officials to resign. A sea of red and white Lebanese flags flew across Copley Square as people crowded the area to show their support. Supporters came with whole families, wearing face paint and clothing depicting national symbols.

Protestors held signs with messages saying “We stand with our people in Lebanon” and “Give us a reason to come back home.” A sense of community was the most prevalent as people smiled and sang along with national music played through loudspeakers. The Suffolk Journal spoke to a variety of protestors to understand their perspective on the events in Lebanon.

“There is a big community of Lebanese that lives outside the country, that have grown up here,” said Nadim Chakroun, a young Lebanese man living in Boston. “We go back to visit, but we don’t really have a reason to go back because the country is so corrupt and the economic situation is not doing well.”

Suffolk students also attended the event and expressed their views.

“For years our students have been fleeing and the most intelligent and brightest students come from Lebanon,” said Karine Kanj, a government major and Suffolk sophomore, in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “Seeing them fleeing, go to other countries and benefiting other countries is really sad.”

Current anti-government protests in Lebanon started on Thursday and have already forced four government officials to resign. However, tens of thousands of demonstrators have continued to rally, demanding the government fix the economy, according to Al Jazeera.

“People had enough. For more than 30 years it’s been the same faces all over. Same corrupt faces, same people stealing from the people,” said Joseph Dawaliby, a middle-aged man who has lived in Boston for 14 years.

One of the factors that caused a spike in protests was over-taxation. The government has implemented drastically high taxes for decades, causing an uproar across the nation, according to Al Jazeera.

“They want to charge people to use WhatsApp, which is a free app and they also want to put 15% taxes on everything, including bread,” said Joella Alzaibak, a student living in Boston. “The country already can’t afford these things without these taxes.”

Another one of the most significant problems facing the Lebanese community is the high rate of corruption that has been going on for years.

Lebanon is the 37th most corrupt nation out of 175 countries, according to the 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index by Transparency International.

“It’s been an ongoing issue. We’ve been dealing with corruption for a very long time,” said Asma Mardini, a Wellesley college sophomore studying economics and math.

Mardini believes that one of the most extreme examples of corruption was the recent wildfire in Lebanon. The government budget has been so severely depleted to the point where there was no money left to deal with the natural disaster and the nation had to rely on foreign help, according to Mardini.

Lebanon has also had ongoing problems with crucial infrastructure, such as water and electricity, according to ForeignPolicy.com. Many blame the corrupt government for that.

“We can have electricity, but [the government] doesn’t want to build power plants. They just want to grant money and create deals with other countries to profit off it and put the money in their pockets,” said Mardini.

Poverty has created an extreme divide in Lebanese society and has forced many people to leave their country, including those who protested Copley Square last Sunday.

More than 25% of Lebanese citizens live in poverty, according to the Borgen Project website, a non-profit organization dealing with poverty worldwide. This is even higher in some rural areas, where nearly 36% of citizens live in poverty.

“There is more Lebanese people outside Lebanon than inside of it,” said Mardini. “They are forced to leave because they can’t make a living in their own country.”

Mardini believes that due to the lack of opportunities for social mobility in the country, more Lebanese citizens flee their homes each year with hope of finding a better place in foreign countries. “Lebanon itself already has a large gap between the rich and the poor. If you’re poor, you’re skinny poor and if you’re rich, you have money to live comfortably,” said Sorella Alzaibak, Joella’s sister.

Despite corruption, economic crisis and poverty, many feel hopeful about the protests now happening in Lebanon. Many have been connecting these protests with the new generation of Lebanese people, both in the country and overseas.

“This is the role of youth to come up with new faces, no political orientation whatsoever. That’s what we need,” said Dawaliby.

Sorella Alzaibak believes that the Lebanese youth living in countries outside of Lebanon play a crucial role in the ongoing protests.

She explained that the youth are utilizing social media to spread important information about what happens in the country - something she feels is not talked about enough in the U.S.

The protest in Copley Square has strengthened the hope that the Bostonians have for a better future for their country and in themselves.

“We are the millennials and we are all about changes. It’s okay to break traditions if they’re wrong. We’re definitely the future of Lebanon,” said Joella Alzaibak.
**GLOBAL COMMENTARY**

Turks continue to pursue Kurds in Syria, Trump continues to tweet

_**Donald J. Trump**

@realDonaldTrump

.....The Kurds and Turkey have been fighting for many years. Turkey considers the PKK the worst terrorists of all. Others may want to come in and fight for one side or the other. Let them! We are monitoring the situation closely. Endless Wars!

6:09 AM - 13 Oct 2019

Chris Sadrnoori

Senior Staff Writer

On October 7th, President Donald Trump began the withdrawal process of U.S. soldiers from Syria, leaving a key ally in the fight against ISIS - the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) - to fend for themselves from the ensuing Turkish invasion. This dangerous decision resulted in a rare instance in recent American politics: both sides of the aisle agreeing on something.

This move has been criticized by all sides, the common consensus being that abandoning a vulnerable U.S. ally is only un-American, it’s just not the right thing to do.

For nearly four years the SDF fought ISIS, at many times shoulder to shoulder with U.S. special forces. Following the withdrawal, an SDF official told the Washington Post that the forces feel "Turkey, Europe, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Russia and the Kurds will now have to figure the situation out, and what they want to do with the captured ISIS fighters in their neighborhood.”

Trump's policy has always been one of isolationism. Throughout his presidency, he’s advocated for bringing the troops home, but this is far easier said than done. The removal of forces does not mean the destruction of Kurdish forces. It means nations like Syria and Iraq are leaving the U.S. sphere of influence, effectively reducing the power and presence that has been built up there over the past 15 years.

"Anyone who wants to assist Syria in protecting the Kurds is good with me, whether it is Russia, China, or Napoleon Bonaparte. I hope they all do great, we’re 7,000 miles away” Russia certainly has interests in Syria, but more on that later. China historically does not get involved in the Middle Eastern wars and Napoleon Bonaparte has been dead for nearly 200 years.

Trump's egotistical and inappropriate actions had a startling effect already. An SDF spokesperson said that in the first days of the invasion, five ISIS prisoners escaped a holding facility in the border city of Qamishli after Turkish mortars bombarded the compound.

Some may think Trump would want to make sure all those years of fighting did not amount to nothing. The lack of accountability and security could give birth to a resurgence of ISIS in Syria. According to NBC News, an additional 5,000 ISIS prisoners may potentially escape, as the SDF are forced to abandon post due to approaching Turkish troops, leaving them completely unguarded.

Trump stated many times in the past that he wants to remove all remaining U.S. forces from the Middle East, but at what cost? The withdrawal of troops from Iraq in 2011 led to an ensuing power vacuum, giving rise to ISIS. Leaving a country that is void of a competent government can have dire consequences as has been seen throughout recent history.

Shortly after receiving backlash from even some of his closest support- ers like Senators Lindsey Graham and Mitch McConnell, Trump enacted economic sanctions on Turkey, threatening to "totally destroy and obliterate the economy of Turkey" in a tweet shortly after the initial announce- ment of troop withdrawal.

Vice President Mike Pence tried to soften the blow in the international community by speaking with Turkish President Recep Erdogan, negotiat- ing a five-day ceasefire. However, multiple CNN reports say that the ceasefire has been ignored by Turkish troops and clashes have been ongoing.

The U.S. response is abhorrent and will likely amount to nothing. Erdogan is seemingly unphased by the sanctions and after the collapsing ceasefire officially ends, he will continue his invasion in Northern Syria.

However, he may have to confront another group that has taken advantage over the U.S. withdrawal. Russian President Vladimir Putin has sent mercenar- ies into Syria, who now occupy the abandoned U.S. military camp in Manbij, Syria, according to SDF officials.

The lack of leadership and authority on the world stage throughout Trump’s presidency has been very problematic. He remained silent when Russia invaded and occu- pied Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula. He remained silent when Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince, Moham- mad Bin Salman ordered and oversaw the brutal murder of journalist, Jamal Khashoggi.

Putin, Bin Salman and Erdogan are political strongmen seeing how far they can go before Trump actually does something. So far, we have yet to see where the president will draw the line.

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**SUFFOLK CLIMATE WATCH**

**Staying hopeful in the wake of climate change**

_Olivia Acevedo_  
Journal Contributor  
@oliviaacevedo12  

We are all going to die. At some point in our lives, our time will come and we will no longer be on this Earth. It may sound morbid, but it is the truth. Chances are, cli- mate change will be the demise of humanity, but there is hope.

Many people are aware of this prevalent issue, especially in today’s society. Detri- mental damage has been done to our planet for far too long and people are now taking action. There have been lectures, protests and walk-outs by people all around the world demanding there be change.

Dr. Sylvia Earle is a well-known oceanogra- pher and biologist who has dedicated her life to saving the oceans and its species. Her pas- sions translated to her work when she went on to become the first female chief scientist of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Earle is the founder and leader of “Mission Blue,” an organization dedicated to bringing awareness and support to the ocean and its inhabitants. Various spots in the ocean, some- times the most critical spots for marine life, are referred to as “Hope Spots,” according to Mission Blue.

These Hope Spots are specific areas located all across the world. They cover key spots that are helpful for protecting certain species, ecosystems or habitats. Introducing Earle’s idea to the world has inspired many to step up and combat climate change, just like she has.

By creating documentaries and utilizing the world of social media, her passion for protecting the oceans has gained more re- cognition and support to a larger following. Bringing awareness to this mission has allowed for more environmental advocates to become involved.

It is through Earle’s hard work and optimistic vision that many are taking action to save the oceans and the environment. There are over 200 organizations that are working with Mission Blue to help save the oceans.

Earle is one of the many people that has given the world a reason not to give up yet. Despite the horrific issues we are facing today, we can still do something about it. Where there are Hope Spots, there is hope.
After returning home from a family trip to Ireland, sophomore Caitlyn Normandin knew she had to return to the Emerald Isle someday. Living in Cork has given Caitlyn the chance to experience life outside the U.S. Although she is living in a completely different country, Irish culture feels very similar to life in Boston, and she feels comfortable in Ireland. Studying abroad has also given her the chance to travel to England, Sweden, France and Italy, taking full advantage of the travel opportunities she has.
Most college students spend their summer vacations working seasonal jobs, relaxing by the beach or spending quality time with family, but vocalist Haley Solomito spent hers on tour, sharing the same stages as the music industry’s biggest names.

The Suffolk freshman and East Providence, R.I., native went up against teenage musicians from around the country to earn a spot in School of Rock Allstars, an educational program that amplifies students’ skills and teaches them how to perform like professionals. After being selected in the top 1% of everyone from the highly competitive program, Solomito joined a team of other diverse musicians working seasonal jobs, relaxing by the beach and seeing Hozier back at the festival grounds, she was surrounded by celebrities, keyboardists and drummers she was paired with played a set of 15 famous rock songs, four of which Solomito took the lead. The singer still remembers how it felt to stand center stage belting out “Thunderstruck” by AC/DC, “Volunteers” by Jefferson Airplane, “Estranged” by Guns n’ Roses and “Bodhisattva” by Steely Dan.

“I thought I’d be really nervous, but as soon as the music started, I felt at home,” Solomito said in an interview with The Suffolk Journal.

While basking in her time in the spotlight, Solomito said she was starstruck to be playing at the same event as chart toppers like Ariana Grande and Twenty One Pilots. As the teenager walked through the artist village at the festival grounds, she was surrounded by celebrities. She recalls casually bumping into Jaden Smith and seeing Hozier backstage as she finished her set.

“You had to act like you belonged, so it was a weird experience of balancing your inner fangirl and your professionalism,” Solomito said in an interview with The Journal. While singing at Lollapalooza helped Solomito gain experience performing at an established venue and large audience, she said the festival also helped her gain a newfound sense of confidence.

“I struggle a lot with self-love and I always don’t think I am where I deserve to be. (I think) I don’t belong here, everyone’s better than me,” Solomito said. “At some point, you have to tell yourself you’re there for a reason and it’s okay to say ‘hey, I’m kind of good at this’ and recognize that.”

But Solomito’s talent and success did not happen overnight. The vocalist has been perfecting her craft since childhood. Solomito said she was a quiet toddler, but after listening to an Avril Lavigne CD her older sister listened to, she kept singing and even learned how to rhyme. While singing at Lollapalooza helped Solomito gain experience performing at an established venue and large audience, she said the festival also helped her gain a newfound sense of confidence.

“If you’re really passionate about something and you’re just not good at it yet, you’re allowed to try to do it and work on it because it won’t always be perfect. You have to put it on and it taught me basically how to talk and sing at the same time,” Solomito said. “It really helped me a lot and from then on I just loved rock music.”

As Solomito got older, she kept singing and eventually began taking voice lessons. Around the age of 15, she was accepted into the School of Rock program as a vocalist. Although her time in the program is over, Solomito’s journey with music is far from ending. The early 2000s album helped her discover both her speaking and singing voice.

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Suffolk student covers rock hits during Lollapalooza tour

Haley Solomito, alongside fellow members of the School of Rock program, performing lead vocals in front of a live crowd.

The vocalist sings passionately up close to audience members.

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Review: ‘The Lighthouse’ bends horror film genre

Morgan Hume
Arts Editor
@morgannhume

Dafoe (left) and Pattinson (right) brace for the inevitable storm

People often joke about what they would do or bring if they found themselves stranded on a remote island. When that hypothetical situation becomes reality for two sailors in “The Lighthouse,” humor quickly melts into utter lunacy as their chances of escaping drift further and further away.

“The Lighthouse,” released on Oct. 18, focuses on two lighthouse workers, Ephraim Winslow (Robert Pattinson) and Thomas Wake (William Dafoe), in the 1890s. The men become trapped on a small lighthouse when a monstrous storm suddenly approaches. With nothing except hard liquor to fill their stomachs and each other for conversation, they are both slowly driven insane. The director follows their steady progress from seamen to madmen.

The movie is filmed entirely in black and white, filled with impressive cinematography that strikes the viewer right from the title sequence, making any desire for color vanish. Grainy long shots of the coastline and the old fashioned lighthouse create a continuous stream of stunning, chilling imagery.

The cinematography is the foundation for “The Lighthouse,” without it the rest of the film would fall apart. The camera angles are always changing, constantly showing the actors and scenery in unique ways. With flawless timing, the camera focuses on the actors’ faces when their eyes bulge and bodies twitch as their inclusion from the rest of the world grows.

The camera gradually pans upward through the lighthouse, starting with Winslow working tirelessly in the sweltering boiler room, all the way up the windy, narrow staircase to the top of the structure, where Wake works beside the lamp, illuminating the giant bulb towards the sea.

The screenplay, written by brothers Max and Robert Eggers, lets minutes pass at a time without the characters talking. Instead, Pattinson and Dafoe convey their thoughts and emotions through their body language. Every facial expression, chuckle or sigh has a deeper meaning. For an actor, conveying thoughts through body language can be more challenging than doing so through speech.

Due to the film’s limited dialogue, viewers anticipate every word the actors say. When the actors do engage in conversation, their words seem heavier.

But that isn’t to say that the leading men did not give a monumental performance. Dafoe’s tobacco pipe swinging loosely from his lips as he speaks in a raspy voice personifies the image of a classic sailor. The actor masters his character’s drunken stagger and harsh commands to his apprentice. He is able to portray a deranged old man and tough-loving boss at the same time.

Pattinson also delivers a raw performance as the actor fearlessly dives headfirst into his crazy and fervent character. In the beginning of “The Lighthouse,” Winslow is a hardworking man trying to earn a living from simple wages. By the end, after suffering a series of mysterious, extreme hallucinations, he resorts to becoming a vicious and ruthless individual.

Through every development of Pattinson’s character, the viewer can feel his emotions of rage and panic radiate on screen, intensifying more in each scene. Dafoe and Pattinson’s remarkable acting work a chill in the theatre long after the final credits faded out.

The use of sound added another haunting layer to the film. Everyday sounds like a seagull’s squawk and creek of wooden floorboards were amplified over the soundtrack’s slow, sonorous instrument compositions. As the music and background noise combined, they built tension subtly.

While some may classify “The Lighthouse” as another horror flick, the captivating acting by Pattinson and Dafoe combined with careful attention to detail set this film apart. Although the movie includes its share of suspense, it goes beyond typical gore and jump scares.

Notoriously foul mouthed meth cook Jesse Pinkman’s story didn’t end with the series finale of “Breaking Bad” six years ago. “El Camino,” a Netflix original film, follows the events immediately after TV show’s epic conclusion.

Writer, producer and director Vince Gilligan transitions the story into a full-length feature through a script filled with call backs to the original show, beautiful cinematography and an exceptional cast of a man without ever losing the aspects of Jesse that made the character so alluring when the show started.

If it had not been for Paul’s talent and chemistry with “Breaking Bad” co-star Bryan Cranston, the character of Jesse Pinkman would’ve been killed off in season one, as showrunners originally planned. Ten years later, he is now the main character in the “Breaking Bad” movie, which speaks for itself.

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Review: Martinez turns set into large scale production

Martinez singing "Strawberry Shortcake"

Class was in session at the Orpheum Theatre on Sunday, Oct. 19 as Melanie Martinez brought the crowd from kindergarten through high school during her Boston stop of her K-12 Tour.

Martinez's pastel-colored concert was in support of her latest record “K-12,” which dropped on Sept. 6. Through angry lyrics and synth beats, the 13-track concept album takes listeners through the hardships of each grade level that often go untaught about.

While the album relies on heavily discussing the hardships of each grade level, Martinez developed the fictional universe to critique society, focusing on issues like body image, gender roles and the loss of innocence as kids grow up.

Martinez also released his fourth studio album of his career, "K-12," on Sept. 6, marking his third album to make No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart. The album features 13 tracks and counts as Martinez's biggest album yet.

Review: Chase Rice brings southern roots to Boston

Chase Rice displayed the epitome of raw talent in his performance on Oct. 12 at The House of Blues in Boston. He is not as well known as other country artists such as Dan + Shay or Thomas Rhett, but he has the same energy and performance level as these mainstream singers.

Rice opened his show with an upbeat song “Lions,” hyping up the crowd from the very start. This track is a mix of country and rock with several drum and electric guitar solos performed by Rice’s band.

The guitarist energetically played their instruments behind their backs, showing off for the screaming fans. The drummer displayed impressive speed and coordination in his solos, which shook the entire room.

After “Lions,” Rice shifted to his more typically country vibe, with his songs “Do It Like This” and “Jack Daniel’s Showed Up.” Rice began to interact more with the audience at this point as well, reaching out and touching the hands of those in the front row and pointing out to the rest of the audience.

The singer did a wonderful job of engaging the crowd the entire time, constantly switching stage positions so everyone could enjoy his performance. Especially in a venue like The House of Blues, which is standing room only, it was necessary for Rice to move around and allow everyone to get a look at him on stage.

Rice’s sound makes him stand out from many country superstars. Too many musicians today rely on pre-recorded instrumental tracks, rather than showing live talent that goes beyond just the vocals.

Rice showed unwavering confidence, as did his band, who often joined him at the front of the stage. They jammed out together, feeding off of each other’s energy.

The audience produced an equal amount of energy. At some points, it was difficult to hear Rice’s voice over the crowd yelling the lyrics. In a smaller venue, it’s hard to take control over the roar of the crowd. However, Rice handled it well and embraced the times when the audience overcame him by encouraging them to sing even louder.
Through a mix of comedy and quick thinking, Suffolk University’s improv group Seriously Bent gets the audience involved during their weekly shows. On Thursday nights at 10 p.m., the Smith Hall basement transforms into a room of both imagination and performance.

Seriously Bent practices improvisational theatre, so they make the most of their material on the spot in front of live audiences during their hour-long shows. The cast follows a loosely constructed itinerary of skits they will perform each night. The skits are challenges the actors have to go along with to complete the scene, such as one actor wearing headphones, so they are not able to hear the other cast members while performing. The cast prepares for their weekly performances by playing games and using prompts to spark creativity.

“We do some mind games and things like that, like a word toss to kind of get our brains going,” said senior and third-year Seriously Bent member Kaleigh Ryan in an interview with The Suffolk Journal.

The shows are based solely on the creativity of the cast members and how they can maintain a plot based on the dialogue spontaneously said to one another. This past Thursday evening, eight cast members were on stage, but instead of performing scenes altogether, they rotated in and out of skits.

“We pick certain people that we think will vibrate with the group, we don’t usually go over ten or 11 members,” Ryan said. “With this amount of people, the scenes don’t get too crowded or complex.

An entertaining feature in every performance is the information the cast pulls from the audience by asking vague questions, such as someone’s favorite color, and turning the response into an entire scene.

One of the skits included cast members gradually entering the scene one at a time and changing the plot completely. As the scene dies down, each cast member leaves in the order they came in.

“Being a freshman, I was kind of worried that it would be weird because most of [the other cast members] are older, but it’s really chill,” said freshman Rebecca Tinker in an interview with The Journal.

The set formed a community within themselves. Housing creativity, comedy, and friendship for their members. The group also meets new people through having open rehearsals, which they announce on their social media pages.

“Anybody is welcome to audition, anybody and everybody,” Ryan said. “We really encourage anybody to come.

Many skits allude to well-known movies, TV shows or plays, sometimes portraying parodies of them. The scenes are never intended to focus solely on them, but the plot naturally takes the actors in that direction, which keeps the audience laughing and captivated for the entirety of the performance.

“It’s really impressive watching the cast throw a whole scene together on the spot,” said freshman business major Maddie Cannavo, who attended last week’s show.

The cast is trying to solidify dates and times for additional future performances, which are more official and held in Modern Theater once or twice each semester. Seriously Bent also performs and competes at the College Comedy Festival and the College Improv Tournament, but no specific dates for this year have been announced yet.

The club is currently closed for auditions, but they are considering holding more at the start of the spring semester in 2020.

Seriously Bent will spread all this information in the future on their social media accounts. The group can be found on Instagram @seriouslybent and @seriouslybent_ on Twitter and Facebook.

Last week, frontman Justin Vernon and his mythical compatriot members of Bon Iver brought their entire tour to the TD Garden for a stirring set that spanned their entire discography.

The occasion for Bon Iver’s current tour (a rarity for them) is the late-August release of their fourth full-length album “i,i,” pronounced phonetically as “eye comma eye.” “i,i” epitomizes the group ethic of Bon Iver that Vernon emphasizes so often in the band makes this music; not just himself. Dozens of others, far more than the average album, are credited in the liner notes for “i,i.”

While earlier works in the seminal record “For Emma, Forever Ago,” which gave us “Skinny Love” and “Re: Stacks,” featured Vernon crooning solo through prismatic auto-tune over lush guitar lines, the band’s show at the Garden last week boasted a star-studded lineup of musicians (and machines; Vernon is known for experimenting with synthesizers) behind him.

As the lights came up on stage, Vernon at center, a projected video montage played over “i,i,” the first track of Bon Iver’s latest album. The lights pulsed alongside the demo tape which, per the album’s liner notes, is really just Vernon and friend Trevor Hagen fiddling with an FM radio dial.

The new album is a declarative statement on where Vernon is now as a musician and person. He’s said in multiple interviews that his sound was influenced heavily by psychedelic drugs, which is why the audience chuckled when he spoke for the first time, saying only, “How are ya? I’m sober.”

One of the more note-worthy pieces of Bon Iver’s tour thus far has been the extensive employment of advanced light setups that, at least in Boston, included a series of a dozen or so moving mirrors above the stage. They sent beams of laser light scattering across the crowd, who occasionally added to the melee by shining their cell phone flashlights in unison, as they did during a haunting rendition of “Holocene.”

Political commentary is not uncommon for Vernon, who has strived to make Bon Iver a socially-conscious collaborative. “Sh’diah,” which closed the main set, is, per Vernon, a song about the “Worst Day in American History — the day after Trump got elected.”

“For the Lord,” the song closed, “keep it ratio nal. There’s no fountain.” That political bent was on full display at the Garden when Vernon spoke a second time to plug the Massachusetts National Organization for Women. In a short, pre-recorded speech similar to ones given at other tour stops, Vernon expounded on his feminist beliefs and encouraged others to identify as feminists.

The highlight of the show came around the halfway point as the band launched into a full-on stadium rock version of “Blood Bank,” the title track off of their 2009 extended play. The song billowed across rows of bobbing heads as Vernon utilized his incredible range to nail falsettos at the end of each refrain.
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OPINION

Don’t lose trust in the news media

America has lost trust in us. As the fake news hysteria prevails, a new Pew Research Center study has found 57% of adult Americans believe that political leaders create “a lot” of fake or made-up news. However, in the same study, 52% of U.S. adult Americans said the news media has the most responsibility to reduce the amount of made-up news. And to add to that list of menacing figures, one-third of adult Americans say the news media “is the enemy of the people,” according to a new Hill-Harris X poll survey.

So what does this mean?

It means that the 33% of Americans who believe the news media is the enemy of the people, half of them believe it is their problem to fix made-up news. They believe that the “enemy of the people” is the one that has to fix that problem so that people don’t spread it. The problem is that many of those “enemies” did not create. Some did contribute, though.

A jarring cluster of figures? Absolutely. Terrifying? In a democracy, it’s no surprise that people are tired of the anti-media. In the anti-media, the news media is the enemy of the people — the good ones, anyway — but they are right in saying lots of media is biased and unfair.

Legitimate media outlets — no, everyday people on social media attacking their keyboards at the thought of diverse ideas do not count — collectively aren’t doing enough to ensure bias is eradicated from its content or its headlines. Local news outlets are your best bet, as they are most trusted and reliable, according to the Nieman Foundation at Harvard.

If you still watch local news, you might be inclined to agree with that claim. Larger networks like Fox News and MSNBC have found to be the most biased, at No. 1 most biased, respectively, according to Business Insider, which references a survey released by the Gallup/Knight Foundation last year. CNN came in as the fifth most biased news organization in that same survey.

This is scary stuff for media students. Nearly every year during the academic year, The Suffolk Journal puts together a “Most Biased” list. Many of you reading this editorial now have picked it up one time and are now reading this. Many of you have picked it up in the past and are reading this section again. And many of you may never see this at all.

Regardless of what’s going on in our media climate — the closures of papers around the nation, distrust in big media and a struggling business model — we hope you’ll still look to us to be a trusted voice on campus.

Why do we elect to be a part of “the media,” given it’s horrific connotations within the nation nowadays? We love chasing breaking news. Many of our staff members about their favorite story; you’ll probably get a couple to tell you of a heart-wrenching anecdote about an interview they once did, or maybe they will tell you of a story they wrote that changed the way they look at this world of ours.

But above all else, we believe if the new generation of media tries to fight the good fight, not boost audience numbers by appeasing their preconceived notions of right and wrong, we’ll be okay. And as a staff, we hope that you’ll give us the chance to prove that the good fight is the fight we will continue to devote ourselves to.

-Matt Lewis
Journal Contributor
@matt_lew99

On Sept. 20, Democratic Presidential hopeful Andrew Yang tweeted the following: “As a parent of young kids I believe rampant access to pornography is a real problem. We need to empower families to be able to moderate what our kids see and when.” This tweet sparked a debate about the role that pornography plays in our society, with a host of op-eds published on various websites about the controversial, mostly unspoken issue.

Yang is right. We do need to empower families to be able to control what their young, impressionable children are seeing, but his tweet does not go far enough. It is time to ban porn.

Pornography is a scourge on society. Many men and women, young and old, watch pornography claiming that it doesn’t hurt anyone. This is wrong. Porn has real, measurable effects to harm on society. And the worst part is, more porn is being viewed now than ever before in human history, according to the anti-pornography nonprofit Fight the New Drug (FND).

Pornography is an electronic device that can surf the web and play videos. It creates unhealthy mindsets when thinking about sex and has been shown to have the same addictive qualities as drugs. According to FND, “Researchers have found that internet porn and addictive substances like tobacco have very similar effects on the brain.”

One might say that porn addiction is no different than alcoholism, tobacco addiction, gambling addiction or another addiction to some form of legal product, and that we should simply help those who are addicted and not ban the product as a whole.

The difference between the porn industry and other industries is that women are denigrated and taken advantage of under the guise of becoming rich and famous. According to the Washington Post, former porn star Mia Khalifa revealed that she made only $12,000 for her involvement in the porn industry. Not only are some women coerced and lied to about joining this industry, but this industry also fuels sex trafficking.

According to FND, there are an estimated 21.32 million slaves around the world. 22% of those slaves are sex slaves. That is roughly seven million sex slaves around the world. Porn has been proven to increase the demand of sex trafficking and many of the women in pornographic videos are sex slaves.

According to the nonprofit Rescue: Freedom, “[49 percent of former sex trafficking victims] told us that pornography was made of them while they were in prostitution.” Women are abused everyday in the porn industry, but many women are also abused because of their husband’s or boyfriend’s porn consumption.

According to a study on pornography and violence done by Mary Anne Layden, Ph.D at University of Pennsylvania’s department of psychiatry, 81% of victims of abuse said that either their partner viewed pornography or they were not sure whether or not their partner viewed pornography. Of the women who said their partner viewed pornography, 40% said that the pornography was an incorporated part of the abuse. This isn’t to say that everyone who watches porn will become an abuser, that is obviously not true, but porn does play a role in the abuse of women.

Consumers of porn also have worse relationships with their significant others and their partners. According to FND, consumers of porn also have worse relationships with their significant others and their partners.

Overall porn has myriad negative effects on society. Porn increases sex trafficking. Porn hurts relationships. Porn gets people addicted. It fuels abuse. Porn denigrates women, turning them into nothing more than sacks of meat for the pleasure of men, and not as dignified human beings.

Pornography is a scourge on society and should be made illegal.

On DEC 02, 2019 | PAGE 13

OPINION

Pornography is a scourge on society

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Matt Lewis is a Suffolk student who is a member of the editorial board. The Suffolk Journal is an independent student newspaper published by the Suffolk University student government. The views expressed here are the author's and do not necessarily reflect those of the journal, the faculty, or the university.

On Sept. 20, Democratic Presidential hopeful Andrew Yang tweeted the following: “As a parent of young kids I believe rampant access to pornography is a real problem. We need to empower families to be able to moderate what our kids see and when.” This tweet sparked a debate about the role that pornography plays in our society, with a host of op-eds published on various websites about the controversial, mostly unspoken issue.

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Pornography is a scourge on society and should be made illegal.
Imagine biting into a thick, juicy quarter pound cheeseburger. Sounds amazing, right? Now imagine that this burger isn't actually made from “real meat;” instead, it's composed of bovine stem cells. This new cell-based phenomenon is otherwise known as cultured meat.

Although this may sound like a cruelty-free practice that lets cows off the hook, there is a catch. The liquid medium that cultured meat is grown in is called Fetal Rovine Serum (FBS). While the serum contains the amino acids, lipids, sugars and hormones that the cells need to grow, it is harvested from the blood of fetal calves.

According to cultured-beef.org, cultured meat is created by harvesting stem cells from a living animal, in this case a steer, and cultivating them in a lab through a combination of a liquid medium and bioreactor technology. In this environment, the cells form strands that then combine to make up muscle tissue, which is the primary ingredient in the meat we consume. When 20,000 of these tissue strands have formed, there is enough material to create an average sized hamburger patty that's ready to be cooked and eaten.

According to an online article published by New Harvest, if a cow is found to be pregnant when she reaches the slaughter house, her unborn fetus can be removed, which automatically begins the process of asphyxiation and slowly kills the fetus. As it is dying, a needle is inserted into the fetus’ heart to extract the blood, which is then made into FBS. To be eligible for this procedure, the fetus must be at least 3 months old in order for their heart to be strong enough to puncture. This removal process is undoubtedly painful for the slowly dying fetus and is labeled as animal cruelty by many who are aware of the proceedings. While proponents of cultured meat would argue that the use of stem cells removes the presence of cruelty and slaughter, the creation of FBS most certainly qualifies as an inhumane practice and is a huge downside to the new trend.

Another negative aspect of cultured meat is the price tag that comes along with it. The first cultured meat burger was revealed by Dr. Mark Post for a taste test in London, in August 2013. This particular burger cost a total of $23,000 to make and the cost hasn’t improved much. According to The Genetic Literacy Project, a pound of cultured meat from the company Mosa Meats costs around $2,400 to make, whereas a startup called Future Meat Technologies can produce the same amount for $360. Although these are massive improvements, the amounts are still ridiculously expensive. While many companies promise a more competitive price within the next few years, it seems that any current product is likely to break the bank and commercial availability is perhaps decades away. There is another pitfall that consumers are liable to fall into that has to do with misleading labels. As cultured meat is a relatively new concept, there aren’t any clear government regulations pertaining to how it will be packaged, labeled and presented to consumers in the grocery store. The main debate over labeling concerns whether or not this cell based product can actually be called “meat.” The fear held by many agriculturalists is that, by allowing cultured meat companies to use the term “meat” to describe and market their products, consumers may be fooled into believing that they’re buying an item that was produced in the same manner as traditional livestock commodities. As there is already so much consumer misinformation caused by incorrect labeling or false advertising, cultured meat could easily contribute to that confusion.

While the concept of a cell-based product that eliminates the need for animal slaughter is an exciting one, it’s rather faulty and unpredictable when put into practice.

Mastering artificial intelligence should be the next human pursuit

In recent months, the basis of McDonald’s customer service experience has shifted. Instead of being greeted at the order counter by a McDonald’s team member who asks you what you would like to order, you are shepherded by a nametag wearing manager to one of their ordering kiosks. The tall kiosks feature freshly cleaned displays and an easy-to-use interface where customers can place their order, grab their ticket and wait for their number to be called. No human interaction and no silent judgment for the upgrade to a large fry.

When going to the Golden Arches at 2 a.m., it’s probably better not to speak to anyone. But what does this mean for those who rely on those customer service jobs to make a living? Customer service isn’t the only industry that is seeing the effects of automation. With Tesla’s Automated Semi-Trucks roaming the U.S., the transportation industry could soon be run autonomously. Ethically, the presence of these supercomputers in our everyday lives poses the question: should we as humans rely on machines to steer us into this ever-changing world? Would giving responsibility to this third-party system truly prove that humans have reached their capacity for progress? Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) is the culmination of human expertise and experience; simply another extension of what we humans are capable of. The world will see greater progress in the next 100 years because of it and that is reason enough to push forward with this kind of research.

On a much more serious note, Artificial Intelligence has seen incredible developments in the last five years and has the capability to change the way that our world works. At some point, A.I. could conceivably know the human race better than humans ever could, especially with the advances in Quantum Computing.

In a piece for Forbes, contributing writer R. L. Adams says that Quantum computing has the ability to manage and facilitate many of the modern systems in our modern world. Adam writes, “Quantum computers will not only solve all of life’s most complex problems and mysteries regarding the environment, aging disease, war, poverty, famine, the origins of the universe and deep-space exploration.” If technology has the power to mathematically calculate the solution to world hunger and push humanity deeper into the cosmos, who are we to stop it?

That being said, the power of this technology, while hugely beneficial for mankind, could be absolutely disastrous if it falls into the wrong hands. The importance of regulation and monitoring of this technology by world governments is paramount to keeping it’s power safe. Not only this but if A.I. is designed to surpass the knowledge of human beings, what is to say that these computers won’t start making decisions for themselves? Maybe not an “I, Robot” situation by any means, but who knows?

For the time being, customers will have the option to use the self-ordering kiosk at McDonald’s and have their Tesla park themselves at the supermarket, but the advances we will see in the next decade will dictate what our world is going to look like for the next century and to fight this progress would be unethical. We have a responsibility for generations to come to set a framework for how the world is going to work, and why not leave it to the machines?
Suffolk women’s soccer player battles back from injury

Jill Kohm on the sidelines with her teammates before a game

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“I didn’t know what was going on,” said Jill Kohm in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. “I was in a lot of pain and my knee felt stuck at a ninety-degree angle, I couldn’t bend or straighten it at all.

When Kohm tore her ACL in the third game of her sophomore season, her first collegiate start, she wasn’t quite sure what had happened. Kohm tore her ACL by running while she was making a run to a ball in the middle of the game. She planted the wrong way, and collapsed.

“I was running back on a recovery run,” said Kohm, “I planted the wrong way, went down, there wasn’t any contact or big collision.”

The start of the 2018 season could not have started better for Kohm. With a new head coach on the team and an extra year of physical and mental maturity, Kohm was bound to see an increased role on the field.

Three games in, Kohm had already matched her career high shot attempts, and had shown significant improvement as a defender.

When Kohm went down, she wasn’t the only one who didn’t know what was going on. It took one week of seeing trainers with no improvement in walking before the team doctor came down from Massachusetts General Hospital and suggested it could be her ACL.

“The doctor told me, that was the first moment I’ve ever been concerned about my future,” said Kohm.

Before the injury, like many athletes she knew it could happen, but never thought it would happen to her.

An ACL tear brought real challenges in her daily life, outside of not being able to play soccer. In her first ever major injury, Kohm found herself away from home not being able to walk in the middle of the city with school and work responsibilities every day.

This season, Kohm was cleared to play at the beginning of September, three days short of a full year of recovery. The process was one like many, she underestimated at first. Throughout the year, Kohm persevered and worked to the very moment she could step back onto the pitch.

“This has been the hardest thing I’ve ever had to overcome,” said Kohm. “This is the longest I’ve gone without playing soccer since I was four. I’ve always loved soccer, I just didn’t know how much I’d miss it once it was taken away from me.”

With a grueling recovery ahead of her, Kohm was more than ready to step back onto the field and play, but despite all the patience rehab demanded, she was still not ready to come back on the field.

After such a serious injury, the team brought Kohm in slowly, holding her for an extra game and limiting her minutes throughout the next seven. For Kohm, it’s been a thrill to contribute to a team she didn’t know if she’d ever play on again.

Donning a leg brace in practice and in games now, Kohm rarely ever fully puts her injury out of her mind.

“There’s been a lot of PTSD with this... I couldn’t even get out of bed by myself for a time,” said Kohm. “There’s a big fear of that being taken away from me again.”

As Kohm continues to estimate the speed of collegiate soccer, the Rams push for a home playoff game. Now in third place in the Greater Northeast Athletic Conference, Suffolk prepares to make its first playoff appearance and be a switching head coaches.

Kohm continues to be grateful for the women’s soccer in-season trainer Erin Lanni. Kohm credits Lanni for helping her get back on the field, and keeping her on track of recovery; the good, the bad, and the ugly.

“It was a very long time since I’ve been able to contribute on the field, and I have been so excited to be able to contribute to the success of my team in games,” said Kohm.

Ford Hall Forum shines light on an athletes influence

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Being an athlete brings the pressure of giving your best performance in every game or match, but what is expected of athletes off the field?

On Tuesday night, Suffolk University’s Ford Hall Forum, “Championing a Cause: The Voice of Today’s Athletes” discussed topics just like this, with renowned athletes and members of the sports community. The event was moderated by NPR’s Shira Springer.

New England Patriots safety Devin McCourty took part in the panel, coming off his team’s 30-0 blowout against the New York Jets Monday night. Former U.S. Women’s Soccer player, April Heinrichs also took part in the panel, touching on her

contribution to the first U.S. women’s National team that won the FIFA World Cup.

Also adding to insight of the forum was Rebekah Splaine-Salwasser, Executive Director of the Red Sox Foundation and Michael Bornhorst, Associate Vice President for Corporate Development and Special Events at Boston Children’s Hospital Trust.

For McCourty, lending a hand in the community and being an advocate is something that comes as a priority. As the forum opened McCourty talked about the work he’s done with his brother Jason to fight against sickle cell disease. The McCourty brothers lost their aunt to sickle cell at the beginning of this year.

“I just think it’s important because I feel as an athlete you have more of a platform than just playing the sport you play,” said McCourty in an interview with The Suffolk Journal.

“For me it’s being able to go out in the community. Sickle cell, social justice, really anything I am passionate about to go out there and lend a voice for those who don’t have a voice.”

Bornhorst said that at Boston Children’s Hospital, they are working on a drug that will cure sickle cell. He said that trials of the drug have resulted in 15 months of no symptoms in some patients. Bornhorst praised the McCourty brothers for their work with this cause.

“Back in the very beginning 10 years ago, Devin was there, he raised money for the hospital, he raised awareness... someday they’re going to hoist a trophy when we cure sickle cell and on the names of that trophy are going to be doctors, nurses, researchers, but Devin and Jason’s names will be on it as well,” said Bornhorst.

Heinrichs, talked about the way that sports and advocacy have changed since she was an athlete.

In her time on the field, female athletes didn’t have a voice, but today through many different outlets their voices are being heard.

“Female athletes connect with their fans in a social networking space and they want people to hear their voice because they know their voice is very different from male professional athletes for example,” said Heinrichs in an interview with The Journal. “Not to compare or pit against, but they just understand the message they have and the opportunity they have as role models.”

The group also discussed the actions of U.S. Women’s Soccer player Megan Rapinoe and how outspoken she’s been on political and social justice issues. Splaine-Salwasser explained that people with platforms like Rapinoe’s shouldn’t be the only ones with a voice.

“We can’t just have just have the people fighting the fight, fighting the fight,” said Splaine-Salwasser.

Patriots player Devin McCourty speaks at Suffolk’s most recent Ford Hall Forum

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Men’s soccer captains leading team to final stretch

The Suffolk men’s soccer team huddles around one another before their game against Lesley College on Sept. 7.

Christian Restrepo, Suffolk men’s soccer captain

As the 5-7-1 Rams head into their final games of the season, their record isn’t deterring them from making a final playoff push.

The team, which is led by captains Jackson Hines, Simon Velez Angel, Christian Restrepo and Jarett Davis are currently riding a two-game winning streak with four games left on their schedule. Despite holding eighth in Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) standings with a conference record of 3-4, the captains are far from deterred in their playoff hopes.

The Rams believe their hard work will separate themselves from the competition.

“We will continue to work hard, and I believe this is what will separate us from other GNAC teams,” said Hines in an interview with The Suffolk Journal.

“We have established a ‘next-man-up’ culture, driven towards giving 100% effort at all times on the field.”

Hines was a GNAC All-Sportsmanship Team selection his sophomore year, while starting all 17 games.

While their team culture pushes them forward, the Rams face circumstances that they have struggled with all season. Two out of three of their last games are away and the team is 1-4-1 on the road this year. The Rams view this as a test, but they say it’s just another challenge they will have to push through.

“Being away from home is always a hard task but this group has gone through a lot this season and I’m sure we’ll be able to battle through a few more obstacles and hopefully get that home field advantage for the playoffs,” said Restrepo in an interview with The Journal.

Restrepo was an all GNAC third team selection his freshman year, and a second team selection his sophomore year.

Considering that his teammates play has earned them various accolades and helped get the team to where they are now, Hines is confident in his team’s abilities despite the team being under .500 at this point in the season.

“I believe our team will respond positively given our circumstances in postseason seeding,” said Hines. “We are focused on getting as high a seed as possible in our playoff run, so we will be focused on getting results whether it be on our home field in East Boston or at another school.”

Each captain has their own strategy for leading the team during such strenuous times.

“Being a captain this year obviously hasn’t been the easiest but these guys make it worth it. It’s been difficult at times to keep the team and ourselves focused but I think we’ve done a pretty great job and we hope it’ll show in the end, we definitely have the tools to make it happen,” said Restrepo.

Hines added that being a captain, his main focus is to have the team stay committed to controlling what they can control, and responding positively to situations that might not go their way and are out of their hands.

As the season nears its end, so does the soccer career of all four senior captains. As their senior day approaches, the captains took time to reflect on their Suffolk soccer experience.

Hines said it is bittersweet that his Suffolk soccer career is almost over. He said the program has given him the opportunity to play the game he loves with the people he loves. He added that the coaches and athletic staff have been huge parts of his Suffolk experience.

Restrepo said that Suffolk soccer has given him an experience that would be impossible to have anywhere else. He says every teammate and coach he has been around has shaped him into his current self. He hopes he can leave a mark that will last for years to come.

Both Hines and Restrepo are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be captains.

The experience I have had during my years as a captain has shaped me into the person who I am now, thanks to the extraordinary people I have surrounded myself with on the men’s soccer team,” said Hines. “As a captain, I feel honored to have represented the program with my teammates the last four years. I would not trade anything for this opportunity to be a leader of the team.”

Hines also says he believes his team is very ready for the times ahead.

“I don’t believe these are strenuous times for our team. Our team is ready to make our playoff push because we have been preparing all season for this very moment.”

The Rams honor their seniors on Oct. 26 at East Boston Memorial Park. Senior Day festivities are scheduled to begin around 11:45 a.m., with a noon kickoff vs Colby-Sawyer.