Suffolk students prepare to open for Tory Lanez at Royale

Oba Osheghali

As a young creative it can be hard to find your footing, and the right support on your way to becoming a fully matured artist. Oba Osheghali has been taking these challenges head on his whole life, and on Oct. 11 at Royale he will see years of work come to fruition when he steps on stage in front of hundreds of his peers as the opening act for Tory Lanez.

Ishan, the name Osheghali makes music under, is also the name of the Nigerian tribe his family descends from, himself being first generation American. The New Hampshire native started singing before rapping, but says when he was 12 years old he started to find his passion.

Liv Dulong

Liv Dulong has always had aspirations of sharing music with a larger audience, but the self-taught DJ never thought she’d earn a spot on the Royale nightclub stage as only a junior in college. The Suffolk student and Suffolk Free Radio (WSFR) program director will be sharing the same stage as Grammy-nominated rapper Tory Lanez when she opens for him at the Student Government Association’s (SGA) fall concert on Nov. 11.

“I’ve always really liked playing music for people and giving people music, so DJing is definitely a good way for me to express my love for music and giving that to other people and having them enjoy it,” said Dulong.
A blast from the past...

 COURTESY OF THE MAKLEY ARCHIVE & INSTITUTE

[Left] A photo of Temple Street showing the entrance to Suffolk’s old Donahue Building during the 1970s. [Right] The entrance of Donahue photographed in 2019. In 2015, The Archer and Donahue academic buildings were sold.
World literature class brings light to global issues

When English Professor Bryan Trabold begins his World Literature in English class, he asks students for the first words that come to mind when they think of Africa. 'Safari' and 'Giraffe' are typical answers, though as students who take this class find out, these words don’t really correlate with the continent.

"The combination of little coverage of Africa in [high schools] and little coverage in the media means that many people are obtaining their impressions about Africa from American popular culture," said Trabold. "And that, to put it mildly, can be problematic."

The main goal of the class is to broaden students’ outlook on the world and inform them about African cultures and history, as well as women's issues in the world. This class has been offered since the spring of 2011, and it fulfills students’ social and cultural global perspective requirement. Trabold seeks to bring awareness about Africa to the classroom setting through both film and literature. In his offering of the course, students will read everything from a memoir by Mark Mathabane, who grew up as a black South African under apartheid, to the plays by Athol Fugard, who examines the devastating impact of apartheid. In reading these combinations of text, Trabold said he thinks it helps to dispel the myths and false assumptions many people have about Africa and the people who live there.

"The characters in these texts, both real and imaginary, reveal the full humanity and remarkable complexity of people," said Trabold.

In the class, students learn why the United Nations categorized apartheid as a "crime against humanity." This system, Trabold said, had a catastrophic impact on millions of people over a period of four decades.

"I’m not exaggerating..." See WORLD - 5
Off-year elections bring changes locally, nationally

Nick Viveiros
Senior Staff Writer
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Across the Bay State and the nation, many voters took to the polls last night in what proved to be an important off-year election.

In Boston, new faces were guaranteed to appear on the Boston City Council after Tim McCarthy, Josh Zakim and Mark Ciommo chose not to seek re-election. They will be replaced by Ricardo Arroyo, Kenzie Bok and Liz Bredon, according to UniversalHub.

Arroyo is the son of one former city councilor and brother of another. Bredon, an Oak Square activist, was running for office for the first time. Incumbents Lydia Edwards, Ed Flynn, Frank Baker, Andrea Campbell, Matt O’Malley and Kim Janey all held on to their seats, according to preliminary results from Boston’s city website.

In Fall River, the race to watch was for mayor. Currently under federal indictment, Mayor Jasiel Correia (D) announced taking a leave of absence, but not before qualifying for the ballot Tuesday alongside former School Committee member and high school principal Paul Coogan. City Administrator Cathy Ann Viveiros, who had run for mayor five times previously, announced a write-in bid.

Coogan beat Viveiros and Correia, garnering 10,653 votes to 1,756 write-ins including votes for Viveiros, and Correia’s 1,002 votes, per unofficial results.

In Kentucky, Attorney General Andy Beshear (D) ousted incumbent Matt Bevin (R) 48.9% to 48.7%, according to The New York Times.

“People are hungry for a governor that listens more than he talks and solves more problems than he creates,” Beshear told NBC Lexington earlier Tuesday. Bevin was well-aligned with President Trump, who stumped for Bevin on the campaign trail.

In Virginia, control of both the commonwealth’s Senate and House of Delegates was up for grabs. At press time, the Democrats held 22 of the 40 State Senate seats, stripping the Republican Party of its majority in the chamber. They held 53 of the 100 House of Delegates seats, winning a majority in that chamber, as well, according to The New York Times.

The election was viewed by many pundits as important not only because of Virginia’s importance as a swing state, but because of a long-forgotten amendment to the Constitution. It is expected that, under Democratic control, the legislature of Virginia will move to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, setting up a showdown over its ratification. Only one more state’s support is necessary for ratification.

Mississippi also held gubernatorial elections on Tuesday, although the results were far less consequential. Republican Tate Reeves is projected to win with almost 55% of the vote.

The election was seen as a potential bellwether headed into next year’s presidential race.

“The 2019 elections allow us to take the country’s temperature ahead of the knock-down, drag-out clash of 2020,” said Nathaniel Rakich and Geoffrey Sholley of Nate Silver’s FiveThirtyEight.

This week in SGA...

Resolution asks administration to list contact info on Ram Cards

SGA passed a resolution at its Oct. 31 meeting that recommends the university print contact information for certain campus resources on all new Ram Cards.

A phone number for the Counseling Health and Wellness Office’s crisis number will be included in the back of Ram Cards beginning next year. The websites for Suffolk’s general directory and Division of Student Life will also be printed there.

Currently, only the phone number for the Suffolk University Police Department is printed on Ram Cards.

The resolution’s authors said it is important for students to know where to turn if they need mental health support, or help in other areas.

“I also don’t think that a lot of (contact) information is well-known by the student body, and not everyone is always comfortable asking where they can find the contact information for certain student resources,” said Class of 2023 Senator Cecilia Gonzalez, who was one of the resolution’s authors.

Gonzalez said other universities already list contact information for similar student resources and that “it would be foolish for Suffolk not to do the same.”

Class of 2023 Senators Ana Luiza Bernardes and Sabrina Liu, and Commuter Student Senator at-Large Lukas Phipps, also co-authored the resolution.

During the meeting’s open forum, Phipps recognized the Armenian Genocide.

“As I’ve heard a lot of comments from my constituents, I’d like to use my position of privilege in speaking on this recent matter,” said Phipps, referring to a bill passed in the House of Representatives last week.

In the bill, the House formally recognized the killings of 1.5 million Armenians in 1915 as genocide.

“I believe it is important to recognize the Armenian Genocide just as we acknowledge formally recognized genocides like The Holocaust, Rwandan Genocide, and ones yet to be recognized that we need to, such as the one against Indigenous people in the U.S. and the one against Africans victimized by the slave trade.” said Phipps.

Dennis Hernandez was also voted in as a member-at-large.
Suffolk reacts to Sen. Warren’s bill for student loans

Professor Trabold class to educate outside of literature

Every person on the planet should learn about apartheid and the courage of those who resisted it,” said Trabold.

Trabold hopes the class encourages students to take more courses about other cultures, whether the classes are required or not. He has already seen the course help students gain an interest in Africa and the world around them and bring these lessons back to their own cultures.

One Saudi Arabian student in his class was so inspired by one of the course readings, “Kaffir Boy,” that he wanted to get it translated into Arabic.

Trabold said the student felt the story would resonate with people from his own country. The student reached out to the author and even received a response, as well as contacted people in Saudi Arabia to help translate. Though unsure if the student was successful in getting the book properly translated, Trabold is sure that this is something that made him realize how powerful the book was to the student.

Trabold himself has also spent a significant amount of time studying the continent. He lived there from 1998 to 1999 with his wife while they were graduate students, and has been back four times since. Though he had been interested in certain African countries, that period of living there is what truly struck him and led him to be as passionate as he is about Africa.

“It’s a remarkable place with remarkable people and a remarkable history,” said Trabold.

One of the most jarring things he said he witnessed while in Africa is the poverty there, and Trabold said there are people who will attempt to immigrate to South Africa, as it is a richer and more developed country than others on the continent. Though there may be parts of South Africa that are deeply poverty-stricken, it’s worse in other countries.

“There is, of course, poverty in the U.S. but the poverty I’ve observed in South Africa is at another level.”

Trabold said students should remember at the very least that Africa is a continent that consists of 54 different countries and it is very, very diverse.

“People walk away [from this class] with at least an introduction to some important ideas to consider when thinking about Africa,” said Trabold.
Award-winning Israeli author shares personal stories with Suffolk community

Shoshana Madmoni-Gerber (right) moderates event with Ayelet Tsbari (left)

The Suffolk University community had the privilege of speaking to award-winning Israeli author Ayelet Tsbari. The author, famous for her memoir “The Art of Leaving,” held a discussion in 73 Tremont’s Poetry Center last Thursday.

The room was packed with an intrigued audience, all there to hear Tsbari’s moving story. She openly discussed her personal stories with Suffolk community members to participate as well.

In her book, Tsbari and her family, but still felt like an outcast because of where she was from.

About two years ago, Tsbari and her family moved back to Tel Aviv. She wanted her daughter to be immersed in the culture of Israel and to learn Hebrew as a primary language.

She changed various aspects of her career — one of the most significant being when she shifted the language she writes in from Hebrew to English. This was a point of contention for her and her following of readers.

“I was a new writer, I was different, and ultimately it turned out, a better writer,” said Tsbari speaking about writing in English rather than Hebrew.

In Tsbari’s life, she never saw herself writing in English because it was her second language. After taking about a two year break from writing, which she credits to writer’s block, Tsbari began writing in English to explore the differences of storytelling.

“I knew that most people I knew personally wouldn’t read [the book],” said Tsbari during the event.

Tsbari grew up in Tel Aviv but eventually moved to Canada to start a new life of her own. While living in Canada, she met her husband and started a family, but still felt like an outsider because of where she was from.

The Art of Leaving draws from Tsbari’s experiences with grief, finding love, raising a family and searching for her own identity along the way. The book is a composition of essays written over a span of 12 years.

“I lived my life, making sure I had stories to tell,” said Tsbari during the event.

As a Yemeni woman, Tsbari struggled with her identity growing up in Tel Aviv. Arab Jews, otherwise known as the Mizrahim, often face discrimination in Israel based on their arabinah. Tsbari, who recognized that she is easily identified as an Arab by her physical features, struggled to accept this part of her identity. She was embarrassed when her grandmother would speak Arabic, and suppressed that side of her cultural identity for the majority of her childhood.

“There’s something about writing a narrative of your life that does bring clarity,” said Tsbari during the event.

Tsbari spoke and read Hebrew. She announced towards the end of the event that she is officially working on a novel that is going to be fiction, but she gave no other details.

Tsbari taught as a professor in Canada during the 20 years she lived there at the University of Toronto’s School of Continuing Studies. She now teaches creative nonfiction courses at Tel Aviv University.

“I really try to understand where the writers come from,” said Tsbari to The Suffolk Journal, while explaining how her memoir affects how she teaches. “I understand that they’re experts of their own experiences and not be prescriptive to writing guidelines, understand that they have a voice and try my best not to crush that.”

Both Madmoni-Gerber and Tsbari are Yemeni women who left Israel and are now involved in the literary community. They met while participating on a panel dedicated to Yemeni history and cultural identity.

They left many perplexed and concerned about its lack of effort to address the climate change. California has been ferociously burning due to the most destructive wildfires in the state’s history, according to the New York Times. The past three years have especially begun to take a toll on the land and the people inhabiting it.

The past two years alone have resulted in 24,000 California homes utterly destroyed, 126 dead and 460,000 acres burned, according to the Times. This does not include the current fires taking place today.

This week was a difficult one for California, as the blazes spread across the state. CBS News reports that since the 70s, “California’s annual wildfire extent increased fivefold.”

Scientists have agreed that these natural disasters correlate heavily with climate change. Average temperatures in the past decade have increased over two degrees Fahrenheit. Humidity has caused brush to dry faster, allowing for fires to start due to low moisture deficit.

“It’s not likely to get better as we continue to warm the climate,” said Jeff Berardelli, a CBS News climate weather contributor.

The recent fires have been increasingly dangerous. They’ve left communities in extreme distress. The Los Angeles Times reports how power outages have caused regions to go without cell service, traffic lights or emergency information. Local roads were jammed with residents trying to evacuate. The scene is becoming that of an apocalyptic film - except this time, it’s not on a screen, it’s in our backyards.

Though climate change is an important factor, the increase of residents occupying local towns also raised cause for concern. CBS News has reported on the millions of Californians bound by electricity shut-offs to prevent power lines from sparking.

Since climate change is making its mark on the state, things will only worsen. The Los Angeles Times reports how the state will have to compete with coastal erosion, deadly heat waves and floods as a result from everything that is already happening.

In response, the state is cutting greenhouse gas emissions to try to slow the effects of climate change.

According to the New York Times, many locals are upset with the White House and its lack of effort to address the climate issue that is plaguing our society. The U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord left many perplexed and concerned about what is to come.

HELP WANTED:
Interested in foreign policy, global climate or have an international perspective to share? Contact the world news team!
suffolkworldnews@gmail.com

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Suffolk veteran responds to U.S. military action overseas

Murat Metshin
Journal Staff @MMetshin

While the country prepares to celebrate Veterans Day by- week, one Suffolk University veteran has spoken out about his experience in the military and the current motives of the U.S. military.

As a recruitment & education advisor in the Veteran Upward Bound Program, Nicholas Charrette spent more than four years at West Point Military Academy and at Camp Humphreys in the Republic of Korea.

“The army for me was kind of a reset button. It was a way for me to reset my life. Figure out what I want to do, because at the time I was kind of lost,” said Charrette, a veteran working in the Center for Academic Access & Opportunity at Suffolk.

Charrette said that he left the army with a set of important skills like discipline and organization that have helped him in his life.

“Also, while serving in Korea we lived in the same barracks with Korean soldiers who were quote-on-quote ‘loaned’ to the United States army for their translating skills,” said Charrette. “It just kind of opened me up to the different cultures and to be able to appreciate whatever different person has to offer.”

There are numerous programs and foundations in Boston that aim to help veterans adapt to civil life, like the Home Base Foundation, a partnership with the Boston Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Home Base was designed to overcome common barriers and to care for returning veterans, according to the Foundation’s website.

However, there are many problems veterans face upon their return home, many of them fail to adjust to civic life.

“The homeless veteran population is a huge problem,” said Charrette.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, there are 37,878 homeless veterans in the U.S. That makes up approximately 9% of all homeless adults.

Charrette believes that today’s society often lacks support when it comes to the problems of homeless veterans.

“People care about homeless veterans when it’s convenient for them but no one wants to talk about it when it comes to taking money from another group of marginalized people and redirecting it to homeless veterans,” said Charrette.

“You walk by them on the streets every day, you might not even know they are veterans, but I really do thank those people,” said Charrette.

While Charrette is grateful for what he gained from his personal experience in the military, he expressed concern with the current direction of U.S. military operations.

On Oct. 21, U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper went to Kabul, Afghanistan, where he announced that U.S. military reduced its authorized strength by 2,000 soldiers, according to The Washington Post.

“I think that a lot of people might agree with is Syria where the president is pulling out troops,” said Charrette. “I never went to Afghanistan or the Middle East in general, but if you were a veteran who served with Kurdish forces and then all of the sudden you got pulled away it’s like – what are they gonna think of you, what are they gonna think of America?”

Previously, the U.S. military had around 1000 troops in northeastern Syria fighting ISIS along-side the Kurds, according to The New York Times.

“President Trump’s withdrawal from the region last month caused negative reactions both among U.S. soldiers who fought in northeastern Syria and their recent allies – the Kurds. According to The New York Times, American soldiers said that they are “ashamed” of their withdrawal and the Kurds claimed that they “got abandoned.”

“To me it’s just going to build more discontent. It sends a message that we don’t care if we pull out in that matter,” said Charrette.

Currently, there are several veterans attending Suffolk University through the Yellow Ribbon GI Program for Veterans and the Veteran Upward Bound Program.

“At least from my knowledge of veterans services were right before 9/11 they’ve definitely gone better,” said Charrette.

Leo Castaneda-Pineda
Journal Contributor @leo_cpineda

With such a diverse student body from a variety of places, it can be difficult for every student to find their place on campus. Suffolk’s many cultural clubs are meant to bridge that gap, but sometimes people still feel left out.

Mexican Student Association (MSA) president, Saenz, said that he started the Mexican Student Association (MSA) to create a community for Suffolk’s Mexican student population.

“There was really nothing on campus for the Mexican students,” said the MSA president and junior entrepreneurship major.

With the help of the Student Leadership and Involvement office and Gregory Jabut, director of international programs and services at the division of student success, he decided to start building a home away from home for those students.

“I want to bring more Mexican students together and kind of get to know each other,” said Saenz.

“There’s a lot of international students from Mexico who have just gotten here this semester and want to know more people like themselves.”

Saenz hopes to make the club more interactive for Mexican students. He explained that he wants to connect members with the Mexican Consul General for Boston, Alberto Pio Garza, with whom he has met, and even invite him to Suffolk for a talk.

The Mexican Consul helps immigrants with many legal issues or procedures, such as paperwork for visas. They also hold various cultural events.

Garza can help students get involved and connected with the services the Consul offers.

The club’s main goal is to give members the chance to connect with one another, especially through events like pizza nights or bowling. These events will allow students to have fun and learn while making friends and finding a community here at Suffolk.

MSA is also looking forward to co-sponsoring events with other cultural clubs, like the Asian American Association. They have discussed having events that relate to various aspects of Mexican culture in the future.

Next year, the MSA wants to participate in the celebration of Mexican Independence Day in September.

“The Consul General throws a big celebration, and we’re going to be part of that next year,” said Saenz.

The event celebrates Mexican culture through food, live mariachi music, a DJ, traditional dances and games. There are also slides and activities.

This event will give the Mexican students a taste of home and a connection to the Mexican population here in Boston.

The rest of the MSA E-board consists of sophomore Javier Alonso as the vice president, junior Frank Clark as the treasurer and junior Xatxani Herrera as the secretary.

The club meets biweekly on Tuesdays from 12:15-1:30. Saenz hopes the meetings will remain in Samia 114, though he will make interested participants aware of any changes.

Any interested can follow @msausuffolk on Instagram for that information.

Mexican Student Association provides sought after community for students on campus

Suffolk University
Junior government major Emma Moller was ready for a change when she hopped on a plane to Ireland where she would spend her fall semester. In her first few months at University College Cork, she has spent her time exploring the countryside and meeting new students. In addition to her classes, Emma has pushed herself to get involved with more school events and to talk to students from all different backgrounds. While her adjustment process was challenging at times, she feels it helped her grow and gain a new level of confidence. Emma has plans to travel to London and Amsterdam during the rest of her time abroad.
From OBA - 1

"I put my mic in between my clothes, to drown out the sound, and I was rapping inside my closet," said Osheghali. "I had my computer set up next to me on a bunch of shoe boxes and that was my studio per say."

Growing up listening to Biggie, 50 Cent and Joey Bada$$, he says he was influenced heavily by the old school East Coast sound. The rapper draws inspiration from those who came before him, but he keeps his content true to self.

"My biggest philosophy is never write something I don’t do or never comes from my life," said Osheghali. "Writing is easy if you’re just writing to write, but if you’re writing with a purpose of putting out a message, or the purpose of writing for the art, you’re going to be putting your best foot forward when you step on stage next Monday night."

As far as the concert, he said he’s not nervous, but ready for this next challenge. Starting out he said people would listen for the novelty of hearing a friend’s music, now he says he feels genuine support.

"Once I got to college, I had all these people actually care about my music and care about the process of making me," said Osheghali. "It’s going to be really nice in the moment to see all those people supported and having that moment I’m excited for it."

While he has done open mics and other gigs before, this show is special, his craft will be on display for a sea of faces he passes every day in the halls of Suffolk.

His set will be 30 minutes and will feature songs from across his catalogue. Osheghali also plans to throw in a few remixes of popular songs he hopes will get the crowd involved.

There’s no doubt he will be putting his best foot forward when he steps on stage next Monday night.

For now I’m cool with all the levels they were founded under."}

From LIV - 1

Dulong recently started plying her path in the world of DJing this summer. She spent her time off from classes experimenting with a mixer and playing music for incoming freshmen during orientation sessions. When the fall semester began, she performed on stage at the Back Bash and student involvement fair in the Boston Common.

With a heightened passion for DJing after playing at school events, the young artist is ready to put her best foot forward.

"I didn’t think I’d be doing this at 20 years old...I honestly thought it would take me like 4 years. I thought it would be something I’d pick up after college," said Dulong.

Her setlists usually contain a solid combination of upbeat throwbacks and current pop chart toppers. For her Royale debut, however, she plans to play a mix of rap music to get the crowd hyped for Lanez’s set.

"As the concert date creeps closer, Dulong has been spending more time practicing behind the DJ console. Time flies when she shuffles through music in her apartment, seeing which tracks fit and which ones don’t."

"My roommate probably hates me, but I was just playing music for an hour trying to pick out good songs that I’d want to put in the set list," the artist said. "It’s just a big process of what I think is going to go over well and what I think people wouldn’t want to listen to."

Dulong said that every- one has an individual style of DJing, and she has steadily been figuring out hers. She has been in the zone preparing for the fall concert, constantly on the lookout for new tracks in record pools, fiddling with different software and researching more about the craft.

"What’s funny is that months ago I really thought DJing was like picking up music from Spotify and mixing it and whatever. Then I took the whole summer really to just work on DJing and figuring out different sound and different programs to use," she said. "It’s definitely a lot more complicated than I thought it was, but I feel like I’ve gotten used to it fairly quickly."

Dulong’s upcoming set at Royale is more than a one night only show. With a supportive crowd and friends cheering her on from the dance floor, the set will help her break into the nightlife scene.

"It’s definitely going to be a good transition for me to go from doing school events to stepping into a club and being on stage, and actually playing music. People want to dance to," she said.

Although the night is sure to be nerve-wracking, Dulong is ready to use this performance as a push in the right direction to help her branch into more local clubs and venues. In the near future, she hopes to DJ as much as she can around the city.

For now I’m cool with sticking with the Boston clubs and bars and DJing there and seeing where that takes me," she said. "Who knows? Maybe someone will pick me up on the way."

Lisa Jedeoun (President) to the right and Forum Patel (Vice-President) to the left

New student organization hits the runway

Julia Ahasey
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Many Suffolk students have a passion for fashion, but no place to share it. Lisa Jedeoun realized that plenty want to learn more about style and share their ideas, and took action to create a space where those ideas could be expressed.

Jedeoun is an international student from Germany studying public relations. She was inspired to start a new on-campus organization at Suffolk dedicated to fashion, titled SU Fashion. The fashion club aims to boost students’ confidence through clothes and make them feel comfortable in their style. Jedeoun, the president of Suffolk Fashion, decided to start this group based on her own experience of not having proper clothing and her fellow student’s interest in her choice of attire.

"I am really into fashion and people at Suffolk would always come up to me asking me where I got certain things from and how I manage to dress up every day," said Jedeoun. "Therefore I decided to start Suffolk Fashion to have a group for students that want to learn more about fashion and people that are already into fashion."

She has collected a group of Suffolk students who come together, share their different aesthetics and help each other find their own unique sense of style. They hope to develop a community where they all can share the same interest.

"I hope that this can be a club that will be fun but helpful at the same time for students. We plan to boost people’s confidence through fashion and make them feel good about themselves," said Jedeoun. "I hope in five years the club is continuing to grow and uplifts the values they were founded under."

Suffolk Fashion will host meetings every Thursday during activity’s period. During these meet- ings, they plan to have workshops regarding different topics. They intend to discuss the importance of putting together outfits for certain occasions as well as dressing professionally, thriving, resylling and more. Meetings will be catered to what excites and inspires the club’s members.

For their first event, the club hosted an ice cream social on Oct. 31 in the Sawyer building to kick off the semester and meet all those interested in taking part in their organization.

All are welcome to join this new organization. SU Fashion’s E-board consists of Suffolk students with all different majors and interests, any level of experience is welcomed.
King Princess anything but cheap in latest record

**ALBUM REVIEW**

**King Princess** blurs fashion lines with her androgynous aesthetic

**Abby O’Connor**
Journal Staff
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Genderqueer pop sensation King Princess lays out heartbreak in chronological order on her debut record “Cheap Queen” released on Oct. 25.

Within the time she dropped her first three singles, Mikaela Mullaney Straus, known by her stage name King Princess, went from unknown to gaining millions of listeners almost overnight. Thus, the pressure was on to come out with an album up to par with the success of her early releases, and though she struggled, she did not disappointed. Staying true to her genderqueer roots from her first hit “1950,” she’s seeking to broaden the pop music world’s representation with different points of view.

“Cheap Queen” is named after the record’s title cut and draws from a story for a queen that is “making something out of not very much.” The album is a raw, vulnerable telling of one of the hardest years of Straus’s life. The combination of coping with an unexpected, rapid success along with being in love and not knowing how she feels about her body is what shaped her emotional record.

The first track “Tough On Myself” opens up about grappling with her view of herself, in reference to relationships and her struggle with sudden fame. The lyrics, “I get too tough on myself, sitting alone, making fun of myself,” are arguably some of the most relatable from the album. Though most of the lyrics repeat, the downcast yet catchy beat will have listeners replaying this track again and again.

Straus’s unexpected rise to celebrity status caused a lot of pressure and anxiety to fall on her shoulders, but she opened up about how fame was getting to her head. In the track “Cheap Queen,” she explores the highs of fame, noting how it can be both good and bad.

Following this track, on the fourth song “ Ain’t Together,” she goes on to sing about the kind of relationship most people have been in before, stuck in limbo with no real label. It discusses the pressure there is to be “chill” and the pressure to not put a label on anything. Though the album as a whole is exposed and easy to identify with, this track is one of the closest depictions to relationships in this generation that has been released in a long time.

The sixth track “Homegirl” explores her feelings of being gay, especially in a world where men can be brazen and disrespectful. Straus let her feelings pour out in this song, in the sense that regardless of how the queer community may be treated in public by men, she’s not going to let it affect the way she acts or feels about her relationships.

Though her opening song is a downcast track, the 10th song “Watching My Phone” is undoubtedly the most melancholy one on the album. Straus goes from her claim of being too cocky and “everyone wants me,” to admitting the emotional shortcomings she faces when watching her phone, thinking about her significant other.

The contrast between her tracks on “Cheap Queen” overall is a representation of her as an artist, as even her name itself “King Princess” is contradictory. In her music videos and photoshoots for the album, she dresses up as both a cheerleader and a jock, proving she’s both masculine and feminine. The main idea she’s trying to represent in “Cheap Princess” and on the forefront of the pop music scene is that it’s okay to be both, it’s okay to be whatever you want.

Suffolk’s campus was haunted this past week after Halloween as “Night Shift,” a play written and directed by Suffolk student Nick Cenci, opened at the Sullivan Studio Theater.

“Night Shift” follows the story of Eddie, a security guard working the late shift on the Suffolk Campus during final exam week. After talking briefly with his guard form of theater that we rarely get to see all together, making fun of myself,” are arguably some of the most relatable from the album. Though most of the lyrics repeat, the downcast yet catchy beat will have listeners replaying this track again and again.

The sixth track “Homegirl” explores her feelings of being gay, especially in a world where men can be brazen and disrespectful. Straus let her feelings pour out in this song, in the sense that regardless of how the queer community may be treated in public by men, she’s not going to let it affect the way she acts or feels about her relationships.

Though her opening song is a downcast track, the 10th song “Watching My Phone” is undoubtedly the most melancholy one on the album. Straus goes from her claim of being too cocky and “everyone wants me,” to admitting the emotional shortcomings she faces when watching her phone, thinking about her significant other.

The contrast between her tracks on “Cheap Queen” overall is a representation of her as an artist, as even her name itself “King Princess” is contradictory. In her music videos and photoshoots for the album, she dresses up as both a cheerleader and a jock, proving she’s both masculine and feminine. The main idea she’s trying to represent in “Cheap Princess” and on the forefront of the pop music scene is that it’s okay to be both, it’s okay to be whatever you want.

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“Night Shift” follows the story of Eddie, a security guard working the late shift on the Suffolk Campus during final exam week. After talking briefly with his wife about his distant for the job, he decides to try and enjoy a quiet evening by listening to music and playing on his phone. The night guard sees a faulty camera forcing him to “stretch his legs” to go and fix it. The audience watches the black and white security footage of Eddie walking through the halls with sudden appearances of the antagonist, or the “boogie man,” played by Rehwandi Stroomer. Unfortunately Eddie forgets his keys, and the shadowy figure eventually catches up to him back at his desk.

Although only 12 minutes long, the audience enjoyed every part of it. The gasps and laughs from the crowd showed their true enjoyment of this unique genre of theater. The end of the play left everyone in the audience at the very edge of their seat.

The video aspect of the show kept the audience intrigued as Eddie ran through the halls of the Sawyer Academic building. The continuity of every shot played into the realistic nature of the entire play, even the elevators opening and shutting was perfectly captured on film.

**Nick Cenci debuts original play on campus**

**Mol Webber**
Journal Contributor
@molwebber

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Mason Lafferty steps into a new spotlight as he makes transition from actor to writer

Sophomore Mason Lafferty is a jack of many trades, but nothing compares to his love and passion for the theater. Lafferty, who has performed in over 60 shows, has been on stage for as long as he can remember.

“I was Jesus the first Christmas after I was born and I haven’t stopped. I’ve been in four shows a year since. I think I hit sixty-something recently. I don’t know, I couldn’t keep track anymore because I was doing too many,” said Lafferty.

After 20 years of performing on the stage, Mason has decided to add playwriting to his list of skills.

“I have started writing many shows, but I’ve never finished one before,” said the advertising and theater major.

“About a month ago, I woke up in the middle of the night and thought, ‘Oh that’s a cool idea’ and usually when I have an idea, I’ll put it in the notes section of my phone and I’ll get to it eventually, but the note got longer and longer and I said to myself, ‘Ah, I’ll just get up and write it.’”

Lafferty was able to pen the entire show in a 24-hour period. When it comes to writing, Lafferty said it is relaxing for him, even though he considers himself to be rather busy with the five other shows he’s currently performing in.

“I found it is a good outlet for closure on some topics. I have had to balance it with all the shows I’m in now. It’s all about moderation,” said Lafferty. “It’s healthy to put a script down and take some time to think about it because you can’t rush it.”

Lafferty said that his piece “La Vie En Rose” is about the one that got away and finding closure.

“It’s very generalized so the audience can relate to it no matter where you come from, who you’ve loved, if you’ve practiced theater or not, because it’s not necessarily a show about theater and you don’t need to like theater to appreciate it,” said Lafferty.

The student explained that his hope for the show is to connect with as many people as possible.

“Making the show meaningful to a wide variety of people is something Lafferty believes to be one of the hardest parts of being a playwright.

“The hardest part is putting ego aside and not allowing personal message to be your main goal,” he said. “A lot of people will try to tackle topics that mean a lot to them, and that’s good if it’s displayed properly and made relatable. Relatability is the main thing.”

Aside from minor bumps in the road, Lafferty says he is enjoying the playwriting process.

“I’ve always been the person on stage so I’ve never had the perspective of not only writing, but hopefully directing a show,” the playwright said. “I’m really looking forward to the audience’s reaction to the material. There’s a very specific tone that I’m going for, and if I achieve that, I think it will be a really beautiful thing.”

Lafferty hopes to put on this show sometime between November and February of next year. He has come a long way in the playwriting process, but he still has a lot to do before the show is ready to take the stage. He plans to submit it in the spring while continuing to workshop it.

“I’ve had a read through already, to hear what it sounds like,” he said. “There’s a professor at this school named Wes Savick who says, ‘a play is never finished,’ you just have to keep looking at it and the play will eventually tell you when it’s finished. I don’t know what the next steps are going to be.”

As for aspiring playwrights, Lafferty believes the creation process is about digging deep and really exploring your emotions.

“Write down everything. Channel your own hardships, successes and thought into writing because the best things you will create will come from lessons you’ve learned in life,” he said.

The 20-year-old thespian claims that there is a lot of hidden talent at Suffolk, and that more people should consider stepping out of their comfort zones.

“More students should audition for something or try out for something,” he said. “Anyone can do it and anyone has the potential to do it,” he said. “I would urge people to branch out and try more things in college, as I’m trying to do myself. You only live once so you might as well give everything a try.”

All photos courtesy of Mason Lafferty
MUSICAL REVIEW

‘Rent’ cast helps show remain timeless

The company of “Rent” gathers at center stage to strike a pose for the Boch Center Shubert Theatre at the end of a song.

Morgan Hume
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Although Jonathan Larson’s “Rent” is a musical reflective of the 90s, highlighting the turbulent lives of those affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the show’s themes of love and acceptance have withstood the test of time over the past two decades.

“Rent” follows a group of friends over the course of a year who struggle with addiction, disease and paying for their Lower Manhattan apartments, while filmmaker Mark (Cody Jenkins) records all of their ups and downs on camera. The Tony award-winning production is on its 20th anniversary tour, currently playing at the Boch Center Shubert Theatre.

The company did justice to the rock opera as their collection of stellar harmonies swirled through the theater. Whether the whole cast was gathered on stage for large numbers like “Rent,” a song that opened the show so strongly it could have been mistaken for the finale, or a simple duet like “Light My Candle” between Mimi (Aiyana Smash) and Roger (Coleman Cummings), their smooth voices blended beautifully.

Since there is little dialogue throughout the show, “Rent” is reliant on its soundtrack as the story is mainly told through the lyrics. The cast portrays each character’s emotions through their body language and vocals instead of the script. Even from far away, viewers could see the agony in Collins’ (Shafiq Hicks) face as he held his lover Angel (Joshua Tavares) in his arms, feeling him fade away as the fatal disease took over. When Hicks belted out the reprise of “I’ll Cover You” with heavy, engrossing vocals, it was tough not to feel choked up.

There are no kick-lines or box steps in “Rent,” setting this contemporary show apart from traditional musicals. Instead, actors daringly dance on tabletops, chairs and other surfaces. For example, when Mimi flaunts on stage for her iconic number “Out Tonight,” she balances her feet over the edge of a railing with her knee-high heeled boots. She completes the intense choreography and belts out the frisky song while climbing over the top of the fire escape.

The urban set design, a structure made out of items like metal, wire and bicycle parts, was stagnant throughout show. The cold metal and lack of furniture showed how poor the group was and created a city atmosphere.

While the backdrop doesn’t change, the altering stage lights add color to the grey stage and accentuate the performers. For example, in Roger’s ballad “One Song Glory,” a spotlight is shone from above to below him, casting a giant shadow behind him, illustrating that his problems with disease are larger than him.

The company adds a personal touch to this rendition of “Rent” in the last scene, when Mark’s final documentary is screened. A video plays above the cast, showing clips of them freely dancing in front of the camera and bonding during rehearsal. At the same time, Mark pans his camera around the theatre, projecting the same video over the venue’s walls and seats. The homemade footage ends the somber story on a softer note.

But not every part of the show ran smoothly as the company experienced a handful of technical difficulties. There was some trouble with microphones, including one scene where a hand-held microphone was brought to Benny (Juan Luis Espinal) when his headset sounded muffled.

The tall speakers on both sides of the stage also caused obstructions of view, blocking spectators seated on the left and right of the theater from seeing scenes that took place on the edges of the stage.

During intermission, a last minute casting change was announced for the lead role of Mark, switching from Jenkins to his understudy Kevin Stevens. Both actors were superb, but the unexpected change hurt continuity because the actors brought a different flare to the character. “Rent” will run at the Boch Center Shubert Theatre until Nov. 10.

HBO will release prequel to ‘Game of Thrones’

On Tuesday, Oct. 29, HBO announced it will make a prequel for its famous series “Game of Thrones.” The new series “House of the Dragon” will focus on the Targaryen family 300 years before the timeline of “Game of Thrones.” The show will also pull inspiration from the “Fire and Blood” novel series by George R.R. Martin that tells the chronological history of the Game of Thrones universe. The official HBO press release has few details about the upcoming prequel, yet fans are already creating theories since the show is inspired by Martin’s novel. The novel also tells the tale of the “Dance of Dragons,” where three Targaryeans fight for the throne and create a civil war amongst their family. According to Variety Magazine, HBO Programming President Casey Bloys stated that “the Game of Thrones universe is so rich with stories. We look forward to exploring the origins of House Targaryen and the earlier days of Westeros.” This news came hours after HBO announced they would not be continuing with another “Game of Thrones” prequel that would have starred Naomi Watts. As of right now, “House of Dragon” has been slated for 10 episodes. Martin stated he will not be taking any new scripts from HBO until he finishes his new novel “Winds of Winter,” which may delay production of the show.
The quarter-life crisis. What is it and have we felt it?

For many of us, yes. According to a LinkedIn blog post, 75% of 25-33 year olds have experienced a quarter-life crisis of some kind.

As we go through life, you might find that there’s a crisis where we hit 25% of our life expectancy, 50% and 75%, or the three-quarter life crisis. Although the majority of us as Suffolk students may have already had our own quarter-life crisis, or at least some type of crisis before it.

As we register for classes this week — or as some of us go on to graduate early this winter, our program evaluations may read that we don’t need any credits left to graduate, or we need very few.

To some of us, that may be terrifying. A large portion of college students end up changing their majors and changing their path sometimes in college. As we sit in classes that cover topics within our current majors, many of us may find that we don’t enjoy what we thought we did and soon we’re at a loss for what our passions, goals and more compasses consist of.

But fear not. If you or someone you know is going through a transitional period this fall — whether they’re questioning their academic and professional goals, whether it’s a new relationship or they’re embarking on a new soul search — nobody is alone in this venture.

The Suffolk Journal does not have the answer to these problems. But what’s important is self-discovery, taking time to do the things and activities that help you distance yourself from your current stress and surrounding yourself with people that you know well, sometimes even better than you know yourself. Many of our staff members, too, have had some type of existential crisis at some point in our time here. Many of us have changed paths ourselves.

Let it be known that decisions that you make now matter in the future. What helps many of us as lost and indecisive college students guide our decisions depends on the answers to the following questions: where do you want to be one, five, even ten years from now? When you take away the complexity of jobs, internships, program evaluations and more, what is it you actually want to accomplish? What mark do you want to leave on this world when you leave it? Decisions that you make in college right now matter. If you find yourself losing motivation as the days of 2019 dwindle away and as the semester has passed its halfway mark, remember that even though the day by day does not seem to mean much, all the things you are doing right now matter.

And no matter how you answer the important questions you may be faced to ask yourself, just know that it’s never easy. Some people go on throughout life never finding out what they want to do and some people work their lives through they did not even enjoy.

But the decisions we make now, and the fact that we’re able to face these tough decisions with the peace of mind of knowing we aren’t weak or crazy for being confused is crucial.

That club you are in, the classmate you got a coffee with, that super long research paper that you worked really hard on, visiting a professor you have never seen in a while, all these things matter and you will get through it.

The experiences and memories that make now are helping you grow as a person and even though it might seem as if you will not get through your quarter-life crisis, you will use these experiences for the next 75% of your life.

— The Suffolk Journal Staff

# Editorial

# Being unsure is more normal than you think it is

# Calling Trump mentally ill is an insult to those who actually suffer from mental illness

Nick Viveiros
Senior Staff Writer
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It’s time we stop calling President Donald Trump mentally ill.

“Chinese president’s performance on Fox & Friends doesn’t know what he’s doing. To write a book on ethics for the American Psychiatric Association. Back in the early 1970s, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) published a guidebook on ethics for the nation’s mental health providers. Section 7’s annotation reads, in part, that “it is unethical for a psychiatrist to offer a professional opinion unless he or she has conducted an examination and has been granted proper authorization for such a statement.” The section, often called the “Goldwater rule,” bears the name of former Republican presidential candidate Barry Goldwater. The controversy publication “Fact” ran an article in their 1964 edition titled “The Unconscious of a Conservative: A Special Issue on the Mind of Barry Goldwater.” The article polled a group of psychiatrists about Senator Goldwater and whether or not he was fit for the office. Goldwater sued “Fact,” winning $75,000 in punitive damages.

If the last decade of American politics has taught us anything, it’s that words matter. Their implications are serious; President Donald Trump doesn’t understand this. We must not let him get away with it. He is not just a jerk or an idiot. Some of the most talented and competent members of American society have mental health issues. The president is not one of them and the fact that he does what he does on his own accord is far more disturbing than any actual mental illness.

It’s not only wrong to say that Trump is Trump because he is Trump. It’s also a violation of medical ethics. Back in the early 1970s, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) published a guidebook on ethics for the nation’s mental health providers. Section 7’s annotation reads, in part, that “it is unethical for a psychiatrist to offer a professional opinion unless he or she has conducted an examination and has been granted proper authorization for such a statement.”

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“The customer is always right” says more about us than we think

We use generalizations to understand how we’re supposed to act. But why do we use generalizations to justify bad behavior?

Phrases that we love but are often not applicable to real life:

“The grass always seems greener.”

Don’t burn bridges.

“I’ll always love you, unconditionally.”

“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

Other people may want to be treated differently than you do but what they desire is inevitably more important.

A man walked into a bar one day for a drink. Not long after, he became very, very upset. It was an absolutely catastrophic reaction, like the kind you’d see from a toddler after being denied any assortment of things he may have wanted. Let’s call the customer John. He was being cut off at the bar after showing aggressive behavior and verbally assaulting the bartender. After asking for a couple light beers and a handful of tequila shots, our ill-mannered friend John — who embodies the relentless abuse service workers deal with on what seems like a daily basis — went on to verbally abuse the bartender.

The bartender had deemed John too drunk already and unfit for more drinks. Rightfully so — John was notorious for getting blitzed before even going to the bar, and would sometimes take out his aggression verbally on the staff.

Make no mistake; it is a sad reality for those working in the service industry. But it shouldn’t have to be. America needs a culture change. It’s been a long time coming for this, but it has to be said: employees, employers and customers alike must do away with the infamous, totally backwards “the customer is always right” attitude.

First off, it’s simply untrue. Second, the assertion “the customer is always right” indirectly condones horrible behavior by customers in bars and restaurants. In addition, it actively justifies the fact that employees must put up with cruel or foul behavior as just a means to an end: getting customers to pay their tab or check without incident.

Seems cruel, right? But what’s really causing this to happen? This is about something bigger; something many of us love to use when we discuss how we run our lives and how we organize our politics.

And that’s a good old-fashioned, relatively easy to understand blanket statement, or generalization. “The customer is always right” is one we use a lot as Americans.

We love generalizations. We love them because they require no thinking and despite their problems, they help us conceptualize life. How that’s working out for us?

Blanket statements serve nothing productive when taken literally. Most of the time, blanket statements we use quite often are untrue, completely or to some degree.

But what’s important to note is that we essentially use generalizations to help create general truths about the world. But we also use them to help justify bad behavior, often with detrimental consequences. It’sillage and generalizations that have fueled some of the deepest hate and darkest ideas of our lifetime and many that came before us and it’s a key component in identity politics. Banning customers who regularly harass is one thing, but nothing can be done for the one-time only patrons.

As consumers, we are indeed more powerful than the bartender or server taking our order by the current power structure. Some assume that acting horribly to hospitality employees will help them get what they want faster. As employees serving these consumers, we’re expected to just deal with it because the customer is, indeed, “always right.”

This mentality doesn’t only apply to service and hospitality, but it’s emphasized when dealing with customers face-to-face on a regular basis is integrated into the job itself. In many industries, the work

ers do the work and the management deals with the clients. In hospitality, this isn’t quite the case, as servers and bartenders are nearly autonomous when they’re on the floor. But our attitude towards them as consumers also makes for a culture where hospitality employees are at the mercy of their customers, no matter what verbal or physical mistreatment they may experience.

It’s incredibly difficult to think of anything that is always true, at all times, under any circumstances, aside from objective scientific facts. And even then, scientific advances change how we perceive the world and things we know to be true get replaced with new facts. The earth was scientifically claimed to be flat at one point, and — sorry, Kyrie Irving — we’ve gone on to debunk that as well.

We’re past the point in our lives where blanket statements should be dic
tating whether or not we choose to do or tolerate something. If you ask most sensible people, if we truly applied this logic to our lives, most would agree we’d be in deep trouble in a plethora of other regards after some thought.

And that’s a huge part of what’s wrong with the hospitality industry and that’s a huge part of why our culture discourages customers from being on their best behavior. This old-timey phrase must go. Asking employees to simply “deal with it” is tantamount to teaching people how to deal with harassment, as opposed to teaching people to simply not harass.

Instead, I commend my readers to do the follow

ing: use generalizations to help solve problems and shape how we look to be better people, not to rationalize the bad things in life. Use proverbs and maxims to advance your life, not justify the shame

ful behavior of you or of others. Like other words of wisdom, take the lessons they offer, but be practical with them.

And we all obviously want to deal with less hogwash at our jobs. That’s universal. In the hospitality industry, it’s mean-spirited people. Labor workers, bank

ers and everything in between all have certain wars they’d like to start on certain aspects or short

comings of their jobs.

It’s easier to complain at work about the coffee machine breaking. What you take home with you are the horrible things people may say to you. Some customers may be great, but many are not.

But it’s mentalities like “the customer is always right” and other die-hard, no excuse rules like it that lead to people getting off with being genuinely bad people doing genuinely bad things.

And that I don’t buy.

One study done in 2013 mentions that one service worker referenced the phrase itself when a cus

omer was “in the midst of abusive behavior,” and the worker claimed that a customer said if the worker wanted a tip, they should’ve been “kissing his ass, not telling him off.”

The tale of the oh-so-lovely John is not unparalleled with the tales that many who work in bars, hotels, restaurants or any other type of hospi
tality jobs may also be able to tell. But for now, it’s what hospitality workers are expected to deal with.

But without ditching our die-hard loyalties to some proverbs, we’ll just keep having problems.

But to make a blanket statement of my own, John can’t be fixed because you can’t fix stupid. Right?
Women’s basketball dribbles into new season

The Suffolk women’s basketball team poses for a picture after one of their many practices to prepare for the upcoming season.

With 16 collegiate athletes on Suffolk University’s volleyball team, Harmony Johnson sets her goals high. In her first season, the freshman has netted the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Rookie of the Week accolade four times.

Johnson won GNAC Rookie of the Week in the second, fifth, sixth, and ninth weeks of the season, more than anyone else in the conference. Head Coach Ed Leyden said Johnson is “enthusiastic, competitive and fun.”

“Each day we get better individually and as a team,” said Leyden. “The team comes in every day, works hard, has fun and pushes each other.”

Leyden has been coaching for 38 years, 26 of which have been spent with the women’s basketball team at Suffolk. According to Leyden, the team this year is centering their energy on four main ideals: teamwork, functionality, defense and relationships.

Last year’s team had a successful run, finishing with an overall record of 19-8 and making it as far as the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) Semifinals. They would drop this game 84-51 to Saint Joseph’s College of Maine.

“We are building a new team, building trust and learning to have faith in one another,” said Leyden. “It takes a while to do this, there will be ups and downs in the season.”

Leyden described the team this year as lively and having a high level of skill. The Lady Rams have two new captains this season, senior Alexis Hackett and junior Jenni Rose-Dicecco. Both will lead a team that includes four new freshmen and is made up of mostly underclassmen.

Hackett said that has always hoped to hold a leadership role on her team and now she gets to fulfill that. “(Being a captain) has been good,” said Hackett. “It is a lot of responsibility and there is more to it than just being a role model on the court, but I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

Hackett voiced her excitement for their first game, but also feels that it’s bittersweet since it’s her “last first” game in a Suffolk uniform. “I love everything there is about basketball, the competitiveness of it and seeing hard work pay off,” said Hackett. “I love my teammates and my coaches, and our little gym in the basement. It’s been the best three, almost four years playing on this team.”

Hackett shared that the team members are all very close and participate in many bonding activities, such as doing fundraisers at Boston College football games, as well as team breakfasts and pizza parties. “This year we have a great team, a lot of great talent returning and the freshmen have fit right in,” Hackett said. “We are very supportive of each other and always have one another’s back.”

But Leyden believes the new team is prepared, and is ready to take up any challenge that comes their way. He is “optimistic and positive” moving forward. “We can’t wait to play,” said Leyden. “The anticipation is really really high. I know we will play defense and share the ball. It will be a long and challenging season but I know we will stick together and have each other’s backs.”

Hackett and Leyden agreed on the team’s main goal this season: to win the GNAC Championship. Leyden also expressed the team’s desire to receive an automatic bid for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament. He said that these goals are “double and that the team has a great chance of achieving them.”

“We have the ability to win our conference,” said Hackett.

With such upbeat attitudes going into the season, Leyden and Hackett are leading the team in a positive way. “We would love to have people come out and support,” Leyden said. “If they gave women’s basketball a look, they would see that we play solid and that the girls represent Suffolk well.”
Suffolk Athletic history was made over the weekend when the Rams beat St. Joseph’s College of Maine to become the winningest team in program history (19 wins).

In a doubleheader on Saturday, Suffolk lost their first match to Simmons College, later triumphing over St. Joe’s in a five-set battle. They took the first two sets, lost the third and fourth 21-25, and secured the victory with a score of 15-11 in the final set.

“At this point in the season, the Rams were more than capable of playing under stressful circumstances such as these. The team is 7-0 in five set matches this year.

"Being in this predicament multiple times within the season, it’s as if our team automatically knows what to do when we get to five sets," said junior Dakhensëy Marcelius. “We’re not comfortable; we’re confident.”

Because of the team’s history of fifth set dominance, some players were not surprised when history was broken.

“When we won the last set I wasn’t surprised," said senior Kaleigh Khanna. "I was very confident we were going to win the fifth set but I was really proud of [us]. Something about fifth sets really gets our team going."

Last year was a very different outcome for the Lady Rams. The 2018 team finished with a record of 12-17, despite having a conference record of 7-5. Team captain Hannah Fabiano said last season was a major motivating force for this year.

“Last year was a very different outcome for the Lady Rams. The 2018 team finished with a record of 12-17, despite having a conference record of 7-5. Team captain Hannah Fabiano said last season was a major motivating force for this year.

“As a team we were tired of other teams not taking us seriously," said Fabiano. “We knew at the start of this season that we wanted to start being a team that other teams were scared to play, and we took pride in that.”

Fabiano attributed the major turnaround to the chemistry that the team has as a whole. The historic accomplishment happened to fall on senior day. The seniors on the team said that their success is the result of major changes in the program throughout their time at Suffolk.

“We’ve built a reputation in this league as a team that is going to give you a fight," said captain Sarah Mullally. “I don’t think there’s any team we face that we aren’t capable of beating.”

Mullahy also attributed the level of success to the coaching staff. Head Coach Scott Blanchard is in just his second year with the team.

“Coach Blanchard made changes to this program that have really taken us to that ‘elite’ level," said Mullally. “We recruit heavily, we play top ranked teams, and we are given all the tools we need to succeed.”

The Rams are riding the wave of victory into the playoffs, but being the winningest team in program history isn’t enough for them.

“We have a saying on this team we like to use, ‘we didn’t come this far just to come this far,’“ said Mullally. “We reiterate that after every goal we check of the list, and we’ll continue to do that through playoffs. We feel confident in our capabili- ties and we’ve proved it to ourselves day in and day out this season.”

The Rams started their run in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference tournament with a 3-0 win over Colby Sawyer Tuesday night. They will face the No. 1 seed Johnson and Wales in the Semifinals on Thursday in Providence.