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2019

### Suffolk Journal, vol.83, no.10, 12/11/2019

Suffolk Journal

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Suffolk Journal, "Suffolk Journal, vol.83, no.10, 12/11/2019" (2019). *Suffolk Journal*. 699.  
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# Re-education camps in China target Uyghur community

**Chris Sadrnoori**  
Senior Staff Writer

Arfat “Alfred” Erkin had not heard from his mother back home in China for two years. He feared the worst, believing she, like so many other Uyghurs [WEE-gurs], had been taken to a re-education camp in Xinjiang.

Erkin was studying economics at college in Maryland since 2015, when he learned of his mother’s fate. He could not understand why his mother, a mathematics teacher with 30 years of experience, could be taken away. Ever since, he’s been an outspoken advocate on social media for the release of all Uyghurs.

After learning more details about her disappearance, Erkin learned that as many as 11 of his other relatives, including his father, had been detained, interrogated or imprisoned in Xinjiang camps, along with an Amnesty International estimation of 1.5 million other Uyghurs.

The Uyghurs are an ethnic Turkic-speaking

and predominantly Islamic group spread throughout East and Central Asia. An estimated 11 million, the largest concentration, reside in Xinjiang or “New Frontier.”

Just about everything about Uyghurs, separates them from their dominating counterparts — the Han Chinese, who make up 92% of China’s 1.4 billion population. The Uyghur language is closer to Turkish than it is Mandarin and, physically, its people look more European than Asian. However, one of the biggest distinguishing factors is their religion. The majority of Uyghurs are Muslim, a practice that is becoming increasingly restricted in China, an atheist state.

The Chinese government began an anti-Islamic radicalization campaign following the September 11 attacks in New York City in 2001. There was then a significant escalation in pursuing suspected terrorists in China beginning in early 2017. Most of those targeted were almost exclusively Uyghurs, according to the Human Rights Watch.

Many times when someone is arrested for suspected terrorism their own families are not informed, like in Erkin’s case.

He only made contact with his mother this past September with the assistance of advocacy groups and the United Nations (U.N.).

While Erkin was happy to find that his mother was still alive, he noticed that something was different about her now. In an interview with The Journal, he explained what little information he learned about her from a statement by the Chinese government.

“I don’t know what the hell happened to my mom in the camp,” said Erkin. “but she had to have a very big surgery just following her release. She can barely walk right now.”

The statement included a chilling video of his mother telling him to stop spreading lies about the government and not to create a terrorist organization.

Erkin found this preposterous, he had not even spoken with her for two years. Nor was he in anyway involved with terrorism.

“She appears for like 16 seconds in that propaganda video,” said Erkin. “She wasn’t even standing, she was leaning towards the [camera].”

On Nov. 9, Erkin received another response from the Chinese government. This time he found it was even more convoluted and alarming. He was told that his father, a journalist with many government-awarded accolades, had been imprisoned. Their reasoning was not definitive at first, but Erkin eventually discovered he was arrested for being a terrorist and is

now serving a sentence of 19 years and 10 months.

The Chinese government claimed his father confessed to multiple crimes including terrorism. They even declared Erkin himself a terrorist and a liar, saying he made up the story about his mother’s incarceration, contradicting the video he received in September.

Ronald Suleski, a Suffolk University professor and Director at the Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies, has spent years all over Asia. He explains the Xinjiang re-education camps differ from the Nazi concentration camps of the 1930s and 1940s, but are not to be treated differently from the international community. He spoke to The Journal about the camps and China’s plans to modernize its less developed provinces like Xinjiang.

“It is more like a big campus of some kind, except you go through the fence and somebody checks you into a dormitory with other people,” said Suleski.

There are no reports confirming mass genocide, but prisoners have been subjected to brutal conditions, beatings and what appears to be an erasure of their Uyghur culture.

“What the Uyghurs believe in is considered, by Marxist thinking, feudalistic superstition, it keeps people down, it keeps people poor,” said Suleski. “It restricts their chances for education and does not equip them to go out in the world to do a lot of things.”

# AIDs Quilts memorial brings diversity to Suffolk campus



Mol Webber / Journal Staff

**Mol Webber**  
Journal Staff  
@molwebber

This past week the AIDs memorial patchwork quilts have been displayed across the Suffolk campus to spread awareness for those who have lost their lives to AIDs and families impacted by the virus. The memorial has been on display in the lobbies of the 73 Tremont, Sawyer and Sargent buildings.

The quilts display the names of those lost along with bright colors, pictures, and designs to honor the individuals displayed on each patch of the quilt. The individual stories of those who have died because of the virus have created more awareness of the impacted community and what efforts can be made to find a cure.

The quilts have become a national project to raise awareness for the AIDs virus and those impacted by it according to The Aids Quilts website. In 1985 after noticing that 1,000 San Franciscans had lost their lives to AIDs Cleve Jones organized a march in which demonstrators posted placards of those who lost their lives to AIDs on Federal California buildings. After noticing that the placards were similar to patchwork quilts, the AIDs memorial quilts were created as a larger memorial. The quilts personalized the memorial to specific individuals in hopes to see the need for public support to find a cure for this deadly virus.

Although the virus impacts the lives of many different groups globally, the virus has had a large impact on the LGBTQ+ community creating lack of research and stigma of those living with HIV and AIDs. By displaying memorials like the AIDs quilt the community is able to destroy stigmas and find representation leading to more research for a possible cure in the future.



Arfat Erkin holding photographs of his parents who have been directly affected by the conflict

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# THE SUFFOLK JOURNAL

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# Suffolk hosts third year of AIDs Quilts

From QUILTS - 1

Lukas Phipps, Chair of the SGA Diversity and Inclusion Committee spoke about the need to end the stigma behind the virus and the LGBTQ+ community.

“The importance of the AIDs Quilt memorials at Suffolk is to help personalize a nationwide tragedy and the circumstances that exacerbated,” he said, “By bringing a grand scale tragedy in the context of our community, we stress the importance of sex education and LGBTQ+

destigmatization as we aim to humanize it.”

The Suffolk community had the honor of displaying these quilts on World AIDs Day, Dec. 1. Every year since 1988, Worlds Aids Day has united people globally to find a cure to HIV according World AIDs Day website to commemorate those living with HIV, and to honor those who have died due to an AIDs related virus.

Today, 37.9 million people globally have HIV according to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Deaths relating to the AIDs virus

has decreased by 55% since 2004, and although the disease is currently incurable, advanced treatment has made it possible for those with HIV to live long, healthy lives.

Gina Maffei, vice president of Queer Student Union, spoke about the importance of the quilts to the queer community at Suffolk.

“The AIDs quilts are important to bring to the Suffolk community because they are a very shocking piece of art that brings light to an issue that we often take for granted, and its par-

ticularly important for the queer community at Suffolk to remember members of the community who have sacrificed their lives.”

Because of the AIDs quilts, the Names Project Organization has been able to raise over 3 million dollars to AIDs service organizations throughout North America according to their website. Displaying the quilts across campus brings awareness to those who aren’t apart of the queer community, as well as those who are.

# A blast from the past...



The Archer Building, at 20 Derne St., was built in 1920 and sold by Suffolk in 2015.



Emily Devlin / Journal Staff

Today, the building on 20 Derne St. is an apartment complex



# A new take on life after near-death experience

**Hunter Berube**  
Journal Contributor  
@HunterBerube

“Once you stop being curious, you start dying,” said Richard Allen Miller, 50, a writing professor at Suffolk University, after recently being cleared from the hospital for blood clots in his right leg and both lungs.

On the outside, Miller’s work space appears to be just another office in Suffolk’s 73 Tremont building. However, upon entering, visitors are pleasantly surprised to find bizarre trinkets and interesting decor waiting to welcome them inside.

Atop the book shelf sits the centerpieces of the room: two vintage lunch boxes, one of Star Wars, the other the cover of Jimi Hendrix’s “Axis: Bold as Love”, a broken clock from the prior school he taught at, a memorial card of one of his closest friends and coworkers and next to it, a Yankees hat that tells a story better than any blockbuster Warner Bros.

dreams of making. In the middle is a round table and a couple of chairs, an odd setup for some, but just what would be expected from an approachable man such as himself.

Unlike his work space, there is one thing people would never guess about this open book. “I have a different heart beat now,” Miller said about his close encounter with death after being diagnosed with pulmonary embolism (PE).

PE is a blockage in one of the pulmonary arteries in the lungs. In most cases, it’s caused by blood clots that travel to the lungs from the legs. In Miller’s case, he has it in both lungs and it is also traveling up his right leg.

PE is very common and affects more than 200,000 U.S. citizens a year with symptoms of shortness of breath and chest pains. Though treatable, the condition is critical and needs serious care.

“I found out through reading about them that one in three people die from [PE],” Miller said. “I didn’t know this, I didn’t



Courtesy of Michael Clarke

think it was a big deal.” In late November, after just finding out about his illness, and spending five days undergoing numerous treatments and MRI scans, Miller was cleared to leave the hospital. Now on medication, Miller is looking forward to a speedy recovery.

“A number is so fun-gible. What could this number really tell you about your health?” Miller said about the 1/3 odds, again, that optimism shining through. “I’m so internally jealous,” said Christine Miller, 49, about her husband, Rich, and his ability to

always see the brighter side of everything. “I’m fortunate to have him in my life.” Though Miller said it was easy for him to accept his condition, he said his wife and daughter, Alison, had a bit of a tougher time coming to terms with his health. Especially since

they were not sure what was wrong with him at first.

“I think we were lucky,” Christine said, adding that the doctors were patient, kind and made them feel comfortable and relaxed during the whole process. “We were in good hands.”

One thing the Millers can agree on is the amazing change that happened in Rich Miller after leaving the hospital. Christine said it was like being on “the backside of a transformation,” getting to witness her husband’s quick recovery first hand. She said a lot of it has to do with the perspective they have implemented in their family.

“I’m on the second side of a century. That 50 thing was hitting me for awhile, like damn, 50’s old. But I’m like, ‘I’m a good old,’” Miller said about his age, adding that he is lucky to have his loving wife, a good kid, a family and a great career.

For Miller, teaching has never been just a job.

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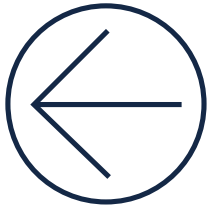


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**SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY**  
BOSTON



# Boston defies Executive Branch against climate change

**Bryan Hochberg**  
Journal Contributor

Boston has seen more push back against President Donald Trump and his climate policies since the Trump Administration officially began filing paperwork on Nov. 4 that will withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement.

This agreement was originally signed by over 197 countries within the United Nations in November 2016. With its introduction, ambitious goals were set by nations to reduce global carbon emissions and combat the rise of climate change.

Trump's decision to pull out of the agreement follows a previous announcement he made in June 2017, where he initially stated his plan to abandon the global effort. At the time, he claimed the agreement was "a total disaster," according to The Washington Post.

Many cities throughout the country are responding to the decision by the President, with an AP Poll showing support for it from only 18% of Americans.

There are already surges of resistance in Boston to Trump's stance on climate change and the Paris Agreement.

The city's primary climate change engagement tool, Greenovate Boston, aims to get citizens involved in fighting climate change and to send a strong message to the President and his constituents in office.



Colin Cavanaugh / Graphics Editor

Peyton Jones, the communications manager for Greenovate Boston, and representative of the program, stands firm on the city's decision to continue to work towards goals set by the Paris Agreement.

"It is unfortunate, but the mayor has spoken out against this act of the federal government. Our stance, and the way were moving forward, is that we're doing this either way," said Jones.

This past September, students led the Youth Climate Protest in the Boston Common. With over 7,000 students in attendance, the demonstration showed that the youth in the city is clearly aligned with the attitudes of the city government and wishes for legislative action to be taken.

Proposed U.S. Legislation that aims to address climate change and economic inequality

simultaneously, like the Green New Deal.

Cam Lamoureux, a recent Suffolk Grad and Youth Climate Protest attendee, said he's glad to see that the city is standing up to Trump and his administration.

"I'm excited at the idea that there is push back on this," Lamoureux said. "Climate change is a serious issue, and for a president who doesn't take much seriously, it's nice

to see our city decided to take action on their own terms."

The city of Boston is also a member of C40 Cities, a group of 94 cities around the world with goals set to match those of the Paris Agreement, such as limiting the climate spike to well below two degrees Celsius. Cities involved in this group have enacted programs to encourage citizens to get involved in the reaching

of these goals. Initiatives such as Greenovate Boston work with citizens to engage them to be the most effective at achieving their common objective to defeat climate change.

But Jones recognizes that doing this independently will prove as a challenge, even with all of the support that Boston already has from its citizens and local government.

"Obviously, we need support at every level of government to be optimally successful, but were going to have to do this without the federal government," said Jones. "The mayor is really leading on climate action, as is the governor."

In 2017, cities like Boston joined a coalition of over 3,500 leaders in business, government and cultural institutions to sign the "We Are Still In" declaration, which, according to the Boston Climate Action Plan, "Pledge[s] Boston's continued support for the Paris Climate Agreement, even as the U.S. President announced his intention to withdraw the United States from the agreement."

Until the U.S. officially pulls out of the agreement— and after— Boston officials and activists will be fighting back.

"It is sort of like 'too bad' and it's unfortunate in terms of global politics, but in terms of us meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement, and us becoming carbon neutral by 2050, we are on track to do that and we intend to do that regardless," said Jones.

## City Youth in Boston inspired to fight climate change

**Bryan Hochberg**  
Journal Contributor

Boston youth continue to act as climate change awareness continues to increase. With this surge of local activism, the city hopes to encourage the next generation by educating and preparing them for the future that may lie ahead.

Due to reports that show a steady increase in the climate's overall temperature, coupled with a generational sense of urgency, the increase of youth involvement has

grown dramatically over the years.

Ian Donnelly, special assistant to the Commissioner of the Environment Department in Boston, said the city's Climate Action Plan is equipped to prepare today's youth for tomorrow, especially through Greenovate Boston.

"Greenovate Boston is one of the biggest youth engagement programs that we have here" said Donnelly. "The program is geared specifically towards engaging people in the community, with a focus towards youth. Specifically to make sure that the younger gener-

ation, the ones who will be impacted by climate change long term, are able to engage in these conversations and have a voice in the discussion."

To ensure a cleaner, healthier future for all, Greenovate Boston is working to implement programs that teach and encourage more environmentally friendly behaviors at an earlier age.

Donnelly said the city leadership believes the best way to do this is to start them young.

"We put an emphasis on the youth component here and making sure that the youths are a part of the Greenovate

Leaders Program and the Greenovate Ambassadors Program," said Donnelly.

Boston is encouraging youth to compost of organic waste. The city believes it is important to educate and promote the practice of composting because it significantly reduces levels of methane emissions.

In 2015, Boston introduced their first composting project, the Project Oscar program. Through this initiative, citizens became enabled to reduce their carbon footprint by utilizing this 24-hour community compost program.

"We've seen a lot of great success through our

Project Oscar Program. Through this, we have a handful of public composting bins around the city that people can drop their compost off at," said Donnelly. "This program has been way more successful than we ever could have imagined, so it's been great to see residents and constituents engaging with that program and we are excited to take some next steps and grow that ability."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that about 24% of all waste is organic material that could be composted. According to the U.S Composting

Council, if everyone living in the United States composted all of their food waste, the result would be equivalent to removing over 7.8 million cars from the road.

The Boston Public School system will soon implement a sustainability office with an annual coordinator who will aid in the cultivation of a culture that is more sustainable.

"We're really excited to bring someone in that will allow for that sort of cross-department collaboration to expand composting and reduce the amount of organic waste that is in the waste stream," said Donnelly.



# Suffolk panel honors Black Studies

**Mol Webber**  
Journal Staff  
@molwebber

The Black Student Union and the History Club co-hosted a panel discussion on the 1619 Project by The New York Times with professors Robert Bellinger, Lester Lee and Quentin Miller.

The photo journal project observes the 400th anniversary of slavery within the United States and the impact that it still makes on everyday life. This panel opened the discussion of the legacy of slavery to the Suffolk community and allowed the audience to ask what we can do in 2019 to advance society further along the path of equality.

The panel had three professors at Suffolk all involved within the Black studies program. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Black Studies Program, and was monumental in opening discussion about equality in the Suffolk Community and society in general.

Professor Bellinger, director of the Black Studies Program and the Clark Collection of African American Literature commented on the fact that Suffolk should put more funding into the Black Studies Program.

"Here in the US, we tend to show that we value things by where our dollars go," said

Bellinger. "What I would like to maybe one day see is for this university to put some of its economic abilities into the Black Studies Program, into creating a curriculum that is more inclusive overall."

Ahria Ilyas, a freshman at Suffolk, commented on how she wants to get involved in making Suffolk and its curriculum more inclusive.

"I am trying to get involved with how the university approaches black people as well as the black history and making sure that their history is told in a positive sense and also a leadership sense and I think [the panel] did a really good job showing the history behind [the 1619 project] and how these professors articulate history to their students."

One of the panelists that teaches an African American literature course at Suffolk, Professor

Miller, commented on the fact that history needs to be revised.

"This line is a good synopsis of the entire 1619 project 'revision is a struggle towards truth' and I think that's really what this whole thing is about," said Miller. "The struggle is this notion that we have to revise our history always if we are going to assume that its truthful we have to keep revising and revising to see it again and through different lenses."

Lee, a professor of history, commented on the small time frame of African American freedom within society. Lee said how little time of 50 years that black Americans have been able to participate freely in society compared to the 400 years of American history.

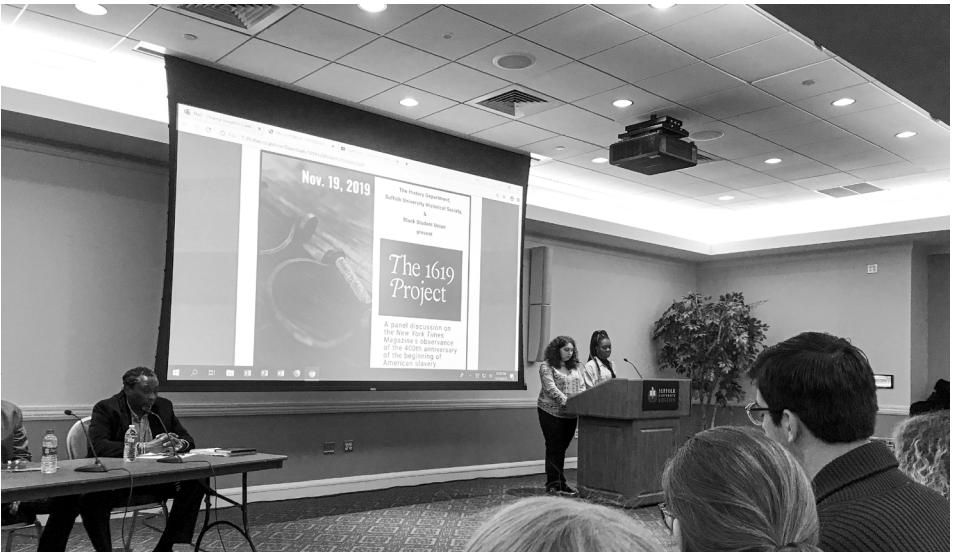
The panel highlighted the need for a deeper understanding of African

American history in different aspects and what people in 2019 can do to bring equality and representation to society.

Students at Suffolk commented on their impression on the panel regarding the 1619 project, and what we can do here at Suffolk to be a more inclusive community.

Emilee Morin, a student at Suffolk, commented on how the white community can also contributed to creating an accurate historical narrative.

"I think that we need to bring marginalized voices into the conversation, it can't be a one sided narrative, it has to be a discussion between those who are marginalized and those who aren't especially as part of the white community to try and better our understanding of these circumstances of oppression that others are going through."



Mol Webber / Journal Staff

The presentation of the panel for The 1619 Project

# Miller's kindness inspires students

From MILLER - 3

"I wanted to teach college or nothing at all," he said. "It's all about the connection. I mean, I could tell you all about my life but I want to learn about yours, too."

Miller gives his students the freedom to find their way, but also make mistakes along the way.

"That's really authentic learning, when you make mistakes and learn from them. You need to make mistakes to learn how to learn."

Miller prefers to go by "teacher" rather than "professor," believing the latter word holds too much of a formal connotation.

On ratemyprofessor.com, Miller has a 4.8 out of 5 in Overall Quality and a 100% "Will Take

Again" rate. Tags for Miller include "hilarious," "gives good feedback," "caring," "respected" and "inspirational."

Students from some of Miller's previous courses flood the anonymous comment section with words of admiration, one saying, "He made what can usually be a mundane class very interesting. I truly loved this class."

Katy Rice, a Suffolk student from Miller's Honors Writing 103 class, agreed.

"He's honestly my favorite teacher I've ever had and he's always been super understanding. I'm sad that I won't have him again these next couple years," Rice said.

"Rich Miller was an incredible professor, he was the most engaging and caring college level educator that I have ever had," said Charlie Goehl,

a student who was also in Miller's Honors Writing 103 class last fall. "I transferred [to Maryland State], but Miller still checks up on me via email. That's a testament to his love for his work and his students."

When shown these comments, Miller humbly added, "I want to give people the gift of knowledge and curiosity that I was given as a student."

Christine Miller said her husband is "a guy that found his calling. He loves to remain relevant." She said he took his passion and found a way to implement it into his classroom for all students to enjoy.

"Rich and I were hired the same year," said Quentin Miller, another professor at Suffolk with the same name and in the same department as Miller. "[He] is obviously a fun, valued colleague. I

personally bond with him over European soccer, Jimi Hendrix and The Clash."

Miller says people should not just think of death as losing oneself, or how people lose a part of themselves when someone they love passes away. He sees it as "these are the storm clouds [that] rolled over my life," and instead of giving in to negative thoughts of death, he decided, "No, I gained something knowing that person [who passed away]."

"Who is Richard Miller?" said Rich's daughter, Alison Miller, 16. "That's a question with a lot of good answers, but in my opinion he is someone I am proud to look up to and take advice from. He is a guy who loves his work and does not check out of helping others when he leaves the classroom."

# A note from the Suffolk Environmental Club:



Instagram:  
@suffolkenviro

Facebook: Suffolk  
Environmental  
Club - SEC

The Suffolk Environmental Club (SEC) aims to educate the Suffolk community about good sustainability practices, top local and international news regarding the environment and advocates for an overall cleaner, healthier Earth. SEC's President, Adriano Pucci, and other members of the Executive Board have planned various trips, movie nights and worked across campus on ways that the Suffolk Community can educate themselves and learn about the importance of protecting the Earth. Join SEC to learn about upcoming events and tips on what you can do to make a difference.

In November, SEC visited the Harvard Arboretum to learn about the preservation of nature; it was fascinating to observe plants at their final stages in preparation for the winter and a quick hike up Peter's Hill provided a beautiful view of the Boston skyline. The Arboretum provides knowledge of the diversity of plants, trees, shrubs, and much more all located in an urban setting; this, in turn, helps students gain an appreciation and understanding of the preservation of nature outside the classroom.

The textile industry is one of the largest pollutants in the world. In every step of the manufacturing process, large amounts of energy are required and waste is produced. Disposal is usually in the form of incineration or dumping in landfills. SEC members are running a clothing swap to raise awareness about the harms of fast fashion. Buying fair-trade and eco-friendly clothing isn't always budget friendly, however consumers can reduce their impact by reusing clothes and thrifting. Adding to the life of a garment and allowing for the reuse of resources before clothes can be discarded reduces the need for production of as many new clothes.



## “Home of the Heart” series depicts the meaning of home across cultures



**Olivia Acevedo**  
Journal Staff  
@oliviaacevedo12

The moving photographs of Robert Bellinger and Ken Martin have made their way to Suffolk University’s Art Gallery. The two long-time colleagues used photos from their travels to Senegal, Africa where they began working on their project, “Home of the Heart: Photographs of Senegal.”

Both Martin and Bellinger traveled to Senegal years ago and have compiled photos from over their years of travel to put together this gallery. The two worked together to find shots that identify with this theme best.

“The Photographs of Senegal” are being dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Black Studies Program. The exhibit opened on Dec. 3 at 12:15 p.m. and will run throughout the rest of the fall semester.

As an Associate Professor of History, Bellinger does not consider himself to be just an instructor, but also an independent photographer. He is also the director of both the Black Studies Program and the Clark Collection of African American Literature at Suffolk.

Martin, a professor and photojournalist, found himself practicing in Africa as a result of studying history in college. His career teaching photojournalism has taken him to places all over the world such as Madrid, Italy, Armenia and

Nicaragua.

Martin was inspired to use Africa as the main focus of this gallery when he came across some old shots he had taken of Senegal. He chose specific photos that would relate to the idea of home for the exhibit. At one point, Martin found a home decorated with hearts on it and decided this was a photo that fit with the theme perfectly.

Bellinger’s inspiration came from watching people interact with the culture in Senegal.

One tradition known as Mbalax (em-BAL-acks) is derived from popular music and dance from Senegal and Gambia. It can take place in many forms, one being singing. This mannerism was extracted from Géwëls, who are traveling poets, storytellers and musicians who maintain traditional oral history of West Africa.

The Géwël Tradition Project is a project founded and directed by Bellinger himself. The organization is one that works with a family of géwëls who maintain traditions that belong to the culture in Senegal. This exhibit was a way to show his love for Senegal and the timeless moments he captured in his time there.

“The Home of the Heart” exhibit is not the first gallery Martin has held at Suffolk. Making various visits to Senegal in the past, some of the photos he captured there have been used for other exhibits across the state. One of his previous



Photos by Ken Martin

### Photos from “The Home of the Heart” exhibit

exhibits took place at the Worcester African Cultural Center.

Although his job is one that comes with many accomplishments, there are also many difficulties that come with traveling throughout highly politicized regions. During the 1980s while Martin was taking photos in Nicaragua, a dictator had been taken down after a revolution took place. This past summer when he taught a photojournalism course in Nicaragua, Martin watched as Armenian farmers could not obtain clean water for their plants.

While some challenges are worse than others, Martin explained that there are always boundaries that need to be pushed.

Bellinger’s main goal as a photographer is to capture a person as they truly are. He has aimed to use a documentary portrait as the idea for his projects through photographing people simply living their lives.

“Showing the elegance,

strength and beauty of each person, whether they are working, playing, enjoying an exciting event or lost in a moment or reverie...people just simply being who they are,” said Bellinger.

One of Martin’s trips to Senegal allowed him to bring his wife and kids. Students that have gone on trips in the past have fully immersed themselves in the culture or the region by wearing African clothing, receiving an African name and living with host parents that do not speak English.

One memory the two colleagues share was when Bellinger extended a hand to Martin and introduced him to a group of sacred drummers in Senegal. The two stayed up taking pictures of a woman’s soiree of Sabar drumming and dancing.

“I’ve put on a lot of shows, solo and group together at SU over the years and would like to continue to do so,” said Martin.

## SUFFOLK CLIMATE WATCH

### Venice in flooding emergency

**Olivia Acevedo**  
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Italy has endured the worst flooding it has seen in 50 years in the past few months. According to CBS News, over six feet of water spread through the historic city of Venice this fall, damaging many items and leaving many wondering what this means for the country.

In late October, a full moon aggravated southerly winds to push a high-tide into Venice. Although the city is known to be exposed to annual rising levels, Fox News reported that the level is now four inches higher than it was fifty years ago.

The flooding occurred shortly after the Veneto regional council rejected measures to combat climate change, according to CNN.

“Venice is on its knees. This is a result of climate change,” said Venice Mayor Luigi Brugnaro to CNN.

The original document proposed to the Veneto regional council would help to combat climate change by including funding for renewable resources, replacing diesel buses with appropriate substitutes, reducing plastic impacts and more, according to CBS. However, based on the escalation of climate change and the flooding in the city, these are no longer options.

According to CNN, Brugnaro has called for the completion of a project to construct offshore barriers that are meant to keep out offshore flooding.

The high tides have ruined many historical aspects of the city. According to Fox News, a wealthy hotel known as the Gritti Palace that holds many luxurious furnishings are now destroyed.

Nearly 85% of Venice has been subject to flooding, according to CBS News. The mayor has referred to the event as “apocalyptic.” Many have identified that the melting of polar ice is connected to worldwide sea-levels rising.

Fox News said officials in Italy are expecting to declare a state of emergency considering the increase of water levels and power outages. Two people have been reported deceased in conjunction with the disaster as well.

USA Today explained that people need to take action now that they are seeing the direct impacts of this large-scale issue. A report from the U.N.’s Intergovernmental Program on Climate Change has revealed countries need to completely cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 in order to effectively combat this issue.

“I think for most people the signals are becoming quite clear that we need to have emergency action,” said Keya Chatrjee, executive director of the U.S. Climate Action Network, according to CBS News.



# Detention camps in China target the Uyghur community

From UYGHUR - 1

China is being careful according to Suleski, “They want foreign money to come in, they want tourists to come in. They want to keep this whole thing quiet.”

The Global Times, a Chinese Communist Party affiliated tabloid, refers to Uyghur prisoners as “trainees.” They report prisoners are enrolled in Mandarin, law, vocational and courses that aim to eradicate extremism.

“You listen to lectures about the government and why you should believe the government is good,” said Suleski. “The problems are that when the Chinese are in control...they can do anything.”

Advocacy groups including the Human Rights Watch and the U.N.Human Rights Council have called for the camps to shutdown and the prisoners to be released. However, China would prefer for the international community to not meddle in their

internal affairs. “They want to re-educate you and turn you loose as a loyal Chinese citizen that supports President Xi Jinping,” said Suleski. “It’s a big plan to reorganize, for the purposes of control and guidance of Uyghur society.”

China annexed Xinjiang in 1949 and Tibet in 1950, increasing their land size tremendously. The mostly mountainous, sparsely settled regions are now seeing Xi’s modernization effort.

China is an emerging superpower; the nation with the largest population and the fastest growing economy, according to the World Bank. In 2018, Xi announced plans to transform China into a “great modern socialist country” by the mid 21st century. However, groups like the Uyghur pose a threat to his vision.

“They want a society where people don’t feel the need to yell at the government to make changes, to challenge the government. Where the people will make money

to work, travel and have a good life,” said Suleski.

Aside from advocacy groups, the world is largely silent to the situation in Xinjiang. Social media has allowed for information to trickle through to the outside world, but many in China do not speak of it, lest they get into trouble themselves.

“They’re afraid to speak, because if they are overheard by someone who reports them, they’re in big trouble,” said Suleski. “Sometimes they do speak out, but they don’t want to ruin their career, they don’t want to go too far.”

Erkin cannot do much but talk to the advocacy groups. He does not risk talking to his family directly.

“I still have my siblings and my relatives [in Xinjiang], I don’t want to cause any trouble for them,” said Erkin. “If I contact anyone, they may get detained, so I did not contact my other relatives to get information about my parents.”

Erkin says that the

Chinese government is working to erase Uyghur culture outside the camps as well. “They are destroying thousands of historic sights and buildings,” said Erkin. “Rewriting the history.” Using satellite technology, the Guardian reports that dozens of religious Uyghur sites have been heavily damaged, if not destroyed.

With modernization comes the necessity for control. Xi is updating security technology all over the country. The Hong Kong based, South China Morning Post reports that China is implementing mass



Colin Cavanaugh / Graphics Editor

surveillance, face-recognition scanners, the infamous social-credit system and even robotic birds.

All these security measures will help secure the new trade project Xi has promised, the Belt and Road Initiative. The Council on Foreign Relations explained that this plan calls for unprecedented projects of highways, railroads, pipelines and more that span westward, passing through regions like

Xinjiang. The Uyghurs and their culture pose a threat to Xi’s plans.

He knows that one of the only ways to stay in power is to have loyal citizens. Those who are not loyal will be forced to be loyal. Suleski says there is not much the international community can do about this. China’s immense power and influence allows them to do whatever they want, “It’s part of the whole re-education effort. Re-education equals control.”

# Students overseas share perspectives on Suffolk Madrid

**Abigail Hart**  
Journal Contributor  
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Cultural diversity and passionate professors are some of the things that students value about Suffolk University’s Madrid Campus (SUMC), while underfunding and lack of communication are areas that could be improved, according to some students.

Dominique Cyr, a junior at SUMC, has been exposed to many opportunities during her three semesters abroad — one being the chance to explore Europe both through SUMC and on her own time.

Classes at SUMC end each week on Thursday, giving students the opportunity to travel during their long weekends. This has allowed Cyr to travel to countries such as Ireland, Germany, France, Hungary and Italy. Cyr explained that she prefers studying in Europe over the United States after attending SUMC.

“It’s very holistic here, it’s not all about work and

a profit. If you’re late to work, it’s not that big of a deal. People work to live, they don’t live to work. People also make time to eat — and eat well,” said Cyr.

In addition to the exceptional cultural experience she has gained from studying in Madrid, Cyr feels delivering a strong education is a priority for the university.

“The Spanish program and staff here are really great,” said Cyr, “Education is definitely difficult especially because you are only allowed to miss two classes.”

Cyr explained that she has benefitted from the relationship between professor and student. Professor Greenan who is especially excellent in his course on Spanish language, was a teacher that Cyr praised. She talked about how passionate he was about his work, and how well he taught. While Cyr believes the educational aspect of SUMC is exceptional, she thinks the communication between the Boston and Madrid campus is flawed.

When Cyr was trying to



Photo courtesy of Dominique Cyr

Dominique Cyr outside Suffolk Madrid

change her major, she found it to be very difficult.

“I was originally a business major, but now am looking into interior design. I had a very hard time contacting the Boston campus and now have to take an extra year of schooling because of a lack of communication,” said Cyr.

Some have attributed the lack of communication overseas to the 6 hour time difference. The lack of communication is

mostly caused by the time difference, and also happens when students have questions about the Boston campus and the Boston campus does not get back to them. However, Cyr is not the only one facing this problem.

“When students have questions about Suffolk and their majors they get bounced around between different administrations,” Cyr said, “It might have to do with the time difference, but it still should be

improved.”

Another junior at the campus, Camille West, has had troubles with the lack of communication on the campus, but gets by with help from her professors.

“There is a lot less resources than the Boston campus, but if I need help I know where to get it. Professors have been helpful in tracking things down or communicating with the Boston campus,” said West.

Other aspects about the Madrid campus that students struggle with include the actual facilities and resources available to them. Cyr discussed that the campus itself should be more of a priority to Suffolk and should be highlighted and funded more.

“I think that the Madrid campus is truly a hidden gem, I mean it is a foot in the door to Europe. I think that Suffolk should really expand on this and value this. There needs to be more money going into this program, and better communication,” said Cyr.

Due to the large number of freshmen admitted into her class,

there were not enough resources to provide them counseling on their courses and majors. There also are not as many courses offered at the Madrid campus which Cyr found to be challenging for students.

“Scholastic resources are more limited because class selections are also limited due to the small size, but that’s something I had to give up in order to study abroad and it’s worth it,” said West.

While more funding could be put into the program, overall Cyr has warm regards for the campus and her experiences in Spain. She feels that the campus gives students a unique opportunity to experience a different culture and a chance to thrive.

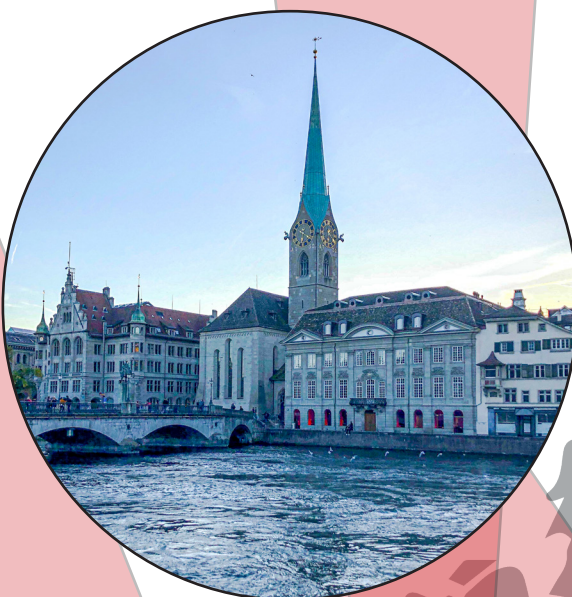
“Going to Suffolk Madrid has changed the course of my life forever,” said Cyr.

Cyr will be coming to the Boston campus in the Spring of 2020 and is feeling bittersweet. While she will miss Spain, she is excited for a new adventure and more resources available to her.



# SUFFOLK OVERSEAS

Michael Power had previously traveled around Europe, however, for his study abroad program he picked Madrid, Spain. He decided to go there for its rich history, unique nature and to learn Spanish. Power feels that studying abroad is a great character developing experience, whether through interacting with locals and their unique culture or with other students. So far, Power has traveled to Portugal, Switzerland and the Netherlands and plans to go to Rome and Morocco. After his time in Madrid, he looks forward to learning about more cultures and places to explore.



AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND

MADRID, SPAIN

TOLDEO, SPAIN

LISBON, PORTUGAL







# 'Doughboy'

## Justin Peavey resurfaces 1920's court drama in original play

**Morgan Hume**  
Arts Editor  
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Courtesy of Gio Cassella

In 1922, 19-year-old Clarence Peters was killed by millionaire Walter Ward in New York City. After the teenager's body was discovered, a lengthy trial and investigation emerged, capturing people's attention from around the world. Although the case captured international attention at the time, the story remains widely unknown today. Suffolk senior Justin Peavey is reviving the murder of Peters, his great-great-uncle, in "Doughboy."

Peavey debuted his original play, which he wrote and directed, as part of the Suffolk Spotlight Series at the Sullivan Studio Theatre on Dec. 6. The true crime show takes place during the final day of the trial, with testimonies from witnesses

and relatives interwoven, to focus on the biggest developments of the investigation.

"It's just interesting to give a voice to people who didn't have one, and also reviving the voices of those who did," said Peavey.

After speaking with a distant relative and conducting research about his own ancestry, Peavey discovered he was related to the victim. Since the story of Peters' death comes from a side of Peavey's family he knows little about, he was on a mission to unearth as much of the past as he could, and later deciding to turn his findings into a blackbox production.

The playwright tried to stick as close to the facts as possible when put-

ting the ambitious show together, which required months of research. Most of the information about the trial cannot be found online, so Peavey spent months digging through old newspapers and other alternative sources.

Peavey retrieved official court documents and photographs that were used as evidence during the trial. He also incorporated photos of the characters by projecting them on the screen behind the actors during their opening lines.

"It's been a tough project to conceptualize but once we had the cast, everything just kind of fell into place," said Peavey. "Everything was really easy from that point on because I was able to bounce off of the actors a lot, bounce off of my team, the designers and stage managers and all of that, and able to come up with something that I think is really beautiful."

Although some of the script is dramatized, the monologues borrow text from the court transcripts and pieces of information Peavey learned along the way. The writing process was difficult because he had to condense a large amount of information in creative ways, such as combining similar testimonies from multiple witnesses into one character. Some scenes also depict his own interpretation of things that might have happened.

After probing through a variety of sources, Peavey formed his own opinions

about the investigation. As he was writing the script, he struggled with trying to include all the possible things that could have happened.

"I was stuck a lot trying to write about my theories, a possible ending to kind of tie up all the loose ends," said Peavey.

The play's plot finally clicked in his mind when a revelation came to him over the summer and he realized the message he wanted to send with the show. At the time, he had four separate drafts for the show, which he combined into one, forming a completely different script overnight.

"I'm trying to tell this class story between the wealthy and the poor and the effects on each group when their timelines cross," said Peavey. "...It borrowed a lot of dialogue from each of the scripts and it was tied together with something that was totally new and totally different."

The play's small cast made it easy for Peavey to bounce ideas off the actors. If there was extra time leftover after rehearsal, the group would have discussions about the plotline, how to portray their characters and their vision for the final product. He noted that once he was able to put the script down and trust the text, he saw new things about the production he may have otherwise missed.

"With every development of any work, an artist learns more about the work, more about



Courtesy of Gio Cassella

### Mason Lafferty in the role of Isaac Mills

their process, more about their strengths and weaknesses," said Peavey. "It is very exciting to go into rehearsals with one idea about something and then you watch it and it becomes something completely different."

Wesley Savick, a Suffolk theatre professor and Peavey's advisor for the show, thinks he should bring the production to Haverhill, MA to honor the weird yet local connection it has to the area. Also, the 100th anniversary of Peters' death is approach-

ing soon in 2022, so it is a timely time to talk about the story.

While "Doughboy" resurfaces hard facts and information from the trial, it's impossible to know exactly what happened. Peavey said he was looking forward to hearing what audience members think about the trial and characters portrayed on stage.

"Ultimately, we will never know what really happened. The only people that know are the people who were there," said Peavey.



Courtesy of Gio Cassella

### Micaleen Rodgers playing Inez Peters



## CONCERT REVIEW

# BROCKHAMPTON creates carefree atmosphere at Boston concert



Courtesy of Ashlan Grey

**BROCKHAMPTON** has built a reputation of wearing bright matching jumpsuits in music videos and at their live shows

**Eddie Reinhardt**  
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Fans were already jumping and dancing in front of the stage before even half the arena was filled while the members of BROCKHAMPTON were still backstage at Agganis Arena on Nov. 24. When the group finally hit the stage, the energy was somehow intensified as the fans were anxious for the Boston leg of the “Heaven Belongs To You” tour to begin.

Experimental hip-hop duo 100 Gecs opened the show, belting out their autotune soaked lyrics in front of an out of place fake pine tree. Slowthai, a rapper from the UK, was next to perform and his spiteful rhymes and unorthodox delivery had everyone on their feet. The opening acts set the tone for what was going to be a show like no other.

While religion has never been a topic for the boy band, BROCKHAMPTON has never been the type to box themselves in. Their latest album “GINGER” contains numerous song titles tied to religion and

their choice for a tour name makes it obvious it is on their minds.

The stage was illuminated by three large crosses that loomed over the performers. Throughout the show, they changed color to match the stage lights that flashed deep blue and purple hues.

The back of the stage floor was elevated on a ramp that the rappers could rap on top of, sit down and sing on, or simply just lay on. At times throughout the show, if one of the members had a solo, like Bearface during the sweet rendition “Sugar,” the rest of the group could hang back on the ramp and let their bandmate shine. The singer’s vocal range allows the group to be more than just a rap group as he often incorporates pop and R&B melodies into his verses.

The six vocalists, all dressed in white shirts and bright orange pants, took turns rapping and singing on all parts of the stage. The group opened with “ST. PERCY,” a track that combines classic hip-hop elements: a low pulsing bassline and a soulful sample from D-Flexx’s “Only God Knows,” contrasted with high pitched synths and

frontman Kevin Abstract’s monotone flow creating a sound that is uniquely BROCKHAMPTON.

By the third song they had already started to dig into their bag of hits. “ZIPPER” was the first throwback to their SATURATION album series, but throughout the night they kept a consistent balance of alternating between performing their new album and delivering fan favorites.

The songs that were from their earlier albums received an immediate response from the crowd as nostalgia seemed to come into play. Not surprising for a group that has such a dedicated following and fanbase. Songs like “GOLD” and “GUMMY” reminded fans of a time when the group was unsigned and still making their music videos at their house in Texas.

MC’s Matt Champion and Jabari Manwa dropped some of the most memorable verses of the night. From Matt’s iconic open on “BLEACH” to Manwa’s standout bars on the single “BOY BYE” from their latest album. The two most traditional rappers of the group did not disappoint with their performance.

Throughout the night, Abstract would often take a moment to pause from the music and ask the crowd, “Is everybody OK?” before jumping back into mosh-pit inducing tracks. While their songs are meant to make you let loose, they often disguise their most vulnerable moments behind speaker busting beats. About halfway through the show, all six performers stood along the front of the stage and introduced themselves, allowing both the audience and themselves a moment to catch their breath.

After this, Abstract invited a fan on stage who

was wearing merchandise from a previous concert. A couch was brought out and the band members sat on it while talking with the fan before starting their next song. They rapped and danced around the couch letting the young fan join in on the mic to “1999 WILDFIRE” a hit single from 2018.

When the song ended, all of the members were crammed onto the couch as the lights faded out. A single light came back on, as the group then appeared at the front edge of the stage facing the crowd. From beneath them lights shot out to the

ceiling, changing colors until finally creating what appeared to be a rainbow.

To end the night they chose “NO HALO,” an introspective song on which members of the group reflect on their faults and struggles admitting to themselves that no one is perfect and all have issues they are working on. Even as the group grows in popularity towards stardom it is clear from their concert that there is still an effort to make their performances feel personal and intimate.



Eddie Reinhardt / Asst. Arts Editor

**LED light up crosses illuminated the stage from above**



# Lucy Dacus brings smooth indie voice and synth to Royale

**Morgan Hume**  
Arts Editor  
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All eyes were on Lucy Dacus as the 24-year-old singer-songwriter's smooth vocals brought the Royale to a standstill on Dec. 4.



Morgan Hume / Arts Editor

**Singer-songwriter Lucy Dacus passionately sings while strumming guitar at the Royale nightclub on December 4**

The indie musician's concert kept the crowd on their feet, moving along to each rhythmic song. Dacus' well-balanced setlist included a mix of tracks from her 2016 album "No Burden," her 2018 album "Historian," her latest EP "2019" and covers of hit songs. Dacus opened the show with "Fool's Gold," confidently taking on lead vocals and synth, while two guitarists and a drum-

mer filled in the rest. As the four bandmates played together, they created a cloud of velvety sound that wafted throughout the venue. For her second song "Addictions," Dacus traded her handheld synthesizer for a bass guitar. At first glance, three bass guitarists and a drummer on stage seems like an overkill of loud instruments, but Dacus was able to seamlessly blend her gentle voice with heavy instrumentals. The singer took a mellow turn later in the night with "My Mother & I." The other two guitarists switched from bass to acoustic. They casually sat cross-legged on the ground while Dacus stood centerstage, with all ears in the room fixated on her. The stripped-back rendition allowed the song's

poetic lyrics to stand out, along with her soothing vocals. It's charming how Dacus' feathery voice can command any song, even if there are sonorous instrumentals backing her up. She showcased the control she has over her vocal range, singing some notes in a hushed manner and strongly belting out others, always keeping the crowd satisfied. During the show, Dacus said she is hoping to release a collection of covers sometime in the future. Her and her bandmates played their own versions of Edith Piaf's "La Vie En Rose" and Bruce Springsteen's "Dancing in the Dark." The group added an indie flare to the famous songs, making for unique renditions. Dacus clearly has her own sound, but each song she played had a slightly different feel, which kept the setlist unpredictable. The audience was constantly looking forward to seeing what the musicians were going to pull out of their pocket next. Since Dacus doesn't have a huge discography, it was even more impressive how she was able to keep everyone on their toes about her song choices. The performers were stagnant on stage, choosing not to move around much on stage, besides some walking back and forth and swaying to the beat. Although a more energetic stage presence would have made the set slightly more entertaining, dancing isn't necessarily needed when playing slower songs. The indie tracks and sweet interactions with the crowd made for an intimate performance.



Phoebe Adams / Copy Editor

## Clairo softens Paradise Rock Club during homecoming concert

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Bedroom-pop singer Clairo performed two sold-out shows at the Paradise Rock Club on Nov. 20 and 21. The Nov. 21 show closed out her almost completely sold-out "immunity" North American tour, which was a homecoming for the artist, as she is originally from Carlisle, Massachusetts. Paying homage to the Bay State, Clairo, or Claire Cottrill, opened her show with the first song on her album "Alewife." Named after the most outbound stop on the Red Line on Boston's MBTA system, the artist offered special, limited edition sweatshirts bearing the "Alewife" name, only available at her hometown shows. Clairo spoke about how strange it was to perform at the Paradise Rock Club, when she herself had seen the Arctic Monkeys in 2015 at the same venue. She jokingly apologized to the fans stuck behind the wide poles in the club, stating she knew exactly how it felt to be where they were. Although Paradise Rock Club is a larger venue in Boston, Clairo was able to make the performance space feel small and intimate by constantly reaching out to fans in the crowd and putting herself on the same level as them. Her soft, lo-fi sound also

helped keep the venue intimate, as you felt like you were at home with friends rather than out at a concert. Her stripped-down songs about blossoming love, experimentation and everything in between had the crowd jumping in unison, even if the singer herself remained rather stationary. This is partly due to an auto-immune disorder Clairo suffers from, which makes it painful for the singer to move around too much, according to an article with Pitchfork. Clairo closed out her set with an acoustic version of an unreleased single she said she wrote in Portland, Oregon a few weeks before. The singer took center stage with a guitar and no accompanists, which was a bold choice, considering she was ending the last concert of her first tour with a song no one knew. Fans weren't sur-

prised, however, when Clairo rushed the stage for her encore, as the singer had yet to perform three of her biggest songs that night. Clairo truly closed her tour out with "4ever," "pretty girl," the song that launched the singer into stardom, and "I Don't Think I Can Do This Again." Joining Clairo on-stage for her last song were her two opening acts, Hello Yello and Beabadoobee. The stage was filled with the young musicians singing-along, dancing and congratulating Clairo for her final performance. A mini-party started after the singer finished her last song, with many of the performers drinking to celebrate their last night on tour. Clairo will finish the year touring Europe, but will be back performing in the United States in late March, and her music can be found on all platforms.



Phoebe Adams / Copy Editor



# STAR THE RISE OF SKYWALKER WARS

Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

## Latest film in 'Star Wars' series must answer fan's biggest questions

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When Star Wars fans left the theater after viewing "The Last Jedi" in December 2017, many felt frustrated towards director Rian Johnson. While the film sat in a decent standing with critics, 7.1/10 ratings on IMDb and 91% on Rotten Tomatoes, hardcore Star Wars fans felt confused, angry and betrayed. The film was attacked for many reasons, including the death of Luke Skywalker and the love plot between Rose and Finn, along with various other storyline details.

The final installment of the Star Wars saga, "The Rise of Skywalker," is set to hit theaters Dec. 20. This film will be the 9th in the story of the Skywalker family. As this story over 40 years in the making comes to a close, there are some questions that "The Force Awakens" and "The Last Jedi" left fans pondering.

The most pressing issue on the minds of fans is that of Rey's parentage. While Kylo Ren told Rey that her parents were "filthy junk traders" and that she is "nobody" in "The Last Jedi," many fans are left skeptical. The main reason this skepticism exists is that Rey is so powerful there is no possible

way her parents were nobodies.

Rey is perhaps the most powerful individual the "Star Wars" saga has ever seen. She defeated Kylo Ren in "The Force Awakens" in a duel despite never holding a lightsaber before. Also, before she even trained with Luke in "The Last Jedi," she was performing Jedi mind tricks as if she were Obi-Wan in "A New Hope."

Rey's incredible abilities she used before she began training, along with her already incredible piloting skills that rival Anakin Skywalker's, suggests her parents must have been force users. Some fans think she is a Skywalker, some say she is a Solo. The theory that was popular around the release of "The Force Awakens" was that she is a Kenobi. Others say she is a clone created by the Emperor, which explains her wielding a red lightsaber in the trailer for "The Rise of Skywalker."

The final theory is that Rey is a child of the force, meaning that like Anakin Skywalker, Rey was conceived by the force in her mother, without a father. This would mean that Rey is the reincarnation of the chosen one, or a reincarnation of Anakin Skywalker himself.

The chosen one is said to be the one that will destroy the Sith. Since "The Rise of Skywalker" will see the return of Emperor Palpatine, who was thought to be destroyed by the original chosen one (Anakin Skywalker/Darth Vader) in "The Return of the Jedi," it would make sense for the chosen one to reappear in order to finally end the Sith.

More evidence for this theory includes Anakin Skywalker's lightsaber calling to Rey in "The Force Awakens." This fact also supports the theory that she is a Skywalker, since Anakin and Luke Skywalker both wielded the weapon. Furthermore-how does Maz Kanata have Luke's lightsaber when Luke dropped it from the heights of cloud city in "The Empire Strikes Back?"

"The Force Awakens" saw the Resistance fighters lead by Princess Leia attempting to find Luke Skywalker after he disappeared. In the beginning of the movie, resistance fighter Poe Dameron is presented with a map to Skywalker by an old man living on Jakku. This man's identity is never revealed, but he is clearly an important figure.

When he later confronts Kylo Ren he says "you cannot deny

the truth that is your family." Who is this man? How does he know the Solo family? Why is he hiding on Jakku? How did he get the map to Skywalker? While this man is later killed by Ren, there are many questions surrounding him.

"The Last Jedi" saw the unexpected death of Supreme Leader Snoke, Kylo Ren's Sith master. The question still remains - who is Snoke? How does he know the dark side? How did he turn Kylo Ren to the dark side and create the First Order?

Director J.J. Abrams confirmed the return of Emperor Palpatine in "The Rise of Skywalker," but the question of how he's alive remains. Has he achieved the powers his master Darth Plagueis had to keep people from dying? In the 1990's audiobook series "Dark Empire," set after "The Return of the Jedi," the emperor returns through a cloned version of himself. Did Abrams choose this method to bring the emperor back?

Nevertheless, it is fitting for Darth Sidious to return in the final film, as he was the evil mastermind behind the events of the original trilogy and the prequels. It is possible that

Sidious, the master manipulator, is responsible for the events of the sequel trilogy as well.

- Palpatine has always tormented Skywalkers, but in the "Rise of Skywalker," who is the Skywalker that is rising? Could Rey be revealed to be a Skywalker? Could Kylo Ren renounce the dark side like his grandfather Anakin? Could it even be Leia, who seems to use the force to save herself from the vacuum of space in "The Last Jedi?" This begs viewers to wonder if Leia was trained by her brother Luke to use the force. Or could it be the child who, in "The Last Jedi," helped Rose and Finn escape Canto Bight? At the end of the film he reappears and seems to use the force to grab a broom.

The final installment of the story of the Skywalker family will conclude "the story of a generation." It has many questions to answer, and no matter what happens, Star Wars fans are certain to be picky.



# To Sean Cushing and new beginnings

There's a saying out there that tells us that every end is a new beginning, just as the end of one year is the beginning of the next. As The Journal wraps up for the year, we'd like to thank all of our readers for continuing to support our mission to pursue the truth and to tell the stories of our community.

We'd also like in our last edition of the decade to encourage you to do what we've written about in other editorials throughout the year: fixate on the joy this year and this decade brought you when you reminisce around the New Year, not the struggles.

But before we talk about that, we would like to express our gratitude for one of our staff members who will become a Suffolk graduate after this week.

Sean Cushing, our assistant sports editor, thank you. Thank you for stepping into the role for the sports section with ease, bringing a passion for writing, storytelling and sports reporting to our sports pages, and with it, a professional and creative wisdom of how to write intriguing stories about Suffolk's student athletes and more. Working as a student reporter for Suffolk in the City when you are not in the office writing and editing is a testament to your versatility in both print and broadcast journalism.

Sean's departure and

his irreplaceable qualities got us thinking.

In a few weeks, we'll see the end of a contentious and eventful decade. Sure, take a look at your Spotify wrap up and recollect on some of your favorites tunes this year, — did you seriously play "Old Town Road" that many times? — but don't stop there.

Odds are in this decade or this year, you experienced some of the most ferocious heartbreak of your life and maybe even melancholic times. Odds are you also made a new friend, fell in love or discovered your passion.

It may be easy to fixate on the woes we are facing no matter what form they come in or the vehicle in which they travel.

What Sean taught us through his pragmatic yet optimistic nature and natural work ethic was that no matter how hard life gets, it's better to focus on the opportunities you have in front of you instead of the obstacles you have yet to face; that it's better to embrace solutions, not problems; to embrace goodness over evil.

The notion that New Year's resolutions are made to be unkept isn't entirely nonsense. Lots of us look at turning over a new leaf with an "I will no longer..." mindset. We tell ourselves we will prohibit ourselves from doing certain things or acting certain ways. But telling ourselves to stop doing

something bad that gives us comfort inevitably leads to relapse. Telling ourselves to be better human beings, a different version of the same statement, is much better.

At the end of the day, it's about happiness. And say it's time to collectively look at the indecencies and troubles we face as an opportunity to pursue something better, not as burdens we must endure. With every kind of adversity you may face, there is also an opportunity to learn and grow.

But no matter what you're facing Suffolk and no matter what problems you want to swiftly whisk away with the wind when we ring in 2020, we encourage you to take

on a different mindset; a mindset in which we look at our resolutions as if we are running towards the goals and ambitions that make us happy, not running away from the ones that don't.

Hug your family a little tighter, love a lot more, hate a lot less.

Sean, thank you for all the memories we've made. May your future be bright and may newfound opportunities find you.

We wish you all a happy and safe holiday season and a happy New Year.

~The Suffolk Journal Staff

# Moving on does not always equate to giving up

**Nick Viveiros**  
Senior Staff Writer  
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Willie Nelson has come a long way. He famously lit up on the roof of the White House with Chip Carter while the latter's father was the leader of the free world. For "health reasons," Nelson recently quit smoking weed.

Last week, Senator Kamala Harris, a Democratic star whose exceptional debate performance doubled her poll numbers over the summer, announced she was pulling out of the race for the Democratic nomination for president. "My campaign for president simply doesn't have the financial resources we need to continue," she said in a statement.

Outside my stuffy urban bedroom, things are changing, too. There's a shimmering layer of snow about ankle-deep on the porch. At least there was before the rain. The cats get chilly and huddle under the bed for warmth. It's pitch black by the time my last class begins. The towers I can see from my porch suck down pockets of raw, fast wind.

My grandmother, fast approaching 95, told me when I was very young that the only constant is change. I didn't really understand what she meant. Children don't speak in paradoxes; wise people do.

Almost a decade and a half later, after watching Nelson quit weed, Harris fade silently and a warm summer turn into a bitter winter, I think I'm beginning to understand.

As a rule, people are creatures of habit. They generally have some order to their lives; a wake-up time,

bedtime, dinner time, lunch break, smoke break, etc. Something in their lives, be it a relationship or habit or job or class schedule, is consistent. Most don't recognize it, but that consistency is fueling a lot of their personal stability.

When that consistency is interrupted, it becomes flagrantly noticeable. When the alcoholic stops drinking, they go into withdrawal. When the student graduates, they become nervous. Interruptions to our way of life both consciously and unconsciously interrupt the rest of our lives.

When the world tells you it's time to move on, move on. Do not cling to a way of life that has outlived its usefulness, its productivity, its value. Humans have a tendency towards whatever we're comfortable with; that's why so many of us hide behind habits like serial monogamy, substance abuse, self-loathing and religion, to name a few.

The cardinal sign of maturity is the ability to move on without fear, anger and shame, to be able to let go all at once when the time is right. Not many of us — at least not me — are able to do this well the first, second, even fifth time. Learning to accept change as a constant is a life-long process. Few of us will ever master it fully.

Now more than ever, as Willie Nelson quits toking, Kamala goes back to the Senate and the snow begins to fall, we must learn to embrace change with open arms.

# The latest tobacco bans will only hurt tax revenue

**Nick Viveiros**  
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I have a consistent morning routine. I wake up, drink my coffee, check the Times, pet the cat and step out onto the front porch to light up a Camel Crush. It's not healthy, nor wise, but as an adult over the legal tobacco purchasing age, I have the right to make that choice. Or so I thought.

It appears that my routine will soon change. Last month, the same legislative body that brought us a proposed ban on the word "bitch" and youth tackle football, voted 127-31 to ban all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes like Camel Crushes.

This bill is thoroughly misguided in every conceivable way. First, it won't do anything to stop the residents of the 61 cities and towns that

border other states, or any resident for that matter, from driving next door to New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Connecticut or Rhode Island to buy their menthol smokes.

Like the high state tax on tobacco in Massachusetts, such a ban will actually encourage smokers to spend their money elsewhere, stimulating other states' economies at the expense of our own. Why would a menthol cigarette smoker in Lowell spend \$11 on a pack of Marlboro reds when they could purchase a carton of ten packs of greens in Nashua for around \$60?

The brilliant minds of The Massachusetts State House included another provision in their latest ban that they're sure will help recoup lost revenue: a 75% tax on e-cigarettes and vapes.



# Banning menthol cigarettes will not save the kids

From MENTHOL - 13

Assuming that the current ban on the devices is lifted in January, that means consenting adults over the age of 21 will soon be able to take the income they already paid taxes on, get in the car they are taxed to drive and drive down the road they are taxed to maintain to the general store, where they can buy a Juul that'll cost nearly twice as much as it does in other states. A ban on menthol cigarettes also won't do anything to stop those already addicted to nicotine from choosing other methods of smoking. Smokers are going to smoke until they decide to quit. Of course, smoking is an objectively poor decision, but it's just that:

a decision. Addiction plays a large part, and for many, quitting isn't as easy as just stopping cold turkey. But as a reasonable adult, I know full well that there are resources available to help me quit. Until I choose to do so, I'm going to smoke. It doesn't matter if I smoke menthol cigarettes or non-menthol cigarettes. That's the basic economic principle of substitutes at work. That fact leads us to a far simpler objection: despite every attempt by legislators to tell us otherwise, this ban on menthol cigarettes isn't about "the children" or the health of the Commonwealth. Just like the vape ban and the raising of the legal age to purchase tobacco from 18 to 21, the ban on menthol cigarettes and flavored

tobacco is meant to send a message that tobacco use is bad. There's no need to send that message. The majority of smokers know this. They, like myself, paid attention in health class when their health teacher showed them a picture of a healthy lung next to something that resembles a molten rubber tire. Rep. John Mahoney, a Worcester Democrat who chairs the Joint Committee on Public Health where the bill originated, told MassLive that tobacco flavors "were created and designed for one reason only: for young people to become addicted to nicotine and to become lifelong users." Alcohol should be a far more pressing concern for Mahoney than cigarettes. According to a 2005 study

by the Center for the Study of Law and Enforcement Policy, research shows that flavored alcoholic beverages "are popular with underage drinkers, particularly teenage girls, and that the industry uses marketing practices that appear to target youth." Banning flavored tobacco is being marketed as a valiant effort by well-intentioned state legislators to "save the children." It isn't. It's another brazen attempt by the Commonwealth to tell consenting adults how they ought to behave. It's wrong, and it won't work, because prohibition never does. Meanwhile, as legislators fight over my right to light up, I'll be making a few trips to New Hampshire, where legislators seem to just get it.

# The US and Trump are right to confront China

Craig Anderson  
Journal Contributor

China's government has economically taken advantage of the United States for far too long. American efforts to engage the nation on a level playing field have failed for decades. The political establishment responded to China's abuses of power with ineffectual responses at best. America's inability to effectively respond enabled our adversary to get away with manipulative economic practices that chipped away at America's status as a world leader and devastated America's industrial heartland. President Trump wisely understands the threat to the United States and its allies posed by Xi Jinping's ambitions for economic and world dominance and is right to confront China. Contrary to assurances from so-called experts in the political class that China would straighten its act out after joining the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001, the country continued to get away with its unfair trade practices that broke the backs of many American manufacturers and exporters to China. A study by the nonprofit Information

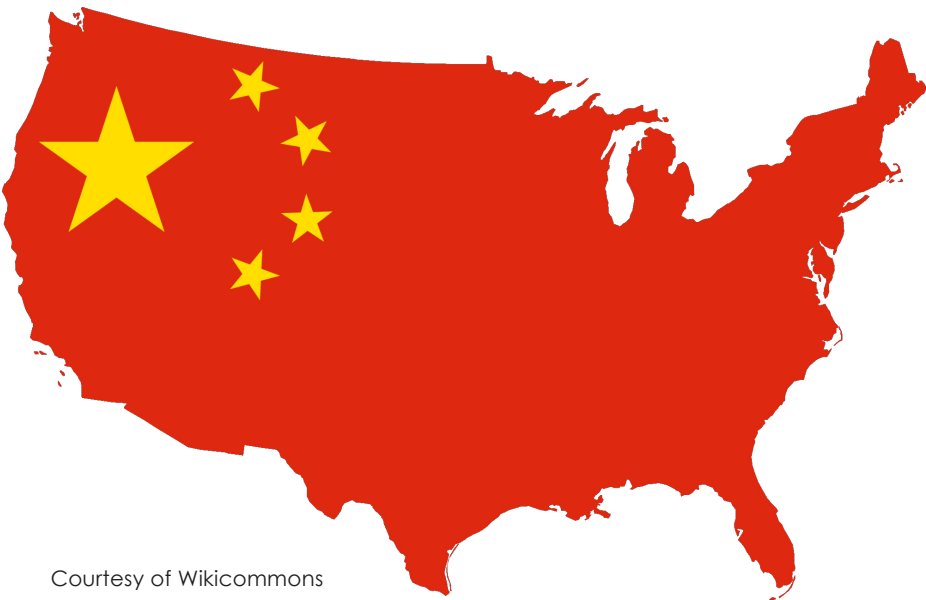
Technology and Innovation Foundation in 2015 found that China flouted numerous promised open market reforms it made in exchange for WTO membership. President Trump is right to assert that "China declined to adopt promise[d] reforms ... [and] embraced an economic model dependent on massive market barriers, heavy state subsidies, currency manipulation, product dumping, forced technology transfers and the theft of [intellectual property] ... on a grand scale" in a speech to the UN reported by Fox Business. In a free market system, companies succeed on their merits and talents. As the Nikkei Asian Review noted in April 2019, the state propped industry leaders up with billions in subsidies to strengthen market dominance over rival corporations from foreign countries. In the past year, Chinese government entities handed over \$1.2

billion to the three car manufacturers: BYD, SAIC Motor, and Chongqing Changchang Automobile. According to the Nikkei Asian Review, they also lent about \$285 million to ZTE, the telecom corporation that Reuters noted illegally conducted business with Iran and North Korea along with billions more to other corporations critical to China's ambitious goals to game global trade. Furthermore, China arguably makes liberal use of forced technology transfers, forcing American companies to participate in joint ventures with Chinese firms and surrender their control of the partnership. America's companies and workers spend billions

each year on research and development only for China to steal sensitive, proprietary technology without spending a dime, as noted by Investopedia. One of the most concerning of China's plan to continue to implement the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) wrote that the plan, spearheaded by President Xi Jinping, is a series of infrastructure and "investment initiatives... stretch[ing] from East Asia to Europe." As it grows, the BRI will serve to be a powerful tool for Xi Jinping to exert influence on Eurasia and shift the balance of power in dozens of countries against the U.S. By trapping developing nations with high-interest

loans to finance infrastructure projects, Communist Party leadership makes its (unequal) partners dependent on Chinese resources. The CFR found debt to China surpasses "20 percent of GDP in some countries." Should states default on payments, China will have a semi-legitimate claim to seize the financed assets, giving them a looming presence over the flow of commerce and the leaders who rely on their revenue. Challenging China's policies through the WTO is time-consuming and fails to stop trade impropriety in the meantime. The American Prospect reported that even when China lost WTO cases, it often resisted compliance with the rulings. Xi Jinping has grand ambitions and showed no signs of stopping his behavior after slaps on the wrist from WTO disputes his nation lost. President Trump rightly recognizes a tougher tack is needed. Chinese exports to the U.S. far outpace American exports to China, making

tariffs the perfect tool to bring about a long-term solution. The strategy is working. Reuters reported Chinese GDP growth is slowing due to the tariffs' downward pressure, manufacturers are moving out of China, and the New York Times noted American businesses such as GoPro, Hasbro and Universal Electronics are switching suppliers. Thanks to President Trump's resolve, Mr. Xi was forced to the negotiating table. If inked, the president's "phase one" deal with China will go a long way toward ending China's fundamental commerce transgressions. The proposed agreement will lead to more sales for farmers, end currency manipulation, stop government-sanctioned theft of American intellectual property and ensure U.S. businesses are free to compete on a level playing field with Chinese firms, as noted by The New York Times. Curbing China's dominance isn't merely a matter of economics, but a question of who will lead the 21st century. President Trump's perseverance will make Americans wealthier, protect our alliances, strengthen our national security and, most importantly, keep America great.



Courtesy of Wikicommons



# 1,000 points in the bag for DiCecco

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Suffolk women's basketball player Jenni-Rose DiCecco became a part of the 1,000-point club last Wednesday at Fitchburg State, becoming only the 15th person to do so.

DiCecco managed to rack up 408 points her freshman year while starting all 28 games. Toppling that, her sophomore year, DiCecco scored a total of 460 points and started all 27 games which was more than most of her teammates.

The Rams got off to a quick start in their game against Fitchburg State, jumping out to a 34-12 lead by the end of the first quarter. By the end

of the second quarter, DiCecco was only two points short of the 1,000 point milestone.

It was at the beginning of the third quarter that Dicecco scored her 1,000th point, becoming the 15th player in Suffolk women's basketball history to accomplish the feat and the first junior to do so since Jennifer Ruys in 2013. She was one of the quickest players at Suffolk to reach 1,000 points scored.

"It was an unbelievable feeling when I scored my 1,000th point. It is honestly an indescribable feeling," said DiCecco. "It was overwhelming and exciting all at the same time."

By the end of the night, DiCecco finished with 22 points, 7 rebounds, five steals, two assists and one block. It was the team's



Courtesy of Suffolk Athletics

## Jenni-Rose DiCecco became the 15th player to score 1,000 points

4th straight win against the Falcons.

DiCecco is a junior at Suffolk, majoring in sociology with a concentration in criminal justice and a minor in government. She has been playing basketball for as long as she

remembers.

"I'm pretty sure I learned about basketball before I could even walk," said DiCecco.

Coming to Suffolk was an easy pick for the point-guard.

"I picked Suffolk

mainly because of location. I never had a dream school so I wasn't picky about where I went, but for me Suffolk had it all," said DiCecco. "It is close to home, I love the city and I got to keep playing the game I love."

The women's basketball team is doing well this season with an overall record of 5-3. The team has scored a total of 500 points with 64 points per game and 12 assists. While they have yet to play a game in their conference, the team will face some of this competition come January.

"Our team is doing really good, as the season continues and the wins come, you can tell how much more we are meshing together," said Dicecco. "We have a special bond this year and I think our chemistry off the court is helping us on the court."

Thursday, December twelfth at 5:00 p.m. Suffolk women's basketball will be playing at home vs Bridgewater State University.

# Patriots column: Patriots drop to 10-3, critics start ban



Courtesy of Wikimedia

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As the playoff race approaches, the Patriots are in their usual race for the No. 1 seed in the American Football Conference (AFC). Currently sitting at 10-3, the Pats currently hold the No. 2 seed behind the Baltimore Ravens, led by the MVP frontrunner Lamar Jackson. Despite the Patriots nearly perfect home record, Patriots fans and professional analysts alike are heavily criticizing the Patriots after their recent 23-16 loss to the Kansas City Chiefs.

The Patriots of the first half of the season

are a completely different Patriots than the ones we are currently witnessing. Brady and company started out the season 8-0, and are 2-3 since that win streak ended. Patriots haters from all over the internet attribute this to the fact the Patriots had an incredibly easy schedule the first half of the season. They only played two teams that currently have a winning record (7-5 Steelers and the 9-3 Bills). Again, the Max Kellerman's of the world said the Patriots have been benefiting from an incredibly weak AFC East division.

The people making these arguments have a valid point, but they aren't considering all the

factors that have caused the Patriots recent troubles. While New England did beat all of their division opponents in their eight-game win streak, that included the now 9-4 Bills, who are on the hunt for the division title themselves.

It is no secret that Tom Brady and the Patriots offense have struggled over the past couple weeks. During the win streak, the Patriots were averaging 31.25 points per game (PPG), and in the last four games, they averaged 17.6 PPG. Brady completed 64.2% of his passes in the first half of the season, and only 54.46% of his passes in weeks nine through 14.

These statistics are fuel for the "Brady is done"

movement. "See what happens when he plays a real team" has been a common attack in recent weeks. But the fact of the matter is that the quality of Brady's receiving core has been on a downward spiral all season.

At one point in the season, Brady's receivers included Julian Edelman, Demaryius Thomas, Antonio Brown, Josh Gordon, Phillip Dorsett and Jakobi Myers. That list now only consists of Edelman, Dorsett and Myers, along with the addition of rookie N'keal Harry and Mohammed Sanu.

Gordon lead the league in receiving yards in 2013 (1,646) while being a first team All-Pro selection, and

Brown is a four-time All-Pro and lead in the league in receiving yards in 2014 and 2017. So, Brady lost arguably two of the best receivers of the decade, and also lost the four-time pro-bowler Demaryius Thomas.

Brady's remaining receivers have been less than outstanding. Edelman has been playing through a chest injury. Dorsett had a short stint with a head injury. In four games, N'Keal Harry has only been targeted 10 times, while only catching five of those for 40 yards and a touchdown. That yardage includes Harry's only catch against the Chiefs, in which he was called out at the 3-yard line despite clearly being in-bounds. The play would have resulted in a touchdown for the Patriots, and was one of the two Patriot touchdowns of the night that were lost to horrific officiating. Stephon Gilmore recovered a fumble from Travis Kelce and had a wide-open path to the end zone, but the referees called the play dead while Gilmore was in stride.

Myers has been a frequent target for Brady, but the two clearly aren't on the same page in certain situations. Brady was visibly frustrated with Myers early in the game vs Houston. Brady threw

the ball to where Myers would have been if he kept running upfield, but the rookie instead came back towards Brady as he scrambled. The pass fell incomplete and the Patriots were forced to punt. Myers also failed to complete an end zone catch against the Chiefs, as he failed to keep Brady's well-placed pass from touching the turf. Despite recent struggles, the Patriots defense is still putting up record numbers. They are giving up a league-low 12.9 PPG, while allowing only 264.8 yards per game which also leads the NFL. These numbers are impressive regardless of the teams the Patriots played. So, any attacks on this defense are simply irrelevant. They only allowed 23 points to the Kansas City offense lead by Patrick Mahomes and Tyreek Hill, six points lower than their season average of 29 points.

No other team with a 10-3 record would ever be under as much criticism as the Patriots are. As long as Brady still straps up every Sunday, the haters will always attack the Patriots for their unprecedented level of success. And once again, their arguments are ill-advised and only utilize the facts that benefit their case.





CONGRATS:

Well wishes to Asst. Sports Editor Sean Cushing who graduates after the end of this Fall semester. Thank you for all you've done for The Journal!

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Courtesy of Colleen Welch



Courtesy of Hailey McAuliffe

The club shows off their new uniforms and bows for the season

**Hannah Arroyo**  
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The Suffolk Cheer Club has many goals, but their biggest aspiration is to join the Athletics Department as a varsity team.

It's been almost four years now that the club was revamped and brought back to campus. In that time the group has made tremendous strides towards recruiting members and making their presence known to Suffolk students.

"That whole development of going from club to sport, you have to be really committed to it if you want to make it happen and you get really invested without realizing how invested you are," said Cheer Club member Sara Nelson.

This year the group has about 20 members who perform during the home men's basketball games. Out of those members 16 take part in competitions with the group.

Through the leadership of the club's eboard, the group has continued to work on this goal along with many others. Eboard members include President Briana Zwicker,

Vice President Jules Alicea, Secretary Jordan Perry and Nelson is the PR Chair. Getting people to stay in the club has been a struggle as the eboard are the only returning members to the club.

"We're a club, but we're a team and like any team activity you have to be able to trust and work with other people and I feel like that really gets people to open up," said Perry.

Currently the club is between practice spaces utilizing the Smith Court and classrooms in the Sawyer and Samia buildings. Zwicker said this has been one of the biggest challenges the group has faced as many other clubs and teams also require these spaces.

Outside of spaces at Suffolk the group has practiced at Gymnastics Academy of Boston in Cambridge. Here the club has also worked on their tumbling for the first time as a group. Their hard work in the past to expand as a club has paid off, as they were given their largest budget so far this year.

Members of the club explained that one of the best parts is the diverse group of women that they get to join. Cheer experience also isn't needed to join the club as they welcome people with all skill

levels.

"It just gives people who aren't as comfortable putting themselves out there, kind of a place to break away from that and I know that we have a few girls now who have started to break out of their shell a little bit more," said Alicea.

Another goal of the club is to compete at the NCAA National Competition in Daytona, FL. With the competition in April, the club is now preparing a possible routine and practicing as much as they can. In the coming weeks they'll participate in a camp where a trainer will come in and help them perfect this routine. This will earn them a bid to go to Nationals and even help lower the cost of the trip.

To help pay for this trip, the Cheer Club has done a great deal of fundraising around campus. They also for the first time got permission to fundraise during basketball games.

Since Suffolk doesn't have a traditional campus feel, many of the typical campus events such as pep rallies are lacking. The Cheer Club said that they hope to change that in the coming years by bringing even more of a sense of pride to events and athletics at Suffolk.

"Getting people on

campus to actually want to do things is very tough and they don't have anything that's a spirit program or anything to really hype up people and not that we're necessarily there yet, but in the future given the chance that it would make Suffolk feel a little bit more like a school with a campus feel," said Zwicker.

In order to accomplish this, the club hopes to partner with other groups on campus to join forces on this cause. Right now they're in talks with Suffolk's fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon on a possible basketball tournament with a pep rally.

The Cheer Club has many ideas moving forward, but for now their focus is on reaching Nationals. This year the eboard said they feel like they've finally seen students around Suffolk's campus acknowledging that they are an established club. They hope this will help their campaign towards becoming a varsity team in the future.

"At least people are noticing us now and if people are noticing us that means the schools noticing us more too. We as a cheer team are getting recognized more now," said Perry.