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Suffolk Journal, vol.83, no.13, 2/19/2020

Suffolk Journal

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Suffolk Journal, "Suffolk Journal, vol.83, no.13, 2/19/2020" (2020). *Suffolk Journal*. 702.
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Suffolk polling finds its place in national spotlight

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Suffolk University Political Research Center (SUPRC) has been in the national spotlight from major media outlets nationwide for polls it conducted during the Democratic presidential primaries.

“Suffolk University is getting regional coverage for students who might want to come here, and (SUPRC) was in The New York Times and LA times,” said David Paleologos, director of SUPRC.

SUPRC, based on the tenth floor of 73 Tremont, has conducted polls for multiple political races and issues on local, state and national levels. Suffolk Polling ranks ninth out of 430 polling organizations, and earned an A- rating from fivethirtyeight.com, according to the SUPRC’s website.

SUPRC was established in 2002 after it ran its first polls centered around the 2002 Massachusetts gubernatorial race. Suffolk’s first poll asked voters if current Utah Senator Mitt Romney or then Acting Governor Jane Swift would win the

race.

The poll, which was actually conducted for a polling class Paleologos was teaching, was later used in a Boston Herald poll. The poll showed that Romney would defeat Swift, who, after the polls were released, announced that she would not run for governor. Romney would become the governor of Massachusetts in the 2002 election.

The center conducted its first state presidential polls during the 2004 election, won by President George W. Bush over Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, and its first national polls during the 2012 election, when President Barack Obama beat Romney.

SUPRC has also conducted polls on an international level—an accomplishment Paleologos said is setting Suffolk apart from other schools.

“In 2017, we were the only school that polled the elections in France we did pretty well,” Paleologos said.

See POLLING - 4

Suffolk community mourns the loss of junior Annie Tate



Tuesday night’s men’s basketball game saw the Suffolk community gather to mourn the tragic passing of junior marketing major Annie Bridget McDevitt Tate. Friends, classmates and faculty alike wore green, her favorite color, in remembrance. Her life was honored with a moment of silence.

Suffolk went on to score the first points of the game.



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Wu looks to improve MBTA

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On Feb. 12, at Boston City Hall, Suffolk University students interviewed Boston City Councilor Michelle Wu. Wu shared her views on the MBTA, climate change, the 2020 presidential race and her own political future. For Wu, it all started at Harvard Law School, where she first developed an interest in politics. Massachusetts Senator and Democratic presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren was her law professor at Harvard, and Wu worked on Warren's first Senate campaign in 2012. Wu said that experience encouraged her to run for office herself. Today, Wu focuses on fighting climate change and advo-

cates for improving public transportation. "Our most important charge is to make sure we are removing the occupant of the White House and any one of the democrats would be a better president," said Wu. During the interview, which took place the day after Warren's fourth place finish in the New Hampshire primary, Wu was still optimistic about Warren's presidential bid. She continues to believe in Warren, but said she will back the winner of the Democratic primary no matter who it is. Wu said she used all the knowledge she gained from Warren's first Senate campaign in her own run for Boston City Council. First elected in 2013, she constantly speaks about improving the MBTA. With two kids, Wu said she struggles as a regular MBTA rider when she commutes to and from her Roslindale home. "I was coming in on the T, usually by bus to Forest Hills station, and then the Orange line, with a double stroller and two boys," said Wu. Wu is an advocate for The Transportation Climate Initiative, a regional collaboration that aims to reduce carbon emissions in exchange for higher gas prices. She said she supports an increase in the gas tax. "Just a two cent increase in the gas tax pays for free buses across the entire state, a gas tax which hasn't gone up in 15 years," said Wu. According to Mass Live, the initiative could bring \$500 million a year to Massachusetts, while also having an increase of between five and 17 cents per gallon in gas prices. Boston faces several challenges when it comes to transportation. Wu explained that buses and

trains are outdated, routes have been under fire for their inefficiency and the people most affected by these inconveniences are low-income marginalized groups. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council's 2017 State of Equity Report estimated that bus riders of color spend, on average, 64 more hours-per-year aboard MBTA buses when compared to white riders. Wu said she would give Governor Charlie Baker a D on how he has handled fixing the MBTA. Wu's comments about transportation has garnered attention from voters and local media outlets in Boston. When asked if she would run for mayor, Wu hesitated. "I try to focus on the advocacy that I am putting forth in Boston," Wu said. "It is all a matter of political will, I focus on the work, and will follow where the work takes me."

A blast from the past...



Courtesy of the Mockley Archive & Institute

[Above] In 1982, the Sawyer Lobby was home to Suffolk's Mildred F. Sawyer Library.
[Below] The lobby, in 2020, is an open and colorful student lounge.



Emily Devlin / Asst. Managing Editor

Brattle Book Shop: a hidden gem in Suffolk community

Julia Ahaesy
Opinion Team
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On sunny afternoons, just across the street from Suffolk University's 10 West residence hall, rows of books fill an empty lot surrounded by illustrations of novel bindings. Book enthusiasts filter between the rows and eventually make their way into the Brattle Book Shop.

Many Suffolk students walk by this view every day. For the shop's owner, Kenneth Gloss, scenes like this have been the backdrop to his family's life since they bought the business in 1949.

Gloss, best known for his frequent appearance on the PBS television show, "Antiques Roadshow," discussed the value of old and rare books to a crowd of readers and antique-lovers at the Cambridge Public Library on Feb. 12.

"The real value of books is the knowledge in the books and the dissemination of that knowledge – and I think that's a really great trade-off," said Gloss.



Julia Ahaesy / Opinion Team

The proprietor of the Brattle Book Shop, Kenneth Gloss, speaks to his guests at the Cambridge Public Library on Feb. 12.

Gloss inherited The Brattle Book Shop from his father. He has been working with books since the age of five and has had a deep love for them ever since.

He joked with the audience at the event that his parents said his first word as a baby was "book." Even after receiving a bachelor's degree in

chemistry, Gloss decided to dedicate his life to the book business.

"The chemistry degree was very, very valuable to me. I could have been a chemist, but when I came to work at the store, I knew I could do something else and my father knew I could do something else – and that was probably worth the whole

education because otherwise I might have felt trapped," said Gloss.

The shop has always been in Boston. It first started on Brattle Street in the early 1820s and has had seven different locations since then.

Gloss's father moved the store to West Street in 1969. After holding a sale, his father opened

the doors to hundreds of people and gave away 250,000 books.

"At the end of the giveaway, there were books left over. He hired a covered wagon with a cowboy and a horse team and on the cover of wagon it said: 'Go west book-lovers, go find West St. Brattle Book Shop,'" said Gloss. "They filled it up with books

and they drove it with my father sitting in the back throwing out books the whole way."

In 1980, the 5-story book shop burned down to the ground in a devastating fire. With an optimistic and motivated attitude, Gloss has been building his shop back up ever since.

Gloss is a member of multiple bookseller and antique book associations. When he's not in the shop, Gloss spends his time traveling, appraising libraries across the country. He is often found at several university bookstores, including Harvard University and Boston University. His favorite part of his job, however, is going out to different states and meeting all different people who show him interesting antiques.

"Almost anything you can think of, there are people out there who are interested," said Gloss.

As examples, he presented a few antiques that he has at his shop. He held a program from the 1912 World Series where the Red Sox won against the

See BRATTLE - 5



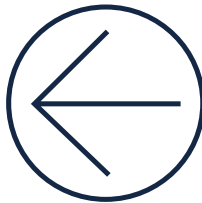
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SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY
BOSTON

Nationwide coverage puts Suffolk University on map



James Bartlett / Journal Staff

David Paleologos, director of SUPRC, stands in front of map displaying all polls done previously

From **POLLING - 1**

Paleologos has been with SUPRC since it was created. He has grown SUPRC to be one of the largest polling partners for major media outlets across the country.

“Suffolk University has more media partnerships than any other research institution in the country,” Paleologos said.

SUPRC had its initial partnership with WHDH Channel 7 in Boston, which

ended in 2014, and has also had partnerships with the Boston Herald, the Boston Globe and USA Today, as well as its affiliates across the nation through USA Today’s parent company, Gannett.

Suffolk was the go-to polling center for the Boston Globe and WBZ leading up to the 2020 New Hampshire primary, and the center’s polls were even used by The New York Times. SUPRC conducted polls for the

Iowa Caucuses with USA Today, with these results also being used by The New York Times. SUPRC has also done early polls for primaries in Massachusetts, Utah and Nevada this election cycle, as well as planned partnership polls with newspapers across the country.

The center has conducted three main types of polls this election cycle.

Normal polling is the first type of poll the center has conducted. In this type

of poll, Suffolk polled 500 people in state-wide polls and 1,000 people in nationwide polls, asking potential voters who they will likely to vote for.

The second type of poll is a tracking poll. This type of poll was used to poll voters leading up to the New Hampshire primary. A tracking poll consists of a two day rolling average (meaning the results of the poll changed as new information came in) of results from 500 random people

who were likely going to vote in an election.

The third type of poll is a Bellwether poll, when a town or state is polled based on their historical performance in picking the winner of an election. The center conducted one of these polls in Dover, N.H. from Feb. 7 to Feb. 9, and polled 300 residents and likely Democratic primary voters there.

The Dover Bellwether poll was notable for being the fifth-straight time the

city of Dover correctly predicted the winner and runner-up in the New Hampshire Democratic primary.

According to Paleologos, polls can play a big role in influencing which candidate a person votes for.

“[Polls] affect the people who are undecided. If you have a race that has a low [number of undecided voters], I would say polls are less impactful,” said Paleologos.

Paleologos said that in a state like New Hampshire during the 2020 primary, the high number of undecided voters close to election day was unprecedented. He said a strong polling performance by Wisconsin Senator Amy Klobuchar may have gained her votes from a lot of those undecided voters.

Paleologos said that the hard part about this 2020 presidential race is that it could go a long way into the primary schedule without having a clear Democratic nominee, and that he worries about SUPRC exhausting its resources before a clear cut nominee emerges.

“I’ve got to be prudent about the states that I pick because I want Suffolk to be relevant even in April, when [polling centers] have run out of money,” Paleologos said.

Similar to Paleologos, The Suffolk Journal is conducting a poll for registered voters. Please participate in our poll at: thesuffolkjournal.com.

This week in SGA ... 2020 SGA election season in full swing with nominations finalized

Mol Webber / Asst. News Editor
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The last round of nominations for SGA e-board candidates in the SGA spring election were announced at the Feb. 13 meeting. The following students will officially be considered candidates once they turn in their election packets.

For president, the current incumbent Karine Kanj is running against Class of 2022 Senator and

Public Relations Chair, Marissa Kearney. Class of 2023 Senator JD Conte was also nominated this week.

Commuter Student Senator at-Large Lukas Phipps, who is also a member of the Class of 2021 and current chair of SGA’s Diversity Committee, and Senator for the Class of 2022 Stephen Rykola, a member of SGA’s Housing and

Facilities Committee, are running for vice president.

Class of 2023 Angela El-Jazzar received a nomination for treasurer last week. She will run against Class of 2022 Senator Abhy Patel and Member at-Large Juan Pastrana, who is also a member of the Class 2023.

For secretary, Class of 2023 Senator Boston Emmanuel and Class of

2022 Senator Youssef Hassan, a member of the Housing and Facilities Committee, will face off.

Packets for those nominated for e-board positions and those who wish to run for a senator seat are due Thursday, Feb. 20. An executive board forum will take place in the Stohl room at 12:15 p.m. that day in place of the typical general

meeting.

The Caribbean Student Network received funding for their Caribbean Weekend event, which will be held from April 14 to April 18. Unspoken Feelings also received funds to pay for a April 3 talent show host.

The Young Arab Leaders Association received money for a clothing drive.

The Suffolk Journal received funding for a conference they will attend in New York City, and the Japanese Student Association received funds for an informational meeting presentation. The Lacrosse Club received funding for new mouth guards, goggles, and sweatshirts, and the Society of Physics Students received funding for a conference.

Young Arab leaders unite to form new community on campus



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Alexa DiFiore
Journal Staff
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Suffolk University's Young Arab Leaders Association (YALA) was established on campus in 2015. While the club has not been very active since it was first created, Suffolk students started to revamp the club this year.

YALA vice president Fehr AlMehdar, a senior Suffolk student from Saudi Arabia majoring in advertising, explained that he is working with other e-board members in the club to hold more activities and bring more attention to the club.

While the club does not have weekly meetings, AlMehdar explained that the club has held various community building events such as pizza and game nights.

In addition to having light-hearted and fun events, YALA also takes their role as young Arab leaders seriously and holds informative events as well.

YALA values educating others on the complicated and often under-explained aspects of Arab culture. Last semester, the club held a documentary screening event called "The Politics of Hate

and Israel's Ultimate Other."

The event presented a documentary examining the hate towards Israel's Palestinian citizens and how different state systems allow for fear and hatred towards Palestinian-Arabs in Israel.

Based on all the contention and political discourse surrounding the Middle East, YALA prioritizes educating the Suffolk community on the events within the region and the politics that have shaped Arab culture into what it is today.

In the upcoming weeks, YALA's main goal for the semester is to put together a clothing drive for refugees in the Middle East.

"We've been really trying to do stuff for refugees and it is supposed to be happening in the upcoming weeks where we have boxes all over campus for students to donate clothes," said AlMehdar.

When May rolls around and students move out of the dorms, clothing items that can't fit or aren't needed anymore are typically thrown away. AlMehdar explained how frustrated he feels seeing all of these clothes thrown away.

"A big issue I've personally seen through my time here especially when leaving the dorms, you find a lot of clothes that are thrown away

so this is a way for people to throw it in the clothes pantry around campus," said AlMehdar.

Professor of communications and journalism Shoshana Madmoni-Gerber is the adviser for YALA. She explained why it is so important for young Arabs to have a community like YALA.

"With the reality of growing anti-Arab sentiments, especially post 9/11, it's important for young Arab leaders to have a sense of community to experience their shared identity," said Madmoni-Gerber. "YALA provides one space where this shared identity can be expressed [through events, speakers, films, art]."

Madmoni-Gerber shares a similar identity with many of her own students on campus. She speaks Arabic and grew up being exposed to Arab culture.

"This is very important to me because I share this identity with my students. I define myself as an Arab Jew," said Madmoni-Gerber. "My parents are from Yemen and throughout my childhood I was exposed to the Arabic language and Arab culture. Arab culture is part of who I am."

Madmoni-Gerber has been an inspiration for many of her students. She advocates

for a well-connected Arab community on campus and is looking forward to what the club will do.

The club also aims to educate others about Arab culture. On Feb. 4, YALA hosted a small event during activities period, "Games and Pizza Day," which turned into a huge success by informing the Suffolk community about the club.

"Mainly it is through word of mouth, who we know and posters. It is difficult to set a specific time to meet each week," said AlMehdar. "What we are doing right now is focusing on big events like the Syrian drive and it is something I've been really hopeful about."

YALA is currently utilizing various social media accounts such as Twitter, Instagram and Facebook in order to draw more attention to their organization.

In addition to AlMehdar as the club's vice president, other E-board members include president Razan Balobid, treasurer Salman Binmahfouz and secretary Mohammed Alghannam.

SUFFOLK CLIMATE WATCH

Climate change is real,
no cap(s)

Olivia Acevedo
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The icebergs have been cracking in Antarctica, as temperatures have reached a record of 69.3 degrees Fahrenheit or 20.75 degrees Celsius. Scientists monitoring the continent in the northern area, called Seymour Island, reported the measurement, according to Fox News.

Feb. 9 was a notable day in history, as temps in what is arguably the coldest place on earth hit nearly 70 degrees. According to The Washington Post, a recent study taken earlier in the month stated reports of 65 degree temperatures in Seymour Island.

A temperature this high has never been recorded.

"We are seeing the warming trend in many of the sites we are monitoring, but we have never seen anything like this," said Brazilian scientist Carlos Schaefer to the Guardian.

The numbers are still being clarified to see if they are the highest ever recorded, according to The Washington Post. However, many questions are still unanswered because scientists are looking into the types of tools used to conduct the study, when it was done and how long it lasted.

Scientists have said that the average temperatures seen by the Seymour Island research station around this time of year typically reach 39.2 degrees Fahrenheit, according to The Washington Post. With temperatures rising and an increasing number of glaciers melting at a faster pace every year, the Antarctic Peninsula has lost 25 billion metric tons of ice per year from 1992-1997.

Scientists a part of the Brazilian Antarctic programme explained that everything is interrelated. There are climatic changes in the atmosphere caused by greenhouse gas emissions that impact both the ocean and the ice caps, according to The Guardian.

Temperatures have dipped periodically from the previous decade. The past ten years have been the hottest in the United Nations, looking to only rise. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the two hottest years recorded have taken place since 2016.

The year 2020 is on pace for breaking more records, as January was the hottest it has ever been.

17-hour shooting rampage in Thailand leaves 29 dead

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Devastation made its way to Bangkok, Thailand, where 29 people were shot dead in a shopping mall by an ex-soldier, according to CNN.

A day that seemed like any other quickly turned into a scarring moment in history. The global community is still mourning, as 57 others have also been wounded.

“Everybody was running into the shops and restaurants and barricading the doors. Everyone was really panicking. Everyone was looking through the glass trying to see what was happening exactly,” said local Jon Fielding, according to CNN.

The shooting rampage lasted for 17 hours, according to CBS. The perpetrator, Sgt. Maj. Jakrapanth Thomma, began firing at a naval base in northeastern Thailand before he infiltrated Terminal 21 mall on Saturday, Feb. 8. He was shot dead by police the following day. In the army, he was an ammunition battalion officer, according to CNN.

When Suffolk Professor Ronald Suleski first heard the news he analyzed the circumstances using political reasoning. Looking at the weapons used and possible

motives, he expressed what could possibly be done for future instances.

“As automatic and semi-automatic weapons spread in society, they will especially be taken up when people are angry and want to cause a lot of harm,” said Suleski. “A number of groups have ideas about restricting access to firearms, more careful monitoring, etc. These groups and people need to speak up more loudly and more frequently.”

According to CBS, the shooting initially occurred on a naval base, where the Thai army says the criminal killed two others in a “personal dispute” over debt. They were the first two to die.

Following the argument, Thomma drove to his army base where he gathered weapons, ammunition and a Humvee, otherwise known as a military truck. Colleagues of the gunman were also some of the first to be targeted. Before he made his way to the mall, he shot through a Buddhist temple, according to CNN.

“We were scared and ran to hide in toilets. I am so glad. I was so scared of getting hurt,” said Sumana Jeerawattanak, who was rescued by police, according to the Washington Post.

Upon his arrival to the shopping center, the shooter opened rapid fire on people, forcing dozens



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Inside Terminal 21 shopping mall where a 17 hour shooting rampage left 29 dead

to seek shelter inside the mall. Fielding stated how he and 20 others hid behind a restaurant kitchen counter for five hours, while hundreds were waiting to be evacuated, according to CNN.

It wasn’t until later, around midnight, that the police had secured a portion of the above-ground part of the mall, according to USA Today. However, the shooter’s exact location had yet to be located.

Sources say many victims were taken to nearby hospitals while the mall stayed on

lockdown and didn’t open again until Feb. 13.

During that time, the gunman had taken to social media, continuously posting concerning updates of his rampage. While he was using social media, an image surfaced of him walking with a military helmet with smoke trailing behind him, according to USA Today.

“I think most people in Boston will lament this event, and not see anything positive in it,” said Suleski.

The man was eventually located and the standoff was

over, as police shot Thomma dead on Sunday, Feb. 9. Afterwards, the country’s army chief apologized for the events that took place just days earlier, according to CBS.

Gen. Apirat Kongsompong stated he felt a great deal of grief and sorrow for those affected by the tragedy.

“I, as army chief, would like to apologize and say how sorry I am for this incident which was caused by a staff of the army. The second that the perpetrator pulled the trigger and killed, in that

minute he is a criminal and no longer a soldier,” said Kongsompong to CBS.

The emotional press conference held by the chief stated how the army wants to compensate for all the damages done to the families and victims.

“If you want to blame someone, you blame General Aspirat Kongsompong. I accept all criticisms and opinions. You can blame me because I am the army chief,” said Kongsompong.

GLOBAL COMMENTARY

Migrants deported to El Salvador targeted by gangs, face violence

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Over 100 migrants that were deported back to El Salvador over the last few years were murdered within a short time of arriving back in their home country.

At the beginning of February 2020, the Human Rights Watch released a comprehensive evaluation of the current dilemma facing many migrants returning to El Salvador.

There are many reasons why a person leaves their native country. Crime, unemployment, corruption, famine and many more are reasons some see no choice but to leave.

El Salvador has a unique history with immigration respective to the United States spanning from the Reagan era in the 1980s

to now, according to The Atlantic.

More than 25% of the Salvadoran population fled the country during the span of the war, which lasted throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, according to a report by the Migration Policy Institute.

Post civil war, the levels of migration increased. In the same report, data by the Central Reserve Bank of El Salvador in 2002 cites that there were at least 25,000 people leaving each year since 1990.

As a result, there are now at least 1.2 million Salvadorans residing in the U.S. without citizenship. Salvadorans made up 18% of all asylum recipients between 2014 and 2018, according to the Washington Post.

Just statistically, not every immigrant is a “bad hombre” as President Trump has previously described immigrants residing in the U.S. While

many are undocumented, many immigrants have been in the U.S. for years and have built a life.

As a first-generation Salvadoran American, the U.S. has been the only home my family and I have ever known. Are we as Americans to turn our backs on immigrants whose only crime is being poor and persecuted or is it possible to help care for them and help them?

The drug wars launched by American operatives in recent decades in Latin America did not help an already war-torn El Salvador.

As a result of the increase in Salvadoran immigration to the U.S., gang violence grew significantly after the civil war. One of the most violent gangs, MS 13, is infamous for being founded by Salvadoran immigrants, according to The New York Times.

The BBC explored the origins of MS 13 and all

points lead to Los Angeles. In some of the more violent areas in the city, gangs like MS 13 rose to power and soon spread like wildfire all over the poverty-stricken Latin communities in North America.

Deportation has been a major factor in the expansion of gangs from the U.S. to Central and South America.

The gangs maintain supremacy in the rural areas of El Salvador making it dangerous for newcomers in the region. This is the main reason why there are many cases of deportees being murdered or abused upon their return home, according to The New York Times.

Since the lack of security and high crime rates are prevalent in El Salvador, there is a sense of fear and paranoia for citizens and tourists.

“Even when I went to El Salvador for vacation

it was a huge risk for my cousin to even go to the next neighbor, they are in danger all the time,” Suffolk student Marcela Melendez said about her visit in El Salvador.

“The gangs in El Salvador are extremely dangerous and are not humane because the things they are capable of doing are very scary and horrible. This is the reason why people are leaving for their safety, for themselves and their family’s [safety],” said Melendez.

Like many developing countries, El Salvador does not have the infrastructure to sustain a high level of returning migrants. Upon return to their home country, immigrants are faced with limited options and forced to decide between staying in the country and risking their lives or trying to make it back to the U.S. - also risking their safety.

The massive amounts of

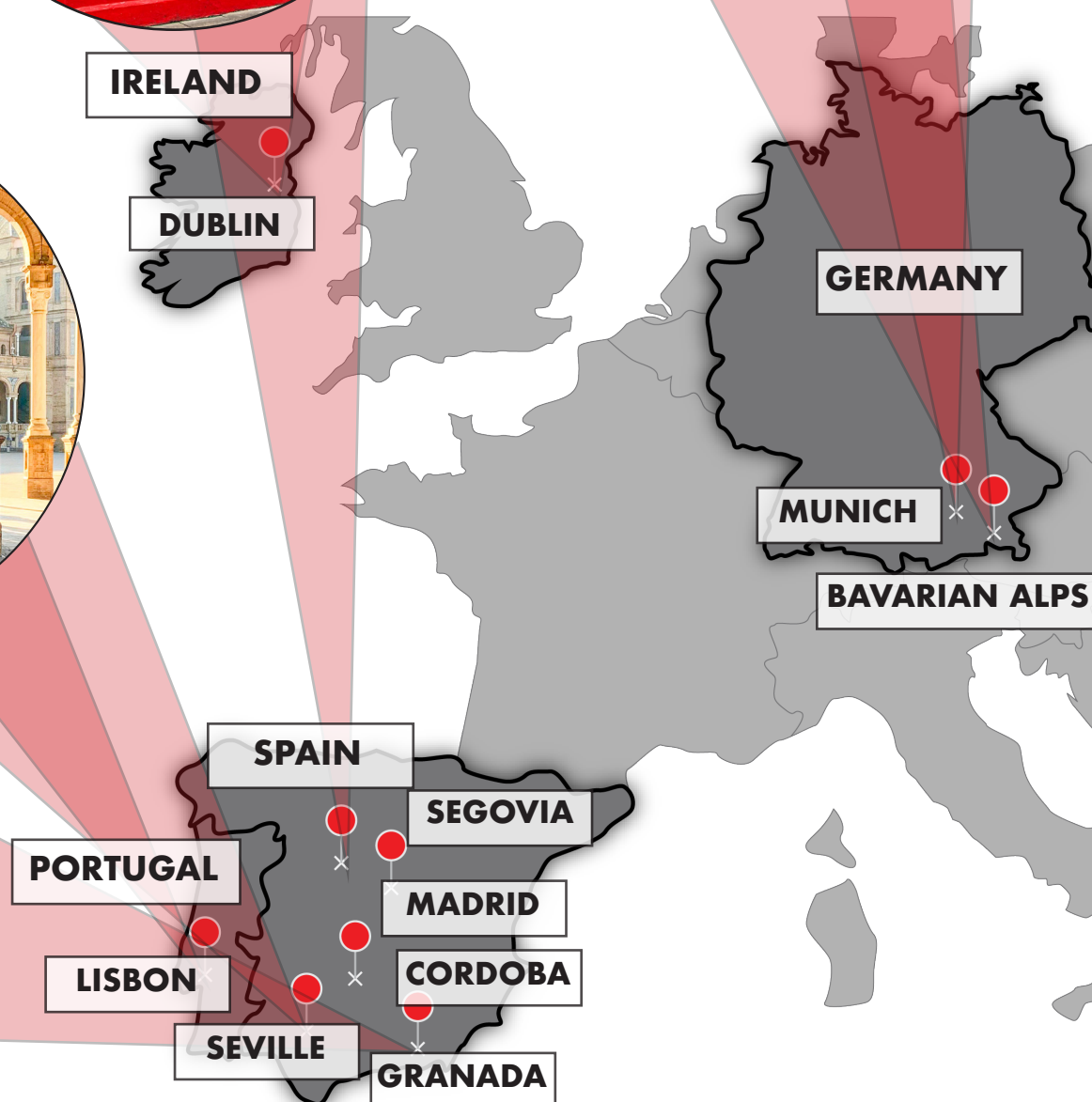
deportations are not new. Many view America’s immigration policy as harsh and anti-immigrant. This type of policy started in the 1990s under the Clinton administration, continued well into the Obama era and has become more extreme during the current Trump presidency.

Many feel that the Trump administration inherited a flawed immigration system from Obama. Neither administration has addressed the risk migrants face when they are deported back to El Salvador.

It is easy to deal with numbers instead of real people. Any person whether they are immigrants or citizens have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness wherever they are. The U.S. should be doing its part to ensure the safety of migrants once they are back in their home country.

SUFFOLK OVERSEAS

Mikaela Linder, a government major sophomore, knew she wanted to travel to Europe and live in a non-English speaking country. She found that the Suffolk campus in Madrid, Spain was just the right place for her. She loved being abroad because of the ability to travel easily throughout Europe. During her time in Spain, she learned how to manage her budget and, most importantly, how to live in the moment. Mikaela's most memorable experience so far was volunteering with a local non-profit organization helping low-income children.



PAO production will turn Modern Theatre into post-apocalyptic world

Morgan Hume
Arts Editor
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We are bonded by the songs we listen to, TV shows we watch and books we read. But how much of the pop culture we love remains after a nuclear apocalypse takes it all away? The Performing Arts Office's (PAO) production of "Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play" offers some of the answers.

The show takes place after an apocalypse destroys all forms of pop culture and a handful of survivors work together to recreate the media they can remember, such as an episode of "The Simpsons." Over the next 75 years, the rendition of "The Simpsons" episode turns from a conversation around the campfire to a fully staged theatrical production.

While the play's humor and characters aim to entertain the audience, the production's larger message highlights the ways we care about things like music and videos as a society.

"It has something really interesting to say about our relationship to popular culture," PAO and "Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play" director Kristin Baker said.

The ambitious play features three distinct acts, each directed by a different director. The PAO normally focuses on more traditional, shorter shows,

but this season directors Baker and Antoine Gagnon said they felt they had the right cast and crew who were ready to tackle a difficult production like this.

"The most challenging part of this play is putting all three acts together in one cohesive show," soph-

rehearsals after returning from winter break, the cast has been working under tight time constraints to put the show together. They spend Monday through Thursday memorizing difficult lines, working together on how to develop their roles and

are very realistic and conversational, so finding the right pacing and remembering even the smallest of lines is key in creating the effect we hope to have."

The eight person cast comes from a variety of performing backgrounds. Some have never been

and references to "The Simpsons," but it is darker than PAO shows typically tend to go. Baker said she thinks it will be interesting for audience members to grab a cup of coffee after the play to talk about different scenes. Also, since the play is an ensemble

said Baker.

Although producing the show has been a challenging process for the cast and crew, Baker and Gagnon stressed that it will be easy for the audience to follow along with the plot. Certain parts of the story may strike people differently, but there is a clear narrative that flows steadily. The directors said "Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play" is thought-provoking without being confusing, so no one should walk out of the theater feeling puzzled.

On top of the entertaining dialogue, the crew has been toying with the idea of what would survive over decades into the future if we could no longer make a quick trip to Target to buy a jacket, for example. With intriguing costume designs and sets in store for the audience, the show will be a unique visual experience that's "just a buffet of images and feelings," said Gagnon.

Gagnon also added that unlike most theater in the area, this is a comprehensible show that you can't find from any other outlet right now. Plus, it's a play Suffolk students have easy access to, so he said they should consider taking advantage of this opportunity.

"Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play" will play at the Modern Theatre from Feb. 20 to Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are free and can be reserved online or inside the PAO office in room 310 of the Sawyer building.



Courtesy of the Performing Arts Office

Performers acting out a scene in a post-apocalyptic setting

omore Casey Williamson, who will be playing the parts of Quincy and Lisa Simpson, said. "Each act has its own unique reasoning for it to be in the play, so trying to remember words and lyrics through all that chaos can be quite stressful."

Since beginning

incorporating live music into the performance.

"This has been one of the hardest shows I have ever worked on, just because there are so many components to it," said senior Mollykate Roden-

bush, who will be playing the part of Maria. "The characters and dialogue

on stage while others are veterans of past PAO productions. Baker said she has enjoyed watching the mix of students from all walks of life on campus come together over the challenging material.

"Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play" incorporates humor, musical numbers

piece, who the audience sees as the the show's main role is subjective. She said it will be interesting to discuss which character was easiest to identify with.

"Who is the main character I think has a lot to do with who you connect with as an audience member,"



Courtesy of the Performing Arts Office

Several actors having a discussion around a campfire



Courtesy of the Performing Arts Office

Characters reminisce on their memories of pop culture

REVIEW



James Bartlett / Journal Staff

Museum of Science unleashes new canine-themed exhibit

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Take a deep dive into the science behind man's best friend at the Museum of Science's newest exhibit "Dogs! A Science Tail."

The exhibit gives museum goers a chance to see unique perspectives into how dogs interact with the world.

The exhibit features huge dog shaped information boards that create a maze-like atmosphere as they lead visitors through, with many interesting experiences along the way.

Whether it's peering through special lenses that show how dogs see, getting a chance to hear how dogs hear with specially made speakers in a giant dog head, or even the chance to smell the scents dogs do in their daily lives, the exhibit is sure to inform and entertain canine lovers. The exhibit also features life size sculptures of dogs and even a life size dog skeleton that breaks down every part of the dog anatomy. There is even a dog-themed jeopardy, or "Jeopawdy," featuring Alex Trebek himself in the game.

Most of the exhibit is aimed at a younger audience, which can make the exhibit underwhelming for an older crowd. The hands-on activities are clearly aimed at children, and involved putting your face up really close to objects, which just made the whole place feel like one big petri dish of germs. Also, much of the actual scientific information is only located on information boards.

That being said, there are still some interesting and fun activities for adults in the exhibit. "Dogs! A Science Tail" goes through the history of dogs and their transition towards domestication over generations, as well as the modern relationship between dogs and humans and the valuable bond that has been forged. The exhibit also features an area where visitors can tell their own stories about dogs on video for others to see.

The best part of "Dogs! A Science Tail" are live demonstrations with dogs that give insight on how dogs are trained. The presentations, which featured furry Great Pyrenees and Corgis, included a question and answer session with an actual dog trainer and demonstrations about some of the tricks and commands dogs can learn through their bonds with humans. However, there was no petting allowed during the demonstrations we went to.

It is recommended to go on a week-day to avoid crowds of parents and their little ones.

The exhibit was originally created and developed at the California Science Center and is currently making a tour to various science centers and museums around the country. The exhibit will only be at the Museum of Science until May 25, and then it will move on to the DoSeum in San Antonio this summer.



James Bartlett / Journal Staff

A child visting the museum snaps a photo of a sculpture

Open mic night



Venture blends poetry, prose and song to charm audience

Madison Suseland
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On Feb. 13, Venture literary magazine hosted an open mic night to allow aspiring creative minds to share their work with the Suffolk community. The event was held in the Poetry Center in 73 Tremont and was attended by an intimate but active audience, many of whom participated in the evening's entertainment by singing, reading their own work and sharing work by other authors.

"In terms of the turn out, we usually have more of a smaller turn out but that usually makes it feel more personal, and everyone usually knows each other which is nice,"

said Jacqueline Janusis, Venture's editor-in-chief.

To kick off the festivities, Janusis warmly welcomed the audience and shared three inspiring poems that she wrote. Janusis then opened the floor to any audience members who wished to perform.

In keeping with Janusis' example, another Venture editorial board member, prose editor Tess Baucom, read two classical poems stemming from tales of Greek mythology. The gory poems depicted the god Apollo flaying a poor satyr named Marsyas and the Greek hero Achilles murdering

a soldier named Patroclus during the Trojan War.

The final Venture e-board member who read was Jena Corea, the magazine's social media manager. Corea shared a poem that Janusis wrote

in love.

Overall, the evening proved to be an excellent opportunity for several different types of artists to gain exposure and encouragement from fellow Suffolk students.

Venture hosts open mics every month and has been able to expand their event to feature multiple creative styles.

"This year has been particularly exciting as people have decided to bring other artistic performances to the open mic, other than reading poetry," said Janusis.

Currently, Venture's members are gearing up for

the 2020 launch party to celebrate publishing their latest edition. The event will be held during activities period on April 16 in the Stoll Room on the fourth floor of the Sawyer building.

The deadline to submit work for the 2020 edition of Venture is Feb. 26. Submissions are taken by email at submittoven-ture@gmail.com



Madison Suseland / Asst. Copy Editor

A student sharing his original writing

titled "Hold My Breath" and an E.E. Cummings poem called "I Carry Your Heart With Me."

One of the evening's most prolific creators was Gio Cassella, who read a Valentine's Day themed poem, told a short non-fiction story and sang a romantic mixture of original songs and covers. Another of the evening's readers, Rene Sanchez, impressed the audience with his witty humor and spot-on accents as he read three of his own short stories. Abigail Craighead concluded the event by reciting her poem "Lunar Lover," a charming piece about the feeling of being

Andrea Gibson brings stories of love to Boston during spoken poetry show

Morgan Hume
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Meeting a girlfriend's parents for the first time, suffering from an unknown but debilitatingly painful illness and buying a toy snake at a church yard sale to use as a makeshift dildo were all personal anecdotes spoken poet Andrea Gibson was willing to share on stage.

Gibson performed at City Winery on Feb. 10 and Feb. 14. The shows, which were a part of their "Right Now, I Love You Forever" tour, were comprised of poems from different collections of theirs about love in all forms.

Musician Lara Ruggles joined the writer on stage to sing lyrics, written by Gibson, over a soothing piano. This arrangement created a new dynamic for Gibson, but the melodies complimented their words and added a unique element to their stanzas.

Gibson admitted to the crowd that they are normally screaming at the patriarchy, discussing politics or trying to send a message about mental health. Over the poet's years of writing and performing, this is the first show they have ever done that focuses entirely on love, setting it apart from previous performances.

"I've never not been inspired to write about love. It's really all I ever want to write about," said Gibson in an inter-

view before the show. "Unfortunately, the world is a mess so there are other things my attention is called towards."

Gibson said for this tour, they relied less on poetic devices and more on directness, which has morphed into a personal and vulnerable show. Throughout the night, Gibson discussed some of their past relationships, joking that their editor Megan Falley was a good sport through the process of editing the show, since she is also Gibson's partner.

In the beginning of the evening, Gibson touched upon the difficulties queer couples face to stay together when society wants them separated, and how some remain close even after a break up. They recited poems about their own heartache, like a relationship that ended after seven years.

Gibson also decided to read their gripping poem "Orlando" from their 2018 anthology "Hey Galaxy," which artfully depicts the 2016 Pulse Nightclub shooting that killed 49 people in Florida. As Gibson's chilling words and imagery echoed over the microphone, the audience felt as choked up as they were.

The poet also incorporated themes of love into their writing about battling chronic lyme disease. In one poem, they open with the line "I first got sick in 2003 and as much as I've tried, illness

has been one relationship I have never managed to leave." They later describe their blood returning to a normal color, not because of seeking help from specialists or taking new forms of medication, but because of falling deeply for someone.

Gibson said that they get shy about talking about their struggle with illness, but they still bravely shared the poem.

"It was a really vulnerable experience and one that opened my heart in a new way," said Gibson. "To slow down, to be hyper present with my own emotional world, and to speak with people as in conversation. It was a new kind of honesty, and a new kind of knowing myself."

Although the performance was heavy, not every poem was gloomy. In the middle of the show, Gibson spoke about self-love, confessing that they did not know what self-love really meant for most of their life. Then, they had the audience think of something they loved effortlessly, like a pet dog or a parent, and then explained the velvety sensation that washed over them is how self-love feels.

Towards the end of the show, Gibson was joined on stage by Falley and the couple read the poem "Fight For Love" together. The pair humorously showed all the petty arguments they've experienced that they can look back on and laugh about now.

Gibson noticed that this show was more tender, both because of the writing process and that they were yelling less on stage than normal. Their straightforward approach is another way the artist has stepped out of their comfort zone.

"There is safety in metaphor for me and there is less of that in this particular show," said Gibson.

Gibson is continuing their tour through other U.S. cities to bring audiences a sense of warmth with more nights of compelling and honest poetry, just like this one.



Morgan Hume / Arts Editor

Andrea Gibson (above and below left) speaking on stage at City Winery on Feb. 10



Morgan Hume / Arts Editor

Gibson gestures to the crowd



Morgan Hume / Arts Editor

Megan Falley (left) and Gibson perform a poem together

Chamber Choir finds a place at Suffolk

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Amidst a diverse and growing pool of Performing Arts Office (PAO) groups at Suffolk, one of the newest additions to the talented student body is the Chamber Choir.

Born out of a limited number of singing PAO groups on campus, the Suffolk Chamber Choir was formed in the fall semester by Madlynn Bard, class of 2022 theater and psychology double major. Bard, a transfer student from James Madison University, had always sung in choirs and wanted to continue her experience singing in a college setting.

After seeing auditions for some of the PAO vocal groups, Bard noticed that Suffolk lacked a group who sang higher level choral pieces, which inspired her to start looking into creating the chamber choir. She began asking around campus and online if anyone was interested in starting a choir here on campus.

“There was a huge number of talented students who wanted to pursue higher level music,” said Bard. “But unfortunately, the number of groups we had here at the university didn’t supply enough positions for all of these musical students to fulfill.”

Bard went and spoke to Kristin Baker, director of

the PAO, to discuss how she could create a chamber choir at Suffolk. After filling out the proposal, Bard and fellow founding members Camille Lajoie, Logan Casey, Zoe Meyers and Jackie MacAvery officially formed the Suffolk

Chamber Choir.

A chamber choir performs different songs than what an A cappella or show choir might sing. Chamber choirs tend to focus on higher level songs, such as contemporary choral songs, foreign language

pieces and classical pieces by musicians like Mozart.

“We want to create a group with an awesomely diverse repertoire that is well versed in multiple different genres of choral music,” said Bard.

There are also specific roles a full ensemble must fill in order to achieve the best sound. The 25-30 person maximum group needs a range of sopranos, altos, tenors and basses in order to perform their music to the best degree.

Although the group was only formed last semester, they’ve already performed once while caroling around campus, and are looking to hit the stage soon.

“My hope for the group is that we will be able to

perform in the Performing Arts [Spring] Showcase,”

said Bard. “I would love that more than anything. I think that, especially with the enthusiasm people are showing towards auditioning and the work ethic of our founding members, we will absolutely be able to pull something together for Spring Showcase.”

The Suffolk Chamber Choir is looking to begin building their full ensemble with auditions being held in early March.

For more information regarding auditions and performances, connect with their Instagram @suffolkchambers and Twitter @SuffolkChambers.



Courtesy of Suffolk Chamber Choir

REVIEW

It’s time to face it: Tame Impala’s new album is in a league of its own

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Kevin Parker, better known as Tame Impala, stops time with his long-awaited fourth album “The Slow Rush,” released on Feb. 14.

With his award-winning previous album “Currents” being difficult to top, it’s no wonder Parker took five years to release his next. Hit songs like “The Less I Know The Better” and “Let It Happen” from the 2015 album, which have over 100 million plays on Spotify, set a pretty high bar for the artist.

Tame Impala’s psychedelic pop-rock sound sets itself apart from the masses, with Parker writing, producing and recording all the music himself. Though it’s easy to see how many may prefer the predecessor to “The Slow Rush,” the most discernible part about Parker’s latest album is how easy it is to get lost in the sound. “The Slow Rush” is one of those rare

recordings that invites the audience to be completely present with the music.

“The Slow Rush” couldn’t have had a more perfect name because as you play this album, it feels like it’s stopping time and speeding it up all at once. The record creates a certain vibe that could only be attributed to Tame Impala. It’s the kind of album that makes you want to lay down on your bed, close your eyes and simply listen.

While some of the lyrics may lack depth, the sound makes up for it. Although I wouldn’t say there was one song or line I could pick out that stuck with me, it’s without question that “The Slow Rush” puts listeners in a mood that no other Tame Impala album has before. It creates its own bubble, making listeners want to find depth within the music.

Though the album isn’t particularly notable for its individual tracks, there are still songs like “Breathe Deeper” and “It Might Be Time” which make listeners genuinely reflect upon their lives. But this is not the same kind of feeling

the artist’s previous songs and albums project.

Many attribute Tame Impala’s sound to having deep cuts and projecting a feeling of catharsis. However, the new tracks make listeners feel hopeful for the future. Lyrics like “Breathe a little deeper should you need to come undone / so do this and get through this and until we see the sun” from the track “Breathe Deeper” and the lines “It might be time to face it / You might as well embrace it” from the song “It Might Be Time” have an uplifting and inspiring message.

The part of the album that stands out the most is how cohesive it feels as a whole a body of work. It’s hard to tell when one song transitions into another because of how smoothly they blend together. It sounds and feels like one beautiful, entire body of work, rather than a collection of individual songs that lack a continuous flow.



Courtesy of Chuff Media

The face behind Tame Impala, solo artist Kevin Parker



Think About It:

The Boy Scouts of America filed for bankruptcy – is it time to end Boy Scouts once and for all?

Email your thoughts to suffolkopinion@gmail.com



The Suffolk Journal:

Should all student be able to eat in the cafeterias in the dorms?

Meetings are every Tuesday at 12:15pm in our office!

Editorial

Communities that rise up stay strong

This past Friday, Suffolk University tragically lost student Annie Bridget McDevitt Tate. We are heartbroken by Annie's passing and as a community we mourn the loss.

Death within a community can cause enormous holes that are difficult to patch. This is where the true beauty of community comes into fruition.

Every community has its own interrelated elements that help it function. Each element contributes in its own way. Where one member of a community lacks, another will fill in, and vice versa. That's what makes communities thrive.

Here at the Suffolk Journal, our community comes in the form of determined individuals who drop responsibilities on a weekly basis to produce and publish a weekly paper.

Our team consists of different writers, editors, photographers, cartoonists with all different titles and ranks.

Beyond mere titles and positions, each of us are unique in what we do and how we act. The journal has five sections: News, World News, Arts, Opinion and Sports.

Week after week, our 16-page paper hits campus shelves, stockpiled with stories and photos that appeal to all sorts of different social groups and types of people.

We help each other write, edit, format and publish. When somebody needs assistance with a certain aspect of the production process, others step up to help.

As proud as we all are to be apart of the journal, we are all members of an even greater community; the Suffolk University community.

As students at Suffolk, it is deeply saddening to read and hear about the tragic passing of Annie Tate, but tragedy is truly what strengthens a community.

Look at Kobe Bryant for example. After his tragic death in late January, the National Basketball Association (NBA) came together, growing stronger and becoming better in its entirety.

Players and coaches alike were stunned by his death, and despite the overwhelming sadness they all felt, they were able to find strength in numbers and help one another.

This is exactly what we should intend on doing here at Suffolk. Instead of letting tragic losses such as Annie define us, we should come together and allow positive energy to rise up out of the darkness.

This starts by embracing the Suffolk culture. Many students attended the men's basketball game this past Tuesday and wore green in honor of Annie's favorite color.

There are really a plethora of ways to become a bigger part of the Suffolk community.

Tell your friends you appreciate them. Tell your family you love them. Keep optimism at an all time high and show up to your classes.

Also, be sure to live life to the fullest. Give 110% on the group project. If you play a sport, leave it all on the field or court. Don't go to bed thinking there was something you could have done better.

Overall, be the best version of yourself. Each student is a vital part of this community. It's up to us to encourage one another to be the best we can be every day. That is the only way the community will strengthen

Just remember, college is four short years. Living on campus with your classmates doesn't last forever. Wake up every day and be a part of the Suffolk culture. Do what you can to rise up and be an outstanding member of our community.

~ The Suffolk Journal Staff

Sit back down, football season ain't over yet

Josh DePeel
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Last weekend had football fans doing double-takes. "Wait...there's football today?" It's an unusual feeling, but football is back just one week after the Super Bowl. The XFL returns to television nationwide with a sure-fire path to success.

The XFL, once remembered as a colossal failure from the early 2000s, has reintroduced itself to the masses thanks to a \$375 million investment from owner Vince McMahon.

As a league embracing an open dialogue with fans, promising a product not available anywhere else and a revamped set of rules, the XFL will be able to achieve what its predecessors haven't been able to. To be a successful alternative football organization separate from the NFL.

McMahon's first attempt at bringing the league to life was marked with mismanagement and poor business decisions. In 2001, McMahon started the league with the intention of competing with the NFL. However,

he promised a twist. He would be combining football with the spirit of the World Wrestling Federation (WWF), one of the biggest shows on television at the time.

McMahon wanted to make the XFL a theatrical event, rather than just a traditional football game. New rules, such

However, problems quickly began to reveal themselves. Player safety had been neglected and injuries began mounting quicker than you could count. Additionally, with a roster size that only amounted to 38 players, compared to 53 in the NFL, problems ensued.

This time however,

McMahon assured everyone in a press conference that there will be no crossover with his other business venture, now the WWE. This differs from the 2001 XFL, which showcased wrestlers like The Rock to promote the league.

Previously, football was on a television

The AAF only broadcasted games on four networks: CBS Sports Network, NFL Network, B/R Live and TNT. Aside from TNT and an occasional CBS main channel airing, all of the networks are premium channels, meaning that you won't have access to these games unless you're

\$24 billion a year from television-rights deals with TNT, ESPN and ABC.

The XFL instead opts to survive, temporarily, off the \$375 million investment from McMahon — giving the league important financial leeway. Additionally, the XFL will not be paying networks to air their product. Instead, the league shows games on accessible platforms to expand the viewership pool rather than shrinking it.

According to Stamford Advocate, the XFL attracted 12.47 million viewers during its first four-game weekend and received massive praise from fans.

In week two, the XFL held steady and displayed relatively similar numbers in terms of viewership and attendance. In fact, in Seattle there was an 18.8% increase in viewers from week one. This despite the

NBA All-Star Game and the Daytona 500 both being scheduled on the same day.

Make no mistake, the XFL is here to stay. With McMahon learning from his past mistakes and the failings of the AAF, the XFL has every opportunity to succeed. Be sure to tune in.



Courtesy of Wiki Commons

as one-point conversions and customizable jersey names, were introduced in an attempt to captivate audiences.

The league appeared promising. According to The New York Times, the first game between the New York/New Jersey Hitmen and the Las Vegas Outlaws attracted over 54 million viewers.

the XFL has shown it has learned from past mistakes.

The league has distanced themselves from being an angsty showcase; a hallmark feature of the XFL's first attempt. Now, McMahon promises that the league will listen to fans and evolve to our viewing pleasures — something the NFL has dragged its heels on.

hiatus for seven months of the year; the XFL is attempting to seize that opportunity, promising a shorter "two-hour game" to offer fans an improved viewing experience.

The Alliance of American Football (AAF) was another up-and-coming football league that suffered the same fate as the 2001 XFL.

already an existing subscriber or are willing to pay extra. In addition, the AAF had to pay CBS to broadcast their games.

However, what separates the XFL from the same path as its predecessors is its broadcast deals. One of the main sources of income for sports-leagues are broadcast deals. The NBA, for example, earns

NBA All-Star Game: a slam-dunk



Courtesy of Flickr

Nick Milano
Opinion Team
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Imagine yourself on the edge of your seat watching the NFL Pro Bowl or MLB All-Star game. It seems unfathomable.

The norm of dull and tedious all-star games in professional sports came to a screeching halt during the 2020 NBA All-Star weekend in Chicago, which ended in nail-biting fashion.

The refinement of the All-Star Game was emphasized this year after the tragic passing of Kobe Bryant. League officials proposed new and innovative rules as a way to increase excitement in the game, while simultaneously honoring Bryant for all he did for the league.

Instead of a timed, four-quarter game, the scores of the first three quarters were each scored separately, with the score resetting to zero at each quarters end. After the first three quarters, each team's total points were compiled. The teams would then each start with their respective point totals, and to win the game, a team had to reach whatever the leading team's score was, plus 24, (Bryant's jersey number) in a non-timed quarter.

In addition, one team wore number two in honor of Kobe's daughter, Gianna, who died alongside her father; the other team sported Bryant's 24, accordingly. Also, the MVP of the game would win the newly

renamed, "Kobe Bryant All-Star MVP Award."

The changes made by the league in Kobe's honor proved to be a massive success. Rather than dribbling around the court for four pointless quarters, both teams played extremely hard, which had been a criticism of previous all-star games.

The climax of the game was the fourth quarter. Heading into the final quarter, Team Giannis led Team LeBron with a score of 124-133.

The quarter itself was perhaps the most intense of any all-star game since the game's creation in 1951. Toronto Raptors guard Kyle Lowry took hard charges from the six-foot eight, 250 pound LeBron James. Philadelphia 76ers center Joel Embiid dove across the court for loose balls. Houston Rockets guard James Harden got into a shouting match with the opposing team captain, Giannis Antetokounmpo, over a referee's call.

To casual basketball fans, this behavior is an expectation. However, around the league the all-star break has become a resting period for players. It has served as a time to recover from any small injuries as well as gear up for the final stretch of the season.

In past all-star games, most starters would be on the bench by the fourth quarter, giving the reserve players a chance to play. That was not the case this year, as almost every starter remained in the game for the entirety of the final quarter.

Team LeBron was ultimately able to come back from a seven-point deficit to defeat Team Giannis, with a final score of 157-155. Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard took home the first ever Kobe Bryant All-Star MVP Award.

Additionally, the winner of each quarter donated \$100,000 to the charity of the team captain's choice, as well as a \$300,000 donation from the winning team.

With the 2020 All-Star game officially wrapped up, fans are left with several questions regarding the future of the event.

Should the NBA continue to model the game as they did this year? The answer is undoubtedly, yes.

Presumably, not every all-star game will be Kobe Bryant themed, but it should be noted that the game's high intensity mostly came from playing to a target score.

Perhaps instead of adding 24 to the leading team's score, they could add 21 points, similar to the classic backyard-basketball game, "21."

They should even take the concept of this year's game further, and have each quarter reach a target score. The first three quarters could go to 40 points each, allowing players to play more relaxed, whereas the final quarter would go to 21 to achieve the same intensity as this year's game.

There is truly an endless amount of routes the NBA can take with this game. All that can be said for now is that they are heading in the right direction.

"You're fired!" – Trump rules through fear

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It seems President Donald Trump remembers a thing or two from his time on "The Apprentice," as the phrase "Ya fired!" echoed through Washington D.C. this past week.

Trump has been keeping tabs on anyone and everyone, from the White House to the Pentagon, that poses a threat to his presidency. Though the argument can be made that it's maniacal, I can't help but find it genius.

In the Republican Party, Trump makes it a point that, to him, loyalty is of utmost importance

— even if it goes against the Constitution. Trump has suggested that the Pentagon investigate and potentially discipline former White House aide, Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, who provided testimony against the President in the impeachment inquiry, according to The New York Times.

In the same article, it was said the administration also fired a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency official, who claims he was ousted because he was deemed too friendly with Democrats.

"Too friendly," like he's working with the enemy? Have we forgotten that democracy was implemented to unite the country, not tear it apart?

Watch the State of the Union address and try to find one solid piece of evidence that shows unity between the two parties. Our country has been split down the middle, and instead of repairing the political divide, Trump is pushing for more border control — a double entendre of sorts.

I can already see the montage of officials being fired across D.C. as DMX's "X Gon' Give It to Ya" blares in the background. It's absurd, but can you blame me?

Trump just survived impeachment. This has only made him appear stronger, untouchable even. Trump has found the hidden idol on "Survivor" and can use it at every tribal council. He's going to keep moving forward.

In the latest news, Trump has been criticized for trying to influence Attorney General William Barr in the trial of Roger Stone. Stone is being tried for lying to Congress, tampering with witnesses and obstructing the House investigation of alleged Russian interference in the 2016 presidential

election. If Stone is convicted, he would face a seven-to-nine-year sentence. Both Barr and Stone have historically been close allies of Trump.

Barr, in an attempt to make it seem as if dropping Stone's case was his own idea and not Trump's, recently took a jab at the President for his tweets about the Department of Justice's prosecutors and cases. Barr says Trump is "making it hard for me to do my job."

Barr appears to be separating himself from the bad reputation that Trump has made for himself, but at the same time still trying to please him. Any attempt Barr has made so far to stop Trump from tweeting about the D.O.J. has been thwarted. Trump tweets he has a "legal right" to intervene and sidestep the Justice Department.

But, man, what a high Trump must be on! To have so much power and to have people doing his bidding without hesitation. This is leadership through fear, not love. But with all of the negative feedback Trump has gotten so far in office, wouldn't it be easier for him to be feared?

While the Democrats are struggling to pick their "chosen one" during primary season, Trump just executed Order 66.



Courtesy of Wiki Commons

Suffolk softball player lands internship with GNAC

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Suffolk women's softball player Samantha Jacques scored a semester internship with the Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC), on Feb. 6th as a marketing and multimedia specialist while playing in the GNAC for an upcoming fourth season.

The senior public relations and advertising major is working for the GNAC this semester and is administering their website and social media accounts. For the softball team Jacques is an outfielder and has seen 61 games as a Lady Ram.

Jacques follows the GNAC on Instagram and applied for the position in the fall, along with a fellow teammate.

"They put it on their Instagram story one day and I read the description and applied for it," said Jacques. "This is my third internship but the only one I've been able to do graphic design so that is why I was really interested

in it." The internship is funded through the NCAA diversity grant. The position was only open to females and people of marginalized backgrounds to create diversity in the workplace. The GNAC website says the internship is made possible through the diversity grant funding, to help these people learn more about college athletics.

"The way I get paid is the GNAC gets money through a fund to promote diversity in sports, which I love and am all for," said Jacques.

On Feb. 15, Jacques covered her first event for the GNAC this past weekend as an administrator at the Inaugural Indoor Track & Field Championship. Here the Suffolk men's and women's indoor track and field teams would take first and second place.

"I found through my other two internships that I really like the fan engagement and interaction part of working in sports which is super rewarding," said Jacques.

Jacques is from Manchester, New Hampshire where she began her softball career



Courtesy of Suffolk Athletics

at 8 years old. The outfielder will continue playing her last season of softball, while juggling an intern for the league she has played in her whole collegiate career.

"It's a remote internship and I never have to go into the office if I don't have to. That's why I applied because it works with my schedule," said Jacques. "I think once the season rolls around it

will be hard to juggle, but being on the softball team has taught me really good time management skills, so I know when and how to get things done."

Through the application process Jacques's team, coaches and members of the athletic department were supportive.

"My coach really helped me through the application process. I also worked with Amy Barry who does

social media for the athletics page at Suffolk," said Jacques. "She has been super helpful with guiding me to create new ideas."

Although being a student athlete can bring on the challenge of balancing life, Jacques knew Suffolk would be the perfect fit for her skills and academic capability.

"I really wanted to come to school in the city and Suffolk gave me the

opportunity to play at the Division III level, which is the perfect level for me and be in the city and get in the major I wanted to be in."

The women's softball team kicks off their season in Florida for spring break playing 10 games over the course of 10 days. The home opener is March 20 vs Emerson.

Color guard club could be coming to Suffolk's campus

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In elementary school, Sabrina Liu watched the marching band in admiration, crediting the parade she viewed as the moment she "fell in love and couldn't resist doing color guard."

Now a freshman at Suffolk University, Liu has decided to form a color guard club on campus to continue her passion. The club is in the beginning stages, with a general meeting in the works.

Liu is hoping to gauge interest from the students at Suffolk, and the next step would be to order flags for all potential members. She understands that people of all different skill levels would be coming into the club, some who have never touched a flag and others who may have a high level of experience.

Liu said the plan is to hold practices at the

Ridgeway Gymnasium, the facility whose floor was just completely redone and finished Feb. 13.

Liu holds the position of president of the organization and is in the process of assembling a board consisting of the positions of Vice President/Co-President, Treasurer and Secretary/Public Relations.

"I'm dedicating myself 100% when I can because color guard isn't work for me, it's fun," Liu said. "During what's left of my free time, I make sure to plan our budget, create fliers, and plan rehearsal spaces. It also helps to have an amazing e-board by my side so I'm not alone."

Liu has four years of color guard experience, as well as one season of drum core under her belt. Drum core, as she defines it, is an intense over the summer marching band, and is on an international circuit, rather than through high schools.

She was color guard captain her senior year



Sean Buckley / Graphics Editor

of high school, and is continuing a similar leadership role with her presidency of the club.

Along with this leadership position for the color guard club, Liu is running for an e-board position for the Queer Student Union (QSU) for next year and currently holds a Senator position for the class of 2023 in the Student Government Association (SGA).

"Being a senator has

definitely acclimated me to being a leader at Suffolk as well as to the community itself," Liu said. "I love being in SGA and I find that it has definitely helped me become a better voice for my peers and a more effective leader."

Junior Lukas Phipps, the Commuter Senator-at-Large and Chair of the SGA Diversity Committee, works with Liu frequently in SGA and characterized her as full of empathy

and someone who leads by example.

"It's clear by the amount and content of questions she asks in committee, very thought out and always ensuring to get every angle," Phipps said. "Very courteous to those she does lead, is clearly in it for the passion and the pursuit of doing better by others."

Phipps spoke highly of Liu and was confident in her ability to create this club and lead it.

"Coming from being a freshman to an SGA rockstar, I have full confidence that she'll lead this club with a lot of energy and a lot of love," Phipps said. "Ambitious as she is caring, you can't get better than somebody in it for the right reasons, and that describes Sabrina to a T."

Being so involved on campus has opened Liu's eyes to how many organizations are available for students to participate in. She claims that color guard is something that Suffolk doesn't have. She

said she wants nothing more than to share her passion for color guard with the Suffolk community.

"I love that there's both a creative component that exercises the brain and a physical component that exercises the body," Liu said.

At the end of this semester, Liu and the executive board are planning a performance in the Boston Common for both the public and Suffolk students to watch and to showcase the club.

"It's definitely new to me [forming a club] and although it does stress me out a little sometimes, I don't get discouraged because of what lies on the other side," Liu said. "I'd say I handle pressure well. I've been under pressure for quite a while with my busy schedule so it's not incredibly new to me."



CONGRATS:

On Sunday the men's and women's indoor track teams faced the GNAC Championship. The men placed first and the women placed second.

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Duffy looks to finish strong in his senior season

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With spring on the horizon, the sun is setting on the Suffolk career of men's basketball captain Thomas Duffy. The senior from Fairfield, Connecticut has an impressive resume of accomplishments in his four years as a Ram.

Duffy is a member of the thousand-point club along with two all Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) team selections (first team junior year, and second team his sophomore). This season, he is currently second in points per game (PPG) among the Rams with 10.7.

The senior captain holds the accolade of having one of the best performances during head coach Jeff Juron's five-year career at Suffolk. He scored 39 points against Maine Farmington on Nov. 18, 2018, the highest point total scored by a player in a single game under Juron.

"I know it was the highest point total, but I'm not sure if it was the best performance of any certain player under Coach Juron," said Duffy. "There's been a lot of really good ones I've been lucky to have been a part of where my teammates played amazing."

Duffy attributed his success as a Ram as a whole to pretty much everyone but himself.

"I would say what helped lead me to success was having great coaches who instilled confidence in me out there, and having teammates that day in and out pushed me harder to become the player I've become."

Duffy continued to praise his coaches, again saying how they boost his confidence.

"My head coach at Suffolk and really all the assistants along the way have just helped me to believe that I can be the best player out there if I apply myself," said the career 12.7 PPG shooter.

Duffy eventually

credited himself for some of his success.

"A strong work ethic outside of all of that is what led to these accolades, but having a great surrounding cast along my side the whole way is what was most important."

These accolades Duffy speaks of are far from limited to regular season accomplishments.

Duffy is an accomplished playoff performer. He shined in the 2018 GNAC tournament. On Feb. 22, in the semifinals vs Johnson and Wales University, he hit 13 field goals and scored 33 points. This was the most field goals and points ever achieved by a Ram in a GNAC tournament game.

With two games left in the season, the Rams are currently fifth in GNAC standings, with their final contests both being conference games. As a captain and an accomplished playoff performer, Duffy has the responsibility of preparing the team for the challenge ahead.

"At the moment we're just working on getting into the playoffs and working for the best seed we can get," said Duffy.

He spoke of his confidence in his teammates to rise to the occasion.

"I think playoff time is just when everyone can take their game to another level, when there's a championship that lies in front of you everyone sacrifices their own good for the better of the team"

Despite the outcome of the playoffs, Duffy said his life will continue to revolve around basketball. He has hopes of playing professionally overseas after graduation. He also may pursue coaching. He said he can't see himself working a job that doesn't involve basketball.



Courtesy of Suffolk Athletics