Racist Graffiti and Literature Angers Suffolk

by Patricia G. Cárdenas-Tapia

A national tide of bigotry and racial prejudice is metastasizing through the country's campuses. On Monday, October 23, Suffolk University became the latest victim of racial bigotry. Sawyer, Fenton, and Archer building boards were posted with unattributed, anonymous letters titled "White Pride." Also, Sawyer elevators were defaced with swastikas.

Suffolk's black community, reportedly shocked and hurt, quickly gathered to discuss the ramifications of the attack. Members of the Hispanic and Asian associations, along with the Campus Ministry, and an SGA representative, were present to condemn the attack.

During the emotional meeting, Black Student Union (BSU) president Ernest Guerrier synthesized the organization's spirit while demanding a "thorough, total exhaustion of all the alternatives provided by the university to sanction this bigotry," he said. "We will accept no apologies, or half-hearted solutions or procedures. The perpetrators must be fully punished to avoid any future recurrence of this attack on the black race, or anyone who is non-caucasian."

Guerrier concluded, "We want this criminal or criminals expelled, this expulsion to serve as a concrete and sincere example of Suffolk's pledge to be 'the school of opportunity.'"

Immediately after the discovery of the letters, the AHANA committee initiated its routine meeting, and put their agenda aside to "discuss the assault," said Director of Minorities Affairs Dr. Sharon Artis. "Not only minorities were affected, but the entire school community," she said. "We need to show you we don't only care, but we are working to solve it. However, this is too large an effort to do by ourselves. It is our responsibility to act against this insult."

She added that the newly formed AHANA committee needs all of our input that can be offered to optimize results.

"It hurts," said one student present at the meeting, synthesizing feelings of the assembly. Lovett Scott-Smith labeled it an "attack on our race that demands more than just talking or committee meetings. Something concrete ought to be done, immediately."

Tracy Dixon expressed: "Now is the best time to truly implement a minority association and many other groups, including the Suffolk Journal staff."

A lot of you are probably already thinking bad thoughts of this because you have been raised wrong. You have been fooled by the backward liberals and minorities of the society. They have told you that it is not right for black and black pride and to have any type of black organization including magazines, television can perform rap music, which is nothing but a bunch of uneducated street gang individuals. The respect for privacy in the comments was 'not necessarily appropriate, but it's always done.' "

"It's OK, but if (a) white person calls a black person a nigger it is racism," she added. "But it's not a slur, it's not the in-"nigger shit" and that he added "a little bit more" to the, "We were just joking around.

"We don't know, whose name Seibel does not know, reported, "I'll kick your honkey ass."

Seibel said, "I know it sounds bad, it sounds horrible... If I kicked him and spit on him something not only from rappers, but from being a coach to exact discipline on the my team. It would be injudicious of me at this point to be specific in terms of individuals. The respect for privacy in the curriculum." Freshman Javier Pagan, "I don't know why." said Seibel. He also said that the comments as "court talk," "We're my brothers. I can say anything to them."

According to Seibel, Nelson's decision was "harsh."

"He didn't hear my side of the story: he didn't want to hear about it. He was just being stubborn," said Seibel. "I know it sounds bad, it sounds horrible... but... it's not meant to be... degrading towards another human being," said Seibel. He also said that the comments, made during captain's practice, were made in a "half-hearted, joking but... mean tone."

"To Seibel, the term 'nigger' is "slang for black - in a demeaning way, though." he added. "He said that he does not regret the incident. "To regret something, you wish you hadn't said it and I knew what I was saying... If I kicked him and spit on him (in addition to the derogatory remark) that would be wrong," he said.

"I went out with a Chinese girl for a year and a half. I wouldn't have done that if I was racist. Oh, and I went out with a black girl, too," said Seibel. Seibel, a communications major with a 2.1 GPA, wrote a letter to the Journal in which he stated, "I noticed that if a black person calls a black person a nigger it is racism," he added in the letter that he is upset because Nelson is one of the main reasons he is still in school. He added, "I've been black all my life."

Assistant to the President Dr. Sharon Artis discussed the implications of the incident in an interview with the Journal last week.

"Being a black person I know that people call others 'nigger,'" she said. "But it's not a slur, it's not the insult that white folks intend."

She said there are two uses of the word: the original, insulting use; and the familiar use, which is based on the limited view of self and the "self hatred that was ingrained for a while."

"A lot of people who have become more educated (understand the term) as all," said Artis. "You have to know that person exceedingly well. Like family," she added.

"If someone unfamiliar uses it, you know you've been insulted," she said. "It's an expression of your lack of education. The word is said can be used to judge the meaning, although, "when a white person uses it, it only means one thing."

The Suffolk Journal

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President Respond

by Heather A. Swails

In response to recent "acts of derogatory or racist graffiti" at Suffolk University, President David J. Sargent issued a statement outlining the course of action that will be taken to remedy the situation.

"The posting of a message entitled 'White Pride,' [and] swastikas in the Sawyer elevators... have no place within this university," Sargent stated. "We value the variety of people and cultures that make up the community of Suffolk University. Actions that suggest otherwise simply cannot be tolerated."

Sargent's immediate action will be to investigate the origin of the flyer as well as other evidence of discrimination. The perpetrators of these acts will have "severe sanctions" imposed against them.

The second step in the fight against further racist graffiti at Suffolk will be a Racial Awareness Forum to be held on Wednesday, November 8. The purpose is to "educate about the causes and effects of prejudice and ways for all members of the Suffolk University Community to combat it," Sargent encourages students, faculty, and staff to join him at Suffolk's first Racial Awareness Forum.

Sargent and others on his staff will monitor these short and long term goals. "I am confident that together we can rebuild a climate that respects the dignity of our entire community," Sargent stated.
Letter circulated in the Sawyer Building last week focused specifically on African-Americans. What does our education at Suffolk University give us to help counter the malignant stereotypes in such a commentary? We are an educational community. Let’s work together to bring education about diversity into the classroom, the cafeteria, the clubs. This is one sure way to render the hatefulfulness of those who post letters like the one last week less potent. It will also help to root the day, garden-variety institutional racism in our university which underrepresents a wide cross-section of students in the faculty, the administration, the curriculum — and which is so much more deadly to us all than any one extremist act.

We are an interfaith ministry office, and welcome all inquiries or suggestions about our efforts to promote an atmosphere at Suffolk University which affirms religious diversity and all other kinds of diversity in our community.

Sincerely,

Vincent Miraglia
President, Political Science Assoc.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS must be typed (double spaced), signed, and must include a phone number for verification. Letters should run no longer than 150 words and the Journal reserves the right to edit letters for length. Please submit letters to The Suffolk Journal, 20 Dorcas St., room 116 by Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. for the following Monday's paper.

Disbelief and Anger

To the Editor:

In response to the article posted throughout the Sawyer building entitled "Racism," I can only expound total disbelief and anger. An act such as this at Suffolk University is unacceptable to everybody. A school wide response is necessary in order to educate as well as punish.

I hope that you, my fellow students, will help to bring a swift end to this deplorable behavior. I invite other students to offer their ideas and suggestions to help make this university one in which EVERYBODY feels welcome.

One response to such an action must be education. If this university offered classes in African Studies and other histories of the entire world, perhaps some of this hatred would be quelled.

Sincerely,

Vincent Miraglia
President, Political Science Assoc.
Racism Must Not Be Tolerated

On April 9 almost 35 Suffolk students were among the 600,000 who marched for pro-choice in Washington, D.C.

I am proud to be a part of “The largest march in the nation’s capital in American history.”

I am encouraging everyone who wants to march for “the right to choose” to join us again.

The National Organization of Women (NOW) is organizing a mobilization which will take place on November 12, 1989. The Supreme Court will be hearing arguments on three abortion cases at this time. At this time we need to join forces again to show that the majority of people in this nation wants the right to choose what will happen to their bodies.

This is not just a march for abortion rights. It is a march for the first amendment: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

I do believe that the Supreme Court has forgotten that we are individuals with brains. We are smart enough to think for ourselves. And we are capable enough to choose what is right for us unless the Supreme Court takes away our right to choose.

It is important that the students here at Suffolk join the forces. People’s rights need to be preserved. Women’s rights need to be established. Gay and Lesbian rights need to be reinforced. Black women and men need to have their rights reinstated. Everyone needs to have their rights reinforced.

We are a unique nation, we have a constitution which will help us preserve our rights. I am urging you to fight for your rights. Lincoln already freed the SLAVES. Are we going to have to free them again?

I am asking your help. We are asking your help. Join us in Washington to speak out.

I am grateful that I am able to speak out, without fear of punishment or retribution. I won’t stop being angry and disgusted and as long as I am a member of the SU community, no skinhead or white supremacist organization will be on campus unless the students join the forces again to show that the majority of people in this nation wants the right to choose what will happen to their bodies.

I’m still angry, but add to that now a sense of profound confusion. As a Journalist major, I must defend free speech. As a woman who despises bigotry and yet it bigoted herself against ignorant neo-nazis, I must speak out against this atrocity.

And then, I am grateful that I am able to speak out, without fear of punishment or retribution.

Let us stay focused and understand that our goal is racial harmony. The problem won’t go away if we make the perpetrators go away. Will expulsion teach a lesson, or will it foster even more hatred?

If we concentrate instead on education, the problem will not only become more visible (and more easily exterminated) we may even help people to understand that terms like “nigger” are unacceptable.

I won’t stop being angry and disgusted and as long as I am a member of the SU community, no skinhead or white supremacist organization will be on campus unless the students join the forces again to show that the majority of people in this nation wants the right to choose what will happen to their bodies.

If you are planning to come to Washington to march, and would like more information please call the Women’s Center.

Annamarie Soares

Let Freedom Reign

in Defense of Vulgarity

Much has been said in favor and against the article about male prostitution published a month ago. It has been described as profane, obscene, disgusting and offensive because its language and graphic style.

The original draft used statistics and a sociological type of writing to approach the subject of male prostitution. But the feature story did not communicate the real sensation of being in the streets. If the article about Derek is disgusting, obscene, profane or offensive, it’s a reflection of how I felt when I spent two nights watching him work. It is easy to judge prostitutes (and other victims of society) when one is comfortable at home with everything one needs, and some unnecessary commodities. The language used was intended to offend, to shock; and if it did. Statistics do not lie, for cold, cold, or become addicted. I wanted people to realize that not everyone lives well. We are stupidly presume

The Suffolk Journal
28 Derne Street
Boston, MA 02114

Room 116

The Suffolk Journal is the official newspaper of the campus community and offers the opportunity to gain practical experience in journalism and its related fields. All students, regardless of major, are invited to contribute to the production of the Journal. The views expressed in these pages are in no way meant to reflect those of the school’s administration.

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HISPANIC WEEK
NOVEMBER 13 - 17, 1989

MONDAY, NOV. 13
10 A.M.
ARCHER 110

“Trumpets From the Islands of Their Eviction: A Poet of the Puerto-Rican Migration”
A reading by Poet Martin Espada.
Free admission.

TUESDAY, NOV. 14
1 - 2:15 P.M.
ARCHER 110

“Music of the Andes”
Lecture-demonstration by South American folk group Fortaleza.
Refreshments. Free admission.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15
12 NOON
ARCHER 110

“Gabriela Mistral: Her Life and Works”
A reading by members of the Modern Language Club celebrating the centennial of the Chilean Poet and Nobel Prize laureate Gabriela Mistral (1889-1957).
Refreshments. Free admission.

THURSDAY, NOV. 16
1 - 2:45 P.M.

“El Amor Brujo”
A film by Spanish director Carlos Saura starring Antonio Gades and Cristina Hoyos.
English subtiles. Free admission.

FRIDAY, NOV. 17
7:30 - 11:30 P.M.
SAWYER CAFETERIA

FIESTA DE CARNAVAL”

HISPANIC WEEK is sponsored by the Department of Humanities and Modern Languages, the Modern Language Club, the Council of Presidents and the Cultural Events Committee. For further information, call 573-8285.

E.D.S.A. is proud to announce the availability of two scholarships for evening and part-time graduate and undergraduate students
For eligibility information, call Gail Mansfield at x8452.

DO YOU KNOW... Who is the wittiest woman on “The Hill” is? Come to C. Walsh Theatre, Monday, October 30 at 6:00 p.m. and listen to Representative Marjorie Clapprood tell of her career adventure. Reception following in the Munce Conference Room at 7:00 p.m.
This event co-sponsored by EDSA and Career Services and Cooperative Education Office. For further information call Ellen B. at 426-4600 x253.

¡HOLA! HISPANIC ASSOCIATION MEETING
The Suffolk University Hispanic Association will meet on Thursday, October 26 in Room 428 - Sawyer
This will be our first meeting for the 1989 Fall Semester.
Attendance is encouraged.
Refreshments will be served
NOS VEMOS ESTE JUEVES!