Debate clinches national title

Following a huge turnaround season where women's basketball won 20 games, graduate forward Lauren Romito became the second Suffolk athlete in three seasons to win the Commonwealth Coast Conference Defensive Player of the Year award.

"It was definitely such an honor to be recognized by the league, but it just goes to show that our team success led to individual accolades. We had an overall great season and it was really nice to be rewarded for it," said Romito.

Although the team didn't win the CCC Championship this season, they were well recognized by the conference for their success this year. Right alongside Romito was senior forward Amanda DeAngelis, who won the CCC Player of the Year award.

Students voice arming concerns

President, Board members hear community input on arming SUPD in latest forum

Suffolk University students from the undergraduate, graduate and law schools gathered to share their perspectives on the debate surrounding the proposed arming of Suffolk University Police Department officers during a forum March 26. The forum was structured as a "listening session," with students from the three schools speaking to a packed Geches Room to share their perspectives on the matter, but not have questions answered or comments responded to at the time. Attendance included Chair of the Board of Trustees Robert Lamb, Suffolk President Marisa Kelly, Vice Chair of the Board Amy Nechtem and Board member Ernst Guerrier, as well as SUPD Chief James Connolly and Lieutenant Ramon Nunez.

According to Lamb, the decision for the format of the forum was based on the goal of hearing as much feedback as possible, taking into account students' busy schedules. From input and questions received, Kelly and Lamb said administration will compile a list of frequently asked questions for students to refer to. At the start of the forum, Kelly said the FAQ would go out at the end of the week, accompanied by a survey to gauge what
Students from the undergraduate, graduate and law schools fill Sargents Hall’s Keches Room during a forum March 26 to share input with Board members and Suffolk administration on the upcoming decision on whether or not to arm Suffolk University Police officers.

Community forum hears student concerns about arming, leaves many feeling skeptical

“Personally, I was troubled by the fact that it wasn’t a Q&A ... at the end of the day, students will still show up and see, so I’m proud of the Suffolk community for standing in solidarity for our own independent opinions, regardless of what it was,” said SGA President Clinton Oreofe. According to Lamb, the perspectives of students are crucial for Board members and administration to understand what needs to be considered in the debate in addition to sharing their own perspectives and thoughts.

“If you want to stop school shootings, you want to prevent people from being in crisis and making poor choices in the first place.” - Faye Golden

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Suffolk Debate brings national recognition back to Boston

From CHAMPS - 1

Across the board, the team found success and national recognition early. Salah just began her time with the team in the fall after a career in policy debate so popular among certain majors at Suffolk, said Irizarry.

“Our topics are always either a U.S. Foreign Policy topic, a U.S. Domestic Policy topic or a Legal topic. It’s part of the reason we are such an attractive activity to politics, government, philosophy and economics majors,” said Irizarry.

The team spends much of their season understanding all angles of an argument and focusing on the chosen topic for the season. The team is expected to argue all sides of a topic during competition, making it important for the group to prepare for their tournaments thoroughly.

“Policy debate is a research-intensive activity, so we spend a lot of time researching, structuring and writing our arguments,” said Irizarry.

The team also frequently do speech drills. All of the speeches are timed, requiring a good amount of practice to go timing and writing our arguments, structuring and writing our arguments, said Irizarry.

The team will continue into the next season with the success of the upper-class team members have been able to witness the team’s full success story.

“Going into my senior year, it’s truly amazing to see how the team has grown and what it has accomplished since we began,” said Wong.

The team will continue into the next season with the success of the upper-class team members have been able to witness the team’s full success story.

“Winning top speaker in JV was definitely amazing, especially after not having debated since April 2022 when I was in high school. I never thought that I would debate in college. I had always said that after my senior season ended in high school that I would stick to coaching but it was definitely a lot of fun to come out of retirement and debate with Will this season,” said Salah.

Salah has been doing debate since high school and has enjoyed the environment and community that Suffolk’s team has been able to give her as a freshman.

“Having Frank and the whole team has been really amazing. It definitely allowed me to meet new people. I’ve made some good friends as a result, which is very helpful as someone who is just starting college,” said Salah.

This team’s growth has even been visible within this season. Wong and Ludka went 1-5 in one of their previous competitions this season. Wong and Ludka went 1-5 in one of their previous competitions this season.

As the program continues to grow, students are encouraged to reach out to Irizarry if they are interested in being involved with the team.

Wet weather brings warm temps for the week of April 3

By Thursday afternoon the precipitation should stop and temperatures will remain around 48 degrees with wind gusts up to 40 miles per hour.

Saturday will see more clouds than sun with a high of 42 degrees, dropping to the mid-30s with showers in the evening. On Friday, it will be partly sunny with a high of 46 degrees and 38-mile-per-hour wind gusts. According to AccuWeather. Evening temperatures will fall to about 37 degrees.

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Aid workers killed in Israeli strike

Leo Woods
Photo Editor

Seven humanitarian aid workers died after Israel fired on the disas- ter relief organization’s convoy April 1. The three-vehicle convoy was leaving a warehouse in Deir al Balah, a city in the cen- tral Gaza Strip, where aid workers unloaded more than 100 tons of food brought by sea, according to The New York Times.

WCK said in a state- ment April 2 that the organization had coordi- nated its movements with Israel’s military. CEO Erin Gore denounced the attack and said the or- ganization was immediately pausing operations in the region.

“This is not only an attack against WCK, this is an attack on humanitarian organizations showing up in the most dire of situa- tions where food is being used as a weapon of war. This is unforgivable,” said Gore.

In a video state- ment April 2, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said officials were investigating the “tragic case of our forces unintentionally harming innocent people in the Gaza Strip.”

Later the same day, Netanyahu posted on X that Israel is “fully committed” to allowing humanitarian aid to reach Gaza, where hundreds of thousands are facing starvation.

“Israel deeply regrets the tragic incident which claimed the lives of seven humanitarian aid work- ers,” the post said. “Our hearts go out to their families and to their home countries.”

President Joe Biden said in a press release April 2 he was “out- raged” by the workers’ deaths and said the U.S. company illegally surveyed aid to Gaza “through all available means.”

Biden also criticized Israel for failing to protect aid workers and civilians from harm during its ongoing military opera- tions in the Gaza Strip.

“Incidents like yester- day’s simply should not happen. Israel has also not done enough to protect civilians,” the statement said. “The United States has repeatedly urged Israel to deconflict their military operations against Hamas with humanitarian opera- tions, in order to avoid civilian casualties.”

According to the Aid Worker Security Database, 203 aid workers have been killed in Gaza since the Oct. 7 attacks.

Florida Supreme Court rules to ban abortions after 15 weeks

William Woodring
Editor-at-Large

The Florida Supreme Court ruled in favor of a law that would ban abortions past 15 weeks, putting the law on the ballot in November.

“The Florida Supreme Court rules in favor of a law to ban abortions after 15 weeks, putting the law on the ballot in November.

“This is a compromise that addresses where I think many Floridians are,” said Renner.

The Florida Access Network, an advocacy group dedicated to abor- tion rights in Florida, said they will shift towards paying for travel for those who need abortions, according to Advocacy Director Stephanie Loraine Pineiro.

“People who can’t afford to travel, can’t afford to lose their jobs because they have to travel for abortion care, these are the people who are going to be forced to remain pregnant,” she said. “The collateral damage is all of us.”

Google settles in $5 billion lawsuit over personal data

Leo Woods
Photo Editor

In a settlement announced April 1, the tech giant Google agreed to purge billions of records after a 2020 class-action lawsuit claimed the company illegally surveyed millions of users.

According to the Associated Press, the $5 billion lawsuit accused Google of tracking Chrome users’ search activity even when they had switched the browser to the “Incognito” setting, among other claims.

The settlement, origi- nally agreed upon in December 2023, is the fourth case resolved in as many months by Google, according to The New York Times.

Google agreed to delete the personal data it had collected from over 136 million Chrome users. The Times reported the company would also retain a block on third-party cookies by default when browsing in Incognito mode for the next five years and will stop using technology that detects when users enable private browsing.

José Castañeda, a spokesman for Google, said in a statement that the company would not pay any damages to plaintiffs as part of the settlement, although individuals can sue the company on their own.

“People who can’t afford to travel, can’t afford to lose their jobs because they have to travel for abortion care, these are the people who are going to be forced to remain pregnant,” she said. “The collateral damage is all of us.”
Suffolk students serve in communities across the nation

During Spring Break, a group of students travel to New Orleans to learn about racial justice in the city and participate in service.

Students on the trip to Laredo, Texas work with Habitat for Humanity to build a house in the community on the U.S.-Mexico border.

As colleges across the country hit pause for spring break, 60 Suffolk students prepared for a different kind of trip.

Students on the Center for Community Engagement’s Alternative Spring Break traveled to locations across the United States to work with activists, service groups and nonprofits while doing service in their host communities.

The annual trip brought students to five locations, each focusing on a different issue: Prince Williams Forest, Virginia, to work on environmental issues; Laredo, Texas, and Bel Air, Maryland to work with Habitat for Humanity, New Orleans for Racial Justice and New York City to work on LGBTQ+ issues.

“This department itself emphasizes experiential learning, getting students outside of their normal learning environment and getting hands-on opportunities and this is just one of the programs that does that. This program itself is a week-long service trip based on a certain social justice curriculum and it takes the students outside of Massachusetts,” Mena Vollano, the CCE’s administrative coordinator and ASB organizer, said to The Suffolk Journal.

Connor Hayward, who worked on service projects at the Prince Williams Forest in Virginia, emphasized that while this type of service is not traditionally associated with spring break, giving back to communities both near and far was rewarding and interesting.

“It was a lot of fun!” said Hayward. “I met some great people in the Suffolk community [and] it was a great time doing something different for once instead of going home for break.”

Sophomore Rafaela Shanahan, a sophomore broadcast journalism major, participated in the Habitat for Humanity trip to Laredo, Texas. Shanahan and others working with Habitat for Humanity built a house that will soon provide an affordable home.

Through building this house, students connected with each other while utilizing many skill sets, according to Shanahan.

“I got to exercise mental and physical skills while also working alongside a super fun group of students,” Shanahan said. Support from the Laredo community was clear, according to Shanahan. She felt welcomed by both Habitat for Humanity and the community itself.

“I could feel the love and community of Laredo. [Habitat for Humanity] is well respected in Laredo, so different restaurants donated lunch to us as a token of appreciation. The people working for [Habitat for Humanity] were friendly, generous and great teachers,” said Shanahan.

Beyond working with the community, Shanahan said she learned skills that aren’t taught in the classroom. Building a house, she said, was an opportunity to experience something new in a safe and rewarding environment.

“I never dreamed of working power tools, but I’m proud to report that I can successfully and safely handle a metal saw,” said Shanahan.

These trips highlight many of the different ways that students can serve their communities, according to Vollano. While students in Texas, Maryland and Virginia, focused on physical work, students in New York and New Orleans examined community advocacy through activism.

Danny Metri, who attended this year’s trip to New York, said the program connected students to LGBTQ+ activism in the city through working with local pillars in the community. Metri highlighted a visit to the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, a program that works to combat gender discrimination with an emphasis on the intersectionality of gender, race and other identities.

“New York was so much fun, and we had the privilege to meet hardworking and passionate activists and leaders, which made for an overall inspiring experience,” said Metri.

News Editor Sarah Roberts contributed to the reporting of this article.

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New exhibit makes waves at the MFA

Alexis Crochère / Staff Writer

The Museum of Fine Arts opened its newest exhibit, “Hallyu! The Korean Wave” March 24, which walks viewers through the history of South Korea and the identity it has created in the last century.

The exhibit opens with the history of South Korea and how it was shaped by Japanese and American pop culture before and after it gained its independence in 1945. Examples of military artifacts like postcards and mug shots with detailed descriptions set the tone for how confined South Korea and its culture were under Japanese rule.

After the pre-independence portion of the exhibit comes to an end, models of Hyundai cars, the first models of Samsung phones and other electronics are on display to show the start of South Korea’s growing economy. Foam car models and flip phones look out of place in a fine arts museum, drawing the audience in to read the pairing plaque and learn how it fits into the space.

Pictures of the Olympic Games in Seoul from 1988 are hung as an example of its nationalism. It was one of the first internationally held sporting events celebrated on the country’s grounds.

Though the historical flashback of the first section of the exhibit is informative and the darker themes of the room tie in well with the content, the models hidden behind glass cases are not as exciting as the pop culture portion of the display that follows.

Given that the country was subject to military presence for much of the 20th century, many of its films and other arts were centered around the themes of violence and combat. Shifting into the brighter colors that filled the exhibit, South Korea’s identity and art turned from war to whatever their hearts desired.

In the ‘80s and ‘90s, the rise of Korean pop music, cinematic creativity and freedom reshaped the globe’s view of Korea and some of their own culture flooded into other countries, like the U.S.

The exhibit does an incredible job of displaying the shift from the ages of confinement to creativity. The setting of the first room feels darker and much quieter until visitors turn the corner into a room full of model costumes and recreations of sets.

K-pop music from various groups plays while visitors walk through the larger portion of the display. Light when you enter, a floor-to-ceiling structure filled with mannequins and pop band outfits welcomes you to the space.

Multiple rooms broken off of the main display show different aspects of South Korea’s most popular pieces from the last decade.

Mannequins replicate TV characters, fully dressed in tracksuits like those worn in the popular TV show “Squid Game.” The exhibit has an entire room dedicated to the show and other films that broke military themes and sparked popularity. The age of movies that revolved around their countries’ rough past with wars and military recreations has come to an end, and in its place, cinematographers began to create films of whatever genre they wanted.

Similarly, a display representing a scene in the award-winning film “Parasite” gave an eerie tone compared to the bright and poppy environment.

The most surprising and interactive portion of the exhibit was the “K-Pop Dance Challenge” where individuals can stand on illuminated dots and take their chance to perform a dance projected in front of them, similar to popstars’ choreography from their own performances.

To say the exhibit does an incredible job of informing and entertaining is an understatement. You can go into the display with zero knowledge of South Korea’s history and not only take a lesson out of the art but also enjoy the stroll from room to room.

The MFA charges a $7 upcharge on tickets to see the exhibit on top of the $27 charge for adults to enter the museum or a $10 charge for children ages 7-17. Suffolk University students are eligible for free student tickets for regular admissions. The MFA is also hosting “College Night: Hallyu!” April 11, where college students have the chance to access the exhibit free of charge and experience a night of performance, music, food and more.

This can’t-miss exhibit will call the MFA home until its closure on July 28.

Part of the MFA’s newest installation, “Hallyu! The Korean Wave,” on display, showcasing vintage and modern art.

Newest exhibit brings ‘WNDR’ to downtown

Elise Coelho / Staff Writer

Between the streets of the busy downtown Boston lies WNDR: a brand new museum that’s taking its visitors to infinity. The museum, which already has homes in Chicago and San Francisco, opened its third location in the heart of Boston Feb. 2.

WNDR, an acronym for “wonder,” is where art meets technology. With several interactive exhibitions, the museum gives a chance for the viewers to construct their own experiences.

“We are all artists,” the logo says right where you enter a tunnel of mirrors and bright colors on the floor that change when you step on them. It feels like you’re being transported to another dimension — and in some ways you are. This museum leads you to a place where everything is possible.

As visitors wander through the museum, they let their inner creativity run wild as they explore the exhibits, engage with interactive displays, thought-provoking installations and immersive art.

What differentiates WNDR from other traditional museums like the Museum of Fine Arts or the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, is its multi-sensory art. From a tin can that makes you listen to 10 different sounds to a room with a yellow light that makes it seem that everything is black and white, at WNDR, visitors will have several different experiences that will trick their brains.

The museum’s star, however, is the “Let’s Survive Forever” installation, from Japanese popstar Yayoi Kusama. Somewhere visitors can only contemplate for one minute, as the artist requested, the installation easily fills a room and leaves visitors crushed when the 60 seconds are up. It is somewhere that feels like everyone would like to spend the most time inside.

“Let’s Survive Forever” is a room filled with mirrors and stainless steel balls and it really seems that there’s no way out of it. It is one of the most immersive experiences of the entire visit, even though touch is off-limits.

Motivational art exhibits such as the many telephones on the walls where visitors can pick them up and receive a positive and inspirational message, or the oracle machine that gives visitors a fortune ticket, are some of the most fun and interactive. WNDR also has an installation where you can place a message to other visitors. “The Wisdom Project” message wall is a guest-generated installation that makes the visitors think about what is important enough in their conception that they should put it out into the world. A word of advice or an “I was here” were some messages that filled the exhibit.

WNDR is a huge playground not only for children but also for adults. The creative self that lives inside of everyone will be so happy to explore the museum and make their visit the most memorable and wonderful experience.

“Let’s Survive Forever,” one of the most popular exhibits at WNDR, gives visitors one minute to take in the never-ending room.

Elise Coelho / Staff Writer

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Part of the MFA’s newest installation, “Hallyu! The Korean Wave,” on display, showcasing vintage and modern art.
Hozier stuns with new ethereal EP

Casey Wells
Staff Writer

Irish singer-songwriter Hozier enthralled fans with his new EP filled with songs from his newest album that survived the cutting room floor with “Unheard” March 22.

His third studio album “Unreal Unearth” was released in August 2023, a concept album based on the 1321 poem “The Divine Comedy” by Dante Alighieri. Hozier explores the nine circles of hell; taking his real-life experiences and stories told by Alighieri and blurring the lines between the two. The beautiful and masterful album ran 16 tracks, each song referring to a different circle.

Each song on the EP had its respective circle. Hozier stated, “Too Sweet” belonging to gluttony, “Wildflower and Barley” a contender for limbo, “Empire Now” for the circle of violence and “Fare Well” for the ascent into heaven.

The first track on the EP titled “Too Sweet” is a groovy pop song that is unlike anything we have heard from his mostly rock and alternative releases. Hozier is known for his complex lyrics, deep metaphors and is notorious for never spelling anything out for his listeners.

The song is about disinterest, being about his partner who is too different from him and wants to change his way of life, while he wants to keep his life the way it is. He tells her that until she takes him as he is, he would rather take his whiskey neat, the more bitter and simpler version. This song has been interpreted many ways by fans, many thinking this is him alluding to him not wanting a partner who is sweet but rather someone who is mean-spirited and rough around the edges. Other theories include that he could be talking about age, that his partner is too young and innocent for him.

The baseline and ironic wedding church bell sample make this track super fun to listen to. Hozier’s vocals, wah-wah guitar and bass carry this track like no other. This track opening the EP was a great choice, setting the tone for the journey that Hozier is about to embark on.

“Wildflower and Barley,” the second track featuring Grammy-winner Allison Russell is a powerful soul duet that swoops listeners off their feet. Russell and Hozier’s vocals blend together perfectly; their harmonies are flawless and are two voices that are meant to sing together.

The lyricism paints a beautiful picture, accompanied by elegant production. A song that was written during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, this track is about the quiet and isolation people felt during the height of that time. Hozier made this track playful on purpose, with a hint of solemn but somehow hopeful undertone.

The track starts off with a simple acoustic guitar and then ascends into a blues-like bass line and piano. The chorus adds in a tambourine, R&B-inspired drums and the continuous melodic acoustic guitar and piano. This track stands out from the rest by taking a complete turn from its predecessor, a song that almost everyone in the world can relate to; the feeling of emptiness and sadness seeing public places once filled with people that were empty during the peak of the pandemic.

The EP takes a complete turn for the cinematic and war-cry third track “Empire Now.” Similar to the song he recorded with Bear McCreary for the “God of War: Ragnarok” soundtrack, this production-heavy track has a gnashing digital beat and a slide guitar that you can feel in your bones. The heavy bass and percussion hits paired with grassroots, western-inspired guitar, transporting listeners to a different realm. The accompanied strings during the bridge and final chorus are gorgeous and cinematic. Hozier’s soaring vocals and piercing falsettos capture the listener’s attention, as well as the church choir-inspired backing vocals that add even more to the ambiance.

“Empire Now” is a song about the liberation of Ireland, one of the lyrics mentioning it has been 102 years since Ireland gained independence from British rule. He uses the sun as a metaphor in a few ways, first as a reference to the British Empire who once referred to itself as the “empire on which the sun never sets.” Second, he uses it as a commentary on how the government ignores the pressing matter of climate change and global warming, telling the listeners to enjoy their time on Earth because we might not be here long.

Hozier closes the EP with finality for the last track “Fare Well.” The track meant for the ascent for the album, is a heavy lyric song in disguise with an upbeat production. He paints a picture of doing something that is presumably dangerous, but provides temporary comfort. He uses metaphors describing himself as “a-kitten-cozy-in-the-engine” and “a-dog-deep-into-the-chocolate.”

He says he “wouldn’t fare well” from this, knowing that this situation won’t end well but it makes him feel safe for the time being. Hozier is about to embark on different journeys. Hozier provides ethereal vocals, lyricism and solid production on all four tracks, making this EP a worthwhile listen. Even though the EP isn’t meant to be cohesive due to the circles being out of order, all of the songs that were chosen blend together well. Hozier never fails short of making a good project, constantly raising the bar with his poetic words and striking vocals. From blues-inspired soul tracks like “Wildflower and Barley” to pop anthems like “Too Sweet,” Hozier makes his fans question the idea of him sticking to one genre.
Beyoncé's latest album grabs country music by the reins

Michaela Buckley
Asst. Arts Editor

Beyoncé captivated fans with the release of her highly anticipated eighth studio album "COWBOY CARTER" March 30.

Totaling 27 tracks, "COWBOY CARTER" creates its own personal country sound with a hefty blend of country, R&B, classic rock, hip-hop, house, blues, gospel, opera and more.

The album is the second in a trilogy release planned by the artist. "Renaissance," released in 2022 and the first of the three, is a celebration of three, is a celebration of 2022 and the first of the "Renaissance," released in planned by the artist. The second in a trilogy release blues, gospel, opera and of country, R&B, classic sound with a hefty blend creates its own personal "COWBOY CARTER" March 30.

The years of work paid off with a roster of jam-packed features including icons Willie Nelson, who voices a radio host through the album, Linda Martell, Dolly Parton, Miley Cyrus and many more.

The album's purpose of the project, clearing any past ideas about Beyoncé being "not country enough." Proudly reminding everyone of her family's Southern heritage, she proves she's here to shake the country music industry. "YA YA" paints the scene for fans with a fun and flirty Western theme.

Two covers, "BLACKBIRD" and "JOLENE," appear on the first half of the album, packing a punch with modern renditions of the well-known songs. "BLACKBIRD," a Beatles cover, features up-and-coming Black female country artists Tanner Adell, Brittnie Spencer, Tiera Kennedy and Reyna Roberts. The cover is truly something special and easily one of the sweetest messages of the project. "JOLENE," a cover of none other than music legend Parton's original, brings back the energy from "Lemonade." With her exciting modern spin, Beyoncé successfully brings back the 1974 anthem exactly 50 years later. No worry for the classic country fans, Parton is also a part of "TYRANT" and even an interlude titled "DOLLY P."

Throughout this album, Beyoncé loves hard. In "PROTECTOR," featuring her daughter, Rumi Carter, she beautifully expresses that she will forever be her daughter's protector in the form of a lullaby. On the other hand, in "I'M MOST WANTED," Cyra joins this heartfelt duit as the two reflect on what it's like to fall in love too young. In blending different music genres, Beyoncé was also able to blend her different genres of love.

"Thank you all so much for being here with us, it means the world to us," he said. "GROUPLOVE isn't just this band, it's everyone in this entire room."
Nepo babies hinder artists from achieving Hollywood stardom

Elise Coelho
Staff Writer

Getting into the entertain ment industry has never been easy. Many people who wanted to pursue careers in cinema, theater and music have been let down by the media and sometimes even by their parents. Not knowing if you “make it” in Hollywood is the biggest question that haunts everyone who wants to succeed in this field — except the nepo babies. “Nepo baby,” short for nepotism baby, is a term that became popular on social media in 2022 and refers to the children of successful parents who have benefited from nepotism. The internet started to point out the children of celebrities in the entertainment industry and judge them, claiming they are only successful due to their bloodlines. It has even become a trend on X and TikTok to talk about the most famous nepo babies, but what people may not realize is that nepotism in Hollywood is nothing new.

Famous actresses like Jamie Lee Curtis and Drew Barrymore are some of the many people who became successful more easily due to their parent’s connections and the majority of Gen-Z has no clue about it. Nepotism, not only in Hollywood but anywhere, has been around for centuries and I don’t think it is going to end now because of a trend. It’s impossible to ignore the vast pool of untapped talent overshadowed by the unfairness of the industry. As nepotism continues to overtake the industry, it raises the question: Are generations of actors and actresses destined to be only nepo babies?

I don’t think so, but I also don’t want to be very optimistic about it. Nepotism will always exist; what needs to change is the way we approach this as both the audience and the aspiring actors and filmmakers.

Having self-made artists and musicians in the industry is important to show those who are trying to succeed and climb the entertainment ladder that their dream is possible. However, one must keep their feet on the ground and know that even with nepo babies, they are entering in the most competitive field where they are not the only talented artists.

It’s undeniable that if you want to make it in the industry you have to have talent — something that a lot of nepo babies possess — but you also need luck and most of all, connections.

At the end of the day, nepotism does more than just exclude amazing artists; it also contributes to a culture of mediocrity. Stories go untold, voices go unheard and the vibrant human connection, where an actor pours their heart out on a role they earned, is reduced to a monotonous chamber of privilege.

I think aspiring artists must fight for a place in the industry and discussions about fairness and equity while measuring the fine line of talent that divide both of them should be discussed more often. Even though we can’t end with the privileges of the nepo babies, we can at least aspire for a more unbiased Hollywood.

Instagram is not the news source you think it is

Leo Woods
Photo Editor

Social media provides a fathoms deep sea of information available at humanity’s fingertips, and largely, it is an unequivocal resource for connecting with people, education and culture. But, as anyone who has used Instagram, TikTok or X knows, it also hosts the darker sides of this worldwide access: disinformation and misinformation, alongside harmful and violent ideologies.

The constant flow of discourse on social media faces innumerable difficulties with modern fact-checking. It can be productive, trustworthy and appealing for some. But it can also do so much, so it imperative that regular users of social media understand how quickly inaccurate information can spread and how to identify it.

It is especially critical in an election rampant with conspiracy theories and intense partisanship on both sides. As the election approaches, the constant news cycle will work over-time reporting on the presidential candidates, President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump. Every word they say will be scrutinized and undoubtedly spread like wildfire through social media.

Understanding where the information you’re consuming comes from is the key to discerning what is fact and what is fiction for the 2024 election. On Instagram especially, there are many followers, they’re almost impossible to avoid from your friend’s story to a recommended post on the Explore page.

TikTok hosts several creators who discuss politics and current events, whose videos can amass millions of views in hours at a time. If picked up by the app’s algorithm, videos can generate discussions about hot-button political issues that span thousands of users.

Making current events consumable for a wider audience, younger audiences need to be encouraged to participate in a country where people 18-25 years old make up nearly a quarter of the voting-age population, with more than 8 million more being eligible to vote in the presidential election since 2022. But easy-to-swallow infographics and TikToks often lack the nuances and greater context of political events, so they shouldn’t be the only place to turn to for news.

No media is without bias. However, many media outlets are dedicated to reporting objectively on politics, and fact-checking resources, like PolitiFact, are available for anyone to use.

Social media also creates ideological vacuums, where the more you view content with a certain political leaning, the more the algorithm shows it to you. This phenomenon can convince people their perspective is the objective truth when the reality is often that the issue is more complex and can’t be wholly addressed with only one sides’ ideas.

It’s easy to succumb to confirmation bias and be wary of unfamiliar perspectives. But to accept all information on social media at face value is a disservice to yourself when it comes to being informed and prepared to make decisions that will impact the nation’s future.”
Short-form television is the downfall of media

May Lindeman
Staff Writer

The rise of binge-worthy television and the death of long-form seasons decreasing the value of television. Out the door is slow-burn romance, effective cliffhangers and well-paced stories, all being replaced with shorter, faster and lower-quality forms of entertainment.

My critique is not toward mini-series, where the objective is to only release a small number of episodes once, but toward television shows with multiple seasons that pride themselves on being binge-worthy. These shows have six episodes per season that tend to be 45 minutes in length and the seasons are significantly shorter in comparison to their predecessors which featured 15-episode seasons that averaged 25 minutes.

Recently, I began watching the 2004 comedy-drama “Desperate Housewives” which made me think about my pattern of consistently choosing older shows over highly recommended Netflix originals. It is not a draw toward nostalgia or my choice to be pretentious, but my growing opinion that bingeable six-episode shows are just not enjoyable as long-form TV.

The pacing in the writing of a show like “Desperate Housewives” is strong, which, in my opinion, a show like “Stranger Things” lacks. Series like “Stranger Things” are not incapable of setting up slow-burn drama or tense scenes, but shows that follow this formula have a worse execution at driving the plot due to how fast the pacing has to be for the season to be as short as it is.

The death of TV comes when writers no longer have room to make slow and deliberate decisions and are instead forced to find ways to make a once successful and popular piece of media worth watching again. The impending doom of the TV industry was noticeable after finishing some of the most modern popular shows, and realizing how much better most of them would have been if the pacing of the show had slowed down.

Shows like “Stranger Things” more often than not jump the shark quicker than long-form shows do. The long-form shows can usually run for a few seasons before the writers desperately look for new ways to further the storyline. For me, “Stranger Things” stopped being enjoyable around season three, whereas shows similar to “Desperate Housewives” and “Gilmore Girls” lost enjoyability around the end of its run at season six.

Long-form TV leaves room to digest every twist and turn in the plot. It allows viewers to be on the edge of their seats and remain entertained the entire time, rather than forcing them to pay attention to every single plot point in one far-too-long episode.

I would rather watch a plot build up over an entire season than watch all of the most intriguing twists of a season take place in one episode. Television should revert to its original form to allow viewers to engross themselves in multiple seasons instead of producing episodes so dense with information, they are difficult to consume. 

Harry Murphy
Staff Writer

For years, social media has given users the ability to use it for anything they can think of. From socializing with family and friends near and far, gaming, operating businesses and much more, there are seemingly no limitations to what can be done on social media. That is, until recently, when Meta decided to limit political content for its users.

Meta Platforms, the parent company of Instagram, Facebook and WhatsApp recently announced that the company is continuing its mission to limit political content, this time by preventing users from seeing political content posted by accounts they do not follow. In a statement on its website, Instagram said, “We want Instagram and Threads to be a great experience for everyone. If you decide to follow accounts that post political content, we don’t want to get between you and their posts, but we also don’t want to proactively recommend political content from accounts you don’t follow. We won’t proactively recommend content about politics on recommendation surfaces across Instagram and Threads. If you still want these posts recommended to you, you will have a control to see them.”

In a world that grows more polarizing by the day, this move by Meta to censor what should be considered constitutionally protected speech only reinforces the idea that Meta is not a democracy but free speech, despite Mark Zuckerberg’s comments which would lead one to believe the opposite. In October of 2019, Zuckerberg spoke at Georgetown University’s School of Public Policy about the importance of freedom of speech and expression online. In his speech, Zuckerberg spoke about the role Facebook played in jumpstarting the Black Lives Matter and #MeToo movements. He also discussed the role he believed social media should play in censoring political speech on Facebook. In his speech, Zuckerberg raised concerns about limiting the speech of politicians on the platform.

“If we wanted to ban political ads, it’s not clear where we’d draw the line. There are many more ads about issues than there are directly about elections. Would we ban all ads about healthcare or immigration or women’s empowerment? If we banned candidates’ ads but not these, would that really make sense to give everyone else a voice in political debates except the candidates themselves? There are issues any way you cut this, and when it’s not absolutely clear what to do, I believe we should err on the side of greater expression,” said Zuckerberg.

While Zuckerberg was only talking about political advertisements, his words just over four years ago helped to under-score the danger that Meta’s censorship policy poses. It is no secret that since the creation of social media, political candidates and politicians already in office have been able to turn social media into one of the greatest tools in the history of the world. However, preventing politicians is not even the most dangerous issue at hand concerning Meta’s embrace of oppressive tactics at the behest of authoritarian communist countries like Vietnam, who utilize Facebook to censor free speech online.

By opening the door to censoring political speech, Meta is preventing entire movements and organizations from growing and amassing support. Zuckerberg himself pointed out the fact that without the presence of social media, certain social justice movements would not have existed.

Another issue that Zuckerberg touched upon in his 2019 speech was the lack of concrete definitions for what may constitute political speech. Far too often, Americans debate whether or not certain things may be political in nature. Unfortunately, this thought seems to have escaped Zuckerberg’s mind. Certain issues, like abortion or Second Amendment rights, are topics that would be blocked by the censors. This places the citizens of our republic in danger, as censoring political speech could lead to citizens being uninformed. This may result in laws being broken and important topics being ignored because citizens are unable to remain informed on certain issues.

As the Breitbart Doctrine states, “Politics is downstream from culture.” This idea was popularized by Andrew Breitbart, a conservative commentator who understood how politics would work in the digital age. Breitbart understood the importance of embracing the internet in its earliest stages, unlike others on the right-wing, like Rupert Murdoch, who dismissed it almost entirely. Breitbart understood the importance of confronting political and social movements in jumpstarting the Black Lives Matter and #MeToo movements. He also discussed the role Facebook played in jumpstarting the Black Lives Matter and #MeToo movements.

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Michael Najarian / Sports Editor

Former Boston Red Sox President and CEO Larry Lucchino died April 2. He was 78.

Lucchino was a member of the team’s front office from 2002-2015 before purchasing the Pawtucket Red Sox, the Triple-A affiliate of the Boston Red Sox. Lucchino purchased the Red Sox along with John Henry and Tom Werner in 2001 and oversaw World Series championship wins in 2004, 2007 and 2013.

“Larry’s career unfolded like a playbook of triumphs, marked by transformative moments that reshaped ballpark design, enhanced the fan experience and engineered the ideal conditions for championships wherever his path led him, and especially in Boston,” Henry said in a statement. “Yet, perhaps his most enduring legacy lies in the remarkable people he helped assemble at Red Sox, all of whom are a testament to his training, wisdom and mentorship.”

Before joining the Red Sox organization, Lucchino was the president of the Baltimore Orioles from 1989-1993 before becoming part of a group to purchase the San Diego Padres. He served as president and CEO of the Padres until he purchased the Red Sox with Henry and Werner.

“Larry was a formidable opponent in any arena, and while he battled hard, he always maintained the utmost respect for a worthy adversary and found genuine joy in sparring with people,” said Henry. “I was lucky enough to have had him in my corner for 14 years and to have called him a close friend for even longer. He was truly irreplaceable and will be missed by all of us at the Red Sox.”

Lucchino received an honorary degree from Suffolk University at the 2003 SUMMA ceremony. He holds honorary degrees from nine schools including Suffolk.

Lucchino graduated from Princeton University and received his law degree from Yale University. “There are so many of us who were given our start in baseball by Larry,” Red Sox President and CEO Sam Kennedy said in a statement. “He instilled in us, and so many others, a work ethic, passion, competitive fire that we will carry forever. His legacy is one that all of us who were taught by him feel a deep responsibility to uphold. When those he mentored moved on from the Red Sox, he would always say ‘We’ll leave a light on for you. The lights will always be on for you at Fenway Park, Larry. May you rest in peace.’”

Lucchino helped to establish the Baltimore Orioles Foundation, the San Diego Padres Foundation and the Boston Red Sox Foundation during his time with those organizations, increasing the charitable work the organizations did.

Michael Najarian / Sports Editor

This week in Suffolk University Sports: baseball, men’s and women’s track and field, tennis, squash, softball, table tennis and men’s and women’s outdoor track.

Suffolk’s softball team played three games in the last week, with a fourth against Brandeis University postponed. The Rams lost all three games, being outscored 19-8 in the process.

The Rams started with a 2-0 shutout loss to Babson College March 27. Graduate student Brett Bucklin gave up the runs and struck out five batters in seven innings. Luke McClintock and the rest of the Babson pitching staff stymied the Rams’ offense.

Commonwealth Coast Conference rival Roger Williams University visited East Boston for a March 30 doubleheader. Suffolk lost the opener 4-3, holding a 3-0 lead entering the ninth inning before freshman pitcher Patrick Desmond blew the save opportunity by giving up three runs in the ninth. The Hawks scored one run in the 11th inning to win the first game.

Roger Williams had the Rams number again in the second game, riding an eight-run outburst in the sixth inning to a convincing 13-5 win to sweep the doubleheader. Junior pitcher Pierce Salbego took the loss on the mound, giving up six runs in just over five innings pitched.

Suffolk’s softball team had a six-game week, playing UMass Boston, Western New England University and Salem State University. The Rams lost both games of the doubleheader to UMass Boston, losing the opener 1-0 and the second game 5-2.

Suffolk lost game two of the doubleheader to the Golden Bears 10-7. Julia Mills, Becky Zellin and Lily Gustafson each drove in two runs for the Rams. Cynthia Rucinski gave up eight runs on the mound before Ashlyn Conley allowed two more in relief.

The Rams had their home opener against Salem State with an April 2 doubleheader. The first game went to Suffolk with a 9-1 win via the run rule. Suffolk scored seven runs in the second inning and hit four home runs in the game, with Zellin, Mills, Turnbull and Catherine Carigan all going deep.

Game two was a duel of the lineups, with Salem State prevailing 11-5 in the sixth, the Rams scored two runs to try and rally back but fell short in the end. Suffolk men’s tennis team played their second match of the season against the University of Saint Joseph, with the Rams losing 8-1 to fall to 2-0 to begin the season. The Rams were swept in doubles action, with Nicholas Komaridomining the Rams’ only win in singles play.

Suffolk men’s and women’s outdoor track and field teams split up over the weekend, competing at both the Tufts University Snowflake Classic and the UMass Lowell Invitational. No team scores were calculated at the UMass Lowell Invitational. The men’s team at Tufts finished in 17th with 1.5 points while the women also finished in 17th at Tufts with six points.
Romito caps collegiate career with CCC Defensive Player of the Year award

From ROMITO - 1

more fun playing this season. Although Romito only spent one year at Suffolk, she noted that this was one of the most fun seasons she’s had playing.

“We played in a ton of highly competitive games, the CCC was super competitive this year. We had a ton of buzzer beater wins with Colby Guinta knocking down threes, we had tons of games where different people went off, every single game we had to show up as a team which just made the season a lot more fun,” said Romito.

Head coach Ed Leyden attributed this year’s turnaround to the players choosing to put last year aside and go into this season with a positive outlook.

“We thought the year before that there was too much drama, so I think everyone individually and collectively made an effort to be a great teammate, to be supportive. They made an effort to be a fountain, not a drain, which is one of our sayings,” said Leyden.

This season Romito served as a defensive anchor for the team, blocking 108 shots across 27 games. According to the CCC, this was 70 more blocks than the player with the second most blocks in the conference.

“She had a great year, she was exceptional. We played a lot of zone and funneled people to her. Very few people scored layups on us, she proved to be the glue of the defense,” said Leyden.

As an individual, Romito averaged four blocks per game. In comparison, only two teams other than Suffolk averaged more than four blocks per game.

“I would credit that to my high school experience. I was taught at a young age how to block shots. It’s definitely a skill that I’ve learned to excel in and it’s definitely a great feeling when you block someone’s shot. That’s one of the best feelings I can have as a basketball player,” said Romito.

Both Romito and DeAngelis were selected to play in the New England Women’s Basketball Association Senior All Star Game last week, playing alongside some of the best Division III players across New England.

According to Leyden, the team showed just how close they were this year by showing up to support Romito and DeAngelis at the game.

“We had just about our whole team at the All Star Game. We had more teammates supporting our players than I think any other school. It was great, it went right to the very end, the kids were great,” said Leyden.

This year’s team was a very tight-knit team with a lot of chemistry, which led to a lot of wins and a season that Leyden was impressed by. Romito’s impact was undeniable.

“I was thrilled. We were in every game. I was very proud of them. The chemistry on the team was exceptional and Lauren had a lot to do with that. Lauren makes the world a little bit sunnier and a little bit rosier, she definitely had a big impact,” said Leyden.

While this was Romito’s first and final season as a Ram, Leyden said it isn’t the end of her basketball career at Suffolk.

“She’s gonna be part of the coaching staff in some way or another. We will have her voice at Suffolk next year. Lauren’s a people person. This was her fifth year playing so she was mature and she would really try to build up and support her teammates. She was definitely a fountain on the team,” said Leyden. “You can’t be around her for any length of time and not feel good about the world, yourself and everything.”

Romito follows through on a hook shot during women’s basketball’s playoff game against Endicott College. The Rams won 84-64 Feb. 20.