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In the news

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Stay tuned: Congressmen come to Campus program talks public policy, technology take-over and party polarization. **Online only.**

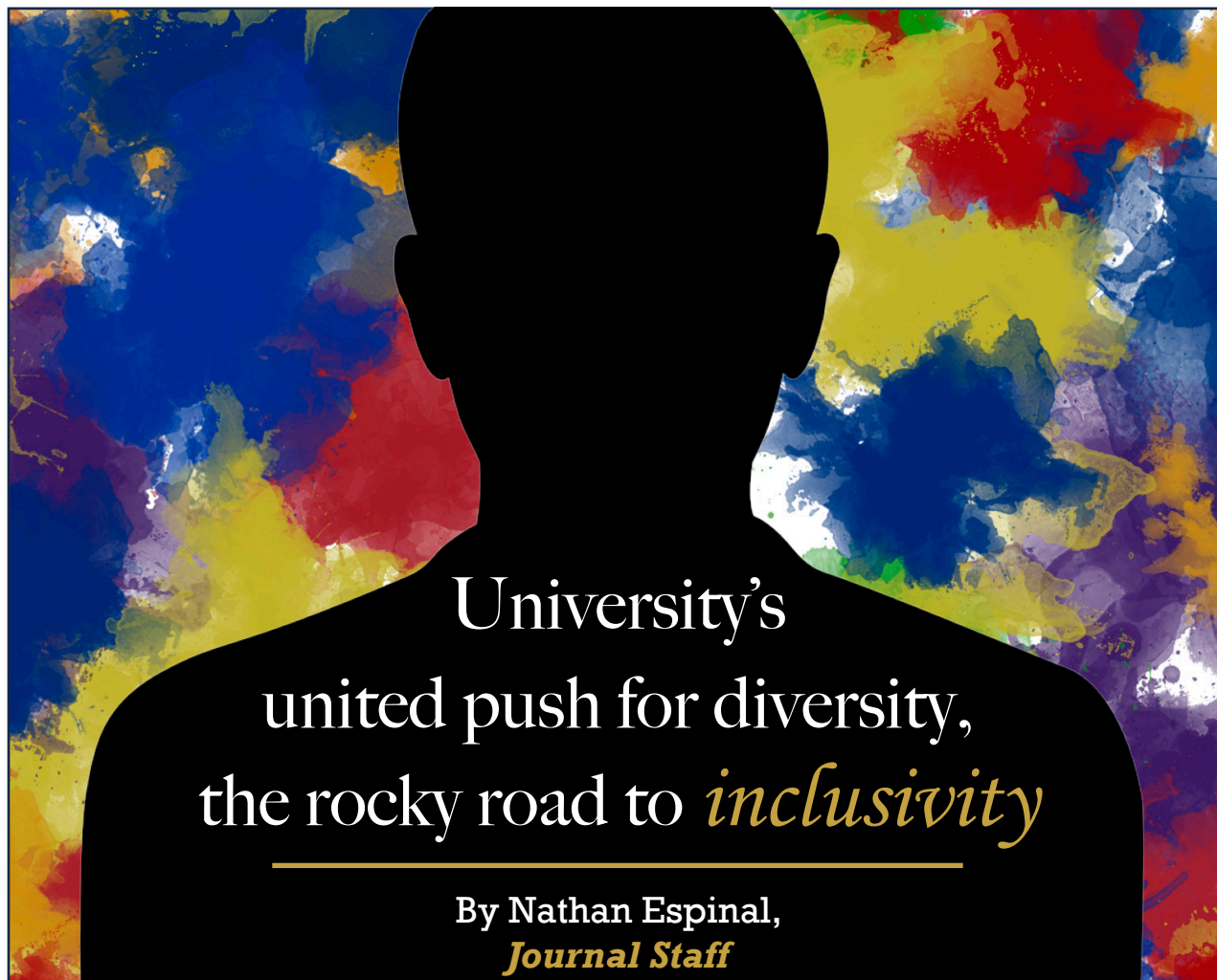
PERSPECTIVE EDITOR'S WORD

"As recent university issues have arose, supplemented by the political climate this country faces, the leaders we intend to be mirrored by are most accurately described by a single word; passion."

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With Black Her/History Month over, and with the Trump administration's highly scrutinized actions on immigration and transgender rights affecting the nation, the Suffolk community has been intent on keeping the spotlight on diversity and moving forward to ensure the university is an inclusive and welcome place.

This, however has been a tumultuous process for the university. Impactful actions that could be taken were once the responsibility of former Chief Diversity Inclusion Officer Nicole Price. Price was appointed this position in the fall semester of 2014, and within a year resigned. It was when the administration decided to restructure, which included relocating classes and the repositioning of faculty, that Price noticed the new direction and parted ways with Suffolk.

Fulfilling her duties in this position proved difficult, and Price in a recent phone interview with The Suffolk Journal spoke of how the change in leadership between three different presidents caused a strain on her ability to do work at the university.

"I wanted to make diversity inclusion a normal part of leadership at Suffolk," said Price. "There's never been a constant person to affect policy or admission. There hasn't been someone to have a lasting impact on the university so that if they did something for diversity and they left, the university wouldn't have to start from scratch again."

As to why the position has yet to be filled, Greg Gatlin, the spokesman for the University, released an official statement to The Suffolk Journal on Tuesday night.

"The University's former Chief Diversity Officer resigned in December 2015," said the statement. "The university is awaiting final results of a climate survey, as well as a recommendation from the Diversity Task Force to determine its approach to filling the Chief Diversity Officer position or similar role in the future. Those Task Force recommendations are due in April."

Frank Cooper as senior adviser, guided the Diversity Task Force, which was created in February of 2016, to generate changes in hiring practices and provide professional development training for administrators, faculty, students and staff on

important matters regarding identity at Suffolk. He also began the creation of the "Diversity Climate Survey," which aims to give a baseline of the negative and positive feelings among the community at Suffolk. Cooper stepped down in the fall semester of 2016 to take some time off from instructing at the law school, and Communication and Journalism Associate Professor Micky Lee became chair of the Task Force.

The Task Force has a subcommittee dedicated to drafting a proposal to find a new Chief Diversity Inclusion Officer. One of the members on this subcommittee is Director of the Office of Diversity Services (ODS) Lizette Rivera. They are currently drafting a proposal to present to Lee, and if approved, Lee will bring this proposal to Acting President Marisa Kelly and the Board of Trustees.

"It's up to the president and Board of Trustees to decide what they want to do," said Rivera in an interview with The Suffolk Journal. "They may decide to wait until there is a new president and from there, a committee will form to make decisions on the next Chief Diversity Officer."

While this proposal was drafted, the results of the survey were being analyzed by the entirety of the Task Force. Junior business major and Vice Presidential candidate in the Student Government Association race, Levi Smith, is also a member of the Task Force. In an interview with The Journal Wednesday evening, Smith spoke about how he believes the Task Force is doing important work on the issues of diversity that face the Suffolk community at large.

"There were staff and faculty members who felt invalidated because of their identities," said Smith on the results of the survey. "For the students, it's the opposite. They feel the negativity from the professors and their peers."

This negative student sentiment was not only from professors but was extended from administration as well. Senior government major and Liaison Officer for Rainbow Alliance, Sabrina Young, in a recent interview with The Journal, spoke of how the actions taken by administration to support diversity and inclusivity are ineffective. Acting President Marisa

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Discrepancy between candidates fires week before ballots cast

Chris DeGusto
News Editor

In the midst of campaign season for Suffolk University's Student Government Association (SGA), discrepancy arose between vice presidential candidates Yasir Botalvi and Levi Smith on Monday night.

On whiteboards in the lobby of Suffolk's Sawyer building, some candidates for the various SGA executive board positions have drawn messages in hopes to yield the votes of students. A notice about Smith's campaign portrayed a bulleted list of his qualities, accompanied by checked off boxes. On Tuesday, Smith issued a public statement on his Facebook with a corresponding video that showed Botalvi's personal Snapchat account; Botalvi posted to his story a clip of the whiteboard Monday night with an additional box checked off that read "copies Yasir."

Botalvi, in an interview with The Suffolk Journal on Tuesday said that he was not the one who wrote this on the whiteboard. Smith's Facebook post said that he was disappointed in Botalvi's actions.

"I am severely disappointed in Yasir, and betrayed as colleague, as I originally thought his character wasn't capable of a decision like this," said the statement.

Botalvi said to Journal reporters that his Snapchat account is personal, and added his Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Pinterest are all being utilized along with his personal website as outlets for his

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Campus forum lectures inclusivity during Trump's immigration crack-down

Alexa Gagosz
Editor-in-Chief

Few seats were left open on Thursday when students, faculty and staff from the different divisions of Suffolk University gathered on the second floor of Sargent Hall for a campus forum on President Donald Trump's Executive Order.

Following a bitter few weeks of rolling news segments on the recent travel ban for seven predominantly Muslim nations, some within Suffolk's international community live in fear of their rights as a student being revoked. The campus forum, called on by Acting Provost Sebastian Royo, a member of Suffolk's global community himself, said that in the 26 years he has been living in the United States, this was the first time he has felt on edge.

"This is the first time since I've moved here that I've felt uncomfortable, where my accent has made me self conscious," said Royo, who was born in Spain during a dictatorship.

Royo, who said that he had come to the U.S. and was only suppose to remain in the states for a few years as a student, explained "life happens" and it's why he could stand in front of a crowd of students as one of their leaders.

In a panel-style lecture, Senior Director of the Division of Student Success Kathy Sparaco, Director of Counseling, Health and Wellness Jean Joyce-Brady and Clinical professor of Law Ragini Shaw sat at the bowl of the lecture hall and each gave a mini synopsis of what the travel bans Trump has enacted and how they will affect students at the university. Acting President Marisa Kelly was not in attendance due to a fundraising trip, according to Royo, but "fully supported" the forum and the backing the university has offered to students and staff.

Royo, who introduced each of the panelists,



Haley Clegg/ Photo Editor

Acting Provost Sebastian Royo

said the event was a direct reflect of Suffolk's founding of acceptance and opportunity. Royo cited Suffolk's founder Gleason Archer who gave access to Law School to minorities in an age where only a certain type of person-- white, middle to upper class male -- was able to receive an education.

"It is critical, as a higher education institution, to not turn a blind eye," said Royo in response to how some international students may be affected by the travel ban and whether they will be able to leave the country in fear of possibly not being able to return. "This goes much farther than politics, this is about values."

Joyce-Brady, who discussed the "stress" in Americans that was cited in a recent report by the American Psychological Association, published this past January, that the anxiety of the future of the country continues to rise among citizens on both sides of the political spectrum.

The original travel ban executive order by Trump had impacted populations of Americans with a loss of trust with the federal government and hypervigilance, according to Joyce-Brady.

Shah, however, broke down the legalities to the executive orders, even while they are strung up in court alongside Sparaco, who pointed out that international students were crucial at American universities for both consumer and perspective reasonings.

The question and answer section of the forum had lasted only 10 minutes before the event had come to a close.



Patrick Holmes/ Opinion Editor

Stabbing in Boston Common, injuries non-fatal

Alexa Gagosz
Editor-in-Chief

One man was stabbed in the Boston Common on Monday night, police said.

The man, who remained unnamed as of Tuesday night, was stabbed around 6:40 p.m. on Monday close to 139 Tremont St., according to Boston Police. A witness told a reporter on Tuesday that the physical altercation between the two people

had progressed from a verbal fight.

The victim was rushed to Tufts Medical Center with injuries not considered to be life-threatening.

Suffolk University student and Journal Opinion Editor Patrick Holmes was walking by the scene of the crime, which was taped off by Boston police officers who were lingering around the area. News stations were parked in the Common on Monday night after the

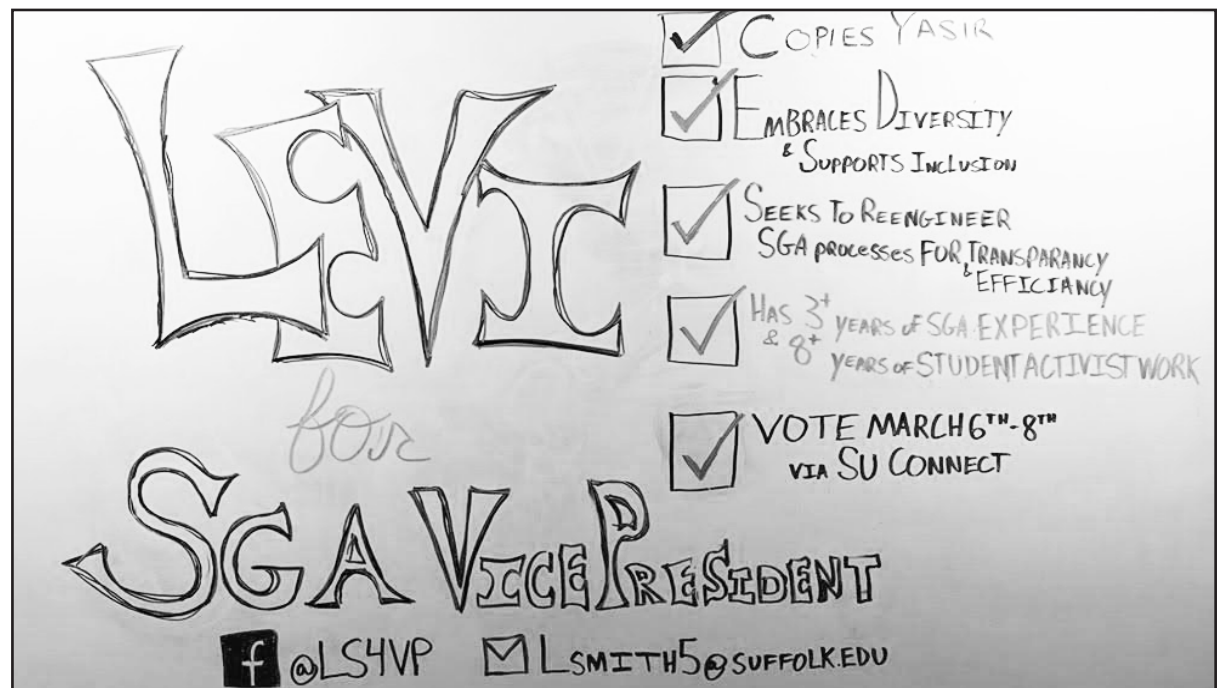
incident.

Suffolk's Police Department (SUPD) did not send a service alert, or "timely warning," to the Suffolk community on the stabbing. SUPD said the department was not aware of the crime on Tuesday night and it was placed under investigation. SUPD refused to comment further.

In order to receive this alert, which is determined by the Chief of SUPD and/or the Emergency

Manager, the crime must be serious or be a continuing threat to students and employees, according to the university spokesperson.

"Regarding the incident last night in the Boston Common, Boston Police had secured the scene and had a suspect in custody, therefore SUPD determined that there was no serious or continuing threat to the campus community," said the university spokesperson on Tuesday.



Courtesy of Levi Smith

Vice Presidential candidates hit road block on campaign trail

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campaign. Botalvi said photos and videos posted to his Snapchat are not an endorsement of what is pictured. He said that he realized this was not

something he should have posted, and deleted it.

Botalvi said that this incident was a non-issue.

"It's Levi making an issue on the election," said Botalvi. He added "If anyone is making this

campaign negative it's

Levi." SGA President Sean Walsh currently runs the election process for all executive board positions. While he did not defend or condemn either party

in an interview with The Journal on Tuesday night, Walsh clarified the rules and procedures of the SGA elections.

"No one's broken any rules whatsoever," said Walsh of the campaign.

Kelly stands behind transgender student rights, some critique motives

Alexa Gagosz
Editor-in-Chief

Acting President Marisa Kelly announced in a letter to the members of the Suffolk community in an email on Friday afternoon that she and the rest of the university will continue to support of the bathroom bill to ensure that transgender students have a choice, despite the recent withdraw from the bill on the federal level.

On Wednesday, President Donald Trump's administration withdrew from former President Barack Obama's directive for schools to treat their students in accordance with the gender they

identify with instead of the gender that is listed on their birth certificate.

"While I am disappointed with the decision to roll the directive back, please be assured that the federal change will have no direct effect on students here at Suffolk, nor should it affect students while in Massachusetts," wrote Kelly in the email.

In addition to Kelly's message, Suffolk has gender-inclusive restrooms in most of the buildings where some students do not have to choose between the "male" and "woman" specific restrooms. According to the Office of Diversity Services,

they were created in order to eliminate any violence or harassment that some individuals may experience if they go into the so-called "wrong" restroom.

Jameszie Helenski, a class of 2015 graduate of the New England School of Art & Design and a person who continued their close relationship with the art school as the workshop manager for the woodshop, said in an interview on Monday night this act by Trump was not a surprise.

"The thing that upsets me the most in all of this nonsense, is that most articles I have been reading from media outlets and folk's

reactions to the decision is that people are making it sound as if it were ever safe to be trans at school, at work, or anywhere else for that matter," said Helenski. "We have always been under attack, and not just in bathrooms."

Four buildings that are owned by Suffolk do not have gender-inclusive restrooms according to the university's website: Modern Theatre, 150 Tremont St., 73 Tremont St. and One Beacon St.

"We are a diverse University, and that diversity is our strength," wrote Kelly. "We take pride in being an exceptionally inclusive community, and we are committed to ensuring

that every student, faculty, and staff member feels welcome at Suffolk."

Despite some members of the Suffolk community rallying around Kelly in support of her efforts, other students and employees question the efforts made by Kelly and upper administration.

For Helenski, Kelly's message to the community did not have their approval just yet, and said that the administration still has more to improve on.

"As someone who has been a part of Suffolk as both a student and an employee, I can decidedly say that there is very little effort, on the part of the administration,

to be 'exceptionally' inclusive and mindful of the realities of trans students and employees," said Helenski.

Helenski said the gender neutral bathrooms on campus were established because of queer students and their allies that fought for them, not by the administration.

"As much as I appreciated my time as a student, and enjoy working here, I find it hard to share President Kelly's sentiment about our university when my experience, as well as those of a multitude of other students, has proven otherwise," said Helenski.

Efforts on diversity at Suffolk shows progress with long road ahead

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Kelly's statement sent out Friday afternoon, which addressed the repeal of former President Barack Obama's executive order that protected the rights of transgender students across the nation, was, according to Young, the administration's way of "washing their hands of the situation." Young said the statement does nothing to outline the university's plan to actively protect their students' rights identified under Title IX.

"I think the administration has the capability of doing better than it is right now and just seems unwilling to. As someone coming from multiple marginalized backgrounds, this is unacceptable," said Young. "They need to take responsibility, rather than just saying it'll be okay."

The task of ensuring that marginalized

communities feel included in the different schools of the university has become an expectation of the ODS. Students and staff across the university might turn to the ODS to influence change in policies surrounding diversity-- even when they are not in a position to do so.

"Our office falls under the Office of Student Affairs and our main focus is the undergraduates. We can work with the grad school and law school but only to a limited degree. We do educational, social justice and diversity training," said Rivera. "We are not in a position to say this is policy, we are brought into the conversation regarding diversity in policies. We have no influence in the curriculum or how diverse the curriculum is."

The ODS and student affinity groups have had influence in the changes at Suffolk, but only

because they are invited to conversations about what to do in response to an event. Those with administrative power are the only ones who have the capability to create policy that protects the students. Any step taken by the Office toward inclusivity is strongly tied with their budget, while student groups are limited by their ability to communicate with the Deans.

For specific reasons, the ODC combines their budget with affinity groups, who receive their budgets from SGA, to ensure programming and professional development is free of cost to students. The Office sends students and staff to "Creating Change," a conference promoting the forward progress of the LGBTQ+ community and allies, and the National Conference of Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education, which provides a multicultural

forum for students of various ethnicities from a variety of higher education institutions.

"For the heritage months, I put in equal amount of money for each month to make sure there is equity," said Rivera.

The ODS hopes to build relationships with student groups so they try to co-sponsor events. In October when Latina/Latino Heritage Month crossed with LGBT History month, they decided to look for a someone who could speak on intersectional matters. They worked with student groups to secure Eliel Cruz to speak of his experience as a bisexual, Christian man of color. The ODS also worked in tandem with the Black Student Union to secure Shaun King to be the keynote speaker for Black Her/History Month.

"[Shaun King] was almost eight thousand dollars and I had to say 'if we do this we can pay the

bulk of it, but financially we can't pay for anything else for Black Her/History Month," said Rivera, who added that BSU agreed to this and paid for other events for the rest of the month with their own budget.

Some sources said the work that can be done by student affinity groups is also limited because they are now housed under the Student Leadership and Involvement office (SLI), a change made during the restructuring of the school a few years ago. Assistant Director of the ODS Cameron Breither and Rivera both expressed their wish to see the affinity groups under their leadership once again.

"I would love to see them under our roof again, even if it's through a more intentional partnership with SLI, because right now they're housed under SLI. From what I understand before our space was configured

differently, the groups all had their own computer terminals and that's something they can still do here, so I would love to work with SLI and see what can be done," said Breither in an interview with The Suffolk Journal.

According to Gatlin, the university is committed to ensuring all students, faculty and staff feel welcome and empowered, which is exactly the kind of work the ODS, the Task Force and student affinity groups have been doing this past year. However, Young, along with others, make clear that this is not enough for students and upper administration should push to support queer students and students of color more. Young expressed the urgency of taking immediate action to support students of all marginalized communities because the issues they are facing are happening right now, not later.

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Vice Presidential candidates ready for election, future of Suffolk

Suffolk University has manifested a diverse and politically adapt population of students, some of which have been eager to create and enact change within the university. Suffolk's Student Government Association (SGA) will be welcoming a new Vice President for the 2017-2018 academic year; three candidates have emerged, each with a unique outlook and direction they wish to help steer the university in if elected.

By Chris DeGusto, *News Editor*

Botalvi wants SGA action to push Suffolk to the top

Suffolk's Student Government Association (SGA) will be welcoming a new Vice President for the 2017-2018 academic year; a position SGA senator Yasir Botalvi hopes to attain.

"We have so much promise and so much potential," said Botalvi. "Suffolk can truly be a world-class institution - we can really be one of the Americas great schools because here we are in the heart of this amazing city"

With Suffolk being located in downtown Boston, Botalvi said one of the priorities he intends to tackle if elected SGA Vice President is the lack of campus cohesion. A lack of structure Botalvi said hampers the entirety of Suffolk's community to intertwine, and while he said certain organizations and individuals on campus are producing great work, this is not enough. He has been working to launch a Suffolk University mobile app, and currently has a working prototype developed, which he

said is intended to be a "one stop shop."

In order to engage in repairing campus cohesion, Botalvi intends to initiate a "Welcome Week" at the onset of the academic year. Incoming students are brought into the university community at orientation but then are without any contact with Suffolk for the summer, a problem Botalvi said needs to be addressed. With his proposed "Welcome Week," Botalvi said students would participate in a number of both educational and entertaining activities and sessions for the first week of school in order to establish relationships and acclimate to the community at Suffolk.

"It is the cards were dealt," said Botalvi. "I mean Suffolk University is an urban campus. It's in the heart of a metropolis. That's part of the problem and that's where the challenges lie. We have got to pull out a good hand out of that deck of cards."

As an international student from Canada with Pakistani heritage, Botalvi discussed the time he has spent so far within SGA, and spoke of conversations he has had with members of the administration on the subject of prospective international students. The vice presidential candidate said that Suffolk needs to have concrete evidence to provide to prospective international students and their parents that they are welcomed within a conducive environment. Botalvi said that SGA can play a role in this, but needs to get off its back foot by passing real legislation. He said action is a forefront on his mind, so that SGA can be the force he believes the organization can be in enacting change for the students.

"I think SGA has played a fantastic role," said Botalvi. "With [President Donald Trump's immigration] executive action that came out - I think [SGA President] Sean Walsh's letter was on point. I think so was [Acting University] President Kelly's. So what I really believe is what we've actually got to do now is start working together on actual actionable items."

"Suffolk can truly be a world-class institution."

Coast Guard vet looks to get feet wet in politics

Student Government Association (SGA) Senator-at-Large for commuter students and Vice Presidential candidate Matt Wood found his way to Suffolk in a non-traditional fashion. Having served four years in the Coast Guard and taking time off from school to gain experience in the workforce, Wood has his sights set on the position of vice president for SGA's executive board.

"I have a bunch of life experience - I'm older than most of the people here," said Wood in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal. "Older doesn't always win, but with that comes experience. I've been able to see different situations, and see what works and what doesn't work."

Wood intends for one of his primary focal points if elected SGA Vice President to center around campus security. The criminal justice major said that Suffolk's campus safety is not lacking, but mentioned the frequent robberies that occur in the Citizens Bank located in the 73 Tremont St. Wood said there are valuable resources in place, such as on-demand police service and phone apps that assist students to maintain their safety.

"I don't think that the communication of those tools is really available," said Wood. "There's a bunch of students that don't know. They don't know where things have moved in the building, and I think that communication from the faculty to students needs to be better."

Wood spoke of the procedures and processes that have been put for in order to increase campus safety, such as the check-in points in 73 Tremont. He said this is an issue he has been working on as the situation has created a fire hazard as clusters of students enter.

C a m p u s divisiveness is another concern of Wood that he said he plans to dedicate time to if elected SGA Vice President. Wood talked about this issue, and said that he wants to make sure each and every person feels like they have a voice and a home at Suffolk.

"As the country will continue to be more and more divisive here the only way we can get through it in the only way we can be productive is to work together," said Wood

He said that with the constant cycle of students entering and exiting the university, it is important to keep in mind the errors that the university has made on any number of issues in order to structure the future of Suffolk in a more effective fashion. Wood also said that students need to ask more of their university.

"I think all too often people that go to college forget they are the customer and the education is the product," said Wood. They feel that they have to but they can't demand certain things of the institution - which you can, and obviously you have to do your part. But as a student there's certain overreaching things like that where you have to demand better."

"Older doesn't always win, but with that comes experience."

Smith's agenda seeks to strengthen Suffolk

As a Student Government Association (SGA) senator and member of the diversity committee, Levi Smith's campaign for the position of Vice President has been based on a platform of embracing diversity.

In an interview with The Suffolk Journal, Smith spoke of how running for SGA Vice President is based around four specific platform; diversity and inclusion, r e e n g i n e e r i n g processes within SGA, addressing student engagement and aligning values within the Suffolk community. With diversity the most

important aspect on his mind, Smith said he has been working on a resolution revolved around implicit bias training for faculty. Smith referenced a scenario from the 2016 fall semester in which a Latina student said she was accused of plagiarism; the vice presidential candidate discussed that implicit bias training would provide a level of accountability and prevent a similar situation from happening again.

"You're a Suffolk student, you're a Ram at the end of the day," said Smith.

Smith said releasing content at optimal times on social media is one way to promote SGA in order to express to students that there is an organization on campus in place to field their concerns. With students able to utilize SGA and know that this organization truly cares about them, Smith said this can open up doors. In order to open the doors up to students, Smith said that emphasizing student clubs and organizations on campus is a vital component.

"They're like the circulatory system of Suffolk. They're the blood, they just make Suffolk flow," said Smith.

Smith said one of the most crucial aspects of the role of vice president is gaining the trust of the Suffolk students in order to collaborate with those in need in order to resolve problems. Not only does Smith believe student groups need to be more involved in the community, but administration needs to as well.

"At the end of the day these initiatives make Suffolk stronger," said Smith. "And with strength comes more attention and marketing. And that's important because [Suffolk] growing."

Personal success is not a factor in Smith's outlook, as he said collaborative success is vital and he gives credit to the current SGA executive board. He said he believes the transition between executive board members this year will be smooth, due to a strong infrastructure that has been cemented within the organization.

Alongside SGA, Smith said the university is also heading in the right direction. Even through recently publicized events portrayed throughout various media sources, Smith's view of Suffolk as a whole has not swayed.

"I have never lost faith in suffolk, ever," said Smith.

"You're a Suffolk student, you're a Ram at the end of the day,"

Walsh stands with sanctuary city



Elvira Mora/ Journal Staff

Mayor Walsh speaks with multiple news sources after his speech at the Roxbury ISBCC.

Elvira Mora
Journal Staff

More than 300 people gathered at Boston's largest mosque on Friday to hear Mayor Martin J. Walsh speak about protecting religious diversity and immigration.

Boston's Mayor said that he called the press conference because he was "disturbed and angered" by the news coming out of Washington D.C.

"The White House is advancing the most destructive and un-American threats made during the campaign," said Walsh to the crowd. "The latest executive orders and statements by the president about immigrants are a direct attack on Boston's people, Boston's strength, and Boston's values."

The Roxbury Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center (ISBCC) hosted the mayor and his team of city correspondents to assure Boston residents that politics at the nation's capital will not harm them.

Walsh used his platform to offer a direct message to anyone who felt threatened by today's political climate.

"You are safe in Boston," he assured, as the crowd immediately responded with applause and loud cheers.

"I will do everything lawful in my power to protect you," said Walsh. "If necessary, I will use City Hall itself to shelter and protect anyone targeted unjustly. We will not retreat one inch from being the welcoming, diverse, global community that's made us one of the most successful cities in the world," said Walsh.

Walsh also said he will continue to stand with his decision that Boston

the mayor of the city of Boston ... I was sworn in to represent all of the people of Boston. That's my responsibility as the mayor. That's a responsibility I take very seriously and that's a responsibility for as long as I am blessed to be in this role," he continued.

Shortly after Trump issued the executive order that temporarily banned citizens from seven predominantly Muslim

rid of undocumented immigrants and doubled down on his offer to house undocumented Bostonian immigrants in City Hall.

"If people want to live here, they'll live here. They can use my office. They can use any office in this building," said Walsh.

This forum was not the first time Walsh showed support for immigrants and refugees.

Mayor Walsh attended a rally in Copley Square on Jan. 29 in order to support Muslims after the president's travel ban was issued. He also joined protesters at Logan Airport.

Senior Imam Shaykh Yasir Fahmy spoke after Walsh and fondly recalled seeing the mayor at the airport protest. He commended the overwhelming support that Boston officials gave to the community.

"The outpouring of support and love and comradery and brotherhood and sisterhood coming out to stand in support," said Fahmy, "that is the spirit that is thriving right now and perhaps it is a blessing in disguise with all that is happening in our political rhetoric. We are melding into this beautiful space called America where it is a land of immigrants, a land of refugees and we always want that to be the case."

"If necessary, I will use City Hall itself to shelter and protect anyone targeted unjustly. We will not retreat one inch from being the welcoming, diverse, global community that's made us one of the most successful cities in the world."

- Mayor Martin J. Walsh.

will remain a sanctuary city; a statement which he has adamantly backed in the face of threats by President Donald J. Trump that the city will lose federal funding.

"I'm not afraid of losing money; first of all, because we got the constitution on our side and secondly, we're doing the right thing in the city of Boston," said Walsh followed by a round of applause.

"I get passionate because in January of 2014, I was sworn in as

countries entrance into the United States, Walsh issued a statement that "He would not be intimidated."

The objective of the citywide forum was to direct communities that were affected by the recent executive orders toward city resources that answer questions and express solidarity, while gaining feedback from immigrants and refugees.

On Wednesday, Walsh denounced Trump's executive orders to target and get

Pope Francis elicits praise, criticism for Trump comments

Nick Viveiros
Journal Staff

His Holiness Pope Francis, leader of the Roman Catholic Church, has received increased media attention in recent months and the reason has nothing to do with the institution he is charged with leading. It's because of President Donald J. Trump.

The Pope's involvement in the 2016 presidential election began a little more than year ago with a series of comments directly attacking Trump's controversial plan to erect a border wall along the United States' southern border with Mexico.

"A person who only thinks about building walls, wherever they may be, and not building bridges, is not Christian," the Pope said in an interview with multiple news sources. Trump immediately responded.

"For a religious leader to question a person's faith is disgraceful," then-candidate Trump said at a rally in South Carolina shortly after the incident last February, calling himself "a good Christian."

That same line of criticism continued last week when on Feb. 18 Pope Francis tweeted a message calling on Catholics to take in immigrants and refugees.

"How often in the Bible the Lord asks us to welcome migrants and foreigners, reminding us that we too are foreigners!" said the tweet, sent from Pope Francis' official account.

Again on Feb. 22, the Pontiff tweeted a religious message that many read as a criticism of what has become known colloquially as "the wall."

"Jesus entrusted to Peter the keys to open the entrance to the kingdom of heaven, and not to close it," the Pontiff tweeted.

But it was comments that Pope Francis made on Jan. 20, just as Donald Trump was being sworn

in thousands of miles away, that have raised a few eyebrows.

In an interview with Spanish newspaper El Pais, the Pope was asked about the rise of populism, a political disposition which focuses more on the immediate concerns of the people rather than ideologies.

"In my opinion, the most obvious example of populism in the European sense of the word is Germany in 1933," the Pope said. "Hitler didn't steal power, his people voted for him, and then he destroyed his people. That is the risk. In times of crisis we lack judgment, and that is a constant reference for me."

Despite the connotations of his comments, the Pope insists that he is taking a 'wait and see' approach with President Trump.

"I don't like to get ahead of myself, nor to judge people prematurely. We will see how he acts, what he does, and then I will form an opinion," he said.

"Being afraid or rejoicing beforehand because of something that might happen is, in my view, quite unwise," he continued.

At Suffolk University, the religious community responded with unease.

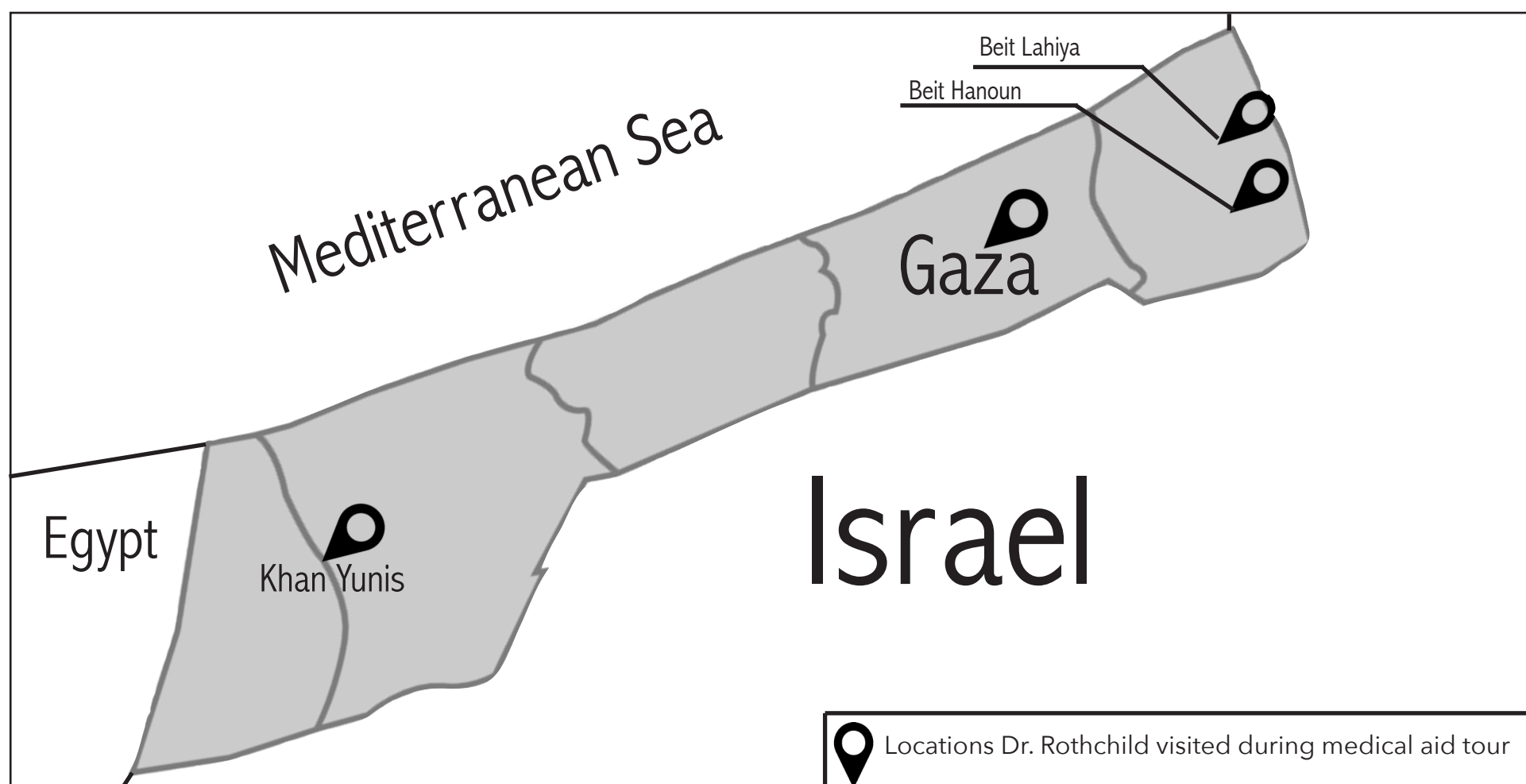
"We as citizens of the United States, and those who identify as Roman Catholic, need to really examine the role of social media in our lives," said Reverend Amy Fisher, University Chaplain in an interview with the Journal Tuesday.

Papal influence in international politics is nothing new.

During a trip to the Philippines in 1981, Pope Saint John Paul II explicitly criticized the country's president Ferdinand Marcos for his human rights abuses in a blistering speech.

Pope Pius XII, who led the Church through the Second World War and Holocaust, directed Catholic clergy to provide covert assistance to Jews living under Nazi rule. saving thousands of lives.

Rothchild recounts grim scenes from Gaza



Brooke Patterson
Asst. Sports Editor

For more than half a century, the people of the small independent Palestinian territory, Gaza, have been constrained to living under military rule in an environment that has been decimated by missile attacks from outside nations. Recently, Gaza has been besieged by Israeli assaults, forcing its citizens to survive in rubble and debris.

Dr. Alice Rothchild, an obstetrician-gynecologist, filmmaker and author whose book "Condition Critical: Life and Death in Israel/Palestine," was released Feb. 1. Rothchild has twice visited the territory, a notoriously difficult place to enter, on humanitarian trips.

In March 2015, Rothchild traveled with a delegation from Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility and in January, she was with a donor group, Grassroots International.

Rothchild recently recounted her 2015 and 2017 journeys to Gaza with an Israeli and Palestinian medical aid delegation to a group of Suffolk University students.

"It was just breathtaking to see the level of destruction," said Rothchild during her presentation.

According to Rothchild, Gaza has been under military rule since 1967 and had Jewish settlers, but in 2005, the settlers were removed because of a blockade of the strip.

Hamas is a Palestinian Sunni-Islamic organization that currently governs Gaza. Rothchild explained that Hamas took control in 2007 when they won the civil war against Fatah.

Since 2007, there has been a severe restrictive siege. For decades, Gaza faced rocket fire from militant groups and a growing, devastating humanitarian crisis.

Between 2008 and 2014 there were three massive assaults on Israel, including one in June 2014 where 30 rockets were launched from Gaza into Israel.

"Both times [I went to Gaza], we were invited by the Gaza community mental health program, which is an incredible mental health program providing psychiatric care," said Rothchild. "So I was doing things like providing services, interviews and mostly documenting facts from the ground."

The 2014 invasion led to many fatalities in Gaza and Israel. Specifically, 74 Israelis were killed and 100 civilians were injured. In Gaza over 2,100 individuals were killed, including 500 children and more than 100,000 people were

left homeless. Children were traumatized by the war and estimated about 370,000 were in need of psychiatric care, said Rothchild.

Rothchild displayed images of prominent buildings that had burnt down, such as the ministry of finance and mosques that she saw while "reporting from the ground" in Gaza, but Hamas was doing reconstruction on the mosques.

Sophomore journalism major Ryan Emma, watched as Rothchild gave her presentation.

"I consider myself an educated person," said Emma in an interview with The Suffolk Journal after Rothchild's presentation. "but to see her perspective on this was real eye opening."

The author showed images of Beit Lahiya, a city in Northern Gaza, which largely consisted of destroyed buildings. A majority of the city's infrastructure has been reduced to rubble.

"I kept seeing intact apartment buildings next to rubble that got bombed, so it's really a whim of faith whether you lived or died in this war," said Rothchild. Thirty percent of the 100,000 homeless individuals lived in bombed out homes in Beit Lahiya, she said.

In Beit Hanoun, a city in the northeast, Rothchild captured an image of a cat painted on a concrete wall by graffiti

artist and political activist Banksy.

"His idea was that people will take pictures of a kitten much more than they will take pictures of a hungry Gazan child," said Rothchild. "It was a political commentary of that fact."

Rothchild continued, showing the students the eastern neighborhood of Shuja'iyya. Like many places in Gaza, Israeli forces clashed with Hamas militants and Shuja'iyya was heavily damaged by shelling in 2014. During the second Lebanon war, the Dahiya doctrine was developed in Shuja'iyya after Israel destroyed the Dahiya district in Beirut. The doctrine stated that if a military group completely destroys an area, this doctrine will act as deterrence where confrontation will not be beneficial.

"The level of desperation and poverty was just appalling," said Rothchild about a man from Shuja'iyya she met with two wives, 42 children and grandchildren and no home.

In Gaza City, although some parts were bombed, it still appeared to be functional with cars and roads. Rothchild was able to see vegetables and fruits from across the city because it was so fertile.

But Gaza City has also faced a major problem of a lack of electricity. Rothchild witnessed donkeys pulling carts of

fuel in order to provide energy to the city.

"People were really bombed back into a different century," she said.

The sewer system was impacted by the war. In some parts of Gaza, the sewer treatment plants were destroyed, causing raw sewage to flow into the Mediterranean Sea.

"You see people fishing in the water with the sewage in it and swimming and playing with their horses in the water with the sewage in it," said Rothchild.

After Gaza City, Rothchild showed images of Khan Yunis.

Showing a powerful image of a wedding in the bombed out city, Rothchild said, "You see people trying to do the best they can."

Rafah was next on Rothchild's visual journey for the students. In Rafah, more than 500 tunnels were bombed. The tunnels hosted black market economic activity, she explained.

Rothchild emphasized that Gaza, though a small territory, is diverse and has a young population.

As of 2017, there are differences in Gaza since Rothchild's first trip in 2015. There are land restrictions so people can farm and there is some rebuilding. She said blocks of cement were equivalent to gold to a Gazan.

One of the most eye-opening parts of

Rothchild's travels was when she visited the Gaza Community Mental Health Program, which offered training and mental health services for the community.

Dr. Yasser Abu-Jamei, the executive director of the Gaza Community Mental Health Program, lost 28 family members due to the 2014 war on Gaza. He told her about 51 days of intense fear and insecurity, the staff and families who died, and the mobilization of the staff to care for the population. He used the term Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder to describe many of his patients, but explained the trauma is lifelong.

"I cannot offer a patient something I cannot have for myself," said Abu-Jamei.

When Rothchild visited schools in Gaza she noticed the children's drawings depicted death and destruction. They drew what they knew, and sadly death and bombings were a common theme in many Gazans' lives, she said.

"This is what their realities are as their lives as children," said Rothchild.

Regardless of all the trauma and destruction Gaza has undergone over the years, the people still manage to remain as one. They survive and live their lives through the rubble.

"Gaza is not only a place, it is two million people," said Rothchild.



SPELL IT OUT FOR ME

By Felicity Otterbein,
Arts Editor

In a rip-roaring performance of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," Suffolk University Students earned a well-deserved standing ovation at the Modern Theater Friday night.

Complete with special guests picked from the audience, amongst them was the Assistant Dean of Students at Suffolk, John Silveria. He was pulled up on stage with two other students as well as audience member and wife of Performing Arts Office Office Coordinator Antoine Gagnon, Irene Daly. Silveria was gracious, yet had some difficulty controlling his giggles while trying to spell his assigned word, "cow." The audience erupted into fits of hysteria when Silveria asked the mediator to use his word in a sentence.

The show itself is a unique one-act long performance which came into existence on Broadway in 2005. Set in an ambiguous Putnam Valley Middle School, six pre-pubescent students

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Courtesy of Dan McHugh

Miniseries rekindles decades old fight with "Feud"

Felicity Otterbein
Arts Editor

Bette Davis reportedly once said about her Hollywood arch-nemesis "The best time I ever had with Joan Crawford was when I pushed her down the stairs in 'Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?'"

They were beautiful, stunning and brilliant both on and off the screen. Their lives seemed to be a never ending parade of glamour and success. Davis and Crawford embodied elegance and grace, traits they both exuded in efforts to make the other pale in comparison.

A longstanding feud between the two huge names in Hollywood toward the end of the so-called Golden Age of cinema, Davis and Crawford were known for their transformative abilities on screen and their famous ruthlessness toward each other off-screen.

To convey such entertainment, Ryan Murphy has created a new

miniseries appropriately titled "Feud," which follows Davis, played by Susan Sarandon, and Crawford played by Jessica Lange through the tumultuous time leading up, during filming and after the production of "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?"

Murphy made an excellent decision casting

In an era where it was difficult for women to be taken seriously in their profession and the constant dismissal of those who were deemed "headstrong," Davis and Crawford were icons and role models for young women to idolize. The Golden Age of cinema was a time where actors and actresses had talent

and fear held by both actresses; that they would

one day fade out of the Hollywood spotlight and

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Davis and Crawford embodied elegance and grace, traits they both exuded in efforts to make the other pale in comparison

two huge names in the current Hollywood day and age. Sarandon and Lange are so well known and so fantastically versatile that they seemed to have no difficulty slipping into such iconic characters. Not to mention that Sarandon looks uncannily alike to Davis.

and passion. Rising from the ashes following the Great Depression, Davis and Crawford provided audiences with an escape from reality.

For many, this miniseries will be a first look into the glamorous lives of Davis and Crawford. It expands on the mutual contempt

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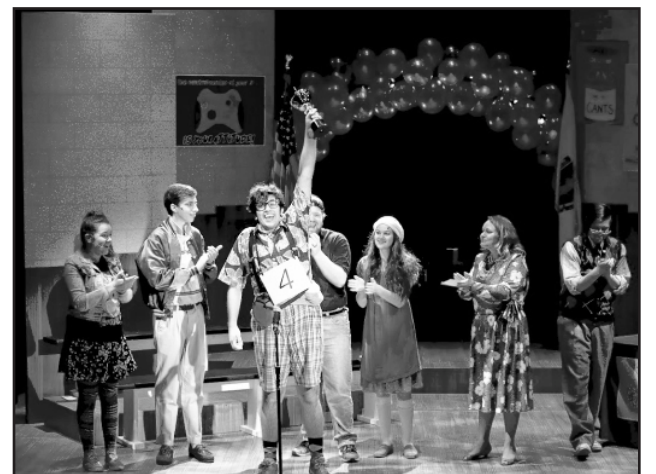
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Sticks and stones may break bones, but words can hurt forever



Courtesy of Dan McHugh

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come together to compete for the champion title and the coveted opportunity to attend the national spelling bee competition in Washington D.C.

The Bee is comprised of four guest spellers and six middle school contestants, Charlito "Chip" Tolentino played by Peter Firek, Logainne SchwartzandGrubenierre played by Julianna Fields, Leaf Coneybear played by Ma'Chel Martin, William Boris Barfeé played by Michael Greene, Marcy Park played by Olivia Lowe and Olive Ostrovsky played by Jenna Locke.

With each individual character more funny and entertaining than the next, the Suffolk performers did not disappoint.

As the show progressed, the audience was introduced to each participant's personal histories. Beginning with a peppy and cheerful

opening number of, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," the company set the tone for the evening with a set of choreographed dances and gentle harmonies. Complete with the quirks and ticks of every preteen, the students created an air of amusement to quickly captivate and hold the audience's attention.

By far, the most memorable performances included Greene's character, Lowe's character, Locke's character, Fields character and Martin's character. Green's character, a boy with an aggressive allergy problem, has a "magic foot," which he claims helps him to visualize the words he has to spell. Greene, with an impeccable stuffy and whiny voice, was perfect for this role. He sports extremely high-waisted shorts held up by suspenders and is continuously upset when his name is routinely mispronounced

throughout the show.

Lowe's character is portrayed as an overachiever who performs an entire song regarding her hobby, winning. She discusses her ability to speak six languages, her undeniable athleticism and overall boredom with her continued success. Lowe does an excellent job conveying that disinterest and manages to perform almost the entire show with a grim and unamused expression.

Ostrovsky quickly earns the heart of the audience when she earnestly convinces the judges to let her compete sans entry fee after she assures them that her father will be attending the competition because he promised her that he would be there to support. Throughout the production, she reveals that her mother has been gone for months on an excursion in India, while her father never seems to be around

despite his promises to support his daughter.

She claims she took the bus by herself to get to the spelling bee and that her only friend is the worn out dictionary that she keeps in her bathroom. Dedicating an entire song to her parents, she laments over the relationship she has with them and wishes that she could do something to mend it. Out of the entire group of participants, only Olive and William become friends.

Arguably the most intriguing character was Coneybear, Martin's character. Sporting a helmet on his head, goggles, a tie-dye cape and a sock puppet, Coneybear is the most bizarre out of all the personalities on stage. Claiming he knows no words, his character is overcome, rather possessed, by this sock puppet who uncannily spells out every word correctly. Almost as though he is in a trance, Coneybear quickly

shakes off the possession and resumes wearing a toothy grin and gentle personality. Dedicating an entire song to his family claiming he is not that smart, he accepts that fact and claims that he would rather focus on being a good person.

The youngest of the group, SchwartzandGrubenierre, Fields character, is a scrawny stereotypical nerd complete with headgear and a speech impediment. Shrill and shrewd, Fields does the character justice with gawky posture and deliverance of speech. Almost puppeteered by

her two gay fathers whom have an incredible toll on their daughter regarding an unhealthy obsession with winning, "Schwarzzy" suffers a devastating loss after she overthinks a seemingly simple word. Fields did a remarkable job selling the image of an awkward, yet undeniably passionate, schoolgirl.

The performers did an unquestionably fantastic job. The level of work put into a production such as this one was extensive and did not go unnoticed. Every dance step, every lyric, every rehearsed line of dialogue was impeccable and impressive.

Creator Murphy fans old flames in recreation of Crawford vs. Davis series

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being replaced by newer and younger actresses.

While the show appears to appeal to the more sympathetic viewers who might empathize with the two aging stars, a more serious undertone is taken regarding the

level of seriousness depicting the dismissal of women when they are deemed "too old," for roles usually taken on by a younger person.

In an almost devastatingly tragic way, the show touches on the aspects of ageism and blatant disregard for disposable talent. The two women, obviously worn out and tired

from having worked desperately for what they felt passionate about only to, in return, not receive the same affection and adoration from the careers they chose for themselves. Ultimately being forced to accept that their glory days were quickly disappearing behind them, the women are depicted as appearing to be washed up and

desperate for work. This fact is one of the major reasons the women decided to pair up to make "Baby Jane," with the hopes that they would be catapulted back into the picture and award scenes.

Amidst the dramatics, the endless flow of alcohol and the bombardment of continuous insults hurled across the screen,

the audience is able to relish in a odd sense of comfort. This comfort that stems from the fact that while these women were dealing with such a tough and unpaved route to stardom and success, the film industry has become increasingly more progressive. Lange herself is a striking 68-year-old who has continued to reap the affection

bestowed upon her from the glowing success from "American Horror Story." Juxtaposed to Crawford who was in her mid-50's when she filmed "Baby Jane," and was presumed to be finished with her career.

A powerhouse of talent and dripping with Emmy potential, the series is set to premiere on FX on March 8.



Black History Month: Suffolk leaves students wanting more

Haley Clegg/Photo Editor

Elvira Mora
Journal Staff

February has been a month dedicated to the struggles faced by the Black community, which was first recognized in 1976 and to celebrate those who have been marginalized. It also recognizes important people of color through history.

As a Latina woman, I can empathize why this month is necessary. The hope is for more white people to become allies not only with the Black community, but with anyone of color. There should be more white people who recognize past history and use numerous past events to actively learn how they can help to prevent history from repeating itself.

It is essential to celebrate Black History Month (BHM) collectively between all races and nationalities in order to become a step closer toward a sense of basic equality.

Although this month was relevant and meaningful, Suffolk's limited promotion of celebratory events regarding BHM is a bit alarming, especially when claiming to be a diverse university. When the university put out their weekly emails regarding events, there were barely any that were highly advertised.

There were no flyers except to call attention to the Black and White Affair, a dance held at the Boston Hyatt Regency, as

“The representation of people of color is extremely important; however, Suffolk failed to show its support and to honor its “diverse” community.”

well as an invitation “to taste soul food” at weekly meetings, both hosted by the Black Student Union. Besides that, no other events were overtly publicized.

The representation of people of color is extremely important; however, Suffolk failed to show its support and to honor its “diverse” community.

On a national level, black figures in pop culture and film have displayed solidarity in celebrating their heritage. Beyoncé is a well-known figure who happens to be of color and recently announced that she is having twins. Her album “Lemonade,” released last year was a stylistic example of her culture and many others.

Moreover, a hip hop group called, “A Tribe Called Quest” gave a politically charged performance at the Grammys as they chanted “We the People,” and invited individuals to come together despite their respective backgrounds. The films “Hidden Figures,” and “Fences,” became nominated for an Oscar and Viola Davis received an Oscar for best supporting actress in “Fences.” Even more representation of the Black community was seen when the film “Moonlight,” with an all-black cast, took home an Oscar for Best Picture.

If representation is repeatedly seen on multiple platforms of media, Suffolk should be able to focus on representing its students of color. Suffolk could advocate for different

events occurring on campus through its social media accounts, flyers and emails instead of each individual club attempting to get their message across and reach a smaller audience. There needs to be a more organized and succinct way to reach the Suffolk community to celebrate diversity.

BHM is a critical aspect in celebrating people who have struggled in society for hundreds of years. As human beings, basic equality and well being of every individual should be practiced. Suffolk needs to recognize people of color not only in February, but also consistently through the year. It's time to praise diversity and our peers of color.

Students of color need to feel more appreciated

Timi Ogunbanjo
Journal Contributor

Originally from Nigeria, as an incoming freshman, I was under the impression that I would be in a diverse community with students from many different backgrounds; this observation was true.

This past fall semester was my first at Suffolk University and my expectations were high but eventually were not met. One of the reasons they fell flat was because professors had not been making an effort to reach out or contact students to find out how they could go about or understand the executive order regarding the Muslim Ban.

The white population at the university makes up 44 percent of the ethnicities and takes up important roles as students and faculty. They are the majority and could create a more involved role by making minority groups feel welcome in class, at work and in the dorms because as of right now, they do not do well.

During the presidential

election between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, I was under the impression that Trump was certain to lose only because he had made shocking, obnoxious and shameful remarks about people in terms of religion, gender and ethnicity.

In one of his speeches, when referring to Mexicans, Trump said, “They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.”

Moreover, president Trump expected Barack Obama to hold African Americans accountable for crime because of his race and position of power. Trump had said “Our great African-American president has not exactly had a positive impact on the thugs who are so happily and openly destroying Baltimore,” on Barack Obama, who has done more for America than other U.S. Presidents.

These are examples of Donald Trump's lack of basic knowledge about social awareness and the reasons behind why I thought he would lose the

See *RACE* page 10



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**FOR SUFFOLK'S
BREAKING NEWS**

EDITOR'S WORD

The editorial board and writing staff of the *The Suffolk Journal* works furiously to ensure each story is written and published with unconditional integrity. As journalists, we strictly maintain a professional level of neutrality. Nonetheless, we are indeed members of Suffolk University, and as students are entitled to certain opinions regardless of our status within our profession.

On Tuesday, a vote was cast in which *Journal* colleagues selected Daniel Gazzani to bear an official endorsement with the name of *The Suffolk Journal* firmly behind it. We believe Gazzani is the candidate that will most accurately and efficiently represent not only the student body, but the very ideology that Suffolk epitomizes.

While *The Journal* has nothing but the utmost respect for candidate Devarth Dixit, we are confident in the abilities that Gazzani possesses and the potential that he embodies. Gazzani's genuine charisma and relentless dedication are qualities that we constantly aspire to emanate at *The Journal* as well.

As recent university issues have arose, supplemented by the political climate this country faces, the leaders we intend to be mirrored by are most accurately described by a single word; passion. Gazzani illustrates the essence of passion, and we stand by him.



Claire Schneider/Political Cartoonist

Trump is stronger than the leaks

Patrick George
Journal Contributor

President Donald Trump's claim to fame may be his ability to create an extraordinary amount of jobs, in the political comedy and punditry industry. For the last two years, Trump has enraged the general public for both his comments— preference for heroes who aren't prisoners of war, lewd comments about women, and his policies such as the Muslim Ban, Border Wall. It's almost too easy to find a tidbit to grasp onto, but in doing so we should be mindful of the validity of these stories and avoid the hysteria of "fake news." The concern, however, is this: constant criticism of Trump, will not do us any favors when it comes time for him to act presidential.

While reading the news, I saw myriad headlines referring to Trump's inevitable rise to authoritarianism. Jack Goldsmith, the former head of the Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) for President George W. Bush, had a different concern. He believed Trump might possibly be "too weak" to respond to a national security crisis. Goldsmith, who has written for

"Lawfare," reasons, "Weak presidencies enhance the likelihood of a foreign policy crisis that weak presidents are ill-suited to redress, and indeed that often bring out the worse in a weak president— especially one who is thin-skinned, uninformed and impulsive."

Goldsmith is right. Checks and balances is a foundational principle of American democracy, but the principle is not meant to pummel the executive into inaction.

Another increasingly difficult story to ignore is the proliferation of leaks. If these leaks are coming from deep-state sources, as alleged by "The Atlantic" and other sources, they only serve to make us more vulnerable. The release of this information is performed by career officials not held responsible by an electorate, and they should not be making the decisions they are to release this information.

For example, for every justification provided for the leak of his memo on reopening black sites, there is a refuted leak about his interaction with the Australian Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull. I will give credit where it is due; he is right that National Security secrets should not be leaked regarding his dealings with North

White students should indulge in diversity

From *RACE* page 9

election. "Some Caucasian students may protest on different occasions, but do not see it as a long time commitment because they can't relate to the hurdles or barriers a black person may have to overcome in their lifetime," said John Olubambi, a business student at Suffolk. His reason for saying this is clear and incisive.

Despite Trump making these comments directed to minority group members throughout his career, the white majority at Suffolk University has not done enough to condemn his Muslim Ban and other executive orders.

Korea, as he said on Twitter. You don't need to look very far to criticize Trump for a legitimate misunderstanding of his duties— turning his Mar-a-Lago resort into a public situation room, and his botched immigration ban rollout is sufficient. There is no need to fabricate stories or risk national security.

It is an ever-important role of public officials and private citizens to be kept abreast of the president's actions. It is even more important to be critical

The white population at Suffolk could contribute more by organizing nonviolent protests against the order outside Suffolk buildings, or have the president of the international student association condemn the order. Instead, there have been some students just sit back, indulge in privilege and watch the nation get divided by a man with no political experience because it has no impact on them or their friends.

My expectations for society are high and I believe that they need to do more to better this world. More people should ask themselves, "How can I help?" when it comes to racism, sexism, Islamophobia, homophobia and other hate speech.

of the president's policies, and combat him if you disagree, without reprisal. But criticism based on the person's character and not his policies will do more harm than good, particularly in the realm of national security. Given the public role of the President, there is a fine line between warranted criticism and character assassination. The public has a responsibility to walk that line and err on the side of caution— even if our Commander-in-Chief chooses not to.

Softball swings into new season, catches warm weather



By Instagram user @gosuffolkrams

Hannah Arroyo Journal Staff

After finishing last year with the winningest season in Suffolk softball program history with a 33-9 record, the Lady Rams kick off their 2017 campaign in Arizona in early March for some spring training action at the Tucson Invitational.

This is the first time that Suffolk's softball team has traveled to Arizona in their 33-year program history. The Rams will play five double headers starting March 11 versus Central College and ending March 16 against Dickinson College.

Five-year Head Coach Jaclyn Davis said that the team has been preparing to face some "fierce" competition in the Copper state. The Lady Rams are in their fourth week of a six-week process of training that includes working on fitness, skill development and team building.

"It's the nature of the sport and the nature of weather that we start somewhere warm," said Davis in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal. "We've never been to Arizona before. We just want to try something different.

In Arizona, the Rams will also face teams such as the University of Puget Sound, Stevens Institute of Technology, Greenville

College and Hamline University.

"There's some really good competition out there [such as] some regional competition that we don't normally," said Davis. "I think that will be important to us both in terms of preparing for conference play, but also so that people start to understand who we are and that we can compete a high level with teams that are in other regions and in other parts of the country."

Davis officially announced this seven-day spring training trip along with their 40-game full regular season schedule that features eight double headers at East Boston Memorial Park. The Lady Rams play their first game back from Tucson on March 24 away versus Emerson College. The schedule includes eleven Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) double headers.

Since Davis' coaching era at Suffolk, the team has played consistent softball and improved their program record. Her first season with the team resulted in a losing record of 16-25. Just last season, the Rams succeeded in doubling that number of wins with a record of 33-9. In 2016, Davis was also awarded with the honor of GNAC Coach of the Year.

"I think what we're trying to do is really trying to make this season sort of its own separate entity," said Davis. "While we are really proud of what we did last year and we really appreciate how much it was celebrated by

the university, it's almost like you can't take it with you."

Davis said that what she meant by this is the team cannot let the results of one season effect the next. She said that it is important that her team doesn't take anything for granted and keeps working hard every day to be successful each season.

Davis explained that this year the team's biggest challenge will be facing Johnson and Wales University (JWU) because they are well coached and have good talent. In the past few years, Suffolk has won the regular season and JWU has won the conference tournament. Davis also said that this season, she hopes for her team to win in both of those categories.

"I think that you can absolutely expect to see a bunch of hungry softball players. They want to be successful so badly not only for themselves and me, but for the university," said Davis. "I wish more people could be there to watch them play, because they really do leave it out on the field every single day."

Suffolk's 19-roster team remains nearly the same this year as they only graduated two seniors last season. Captain and junior Lindsay Pagano said that the team's chemistry has been building up through team events like getting together for suppers and events. Pagano said that she knows people are going to expect a lot from her team this season.

"Our [33-9] win season

was such a feat last year and obviously we hope to surmount to that or pass it this year," said Pagano in a recent interview with The Journal. "We're looking to those returners to come back with strong seasons and help lead us back to that winning record."

This season the team also added four new freshmen to their roster. As a captain, Pagano said that she and her team have helped to make sure that these new girls not only adjust to the pace of the game but play better together as a team.

"With only four freshman it was not that hard for us to get to know the upperclassman with the amount of time that we have spent together since September," said freshman outfielder Samantha Jacques in an interview with The Journal. "I think we have a very strong team chemistry. On and off the field everyone has each other's backs."

Junior outfielder Sydney Littlefield said that regardless of her team's record they just hope to go win the GNAC this year. She said that they have been one of the most successful teams in Suffolk Softball and that their success would not be complete without a title.

"We have worked really hard to be in the position we are at, and we feel that if we continue to grow as a team we are capable of playing long after our spring classes are over," said Littlefield in a recent interview with The Journal.



Courtesy of Suffolk Athletics

"I think that you can absolutely expect to see a bunch of hungry softball players. They want to be successful so badly not only for themselves, but for the university."

- Softball Head Coach Jaclyn Davis



The Lady Rams 2017 season begins at the Tucson Invitational in Arizona on March 11 against Central College (IA) and Augsburg College (MN).

Captain's Corner: Rams take the diamond

Brooke Patterson
Asst. Sports Editor

Katie Dugan
Asst. Opinion Editor

The Great Northeast Athletic Conference (GNAC) office announced on Feb. 16 that the Suffolk University baseball team was selected to win their third GNAC championship this 2017 season. The Rams sat on top of the coaches prediction

poll with 59 points. In 2016, the Rams finished their season with an overall record of 33-13. The team obtained the GNAC postseason title and advanced to their sixth National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) debut. The Rams returned four members of the winning 2016 roster as captains for their upcoming season: Sean Cameron, Matt Brenner, Brady Chant and Chuck Gibson.



Courtesy of Suffolk Athletics



Sean Cameron, #11

Playing one of the most defensively demanding positions for Suffolk's baseball team, senior shortstop Sean Cameron, will be looking to have another successful season.

"Shortstop is always looked at as a sort of leadership position and I kind of welcome that, but really, I don't look at being a captain any different," said Cameron in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal.

A transfer student from Roanoke College in Salem, VA., Cameron will be heading into his third season as a first-year captain for the Rams. Cameron was seen by his team as a leader and in the fall was elected to be one of four captains for the Rams this season.

"It's cool that my teammates thought of me as a captain, but really I just try to go out there and give it my all everyday, practice or game, no matter what," said Cameron.

Cameron plans to defend the Rams two-time GNAC champion title and make another run in the NCAA regional tournament.

As a captain, Cameron said he tries not to think about the responsibilities behind being a team leader, but acts the same way he does on a daily basis. He also explained that the team is filled with a lot of upperclassmen, so most players are aware of what is expected of them.

"If it's not broken, don't fix it," said Cameron.

Besides being more comfortable with the coaches and being an upperclassmen, Cameron does not emphasize anything new that comes with being a captain. He plans to lead the Rams loudly and do the same thing the team has done over the years.



Matt Brenner, #7

Playing in a career total of 90 games for Suffolk's baseball team so far, senior catcher Matt Brenner looks to see that number increase as his final season approaches.

Voted by his teammates during the fall, Brenner, a global business major, stands among three other Rams as a first-year captain in his fourth season for Suffolk's baseball team. Brenner will defensively take this season from behind home plate as the Rams catcher.

"I plan to lead by example by showing up everyday and working to my best ability," said Brenner in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal.

Wearing number seven for the Rams in their 2017 season, Brenner, alongside his teammates, plans to "three-peat" this season and take home their third GNAC championship. He does not plan to stop at winning the GNAC, but also hopes the team makes a run at the NCAA regional tournament.

"This is my last season so I hope to finish strong with the senior class I came in with," said Brenner.

As a captain, Brenner feels it his role to push his teammates and ensure they are performing to their full potential. He wants to help his team succeed and compete every day to the highest of their abilities, while also being the person that the underclassmen on the team can look up to. The global business major hopes to give the underclassmen beneficial objectives to carry into future seasons.

"This will be my last season of ever playing baseball, so I intend to leave everything I have in this season and on the field," said Brenner.



Brady Chant, #4

While Brady Chant is more soft-spoken than his teammates, he is a leader in his athletic performance and demeanor.

"You just set an example. We kind of just set a tone. We try to relay that to the guys who haven't seen it before," said Chant in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal.

Chant, junior and centerfielder, is the youngest among the four captains on this year's baseball team, and was not expecting to be chosen as a captain, as it is typically a responsibility awarded to a senior.

"Brady's an amazing baseball player, but is still one of the hardest working players on the team," said senior second-baseman BJ Neil in an interview with The Journal on Thursday. "Even though he is only a junior on the team, it was an easy decision to vote for Brady to be one of our captains."

Chant, of Warwick RI, wants to start the season strong by bringing the team further in regionals.

"We've been to regionals two years and haven't won a game, hopefully we'll make a little run in that," said Chant.

Chant is proud of how far his team has come and is looking forward to leading them to success, and sees his role as captain to keep his teammates motivated and focused throughout the season.

"There's ups and downs during the season, sometimes you win a game you weren't supposed to win, sometimes you lose a game you weren't supposed to lose, so you [got to] respond to that," said Chant. "Every team is [going to] slump, in every team [there are] good weeks and bad weeks."



Chuck Gibson, #9

Senior Chuck Gibson and first time captain is hoping to continue the "dynasty" that is Suffolk Baseball.

Gibson, a pitcher for the Rams from Malden, Mass., is entering his fourth year on the team and hopes to be the team's number one starter this season. He aims to end his senior year on a high note by leading his team and winning their third GNAC in a row. The pitcher said that he was honored to be voted captain of such a successful team.

"Hopefully we will leave our mark there and hopefully leave a culture that follows in our footsteps," said Gibson in a recent interview with The Suffolk Journal.

When it comes to his teammates, Gibson utilizes his no-nonsense leadership style.

"I feel like our jobs as captains is just to keep everyone in check," said Gibson, "I think part of our success last year, that was our best season in a long time and I think that's because there weren't any egos, we all just came together."

The entrepreneurship major hopes to lead his teammates on the field, but also noted the importance of his teammates performance off the field. As a captain, he makes sure that everyone is staying on top of their grades and overall doing well in their classes.

"Most of us aren't going to be playing baseball after [college]" said Gibson.

However, Gibson is ready to transition from pre-season and lead his team to success.

"We all just get consumed by the season," said Gibson. "We're a lot more responsive when it actually means something."