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CAMPUS INSIDER

The Boston Globe

## Mayor has a proposal for a Suffolk campus

By Marcella Bombardieri and James Vaznis, Globe Staff | December 31, 2006

Shortly after city officials nixed Suffolk University's plans to build a dormitory tower on Beacon Hill, Mayor Thomas M. Menino offered a radical alternative. Suffolk could consider moving its campus or a good chunk of it into the Hurley building, state offices at the corner of Cambridge and Staniford streets near Government Center.

"It would be like Emerson College -- consolidate," Menino said in an interview last week, referring to Emerson's move in recent years from the Back Bay to the Theater District.

Designed in the late 1960s in the same Brutalist architectural style as City Hall, the state services complex made up of the Hurley and Lindemann buildings was dubbed "an orgy in concrete." It was widely seen as a cold, inhospitable environment for the offices and mental health facility it housed.

While it's still in use and not for sale at the moment, the state has been exploring ways to get rid of the complex for years, said urban designer Alex Krieger.

It wouldn't be the first time someone tried to get Suffolk to move in. In the late 1980s, the legendary urban planner Edward Logue had a plan that included Suffolk taking over the buildings and turning the university's Beacon Hill properties into luxury housing. Suffolk didn't bite.

Suffolk officials could not be reached for comment. Boston officials, who are also considering selling City Hall Plaza and building a new City Hall on the South Boston waterfront, declined to elaborate on how they imagined Suffolk making use of the complex.

**DEJA VU:** Zooming by on the sides of buses and across radio waves next month will be a new state campaign: "Think College isn't for you? Think again."

The \$250,000 campaign is being funded by a \$2 million grant to the state two years ago from the National Governor's Association. Sponsored by the Board of Higher Education and the Department of Education, the ads feature students from Boston Arts Academy, and the messages direct students to [ReadySetGotoCollege.com](http://ReadySetGotoCollege.com).

The campaign might ring familiar with commuters. Until last year, Quincy College used the slogan "Think Again" on billboards, subway posters and in radio spots to persuade adults to go back to school. Quincy developed its campaign in house. The state hired the Newton firm Bryer Advertising.

Board of Higher Education spokeswoman Eileen O'Connor chalked it up to coincidence. Quincy College spokesman Daryl Slater said he is pleased about the slogan's return. "I was a fan of it," he said.

**STATUE MISCHIEF:** Perhaps the sight of a naked man in a Wellesley College quad was too embarrassing or alarming for some young women, or perhaps they felt bad for him during the harsh New England cold.

Over the last three decades, students taped flyers for musicals, yoga classes, and other events to a replica of Rodin's Walking Man, a 6-foot bronze sculpture with no head or arms.

Sometimes students dressed him up for graduation or Halloween. This fall, the college hauled away the statue, which had turned green from acid rain, for restoration. He will return next fall, this time in the college's museum.

"While it was funny, it was disgraceful this great sculpture was being demeaned in that way," said Rika Smith McNally, Wellesley's conservator of objects and sculptures.

Before the statue departed, students threw him a party, donning him in a cocktail dress and attaching balloons and signs, including one that read: "But I love it out here. Indoors forever?"

Thomas C. Palmer Jr. of the Globe staff contributed to this column. Campus Insider runs on alternate Sundays with the Globe's Ask the Teacher feature, a column by an area teacher. E-mail tips to [campus@globe.com](mailto:campus@globe.com). ■

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