Suffolk celebrates the birth of the late Dr. King

By Joeclyn Meek

Last week’s celebration in commemoration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the slain civil rights leader, was a well-blended program of speeches and songs that culminated in a heartfelt rendition of “We Shall Overcome,” the anthem of the civil rights movement.

More than 100 students, faculty and administrators gathered to honor Dr. King, and all who attended agreed that the event was a special celebration in honor of his monumental achievements and contributions to humanity.

The program began with comments made by Dr. Sharon Artis-Jackson, the Assistant to the President and Director of Multicultural Affairs, in which she reminded the audience of Dr. King’s main goals throughout his lifetime: peace, justice, economic and socioeconomic freedom, and equality for all.

Artis-Jackson was followed by Suffolk University Chaplain Charles Rice’s invocation.

President Sargent then addressed the crowd, citing King’s “contributions to humanity” and reminiscing of the time that he saw Dr. King in Boston in the 1960’s. He said, “I was there, and I can tell you what a huge difference he made.”

Daymiris Peguero, President of the Suffolk University Hispanic Association (SUHA), the only student speaker of the afternoon, recognized that while it is difficult for students of today to help to make a change in society on the same level as Dr. King, “I do believe there is a leader in each and every one of us...We can touch the lives of those close to us.” Ms. Peguero closed by adding that the key to combating ignorance and racism is education. Professor Bellinger of the History Department followed, speaking only briefly on the slain Civil Rights leader. He cited a verse from Acts 2 of the Bible, which reads, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.”

Charlene Hollins, a Suffolk alumna, returned to Suffolk to sing “You’re All I Ever Need,” a spiritual about love of God.

Rev. Terrance Barrett, a Phd. candidate at Harvard Divinity School was the last, and by far, the most powerful speaker. After reading from Scripture, Rev. Barrett proclaimed that “...history is a painful place for some of us, shameful for others, but I believe it is enlightening.” At which point, he took the audience on a time tour, beginning with a scene of Philadelphia in 1684 in which a group of Quakers are bargaining with a sailor over the price of African slaves. “There is a robbery in progress,” Rev. Barrett boomed, “...men and women are being robbed of their freedom!”

The Reverend continued the tour of robberies in progress by taking us to Montgomery, Alabama in 1955, when Rosa Parks, a 42 year old African-American woman is robbed of her right to sit in a seat that she paid for, by a racist busdriver enforcing segregation on public transport. Ms. Parks’s subsequent CELBRATION continued on page 2

Vandalism mars Dr. King celebrations

As the president condoned such actions, the incident had many recalling one similar that occurred six years ago

By Joeclyn Meek

Last week’s celebration of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday was marred only by the discovery of a defaced poster announcing the event. On January 23, Keisa Garvin, a staff secretary in Dr. Artis-Jackson’s office of Multicultural Affairs, was on the third floor of the Sawyer Building putting up additional posters when she noticed that one of the all ready posted flyers had scrawled on the back of the poster and the back of the flyer and a sticker pasted over the sticker.

The incident pales in comparison to several episodes of racial intolerance that have occurred within the past several years.

President Sargent recalled an incident six years ago in which racial epithets and white power symbols were scrawled on bathroom walls on campus. The problem was so bad that classes were cancelled for a day so that students and faculty could attend “sensitivity sessions,” in which tolerance and acceptance of diversity were stressed.

Whether or not this is a case of racial intolerance or simply a mad scribbler, posted announcements are not the place for doodling. President Sargent noted. While it is highly unlikely that the culprit will be discovered, President Sargent stressed in an interview and at the celebration of Dr. King’s birthday last week that “this type of behavior will not be tolerated.”
Shrinking college-age numbers lead to enrollment declines

COLLEGE PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON—Two things—a strong economy and fewer traditional college-age students—contribute to declining enrollment at colleges and universities this past fall, according to a recent American Council on Education (ACE) survey.

Half of the 20 states that submitted complete enrollment data experienced declines this year, according to the ACE report. ACE surveyed higher education officials in 24 states to gather preliminary data on fall 1995 enrollment at two-year and four-year public and private institutions.

However, the student population seems to be leveling off, said ACE officials, after more dramatic enrollment declines the previous two years. In 1994, 65 percent of states responding to the survey reported reductions in their student populations. In fall 1993, 75 percent of states reported a decline.

In those states where enrollments dropped, higher education officials attributed it to the healthy economy and changing demographic patterns.

In Ohio, for example, overall enrollment fell by 1.4 percent. While private colleges experienced a slight increase, enrollment at public institutions dropped by nearly 2 percent. The biggest declines centered at community colleges where enrollments were down 3.7 percent from fall 1994.

Despite indications that enrollments are flat in most states, the U.S. Department of Education is predicting that the number of students attending colleges and universities will rise slightly this year. They predict college enrollments will increase from 14.3 million to 14.4 million.

In addition, the department forecasts a slow but steady increase in enrollment that could result in a gain of 1 million college students in the next seven years.

Classifieds


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The good, the bad and the ugly of 1995

From one to ten, here are Hollywood's best and worst films.

By Justin Grieco  
JOURNAL STAFF

The year of 1995 was a particularly strong one for the movie industry. Not only were many of the films released in the year successful, more than a few were actually very good. The year also saw a great increase in the variety and tone of movies. There were less "erotic" thrillers and "romantic" comedies and more important films with something to say and unique ways of saying it.

So before we can look forward to a winter and spring filled with movies by Demi Moore and Alec Baldwin ("The Juror"), Meryl Streep and Liam Neeson ("Before and After"), George Clooney and Quentin Tarantino ("From Dusk Till Dawn"), John Travolta and Christian Slater ("Broken Arrow"), and Sharon Stone and Chazz Palminteri ("Diabolique"), we have to clear the closet of 1995 by recapping what is considered to be the year's best and worst movie releases. After reading and discussing what the past year has brought us, moviegoers can allow room for anticipation regarding that upcoming "Buddy Bunch" sequel.

The Ten Best Films
1. "Casino" — No other film this year had the narrative power, the emotional energy, the outstanding performances and the essential aspects of a masterpiece than director Martin Scorsese's sprawling epic. The movie manages to be both entertaining and largely informative and never loses its power to move the viewer with a powerful surge of assorted emotions. Robert De Niro and Joe Pesci give finely tuned and expertly crafted performances (this is the most subtle De Niro has ever been on screen) and Sharon Stone proves she is much more than a leggy seductress with a gripping and bold portrayal of crumbling humanity. Many critics dismissed "Casino" for being a "Goodfellas" knockoff but they have largely missed the point. "Casino" is a deeper reworking of the mob lifestyle on a personal, more heartbreaking level.
2. "Braveheart" — Mel Gibson has fashioned a meticulously detailed, grand-scale, adrenaline-pumping period piece with an enormous amount of heart and emotion. The film is stirring and graphic but viewers can't deny the sweeping visuals and the delightfully romantic passion of Gibson as a director, an actor and a character. A flawless "Lawrence of Arabia" for the '90s.
3. "Toy Story" — Most people raved about this family film's breakthrough technology and although the computer-generated animation is simply breathtaking, it is the very human story that allows the audience to relate to and be swept away by a very real and concrete moral center. The film provides entertainment for children and adults alike and the scripts sharp wit and inventive energy is enough to keep imaginations working for decades. A new instant classic from Disney.
4. "The Quick and the Dead" — This parody of spaghetti westerns certainly is not for all tastes and director Sam Raimi has a flair for the cartoonish and the stylish and is able to mix the two for one hilarious and unusually captivating shoot 'em up. This revenge tale is right on the mark when it poker fun at western clichés but it also intelligently manages to balance in the exhilarating glory of the very tactics it is skewering. Also helped by a strong supporting cast and spectacular cinematography.
5. "Get Shorty" — This positively hilarious and completely entertaining, energized adaptation of Elmore Leonard's novel has all the workings of a perfect comedy. The film is loaded with snappy dialogue, a brilliant plot full of twists and surprises and stand-out performances. John Travolta is perfect as the loan shark who gets into the Hollywood scene and the movie continues to stay sharply observant on the dangerous similarities between the movie biz and the crime scene.
6. "Dolores Claiborne" — Kathy Bates and Jennifer Jason Leigh give kick-out performances in this gothic drama about a dark family secret. The film is a faithful adaptation of the source Stephen King novel and provides a look into the relationship between a mother and daughter, without pouring on the sugar-coated sentiment of most Hollywood efforts. The movie takes its time to build and the result is an absorbing and wholly satisfying cinematic experience.
7. "Four Rooms" — This black-comic fare was panned by critics who obviously expected something more substantial from four talented directors (Alison Anders, Alexander Rockwell, Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino). However, the movie works wonderfully as an offbeat, off-the-wall anthology. The performances (most commonly) are very funny and the stories are slight but original. The film also manages to come together as a hip, riotous whole. Slapstick hasn't been done this well in years. A wildly overlooked and vastly underrated movie.
8. "Seven" — Terrence returns to the big screen in a powerful and visceral nightmare. The film's style is scary. An unerring thriller with believable performances and ingenious plotting. You won't leave this movie feeling good and the movie won't leave you for a long time after its over. There hasn't been a more unflinching and unsettling thriller since "The Silence of the Lambs".
9. "The Bridges of Madison County" — From a mediocre book comes this exceptionally moving romance by Clint Eastwood. His hard to believe Mr. Dirty Harry himself had the heart and romantic sense to adapt the novel in a fashion that could quite possibly move the coldest person to tears. The movie isn't flawless but it is the most believable and well-acted romance in years. This is an honest, unforgettable tearjerker with an unmistakably natural atmosphere.
10. "Clueless" — A funny, insightful and actually literate teen movie?! Director Amy Heckerling ("Fast Times At Ridgemont High") is able to satirize the upper-class social state of teenagers while maintaining a light and breezy tone throughout. Alicia Silverstone comes into her own as the materialistic, shopaholic Cher, who learns that there is a life beyond credit cards and makeovers and finds her happiness right under her own nose. The movie was rumored to be based on Jane Austen's "Emma," and although purists may cringe, the similarities are definitely abundant.

The Ten Worst Movies
1. "Showgirls" — Its ironic that two movies can take on the Las Vegas scene and end up on two totally opposite ends of the spectrum, but unlike "Casino," "Showgirls" uses its setting as an excuse to exploit and trivialize, never to inform or to even entertain. Well, the film does expose many bare breasts so...no not quite. As entertainment value goes, how bad can hundreds of naked women be? Well, screenwriter Joe Eszterhas and director Paul Verhoven prove that sex and naked women can get boring. The film is shocking because of its ineptness and sheer length. Why was so much money and time spent on such trash? The producers obviously underestimated the intelligence of the American public. However, now that the film is a hit on video...
2. "Congo" — A basically harmless B-movie when compared to "Showgirls" (which almost succeeded in killing the floundering NC-17 rating for good), "Congo" and its brainless creators still deserve to be burned at the stake. The marketing manipulation of the year, the makers of this expensive, albeit low-grade junk led audiences to believe this was a scary, exciting "Jungle Book," not quite. "Congo" is probably the cheesiest movie to come out of a big studio in a long while. The film tries to cover-up a convoluted script with cheap special effects and "E.T." wanna-be sentiment. All "Congo" good for is a few unintentional laughs and there are a few better "bad" films which do this dubious honor more continuously. The truly funny thing is that "Congo" ate $80 million of the public's money.
3. "The Tie that Binds" --

Grieco continued on page 7
A little fun could get you fired

Mike Shaw

Last week a man in Yarmouth was found doing something really ordinary, and, unfortunately, was persecuted because of it. He was thrust into the spotlight under a microscope, put on trial by the public and ultimately fired from his job. What was so heinous an act that it would prompt such scrutiny and a dramatic response from his superiors?

He had sex. More to the point, he had sex in a movie, several of them.

"But wait just a minute," you say. "What's so 'ordinary' about that?"

Well, let me tell you something that may come as a bit of a shock: everybody has sex.

And not only that, but lots of people make movies out of their sexual encounters.

Amateur sex is one of the hottest things on the porn market these days, and "normal" couples are making a nice piece of change on top of their regular jobs by doing such a sick and demented thing as selling the movies that they make of themselves having (gasp!) sex to adult movie distributors.

How many video stores are in your neighborhood, or are within short driving distance? Probably quite a few.

And how many of these shops have adult movie sections? So long as it isn't just a Blockbuster Video store, then the chances are that most of the stores have one.

Why? Because lots of people rent and buy adult films. It's an ordinary thing to do.

What? Did you think that the local video store opened an adult section so that it could serve the one or two "perverts" in your town? That would be the one or two people that have sex.

And the only difference between what he does and what society considers as "acceptable" was to make a tape of their sex life.

Several of them.

"Amateur sex is one of the hottest things on the porn market these days," he said. Then he brought the movie home and "watched it on fast forward." (He made a point of stressing the fact that he watched the movie on fast forward; as if it was some kind of crime to watch an adult movie.)

So why, if this is such an ordinary thing, was he fired for it?

Well, the official word is that he was fired because he approached a person at his workplace a couple of years ago and asked her if she wanted to be in one of his moves.

However, this was just a rumor. No charges were ever made, the person never came forward and there was never any kind of investigation.

For Pete's sake, in this day and age, if this had actually happened, or had charges been filed, he would have been out on his ass the next day. And he would have deserved it.

But right now he doesn't.

The guy left his work at home. He never spoke of it to his co-workers. He never let on what was going on in his private life.

Nor did he try to cover it up; he didn't hide in the shadows like some demented sex criminal. All he did was have sex with other consenting adults.

And the only difference between what he does and what society considers as "acceptable" was to make a tape of each encounter and sell it; let others watch it.

And in my book, all of this crap about soliciting another person to appear in one of his films is not only not credible, but is just an excuse to get rid of him. After all, nobody wants a person who has sex working for them, right?
Dan Coakley

Well, I don't know about you folks out there, but this is my last semester at Suffolk. One more session of classes, required readings, tests and final exams. Also me last semester where I can hang out on Beacon Hill all day, talking to friends and playing Tetris on the Journal's computers, and claim it's all in the name of Education.

As you can see, I'm of two minds on this graduation thing. Unlike many other Suffolkians, I have been out in the real world, making a living before I decided to go back to school. And let me tell ya, it ain't as fun as it looks.

Getting up every day, day in and day out, doing the same thing again and again...yeah, boy, where do I sign up?

Okay, school can seem like that sometimes, but you always know that in a few months, at the most, things will change and you'll have all new classes, all new teachers, and an all new school building. And yes, I'll have to be there in the morning.

Do what I did this term, schedule all your classes at 11 or later.

Where else but in school can you sleep in, go for two hours, then head home to relax on the sofa and take a nap? Hey, you've had a busy day! Must be fun.

But, to be honest, I am a little anxious to get out there again. God help me. Armed with my nifty new Suffolk diploma and a bunch of new knowledge, I plan to take the journalistic world by storm. Writing stories uncovering scandals (not involving OJ, though, I do have standards), righting wrongs and defending our liberties...basically, trying to make a buck with my word processor. And who knows, I'll play my cards right, I may even get paid for it...eventually, anyway.

For now, though, I'm enjoying my last round of classes. All of my requirements out of the way, I'm taking a semester filled with classes I can enjoy. No more Media Law or Calculus, the most challenging course I'm worried about now is Boston: A City in Fiction.

Although we decide our classes for the most part based on what we want to do with ourselves when we leave here (when we grow up, whatever that means), sometimes we lose sight of the fact that school can be fun. Okay, not so much during finals week, but a lot more fun than the rat race can be.

I've had the chance to write anything I want in the newspaper (like, for example, this self-indulgent article), take a DJ shift on the radio station, audition for a few plays, and get a story published in a literary journal (last year's "Ventrue: A Hero's Tale", check it out!).

Try doing all that in a lifetime in the real world, let alone within four years.

Plan. I've made a ton of new friends. I've become friendly with more people since I started school than I did in the previous ten years in the work-a-day world. Chew on that, college students. When you're chasing a paycheck, you don't have a lot of time to stand outside the building and chat.

Not only that, but learning has its own rewards. I know what you're thinking, but trust me, very few jobs out there offer an opportunity to wander through a wide variety of topics and fields of knowledge and explore them. Pretty much if you don't know and can't profit from it, you don't have time to worry about it.

Granted, there may not be much of an opportunity for me to use what I learned in Math or Literary Satire out there, but that's not my point. Part of the fun of school is reading Mark Twain just to see what can be learned from him.

Sure, you can buy a book and read it yourself, but you don't get a learned professor who can guide you through it and enable you to see things in ways you never even thought of.

The important thing is, even when you're out there making a living, try not to forget what you've done here at Suffolk. Some time between projects or cases or whatever, pick up a novel by Hawthorne ("The House of Seven Gables" is pretty good, really) just for fun.

Take some time to think about things in the way you do here, just to see where the thoughts take you...you'll find it's even more fun when you don't have to worry about being graded on it.

On the other hand, in the real world they pay you money.

So, come May, look out world, here I come!

Hey, if I get sick of it again, there's always graduate school!

I'm as blue as one of them Fox TV nuclear blue hockey pucks. Life is a hot, dark, empty, twisted, burning trainwreck. And that's just when things are going my way. This new year has been good-bye to my best friends in the whole world: Calvin, Hobbes and rent control.

You may find me sitting in my $3000 a month basement apartment, reading "Rose is Rose!" until I get the joke.

You may spot me slumped low in the corner seat of my French class, drinking coffee like it was my job, waiting for Godot to come and save my ass.

If you see me, say "salut". New year is election year. Election Year's leap year, Leap year means an extra day for drinking extra.

Hottest new political idea of the new year? Flat tax, baby. How's it work, you ask? Take 1% of whatever you earn and mail it directly to Senator Kennedy.

Maybe it's just me, but this sounds to me like a little "Well, if I'm gonna be raped in prison, the guy might as well be attractive.

So, I've taken it upon myself, the mathematical Jackson of my generation, to come up with an equitable system of taxation for this great country.

With my trusty sidekick, Dad, and IRS man for the past 25 years, I sat down with a couple bottles of Jim Beam and mapped out the path to American economic freedom. Here's what I came up with:

Fat Tax: Instead of taking all 270 million Americans to the cleaners every April, I say we just focus on those folks that carry the most weight. Why not take 70% of the earnings of the obese in this country?

With the money that Roseanne, Rush Limbaugh and Reefie White make alone, we could buy a couple nuclear submarines.

This would also give the chunky in this country a reason to make a stop at Jenny Craig on their way home from Baskin Robbins. With deductions for Ultra-Slimfast and jogging, this plan would assure a leaner, meaner future for our children.

Pop Tax: If we instituted a sales tax on the garbage kids call music, we'd have the books in the black by Christmas.

Every time Brandy or Silverchair releases a new album, we could invest in education for our kids. And damn it, they could use it.

Proceeds from a new John Grisham novel could house the homeless, ticket sales from an Aerosmith concert could buy computers for public schools, and the money from a Pauky Shore movie could go to prevent birth defects.

Climate Tax: Taxing orgasms. It's fun and it's lucrative. Simply let the federal government know each time you "get some", and they'll send you the bill. Whether you need a partner or you're flying solo, each time you reach out to touch some you'd be doing a service to your fellow Americans.

Bumper stickers would declare "No taxation without mas- turbation!" and "If this van's shaking a bit more we're just filling out our W-4." According to my calculations, I now owe the feds $8 billion. Do you guys take Discover?

Crap Tax: Make every toilet in this country a pay toilet. Number one's a quarter, number two is a dollar. Each time you relieve yourself, you'll be relieving this country of some of its debt. We'd have federal agents patrolling the woods for "evaders".

One drawback might be mass irregularity, but tough times call for tough answers. And tough toilet paper.

Attack Tax: This is my personal favorite. 95% of Americans would never have to pay taxes. No forms to fill out or nothing. There'd just be the small chance that black-booted federal agents would invade your home in the early morning hours and reposess everything you own.

Yes, it's harsh, but it's for the good of the country. It's like jury duty—a one shot deal. Once you have all your stuff stolen, you'd be free to rebuild your life, knowing that you'd done your nation a great service.

Except for Michael Jackson.

His place would be stomped on year after year, sometimes for no reason at all.

There's only two things in this life that are certain. Death and taxes. And sometimes they come hand in hand.

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This waste of time not only insults the viewer by introducing the most canned set of characterizations, it actually tries to pass itself off as having the same concept, a woman slowly finding but goes nowhere with it. The film also takes a long time to go nowhere. The movie had critics salivating but it is loaded with empty promises. What is supposed to be unsettling and disturbing turns tedious and unintentionally laughable as its sole social commentary is made within the first half hour.

5. "Home for the Holidays"— Jodie Foster should stay in front of the camera. This sporadically funny but mostly annoying look at the American family is as observant and self-reflecting as a mirror smeared with shaving cream. Foster piles on unbelievable amounts of comical romance and character clichés. The movie doesn’t work on the level of a screwball comedy either, as the funniest moments were done before in "National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation."

6. "Assassins"— Director Richard Donner (“Lethal Weapon”) fails miserably with this tired action effort. There is less action than one would expect so all viewers are left to do is wonder if, after "Judge Dredd" and this disaster, Stallone’s career can be revived.


8. "Hideaway"— This loud, flashy, supernatural cyberthriller is based on the Dean Koontz book of the same name and it is just an inane and mean-spirited mess. Jeff Goldblum plays a man back from the dead who brings with him the most least scary satanic killer ever. The film tries to frighten viewers by turning up the volume and crank the ending possible.

9. "Kids"— Many people praised this disturbing wake-up call of the state of American teenagers. The film works in a provocative and deeply unsettling manner but it all feels too exploited and forced. This is an ugly, disgusting movie that truly tests the patients of its viewers. It also has the most depressing and sickening ending possible.
Nelson appoints a baseball coach to replace Walsh

PRESS RELEASE

BOSTON—Cary F. McConnell, head baseball coach at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York, has been named head baseball coach at Suffolk University, Athletic Director James E. Nelson announced Dec. 26.

McConnell, a native of Brunswick, Ohio, who had coached at Rochester for three seasons, was selected from a field of more than 100 candidates. He succeeds Joe Walsh, Suffolk’s highly successful baseball leader for 15 seasons, who recently accepted the head coaching position at Harvard University.

A graduate of the College of Wooster, Ohio with a bachelor of arts in political science, McConnell also earned a master in educational administration degree from the University of Rochester.

He captained the 1989 Wooster baseball team and was selected to the North Coast Athletic Conference’s All-Decade Team for the eighties.

Before coming head coach at Rochester, McConnell was assistant baseball coach at the College of Wooster.

In announcing McConnell’s appointment, Nelson said, “We think Cary McConnell is an ideal choice to succeed Walsh. His accomplishments both academically and athletically throughout his career made him a formidable candidate and we extend to him a warm welcome to the Suffolk University community.

McConnell will serve as assistant athletic director and intramural director in addition to his baseball duties.

In three seasons at Rochester, he compiled a record of 55-60. He will assume his Suffolk duties on Feb. 1."

McBride is once again leading the Lady Rams

PRESS RELEASE

BOSTON—Suffolk University’s 1995-96 women’s basketball captain Noreen McBride of Quincy is having another outstanding season. She’s averaging 15.7 points per game and tops the Suffolk team in points with 141.

McBride, a graduate of Fontbonne Academy, transferred from Merrimack College to Suffolk a couple of years back and has been a solid contributor since. The 5 foot 8 inch senior also leads the team in rebounds with 76 for an 8.4 per game average.

An accounting major who also is a catcher for the Suffolk softball team, she has paced the Ramettes to a 5-4 record to date, a sharp contrast from last year’s final record of 5-17.

The daughter of Neil and Anna Marie McBride, Noreen transferred to Suffolk because she preferred to live at home and because Quincy is a convenient commute to Boston.

Says her coach, Ed Leyden, “Noreen is an excellent all-round player with good shooting and scoring ability and a top rebounder and solid defensively. She is a model of consistency.”

Student-athlete accused of cheating is suing

By Wendi Williams

COLLEGE PRESS SERVICE

LOS ANGELES—When University of Southern California athlete Kenneth Haslip, Jr., was accused of cheating on his SAT test last year, he took the unusual course of fighting back.

And he won. An arbitrator ruled last summer that the Educational Testing Service lacked “substantial evidence” that Haslip cheated.

Now the sophomore is suing the SAT administrator for defamation and breach of contract. He wants $8 million to compensate for losing his track scholarship last spring as well as for damage to his reputation for suffering “shame” and “mortification.”

ETS declined to comment on the case while it’s being litigated.

The football and track recruit had taken the test four times and scored 480, 490, 510 and 780. The cut-off score for NCAA eligibility, known as Proposition 48, is 700. And although his score increased 270 points from one test to another, ETS typically doesn’t investigate unless there’s a jump of at least 350.

Out of 1.8 million students who take the SAT each year, ETS challenges about 1,800 of their scores. About 50 percent of the scores are cancelled. The ACT, taken by 1.5 million students, doesn’t release similar information.

An anonymous caller accused Haslip of cheating and, after an investigation, ETS ruled that he had copied his answers from another student. In February, the test company cancelled his score, which resulted in him losing his track scholarship.

Most students accused of cheating take the test again to prove their innocence, but Haslip hired a Beverly Hills lawyer, Anthony Willoughby.

Willoughby also represents two-year college football player Christopher McAlister, who charges he was passed over by UCLA recruiters after ETS accused him of cheating on his SAT test. He has plans to sue ETS for $5 million this week, also for defamation and breach of contract.

In yet another case, University of Colorado recruit Clyde Sanders was accused of cheating during pre-season football practices. Sanders, who has since left college, said his scores improved after taking a test preparation course.

Although Haslip’s case has been the most widely publicized, there have been more than six similar cases involving student-athletes this year, according to Bob Schaeffer, public education director for Fair Test, a Boston group critical of ETS, Prop 48 and standardized testing.

Two years ago, before colleges started getting nervous about the higher NCAA eligibility requirements, Schaeffer said, there were no challenges of scores.

Although it lacks concrete proof, Fair Test suspects that most anonymous tips come from jilted college recruiters or athletic administrators who want to make sure they won’t waste their scholarship money on students not assured of finishing their four-year programs.

None of this year’s cheating claims originated with the test proctor or another student taking the same test, Schaeffer said. All complaints were lodged months after athletes took the SAT, around the time when they were recruited or about to be, he said.

At the NCAA’s annual January convention, Fair Test will propose that Prop 48 be repealed—or at least that it’s increasingly strict rules be relaxed—because it says studies have shown that the tests discriminate against minority students and girls and that the rule keeps out students who would have made likely graduates.

“There was a perception at big-time college athletic programs exploited kids, so the NCAA put hurdles in place that eliminated kids who were fully capable of doing the academic work,” said Bob Schaeffer. “They’ve chosen to sacrifice kids to look like they’re being tough.”