University’s presidential polls grab voters’ eyes

Adam D. Krauss
Journal Staff

The Democrats are not the only ones slug­ging it out this political season. A war of the polls to forecast the winners and losers of the 2004 presidential election has been raging since the first stump speech in New Hampshire more than one year ago.

For the past year the Political Research Center at Suffolk University has been leading the polling pack, covering the presidential race as if the nation’s fate depends on it. Led by Professor David Paleologos, an adjunct government professor since 1995 and “pollster by trade,” the center officially began last July as an offshoot of a graduate-level class titled Political Survey Research.

The course is offered this semester, but classes won’t start until Paleologos returns from New Hampshire, where he was last night to report the results of the nation’s first primary from WHDH-TV’s New Hampshire studio. Along with Suffolk, 7NEWS in Boston has been conducting polls and partially funding the research center. Paleologos has been appearing regularly on television with the station’s Andy Hiller to analyze the campaign.

“What we’ve done is broken new ground with the polls,” Paleologos said from Manchester, N.H., earlier this week. “We’ve set the bar higher for other academic institutions to follow suit.”

Suffolk’s polls have spread like wildfire across the country. In the past month, Paleologos has been interviewed by major newspapers like The Washington Post and The San Francisco Examiner.

Other major publications and MSNBC from the television world have used the polls to give readers and viewers in-depth coverage of the 2004 presidential race.

“It has actually taken Suffolk to the front of the curve,” Paleologos said. “Suffolk is right up there with Zogby and Gallup, two of the largest polling organizations throughout the world. We’re one of many polls that are discussed and have been picked up on,” he said.

Paleologos said “people are looking at the polls” and are putting up on the website and they’re blown away by it.” He said Suffolk’s polls are unique because the polls provide cross-tabulation analysis, which shows how the seven candidates are ranking with independents and liberal Democrats, among others.

“We put what we do on the generic code for every candidate,” Paleologos said. “Then I can look at (the data) like a doctor and find what’s weak for a candidate. And we put it up on the Web so everybody can see it and everybody can learn from it.”

“It helps us tell whether or not a particular message has traction or not,” he said. “The trend line is really fascinating.”

According to Anne Macdonald, web services manager for Suffolk, the research center’s website registered 6,210 page views in December.

“We expect it to be quite high in January,” she said.

Marjellen Norris, senior marketing and public relations strategist for Suffolk, said during the past week people that “would not have come to our website have been visiting our website daily. The major television network analysts have been tracking our polls.”

“Members of various campaigns have been visiting our website,” she said. Because of Suffolk’s heightened visibility throughout the election, Norris has been extra busy. Earlier this week she was in New Hampshire with website analysts to help with a call-in show for C-SPAN. She said see Polls, page 3

Suffolk’s David Paleologos, right, analyzes the presidential election with 7NEWS’ Andy Hiller, left.

“Dean is strongly, adamantly against war - where I stand as well,” Ms. Dean said, who is an active member of Suffolk’s Students for Peace and Justice, as well as Rainbow Alliance, the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender group on campus.

When asked what she looks for in a presidential candidate, Ms. Dean said, “someone who’s not Bush. . . . I have a general dislike for his unintelligence.”

Her main issue with President Bush is his tax cut policy, amounting to approximately $1.7 trillion.

“He makes tax cuts for the rich,” Ms. Dean said, referring to the substantial tax break that the rich, who represent one percent of this country, continue to receive. Under the tax cuts, a person who makes one million dollars this year will receive be over $45,000 in tax benefits. But someone who makes $10,000 will benefit $60 on average.

Gamache, a New Hampshire native, thinks President Bush has good, patriotic ideas, but in agreement with Ms. Dean, thinks that “there’s no economic reality” to his decisions.

Although Gamache tends to side with Dean or Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich, as of now he predicts President Bush will win the election.

Christina Santiago, a freshman, believes that Bush wins the election, it will be because Saddam Hussein was caught under his command.

“He sells himself to everyone, he acts like a puppet. We don’t need a puppet, we need someone who will control this country,” she said.

see Primary, page 3

NH voters propel Kerry’s win

Claire Jeffers
Journal Staff

The results are in - for New Hampshire at least. With 39 percent of the votes, Senator John F. Kerry of Massachusetts won the New Hampshire Democratic primary on Jan. 27.

Former Vermont governor Howard Dean came in second with 26 percent, and Senator John Edwards of North Carolina and Retired General Wesley Clark were left to battle it out to round out the leading bunch.

The results might have been predicted over and again, but some politically-in-tune students had their own predictions and opinions about the election.

“It’s nice to see Edwards in third, because usually southern Democrats don’t do well in New England,” Nate Gamache, a senior, said.

Gamache also thinks that Dean’s reaction to the Iowa caucus might have worked against him for New Hampshire. In an attempt to rally his supporters after coming in third in Iowa, Dean gave a speech that some media pundits considered “over the top.”

Anthony Guardia, a freshman, said he does not feel these results are significant in the long haul. “This doesn’t say much, but I think this is expected. I mean Clinton lost New Hampshire - it will become more interesting next week,” Guardia said.

Although it is still early in the Democratic primary game, Molly Stark Dean, a freshman, is mainly in support of two Democratic candidates, Wesley Clark and Howard Dean. As a Vermont native, Ms. Dean is in support of her former governor’s anti-war position.

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see Primary, page 3

Flood dampens fitness center

Amanda Bellamy - Journal Staff

Loads of work needs to be done to get the Fitness Center back in shape as a result of a December flood in the Ridgeway building, which also sank the bookstore. The bookstore manager said the flood ruined 2,000 books, mostly imported from Germany, which cost the school $90,000.

Photo courtesy of Public Affairs
Remembering King’s dream

Paul Finette
Journal Staff

More than 100 Suffolk community members attended the university’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on Jan. 22 at the Law School.

Guest speaker Joe Rogers, former lieutenant governor of Colorado and one of only four African Americans ever elected to the position, briefly recounted the struggle of black Americans during the last two centuries.

“You have to know where you’ve come from to know where you’re going,” Rogers said.

While noting that for much of America’s history “segregation was the de facto rule of the day in Mississippi and Alabama, and even the fine city we are are in today,” Rogers offered praise for the great leaps in civil rights accomplished over the past 100 years.

Rogers traded his soft midwestern accent for the deep Baritone of Dr. King, reciting the civil rights leader’s famous “I Have A Dream.”

Rogers ended his speech by saying, “we live in a remarkable nation, filled with a remarkable people of every race, creed, and color.”

Rogers has previously been presented with the Trumpet Award for his achievements in government and has also been profiled by The Boston Globe and The New York Times.

He addressed the crowd with poise and humor, remarking, “I know you’re all thinking that there aren’t any black people in Colorado. Well there are and I am.”

Rogers is a practicing attorney in Colorado and has made a career out of speaking about Dr. King and his achievements.

The celebration, sponsored by the President’s Office of Diversity and the Black Student Union, paid tribute to King’s record of social justice and equality.

King was described to the crowd as “a man that has done more to transform the world than any in the last thousand years” by President David J. Sargent.

He recalled the day of King’s assassination as “one of the most frightful and powerful.”

The commemoration featured additional participation from the Suffolk University Chorus and the Nicole Nelson Band will perform prior to Dr. Angelou’s presentation at 7:30 pm.

Maya Angelou speaks at Symphony Hall

As part of Suffolk University’s celebration of Black History Month, Maya Angelou will appear at Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Avenue on Feb. 6. Tickets are available for $10 at the Hub Information Center.

The Nicole Nelson Band will perform prior to Dr. Angelou’s presentation at 7:30 pm.

Recent graduates to be honored at Hilton Hotel

Suffolk’s December graduates will be recognized on Feb. 7 from 6 to 12 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel in Back Bay Boston. The Graduate Student Association invites all for a night, which includes dinner and dancing. Tickets can be bought at the Hub, tickets are free for December Graduates, $25 for Non-December Graduates. The first guest $25 and each additional guest is $60.

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Last chance for those senior pictures

The last opportunity for seniors to have their photo taken for the Yearbook will be on Feb. 4 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Feb. 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For an appointment please call 617-573-8323.

Twenty bucks? That’s a deal and a half.

Seniors, join your classmates in celebrating “100 Nights Until Graduation” at the Top of the Hub Restaurant on Feb. 12. Cocktails and hors d’oeuvres will be served at 7 p.m., while dinner will be served at 8 p.m.

Dinner will include an appetizer, salad, entree and dessert. Tickets are $20 and are available at the Hub in Donahue.

The Suffolk University Chorus performs “Honey on the Rock” during the Dr. King commemoration.
Students’ views

Primary from page 1

Santiago said. She supports Kerry, mainly because of his focus on family issues, a subject that she believes Bush has done little about.

Throughout his campaign, Kerry has been promoting affordable health care for everyone and vows that he will provide ordinary Americans with the same health care that the president and members of Congress receive. "We've spent more money on war than we could have for healthcare, homeless or disease research," Santiago said.

Gamahe said he would feel most comfortable with Kerry taking the United States out of the Iraq war mainly because of his experience in the Vietnam War. He also feels that Edwards would be capable of pulling the country out of war because of his experience on the Senate Intelligence Committee. "With Edwards, we would be able to get out of the war safely and keep us as a dominant superpower," Guardia said.

In general, Guardia looks for candidates "who don't go with the popular vote all the time. [Candidates] who say what they mean," he said. He is drawn to Edwards because of his plans for campaign finance reform (how candidates receive money for their campaigns) do not include any major corporations. Instead,

Playing poll politics

Polls from page 1

Paleologos took "numerous calls from across the country." Paleologos classes are designed to give students a 14-week crash course in how to poll "from every aspect of polling, starting with writing of the survey, sampling, executing strategy, the verification process and reading and interpreting statistical tables and strategies," he said.

Though it is a 600-level class for graduate students, Paleologos said he accepts undergrads on an acceptance basis. Enrollment for the class is high, which he attributes to the "high visibility [of the pollsters] over the year."

"This year’s class poll will start after spring break," he said, adding students choose where in the country to poll. "It may be a governor’s race… or an important issue, like energy. They’ll make the calls and release the data. It’s a great, exciting class that actually produces results… and improves the marketability of every student."

Suffolk stands alone when it comes to producing high-quality polls, Paleologos said. "Most institutions have a course on sampling only, or poll strategy," he said, "but not with the kind of regularity and detail [as Suffolk]. We’re pretty much at the top tier."

Paleologos, who has polled three presidential elections over a 20-year career, said he expects students to leave his class ready to "join a campaign and save money [because they already learned] a very valuable skill" in polling.

Going into Jan. 27th's New Hampshire primary, the 7NEWS and Suffolk University Daily Tracking Poll indicated that Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts was leading former Massachusetts governor Howard Dean by 18 percent of likely Democratic voters the day before. The one day tracking survey of 401 people put Kerry at top with 37 percent, followed by Dean at 19 percent, who was trailed by Retired General Wesley Clark and Senator John Edwards of North Carolina, both at 8 percent. The poll, which consisted of four hours of fieldwork and two hours of verification, was taken at a 95 percent confidence level.

"People are breaking Kerry's way," Paleologos said, pinpointing what actually took place when the voting began. Kerry won the primary. Dean came in second, closing the projected gap by about seven points. "At the end of the line it's not as complex as it seems," Paleologos said. "It just takes a lot of effort."

With the 2004 Democratic National Convention coming to Boston in July, early analysis indicates Suffolk's profile will only increase as the polls rush in.

Dispelling bookstore myths

Students' views

Garrett Quiam, Esq.
Journal Staff

That collective groan you just heard came from the Suffolk student body. It signaled the start of the book-buying period for the spring semester.

"We're pretty much at the top tier."

"It's a common belief that the university bookstore increases normal sale prices but that may just be a college myth that refuses to die.

According to Suffolk bookstore manager Eric Cressman, the average price of a new textbook at the Suffolk bookstore is $120. Textbooks have always been expensive, he said.

According to the bookstore’s website, “Textbooks have always been relatively expensive.”

"Sixty dollars for a book is ridiculous," moans Craig Comin, a sophomore.

Comin is certainly not alone in his sentiments; students do not like paying for expensive textbooks.

But the truth is, the prices at the bookstore are fairly competitive.

When asked if students could find better prices online, the Internet Cressman said, “Students just need to find that out on their own. The prices will not be all that much better than ours. The book prices are set by the publishers and the retailers.”

He pointed out that only four cents of every dollar a student spends goes directly to the bookstore. The rest goes to the publishers, authors and manufacturers - the whole line of people who rule the bookstore kingdom.

"I can't think of any bookstore where books are cheap. I mean, prices are, it seems, universally huge," said Alyssa Falcomer, a sophomore.

"As we students all have to pay way too much everywhere. There really isn't anywhere out there, for the most part, that offers great deals on text books," she said.

Cressman said that if the bookstore sold books to students at ridiculous high prices and a store downtown the street sold the same books at much lower prices, we would go out of business pretty quick.

For students who are interested in saving even the most trivial sum of money, they can easily find books online for a wide range of prices.

A great website to do just that is www.allbookstores.com. It provides comparisons of book prices from all over the country.

For example, Nicole Cassista, a freshman, purchased a brand new copy of "Appplied Ethics: A Multicultural Approach" from the bookstore for $65.50.

“I can’t understand why the cost of text book is so high,” Cassista said. “The book prices are very high, very over priced.”

Bookstores.com provided her with a number of results that slightly surprised her.

The lowest price for a new copy of the book was $58.33 from TextbayX, and the next lowest price for a new copy was $59.34 from A1 Books.

The highest price for the book was $72.09 from Total Campus.

So the Suffolk Bookstore, although not the cheapest, falls in the middle of the price range for Cassista’s philosophy book.

"Wow," she said after learning of the comparison.

Cassista said there is "not a big difference in price. It's almost not worth the hassle for me to buy my books on line. I might as well just go to the bookstore."

Raised $58.33 from TextbayX

Suffolk bookstore is $120.

Take a look at this textbook:

WWW. Y FF D JK LM AL ...n et

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SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAILED EDITION
Promise and hope

The greatest thing our fellow Americans can do at this point in the race to Election Day 2004 is help any and all of the Democratic presidential candidates ensure that this political season marks the end of the presidency of George W. Bush.

Our nation's latest fate is rapidly approaching and we are faced with the question, who will be our next leader? As the three days of political reality are setting in, we urge all of you to join the patriotic pack of ABB promoters.

Ah, yes, ABB: Anyone But Bush. You've heard it before. It's nothing new. But it seems to us that the act of replacing the third letter of this acronym has never been as important and crucial to the global standing of America as it is today. The dawn of 2004 still exudes promise and hope.

Promise and hope: What is it that we are seeking in our Democratic nominee? President George W. Bush has robbed the majority of Americans' ability to realize their dreams. Tax cuts have gone to the one percent elite while rural communities have been gutted from companies outsourcing jobs.

For those of us who cannot compute how this president can declare one thing - "Mission Accomplished" - while so blithely directing our country to keep the enemy engaged and the war alive, the need to restore the promise of America ranks very high on the list of things we want to see the Anyone But Bush candidate undertake.

We think this year's Democratic field presents voters with very distinct - and solid - choices. Senator John Kerry has the resume and credentials. Surely he would knock Bush out of the park in a debate. Let's just hope the "Massachusetts liberal" label doesn't bury him in those parts of the country now known as the "red states."

Senator John Edwards of North Carolina has given some of us reason to believe a message of optimism and positive change can still carry weight in this negative-news-sells-country of ours.

Some people here consider Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich a modern-day version of Plato's philosopher-king. (Hey Dennis, way to go on the 2 percent!)

While this will surely draw the howl-heard-around-the-world was one thing, but what really troubles us most is that he's from Vermont. Just kidding. Dean shares our ABB mentality. But he hasn't really shown much more than that in terms of credentials to be the next president.

The Rev. Al Sharpton is cool with us. Maybe the Program Council on the 2 percent may be the answer to Sharpton's campaign. But the Program Council is under the control of the White House. And as for Dr. Howard B. Dean, the former Vermont governor, well, the bowl-heard-around-the-world was one thing, but what really troubles us most is that he's from Vermont. Just kidding. Dean shares our ABB mentality. But he hasn't really shown much more than that in terms of credentials to be the next president.

The Massachusetts primary is March 2. It's called Super Tuesday and that works with us, because any effort to kick Bush out of the White House is a very super day.

The Suffolk Journal is the student newspaper of Suffolk University. It is the mission of the Suffolk Journal to provide the Suffolk community with the best reporting of news, events, current trends and styles, entertainment, sports and opinions. The reporting, views and opinions in the Suffolk Journal are solely those of the editors and staff of the Suffolk Journal and do not reflect those of Suffolk University, unless otherwise stated. The Suffolk Journal does not discriminate against any person for any reason and complies with all university policies concerning equal opportunity. A comprehensive copy of the Suffolk Journal's editorial and advertising policy is available upon request. Copyright 2004.
Dean judged by coolness

Presidential hopefuls beware: there are certain actions, positions and comments that can be detrimental to a candidate’s career. The worst of which was displayed in this week’s Iowa Caucuses by presidential hopeful and former frontrunner Howard Dean.

Yes, worse than a sex scandal, proposed Presidential Scholarship Initiative, and charisma, correct? In the past this double standard afflicted men, but with the current unperverted aura and future of vital responsibility, it may be that the jadedness is gaining the upper hand.

What’s the point, Chris? Well, I really cannot seem to get to one for here. Let’s just say that I might have a final one in the past few weeks that college is almost over, for me, at least. For you, hell, many of you readers may be well on your way to being ready for the departure of customary college lifestyles.

Chris Dwyer is the Editor in Chief of The Suffolk Journal and can be heard every Friday on the Rock Show on Suffolk Free Radio.

Tax cuts or even offending a minority group is showing an unnecessary amount of giddy exuberance that culminates in a high-pitched yelp of presumed victory. Whether it be waste-of-time bullshit science classes (albem, Science 301, albem) or the final Communication and Journalism requirements that are the way I am poised and ready to get it all over.

Don’t get me wrong, while I unconditionally loved my “breakout” over these past four years, the thought of being out in the so-called “real world” might kick-start the bull that all college students experience when working off a tax schedule.

Then again, shouldn’t we enjoy these last few months of college? I know it asseems as though we are sometimes consumed in a mess, as I am relaying between my current unperverted aura and future of vital responsibility. However, it might be the jadedness talking.

“The Passion” came under criticism by both Christian and Jewish literati for its graphic and unforgiving view of the events surrounding Christ’s execution in the 1st Century AD. Catholic scholars, both lay and clergy, worried at the script’s literal depiction of the New Testament: the vast majority of contemporary theologians realize that the muddled and often contradictory nature of the Gospels makes them inappropriate as historically accurate accounts.

Other organizations, such as the Anti-Discrimination League, were concerned that the film gives a questionable and often contradictory nature of the Gospels makes them inappropriate as historically accurate accounts.

Dean by James Cormier

Anyone with even a passing interest in film would have found it difficult to miss the controversy surrounding Mel Gibson’s upcoming movie, “The Passion of the Christ.” Gibson, a Traditionalist Catholic, assures that the film tells the story of Jesus Christ’s final hours as set down in the Gospels of evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

His faith, though he has only turned back to it fully in recent years, is a rare sect of Catholic belief that denies the progressive changes instituted by the Vatican II Council in 1965, and thus no longer recognizes the modern Catholic Church as valid. After an early script was leaked last year, “The Passion” came under criticism by both Christian and Jewish literati for its graphic and unforgiving view of the events surrounding Christ’s execution in the 1st Century AD.

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See Passion, page 6

Dean by Melanie Schaefer

Imagine a life without a schedule that allows you to sleep until noon. Life without a schedule where you have a couple of classes a few days a week, a part-time work-study gig and plenty of free time. Now think about life without month-long breaks over Christmas. How about life with a significant amount of responsibility? Wicked creepy, is it not?

In a few months, every college’s senior class will have battle with that bloodcurdling demon. There will be no “summer vacation.” Instead of being in my underwear on the couch, watching “Dawn of the Dead” for the 239th time, I’ll (hopefully) be trouncing my way to a local newspaper, toiling in whatever way I can to advance my journalistic credibility.

Let’s flash back to the fall of 2000. I’m a freshman, trying to find my way, building houses what class and the best possible route to get to them all on time. As far as college life went, I went to my classes, then shot over to Cambridge to work as a financial assistant at a prominent architectural firm. There wasn’t much time to soak up what it was like to be a college student; there was money to be made.

Now it’s early 2004, and not only am I breaking 40 hours a week running a newspaper but I’m jaded beyond rumination with life in general. The thought of handling more responsibility is not the fondest of delusions.

“The Passion” was money to be made.

No, it wasn’t overconfidence that hurt, Melanie Schaefer

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No, it wasn’t overconfidence that hurt, Melanie Schaefer

Pitt for President” before the next presidential election. Surely the world’s most literate country to listen.

Otherwise, we may be shouting “Brad Pitt for President” before the next presidential election.

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Media keeps Kelly’s perversion on the ‘Down Low’

With the recent accusations of Michael Jackson, once again the world has to watch the pop icon publicly squirm as the media continues its unrelenting coverage.

People are experiencing deja vu as ten years prior, we watched Michael Jackson continues its imrelenting coverage.

Taking a step back from Michael for a moment, does anybody remember a certain "bumper and grinder" by the name of R. Kelly? Of course you do.

Any fans of hip-hop can find this man still "gettin’his freak on" in music videos and cameos. I wonder if anyone remembers that this man has been charged with some pretty vile acts.

The evidence against Kelly was stacked pretty high, especially because the genius decided to tape his sadistic sexual acts that include urinating on a 14-year-old girl.

On top of these allegations a television special was aired and had some interesting facts were revealed about him.

People who knew him admitted that Mr. Kelly had a thing for “younger women,” more like girls.

His denials of the charges seem to be the typical reaction of a man who was on a slippery slope.

But as time went on it seemed the media was caring less and less about his allegations, and slowly but surely, we can began seeing his face on MTV again.

Kelly had to appear in court in December to face a charge of 21 counts of child pornography and for his Miami incident, 14 more counts of child pornography.

Yet we are still seeing this man on television and his songs still play on the radio quite often.

Going back to Jacko, although he has not produced anything musically relevant in a decade, the media are eating him for breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert.

Headlines on newspapers were reading “Gotcha Jacko” and “Sicko” seem to show a very hostile attitude toward this once-black-male-child-singer, turned white-woman-weroids.

My disagreement with the media’s portrayal of Jackson does not lie in the incident itself, but on a moral principle. Why does Jackson get it so bad, while Kelly is still beloved by his fans.

The answer seems to be in the mainstream’s opinion of each artist. Although R. Kelly taught us “I Believe I Can Fly,” he also showed us the correct way to sexually urinate on a 14-year-old girl.

His relevance in mainstream music seems to be propelling him over his criminal charges. It seems that fame really does create a sense of invincibility.

Or perhaps people are more sympathetic to his plight because his victims were attractive teenage girls, as opposed to Jackson’s little boy fetish.

Nothing has been totally proven yet but the truth of these cases seems pretty overwhelming.

Money will probably play a large factor in both of these cases, and we might see another O.J. Simpson trial in pop culture’s future.

But either way society has to take a good look at how R. Kelly is still selling out arenas, shipping to record stores in bulk and is still beloved by his fans.

Artists can create influential music and attract millions of loyal fans, but it is really the fans’ responsibility to believe superstars are not above certain morals.

That goes for the fans and supporters of both artists, but more directly to fans of R. Kelly.

Message of Gibson’s ‘Passion’ dangerous, spurious

Holocaust was unfairly exaggerated.

“Passion of the Christ” will likely be an incredible film: the trailers and audience responses during screenings of a rough cut all attest to its power to move an audience.

But the danger of its affect also promises to be equally effectual.

The life and death of Jesus Christ exists today as pure myth; the historical records of his life have little to no impact on Christian and Catholic belief.

But as myth, it is a testament to the power of human myth-making, eclipsing all others.

The story of Christ as Son of God, of his death and resurrection, of his miracles, is as much a myth as Orpheus’ descent into Hades or the dance of Shiva or the Egyptian Osmond. To interpret it literally is both naïve and dangerous, and to attempt to impose that belief on others is morally unacceptable.

I am by no means advocating a suppression of Gibson’s right to free expression.

It seems important, however, to encourage caution on the part of the viewing public in seeing what will most likely be an extremely cathartic movie: the unshakable confidence of blind faith such as Gibson’s is archetypal throughout history and typically indicative of dangerous sway over the masses.

The last thing this nation needs right now is an even greater insurgence of Christian conservatism.

—James Cormier is the Opinion Editor of The Suffolk Journal. He can be reached online at http://bostonconfidential.org.
Ashton Kutcher takes on a mature role in 'The Butterfly Effect.'

Change is evolutionary, many rock bands nowadays need to constantly progress their sound to maintain some miniscule notion of inventiveness.

About 20 seconds into "Ashamed," a new track off of Punk Stank Paranoia, frontman Jay Gordon screams "Fuck!" over a barrage of down-tuned head-splitting riffs. It is at this moment that we know that this isn't the same Orgy.

With a name like Orgy, it is only right that the Bakersfield, Calif. natives enlist many of their own personal influences to create a signature sound.

Their 1998 debut Candysass lingered in what the band called "death pop," but to the rest of us it sounded like a heavy metal Duran Duran.

And there was absolutely nothing wrong with that.

With 2000's Upon Transmission, the band ventured off into their own world of alternative techno-laden metallic pop. Although the disc delved further into Orgy's own signature sound, album sales shied from their debut.

With a split from Warner Brothers/Reprise Records in May of last year, the hunt was on for a new label. The band needed to look no further than their frontman for a home. Jay Gordon started his own label, D1 Music, with help from his father, music industry veteran Lou Gordon.

Poking Punk Stank Paranoia is a task that is faded by the bass for Orgy's luminous sounds: synth-guitarist Amir Derakh. Decadently delirious and embittered, Derakh's touch is one of luminous proportion.

Opening track: "Beautiful Disgrace" has dashes of the band's newfound aggression, layered over a danceable array of synthetics riffs. "Inside I'm giving in to repent, tell me why I'm in over my head," screams Gordon on Punk Stank Paranoia's leadoff opus.

"Leave Me Out" plays off a techno loop foraying in the foreground before exploding into a tumultuous chorus filled with verbose guitar tones and lazy bass. Lead single "The Obvious" is perfected formulaic Orgy: catchy hook-laden riffs (courtesy of Duran Duran).

Derek's soul, guitarist Ryan Shuck), blasting drums and Gordon's over-the-top hostile croon, "There's nothing left to hide, when duplicating the obvious. And it's no use we decide, like you, like me."

The harsh assault continues with "Ashamed," perhaps the band's most vociferous offering to date.

Derakh's synth-guitar takes a backseat to the distorted chaos of Shuck's 7-string axe, all while Paige Haley's pounding bass flows with Gordon's volatile vocals.

While still maintaining their shred of new wave, Orgy have managed to create an album that not only surges on the edge of belliconseness, but also furthers the boundaries of this "death pop" quieter.

Punk Stank Paranoia may be bruising and heavy, but it's also a 9-track notion of glazy and haunting addiction.

Ashton's mature 'Effect'

Michael Conte

"The Butterfly Effect" is a cinematic romp. From start to finish it engulfs the audience in its startling, sick, and reordering world, and it couldn't have done a better job.

The one question that everybody is asking is "Can Ashton Kutcher act in anything but comedies?" The answer is surprisingly, yes.

Kutcher is great as Evan Treborn, a college student with a disturbing past. Growing up, Evan would have blackouts whenever something traumatic happened. While reading through his childhood journals in his dorm, Evan discovers that he has the ability to go back in time and change past events in his life.

While Evan is trying to make the perfect life for himself by changing the past, he creates dire consequences in the future.

Kutcher must have made a deal with the devil between movies because for some strange reason he was able to pull off this role. He went from running around shouting "Dude!" and living in the '70s to playing a disturbed and troubled college student on a mission to correct past wrongs.

The supporting cast is also superb. Amy Smart ("Road Trip") plays Evan's love interest Kayleigh Miller. Smart is able to change her character as her world adjusts with each of Evan's forays into the past.

She goes from tornetted waitress to perky sonority girl to drug-laced crack whore without missing a beat. William Lee Scott ("Pearl Harbor") plays Tommy Miller, Kayleigh's brother and Evan's friend.

He also does a good job playing different versions of his character going from disturbed, tough guy to gentle, Jesus freak.

Eric Stolz is absolutely great as their father George Miller. George's preverted intentions created the sick and twisted world and that main characters live in. Erica's performance is sick, prevented and sinister, which is exactly what his role called for.

The rest of the cast is also highly quality. Ethan Supplee ("Boy Meets World") does well in his role as the stereotypical Goth guy.

Elden Henson ("The Mighty Ducks") also does a good job of portraying Lemmy, Evan's friend.

Lemmy is also greatly affected by Evan's forays into the past, going from disturbed airplane freak to promising aviator.

During the sequences where the story travels into the past, each main character has a child actor portaying them.

Even though children have been known to give stiff performances (see: Jake Lloyd from "Star Wars: The Phantom Menace") each child actor was dead-on in their roles.

Special consideration has to be given to Logan Lerman who played Evan at eight years old.

Lerman was able to pull of a very convincing performance in some very intense scenes.

"The Butterfly Effect" is an awesome movie. Who would have thought that Kutcher could play the lead in a movie that is actually smart and interesting?

Do not be turned off to this movie by the fact that Ashton Kutcher is in it. His performance will surprise many people who thought he was only good for fooling half-witted celebrities.

Take in "The Butterfly Effect." It's a great movie; a fun movie and most importantly, it's a twisted movie.
Golden Globe winners predict Oscar nods

Amanda Bellamy
Journal Staff

With Joan Rivers still ranting about the fashion at Sunday's Golden Globes, the Oscar nominations announced on Jan. 27 may be hard to hear.

But New Zealand heard the nominees and they are cheering for Peter Jackson like the second coming with four Golden Globes for "Lord of the Rings" and 11 Oscar nominations.

While Jackson has been honored with a Best Director nod, the enigmatic Sean Astin, eccentric Viggo Mortensen, Shakespearean Ian McKellen and the rest of the eclectic cast remain ignored for their performances.

Joining "Return of the King" in the Best Picture category are "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World," "Mystic River," "Seabiscuit" and the Sophia Coppola entry "Lost in Translation."

Coppola's surprise hit garnered a Best Director nod and proved most predictions correct with a Best Actor nomination for Bill Murray.

He beat "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl" Johnny Depp to win the Globe for Best Actor in a Musical or Comedy, but the two will face off again in the Oscar race for Best Actor.

The two will have to contend with Golden Globe Best Actor winner Sean Penn for "Mystic River," Ben Kingsley with his performance in "House of Sand and Fog" and Jude Law for "Cold Mountain."


Hailed as the new Halle Berry, Theron will generate the most buzz and heat.

One of the bigger surprises that, unfortunately, no one cares about, Globe winner for Best Foreign Language film, "Osama," was not nominated in the Academy's Best Foreign Film category.

Nominated was the Canadian entry "The Barbarian Wars," "Zelary" from the Czech Republic, Japan's "The Twilight Samurai," "Twin Sisters" from the Netherlands and "Evil" from Sweden.

"Big Fish" fans will be disappointed to learn that the Tim Burton masterpiece only garnered a nomination for Danny Elfman's score.

Rounding out the Best Original Score category is Gabriel Yared for "Cold Mountain," "Finding Nemo's" Thomas Newman, James Horner for "House of Sand and Fog" and Golden Globe winner Howard Shore for "Return of the King."

The overrated Zellweger should be overlooked, and Clarkson ranked, Rewarded for her charming script with a Golden Globe, Coppola's "Lost in Translation" is again nominated for Best Original Screenplay. She will contend with films like the hugely successful "Finding Nemo," Canadian "The Barbarian Invasions," and "In America," the touching tale of a family of immigrants in New York.

In one of the recent categories added to the Academy's awards, Best Animated Feature, "Finding Nemo" is the sure favorite, ahead of the delightful French film "The Triplets of Belleville" and Disney's dismal flop "Brother Bear."

"Return of the King" visual effects face off against the sort-of dead in "Pirates of the Caribbean" and battles on the high seas in "Mystic River." "In America" and "Finding Nemo" Golden Globe winner Tim Robbins.

Shaping up the Academy's Best Supporting Actress nominations are Shohreh Aghdashloo for "House of Sand and Fog," Marcia Gay Harden for "Mystic River" and Golden Globe winner Renee Zellweger for "Cold Mountain." Some might be surprised to see Patricia Clarkson's performance in "Pieces of April" nominated in this category, but her portrayal as a dying mother was the glue that held the "pieces" together.

Place your bets now and watch the Oscars on Feb. 29.

RIAA files 532 lawsuits over downloading

Brittany Lawonn
The Daily Free Press (Boston U.)

(U-WIRE) BOSTON -- The Recording Industry Association of America filed 532 lawsuits Wednesday for violating copyright laws by illegally distributing music over the Internet, but Boston University students may not know for months if they are among the defendants.

The lawsuits were filed without named defendants because of a December ruling by the United States Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia that stopped the RIAA from subpoenaing Internet service providers for file sharers' names before filing lawsuits.

The new lawsuits are an attempt by the RIAA to force Internet Service Providers to release the names by simply suing unnamed users with their Internet protocol addresses, BU's Associate General Counsel Robert Smith said.

"They filed what we call 'John Doe' or 'Jane Doe' suits, and the law permits you to do that when you know that someone is liable to you for something, but you're not sure who it is," Smith said.

"Then, in the context of that law, you can issue a subpoena to the Internet service provider."

Each "John Doe" is identified by their Internet protocol address, a series of numbers and decimals that identifies each computer on the Internet.

"They don't even know who they're sued -- they only know an Internet IP address," Smith said.

"But they also know that the IP address comes out of Verizon Wireless, COMCAST, BU or any number of Internet service providers."

Smith said while larger companies such as Verizon Wireless and COMCAST may choose to appeal the subpoenas and try to protect their customers from the recording industries, BU will not.

"We're not going to spend a lot of money fighting the recording industry -- we're going to tell them who you are," he said.

The ISPs will be issued subpoenas within the next two weeks and will have the option of either surrendering the user names or rejecting the subpoenas.

If the subpoenas are rejected, the lawsuits will go to the appeals court.

College of Communication junior Maureen Kollmeyer said she does not think the lawsuits are a fair approach to cutting down file sharing because of the anonymous nature of the cases.

"I think that because there is so much money at stake in these cases and because the RIAA probably already has a plan of attack for these cases, the least that could be done is to identify the people so they can start to prepare for their defense," she said.

But Smith said because Verizon Wireless has fought back against RIAA subpoenas in the past, the process could take months before reaching court.

"It is just the opening bell of a game that will take weeks and months to play out -- possibly years to play out because someone may appeal it all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court," he said.

The RIAA filed 261 lawsuits in 2003. One BU student was targeted in the suits, but escaped because what Smith called a "technical objection to the subpoena" after a district court ruled that the lawsuits were not applicable in Massachusetts because they were not filed within the state.

But Smith said students may not be so lucky this time.

"If they have gone to the expense of suing you, they are going to get some money from you," he said.

Each person being sued had been distributing more than 100 songs illegally, according to the New York Times. The size of the fines for users found guilty of illegal music distribution will vary based on the number of files downloaded.

"The range under law is $750 to $10,000 per song, and if you are a really bad violator of the copyright, a district court can decide to increase the penalty to $150,000 per song," Smith said.

Smith also said while the record companies settled many of the September lawsuits for $2,000 to $10,000, that does not mean they will not fully attack song traders now.

"They are going to some serious money from whoever they catch," he said. "because they're trying to teach not only the individual a lesson, but also send a larger public relations message to get people to stay doing this."

COM sophomore Coco Schneider said she is appalled by the lawsuits, and especially the potential fines. "How do they expect some kid to pay $15,000 per song?" she asked. "It's wrong to steal music online, but most people don't have $15,000 to spend on a house."
'Win a Date' with an untraditional chick flick

Diana Rossi
Journal Staff

From the makers of "Legally Blonde" comes a quintessential chick flick with a happy ending. Sound familiar? Maybe, but don't write "Win a Date With Tad Hamilton" off just yet. Newcomer to the silver screen, Josh Duhamel, plays Tad Hamilton, a Hollywood heartthrob who is having trouble getting movie roles because his off-screen bad boy antics conflict with his boy-next-door image in the movies.

In an attempt to rectify Tad's behavior, his manager and his agent (Nathan Lane and Sean Hayes respectively) arrange a "win a date" contest in hopes of winning back the public with his charity.

The winner of the contest is Rosalee Futch (Kate Bosworth), a purely innocent girl from Fraziers Bottom, W. Va.

With a cashier's job at the local Piggly Wiggly, Rosalee proves to be exactly what Tad needs to get back on everyone's good side. In a predictable turn of events, Tad falls for the small town girl and moves to Fraziers Bottom to be with her, much to the dismay of her best friend Pete (Topher Grace), who has been in love with her during his entire life.

Detaching himself from his quirky role on "That 70's Show," Topher Grace steals every scene he is in with his priceless facial expressions and his sarcastic wit. Fighting with all his strength to less-than-subtly prove he is just as good as Tad, Pete challenges him to an array of farm chores like milking a cow and chopping wood.

Tad proves he keeps the skills he learns from his movies, and rises to the occasion. "Win a Date With Tad Hamilton" is a "tad" bit more than just a chick flick. You will find yourself rooting for the underdog Pete whether you want to or not. Every girl will leave the theater wishing their boyfriend will notice how many different kinds of smiles they have, and every guy will get tips on what not to say. Basically, this is a feel-good romantic comedy that will have you laughing at the right places and "aww-ing" during the rest.

Label it "just another chick flick" if you want, but there are only so many times you can see the third "Lord of the Rings" without needing a little "cheese" break.

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Suffolk University Celebrates Black History Month

Maya Angelou

Dr. Angelou is a world-renowned poet, playwright, author, actor, composer, and director. She has won three Grammys and has been nominated for a Tony Award, The Pulitzer Prize, and the National Book Award. Mentor to Oprah Winfrey, Dr. Angelou will share her inspirational message of hope, courage and survival. Hailed as one of the greatest speakers of our time, her words have been a source of inspiration, comfort, encouragement and strength to millions of people around the world. The Nicola Nelson Band, who recently appeared at the Tangletown Jazz Festival, will perform a short set prior to the lecture.

February 6, 2004
7:30 p.m.
Symphony Hall
301 Massachusetts Avenue

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SUFFOLK
'Talkie Walkie' hypnotic. Over.

Simon Davenport
The Daily Cardinal (U. Wisconsin)

(U-WIRE) MADISON, Wis. - It has been two years since Air has graced our ears with a new release, and it is obvious they have not lost anything in the interim.

Their previous albums include "Moon Safari" and "The Virgin Suicides," and "Talkie Walkie" is another example of the immense talent possessed by Jean-Benoit Dunckel and Nicolas Godin who make up this electronic-dreamscape-band.

This album, like many others Air has produced, thrives on subtleties, both vocal and symphonic. The songs unfold as in a dream; they fade in and out of consciousness, just grabbing you before you slip in too deep.

The mostly relaxed sound is due to the band favoring major keys accompanied by repetitive acoustic guitar backed with piano, flute, xylophone or a dazzling array of synthesizer.

And where rhythm is concerned, Air leaves it simple and unobtrusive unlike many of their peers.

This is not to say that the album is devoid of engaging patterns. It rather downplays them by putting emphasis on vocals and accompaniment, suggesting that Air is trying to break away from the rule that says electronic music must have a pulsing, hypnotic beat. It seems as if they are giving more respect to their audience by not beating it over the head with bass.

It is the same kind of affectation some actors feel when they enjoy the sound of their own voice too much - you are left bored and unamused. Much is the same with tracks like "Another Day." Its chord progression provides a very interesting tension, but the seemingly lazy rhythm ruins the mood, and what comes through are hackneyed vocals that don't seem to be moving the song along.

On the other hand, tracks like "Run," "Surfing on a Rocket" and "Universal Traveler" are as beautifully crafted as they are engaging, which brings up possibly the best attribute this album has to offer: Flawless and brilliant production. It feels as if this release was born mostly in post production, lending to the prowess of Air's Dunckel and Godin, not to mention outside help from Nigel Godrich.

Every orchestration is perfectly placed - the fading and panning is immaculate, to say the least. "Talkie Walkie" may not be for everyone, but for those who can appreciate production and subtlety relaxing tunes it delivers a great musical experience.

ALBUM REVIEW

► Title: Talkie Walkie
► Artist: Air
► Label: Astralwerks

Spring 2004
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1/31 @ Stonehill College
2/3 vs WNEC

Men's Basketball (6-7)
1/27 vs. Emmanuel*
1/29 @ Emerson*
1/31 vs. WNEC*

Women's Basketball (10-4)
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*denotes GNAC

- compiled by Garrett Quinn

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Oh, and...Go Patriots.
Pat's fever infects students; Super Bowl looms

Brian Messenger
Journal Staff

The Patriots, just one victory away from their second NFL title in three years, have headed down to Houston for Super Bowl XXXVIII.

With the big game against the Carolina Panthers just four days away, that good 'ole championship feeling has swept through New England once again.

Suffolk's campus is also infected with Super Bowl fever.

Chris Mata, a sophomore in the Sawyer School of Management, reflected on the atmosphere. "To be in college in Boston during the playoffs, in whatever sport it is ... this is a college town, and this is a sports town. People are going crazy," he said.

Mata pointed out that these Patriots have been "one of the best teams we've had in a long time," drawing a comparison to the record-smashing Boston Red Sox of 2003.

No one expected last year's Sox club to crush the ball like they did all season long, nor did anyone expect the Pats to pick up right where they left off. By consistently crushing their opponents week in and week out (their last loss came on Sept. 28), coach Bill Belichick and his team of gridiron guns have left New England fans feeling pretty confident about the chances of winning another championship.

Maybe it's only the 14-game winning streak, but there certainly is good reason for optimism. While citing the experience gained from the monumental win at Super Bowl XXXVI against the St. Louis Rams in February of 2002, Mata concluded, "I just don't see New England falling to the Carolina Panthers."

With a 16-2 record in 2003 and the electricity presently flowing through the streets as Super Sunday approaches, it's doubtful that Suffolk Pats fans have been thinking of anything other than winning.

After dismantling the high-flying Colts' offense at a snowy Gillette Stadium in the AFC Championship game, New England was truly sitting pretty with their 24-14 victory.

They earned their fourth trip to the Super Bowl in the 44-year history of the franchise, as well as a two-week break before the big game to rest up their battered and bruised players.

Leaving Peyton "I Fought the Law and the Law Won" Manning with plenty of time to think about his poor performance (four interceptions, including three by Patriots cornerback Ty Law), the fans and media have also been left with plenty of time to speculate before Feb. 1 rolls around.

And so, if you've been paying any attention, then you have heard the comparisons to the legendary '72 Miami Dolphin team that went undefeated (17-0) en-route to their Super Bowl VII title.

You've heard of quarterback Tom Brady being called the next Joe Montana, while the Patriots' defense has been heralded as one of the NFL's all-time best. You've heard that this is the beginning of a genuine dynasty here in New England, but for long-time area sports fans, this is all a little bit strange.

Have the tables concerning the region's competitive hardships finally turned or is this all just media-sans Super Bowl hype?

"We just have to win, that's what it all comes down to. Victory. You can worry about the rest later," commented sophomore Mike Lustick.

It has been years since a team from these parts has headed into a championship game as the undisputed favorite. In all three of their previous trips to the Super Bowl (against Chicago, Green Bay and St. Louis), the Patriots have been the underdogs.

This time around victory is expected, and in the eyes of both the team and many of its fans, victory is all that will be tolerated.

Not everyone watching on Sunday will be as keen on winning as the die-hard fans.

Many attending the plethora of parties that will be held around Boston will not be glued to the television set. Whether they are bandwagon jumpers or are simply looking for a good time, some people just don't let the outcome of a football game deeply affect their lives. If you can step outside of the hype surrounding New England's Super Bowl fever, you may be able to reflect on this Sunday from a more rational standpoint.

Julie Gavin, a Suffolk student originally from Philadelphia, is not a football fanatic, although she would be a "hometown Eagles" fan if the Atlanta Falcons were a Super Bowl contender.

Describing herself as "not a serious sports fan," she shared a different take on the strong enthusiasm that has taken over the city, one that can so easily be lost behind the competitive nature of the event.

"I think that Boston or any other major city is a place where people don't often acknowledge one another. Any excuse for people to come together as a whole is good, and the Super Bowl is something that I'd like to be involved with when I'm here."

Indeed, a nice perspective applied to such an overly analyzed sporting event. But for those of us who, come the evening of Feb. 1, will be donning red, white and blue war paint and manning the frontlines of Patriots Nation, here's a little 44-gun salute: Sit back, relax, grab a Brunch and let's skin the Cat.

Bruins legend kneels before his hometown

Brian Messenger
Journal Staff

If you're a hockey fan or a supporter of Boston's professional sports teams, then Jan.12 was truly a night worth remembering.

An event marked on every Bruins fan's calendar, the highly anticipated Cam Neely Night commemorated the right-winger's professional hockey career here in the Hub.

Capping a spectacular but injury-shortened tenure with the B's, Neely's farewell festivities took place before the Bruins contest with the Buffalo Sabres at the FleetCenter.

The on-ice ceremony included appearances by former Bruins greats, a congratulatory speech by actor Michael J. Fox, a gift presentation and an action-packed video that highlighted the five-time all-star's 13-year NHL career.

The Bruins were able to pull out a 4-3 come-from-behind victory over the Sabres, but the highlight of the evening was surely the retirement of Neely's No. 8.

As his black-jacketed B banner was hoisted-up to the rafters of the FleetCenter before a sell-out crowd, the Vancouver native became just the 10th Bruin to receive such an honor.

After being traded from the Vancouver Canucks to Boston on his 21st birthday, Neely played for the Bruins from 1986 to 1996.

His game was marked by physical ferocity, as well as an uncanny scoring touch.

The bruising in the NHL couldn't put the puck in the net like No. 8 did, and the scores certainly didn't pose as much of a threat to the opposition's well-being as did Neely.

But surrendering to intimidation and giving him more room to maneuver meant giving him all that he needed to light the lamp.

In his ten years with the Bruins Neely led the team in scoring seven times. He racked up 50 or more goals three times, not to mention scoring 50 in 44 games during the 1993-94 season. That was after missing almost two years with a career-threatening thigh injury.

The only other two players to reach 50 goals in such a span are Mario Lemieux and Wayne Gretzky. For those who know little about hockey, that is elite company.

In 1988 Cam helped end Boston's 45-year-long playoff-series winless streak against the hated Montreal Canadiens with two goals in the clinching game-five victory. The Bruins reached the Stanley Cup Finals that year, and again made it to the finals with Neely in 1990.

Just shy of reaching the 700 career point mark, Neely, with 395 goals and 999 assists, was forced to call it quits at the age of 31.

After a collision in the 1991 playoffs ended his season and "ossified" his left thigh, Neely announced. The serious thigh injury that had finally taken their toll by the fall of 1996, when his retirement was announced. The serious thigh injury that Neely suffered nearly two years ago was very similar to the one that former Bruins captain Bill Guerin recently overcame in 2003.

Whether or not this truly adds insult to injury, the 45-year-old knows that Cam's time in the spotlight was all too short.