Gallagher calls for meeting to discuss debt, school issues

Mike Wiggins
News Editor

Mesa State College President Michael Gallagher has arranged a meeting to discuss issues currently facing the college, including a $4 million debt the school has incurred. The conference will be held at 4 p.m. on Thursday in the William S. Robinson Theatre, and is open to all MSC faculty, staff and students.

Amongst the topics which Gallagher will address are faculty salaries, the Masters of Business Administration (MBA) program, the new science building, and the buildings and programs at the Unified Technical Education Campus (UTEC). Gallagher said he also asked the faculty senate to submit any additional issues for consideration at the meeting.

Gallagher did not disclose any details about the multi-million dollar obligation for which the institution is responsible because he said he wants faculty and staff members to hear about it from him first.

At the weekly meeting of the Student Body Association on Jan. 20, SBA President Kasia Iwanczko mentioned the matter of the $4 million debt to the general assembly. Iwanczko said that $2.5 million of that amount was divided between the MBA program, UTEC and the science building, which will not contain new equipment, such as computers and chairs, when it opens its doors in the fall.

Strike up the band

MSC to host concert in April

Mike Wiggins
News Editor

Where can a Mesa State College student go to see today's greatest music groups play?

Red Rocks Amphitheatre?
McNichols Sports Arena?
Saunders Fieldhouse?

How about Saunders Fieldhouse?

Indeed, in a little more than two months, Saunders Fieldhouse will be the location for the performance of one of the premier alternative bands in the country.

Senior Tanya Smith, owner of her own music company called Siebel Productions, has obtained a $55,000 grant in student fees from the Student Coalition Committee to spend on the concert. Smith is currently bidding for the band which will come to the campus on April 4 or 5.

Up to 2,500 MSC students who own a Gold Card will be able to get into the MBA-sponsored concert for free. However, Smith said she is not sure at this point whether faculty and staff will be able to attend the concert because it is funded by student fees.

According to Smith, the concert will be held in Saunders Fieldhouse, because of the unpredictability of April weather. She said she wants to avoid liability for damage to the equipment as a result of rain or lightning.

Smith, who is also the music director at KMCS, said there has been a lot of speculation as to which band will perform. Bands such as 311, Blues Traveler, and No Doubt have all been rumored to be coming to MSC, but Smith said nothing can be affirmed at this point.

"There's a lot of rumors running around...but I really can't confirm anything right now," Smith said. "It's one of those 'stay tuned' kind of things."

Prior to the conclusion of the fall semester Smith submitted a seven-page budget proposal to the SCC explaining how student fees would be utilized to subsidize the concert. Smith originally asked for $75,000, but after negotiations with the student-run committee, it was decided that $55,000 would be sufficient to finance the event.

Two other promoters, Avalanche Productions and Great Knight Productions, will assist Smith's Siebel Productions in talent-buying, staging and lighting.

"It's going to look good for the college," Smith said. "I mean, when you're trying to get students to come to a college, they (students) want to see exciting things going on, and I saw a concert as being a real positive note to MSC and Springfest."

"I've always wanted to be able to put to use my company and my talents as a promoter, to be able to do something like this for the students," Smith said. "I think that providing a concert free for the students is just one more way of saying, 'Hey, this campus is for you.'"

Patti Picha, assistant College Center director, is negotiating contracts with the prospective bands. She believes the concert will have a positive effect on the school, as well.

"It certainly has potential to bring a lot of attention to Mesa State," Picha said.

Tanya Smith, owner of Siebel Productions, has helped make arrangements to bring a renowned alternative band to MSC to perform a concert in April.
Recently, I had the pleasure of hearing a certain faculty member explaining to a class that he thought they all wrote miserably I admit, at first I was a little perturbed and perhaps a little insulted by the remark. However, as I went on with my day I got to thinking that maybe many of us are lacking a little in the brain department. In all sincerity, how many of you really need a spell checker on your computer to write a quality paper? I know I am one. And how many of you read a text book and find that when you are finished, you do not remember what you have read? How many of you have heard of high school graduates who cannot even read? How many of you would count yourselves among them? Now be honest with yourself, how many of you would rather be drunk than intellectually challenged? Now the question comes, is everyone in our generation stupid, or does America just have a dysfunctional education system? The answer is not easy to come by. Personally, I have met some pretty stupid people that count themselves as part of our generation. Yes, those of you who have height of intellectual challenge is to discover which talk show, Oprah or Ricki Lake, displays the "truth," I am speaking to you. Those of you who think that the library serves no other purpose, except to give students a place to take a quiet nap, you fit into my "stupid" category. Even with the large number of intellectually impaired people out there, I have met many intelligent students as well. You guessed it, I am talking about "nerds." I use that word with a hint of admiration. Some of the greatest people I have ever met I would label as "nerds." Those few people who find the quest for knowledge so intriguing that they spend every waking hour in the pursuit of it. You know who you are. In recent months, I have become acquainted with some of our international students. I would have to judge them as being much more educated and intelligent than your average American student. Now why is that? Is it the luck of the draw? Did a disproportionate number of smart people come from over the seas, or did they just get a better education than the rest of us?

I believe what we are dealing with is a complex problem that stems from a lack of a desire to learn. Coming back to the word "nerd," why is it in our vocabulary? I think it is because we do not like to be intellectually challenged. We have created this label to discourage ourselves and to discourage others from taking part in what should be our greatest desire, the pursuit of knowledge.

We can stand around all day and debate our intellectual downfall. We as students can blame the faculty for not teaching or motivating us, and the faculty can disparage us as a bunch of brainless twits. We can point fingers and lay blame, but it is not going to solve the problem at hand. What is needed is an all around increase in the desire to learn. Faculty, you need to challenge our minds, and you need to be our motivators by being excited about the material you are teaching. Students, we need to rally together and motivate each other. A unified desire for knowledge should be our battle cry, rather than a unified desire for MTV. Finally, if we do get ourselves motivated, we in turn can help some of those professors who have lost the fire to reignite it and light our way to a better life through better understanding.

Computer dependency creates false trust

While typing last week's edition of the Criterion, the overwhelming nature of modern technology, namely the computer, was something I constantly pondered. Why, might you ask, am I pondering upon something completely inane as the rise of computer technology in the age of information? Quite simply, what would happen to us if the power went out...permanently. Or, the better question to ask is how dependent are we on computer technology now that the computer runs our daily lives?

I'm serious about this. What would we do if every computer stopped working? As sophomoric as the idea may seem, it is something that we should at least file in the back of our minds for such an emergency. I know that if the computers were to crash at the Criterion, and we could not find an alternative site to finish, and most likely the paper would not be completed. Now, while this may please a lot of people, I should surely anger me and the rest of my fellow print "dudes" greatly.

But what if something more drastic were to happen; like a virus which wiped out the computers in our power plants, both nuclear and conventional? Or worse yet, if a virus entered the Internet and infected all of the computers, resulting in the shutdown of millions of units, what would we do? And what if we could never turn them back on and couldn't build new ones because the information was solely stored on computer, then what?

Of course, one of the more desirable aspects of this is the removal of a lot of time-consuming activities, such as computer games, television, radio, and "surfing" the Internet. A lot of people would not mind this inconvenience, but students would have to write a paper using that old and evil method of using a typewriter or pen. Ugg!

Our reliance on computers is our Achilles heel. Everything now in our modern society uses computers to some degree. From buying a candy bar to the operation of the Hoover Dam requires the high speed computation of computers. Most of our superior medical technology relies on the advances made in computers, so if the computers crash, lots of life saving techniques are lost. Okay, I'm becoming a bit paranoid, and the driving force behind this article is to create awareness of our computer dependency. And we do have the ability to build new computers because the information is still on paper. And power plants are built with emergency procedures in case of computer "melt down." And the Internet hopefully polices itself, but we should not trust everything to the metallic box that takes up a third of our desks. What if the people who could put society back together vanished after catastrophe? Then what?

So the next time you write a paper, or create a spreadsheet, or draft up the plans for next college classroom building, remember you have a back-up plan for emergency contingencies, and don't put all you trust into those carbon microchips. They will surely let you down. I speak from experience. After all, the short story that was supposed to start out my career as a freshman writer was floating around in the sub-ether, thanks to a fluke in my virus check. Oh well. Careful with that ax, Eugene.
Retroactive gun law defies basic constitutional rights

Last September, Congress passed a law mandating that any­one who is convicted of a domestic violence offense be prevented from owning a firearm. Simply put, "beat your hon, lose your gun."

The law was first spoken of by President Clinton in August on the campaign trail. "I believe strongly in the right of people to own guns, but make no mistake, those who threaten the safety of others do not deserve our trust," Clinton said. I'd bet most people in this country agrees with Clinton's remarks and the bill's premise, but what the law is doing is causing people in authority to act irrationally, and those convicled of domestic violence offenses are having their constitutional rights violated.

The second amendment gives every one of us the right to own a gun, but that is not the issue here. The issue is whether Congress can pass a law and apply it retroactively. This is precisely what happened with the firearm provision of the 1997 Treasury and U.S. Postal Service Appropriations Bill. The law was grandfathered to include all persons who have been convicted of a domestic violence offense over the past 29 years.

The Constitution says in Article 1, section 9, "No bill of attainder or ex post facto law shall be passed" by Congress. Literally, a law cannot be made after the fact. But, the law in question is an amendment to the Gun Control Act of 1968. Since its passing, federal employees who use firearms in their line of work have had to turn in their weapons and ammunition. These people include members of the military, FBI, CIA, and other bureaus.

The Daily Sentinel, on Dec. 8, had an interesting article which should make anyone who has any belief in our system of government and the Constitution shudder. It read, in part, "Some debate has surfaced about whether Congress intended the law to apply retroactively."

What is even scarier, is the quotation in the next paragraph from Jerry Petrelli, an agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in Denver. "Our interpretation was that it was retroactive."

The agent was just following orders, but his boss, the government, does not understand the spirit behind the Constitution. In that person cannot be punished repeatedly for that which he has already received punishment.

It seems that the more we become ignorant of our Constitution and what our government can legally do, the less we can prevent it from making sneaky, and unconstitutional laws. There are many other examples of these laws in our government. Why not look them up yourself? They're found in the Congressional Quarterly in the library.

Some say recycling wasteful, time-consuming, unnecessary

Recently, I discussed recycling with a professional in the mining industry. "It is stupid to recycle," she said. It costs more to recycle, she said, and implied that people were silly to run around looking for recycling receptacles. She said she had better things to do with her time. Her sentiments are not new.

In fact, George Reisman in his 1979 essay, "The Growing Abundance of Natural Resources and the Wastefulness of Recycling," says that the entire earth is a mass of natural resources, the supply of which is inexhaustible for all practical human purposes, and that tapping these great reserves is merely a fiction of technology. His thesis is that the Earth and all natural resources exist for the advancement of man. To recycle is to waste human time that could be better spent "producing in abundance."

There is some truth in what Reisman says, and I suspect that most anti-recycling, anti-environmental rhetoric in some way has been influenced, by his writing. However, if you think about his premise in the context of what we know to be true about life on the Earth today, and let your mind follow his arguments to its conclusion, you cannot help but conclude that his vision is myopic.

He writes: "by its very nature, production means an improvement in the environment. All that production of any kind fundamentally consists of is the rearrangement of the same chemical elements that nature gives us, in a way that makes them stand in a more useful relationship to man." Here is the hole in his argument against recycling. He never addresses the issue of disposal of the products we create, not in terms of amount or type.

Unrestrained production generates mountains of trash that must be managed. He seems to hope that technology will solve that problem, but is it appropriate to engage in unbridled consumption? Do we have a God-given right to consume natural resources at our customary rate?

A more practical issue is that the materials we recycle are those Nature cannot take care of herself: aluminum, plastics and glass are manmade materials, indestructible from Nature's standpoint; paper and cardboard are materials made from natural resources that Nature cannot restore at the pace of our consumption.

Recycling is just one more way we can clean up after ourselves as our parents taught us; one more way to be responsible for our indulgences; one more way to live within our means.

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Bill Craig  
Asst. News Editor

Rumor and misunderstanding contributed to a belief held by at least one student that athletes were throwing their weight around in the Saunders Fieldhouse weight room.

On Tuesday, Robby Kallina, director of Campus Recreation Services, said there has been some confusion recently as to who has priority at the weight-lifting facility. The bewilderment resulted when a sign stating the times available to students, teams and classes was hidden from view.

"We have a schedule, but with the door propped open, you can't see the schedule," Kallina said. He added that the schedule will be relocated so that there will not be any further misunderstandings by patrons.

Kallina said Saunders is primarily an academic facility and serves intercollegiate athletics. The weight room will be used in those capacities and in that order. Kallina said that athletes at the college level have to stay in conditioning year round. "They are governed by NCAA rules," Kallina said.

The MSC football team, which has between 70 and 100 members, occupies the weight facility more than any other sport. "The weight room can only accommodate about 35 at a time," Kallina explained. Currently, the football team uses the room three hours a day, four days a week. Kallina said he encourages the athletic departments to reserve the room enough in advance so there will not be a problem with conflicting use.

The weight room opens at 6 a.m. This is a recent practice, which came about because of requests from students that the hours should better accommodate their busy schedules. "It's better to open it up for students, instead of keeping it closed from the standpoint that it may be inconvenient," Kallina said.

The sign with the weight room hours is located at the front desk of the student Recreation Center in Saunders Fieldhouse and is in plain view near the door of the weight room.

Blind students to receive help

Bill Craig  
Asst. News Editor

Efforts are being taken by the Director of Public Information to improve accessibility for blind students on the MSC campus.

Katie Kaufmanis is seeking students from the handicapped community to help her and other administrators to make the campus more accessible-friendly. "I'd like three students from the handicapped community to sit on this advisory committee unity as we explore some of the signage problems we have on campus," Kaufmanis said.

The director reported there was a concern from some students that the elevator in Lowell Heiny Hall is not equipped with a braille sign. Kaufmanis said the committee will address the need for braille signs in campus buildings, as well as signs at entry points on campus. "We will meet with the committee to determine if that kind of signage is necessary," Kaufmanis said.

Any interested students are invited to contact Kaufmanis at 248-1868, or visit her in Lowell Heiny Hall, Room 212.

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Who’s Who includes MSC students

The 1997 edition of Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges will include the names of 46 students from Mesa State College who have been selected as national outstanding campus leaders. A Who’s Who reception will be held at 6:30 p.m. on March 5 in Liff Auditorium. Presentations are scheduled for 7 p.m. Call Martha Green at 248-1888 for RSVPs.

Campus nominating committees and editors of the annual directory have selected these students for the publication based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success.

Students named this year from MSC are: Leslie Bennett, Jacqueline Brever, R. Gail Burns, Amy Clark, Sonny Cordova, Debra Cortez, Janet Cummings, Mandi Ertz, Cindy Ferree, Randy French, Debra Garner, Pamela Glenn, Matt Guercini, Carol Haley, Patricia Hockett, Cidnee Hoyt, Ronda Huffingston, Johnda Hughes, Amanda Jacobson, Karen Johnstone, Mary Jo Lance, Angela Lawton, A’Lanne Leonard, Margo Logan, Lyssy Tucker McKay, Molly McLaughlin, Rusty McLoath, Stacie McWilliams, Tassie Medlin, Deena Mewes, Dennis Mitchell, Kercy Moore, Robin O’Connor, Sheldon Real, Charles Rich, Chandra Roche, Odell Roybal, Tracey Scherr, Gina Seeley, Lori Smith, Nicolette Soden, Magnus Sederman, Daisy Thorshov, and Nadine Vigil.

Melissa Dahlin was included in the 1997 edition of Who’s Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges.
Mesa State College is the home of a new organization dedicated to providing an outlet for athletes to exercise and share their faith, and team up with others who are in pursuit of the same goal.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (F.C.A.) held its first ever meeting at MSC on Thursday, Jan. 23, with 12 students in attendance. The MSC chapter joins 5,500 others in the nation that support a membership of more than 60,000 -junior high, high school, and college students, as well as coaches. Founded in 1954, and headquartered in Kansas City, Mo., F.C.A. provides an atmosphere where athletes and coaches can challenge each other and their peers in the Christian faith. Some professional athletes who are a part of F.C.A. include former professional football players Dennis Bird, Randy Gradishar, and Florida State Dany Wuerffel.

Mike Foster, senior history major, led the effort to bring a local F.C.A. chapter into existence. Foster had the idea of starting a "huddle group," as the meetings are known in F.C.A. vernacular, one year ago when he desired to have true Christian students out there who are waiting to hear from you," Dee said.

"Have you ever thought about what you believe?" he asked. "Dee referred to the Bible as the one and only source of what is worth believing. "He mentioned a passage in the book of James about life being a vapor. "That tells us that life is short," Dee said. He added that brevity, one must make decisions that will last beyond death and not be convinced that the everyday activities of life will bring satisfaction and purpose to life."

Foster said because college students have similar challenges and thoughts in trying to deal with the pressure of school, a group like F.C.A. can help provide a framework for cohesion. "We understand what we’re thinking, and we can help each other deal with it through fellowship," Foster said. "We make things too hard on ourselves, especially [by] not working as teammates.

Some students in attendance were optimistic about the future of the group. "I hope to take it where the Lord wants to take it," junior pre-med student Matt Schierenberg said. "We’re just going to follow his lead."

Sophomore Human Performance and Wellness major, Terri Dangler also had a positive outlook. "I’m excited to get F.C.A. off the ground."

Both Foster and Dee said that one does not have to be an athlete to become a part of F.C.A., but rather have a desire to find purpose in life. "Life is so difficult that it doesn’t make sense, and it’s not worth living unless you know who God is, and how he fits into your life," Dee explained.

Foster added that if anyone has ever tried sports and has ever broken a sweat, they know what life can be like. "If you’ve ever done anything like that, you understand the challenges of life and the classroom," Foster said.

F.C.A. meets in the Bacon Room of the College Center every Thursday at 8:30 p.m.
Natives dance to celebrate life

Richie Ann Gawdun
Features Editor

Cultural diversity is as important to an education as schoolwork because it teaches respect and understanding of other people. MSC students will have an opportunity to learn about Native American and Polynesian cultures on Feb. 7 in Saunders Fieldhouse at 7:30 p.m. Students from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah will present "Living Legends" which portrays these cultures with authentic costumes, dance and song. This original performance is a rare opportunity for students to learn about the indigenous cultures of other countries.

The show will include the "Haka" war dance from the Maori people of New Zealand, a Native American hoop dance, Mexican Fiesta dances, Polynesian hulas, and the Samoan slap dance. "It is a moving experience to work with these performers because I see the sincere respect each one holds for his or her heritage," said Artistic Director Janielle Christensen.

Each year, BYU students with American Indian, Latin American or Polynesian ancestry audition for the opportunity to dance and travel with the group. They have performed in Eastern and Western Europe, China, the Pacific Islands, Australia, Canada, and South America. They will perform in Colorado and New Mexico this winter and will travel to Tahiti, Samoa, Rarotonga, and New Zealand in May. "We love traveling to these areas of the world. The people have a real hunger and fascination with the cultures that we bring...a real openness to the spirit that these kids bring," said Christensen.

Tickets are $5 for general admission and can be purchased in advance, downtown at Hart's Music or at the LDS Institute across the street from campus on the corner of 12th and Elm. For more information, contact Dorothy Roper at 242-6969.

BYU students portray Living Legends.

Byline: Photo courtesy of BYU

Polynesian and Native American dancers will perform at MSC.

Photo courtesy BYU
Racial & Ethnic Stereotypes:
Fear & Fascination
A Travelling Display

Mesa State College
Tomlinson Library
3rd Floor
January 29 - February 14

This display illustrates the history of American racial and ethnic imagery as portrayed in newspapers, magazines, advertisements, and commercial logos. It focuses on depictions of Blacks, Native Americans, Latin Americans, Chinese, Japanese, Jews, Eastern Europeans, Italians, and Moslem peoples. The purpose of this exhibit is to promote awareness and discussion of the subject of racial and ethnic stereotypes.

Display materials were researched, gathered and designed by David M. Hays, Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder, and were supplemented and reviewed by the following University of Colorado faculty and Boulder community members:

- Native Americans: Ward Churchill
- Blacks: William King
- Latin Americans: Salvador Rodriguez del Pino
- Chinese: William Wei
- Japanese: Lane Hirabayashi
- Arabs: James Jankowski
- Jews: Rabbi Leo Alan Moskowitz

Response forms are available to allow viewers to comment on various portions or the entirety of the exhibit. We welcome your views. Copies of all response forms will be retained in the Archives at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

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Asst. Sports Editor
Frank Bellavia

Winning 11 of their last 11 games, in the RMAC West. In a 77-70 win feeling "hot, hot, hot" after last Thursday night, New Mexico first place tie with Western State.

Coach Jim Heaps was asked if he thought his team would be tied for first place this late in the season. "I never really thought about it," Heaps said. "I just hoped we would play good solid basketball, and I think we are."

The Mavs are playing very well together, and in every game, someone else steps up to help the team win. "The team has done a nice job of coming together," Heaps said. Some of the standout players have been junior Brett Johnson, sophomore Mike Vig, and junior Russell Nicholls.

In the Mavs' win over NMHU, Johnson had 23 points and three rebounds, Vig had 17 points and five rebounds, and Nicholls had 15 points and five rebounds.

Vig has led the team in scoring rebouds in the last nine of their 19 games this season. He is also the team's top scorer with 109 points, averaging 57.9 points per game. "I thought he would be a good player," Heaps said. "I didn't think he would be the leading scorer, but he has been out of school for five years." Heaps also said that he likes to get Vig involved in the offense, but he has a lot of other players that can step up and help out the team.

One RMAC note is that top ranked Fort Hays State lost 96-84 to Nebraska-Kearney in Kearney to end their 49-game winning streak. "I think they are better because they lost," Heaps said. "It will give them a boost and give them something to focus on."

The Mavs' next game is against Fort Lewis. The Skyhawks will come in with a record of 9-7, and are leading the RMAC in scoring, averaging 93.3 points per game. "I think it will be a great game. They are an exciting team and they always play us tough," Heaps said.

Adams State will come into town on Saturday in fifth place with a 5-6 mark in the RMAC Western Division with an overall mark of 6-11. This will be the first meeting between the two teams this season.

The Mavs will play Fort Lewis College at 8 p.m. on Friday, then Adams State at 8 p.m. on Saturday. Both games are at Saunders Fieldhouse.

From worst, to first, all in one year

Rebounding is a basic part of basketball, but for the Lady Mavs basketball team this season, it's been a way of life. MSC has gone from having the worst record in the RMAC to start the season to earning a first place tie with their next opponent Fort Lewis (both 6-5) in the Western Division.

The Lady Mavs extended their season best winning streak to five with their 72-60 win over New Mexico Highlands on Jan. 23. Junior Jamie Tester highlighted the game by setting a new school record for most assists in a game with 14. The previous mark was held by her sister Jill, who had 12 assists in a game back in 1990. Sophomore Mandy Miller led all players with 19 points, and sophomore Jamie White had 15 points and 11 rebounds.

Although MSC is tied for first place in the RMAC Western Division, not one of the teams in the division has an overall winning record. Although they are leading the division, MSC has an overall mark of 7-9.

Even so, some of the Lady Mavs are just concerned about putting their past behind them. "It was hard being worst (in the conference) because we've always been first," senior guard Terri Dangler said. "Now, we're sitting first, and we deserve it. It's still up and down and we're not where we want to be yet, but we're struggling every day, we're working hard in practice. All that gives you is a chance. We're taking advantage of that chance."

The Lady Mavs will also play Adams State on Feb. 1 in the third game of a fourgame home stand. Game times for both the Fort Lewis game on Jan. 30 and the Adams State game will be 6 p.m. in Saunders Fieldhouse.

Just say snow: Mavs' kicker recipient of berth

It is the dead of winter in the arctic ice of Fargo, North Dakota. The temperature is below zero, the wind chill is even lower then that, and only a sparse number of people are out because all the roads are closed. What a great day to play football.

However, this game isn't being played on a frozen tundra, but in the Saundersdome, a 22,000-seat stadium near the North Dakota State campus. This is where Mavs' placekicker Mike Foster was the team's lone representative in the Division II All-Star Game called the Snow Bowl on Jan. 31. Foster was part of the West All-Star team, and his team won in a rout, opening up a 57-3 halftime lead before finally winning the game 43-3.

Foster is the second MSC football player to play in the Snow Bowl. The first was Seth Littleton, an All-Conference offensive lineman who played in the game in 1996.

Foster has had many highlights over his career at Mesa State, including his first game-winning fieldgoal against Adams State this season.

Foster said that one of his goals this season was to be selected to play in the Snow Bowl. To say the least, he was surprised by the kind of character the players there showed. "I was really surprised," said Foster.

Brett Johnson Men's basketball

Though the Mavs have done more then anyone expected them to do this season, it has been anything but a one man show. Johnson is one of the many Mavs that have done more then their share of contributing.

The six-foot-five inch junior from Burlington, WA., led all scorers with 23 points in the Mavs' 77-70 win over New Mexico Highlands last Thursday. Johnson, who is also known by his teammates as "The Red Rocket," is also second on the team in scoring, averaging 15.7 points per game.
the other athletes who were selected. "I thought most of them would be really cocky and arrogant, but 80 to 90 percent of the players were really easy to talk to and excited to be able to show off their talents to go to the next level."

Even so, Foster said it wasn't luck or fate that helped him show his talents during his career (37-54 in field goals) or this season (11-18), but rather all the hard work he put in. "My goal going into my second year here was to be the hardest working kicker in the United States," Foster said. "I felt that in high school I underachieved and didn't work hard, and my main goal was to work as hard as I could and be proud of what I've done."

And proud he can be. Foster was one of only five players from the RMAC who were chosen to play in this year's game. With that kind of competition, your name begins to be known. "Obviously, everybody has to be All-American caliber to be able to play in that game," Foster said. "During the week was important, because there were about 50 or 60 scouts there every day watching every second of practice. We had two-a-days for a week, and I did pretty good in practice. My performance during the game was only average, though, because I was so worn down from kicking so much."

Foster got to kick plenty of extra points during the game, five of them to be exact. But then the leg fatigue kicked in, and he missed a 52 yard field goal during the second half.

Still, Foster doesn't want to miss out on an opportunity to play in the NFL, and he hopes that is where his future will take him. "Right now, my number one goal is to decide on an agent," Foster said. "I know some guys that can find me some credible names and can get me in camp. I think there about eight to ten teams that may need kickers, and that's how many teams have contacted me. Hopefully a year from now I'll be on an NFL team."

Who knows? Maybe he'll play in a dome.
Dear Prospective Member:

Liberal Social Justice Foundation Inc. has a special place in the conscience of the United States of America. Its impetus to become a nation came from the United States. For 149 years, it was a suburb ally of the United States. Yet for the past years, as a civil war began, 200,000 lives, displayed more than two-thirds of the population and its infrastructure, the United States treated this great country as a republic problem.

Libera has a unique historic and cultural link to the United States. Served by African-Americans, many from former slaves, in the early decades of the 19th century, Liberians became a people. Liberia became a republic in 1847. The United States influence on Liberia is reflected in Liberian nation's constitution, the six to one of the red, white, and blue flag, the structure of the government, the names of its cities, its scholarly curriculum, its official language and the remarkable degree of goodwill its citizens feel toward America. Through all the major conflicts of the 20th century, Liberians have been among the most dependable allies of the United States. In both World Wars, Liberia declared war on the enemies of the United States and official aid was given, and natural resources to support the United States military. During the Cold War, Liberia voted with the United States on every significant resolution at the United Nations. It hosted facilities for electronic monitoring and became the largest base for United States intelligence-gathering in Africa.

Yet when Liberia's security was most at risk because of civil conflict the United States government deferred to ECOWAS, an under-funded regional organization composed of some of the world's poorest nations. Half of the $10 million earmarked by the United States to support a peacekeeping force had not been committed by April 1996. Meanwhile, the cost to the United States of responding to the human crisis since 1990 has been emergency relief assistance valued at over $455 million, over $56 million provided in the past year alone, more than twice the amount committed to peacekeeping.

In the absence of a viable security plan, the current of refugees continues to undermine Liberia's relations with its immediate neighbors. Though the United States has imputed these nations to admit Liberian refugees, its own record of Liberian admissions deters the long relationship with that nation.

The approach to achieving peace in Liberia has involved around the ECOWAS process for six years. This process has, in turn, been dependent on a core group of ECOWAS nations with the will and very limited resources to engage in diplomacy or to commit forces for peacekeeping. Fourteen peace agreements have been largely brokered without the United States and other international partners, such as the United Nations or OAU, present with ECOWAS as working partners in the negotiating table. The result of this agreement and the resources, and leverage, necessary for successful implementation. This failure to produce a concerned approach to all aspects of the peace process, from mediation and negotiation to implementation, produced the tragic results that we have witnessed in Liberia.

On August 17 the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) concluded meetings that provide a new timetable for the peace process. Starting August 20, the warring factions are to observe a cease-fire, dismantle checkpoints and withdraw from areas of combat. The peacekeeping force, expanding from 6500 to 18000 troops, is to deploy throughout Liberia in November. Demobilization is to be completed by January 31, Elections are to be held on May 31 with a turnover to an elected government on June 15. The revised plan calls for sanctions against members of the warring factions that obstruct the peace process. Functions include restrictions on travel, focus on economic activities, exclusion from electoral process, and war crime charges.

Now the United States has another opportunity to assert its international leadership in a critical juncture to ensure the success of the new peace process. This leadership will not lead to an involvement of United States troops. It does mean that the United States must heighten its diplomatic efforts to help coordinate the process of peace and gather the funding that is necessary for effective peacekeeping and demobilization in Liberia.

The United States should take the necessary steps to ensure that its commitment of $30 million to support the ECOWAS peacekeeping force is obligated before the end of the fiscal year 1996. While the United States pledge of $30 million is a step in the right direction it will not alone enable a dawning of ECOWECO to the 18,000 troops necessary for deployment by November. It is vital that the United States provide additional funds to make up the shortfall or take the lead to obtain significant pledges from other donor countries.

A top priority of the United States should be the implementation of a serious program for demobilizing Liberia's combatants. Regrettably, no additional funding has been pledged by the United States to date. There are indications that what was initially a modestly funded and designed demobilization plan in fact, some of the funds allocated in early 1996 for reintegration of Liberia's 60,000 combatants have been diverted elsewhere. The United States should take the lead in designing a comprehensive demobilization program. This program will not involve United States troops, but should include the resources for the entry stage of demobilization from encampment to counseling and conditioning of combatants. A contribution of $20 million (one-for-one matched) by the United States will provide the resources necessary to initiate a well-conceived demobilization program and encourage future contributions from other international donors.

President Clinton and the United States Congress must make Liberia a priority on our foreign relations agenda in Africa. United States leadership is critical if the key elements are to be achieved on schedule under the new peace plan. This leadership will not lead to an involvement of United States troops. It does mean that the United States through its Special Envoy, must take the lead in the next phase of the peace process. It is not the United States' role to act as mediator and peacemaker, but to ensure that the Liberian leadership takes the lead in the implementation of the peace process and that the international community provides the necessary support.

The United States should strengthen the response of the international community to the needs of the peace process. The foundation for a new international approach to the peace process must be to create joint working groups on the key issues that have pledged support to the process. This group of donors must be expanded to a tightly coordinated partnership that includes the United States, ECOWAS, and the United Nations. This high level of cooperation will ensure that scarce resources are effectively utilized.

The conflict of fighting is Monrovia in April-May of 1996 was the latest in a series of clashes in Liberia's intractable war. During the past nearly seven years, the war has produced spectacular atrocities, subdued people everywhere even further these conditions. The recent fighting necessitated additional resources to deliver food and other emergency services because of the fighting in Monrovia. Their losses forced by gangs of combatants and the safety of their relief workers threatened, these organizations expanded to a tightly coordinated partnership that includes the United States, ECOWAS, and the United Nations. This high level of cooperation will ensure that scarce resources are effectively utilized.

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