Science fair judge and MSC chemistry major, Mac Lewis (center) speaks with East Middle School students Chris Adams (left) and Will Nikkel about their experiment demonstrating the effects of acid rain on stone building materials on display at the district 51 science fair, held at Saunders Fieldhouse, Friday. The two won honors for their work. Mesa State faculty and students, along with industry representatives, took part in judging the competition, which sent three competitors to international competitions in San Jose, CA.
Students go head-to-head in VICA competition

TRAVIS COX
Staff Writer

Triumph was the name of the game at this year’s Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) regional competition hosted by Mesa State’s UTEC Campus on Feb. 23.

Two hundred and twenty students from Mesa State and from Western Colorado high schools matched their skills in written, verbal and hands-on competition.

They could have competed in one or more of the competitive fields including machining, welding, computer aided drafting (CAD) and transportation technology.

According to Kerry Youngblood, UTEC executive director, the events were very in-depth and students displayed skills at a professional level. He said vocational work is not what it used to be. Students not only performed the tasks within their area of expertise, they were also tested on their interviewing skills and ability to complete paperwork and identifying parts.

“People like to think of the hands-on work,” Youngblood said. “But we have the latest technology in our shops.”

Youngblood referred to the state-of-the-art equipment in the electronics lab, machine shop, transportation tech shop and CAD lab. With the latest technology, students could program the machines to carry out tasks with incredible precision.

Monty Searle, a junior in the transportation technology program, will go to the state competition in April for his first place victory in job interviewing.

Searle also competed in the general transportation tech and diesel categories. The testing included a diagnostic analysis of a system when only given a code indicating a problem. He also had to track the power flow through an engine and set the valves.

From this program, students might reap valuable lessons. First year student Chris Kempton did not fair quite as well as Searle, but said he plans to do better next year.

“I learned, mainly, not to watch what the other guys are doing,” he said.

In the machining competition, students were required to shave, bore and cut a four-by-five inch aluminum block in just two hours. Their jobs were gauged on time from start to finish and they were given tolerances.

Many students who graduate with a vocation related degree or certificate are usually offered a job before graduation, according to Youngblood and Reynolds Polymer Technologies, Inc. has hired many students.

Other area businesses are also big supporters of the program. Western Slope Chrysler donated four new vehicles for the regional competition. Students used the vehicles to learn how to identify their parts.

This April, the UTEC Camaro will be on display at the Two Rivers Raceway.

Asg meeting discusses forthcoming ‘Busi-Tech’

KYLE HALKETT
Staff Writer

At the Associated Student Government (ASG) meeting last week, Mesa State’s vice president for finances and administration John Fitzgibbon spoke on his life as well as his career.

In a very casual presentation, Fitzgibbon explained to the Senate his views on the future of the school.

“My area of the college is basically support services. Services dealing with accounting, finance, budgeting, technology and human resources,” said Fitzgibbon.

He also spoke of the future of the college in terms of expansion.

“What we are trying for this year is approximately $2.3 million to do the last phase of the humanities and social sciences project,” Fitzgibbon said. “What that entails is a recital hall, refurbishing the area where the art studios and classrooms are as well as enclose the walk area. It is relatively a small job and that’s the only thing that we are asking the state for this year. We are also continuing to buy property in the block between North Avenue, College Place, Bunting Street and Houston Street because our next project will be a business and technology building. The building will be fully wired and have very flexible classrooms for more of a learner mentor relationship.”

The presentation gave ASG a look into what new ideas Mesa State has as well as answer any questions that senators had. Sophomore Jeannie Hodge, a senator of professional studies, found the presentation to be very informative.

“I thought the presentation was really good,” she said. “He answered a lot of our questions very thoroughly and was willing to go back and find out more information for certain questions we had.”

Following the presentation, ASG President John Marshall, gave a brief report having dealing with the upcoming elections.

Marshall pointed out the fact that elections are soon upon the Senate, and for those wanting to run again, preparation is vital. For those students who would like to run for a position in office, intent forms are located at the Information desk as well as the ASG office both located in the College Center. The intent forms consist of personal information such as a position desired and cumulative GPA.

In the ASG vice president’s report, Josh McAlister questioned the Senate for any ideas to help out the Graduation Committee in the upcoming ceremonies for the graduating class.

Please see ASG, page 5
New campus building to bring better technology to MSC
Humanities building construction remains on schedule after slight rain delay

LYNETTE TUVESON
Staff Writer

The new Humanities and Fine Arts Building may be a new beginning for those students in the humanities and social sciences fields of study, or even those who want to develop their minds with a few arts and communication courses.

The new building, which will be located on the corner of Bunting Avenue and Houston Avenue near Tomlinson Library, will not only expand the Mesa State College campus, but also the world of education for MSC students. The building will also host several new upgraded pieces of equipment that should have Mesa moving along faster and better than before.

Up until last week, the building was actually ahead of its scheduled course. Due to rain, however, Ron Gray, director of facilities services, explained that construction is now on schedule and he hopes it will remain that way.

Overall, he said, the construction of the building has been smooth. While there have been few requests to increase the proposed cost due to unforeseen accounts, that was expected to happen.

The estimated dollar amount of the building as of this week totals $4,921 million. But in reality, the expense will calculate to a smidge over $5 million.

As far as what will go inside of this $5 million project, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences Operations Janine Rider, said that the bottom floor of the building will host the "dirty arts."

She said these arts will include ceramics, sculpture and pottery. The second level will accommodate classes in painting and lectures in the history of art. And the third level will incorporate the computer graphic labs, broadcast rooms and classrooms.

Rider also said the humanities and arts building will serve about 350 student majors; 125 from arts and the remainder 175 from mass communications.

The new building should also serve its purpose to the drifting student body looking to fulfill the general educational requirements.

The building should be ready for the first day of spring semester classes, January 2002.

Smith comes home victorious in wine and food pairing contest

UTEC chef takes gold at Colorado competition

PAT CALLAHAN
News Editor

At this year's Colorado Restaurant Association's WestEx 2001, UTEC's own Culinary Arts Executive Chef Wayne Smith took home first place in the Colorado Wine and Food Pairing Competition.

Smith combined his innovation of rosemary grilled shrimp accompanied by an apricot ginger chutney with a Sauvignon blanc from Grand Junction's Grande River Vineyards to take home the gold medal at the event.

Smith, who has been a lecturer of culinary arts at UTEC since the program's inception three years ago, explained that the award-winning dish was devised months earlier, coinciding with a pairing food and wine class that Smith was assisting Grande River with.

"As part of that, we were tasting a lot of their wines and we tasted a Sauvignon blanc that was still in the tank, but was a really nice off-dry with very clean flavors and very much like Sauvignon blanc should be; very citrusy, and kind of herbal with very nice flavors, " Smith said.

"And then we happened to, in preparation for that class, have a little party at my house where we asked people to bring a bottle of wine and I prepared some hors d'oeuvres that we were thinking of serving. And one of the hors d'oeuvres I came up with was a rosemary grilled shrimp, where I took the shrimp and put them on an actual fresh rosemary sprig as a skewer and cooked those on the grill."

Smith added that to go along with the shrimp he prepared an apricot ginger chutney, which is like preserves with the addition of vinegar and usually either sweet or hot peppers.

"And in this case, I decided on the apricot, and also added fresh ginger and a little bit of cayenne pepper and sugar. So I glazed the shrimp with that, and we just thought it went great with the Sauvignon blanc."

"When I found out about this competition, this dish just immediately popped into my head, and I just took that and fleshed it out and made some accompaniment salads to go along with it, and it just ended up fitting really well with what they were doing."

The competitors had no use of an actual kitchen and they were required to prepare their recipes using only a microwave oven. Smith, who went up against 18 other chefs, said that although this competition was more simplified, he had done what he wanted to do by just pleasing the judges.

"It was nice winning, but what was really nice was that when I got it done and I put my plate together and put it out there, the first judge came around to it and I could tell he really did like it and he really enjoyed tasting the shrimp and the wine together. It felt really good. I had accomplished what I had wanted to and at that point it didn't matter how I finished."

The award winning chef also offered some advice to prospective Mesa State College cooks.

"You should try to stay seasonal and use what makes sense, " he said. "Starting with quality ingredients is really the main important thing, and that's why being seasonal is important, because you're using what's best quality. Then just take care in preparing your ingredients. Respect the ingredients."

"Try to avoid the convenience products; the frozen foods, the canned stuff, because that's were you get in trouble with fat and salt and things like that. And use butter."

Smith also maintained that a good cookbook can often be the difference for those who consider themselves inferior cooks.

"Get a really good cookbook and read it. Something like the 'Joy of Cooking' or a Master's Recipes' where they really test things and they'll make, say for instance, something as plain as meatloaf, but they'll try 50 different recipes and decide on what's really the best way to make it and what it is going to accomplish. And the magazine, 'Cook's Illustrated,' is really good at explaining things too. Not just giving people recipes, but explaining why you're doing what you're doing. And that's really key and that's what I try to train in all my classes."

"We very seldom actually use recipes. I try to get them out of that reliance on the recipe, and then there's just a few methods that we use. We saute things, we pan fry, we roast, we steam, boil, simmer and poach. Understand what those processes are and once you understand a process and what you're trying to accomplish through it, then you're free from recipes. Then you can use your own judgment and your own sensibilities. And then when you come across a recipe, you can judge whether that makes sense or it doesn't."

Students interested in sampling the works of UTEC's Culinary Arts program are encouraged to stop by Chef Leno, the on-campus restaurant. The restaurant's hours are Monday through Friday, from 11 a.m.
Soil class expands traditional student experience

KYLE HALKETT
Staff Writer

As Mesa State College continues to strive to maintain its rich academic heritage, unique relationships sometimes occur. One such relationship is the one between student and professor. Such relationships can be found in Dr. Andres Aslan’s Structured Soil Research class (Geology 497).

“This course is a great way to interact with student and professor. Much more than a larger school would and more hands-on work gets done with the student learning much more,” Aslan said.

The nine students in Aslan’s class have been studying the geological history of the Mississippi River.

Emarae Garcia, a student of Aslan’s, explained that the class is both interesting and fun.

“I think that the class is wonderful. Any time you get the student-professor interaction that is given in this class, especially to undergraduate students, I think that type of learning is exceptional. I mean, I’m a biology major, and to be able to take this class and have the hands-on learning is phenomenal,” Garcia said.

The big question that Aslan’s class faces has to do with the climate change and the effects that it has on the river.

“Overall, we are trying to study the changing sea levels and climate. It involves a combination of lab work as well as field work,” Aslan said.

Aslan, a graduate of the University of Colorado in Boulder, is trying to follow up his work that he did at C.U. He plans to return to Louisiana this summer with his students to gain more information for their study.

The nine members of the team are a combination of geology, biology and environmental restoration students working together to answer the question, “How has the Mississippi River responded to past episodes of sea and global climate change?”

Aslan described the work as a three-part study of academic and applied research. The academic side will look to answer how the river has responded to change while the applied areas will look at how oil and gas pockets form as well as the environ-

Biology student Emarae Garcia performs a test designed to measure soil grain size in relation to the settling of sediments in a joint university project on the Mississippi River system.

Garcia and Alexis Hosack.

These students will be working alongside students from the University of Nebraska- Lincoln and SUNY University in New York for the structured field work they need. Mesa State students will present their results at the MSC Student Scholar Day in late April. For any students interested in the class or any other information, Dr. Aslan’s office is located in Wibben Hall with office hours posted.

For any student interested in attending the Graduation Committee for concerns or ideas please contact ASG Vice President Josh McAlister at 248-1782.

August 2000 numbers represent a six-year high

Enrollment raises future housing questions

MICHELE HEFLIN
Staff Writer

With Mesa State student enrollment on the rise, housing could be a concern for Mesa State College.

Jill Eckardt, director of housing and residence life, said the school’s housing is at approximately 80 percent occupancy this semester. Housing numbers are about the same as last year, but still lower than expected. In August, housing started at 97 percent occupancy and although lower this spring, is still at a six-year high.

Eckardt said new students are already applying for housing by turning in a $150 deposit to hold their housing spot. And with that, the numbers of new applicants are already up.

Reapplication for housing has been going on for two weeks now, giving seniority to juniors and seniors with credit hours above 60.

Sophomores with 30 to 60 credit hours can start the application process at the end of the week and freshman with less than 30 credit hours will have the opportunity for application at the beginning of next week.

By the end of March, or near the beginning of April, the housing department will have a better idea of how many new students might need housing. Eckardt said May is the best time for a clear indication of occupancy numbers for the coming year.

Although enrollment is on the rise, Eckardt said housing will not be a problem in the immediate future. She believes, however, that it could become a problem in five to 10 years from now.

The college will pay off the mortgage on Tolman Hall this year and are still paying for Monument Hall. The conception of a new building for MSC campus housing could take three to five years from talk of adding on to the finished product. As of now, there are no discussions or plans of housing additions.

Eckardt said this years overall average of housing occupancy was 90 percent. She also said housing would have to hit around a 95 percent average to begin ideas for adding on to housing. Other factors such as more enrollment and more students from outside Mesa County will also contribute to the need for more housing.

For now, Mesa State housing is at its best, according to Eckardt. The occupancy numbers are high and students are not in need of more rooms. Time will only tell how enrollment numbers will change and cause for future plans to bring another housing addition to Mesa State’s campus.
New bus stop: hope for relief of parking pressure

SIMON CRoPP
Staff Writer

There will be a new Grand Valley Transit (GVT) bus stop near Mesa State College to help with student and faculty accessibility on campus. The bus stop will be located on the north side of the parking lot at 12th Street and Orchard Avenue.

John Fitzgibbon, vice president of financial administration for Mesa State, said "We've been using the community hospital vacant lot up there as their transfer port. There was always the idea of greater purpose than a vacant lot, so this is their idea of a greater purpose.

"As transit capabilities here mature, they're already adding buses, increasing services to areas they haven't previously served so it's going to provide a lot more opportunities for students to get to campus.

"Of course we're going to lose a few parking spaces in doing this, but most of the time that northern area of the parking lot, except at the beginning of the semesters, is not used." Fitzgibbon also said this will give MSC an opportunity to clean up the corner on 12th Street and Orchard Avenue.

"Dressing up the corner, which is graced right now by a rather large utility pole and some electrical equipment boxes, is going to be a major improvement for Mesa State," he said. "It will be the central hub to the bus system. If you're coming from the north and want to go east, the 12th and Orchard stop is where you'll want to transfer."

Fitzgibbon believes that the GVT takes a lot of pressure off trying to find a parking spot on or near campus.

"This is a service and capability that's pretty much an infancy and I think it's gotten off the ground pretty well," Fitzgibbon said. "But it's not like it's been around for years and years and people are used to riding the bus."

"I think utilization will continue to grow and I hope it continues to grow more here on campus because if people can get here via the bus and better established bus stops, I think the greater the propensity to ride."

He also said there is more to the GVT system than just better transportation.

"There are a lot of benefits to the GVT, the fewer cars on the road the less pollution we have. The more convenient they make it to where people live, whether it's students or faculty or staff, the more likely people will ride."

ASG, from page 2

Such topics as the goodbye ceremony, music and special events were bought up. If any students or faculty are interested in helping, please contact McCalister during his office hours in the ASG office.

On tap for ASG will be the task of revising the bi-annual bylaws for next fall as well as reports from each of the executive staff. ASG meetings are held in the Tomlinson Library every Thursday at 7 p.m. For those interested in speaking with an officer from their respected schools, Senators have office hours each week and encourage students and faculty to stop by the ASG office located in the north part of the College Center.

Oops!!

The Criterion would like to correct an error in a story published last week. In the article on the Alpha Chi chapter at Mesa State the inauguration date of the chapter was incorrect. The chapter was inaugurated on December 4, 1986 on the Mesa State campus. Bruce Crowell, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, James O.B. Keeper, Assistant Professor of Mass Communications, and Donna K. Hafner, Associate Professor of Mathematics, were all instrumental in the establishment of the organization on the Mesa State campus. Crowell has been credited with the initial bringing of the chapter to Mesa State College. We apologize for the misinformation.
Time to say so long and thanks for all the memories, Bill

Once upon a time there was a leader of a great country. He was a fairly benevolent and successful leader, but there were many in his land that hated him because he was morally reproachful. So the leader was harassed constantly, much of it deserved, for his behavior. But he persevered, and exited as leader, practically none the worse for wear.

No longer being the leader would not prove to be a reprieve from the attacks and criticism. Instead, those who would see him brought down as leader, in their never-ending bitterness at not succeeding, continued to attack. They fabricated new charges and pursued them to their fullest, even if they have something better to do.

Then again, maybe they don’t have anything better to do. After all, they haven’t done much more than attack Bill Clinton for the last six years. Now, he can’t even pardon anyone correctly. Less than two months after leaving office, Clinton is still getting more press than current president, George W. Bush. Bush’s bombing of Iraq makes more sense now. He needed the press.

So Clinton granted a few controversial pardons, big deal. Do we need two separate congressional probes for the issue, in addition to a criminal investigation?

Let’s see, his half brother, brothers-in-law and a world leader petitioned Clinton to consider their candidates for pardons. Denise Rich, who contributed nearly a half million dollars to Clinton’s presidential library, asked Clinton to pardon her former husband. The woman is actually attractive, so Congress, knowing Clinton and his taste in women, believed he granted the pardon because of the money.

This is a joke. Who can blame someone in need of a pardon, who just happens to know somebody related to the president, for asking this person to help them out a little? Besides, if you had the money, I bet you would try to buy a presidential pardon if the need arose.

Look, the truth is there is no law that says Denise Rich can’t contribute money to the Democratic Party or to the library. There is also no law saying she can’t petition the president for a pardon of her ex-husband. There is also nothing against the law in giving Marc Rich the pardon. And, as for using regular procedures, there is nothing in the Constitution that says the president has to follow any procedures when giving pardons. Proving that anything illegal was done in this case will be problematic at best and probably impossible, short of a tape of the Rich woman asking Clinton for the pardon in exchange for the contribution.

Quick show of hands — how many people think that will turn up?

If any pardon was given in exchange for something done for Clinton, it was the one given to Susan McDougal, who refused to testify against Clinton during the Whitewater affair. Nobody is investigating that. I guess she didn’t contribute any money to his campaign. So why the investigations and hullaballoo?

On Christmas Eve 1992, Bush the First pardoned former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and former national security advisor Robert McFarlane, effectively putting an end to the investigation into the Iran-Contra affair. Armand Hammer pleaded guilty in 1975 to laundering illicit contributions in Richard Nixon 1972 re-election campaign. The billionaire made very generous donations to the Republican Party both before and after the pardon was received.

Nixon pardoned Jimmy Hoffa. President Ford pardoned Nixon, assuring Nixon would not face criminal charges in the Watergate scandal, and he pardoned Iva Toguri D’Aquino, better known as “Tokyo Rose.” Ronald Reagan pardoned George Steinbrenner for making illegal contributions to Nixon’s campaign. Speaking of old Ron, he granted a pardon to Robert Wendell Walker, who was convicted of attempted bank robbery. A largely unnoticeable pardon, except that Walker killed and dismembered his wife last year.

The point is fault can be found with at least one pardon from every president. The Rich pardon is not an investigation into wrongdoing; it’s a witch hunt. Bitter, angry congressional republicans, mad about the fact that they couldn’t nail Clinton during his tenure, are taking this last shot at pinning something on the guy.

Good luck. You would think they had figured out what a slickster he is and realize they probably won’t be able to prove anything. Instead they insist on wasting taxpayers’ money on an investigation that most of the country couldn’t care about anyway.

It’s time to let Clinton’s tenure fade off into history. Republicans should spend time trying to push Bush’s tax cut, instead of persecuting someone most of us would like to be a memory.

Write to the Crite!

We want your opinion, and encourage letters to the editor. All letters must be typed and under 300 words to be considered. Also, letters must be signed and include phone number and address. Anonymous letters will not be considered. All letters will be subject to editing.
showcase 2001
employment odyssey

Mesa State College Career Fair
March 14, 2001
9:30 - 2:30 - Maverick Square

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StarTek
America's favorite boy wizard meets Hollywood and retail shelves ... and takes the heat for it.

JAIMIE BANKS
Features Editor

For those who have never worn an invisibility cloak, cast a transfiguration spell or played a game of Quidditch, the magical world of Harry Potter may seem far-fetched. The 11-year-old wizard is taking the literary world -- and the silver screen -- by storm. In the midst of controversy over commercialism, the evils of portraying witchery and the subsequent banning, the phenomenon of the seven-year, seven-book series is bringing in millions.

To market, to market ...

With the live-action movie based on J.K. Rowling's first book, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," holding a tentative release date of Nov. 16, 2001, Warner Brothers published a graphics-intensive Web site as a preliminary promotion tactic. The site, found at www.harrypotter.com, opened on Feb. 16 and allows surfers to "enroll" in Hogwarts' School of Witchcraft and Wizardry (where Harry hones his magical skills), experience the splendor of Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Beans (beans in flavors like spinach, dirty socks and sardines, a favorite treat of Hogwart's students) and fans will soon be able to purchase Harry Potter merchandise through an online store. The teaser movie trailer is also available for download.

Coca-Cola and Warner Brothers announced on Feb. 20 a partnership in which a $150 million marketing vehicle will back a global campaign. According to the online magazine Mr. Showbiz, the push will include images on Coke products, as well as on Minute Maid and Hi-C packages, but will not include movie product placement. Mattel and LEGO have reportedly signed licensing deals, while Electronic Arts purchased video game rights.

Rowling, a welfare-recipient-turned-millionaire, insisted that Harry be played by a British unknown, a requirement leading to a dispute with Steven Spielberg. He turned down the position and director Christopher Columbus ("Home Alone," "Mrs. Doubtfire") stepped in. After over 40,000 young actors applied for the role and 300 auditioned, it has been released that Daniel Radcliff nabbed the honor.

As the book was originally released in the UK with the title "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone," it is rumored that two versions of scenes with that phrase will be filmed, one with each title. Columbus reportedly felt that to change the phrase in the editing process would undermine the quality with he intended to create the film.

Next books and textbooks

A lightly-publicized book duo by Rowling will hit bookstore shelves on March 12. A departure from the storybooks, the publications will be in the form of Hogwarts' textbooks, written for charity. The proceeds from "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" and "Quidditch Through the Ages" will benefit Comic Relief. 

Warner Brothers announced the sequel to the Sorcerer's Stone, "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," will be released in the summer of 2002. A third installment, the "Prisoner of Azkaban," is scheduled for summer 2003. Rowling has at least admitted that it has been in progress, and that the forthcoming editions will delve into the world of the Dursleys (Harry's only living family who deeply hate magic) and a young girl's crush on the wizard.

"Quidditch Through the Ages" will benefit Comic Relief. Barnes and Noble department manager Sandra Peeso said the store is under strict release regulations, even to the point where promotional posters can't be displayed until the release date.

Retail shelves, like those in Barnes and Noble, are stacked with a range of merchandise, from Christmas ornaments and figurines to journals and posters. Peeso said, "(the craze) is not going very strong - I haven't sold a lot of extra paraphernalia, but the interest is definitely still there."

While the fifth book in the series was initially to be released this summer, Rowling's work on the two textbooks and negotiations for the movie have supposedly set back release. Fan Web sites rumor the title to be "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," and the Raleigh News and Observer even reports a release date as far away as two years. Rowling has at least admitted that it has been in progress, and that the forthcoming editions will delve into the world of the Dursleys (Harry's only living family who deeply hate magic) and a young girl's crush on the wizard.

On the ban-dwagon

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On the ban-dwagon

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, an English poet and philosopher, spent his younger days nosed in fantasy books. He wrote, "For from my early reading of fairy tales and genii, my mind had been habituated to the vast, and I never regarded my senses in any way as the criteria of my belief ... Should children be permitted to read romances, and relations of giants and magicians and genii? ... I know no other way of giving the mind a love of the Great and the Whole."

This view is both paralleled and disputed by members of the Grand Valley. Some School District 51 parents wanted the Harry Potter series banned from local elementary schools. Brenda Evers, a Palisade High School language arts teacher, feels that most teachers support the books because they get students excited about reading. "I don't think it's evil or demonic, and those are some of the words I've heard used," she said. "It's about learning who we are and accepting our potential, and those are good things for kids to have."

Professor of foreign language Betsy McDouglethＴhen shares that view. She participated in a faculty colloquium wherein she presented the parallels between "The Sorcerer's Stone" and the structure of traditional epic journeys. "It's a replenishing," she said. "You read and escape from the 'I have to's,' and then you're ready to come back to reality." She agrees with
Historical escape simulation draws crowd, honors heroes

MINDY O'BRIEN
Staff Writer

Harriett Tubman, William Steele, Frederick Douglas, Susan B. Anthony and Thomas Garrett. These are just a few of the names that were heard being said Wednesday night in Monument Hall.

Quiana Stevens, a resident assistant for the hall, presented an educational diversity program titled “Following the North Star to Freedom.” This program took participants on the path a slave might have had to travel to gain their freedom, including the use of the Underground Railroad.

Residents, students and non-students were greeted in the lobby of Monument Hall and directed to the TV lounge on the third floor. From there, groups of eight were taken through the program, which meant traveling either the West or East wing of Monument Hall. Before the group would head out, student conductors would assign each person a tag that had printed on it a family member name.

HARRY, from page 8 — went through Platform 9 3/4 (the portal to the magical world) without knowing if he'd make it or not, and his entire life expanded because of it.

In the wake of criticism from parents and religious groups, an online organization has formed in support of the over 30 million Harry Potter books in print. “Muggles for Harry Potter” are a group of “muggles” (a term for non-magical humans) across the country who are protesting the challenges made in 13 states. Membership is free and the site (www.mugglesforharrypotter.com) provides a forum for reporting challenges against Rowling’s books or any other “challenge against intellec...
edge, from page 9

Criterion Features

Wednesday March 7, 2001

a character on the show. When Betty suffers a traumatic event, she breaks from reality and goes to California in search of Dr. Ravel, whom she believes is her ex-fiancé. Hot on her trail are two hit men (Morgan Freeman and Chris Rock), as well as the local law enforcement. Everyone has their own ideas of who Betty is, but no one really knows—least of all, Betty herself.

Zellweger (who won a Golden Globe for the role) gives Betty a believable sadness and vulnerability. She is sympathetic, even as she is coming unhinged, bringing the audience to care about her and worry about her fate.

Freeman and Rock provide much comic relief, and they display a surprisingly effective chemistry. These are also very different and interesting turns for both actors.

Eckhart (a staple in LaBute’s films) is incredibly talented, effortlessly transforming himself in every role he plays. Though he only appears briefly in this film, he only reinforces his versatility.

The strange circumstances in which these characters find themselves make this a very funny, if at times strange, film. There’s also snappy dialogue and plot twists worthy of the soap around which the film revolves. There is also a thoughtful side to “Nurse Betty,” as it explores identity and reality versus fantasy.

Grade: B

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Wednesday March 7, 2001

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Mavericks fall in tourney semi-finals

JOHN TRUMBLE
Asst. Sports Editor

"Every team's season ends with a loss, except for one," head coach Jim Heaps said to his disheartened Maverick basketball team, that fell last Friday in the second round of the Mile High Shootout, held at the University of Denver.

The Mavs started quickly and were up by eight, "I hit a three that put us up 12-4 and I remember running down the court, thinking there is no way we could lose this game," Johnston said. Solid defensive play on the part of Kearney forced the Mavs into rushing their offense and committing several turnovers that led to a bundle of unanswered points for the Lopers. As a result, Mesa saw itself reeling and down by 15 at the half-way point.

It would only get worse, though, for the Mavs as they were down by as many as 19 early in the second. They would regroup and come out firing like the Mavs of old, led by first team All-West Division selectee Ken Hallum. While only pitching four points in a first-half that was cluttered by turnovers, Hallum dominated the paint in the second, putting up 29. "I'm honored," said Hallum of his first team nomination.

Hallum, who was also selected to the Mile High Shootout All Tournament team for his outstanding performance in this game, said as he reflected back on his performance, "They couldn't stop me, they were just too small. I would trade all the honors, though, just to have won that game."

This push by Hallum and the Mavs brought them within two points of advancing to the final round of the Mile High Shootout and a chance to be crowned RMAC champions. The effort was too little, too late for the Mavs, however, and their season ended with a 79-86 loss to the Lopers. "We didn't handle the ball very well, and they [Kearney] just couldn't miss," senior guard Mark Kyger said.

Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference

Please see FALL, page 12

Lady Mavs: 'close but no cigar'

BRIAN MILLER
Sports Writer

When it comes to the Mile High Shootout, one team from the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference has always been the dominant force. The University of Nebraska-Kearney's women's basketball team has won the shootout five of the past six years, and last weekend was no exception. Mesa State fell to the Lopers 76-66, in the championship game, sending the Mavs home for the rest of the season.

"They're ranked fifth in the nation," Mesa State coach Steve Kirkham said of the Lopers. "We gave them one of their closest games this year when they beat us by six here. We were right there again this time."

The Lady Mavs have been to the championship game four times in the past six years, but each time have come up empty. Mesa did beat Nebraska-Kearney in the semifinals of the tournament three years ago, before losing to Metro State in the finals.

"We're the only team ever to beat them in the RMAC tournament," Kirkham said.

After beating Chadron State State 74-52, Friday night to advance to the finals, Mesa struggled to get past the Lopers. Kearney opened up a 34-28, halftime lead, which was enough to doom the Mavs.

"We were right there late," Kirkham said. "With four minutes to go we're down three, and then all of a sudden we went for a loose ball and knocked a girl down in the back of her legs. They miss a free throw by a get an offensive rebound, and bang, we're down by five."

Junior Kelli O'Dwyer led the Mavs with 20 points, while Natalie Rogers chipped in 12. The Lopers had four players in double figures, led by Becky Shroeder's 19.

"I thought we played one of our best games against Kearney," junior Angie Hawkins said. "We just didn't pull it out." Against Chadron, the Mavs struggled offensively, but played tough defense. The Eagles shot just 24 percent from the field, and hit just 15 of their 26 shots from the free throw line. Paced by O'Dwyer's 16 points, the Mavs cruised into the title game.

"We just played tremendous defense," Kirkham said. "The last time we played them they liked to shoot the three. We didn't let them get on a roll, we kept playing defense, and we got ahead and stayed ahead.

We felt like any minute they were going to make a run but they didn't."

Now Mesa State will look toward next season, and the chance to get back at the Lopers one more time. The Mavs will return the entire team next year, and keep the main nucleus intact. Mesa has already signed a few recruits, and Kirkham hopes the team will just get stronger.

"We've already got a lot of good players in the program," Kirkham said. "Playing the championship game gives you energy to continue working through the off-season. At Mesa State we always have high expectations."

For Hawkins, the preparation for next season will begin right away.

"I've talked to a couple people already," Hawkins said, "and we're all ready to get started with our postseason work for next year. I know I'm ready."

O'Dwyer led the Mavericks in awards, placing on the All-West Division First Team. Natalie Rogers took honorable mention for the Mavericks.

Lady Maverick Lindsay Clegg blocks a shot against Chadron in the semifinal game. The Mavs won the game handily 74-52, but fell in the final 76-66, to University of Nebraska-Kearney. The Mavs finished with a 19-10 record.
Lady Mavs offense too much for Mines

JASON CULPEPPER  
Sports Editor

The Lady Mavs softball team completed its first weekend of conference play in style on Saturday and Sunday, offensively overpowering Colorado School of Mines to four straight victories.

"We played good offense and we didn't have a problem hitting the ball...we had a lot of success...we didn't have a problem hitting Mines to four straight victories," coach Kris Mort said.

Hit the ball in the right place they did. The Lady Mavericks scored 46 runs on 59 hits, burying any chances of an Orediggers victory. With scores of 10-4, 13-4, 14-9 and 9-1, the Orediggers rarely had a chance to even compete. The closest they came was a tied score of 9-9 in Sunday's first game. It was that tied score that gave coach Mort some concern.

"We have a performance gap between our offense and defense. Our offense is just outstanding...our defense is at times a little less than getting it done," coach Mort said. "That's what let Mines get back in that game. We were up 9-3, we make five errors, and before we know it we have a 9-9 ballgame on our hands."

The Mavs offense came through once again, however, as they loaded the bases and freshman catcher Jordan Dillon slammed a base-clearing double.

"That was the most real scare the Lady Mavs would face, as pitcher Melanie Meuchel finished off Mines to improve her record to 7-4 on the season. Freshman pitcher Carrie Boggs also picked up two wins on the weekend," coach Mort said.

The Lady Mavs now face a tough stretch of conference foes. The facts do not lie: they play 12 games in the next 10 days. Mesa State faces University of Colorado-Colorado Springs, Adams State and Fort Lewis College.

Games start this weekend at noon at Bus Bergman Field. Coach Mort thinks the Mavs have a good start headed into conference and feels that, "It's really a matter of how well we hit the ball, because we have to give ourselves some leeway to compensate for any defensive mistakes."

Mavericks “slam” door on Rams’ chances, take series with big hitting

JASON CULPEPPER  
Sports Editor

They say lightning never strikes the same place twice. On Sunday, however, the Rams of Texas Wesleyan University found out the hard way that indeed it can. The lightning came in the form of Maverick grand slams in consecutive innings as the Mavs defeated the Rams 18-3, taking three of four on the weekend series.

With the Rams up 3-1 in the third inning, the Mavs came out in the bottom half inning with a vengeance. Former Chris Crews lined out to center and Deke DeCrow struck out, catcher Kent Myers doubled and John Moreland walked. Evan Hoge singled to first, loading the bases. First baseman Dave Finney then stepped to the plate and dropped a bomb to the right of the batter’s eye in center field, clearing the bases and giving the Mavericks a 5-3 lead on his second home run of the year, a grand slam debut.

Mesa State did not stop there, as the fourth inning led to 10 Mav runs capped by an inside-the-park grand slam by speedy center fielder Hoge, who crushed it to straight away center and cruised around the bases. Hoge hit another homer in the fifth and second baseman Phillip More hit his first home run of the year in the sixth. That would be more than enough for starter Bryan King and the rest of the Maverick crew, as they finished with an 18-3 victory.

"I struggled a little bit the first couple innings, and then I got stronger when we scored some runs, so I felt like I had to go in there and slam the door," King said.

The first game of the afternoon was a different story, as the Mavs blew a 2-0 lead and let the Rams escape with a 3-2 victory. Dan Clements pitched five solid innings, giving up only two earned runs, and Mav pitcher Nate Miller killed an opportunity for the Rams, striking out Jarrett Lowry with runners on second and third. The Mavs could not capitalize, however, dropping their only game of the series. Pitching was solid all weekend, with runners on second and third. The Mavs could not capitalize, however, dropping their only game of the series. Pitching was solid all weekend.

Criterion Sports

Wednesday March 7, 2001

FALL, from page 11

ference player of the year. Mesa’s six-foot-seven forward Jeff Boese said, “We simply didn’t play well. We dug ourselves a hole early, and it’s hard to get back in it when your down by that much.” On the night, Boese turned in an 18-point, 15-board performance in the Mavs futile effort to route the Loper’s. Boese helped them to a big 3-0 RMAC West Division title, averaging 17.3 points and 8.4 rebounds per game on the season. Boese spent the season entertaining the crowd with awe-inspiring dunks and electrifying steals on defense. “It’s a cool individual award, but I would trade it in a heart beat if it meant we kept playing,” Boese said of his RMAC player of the year title.

Mav senior guard, Johnston, one of the team’s biggest leaders both on and off the court, made honorable mention for the West Division, Johnston, or “Worm,” a nickname he received from his teammates shot 44 percent from three-point land and was on the giving side of many of those spectacular Boise dunks. Boese offered this advice to next year’s seniors, there are two kinds of players: ones who lead by example, and ones that lead by word of mouth. You will need both kinds of players to be successful. Several of you will have to step up and lead the team next year. “Enjoy it while you can,” added Worm, “work hard and cherish the time you have. It goes quickly.”

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THREE, from page 12 with the bullpen stepping into the shuffled starting rotation, due in part to Mike Herman's arm injury, which kept him out of play for the weekend.

"Dan [Clements] threw a great game, we just didn't quite score enough runs for him to win, but I'm just glad we both had good performances to help the team," King said. Despite the loss, coach Chris Hanks felt the weekend was a success.

"As long as we learn from the reasons why we lost that game, then it's worth the loss, if we get better from it," Hanks said.

Saturday's games were all about the Mavericks, as the Mavs got another solid performance from Nate Sevier and Myers hit his third home run of the season in a 6-5 win. Mesa did not take the lead for good until the sixth, when a Landon Wareham triple scored Brandon Halcomb and Brandon Berkle. Andy McNear then struck out Ty Lowe to stop the Rams rally and save his first game of the year. The second game was again a Maverick victory, a 15-2 pummelling of the Rams. Designated hitter Deke DeCrow led the way with two home runs, to up his team-leading home run total to four.

The Mavs improved their record to 12-4, and will face Metro State and Kansas Wesleyan in non-conference games this weekend. Second baseman Brandon Halcomb and the rest of the Mavs are excited about getting closer to conference play.

"We want to be at the peak of our game come conference time," he said, "because those are the games that really matter."

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