Football player arrested

David Goe
Reporter

Mesa State College football preseason All-American Joe Krile was arrested early Sunday morning for suspected drunk driving.

According to police reports, Krile was pulled over by Grand Junction Police Officer Caleb Church at 11 a.m. Sunday after the officer had observed Krile make an illegal U-turn on Orchard Avenue, fail to signal a turn onto 13th Street and weave on 13th Street.

Krile was stopped by Church at the corner of North 13th Street and Cedar Avenue. After Church contacted Krile, the Mesa State kick returner "stated he had been drinking at a friend's house and had left to pick up his girlfriend," according to the arrest affidavit in the case.

Soon after he stopped Krile, Church called Grand Junction Police Officer Jeffery Davis to the scene. While speaking to Krile, Davis noticed the strong smell of alcohol on Krile's breath, that Krile had bloodshot, watery eyes and that the athlete slurred his speech, police reports stated. Davis asked Krile to perform a series of roadside tests and Krile agreed.

"They do not have to take any roadside tests if they don't want to," Public Information Officer Cristen Olsen said. "Anyone has the right to refuse." Davis determined Krile was impaired and placed Krile under arrest for suspected DUI, police reports stated.

In accordance with the Colorado Express Consent Law, Krile was given the option to take a Breathalyzer or a blood test; Krile chose the Breathalyzer. Olsen refused to give results of the Breathalyzer, and they were blacked out in police reports.

Krile was booked into Mesa County Jail on three charges: driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with excessive alcohol content, and driving a vehicle with a suspended licence. All three charges require a court appearance. Krile was found to have two warrants: one for failure to appear in court for a traffic violation and one for failure to pay fines.

Krile has been suspended indefinitely from the Mesa State football team, Head Coach Joe Ramunno said.

"I will hold consistent to what I've done in the past," Ramunno said. "We will never try to brush something like this under the rug."

Mesa State Spanish professor injured in motorcycle wreck

Cathy Nordine
Reporter

Mesa State College's newest Spanish professor, Judy Pruess, and her husband David, were involved in a motorcycle accident Sunday evening.

According to the Colorado State Patrol Accident Report Blotter, Judy Pruess was riding with her husband on their 2001 touring-type motorcycle when they missed a sharp right turn on Highway 141, just outside Naturita.

David Pruess was not wearing a helmet and suffered head injuries. Judy sustained a fractured pelvis and a possible cracked rib, among other injuries.

The couple was taken to the Naturita Clinic by ambulance, then airlifted to St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction.

St. Mary's Hospital Spokeswoman Devra Ashby said David died of his injuries early Tuesday morning; Judy was in fair condition, as of Tuesday. As of this printing, no funeral details were available.

From her bed at St. Mary's, Judy said that she and her husband were sightseeing in the Telluride area and were on their way home when the accident happened.

Julie Barak, department head for Languages, Literature, and Communications, said Judy's classes would be covered and her students should go to Judy's classes as normal. This week Judy's classes will be covered by a substitute; starting Monday, Phillip Wyse will cover the 8 a.m. class and Maria Cuthbert will cover the 1 p.m. class.

Judy and David have two children: Ben, 24, and Adam, 18. Adam recently started school at Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri.

The couple has a small dog, Snoop, a half-chocolate lab, half-border collie mix. Any cards or flowers should be sent to Judy's office, No. 226, in Lowell Heiny Hall.
University status not in future

David Goe
Reporter

Rumors about Mesa State College becoming a university are just that, rumors. Mesa State is not trying to become a university or align itself with any university in Colorado, according to Mesa State President Tim Foster. For now, it seems Mesa State will remain a college. However, students hope to see Mesa become a university sometime in the future.

"The title university gives the school a higher standing in employer and student opinion," freshman Rachel Mondragon said. Senior Marcus Leslie shared a similar opinion. "Hopefully, becoming a university would boost the quality of students accepted at Mesa," he said.

Mesa State administrators view the matter differently than students. Administrators believe changing from a college to a university would have no immediate impact on Mesa State, beyond public perception.

"Becoming a university is really just a name change," Director of Housing and the College Center Jill Eckardt said.

The idea of Mesa State becoming a university has floated around in the past. In November 2006, a study commission by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education concluded Mesa State should merge with Colorado State University "in order to expand the range of services available."

Many people in the community believed joining a university system would translate to additional funding for Mesa State. When other higher education institutions in the state joined university systems, those institutions did not see funding windfalls. When the University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo became part of the Colorado State University system, University of Southern Colorado did not receive more funds from Colorado State.

"They are more perceptions than being concrete benefits," Foster said of the perceived advantages of becoming a university.

If Mesa State were to become part of the CSU system, the only additional funds Mesa would receive would come from an increase in student tuition, which would be raised to match that of CSU.

Mesa State is a "regional education provider," meaning its state-mandated mission is to serve the region in which it is located. Changing from a college to a university could mean some students at Mesa State might not be able to afford the increased tuition or meet the stricter entrance requirements that could result from the change.

President Foster said combining with the University of Colorado might be an option sometime in the future. "The CU system would have to do something for us," Foster said. "CU gave a lot of money to CU-Colorado Springs," referring to the university's expansion to Colorado Springs.

Foster said he would expect something similar for Mesa State.

Debates: continued from page one

"It would be nice if we could wave a wand over the health care issue," Coors said.

Democratic candidate Ken Salazar, the state's attorney general, said fiscal conservatism is necessary to curb the "fiscal recklessness coming out of Washington, D.C."

The debate heated up when Coors rebuffed Salazar's repeated criticisms of the Bush administration.

"This president inherited a recession. This president did not ask for a war in Afghanistan and in Iraq," Coors said.

The crowd reacted to the statement with mixed responses; Democrats booed and Republicans cheered.

When asked whether the war on terror could be won, Salazar said, "Without the global community involved we will not win the war on terror. We need to aim at the right enemy."

"The United States is a world leader in the current war on terrorism," Coors responded by pointing out there is global support for the war, and following the recent terror attacks in Chechnya, "Russia is a lot more resolute."

Salazar's plan for Iraq is to bring in NATO, he said.

The debate was interrupted as Coors began to respond to a question from Salazar. A man in the back of the audience started clucking like a chicken, mocking Coors. The man was asked to leave by Club 20, Grand Junction Police Department Officer Marshall Dixon said. The man was then escorted out by officers from the Grand Junction Police Department.

I was surprised at how civil they were to each other," Associated Student Government Press Secretary Matt Soper said of Coors and Salazar. "I was disappointed that they didn't mention Second Amendment rights. I wish they would have mentioned higher education more."

I was disappointed that they did not mention higher education. Higher education does not need to be dealt with at a federal level," said ASG President Jared Wright.

Although education was not a largely debated topic, several candidates did have the issue on their minds.

"The fate of Colorado is in jeopardy of shifting the burden over to families that can't pay for college, especially the three state colleges: Western, Mesa and Adams State," John Salazar said.

"Under this state, most of the funding deficits for higher education will be shifted over to families. That's the reality, with each of the budget cuts we've taken over the last four years. I think that shift is going in the wrong direction," Ken Salazar said.

During the Senate debate, Coors said education is an important qualification in the business world.

"We do not educate our young people properly," Coors said.

Ending the night on the nonpartisan issue of youth voter turnout, Coors said, "I hope they all get out and vote, regardless who they vote for. You have a great voice and you don't even know it."

Erik Lincoln contributed to this report.
Beer today, gone tomorrow

Students speak out regarding campus's no alcohol policy

Ashley Rossmann
Reporter

For the past 20 years Mesa State College has been an alcohol-free campus. Some students agree with this policy; others do not.

"I don't like the 'dry campus' policy," Sophomore Jennie Thompson, 19, a resident of Monument Hall said. She believes that the policy is strict. "People are going to have it on campus anyway, so I don't think it should be that big of a deal."

Joe O'Conner implemented the 'dry campus' policy in 1986 after his first year as director of housing. At an assembly before classes began, he informed all the residents that there was to be no open alcohol in the residence halls.

O'Conner made the policy because of the disruption students were making in the residence halls when they had been drinking. He said residents were doing things like hitting golf balls in the hallways and destroying things.

"The dorm is where you live and study first, and second for relaxation," O’Conner said. "It's not a bar."

O’Conner said that 99 percent of the students respected the policy after his announcement in August of 1986.

Sophomore Amanda Welters, 19, a resident assistant (RA) in Rait Hall, thinks that having a dry campus keeps students safe and focused.

"That's why I came to this school," Welters said. "I didn't want to get distracted and not focus on my academic studies."

As a RA, Welters hasn’t written an incident report for any of her residents yet. It is three weeks into the first semester, but Welters boasts that “my girls are good...way good, actually.”

Welters has heard residents talk about the campus police being strict this year. Sophomore Mark Adaoag, 18, a resident of Walnut Ridge, said that he has seen more police around.

"I've heard about random backpack checks this year," Adaoag said. "Do they have a right to do that?"

Welters said that if campus police suspect anything, they do have the right.

Jiana Bond, 18, a freshman living in Rait Hall, says that she agrees with the dry campus policy. "It keeps you focused on (the reason) why you're at college," Bond said. "If you're gonna get drunk keep it off campus. And be quiet when you come home at night."

Director of Housing Jill Eckardt said that she hasn’t heard many complaints about being a dry campus.

"There are students who are 21 who would like to drink on campus but can't," Eckardt said.

"I think that people are going to do it anyways, it's such a big part of the college experience, or a lot of people just think that is what you do when you get here. It's just a social thing that you do. It's just a way to have fun.”

Tamani Hetrick, Junior

"If I was 21, I wouldn’t live on campus," freshman Chase Baumgartner, 19, said while he played a video game in his room in Rait Hall. He believes that every university has to care about alcohol consumption on campus. Baumgartner said students would get drunk between classes and come wasted to class if alcohol was allowed in the campus housing.

Other universities are taking interesting precautions for student drinking. SUNY/University at Buffalo installed guardrails on their bunk beds so students asleep on the upper bunks don’t fall out of bed, according to WABC-TV New York.

Joseph Krakowiak, Buffalo University’s director of residence halls, warned students in an e-mail that your use of alcohol and other drugs may affect your judgment and your stability while lying in bed or entering/exiting. Drinking on campus is permitted at the Buffalo University.

"I'm not against having alcohol in the rooms," Baumgartner said. "I'd like to have a beer in my fridge."

Have he and his buddies had alcohol in their room? "No comment," they responded in unison.

Incidents involving alcohol in the residence halls are on the rise.

According to the Housing and Residence Life database, in the 2002-2003 school year there were approximately 61 alcohol-related incident reports filed and in 2003-2004 there were approximately 80. These numbers only reflect the incident reports that required judicial Board or administrative hearings. The numbers do not include incidents that remained internal with the Resident Hall staff.

Sophomore Joe Alvarez, 19, a Monument Hall resident, said he already knows of a few people who have been caught. He thinks it's still a little early in the year to start trying anything.

"Get drunk off campus," Alvarez said. "Don't bring it on campus. If you can't find a party, that's your own problem."

Vanessa Baxter, 20, a junior who transferred this year from Wyoming, was found drinking with her roommate in Walnut Ridge two weeks ago. Baxter didn't expect to be caught. She didn't know that it was a dry campus.

"I didn't have time to read the student handbook," Baxter said.

After talking with her RA, Baxter is on probation for a year for drinking in her room. Standard discipline for an alcohol violation is one-year probation, an alcohol 101 class and a reflection paper for the first offense. The second offense warrants a $75 fee to pay for a required awareness class and a letter home. The third offense gets the offender gets kicked off campus.

STREET TALK: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT MESA STATE BEING A DRY CAMPUS?

"From a personal standpoint it doesn't affect me because I don't drink. But I think if someone is 21, they should be able to drink on campus, or at least in their dorm room. It all depends on the age; the school would look bad if they support 18-year-old kids drinking in their rooms. It's a hard issue."

Jason Snider, Freshman

"A dry campus prevents kids from getting into trouble, but if you're 21, it should be ok to have a drink in your room. If you are 21 and you just want to watch a movie and have a beer, just go ahead, you are of age."

Kevin McBride, Freshman
With Rifle Falls just a short drive from Grand Junction, this state boasts more than just great opportunities for extreme winter sports at surrounding ski resorts. Colorado is home to Rifle Falls State Park, a tropical-like area containing three cascading 70-foot waterfalls surrounded by lush greenery.

“The falls are beautiful. The water is crystal clear. You can see right through it,” said Valerie Balogh, 21, a Mesa State College senior.

East Rifle Creek divides into three falls as the water gushes over the edge of a limestone cliff and crashes into the rocks below before funneling into a continuous stream. A short path leading to cement stairs allows visitors to walk behind the falls for a different view. Green moss blankets the area and spray from the falls keeps the surroundings lush. The spray also provides a refreshing way to cool off.

“I figured I can’t make it to Cancun, so I might as well go to Rifle Falls,” Balogh said. “The area is just beautiful.”

Despite the seemingly tropical scenery, wildlife can be spotted at Rifle Falls. “There were two deer at the bottom of the falls,” Balogh said. “There was other wildlife scattered around.”

A path leads to the top of the falls, offering visitors a chance to peer over the cliff. A sign warns cliff seekers of an active beehive and the chance of being stung.

Just behind and to the side of the falls, trails lead to a few small limestone caves. Some are just big enough to peek inside; others require a flashlight to investigate their dark depths.

“They are really fun to explore,” said Jim Creasey, 52, a professor at Mesa State and a frequent hiker. “Some are deep and go pretty far back, but I am getting too old to do that.”

Rifle Falls also has a campground along the creek for a fee of $12 per night for a walk-in tent site. Trees shade the area and are accompanied by picnic tables and fire rings for campfires.

“It’s a great place to camp and is close enough to just hike around for the day,” said Caitlin Flynn, 21, a Mesa State senior.

Rifle Falls has two short trails that loop around the falls and creek. The Coyote and Squirrel Trails are approximately a half-hour journey and offer moderate terrain.

“The area is forested and moist with large trees providing lots of shade,” said Aaron Fero, 40, park manager.

A third trail, the Bobcat Trail, runs along the creek and links the park to the state fish hatchery. The hatchery is operated by the Colorado Division of Wildlife and is dedicated to feeding and raising fish used to stock the region’s lakes and streams. Tours are provided seven days a week.

In addition to hiking, camping and spelunking, visitors can enjoy fishing. Rainbow and brown trout, as well as perch fish, inhabit the creek and ponds surrounding the falls.

To visit Rifle Falls, take I-70 east to the Rifle exit, then head north on Colorado Highway 13 for three miles. Turn right onto Colorado 325 and drive 9.8 miles.

In order to enter Rifle Falls State Park, each vehicle must pay a $5 daily park pass. “Now is a great time of the year to come to Rifle Falls,” Fero said. “The crowds have slowed down, and the fall colors should be spectacular.”
Farmer's Market downtown
Event includes vendors and entertainment for all ages

Ashley Rossman
Reporter

Each week this summer, downtown Grand Junction has been host to the Farmer's Market Festival. What The Daily Sentinel calls a "united front of vendors and farmers" sets up shop on Main Street every Thursday night through the end of September. Roadblocks are erected at intersections, and the street is closed to make room for merchants and farmers to show their wares.

The combination of couples young and old dotting the sidewalks and light jazz music—played live by a man who calls himself "The Classy Clarinet"—gives this version of Main Street a comfortable, almost romantic atmosphere.

Even if you're low on cash, you can still leave the Farmer's Market with a few samples from the various vendors. Last Thursday, Stephanie Behrens, a Main Street Bagels employee, was slicing loaves of handmade bread at 6th and Main. Swarms of people came by for samples of breads with names like rosemary ciabatta and kalamata olive. Surprisingly, despite the interest, sales have gone down every week, Behrens said.

"It must be because school has started," Behrens said.

Flowerpots made from recycled tires, homemade candles, clowns with balloon animals, and a palm reader can be found at the market, but it mostly consists of local farmers who come to sell their fresh fruits and vegetables, and small business owners offering their items.

Marilyn Hall, owner of Sassy Fashions, has a booth where she sells accessories and fancy purses, some covered with pictures of Elvis and others made in the shape of a high heel shoe.

"Farmer's Market was the very first show I did," Hall said. "It introduced me to Grand Junction and got me lots of repeat business."

Shopping isn't all that's available. You can also find entertainment at the Farmer's Market in the form of the Wild West Cloggers, local bands and musicians, free beginning Yoga classes at the Academy of Yoga and culinary tips from "Cooking with Dixie." You can even bring your own drum and participate in a drum circle at 6th and Main at 7 p.m.

It all happens at the Farmer's Market Festival every Thursday night from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the 300-600 blocks of Main Street in downtown Grand Junction.

Quick Facts

Dates: 9/16/04, 9/23/04, 9/30/04

Time: 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Downtown Grand Junction

Address: 400 block of Main Street

source: City of Grand Junction calendar of events

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Opinion

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Megan Fromm
Washington, D.C. correspondent

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Volleyball on 7-game win streak

Head Coach Rusty Crick, in his twenty-third year as head coach, goes over the game plan with his players during a timeout over the weekend. The volleyball team won all of its games over the weekend.

With a winning streak of five, the Mesa State women’s volleyball team headed into last weekend’s action on a hot streak. Friday night, the team played Colorado State University-Pueblo. The Mavericks swept the Thunderwolves in three straight, winning the match 3-0.

“We’re playing good together, right now. We’re being able to push through games,” freshman Drew Charleus said.

Going into Saturday night’s match against the University of Colorado—Colorado Springs, the Mavs’ winning streak stood at six. The Mavs’ winning streak stood at six. The Mavs are 2-0 in conference play. The Mavs can expect some difficult matches in future conference play, the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference is home to two of the nation’s toughest squads—No. 1 Nebraska-Kearney and No. 3 Fort Hays State University.

“Right now, we feel good,” Charleus said. “We’ve won our first two conference games, but we have a long way to go. We have goals set for ourselves, and as long as we play the way we can, we should do well.”

Crick agreed.

“Everybody’s tough any given day,” Crick said. “We’ll have to prepare for each game to attack their weaknesses from the top of the conference to the bottom. If we prepare right and work hard, we should be able to do well and come away with some wins.”

The Mavs will go on the road this weekend. They will head to Alamosa on Friday to take on Adams State, and then to Las Vegas, New Mexico on Saturday for a match against New Mexico Highlands. The team will look to stay undefeated in the RMAC.

The next home game for the Mavs is on Tuesday, Sept. 21 against Western State College at 7 p.m. in Brownson Arena.

Donations are being accepted for a tree to be planted in Professor Jimm Seaney’s name in front of the Fine Arts Building. Linda Johnson is collecting the money at her desk on the second floor in the Fine Arts Building.

Lance Manganello
Sports Editor

One question: Has anyone completely changed your life? It could have been a change for the better or the worse. I am sure some of you have had such an experience. This week, I would like to talk about someone who changed my life—for the better.

I remember my freshman year here at Mesa State College. I remember going to my very first class, MASS 110. I was scared, did not know what to expect. But, my fear soon disappeared because the professor I had for this class was somebody who immediately made me feel right at home, completely comfortable in the college environment.

He worked with me and worked with me. He would help me with coursework, and when I became Sports Editor for the Criterion, he worked with me on all of the sports stories. He would give me advice, he would give me innovative ideas and he would tell me how he honestly felt about every article I showed him.

Professor Jimm Seaney was somebody who touched my life in so many ways. I can not possibly list or explain them all in this little space.

He was somebody I talked to about cars, the latest gossip or just life. He was like that with everyone, not just me. He loved all of his students and he would do anything for any one of them, at the drop of a hat.

He was easy to spot. You could see him walking across campus with his old, brown briefcase—it looked as though it had been around the world and back again—and a grin so big and bright it could make your entire day better with just one glance.

The thing I found most admirable about Professor Seaney was he never stopped actively learning. He had been everywhere; he had worked in every medium; but he still thought there was a lot left for him to learn and he would ask as many questions as any student.

Professor Seaney’s passing two weeks ago made me take a step back, and it was then that I realized just how much this man affected my life and just how important it is to live every day to its fullest—and with a smile on your face.

Professor Seaney helped me grow as a sports writer and as a man. He spent many unpaid hours helping me master my sports writing. I am not perfect, and neither is my writing, but what in life is? Without Professor Seaney, I know I would be much less the man and the writer that I am now. Today, my writing is 100 percent better than it was a year ago.

I had a great professor and a great friend who I could rely on to be there for me whenever I needed him. I know many of you were similarly blessed to have this man in your life, and you really should feel honored to count him as one of your professors, your mentors, your friends.

He will always be in my heart. I know I won’t write another sports story or announce another game without thinking of my great friend, Jimm Seaney.

Comments? E-mail me at ljam52@yahoo.com, or call 248-1212.

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