Election 2004

Candidates visit GJ

Cheney, others rally support days before general election

David Goe
Reporter

Bush-Cheney '04 signs waved in the air as Republican supporters chanted “four more years!” during Vice President Dick Cheney’s visit to Grand Junction.

Air Force Two landed at Walker Field as the theme to “Top Gun” played in the hangar where the rally was held. After an introduction from his wife, Lynne, Cheney took to the stage and promised to put Senator John Kerry in “The Danger Zone.”

“It’s good to be back in Colorado, what is obviously Bush-Cheney country,” Cheney said.

Along with his wife, Cheney was joined onstage by Congressman Scott McInnis and wife Lori, U.S. Senate candidate Pete Coors and wife Marilyn, and Congressional candidate Greg Walcher and wife Diana. Coors and Walcher both received plugs from Cheney in their bids against “the Salazar brothers,” Ken and John.

The crowd cheered the vice president on as he let in to Kerry over the Senator’s stance on the War on Terror.

“You can put all the lipstick you want on a pig, but it’s still a pig.”

—Vice President Dick Cheney referring to Senator Kerry during a Republican rally in Grand Junction on Saturday

“Our job is not to conduct international opinion polls,” Cheney said in reference to Kerry’s desire for a global test for fighting terrorism abroad.

“Our job is to defend America. We will never seek a permission slip to defend the United States of America.”

The vice president referred to Kerry’s recent goose hunting trip in Ohio as an “October disguise” for gun rights.

“You and I know the Second Amendment is more than a photo opportunity,” Cheney told the crowd.

Cheney also characterized Kerry as a flip-flopper.

“As we say in Wyoming, you can put all the lipstick you want on a pig, but it’s still a pig.”

Some members of the crowd needed medical attention. The Grand Junction Emergency Medical Service treated four spectators and transported three to the hospital, according to Grand Junction Fire Department Paramedic Joe White.

After delivering his speech, Cheney shook hands with members of the crowd and reminded them to vote.

The crowd consisted mostly of whites, but that did not

See RALLY, page three

Wife of Edwards promotes Kerry at town hall meeting

Erik Lincoln
Managing Editor

Elizabeth Edwards, wife of Democratic vice presidential candidate John Edwards, conducted a town hall meeting in a crowded Liff Auditorium on Oct. 18.

For an hour, Edwards took questions from the audience about national security, school vouchers, health care, stem-cell research and funding for the No Child Left Behind Act.

A Mesa State College student asked Edwards what were her two most memorable campaign experiences. Edwards told a story about a woman she met whose son had died in Iraq. The woman gave Edwards a mustard seed pin which Edwards wore during the town hall meeting.

The pin represents a Chinese proverb in which a woman travels to a priest to ask that her child be saved. The priest tells the woman he cannot help her unless she burns a mustard seed.

Edwards also spoke of a woman who froze her children’s medicine so that it would last longer because the woman could not afford more medicine.

Local media repeatedly asked Edwards about recent coverage concerning Mary Cheney, the lesbian daughter of Vice President Dick Cheney. Edwards responded that the topic distracted people and the re-
Generals launch offensive on Bush during GJ rally

Dave McGinnis, Gen. Melvyn Montano, Maj. Gen. Gerald Sajer and Iraq Veteran Jim Shevlin spoke to a group of about 50. Veterans from World War II to Vietnam cheered on the speakers as they listed reasons why Senator John Kerry would be a better fit as president.

Iraq veteran Shevlin returned from a tour spanning from February 2003 to October 2003 and spoke about the downfalls of the current occupation.

"The president wanted to cut combat pay while troops were in combat," Shevlin said.

He added that troops were over extended and they didn't have enough man power to guard the boarder between Iraq and Iran.

"The world considers the United States of America the biggest threat to world peace," Gen. Merrill McPeak said.

"North Korea was number two.

The Vietnam veteran and "recovering Republican"

See W, page three

HAVA changes voting procedures, requires I.D. to vote

David Goe and Becky Raney
Staff

The warm feeling of the Palisade Veterans Memorial Community Center quickly turned cold as war veterans pointed out President Bush's incompetence as a leader.


If you plan to cast a vote this year, bring an I.D. with you to the polls.

The Helping America Vote Act, which was passed by Congress last year, is intended to improve the voting process, specifically to prevent problems like those encountered in Florida in the last presidential election.

"The biggest impact will be the I.D. requirements," said Amy Storm-Farley of the Mesa County Clerk and Recorder's office. "You didn't need to have an I.D. to vote in the past, but this year you do.

An I.D. issued by the federal or any local government is needed to cast a vote. Acceptable forms of identification include a driver's license, birth certificate, U.S. passport, or state-issued ID card.

HAVA has led to modernized voting machines, made voter registration easier, and secured ballots from tampering, according to the Act's proponents.

Under HAVA, punch card and lever voting systems will be replaced by touch-screen machines. The machines will alert voters if they have selected multiple candidates for one position, and will not have hanging chads. In addition, the new voting machines will increase access for handicapped people and minorities. At least one machine will be handicapped-accessible, and all machines will be capable of providing ballots in Spanish or other languages.

About $700 million from the federal government will be spent replacing old machines with touch-screen machines, and each state will get a minimum of $5 million to do so.

HAVA orders each state to create a database of registered voters by 2006. The databases are expected to stop voters from being purged from registration lists and, along with I.D. requirements, help prevent voter fraud.

Chief justice diagnosed with cancer, building tension in Colorado Senate race

Rachel Alexander
News Editor

Chief Justice William Rehnquist has undergone throat surgery after a diagnosis of thyroid cancer, according to court spokeswoman Kathy Arberg.

Arberg said the chief justice will be released from the hospital this week and will return to the bench when oral arguments resume next week.

If Rehnquist chooses to resign or if he dies, the president will appoint the new chief justice; this appointment must be approved by the Senate.

According to Tim Casey, professor of political science, there has not been an appointment to the Supreme Court in 10 years. He said it is rare for the nation to go this long without a new appointment. Michael Gizzi, associate professor of political science said that this is the longest period in the history of the court that there has been no vacancy.

This illness brings to the forefront the possibility that the next president will appoint a new justice to the Supreme Court.

"Colorado could tip the balance of power in the Senate," Casey said.

Gizzi predicts that at least three justices will most likely retire in the next four years. Rehnquist, O'Connor and the senior associate justice John Paul Stevens.

The balance of the court is at stake when a justice retires. The court has a delicate balance between conservatives and liberals with conservatives normally holding a 5 to 4 majority.

Bush vs. Kerry

George W. Bush

Social Security - Supports allowing individuals to invest some of their Social Security taxes in the stock market
Taxes - Signed bills cutting taxes for all income levels
Renewable energy - Proposed using $1.7 billion to develop hydrogen-powered fuel cells; favors opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to gas and oil exploration; wants to explore for more domestic energy sources
Gay issues - Backs constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage; opposes adoptions by gay couples
Abortion - Opposes abortion except in cases of rape, incest or to save the woman's life
Defense - Initially opposed U.N. involvement in the reconstruction of Iraq, but now invites it; announced policy of pre-emption in June 2002, which favors attacking terrorist-harboring nations; proposed more than $1 billion for reconstruction in Afghanistan
Economy - Wants to expand last year's tax cuts; wants to cut the cost of doing business by decreasing regulations
Source: CNN.com, Time.com
Compiled by: David Goe

John Kerry

Social Security - Opposes allowing individuals to invest any of their Social Security taxes; vows not to raise the retirement age
Taxes - Wants to repeal tax cuts for those who make $200,000 or more a year
Energy - Opposes opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to gas and oil exploration; wants to reduce American dependency on oil by 2 billion barrels per day
Gay issues - Opposes constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage; opposes gay marriage; supports domestic partnerships and civil unions for gay couples
Abortion - Supports Roe vs. Wade; will appoint only pro-choice judges to the Supreme Court
Defense - Wants more international involvement in War on Terror; wants to expand active-duty military by 40,000 people
Economy - Wants to end tax breaks for companies that outsource jobs overseas; wants to reduce taxes for companies that employ workers in the United States
Source: Foxnews.com
Compiled by: Amie Smith
Election 2004

Rally marked by Kerry attacks

Continued from page one

worry Walcher. He said he is "not worried about it" and "the Hispanic population here is very small.'

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 10 percent of Mesa County was Hispanic in 2000.

"We are trying to appeal to everybody, and their cultural heritage doesn't matter," said Barbara Brewer, Mesa County Republican Chairwoman. "Just because we are conservative doesn't mean we are exclusive."

Brewer added that the crowd "reflects the demographics of the area."

Several Mesa State students were at the rally.

"Seeing the vice president is quite a draw," said Kathrine Stadelman, 19.

Secret Service agents were positioned in and around the crowd, and local law enforcement officers watched from a rooftop across from the rally.

There were no major security problems at the rally, however two Criterion reporters garnered some attention when they were buzzed through a security door and onto the West Star Aviation ramp where the vice president's plane landed.

As one of the reporters went back to his car to get equipment, the other was approached by a Secret Service agent who asked how the intrepid journalists got through security.

"I'm surprised they didn't arrest you at gunpoint," the agent said, then escorted the errant reporter to the press check-in at the secure entrance to the rally.

Edwards: public distracted by Mary Cheney discussion

Continued from page one

was that the American public had been shortchanged.

"The focus of the media should be on the issues," Edwards said.

Edwards reiterated earlier comments about the 65,000 jobs lost in Colorado under the current administration, and the $35 million "shortchange" in funding for No Child Left Behind Act-mandates in Colorado.

Edwards spoke about her role in the Kerry-Edwards campaign.

"My role, I think, is to be a window into their policies. I know what they stand for. Some people are interested in what I would do."

Before the meeting began, Edwards, a lawyer and mother of four children, received word that her daughter had lost her second tooth, but it did not stop Edwards from going on with the event.

"My dad was in the military, and we're used to having someone in the family going off and doing something important," Edwards said. "I refuse to complain about the small sacrifices."

W stands for wrong, according to a U.S. general

Continued from page two

said, "These people in charge are the most radical group of people we have ever had in charge."

All six speakers pounded the president on foreign policy and homeland security.

"On Mr. Bush's watch we have had two of the biggest intelligence failures in our history," retired Maj. Gen. Gerald Sajer said.

"We know that Al-Qaeda is in 60 countries. President Bush is fighting them in two," Sajer added.

The rally for Kerry was summed up by Gen. Kennedy. "What does 'W' stand for? 'W' stands for wrong."
State of the Student is ‘strong’

Rachel Alexander
News Editor

The State of the Student address was
given Monday by Associated Student Gov-
ernment President Jared Wright.

Wright focused on what students and
student government accomplished since
he took office six months ago.

"I am pleased to stand before you today
to tell you that the state of the student
is strong," Wright said.

Wright demonstrated that the student
government needed to be a strong entity
to provide control and influence for the
student body in the governance of the col-
lege.

After describing several Mesa State
College students, Wright said, "I have no
doubt in my mind that it is student gov-
ernment who can better serve these indi-
viduals and ultimately who can look after
the greater good of the Mesa State College
student body."

This is because the administrators are
not students and cannot know what the
students' needs are, Wright said.

He added that this is the reason he
made it his top priority to keep student af-
fairs in the hands of students.

"Since the end of spring semester 2004,
the Associated Student Government has
met its challenges head-on," Wright said.

He discussed ASG's fight to maintain
control of student fees, the student in-
volveinent in campus organizations, the
addition of the word "balanced" the facul-
ty handbook, the ASG sponsored debates
on campus, the ASG fund-raiser "Kiss My
May" which raised $1,000 for the tutoring
program and the launch of a December
graduation ceremony.

He talked about the student fee alloca-
tion process and the fiscal responsibility
being practiced by ASG.

"I have kept another promise I made
six months ago by cutting the ASG oper-
ating budget by 7.5 percent, amounting in
nearly $4,000 that will now be available for
use by other Mesa State student organiza-
tions," Wright said.

Wright finished his address by discuss-
ing parking and campus expansion, ad-
monishing careful planning.

Mesa State creates January term

Colleen Roach
Reporter

Taking courses for credit over winter
break is now an option at Mesa State Col-
lege.

The college has added a January term,
also known as a "J-term." The term will be
from Jan. 3-14, during which concentrat-
ed courses will be offered to Mesa State
students, students from other institutions
who are home for the holidays and mem-
bers of the community.

Some of the J-term courses are class-
ified as general education, while others
cover topics like IV certification and the
politics of Dr. Seuss. All the courses are
guaranteed to transfer statewide.

The term gives students the opportu-
nity to take courses that they otherwise
would not be able to take, as some courses
are not offered during the rest of the year.

Andrew Breckel, dean of students, said,
"There are some very practical ways this
can be used," he pointed out that stu-
dents can use J-term credits to meet fi-
nancial aid requirements for the spring se-
mester.

Are you feeling a draft?

Army recruiters can't fill their quotas.
Re-enlistments are plummeting.
Soldiers are being forced to stay past
their contracted time.

Meanwhile, Iraq is a quagmire
that's only going to get worse.

With America's armed forces
already stretched to the
breaking point in Iraq and
Afghanistan, where are
tomorrow's troops going
to come from?

As college students today,
we ought to seriously
consider that question.

Oh yes, President Bush insists
he won't bring back the draft.
But remember: this is the same
president who swore that Iraq had

weapons of mass destruction. That's
Saddam was linked to 9/11. And that
Iraqis would welcome us with open
arms. He was dead wrong every time.

With George Bush stubbornly
determined to go it alone, our allies
won't join us. American troops
will still be 90 percent of the
"coalition." And 90 percent of its
dead and wounded.

And the volunteer military will be
a casualty of war.

So unless you like the idea of
graduate school in Fallujah, we need
to pay careful attention to what our
president is saying, versus what it
really means.

Now do you feel that draft?
October 28, 2004

Ann Duckett for District Attorney

- Former Chief Deputy District Attorney in Mesa County
- Graduated #1 in my Police Academy class
- Wrote and administered the DA’s million-dollar budget

Mesa County Justice Center

MESA STATE COLORADO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Friendships Can Last a Lifetime—Stay Connected!

First year’s dues waived upon graduation

Higher Grounds
Happy Hour 4 pm–6:30 pm
18 Specialty Martini's plus Full Bar

- 75¢ off wines
- $1 off wells, well martinis and domestics
- appetizers, too!

Live Music Coming Soon!

MARTINI LOUNGE
COFFEE HOUSE

Coffe House

Full Moon Party
Wednesday, September 29th
Party starts at 5 p.m.

Specials

Blue Moon

7th & Main Downtown

- Coors Light/Double
- Buckets Miller Genuine Draft
- All Menu Appetizers 1/2 Price!

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Mesa County Justice Center
Opinions

Longing to believe

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor are encouraged. However, the editorial staff reserves the right to reject any submission. Letters may be edited for grammar, space and content, including but not limited to removal of any libelous or obscene material. All letters must be e-mailed to criterion@mesastate.edu, signed and accompanied by an address and telephone number; anonymous letters will not be accepted. Letters must be submitted by 2 p.m. on Friday for consideration for publication in the next issue. Shorter letters generally have a better chance for publication, and no letter should exceed 200 words.

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The opinions expressed in the public forum are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the Criterion and/or Mesa State College and/or its administration.

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To draft or not to draft

Ben Sullivan

Columnist

During the last presidential debate, President Bush looked pretty spiffy in his blue tie. John Kerry looked pretty distinguished himself.

While the inspirational speeches, the dazzling smiles and the re-gal suits are nice, we all recognize the charade. We know about the army of image consultants who spend weeks on every aesthetic aspect.

But at the same time, we love to debate in the game. It is refreshing to allow ourselves to believe in someone—even for just a moment. Indeed, there is something inside of us that desperately wants to believe.

We want to believe Bush can solve the problems in Iraq. We want to believe Kerry will fix our image around the world.

We want to believe that both men will make health care more affordable and government less imposing.

But deeper still, we want to believe these men will give us the hope we all long for. We hope we can still shape our own futures, that good will triumph in the end and ultimately, that the shattered pieces of our lives really can be put back together.

The voice of a cynic will probably want to burst in about now. We do not like to admit that we long for hope. We tend to think a desire for hope is a sign of weakness. Hope also involves placing our trust in something outside of ourselves and out of our control. We do not like that. We see it as a threat to our comfortable image of our independence. So, we tend to put hope in something distant and uninvolved—namely our president.

But our president is fallible and a poor source of hope. Perhaps part of the reason Bush is hated so much is because we dared to put our hope in him.

After 9/11, we all felt so violated and vulnerable. We put our hope in our president to make everything right and to gather up all the frantic factions of our society to unite us once again. But our hopes were too big for one man to bear, and we were bound to be disappointed.

If we are looking for hope in another person, we are always going to be disappointed. Kerry will not inspire hope any better than anyone else. Deep down inside, we know we need to put our hope in something outside of ourselves—higher than ourselves.

The cynic in us may mock this notion and laugh it off, but even as we laugh, we hope no one notices how hollow it sounds.

Our leaders can inspire us to be the best we can be, and that is certainly a good quality. But we need to look past the images and the rhetoric and realize a president can never give us the hope that will sustain us. If we are looking for that hope from our president, then we are expecting more than he could ever provide. Real sustaining hope can only be found when we place our trust in something that can be trusted.

I served for several years; while there are lots of people between eighteen and twenty-five that I like, there are not many I would choose to sink next to in a foxhole if they did not choose to be there. The draft is a bygone notion. However, if the public draft pendulum swings the other way, maybe we can compromise the type of service and get the same "responsible" result on two fronts.

Have an ax to grind?

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Bill Laurenti

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Much of the hubbub over the possibility of a reinstated draft began with a recent circulation of e-mails. These emails cite two pending pieces of legislation in Congress and an increased effort by the Selective Service board to fill vacancies.

I got one of these, and it kind of freaked me out. Sufiice to say, the cited legislation was introduced by Democrats to ask fellow legislators the question, "How would you feel if your kid had to go?"

Prior to military action in Iraq and the selective service board, the current version of which has existed since 1979 began trying to fill vacancies in 1999 as its members began to hit their twenty-year term limits in large numbers.

Republicans do not want it. Democrats are less likely to even say the word out loud—their point already having been made. The military seems uninterested as well, preferring volunteer professionals to potential lame-duck conscripts.

The idea of a draft is hardly popular, but some still favor it.

Most arguments hinge either on beefing up the military in a time of dire need or the development of the men and women of America's future to make them responsible adults and make them appreciative of what they have.

If we can not muster a military large enough to both fulfill a mission and defend our home, maybe we just voted against the mission. If we ever reach a time where Americans will not defend America at home, maybe we just voted for regime change.

As for development, it starts before kids are grown. Asking our armed services to raise our children is a bit like asking our schools to do it—neither novel nor necessarily effective.

Gratitude also falls in the parenting category. Certainly, making a person miserable will make them long for the happy things and appreciate them. By that logic, we stand more to gain as squatters than soldiers.

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Gratitude also falls in the parenting category. Certainly, making a person miserable will make them long for the happy things and appreciate them. By that logic, we stand more to gain as squatters than soldiers.
Voting and the gridiron

Watching football is like watching politics; they are both hard to follow if you do not understand them.

This is a new year for me. I went to my first football game at Mesa State College, and I watched the presidential debate for the first time—both were intriguing.

On Nov. 2, I will vote for the first time.

It’s not that I never took an interest in either one, it was that I never had the opportunity to learn. I tried so hard to be a “tomboy” growing up. I have three brothers, and I tried to play football or any other sport with them. Their response was, “Get out of our way. You are a girl, and girls don’t play sports.” Still, I walked around with my shirt off, took my earings out and wore dresses with colored-tube socks. I tried so hard to be like the boys, but it never quite worked out that way. In the end, I never did learn football or any other “boy” sport for that matter.

I do not remember my parents ever watching the presidential debates or talking to us children about politics. I never realized the importance of voting until I turned 18. Politics, presidential debates and issues in the world were all foreign to me, until recently. Perhaps it was because my parents were never taught either.

As an adult and a mother, I feel compelled to learn new things. If I am going to watch a football game, then I better understand it. Similarly, if I want to complain about the decisions our president makes, I better learn about politics and understand the importance of voting. Furthermore, I need to understand politics in general, so that I can teach my daughter how to make informed decisions when she becomes a young woman.

In 1920, with the passage of the 19th Amendment, women were granted the right to vote. According to the United States Census Bureau, 28.7 million women between the ages of 18 and 34 were eligible to vote but only 47.1 percent voted during the 2000 presidential election.

The White House Project and Vote, Run, Lead, under the White House Project, are national non-partisan organizations that are dedicated to advancing women’s leadership and also enhancing the public perception of women’s ability to lead and foster women into leadership positions—including the presidency. Both are intended to educate young women on voting issues and encourage them to run for political office.

According to Vote, Run, Lead’s Web site, the various initiatives inspire and motivate a new women’s political movement that will impact local and national elections as well as future political decision-making and lawmaking in the United States.

If there was ever a time when women needed to stand up for what they believe in, it is now. Get out there and educate yourself through reading material, forums and anything else that will enhance your knowledge about the political arena.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I’m writing to recommend Josh Penny for state representative in district 54. Over the past six months I have become acquainted with Josh and his family and I’m firmly convinced that Josh will be a terrific leader. People like Josh only come once-in-a-lifetime. Josh was born and raised on the western slope, and was valedictorian of his high school, received the national scholar-athlete award (the same award Peyton Manning received the year before), and played four years as the starting quarterback at Mesa State College. Josh’s uniqueness doesn’t stop there; he also graduated with a 4.0 grade point average from Mesa State, served as student body president, and was a legislative aide to State Senator Tillman Bush.

Josh landed a job with U.S. Representative Scott McNish and worked his way up from a caseworker to his top senior aide. It is not very often that we have the opportunity to elect someone this outstanding. Josh, on top of his record, is also a courteous, honest, and caring person. If I had to tell you what Josh is like, I would say he enjoys listening to people and helping people. Josh is an expert when it comes to government and he’ll be able to hit the ground running as soon as the first day of the legislature opens. It is empirical that the citizens of the western slope elect leaders who will be outspoken and strong advocates for their constituents. Josh is that person.

Sincerely,

Matthew C. Soper
Delta County Resident

Dear Editor:

Wake up America! If you want four more years of George W. Bush (based on his previous four years), here’s what you can expect:

Four more years of uncontrolled spending and trillion-dollar-plus deficits. Four more years of shifting the burden of taxation from multi-millionaires to lower income earners. Four more years of skyrocketing college tuition. Four more years of price-gouging by the pharmaceutical and health care industries. Four more years of raids on the treasury by Halliburton. Four more years of unprecedented tax cuts for multi-millionaires during time of war. Four more years of corporate tax loopholes, fraud and unbridled tax evasion.

Four more years of increasing local taxes to make up for federal tax cuts and loss of federal services. Four more years of ignoring alternative sources of energy that will mitigate our dependence on oil. Four more years of uncontrolled 'pork-barrel' domestic spending, spending which formerly was deemed by Republicans as the exclusive domain of Democrats. With a Republican President and a Republican majority in Congress, how can this be?

Four more years of the Administration’s blessing on the exploitation of hundreds of thousands of American jobs abroad. Four more years of no taxes for those companies exporting jobs to other countries. Four more years of failure to adequately secure our ports and borders against terrorism. Four more years of a stagnant stock market. Four more years of alienating most of our traditional allies, because of GWB’s ‘go it alone’ bravado. Four more years of GWB’s failure to “Leave no Child Behind”. Four more years for GWB to gain his objective of destroying Social Security and Medicare. Four more years of perpetual wars. Four more years of calling up the depleted National Guard to supplement our depleted regular armed forces. And, four more years of a deeply divided America.

Paul G. Jaehnert

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October 28, 2004
Welcome, Mr. President
Mesa State College students take road trip to Red Rocks

By Matt Soper
Special to the Criterion
Four Mesa State College students ventured to see President George W. Bush at the Denver Red Rocks Amphitheater Oct. 11.

The day started at 7 a.m. in the parking lot of the Clifton McDonald's as Mesa State students Al Haggerty, Andrew Weber, Jared Wright, and Matt Soper climbed into a silver 2005 Dodge Magnum rental car.

The four students joked about John Kerry and the Democratic Party. Jared Wright was driving. On Interstate 70 near West Rifle, Jared noticed a Ford Taurus stopped in the middle of the highway.

The driver of the Taurus, Joanna, stopped on the interstate in the middle of a construction zone and asked a group of 20 Colorado Department of Transportation workers for directions.

Jared managed to stop the car right behind the Taurus. Unfortunately, a driver in a pickup truck behind the students creamed the rental car going 45 miles per hour.

"I felt the Magnum roll back just as a car does when it comes to a full stop," Matt Soper said, "but I kept hearing a scraping sound. About that same time, I felt the impact along with a shower of glass."

The pickup tangled the Magnum and pushed it into the Taurus, which caused a three-car pileup. The pickup veered and the Mesa State students helped push it off the interstate.

Joanna claimed she was a little city employee; mentioned her daughter was kidnapped by a transportation worker and stewed she was operating a church out of her car. She wandered along the shoulder of the interstate picking up bones from a dead animal.

After filling out numerous reports, a tow truck arrived and took the students to wait for another rental car to be sent from Grand Junction. As luck would have it, the entire stuff of the towing company were Republicans. When the new rental car arrived, Jared Wright was back in the helm as the driver.

Within a couple of hours, the four students arrived at the entrance to Red Rocks Amphitheater. Three of the students had VIP tickets, but the fourth, Al Haggerty, was promised his ticket from Jake Zambrano. Mesa State's lobbyist and organizer of the event at Red Rocks. There was a security checkpoint at the entrance to the park. The state patrol officer wanted to see everyone's tickets along with a driver's license.

"This was not good since Al didn't have a ticket," Jared said.

The state patrol officer motioned for them to pull off the road and wait for their fourth ticket.

Jared and Matt managed to convince him that they were good, honest, respectable Republicans. The officer gave Al a five-day-old ticket from Minnesota, the officer marked the front side with a permanent marker and instructed Al to print his name on the backside.

The four students went inside the park and drove up to the parking lot where they hoped to track down Jake Zambrano. Andrew and Matt walked through the metal detectors and Secret Service security checkpoint into the amphitheater. However, Jared and Al were still trying to track down Jake.

During this time period, Andrew and Matt bought hot chocolate, waved to the snipers hidden in the red rocks and used the rest rooms.

Al, who was tired of waiting, decided to walk through the Secret Service security checkpoint.

"The Secret Service scanned (Al Haggerty) with metal detectors and X-rays," Jared said, "asked him to empty everything out of his pockets, and even checked under his shirt, but never once did they notice he didn't really have a ticket."

Upon seeing Al inside the park, Jared disconnected his cell phone and promptly followed. With all four students inside the amphitheater, they decided to find their seats down in front of where the President was to speak in two hours. Since they had VIP tickets, there was one last security checkpoint before taking their seats. Al walked through and the Red Rocks security team let him enter the VIP section by showing them the back of his ticket and his driver's license. Al was cleared but the Secret Service agent caught a glimpse of the front side of Al's ticket and said, "Pull him."

An officer in the Secret Service grabbed Al and said: "Let's get him out of here."

Jared asked if they knew Drew Griffin, chairman of the Western U.S. campaign for Bush/Cheney 2004. At that point in time the Secret Service said: "You have five minutes to get someone here to vouch for your friend and get a ticket for him."

Jared managed to track down Jake Zambrano. Jake told the Secret Service that the four students were with him and they could sit anywhere inside the VIP section. This wasn't good enough for the Secret Service agent. The agent radioed ahead, and the students were met by Drew Griffin, as well as the chief of the Secret Service, and another employee of the President.

During this entire incident, Andrew stood off to the side munching down a Philly Steak and Cheese sandwich. Matt was jabbed in the chest by the chief of the Secret Service who wanted to know if Matt would partially vouch for Al. Upon saying yes, the Secret Service allowed them to sit anywhere in the VIP section.

"I felt like I was being watched the whole time," Andrew said. "There was a Secret Service agent at both ends of our row along with another one two rows up, and the snipers on top of one of the rock monoliths kept looking at us with their binoculars."

"It was amazing; right before the President walked onto the stage about four Blackhawk helicopters went: circling over Red Rocks," Matt said, "numerous snipers could be seen, and the Secret Service was everywhere."

Al commented, "The President's speech was probably the best I've ever heard him deliver. He was smooth and laid out his agenda for the next four years."

After an exciting day, the four students ate pizza in Idaho Springs. If you're wondering if anything else could have added to the excitement of a car wreck, a security breach and seeing the leader of the free world, the pizza order was messed up, and the Mesa State students ended up with a free extra large pizza.

THE SHIRT OFF MY BACK BY TANO

Special to the Criterion

From left to right: Mesa State College students Al Haggerty, Andrew Weber, Jared Wright and Matt Soper at Red Rocks Amphitheater in Morrison.
Bloody Mary that Gang-initiation victims

Urban Legend No. 1 - Bloody Mary
Legend has it that if you look deep into a mirror and repeat "Bloody Mary" three times, Bloody Mary herself will appear before you in all her blood-spattered glory.

My trial run took place on a Monday night. I went alone to the mirror in my house and fearlessly, courageously repeated the cursed words—"Bloody Mary, Bloody Mary, Bloody Mary." Nothing. Maybe it was supposed to be five times, I reasoned, so I tried that. It didn't work. I lit candles, burned incense, dropped some acid. Not one combination I thought of worked.

Urban Legend No. 2 - Gang-initiation victims
As the story goes, a potential gang member hides under a car until the unsuspecting owner comes to get into the driver's seat. When he or she comes, their Achilles tendon is slashed. The gangsta is then allowed to steal the car, and the victim bleeds to a slow, agonizing death.

I tried various parking lots: Wal-mart's, Mesa State College's, Mesa Mall's, Cheers' 24 Road Bookstore's. Not a gangsta in sight. I was even a bit let down. My one chance at seeing a real live gangsta came and went.

After searching for gangstas to no avail, I mooched back to my computer to record my results. As I got in my car, I checked the backseat as a precaution, being the urban legend guru that I claim to be. I wasn't about to be taken that easily.

Urban Legend No. 3 - Virgins
Yes, I realize we're on a college campus and virgins are about as common as grades that were actually earned, but it's a classic legend and therefore it must be "touched" upon (see Madonna, circa the Immaculate Collection).

Normally, there needs to be a murderer on the loose, but I was not going to wait around for a virgin-slaughtering serial killer to appear, so I decided that a Tuesday night would work just fine.

I braved the dark of night and strolled around campus—and eventually all of town—in my swankiest outfit. I wore something loose, and I mean "loose" as in trampl, because come Halloween, that's what the aforementioned virgins will be wearing, after all Halloween is one of the few days of the year that a boy can dress like a girl and a girl can dress like a hussy without having to worry about being judged.

As a virgin, I must say that I felt even more vulnerable to attack, though less prone to V.D. (which is the real killer here, kids). I have trouble deciding which I'd rather put myself in danger of. Do I let someone punch my V-ticket and risk V.D., or do I remain a virgin and risk a brutal murder? My advice: be safe and have safe sex.

Urban Legend No. 4 - Razors/poison in Halloween candy

Because this article goes to print before "Halloween 2004" (and people tended to frown upon out-of-season trick-or-treating the last time I tried it) I decided to use my extensive past trick-or-treating experiences as a way of tackling this legend. I thought long and hard, but never have I had razors in my candy—none that I couldn't digest, anyway. Same goes for poison. Now, that's not to say that I haven't been sick on Halloween night, but those belly aches were entirely my own fault (and that one lasted nine months).

Urban Legend No. 5 - Haunted houses that kill

I don't even have to find a haunted house to try this one out. The whole concept of something being so scary that no one's ever survived it is rubbish. If there were no survivors, who is spreading the legend? If it's the carnies that run the haunted house who are making the claim, one should check their sources.

Urban Legend No. 6 - Killer's call

Normally, I would simply avoid answering my phone unless caller I.D. showed me who was calling. If the killer wasn't able to get ahead of his victim, do you think he'd simply give up until she answered? Would he resort to e-mail? Or (gasp) snail mail?

I started answering all my calls, I.D. available or not,just in case I caught one, but my Friday nights are a bit lonely these days and I got no calls for more than three days.

I tried to encourage others to call me by prank calling them. After six rounds of "I'm looking for a Mr. Butts, first name Seymour" and no call backs—threatening or otherwise—I resorted to simply hanging up when they answered. Fifteen minutes later I got the only call of the night. It was my mom. Apparently, they have caller I.D. in rural Minnesota now. After all that work, all that summoning and begging to be murdered, I relented and went to bed. Urban legends suck.
Grand Valley welcomes holiday celebration

Halloween fun is right around the corner. There are inexpensive local events available to Mesa State College students including a corn maze, haunted house, and The Dark Show (not to be confused with the dark side).

Bill and Kathy English, residents of Delta, own the Krazy Korn Maze that is open to the public. It is located three miles east of Delta directly off Highway 92.

The Krazy Korn Maze is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. through this Sunday. There is a $6 entrance fee which includes a complimentary pumpkin from the pumpkin patch, according to Kathy English. During the day, visitors can also enjoy hayrides at no additional charge.

If you come after dusk, Kathy English suggested that you bring flashlights and dress in warm clothes.

If you like the classic haunted house, Mesa County Partners, a "one-to-one" mentoring group for youth, is co-sponsoring the Jaycees Halloween Haunted House this year.

"It's one of the newest, but the most quality and reasonable spook house around," according to Ray Coca, the assistant director of Partners. "This is only the second year for the haunted house," Coca said there were over 1,000 visitors last weekend and he expects just as many this weekend. Coca said to expect lots of scary surprises.

Jaycees Haunted House will be open from 6:30 p.m. - 11 p.m. this Thursday through Saturday. It is located on the corner of 24 1/2 Road and H Road. There is a $4 entrance charge and all proceeds go to benefit Partners.

Planet Earth and the 4 Directions Gallery is hosting The Dark Show, an art exhibit "dedicated to darkness."

This is the 8th annual Dark Show for owner Caole Lowry. Although Lowry thought last year's show would be the peak, she believes this year's will be even better.

"I think we're gonna top it," Lowry said. "The art work [this year] is excellent."

The pieces displayed in the Dark Show range from artists in high school to veterans over 60 years old. The artwork includes clay work, 3D work, masks, and paintings.

Several Mesa State students have entered their work in the show including Katherin Griest, Anja Goerky and Tim Herrera. Herrera has entered a rubix painting that can be hung at different angles, Lowry explained.

Lowry is inviting anyone to come celebrate at the Dark Show reception on Friday.

The gallery is located on 524 Colorado Ave. The reception begins at 7 p.m. Beverages will be provided and a $2 donation at the door is requested. There will also be live music, belly dancers and a DJ at 10 p.m.

Lowry said the party last year went until 3:30 a.m. All participants are encouraged to attend the party in costume.

"I've got two costumes," Lowry said. "By day, I'm an old bat, and by night, a witch." For more information contact Planet Earth and the 4 Directions Gallery at 256-9630.

Also this Friday, the Mesa Theater and Club is showing a movie: The Rocky Horror Picture Show. The club is located at 528 Main. Doors open at 9 p.m. and show starts at 10 p.m. There is a $7 cover charge, a 21+ Sky Bar will be open, and prizes will be awarded.

The gallery is located east of Delta and costs $6 to enter. Above: Jaycees Haunted House is located on the corner of 24 1/2 Road and H Road. Admission is $4.
Halloween History

Elle Fredericks
Reporter

Wind howls through the trees, making the trees shiver in its wake, a August darkness crossing those intruding the night. Silent pursued anxious shouts whisper among the undead. The very twisted and senile traits of such a morbid holiday, are in fact echoes of a rancid past.

Halloween, a holiday famously beholding children in costumes, pillowcases parading candy, and the dim porch-lit glow of the jack-o-lantern, was derived of an ancient tradition of the Celtics, an ancient Indo-European culture.

Around 2,000 years ago in the bewitched lands of Ireland, United Kingdom, and Northern France, the Celtics were celebrating the festival they called "Samhain." According to the History Channel, the Celtic new year began Nov. 1, the last day of the year being Oct. 31.

Nov. 1 not only meant the slithering in of a new year but also the coming of death. In the months drudging after the first, the Celts would experience the loss of several souls among them due to the cold darkness of the drizzling winter. Because of this change in existence, Oct. 31 came to symbolize the blur between life and death.

It was believed that on this last night, the souls once living among them would make a grand appearance. The people celebrated this time, calling it Samhain.

It was believed that the ghosts haunting the land on this night enabled the priests to foretell the future, bringing prophecies to help those still among the living to survive the coming winter. Historians have described the event revolving around a scorching bonfire.

The people would dress in costumes, sacrificing animals and ravaging their crops. Mayhem would break loose and the fire would continuously creep skyward. Keeping with historical findings documented by the History Channel, the ceremony would dwindle to a hush, and the Celts would light their own hearths from the flame of the sacred fire. This act would ensure a safe winter for those yet to join the afterlife.

The tradition remained breathing as long as the Celts could preserve it; however, new additions to the celebration were added in the years to come. Christianity flourished around A.D. 800. The religion influenced the pope himself to make some changes. Pope Boniface IV determined to make the formidable holiday a church sanctioned event, declared Nov. 1 as All Saints Day. The day before was thus called All-Hallows Eve from the Middle English translation of All Saints, Alholowmesse.

In A.D. 1,000, the Pope declared Nov. 2 as All Souls Day to remember the dead. This short period of days came to be celebrated among Christianity and other cultures, reviving the festival of past.

Much like those who first celebrated Samhain, the costumes and feasting of sinister treasures used today has clenched onto the lurking memory of earlier traditions. The appetite for the realm beyond has fascinated children, wanting to scare their neighbors with the fun, frantic, treat giving phrase "Trick or Treat."

While modern celebrating of Halloween isn't quite as sacrificial, perhaps those beings who once feasted among the Celts prefer to revisit on this night and celebrate among the living once again.

STREET TALK: What was your best Halloween costume?

"One year when my mom made me this queen of hearts costume. It was a white dress with little hearts and a crown."
—Lianne Arnold, 18, freshman

"I never really celebrated Halloween after I was six. I just burned poo on peoples' doorsteps."
—Gabe Hunter, 20, sophomore

"Probably when I was Dracula. Because I was Dracula, like, four years in a row when I was young."
—John Branch, 21, sophomore

"My mom dressed me up as a mummy when I was 10 years old."
—Joe Shane, 19, freshman
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John Kerry and Michael Moore Are Trying To Scare Young People Into Thinking President Bush Wants to Draft Them. But Just Who Would Institute The Draft?

No President Has the Authority to Start the Draft - It Must be Done by Congress.

It was Democrats, Charlie Rangel & Fritz Hollings and five other Democrats that recently introduced bills that would start the Military Draft. It only got 2 votes in the house, October 5th (Both Democrats)


Democrat Jimmy Carter signed a bill reinstating the Selective Service registration requirement in the summer of 1980.

President Bush's Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld Has Said He Absolutely Opposes The Draft. It is not needed.

John Kerry Wants Mandatory "Community" Service for All High Schoolers And College Scholarships Tied to 2 Years Military Service

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THRU 12-31-04
Student Feature: Feagil “Dru” Katana

Blake-Ashley Ferguson
Reporter

It's a bird. It's a plane. No wait- it's a bus! A bus with Dr. Seuss on one side, volcanoes on the other and a trampoline on the roof. Yes, a trampoline, 12 feet off the ground. The bus belongs to Mesa State College student Feagil “Dru” Katana.

Criterion: How old is the bus?
Feagil Katana: The funny thing about the age of the bus is that it is also the age that I am. Both of us were born in the same year, '64.

C: How did you get the bus?
FK: The bus was used by a hunter over in Crawford which is a small town next to the town my mother lived in, Paonia. And the bus was acquired really by my mother.

C: How?
FK: By running a little ad in the paper. My mother did. She wanted to get a bus. She wanted to get a bus from an Indian casino in New Mexico and I won $500 or $600. She decided to bring it down and paint it.

C: For what?
FK: I think because of things I was telling her about Grateful Dead. Concerts and tours which I was doing at the time.

C: How old were you when this was going on?
FK: This was in '95 probably or '96. The bus has really not been used that much until the war started in Iraq, and I decided to bring it down and paint it.

C: Are those Dr. Seuss characters painted on the bus?
FK: Yeah. The Sneetches.

C: Why did you choose those?
FK: I don't know. You never know. This is something I remember distinctly from growing up. We read a lot of Sneetches and Star-bellies. The anti war theme sort of appeals to me. I had a friend that owed me a little hit of money, and she's an artist, and she or I suggested, "why don't you paint the side of the bus instead of paying me this money?" And so she did.

C: Where did the trampoline come from?
FK: The trampoline I actually won in a poker game. I won the money for it probably four or five years ago. I was at an Indian casino in New Mexico and I won $500 or $600. And I was then passing through Denver and went by this trampoline place. I mean, I grew up on a trampoline. So I bought the trampoline.

C: What about the missile? Where did that come from?
FK: We built that for the parade. It sort of goes with the idea of this business in Iraq which we think is a disaster.

C: So you don’t agree with the war in Iraq?
FK: My sense is that it's the same old song and dance. Just a typical kind of blunder for the powerful.

C: Do you live in the bus?
FK: No, I can't currently live in the bus, although I am in a situation where I'd like to be sleeping in the bus. I have to be at school here Tuesdays and Thursdays. And I'd like to be spending most of the rest of the week in Paonia and working up there.

C: But you do drive it back and forth?
FK: Well, I have a little bit of an obligation to keep moving it, because of the authorities, actually, they seem to be getting friendlier and friendlier. But at first they were very concerned and they came around all the time and pestered me saying, "you're not sleeping in this bus, are you? We know you're sleeping in this thing," they would say. And I would say "you do not. I've never slept in this thing." You know, in theory any vehicle which is on the street more than 72 hours in the same spot is liable to be considered abandoned. And of course, they only use this when there's a complaint. The bus has a certain political vibration that bothers lots of people and so lots of people are calling up and saying, guess, I mean, I assume, calling up the police and saying, "what is this bus doing here? Get it out of here!"

C: Do people ask you a lot if they can jump on it?
FK: I assume they always do. I've never come to the bus and found people on it. Actually, there was a guy last year who used to come and hang out inside the bus once in a while. The doors are always open and I used to put signs on it that said 'welcome' in Chinese. But people are scared. There was a guy casting demons on it with a bible last year.

C: Would you mind if people were to come when you're not around and jump on the trampoline?
FK: I think the world worked a little harder for the world turns.

FK: I don't know. I have not much interest in telling other people what to do. My feeling is, if someone can do something with respect and not damage something, then it's OK. I wish the world worked a little more like that.

C: Do you have anything else to add?
FK: I have a premonition of doom this week. I think the world is much more dangerous than people realize. I'm not confident that the lives that we're living are going to continue to be so much the same. I think that it's not outrageous to expect that there will be catastrophic changes in the way the world turns.

Dru’s Stats
Non-traditional student
Age: 40
Hometown: Denver
Motto: “It’s better to make the laws than break the laws.”
Forms of exercise: Health and sports class, dance, trampoline, walking
Favorite food: Rice
Favorite drink: “Got milk?”
Favorite school subject: Love
Favorite new music: “Who cares?”
Person whose lifestyle he’d most like to emulate: “I don’t believe in this.”
Proudest feat: Growing pumpkins
Bedside book: “I’m not reading very much.”

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Great ski deal!!! One pair of 2004 line darkside skis for sale/ no bindings/ only used 3 times/ call (970)-858-5074 (ask for Dave).

1992 F150 XLT, 4X4, exented cab, short bed, 302, 5 speed, rancho RSX shocks, Air lift 1000 Air bags in front, 160,000 miles, $3600 call 640-1743.

CMC 5pc drum set, with many extra educational books, DWS5000 hi-hat and bass drum pedals, Zildjian Mega bell custom ride w/collar lock boom stand, and drum throne w/back. $850 call 640-1743.

Foosball table for Sale. Moving, must sell. Like new. $1500 OBO. Call Amy @ 260-8101.

Employment

Volunteers needed at the Community Homeless Shelter. Many different skills needed, including retail. Shifts available 24 hours a day, depending on what you want to do. Please call 256-9424.

Part time help wanted: We need a dependable, responsible person to work the following shifts at the Community Homeless Shelter: Friday and Saturday mornings 6:30-8:30 a.m., and Sundays from midnight to 8:00 a.m. Additional fill-in hours will be available from time to time. Duties include supervision of shelter guests while they sleep and in the early morning hours, some paperwork and cleaning. Starting pay is $9.50 an hour. This is a great job for a student with interest in human services. Please call 256-9424.

I am a photographer looking for attractive women to pose in natural beauty of Grand Junction and south-eastern Utah outdoors. This is continuation of series of female nude in nature. Images will be included in an exhibition of black and white photographs in Melbourne, Australia in December. Included in your modeling payment will be two images of your choosing. All models must be at least 18. Ken 970-618-G411 or kenski@aspenwireless.com.

Come hang out with FCA, and worship the Lord! Monday nights, 7 p.m., Saunders 132. You do not have to be an athlete to join us.

Christian Student Fellowship Come for music, inspirational messages, and friendships. College Place/North Ave. Old St. Matthews Church Thurs. 7-9 p.m.

Pizza! Join Association of Information Technology Professionals this Thursday @ 6 p.m. in Houston Hall for pizza as they discuss exciting new plans for this semester and tell you can become a member

Applications for Director & Assistant Directors of Club Advisory Board (CAB) now available inside of the CAB office. Contact Katy at ext. 1111 with questions.

Contact Katy or Matt in the CAB office or call 248-1111
Sports

Crick says goodbye after 23 years
Volleyball coach announces retirement after 541 victories

Ashley Thorsen
Reporter

After nearly a quarter century spent coaching Maverick volleyball, Head Coach Rusty Crick will retire. “It is time to go,” Crick said in a press release. “I have spent most of my career with my other family, the volleyball team, and now I want to spend time with my own family. The years have been kind to me. I’ve had the privilege of being a part of the Maverick volleyball program and its many successes on and off the court, and of watching my players grow and mature.”

Many members of the team wish Crick would stay. “He is a really good coach,” said Krista Bellman, head of the volleyball team. “He is definitely the reason that our team is the sole reason I came to Mesa to play volleyball. The whole team is very, very sad about his retirement.”

“I'm sad he's retiring because I wanted to graduate at the same time he retired,” said Nikki Green, captain of the volleyball team. “I'm going to miss him. He's a great person.”

On a happier note, the team won both of its games last week. The women beat Fort Lewis College Skyhawks 3-2 on Friday. The Mavericks (16-8 overall, 11-4 RMAC) have two more games at home before Crick retires. The Mavs will take on the Adams State College Grizzlies at 7 p.m. on Nov. 5 and will challenge the New Mexico Highlands University Cowgirls at 7 p.m. on Nov. 6. Both matches will be at Brownson Arena.

Crick's 23 years at the helm of the Mesa State volleyball program make him the longest-serving head coach in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference. His 541 career wins make him the winningest volleyball coach in the RMAC and ninth nationally.

Head Coach Rusty Crick shows some excitement after Nikki Green makes a kill. Crick has announced that he will retire after the 2004 season.

Cycling preparing for Division I nationals

Lance Manganello

The Mesa State College Cycling team hosted the Mesa State College-Ruby Canyon Collegiate Mountain Bike Challenge last weekend.

Teams from around the region, including the University of Colorado Buffaloes, Fort Lewis College Skyhawks, Colorado State University Rams, University of New Mexico Lobos, Air Force Academy Falcons, University of Wyoming Cowboys, and the Mesa State College Mavericks participated in the Challenge. There were races for riders of three ability levels—A, B and C. According to club adviser Bob Anthony, the A-level riders are the most skilled. “The A-level riders are usually nationally ranked. They are great riders that have a lot of skill in the challenges,” Anthony said.

The two-day Challenge began Saturday with a short course competition near Walker Field Airport. A short course competition is a 20-25 minute race that finishes with two additional laps, which determine where each racer places.

In the A-level short course race, Mesa State rider Ryan Edwards took fourth place among the men, while teammate Amy Drumm snatched second place for the women.

Sunday showcased a cross country race on a 6.7 mile-long course near the Tabeguache Trail. The men's A-level racers circled the track three times while the women's A-level and men's B-level racers went around twice.

In the women's A-level race, Amy Drumm took second with a time of 1:32:33, five minutes behind first-place finisher Nina Baum of the University of New Mexico.

Mesa State rider Nathan Keck placed tenth among the A-level men with a time of 2:00:18.

At the B-level, Mesa State's Garret Griffin placed third with a time of 1:25:17.

At the C-level, Mason Sharp took first with a time of 1:05:31.

Edward, club president and an A-level rider, said he thinks the Challenge is a great way to get ready for nationals. “It is good preparation. It's a very technical course, and a very rocky course, just like the course at nationals,” Edwards said.

This weekend, the cycling team is off to Seven Springs Resort, Pennsylvania, about 90 miles south of Pittsburgh, to compete in the USA Cycling Division I Nationals.

“I think they will do well,” Anthony said. “We lost Ross Schnell, but we have a lot of great riders that can make up for his loss. CU and Fort Lewis will be our biggest challenges.”

Mesa State took third place at nationals last fall, and the team hopes to be successful this weekend. “There is a lot of good Eastern teams, but I'm impressed with the new talent we have,” Edwards said. “We'd love to improve our third-place finish from last year.”
What can I say? Am I good or am I good?
I predicted that the Boston Red Sox would win the American League Championship Series in five games. It went seven games. So what? All that matters is that the Bo Sox are in the World Series—just like I knew they would be.

The first three games of the ALCS made my stomach drop. I thought my boys were going to choke and miss their chance at getting into the Series. Everybody thought it was over when the New York Yankees took a 3-0 lead—everybody except the Red Sox and their beloved fans.

The Red Sox fought back and won four straight games—two in Yankee Stadium—knocking the Yankees out of the playoffs and leaving the great city of New York and half of America stunned.

I will say this: It was a hard fought series, and as much as I hate the Yanks, they played well.

This World Series offers a great opportunity for the Red Sox to break the famous "curse of the Bambino." When Boston wins the Series, the curse will forever be forgotten, and Yankees fans can shed tears for their Yankees every season from now to eternity.

Let me make another prediction: the Yankees will not win another Series for at least five more years. I will cherish every minute of their struggles. They have 25 world championships. Why do the Yanks need anymore?

On to the Series. Last Thursday, I predicted on KMSA's "Damn Good Sports Show" that the Bo Sox would win the world championship in six games, and I will stick with that prediction until the end. I may eat my words, but I highly doubt it. There is too much magic in the air right now, and after the magic the Red Sox worked against the Yanks, I just don't see how the odds could not be in favor of the Red Sox.

As I walk around campus, I see a lot of people wearing Red Sox hats. I don't know if these people are truly Red Sox fans or if they jumped on the bandwagon as soon as Boston got into the Series. It doesn't matter. It just goes to show that there are a lot of believers out there. Enough to overcome the "curse."