BSA honors Black History Month
Big XII Conference held in Boulder this year

According to Edwards, members of BSA from all over the United States come together to share similar experiences of being in predominately white colleges. Why each person chooses to be a part of the experience, the knowledge they gain and what they return with is an individual preference.

Reginald Norman, BSA vice president expresses his gratitude for the convention.

"Black people can come together to focus and unite on the same goal for being leaders of the future," Norman said.

For BSA member Shaun Gurton, the Big XII conference represents "a gathering of ethnic people and expression of black culture and history."

According to their Web site, the Big XII Conference's mission is "to provide strong, determined and courageous leadership and advocacy to effect our social and academic environments toward consideration of this community's collective concerns and issues where it pertains to the educational, sociocultural, economic and spiritual well-being of this community."

The Big XII Conference was formed in 1977 at the University of Missouri with eight schools who formed the Big Eight Council on Black Student Government. It was formed to recognize black students who were suffering through similar tribulations at their respective institutes.

In 1997, the conference expanded from the Big Eight Conference to the Big XII Conference on Black Student Government by adding four universities in Texas.

The conference rotates among the 12 Institutes. This year is the second time the event will be held in Colorado.

The Big XII consists of:
- University of Missouri
- University of Oklahoma
- Kansas State University
- University of Colorado
- Iowa State University
- University of Nebraska
- Oklahoma State University
- University of Kansas
- Baylor University
- University of Texas
- Texas Tech University
- Texas A&M University

BSA Day in the Cafeteria
When: Today, 10:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Where: Cafeteria

Maverick Baseball
Where: Suplizio Field
When: Friday & Saturday

BSA Day in the Cafeteria
When: Winter Break, no classes
Where: Two Rivers
When: Tuesday, 6 to 9 p.m.

What: Two Rivers Cooking Classes
Where: Two Rivers Cooking Center
When: Feb. 25, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Cost: $22.50, $18 resident

What: Winter Break, no classes
When: Tuesday and Wednesday

What: Young Artist Piano Competition Finalists
When: Feb. 27, 3 p.m.
Cost: $5 adults, $1 students

What: Soul Food Sale
When: Feb. 25, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: Academic quad

What: The Music at Mesa Guest Artist Recital Series presents Mark Ford, Pedestrian
When: Feb. 27, 4 p.m.
Where: Moss Performing Arts Center Recital Hall
Cost: $12 adults, $10 seniors, $5 students

What: "Iolanthe" an opera by Gilbert and Sullivan
When: Thursday and Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Where: William S. Robinson Theatre
Moss Performing Arts Center
Cost: $14 adults, $12 seniors, $5 students

What: Young Artist Piano Competition Finalists
When: Feb. 27, 3 p.m.
Where: Grand Junction High School Auditorium
Cost: $5 adults, $1 students

Campus and Community Corner

Eight members of Mesa State College's Black Student Alliance (BSA) will attend the 28th Annual Big XII Conference on Thursday, Feb. 17 at the University of Colorado at Boulder. The events at the conference represent various aspects of black culture.

Because of Black History Month, the conference is held each February. "It is a time where we reflect on our historical black leaders and ancestors through their achievements," BSA President Denise Edwards said.

Big XII is comprised of workshops, lectures and other activities, such as a gospel extravaganza and a step show.

According to Edwards, the conference benefits the members of BSA on a personal level.

"It makes me a better person," Edwards said.

BSA member Jonni Page said he is excited to attend the conference to gain "self-knowledge" and a better understanding of where his roots are from.

With the knowledge and experience BSA members gain at the conference, Edwards and other members plan to prepare a presentation for Mesa State students, faculty and staff.

Black Student Alliance kicked off Black History Month with the knowledge bowl to quiz Mesa State College students about black history.

Black History Month
PBS Channel 6 schedule

Today, 8 p.m. Slavery: The Making of America
Feb. 26, 11 p.m. Briars in the Cotton Patch

Sunday, 2 p.m. Dorothy Dandridge: American Beauty
Feb. 27, 12 p.m. Harlem Globetrotters
Feb. 27, 2 p.m. Harlem Renaissance
Feb. 28, 9 p.m. American Experience: Murder of Till
Contemplating commemoration of MLK Day

"It is extremely important to honor a historical figure and the faculty and staff should recognize this."
—Keoni Fukino, sophomore

"Dr. King is one of our American heroes."
—Tony Coppola, dance instructor

"It's not fair that he is not recognized for his contributions."
—Ashley Pynnonen, freshman

"If we get Presidents day off, why can't we get Martin Luther King day off?"
—Alyssa Tucker, freshman

"Dr. King is one of our American heroes."
—Tony Coppola, dance instructor

"It's not fair that he is not recognized for his contributions."
—Ashley Pynnonen, freshman

Director of Dance Tony Coppola said, "It is important for us (campus) to remember King and that he deserves respect of that holiday."

"Messages he brought continue to be important and relevant in our lives today."
Coppola said. Coppola was part of the 1968 Bobby Kennedy Campaign; it was a sad year to hear that King was assassinated. Coppola thinks some people might have different perceptions about this holiday, but it was given a day off. "There will still be some of people's biases and prejudice against this issue and these people won't embrace Dr. King's messages. It is their loss."

Lucy Wilcox, 24, senior in the MBA program said, "He shaped a lot of our history."

Mesa State faculty Trustee Gayla Jo Slauson said it is important to honor King and his civil rights movement. This was the first year that students at the college planned a march in honor of the King. Slauson said it was successful, but the school was in session and everyone couldn't participate.

Alyssa Tucker, 19, freshman in secondary teaching said the school shouldn't only think about the issue, but also do it. "They shouldn't have thought about it; shouldn't have been an option," Tucker said.

MSC President Foster and the Board of Trustees are still researching whether to request a day off to celebrate Dr. King.
African-American shares success story
Novelist Robert Greer on campus for open reading

Christina M ' Ovall
News Editor

Author Robert Greer will hold a reading open to the public at Mesa State College on Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. in Saccomanno Lecture Hall.

Greer is author of the CJ Floyd mystery series: "The Devil's Husband", "The Devil's Red Nickel" and "The Devil's Backbone." He has written two medical thrillers: "Heat Shock," which is set in Grand Junction and "Limited Time." "Isolation and Other Stories" is a compilation of short stories by Greer.

With his characters, Greer said he tries to write about black heroes and not anti-heroes, such as those on television. "I write about an experience that I have had in America where I have had the opportunity to rub shoulders with those people, so I know they exist," Greer said. "I have had the opportunity to rub shoulders with those blacks every day. I show a different point of view. My work is a positive view of a minority community and a realistic one."

In addition to being a novelist, Greer is a professor of pathology and medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Denver. Because he has been part of the university for 34 years, he no longer has to work the odd hours. "The early hours are left for the junior residents," Greer said. Now Greer can spend more time in his personal library in the evenings writing his novels.

Growing up, Greer was surrounded by family members who were into reading. "I learned to read before I started school," he said. According to Greer, it wasn't until college that he became interested in writing. He said the greatest inspiration was that he was a reader. "Most writers are first readers."

In college, Greer studied journalism and had the opportunity to do what most students do after college, he was writing for big city newspapers. He wrote for the Cincinnati Enquirer and Cleveland Plain Dealer. At 19 years old, Greer wrote a feature story on Walt Alston, a former manager of the L.A. Dodgers. Greer said this was because he had a "great journalism professor" who took him under his wing.

"I was in the right place at the right time and I got paid for it," Greer said. "According to Greer, a majority of this success was having the perfect wife. "Without her there, I couldn't do everything at once." Greer, who lost his wife Phyllis of 32 years in September of 2002, said "My wife was the best thing that ever happened to me."

Greer slowed the pace of his writing after losing his companion. With Phyllis still in thought, Greer is continuing with his success. "Nobody ever makes it on their own. If you are going to have some impact in the world, you will have to stand on the shoulders of other people," Greer said.

In 1986, Greer founded the High Plains Literary Review. It was interrupted for some time, but Greer is hopeful that it will be up and running again by fall of 2006. His latest novel, Reckoning, a story set in Colorado's mountains, will be published in October by North Atlantic Books.

Photo courtesy of Bruce Barker

Author Robert Greer on campus for reading Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. in Saccomanno Lecture Hall.

Concern over expression candidness
Mesa State professors share views on CU's vocal educator

David Goe
Reporter

First amendment discussion around Mesa State has heated up in classrooms and between faculty members after a free speech crisis on the frontrange.

Recent outrage at the Colorado University campus in Boulder over a professor's essay has received national coverage for its controversial content.

Many in the Colorado state government are calling for: the professor's resignation based solely on what he has said. Rep. Josh Perry said that the words infuriated him and Sen. Ron Teck said that Churchill shouldn't be teaching on campus. Professor Ward Churchill made comparisons between the World Trade Center victims of Sept. 11 and a Nazi general responsible for thousands of Jewish deaths during World War II.

According to the faculty handbook, academic freedom means "the freedom to discuss academic subjects fully, engage in research and publish the results of research, and write or speak as citizens without fear of institutional censorship or discipline provided individuals do not represent themselves as speaking for the college."

Greer has not had problems with current policies of the college but did note that the change to the faculty handbook last year, which states that teachers must show balance in the classroom, made some faculty members nervous.

"Shouldn't students be able to come up with their own conclusions, no matter the material?" Swedberg said.

Discussions of the first amendment between faculty members has taken place, and classes have taken time out as well. Nizalowski talked about the subject in his creative writing class, and Swedberg brought it up before a history class.

"People should be allowed to speak freely without retribution."

Sarah Swedberg, history professor

"I think that under the first amendment and under academic freedom, people should be allowed to speak freely without retribution," Mesa State College history professor Sarah Swedberg said. "I am always aware of my speech might have consequences, I am always aware that someone might take offense."

Foster said he "believes Mesa State would be discerning enough not to put someone who could incite such controversy in a tenured position" and "the decision to tenure someone demands close review."

"Ward Churchill has every right to say what he said, and people have every right to criticize him," Professor John Nizalowski said. "If we're not going to protect speech that disturbs us, then what is the point of the first amendment?"

Nizalowski also noted that the book "Bless Me Ultima" was banned in a Northern California high school, causing another free speech crisis.

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The Constitution of the United States, particularly the Bill of Rights and the First Amendment, protects the freedom of speech, but with Churchill coming under extreme pressure from the community, do professors at other schools need to start watching their tongue?

"Over the course of the last couple years, I have become aware of how I present things," Head of the languages, litera-

"I think that under the first amendment and under academic freedom, people should be allowed to speak freely without retribution," Mesa State College history professor Sarah Swedberg said. "I am always aware of my speech might have consequences, I am always aware that someone might take offense."

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Letters to the Editor

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Opinion

Changing expectations in relationships

Scott Foust
The Reveille (Louisiana State U.)

(U-WIRE) BATON ROUGE, La.- Imagine this with me. While walking down the street, a dark carnivorous creature stumbles past us. His eyes are bulging and his skin is dark. Intellect is absent from him. This monster isn’t a monster at all. However, if you believe in evolution, this monster description isn’t far off.

If evolution is to be believed, black history would include the notion that blacks are still an inferior race - still evolving, but far behind the evolution of white people.

During 1859, Charles Darwin, in his book “Origin of the Species,” popularized the idea of “social evolution.” He said that the European was the “fittest to survive” and that Aborigines, for example, were doomed to die out, similar to the dodo and the dinosaurs. In fact, although almost never taught, the subtitle of his books reads “The Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life” (emphasis mine). The beloved father of evolution was a racist.

One of Darwin’s evolutionary partners in crime was Thomas Huxley.

After the 13th Amendment freed the slaves, Huxley said, “No rational man, cognizant of the facts, believes that the average negro is the equal ... of the white man. And if this be true, it is simply incredible that, when all his disabilities are removed ... he will be able to compete successfully with his bigger-brained and smaller-jawed rival, in a contest which is to be carried out by thoughts and not by bites.”

German evolutionist Amalie Dietrich would even visit Australia, asking train station owners to shoot Aborigines so she could “keep the specimens.” It was through this that she received the nickname the “Angel of Black Death.”

In fact, true evolutionists should praise Hitler’s efforts.

Possibly a more recent example happened in Rwanda with the Hutu-Tutsi slayings. We can trace this back to when Belgium took over Rwanda in 1917. Belgian Roman Catholic missionaries began working there, establishing many social projects. However, this “church/state” alliance held to the belief that one tribal group involved with its work was superior to the other tribes having “less evolved” tribal members.

Black people who adhere to evolution as the answer for their existence should readily embrace racism.

Black people who adhere to evolution as the answer for their existence should readily embrace racism.

Black people should also understand when white people discriminate against them, the survival of the fittest theory pits blacks as the “evolutionary inferior,” of no value anyway.

Black people should understand that their destiny just might be an encounter with the KKK, if evolutionists are to be believed.

Society says it is far-fetched to believe that God “hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation,” as the book of Acts says. However, society tells us that evolution is the only “logical” explanation for our existence.

There is an obvious connection between racism and evolution. The people of this world are all created equal.

People with midget intellects, such as professors who believe in evolution, are the breeding ground for racism.

Black History Month is a time to share the heritage of the black community with the rest of us. However, decide carefully just where in your past you want to begin.

COLUMN: Evolution perpetuates racist ideologies

Elizabeth Martin
Up Front

People use their free time talking about people who make their lives exciting in a good (make them happy) or a bad way (make them angry). I didn’t realize that the talk is an ongoing study of relationships. Most relationship problems can be avoided by not participating but not participating causes its own set of problems.

I can get answers to my questions by spending a lot of time putting two and two together, making a hypothesis, testing my assumptions, and making modifications to improve results. In any given situation, new questions crop up, so I am continually doing this. I spend a lot of time mulling things over and I get a lot of answers, but I suddenly realized that trying to answer relationship questions by the scientific method only produces more hypotheses. In real situations with people, no matter how many times I perform the same action, I never get the same results.

I convinced that starting relationships without reason is destructive. Trying to match its haphazard nature adds more random elements and doesn’t help me understand it any better. Love does not seem to respect the rules of logic, and its arbitrary nature discourages me from seeking it. How can I invest time, thought, and emotional energy to something so elusive? How can we exercise our will to love without wrecking our material lives?

Few relationships are quite as unpredictable as those between men and women. We experience love for someone and want that love to be returned. But immediately there is a problem. We cannot control how the other person feels toward us. In order to consummate desire, both must feel the same way. Even if that should happen, we invariably discover that our likes and dislikes differ and begin to cause conflict.

My solution is to find a solid point of beginning by accepting as fact the things that are constant, whether I think they add up or not. I came up with a premise: men and women each hold half the answers. One thinks sex, the other thinks attachment. Where men primarily value things of a physical nature and the relationships necessary to thrive; women place a higher value on the amicable quality of relationships and the satisfaction considered less important by men. On their deathbeds, however, intangible things matter most to both men and women.

Therefore, while survival in the material world is crucial, the intangible meaning of life is essential. The masculine intuition creates order around him--mostly when he's "pissed off." At that point he sees, he hears; he gets it. He draws a line around himself and creates a place where he has superior power and can judge and rule what is in his sphere of influence. He overcomes weak objections, eliminates lack of respect, overcomes his own reluctance with intelligence, replaces poverty with wealth, and will not abide humiliation. He gains power to rule where his authority is needed.

Women value what goodness she sees in a man, if he will show it to her. She will often ignore visible faults hoping that the goodness will grow and overcome the less appealing aspects of a man. A woman wants his strength and authority but, intuitively, to provide for her, protect her, and, in the future, their children. If he is stronger, wiser, richer, he has his pick of women. But if he is also more loving, he captures a woman's devotion as well.

When masculine power is turned against a woman, she cannot feel safe and protected. His overpowering strength and willingness to use it has made her afraid. He may use his power when "pissed off" to set things in order, but her ability to love is lost, even if temporarily. That's when she hears the classic "Don't touch me" and wonders what's wrong.

Love cannot function when fear is present. If it's going to go well, she can't be wondering "Is he going to be mean to me?" and he can't be wondering "Is she just giving lip service without really respecting me?"

I wonder if the secret formula is mutual respect for the things we don't understand about the opposite sex. What if we try believing that each has half the solution and allow the other to contribute his or her, according to their nature? What if we also realize that the other person's point of view may have validity, even if we can't see it?

February 16, 2005
The Mesa State College Spanish Club is called "Pura Vida." The name comes from a Costa Rican expression that literally could be translated as "pure life" but which really means "things are great." When a Costa Rican is greeted by a friend inquiring how they are doing, the response can often be "Pura Vida!"

The club was formed 10 years ago by Betsy McLoughlin to promote Spanish language and culture among Mesa State students, both native speakers and non-native speakers of the language. A few years ago, after Tom Acker returned from a trip to Costa Rica, the club adopted its current name. Now that Mesa State has a Spanish language major, the club provides opportunities for students to expand their knowledge of the language and the various Spanish speaking cultures in a fun and non-stressful atmosphere.

The club sponsors activities such as dances and dance lessons, Spanish language films, literature and cultural discussion groups, and cultural events such as the Día de la Raza that was celebrated in October and the Día de las Américas that will be celebrated this April. Other activities include fund raising by selling Free Trade coffee from Latin America and candles made by a local Costa Rican artist Keylor Campos.

Serious issues are also dealt with in the club. For example, students have participated in the Alternative Christmas program. Instead of giving a loved one a Christmas gift, they donate an equivalent amount of money to a Latin American charity. The loved one then receives a Christmas card telling them that a donation was received in their name.

This semester, the club has many activities planned. There will be Salsa dance lessons twice a month and a big dance is planned for April. More advanced students will provide tutoring help to beginners and intermediates. Twice a month, there will be film presentations including "Bitter Sugar" from Cuba, the latest Venezuelan-Argentine production of "Dona Bárbara," and the Colombian films "Mary Full of Grace" and "Pantaleón and the Visitors." There will be forums for upper level students to discuss cultural and literary issues. Later in the semester, a visit from a Costa Rican professor is planned.

This year, the President of the club is Anna Stout; Maria Trig is the Vice President, and Amanda Jones is the Secretary/Treasurer. The Academic Advisor for the past two years has been Mayela Vallejos of the Spanish Department.

The members of "Pura Vida" encourage other students to take advantage of the resources of the club. Come have fun and learn a little bit also! Please check the list of events for this month in the Spanish Department.

Claudia Scritchfield
Translated by: Aaron Schiff

The club of español se llama "Pura Vida." El término viene de una expresión costarricense que se puede interpretar como la vida es maravillosa o todo está perfecto en la vida de una persona. Cuando saludamos a un costarricense, este normalmente contesta: "Pura Vida!"

El club fue creado hace 10 años por la Betsy McLoughlin para promover la lengua y la cultura entre los estudiantes de Mesa State, tanto para los nativos hablantes como para los no nativos de la lengua española. Hace unos años, cuando el Tom Acker regresó de un programa de verano en Costa Rica, el club adoptó el nombre que lleva hoy en día. Ahora que Mesa State College tiene una especialización en español, el club promueve muchas oportunidades para que los estudiantes puedan expandir sus conocimientos en el idioma y en la variedad cultural del mundo hispano en una forma divertida y sin presión.

El club promueve actividades tales como bailes y clases de baile, películas en español, tertulias y discusiones literarias, así como eventos culturales tales como el día de la Raza que se celebra durante el mes de Octubre y el día de las Américas en Abril.

Otras actividades son programadas con el fin de recaudar fondos, como la venta de café producido y exportado por microempresas latinoamericanas y velas fabricadas por Keylor Campos, artista oriundo de Costa Rica.

El club promueve actividades de carácter social. Ha participado en la "Navidad alternativa" el cual es un programa en donde las personas donan dinero a organizaciones de desarrollo comunal en Latinoamérica en nombre de sus seres queridos. Estos reciben una tarjeta que indica que alguien en su familia ha donado un dinero en nombre de vez in recibir un regalo de Navidad.

Este semestre el club ha planeado tener dos clases de baile por mes y un baile grande en Abril. Los estudiantes en español de las clases avanzadas estarán ayudando a los principiantes una vez al mes y quincenalmente se presentarán películas que incluyen "Azucar amarga" de Cuba, la producción argentino-venezolana de "Doña Barbarita" y las películas colombianas "María, llena eres de Gracia" y "Pantaleón y las visitadoras." También se llevarán a cabo foros para incrementar la participación de los estudiantes en discusiones literarias y se planea la visita de un profesor de la Universidad de Costa Rica.

Este año el presidente del club es Anna Stout. Maria Trig es la vicepresidenta y Amanda Jones es la secretaria/tesorera. Continúa la Dra. Mayela Vallejos del Departamento de español, en el cargo de consejera, labor que ha venido desarrollando desde hace dos años.

Los miembros de "Pura Vida" invitan a participar de éstas y otras actividades. ¡Vengan ser divertidos para todos! Vuelo la programación en el Departamento de español para este mes.

Editor's Note: The Criterion would like to make an effort to open an expanded dialogue. To that end we invite our readers to respond to the this and other columns and articles in Spanish.

Topless is not talent

Ben Sullivan
Off the Beaten Path

What do you call a collection of Grammy award-winning musicians, former presidents, soft-drink sponsors, and—oh yeah—professional athletes? The Super Bowl has been called America's unofficial holiday, and rightfully so. Although the event seems to get less and less about football each year, it is still worth watching if only for the entertainment value. This year's commercials seemed a bit flat, but the halftime show did not disappoint. At least it was rated PG.

We all remember last year's "wardrobe malfunction" of Janet Jackson's— or whatever she was or was not wearing, Frankly, I was not so surprised. If you hand the reins to a bunch of MTV ruffians, you can expect the carriage to careening off a cliff.

For several years now, parents have had to be ready and waiting to cover their children's eyes while watching the show. Fortunately, most people had probably stopped watching by the time the wardrobe "malfunctioned."

Thankfully, this year was much different. Paul McCartney was just what the doctor ordered for the this year's halftime show. My, how times have changed.

Forty years ago, McCartney and the Beatles were the ones on the brink of social change; they were the ones pushing the envelope. Now McCartney is the safe option, the class act that we can all depend on for a clean show.

I am sure the MTV crowd and the rest of the entertainment world would say something about affecting social change and promoting an environment of free speech and expression. But they have gone too far. Obscenity is where the line is drawn. And when sex and shock value replace good music and real talent, the curtain must fall.

It is telling to me that the best halftime shows in the past five years have been U2 and Paul McCartney. The singers of U2 are in their forties and McCartney is past sixty. It seems talent and classic musicianship are what truly endure. Young, fresh skin is not all it is cracked up to be.

Is it so hard to get good, new talent these days? If it is, then maybe we should stick to the professionals. Perhaps MTV should take a permanent hiatus, at least. Let the antics of desperate amateurs.

Kudos to Paul McCartney.

February 16, 2005
Lessons from a friend

Joel Dyar
International Relations Club

This week, I would like to discuss another subject of importance to America, the War on Iraq, as seen through the eyes of our long-time friend, Japan.

Japan knows a few things about war. As a member of the Axis (German-allied) powers in World War II, the country established an empire that encompassed much of Eastern Asia and fought ferociously against the uses of a nuclear bomb in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In 1945, Japan capitulated to the United States who oversaw the rebuilding of the country and drafted a new constitution and government. Moved by their experience of the horrors of war and pressured by U.S. fears of future aggression, the Japanese chose to outlaw the use of military force in their new constitution. As Article IX states, "Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order and the people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes. In order to accomplish [this aim], Japan, the land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized."

The former enemies formed the U.S.-Japan Security Alliance where the U.S. assumed responsibility for the future military protection of the Japanese people in return for promises of friendship and non-aggression. Japan would be allowed to maintain a small, strictly defensive military called the SDF or Self-Defense Forces.

Nearby sixty years passed without a Japanese soldier firing a weapon in combat.

Not forfeiture of its experiences, Japan has remained a pacifistic country, a major proponent for the United Nations and is one of the largest aid donors in the world. Japan's economy has grown so rapidly since the country has benefited from American military predominance and freed from concerns of war, has risen to become a great power in economics. The relationship has been so advantageous; Japan is currently the third largest export partner of the United States.

However, the Self Defense Forces have changed over time. Perhaps prompted by the countries most economic resources and population, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and past leaders of the Liberal Democratic Party, which has held power since 1945, have been pushing for greater power and leverage with the SDF. The body is now one of the most technologically advanced, modern military forces in the world.

In 1992 the Japanese parliament, called the Diet, authorized the deployment of the first National Guards outside the country to participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations in Cambodia. The next year, a second force was dispatched for similar operations in Mozambique. This use of the SDF-drew applause for Japan's international commitment, and enhanced Japanese prestige as a committed partner in peaceful world solutions. Simultaneously, it drew concern from Japan's wary Asian neighbors.

The U.S. War on Terror was a turning point for Japanese military policy. In October of 2001, the Diet issued the "Three Laws" concerning terrorism response and SDF use, setting the ground for non-humanitarian deployment. Faced with diplomatic pressure and eager to reaffirm its alliance with the United States, the Japanese Government agreed to the dispatch of SDF troops for reconstruction in Iraq.

The continued insurgency in Iraq has forced SDF troops into a much different role, and the Government, in part unwilling to defy U.S. pressure against a pullout, has expanded SDF powers in a way radically different from the original intent of the force. Formally, the SDF could only resort to violence in the event of an invasion of the homeland, but now the SDF can initiate attacks should it feel threatened and in some cases, launch preemptive strikes. Large numbers of the public have expressed dismay at these developments which seem to blur the line between protecting the safety of SDF "aid" workers and providing public capabilities. The result has been the invigoration of a wide-spread, distinctly Japanese anti-war movement.

On April 9th of last year, three Japanese civilians were captured by U.S. insurgents who threatened to burn them alive if the Koizumi Government did not withdraw its forces. The kidnapping set off a public outcry with vigils and demonstrations for SDF withdrawal occurring across the country. 50,000 citizens gathered for a highly publicized event outside the Diet building. Though the release of the hostages was fortunately negotiated, later in the year Shohei Koda, another Japanese, was kidnapped and beheaded by insurgents in Baghdad. His body was found wrapped in an American flag. National polls at the end of the year showed disapproval of continued deployment to be somewhere between 61 and 84 percent.

In December of 2004, Prime Minister Koizumi decided to renew the one-year order for deployment. Though the Liberal Democratic Party has never lost power, public dissatisfaction is constraining decision making and boosting the electoral success of opposition parties. The future will likely see a squaring off of the calculated politics of alliance and appeasement with American power and the emotional politics of domestic opinion. The result could have significant effects on the future of military and economic relations between America and Japan.

In a time where we seem to be losing friends faster than we are gaining them, it is critical that we are receptive to the wisdom of others, especially our long time allies... and if there is any country that can teach us this lesson, it is Japan.
Letters to the Editor continued

Columnist’s statements “ignorant”

Dear Ms. Alexander,

Let me tell you a little bit about a young man I met over 20 years ago. His name is Azziz Abu Yassin. Azziz was 16 years old, and a gifted young Mujahideen fighter. He was learning new techniques on how to defeat the Soviet invaders in Afghanistan.

The day he was going to depart, he made it a point to seek me out one last time. Azziz kissed me on both cheeks, and vowed to kill many communists with his new knowledge. He also expressed great sorrow, that he would not be back. He has many friends, and they all want to kill him.

Walking around with the most sincerity in his voice he replied, “Well...you are an idiot...you are an idiot...”

I wish I had more time to counter your ignorant statements Ms. Alexander. The topics could range from the dual-use nuclear component receipts from France, (dated only months before this war started), to low levels of sarin detected in the Tigris river below Baghdad, (just days after coalition forces took control). I won’t even bother bringing up the current oil for food scandal at the U.N. Even CNN can’t sweep that one under the rug.

In closing, Rachel Alexander, I would encourage you to put a Support our Troops magnet on your car, but more importantly, support why they are there. Because those brave men and women are the only thing keeping Azziz Abu Yassin from knocking on your door.

Anne Frank, Iraq similar

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to let you in on a few of my thoughts about Rachel Alexander’s opinion piece, “Bring the Troops Home.” I recently went to a production of The Diary of Anne Frank, where I was struck by the personal side of the tragedy of the Holocaust. I couldn’t help but think of other people like Anne Frank in Iraq. If they had lived, I wonder what they would have to say to Alexander’s brushing aside of Saddam’s Hitler-like mass murderers. Was it worth it back then to invade Nazi Germany to stop the human rights violations? Was it worth it just two years ago to invade Iraq to stop innocent people from being killed for no other reason than their ethnicity or religion?

They both sound eerily similar.

Regardless of Saddam actually breaking the cease-fire agreement he made with us and his apparent ability to import whatever he wanted (as evidenced by the entire food for oil scandal and his lavish palaces), I would say our actions in Iraq— if even to save one life— one life like Anne Frank’s— were worth it.

Sincerely,

Micah Nelp

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February 16, 2005
Tripping hither, tripping thither

Students bring British Parliament satire to life

"Iolanthe"

Directed by Jack Delmore
Orchestra conducted by Monte Atkinson
William S. Robinson Theatre, Moss Performing Arts Center
Feb. 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 19 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Adults $14, seniors $12, students $5
Ticket sales begin one hour before each performance
Content suitable for all audiences

Source: "Iolanthe" press release

Features

Blade-Ashley Fergus
Reporter

You will "shake in [your] shoes" on Thursday while watching fairies prance around in their tights across Mesa State College's main stage as Mesa State's latest opera, Gilbert and Sullivan's "Iolanthe," opens.

The show is a mystical operetta starring 25 of Mesa State's dancing and singing students, some of whom can hit quite high notes.

"Iolanthe" opens with Private Willis, played alternately by Parke Fecht and Jim Carey (no, not the celebrity), sitting in the bathtub. Mortals and fairies of all ages, shapes, colors and sizes proceed to jump across stage, singing in harmony about "Liberals and Conservatives making us listen and pay attention... making us think, making us drink..."

"Of course, the fairies hang out," said Jade Delmore, the production's director. "The story line is a double love story: one involving an older couple and the other involving a younger couple. Of course, the older man is interested in the younger girl. [The older couple] have a son, [who is] half a fairy and hooked up with the younger girl, but [the older man] doesn't know that,"

Confusing, but Thomas Jaeger, 18, a freshman majoring in acting/directing and playing the part of a parliament member in "Iolanthe," helps clarify.

"Iolanthe is the name of a fairy who in her past had married a mortal and secretly had a son [who is half-fairy] with him, but the [father] doesn't know," Jaeger said. "It's illegal for a fairy to marry a mortal, so she was banned from fairy world for some odd years, [but they end up] pardoning [her]. [Her] son is half-mortal, so his legs will die someday, but his upper half is fairy."

"All that may make it hard for Strephon to have half-mortal, half-fairy children."

"That's what I was most worried about," said Jordan Allen, 18, a freshman majoring in music education and playing the part of Strephon.

His character's mother, Iolanthe (played by Melanie Horton), is who the play is named after.

The show continues with the love story between the younger couple.

"[Strephon] is in love with a ward of parliament (a girl that isn't old enough to get married so she must get permission from parliament)," Allen said. "No one in parliament will let the guy marry the girl."

The story ends in romance, happiness and a young man who may get to keep both his legs, but we dare not tell you more.

Mesa State's orchestra will be accompanying "Iolanthe" in a pit offstage. Along with classical instruments, "Iolanthe" will bring in one of the world's first raps, called "Patter Song."

"Patter Song" is a song with tons and tons of words, and it's really similar to the 20th century rap because rap is just all words in rhythm," Delmore said. "Everybody thinks rap is cool. It's been done before, and these are the guys who helped invent it."

Look for the Lord Chancellor (alternately played by Chris Klaich and Chris Coon) rapping "The Nightmare Song."

"Iolanthe" is the last major production of the 2004-2005 school year, and several seniors are saying their good-byes.

"We have a lot of seniors in the show who are kind of finishing their last big musical show," Delmore said. "Landen (Jones), Cory, Melanie—who've been in an awful lot of shows—they'll be wrapping up. You always miss them when they go, but when they get to be seniors, they're ready to go. They've got their technique, their training is down, so it's really time for them to go."

Senior Landen Jones, 25, musical theater major, is planning on moving to New York to pursue his musical theater career. He says he has mixed feelings about leaving Mesa State.

"It's exciting because I've done a lot of shows here," Jones said. "It's nice to have the feeling that I'm finally moving on, but it's sad too because I have done so much and it feels like home here, so it feels like I'm leaving home, almost," he said.

"To all the incoming students: this is a great school, and I think that they have a lot to learn," Jones said. "They know who you are, and they know what they can do, and they give you opportunities."

"Iolanthe" has a jaw-dropping cast of singers, bright costumes and a story line that will keep you captivated.
Avalon offers fine flicks

Local theater shows independent films

The Avalon is located at 645 Main St. The theater has brought the movie "What the Bleep Do We Know!?" back due to popular demand.

Kristin Rocco
Reporter

"What the Bleep Do We Know!?" No, that's not someone yelling obscenities or responding to a question. It's the name of the movie that will be featured next week at the Avalon Theater, located at 645 Main St.

Gretchen Reist, executive director of Cinema at the Avalon, described the documentary-hybrid "What the Bleep Do We Know!?" as a blend of quantum mechanics, physics and mysticism. "The movie features interviews with visionaries, mystics and scientists. Those interviews have been compiled into a documentary format and fictional story lines, an Oscar-winning actress and animation have been added. In short, the movie is a hodgepodge of media."

This will be the second time "What the Bleep Do We Know!?" has played at the Avalon. Reist decided to bring the movie back due to popular demand. Even before she posted that the film was returning, she was receiving requests for it.

"It is turning into a phenomenon," Reist said. "It's the little movie that could."

Reist is excited to bring the film back to Grand Junction because of the cult following that has already developed around it in cities across the country, including Denver, where it has been playing in theaters since August.

"People are coming four or five times to see this movie," Reist said.

The film centers on the idea that what we experience might be what we expect to experience. In other words, people create their own reality. The matrix-oriented story line will be a brainbender for viewers, leaving them with a lot to mull over.

Another event on the Avalon's calendar is the film "Lightning in a Bottle," a documentary about blues musicians gathering for a benefit concert at Radio City Music Hall. The theater will have the blues band Flat Top Reed on hand to play a one-hour concert before the film is shown.

Reist, who has been with the Avalon for three years, said coming to a movie at the Avalon is a whole different experience. Patrons of the Avalon will have the feeling of stepping back into time as they walk through the double glass doors of the old, brick building and see the classic, hotel-style patterned carpet spread across the lobby and up the staircases to the balcony. Movies can be enjoyed from the balcony at all times, and viewing one from the balcony adds a special tinge to an evening out, especially for guys hoping to get in the good graces of a lady friend.

Upcoming Events

"What the Bleep Do We Know!?"

Showings begin Monday. Stars Marlee Matlin, Oscar-winner for her role in the movie "Children of a Lesser God," "What the Bleep Do We Know!?" delves into notions of existence and higher powers. For more information about the film, visit www.whatthebleep.com.

"Lightning in a Bottle"

Showings begin Feb. 25. This critically acclaimed documentary of a 2003 benefit concert at Radio City Music Hall features artists Chuck D, Macy Gray, Bonnie Raitt, B.B. King, John Fogerty and many more.

Flat Top Reed concert/"Lightning in a Bottle"

Feb. 26. Local blues band Flat Top Reed will play before a showing of the film "Lightning in a Bottle." Adults $10, Students $6 (with a Mavcard).
If you lived in your car, you'd be home by now

Colleen Roach
Reporter

I was approaching a stoplight recently, keeping a healthy car-length between the next vehicle and I, when a Rabbit (the Volkswagen, not the animal—though this car was an animal) came hopping by at warp speed and violently rear-ended the defenseless car in front of it.

I place the responsibility for the epidemic of inattentiveness on the road on three things: Bonds, Elements (the ugliest accidents much like the one I witnessed carefully askew to cover the stickers), Aztec and a Rabbit (the Volkswagen, not the animal) coming immune to seeing ill. Maybe a display would be convenient, but that can be stopped.

The problem with all those bumper stickers is they are designed to grab your attention, causing unnecessary accidents much like the one I witnessed involving the Rabbit. After driving past the scene a couple more times just to be sure everyone was OK, I noticed a bumper sticker on the back of the rear-ended vehicle that said in the smallest of print, "If you can read this, I could hit my brakes and sue you."

Being a very curious person, if I see a bumper sticker with bright colors, tiny print and clever wording, I have to look at it. I feel obligated, as the operator of a vehicle, to do so. I'll feel like I've been duped when the sticker says something pointless like, "Unless you're a hemorrhoid, get off my ass" or "I brake suddenly...for tailgaters" (the last three words in miniscule print). Still, like police sirens in a song, I fall for it every time.

Today, the number of bumper stickers on the road with a positive message has diminished. The bumper sticker was probably created with good intentions, but it has moved on to being used for one of three reasons:

1. Political statements like "Bush + Dick = Screwed."
2. Boasting about one's own offspring with statements like "My child is an honor student at..." (when their kid probably has A.D.D. and mostly F's).
3. Simply offensive insults like "You suck big time."

The inspiration for a good part of this column was a sticker that falls into category No. 3. It cut bluntly to the core of my feelings like a cold, sharp knife when I read, "You're stupid." The worst part about it was the particular vehicle it was on was a Honda Element, and it was that mean little bunny rabbit saying it. I suddenly felt compelled to retaliate because I'm not stupid. But what could I do in a situation like that, give them the finger?

I've considered what I could have done for vengeance. Flipping the bird is passé and most people have become immune to seeing it. Maybe a well-placed coffee cup thrown toward a windshield? A scrolling display in my rear windshield to say what I'm feeling in bright colors and a crystal clear, lucid display would be convenient, but that could get pricey. My paintball gun does have impeccable aim and is as easy to use.

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I realized I'd be doing them a favor by cleaning their car. So, finally, I settled on simply swerving as close to them as I could get both fingers out the window, they'll have no time to retaliate or even get out of the way. That adrenaline burst that kicks in when they think they're going to die will really make those drivers think about what they have done. To drive the point home, I'll probably be driving a Rabbit because that little brute came out of that accident I saw like a champ. I only warn that you be careful when trying this because 90 percent of people are caused by accidents.
Music Review:

Mastodon: Leviathan (2004, Relapse)

Josh Kleine Deters
Reporter

Sounds like: Neurosis, Isis, Lamb of God, Dead to Fall, The Crown
Rating: 8 out of 10 stars

Think Neurosis—on speed. Now, throw them into a cage fight with Lamb of God, and the bloodied victor would be Mastodon. A true beast of an album, "Leviathan" hits heavy on countless levels, even for a band as talented as Atlanta-based Mastodon. With "Leviathan," the band has created a musical novel to call its own, taking on the task of devoting an entire album based on Herman Melville's classic "Moby Dick."

From as early as the beginning track, "Blood and Thunder," it seems easy to guess what to expect from the quartet—complicated, thrusting and surprisingly catchy guitar lines and countless (sometimes cluttering) fills from drummer Brann Dailor (who has an uncanny resemblance to jazz-drummer Brann Dailor (who has catchy guitar lines and countless (sometimes cluttering) fills from drummer Brann Dailor (who has an uncanny resemblance to jazz-drummer Brann Dailor (who has an uncanny resemblance to jazz-drummer Brann Dailor). Those expectations, though turning out to be somewhat true, are not to be fully entertained for much longer than the first track.

Number 2 track, "I Am Ahab," delivers a much more progressive feel by delving into more harmonic territory and defined rhythms, leaving Dailor to again pummel every listener into submission and awe with as many ever-quicker fills as he can crank out. The song obviously takes up the view of Captain Ahab and picks up where "Blood and Thunder" left off to reveal Ahab's deep obsession over his seemingly unattainable holy grail—the white whale. The lyrics are insightfully narrative, and the music reflects Ahab's internal conflict to easily complement the vocal counterpart. Despite this much fine musicianship and songwriting coming out of two songs, the rest of the album is no exception and even manages to succeed its predecessors.

Without sticking to boundaries, Mastodon brings its fury into another realm by infusing licks that are oddly reminiscent of days spent at sea, although I have never experienced one. I could envision the rough waters and constant churning of the waves. It felt like there should be rum involved.

All this sailing action in the midst of powerful, driving tracks like "Island" or its follow-up, "Iron Tusk," rush by without losing any momentum. That is accomplished by the perfect timing of staccato bass lines from Troy Sanders and the ever-faithful Dailor introducing double-bass hits in flawless succession.

Ahab's whale hunt comes to a dramatic climax in both "Aqua Dementia" and the second to last track, "Hearts Alive." "Aqua Dementia" brings forth a new element by featuring additional vocals by Neurosis' Scott Kelly, while "Hearts Alive" expands and concludes the epic battle over 13 minutes before a victor emerges. Though much of "Hearts Alive" is instrumental, no effect is lost by the absence of vocals, considering the drastic dynamic and timing changes made throughout the struggle.

After weathering the final tracks, the story ends with a semi-acoustic epilogue in "Joseph Merrick." Despite the fact many metal fans will be disappointed in its lack of drive, the song ends the album well and brings to mind the notion of an angry sea coming to rest.

An excellent, although different, follow up to 2001's "Remission," Mastodon's latest provides a still heavy, yet transitional atmosphere to the band's sound as a whole. It lends itself to be thought of as a closer relative to the future.
For Rent

Rooms for rent in a clean, four bedroom two bath home. Non-smokers only. Two blocks west of college. All utilities included. $350 a month. Call 270-0409.


1-2 roommates wanted. Three bed two bath condo near the mall. Furnished, washer/dryer, pool, rent $325 plus electric, other utilities included. Call 640-7713.

Brand new: one block from college; has own bathroom; shared living room, kitchen, and laundry; 1125 Belford; $375/mo (utilities paid); 216-4309.

Two roommates wanted to share 3 bedroom 2 bath townhouse. $325.00 a month inclusive all utilities. No big pets, no children. Close to school, (off of D and 31). Call Megan @ (970)640-5160 to take a look.

Female roommates wanted to share new three bedroom house in legends subdivision off Patterson. Month-to-month or long-term lease. $300/month plus utilities split three ways. Teresa 263-0169.


Clean quiet large room, share kitchen and bathroom. Utilities included, laundry $250/month plus $250 deposit. No pets 241-6277. Close to campus.

For Sale

Sofa sleeper couch (blue/white) $25. Medium recliner (green) $15. Call 434-4025 leave a message.


Pentax ZX-7 SLR camera, automatic and manual settings with carrying case, like new. $400, contact Erich 270-0901.

Dishwasher, free standing, full-size, nearly new. Paid $275, must sell, asking only $75. Call Brenda at 255-7077.

1998 Toyota Corolla CE. 58,000 miles. Power windows, clean exterior and interior, a/c, automatic. $6,200 O.B.O. Denise 254-0248.

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

CAB funding requests are due Wednesday, March 23 at 5 p.m. to the CAB office.

CAB meeting at 7 p.m. March 30 in Houston 130.
Opening day at Suplizio Field
Mavericks split four-game series against New Mexico Highlands

The Mesa State College baseball team opened its season by splitting a four-game series with New Mexico Highlands University over the weekend.

On Friday, Mesa State began the non-conference series with a doubleheader. The Mavericks started out slow, and by the end of the third inning of the first game, the Cowboys were leading 5-1. The Mavs continued to struggle, and the Cowboys rode out the game 6-2.

The only bright spots for the Mavs were a run scored by right fielder Ryan Griep and a solo home run hit by center fielder Kevin Lantry. Pitcher Mike King took the loss. The Mavs made five errors.

In the second game, a seven-inning blowout, the Mavericks stampeded the Cowboys 10-3. Second baseman Jared Burke led the Mavs with three hits in four at bats, three RBIs and an isolated home run-while Griep and Lantry followed, each going two for four and scoring two runs. Lantry had two RBIs—one off another solo home run—while Griep had one RBI. Pitcher Sergio Romo (1-0) managed a complete game, allowing seven hits and three runs to get the win.

On Saturday, the Mavs bucked the Cowboys 15-1. Griep and Lantry came up big on offense, again. Griep batted three for four with three runs scored and one RBI to lead the Mavs on offense, but he was closely followed by Lantry, who hit three for five with three runs scored and four RBIs.

Catcher Jesse Elam went two for four with two runs scored and three RBIs, including a three-run homer in the third inning.

On defense, the steadfast pitching of Travis Fox (1-0) limited the Cowboys to three hits and one run over six innings.

"I went in knowing I was going to throw as long as I could," Fox said. "I was expecting to pitch at least six innings."

Noel Mohrmann came into relieve Fox in the seventh inning, followed by Luke Cheever in the eighth and Joe Safken in the ninth. Combined, they held the Cowboys to two hits and no runs.

"It makes me confident to know I have strong relief," Fox said.

On Sunday, the Cowboys lassoed the Mavericks despite the Mavs leading the Cowboys until the fifth inning, when the Cowboys rallied to tie the game 4-4. In the top of the sixth, the Cowboys added four runs to make the game 8-5, and that's where the score stayed.

Shortstop Willie Hinojosa led the Mavs on offense, going two for four with two runs scored and one RBI, a solo home run. Griep went three for five, but failed to score a run or bat one in. First baseman Kevin Mackey went two for four, scored one run and batted one in. Left fielder Ben Thompson knocked a two-run homer over the center field fence in the fourth inning. Pitcher Ben Haskell (0-1) took the loss. The Mavs made seven errors.

Going into the series, Mesa State was ranked No. 15 in the nation and No. 2 in the RMAC. After splitting the series with the unranked Cowboys, the Mavericks dropped to No. 22 in the nation, but Head Coach Chris Hanks is not concerned.

"The rankings, number one, don't mean a whole lot," Hanks said. "I think we have a good club, but Highlands has a respectable club, as well."

Even though the Cowboys are unranked, Hanks knew they might be a problem for the Mavericks.

"Traditionally, we've had trouble with Highlands," Hanks said. "If you look back over the years, they've been a little bit of a thorn in our side pretty much every year. They're a well-coached team.

The Mavericks wish the weekend would have gone better.

"We really felt like we should have won three of four," Hanks said. "Sunday's game, we blew the 4-1 lead, and we had an opportunity to bust it open with the bases loaded and maybe make it another laugh­er. But we didn't, and they fought back, and they held us off."

Fox concurred with his coach.

"We're not pleased to be 2-2," Fox said. "We have the better talent. We wanted to win the series, but we're glad we won two games."

Lance Manganello contributed to this story.

Mesa State College second baseman Jared Burek drives the ball off New Mexico Highlands University pitcher Rudy Sierra in the second game of Friday's doubleheader. Burek went 3-3 with three RBI and two runs scored in Friday's second game. The Mavericks won the second game Friday 10-3 after losing the first game 6-2. The Mavs are at home this weekend to take on the Northwest Nazarene Crusaders on Friday and Saturday in a four-game series. Both doubleheaders are scheduled to get underway at noon.

Mesa State College Maverick baseball
Friday-Saturday vs. Northwest Nazarene at noon
Feb. 25-27 @ RMAC Tourney in Denver at 2 p.m.
Mavs dunk nationally ranked team

Men win final two home games, beat Fort Lewis

Pat Bahr
Reporter

Everyone is still trying to recover from Saturday night's incredible game against Fort Lewis College. Mesa State College won the game 75-72, they also downed Adams State 85-65 Friday night.

Right from the moment that the Denver Nuggets mascot, lucky reveals the engine to his motorcycle it was on, as a crowd of 1,876 enjoyed a game Saturday night that was one to remember. Saturday night was also the last home game for Marcus Bruhaker, Jarred Perry, Devin Wood, Jeremy Cummings, Dwayne Horn, Tony Qorri, and Derek Lemuel. Perry especially had a memorable last home game scoring ten points, pulling down six rebounds, and having an intimidating four blocks. At 7:12 left in first half, when Mesa was down by one when a bucket by senior Bruhaker put the momentum into Mesa's corner and they were able to take that momentum to a 40-30 lead at halftime. Coming out of halftime a costly technical foul by seniors on the team was a 54-51 Fort Lewis. Mesa started strong on Friday getting up by 12 at halftime and did not look back from there. Dwayne Horn had a strong night scoring 11 points and pulling down 11 rebounds. Andy Classick also had 13 points. The big Aussie David Mitchell led the Grizzlies with 18 points.

Next week the Mavs will play at Western State on Tuesday and travel to CSU-Pueblo on Saturday.

"We have got four games coming up on the road, and playing in the RMAC is no tough. We definitely need to come together and win these last four," Cummings said after the game.

Qorri added, "We set our goals: four games done, and four to go."

Women Mavs pull off first weekend sweep

Todd Earl
Reporter

In honoring the seniors on senior night the women's basketball team gave a 62-59 victory over the Ft. Lewis College Skyhawks (12-11, 8-7) as a parting gift to the two seniors on the team Rosa Master (Sr., 5-11, Kahului, HI) and Annie Jeeter (Sr., 5-6-2, Downey, CA, Warren H.S.). The last time these two teams met the Skyhawks won by 38 points, 63-45 so winning the game this past weekend was a game of redemption for the Maverick basketball team.

Coming into the game the Skyhawks were second in the west division and 5 in the conference. The Mavericks went 2-0 for the weekend and it was the first time the Mavs have won 2 games in a row. "Beating Ft. Lewis has established ourselves as a team that can contend instead of just another win for the opposing team" said Brittany Rowley (Jr., 5-7, Green River, WY) who on the night had 29 points and shot 50% from the field. Rowley also hit a three with 0.3 seconds on the clock to give the Mavericks a 60-59 lead.

"We set the play up in the timeout so when I got the ball I saw that there was little time on the clock, saw that I had an open look at the basketball and fired up the shot. As I was watching the ball I was just praying that the ball would go in and it did," Rowley said after the game.

Other stand out players for the win over the Skyhawks were Brittany Fowler (Fr., G, 5-8, Longmont, Co) who was one rebound away from recording her second career double-double with 9 rebounds and 13 points and Rosa Master who had 11 points and 9 rebounds.

"The team effort held through the end and it was a quality win for us," Master said. We never gave, hit shots when we needed too, four points. The big Aussie David Mitchell led the Grizzlies with 18 points.

Next week the Mavs look to extend their winning streak to 4 games by playing Western State College on Tuesday who has only won 2 games on the year. The Mavs will continue play Saturday at Colorado State University-Pueblo who are ranked on position ahead with a record of 9 wins and 7 losses.
Above, the seven seniors of the Mesa State College men's basketball team. From left to right: Dwayne Horn, Marcus Brubaker, Jeremy Cummings, Tony Orri, Devin Wood, Jarrod Perry, and Derrick Lemuel. Right, senior women's basketball player Rosa Masler posts up against her Fort Lewis Skyhawks opponent. Masler was also a varsity volleyball player at Mesa State from 2000-2003. Both the Mesa State men's and women's teams finished their home schedules with victories over their opponents. The teams played Western State College last night on the road, but results were not ready by press time. On Saturday night the Mav men and women will take on the CSU-Pueblo Thunderwolves and will have only two games remaining on their schedules.
Where do I start? What a chaotic week it has been at Mesa State College. The publishing of the "Anti-Crite," things have been busy.

I would like to give my theory on punishing athletes. First of all, I want everyone to know I am for punishing everyone, not just athletes. Unfortunately, I think athletes get the worst punishments of anyone.

Athletes are under the spotlight all the time. Being in the spotlight can be glorious, and it can be devastating. I admire athletes for being able to handle the public scrutiny they receive.

A problem at Mesa State College is that coaches' policies are not always clear. Everybody knows Joe Ramunno's policies—drink, and you're done for two games. I don't think it is that cut-and-dry with every coach.

If a Mesa State student is the manager of McDonald's and receives a DUI or an MVP, we will probably never hear about it in the news. However, if you are an athlete, the same mistake is going to be blown up by every media outlet.

To me, being embarrassed on the front page of the paper is punishment enough. You have to live with the fact that you let everyone down publicly. Even so, I agree with coaches disciplining a player if the player knows what they are doing is in violation of team rules.

In the case of the women's basketball team, I think the players were not aware they were going to get suspended for the rest of the season for what happened. I am still not completely sure exactly what happened with the four members of the team. My feeling is if you are of age to drink, you should be able to have a beer after a game, but you should be responsible. If you show up to practice hungover, then I guess you pay the price when it comes time to condition and run at practice. In that case, I don't think suspension is the right call.

You are an adult and you have the right to drink. Professional athletes, I'm sure, come to practice or shoot around hungover, or go out and drink after a game. Are they suspended? No. I know, college athletes are representing a school and a set of standards, but pro athletes represent an organization and a set of standards, as well.

I know the four members of the women's basketball team are great athletes, and I don't think they deserved the embarrassment they received. They are great women and have dreams, goals and aspirations like every other student. The suspended players will leave this college with a degree, and that is what really matters. If I were the staff at the Criterion, including me, I would like to thank the suspended members of the team for the time and effort they have put into Mesa State. In the classroom and on the court.

And for the coaches at Mesa State, I think you guys do a great job, as well. We just need to make sure our athletes are aware of the consequences of violating team rules. It would save us all a lot of headaches.

Now, you know my theory on punishing athletes.