County residents heat up over incinerator

COLUMBIA, S.C. - Two female cadets who left the Citadel after they said they were repeatedly hazed have started classes at the University of South Carolina. Kim Messer and Jeanie Mentavlos, two of the first four female cadets who enrolled at the Citadel after the college dropped its all-male policy last summer, transferred to USC just days after announcing they had dropped out of The Citadel.

NEW HAVEN, Conn. - Nicholas Ryan, a Yale University student, pled guilty Jan. 8 to committing computer fraud by creating a software program that let him access America Online for free. Known online as “Happy Hardcore,” Ryan faces up to five years in prison and $250,000 in fines.

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. - Pennsylvania State University plans to welcome its first law class by the end of the century. Penn State announced Jan. 13 that it would merge with the Dickinson School of law. The two schools will merge officially in the year 2000.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Washington Post reported that J.D. Salinger, the reclusive author of Catcher in the Rye, will publish his first new book in 34 years. Hapworth 16, 1924 will be printed in February by Orchises Press, a small press in Alexandria Va.

Evanstown, Ill. - Exposure to extra light, even during the day, can help fend off the blues for those who suffer from seasonal affective disorder, or SAD, a team of Northwestern University scientists say. The depression is associated with the dark, short-ened days of winter.

Compiled by Thomas Webb
from College Press Services.

City council says no to Stumble In

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Compiled by Thomas Webb
from College Press Services.
Thomas Webb
News writer

The SGA invited JSU English Professor Rufus Kinney to speak at this week’s meeting. Kinney passed around a packet of papers that contained photocopies of articles from The Anniston Star, a letter from the Bass Angler’s Sportsman Society, and a community interest survey on the “Destruction of Chemical Weapons at Anniston Army Depot.” He also passed out buttons reading “No More Emelies! No Incinerator!” Kinney strongly opposes the incinerator, calling it “insane...the economic death of this community.” Kinney pointed to a decision of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management that he says would allow Westinghouse to “blow up Calhoun County, and never have to pay one cent in victim’s compensation.”

Kinney also encouraged students to express their feelings on this highly controversial issue. He congratulated the SGA on their record of involvement, saying “SGA leadership at this university...is second to none.” He should have just as much self-respect as if you were an Ivy League school...You get involved in important issues.”

After Kinney finished speaking, SGA Publicity Director Heather Brackman announced that calendars for this semester were being printed. “It will be here Wednesday for everyone. It’s got all of our functions on there, and it also has some just regular JSU functions on there,” Brackman said.

2nd Vice President Angel Narvaez announced that a Casino Night meeting would be held Thursday at 3:30 pm. Narvaez encouraged students to show up for the meeting. 1st Vice President Christian LeBlanc said that he has received many applications to fill vacancies on the Senate. He says that next week, new appointments will be made.

Bob Boyle, who was unable to attend the meeting, sent his report to the SGA via Allison Logsdon. Logsdon, reading from the report, said that the Board of Trustees had approved repairs to the roofs of Weatherly and Rowan Halls. The Board also gave permission to the administration to plan renovations of the TMB.

Bill 29, tabled since last semester, was voted on this week. The bill, which sought to appoint LeTondra Davis as a SGA senator was defeated with little opposition. This bill was the first of the semester to be voted down. Ms. Davis was not to be found after the vote.

The following announcements were also made:
• The JSU vs. Sanford game will be televised Friday on SportsSouth
• The next Traffic Appeals Court will be held Monday, Feb. 3 in the SGA offices
• SGA officer and senator applications for the spring elections will be available beginning Monday in the SGA offices.
• Executive Board meetings have been moved to Thursdays at 2:30 p.m. in the SGA offices
• Residence Life Committee is sponsoring a resolution supporting 24-hour security in dorms. Currently there is no security between 6:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
• 5:00 p.m. Thursday 92J will be taken 22 students down to Sanford. Interested students should contact Robert Ray.

The SGA meeting was adjourned after these announcements. The SGA meets every Monday night at 6:00 on the 3rd floor of the TMB. All students are encouraged to attend.

Shakespeare in Georgetown? Not to be.

by Noel Hartman
The Yale Daily News

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — A day without Shakespeare is like a day without sunshine for most English majors.

But not at Georgetown University, where English majors can get their degree without ever cracking what most consider the most basic works of English literature.

Last year the school’s English department voted to replace a long-standing system of distributional requirements, which obligated English majors to take at least two semesters courses in either Chaucer, Milton or Shakespeare.

Instead, students can choose from three areas of concentration, the first dealing with literature and literary history, the second with culture and performance, and the third with writing skills.

The change sparked a maelstrom of controversy within the Georgetown community. In student debating societies, faculty lounges, and dorm rooms, critics of the new policy charged the department with trying to remove Shakespeare from the curriculum.

But English professors countered criticism of the new system by reminding its detractors that students will still be able to take courses in


Shakespeare and other giants of the English literary canon.

“At Georgetown, it’s not an either/or situation. The canon and cultural studies can and will coexist, and our students will benefit from both,” professor Dennis Todd said.

English majors are still required to take at least two semester courses covering topics from before 1850 and while Shakespeare and company are not explicitly required, most students end up enrolling in a class that touches on his work.

Last year the National Alumni Forum, a non-profit organization devoted to stemming the tides of declining academic standards released a report entitled “The Shakespeare File: What English Majors Are Really Studying.”

Of 70 universities investigated, the study found 23 required that English majors take a course on Shakespeare.

“The abandonment of Shakespeare requirements is not merely a trend, it is now the norm,” the report stated. Although opponents of innovative distributional requirements have succeeded in creating controversy, students have taken the changes in stride.

“it’s not a big deal. I am still taking all the classics I would have taken anyway,” English major, Julie Kyle said.

As part of Jacksonville State’s first ever Martin Luther King, Jr. Week, Rev. John S. Nettles spoke on Thursday, January 23 to a crowd of 125 people. The event was sponsored by the Office of Minority Affairs.

Petitioners gave a cheer as the Council turned down the request unanimously.

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**Political correctness is derogatory**

If you can read and decide that this might be something interesting, then I feel that I should forewarn you. What follows has the potential, hopefully, to offend the narrow-minded. It is my personal opinion that political correctness is derogatory and demeaning to those who insist upon having a PC label.

Let's start with the actual phrase “political correctness,” what is political about referring to a deaf person as hearing impaired. It should be something more along the lines of social correctness. It really is more of a concern for other human beings and our relations, isn’t it? PC is not a matter of being offensive or sensitive, it is basic decency, perception, and understanding. To me, it seems as if we are just spoon-feeding artificial sensitivity.

There is, however, a need for social correctness. Social correctness is not about labeling and relabeling and relabeling again; it is not pity or pretentiousness either. All of those things can be harmful and only add to the cultural barriers of misunderstanding or a complete lack of understanding at all.

Unfortunately there are and always will be ignorant, insensitive people. You can’t, without genetic reconstruction, help it. An acquaintance of mine, let’s call him X, is a perfect example. In a crowded mall X spots a woman in a wheelchair and decides that he needs to skip past her and, while laughing, say “I bet ya can’t do this, I bet ya wish ya could do this!” X is a complete moron and I’m sure not many of you would disagree. It is people like X that cause people to use PC as a soapbox to find an end to their own needs or gain, whether good or bad.

It does not matter what the issue is, be it racial, physical, overintellectualize for the sake of certain people’s narrow-minded political gain.
To the Editor,

I want to thank the Office of Minority Affairs and Mr. Zeigler for their great work in giving JSU students the opportunity to go to Atlanta to visit the Martin Luther King Center and tour King’s home on Martin Luther King Day. I enjoyed touring Martin Luther King’s house and visiting the center where incidentally, the Reverend Bernice King, Martin Luther King’s daughter, was doing a book signing. I met her, and actually met and shook hands with Coretta Scott King. I had a wonderful time and as a history minor, I was able to get some historical insights that I would otherwise not have.

I would have to say that my only disappointment is that more people did not take advantage of this opportunity. There was one bus, and it was not entirely full. Also, there were only two white people on the bus, myself included. The price was only $2.00, and the trip was worth far more than the cost. The historical significance of civil rights takes no racial or ethnic barriers. The Office of Minority Affairs will sponsor another trip on February 19, to the Civil Rights Museum in Birmingham. I hope that more JSU students will sign up for this opportunity. There was one bus, and it was not entirely full. Also, there were only two white people on the bus, myself included. The price was only $2.00, and the trip was worth far more than the cost. The historical significance of civil rights transcend all racial and ethnic barriers.

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Sincerely,

James Simpson

African American and Future Educator
DeLandra M. Hunter

How do you feel about the use of undercover news gathering methods by the media?

"As long as nothing illegal is happening, it shouldn’t matter how they get their information. The idea is to reveal the truth, and if it has to be undercover, then so be it."

Emily Martin, Senior

"I think it’s a way to get to the reality, as long as there is no other way to get to it."

Said Belemlih, Junior

"I really don’t agree with it. I know it is a good way to get the real story, but it is dirty and sneaky and just plain wrong. By going undercover they are invading that person’s privacy."

Charlotte Neal, Freshman

"If it is done both legally and ethically, then there should not be a problem. It is the tabloids that have brought a bad name to the news."

Joshua Newton, Senior

"I think they (the journalists) should do their job as completely as possible without breaking laws or upsetting production or other working professionals."

Nicole Humphrey, Junior

"I think that if it’s a case of the public being wronged by bureaucratic institutions, it’s a great idea."

David Downs, Senior

"As long as [it] doesn’t hurt anyone it’s okay."

Constance Brewster, Freshman
Five points loosened up

by Sam Dillon
A&E editor

The New York-based and female-fronted quartet New York Loose “loosened up” 5 Points South Music Hall in Birmingham on January 26, along with Reverend Horton Heat. NY Loose took over the stage, and the crowd, around eleven o’clock and proceeded to put on a great show. Their music is loud and thrashy and, despite the opinion of a Birmingham paper, very good. They have a good image and a great stage presence that, combined with the music, made for one amazing show. The songs “Pretty Suicide” and especially “Spit” were done terrifically. They had everyone reaching new levels of hypertension and sent blood pressures through the roof.

NY Loose has been on tour with Rev. H.H. for only a week but will continue on with them through March, and will be joined by Babes in Toyland for a show in Minneapolis. In 1996 they enjoyed touring with Gravity Kills and Marilyn Manson, but according to bassist Danny Nordahl “this is the best gig yet. We are such big fans of Rev. H.H.) and really good friends too.” After March, they plan to stay on the road in Europe for a while but will probably start touring in the U.S. when they return.

The band named themselves after their home town combined with the title of the Iggy Pop song “Loose.” They formed in 1995 and moved to Hollywood last year. When they came home they hit the road and quickly gained industry interest when they released a five-song EP called “Loosen Up!” It was during the time after this release that guitarist Marc Diamond joined NY Loose and they signed with Hollywood Records. Soon afterward, they released their debut full length “The Year Of The Rat.” The album draws its name from the year which -- according to the Chinese Horoscope -- dawned during recording. There are some incredible songs on the album, and one in particular provided a little controversy. The song “Pretty Suicide” was not allowed to be made into a video because its content was said to convey a potentially bad message to young viewers/listeners. Another interesting tid-bit is that they did a cool cover of The Velvet Underground’s “Sunday Morning.”

Since the release of “T.Y.O.T.R.” they have kept themselves busy. They gained a lot of recognition with the song “Spit” which appeared on “The Crow: City of Angels” soundtrack, and was used in the scene when Iggy’s character dies. Cheap Trick has a tribute album coming out and NY Loose did a shredded-out version of “I Want You To Want Me” that was produced by Sean Beaven of Nine Inch Nails. They also made videos for the songs “Rip Me Up!” and “Broken” which will be released in the U.S. and the U.K. respectively.

If you couldn’t make it to 5 Points you have one more chance to redeem yourself before they come back later on this year, if they do. They will be in Atlanta at The Masquerade on January 30. We all know that Thursday night is party night, so why not head to Atlanta and “loosen up” with NY Loose and Reverend Horton Heat?

Quinsonics new and improved

by Sam Dillon
A&E editor

The Quinsonics were conceived by John Hansen (lead guitar) and Deron Harris (rhythm guitar/vocals) over a year and a half ago. Until recently the band was known as Kerosene and they released their first album, “Cowboy Angel” under that name. After the album’s release, Kerosene changed management, picked up Walker Wright (drums) and Bo Butler (bass), and formed The Quinsonics.

Birmingham-based and on Ideal Records, which the band founded, they have high hopes for the future. In March they plan to head to Austin, Texas for the South by Southwest music conference. There they want to “shop around” for large-label contacts/contracts. Until then, they are content and busy with building a steady following.

Those fans who know them only as Kerosene should see them now. “C.A.” was all-acoustic and influenced partially by traditional country. The Quinsonics have kept to that, but have branched out into a more revved up electric sound. They definitely have a wide market of sounds and styles, John Hansen says, “Once people get a little taste of our music they like it...no matter what label you put on it, it’s friendly...there are very few people who get turned off by our sound.” When asked what label they would put on their sound, they told me that the Montgomery Advertiser labeled them “a special performance of R.E.M. at the Grand Ole Opry,” an opinion which they all seemed to like. John added: “You never know when to sit down or to dance, it varies a lot and that’s our strong point. We do a lot of different things.”

If you want to hear these guys, then you’re in luck. They will be back in town at The Acoustic Cafe on January 31.
Here comes Danzig and Lucious Jackson

by Sam Dillon
A&E Editor
Danzig
Blackacidevil
Hollywood Records
Rating ★★★

Blackacidevil was released on Halloween 1996 and is Glenn Danzig’s fifth album with the group Danzig. This latest album is not what I expected at all, but it is incredible. Since the rebirth of “Mother” in 1994, which increased Danzig’s commercial popularity and, substantially, their cult following, the fans have been waiting patiently for this new release.

Bad is sure to help broaden their audience and airplay because of its obscure style. Along with the new direction musically, Glenn has picked up new members as well as a new label. Joey Castillo and Josh Lazzie joined Danzig in 1995 after Glenn let his former bandmates go due to artistic differences. Glenn, interestingly, brought in Jerry Cantrell of Alice In Chains fame to play guitar on three cuts on Bad; but the rest he did himself. What happened here seems to be a new phase in the experimenting process for Danzig.

The style of Bad is, at its essence, a kind of techno-industrial metal, but it isn’t that easily labeled. There are a lot of interesting and complex effects happening throughout the songs both musically and vocally. Danzig still holds on to their trademark dark and moody flare for the spiritual and social awareness served with a healthy dose of brooding thrash and ballads. This new chapter for Danzig is absolutely a great one and it is a must for anyone who has a taste for the heavier side of music.

Lucious Jackson
Fever In Fever Out
Grand Royal Records
Rating ★★★

Lucious Jackson is on top of the charts again with their latest release, Fever In Fever Out. It seems as though the band can’t lose and that every time they put out an album their following grows. Well, this album is only proves that once again.

The four-woman group has a funk-pop groove that is extremely catchy and dancy. The song “Naked Eye” is already a hit and has captured the ears of listeners far and wide. Fever is 14 tracks of mixed moods and emotions. L.J. really comes together in every respect on the album. Check out the songs “Naked Eye”, “Under Your Skin”, and “Electric”.

Musically, Fever is better than their previous releases and shows improvement in both style and creativity. They also incorporate some experimental mixes compared to earlier recordings, and overall this seems to work very well for the band’s sound. The vocals are very good, too, and meld with the music well. The lyrics are inventive and original and cover a wide range of feelings experience and emotion.
Lady Gamecocks drop two of three on the road

by Rebecca Matanic
Sports editor

The Lady Gamecocks have found that life on the road can be difficult. After securing impressive home wins against TAAC foes Florida International and Florida Atlantic, JSU hit the road for two conference games and one match-up against non-conference foe Alabama State. The Gamecocks first stopped in Macon, Ga., Jan. 23, where they faced the Bears of Mercer.

JSU connected on only eight of 27 field goals in the first half, but entered the locker room trailing by only seven, 32-25. In the second half, the Lady Gamecocks improved their field goal percentage and played the Bears even, but were unable to gain an advantage in the 74-67 loss. Suzan Shirley kept JSU in the game with a 5-12 performance from behind the 3 point arch.

Shirley led the Gamecock attack with 15 points. "I was glad to see Suzan get hot that night," Coach Dana Austin said of Shirley’s long range shooting. "We needed that."

As a team, JSU connected on 8-18 3-pointers, committed only 14 turnovers and lost the battle of the boards by just two, 37-35. However, the Bears took advantage of 38 trips to the free throw line, converting 30. Mercer’s Christen Edwards led all scorers with 17 points. Edwards made only three of 10 shots from the field, but sank nine of 12 from the charity stripe. Christy Cogley hit 8-12 free throws for Mercer to finish with 16 points.

Melissa Harden added 14 points for JSU and center Alfredia Seals grabbed a team high six rebounds and scored 11 points. Seals was limited to 25 minutes of action due to foul trouble. Guard Lori Breedlove played less than 19 minutes before fouling out. The loss dropped JSU to 4-3 in the TAAC and 6-8 overall.

JSU takes one on the road

The Lady Gamecocks earned their first conference victory away from Pete Mathews Coliseum handing a 59-52 defeat to Georgia State, Saturday. JSU used a balance scoring attack and a 47-40 advantage on the boards to defeat the Panthers. Alfredia Seals led the way with 12 points and nine rebounds. JSU guards Lori Breedlove and Shneka Whaley added 11 and 10 points, respectively. Shirley contributed 10 points and five rebounds. Harden was limited to just three points and was allowed only two shots from the field.

"Teams are keying in on her," Austin said of Harden, who entered the game averaging nearly 13 points.

The Gamecocks were able to overcome the additional defensive focus on Harden with the 3-point shooting of Breedlove and Shirley. The Panthers were led by Etolia Mitchell’s 12 points and 11 points from Tammy Felton. The victory improved JSU to 5-3 in the TAAC and 7-8 overall.

Alabama State denies Lady Gamecocks

JSU had the opportunity to even their overall record to 8-8 when they traveled to Montgomery to face Alabama State Monday. However, ASU guard Eboynee Williams scored 23 points and five assists in leading her team to a 70-61 victory. "They were doing everything..."
Gamecocks continue winning ways

by Shannon Fagan
Sports writer

Jax State continues to improve with each game of the season. The Gamecocks traveled to Macon, Ga., Jan 23 to play Mercer. They didn’t disappoint, coming away with a 69-61 win. Saturday, JSU traveled to Atlanta for a meeting with the Georgia State Panthers. The Gamecocks came from behind to secure a 75-70 victory. The Gamecocks held Mercer winless in the conference. Mercer was led by Bruce Simms’ 22 points. Mark Harden was limited to one of three shooting and just two points. “We’re going to throw in some new wrinkles in trying to free her up,” Austin said. “We can play her outside or inside. We have to concentrate on working the ball inside and keeping her open.”

Despite the loss, Austin said that her team is, “mentally where we want it to be.”

“The conference games are the most important. We have to focus on the conference.”

JSU faces in-state rival Samford today at 7 p.m. in Birmingham.

Adamson added 15 points and Ryan Robinson chipped in 12 points.

Gamecocks improve to 6-2 in TAAC

Jax State overcame a nine-point deficit to defeat the Panthers 61-57.

The smallbore rifle team of Eric Litz, Lucinda Roddy, Susan Rogers and Kathy Schuneman fired a combined score of 4603.

The air rifle team of Litz, Joshua Newton, Roddy and Schuneman fired a combined score of 1528.

Murray State tied JSU in scoring 21 points, and Kenny Roddy and Litz each added 15 points.

Georgia State Panthers lost Saturday. Kelley paved the way with 22 points. Knowlton hit four of six shots from 3-point range on his way to scoring 21 points. Sorenson recorded a double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds. The victory was the Gamecocks’ fifth in a row.

The Panthers were led by Roddy’s 15 points. Tildon Wright added 14 points and Shellord Pinkett chipped in 12. The loss dropped the Panthers to 2-6 in TAAC play.

JSU faces in-state rival Samford today at 7 p.m. in Birmingham. The Gamecocks host Florida Atlantic, Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Rifle team wins Newkirk Invitational

The smallbore rifle team of Eric Litz, Lucinda Roddy, Susan Rogers and Kathy Schuneman fired a combined score of 4603. The air rifle team of Litz, Joshua Newton, Roddy and Schuneman fired a combined score of 1528. Murray State tied JSU in the air rifle competition, but the Gamecocks’ six point advantage in the smallbore rifle event gave them the overall victory.

The Rifle Team travels to Murray State for Saturday’s Withrow Invitational at 10 a.m. The Gamecocks will also shoot at the UT Martin Invitational in Martin, Tenn., Sunday at 10 a.m.

TEAM SCORES

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JSU INDIVIDUAL SCORES

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Sorenson from page 9

beliefs. “We were teaching in Germany about our religion. Being able to share the beliefs and values that have worked in your life and them seeing them work in other peoples’ lives is rewarding.”

After completing his work in Germany, Kenny returned to Utah and Salt Lake Community College. He played basketball, continued his education and continued his relationship with his future wife, Annie, who played for SLCC’s women’s basketball team.

His basketball talents at the junior college level enabled him to select from many different schools to complete his education and further his athletic accomplishments. Sorenson was not familiar with JSU, when Coach Bill Jones first called him. However, after a recruiting trip to the university, Kenny and Annie decided to come to South and JSU.

“We wanted to get away from the area (Utah). We wanted to be on our own and see a new culture,” he says. “The basketball program had a good record and a good reputation. We’ve never regretted our decision.”

Along with the desire to live in a different region of the country, Kenny wanted to come to JSU because he was confident he could earn quality playing time, have fun and still earn a quality education. Despite their desire for independence, Kenny says the closeness of his family has been instrumental throughout his life.

“My parents are the biggest role models that I have had. I feel I come from a strong family. They’re my role models.”

Sorenson has also felt at home among his Gamecock teammates and coaches. “Especially at this time there is really good team chemistry,” he says of his TAAC Western Division leading teammates. “We pick each other up and we help each other out.”

Along with balancing his time between basketball, academics and his wife, Kenny also teaches Sunday School at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Lenlock. Annie and Kenny both play an active role in the church. Along with teaching on Sundays, they work as youth group leaders for teens 16-18.

“We have youth group activities usually on Wednesday nights: There are also scouting and youth camps. Everybody who works in our church, including the bishop, works on a voluntary basis,” he says.

Despite the challenges faced by today’s youth, Kenny says his relationship with the members of his group is good.

“I’m only five years older than some of them. They are good, strong youth.”

Along with staying active in his religion, Kenny’s future plans include graduate school. He has earned a 3.6 GPA in college and is applying to various graduate schools including his number one choice, the University of South Carolina. He plans to earn a master’s degree in International Business and hopes to work for an international corporation either in the States or in Germany. Somewhere down the line, Kenny says he and Annie want to increase the size of their family, but for now he wants to focus on his educa-
Liberia should have a special place in the conscience of the United States of America. Its impetus to become a nation came from the United States. For 149 years, it was a stalwart ally of the United States. Yet for the past years, as a civil war has taken almost 200,000 lives, displaced more than two-thirds of the population and destroyed its infrastructure, the United States has treated this great tragedy as a regional problem.

Liberia has a unique historical and cultural link to the United States. Settled by African Americans, many of them former slaves, in the early decades of the 19th century, Liberia became a republic in 1847. The African nation's independence or Liberia is reflected the African nation's struggle for self-determination, the star and stripes of its red, white and blue flag, the structure of its government, the names of its cities, its schools' curriculum; its official language and the remarkable degree of good will its citizens feel toward America. Through all the major conflicts of the 20th century, Liberians been among the most dependable allies of the United States. In both World Wars, Liberia declared war on the enemies of the United States and offered vital air bases, ports, and natural resources to support the United States military. During the Cold War, Liberia voted with the United States on every significant resolution at the United Nations.

It hosted facilities for electronic monitoring and became the largest base for United States intelligence-gathering in Africa.

Yet when Liberia's security was most at risk because of civil conflict the United States government deferred to ECOWAS, an under-funded regional organization composed of some of the world's poorest nations. Half of the $10 million earmarked by the United States to support a peacekeeping force had not been committed by April 1996. Meanwhile, the cost to the United States of responding to the humanitarian crisis since 1990 has been emergency relief assistance valued at over $445 million, over $66 million provided in the past year alone, more than eight times the amount committed to peacekeeping.

Today in this unstable volatile region, the number of refugees continues to undermine Liberia's relations with its immediate neighbors. Though the United States has implored those nations to admit Liberian refugees, its own record of Liberian admissions discards the long relationship with that nation.

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

On August 17 the Economic Community of West African States(ECOWAS) concluded meetings that provide a new timetable for the peace process. Starting August 20, the warring factions are to observe a cease-fire, dismantle checkpoints and withdraw from zones of combat. The peacekeeping force, expanding from 5000 to 18000 troops, is to deploy throughout Liberia in November. Demobilization is to be completed by January 31. Elections are to be held on May 31 with a turnover to an elected government on June 15. The revised plan calls for sanctions against members of the warring factions that obstruct the peace process. Sanctions include restrictions on travel, freeze on economic activities, exclusion from electoral process, and war crime charges.

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

The United States should take the necessary steps to ensure that its commitment of $30 million to support the ECOMOG peacekeeping force is obligated before the end of the fiscal year 1996. While the United States pledge of $30 million is a step in the right direction, it will not alone enable a doubling of ECOMOG to the 18000 troops necessary for deployment by November. It is vital that the United States provide additional funds to make up this shortfall or the lead to obtain significant pledges from other donor countries.

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

President Clinton and the United States Congress must make Liberia a priority on our foreign relations agenda in Africa. United States leadership is critical if the key elements are to be achieved on schedule under the new peace plan. This leadership will not lead to an involvement of United States troops. It does mean that the United States through its Special Envoy, must heighten its diplomatic efforts to coordinate the implementation of the peace process and gather the additional resources necessary for effective peacekeeping and demobilization in Liberia.

The United States should strengthen the response of the international community to the needs of the peace process. The Foundation for a new international approach to the peace process already exists with the International Contact Group for Liberia, the group of donor countries that have pledged support to the peace process. The concept behind the ICGG should be expanded to a tightly coordinated partnership that includes the United States, ECOWAS, and the United Nations. This high level of cooperation will ensure that scarce resources are effectively utilized.

The outbreak of fighting in Monrovia in April-May of 1996 was the latest in a series of clashes in Liberia's intractable war. During the past nearly seven years, the war has produced shocking humanitarian conditions for Liberian civilians. The most recent fighting exacerbated even further these conditions. Humanitarian assistance organizations have been unable to deliver food and other emergency services because of the fighting in Monrovia. Their resources looted by gangs of combatants and the safety of their relief workers threatened, these organizations closed or dramatically reduced their operations in Liberia.

As a result of the civil war in Liberia, an estimated 800,000 Liberians are internally displaced; another 800,000 are refugees in neighboring countries that are among the poorest in the world. Approximately 50% of the population in Monrovia, upwards of 350,000 persons, were forced to flee their homes due to the April-May fighting and another 3,000 died. During June-July some 3,300 new cases of cholera were reported in Monrovia and a July survey found malnutrition rates for children in displaced shelters have increased up to 25%.

Now that the dust of the Civil War in Liberia is settling down, an era of a NEW LIBERIA is at hand. Whether anyone likes it or not, an leadership is bound to emerge, supposedly to shoulder the national responsibilities of politics and administration and to ensure the continued survival of the Liberian people and culture.

That such leadership will be genuine and committed is a matter that you as Liberians and friends of Liberia can decide, or at least influence. But choosing national leadership is a serious and difficult business. In Liberia, bombed out homes and shops are painful reminders of what happens when leaders are chosen unwisely. We cannot allow this to happen again. This is why the Liberian Social Justice Foundation is campaigning for PEACE, SECURITY, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, EDUCATIONAL, AND POLITICAL JUSTICE IN LIBERIA.

The Liberian Social Justice Foundation has carefully examined the administrative and operational policies of both the past and present administration in Liberia, and in our candid opinion, much more needs to be done to help Liberia go in the direction she needs to go. We as Liberians must try to have a positive influence on the selection of the national programs and the corresponding leadership which will inevitably emerge. We are determined to ensure that PEACE, UNITY, SECURITY, FREEDOM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE prevail in Liberia. This is an awesome responsibility that can only occur if we cooperate as a team. History will judge us not by what we say, but by what we do. With God and the determined mind, there is nothing we cannot achieve for our Liberian Society. It is in this light that I urge you to support and contribute to the Liberian Social Justice Foundation's programs.

Liberia is the African nation established in the 1800s by freed American slaves, has been torn by civil war since 1989. What does the Liberian Civil War mean to Americans in terms of health care, humanitarian relief, stability throughout Africa and the continuation of missionary work? If you share in the dream of peace in Liberia, a country founded upon American ideals, you are invited to become more informed by writing to the LIBERIAN SOCIAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION, POST OFFICE BOX 31438, CINCINNATI, OHIO 45231. (513) 931-1872.

I am writing to introduce you to the Liberian Social Justice Foundation, Inc., a broad-based social nonprofit organization. The mission of the LJSFI is two-fold: we are dedicated to restoring a just and stable society in Liberia, and to improving the quality of life for all Liberians, both at home and abroad.

On behalf of our members, I appeal to you for financial assistance in support of LJSF activities. An application for membership is also invited which contains a breakdown of membership fees. Please know that any amount you can contribute will be helpful to us. Your support of the Foundation, and your awareness of its concerns is deeply appreciated. Should you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to write us or call. Thank you for your time, your contribution, and your generosity. Checks and money orders should be made payable to the Liberian Social Justice Foundation, Inc.

Best regards,
Edwin G.K. Zoedua
Executive Director/Chairman

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