Budget cuts may lead to fewer professors

by Amber Edgar
Asst. news editor

Central Washington University faculty and staff patiently wait and prepare, hoping the state legislature will not cut Central's operating budget for the next two years. If the budget is reduced, adjuncts who are part-time faculty and faculty with one-year contracts risk losing some of the classes they teach because of budget cuts. The different courses will not change, but the number of sections offered may.

"These have been very, very hard decisions to make," Rebecca Bowers, dean of the college of education and professional studies, said.

The goal is to meet the needs of the students, uphold the contracts that have already been signed, and show consideration for those who are one-year and adjunct faculty.

"We do highly value their (one-year and adjunct faculties') work," Bowers said.

One-year faculty sign a contract for the entire academic year, while adjunct faculty sign a contract each quarter. Contracts for tenure and tenure track faculty were signed fall of last year.

See CUTS, Page 4

Price hikes hit students

Parking fees to increase over the next couple of years

by Jennifer Perkins
Editor-in-Chief

Students and faculty calculating next year’s budget can take into account additional revenue from an increase in the parking fees for the 2001-2002 school year.

"The parking fees have not been raised since 1994," Lt. Kevin Higgins said. "It’s the logical time to do it."

The fee to park is proposed to increase by $5 in Sept. 2001 for students, and $5 more in Sept. 2002. Faculty and staff parking permits will increase by $10 in Sept. 2001 and $10 more in Sept. 2002.

"We know students bear the brunt of fees so we increased the faculty and staff parking permits," Higgins said. "Central still has the lowest parking fees of any of the Washington state colleges."

— Kevin Higgins

Religious club funding stalls

by Ellie Giannoulas
Staff reporter

Religious clubs will not be able to receive club senate funding, the Associated Students of Central Washington University Board of Directors decided Tuesday. The board rescinded Club Senate’s constitution changes approved at the Jan. 11 Club Senate meeting and permitted them to give religious clubs funding. However, the motion conflicted with the ASCWU-BOD constitution and by-laws, which states funding can only be granted to clubs that are not affiliated with a religious organization or its primary purpose to engage in religious philosophy.

Because Club Senate is an organization within the ASCWU-BOD, the BOD’s constitution and by-laws take precedence over Club Senate’s constitution.

For religious organizations to receive funding in the future, the ASCWU-BOD must amend their constitution and by-laws to receive club senate funding, the Associated Students of Central Washington University Board of Directors decided Tuesday. The board rescinded Club Senate’s constitution changes approved at the Jan. 11 Club Senate meeting and permitted them to give religious clubs funding. However, the motion conflicted with the ASCWU-BOD constitution and by-laws, which states funding can only be granted to clubs that are not affiliated with a religious organization or its primary purpose to engage in religious philosophy.

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Police Briefs

Feb. 6, 7:11 a.m.
Someone broke into the feminine products dispenser in a Randall Hall restroom and took a maxi pad and tampons.

Feb. 6, 7:46 p.m.
Officers responded to a fight between two students at Andersen Apartments. Both students were arrested for domestic violence and assault.

Feb. 7, 3:52 p.m.
A resident at Student Village had a tool kit, sunglasses, cologne and a credit card stolen from their dorm room.

Feb. 7, 10:15 p.m.
A snake got out of its cage in the Science Building. A professor was called to put the snake back in its cage.

Feb. 9, 10:15 p.m.
Campus police assisted the Ellensburg Police Department with an unruly crowd at the Elks Lodge.

Feb. 11, 12:17 a.m.
A sheet of paper on a door in Steven's-Whitney was lit on fire.

For more information on campus crime and updates on cases visit the campus police Website at www.cwu.edu/police.

Architects bring Kamola into the 21st Century through remodel

Kamola Hall, the second oldest building on the Central Washington University campus, has remained uninhabited and largely unused for the past two years. However, Kamola may be reopened for residential living as soon as 2002.

For the past two years, Kamola has been used as a storage facility for the theatre arts department and the laundry facilities have been used by dining and housing services. During the summer, meetings for various camps and conferences have also taken place there.

Now, a committee composed of students, faculty and alumni is deciding how best to renovate the 19th century building so it meets safety and American Disability Act codes. The architect for the project is currently assessing Kamola to determine what changes are absolutely necessary and how much time and money will be needed to make these changes.

Kamola was the original residence hall for Central, and is different than any other residence hall on campus because no two rooms are alike. Ken Baxter, director of conference and residential services, said the goal in remodeling is to retain the uniqueness of each room while adding amenities such as high speed internet access and up-to-date cable hook-ups, as well as an elevator for disabled students.

Other changes will not be seen by students, such as updated electrical wiring in the walls. Baxter also hopes to acquire period piece furniture to replace the typical residence hall chairs and couches and to return to a similar look and feel of the original set-up.

The remodeled Kamola Hall will be used by residential services to entice upperclassmen to live on campus rather than moving into off-campus apartments.

"It will represent a real university experience," Baxter said, in reference to the appeal of living in Kamola as opposed to off-campus apartments.

The projected date for reopening Kamola as a residence hall is fall quarter of 2002. The remodel team hopes to have dates for each segment of the remodel by May 2001. Baxter said one option may be to update half of the building first and allow students to move in while the other half is being renovated. This would be made possible because of the structure of the building. Kamola is actually two buildings connected only by the second floor. The original building consisted of the section nearest the SUB, while the building along 8th Avenue was added later.

The exterior of Kamola will retain its historic charm throughout the remodel.

Write for the Observer.
Call Lois Breedlove at 963-1073.

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962-2570
Located Close to Campus
1011 N. Alder St., Ellensburg
Grant offers students a chance to better serve

by Melissa Mitchell
Assistant news editor

A $517,607 grant provided by the Department of Education gives students a chance to enrich their education by adding a community service element to the curriculum.

"Academic Service Learning is one of the newer forms of instructional strategies to facilitate learning," Osman Alawiye, grant co-author said. "We are trying to stay abreast of the current trends."

Central is one of five schools out of 29 that applied to receive the grant.

The program, which began out of Eastern Michigan University, gives students a chance to put knowledge learned in the classroom to work in the community.

Thomas Wellock, assistant history professor, wants to use some funding from the grant to work with the director of the city library to establish an oral history project for the students.

"It will give the students exposure to a historical perspective they can’t get from a textbook."

— Thomas Wellock

Some of the other departments participating in the program include graphic design, communications, accounting, family and consumer sciences and leisure services.

Ten professors nominated annually to participate in the grant by adding a service learning component to their classes will receive resources and financial support to help make the transition easier.

Student one act plays

Central Washington University’s theatre arts department will present eight original one act plays March 6-10. These plays are written, directed entirely by Central students.

Four plays will be presented each evening, with the first bill running March 6, 8, and 10, while the second bill will be shown March 7 and 9. In order to see all eight shows, attendees must purchase tickets for two consecutive dates.

Tickets are $3 for each evening of shows, and can be purchased at the Tower Theatre Box Office. The box office is open M-F from noon-5 p.m.

For more information about the festival or to purchase tickets, contact the box office at 963-1774.

BOD: expanding funds

Continued from Page 1

funding until next year if the constitution and by-laws are changed.

"It’s unfortunate that we have to wait until next year to see if religious clubs get funding or not," Mindy Widmyer, vice president of clubs and organizations, said. "There are many clubs doing positive things for the community and we can’t help them."

Widmyer also presented the BOD with other changes made to the Club Senate constitution last Thursday, which would expand funding to travel expenses, registration, guest speakers, hotel advertising and educational supplies for all clubs. These changes may be approved by the BOD next week.

Flu bug infects Central

by Heather Bell
Staff reporter

Crowded doctors offices and long lines at local pharmacies are sure signs of flu season.

"It (the flu) leaves you completely wiped out, and takes a while to get over," Selia Johnson, registered nurse at the student health and counseling center, said.

Influenza, commonly called the flu, hits the Central Washington University campus around this time each year and spreads from person to person like wildfire.

Common symptoms include all-over body aches, a chest cold, a cough and a high fever.

The flu can last for extended periods of time, anywhere from a few days to over a week.

This can lead to a lot of missed classes for some students.

One student said she thinks professors should be more understanding when students are sick, especially if the student has a family or sick children.

Influenza is a virus and can be treated with anti-viral drugs. These drugs must be administered to the patient within the first day or two of feeling ill. They work to reduce the number of days a patient is affected by the bug.

"It’s important to watch for complications with other illnesses when a person has the flu," Johnson said.

This winter, the health center has treated a high number of patients with strep throat and the common cold.

Illnesses treated with the proper medications, antibiotics for bacterial infections and over-the-counter relief for viruses, can speed up the healing process.

The stomach flu, which involves nausea and vomiting, can be dangerous too. Johnson stresses the importance of keeping hydrated.

There are several signs a person is too sick to go to school.

The health center staff advises students to stay home if they have a continuing high fever, when vomiting, or if they have a severe headache.

If students do go to school, make sure to wash hands often and try to keep coughing and sneezing away from classmates.

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El Salvador earthquake the second major quake in a month

El Salvador suffered a second massive earthquake on February 13, exactly one month after another quake destroyed much of the city of San Vicente and left 100,000 people homeless. The latest quake measured 6.1 in magnitude, killing 173 people so far and injuring another 1,557. The relief group CARE will continue its efforts to help the victims.

Bush ready to leave Clinton investigation in the past

President Bush calls for an end to the probes into the actions of the Clinton administration, including the 140 pardons that were granted last month. Vice President Dick Cheney is convinced that continuing the investigation will affect the move to the Bush administrations agenda.

Successful landing of NEAR space craft encouraging

After a successful landing by the NEAR-Boomker space craft on the Eros asteroid, NASA is expected to extend the mission by a week. NEAR was sent to the asteroid to gather information about the properties of the asteroid.

CUTS: Unstable contracts

Bowers decided to inform the faculty about the possibility of not renewing contracts next year. She did it as a courtesy so one-year and adjunct faculty would not be surprised by the status of their contracts next year.

Central’s operating budget is based on the number of students enrolled and the number of contracts students are taking. Recent low enrollment, however, could mean a smaller operating budget for the next couple of years.

"Bottom line, we don’t know what our budget will be next year," Libbey Armstrong, dean of the college of arts and humanities, said. Faculty and staff members are planning the academic schedule for next year in anticipation that budget cuts from the legislature will happen.

"We’re hoping this year is an anomaly," Armstrong said. If enrollment does increase, Central can ask the legislature to increase funding for the school and increase the number of classes offered.
Students walking into the SUB this week couldn’t help but get that warm and fuzzy feeling inside. This is thanks, in part, to the Service-Learning and Volunteer Center which sponsored Random Acts of Kindness Week. RHC members James Hogan and Megan Fuhlman (above) ran a Pictures with Cupid booth where passers-by got their pictures taken with Cupid (aka Nick French). Everything from free cookies and coffee to a simple smile helped make people’s days a little brighter. About 25 clubs participated in the week long display of kindness.

The Hot Lava Burn Monkey Club handed out personalized balloons and treats. Club president Jozef Urban hands Stacie Huffman a rice krispie treat as Josh Nolette decorates a balloon (left).

Public Relations Student Society of America sold roses for secret admirers. PRSSA member Andrea Komperda looks on as Jeff Shaflik fills out a card for his girlfriend (bottom left).

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Alcohol keeps our state ferries afloat; jeopardizes other drivers

Whether traveling home or touring the state, many of you fellow Washingtonians out there probably take the ferries. As a person who often drives to my folks’ house on Whidbey Island, ferry rides are nothing new to me. However, it wasn’t until a few weeks ago, when I actually had enough cash to purchase an overpriced scone and hot cocoa from the Starboard Cafe, that I noticed a menu hanging near the coffee dispensers. As I read down the list of breakfast and lunch items, I couldn’t believe what I saw: Washington State ferries sell beer and wine on board. While I didn’t see anyone running to the register to purchase these alcoholic beverages, I couldn’t help but think of the danger involved in the side to drivers.

Ferry rides can vary in crossing time from 15 minutes, to the more common 30-40 minutes, and even several hours if you’re going to Victoria, B.C. The problem I see with selling alcohol, especially on the short rides, is people do not have enough time to burn off the alcohol before jumping behind the wheel, driving off the ferry and into traffic. It takes about an hour for the average person to burn off one drink, be it a glass of wine or a bottle of beer, and even more time if a person consumes multiple drinks. Of course, this estimate of an hour can depend on how much food is in your stomach, but the fact of the matter is, I don’t know of anyone who can burn off a glass of wine in 15 minutes.

This is crazy. People over the age of 21, if they are passengers, drivers or walk-ons, can purchase and consume alcohol on ferries. People don’t have the opportunity to let the alcohol digest before they get into their cars when the ferry docks and begin driving under the influence. In a restaurant, you can drink alcohol, eat a meal and sit around until the buzz is gone before driving home, but on ferries, you don’t have that option. It’s like the Washington State Department of Transportation (DOT) is encouraging drinking and driving.

The sale of alcohol does help fund the ferries, but the DOT is negligent to let it happen. The Washington State Department of Transportation (DOT) denies the fact of the matter is, I don’t know of anyone who can burn off a glass of wine in 15 minutes. This is crazy. People over the age of 21, if they are passengers, drivers or walk-ons, can purchase and consume alcohol on ferries. People don’t have the opportunity to let the alcohol digest before they get into their cars when the ferry docks and begin driving under the influence. In a restaurant, you can drink alcohol, eat a meal and sit around until the buzz is gone before driving home, but on ferries, you don’t have that option. It’s like the Washington State Department of Transportation (DOT) is encouraging drinking and driving.

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MEETINGS

Thursday, February 15

Alpha Phi Omega
SUB 209, 5 p.m.
American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)
SUB, 12 p.m.
Baptist Student Ministries
Chesnut Baptist Church, 8 p.m.
Circle K
SUB Owli, 5 p.m.
CWU Horn Club
Hertz, 12 p.m.
International Student Association
International Office, 4 p.m.
Phi Beta Lambda
Shaw-Smyser 132, 6 p.m.
Philosophy Club
SUB Owli, 7 p.m.
Psychology Club
Psych Lounge, 10 a.m.
Student Council for Exceptional Children
SUB 208, 6 p.m.

Sunday, February 18

Catholic Campus Ministry Mass
Mary Grupe Center, 7 p.m.
Latter-Day Saint Student Association
LDS Building, 10:30 a.m.

To be listed, email perkinsj@cwu.edu

Guest Column:
The ASCWU-BOD is up to more than no good

Shawn Palmer
ASCWU-BOD Executive VP

In a surprising development, it seems we "resume-paddling" members of your Board of Directors (BOD), or student government, have actually been up to a little more than wasting the precious oxygen molecules in SUB 116.

ASCWU-BOD President Maren Oates and Vice President for Political Affairs Ryan McMichael recently returned from touring the student union facilities at Washington State University. In our efforts to ensure the Quality of Life Project (formerly referred to as the "Super SUB") maximizes benefits for future Central students, Maren has been researching other institutions' failures and successes with new non-academic building projects. She and other students have also been meeting with consultants from Brasfield and Dunlavey, a firm from Washington, D.C.

If you'd like to ask about what services may be provided, where and when construction will begin, or the proposed fee structure to cover the costs of this project, your president can always be reached at 963-1693.

Meanwhile, Ryan has remained busy with the Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA) and the Washington Student Lobby (WSL), pushing for a sales tax exemption on required textbooks and prohibiting the use of social security numbers for student identification. His new project is Safe Ride. It may be possible to transition the handling of Central's controversial "drunk bus" to an off-campus operator. There is potential to keep the costs the same while greatly improving services to students. The WSL meets every Tuesday after the BOD meeting (about 6 p.m.) in SUB 116.

ASCWU-BOD Vice President for Clubs and Organizations Mindy Midmyer, and Vice President for Equity and Community Service Skyler Zoppi are organizing "Club Madness." It combines the sport aspect of "Battle of the Clubs" with the party atmosphere of Midnight Madness. Slated for May 10 at 8 p.m. in Nicholson Pavilion, it is open to all student organizations. Two words: huge prizes. More information will be posted in the Observer soon, but you can get the scoop now from Mindy or Skyler at ascwu@cwu.edu.

In our efforts to keep you, the students, better informed about the issues that affect us most, we update our website weekly. It features information about current projects, plenty of email links so you'll be more tempted to tell us what you think, and online polls to better record student feedback. The whole premise behind this site is to post information regarding student issues and concerns so the answers to one student's questions are available to everybody. It links the OLA and Clubs' homepages, as well as a page devoted to the S&A Committee. The ASCWU-BOD website is best accessed through the Central home page (www.cwu.edu) by clicking on "student government."

That's it for this week, fellow Wildcats. If you have questions or would like to offer us your opinion on something, please stop by SUB 116 and tell us. While you're there, we may even be able to help you with your resume.
Kittitas Carl makes the cut

by Ellie Giannoulas
Online Reporter

Walking into the shop, customers first notice the 193 colorful baseball caps—donated by customers to their favorite barber in town.

Leaning on a black leather chair, waiting for the next customer to arrive, Carl Lowe, owner of Carl’s Barber Shop in Kittitas, talks about how his business started.

At 15, Lowe attended barber school in Yakima. At 16, Lowe took his state barber boards, the youngest person to ever take the test in the state. Lowe cut hair for the next 20 years and then took a break and worked in construction.

He opened Carl’s Barber Shop in February 1996. He decided to go back into business because of the poor-quality haircuts he noticed in town.

Most shops are either hair stylists or beauty salons; their employees haven’t been to barber school. Lowe is different; he graduated from barber school.

The ’50s and ’60s hairstyles are coming back, and Lowe admits he knows exactly how to cut hair the right way. Lowe’s specialties are flat-tops and Princeton haircuts.

Customers who make the pilgrimage out to Carl’s Barber Shop in Kittitas receive more than just a trim. Ron Damm, a Kittitas resident, enjoys the massage accompanying his haircut.

Classic film series brings touch of class to campus

by Kelly Allen
Staff Reporter

Film lovers, as well as those interested in echoes of the past, will be treated to a special event next Tuesday when Central’s Classic Film Series presents “The Phantom of the Opera.”

The 1925 silent film will be presented as it was meant to be seen. The 35 millimeter print will be accompanied on piano by Andrew Fickes, music arranger and producer at Cascade Recording, said. “Its also responsible for bringing Israel here for this special occasion.”

It’s a good chance to see different styles. “Chaney was very good at transforming himself into a monster that one could believe in,” Burt said. “This particular monster had romantic motives, which makes the film closer to ‘Beauty and the Beast’ than ‘The Creature from the Black Lagoon.’”

Israel will give a brief introduction and discuss the history of silent film before the presentation. The show begins at 7 p.m. on Tuesday night in McConnell Auditorium. Tickets are $2.50 and bargain passes, good for any 5 entries, are available for $8.

“Are you lost?” a Cle Elum resident asked. “I need directions to Cascade Recording,” I replied. Everyone looked at me, confused. Thanks to the phone book I found my way. Shockingly enough, the studio turned out to be a small operation housed in a backyard shed. With no sign on the outside reading Cascade Recording studios, it was no wonder its existence was unheard of by some people.

“We advertise a lot by word-of-mouth,” Bob Vonfeldt, recording scene as

Located deep in the Kittitas Valley, lies the quaint, country town of Cle Elum. Cle Elum has a recording studio. I entered. An impressive gallery of framed CDs by past Cascade recording artists face the front entrance. The professional looking appearance of each one proved to me the reliability and authenticity of the studio.

“You can come to the studio with an idea and leave with a finished product,” Vonfeldt said.

Cle Elum bakery employee Kara Odiaga takes a customer order, showing why customer service is a priority.

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Gentle rolling hills and a pleasant countryside sur­rounded chemistry professor David Lygre as he ran with approximately 129 other runners in a challenging 100-mile race on Feb. 3-4 in Huntsville, Texas. Lygre finished in ninth place with a time of 19 hours, 10 minutes in “The Rocky Raccoon 100.”

“The trails were rough; many of us took a few tumbles,” Lygre said. About 60 percent of the runners finished the race.

The 100 miles consisted of five 20-mile loops through the park. Runners had a 30-hour time limit. The run is continuous from start to finish, but running is only half the battle of this 100-mile adventure. Runners must carry but he didn’t see any.

“One hundred mile races are a very interesting physi­cal and mental challenge,” Lygre said.

During these types of races, runners think constantly about their diet, their clothing and their pain reliever to optimize their physical capabilities. An important factor in completing the race is diet. Runners need excessive calories to keep them going. “The last 40 miles I was powered by frappuccinos; I had seven in 40 miles,” Lygre said.

Lygre participates in the treacherous races for many reasons. Lygre said the challenge of such a long race is so great that a wonderful camaraderie develops between the runners. His craving for these challenging races is relat­ed to the other runners.

“No matter how fast each of us runs, we have great respect for anyone who is attempting to do such a difficult distance,” he said. “The atmosphere is friendly and mun­ally supportive.”

The 100-mile run was his sighting of a wild armadillo. According to Lygre, the racers had to run through swamps that supposedly contained alligators, but he didn’t see any.

Lygre started running in 1977 to lose weight and has never stopped. At 58 years of age he still averages 45 miles a week year-round.

“Running kind of got out of hand,” Lygre said. He began running marathons in 1979 and runs one or two a year. In the beginning, he tried different distances, but had to keep looking until he found a distance that challenged him.

“Teresa Larsen, started 10 years ago. During that time, the Larsen’s have continually updated the studio’s equipment. Presently, the studio con­sists of a main lobby area, a control room, a large performance area with three isolation booths, a MIDI studio and a 32-track board.

Cascade uses the most elaborate equipment to meet their clients’ needs, and any band interested in recording their next demo or full-length CD might want to come in. Those interested should check out www.cascade-recording.com.

CLE Elum Bakeery is legendary in the Northwest as far south as California. People from all walks of life come to this historical place just for the bread and other pastries. Incidentally, the baker still cooks the bread in the original brick oven used back when the bakery opened in 1906.

A whiff of fresh baked goods hit my nose as I walked in. The establish­ment’s friendly employees, Karen Odiaga and Heather Kerchner greeted me. “It smells like this all the time,” Odiaga said.

Kerchner is a 22-year resident of the United States. She is originally from Yorkshire Dales County in England. When she is not busy at the bakery, she runs her own catering business as a personal chef.

During a visit, make sure to try their French crunch bread and their Italian cinnamon pastry, tortelli.

For dinner, we tried out the Cottage Café. The tables were a sick­ly pink color and reminded me of Pepo Bisimo. I ordered their teriyaki steak meal and was satisfied by the taste but appalled by the size. My 6-ounce looked like a 2-ounce.

A place which should definitely not be skipped though, is the Caboose Bar and Grill. Owners Ben Fry and Marilyn Bolles started the business only six months ago and already some of the tables are taken.

Friendly service, a welcoming atmosphere, and great food charac­terize the grill. On Wednesday, the grill serves a great 12-ounce porter­house T-bone dinner. On Friday, starting at 4 p.m., a 12-ounce prime rib dinner special is served for $19.95.

“From their steak, to their salad, to their fish and chips, everything is good,” local customers Lou and Kathy Arend said.

I left Cle Elum with a great impression of a little, friendly town, knowing I would return to either record some music or try out some great baked goods or sink my teeth into a juicy steak at the grill.

I recommend stopping by on the next trip you take over the pass.

What one thing could be changed to make Central better?

“Move the campus out of Ellensburg.” — Samuel Moore, junior, electronic engineer­ing

“Have a super SUB to keep the students on campus.” — Kristine Mathews, junior, communication

“Improved communication of events, activi­ties and clubs.” — Melissa Hansen, sopho­more, family consumer sciences

“Put a bigger gym with better facilities and get students more involved with activities and programs.” — Jamie Nicole, sopho­more, psychology

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Very bad laughs for weekend rental

Okay, so we've made it past midterms, well, barely.

We're tired, we're wondering why we are even here and we're waiting for it all to be over with so that we can go sip Sea Bees on some tropical destination (or at least at our local bar).

It's a Friday night and of course we have no money. So, we run down to the video store of our preference looking for a movie that will allow us to forget that we are stuck here in dreary Ellensburg until March. We want a comedy, something funny that will brighten our day. We walk to the comedy section and select a flick: "Very Bad Things".

Written and directed by Peter Berg, star of "Chicago Hope," this movie is an adventure full of surprises and comedic twists. Starring Christian Slater, Cameron Diaz, and a handful of other familiar faces, including Daniel Stern and Jon Favreau (Swingers), "Very Bad Things" starts out on a light note. The plot: Faveu and Diaz are to be married, but before they do, "the boys" want to take the groom on a little road trip to Vegas to celebrate his last days as a bachelor.

What starts out as a seemingly innocent night of drinking and gambling in Sin City takes a full 360 when the boys get back to their penthouse suite. The five guys are jolted out of their drug and alcohol-induced stupor when a stripper dies in their bathroom. Then the dark side of the movie emerges. The guys, instead of enjoying their evening, end up in the desert burying the evidence. The movie continues on with more "accidents" and more laughs, as the wayward travelers make their way down the aisle.

Diaz plays a bride-to-be that will not let her big day be spoiled, no matter who has to die. Slater plays the best man, who takes his duty to the next level and tries to eliminate everyone who could expose their Vegas mishaps. All in all the movie is hilarious, but I suggest watching it more than once in order to fully appreciate its dark humor. It is definitely not for the meek or those who make it past that, it will surprise you with its twisted humor. I recommend renting this film if you're in a sinister mood and you want to laugh.

Members of role-playing clubs practice medieval combat methods.

Women's Achievement Celebration honors helpers

by Andrea Spiller
Staff Reporter

It's time to celebrate. No, the rest of the quarter wasn't miraculously canceled. It's time for the women in personal and professional ways to excel, which celebrates individuals who have assisted for Student Empowerment CE-Center), to recognize students, staff, faculty and local community for their achievements. However, this year's program is going to be different than in previous years.

The E-center is kicking off the celebration with a banquet on Feb. 21, at 5 p.m. The banquet will honor three award winners:

- Gary Frederick, physical education professor and softball coach.
- Andrea Dugan, director of Prevention Services for Kittitas County;
- Linda MacDicken, health care specialist and physician's assistant.

Students, staff, faculty and members of the community are invited to celebrate and recognize the nominees and award winners for their roles in women's achievement. Tickets to the banquet cost $5 and can be purchased at the SUB Information Booth, Jerrol's or the Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce.

The celebration will continue on Feb. 22 at the women's basketball game versus Western Washington University. There will be live bands, free T-shirts for the first 150 fans, and over 100 Frisbees will be given away. At halftime, the award winners will be recognized and door prizes will be distributed throughout the game. The E-Center is hoping to break the current record attendance for women's basketball at Central, which is 900-1000 fans.

"It will be a great time and it gives students a great opportunity to cheer for CWU and give Western a bad time," Josh Shrem, marketing specialist and co-coordinator of WAC, said.

The pre-game entertainment begins at 5 p.m. and the game follows shortly after.

calendar

Thursday 2/15
-Christopher Camping International job recruiting
-Summer camps recruiting for 2001 jobs. Contact Student Employment at 963-3008
- Political Film Series: "Panther", 6 p.m. in Club Central
- TIAA-CREF Workshop, "Reaching For Your Goals," offers information on Roth IRA's, mutual funds and Keogh plans for workplace savings plans. 12 p.m. in SUB Owli Room

Friday 2/16
- Ethnic Drum Ensemble from Miller Jr. High, noon in SUB pit
- Atom Films Festival of Shorts, comedy and animation at 8 p.m. in Club Central

Saturday 2/17
- Rodeo Club "Tropical Splash Dance" at 9 p.m. at the Elks Club, $3.00 at door

Sunday 2/18
- rest up

Monday 2/19
- no classes for President's Day holiday

Tuesday 2/20
- Classic Film Series: "Phantom of the Opera", 7 p.m. in McConnell Auditorium, $2.50 for single admission

Wednesday 2/21
- Papa John's Coffeehouse presents Dana Robinson at 12 and 8 p.m. in SUB pit
- Art Lecture Series: Contemporary Visions in Traditional Chinese Paintings at 7 p.m. in Randall E-Center Presents: Women's Achievement Celebration Award Banquet at 5 p.m. in Tusnell Dining Room

Thursday 2/22
- Michael Powers vocal performance at 11a.m.-1p.m. in SUB pit
- Political Film Series, "The Insider," at 6p.m. in SUB pit
- Basketball: CWU Women vs. Western Washington, 5 p.m.
- Basketball CWU men vs. Northwest Nazarene at 7:30 at Nicholson Pavilion

Students find new club that hurts

by Jamee Castaneda
Staff Reporter

A fantasy life comes alive when the New England Role-playing Organization (NERO) Northwest Chapter meets for its monthly rendezvous. The group explores prop fighting and role-playing using elements of character development, costumes and weapons packed into a weekend adventure.

"This is a great way to unwind from a long week," said Keith Lambert, junior computer science major.

After developing a character's background, each participant must wear a full costume reflecting the medieval theme. The costume includes armor or some representation of it. Along with the costume, a weapon is necessary. There are strict rules, all weapons must be homemade and made from PVC pipe or pipe insulation.

The group officially starts at 8 p.m. on Friday night and runs through noon on Sunday between the months of April and October. The five members meet with other members, from the west side of the state, to gather at a campsite near White Pass.

"During that time, you never know what's going to end up happening," said Lambert.

The group requires participants to come up with an alternative to a battle situation that has been created and to perform accordingly as their character. Each game consists of a plot line that may continue or end with each meeting. This is what helps distinguish the difference between NERO and AMTnGARD, which is another role-playing club on campus.

Green Party sponsors film festival for curious students

By Jamee Castaneda
Staff Reporter

The Green Party of Central Washington University is presenting a political film series through the month of March. The films are shown in the SUB Pit every Thursday at 5 p.m. The club encourages students to bring unsung clothed or non-perishable food items to the film showings.

Film Listings:
February 15
-Panther
February 22
-The Insider
March 1
-The Hurricane
March 8
-This is what Democracy Looks Like

Green Party sponsors film festival for curious students

By Jamee Castaneda
Staff Reporter

The Green Party of Central Washington University is presenting a political film series through the month of March. The films are shown in the SUB Pit every Thursday at 5 p.m. The club encourages students to bring unsung clothed or non-perishable food items to the film showings.
Thunderbird Hotel rocks with wild Tahoe Room

As both of you who read my columns may know, I like to go out on occasion for a few bowls of loudmouth soup, if you know what I mean. Last Friday was one of those occasions and, with the intention of mixing business with pleasure (shaken, not stirred), my party decided to check out the Tahoe Room, located in the Thunderbird Motel. We walk in: what appeared to be a couple of regulars belied up against the bar nod their heads in acknowledgement. We could only sit, order a round and mind our own business at the top of our lungs as we anticipate the entertainment.

The employees were friendly and the atmosphere looks like, well, that of a motel lounge, so we knew we were in the right place. The drink glasses weren’t exactly colossal but they put enough of the sweet, sweet hooch in to make you want to order more. I stuck with screwdrivers. Needless to say, I felt like a champ the next day.

When the lights came on to illuminate the dance floor and the all too familiar sound of “Boot Scootin’ Boogie” came pouring out of the speakers, we knew the party had just begun. Ellensburg locals started pouring in from the parking lot and making straight for the dance floor. Things calmed down a little after a raucous start and, one by one, patrons took the stage to treat us to a sampling of their velvety tones.

I woke up in my bed the next morning, so I must have made it home at the end of the night. The evening’s events seemed like a beautiful dream set in the Ellensburg reality of the Tahoe Room. For those with a taste for strong drinks and Country and Western music, this is definitely the place for a good time.

Gay marriages come off without a hitch as SUB plays chapel for a day

by Amy Barney

Family, friends, spectators and curious onlookers joined in the SUB Pit on Monday to watch the fourth annual GALA wedding. The crowd was responsive and respectful with applause and instant listening.

“I thought it was nice; I’ve never been to a same-sex marriage before,” said Nikki Bushey, sports fitness and management freshman. Other viewers remained ambivalent about the ceremony.

“I’m not sure how I feel about same-sex marriages,” said Alan Davis, a leisure services major. “I’m not against them, but I also don’t support them.”

The purpose of the ceremony was to inform the campus community about the lack of marriage rights within the gay and lesbian community.

“It is important for people to realize we need events like this to open their eyes,” said Jason Szeto, GALA president. “We are not looking for special rights, we are looking for equal rights.”

The commitment ceremony, although not legally recognized, carried characteristics similar to a legal marriage. Grooms Sean Soth and Jesse Caparas were united with same-sex marriages.

Community Church (MCC) and a pastor in Yakima at the Rainbow Cathedral MCC, performed the ceremony. The Rev. Newall performs both heterosexual marriages and homosexual unions and sees nothing wrong with same-sex marriages.

“Tell me that same-sex couples should have the same rights for marriage as heterosexual couples,” Newall said. “They are equally married in the eyes of God and God has more authority than the government.”
Central's ROTC made the parking lot near the Umptanum waterfall their base camp, with a fleet of vehicles, an assortment of gear (above) and a bonfire for cooking lunch (right).

Instructor/Enrollment Officer Kevin Wesolowski supervises the fire building process.

Photos by Aaron Clifford/Observer

The hills were crawling with men in camouflage last Saturday. Armed with a compass, protractor and map and carrying a full pack, each searched through the snow and underbrush for hidden objectives.

Central's Army ROTC, along with 30 new cadets from the Army Reserve and National Guard, held a practice session on land navigation skills near Manastash Ridge.

Instructor/Enrollment Officer Kevin Wesolowski explained that land navigation is a key part of being a soldier and an important part of training in the Army ROTC program. The cadets were supplied with the same pieces of equipment they would use in the field as full-fledged soldiers and given eight positions to plot and find. Working in teams, pairs, or alone, depending on their skill levels, the participants spread out over the hills. A time limit of four hours was given to complete the course, which included objectives almost one mile apart. Many of the objectives were hidden in thick brush and proved difficult to find.

Land navigation is a class offered to students in the ROTC program. The intent is to give cadets the basic skills needed to find their way from point to point in the field. Cadets attend two practice sessions per year, generally in spring and fall. This year's second session was held early and required snowshoes and wet weather gear.

The ROTC program will be offering a survival course spring quarter. The course will be taught by Master Sergeant Alan Buford and will cover basic skills for survival in the local environment.

Squad Leader Michael "Airborne" Ferguson plots the objectives of the land navigation course using a compass, map and protractor.

As an MS-3 (Military Science junior) Ferguson was required to work alone and hold a code of silence while running the course. (upper right) Lt. Colonel Mark Souza gives the ROTC group last minute instructions and a little motivation, before sending them into the field. (left)
Wildcats Sports

Men's B-Ball: Feb. 15 @ Western Washington
Feb. 17 @ Seattle Pacific University
Women's B-Ball: Feb. 15 @ Western Oregon
Feb. 17 @ Humboldt State University
Swimming: Feb. 15-17 @ Pacific Swimming Conference

Senior Aussie drains threes
by Tony Mayer
Contributing writer

Fans can always tell when senior forward Damien Chapman is having a good game for the Wildcats. It starts raining threes.

Against Western Oregon last Thursday, Chapman dropped seven three-pointers on the Wolves en route to a 21-point performance.

Chapman is a native Australian from Fitzroy, a suburb of Melbourne. After touring the United States three times with his club team, he moved to Yakima and started playing for Yakima Valley College in January 1998. During that freshman season he became friends with current Wildcat senior Brandon Rinta, who encouraged Chapman to join him at Central after his sophomore campaign in 1999.

Since arriving on the Wildcat scene last year, Chapman has consistently hit jumpers from all over the court. In order to develop that talent, he has adjusted to a closer floor for head coach Greg Sparling.

"He's a flat-out scorer," Sparling said. "You try to block his shot and he keeps going up higher and higher. He has like a third or fourth floor he can get up to."

The second half was all Wildcats. With 14 minutes left in the game, senior guard Paul Felker hit three consecutive three-point shots in one minute to give Central a 76-58 lead.

The Lumberjacks tried to hang around by going on a 10-point run with three minutes left, but the Wildcats sealed the deal and came away with a 108-96 victory.

Joe Whiteside/Observer

Junior forward Justin Thompson takes to the air against Humboldt State University in the Wildcats 108-96 victory.

Men avenge earlier losses
By Kevin Endegar
Staff reporter

Revenge loomed on the minds of the Wildcats men's basketball players last week when they took on conference foes Western Oregon University and Humboldt State University.

Earlier this season, Central lost two consecutive heart-breakers by three points each to both opponents.

Thursday night, the Wildcats came out ready to play against the Western Oregon Wolves.

Central displayed a high level of energy from the tip. Senior center Matt McDonald blocked the Wolves' first shot of the game, which led to a three-pointer from Central's Damien Chapman.

The senior guard's three-pointers were the story of the game, as he hit seven of his 10 attempts.

"We have the best rims and the best court," Chapman said. "It's just great to be back in a good gym."

The senior guard's three-pointers were the story of the game, as he hit seven of his 10 attempts.

After struggling with his shooting on the road Chapman was happy to be home.

"The Wildcats out-rebounded and out-hustled the team high 27 points over the flat-footed Lumberjacks while Central head coach Sparling looked on.

Justin Thompson dunked two of his team high 27 points over the flat-footed Lumberjacks.

Washington (11-2)

The Wildcats have won six of their last seven games. Coach Sparling credits his team's recent success to having everyone healthy for the first time this season and getting solid production off the bench.

Central is back on the road this week, taking on Western Washington tonight and Seattle Pacific on Saturday. Both of those games weigh heavy on the Wildcats hopes of making it to the playoffs.

"This is what it's all about. It's going to be a war, because everyone is fighting for playoff position," Sparling said.

Justin Thompson finished with 27 points and 12 rebounds. Five other Wildcats scored in double figures. This latest victory puts the 9-4 Wildcats in sole possession of the third place in the PacWest Conference. They are only one game behind Seattle Pacific (10-5) and two behind Western Oregon's press and zone," head coach Greg Sparling said.

Saturday night, the Wildcats looked to redeem themselves once more, this time against the Humboldt State Lumberjacks. Not only was revenge a factor, but they were also in a tie with Humboldt for third place in the PacWest Conference.

The Lumberjacks jumped out to a quick 5-0 lead, but this was the only time they would have it. The Wildcats quickly took control on a Chapman three-pointer, which put them up 7-5, and they never looked back.

By halftime, Central had a 55-41 advantage, led by Justin Thompson's 21 first-half points.

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Thompson had some spectacular plays throughout the game, including a reverse dunk and several other acrobatic shots.

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The Lumberjacks struggled to keep up, as they only scored 44 points in the second half.

Justin Thompson dunked two of his team high 27 points over the flat-footed Lumberjacks while Central head coach Sparling looked on.

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"This is what it's all about. It's going to be a war, because everyone is fighting for playoff position," Sparling said.
Central women earn redemption against Alaska

by Kevin Eidejean
Staff reporter

The Wildcats jumped out to a quick 7-0 start. They forced the Nanooks into four turnovers on their first four possessions. Tough defense combined with accurate shooting helped the Wildcats build a lead they would not relinquish.

Central was led in the first half by hot shooting from junior center Rose Shaw and senior wrestler Kristen Willis, who was perfect from the field. The Wildcats built a 19-point lead by the half, 48-29.

The second half was almost identical to the first. Central continued to pressure the Nanooks, forcing them into 25 turnovers Thursday.

“Our defense is the best in the conference when it is,” Whitney said.

The Wildcats got their revenge crushing the Nanooks 85-65.

With seven minutes remaining in the second half, Central went on a 10-0 run that put them up 20-16 at halftime. The rally was highlighted by a lay-in at the buzzer by Walker.

Central was able to maintain their lead in the second half. The Seawolves fought to keep within reach but could never gain the lead.

Despite shooting 30 percent from the field, the Wildcats were able to come away with an important 56-46 win.

“We knew that it was going to be a low scoring,” Whitney said. “We’re the two best teams defensively in the PacWest.”

Again, Shaw led in scoring with 15 points. Walker had 14 and junior forward Jody Sargent had 12.

“Overall it’s a great win, it propels us into our next game,” Whitney said.

This victory puts the Wildcats 11-3 in a three-way tie for third place with Northwest Nazarene and Alaska Fairbanks. They are one game behind conference leader Seattle Pacific, who they upset earlier this season in the Emerald City. They will face both of these teams next weekend in Nicholson Pavilion.

“We control our own destiny and this team is very capable of finishing first,” Whitney said.

The Wildcats are on the road to face Western Oregon (9-7) and Humboldt State (6-10) this week.

Wildcats place second at Northwest Conference Championships

by Nichol Braucht
Staff reporter

Central wrestlers snatched the second place title at the Northwest National Conference last Saturday.

The conference included four other schools; Southern Oregon University, Pacific University, Simon Fraser, and host Pacific Lutheran University.

The Wildcats brought home one weight class champion, three second place titles, two third place titles and three fourth place titles.

Freshman Ross Kondo, wrestling at 141 pounds, took first place in his weight class. Kondo defeated Kahaa Rezantes of Pacific in overtime to win the match 10-8. Rezantes was last year’s champion at 125 pounds. Kondo brought home the only first place title for the Wildcats.

“Tough was really exciting, this was the first tournament that I have won,” Kondo said.

Junior Cole Denison, who has been having a very successful season, placed second in the 141-pound weight class. Denison reached the finals with a win over Guy Delvmeau of Pacific, but was unable to hold off Jeremy Wynia of SOU in the battle for first place.

Central wrestlers loosen up during practice.

The battle for the 165-pound title was a close one that senior Matt Ballard was not able to hold him off.

“I was just having an off weekend,” Ballard said about his performance during the match for first place.

Jos Workman, a junior wrestling in the heavyweight division, took second place in his weight class. In the championship match, Workman lost a 4-1 decision to Jon Small of Pacific.

“I have wrestled him before, but this was the first time that he beat me,” Workman said about his opponent. “Although I was hoping first, I’m happy with second place.”

Freshman Franco Santiago brought down his opponent to take the third place spot in the 174-pound weight class. Santiago won by decision with a score of 3-1 over Jacob Pence of Pacific.

Another powerful freshman was D.C. Haen, who won the third place title for the 197-pound weight class. Sophomore Ken Salvini, freshman Ty Roberts and senior Kyle Smith placed fourth in their respective weight classes.

The young team was again able to prove themselves as a wrestling powerhouse by bringing home many individual titles, and placing second overall. With such a strong group of freshmen, the Wildcats wrestling team should continue to be a strong force in the future.

“It’s been really impressive with how well the freshmen are doing,” Workman said.

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Baseball drops first two on the road

by Meredith Willingham
Staff reporter

The Wildcats opened the 2001 baseball season last weekend in Lewiston, Idaho against Lewis-Clerk State College. They were swept by the 2000 NAIA national champions, losing the first game on Saturday 10-0 and the second on Sunday 7-5.

The baseball team hopes the snow will melt so they can return to a normal routine.

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Perfect from the line

by Tony Moyer
Contributing writer

In the past junior Jody Sargent has not been known as the world's best free-throw shooter.

But Saturday night in Contra's win over Alaska-Anchorage, Sargent nailed all 10 of her attempts from the charity stripe, earning her Observer Athlete-of-the-Week honors.

Sargent's primary mission when she takes the floor for the Wildcats is to limit opposing forwards' scoring, a task she has done better than anyone in the Pac-West Conference so far this season.

"Jody is the glue that keeps our defense solid," Central head coach Jeff Whitney said.

That team defense has been a big part of Central's 16-5 record and contention for a berth in the national tournament. Sargent is the team's second-leading rebounder behind junior center Rika Vincent, averaging nearly five boards per game.

Sargent also does many of the little things that don't make it into the scoresheet, such as cleaning up passes and causing a disruption of the other team's offensive rhythm.

"I got one out of the floor to play defense, and my defense feeds off of that," Sargent said.

In her first year at a full-time starting role, Sargent is averaging nearly eight points per game and is shooting an even 50 percent from the floor. She had her confidence at the offensive end has improved each year in the Wildcats program.

"I've become much stronger physically, so I have been able to drive to the basket and attack more often," Sargent said.

She began playing competitive basketball in seventh grade, and helped Puyallup's Franklin Pierce High School to a state tournament appearance in 1997, her junior season.

Sargent is the consummate team player, and relentless in her accomplishments, more than individual achievements. Many of the Wildcats have played together for the past three years, creating a strong bond on and off the court.

The team has jelled this year because the new additions to the team have fit right in with the veter-

"Everybody on the team is best friends with each other, and it shows on the court," Sargent said.

Sargent admitted that she focuses on basketball and schoolwork while in season. Off the court she enjoys hiking Manastash Ridge, as well as run-

"I'm working in a degree in business with an Operations Management Information Systems specialization, and I is interested in Web page design as a possible career track."
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Opinion

XFL needs fine tuning

by Aaron Clifford
Outdoor Editor

The Superbowl is over, but football season has just begun for the XFL. This new league hopes to win fans and pass up the NFL with its tough but trashy attitude.

The changes in rules from the NFL makes the game more violent and unpredictable, but the XFL needs to take things a little further if they really want to be tough man football.

I suggest these changes:
1. Eliminate all face masks and personal fouls other than punching in the face and biting to draw blood.
2. Only allow teams to kick field goals for the extra point, no more three-point game winning kicks.
3. No helmets for kickers.
4. Iron Man defense for all teams, with no replacements. Let them play with whomever they start with.
5. More games in places with extreme weather. I want to see games in two feet of snow with sub-zero temperatures.
6. Anabolic steroids. Let the teams practice in Canada and come to the U.S. for game day.

The XFL is like the Job Corps for washed up college players who majored in business but couldn't get a job with their dad's company. There is also room for fallen heroes of the NFL: Jon Kitna may find a new home. Players are paid a few thousand per game, plus a bonus if they win, which is just enough to pay off child support bills and support a mild coke habit between games.

The XFL is definitely low-class entertainment, only slightly better than roller derby and professional wrestling.

It's a shame, but sometimes we need to return to our dirty, ignorant American roots. I have a feeling that this will be a popular theme during the next four years.