Pepper spices up Central

by Kiley Sharpe
Online editor

Central has several clubs and organizations catering to students with religious beliefs. However, not all students believe in a higher power or are sure about where they stand in regard to religion. For these students, a new organization: The Pepper Company—is in the works.

"The University is supposed to have a diversity of ideas," Jim Brown, founder of The Pepper Company and political science department chair, said.

There is currently no club or organization on campus providing an outlet for students who are atheists or agnostics.

The Pepper Company is the student organization of the parent association called The Center for Atheism and Agnosticism, which Brown also created.

Brown believes that while there are more believers than non-believers in this country, it's just as true there are many atheists and agnostics among the population in general and among the student population here at Central in particular.

"The main purpose is to provide a resource to students and others about a non-religious viewpoint ," Brown said.

Central hosted the Beijing Dance Academy of China. Forty-eight hours later, two dancers in the troupe were dead, 23 others injured and three in critical condition.

"It was a magnificent performance. Their energy really reached the audience. It was an incredible audience," Lana Jo Sharpe, director of Orchesis Dance Company said. "It was so wonderful it made the tragedy that much more gut-wrenching."

The troupe's three vans ran into icy conditions early Friday morning after the troupe performed in Spokane Thursday night. Eighteen miles south of Ritzville on U.S. 395 the driver of the first van looked into his rear view mirror in time to see the third van slide out of control and flip into the ditch. The first van braked, sending it into a slide; and then it too rolled. The second van managed to stop on the side of the road where its passengers ran to help the others.

Forty-eight hours after receiving a standing ovation at a performance in McConnell Auditorium, The Beijing Dance Academy of China was involved in a fatal accident which killed two of the men in the troupe.

Dancers die in icy accident

by Seran Rakes, News editor and Kiley Sharpe, Online editor

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Each of the landmarks noted in the labyrinth, landmarks such as the Roslyn mines and possibly a stagecoach stop. These markers would then point back to the labyrinth.

Kline hopes eventually a historic tour will link all the spots and become a tourist attraction for Ellensburg.

“Right now we’re wanting to get a lot of community involvement,” Kline said.

Kline and the other organizers want to hear from the community about what they think should be remembered throughout the labyrinth and what should be included in the time capsule. The time capsule will be welded shut with instructions to open in 2102.

Questionnaires for suggestions on the labyrinth are available at the Ellensburg Public Library. Organizers plan for completion of the project by late summer or early fall of 2002.

The first stone tabliture is already in the works; it commemorates the founding of Ellensburg by John Shoudy who named the town after his wife, Mary Ellen Stewart Shoudy.

Above is a layout of what the labyrinth will look like when it is completed.
DANCE: Donations sought for injured Chinese dancers

Continued from Page 1

sustained a fractured jaw and left arm and remains at Sacred Heart.

Twenty other members received minor injuries and were taken to Othello Community Hospital and East Adams Hospital.

State troopers investigating the accident have spoken to several witnesses who believe the drivers were driving at speeds of 80 to 85 miles per hour. If the reports are confirmed, the drivers of the two vehicles could be charged with vehicular homicide. Members of the group deny the vans were driven at excessive speeds. Many of the passengers were believed to not have been wearing seatbelts.

Still in high school, the dancers were in the United States helping to promote exchange and heighten awareness of Chinese culture. The money raised from their performances paid for lodging, transportation, food and for the agency that brought them to the United States.

The group consisted of 37 dancers, chaperones and crew members and had already performed in Seattle selling out the first two performances and nearly selling out the third. The troupe members performed in Ellensburg Wednesday night and received a standing ovation before leaving Spokane.

The original plan was to perform in Portland and drive back to Seattle then fly to San Jose for a performance and end their tour in Los Angeles. The last few performances have been canceled and the uninjured troupe members have now returned to China.

Several organizations have established benevolence funds to help the families of the wounded and dead come to the United States.

"Financially they really need the help," Hong Xiao, Central sociology professor, said.

Xiao explained that in China the one child law means the parents of the dead have lost their only child whom cannot be brought home because of transportation costs. Xiao estimated transporting a body back to China from the United States could cost around $5000.

Five people, including Xiao, from Central's Chinese community, traveled to Seattle conveying their sympathy to the troupe on Saturday before they left for China. Upon visiting with the group, Central members noticed some of the teens did not even have coats. They were told the dancers gave their coats to the dead and wounded after the accident. Central's delegation bought seven coats for the troupe members to keep them warm from the chilly Seattle weather.

Donations

Contributions can be made to the CWU Foundation for "China in Dance," Barge 406, 400 East 8th Avenue, Ellensburg, Wash. 98926-7508.

Donations to dancer's expenses and funeral costs can be sent to the Asian Performing Arts Victim Fund, Washington Mutual Bank Routing number for wire transfer: 325-070-760.

"The Elegance of the Forbidden City" exemplified the skills of the dancers. The dancers moved gracefully on their traditional wooden shoes. Since the accident donation funds have been created to help the families of the injured and deceased come to the United States. All donations are welcome.
TRIO lends a helping hand to students

by Melissa Mitchell
Asst. news editor

TRIO programs help students navigate the maze of red tape known as a college education.

The programs cover every step of the educational process from admissions to financial aid. This week is National Trio Week, a time set aside by Congress for universities and colleges to recognize students in a variety of academic programs.

"It's an opportunity for students to find out what is available to help them now," Lynee Imamshah, counselor said.

Trio, named for the original number of programs offered, runs in about 2,000 colleges and universities. The original three programs are Upward Bound, Talent Search and Student Support Services (SSS). Two more programs, The McNair Scholars program and The Educational Opportunity Center, were added over the years for a total of five programs.

Imamshah said Central offers two of the Trio programs to students at Central and runs a third through Yakima Valley Community College.

The first program offered to Central students is SSS. SSS, geared toward first generation, low income and disabled college students, provides academic advising, tutoring, and career exploration, as well as other academic support.

Chasidi Duke, a sophomore family studies major, said SSS helped her find professors to match her learning style and deal with financial aid issues.

"I know if I didn't have academic advising, I probably wouldn't be doing as well as I am now," Duke said. "I definitely would recommend it."

The other program available to Central students is the McNair Scholars program. McNair scholars are people who have demonstrated academic excellence and plan to attend graduate school.

McNair focuses on low-income, first generation, disabled students and groups historically under represented at the graduate level.

Trio Week ends with a luncheon to recognize Trio achievers from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on February 24 at the Munson Retreat Center.

Students can find out more about these programs and what they have to offer on Feb. 22 and 23 at the tables in the SUB or in Bullion 206.

Three hundred and four hundred level classes are only open to those who have agreed to accept a commission and serve on active or reserve duty for a minimum of four years.

"Take the class and come check us out," Collier said.

Students who are interested in either the Air Force or Army ROTC are welcome to come talk to the Air Force ROTC in Peterson 203 or the Army ROTC in Peterson 202. "We'd love people to come talk to us," Souza said.

Senior salute alleviates stress

by Jennifer Perkins
Editor-in-Chief

Nervous graduates-to-be can ease some of their stresses at this year's second annual Senior Salute scheduled for next Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the SUB Yakama Room.

Senior Salute gives graduating seniors the opportunity to meet with various departments on campus to ensure everything is in order for graduation.

"It's a one-stop shop for seniors to ask any questions about graduation or commencement answered," Patti Taylor, supervisor for degree checkout, said.

Representatives from several departments around campus including the Financial Aid Office, Career Development Services, Student Financial Services, Registrar and Office of Student Affairs will be present.

Employees of the Central bookstore will also be available to take orders for caps and gowns, graduation announcements and class rings. David Hess, bookstore manager, said during the two day event, those who order an announcement package will have the option of a free Central keychain, mug or deck of cards.

"We encourage seniors to come and see what it's all about," Tina Morefield, secretary to the registrar said.

For more graduation information go to www.cwu.edu/~lin­c lere/3/gradinfo.html.

Student grant available

by Heather Bell
Staff reporter

The computer science department will award $115,000 to students next year with money received from the National Science Foundation (NSF). To receive the grant, students need to apply through the computer science department. Applicants must demonstrate financial need, which is defined by the eligibility requirements for the U.S. Department of Education Pell Grant.

Applications will be reviewed by professor Edward Gellenbeck, chair of the department committee. Gellenbeck expects new Central Washington University students will receive about half the scholarship awards.

Students chosen for the NSF Computer Scholarship Program will receive $3,125 per year for up to two years. The money can be used for tuition, books, supplies or equipment.

Once a student is awarded the scholarship, they will be assigned a faculty and peer mentors in an effort to help them succeed in completion of their computer science degree.

Recipients will also participate in an enhancement program focused on computer science.

Information about the scholarship is available by calling 963-1495 or www.cwu.edu/cs_dept.

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Fred Meyer construction on schedule

(Left) Fred Meyer is sparking the interest of Ellensburg residents as its completion draws near. (Above) The shell of the building that will be Fred Meyer has been erected. Now most of the construction activity is taking place indoors.
Support the Chinese dance team through contributions

Nothing is more gut-wrenching than tuning into a regional news broadcast and witnessing a report of a tragedy involving someone or something you personally know about. I experienced that momentary feeling of terror when I tuned in to King 5 over the weekend and heard about the terrible highway accident the Chinese dance team fell victim to. Although I did not have the privilege of seeing their recent performance at Central, I did hear a lot about how beautiful it was.

Of course, I sympathize with any type of accident, but this one in particular seems so sad. Two of the dancers died and more than 20 people were injured on Feb. 16 when three vans transporting the team crashed in icy conditions south of Ritzville. Most members of the Beijing Dance Institute are only 16 and 17 years old. What a horrific experience for such a young group of people who were only trying to share their talent with others and see a little of the United States.

In a press release from Robert Lowery, Central's media relations officer, I learned the Central Foundation established a burservance fund for the injured performers, none of whom have medical insurance in the United States. I would like to personally encourage everyone to contribute whatever money they can to support the team. Even poor college students can often spare $5 or $10. Stop by Barge 406 for more information. It's the least we can do after such a devastating accident.

—Jennifer Perkins

Beware of the Fred Meyer monopoly

Several thoughts run through my mind each time I pass the almost complete Fred Meyer building...shopping job opportunities, a place to waste time between classes, an increase in downtown traffic, the closure of local businesses and the loss of Ellensburg’s unique charm. I can see two sides to the upcoming grand opening of Fred Meyer, but in my opinion, the overpowering reality of such a huge department store moving into little ole Ellensburg will be disastrous.

I witnessed a similar situation in my hometown of Oak Harbor when Wal-Mart set up shop. Pretty soon the town-like setting featured campus malls and walkways for service vehicles (which, in my opinion, is similar to our Outrander’s, had to lay off, the employees in order to keep running. Soon after Wal-Mart opened its doors, an Alberson’s was added along with the town’s second Blockbuster Video and a few other stores in a strip mall. Just like Ellensburg, Oak Harbor fought for years to keep big business out and lost the battle.

So, if Ellensburg locals want to maintain the city’s town-like feel, keep shopping at the businesses that have served you for years, and if you can’t find what you want in town, think of Fred Meyer as an alter-door, an Alberston’s was added along with the town’s second officer, lost the battle.

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OBSERVER

NEWS

Feb. 22, 2001 - Opinion - Observer

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Letters could use some work

Dear Editor, I am going to venture that Jennifer Perkins needs to be relieved from her duty of writing the “Observance” column, at least until she gains some real-world perspective.

I am a part-time graduate student who has not spent a great deal of time on campus over the last couple of years, so I am not a regular reader of the Observer. I have managed to read the editorials in the last three issues, however, and it seems to me that either Ms. Perkins is really stretching for things to gripe about, or she hasn’t enough experience to discriminate between those things worth complaint and those that are not. So far I have read diatribes on the evils of people smoking outside, the use of campus malls and walkways for service vehicles (which, by the way, have not run anyone down in my eight years associated with Central), and the sale of beer and wine on state fairs. None of these awful things, to my knowledge, have ever created any meaningful purpose for anyone. I am surprised that a journalistic staff would waste time, effort and space in a college newspaper on such trivia. What’s next? Students passing gas in the classroom?

—Kurt Hoxman

Take a few steps back if you don’t like the smell of cigarette smoke

Dear Editor, This letter is in reference to the article “Selfish Smokers” dated Jan. 25, 2001. Bigotry comes in all shapes and sizes, and can come from the most unexpected sources. I believe that if one works for a newspaper, that person should, when expressing their opinion, should avoid directly calling any portion of their readers ‘stupid.’ I quote “… I wouldn’t want anyone to think I am a smoker, and that I am a stupid person who…” I find this offensive and, editorial comment or not, unbecoming the editor-in-chief. Miss Perkins is making derogatory statements about people she has never had any contact with. This statement reflects badly on the Observer, and is the type of article that causes a person to go elsewhere for their news. I, for one, will not pick up this paper again. Also, on a personal note. Miss Perkins, if you are offended by my smoke, take three steps downwind. It’s less effort than writing an article to gripe about it.

—Jon Shackle

The Observer monopolizes Central

Dear Editor, I am a smoker and on the students’ attempts at offering up a little competition to your monopoly of bad writing, and it is because of that monopoly that you have no incentive to do a good job. Jennifer Perkins stated quite clearly in her Jan. 18 Observance that you seem to be the only publication on campus capable of turning out a quality product, yet she couldn’t even manage to use the spell checker in her article, and one doesn’t have to probe very far to find numerous other misspellings, misinformations, and probably misquotes: What gives?

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—Crusty Flapjacks Staff
Among the various other useless fees we pay along with our tuition lies one that irritates me beyond belief—the tech fee. What is it that this fee really covers? For a mere $25 a quarter, the rare student at Central Washington University who doesn't have their own computer at home (I am one of those), is supposed to have access to a computer lab on campus to do their work. As a student who attempts to utilize these labs, I want my 25 bucks really spent on them. I've had students tell me the tech fee has been spent on toner for the lab printers. I highly doubt it.

Since the student assistants do have time before 10 p.m., good luck finding a seat in an open lab, they are usually packed. Oh wait, the library is open until midnight and it has a brand new, state of the art, flat screen lab. But yes, the smart people who installed this lab forgot to make it possible for students to do any work processing. However, there is lots of room for freshman boys to look at porn since the library is only good for Internet use.

Many would argue schoolwork could be accomplished during the daylight hours. True, if almost every lab wasn't constantly reserved for a class. Another time kiddies like to use. The weekends would be a great time to do some work, but not possible thanks to the brilliant minds behind the computer lab scheduling. Students who don't have a computer at home certainly are not any better off on campus — there are so many computers to use! So far, I am getting basically no use out of my $25. It certainly isn't being spent on toner for the shaky printers, because each time I do have a chance to use a computer before being kicked out for yet another "class," the pages are nearly unreadable. I would like to find one, just one, printer on campus that doesn't read, "low toner."

We all know the Safe Ride fee is a joke, but at least it's only $3. I am tired of paying for equipment I never have a chance to use. Since the student assistants have been cut, let's buy some toner, some color printers... and please offer some reasonable hours.

—Heather Bell
Like dogs and cats, snowmobilers and skiers get along

Aaron Clifford
Outdooe Editor
Paul Clifford
Catlue Columnist

It feels like more.
-
Kimo, Montana

A Toothless Weekend:
Living in the snow behind Alpental

Joe Enns

Willing to do deep snow, weight downed by our heavy packs like fat mammals in a Professor Scrooge season, we struggled forward. Our teeth gritted as we considered our plans, laid to waste by vicious winds.

We had intended on driving to the bottom's Lake overlook, where a short hike would lead us to a serene campsite. However, cold, wet snow and winds continued to wind our heads in a circle.

Living in the snow behind Alpental is known as Snoqualmie Pass. The way our bodies were feeling this morning was the same as the popular area. Unfortunately, only the displaced winds discouraged our plans.

Our initial mission for the weekend was to climb something. The snow was deep and the footing was poor; for every foot of upward movement, we slid backwards six feet. The snow was deep and the footing was poor; for every foot of upward movement, we slid backwards six feet.

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There's more to Mardi Gras than just boozes, flashers and beads

by Andrea Spiller
Staff reporter

The name was chosen because we were guys from all different parts of the country - south, north, east, and west - and we all had different styles," Penton said. "These styles came together to form one element."

Penton performed with the group but most importantly, acted as their manager. Toward the end of the group's run, record labels knocked on their door but the members decided to go their separate ways.

All the members became successful individually. Last April, Penton took his business administration knowledge to the next level and started building his own music production company, Composing Chemistry Productions. Penton has a mini-studio in his apartment at Central, but the production company is based in Tacoma.

"People often refer to a music studio as a lab," Penton said, "so it became known as Fat Way Out Records."

Penton also owes his success to the business classes he has taken at Central and his own perseverance and dedication to his work.

Last summer, Penton started working at 88.1 "The 'Burg" as a DJ. His radio name is DJ "Double R" and he plays all styles of music on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to noon. "Working at the 'Burg gives me an opportunity to learn how the promotion of music works," Penton said.

Currently, Penton, along with Geramy Hudson and Michael Trawick, is included in a staff of six to seven people. Composing Chemistry artists The Physics, Mercedes, and hopefuture are also apart of the company, which is included in a staff of six to seven people.

"Our goal is to be one of the top record labels in the nation," Penton said. "It is all about and that it stands for something more than just a music label."

Penton credits much of his success to his cousin, Jerome Davis, who is also owner of an independent record label called Way Out Records. Penton also owes his success to the business classes he has taken at Central and his own perseverance and dedication to his work.

Regardless of how Mardi Gras is perceived, it is a time of celebration. So whether it is celebrated naked and drunk downtown, or fully clothed and sober at home, remember what Mardi Gras is all about and that it stands for something more than a time to party. So keep that in mind while in line at the keg stand.

Penton practices his craft in the electronic music lab in Hertz Hall. Penton, who is only a junior, is already a successful player in the music business, with a production company in Tacoma. Penton is planning for Composing Chemistry Productions to do some shows within the Ellenburg community during spring quarter and hopes to do a Chemistry Productions college tour next year.

"We're going to be one of the top record labels in the nation," Penton said. "It is all about and that it stands for something more than just a music label."

Richard Penton

There's more to Mardi Gras than just boozes, flashers and beads

by Andrew Fickes
Staff reporter

Dressed from head to toe in black with a screaming attitude, it seems this guy is someone you don't want to mess with, but when he says "Hi," smiles, and gives you a firm handshake, it feels like you've made a friend. Maybe it's because of these good qualities that Richard Penton is not only a friendly person but a businessman extraordinary as well.

At age 20, Penton is a Central Washington University junior majoring in business administration with a specialization in music management. In 1998, Central recruited Penton as a freshman to play receiver in the Wildcat's football team. Students may see him number seven making some yardage, but there is more to Penton than just football.

Penton was born and raised in Tacoma, where he grew up attending East Side Community Church regularly. At church, he took part in musical praise by performing in the choir and playing the drums.

"It was cool if you could play drums in church," Penton said.

Penton's upbringing paid off when, in his sophomore year in high school at age 16, he formulated a musical partnership with childhood friend J.P. Currie. Both were late to a track meet one day and while hanging around at high school, noticed there were auditions for the talent show. They stumbled in with their track clothes on and did an improvisational rap number. They were accepted in to the talent show hands down and as a result, both noticed they had something.

Within months, that "something" blossomed into something major when three other guys moved to their school and quickly joined up with Penton and Currie. The quintet took on the name Element Connection.

"The name was chosen because we were guys from all different parts of the country - south, north, east, and west - and we all had different styles," Penton said. "These styles came together to form one element."

Penton performed with the group but most importantly, acted as their manager. Toward the end of the group's run, record labels knocked on their door but the members decided to go their separate ways.

All the members became successful individually. Last April, Penton took his business administration knowledge to the next level and started building his own music production company, Composing Chemistry Productions. Penton has a mini-studio in his apartment at Central, but the production company is based in Tacoma.

"People often refer to a music studio as a lab," Penton said, explaining the name of the production company.
Exploring the neighborhood: Selah deserves a stop and look
by Jaimee Castaneda
Staff reporter

The town of Selah lies in a valley surrounded by hills. This peaceful place is located 30 minutes southwest of Ellensburg. The location is ideal for anyone craving a scenic atmosphere.

Upon my arrival, the town reminded me of Kellogg, Idaho (home to the ski resort Silver Mountain) because of its friendly atmosphere and the presence of car dealerships and restaurants. But, while Selah has a larger population, its greatest quality is its natural beauty.

As I drove up the hills, the view was amazing because we could see the whole city and the hills that surrounded it. Not knowing where to go or what to do, we stopped by video rental place to find out any helpful information. I asked the guy behind the counter about some places to visit or sites to see and received a strange look mixed with a delayed reaction.

After a ten-minute chat, he mentioned that there was a viewpoint (off Wenas Road) that was very popular with the high school students as well as King's Row Drive-In. We decided to check out King's Row Drive-In. The inside of it reminded of a smaller version of Arnold's from Happy Days because of how the place was decorated. There were sports pictures and pennants showing the Selah High School spirit. It was set up as a diner and it included a strip of four or five bar stools that divided the kitchen from the rest of the place. In the back was a smaller eating area filled with several orange tables and booths.

"This place is good to hang out and have a good meal," said Julie Morford, a Selah High School student.

While talking with the students, I decided to inquire about some of the different elements within the community.

I asked about the lookout point that I had heard about. "It doesn't exist anymore," someone yelled out.

Asking if there were any historical landmarks, someone yelled out, "Yeah, Squaw Tit." Squaw Tit is a uniquely shaped hill that overlooks the town. The unusual name must have had some historical significance or a legend behind it. I decided to ask for clarification. Former police chief Roberts showed us where it was located; other than that, no one seemed to know the history behind the name.

After the interesting stop at King's Row, it was time to move on. Off 2nd Avenue and South Wenas, we noticed a Tree Top building (a grower-owned apple and pear processing cooperative). The guy at the rental place had said that Tree Top is what keeps the city alive.

Over half a century ago, a man named Bill Charbonneau and his family moved to the Yakima Valley from southern California. He purchased a small apple processing plant on Selah's Produce Row. Eventually, he developed the popular brand of Tree Top apple juice and opened several locations throughout the city.

I was rather disappointed to find that Tree Top no longer offers tours.

Soon, it was time to leave. We decided to take Canyon Road, but instead of turning off at the exit, we turned onto Selah Loop for one last visit.

This loop is wonderful for scenic driving because it extends almost five miles. There were horse ranches as well as other landscapes to admire, such as the winding hills.

Once off the loop, we headed home on Canyon Road, a scenic highway.

Another customer pulls through the drive-thru of King's Row, home of the "Garbage Burger," a popular hang out in Selah.
Pantera puts up a fight at Seattle's Mercer Arena

Ears ringing, my head still throbbing, I'm still in a trance from Pantera's concert at the Mercer Arena. What can you say about a group who gives it all? Up on stage under the hot lights with thousands of sweaty bodies screaming under them, Pantera still gives it everything they've got and ever had.

The Texas heavy metal heroes have still got it going. Through the years their sound hasn't changed and that's a good thing. They're as hard as ever with their usual thrashing guitar that only Dimebag Darrell can master correctly. Somewhere Pantera gets across a simple message: life maybe be hard but if you're strong you can overcome any obstacle that comes your way.

"Morbid Angel," a band looking like an early hair band from the 80's came on next. They sang a cross between Slayer and Static X that comes your way. Their music was awesome, sounding like a cross between Metallica they got the place jumping between death metal and thrash metal (in other words loud, crude and aggressive).

Surprisingly enough Pantera didn't have a wrestler appearance threw me off. As the last song "This Love" began, hundreds of lighters were raised swaying lazily in a trance to the melody. As the song got harder, the crowd grew dark as lighters were extinguished and the floor transformed into a rough mosh pit.

Screaming grew even louder - there was no stopping them. People were up on their chairs, moshers were thrashing, not one person was sitting down. As the stage lit up the screaming grew even louder - there was no stopping Pantera in their full glory. As the first song came masterpiece after masterpiece such as "F**king Hostile," "The Bad" and "Suicide Note 1," and "Cemetery Gates.

The set lasted for about two hours and the crowd didn't stop screaming or thrashing the whole time. As the last song ("This Love") began, hundreds of lighters were raised swaying lazily in a trance to the melody. As the song got harder, the crowd grew dark as lighters were extinguished and the floor transformed into a rough mosh pit.

"It's nice to see people pulling together to help each other out," said Darryl Fleenor, manager of the Hal Holmes Center. The purpose of the dance was to provide those with disabilities with a chance to have a fun-filled evening dancing the night away.

During the course of the night, participants had the opportunity to dance to music that ranged from country to oldies and included interactive music such as the Hokey Pokey and the chicken dance. As everyone gathered around, the DJ began to lead everyone on the floor in the chicken dance. People laughed as they tried to keep up with the music's pace.

"They help out others in the community and never fail to amaze me," Jim Baasang, Kiwans Club advisor, said.

"There's no way to put it in the words of Phil Anselmo "we're nothing without the fans." Hal Holmes Center was the place to be last Saturday night. A wide variety of music could be danced to.

Disabled enjoy hoe down, Hal Holmes style

Last Saturday night, the club members of Circle K worked diligently to transform the Hal Holmes Center into a Western Hoe Down. With sounds of laughter, they worked together to get the center ready for their second annual dance for those with disabilities.

"It's nice to see people pulling together to help each other out," said Darryl Fleenor, owner of Dynamic Light and Sound, donated music for the dance. Super One Foods, Safeway, Papa John's, Bi-Mart and Jermol's also donated food and decorations.

"I think that it's a great opportunity for everyone involved," Sarah Hawkins, junior elementary education major, said. The hard work of the Circle K paid off, as all who came to the Hoe Down left with smiles on their faces.

Get these services and pampering without having to leave the campus," Jim Baasang, Kiwans Club advisor, said. Many businesses from the community will participate in SPA Day by providing services to students with samples, coupons, brochures and free services such as massages.

The current line up for SPA Day includes appearances by the following businesses: For Your Image, Planned Parenthood, The Main Attraction, Judy Heesacker - Nutrition Consulting, Salon Fenix, Kittitas County Health Department, Chiropractic Association, Wellness Center, Seventh Heaven Beads and Imports, Ellensburg Pregnancy Center, 1-800-332-5040, Achieve, Jazztime, 438, Hank's Gym, and several others. The current line up for SPA Day includes appearances by the following businesses: For Your Image, Planned Parenthood, The Main Attraction, Judy Heesacker - Nutrition Consulting, Salon Fenix, Kittitas County Health Department, Chiropractic Association, Wellness Center, Seventh Heaven Beads and Imports, Ellensburg Pregnancy Center, 1-800-332-5040, Achieve, Jazztime, 438, Hank's Gym, and several others.

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Women keep playoff hopes alive

by Joe Whiteside
Staff photographer

After a short home stand, the Wildcats women were back on the road last weekend with two important hoop games against Pac-West opponents Western Oregon and Humboldt State Universities.

Thursday night, the Wildcats looked to end Western Oregon's two game winning streak. The contest was close the entire game. The lead was exchanged 17 times with seven ties in between, and neither team leading more than seven points. Central had the lead heading into halftime until Western Oregon's forward Heather Lattis sank two free throws with 31 seconds remaining to give the Wolves a 32-31 advantage.

The second half was just as close as the first, with the lead alternating between the teams. Senior guard Chetra Walker came out shooting and connected with three consecutive shots during the first five minutes of the second half. The Wolves took the lead 45-44 on a three pointer by Emily Anderson, which the Wolves held until the last two minutes of the game. At that point, senior guard Kristen Willis hit three free throws to give Central a one-point advantage 57-56.

That's all Central's Allie was as junior center Rose Shaw missed a turn around jumper with 8.6 seconds left. The Wolves' Anderson, a 95 percent free throw shooter from the line, hit three of four free throws to give Central a 3-31 advantage.

"The game could have gone either way," said Coach Whitney.

Twice Central took the lead, but both times were erased by Western Oregon. In both instances, the Wolves were out of bounds, a turnover to the opposite team.

The Wildcats were led by Shaw's 17 points and followed closely by Dixon's 16. Walker and Kautzky made a layup to put the game to give Central a 73-67 win.

The Wildcat defense forced Humboldt State into 24 turnovers. Central then outscored the Lumberjacks 23-13 from the free throw stripe. This was key in the victory since they were out rebounded 44-34 and shot 37 percent for the game.

"When you have two defenses that are as good as any there is bound to be shooting in the game," said Whitton. "The game could have gone either way."

The Wildcats were led by Shaw's 17 points and followed closely by Dixon's 16. Walker and Kautzky made a layup to give Central a 73-67 win.

-- Coach Whitton

Junior Rose Shaw powered her way through the Western Oregon defense on her way to scoring a team high 20 points. The Wildcats play at home tonight against rival Western Washington University.

Has the rivalry gone too far?

Great games, lots of security, and a wild crowd are all part of the rivalry that exists between Central Washington and Western Washington University, but has that rivalry gone too far?

Some people, both on the campus and within the community, believe that the rivalry between these two colleges grows worse every year. Strong opinions for both sides of the story come from faculty, staff and students.

"In my opinion the students' behavior at games when Western is here, is out of control," Marilyn Thompson, program manager of the Connection Card office, said. "However, I only hear about this outrageous behavior when Western is the visiting team."

Steve Eisman, a parent, attended a game in which Western was the visiting team. He was so appalled with the behavior of the student body that he wrote a formal letter of complaint to the school. In his letter he described some of the student body as wearing t-shirts with vulgar mottos, chanting obscenities to the visiting team, and appearing to be extremely intoxicated.

Eisman went on to say that the administration should not support this type of behavior, and that they should issue some sort of public apology.

"I feel that this behavior is abnormal compared to other schools, based on my own experience and that of my colleagues, friends and student athletes," Eisman said.

Some students come drunk to the Western games and end up acting vulgar. Though not all students behave this way, the loud and boisterous ones receive most of the attention.

"There needs to be student leadership on this issue, so that people know that not everyone that goes to the games gets drunk and obnoxious," Carl Friesen, director of the Wildcat Wellness Center, said.

When Western comes to Central, there is a line to get into the game, something that doesn't happen very often. This rivalry evokes school spirit that the college sometimes lacks, and is needed to keep up morale for the school.

"Central students really show their school spirit when Western plays here," Jennifer LaMar, senior business major, said. "It's all in good fun."

The rivalry between Central and Western is meek in comparison to that of other colleges.
Bad luck rears its ugly head for men’s hoops

By Tim Bottorff
Sports editor

Bad luck continued to plague the Central men’s hoops squad when they went up against top conference opponents last weekend.

“You need some luck in this game,” Central head coach Greg Sparling said after dual losses last week. “It doesn’t seem like it’s going our way like it has been in the past.”

Before a crowd of 2600, Central lost to Western Washington University Thursday night in Bellingham. Central never really threatened the Vikings. Junior forward Justin Thompson led the Wildcats in scoring with 19 points, but Central went down 83-51. More than half of Thompson’s points came in the latter part of the second half as he tried to lead his team on the comeback trail.

The Vikings went on a 16-point run to start the game and never looked back. Central suffered from poor shooting the entire game, hitting only 19 field goals in 64 attempts. Western dominated underneath, easily outrebounding the Wildcats 48-37.

Central was forced to start attempting threes like mad midway through the second half when they found themselves down by as many as 20 points. The problem was they couldn’t connect on very many shots.

Sparling explained the loss simply.

“They made shots, and we didn’t,” he said. “They jumped all over us early on and it was tough to battle back.”

In the end, the Western fans, who had been expecting a close, intense match to fuel their hatred for Central, were somewhat subdued by their school’s blowout victory. The Vikings’ win vindicated them in their fans’ minds; for the blowout loss to Central in Nicholson Pavilion Jan. 20.

Thompson said the key to the disappointing loss to their big rival was Central’s lack of ball movement.

“We didn’t work the ball in and kick it back out like we usually do,” he said. “We were either too hesitant or not patient enough at the wrong times.”

Western junior forward Ryan Kettman scored 18 points in the Vikings’ win.

“We played our best D all year (against Central),” Kettman said.

“When a guy scores that much, you put a saddle on his back and ride him to the win.”

— Coach Sparling

Central vs. SPU
Saturday’s game against Seattle Pacific University was much more competitive than the Western game but still had the same result. The Wildcats lost in overtime by a single point, 83-82.

Central once again shot inconsistently in the first half in Royal Brougham Pavilion, but this time their rebounding kept them in the game. The team grabbed 21 boards in the first half. Still, SPU went on runs of four, six and 10 points to lead 45-35 at the break.

In the second half, Central’s shooting came alive when they converted five of nine attempts from three-point land and made the game a tight battle.

But Falcon junior forward Bronan Stone almost single-handedly disposed of the Wildcats. Stone scored 28 points, grabbed 10 rebounds, and grabbed four steals Saturday. The game came down to the wire not once, but twice. With 34.9 seconds left in regulation, senior forward Brandon Rinta hit a rainbow three-pointer, tying the game at 78. The score remained tied when the horn sounded, sending both teams to the bench to summon more energy for the five minutes of overtime.

Central and SPU appeared drained in the extra period. No one scored until halfway through overtime when Thompson connected on an easy lay-in.

In the game’s final possession, Central had the ball and the opportunity to win. SPU had just converted a free throw to go up 83-82. After a Central timeout, the Wildcats brought the ball up the floor with 35.2 seconds left. Senior guard Justin Bursch had the ball.

He was supposed to get the rock to Thompson, who led the Wildcats in scoring Sunday with 27. “When a guy scores that much, you put a saddle on his back and ride him to the win.”

Instead, he appeared confused as his teammates ran the play Sparling designed moments earlier in the timeout. Bursch dribbled left to the basket but was stripped of the ball. In the few seconds left, Bursch managed to regain possession and heave a desperation shot from the baseline. The shot fell short as the buzzer went off, signaling the likely end of a Central playoff appearance this spring.

“I probably made the wrong decision,” a dejected Bursch said after the game. “I thought Rinta or Chappy was supposed to get it, but I was instead for J.T.”

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“Everybody in the building knew it was going to J.T.” Sparling said.

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The Wildcats must now focus on their home games this week against Northwest Nazarene University Thursday and Seattle University Saturday.

Both games start at 7 p.m. after the women’s games in Nicholson Pavilion.

Cliff’s quest for speed
by Tony Meyer
Contributing Writer

Wildcat freshman swimmer Cliff Brooke has had a passion for going fast for most of his life. Brooke, who has been swimming competitively since first grade, graduated from Lake Stevens High School in 1993.

After leaving school, Brooke continued to swim competitively in Division I. However, the Husky athletic department announced it would no longer sponsor its men’s swimming program last spring. That announcement sent Brooke in search of a new place to swim.

What he found when he arrived at Central was a men’s and women’s program.

This year has been the first time I’ve really been pushed, by head coach Candi Eisinger and my teammates,” Brooke said.

Brooke is the men’s team leader in individual event wins this season. He won two events for the Wildcats in three different dual meets. His dedication to his sport comes from having an ultra-competitive personality, and its fueled by racing with teammates such as senior Joe Box and junior Nathan Mosley.

“We have some fast guys that are willing to push each other to make everybody better,” Brooke said.

At last weekend’s Pacific Coast Swimming Conference swim meet in San Diego, Brooke wrestled the Wildcats’ highest individual finish in his career, placing sixth in the 200-yard butterfly. The men, which featured such swimming powerhouses as the University of Hawaii and the host University of San Diego, represented some of the stiffest competition Brooke has ever faced.

The competition is tougher at this level, but I’m still really happy with the team and how we came together this season,” Brooke said.

Brooke came within a whisker of making next month’s Division II Nationals, missing the qualifying time in the 500-yard freestyle by just three-hundredths of a second.

With the collegiate season over, Brooke’s focus will shift to qualifying for the U.S. National Championships through his club team back home.

His passion for flight extends outside the pool as well. Brooke’s hobbies includes water and snow skiing, and he is a hard-core scuba diver.

Another lure for Brooke to attend Central was the school’s Flight Technology Program. The son of a commercial airline pilot, he has developed his flight skills in flight simulators and the Cessna 152 single-engine. Brooke said his ideal career would be flying planes either commercially or for the Air Force.

Joe Whiteside/Observer
FANS: Drunken students are the problem

example, the rivalry between Duke and North Carolina is one of the hottest in the history of sports, and those games are televised. Fans have been known to throw their clothes onto the court. The rivalry between Washington State and Washington is one that continually heats up the crowds. Crowds rush onto the court during these games, and riots have broken out.

"All schools have their rivals, and Central's is Western," Jill Clary, Safe Ride coordinator said. "In comparison to other schools I don't think that our students are overly rude; however, the students could probably use a little more discretion at the games.

While the crowds at Central may be tame in comparison to other colleges, that doesn't mean that the behavior is acceptable. So far Central has been lucky, there has not been a lot of fights or arrests made during the games against Western, but that's not to say that there won't be problems in the future.

During games against Western, the atmosphere is very charged; deciding what is acceptable and what is obscene is a hard line to draw. People attending these games get an adrenaline rush, regardless of whether they have been drinking or not.

Public safety is always a priority, but who determines what safety is in danger? The campus police think, for the most part, that they are able to provide the right answer for what is acceptable and what is not acceptable for people to say or write.

This includes abusive and offensive gestures, and signs that only border on obscenity. So, there are limits to what we can do. If the profanity is said or written, it is extremely abusive and offensive. The fan is removed from the game. However, if someone is over 21 and has liquor on their breath and

is not committing a violent act of abusive behavior whether walking on campus, down the street, in a house or gymnasium, they cannot be arbitrarily arrested."

These games are generally not the place for children or people who are easily offended, but then neither are professional football or basketball games. Maybe the college should rate the games like they do movies, so people will know what to expect from the crowd. The school should consider having a section that is designated only for families, and not students. These are just a few suggestions that may help put to rest the concerns of the more sensitive members of our community.

The university does not condone the behavior of drunk and abusive students or parents who behave in that way are removed from the game.

Therefore, Central should not be pinpointed as a university with a bad reputation. All professors, students and people who behave in that way are removed from the game.

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F1NS: Drunken students are the problem

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While the crowds at Central may be tame in comparison to other colleges, that doesn't mean that the behavior is acceptable. So far Central has been lucky, there has not been a lot of fights or arrests made during the games against Western, but that's not to say that there won't be problems in the future.

During games against Western, the atmosphere is very charged; deciding what is acceptable and what is obscene is a hard line to draw. People attending these games get an adrenaline rush, regardless of whether they have been drinking or not.

Public safety is always a priority, but who determines what safety is in danger? The campus police think, for the most part, that they are able to provide the right answer for what is acceptable and what is not acceptable for people to say or write.

This includes abusive and offensive gestures, and signs that only border on obscenity. So, there are limits to what we can do. If the profanity is said or written, it is extremely abusive and offensive. The fan is removed from the game. However, if someone is over 21 and has liquor on their breath and

is not committing a violent act of abusive behavior whether walking on campus, down the street, in a house or gymnasium, they cannot be arbitrarily arrested."

These games are generally not the place for children or people who are easily offended, but then neither are professional football or basketball games. Maybe the college should rate the games like they do movies, so people will know what to expect from the crowd. The school should consider having a section that is designated only for families, and not students. These are just a few suggestions that may help put to rest the concerns of the more sensitive members of our community.

The university does not condone the behavior of drunk and abusive students or parents who behave in that way are removed from the game.

Therefore, Central should not be pinpointed as a university with a bad reputation. All professors, students and people who behave in that way are removed from the game.

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Maier breaks two records; heads to nationals

by Phil Prothero
Asst. sports editor

Sophomore distance runner Alicen Maier probably should have received speeding tickets for her record breaking performances last weekend in Idaho, but instead qualified for the NCAA Division II National Meet.

"Both Alicen's races were ran well," head coach Kevin Adkisson said. "She ran smart and gutsy."

Friday night at the Vandal Indoor Invite Maier broke the five-minute mark and the school record in the indoor mile with a time of 4:58.79.

"After the first 400 meters she took over," Adkisson said. "The last quarter mile she demolished the competition."

Her speedy performance was matched on Saturday at the McDonald's Open II when she broke another record in the 800-meter race with a clocking of 2:13.68.

Friday night, senior sisters Amy and Sarah Forrey teamed up to steal sixth and seventh place of the 3000-meter race. Amy finished with a time of 10:26.42 while Sarah rolled in with a 10:28.09.

The two Forrey sisters did well," Adkisson said. "I figured they were ready to run around 10:30 and they both beat that."

In the 60-meter race sophomore Jody Binder scrambled her way to a 13th place finish in a time of 8.29. On Saturday at the McDonald's Open II she moved up to place 11th with a matching time of 8.29.

Central also picked up a ninth place finish by junior Abby Bielenberg in the 3000-meter race on Saturday.

"It's great to see where some of the new people are and where I can help them early in the outdoor season," Adkisson said.

Maier will be competing at the national meet March 9-10 in Boston in the mile and the 800-meter.

"I want to try to be in the top three at nationals," Maier said. "Hopefully I can improve my time by a lot."

SWIM: Nationals await

Continued from Page 15

"I had a great time," Kalkoske said. "I missed my taper, so I didn't do quite as well as I had hoped, but it was really fun."

For the Wildcat women, the swimmers in the individual event finals were again the consistent top finishers of the team.

Junior Vicki Schmaltz placed eighth in the 200-yard butterfly, and junior Amy Mahre was right behind her in the tenth spot. Schmaltz earned a national qualifying time for her efforts, and Mahre obtained a B-cut time.

The 200-yard breaststroke was a strong race for the Wildcats, with senior Jessica Lombard placing ninth with a time of 2:28.84. Her time was enough to receive a B-cut for nationals.

This weekend, the swimmers who haven't earned a national qualifying time will have one more chance to swim their best. The "Last Chance” meet is held at Whitworth College in Spokane on Saturday, Feb. 24.

It allows for the athletes who are close to swimming national times to have one more chance to earn their A-cut for nationals.

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It allows for the athletes who are close to swimming national times to have one more chance to earn the A-cut that can take them to Nationals.

Central has several swimmers who are just at the edge of national qualifying times, and the team is optimistic about putting more Wildcats on the plane to Nationals.

The qualifying Wildcats will travel to Canton, Ohio Mar. 15-17 to compete in Nationals.

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