Atmosphere theft, explosive scare at local business

by Amanda Hickman
Staff reporter

A suspect attempted to rob Albertson's grocery store Monday night.

Twenty-six-year-old James M. Hughes was arrested in connection with the robbery.

At approximately 9 p.m., the suspect entered the store wearing a ski mask and demanded cash.

The suspect also had a gun, later discovered to be a toy, and two small pieces of luggage he claimed were loaded with explosives. The suspect threatened to detonate the explosives if store employees did not cooperate with him.

An Albertson's employee was able to call 911.

In addition to the Ellensburg Police Department, the U.S. Army EOD bomb experts were contacted because of the suspect's threat.

Cpl. Scott Willis approached the suspect and commanded him to stop.

The suspect did not listen to his
calls to see ROBBERY, Page 2

Publication of course evaluations disputed

Faculty and BOD squabble over making course evaluations public

by Andrew Fickes
Asst. news editor

Vice President of Academic Affairs Alyssa Scarth and former vice president Jessica Sutton plan to send out the Associated Students of Central Washington University Board of Directors course evaluation forms to classes at the end of this quarter and spring quarter.

Results from the evaluations will be calculated and compiled into book form and sold at the beginning of fall quarter at the University Bookstore for approximately $3.

See EVALUATIONS, Page 2

Opinion

Editor whines, "Stop whining!"

See page 4.

Scene

Jazz ensemble receives national recognition.

See page 5.

Sports

Wrestlers experience individual success at PLU Open.

See page 9.

Many Fishbowl services terminated or relocated

by Ken Whittenberg
Staff reporter

The Fishbowl, located on the second floor of the library, was the place where students could fulfill their copying and binding needs for any occasion, but the services students depended on have ceased.

As of the beginning of winter quarter the Fishbowl converted to a self-service copy center with limited assistance for students.

Black and white copies are the only option for students to choose from.

"It's a big inconvenience to not have color copies available at the Fishbowl," Nathaniel Swift, an undecided sophomore, said.

The cost of running the amenities previously available at the Fishbowl made it impossible to keep a staff, the laminating machines and the high-speed color printers students have become used to, says David Kaufman, interim dean of libraries.

"It cost the library about $120,000 a year to operate the Fishbowl versus $40,000 in profits," Kaufman said. "Other units of the campus moved money into the Fishbowl to keep it afloat."

The services the Fishbowl provided are being dispersed throughout the campus. The University Bookstore will offer laminating and binding services. The Duplicating Department, located in the alley near Salon Zuch's off Eighth, will offer color copying and laminating services. Color printing will be available to students in Black Hall as well.

See FISHBOWL, Page 2

Gates Foundation donates money to new tech program

by Allison Worrell
News editor

Central Washington University received a $101,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to be used for the Open Spaces Technology Center (OSTC). The center will provide technology access and education to residents of Kittitas County.

Central, along with other partners, will begin the project early this year. It will include the construction of a mobile computer lab that will travel to those who could not normally access computers and the Internet, and equip the Ellensburg Youth Center with computers.

"[The grant] creates a connection with a very important foundation in the Northwest," Kevin Nemet, director of continuing education, said. "If the project comes off well, as we expect, it builds credibility."

The money, donated in December, will provide free accessible Internet to the community, provide opportunities for students to use technology to enhance their performance in school and to teach non-profit community organizations how to use computer applications.

The mobile computer lab is a recreational vehicle equipped with 12 workstations and an instructor's station. It will travel around Kittitas County to supply community members with the opportunity to learn to use computers.

See GRANT, Page 3

Vaccination station calls the shots

by Shane Cleveland
Staff reporter

Headache, sore throat, weak and tired? It may seem like a typical hangover, but coupled with a high fever it could be the flu. Students can attempt to avoid these symptoms by getting a free flu shot at Central Washington University's Student Health and Counseling Center.

"The earlier you get it the better, at this time of the year," Dr. Art DePalma, Health and Counseling Center physician, said.

With flu season getting into full swing in January and February, a good number of Central students have prepared themselves. The health center has injected approximately 700 flu shots into Central students this year. Its remaining stock is down to about 100. They will continue giving immunitizations until they run out.

To schedule an appointment call the Health and Counseling Center at 963-1881.

Student Health and Counseling Center at 963-1881.
Central Washington University alumnus Dick Elliot studies the new exhibit at the Spurgeon Gallery in Randall Hall. The exhibit, which features artwork by Nance Baffaro Brachen and Bobbie Halperin will be on display until Jan. 25.

EVALUATIONS: Difference of opinions causes conflict

Continued from page 1

"The evaluations will help students to find a more positive learning experience," Sutton said.

Todd Tidd, professor of accounting, believes students should have access to course information, but in a more affordable way. "Students have a right to know, but they shouldn't have to buy it," Tidd said.

Last winter and spring quarters, Sutton proposed course evaluations geared more toward the students than the faculty. The results of the Student Evaluation of Instructor forms (SEI) issued by the university are not available to students.

The Faculty Senate, however, did not pass the proposal. Therefore, university faculty is not mandated to distribute the forms to their classes.

Assistant professor of psychology Megan Matheson feels it is not the faculty's responsibility to hand these evaluations out. "The evaluations are not an appropriate use of class time," Matheson said.

The proposed BOD evaluations include two separate forms: one for the student and one for the professor. Questions on the student form pertain to how well the professor performs and the overall effectiveness of the course. The professor answers questions regarding class format, grading, types of exams, book costs and the course description. "I have no idea about book prices," Matheson said. "If students are interested, they can find out as easy as I can.

Sutton and Scarth sent out the first set of evaluations last quarter, but it turned out to be a trial run. Miscommunication between the mailroom and the BOD caused the evaluations to be sent out a week later than planned. They received only a few evaluations back from professors. "This quarter, we want to make sure they're out two weeks before finals," Scarth said. "It gives us a little cushioning."

Josh Nelson, former Faculty Senate chair and professor of Japanese, said this lack of response could partly be because professors are already bombarded with enough evaluations. Nelson, however, had his students fill out the evaluations last quarter. He welcomes the BOD to keep pursuing the proposal. "This is an issue of free speech, and students can do whatever they want," Nelson said.

Nelson said he is realistic when he predicts a majority of the faculty will not support it. Many professors fear students will use the evaluations just to find the easy 'A'. and select courses based on that information. Nelson pointed out that some classes, like history, have very rigid writing components and students would report on the evaluations that the class is very hard. This would bias students decisions when selecting courses.

As a result from reading the evaluations, many students may turn away and not register for the class. Sutton and Scarth are hoping the Faculty Senate will support their proposal. If support is attained from the Senate, the project can be done within the university as institutional research. BOD funds can be saved instead of hiring outside resources to publish the evaluations.

Sutton sees the relationship between students and the university as a positive partnership. "If there's a way we can make it stronger, that would be good," Sutton said. "This is what we're trying to do, not help people get an easy 'A'.'

Athlete suspected of fraud still suspended

by Shane Cleveland
Staff reporter

R.J. Letcher, a junior guard on Central Washington University's men's basketball team, is still ineligible to play because of his arrest on Nov. 27.

Letcher is scheduled to appear in Kittitas County Superior Court on Feb. 5 to face charges of possession of stolen property in the second degree, forgery and theft in the second degree.

Letcher allegedly bought electronic equipment at the Ellensburg Fred Meyer with a credit card stolen from a Yakima woman.

Men's head basketball coach Greg Sparling is unsure when Letcher might be able to play again. "It is still being processed by the courts and the university," Sparling said.

The athletic department was unable to comment on any further punishment Letcher may receive pending a decision by the court.

ROBBERY: Would-be thief apprehended

Continued from page 1

The Klimg library intends to improve the facilities of the irrigation ditch near the 1300 block of Hitchcock Hall sometime between December 15 and January 3. The blue and yellow BMX bike was valued at $400.

Police Briefs

Compiled by Shane Cleveland
Staff reporter

Bike overboard

12:40 p.m. Jan. 1
A gray 18-speed was found abandoned out a week later than planned. They received orders, running out a rear door of Albertson's where Sgt. Timothy Stowe of the Central Washington University Public Safety and Police Services apprehended him.

He was taken into custody without further incident.

The U.S. Army BOD bomb experts determined the two bags did not contain explosives.

"The employees were all very brave and acted professionally," Nicole Campbell, store director, said. "No one was hurt, and the (police) caught the bad guy."

His arraignment is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Monday Jan. 14 at the Kittitas County Courthouse. His bail is set at $200,000.

FISHBOWL: Only self-service black and white copiers remain

Continued from page 1

There are talks about moving a high color copier into the "Dugout," located in the Holmes Documents Department, located on the third floor of the library. There are talks about moving a high color copier into the Fishbowl to help make the library more research friendly. The library intends to add a wireless system for remote networking, making it easier for students with their own laptop computers to work within the library.

"We're moving in a direction to give students an expansive service," Kaufman said. "It is still being processed by the courts and the university," Sparling said.

The athletic department was unable to comment on any further punishment Letcher may receive pending a decision by the court.

The smell of nature

8:50 p.m. Jan. 3
An arrest was made for possession of marijuana at the 1100 block of N. Walnut. Police received a call from a concerned citizen who smelled the burning plant. The accused gave officers the consent to search whereupon 33.1 grams of marijuana was found.

Medical assist

2:15 a.m. Jan. 7
An ambulance responded to an 18-year-old woman at the 900 block of East Eleventh Street. She was reportedly vomiting and was transported to the hospital.

Melissa Turner uses the only service still available in the Fishbowl: self-service black-and-white copying.

"We're moving in a direction to give students an expansive service," Kaufman said. "It is still being processed by the courts and the university," Sparling said.
Memories of staff member recalled

Robert "Bob" Van Wagoner, a warehouse worker II in Central's Facilities Management died last Thursday.

A Celebration of Life for Van Wagoner was held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 7 at the Elk's temple. Van Wagoner was survived by his wife, Marsha, and children Tanya and Robert.

GRANT: Monies gifted

Continued from page 1

Sophomore Veronica Bowman smokes outside her room in Stephens-Whitney earlier this week. Bowman, who has smoked regularly over five years, is trying to quit.

SMOKING CESSATION CLASSES
- Offered by the health department
- Free
- Call 962-7003 for information

Resolve to quit smoking this year

Smoking is linked to millions of deaths each year. The health department is making quitting easier by offering classes to help smokers kick the habit.

by Amanda Hickman
Staff reporter

The Kittitas County Health Department (KCHD) is teaming up with the Kittitas Valley Community Hospital to make quitting smoking easier. The KCHD is offering a six-session smoking cessation class, which began last Monday. Individual consultation and group sessions are available.

"Anyone who is interested can join the class at any point," Ann Riley, health promotion manager of the KCHD, said. "When we get a new member, we will work with them to develop a quit plan. We can also look into nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), such as patches and gum."

The smoking cessation classes are designed to give a person the support they need when trying to quit.

"We explore the whole gamut of nicotine addiction," Riley said. "In doing this, our classes provide stress reduction techniques, education, success stories and other people to relate to."

According to Stop Magazine, July/August 2001, smoking cigarettes kills four million people every year. Exposure to second-hand smoke increases the risk of lung cancer by 16 percent in non-smokers. People who smoke are two to three times more likely to have a stroke than those who don't.

Smoking is also linked to emphysema, lung cancer, and heart attacks.

Research suggests that the average smoker tries and fails about seven times before they succeed at quitting. Successful stopping is a "learned behavior" - the more experience a person has, the more aware they are of their weaknesses.

"It's a scary thing to quit and to take that first step," Riley said. "The (cessation classes) are not about judging you and telling you about everything that's bad about smoking - you already know that. Instead, (the classes) give you the power to quit."

The KCHD has been conducting cessation classes for the past six years, and there have been real success stories.

"Everyone needs to quit the way that will work best for them. For some, it's a support group, nicotine replacements, or a combination of the two," Riley said. "We try to tell the people in our classes what they need to hear to quit. Students have very different schedules throughout the year: finals, midterms, projects; and having people there to relate to during those stressful times is incredibly supportive."

A Washington State toll-free Tobacco Quit Line, sponsored by the Washington Department of Health was established for people trying to quit. This hotline is designed to assist people with their addiction during stressful times. It is free, confidential, and every caller gets individual attention. Every caller can speak with a trained expert on quitting, whether you have questions, need a quit plan or how you can support a friend or family member that is quitting. Anyone interested should call 1-877-270-STOP.

For additional information, contact Ann Riley at 962-7003.

Call Home! Tell Everyone!

CWU Parents & Family Weekend
January 25, 26 & 27, 2002

Friday, January 25
8 pm: Rock and Roll with "The Caroline"
in Club Central, SUB. • $5 general, $3 student. Free refreshments.

Saturday, January 26
Outdoor Activities • Snowshoeing, Cross-country skiing, and Inner tubing trips Call 963-3512 or visit University Recreation in SUB 111 for reservations and more info.

5 & 7 pm: Women's & Men's Basketball
Nicholson Pavilion. Women's Basketball vs. Seattle Pacific University at 5 pm and Men's Basketball vs. St. Martin's College at 7 pm. $6 general, $4 senior and non-Central students, Central students free (admission includes both games).

9:30 pm: Murder Mystery Dessert Theater
in the SUB Fountain Room. An evening of gourmet desserts and intrigue! Become detectives for a night. The clues that point to the real murderer will be solid, and, if followed, will lead you to the "killer". $12 general, $8 student.

Sunday, January 27
10 am-1:30 pm: Parents & Family Weekend Brunch
at Holmes West Dining Hall. $7.50 cash or $5.40 student debit card price.

For more info call 963-1691 or visit SUB 214
sponsored by Campus Life

Central Washington University is an EEO/AA/Title IX Institution. Persons of disabilities may make arrangements for reasonable accommodations by calling TDD of 509-963-3323.
Student fees are a reality, but one that is controlled Throughout my years at Central, I've witnessed the gradual increase of student fees. Indeed, the amount of fees I pay has increased since I began my education. Along with increase in dollars, the increase in complaints has risen as well.

First, let's look at the fees as what they are: taxes. Start thinking of these fees as a lesson in what you will pay as a gainfully employed member of society. The government spends millions of dollars on programs some Americans think are ridiculous. These are the same employees but with a pay raise. And what does that change? Nothing.

I think someone in Congress had the right idea, but it became muddled as the bill moved through the different houses. Paying more money for a position would generally attract more qualified candidates. A higher wage increases competition and likely job performance because no one would want to lose their lucrative job. However, that's not how our esteemed members of the House of Representatives and Senate thinks reality functions.

Who possibly think that being a federal employee equals competence? When was the last time anyone told you, "Wow, I sure like the efficiency of the DMV?" It doesn't happen folks. Just look at the complaints about Central's efficiency as a state organization. So now, not only are we stuck with these employees, we have to pay for them as well. As federal employees, their paychecks now come from the pockets of the taxpayers. And it's not just the security personal out of their own pocket. Will we ever see those savings? Your Senate thinks reality functions. The Observer welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be submitted by 5 p.m., Monday before the week of publication. Letters must be typewritten and less than 350 words. All letters must include your name and phone number for verification. In addition, only one letter a month will be accepted from an individual. The Observer reserves the right to edit for length, style, grammar, libel and matters of taste. Anonymous letters will not be published. Send letters by mail or e-mail to: The Observer, CENTRAL, Ellensburg, WA 98926-7435, observer@cwu.edu or by fax at (509) 963-1027.

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Vocal Jazz I to perform in the national spotlight

by Meredith Willingham
Scene editor

Central’s Vocal Jazz I group received the honor of being the only vocal jazz group in the country to perform at the Music Educators National Conference April 10-13 in Nashville, Tenn.

The group qualified for the convention by sending tapes of performances from the past two years. Singh says performing at national conventions is not purposely for gaining exposure for the university, but it’s a nice benefit when Central is recognized among the nation’s best.

The ensemble will travel to Long Beach, Calif. this week to perform in the International Association of Jazz Educators Conference. The group is one of six college-level groups chosen to perform during the night concerts of the three-day long event.

Theatre Arts takes a walk on the clouds

by Heather Abhold
Staff reporter

Central Washington University’s Theatre Arts Department received top honors from the American College Theatre Festival/Kennedy Center for the production of “Cloud Tectonics.”

Certificates of Merit were awarded to Delondra Johnson, a senior theatre arts major, for her role as Celestina del Sol; Andres Rodriguez, a senior theatre arts major, for his role as Anibal de la Luna, and Victor Velaquez, also a senior theatre arts major for his role as Nelson de la Luna.

Along with the recognition, all three cast members will get a chance to go to Washington, D.C. to participate in the national convention.

Certificates of Merit were also given to several members of the design team including professor Paulette Bond, Costume Shop Manager and Sigga Hazen, supervisor. David Barnett, Technical Director and Shop Manager, was presented with a Certificate of Merit for his set design.

The entire production is under consideration for presentation at the Northwest Drama Conference in Bellingham in February.

“Having a play considered for participation in the conference is a great honor and we would be proud to represent both CWU and the region in the conference,” George Bellah, theatre arts department chair said.

Take a snowshoe tour with Tent-N-Tube this winter

By Andrew Patrick
Staff reporter

If Ellensburg seems boring after one quarter, look no further than the activities Tent-N-Tube has to offer.

For the next two months, Tent-N-Tube will be leading snowshoe tours into local hills. These tours will be over hill and valley through the snow without the constraints or slippery dirt, roots and logs. The addition of snow to the freshest floor allows unimpeded freedom to trailblaze.

“Everybody can do it,” Tent-N-Tube assistant manager Eric Malmassari said. "If you can walk you can go snowshoeing and walk around in the hills.”

The guys at Tent-N-Tube said they predicted a fairly light turnout to start, but soon snowshoeing is so fun that word would spread quickly.

“Go walking and make your own trail because the dirt is all covered,” Malmassari said.

“We have something planned every weekend except the three day weekend,” Malmassari said.

The weekend of Jan. 12 will be the second beginner’s snowshoe tour and both Malmassari and Bickford said a good time would be had by all and encouraged the uninitiated to try it.

“It will not be real strenuous,” Bickford said. “The majority are going to be pretty moderate. Maybe we’ll have one advanced trip.”

Blewett Ridge and the Manastash area will be used for the tours because of the good snow.

Costs for renting snowshoes range between $4 and $6. Transportation to and from the snow-covered oasis will cost you $5.

Tent-N-Tube is located in the west entrance of the SUB or call 963-3537 to make your reservation.
“Man of La Mancha” tops theater bill for winter quarter

The theatre department’s production of “Man of La Mancha” ran for five years and was translated into 40 languages, which suggests that the universal appeal of Cervantes’ novel has been preserved in the drama. Brown said that this musical is a dream job, in reference to working with professional actors such as Michael Smith and Kathleen Sannett. Smith directed “Outlaw! at Central, and Sannett received her Masters in Voice Production from Central last year. “Man of La Mancha” will be performed in McConnell Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Jan. 31. The musical will also be performed at 8 p.m. on Feb. 1, 2, 8, and 9. Matinees will be offered at 2 p.m. on Feb. 3 and 9. General admission ticket price is $14. Senior citizens can purchase tickets for $12 and student admission is $10. Next on the schedule for the theater are the one act performances. The Dr. Betty Evans Original One Act Festival is a production of single scene plays student written and directed. Eight will be performed in total, ranging from dialogues to five player scenes. The production that will take place March 5, 6, 7 at 7 p.m., 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. Admission is $3 and will be held in the Tower Theatre. Rehearsal for the one acts began earlier this week, on Tuesday, January 8.

Welcome to the
Classic Film Series
Winter Quarter 2002

Tuesdays • 7 p.m.
Central Washington University
McConnell Auditorium
$3 single admission
$10 bargain pass
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Please arrive early

The Classic Film Series is sponsored by Campus Life and the CWU Department of English.

January 15 January 22 January 29 February 5
The road home
Best in show
The Endurance: Shackleton’s Legendary Antarctic Expedition

February 12 February 19
The General
Divided We Fall

March 5
March 12
with a friend like HARRY
THE KILLER

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Thousands of people thank you for your blood-plasma donation.

SeraCare
Savign lives...one donation at a time.

“I love the sports room so much! I like the little designs on the floor. This was a great place for my dad to celebrate Father’s Day.”
—Nichole Kramer

The Inn at Goose Creek

Gift Certificates Available

All themed rooms have Jacuzzis, Down comforters, Large TVs, VCR, DSL Internet Connection, Refrigerators, Non-smoking. No pets.
Rates from $69, Sun-Thurs.
from $99, Fri-Sat.

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E-mail: grounds@goosecreek.com
If it's been a while since you were truly entertained and inspired by a film, you need to see "The Fellowship of the Ring." This is the only movie adaptation of a book R. R. Tolkien's original creation. Fellowship of the Ring. This is the three hours long, and according to the director, it's been a while since you were truly entertained and inspired by a film. Wasn't their kind of movie." They were concerned that it wouldn't have the action, violence, blood and gore that they were looking for, but remember, this film is rated PG-13 for "epic battle sequences and some scary images."

The costume designer for the film said she was "delighted" with the terror they invoked in the characters and the audience, and they are just one component of a dark pantheon that leaves you with the same feeling of hopelessness and dread that the main character, Frodo, often feels.

I would venture to say that even the academics among us will enjoy the film immensely. Tolkien was a professor of English Language and Literature at Merton College and a professor of Anglo-Saxon at Oxford. This enables his books, and for the most part, the films, to depart from the genre of fantasy and instead appear to be historical accounts of a real people in an authentic environment.

Scholars have compared his books to such classics as "Beowulf" and "Morte d'Arthur," and C. S. Lewis said, "No imaginary world has been projected which is at once so multifarious and so true." To a certain extent, Lewis' praise also applies to the film.

Only two components of the film disappointed me. One involved the lack of key dialogue from Sam, who often acts as the author's voice at many strategic points. The second was the transfiguration of Galadriel when she revealed her desire for the One Ring. The scene looked like something out of a B-rated sci-fi flick. Thankfully, these flaws were minor and not completely distracting.

In this film, the producer, Peter Jackson, somehow managed to give us all the things we expect in a good action-drama — tragic romance, high-speed chases, near-miss fight scenes, breathtaking visuals — and yet he still preserved the majestic beauty of Tolkien's world. You definitely don't want to miss this one.
Getting connected with your ID card

by Jaimee Castaneda 
Ass. scene editor

Coffee. Food. Books. The three essentials for surviving college. Central Washington University students can obtain these items with an ID card provided to them by the Connection Card.

"The cards are great to have," Alyssa Scarth, Vice President of Academic Affairs, said. "The more we can do with just the card the easier it will be for students."

The Connection Card Office is hoping to expand students' lifeline by offering more perks. They include purchasing items from vending machines, having the ID serve as a key to any building on campus, and as identification when voting in a school election.

"There are a lot of things that the card could be used for and we are trying to improve upon them," Ken Baxter, director of housing and conference services, said.

Students can take advantage of the savings offered. The cards allow students living in the residence halls a 60 percent discount at any dining hall. Off-campus students receive a 13 percent discount at any dining hall.

Connection Card, said. Skippers, located on 1210 Tanum Road, offer students a 10 percent discount on the total bill when they present their card.

"This discount is a good for students to have," Sarshad Kamali, Skipper's manager, said.

Those who need an ID card can stop by the Connection Card office, located on the first floor of Sue Lombard Hall, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Call 963-1026 today!

Classifieds are free for students! Couldn’t you use one? Beijing meeting set.

A meeting for a trip to Beijing, China will be held at 3:30 p.m. today in the SUB/Owhi room. It will be a 10-day trip over Spring break in March. The session will envision the trip and applications will be distributed. Contact James Cook at 963-1290 or Amy Mumma in International Programs at 963-3617.
Wildcats go cold over the Winter break

Despite eight wins this season Central is only 1-3 in conference play

by Casey Steiner
Asst. sports editor

“Wildcats go cold over the Winter break”

Fresh off holiday road trips to Las Vegas, Nev., and Winterpark, Fla., the Central Washington University men’s basketball team returns home more frustrated than ever. After catching rays in the heat of the dry desert and soaking up the sweaty humid air of the tropics, returning to the perpetual snow and ice of Ellensburg is enough to dishearten anyone.

The frozen streets and sidewalks don’t discourage the Wildcats however. At least not any more than the common Central student. The Wildcats are disappointed by their 3-4 overall and 1-3 conference record. The past month hasn’t been kind to Central. In that span the team lost four of its eight games by a combined average of 3.75 points. Three of those four losses came in overtime.

After a 100-101 double overtime loss to Seattle Pacific University on Dec. 6, and an 81-84 overtime loss to Western Washington on Dec. 8, a vacation was possibly just what the doctor ordered. During their stay in Las Vegas, the Wildcats swept the High Desert Classic for the first time in four chances, beating Ashland of Ohio 87-84 and Drury of Missouri 81-68. With the pair of victories, improving their record to 6-2, Central broke into the top ten of the NCAA Division II West Region poll at number nine on Dec. 20.

“The Vegas trip was all business and basketball except for the last night,” head coach John Sparling said. “Then they (the players) got a chance to see the sights and enjoy Vegas.”

After a visit from Santa Claus the Wildcats traveled across the country to Central Florida for two games in the Rollins Tournament. Winterpark proved to be less hospitable than Las Vegas; Central experienced another heartbreaker as it lost its first game of the tournament to St. Anselm of New Hampshire 67-65.

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Senior forward Justin Thompson made sure his team would not endure the same fate the following night. In the final five seconds of the Dec. 29 game, Thompson drew a charge, came up with a steal and hit a crucial free throw as Central held off Coker of South Carolina 67-65.
Multi-talented Santiago eyes nationals

by Staci Miller
Asst. Sports editor

Last weekend Central Washington University wrestler Franco Santiago pinned Menlo Park wrestler John Benjamin in the middle of the second round, getting the ball rolling for the Wildcat wrestlers at the Pacific Lutheran University Open. Santiago went 3-0 plus a forfeit in the tournament and as a result, placed first in his weight class.

“He’s wrestling like a champion,” teammate Kenny Salvini said. “He has the best raw talent on the team.”

Last season Santiago qualified for nationals, but did not place. Santiago has yet to rank in the national standings for his efforts. He has high expectations for this year’s nationals, hoping to place in the top five of his weight class. With a season record of 12-4, Santiago is well on his way to fulfilling his dreams of national glory.

Santiago’s road to wrestlemania started in the eighth grade when he decided to try something that would later change his life. He wanted a challenge that would whip him into shape and condition him for sports at the high school level. After little consideration, he found the sport of wrestling.

In 1996, Santiago started his four-year high school career at Auburn Riverside High School and excelled at wrestling, football and power lifting. During his junior wrestling season, he placed second at the state finals and took the championship his senior season. Amidst his junior and senior seasons, he came away with an impressive 64-4 record.

Santiago took a look back at his high school career and fondly recalled his experience at the state finals. More than 250 students came out to support and cheer on their fellow classmates his senior year.

Sophomore Franco Santiago (top) grapples with a teammate during this week’s practice. After qualifying for nationals last season, Santiago looks to improve on his 12-4 record this weekend.
Central runs into a brick wall

The Wildcat women have dropped four straight after winning their first eight games

By Duane Shinogawa
Staff reporter

Winning has been a hard thing to come by recently for Central Washington University women's basketball squad. After a successful start, they have lost their last four games and are 8-4 (2-2) in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference. However, the effort has been there all along.

"The team has been working hard and I think that every team goes through a tough time like this but all we have to do is keep working hard," Jeff Whitney, head coach of the Wildcats said.

Close games and crucial plays down the stretch was the story for the Wildcats this past week. GNAC Conference foes, Western Washington and Seattle University came by recently for Central Washington and Seattle University women's basketball.

Both teams fought until the end and eventually came out winners on the Wildcat's season. Perhaps the paltry defense of Seattle SU has lost nine games by 12 points or less this season including a five-point loss to SPU and a two-point loss to WWU last week.

Senior forward Jody Sargent was the only other player to score in double figures as she ended the game with 11 points. Western Guard Jodi Kaczor led the Vikings with 15 points and a game-high of 10 boards. Senior forward Judy Sargent was the other player to score double-digits as she ended the game with 11 points.

Four-game losing streak
59-65 MSU Billings
61-67 UCSD
60-67 Western
67-68 Seattle U

Saturday against the Seattle University Redhawks, the team envisioned a much easier time. Since 1995, the Redhawks haven't been able to beat the Wildcats.

Obviously, this Seattle squad forgot about the past as they scratched their way back from a 27-32 halftime deficit to inch ahead 68-67.

With 17 seconds to go in the game, Shaw hit a pair from the charity stripe to give Central a 67-66 lead. However, Seattle's Deanna Cordova swooped through the lane on the ensuing possession and shot the game winner with four seconds to go capping an 8-2 run. Shaw led all scorers with 20 points. Meggen Kautzky and Alysha Vincent each pitched in with 11 points.

Central faces Alaska Fairbanks tonight and Alaska-Anchorange Saturday.

"Alaska is a tough place to play, and all we can do is just keep working hard," Whitney said.

Both games will be broadcast live on 88.1 The Burg, Central's campus radio station.

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MEN'S HOOPS: Central hits the road this weekend

Campusfundraiser.com

February 2, 2002 - Sports — Observer

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Call 963-1026 today.
Another Seahawk season, another disappointment

If you want to see a classic example of what happens when you give one person too much power, look no further than the 2001 Seattle Seahawks.

Head coach and General Manager Mike Holmgren destroyed any chances of the Seahawks returning to the playoffs for only a second time in 14 years with his ego.

Throughout the season Holmgren stuck to his guns constantly referring to quarterback Matt Hasselbeck as the future of the franchise. Prior to this season Hasselbeck hadn’t even started a game in the NFL and had only taken 13 snaps as the Green Bay Packers reserve quarterback. While Hasselbeck was cut on the field learning how the big boys play, Trent Dilfer, who led the Baltimore Ravens to the 2001 Superbowl, was waning away on the bench.

After a struggling Hasselbeck went down with a shoulder injury a month into the season, Holmgren was forced to set his ego aside for two games while Hasselbeck recovered. In that two-week period Dilfer impressively filled in with wins over Jacksonville and Denver, putting a halt to a two-game losing streak.

Although he proved he could continue his winning ways in the blue and white, Holmgren stubbornly sat Dilfer on the bench, replacing him with his golden boy, Hasselbeck. Subsequently, the Seahawks would go on to lose the next two games and set the tone for an inconsistent season.

In the games Dilfer started, due only to Hasselbeck injuries, he was a perfect 4-0 for the Seahawks and has won his last 15 games in a row dating back to Nov. 5, 2000. On the rare occasions he stepped on the field, he threw for 1,014 yards and seven touchdowns, and more than anything, provided Seattle with the confidence and consistency they needed to win.

Dilfer may not throw for 300 yards and three touchdowns a game, but he is a proven winner and brings that attitude along with him. Reflecting back on the season there were three or four close games where Seattle could have used that edge. If Dilfer was taking snaps maybe the Seahawks wouldn’t have had to sit on their hands and hope for other teams to lose in order to slip into the playoffs.

Dilfer will be a free agent next season and will more than likely be snatched up and put to use by a team that wants to win now. Holmgren already stated he would keep him, if he was willing to take a backup quarterback’s pay.

It’s time to get your priorities straight, Mr. Holmgren, and set the ego aside. With the Seahawks playing in a new stadium and entering a new conference in the 2002 season, Seattle fans aren’t going to want to be patient and wait for the possibility Hasselbeck may turn into your next Brett Favre. That’s been the case in Seattle ever since Jim Zorn retired in the early ‘80s. There’s always a quarterback who’s supposed to develop into a star but eventually flounders out. Maybe you should hang on to Dilfer’s phone number in the off-season and do some serious analyzing of where this team needs to be, and where your job might be if they’re not there.

**Dilfer vs. Hasselbeck**

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Shaping up with winter IMs

**by Lauren McKean**

**Staff reporter**

Registration for winter quarter’s intramural sports programs closed Jan. 9, but students can still get involved.

Sports that will be hot this winter in the intramural realm include co-ed and men’s indoor soccer, basketball for competitive men and women, only women, co-ed, and open 6’ and under; co-ed volleyball; and also men’s, women’s and mixed doubles racquetball.

**Additional** sports to look forward to this spring include golf and softball.

“During winter quarter, everyone moves indoors and that’s why we offer so much basketball,” IM coordinator Steve Waldeck said. “We are glad to provide the opportunity for people to get involved in the sport that they love.”

The league schedules will be available on Jan. 12, and first league standings will be out Sunday, Jan. 20.

Another option for those seeking activity is to look into becoming an IM Official by e-mail at imports@cwu.edu.

There will be a series of managers’ meetings for each sport tonight. All of the captains of all teams are required to come. The meetings will take place in room 208 in the SUB.

Captains of all basketball teams meet at 5 p.m.; volleyball at 5:45 p.m.; and soccer at 6:30 p.m. All players from the intramural teams meet at 7:15 p.m. and all players from racquetball teams at 8 p.m.

Anyone interested can look up the hours of sports activity, availability, information on officiating and contact numbers on Central’s official intramural Web site, www.cwu.edu/imports.com.

Questions may be directed to room 111 of the SUB during the day or by calling 963-3512. After 5 p.m., go to room 108 of the Nicholson Pavilion or call 963-1751.