Residents lend helping hand for humanity

by Emily Duplessis
Staff reporter

Green Hall, the only all-female residence hall on campus, incorporates a definition of girl power that does not include late night pillow fights or lingerie parties. Girl power in Green Hall means giving back to the community and promoting self-confidence among its residents.

Cody Herrington, residence advisor for Green Hall, is responsible for leading the women toward community involvement and sisterhood. As a former sorority member at the University of Washington, Herrington models Green Hall on the Greek sorority tradition.

“No boys equals no drama because there’s no pressure to impress the boy next door as found in many of the co-ed residence halls on campus,” Herrington said. “Instead of focusing on boys, we can focus our attentions on ourselves and the community.”

Over the course of this year, Green Hall residents have done numerous projects to help the Ellensburg community, specifically addressing the Kittitas County Action Council (KCAC), which helps

See GREEN, page 2

Residents of Green Hall make an effort to create a fun, healthy atmosphere in their hall. They also participate in extensive community service activities.

As part of The Tunnel of Oppression, students depict scenarios of harsh and oppressive situations prevalent in society. Candace Kite, freshman undecided (top left), and Shane Soth, senior sociology major, act out a scene of spousal abuse while Adam Criswell, sophomore undecided (right), is sleeping in a box to show the destitution of the homeless. The interactive tour took place last week in the Samuelson Union Building (SUB). Small groups were lead through different rooms in the SUB, each room representing various aspects of oppression, which allowed participants to feel the intensity of these circumstances. Counselors were available at the tours’ end to speak with any participants who were upset by what they had seen.

Photos by Noah Devlin/Observer

Residents of Green Hall make an effort to create a fun, healthy atmosphere in their hall. They also participate in extensive community service activities.

PRSSA hosts regional conference

by Joseph Castro
Staff reporter

Central Washington University’s Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) chapter was one of 11 universities in the nation selected to host a regional conference this year.

Annie Johnson, public relations director, event director and public relations major, said that winning the bid to host the conference is highly sought after.

“In October I submitted a bid,” Johnson said. “Winning a bid is really exciting because it is so competitive. The national committee selects the best place to hold the conference.”

Johnson and six other students make up the committee chairs that, since November, have been in charge of raising money and promoting the conference.

“Everybody has done so much work and put in so much time for this conference — to improve name recognition and awareness around campus,” Johnson said. “Credit should go to the whole club.”

This is the third time Central has hosted a regional conference. The conference is themed “Stop, Plan and Play: Special Events in Public Relations.”

“The conference’s purpose is to teach students how to put together an event that meets the needs of the organization and appeals to its audience,” Beatrice Coleman, communications professor and PRSSA advisor, said.

Coleman and Bill Chandler, information technology and administrative management professor, will speak on behalf of Central along with guest speakers representing other organizations.

Coleman thinks that hosting the regional conference is a great learning experience for Central students.

“Any student from any field can benefit from time and project management,” Coleman said.

The conference is expected to draw students from all around the Northwest.

Scott Bratva, public relations major and PRSSA senator, is optimistic...
Animals feel, they think and should have rights. This is the opinion of animal rights activists from the Progressive Student Union (PSU) who wish to convey the students of Central Washington University.

The PSU held a panel discussion yesterday. In the Samuelsion Union Building detailing domestic animal laws, factory farming, animal experimentation, animals and the environment and nutritional alternatives to eating meat. They also showed videos describing animal treatment and held a question and answer session.

Andrew Cottonwood, the faculty adviser for the PSU, described a turning point in his life when he realized animals were more than just food. "I was at a party with some friends in the country," Cottonwood said. "I was eating a hamburger and saw a cow across the road. I walked over to the cow, just to have a moment with nature. I looked into the cow's eyes and saw my reflection. I did a double-take. I was having this moment with this animal, yet at the same time I was eating one of its species."

The irony of Cottonwood's experience and his enlightenment is one of the PSU would like all Central students to realize.

"Ideally we want people to stop eating meat," Cottonwood said. "We want to educate people so they'll make their own choice.

Many Central students haven't had the same type of life-altering experience Cottonwood described after a run-in with nature.

"I'm an avid hunter and fisherman," Tim Cawley-Murphree, junior business major, said. "Plants and animals are my food. Not just plants, but plants and animals."

Cawley-Murphree's animal rights philosophy runs counter to the Progressive Student Union.

"It's just women 'the residents specific to the community this school year. Currently, the hall is making plans to re-paint the lounge in the KCAC building. The women hope to cover the walls with color, style and

"Instead of focusing on boys, we're going to focus on the residents specifically."

Cody Herrington

"When we are going places and we want to express a vision and a passion," Herrington said.

"The Joy of Soy" promote awareness to the specific needs in a woman's diet. "Embrace your Inner Bitch" and "Love your Chub" were a few of the program titles this year designed to acknowledge the joys of being an assertive and focused woman.

"We are women on a mission with a vision and a passion," Herrington said. "We are going places and we will make a difference."

"Perfect, absolutely perfect!!...

-R & K- (Everett, WA)

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from 190, Fri-Sat.

EVENT: Day long conference concludes with party

Continued from page 1

about conference attendance. "We are expecting around 50 to 60 participants," Craven said. "There is a delegate from Utah and a lot coming from Western Washington University."

The conference is a day-long event. Guests will receive a continental breakfast, lunch and dinner. The conference will conclude with a Mardi Gras Party at the Ellensburg Elks Club. The party will feature a guest DJ, bar, karaoke and free beads and masks. Everyone is welcome to attend the party for a $5 cover charge.

The conference begins at 8 a.m., Saturday at Tunstall Hall, where people can register. A registration fee of $20 covers meals and admission to the Elks party.
Arbor Day celebration connects community to conservation tasks

by George Hawley
Staff reporter

Local tree-huggers have reason to rejoice — Arbor Day is coming. This year, students and community members are invited to attend Central Washington University’s upcoming Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 26 on the lawns east of the Science Building.

“The intention is to focus on natural resources, the manner in which our daily lives are intimately supported by them and what we each can do to protect, conserve and preserve them for future generations,” Lorinda Anderson, Service-Learning and Volunteer Center coordinator, said.

The event will provide educational hands-on opportunities for people of all ages. Activities such as tours of Central’s greenhouse, craft making, informational booths, Tai Chi lessons in the Japanese Garden, litter cleanup, live music and refreshments are scheduled.

Central will also be cooperating with Starbucks to sponsor a cleanup of the Ganges that runs through the Ellensburg campus.

“Our Arbor Day 2003 event is to celebrate with the Ellensburg community and Central students our earth and the importance of trees,” Anne Majsterek, senior nutrition major and Service Learning Center Student coordinator, said. “Everyone is welcome to participate in any aspect at the event.”

In the past, Central’s annual Arbor Day events were exclusively geared toward young children. Although there are still children’s programs such as craft tables, this is the first year that some programs will be aimed at adults.

Alder Road, a local band, will provide live music. There is also a complementary barbecue for the first 300 people.

“We really wanted to make this even more in-depth this year and use the opportunity to teach people in a fun way about the Earth and how to treat it right,” Hillary Shemanski, junior communication studies major and Service Learning and Volunteer Center student coordinator, said. “We used to do (Arbor Day) in conjunction with the city, but this year we are doing it on our own and on campus; which is different as well.”

Students, staff and faculty interested in supporting the event should contact the Service-Learning and Volunteer Center at 963-1643 or stop by the office in the Samuelson Union Building room 211.
Project taps into memory

Above left, Ron (left) and his mother Marcia utilize the "Enabler" program, which was developed by, above right, Kelly Crooke (left) and Lindsay Appel as part of their senior project (shown here with Ed Gellenbeck, associate professor of computer science). The program uses simple images and commands that Ron can select with a special mouse. Ron can communicate his needs through the program and stimulate his cognitive skills with stories and pictures.

Martha Goudey-Price
Staff reporter

Central Washington University computer science majors Kelly Crooke and Lindsay Appel had no idea their senior project would end up improving the life of a severely brain-injured Ellensburg man.

Collaborating with winter computer science graduates Tummine Carroll and Jason Brown and computer science professor Ed Gellenbeck, the team developed Augmentative Alternative Communications (AAC) software for Ron (last name omitted to protect privacy), who was injured in an automobile accident in 1996.

AAC helps people with disabilities interact with their surroundings. The computer program enables Ron to participate in decision-making and assists in his cognitive development.

Ian Campbell, adaptive technology services coordinator at Central, had an advising role for the project.

"The program they developed is outstanding," Campbell said. "It's great in practice and an enlightenment for them to see the need of high impact disabilities, and then to be able to accommodate him with the technology." Crooke and Appel enjoyed the challenge of developing the technology for Ron.

"Working on this project made my senior project more real. It actually makes a difference in someone's life," Appel, who is also majoring in accounting, said.

Jean Lofy, Ron's licensed physical therapist and Gellenbeck's wife, approached her husband with the idea of an individualized computer program to help Ron with everyday communication issues. Up to that point, Ron's mother, Marcia, had simple signs on his tray in front of him that he could point to.

"Ron was an information specialist in the Army, so we wanted to see if we could tap into memories of his interaction with the computer to help with his rehabilitation," Gellenbeck said.

The first problem the team faced was that Ron couldn't use a regular mouse. They developed an eight-inch square "mouse box" with handles on either side to use as a pointer device to help Ron control his movements.

Now Ron uses a mouse with a disabled "clicker," which allows him to hesitate a few seconds over the icon for the "event" to be selected.

During fall quarter 2002, the team developed a "Choice Program," which is a photo style program that allows Ron to look at photos from his past.

"Everything we chose wasn't randomly chosen; it definitely involved research and also what the family thought he would benefit from and enjoy," Crooke said. "Ron enjoys photos. He smiles and recognizes pictures. When he first saw his daughter's picture, there was a lot of emotion going on. He got excited."

Ron needed more simulation to increase his cognitive abilities, so the team custom designed a program called "Enabler," which allowed him to communicate common phrases, such as "I am thirsty," "yes," and "no."

Word games they developed included family, transportation, animals and food categories, all favorite subjects for Ron. The icons are large and simple.

"He seemed to show us his preferences, which gave us insight that he was processing and that it's not just random," Gellenbeck said.

Crooke said finding the time to develop Ron's program was the most difficult aspect of the project.

None of the team members knew anything about AAC software. They had to research AAC and find out what else was out there that people were using.

"We had to come up with a design that was similar to the designs out there but that was also specific to Ron's particular capabilities in large print, primary colors, not too busy," Crooke said.

"Choice Program" was a photo of Ron's daughter, Marcia said. "A lot of people were praying. How far it will go no one knows. It's slow and frustrating, but he's feeding himself soft foods now. Today he picked up Cheerios!"

Marcia's full-time job now is helping Ron find those new pathways.

"We had a pretty nice miracle," Marcia said. "They did such a nice job, and they were so professional. They bent over backwards to help Ron."

At first they gave him photo books with vehicles, animals and things that were of interest to Ron, including family photos.

"We go back to those over and over again. It causes him to draw on the things he knows. It's slow and frustrating, but it causes him to remember that things are still with him."

The first picture that drew tears was a photo of Ron's daughter, who was pregnant and scared.

"Ron" [last name omitted to protect identity], who was injured in a severe brain injury in September 1996 in a car accident in Germany and remained in a vegetative state for four years.

Doctors said that two people in a lifetime come out of such a condition. Two years ago Ron "woke up" and started over. He could move his head side to side, recognize people and sometimes answer questions written on a white board.

"We had a pretty nice miracle," Marcia said. "A lot of people were praying. How far it will go no one knows. It's slow and frustrating, but he's feeding himself soft foods now. Today he picked up Cheerios!"

These are small feats compared to what Ron used to accomplish as a computer technician in the Army.

Now, the task before Ron and his family is reprogramming Ron's brain.

"After getting out of the Army in 1994, Ron worked for a car dealership in Kuwait. Marcia, a former school nurse, said. "They sold American, British and Russian cars. He was learning to speak Russian. He was a very bright man. How do we bring this back, letting the brain find new pathways?"

Marcia's full-time job now is helping Ron find those new pathways.

"We had a pretty nice miracle," Marcia said. "They did such a nice job, and they were so professional. They bent over backwards to help Ron."

At first they gave him photo books with vehicles, animals and things that were of interest to Ron, including family photos.

"We go back to those over and over again. It causes him to draw on the things he knows. It's slow and frustrating, but it causes him to remember that things are still with him."

The first picture that drew tears was a photo of Ron's daughter.
**I Saw You**

SF noticed you, hands~me SM wearing CWU sweatshirt, while enjoying the All-You-Can-Eat Dinner Buffet at Godfather's Pizza down on Main Street. Wasn't that a great selection of quality food? I especially enjoyed the yummy potato wedges and pasta with red sauce, not to mention that great pizza pie piled high! Who would have known that for only $6.49, a starving college student could hang out at a cool place and fill their stomach for such a great price?

Let's meet down there for Dinner Buffet every ni~ht from 5 to 9pm!

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**GEOLOGICAL SCIENCE SEMINAR**

Jim O'Connor of the USGS in Portland will present "The Bridge of the Gods on the Columbia River: Folklore, Forests and Floods" at noon April 25 in Lind Hall room 215.

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**PROTECT YOURSELF**

There will be free self-defense classes from 6 to 8 p.m. on April 29 in the SUB Ballrooms. Sign up for the classes in the SUB room 218 or call 963-2127.

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**FILM SERIES**

The Progressive Student Union will be featuring the film "Manufacturing Consent: Truth Control in a Democratic Society" at 7 p.m. on April 29 in Black Hall room 151 as part of its film series.

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**INJURY: Slow recovery comes with frustration and triumph**

**Continued from page 4**

Joanne, who was five when he was injured in Germany. Ron was separat­ed from Joanne's German mother at the time of the accident, and hasn't seen his daughter, who lives in Germany, since then.

"We do the best we can," Marcia said. "We phone, fax and send pic­tures. He still views her as a little girl."

In addition to his photo program, Ron uses the Enabler program every day. Right now he's barely getting going with some of the phrases, such as "I feel sad," and "I am hungry."

"I am mad is the most common," Marcia said. "He's very angry. He has a right to be. He's dependent on me, and that's not the relationship he would have chosen. He gets angry because I'm also pushing him."

Marcia said she knows Ron appre­ciates what they are trying to do for him. He also offers hugs and kisses.

"He is very funny," Appel said. Ron may flirt and smile and make people laugh, but his main task is to piece together remnants of his life.

Marcia is optimistic about her son's future.

"His brain is functioning," Marcia said. "I just has a lot of glitches yet. But two years ago he was just lying there."

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The Observer reserves the right to edit for length, style, grammar, libel and matters of taste. Anonymity letters will not be published. Send letters by mail or e-mail to: The Observer, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA 98926-7435; observer@cwu.edu or by fax at (509) 963-1027.

POWER OF PORN

Reader questions validity of opinion

I found the article, “Tyler and Pete, part II,” written by Ben Davis, offensive and overly subjective. In addition, from the start, I must mention that I am not a member of SALSA.

I realize this is an opinion piece, however to form a coherent argument, you need support to back your claim so that someone may bring an argument to you in relation to your opinion. The article, unlike the other two porn articles on the page, was both offensive and abusive. Although pro-porn, the other two were written in both a more professional and more courteous manner.

In the article, Davis imposes his journalistic opinion without such objectivity as the other reporters on that particular page, which devalues the validity of his article. Case and point, the boldface quote in his own quotation rather than using the opinion of an outside source to heighten the validity of his case. The article would carry more weight had he researched both sides to give a sturdy, argumentative article.

Freedom of speech runs freely throughout the United States which it should be because it is part of the constitution, making America the great country that it is. However, overly rude and one-sided articles are much less challenging to write as opposed to time devoted to researching both sides in attempts to develop a strong opinionated argument. Perhaps the opinionated articles would have been more influential, and intelligent had Davis decided to open his article to both sides of the issue of porn while projecting his opinion.

I must ask what such expectations Davis sincerely had of a Christian group-sponsored program titled “Power of Porn.” In addition, I challenge Davis to assess who was truly disappointed by the program, because frankly, I doubt that many people whose beliefs were not parallel to the Christian faith attended. He has the right to think what he may as well as write what he thinks, but one must question whether it shows ignorance or simply fear of something he knows little about.

Due to lack of investigation of the common opinion of those who attended and supported the program, “Power of Porn,” it is obvious that Davis didn’t have his facts correct in saying that the Central Student Group let everyone down. Iones Stimmesh, a well-known scholar in the field of public opinion measurement.

See LETTERS, page 7
Paper's coverage 

hypecorrealistic

I am writing in response to the April 17th edition of the Observer newspaper.

I believe the CWU promotion of the "Tunnel of Oppression" and "Writing on the Wall" is an at the unabashed prejudice your paper teaches. The Observer promote acceptance and diversity yet holds no bounds in the thrashing of its teeth against Christianity. I don't know how to become acceptable to slander people of any religion, but it shows hypocrisy, and disregards your selves and your paper.

Of course that's journalism right?

Joseph Schlesman
Senior
Fine arts

GOOD DEED

Traveler thanks Central students

Thanks to four young ladies traveling over Snoqualmie Pass Saturday night, this grandma got home safely. Apparently the water pump on my Buick was out so I was losing coolant. One of the girls added water to the radiator and they offered to follow me to Edmunds. However, I neglected to ask their names so I could write their families and tell what good Samaritans their daughters are. So I humbly thank them now.

Terry Brearley
Toppends

SMOKE SHOP

More than just "smut and smokes"

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to the article "Smut and Smokes" written in last week's paper. I am the manager of Henry's Smoke Shop II.

The staff reporter who wrote the article was very selective in what quotes she decided to use. Our business was portrayed negatively and I wish to explain that there is more to our shop than just vending.

I, and the rest of my employees, take great pride in our customer service and professional attitudes. If your writer had previously visited the store or interviewed any of our customers she would know that. But she didn't. She spent a few short minutes in the store, got an overview and left.

I admit that some of the items we carry may be considered offensive or wrong by some people in this area. But these items are sold all over our state and country. People will travel to get these items, but now they don't have to. We take pride in that fact that we know that we are supporting a local economy. "Glass blower" and "porn distributor" may not be the most noble of professional titles. However, these jobs pay the bills and put food on the tables for members of our local community. We also encourage our students to find in our way to contribute charity to the local community and advertise for other businesses and local events.

Henry's Smoke Shop II is run exclusively by students from Central Washington University. In an economy where over 80 percent of small business fail within the first two years, we have succeeded and are growing. Some of this success can be contributed to the fact that we carry items that have not been previously introduced to this economy. That is the way business works. There is no more room in this town for another bookstore, coffee shop, or bar. I feel our success is a testament to Central Washington University. Our school is producing students that are able to run a successful business in an area and time where it is truly a rarity.

Josh Gabbard
Manager of Henry's Smoke Shop II

4-20 VS. EASTER

Comparison deemed pointless

After reading the piece "4-20 vs. Easter" my blood was running hot so I wanted to scream. The column was uncalled for and unnecessary.

The first thing I noticed is how you represented Easter with a picture of an Easter bunny. May I remind you: we celebrate Easter because our Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead...this has nothing to do with bunnies. Secondly, you consider 4-20 a holy day? Please! Look on any calendar and you will not see 4-20 marked as a religious commemoration. Easter, however, is marked on all calendars, as it is the day we set aside to remember Christ's resurrection. Thirdly, not only is this money essential for the social furthering needs of these students but it is also vital for the city of Ellensburg which has succumbed to sin in its allowance of "adult entertainment."

In order to save the town, the university, and more importantly, the social structure of the Central Washington State University, we must all do our part. We need to stop throwing around money to support people who associate selling drugs with the word "Christian" and state that Jesus Christ is not enough to better our society. We must not allow this thinking to continue.

I was most outraged by the remark that Jesus is "pop-culture icon." Yes, Jesus is an icon, but associating Him with pop-culture is unreasonable and doesn't make sense. Jesus was not "found" on merchandise. Jesus does not need products to keep the attention of his followers. The Bible is enough to consecrate Christianity.

In my opinion it was as pointless to compare the two "holidays" as it is pointless to compare Mandy Moore to The Rolling Stones. It just shouldn't be done.

Maybe you should keep that in mind next time you try to make a joke out of a sacred holiday.

Leanne Lueher
Senior
Elm. Ed. major

obsure ramblings

Diversity is so passe

by Jacob White
Scene editor

A modest proposal for dispersing sufficient funds for the necessary spread of Christianity through Central Washington University by the Christian student organizations for the benefit of the morals and ethics of the student body, community and society itself.

With the world in the clutches of war and the Apocalypse possibly upon us, the world now, more than ever must be enlightened to the one truth, the teachings of our lord and savior Jesus Christ. While the United States has been built upon the separation of church and state, the recent actions and words of George W. Bush prove that this traditional American value system has lost its relevance in today's society. The spontaneous celebration of the people of Iraq at their liberation negates the beliefs of the liberal fetus-killing portion of our society who doubted our involvement in Iraq.

With the national standard now set, the state and county level will undoubtedly follow suit. As a state-funded college it is imperative that Central does away with its outdated regulations that ban Christian clubs and organizations from receiving student tuition money for use in promotion or participation in religious activities. Instead, the money is freely distributed to clubs which worship false idols such as the bowling club, who hold their meetings in an alcohol environment that is in close proximity to children. If this wasn't deplorable enough, impressionable freshmen are being subjected to the student-funded advertising of GALA, a club that not only condones, but also promotes acceptance of homosexuality.

While diversity is a buzzword often thrown around college campuses as a positive goal of higher education, the United States has entered a time where racial profiling is an accepted practice and where diversity equals fear. If the money reserved for these diversity-promoting clubs is opened up to the prominent Christian religious organizations of Central it will better prepare students for the Bush America that now exists outside of the confines of this rural community.

Currently, members of organizations such as SALT, SALSA and Campus Crusade are forced to drive into their own funds and church-based scholarships in order to travel to far and distant tropical lands to offer the Bible to the starving Third World population, whose only chance of escaping their impoverished state is by accepting Jesus Christ into their hearts. This is not only forcing the "church" to divert money from their ever-busier teams of lawyers, it's also hurting the chances of these young Republicans' hopes of gaining acceptance into an Ivy League graduate school or a similar position that will allow them to participate in greater philanthropic endeavors.

Not only is this money essential for the social furthering needs of these clubs members but it is also vital for the city of Ellensburg which has succumbed to sin in its allowance of "adult entertainment."

In order to save the town, the university, and more importantly, the social structure of the United States, it is of the essence that we are not to expect the acceptance of diversity and put our money into the God-fearing Christians of the community before it's too late and we are all "Left Behind."

— Ernest Hemingway
Piercer gets personal
Local piercer discusses piercing history and issues

Raising the Bar

Venue provides a night of jazz entertainment

by Sophia Gutierrez Staff reporter

The impressive collection of rock memorabilia at Rodeo Records can enthral any music enthusiast as he or she enters the world of old and new. The shrine to music is located in the heart of Ellensburg on Main Street.

Rodeo Records has existed for 11 years under the ownership of former Screaming Trees member, Mark Pickerel. The Ellensburg local is dedicated to serving the community through music. His store carries mainstream and independent labels, plus a wealth of classic records and CDs.

Angela Jocom, Central alumna, has shopped at Rodeo for more than four years.

"It’s the only place that you can find good indie music, and get a Stranger new-single in Ellensburg," Jocom said. "I also like the free stickers."

Anthony Munoz, freshman undeclared, shopped at Rodeo Records only a few times this year but said he was surprised at the selection of music they have. Because Munoz listens primarily to hip-hop, he was pleased to see that they carry a wide variety of it.

"This store is really cool, and I like it a lot," Munoz said.

Rodeo Records has also featured live performances by Rev. Horton Heat, the Posies and Sonic Youth. Several celebrities have visited Rodeo, including members of Beck, Soundgarden, Pearl Jam and Neko Case, all of whom Pickerel has befriended through his experiences and involvement in the music community.

Pickerel is still active in the music industry. He is currently the drummer for the Dusty 45’s, and he toured for the Dark Fantastic CD that he made with the help of some friends. Although the funding is not available for all of the Dark Fantastic members to tour, he hopes they will soon work out a deal allowing them to do so. Until then, he will be touring solo. Pickerel has performed in Europe, parts of the U.S. and opened the show for Ben Harper in Austin, Texas, which to this date is his favorite experience.

The Dark Fantastic has not been signed to a label yet, but Pickerel hopes they will find one that will allow them creative independence and the funding to cut an album every year. Pickerel said he does not anticipate becoming wealthy in his music career but would like to make enough to pay the bills. Meanwhile, at Rodeo Records, Pickerel is hopeful that things will make a turn for the better. The business has been struggling since Fred Meyer opened in Ellensburg. The rising popularity of downloadable music and CD burners have also contributed to the down market. Pickerel said there are still a lot of people committed to buying legit CDs, but just not enough.

Although Rodeo Records’ sales aren’t what they used to be, Pickerel plans on continuing what he calls his “public service.”

“The goal is just to stay afloat and provide the community with culturally significant music,” Pickerel said.

Rodeo Records offers a wide variety of pop-culture memorabilia which has drawn patrons such as Pearl Jam.

Patrons Rich Schofield (left) and Ronald James enjoy a evening at The Mint Bar & Grill. The establishment has live jazz music, featuring local musicians, every Thursday night from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

by Natalie Bing Staff reporter

Toe-tappin’, finger-snappin’ jazz is the atmosphere at The Mint Bar & Grill on Thursday nights.

“It’s a place for people to ‘shred their chops,’” Davy Nefos, senior percussion performance major, said. "You can come here to play, get better, express yourself and show off what you got."

Nefos is both the host of Jazz Night and house drummer. The music begins at 9 p.m. and continues until 1 a.m.

“It’s a lot of fun," Nefos said. "People come down, dance, play music and drink alcohol. It’s a chance to educate people on stage and people in the audience on different styles of music available in Ellensburg."

The International Association of Jazz Educators sponsors Jazz Night. The evening entertainment option come and play.

With an ever-changing line-up, the styles of music played also vary.

“We don’t always play jazz," Nefos said. "We’ll play funk, swing, we’ve even had someone come up on stage and beat-box."

The layout of The Mint is set up with the stage as the focal point of the bar. The tables, booths and even the bartenders all face the stage.

"Every other Thursday we have the same jazz band from Central play," Jill Perkins, bartender, said. "On the off-nights, we try to feature local bands."

Local band Open Country Joy will play on May 15, and Alder Road will play on May 29.
A piercing rite of passage

by Emily Dohibil
Staff reporter

Egyptian pharaohs pierced their navels as a rite of passage. Roman soldiers pierced their nipples to show their manhood. Mayans pierced their tongues as a spiritual ritual and both sexes of Victorian royalty chose nipple and genital piercing. In the current culture, some of these practices have become more mainstream. Now people are having themselves pierced as a form of self-expression rather than following rules or conduct of society and tradition.

Piercings that may add stimulation during sex include nipple, tongue and genital piercings. According to the Association of Professional Piercers (APP) genital piercings represent an integral facet of sexual freedom. The APP considers sexually stimulating piercings to be a safe and creative way to assert bodily ownership and redefine the acceptability of pleasure.

I sat down with Kelly Parke of Ellensburg’s Threads and Needles and asked the questions most people are afraid to ask — and more.

Q: Why did you get into piercing?
A: Um, I have a degree in philosophy.
Q: What's the craziest reaction a person's had during a piercing?
A: As far as the tongue... it's supposed to increase oral stimulation, and really that depends on the person. With the genital piercings it's different. They can and do increase sexual stimulation.
For the guy, sometimes it calls "Jacob's Ladder." (The piercing) goes down the underside of the penis, the bars are horizontal, you use a ring. Same thing, the head sits right above.
Q: What's the craziest reaction a person's had during a piercing?
A: As far as the tongue, it's supposed to increase oral stimulation, and really that depends on the person.
Q: Have you ever refused to pierce someone?
A: Yeah, I had a girl want me to pierce her spine and a guy wanted me to do his sides. The barbell had to be four inches long. He didn't want me to (just) go through the skin, he wanted it actually through the sides.
Q: Ever refused to pierce someone? Why?
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Q: Is there any special care you do during healing?
A: You do it horizontal, you use a ring. The head rides just above the clitoris for stimulation. If you do it horizontal, you use a ring. Same thing, the head sits right above.
Q: How many genital piercings do you perform in a month?
A: Just a few. In four years, I've done less than 50.
Q: Is there any special care you do after a genital piercing?
A: Anyone you're healing from a piercing you're susceptible to blood-borne pathogens. Condoms are a must. They recommend not having sex during healing, but I'm a little more realistic. I stress extra protection and cleanliness.
Q: Ever had any strange piercing requests?
A: Probably the most crazy piercing I've ever done was actually behind the entire nipple. It went absolutely, completely behind the nipple. That one, the guy just about came out of his chair and it really hurt. It was crazy. It actually bothered me. I had some bad dreams about that. I did a Prince Albert with an eight-gauge and that bothered me, too. It's just such a big needle and it was more like cutting than piercing. (It was) definitely more intense for the person than for me.
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Hair down there is just a fact of life. How one chooses to groom it is up to him or her. For those who dream of a "Brazilian," don’t think Ellenburg’s only options consist of razors or creams.

A Brazilian waxes everything from your happy trail to your anus. Waxing isn’t a new trend; it originated in Brazil years ago. A few years back, “Sex in the City” gave the practice a boost when Sarah Jessica Parker mentioned she waxed. "Waxing isn’t a new trend; it originated in Brazil years ago." Sarah Jessica Parker mentioned she waxed.

I can “bare” it no longer! In the name of all things that are holy, we must put an end to this unspoken trend that has plagued our homes, schools and sacred bars.

This business of letting your stomach hang out over your belts must stop. It is unattractive and no one enjoys it. This public service announcement pertains to women of all sizes. Skinny girls' stomachs make sneak appearances as often as the schools and sacred bars.

Lisa Hutchinson, a cosmetologist at Mango’s Day Spa and Salon, said she does about three Brazilians a week. "Once they do it, they usually like it and come back," Mauney said.

This is a growing problem and it must stop before we get too far into spring and all is lost forever. Who can say such things? Easy. I too suffer from a flabby stomach, but unlike many Central women I have the good sense to wear clothes that fit— all of me.

To some these tiny Tees, stare at the Buddha belly protuding from your waistline and think, "Yeah, I am looking good." It is this kind of décided self confidence that makes people like Ross Perot run for president. "Wake up and smell the Slim Fast!"

When, in American society, have fat and flabby stomachs been in style? Anorexia and bulimia didn’t just happen because they were fun after-school activities. Our society has a twisted adoration for skinny people, and nothing is going to change that. Honestly, there is a reason why “8 Minute Abs” is such a popular workout tape. Take the hint and either buy a corset or hide the gut!

Before you all get ready to pelt me with diet pills and donuts, calm down. I don’t have a problem with body type.

We are all beautiful, but we aren’t all size small. That’s life. It’s time to suck in those guts and a little pride and find some bigger shorts.

I know that it’s college and there is a lot of beer to be had, but accept your growing waistline and buy bigger clothes.

Why do they sell tube tops and tiny tees in large and extra large? Most women that size refuse to admit their girth and buy mediums. Even if they do buy the right size, it looks like two pigs fighting under a blanket. We have to accept the fact that not all body types can share styles.

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I see a new trend and find clothes that fit. I know we are told that we are entering an age where size doesn’t matter and inner beauty can be seen, but that is about as preposterous as our president. Deal with it.

Lisa Hutchinson removes unwanted hair from all areas of the body at Ooh-Vahs, a local salon. "A half," Carrie Watson, a public relations major, said. "But just for a second. I'd do it again."
Serviceman sends letter home before deployment to Iraq

Craig Morgan, a U.S. Navy corpsman, was deployed to the war with Iraq on February 6. Before leaving he wrote the following letter to his family and friends:

To All That I Love and Care About: By the time you read this, I will most likely be on my way to the Middle East. To a land that nobody wants to visit, but a place we must go to abolish a regime that threatens our freedom. I am leaving you for a short time to go fight for our country, and the pride and freedom of every individual that calls the United States home.

My time has come to make a difference in this world. I accept this call, and cherish it with more honor and pride than one could imagine. A man could not ask for a better gift than an opportunity to fight for his country. I will do this with all my heart, for all of you and for America.

I will be fighting side by side with the Marines, as "Doc," as their sav­ior of life. For years now I have been training to save lives in combat. This opportunity has arrived.

U.S. Navy corpsman Craig Morgan says good-bye to his friends and family before departing to the Middle East.

As an opportunity that any "true" corpsman would accept with eagerness.

As sad as I am to be leaving all of you, I am anxious to play a large role in determining what lies ahead for our country, the greatest country in the world.

I embark on this journey with mixed emotions. I am scared, I am curious and I am excited. But most importantly, I am ready. I will do the best I can; you know me, I will not let anybody beat me. My strength that all of you have given me, my competitiveness, will reach its peak. I will never give up. I ask some things of you when I am gone. Please be happy and be strong. Take care of each other and love each other and know that I will be thinking of all of you from the bottom of my heart with so much love. I will see you very soon.

...and the rockets red glare the bombs bursting in air gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.”

My Love to You All, Craig

On May 4, 2003, U.S. Navy corpsman Craig Morgan sent the following letter to his family and friends:

To All Who I Love and Care About: By the time you read this, I will most likely be on my way to the Middle East. To a land that nobody wants to visit, but a place we must go to abolish a regime that threatens our freedom. I am leaving you for a short time to go fight for our country, and the pride and freedom of every individual that calls the United States home.

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...and the rockets red glare the bombs bursting in air gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.”

My Love to You All, Craig
The Central Washington University track and field team finally had the chance to sleep in for a few hours before rolling out of bed and competing. The Wildcats stayed home last weekend when they hosted the 9th annual Spike Arlt Invite at Tomlinson Stadium, the first of two home meets this season.

With the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Championships (GNAC) creeping up, Central had a chance to qualify in front of a home crowd Saturday. The men's team took second place with the women's squad finishing fourth. Western Oregon University (WOU) swept the team titles when the men totaled 231 1/2 points; soundly beating Central's 128 points. The WOU women's team outscored second place Seattle Pacific University by the closest of margins with a score of 152-149.

"It was a really good prelude to the conference meet which will be held at home," Coach Kevin Adkisson said. "Competition was excellent across the board with some really good winning marks."

See TRACK page 13
Alicen Maier, other events. "posted high
4 to 5 years, but Central art students
of the course. Since the object is to
in some way in the course.
for the best right now," Adkisson said.
and Frisbee golf on the Central
of Frisbee golf with the difficulty of
to hit a predetermined spot, the group
either way. "Hole number five is always enter-
and Frisbee golf on the Central
east around Dean Hall. It continues
between art objects. Practically every
the path to the hole is always clear of
"You don't want to hit anybody,
and the World Series in Yankee Stadium
and Frisbee golf on the Central
doesn't make you feel better, it makes you
state to point your final score." "With
of Randall. "As soon as he
crossed the hr-ie at 9:53.04.
Olympic gold in the long jump.
according to the game or the competition.
people can think of. Since the object is to
hit a predetermined spot, the group
decided a long time ago to focus, iron-
cally on art objects. Practically every art
object you see on campus is used
in some way in the course.
should focus on getting a point. If
the closer thing to point your final score." "With the
Ellenburg wind, the game
can always be difficult. However,
each player has his or her own keys to the
game. "The key to Frisbee golf is the
long game." Ryan Nielsen, senior, art
major, said. "Some are better at the
long game, but obviously they
their souls for that ability." Along with the
competitive spirit involved, the group makes sure
the paths to the hole are always clear of
innocent bystanders.
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Howard Barlow, art student, prepares for a shot at a sculpture in front of
Bouillion Hall. Frisbee golf is played every Tuesday and Thursday at 4 p.m.

WHAT IS FRISBEE GOLF?
Frisbee golf combines the art of Frisbee with the difficulty of golf. To play,
count how many throws of the Frisbee it takes to get to the predetermined
spot. After every hole, the player with the lowest score on that hole gets a point. If
more than one person gets the same low score, each low score gets a point.
The only time a points nullified is when everyone gets the same score. After 18 holes,
the player with the most points wins.

TRACK: Alicen Maier
injured in 3000m race

Continued from page 12
Four new GNAC season-best marks were established in the men's
division on Saturday, two by Wildcat
Central's Justin Lawrence, junior, jumped 48 feet in the triple jump and Scott
Alexander, junior, cleared 11'-5" in the pole vault. Central's Alicen Maier
senior, also uses the hydrants, a power box, a recycling container and a boat as
objects to hit. Each hole is unique in its way.

We're just hoping for the best right now,
Kevin Adkisson

Athlete of the week

• Jake Burns •
YEAR: Senior
MAJOR: History Education
HOMETOWN: Kennewick, Wash.
SPORT: Baseball
POSITION: Outfielder
NOTABLE: Burns dominated the Lewis-Clark State College and Azusa
Pacific University pitching staffs and has the stats to prove it. Despite a
rough season so far for the Central Washington University baseball team,
Burns has been able to shine. Overall on the weekend, he went 5-13 with four
runs, six RBIs and one triple. Success continued for Burns when he hit two
home runs against Lewis and Clark in both games on April 19. His overall batting average for the weekend was .385.

NOTES: Looking for another way to stay in shape for football, Burns got
involved in baseball at a young age. He continued his baseball and football
career while attending South Ridge High School in Kennewick, Wash. He
went on to play baseball for two years at Columbia Basin Community
College. The team was the 2001 NWAC Champion his sophomore year.
This is Burns' second year on the Wildcat varsity baseball team. Because of the
disappointing slow start at the beginning of the season, he recently shaved his
hair into a mohawk to help the team lighten up and instill a little good luck.
He said it: "The team needed a change; we all needed a change. We were
on a twelve-game slide. I figured "what the hell," (in reference to his good-
luck hair cut)
They said it: "He's the guy that keeps you going. He's just one of those
guys— every team should have a Jake," teammate Kyle Baumgartner, senior
business administration major, said.
Bowling team in gutter with funding woes

by Danica Stickel
Staff reporter

Trade in the smell of freshly cut grass for the smell of freshly waxed lanes, add in some stylish shoes, a ball polished to perfection and Central Washington University's bowling club is ready to roll.

Central's bowling club is in its second year of competition and would prove itself a competitor on the lanes — if only it had the funding it needed.

This year, the women's bowling team qualified for the Intercollegiate Bowling Championship Sectionals, but a lack of funds prevented them from competing. The men's team would have qualified for the tournament, but they did not send in their eligibility paperwork in time, so the tournaments that would have qualified them were not counted.

"They took away our points as if we had never bowled," Matt Powers, club president, said. "We were really disappointed, but we are still learning." 

Besides paperwork mishaps, most of the club's trouble is with funding. It is expensive for the team to travel to tournaments, and club teams have to find ways to offset the cost. The team has to raise money to attend tournaments.

The club has a fundraising committee to oversee the planning and execution of fundraisers, including car washes, the sale of chocolate roses for Valentine's Day and auctioning off several club members for dates.

"The club is looking to attract some new players that could improve the experience of the team," Doug Sulp, club treasurer, said.

"We are still young, so we are still trying to pick up some new members," Doug Stulig, club treasurer, said.

The University of Washington and Washington State University (WSU) turned out to be Central's toughest competitors this year.

"Washington State University has had an established program for much longer, so they draw in bowlers who have more experience," Powers said.

The club is trying to establish itself as a reputable team, and attract a bigger pool of bowlers join. "Hopefully people will want to go to Central for bowling instead of WSU," Powers said.

Students can get information about joining the bowling club by visiting them at the Rodeo Bowl. The team practices Monday and Thursday at 4 p.m. There is a $35 quarterly fee and team members get a reduced rate when they bowl with the team. Whether students want to compete or just want to bowl Central's own club invites them to join.

Softball drops four

by Takeshi Kojima
Staff reporter

It's an uphill battle to victory and an uphill fight to victory. The Central Washington University softball team slid down hill last weekend losing four straight games. The Wildcats (15-18) hosted and were swept in a series against Western Oregon University (WOU).

"It was embarrassing," Heather Lemmon, senior leftfielder, said. "We should've won all four games that we played and we didn't. We are a better team than that, and we didn't show it."

In the first game last Friday, WOU (24-11) attacked Central ace Stephanie Hogan, 2.18 ERA in 19 innings, allowed one run in four innings. The Wildcats held on through seven innings but were overtaken by the Wolves late in the game. Central lost 7-6.

"We are just excited to come out on top because they could've gone either way today," Pam Knox, WOU softball head coach, said. "We didn't give up. We kept coming out, and those went big wins for us."

On Saturday, WOU pitchers Sempsis and Tracy Jones, 1.84 in 95 innings, shut out the Wildcats 8-0 and 4-0. Sempsis and Jones each allowed one hit for the Wildcats.

"Offensively, we couldn't get on track," Lloyd Christensen, Central softball assistant coach, said. "We hit the ball hard, we couldn't get anything to drop in for us, and we couldn't capitalize on the mistake they made, so not enough runs for us."

Although Central lost last weekend's series, the team still has to go on for the rest of the season. The players recognize what they should do as a team for the last six games.

"We say we need to get our bats going and hit them where people aren't and we need to produce and get people on and play our tough 'D' so that we can back up our pitches," Lemmon said.

Central will host Saint Martin's College (11-17), on Saturday in their last Great Northwest Athletic Conference contest. The doubleheader will begin at 1 p.m. following those two games, the team will face off against NAIA top-ranked Simon Fraser University (23-3) on Sunday in White Rock, B.C.

Sophomore second baseman Kristin Powell watches a high ball while at bat Friday against Western Oregon University. Powell went 0-2 with a walk in the Wildcats first game 0-8 loss to the Wolves.

Lindsey Jackson/Observer

by Danica Stickel
Staff reporter

In the second game, the Wildcats continued to take the lead. Shannon Price, sophomore shortstop, hit a triple scoring one run in the second inning.

Crisa Ochoa, senior pitcher, 2.58 ERA in 19 innings, allowed one run in four innings. The Wildcats held on through seven innings but were overtaken by the Wolves late in the game. Central lost 7-6.

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Lindsey Jackson/Observer

Freshman center fielder Jen Curl makes the easy out as sophomore second baseman Kristin Powell looks on.

Lindsey Jackson/Observer

"Hopefully people will want to go to Central for bowling, "

Matt Powers
Bowling club president

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There is a $35 quarterly fee and team members get a reduced rate when they bowl with the team. Whether students want to compete or just want to bowl Central's own club invites them to join.
The Central Washington University baseball team won two out of three games last weekend. The Wildcats (16-24) traveled to Nampa, Idaho, where they beat Azusa Pacific University by a score of 7-2 last Friday, giving Head Coach Dick Deary Storey the most wins for a head coach never trailed.

Junior pitcher Kevin Olson also played well, allowing eight hits and giving up only one earned run while pitching six solid innings. Olson scattered seven hits while giving up only two runs, making sure that Central never trailed.

On Saturday the team played Lewis-Clark State College (LCSC) for a double into right field, his first extra-base hit of the season.

"It felt great," Esparza said. "I was hitting the ball well all day and one finally dropped. Their coach brought in all of the outfielders because he didn't think I was going to hit it very far, and I hit it right over the right fielder's head."

After pitching three no-hits in the first three innings of the last game, we played really well," Storey said. "I was really proud of our offense, we put two runs on the board, highlighted by a solo home run from senior outfielder Jake Burns, giving Central a 6-5 lead in the bottom of the ninth. Junior pitcher Jason Kelley was in for his seventh inning of relief work in two days, but couldn't pick up the save.

"LSCC's sophomore third baseman Emerson Frostad singled to start off the bottom of the ninth. LSCC's tying run advanced from first to third base after two consecutive balks by Kelley and eventually scored on a fielder's choice. Central escaped the bottom half of the ninth inning with the game tied at six.

In the top of the tenth, senior shortstop Brandon Esparza stepped up to the plate after sophomore outfielder Ryan Rockhill doubled to right centerfield. Esparza came through in the clutch and laced an outside fastball giving Central a 6-5 lead in the top of the tenth inning.

"The team finally started playing like a college or a different university prior to becoming a Wildcat."

The Wildcats put two clutch runs on the board, highlighted by a solo home run from senior outfielder Jake Burns, giving Central a 6-5 lead in the bottom of the ninth. Junior pitcher Jason Kelley was in for his seventh inning of relief work in two days, but couldn't pick up the save.

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"The team finally started playing like a college or a different university prior to becoming a Wildcat."

Any time we beat LC it's a pretty big deal."

Brandon Klump
Junior Pitcher

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After pitching three no-hits in the first three innings of the last game, we played really well," Storey said. "I was really proud of our offense, we put two runs on the board, highlighted by a solo home run from senior outfielder Jake Burns, giving Central a 6-5 lead in the bottom of the ninth. Junior pitcher Jason Kelley was in for his seventh inning of relief work in two days, but couldn't pick up the save.

"LSCC's sophomore third baseman Emerson Frostad singled to start off the bottom of the ninth. LSCC's tying run advanced from first to third base after two consecutive balks by Kelley and eventually scored on a fielder's choice. Central escaped the bottom half of the ninth inning with the game tied at six.

In the top of the tenth, senior shortstop Brandon Esparza stepped up to the plate after sophomore outfielder Ryan Rockhill doubled to right centerfield. Esparza came through in the clutch and laced an outside fastball giving Central a 6-5 lead in the top of the tenth inning.

"The team finally started playing like a college or a different university prior to becoming a Wildcat."

Any time we beat LC it's a pretty big deal."

Brandon Klump
Junior Pitcher

For a double into right field, his first extra-base hit of the season.
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