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Observer

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TOURNAMENT
PLAY

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Thursday
Dec. 4, 2003
Vol. 77 no. 08

BSERVER

CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

www.cwu.edu/~observer

Give 'til it hurts, then give more

by Jennifer Allen
Staff reporter

Abuse Support Education Now (ASPEN), comedian John Kiester and a gang of bikers hope to tackle needs in Ellensburg by inviting students and community members to share their good fortune. Although many students will be leaving to return home for the holidays, there is still time to share goodwill with others.

ASPEN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FAMILY SURVIVORS' GIFT DONATION

ASPEN, an organization that assists domestic violence victims and their families, is holding a drive to bring Christmas to six local families. Each family includes children and has survived domestic violence.

Kathy Boots, the coordinator of ASPEN's Christmas drive, said good donations include gift certificates and wish list items provided by the families and children. A list of recommended gifts is available by contacting ASPEN at (509) 925-2425. Boots said because domestic violence has no season, students can make donations of clothing, household items and funds throughout the year.

LEAH POLACEK TREE LIGHTING AND EVENT BENEFIT

John Kiester of Almost Live! and the musical group the Machines will perform on Dec. 20 at the Ellensburg Inn during the benefit dinner for Central Washington University alumna Leah

see **CHARITY** page 2

Holiday season arrives



Michael Bennett/Observer

In the Samuelson Union Building (SUB), holiday cheer, handcrafted by Central Washington University students and other vendors from around the Northwest, showed up in treasure troves. Gifts and decorations will line the interior of the SUB through Saturday. See page 8.

Cozy Cookie provides work for Central students

by Martha Goudey-Price
Copy editor

A local business is warming hearts and hands, while giving Central Washington University students and recent graduates an opportunity to gain work experience.

The Edson-Wright company has been marketing a 12" plush toy filled with rice and cloves, called the Cozy Cookie, for six years. When warmed in the microwave it provides warmth for up to 30 minutes to aching muscles, cold feet, or comfort for a sick or hurting child.

"We want students to know that there are people in the community who value the work of students," Mollie Edson, co-owner of The Edson Wright Company with Jane Wright, said.

The first student Edson and Wright contacted was Nick Elsberry, a 2003 computer science graduate, to design the Web site. Although

Elsberry now works for Microsoft he still maintains the site, at www.cozy-cookie.com, but built in features to the site to allow other employees to make routine changes.

"It was great working for Cozy Cookie while still in school," Elsberry said. "It gave me another project to put on my resume. Also, it allowed me

to work on a project from the very beginning. I didn't have to work with anyone else's code,



Michael Bennett/Observer

(from left) Lisa Buckley, Robbi Tormley, Rich Cook and Erin Wenz all gain real life experience working at Cozy Cookie.

which is something that I do a lot here at Microsoft. Plus it is what I enjoy doing and it is nice to have the opportunity to get paid for it and to work for some wonderful people."

Joan Allyn, a 2003 Central graduate and former Outstanding Marketing Student of the Year, started working for Edson and Wright last May.

"For my final project I was looking for an independent study

project," Allyn said. "I prepared a marketing strategy for them to market Cozy Cookie. Hart

Toys (Cozy Cookie manufacturer) and Mollie Edson liked my ideas so much that they wanted to hire me on."

Allyn, a non-traditional student, said she appreciated the opportunity to gain work experience in the field of marketing.

"One of my suggestions was that Cozy Cookie is not a toy," Allyn said. "It had been sold and marketed as a toy. Now we're pushing them into health care and it's doing well."

Rich Cook, senior accounting major, does the bookkeeping for The Edson-Wright Company.

"My first impression was surprise that a company like this was going on here in Ellensburg," Cook said. "I found this to be invaluable for the career and field I'm going into. It's been a blessing. I've been able to take what I've learned in the classroom and apply it to my job."

see **COZY**, page 2

CHARITY: Toys for Tots at Elk's Lodge

continued from 1

Polacek. Polacek, a wife and mother of two, is terminally ill with a rare form of bile duct cancer; the cancer has repeatedly not responded to chemotherapy treatments.

"I received a phone call by a distressed friend of Leah's. Immediately my heart went out for the Polacek family and I wanted to help as much as I could," Jackie Hammer, general manager at the Ellensburg Inn, said.

Donations can be made at Washington Mutual; each donation will lead to one light being added to a tree at Windermere Real Estate at the corner of Main and Mountain View streets. The goal is to reach 2,000

donations and, therefore, 2,000 lights by the event benefit on Dec. 20. Once all 2,000 lights are lit on the tree, the star will be illuminated.

People may also donate by buying tickets to attend the benefit dinner and auction. Tickets cost \$14 per person or \$24 per couple and are available through the Ellensburg Inn by calling 925-9801.

All community members may come to the Ellensburg Inn from 5 to 8 p.m. to have their pictures taken with Santa Claus and Central's mascot Wellington the Wildcat. At 6 p.m. dinner will be served to ticket holders in the Inn's banquet room. Each ticket will be entered into the grand prize drawing for four box seats tickets to a

Seattle Super Sonics game.

TOYS FOR TOTS

Toys for Tots features two major events this month. On Dec. 6 at the Ellensburg Elks Lodge at the corner of 5th and Main streets, from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m., the Downer County Bikers, Elks Emblem Club, and Kittitas County A Brotherhood Against Totalitarian Enactments (ABATE) chapter will host a party fundraiser.

ABATE is an organization for motorcycle enthusiasts who participate in many social and charitable events. The ABATE Christmas party flier touts that there will be "lots of biker chicks" present.

Five bands will play throughout the night. An auction will also take place with donated items. All proceeds go to Toys for Tots. Tickets are \$5 per person or \$7 per couple. The Elks Lodge will open doors at 3 p.m. for the event.

Santa, Mrs. Claus and CeCe Hubbert, a Toys for Tots coordinator, will pass out presents to children during the second annual Toys for Tots event. The children's party will take place on Dec. 21 at the Elks between 2 to 4 p.m. Children will be treated to stockings, gifts, pizza and refreshments. All attendees must RSVP. Call Melissa Morrison at 962-9564. Receipts are available and all donations are tax deductible.

Former president of Ireland to speak

by George Hawley
Asst. News editor

Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland, has confirmed that she will speak at Central Washington University. The event will take place at 7 p.m., Jan. 13 in McConnell Auditorium.

Robinson, who holds degrees from King's Inn in Dublin, Trinity College and Harvard, served for 20 years in Ireland's Senate. She was elected president in 1990 and served until 1997.

During her presidency, Robinson placed special emphasis on Africa. She was the first head of state to visit Somalia after the 1992 famine and Rwanda during the 1994 genocide.

Following her presidency, Robinson served as the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations until 2002.

She is speaking at Central as part of the presidential speaker series.

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Nightly Drink
Specials

Fireside
dining

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Come in and enjoy a fun,
smoke free environment

962-3755

COZY: Students work hands-on

continued from 1

Cook has advice for other students.

"If an opportunity (to work for a company) in the Ellensburg community is available, jump for it," Cook said. "It's one thing to do it in the classroom and a whole other thing to do it in the workforce and actually have it matter."

Seniors and graphic design majors Erin Wenz and Lisa Buckley are designing the Christmas wrap and a reminder re-order card. Wenz is grateful for the real-life experience she's received while working for The Edson-Wright company.

"It's always good to have client experience on your resume," Wenz said. "And it's nice to work with a

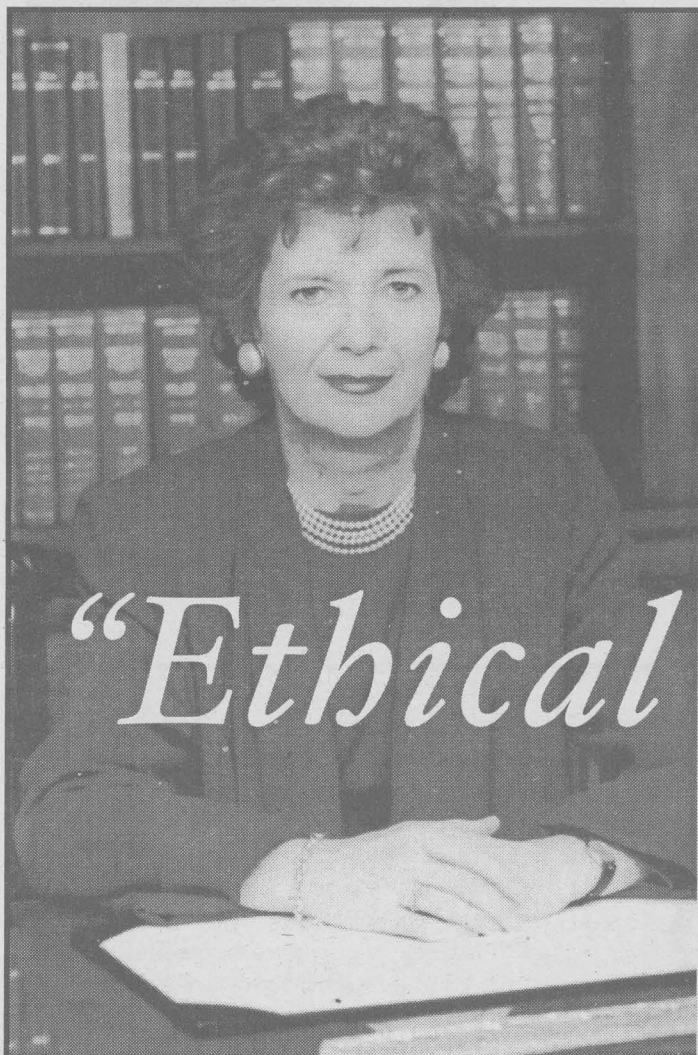
company that gives back... it's nice to know that what you do makes a difference to someone."

Robbi Tormley, sophomore exercise science major, works in shipping and receiving, taking Internet orders, creating invoices and UPS labels, stocking the warehouse, and shipping.

"It's great," Tormley said. "And it's great to hear about the kids that use it. I heard about a child with Down's Syndrome got one because his favorite book was The Gingerbread Boy."

And Akil White, the UPS driver who picks up the Cozy Cookie orders? He's not an Edson-Wright employee... but he's a Central graduate.

And Edson and Wright like that.



"Ethical

*The Central Washington University
Presidential Speaker Series presents*

Mary Robinson

First woman president of Ireland and former
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;
currently heading the Ethical Globalization Initiative

Globalization"

Tuesday, January 13, 2004

7 p.m., McConnell Auditorium

Reception following

Free admission (seat guaranteed with event
ticket, available now at Recreation ticket
counter in the SUB.)



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Police Briefs

Compiled by
Ryan Knee
Asst. News editor

QUICK DELIVERY

Nov. 25
A Papa John's semi-truck struck a light pole on 8th Ave. and Chestnut Street. It was seen fleeing the area.

GOODWILL HOAX

Nov. 25
Two men were driving to homes in their white van with a Goodwill logo on its side. They were picking up items from residents claiming they represented the Goodwill, which they did not.

PEEPING TOM

Nov. 26
A suspicious male was circling apartment complexes looking in windows and trying to open doors. The caller asked him if he was okay and he didn't respond.

BE SMARTER THAN THE WINDOW

Nov. 30
A male in his early 20's fled the Valley Café after he broke a window with his hand.

GRANDMA IN TROUBLE

Nov. 30
Police were notified by a caller that a juvenile on a snowmobile gave him a note that said, "Need help" written by his 70-year-old neighbor lady. The caller said he would personally respond but has received threats from the woman's grandson.

Inside the world of the campus police department

Central Washington University students feel safe, but at a cost

by Ryan Knee
Asst. News editor and
Erik Swenningson
Staff reporter

An informal survey conducted by the Observer reveals that 95 percent of Central Washington University's on-campus students, feels safe in their current living situations. Out of that 95 percent, all agreed that the Central Washington University Police Department (CWUPD) is doing an excellent job.

In 2003-04 the department was given \$593,675. Out of that money \$515,250 was budgeted for personnel salaries and benefits. The department also pays KITTCOM \$62,800 annually for dispatch services, which left the department with only \$10,625 for all operating expenses.

To cover the increasing costs of maintaining the department's level of service the department had to seek additional funding by applying for law enforcement grants to cover the \$773,776 in expenses for 2003. The budget was revised to \$775,770 to accommodate for the years the costs.

The university has increased the budget for 2004, giving the department \$531,616 in personnel costs.

The department is funded from two different sources, 60 percent from general state funding and the other 40 percent from Central's general tuition costs.

"The general tuition covers the costs of the university including campus police," Shelly Johnson, Central's budget director, said.

According to the latest annual report from 2001, the department responded to 4,924 calls for service and completed 1,681 incident reports.

The department is comprised of three sergeants, seven patrol officers, one lieutenant and Chief Steve Rittereiser, totaling 12 Washington State commissioned police officers.

The department has a combined total of 150-years of experience in law enforcement. They also have a wealth of training experience. After officers complete the basic law enforcement

Amongst the incidents the department dealt with four rape incidents, one robbery, 14 assaults, 11 cases of domestic violence, 11 complaints of harassment, 10 warrant arrests, 19 DUIs, 40 liquor law violation arrests and 13 drug law violation arrests.

According to Rittereiser, in the 1990s the department changed its focus from simple law enforcement to a student service.

"We've really transitioned into becoming part of the educational process," Rittereiser said. "Lecturing in law and justice classes, participating in different academic programs and teaching personal safety as a part of residence hall programs."

Although the majority of Central students are happy with the performance by the department, there are some skeptics. Several students on-campus stated during the survey that alcohol enforcement was too strict.

Anyone who wants to make a complaint about an officer or an incident can take one of several avenues to address the perceived problem.

"An internal review is conducted on any complaint regarding the way an officer or officers handled a particular situation," Rittereiser said. "Many times I find that the individual may not have understood why an officer took the type of action he or she did. In some cases there are actions that we are legally responsible to take. In other cases they may be directly related to the safety of an officer or citizen."

Some students may have some minor complaints about the alcohol

“
An internal review
is conducted on
any complaint
regarding the way
an officer...
handled a
particular
situation.”

Steve Rittereiser
Central Police Chief

academy, which totals 720 hours, they must continue to receive training in the basic elements of law enforcement. Examples of this training are defensive tactics, firearms qualification and first aid/CPR. The department employees and staff completed approximately 1,540 hours of training in 2001.

The 2001 annual report also revealed the reported crimes for the year on the Ellensburg campus.

see POLICE, page 5

Central Police — by the — Numbers

12
Police officers
working for
Central
Washington
University

20
Years Steve
Rittereiser has
been a part of
the
department


40
Percent of
funding from
student
tuition

41
Burglaries
reported to
the
department in
2001

80
Bicycle thefts
reported in
2001

150
Years of
combined
police
experience


600
Thousand
dollars
approximate
initial budget
for 2003



Mistletoe Magic Holiday Dinner

Thursday, December 4, 2003
4:30pm - 7:30pm

Holmes West Tunstall Dining



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good
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Thursday Dec. 6
in Holmes East
from 11am-1pm

TV actor to visit Central

by George Hawley
Asst. News editor

Actor Blair Underwood, star of the TV series L.A. Law and movies such as Deep Impact and Just Cause, will be coming to Central Washington University on Thursday, Jan. 15 at McConnell Auditorium in honor of Martin Luther King Day.

Underwood will be performing a program called IM4, a play in which he plays a variety of characters.

The production is a celebration of Martin Luther King. Underwood plays a murdered Rap mogul who meets Dr. King after his death.

The play fuses the message of Martin Luther King with dancing and Hip-hop.

Central students en route to Iraq

by Joseph Castro
Staff reporter

National Guard reservists from Central Washington University have been called to military duty in Iraq.

Thus far 27 students and several faculty have received orders from the Army to prepare to leave.

The Pentagon began alerting 43,000 National Guard in early November. Reservists are expected to replace troops in a rotation by March.

The total number of U.S. soldiers is expected to be 25,000 less after the rotation.

Norm Wright, associate regis-

trar for Central, said he expects more students to report for leave.

"There probably are some students who have been activated but haven't notified the University because of the priorities, getting their families ready," Wright said.

Students who have been called during the quarter have several options when withdrawing from Central.

Wright said students can get a uncontested withdrawal within the first third of the quarter, incomplete or uncontested withdrawal within the second third of the quarter or perhaps even a letter grade during the last third.

VP dedicates time to connect students



“

There are so many amazing people on this campus

”

Jill Creighton

by Susan Bunday
News editor

Jill Creighton has a knack for connecting with people. The junior music education major and member of the Associated Students of Central Washington University Board of Directors (ASCWU/BOD) is dedicated to building relationships with students of all ages, as her current job and future career both attest to.

Creighton, the vice president of student life and facilities, connects with the students of Central as the chair of both the student union/recreation center building (SUB/REC) committee and the SUB Union, and also as the liaison between the Resident Hall Association (RHA) and the ASCWU/BOD.

"I really like the fact that I get to interact with so many people and build these relationships," Creighton said. "There are so many great people on this campus."

Creighton's time is mainly occupied with the SUB/REC committee, and she spends roughly 70-percent of her 25 hours of work a week on the project.

The new SUB/REC building will begin its two year construction in June 2004 with the demolition of Holmes Hall. The facility will include four indoor basketball courts, rock climbing wall, elevated jogging track and a tiered theater. The building will also be home to the ASCWU/BOD, 88.1 The 'Burg and dining services.

Creighton said the SUB/REC committee still has one voting student spot available. The committee decides a variety of aspects of the building ranging from choosing sign styles to color schemes.

Starting finals week, there will be a booth in the SUB displaying different sign styles for the SUB/REC building. Creighton encourages students to stop by and voice their opinion on an aspect of their new facility.

Regarding her liaison duties between the ASCWU/BOD and RHA, Creighton said she acts as a representative for each group to ensure they are aware of the other's plans and problems.

Creighton chose to run for a position in the ASCWU/BOD after working in the Wellness Center last year and as the education coordinator for Central's gay and lesbian alliance—gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and straight alliance.

"I like being involved in campus stuff and I thought this [the ASCWU/BOD] would be a natural next step," Creighton said.

With influence from Nate Harris, former ASCWU president, and Megan Fuhlman, former vice president for student life and facilities, Creighton selected the ASCWU/BOD position which fit her and her connecting abilities best.

"I really liked the idea of working with students," Creighton said. "It seemed like the best opportunity to connect with the campus."

POLICE: Rittereiser works to incorporate education with safety

continued from 4

policy of the department, others have benefited from it and it has minimized potentially high risk situations.

"Overall I feel safe," Nick Elmquist sophomore secondary math major, said. "I'm a resident adviser in Meisner Hall and have had incidents with people who weren't residents and they (CWUPD) have responded quickly."

As the chief of the department, Rittereiser evaluates the university's attitude toward the department and the officers. He measures this attitude by the reaction he or any of the officers get when they walk into a building on campus and someone says 'hello' or 'is there a problem here?'

As both a public servant and an alumnus of the university Rittereiser sees the culminating point of his department performance once a

year.

"The greatest day is graduation day," Rittereiser said. "We get to see people walk out of here with a degree, that is what we want to see. We also realize that not all students will make it (to graduation) and we're here to try to help them through it."

For more information about Central's Police Department and affiliated services, visit their Web site at www.cwu.edu/~police.

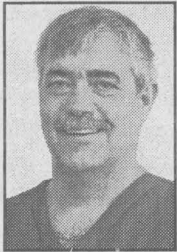
Central Washington University Police Strategic Plan

The Central Washington University Department of Public Safety and Police Services is committed to fostering 2001-2006 Central Washington Strategic Plans as determined by the universities Board of Trustees. In our daily activities, we strive to reflect our commitment to the Strategic Plan by meeting these objectives.

- I. Provide an Outstanding academic and student life on the Ellensburg campus.
- II. Provide an outstanding academic and student life at the university centers.
- III. Develop a diversified funding base to support our academic and student programs.
- IV. Strengthen the university's position as a leader in the field of education.
- V. Build mutually beneficial partnerships with industry, professional groups, institutions and the communities surrounding our campus location.

"The Tooth of the Matter"

Dr. John Savage



TREATING GUM DISEASE

If you have a gum disease problem that is serious enough to threaten loss of teeth, your dentist may recommend one of several options in treating this problem. If the teeth are beyond saving, there may be no alternative but to extract them and remove diseased gum tissue so the condition will not spread to other teeth.

When the gum disease is in its early stages, however, your dentist may recommend more conservative treatment, such as subgingival curettage. In this procedure, concentration will be

on cleaning the root surfaces of the teeth and scraping the inside of the soft tissue next to the teeth. By doing this, your dentist may be able to restore your gums and teeth to a healthy condition.

Another treatment that may be recommended is called the modified Windman-flap surgery. This involves separating the diseased gum tissue from the teeth and cleaning it as thoroughly as possible. Then the gum tissue is sutured back to the teeth and allowed to heal.

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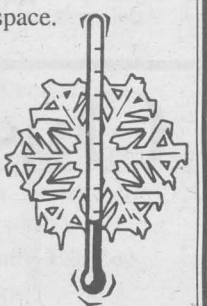
BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Now that freezing temperatures are here let's take the necessary steps to avoid frozen water pipes:

1. Close all foundation vents. Seal all cracks and holes in the foundation or crawl space.
2. Turn off and drain outside faucets.
3. During periods of extreme cold weather, it is wise to use the water periodically, or allow a small amount of water to run, to maintain circulation in the water pipes.
4. If your residence is vacant for a short time, set the thermostat high enough so the pipes won't freeze.
5. If your residence is vacant for an extended period of time, have your water turned off at the meter by the City Water Department, at no charge during normal working hours, so you can drain your pipes.

If your pipes should freeze, do not use an open flame to thaw the pipes, and use caution for clearances when using space heaters. If you are unable to locate your shutoff valve to repair broken pipes, the City Water Department will turn off you water at the meter, at no charge during normal working hours, while the repairs are completed. It is very important only City personnel turn off water meters, as the shutoff valve may freeze during cold weather causing it to break easily. In order for City personnell to shut off your water in a timely fashion, make sure your address is visible on your house and all debris is removed from the top of the water meter box. **If you have any questions, or for after hours emergency shutoff, please call the City Water Department at 962-7230**

A public service message from the City of Ellensburg Public Works Department



Opinion

OBSERVANCE

Synapses and widgets

A friend of mine, at a young age, learned about Kwanzaa, through another friend also young. He liked the word and took it to mean something similar to widget. (You're thinking of croquet, no, that's a wicket.) Of course, widget is a staple of American lexicon so my friend found many uses for Kwanzaa. One day he found out that Kwanzaa wasn't a widget.

I only wonder why no one told him sooner.

But that's just the way it is with things, we're more apt to leave people in the dark, like those animals underground whose eyes never develop because they don't need to see, than to tell them the truth. It's sensitivity.

Later on in a salon, a stylist noticed the "growth patterns" on a client's head. Growth patterns are hard to manage, occasionally appearing in eyebrows, always wetted by maternal saliva. Growth patterns are cowlicks. My theory is that cowlicks are prophetic for phrenologists. A phrenologist could take one look at an unruly mane and know that underneath lie the dips and lumps that reveal our traits.

How do phrenologists handle people who have manipulated the shape of their heads? Take kung fu monks for instance. They do those head-springs and meditate upside down. After awhile their skulls are calloused and ridged, like a bunion on a bald head. Then again, I bet monks are unreadable to phrenologists. Mind reading is not synonymous with phrenology.

At a county fair carnival, I visited a side show palm reader. It cost \$20 and I was so preoccupied by the expense, I didn't remember a word she said. I probably wouldn't have remembered anyway.

Sometimes thoughts or memories come back though and it feels just like the moment when you find your car keys in the refrigerator. I lost my mittens on Monday, walking to school. Two hours and four inches of snow later I walked home, retracing my steps. I saw a friend across the street and went to say hello, I found one mitten on the way. He said he had seen my other mitten somewhere; I told him I was retracing my steps to find them. He asked why my steps were in the middle of the street.

My opinion, though, is that jaywalking is an act of kindness. I love the efficiency of a diagonal and I figure my jaywalk saves a driver from having to stop. Those buttons at crosswalks have no place in cities like Ellensburg, especially when they're only for pedestrians.

Some days I realize all the amazing things I know how to do, other than appreciating diagonals. How my experiences accumulate and one day, standing over a store bought turkey with a few feathers still attached (it wasn't a Butterball), I remember that I've plucked a chicken and I know how to loosen the feathers. Or I remember, while out in the woods, that I can eat stinging nettle and Sheep's Sorrel. I know these things.

And these are the things I want for Christmas:

A t-shirt that reads "I'm Hungary for Turkey."

A copy of Corey Haim and Corey Feldman's crowning achievement, "Dream a Little Dream."

A sweater for my hot water bottle.

— Emily Bonden

*As of press time the other mitten was still unaccounted for.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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. 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 Washington University, Ellensburg, WA 98926-7435; observer@cwu.edu or by fax at (509) 963-1027.

ARTIST'S EYE



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEBATE WORTHY

I challenge you to a duel, Mr. Hawley

I write in response to last week's article by George Hawley, regarding the uselessness of debate. Mr. Hawley stated that "The purpose of a debate is to reach a consensus." According to Dictionary.com debating is to contend in words; to dispute; hence, to deliberate; to consider; to discuss or examine different arguments. To engage in argument by discussing opposing points. To discuss or argue (a question, for

example) formally. A discussion involving opposing points; an argument.

I personally see debate as a way for members of opposing ideologies or opinions to come together and lay out their argument in a structured and open format. I find it hard to believe that debate is, in any way, meant to create resolution for the members debating. It is however, a constructive and meaningful way for members of the community to gain a better understanding of the beliefs and agendas of differing political and social groups within the political spectrum. I argue that democracy is based on debate. It is the ability of our elected representatives to

debate a topic, that not only is a major factor in their election, but as well in their ability as a leader to debate those in opposition, and create solutions that the majority finds appealing.

There has been much debate within the opinion section of this paper already this year. Members from both sides of the political aisle have been articulating their political/ideological beliefs on a range of controversial issues. I feel that this can only be considered healthy; it shows active participation in a system that is no doubt the single most important institution currently in

see **LETTERS**, page 7

OBSERVER

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NEWS

- Friday, 5 p.m. - Entertainment, meetings, calendar events.
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LETTERS

continued from 6

our lives. I do feel that the debate needs to come out into a public forum, allowing members of the CWU community to participate, if only as an audience, in addressing the major issues of our day. No one is going to agree 100% of the time, and many will never agree at all, but it is only through constructive and structured debate that we may as a community begin to come to a consensus of any sort, on any topic.

I could once again write a letter that fills this paper, debating all of the assumptions and statements written by Mr. Hawley. Not because Mr. Hawley is inherently wrong, but because I do come from a different ideological belief than he. I ask you Mr. Hawley to come out from behind your pulpit of the press, and debate me in a public forum on the issue of globalization. A topic given to us by the administration of this University, and one that is at the heart of the liberal vs. conservative debate today. I would also gladly debate the issue of security in the post 9/11 area, since you seem to imply that the liberal "party does not believe that this country should be defended at all." A great spin, on a major issue.

Sean Soth
Sociology major
senior

RELIGIOUS RIGHTS

Group focuses on open-minded faith

After recently starting a religious club here on campus, it has rapidly been brought to my attention that this campus has little religious tolerance for anything not Christian or Catholic. I am the President of TRUUST (The Religious Unitarian Universalists Seeking Truth). Our organization is open to all CWU students who seek a spiritual home in which they are able to question, explore and discover their own spiritual path. We emphasize exploring faith as a broad-minded, intellectually-questioning, justice-seeking journey and offer activities for students which contribute to greater spiritual awareness, promote living in accordance with one's own religious principles, and encourage growth in a community of action. TRUUST is not an exclusive group but an organization that celebrates the diversity in us all.

This past week I posted flyers all over campus to advertise our group meetings. TRUUST is recognized

by the ASCWU-BOD and Club Senate, so I had the ability to obtain the required stamp for university postings on all of our flyers. I was very upset to find, less than one day later, the majority of our flyers had been ripped down. I'm not blaming anyone in our community in particular. I'm just begging this community to have religious tolerance, asking the CWU community to be mature about judgments they may make about others. Understand, TRUUST is a loving community that is radically inclusive, centered on creating justice in the world and committed to the freedom of each person to find meaning in life without dogmatic constraints. We are not here to convert everyone or take over the world; we're just here to celebrate our spiritual tradition together. As the President of TRUUST, I ask the community to be more aware and religiously tolerant. Let's celebrate our differences, not denounce them.

Thank you,

Leanne Todd
TRUUST of CWU President

CONVERGENCE

Disenchantment over BOD plans

There seems to be some confusion about "Convergence" around town these days. I'm talking about the straightforward concept of the CWU student body individually and collectively reaching out to create partnerships and do good works in local communities and beyond.

"Convergence" is apparently the brainchild of ASCWU President Mark Michael and ASCWU Vice President Dan Michael. It is the brand name for an "innovative business plan," which (in the words of a recent press release) "utilizes superior media applications to unite the campus and the individuals therein with the city, state and communities within communities."

"Convergence" has been received enthusiastically at CWU and by the Ellensburg community alike. Indeed, practically everyone bought into the theme weeks ago, and most are now anxious for a transition from the conceptual to the tangible.

The confusion stems from the comments of the ASCWU President and Vice President, who, in published remarks at the ASCWU web site and in the Daily Record, manage to transform "Convergence" from a credible theme into a vacuous, self-aggrandizing manifesto.

Mark Michael: "Our plan is to experiment through leveraged partnerships, the integration of capital resources, ideas, manpower, and resolve, to integrate services through technology to the benefit of our communities."

Mark Michael: "As drops form the stream, the tide of life brings us here to Convergence, the summit. We strive to build bridges, through communications including technology. We converge from love and trust..."

Dan Michael: "We are following law, policy and procedure, sometimes written, sometimes followed and sometimes enforced."

Dan Michael: "Through research we detect a university in transition, a university looking outward. Evidence abounds that the foundations of questionable policy and procedure need to be reshored through revision and accountability."

"Convergence is the first endeavor of this type and caliber to ever be proposed by a governing body." (Excerpt from press release emailed to all CWU accounts on the eve of the 15-minute Convergence Summit, Thursday November 20, 2003.)

Rather than a theme for a program of action, "Convergence" comes across as a marketing campaign selling only itself and its purveyors.

Mark Michael's ASCWU web site provides blueprints for two of the three "Enrichment Projects" espoused on his campaign web site: CWUTV and Techweek/Tech Mecca. The former describes an idea for a CWU TV station, while the latter presents a vision for an alternative career fair to CWU Career Quest (an event hosted by the university's career services department.)

These bits of substance in the otherwise nebulous sea of "Convergence" hold the keys for Michael: Can he move beyond marketing and bring to fruition a genuinely good idea like CWUTV?

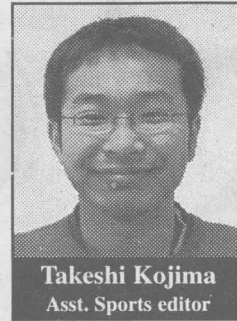
And with all the talk about forging partnerships, can he overcome his embarrassing tendency to come across as a clumsy and arrogant communicator with statements like: "Students and the University must know that attending the Tech Mecca is a more professional, unique way to develop new ideas/concepts, and inspire; than attending the Career Quest." (http://www.cwu.edu/~ascwu/president_techweek.php)

Time will tell, and the meter is running...

Chris Timmons
CWU Alumnus
Class of 1990

IN MY VOICE

Strange things in the States



Takeshi Kojima
Asst. Sports editor

My life in the United States is going to be done after I finish my internship in Seattle this winter. During my stay in the Pacific Northwest, I've seen many touching sports moments; Mariners' 116 wins, Michael Jordan's retirement, and New York and Boston's post season battles. But, at the same time, I've noticed several odd things concerning the American sports world. Don't take these politically or religiously, but think about them calmly, okay?

The NFL sold their rights to air the game to the national and international TV stations for about 2.2 billion dollars, while the MLB sold them their rights for 500 million dollars. American football, with no doubt, is a national sport for the U.S. people. Here is my point. NFL controls all the money, including television money, income of crowd and official goods. And they split the money between all 32 teams equally. It is the communist system, isn't it? Isn't it the political system you hate? I understand this system is to keep leagues competitive and the fact is that many different teams have advanced to the Super Bowl in the last couple of years, but still, it's strange to me that the number one sport in the States has taken on one of the most

hated political systems in this country.

Next. Drug problems for baseball players. I know many leagues, including NFL, NBA, and MLB, have given the steroid tests to players. But, my question is, in the case of MLB, why do they test only during the spring training, not during the whole season? That means players just have to keep off the steroid during the spring training camp and can start using again after the season begins, right? MLB says they will have more tests starting next year. But what's the next trick? If they find players using the drugs, they charge them 100 bucks or say it's all right until they have tested positive five times? Clearly, the fans have noticed there are some players who use illegal drugs for their strength. The MLB organization has to do something to clear the doubt severely. Oops. I forgot that the commissioner, Bud Selig, was satisfied with the result that "only" seven percent of players used steroids, according to last year's "test."

In fact, the United States' sports environment is one of the best in the world. Some athletes earn more in one year than many people will earn in a lifetime. I don't complain about that. That, however, doesn't mean top-ranked athletes can do whatever they want. Although fans expect the excitement of the sports and respect the players, you shouldn't allow their actions to go too far. As one of the world sports fans, I am worried that top American athletes betray sports fans' expectations. Or you guys allow their behavior?

THUMBS UP



"Thumbs up to the girls who make milkshakes at Tunstall."

— Conor Glassey
Sports editor

"A tremendous thumbs up to the Theater and Music Departments for their outstanding production of West Side Story!"

— Joe Price, IET Dept.

"Thumbs way the hell up for the Massachusetts supreme court ruling on same sex marriages!"

— Eamon Morgan
Psychology major

"Thumbs up to Christmas break."

— Stephanie Beck
Online editor

"Thumbs down to \$8 movies at E-burg theaters."

— Emily Bonden
Editor-in-chief

THUMBS DOWN



"Thumbs down to snow, it is the white devil."

— Aaron Miller
Staff reporter

"Thumbs down to the missing 'Christine' stocking in the Com. department lobby."

— Buddy the Elf

"Thumbs down to impersonal gift cards for every store."

— Natalie Bing
Asst. Scene editor

"Thumbs down to Paul Krugman, I hope his book does quite terribly."

— George Hawley
Asst. News editor

"Thumbs down to people who don't know how to drive in the snow."

— Ben Davis
Scene editor

Thanks for a great first quarter, have a safe and joyful winter break. Start thinking about resolutions now, so they stick, and we'll see you in the new year.

— Observer staff

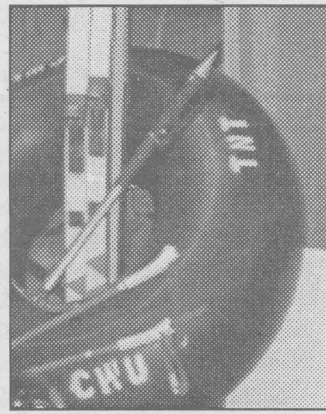


10-MINUTE PLAYS ARE SHORT ON LENGTH BUT BIG ON CONTENT. PAGE 11

TENT-N-TUBE RENTS MORE THAN JUST RECREATION EQUIPMENT. PAGE 10

SCENE

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Central musicians premier Jazz Nutcracker

by Ben Davis
Scene editor

Central Washington University's Jazz Band I will present a performance of the Jazz Nutcracker at 8 p.m. on Dec. 5 in Hertz Hall Auditorium.

The work, composed by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn, puts a jazz spin on the classic holiday ballet.

"The original melodies are there, but they are in a jazz language," Chris Bruya, Jazz Band I director, said.

Though some of the movements have been shortened, they will still be familiar to those who know the ballet music.

Bruya said that the performance will be the first in the state outside the Seattle area.

"The music wasn't available until about four years ago," Bruya said. "No one really knows about it."

He found out about the piece from a student that attended Roosevelt High School in Seattle and had performed it previously. When Bruya heard the piece, he thought it would be perfect for Central's Jazz Band I to perform.

"I think it's a significant thing," Bruya said.

The Jazz Band will also perform a program of popular holiday music including "White Christmas" and a medley of other pieces.

A \$5 donation will be requested at the door. The money will help to fund a jazz scholarship.

In addition, the International Association of Jazz Educators will be selling poinsettias used to decorate the stage after the performance.

For more information contact Bruya in the music department at 963-1426.



Michael Bennett/Observer

Students browse the selection of crafts at this year's Ware Fair. The event began Wednesday and continues through Saturday in the Samuelson Union Building.

Retail therapy provided in SUB

by Joanna Horowitz
Staff reporter

Good tidings and cheer can be felt throughout the Samuelson Union Building this Wednesday through Saturday as Ware Fair brings handmade arts and crafts, live music and Santa Claus to the Central Washington University campus.

The festival, now in its 28th year, plays host to about 50 vendors, most of whom are Ellensburg residents or Central affiliates. Those looking to buy gifts or just take a stroll around can visit the SUB today from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. or Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Santa Claus will be making his naughty or nice lists in Club Central on Saturday

from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"It's a really great way to get into the spirit of Christmas," Sarah Castillo, senior music education major, said. "I like to walk around and see the whole thing."

Booths are set up around the SUB Pit and in the Owhi and Yakama rooms; live entertainment takes place in the Pit.

The Ellensburg High School choir will sing today from 3 to 4 p.m. and dancers from the Ellensburg Youth Ballet's production of the Nutcracker will perform at 4:30 p.m. There will also be live piano and guitar music throughout the week.

Ware Fair Coordinator Kayte Anchors said the annual event brings a festive vibe into the

SUB and gives students a chance to buy Christmas presents at pretty reasonable prices.

Everything sold at Ware Fair has to undergo inspection by a juror to guarantee there's not excessive manufacturing. Shoppers can drop a few bucks on handmade horseshoe art, candles, jewelry boxes, photographs and more.

Both Anchors and Scott Drummond, director of campus activities, agreed that Ware Fair is a good chance to bring community members to campus. Newly extended hours will give shoppers a chance to stop by the SUB once parking lots free up in the evening.

"It's one more program that hopefully is making the community feel welcome to come here," Drummond said.

Cast warms up for magical evening of holiday ballet

by Juliete Palenshus
Staff reporter

The non-profit Ellensburg Youth Ballet is bringing the Nutcracker to McConnell Auditorium, with a mission to encourage appreciation of dance and support local dance performers. The Ellensburg Youth Ballet is part of The Dance Centre in Ellensburg. Amy Thompson is the owner and artistic director for The Dance Centre and professional

dancer. The Dance Centre is composed of aspiring dancers throughout the Kittitas Valley. The production, set to open on Dec. 5, is an opportunity for the kids to get performance experience while providing some artistic diversity in the city of Ellensburg.

"Our purpose is to give something to the community," Linda Hazlett, president of Board of Directors for the Ellensburg Youth Ballet, said. "We want to encourage all families to

attend the production so we are keeping ticket prices down."

This is the sixth production of the Nutcracker put on by the Ellensburg Youth Ballet. The Dance Centre has made a tradition of putting it on every other year for the past 12 years. After paying for the use of McConnell Auditorium, much of the remainder of what is used for scholarships. With these scholarships, many dancers involved with The Dance Centre are able to continue their dance careers.

"The money made ends up being recycled into the community," Hazlett said.

Most of the 75 people involved are kids less than 18 years old. Central Washington University's own Bill Chandler will be playing the part of the father. Many of the children are in middle school or high school but some are as young as seven or eight years old. All of the performers have at least two years of experience behind them. The part of the Sugar

Plum Fairy will be played by Thompson who will be performing for the first time in four years.

"I am excited about being involved with the dancing and to direct the production," Thompson said.

Thompson is from Redmond and went to a private performing arts high school. She had fourteen years of

see **BALLET**, page 11

Santa's Arthouse to feature beatnik Santa, live music

by Joanna Horowitz
Staff reporter

In the spirit of holiday outreach, a club of theater technicians is joining with other university artists to create Santa's Arthouse. The Central Washington University chapter of the United States Institute of Theatre Technicians (U.S.I.T.T.) will sponsor a holiday celebration complete with a beatnik Santa, juggling, cabaret, storytelling, art and live music. The free event will take place in the

Samuelson Union Building Cesar Chavez Theatre upstairs tomorrow from noon to 4 p.m. and then again at Gallery One from 5 to 7 p.m. as part of the First Friday Art Walk.

"We wanted to create a community of university artists," Delondra Johnson, U.S.I.T.T. president and senior Theatre Arts major, said. "It's also a way to remind the community that theatre is everywhere and for everyone."

Bringing the event to Gallery One is a way to reach out to the Ellensburg

community and provide another link between artists. Johnson said Gallery One Director Mary Frances was excited about the opportunity.

The club members designed the set, make-up, costumes and sound and then invited individuals from across campus to join. They are also considering a similar event for spring quarter. The Central chapter of U.S.I.T.T. was formed this year and is intended as a networking tool for theater designers, technicians and craftspeople.

Bits and Pieces

Friday, Dec. 5

8 p.m. — Comedy Night in SUB Club Central starring Daniel Packard with special guest Kristi McHugh. \$4 general admission, \$3 CWU student admission.

Saturday, Dec. 6

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Santa Claus is comin' to Club Central. SUB.

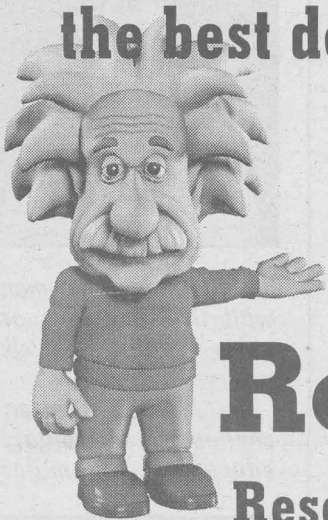
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Holiday Extravaganza. A fun-filled day of crafts for kids grades K-5. SUB Fountain Room.

Sunday, Dec. 7

3 p.m. — Holiday Pops Concert in Hertz Hall. \$3 ages 6 and over. CWU music students sing holiday music and carols. Appearances by Peter Gries and Santa Claus.

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Tent-n-Tube rents adventure

by Emily Dobihal
Staff reporter

Winter has arrived, and that means the beginning of a variety of new outdoor activities in the Ellensburg area. Tent-n-Tube, Central Washington University's outdoor rental service, has items available to get people off the couch and usher in the new season. From its opening in the 1970s, Tent-n-Tube has had a little something for everyone wanting to enjoy the snowy landscape, from equipment rentals to overnight excursions.

Tent-n-Tube's winter rentals include cross-country skis, snowshoes, inner tubes and an assortment of camping gear. Prices vary according to student status and the duration of the rental. Equipment is available for students, faculty and alumni for a day, weekend or week.

Employee Jeff Grover, senior recreation management major, said the snowshoes and cross-country skis are the most popular winter rentals.

"We'll rent all the snowshoes out on the weekends," Grover said. "It's a good idea to make reservations over the phone or in person."

Tent-n-Tube policies don't restrict where the equipment can be taken, but the staff does offer suggestions of good, safe locations.

"Some of them are sno-parks, but



Noah Devlin/Observer

Tent-n-Tube rents a variety of outdoor recreation equipment including snowshoes and cross-country skis.

they can be heavily overrun with snowmobiles," Steve Waldeck, director of University Recreation, said.

Waldeck is in the process of putting together a packet of written directions to accessible areas for winter recreation. He said Blewett Pass has a few clearly marked trails for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing within 30 miles of Ellensburg.

"There are quite a few trails available," Grover said. "Hiking trails turn into snowshoes and cross-country skiing trails."

Fellow Tent-n-Tube employee Chris Soren, senior recreation management major, has visited the Blewett Pass area for winter sports.

"I went snowshoeing a couple of times last year," Soren said. "I enjoyed myself."

For those outdoorsy types with limited knowledge of the area or winter sports, a few guided trips are being planned for Blewett Pass and the Cle Elum Ranger District in the Wenatchee National Forest. A trained staff consisting of two to three stu-

dents will lead guided trips. The guides take groups on trips in areas that are easy to return to without a guide so students can venture out on their own later.

"Our goal is to introduce people to winter activities they wouldn't do if we weren't here," Waldeck said.

For downhill skiers and snowboarders the Tent-n-Tube service will be offering a ski bus to Snoqualmie Pass, charging \$8 roundtrip. The bus will run either Fridays or Saturdays, depending on the number of people signed up, weather and the availability of staff. The bus requires a reservation as a minimum of six people is required.

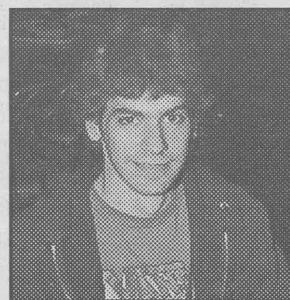
Tent-n-Tube does not rent snowboarding and downhill skiing equipment at this time, but Waldeck suggests renting from local stores such as Mountain High Sports. Equipment rentals are also obtainable at Snoqualmie Summit.

A one-time charter bus trip to Mission Ridge Ski Resort in Wenatchee is scheduled for Jan. 24, 2004. It will cost \$10 to \$15 for the bus ride and the lift tickets can be purchased upon arrival. There are plans for other trips throughout the season.

For more information regarding Tent-n-Tube's services and trips call the office at 963-3537, or find them on www.cwu.edu.

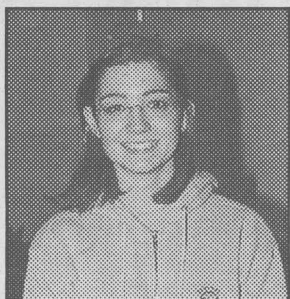
You tell us

What is your favorite winter activity?



"We just invented a new sport... deathboard-ing. We take the wheels off our skatebard decks and go down the hill."

— Keith Vance, junior graphic design major



"Building a snowman with the little kids or going sledding at the elk reserve."

— Melissa Foster, sophomore elementary education major



"Surfing."
— Jack Frost, sophomore information technology major



"I like cooking gingerbread cookies... naked."

— Andres Duarte, junior sociology major

Tattoo by Xavier Cavazos

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Noah Devlin/Observer

Shawn Findley is attacked by two other actors in "Thanks for the Memory."

Short plays, big issues

Ten-minutes showcase student writers, directors, actors

by Marcus Tabert
Staff reporter

The Central Washington University Theatre Arts department is putting on a series of plays fit for students with short attention spans. The "Tens" are six 10-minute plays performed, written and directed by Central students.

"The 'Tens' and one acts in particular are a flurry of different opportunities (for students) to see what's going on in their peers' minds," Victor Velasquez, playwright of "Max Weaver," one of the 10-minute plays, said. "It's not some ancient playwright that wrote them."

The "Tens" are similar to the One-Act play festival that takes place at Central in the spring. This is the first quarter the "Tens" have been performed as a set show for the public.

In the past, these short plays were a project performed as part of a class project.

Wesley Van Tassel, producer of "Tens," said the students are writing 50 to 60 one-act plays each year, with about one third of them being produced and performed.

"There's a special formula to writing a short play which can pay off for (students) later in writing for television," Van Tassel, professor of Theatre Arts, said.

Van Tassel said the themes of the "Tens" are issues that interest and affect college students.

"On the Other Hand" is actually an interesting piece," Maureen Eller, director of the play, said. "It's a social satire that looks at how society views homosexuality. It's very funny, very witty."

The students did not audition for

specific roles. They participated in general tryouts and were placed in positions by the directors.

"It's by far the most challenging (role) I've ever done because it takes a lot of energy and a lot of physical commitment," Laurel Moore, who plays Sheila in "On the Other Hand," said.

The students involved in "Tens" are grateful for the chance to express themselves.

"(The 'Tens' are) a showcase of emerging professionals," Phil Hamlin, who plays Stanley Harding in "Max Weaver," said. "We're not following in other writers' footsteps."

"Tens" is being performed at 7 p.m. on Dec. 4 and at 8 p.m. on Dec. 5 and 6 in the Milo Smith Tower Theater. Tickets are \$5 at the door. The plays are intended for mature audiences.

Signs of the times

By Laura Haworth
Staff reporter

The American Sign Language club hopes to further student involvement and to teach students about the deaf culture by giving students a fun environment to learn a new language.

"To understand the deaf isn't enough — they need to accept them as well," Dy Raaka, senior club president, said. "It is entirely different from just speaking English."

Any student who is taking ASL, knows or is interested in learning to sign is welcome to become involved with the club. It also gives students an opportunity to learn more about deaf culture, deaf awareness and to meet deaf people. Meetings are held twice a month at restaurants where participants only use their hands to talk. Second-year students help newcomers and first-year students at meetings.

"One difference between deaf people and hearing people is deaf people tend to have much more inti-

mate and close-knit friendships with more people," Rachel Pybon senior English major, said.

Past events included a thanksgiving potluck and deaf comedy night. The club also visits many elementary schools in the community and shows students how to sign and explains what it is all about.

"We feel that there is a lack of deaf awareness on campus," Pybon said. "Most people are misinformed about deaf people and the deaf culture...and we want to expose them to it, Deaf events are different, yes - but they are incredibly fun and they really open your eyes to what it is really like to be deaf."

Students interested in the American Sign Language Club can become involved by taking an ASL class or can meet with Raaka Wednesday nights at the fishbowl in the library between 6:30 and 7:30 pm. She also meets daily with first year students at the Breeze Thru cafe between 1:15 and 2:15 pm. For more information contact RaakaD@cwu.edu.



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BALLET: Performance gives to community

continued from 8

experience she came to Ellensburg to teach dance at The Dance Centre, but before her second year here at the age of 19 she bought the studio.

"I was inspired to be a young business owner by the college students that used to own Teriyaki Central," Thompson said.

According to Thompson costumes for a production of the Nutcracker cost the Ellensburg Youth Ballet an average of \$18,000. A pair of the \$60 shoes handmade for Thompson in London last about three days under the pressure put on them during rehearsals and performances. The tutus used in the production are normally a couple thousand dollars but Thompson is making them herself cutting the price down to about \$600.

Fourteen year old Devon Sasaki has been in the last four productions of the Nutcracker playing various roles including Clara, a bon bon, a party child and a rose bud. This year Sasaki will be a flower soloist, a lead Chinese and a snowflake.

"I started with The Dance Centre when I was three with my focus on ballet but I have also worked with modern, jazz, hip hop and some tap," Sasaki said. "We have all put in a lot of time; I pretty much have no social life besides this production."

The dancers have been rehearsing for the production every Saturday since Oct. 4.

A raffle of the Christmas tree used in the Nutcracker will help support the future of the Ellensburg Youth Ballet and productions. The artificial 7-foot tree is fully decorated for the ballet, complete with lights, garland, ornaments and a matching hand-made tree skirt. The raffle will take place during the Sunday performance.

Tickets for the Nutcracker will be available at Mr. G's and Downtown Pharmacy. Prices are \$12 for adults and \$7 for children 12 years old and under. For the Friday showing only, tickets will be \$7 for students and seniors with ID. Show times are Friday Dec. 5 and Saturday Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday Dec. 7th at 2:30 p.m.

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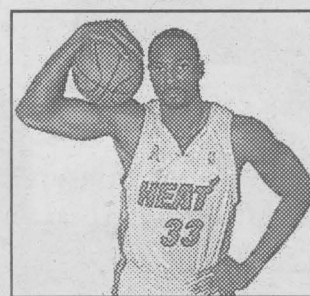
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SPORTS



Wildcats slam to 2-3

by P. J. Larson
Staff reporter

The weather may be as cool as the other side of the pillow and that means one thing...basketball season.

The Central Washington University men's basketball team has already completed five games with four being in tournaments. The Wildcats post a 2-3 record.

Central lost three out of the top four scorers from last year's squad that went 16-11 (10-8; Great Northwest Athletic Conference), due to graduation or transfer. However, the Wildcats return with senior guard Scotty Freymond, who averaged a shade over 12 points.

The weekend before Thanksgiving the men hosted the Rotary Classic. Central played Minnesota, Crookston for their first game and defeated them 95-78. Senior forwards Mike Connor and Jay Thomas shared game-high honors with 14 points apiece. The next night the Wildcats squared off with the Saint Cloud State Huskies. The Huskies escaped with a 97-91 win in overtime. Freymond led the Wildcats with 20 points.

On Nov. 25th, Central hosted St. Leo College. Senior center Jay Van Hook paced the home team with 15 points, but Central lost their sec-

ond straight game 66-62.

Over Thanksgiving break Central traveled down to Chico, Calif. to play in the Mac Martin tournament. The Wildcats beat the Colorado Mines 83-74 behind Van Hook's 17 points. The next night Central lost to host Chico State 92-83. Junior guard, transfer Chris Lynn had high honors for the Wildcats scoring 17 in the defeat.

There are some new faces on this year's squad and Coach Greg Sparling likes the team chemistry he has seen in his players.

"Everybody's happy and plays hard together," Sparling said. "They've had plenty of court time together. Hopefully they'll blend that way."

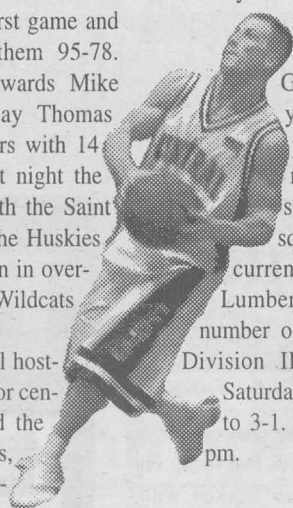
The Wildcats set their goals at the beginning of the year; the first two goals are to win 20 plus games and be the GNAC champions.

They will have the chance to take aim at the conference title as they open conference play against the Western Oregon University Wolves tonight and Humboldt State University Lumberjacks on Saturday.

The Wolves senior guard Sean Kelly, GNAC leading scorer a year ago with 22.8 points per contest, returns along with four starters from last year's squad. The Wolves are currently 3-1. The Lumberjacks were ranked number one in the country for Division II before a loss last Saturday dropped their record to 3-1. Both games are at 7 pm.



photos courtesy of Jonathan Berry
Senior guard Scotty Freymond throws down a two handed jam.



Individual swimmers leave teammates in the deep end

by Rachel Guillermo
Staff reporter

The Central Washington University men and women's swim team is having some setbacks but individual swimmers are posting good times.

The team competed against Whitworth University on Nov. 22 in Spokane.

Junior Andrea Quick took first place in the women's 100-yard butterfly. Quick was the only Wildcat to finish in first place in an individual event.

"We're working really hard," junior Emily Von Jentzen said. "We've been using our first couple of meets as training for our end meets. So we are where we should be."

Sophomore Erin Tomaszewski took second in the women's 50 yard freestyle, junior Michelle Godwin took second in the women's 400 yard IM, sophomore Leia Spillman came in second in the women's 100 yard freestyle and Von Jentzen came in second in the women's 500 yard freestyle.

In the team events Central took first in the women's 200-yard medley relay and second in the women's 200-yard freestyle.

On the men's side sophomore James Olson was the Wildcat lead swimmer finishing just seconds behind the top swimmer in each of his individual events. Olson took second in the men's 100 and 500-yard freestyle.

"We're doing pretty well so far," senior Alex Hughes said. "We've had some setbacks but we're building off of that. We're all still trying to adjust to the new coaching style."

Senior Cliff Brooke took second in the men's 200-yard freestyle and the men's 100-yard butterfly, and freshman Mike Maier took second in the men's 100-yard backstroke.

In the team events Central took second in the men's 200-yard medley relay and the men's 200-yard freestyle relay.

The Wildcats will have time to enjoy the holidays while they rest up for their next meet on Dec. 5-7 at the Wildcat Invitational at the CWU pool.

For more information on the Central swim team visit www.wildcatsports.com.

Skiers, snowboarders get early Christmas present

by Aaron Miller
Staff reporter

Tighten those bindings and put on the long johns because ski season has come early this year. With a recent dumping of snow, many local mountains are already operating a couple weeks ahead of schedule. This is the earliest opening for most ski resorts in recent memory.

Snowfall in the higher elevations has meant added stress for those driving over mountain passes, but for the rest it means days off work and cutting class to enjoy a day of skiing or snowboarding. Students around Central Washington University are excited about the early opening and are discovering great college rates many of the ski resorts are offering.

"I am so excited to learn how to snowboard this winter," Kristine Watson, freshman undecided, said. "The college pass is perfect because it gives me the freedom to go up whenever I want and get my money's worth."

The Summit at Snoqualmie opened on Nov. 28 and offers the best student rates in the area. The Summit offers a \$249 college pass for undergraduate students taking 12 credits or more and graduate students taking eight credits or more. There are no blackout dates and they are available until they sell out.

Stevens Pass has been open since Nov. 25 for limited operation. Robby Stout, freshman math and economics major, is from Colorado and he looks forward to see what Washington state

skiing is all about.

"I can't wait to get into some steep and deep snow," Stout said. "I hope to check out a few freestyle competitions before the end of the season."

Mission Ridge is not yet open, but they are aiming for Dec. 6 to have enough snow to open. They offer the Harbor Resorts College Pass which gives student's access to Stevens Pass, Mission Ridge and Schweitzer Mountain Resort throughout the season for only \$399, no restrictions.

"I have been having dreams about this all week," Seth Miller, senior math and physics major, said. "I am looking forward to going off jumps and doing tricks all season long."

Mount Baker has been open since Nov. 20 with a whopping 75 inches

of snow, making it the snowiest ski area in North America. They offer a college season's pass to full time students for \$575. Crystal Mountain opened in late November and does not offer a college pass of any kind. They do offer a five day pass good through Feb. 1 for \$200.

White Pass has been operating since late November for full operation. They offer a season's pass for \$600 allowing holders to ski White Pass as well as resorts around the Northwest and Canada.

Whether one is a skier or a snowboarder it is unanimous that everyone is excited for the upcoming season to check out the slopes and test their abilities. Make sure to look into great deals and great skiing at a resort near you.

by Roxie Cardinal
Staff reporter

Wildcat of the week

True freshman Laura Wright is this week's "Wildcat-of the Week" for her fabulous play that sparked two Wildcat wins last weekend. On Friday, November 28th, Laura scored 16 points and grabbed 12 rebounds in Central's victory over Warner Pacific, only to outdo herself the following night, scoring a new career-high 26 points and getting 11 boards in Central's victory over Northwest.

Which of Laura's best friends knows her better: University of Washington student, Gina Lee, or Gonzaga University student Mary Kate Morgan? To find out, we asked Laura to answer some questions for us. Then we asked her best friends since elementary school to guess what she answered. Who will win the battle of the best friends?



Laura Wright
Wildcat of the Week



Gina Lee
Laura's friend



Mary Kate Morgan
Laura's friend

Favorite activity besides basketball?	Volleyball	Watching movies	Volleyball
Favorite WNBA team?	Portland Fire	Portland Fire	Portland Fire
Role Model?	Mike Dunleavey - I met him at a tournament at Duke.	Her mom	Sylvia Crawley
Favorite Movie?	Indiana Jones & The Last Crusade	Indiana Jones & The Last Crusade	Ocean's Eleven
Most embarrassing moment?	Singing Ludacris in a parking lot "I wanna lick lick lick you from your head to your toes..." when an elderly couple stepped out of their car	In the Triangle Mall parking lot Laura was singing along to an inappropriate song while an elderly couple was next to us getting into their car.	She was announced on senior night for basketball and the announcer was saying what seniors enjoyed doing and he accidentally said "Laura enjoys sex."

News bites

Hanna Hull and Kaci Pipkin have both signed National Letters of Intent to play basketball at Central beginning in the 2004-2005 season. Hull, a guard, is a senior standout at Pateros High School, while Pipkin, also a guard, is currently a Central student but is not playing basketball this season. She was a standout at Cashmere High School and two-time all-NWAACC choice at Wenatchee Valley College.

Right handed pitcher Meaghan Craig, a senior at Henry M. Jackson High School in Mill Creek, and shortstop Sarah Noce, a senior at Redmond High School in Redmond, Ore. have both signed National Letters of Intent to play softball at Central beginning in the 2005 season.

Bree Brandt, a senior middle blocker at Meridian High School in Bellingham, has signed a National Letter of Intent to play volleyball at Central for the beginning of the 2004 season.

Central alum, Brian Viafore, who was selected in the 28th round of the 2003 First Year Player draft, was released by the Arizona Diamondbacks organization after a disappointing season with the Yakima Bears, the Diamondbacks class A affiliate.

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Women's basketball off to disappointing start

by Takeshi Kojima
Asst. Sports Editor

Central Washington University women's basketball had to accept ups and downs during the last two weeks. The team had two losing away games and two winning home games.

In the Falcon Hoop Classic, the Wildcats lost to two teams, Montana State University-Billings, 68-70, and UC-Davis, 67-79, at Seattle Pacific University Royal Brougham Pavilion.

After losing two games in Seattle, the team came back to the Nicholson Pavilion to host the Wildcat Classic last weekend. On the first game against Warner Pacific College, all the five starters scored double figures. Senior point guard Angela Jensen earned 12 points, five assists, and two steals. The game ended 87-67 against Knights with the Wildcats' win.

Last Saturday's game against Northwest College, was a seesaw game, the lead changing 19 times during the night.

"I knew this is going to be a close game, because they play hard," women's basketball coach Jeff Whitney said. "They played well and they shot phenomenal."

In that game, freshman post Laura Wright helped the team win the closed contest. Wright scored 26

points and grabbed 12 rebounds during the night. The 26 points were Wright's career high.

"I have to give a lot of credit to the wings and the point guards who get me the ball," Wright said. "They get a lot of assists and I wouldn't be able to score those numbers if I didn't have someone giving me the ball."

After Jensen sank two free throws, the final buzzer rang. The final score was 87-84.

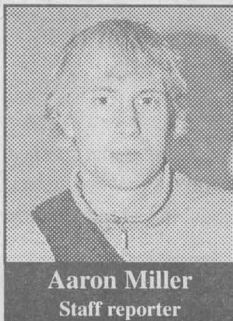
"Our goal was to come out of this tournament is 2-0 and to gain some confidence which I really think we did," Whitney said. "I am pleased."

The Wildcats will have a game against last year's Great Northwest Athletic Conference champion, Seattle Pacific University (SPU), at 7 p.m. tonight in Seattle. Because Central has had fiery battles for the last couple of games with SPU, the team considers the game as a rivalry game.

"We'll battle SPU like we always do," Whitney said. "It's a great rivalry."

After playing Evergreen State College on Dec. 13, Willamette College on Dec. 21, and in the UCSD Doubletree Invitational Dec. 29-30, the Wildcats will be back to home court on Jan. 8 against Seattle University.

The Mourning After



Aaron Miller
Staff reporter

Last week I read an article in the New York Times about basketball star Alonzo Mourning. Mourning suffers from focal glomerulosclerosis, a kidney ailment that has forced him to leave basketball twice. This year he tried to make yet another comeback, but his condition has deteriorated, forcing him to retire.

It became apparent that he would need a kidney transplant eventually or he would die. Upon hearing the news, dozens of people have called

the Kidney and Urology Foundation of America to offer a kidney to Mourning.

It is admirable that someone would like to help someone else by offering a kidney, but when it is based on basketball skills it does not seem right. Many of the people who called in said they would help Mourning and Mourning alone. Should celebrity set someone apart from the rest?

There are currently 83,000 people waiting for a kidney transplant. About 12,000 people donate organs each year. Mourning has an advantage because his illness is in the public eye. Should he use this advantage if one of these people is a match for him?

I do not think he should. His celebrity status should not put him in front of anyone else who is waiting. Everyone else on that list has an equal right to live and an equal

right to receive a new kidney.

Former National Basketball Association player Sean Elliot had the same ailment Mourning suffers. He received a kidney from his brother and made a full recovery. Stars like Walter Payton and Barry White were not as fortunate though; they both died from kidney failure while waiting to for a transplant.

I wish Mourning the best, but I hope he does not use his star power and take a kidney away from someone else. I also hope the people who want to give their kidney to Mourning are doing it to save his life and not because they want a rich reward.

Every day, 17 people die waiting to receive an organ transplant. In the end I hope those people are given the same chance at life that everyone else is and that they aren't skipped over because they are not celebrities.

Wrestling the odds for young team

by Roxie Cardinal
Staff reporter

With 15 new freshmen and two new coaches, the Central Washington University's wrestling team comes to the playing field this year with a whole new attitude.

"We are starting five freshmen this year," head coach Jeremy Zender, said.

Even though the coaching staff has changed, and the team is young, do not underestimate the talent the wrestling team holds, Zender said.

One freshman in particular, Josh Wiebenga, who wrestles in the 157 pound weight class, is already leading the team in wins this year. Wiebenga wrestled at Enumclaw High School where he took second place in the state tournament. From there Wiebenga went to Eastern Washington University. After realizing that Eastern did not have a wrestling team he transferred, to Central, in hopes of adding a national win to his track record.

"Practicing is a lot more fun in college, you get more to the point," Wiebenga said after being asked the difference between high school and college wrestling.

A basic training day for these men

runs from 3-5 p.m. This practice consists of a 20-30 minute lecture where the coach explains different ways of taking guys down, drill sessions, and some live wrestling. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, the men also get up and lift in the morning.

Even though the main part of the season will not start until January, the team has already wrestled Pacific in a dual meet where they won 21-20.

Not only do practices help for the upcoming season, but they have also helped the team get prepared for the upcoming tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada which is being held December 4-6. This tournament is one of the second or third toughest wrestling matches in the nation. In fact, it is so tough that Zender said it has been 15-20 years since Central has placed in the tournament.

With students from Division 1, Division 2, junior and community colleges around the world fans expect to see the best taking on the best in almost every match.

"My goal is to make it to the second day," senior captain D.C. Hazen, who wrestles in the 197 pound weight class, said. "It's a tough tournament."

The tournament is hard, but exciting nevertheless, especially for wrestlers like Wiebenga who will be

experiencing this tournament for the first time.

"It's going to be an eye opener for some of them," Zender said, "even to get down there and win a couple is great."

If Central brings home a couple victories here, it would give them a very good start for the 2004 season, along with some bragging rights.

Many people may not have been able to see the wrestling team in action at their first match this year or the matches last year due to the lack of home games, but that is all going to change this year. According to Zender, Central students should get a chance to see their fellow Wildcats right here in Ellensburg more than a few times this year.

Watching wrestling has not been a very popular activity for most Central students either because of the lack of home games, or the lack of promotion of home games.

"Give wrestling a chance," Josh Wiebenga said, in an attempt to give advice to any students who question the entertainment value of wrestling, "it is a fun sport!"

Central's first home match is set for January 23 against Simon Fraser. The team will then go on the road for three straight matches.

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"The Spotlight Event"

At 6 p.m. on Friday during the first night of the Wildcat Invitational swim meet, Central's student athlete president Matt Schmitt will unveil the first of a series of activities aimed toward drawing more students to athletic events.

"This is something we're going to try and start a tradition of," Schmitt said. Students are invited to race across the swimming pool in all of their clothes. All participants will receive a prize and the winner will receive a grand prize from the CWU bookstore along with dinner for two at a local restaurant. The next spotlight event will be held at wrestling and students will be invited to battle each other in sumo suits.

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Coaching diversity absent in Central athletics

by Cindy Figueroa
Staff reporter

The issue of black athletes in an athletic program which has no black coaches has long been a problem at Central Washington University according to many athletes, coaches and faculty members.

The issue at hand is not racism, rather the different communication patterns between black athletes and white coaches.

"Every few years this issue comes up," Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Keith Champagne said. "Jon Kitna faced this problem when he was here, and was able to address it and really hammer it out."

Part of the communication pyramid in football at Central involves team captains communicating team sentiment and players' thoughts to coaches. Although miscommunication may seem like an obvious problem, it seems that a lack of communication could be making black players feel like they are being discriminated against.

"I think part of the problem this year might have been that our captains were too quiet," Central Washington University football coach John Zamberlin said. "I pride myself in being here for my players and if there's an issue, I need these players to come talk to me."

One captain admits that there could have been better communication between players, captains and

coaches.

"A couple players brought the issue up at the beginning of the season, but we just got caught up in the season and never really addressed it," senior captain Levi Teasley said. "I could have communicated better with coaches about these personal issues, but I wasn't prepared to handle some of the issues that came up. I think that for players who feel like this and for those who have graduated they should go back and talk to coaches. My advice for players is to pick captains that they can talk to about anything."

Another part of the problem is funding for coaches. After quarterback coach Beau Baldwin left the team, a coaching position became available. Among the applicants was Joe Wade, a black coach, who now coaches alongside Baldwin at Eastern Washington University (EWU). The opportunity to bring in a black coach has been a possibility, but evaluations by coaches and players didn't allow this to happen.

"I'd love to hire a black coach for our program," Zamberlin said. "The problem is that there aren't enough black coaches and our team is underfunded for coaches. As it stands now I would need another \$30-40 thousand dollars to be able to hire another coach and finally be able to pay defensive line coach Brian Strandley."

Other universities such as Western Washington University (WWU), EWU, University of New Haven and U.C. Davis, have found it crucial to

their program to have outlets for their black players.

"It's beneficial to have black coaches on our coaching staff and there's no question about that," WWU football coach Rob Smith said. "A black face seeing another black face is comforting. I feel like we owe it to our black players to have quality black

“
I'd love to hire a
black coach for our
program.”

”
John Zamberlin
football coach

coaches.”

Raven Battle, a black defensive backs coach at WWU, chose to coach there because of his ties with the team and the coach.

"What it comes down to is who you know and how comfortable the head coach feels with you," Battle said. "That's the main reason I'm here at Western."

Several other players from the football team expressed concern-not about coaching ability, but about

coaches' abilities to understand some minorities' issues.

"We need somebody," senior wide receiver Josh Lopez said. "Keith Champagne is one of the only minorities that some of these guys trust and understand. This issue seems like it's a cycle; it goes from older players to younger ones. The problem is that all the coaches have the same perspective. There is no different view or angle of looking at problems that come up."

One of the biggest problems black players in Central's athletic program face is adapting to the cultural change that Ellensburg tends to bring. Some black athletes say it's hard adjusting to an environment where diversity isn't very prevalent. This, combined with the loss of a black support system and the addition of strenuous coaching styles has pushed some black players out of Central's athletic program.

"Players try to test you, just like my kids do," Zamberlin said. "Athletes are usually able to understand and accept that my coaching style isn't meant to be taken personally, but it does take a little tougher skin to handle it. I do it for the players, so they can be better people down the road. I must teach accountability."

There are always two sides to a story and in this case there seems to be confusion coming from both sides.

"It just seems like some coaches are more worried about creating performance-based relationships,"

said a football player who wished to remain anonymous. "Minority players have to turn to each other for support."

One coach in Central's athletic program who has seen the benefits minority coaching can bring is Samoan assistant coach of Central's women's basketball team, Ana Tuiaea-Ruud.

"I think any athlete that has an ethnic background looks for coaches from any ethnic background to relate to," Tuiaea-Ruud said. "In the past some athletes have chosen to come talk to me over the head coach, while other players are more easily adaptable."

Although the women's basketball team isn't as diverse as the football team, it seems like Tuiaea-Ruud's presence has made some players' transition easier.

"It upsets me that there are no black coaches," freshman women's basketball player Ashley Blake said. "I have no doubt that black players would talk to black coaches first. It's just easier and it's a different perspective. I do feel lucky to have Ana; she's great to have around."

This communication issue has caused many ripples in the water for athletes and coaches. No one seems to be questioning the abilities of any coaches in the program, but what some people are looking at is an underlying problem that could be hindering teams from coming together and performing as one.

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FEMALE ROOMMATE WANTED for University Court Apartments \$380 a month, includes w/s/g cable, and internet. \$250 deposit, Move in/out fees already paid. Contact Emily (509) 750-3651

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FOR SALE: SET OF AMERICAN RACING 15" rims for truck/SUV. Asking \$300, obo. 509-312-0638 11/6

BIKE PARTS FOR SALE, off of a specialized rockhopper with cracked frame. I have every part of bike except frame and front brake. All Shimano components; 7sp stx rear derailleur, 3sp Alivio front derailleur, 3sp and 7sp grip shift, front wheel, custom built Rhino rear wheel (strongest rim you can buy) with 7sp cassette, and much more. All parts used and in good working order, fix or upgrade your bike, call Nolan @ 963-8105 or 306-9532 10/23

TWO COUCHES for sale at the end of winter quarter: good condition tan Italian leather (with chenille pillows and throw) couch, originally \$1500 sell \$350 obo. 7' fabric couch with solid blue cover \$75 obo. Call 509-962-8565 or halfertp@cwu.edu

1992 RED HONDA PRELUDE SI 118,000 miles AWS PW PD PSNRF 17 inch white rims, altezza taillights, projector headlights, intake and exhaust. \$5500 OBO. Contact Jeremiah or Rebecca (509)787-3908

FOR SALE: 36" SUPER SWAMPER TSL TIRES (used) (36 x 12.50 x R16) \$500 o.b.o. (509) 899 - 0729 ask for Avery or Lindsay

1986 4X4 FORD RANGER XL Silver. 5sp manual fuel injection. Air shocks a 4inch lift, 32inch wheels. Very clean!! Asking \$2,500 or BEST OFFER!! 509-925-2712 11/13

2002 BURTON CUSTOM 166 SNOWBOARD, '02 Burton Freestyle Boots (11) and Burton freestyle bindings. New Northface HyVent Pants, Large Northface Renegade backpack, and Burton Alaska backcountry pack. All equipment used only 1/2 dozen times and must get rid of it all! Call 933.4008 10/30

FOR RENT - \$400 - ONE WEEK in Playa del Carmen, near Cancun, Mexico. Available Dec. 14- Dec. 21. One bedroom condo...sleeps 4 adults. It's on the beach! Golf, swimming and tennis. Call Lynn at 509-860-3940 or 509-782-8006.

DANCER WANTED! If you love to dance, you don't want to miss this train. Looking for a motivated dancer to complete the perfect all male dance troupe. Styles vary from break to river so we do it all! Have tours and dates booked so if interested call Rob. L. @ (509)306-9272 or email strykapose@yahoo.com

MALE OR FEMALE ROOMMATE WANTED, in Timothy Park Rambler. Good sized room, own bathroom/shower, and garage. \$334 a month + 1/2 on power. AVAILABLE NOW! Call Kestle' (Keslee): 1.360.301.9741 11/6

THIS IS THE LAST OBSERVER of fall quarter. We will place free classifieds for students again next quarter, but yu must email your ad by January 4 to be included in the first edition. All current ads will be delisted.

SAYONARA
TAKESHI!
WE WILL MISS YOU!

~ Observer editors and staff

CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY **CASH FOR BOOKS**

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CAMPUS STORE:

Wednesday, Dec. 3
Thursday, Dec. 4
Friday, Dec. 5
Saturday, Dec. 6
Monday, Dec. 8
Tuesday, Dec. 9
Wednesday, Dec. 10
Thursday, Dec. 11
Friday, Dec. 12

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
10 am - 4 p.m.
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

SEATAC:

Wednesday, Dec. 10
Thursday, Dec. 11

11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

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ELLENSBURG CAMPUS, Winter 2004:

MONDAY, December 8

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