Campus Intranet open for business

by Marty Maley
Asst. News Editor

Most people are acquainted with Central Washington University's Internet Web site and its uses. Central unveiled its new student and faculty/staff Intranet Web sites this week, which are similar to the Internet site, but exist only within Central's computer network and are designed for navigation by people on campus.

A new link appeared on Central's Web site Monday that will become a vital method of communication between students and the university. The faculty/staff site goes live later this month.

The new Wildcat Connection login located at the bottom of the CWU home page leads students directly to the new interactive Intranet Web site that provides university and local information, links to other sites and student and faculty postings.

On the Intranet, students can read and post campus announcements, shop or sell in the classified ads, buy or sell textbooks, read notices from the university, find roommates and more. These services are free to students on the Intranet Web site. The faculty/staff page has separate postings, but students have the option when submitting a post to have it appear on the faculty/staff page as well.

Carmen Rahm, senior director of information technology services (ITS) said the future of the Intranet Web site may include chat rooms and ride-share information. Rahm said student feedback will dictate the direction of the Intranet Web site's growth.

see INTRANET, page 6

Spring finally arrives

Danielle Letelier (left), sophomore pre-law, sits just outside of her room at Barto Hall enjoying the sun while doing homework. A group of Sparks and Meisner residents (top) take over the Bassetti lawn. Bright sun complicates efforts to study outdoors at the SUB for junior elementary education majors, Stephani Dresher and Leah Mixon (bottom).

Public library reopens after renovation

by Bob Kirkpatrick
Staff reporter

After nearly one year of construction, the Ellensburg Public Library has reopened its doors to the public. Having undergone a massive remodel, the library expanded its floor space and inventory to better serve the community.

The library shut its doors in early April 2003 as the Belsaas & Smith Construction Company began preparing the site.

The renovation of the existing 10,525 square feet and the adjoining 6,034 square feet in Hal Holmes Community Center, upgraded both facilities to meet the demands of high-tech society.

“I enjoy working for the city of Ellensburg.” Library Director Celeste Klein said. “An updated system is the pinnacle of any librarian.”

The remodel includes an additional 2,270 square feet to allow a larger section of the library to be devoted to the children’s section.

This is expected to be an asset to the early childhood learning education program offered at Central Washington University.

“We have a lot of picture books and reference materials that students may find useful,” Josephine Yaba, children’s and young adults’ librarian, said.

Yaba has developed a close working relationship with some of the instructors at CWU.

“Over the years, I have encouraged my students to use the children’s literature collection,” Nancy Jurenka, associate professor of teacher education, said. “Josephine and all the library personnel have been very helpful and patient. The Ellensburg Library is a community treasure.”

see LIBRARY, page 4
Hot wings burn belly of business

Local hangout goes up in smoke

by Rachel Guillermo
Asst. News editor

Wing Central's blistered wing sauce is not the only thing on fire.

March 25, Ellensburg Fire Chief Rich Elliott responded to a call at Wing Central located just north of campus. According to his report, smoke was seen about six blocks away from the building, but no visible fire was noted upon arrival.

"The fire originated within and under the counter space," Elliott said. "But there was no structural damage done to the building."

The fire was confined to the front counter, located approximately five feet inside the front entry, and extended about 10 feet to the north toward the kitchen.

Jim and Shannon Rowe, co-owners of Wing Central, were out of town when the incident happened.

"My husband and I were actually on vacation when we got a call telling us our restaurant was on fire," Shannon Rowe said.

An official ruling was released Wednesday, March 31, stating that the fire was the result of spontaneous combustion of rags stored under the counter, which were saturated with cooking grease, and was accidental.

The estimated total cost of damages is $150,000.

"Right now we're just doing a lot of cleaning up," Rowe said. "We've removed most of the soot off the walls and floors. Next will be the electrical and painting. Then it's a new floor and new equipment."

Wing Central hopes to re-open its doors by May 1 if things go according to plans.

"We're all about the university," Rowe said. "I just wanted to thank the baseball members for helping us clean up the restaurant. It meant a lot to us."

For more information or to offer help, contact Jim or Shannon Rowe at 962-5400.

A few burned tables and chairs and lots of cleaning supplies are all that's left of one of Central's hot spots.
Final call for construction comments

Central shares impacts of upcoming projects
by Emily Dobhal
News editor

Last week in the Ellensburg Inn’s Great Northern Room, hosting roughly two dozen onlookers, silence filled the space while Central Washington University executives waited for questions and comments. But public outcry was all but nonexistent at the hearing regarding the upcoming major construction projects on Central’s campus.

The hearing on Tuesday, March 29 marked one of the last steps in the required actions spelled out in the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The meeting was held to hear the Ellensburg community’s final thoughts and concerns.

“It’s a responsibility we take very seriously,” Richard E. Corona, vice president of Central’s business and financial affairs, said regarding the SEPA process.

The projects up for review under SEPA are the Samuelson Union Building and Recreation (SUB/REC) construction project and parking improvements, the east campus parking master plan including the relocation of Wilson Creek, the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) transmission line relocation, and the construction of a Dining Services warehouse.

The projects have essentially received the green light from state agencies after much communication and positive environmental reviews.

Corona said in his introduction that the reviews have revealed no negative environmental impacts and some have shown the projects to potentially improve the environment.

Karen Olson, the environmental geographer on Central’s team, has been working throughout the SEPA process. Coming in with skepticism regarding the environmental impact, she said she has come to be quite impressed with the plans.

“It is an environmentally conscious campus,” Olson said of those involved with the project.

Following Corona, moderator Elizabeth Street, executive assistant to Central’s president, presented further information regarding the SEPA process and announced the two environmental statements now available for public review. Bill Vertrees, senior director of Central’s Facilities Management and Brian Lens, Ellensburg community relations manager for PSE, presented project summaries and specifics on the power line relocation.

The silence is no surprise to John Drinkwater, senior director of student affairs, who noted that pretty much had the info.

For those wanting to review the available documents, they are being held in the Library and at the Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce. Written comments will be accepted until April 15. Send comments to Central in the care of Bill Vertrees or call him at 963-1011.

NY Times DC editor to speak
by Marcus Tabori
Staff reporter

With the 2004 presidential campaign kicking into gear, the media is looking for some of the most influential people of the year in the White House bureau in 1986.

Berke also has extensive lecture credentials, including positions as visiting lecturer at Harvard University. The editor has made regular television and radio appearances, which include guest spots on “Nightline,” “Good Morning America,” “Washington Week in Review” and CNN’s “Inside Politics.”

Street said the university is encouraged to bring a speaker from the New York Times as part of the program. In addition to newspaper experience, Berke also has extensive lecture credentials, including positions as visiting lecturer at Harvard University. The editor has made regular television and radio appearances, which include guest spots on “Nightline,” “Good Morning America,” “Washington Week in Review” and CNN’s “Inside Politics.”

Berke’s work has received recognition in the media. He earned first place for enterprise reporting from the Maryland Society of Professional Journalists in 1983 and was named one of the 25 most influential people in American media by “Brill’s Content” magazine in 1999.

“Behind the Scenes of the 2004 Presidential Campaign” is taking place at 7 p.m. April 12 in McConnell Auditorium. Admission to this event is free.

The Central Washington University Conference and Retail Services has several temporary conference service assistant positions available. These positions are expected to begin the week of finals (no later than June 12, 2004) and will terminate on or before Sept. 17, 2004. Preference will be given to students employed by Central, temporary employees and persons who are currently enrolled spring quarter of 2004 as full-time students with plans to enroll as full-time students at Central during fall quarter of 2004.

Custodial duties include: sweeping, mopping, vacuuming, dusting, washing windows and walls, cleaning and sanitizing restrooms, laying out linen; making beds; emptying trash; moving furniture; setting up meeting facilities; and delivering and setting up audiovisual equipment. There will be two shifts, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., noon to 8:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., with half-hour lunch breaks.

Laundry duties include: sort and spot linens for washing; load and unload washers and dryers; iron, fold and prepare clean linens to be sent out to various departments; and keep laundry room and machinery clean at all times. There will be two shifts, 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., with half-hour lunch breaks.

All shifts run seven days a week. Shifts and days off vary according to workload.

The minimum qualifications and skills needed for these positions are:

• Applicant must be at least 16 years of age
• Be able to perform physical labor
• Have good reading, writing and arithmetic skills
• Be able to work with minimal supervision
• Be punctual
• Able to perform work with minimal supervision
• Must pass a background investigation
• Recent clean driving record

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For more information, contact the Central Washington University Conference and Retail Services office at (509) 962-1265.

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Local patrons take advantage of the updated technology available at the downtown library.

ASCWU director filing begins

Compiled by News staff

The on-campus student campaign train is slowly gaining speed. Today marks the first day of filing for Associated Students of Central Washington University (ASCWU/BOD) candidacy. Students wanting to run for an office are eligible if they have completed 45 credit hours, 30 of which have been completed at Central Washington University. Students must also be in good standing with a GPA of 2.0 or higher.

The students videotaped their thefts. Johnson, Moraski and Howell were found guilty of theft, sentenced to probation and issued fines. The three alleged extortionists threatened to turn the videotape over to police last December if the two unnamed females did not help pay the other's fines, totaling $600 each. Deputy Prosecuting Attorney of Kittitas County, Candace Hooper, had the charges against all three students dismissed with prejudice.

The case was sent back to District Court and a sentence was entered March 9, 2004, according to the case files in the Kittitas County clerk's office. Hoover said after reviewing the case with police, her office entered into a plea bargain with the three students to theft in the third degree. Sentencing information was not available at the time of publication.

The three students were also punishable under Central's Student Code of Conduct. Keith Champagne, associate vice president of Student Affairs said any disciplinary decisions on students handed down by that office are not available as public information, according to Washington state law. According to Central's Office of Student Affairs, Howell and Moraski are still enrolled as students. Johnson is not currently enrolled as a student.

Charges dismissed on three students

Update on extortion, theft controversy. All counts dropped with prejudice

e by Erik Swaningson

Staff reporter

Charges of extortion in the second degree against three Central Washington University students were dropped March 9, the day the trial was set to start. Sophomores at Central, Audrey Howell, Trevor Johnson and Paul Moraski were arrested and charged in December 2003 after allegedly trying to extort more than $1200 from two female students. The two women had reportedly helped Howell, Johnson, Moraski and two other Central students steal holiday decorations from local homes in December. 2002.

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Next to campus
Study abroad seeks to satiate wanderlust

by Melissa Newman
Staff reporter

The International Center is providing study abroad sessions for students who are restless and need a change of scenery. "Central students interested in study abroad are encouraged to attend one of many sessions offered this quarter," Heather Barclay Hamir, director of study abroad and exchange programs, said. "The purpose of these sessions is to provide students with information about the application process and financial aid and scholarships."

There are two types of sessions: The general session is for students who have not decided on a location to study but are interested in the program. The other session is for students who have decided and provides those students with information specific to where they wish to study.

The sessions consist of a 30-minute information period that is followed by a question and answer period where students can meet an advisor and get the information they need. The basic requirement for the study abroad program is sophomore status and at least a 2.5 GPA. For some programs it may be necessary to be proficient in a foreign language.

Students interested in study abroad are sometimes concerned with the cost of the programs. "A budget is created to increase students' financial aid to help with costs," Hamir said. "The program is adding a template to the study abroad Web site to help students plan out their costs. Scholarships are also available."

Students who have participated in study abroad come away with real world experiences and life-long memories. "It was a life-changing opportunity," Rosie Rodriguez, senior social work major, said. "All students should travel to experience another culture. You learn a lot about another culture and a lot about yourself."

Rodriguez studied in Mexico for one quarter and in Spain for a summer. Keith Angotti, senior information technology and administrative management major, chose to study abroad in Australia.

"I have learned more traveling the world than in college," Angotti said. "You get real world information about different cultures. I learned the different views toward America and made new friends from all over the world. It was the greatest learning experience I ever had."

Students thinking of studying abroad should attend a session in the near future.

The next general session will be at 12 to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20 in the International Center.

"Students are welcome to come in anytime," Hamir said. "Even if you are slightly interested in studying abroad, please make an appointment so we can give you information and help you plan."

Where in the world can the info sessions take you?

General Sessions (all Programs)
4/08, Thu 4-5 p.m.
4/20, Tue 12-1 p.m.

Programs in Europe
4/14, Wed 4-5 p.m.

Programs in Latin America
4/19, Mon 4-5 p.m.

Programs in Asia
4/26, Mon 4-5 p.m.
Extra bucks, life experience found through student employment office

Two stay state side while one ventures overseas

by Amy Gelluz
Staff reporter

Robert J. Carbaugh economics professor, Michael Ogden and Robert Fordham, communication professional trade, which is my specialization, is also a requirement that participants must be involved in higher education and public school leadership.

Presentations, awards and other types of achievements that show how the person is outstanding in their field of knowledge and education determine whether or not the invitation is sent.

I am not sure who or how I was nominated, but it is grateful for the invitation.

The Oxford Round Table Web site states that the purpose of the Oxford Round Table is to encourage human advancement and understanding through improvement in education. The Round Table focuses on issues of concern that are national and international that affect education.

Gorden and Fordham will not be able to attend this year. They were invited to discuss the issue of free

One option that over 2,500 students choose to pursue is employment on campus.

"We have a very wide range of jobs on campus," Gail Dohrman, assistant director of financial aid and student employment, said. "Everything from office work to working in the greenhouse, as well as lab assistants and working in field experiments."

Most students are unaware of the fact that of the approximate 1,900 jobs provided on campus, several are offered in each major or field of study.

"I deal with the stuff I like to do," Chris Soren, senior recreation management major and Tent-N-Tube employee, said. "I'm getting a lot of experience, which is handy.

Gaining experiences and job skills can be an essential part of skills to your employer," Dohrman said. "Don't be discouraged, statistics don't apply to the individual, only to the group. Don't be shy about asking around. Bring a resume."

Students who work on campus are taking a full course load (12 credits or more) can only work up to 19 hours a week, a stipulation allowing students to balance employment and academic pursuits. However, most students find the experience altogether rewarding.

"Employers" on campus definitely work with you all the way," Cheryl Bean, junior elementary education major and cashier at the Central Cafe in the Samuelson Union Building, said. "Class comes first to them, so if I ever have a project due or anything like that, they'll always make sure I have a substitute.

For more information about on-campus employment visit the Student Employment office in Barge Hall 103 or call 963-3008.

Oxford beckons economics pro

Two stay state side while one ventures overseas

by Amy Gelluz
Staff reporter

Robert J. Carbaugh economics professor, Michael Ogden and Robert Fordham, communication professionals was all invited to participate in the Oxford Round Table at Oxford University in England this summer. This is a session where 40 academics were all invited to participate in the Oxford Round Table at Oxford University. The eight sessions begin July 4 and continue until August 13. He has been involved in other professional economic meetings, has written journals and books and has given lectures on economic matters. Carbaugh does not know how he was nominated, but it is grateful for the invitation.

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INTRANET: Sites built by Central

math major

continued from 1

"We built a site that is a seedling that can grow to be a giant oak tree if they will tell us where they want it to go," Rahn, said.

The Intranet Web site has an "Intranet Feedback" link that encourages users to communicate ideas and suggestions to ITS.

The new student and faculty/staff sites were built by Andrew Musseman, a junior math major. Musseman, who began working on the sites in January, said it was a little like building a robot.

"I really psyched about it," Musseman said. "I think it will be heavily used by students. Let us know what you think!"

The student Intranet Web site will become the new home page in campus labs and the "Wildcat Connection" link will be the primary access to the Safari system for online registration, grades, financial aid and other information in the future.

Central Washington University Executive Assistant to the President, Libby Street, said the university's administration has reviewed and endorsed the Intranet Web site.

"The primary purpose is to create an avenue for internal communication on campus," Street said. "And to provide students with easy access to information in order to be successful.

The Intranet Web site also offers one-click access to traffic and weather information. The Wildcat Connection not only includes the Intranet Web site, but also links to Blackboard and GroupWise Web mail.

Registration for fall quarter 2004 will be available on this link.
David W. Miller
Award
Requirements: Applicants must be undergraduate student journalists with at least three published works. These must be accompanied by an application and a one-page letter describing the articles and why they were published. The winner must also consist of $2,000 and a certificate. Deadline for submissions is June 30.

Uncommon Legacy
Foundation
Requirements: Must be an outstanding undergraduate or graduate lesbian student. Must be planning to become a full-time student at an accredited college or university in the US. Minimum GPA of 3.0. Must demonstrate a commitment or contribution to the lesbian community. Must demonstrate financial need. Award amount is $2,500. Deadline is May 1. More info in Barge 102.

Truckload Carriers
Association
Requirements: Must be a junior or senior in good academic standing at a four-year accredited college or university. Must be a child, grandchild, or spouse of an employee or any employee of a trucking company or be affiliated with a trucking company. Award amount ranges from $1,500 to $3,000. Deadline is May 1. More info in Barge 102.

Northwest
Journalists of
Color
Requirements: Must be an Asian American, African American, Latino or Native American. Must be a Washington high school or college student seeking a career in journalism. Must be an undergraduate enrolled in an accredited college or university or hold senior class standing at a Washington state high school. Award amount is $1,000. Deadline is May 1. More info in Barge 102.

Alpha Lambda
Delta Jo Anne J. J. Trow
Requirements: Must be an initiated member who has maintained the cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5. Award amount is $1,000. Deadline is April 15. More info in Barge 102.

The Resurrection: A hoax or History?

Introduction
Who cares? What difference does it make if Jesus rose from the dead? It makes all the difference in the world. If He did not arise, then thousands of Christians have lived and died for a lie. If, however He did rise, then He is still alive and can act now to straighten out our crooked world. Facts always speak louder than opinions. Let’s take a look at some of the historical evidence for the resurrection and see where the facts lead.

One preliminary consideration: countless scholars have attempted to...
These pages: yours, mine and ours

Journalists are often maligned for being biased. Although journalists are human and have opinions, (about just about everything), reporters, including students on the Observer staff, are trained to be objective. They collect facts from various sources, write what they find and try not to include their opinion. The job of a newspaper is to provide information that gives the reader the power to form an opinion.

Syndicated columnists may or may not reflect the bias of the newspaper carrying their columns. Sometimes they are used as counterpoint to another opinion.

In the case of the Observer, I’ll express my opinion in this 500 words of real estate for the next nine weeks. My column may or may not reflect the opinions of the rest of the staff. And, the articles we print may or may not reflect my values or opinions. I have a say in what goes in the paper, but we’re a team, and I’m not a control freak (ha!). And neither is Ben.

The Letters to the Editor section is yours to express your opinions. Please follow the letters policy above and keep letters to 300 words and email if possible.

Observer reporters have the opportunity to express their views in the Voicing Opinions section. If you’re a sports buff, you’ll have your chance to express your opinion in a new column on the sports pages.

As with most newspapers, we work hard to remain objective in our stories and keep our opinions, and yours, in the editorial pages. We all want a professional paper, but there may be occasional words—usually in a quote—that may offend some people. Changing words in a quote is unacceptable, and some quotes do get the point across better than others. We aren’t going out of the way to offend people. If an article contains offensive language we’ll give you a heads-up in an editor’s note, just as the Oregonian and other newspapers do.

The Observer staff wants to put out a quality paper. We strive for “A’s” and a clean paper. If an article contains offensive language we’ll give you a heads-up in an editor’s note, just as the Oregonian and other newspapers do.

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Athletic fees don't add up

It has recently been announced that the wrestling and swimming programs at CWU have been dropped due to budget restrictions. This does not add up. As a student vote for it (in one of the largest student voter turnouts in school history) gone...should the issue be brought up again? I am very pro-athlete, but when opportunites are denied for the many for the benefit of a few, something must be done.

A concerned alumnus, Kevin Pine

Central service stands out

Three years ago I came to CWU as a transfer student. When I chose CWU is mainly because it is a transfer student. Those students we are customers. Customer service is far greater at CWU than at other Washington universities. I have never experienced such good customer service at CWU.

Another great aspect is the students and the teachers at CWU. Teachers are student-oriented and really make an effort to see students succeed at learning and understanding. Students smile and communicate with one another. When I walk around campus I feel at peace knowing that my money, time and energy have all been spent wisely. I will graduate this spring and believe I have received a great degree.

Thank you to the Observer staff that work so hard, for so little, to voice all the students opinion and happenings. Thank-you CWU, I owe you.

Marens Han Joseph Douglas Senior, Biology

Music building strikes sour note with critic

This is something I feel needs to be said, not because it is something that bothers me, but instead, it makes my blood boil. Who is in charge of things on this campus anyway? Who makes the bone-headed decisions? I don't mean to be rude, but I think I am exercising my first amendment rights. Who made the blueprint for the new music hall on campus? Who makes the final decisions and then says, "we'll raise tuition to pay for it." I can understand a new building is important for them because Hertz is nothing but a crackajack box with ventilation. But this? When the education department wanted a new building, they got one. An administration on the science department wanted a new building...they got one...a building. Now the music department wants a new building and they are getting something that looks like it belongs on Bill Gates lawn.

I can understand a new BUILDING like everyone else got, but stupid features like the grates in the side is ridiculous. I am not a music major, but I have to pay for this futuristic building that sticks out like a farty zit on Paris Hilton's face. It goes with the "theme" of our University as much as watermelon goes with the Oak Rail goes hand in hand as an alcoholic-free establishment. It doesn't mesh. Why does the music department, or any department for that matter, need a building that only serves as a "beauty mark." I don't pay for extras that don't need to be there. I know I am not the only one who feels this way.

Newfool: cutting the swim teams and the wrestling team only serves as a drawback, and this stupid looking eurotrash totally offsets any money the University was trying to save. And don't even get me started on the food. Let's forget who gets to pay for it.

Bary Roy Hunt Sophomore, Communications

No student left behind

by Marty Malley
Asst. news editor

Walking around campus each day are what I conduct all the lost and forgotten students. Busy in a rush to achieve that certain something on a class paper, or meeting a friend for a coffee break, many of us race past the individuals who live at a different pace than the high speed techy society of today.

I recently conducted research on interpersonal communication on campus where students were observed to ignore the person right next to them while chatting away a mile a minute on their cellular phone. The phone conversations were often insignificant. I wonder what interaction and developments of friendship they might have been missing as they rushed to keep pace with the ever-changing cool tools of our culture. Those without access to such devices of communication are left behind, as those in the fast lane lead the rest of us to be lost in a world of technological development.

I will be honest, without the modern conveniences I don't know how I would get through college. I am as reliant on my computer and cell phone as the next person. I have a GPS and a computertized telescope to enhance my adventures in my studies. I still have not accomplished ending of the pain, and that others have left behind in the other. The president of the United States government have "no child behind" in education. Maybe we could make a personal effort in our lives to not live other students that others have left behind in our lives. Our campus is going to make the commitment to look around and try to take more time for others in my daily life. How about you?

"For a real bargain, while making a living, you should also make a life." - Aaron Bronson

Suicide trends pin hope on the left

by Jeremia Wallis
Asst. Online editor

On Monday, March 1 at 3 a.m., I received a crosscountry call telling me that one of the few people I have ever truly loved had ripped away from me. Blake Stivaro committed suicide sometime after I spoke to him at 7 p.m. the night before. He had it in his mind that life had got­ten as bad as it could, and he decided to save everyone else from the pain he believed he caused and he took his life.

I have been there. I felt the pain and said, "Death can't be anywhere near this bad." I have held the gun to my head and I have held the gun to my head and I have walked away from both of them. As a result, I see how many lives I have touched and how many people I have met and interacted with. Everyone who no longer have never heard my stupid jokes, never would have read this, neither would have ever met me. These people never would have been affected by my life and my experiences.

These are the people who care for the most, our friends, family, teachers, pastors, whoever they may be, are the most important figures to us and have the greatest impact on who we are and what we become. These are the people who suffer when someone commits suicide.

I wish I could describe the amount of pain I still feel. The amount of anger. The countless number of other emotions I have. Maybe then, the effect of suicide would ring clear to everyone who may be thinking of it, or know someone who is. Blake's pains are over. His tears are done. He has no more unhappiness.

As miserable as his life may have been, he has no more misery. As miserable as his life may have been, he has no more misery. Instead of ending the pain, he gave it to us.

Instead of ending the pain, he gave it to us.

While his life of unhappiness is over, the people he touched have to continue on and feel the weight of his decision. A weight which is unbearable. A weight which suffices the soul and crushes the heart with every beat.

"It is silliness to live when live is torment." This is a direct quote from Blake's goodbye letter.

I had a chance to talk to Blake how I felt, and I didn't. I had no reasons, but terrible reasons. I was gutted and bewildered. I had a chance to say three words that may have helped show him that there were people worth liv­ing for, and I choked. I did say them, but by the time I did, it was too late. He had his mind set and he followed through. At that point, nothing I could have said would have stopped him.

You were loved Blake. Many people told you. I'm sorry I never told you when I had the chance. I thought I had more time. Wherever you are, you have people here to remember you. Your memory will be with us for­ever.
The Wild Goose Casino, under new management, will reopen its doors to the public at 4 p.m. on April 9. The casino will feature eight gaming tables.

New investors gamble on old casino

by Jon Rice
Staff reporter

As those financial aid checks fall into students bank accounts, they may be leaving just as quickly. The long awaited reopening of The Wild Goose Casino is here and it is under new management. The casino is opening its doors at 4 p.m., April 9 at 1600 N. Currier in Ellensburg.

"We are small town people, running a small town business," Mike Meier, general manager and co-owner, said. "We have a lot of experience in this business; we manage four other casinos in the state."

Those casinos are Magic Lanes in South Seattle, Nob Hill Casino in Yakima, Zeppo's Casino in Pullman and Kegler's Casino in East Wenatchee.

The Wild Goose Casino is freshly painted with three beautiful oil paintings by a local artist, Chi, and TVs are mounted around the casino.

The Wild Goose Casino is divided into three sections: a game room, casino and sports bar. The game room (18 and older) is equipped with video games and pool tables. The casino (18 and older) has seven casino tables and one poker table. The sports bar (21 and older) will serve food and drinks with a "happy hour" from 4 to 6 p.m.

The games offered in the casino section are poker, blackjack, Spanish 21, Texas shootout, fortune pai-gow and a new game, two out of three 21.

"I think the casino will make more money, because it's 18 and older and it has more games," Tyler Boyer, junior exercise science major, said. "My favorite part about the casino is losing money one day, then coming back the next and winning a lot more."

The casino has 34 dealers, five pit bosses, four cashiers, six security guards (five surveillance) and an up-to-date security system.

The casino plans to host poker tournaments with sign ups beginning 4 p.m. on April 11 for a Texas hold 'em tournament. The structure of all the tournaments will be based on customer surveys. The casino welcome newcomers and will help those who know little about the games, with some instruction.

"I plan to go, it's something else to do in town," Kyle Swanson, junior elementary education major, said. "It's an alternative to the bars and parties."

The casino will be open daily from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m., but alcohol will stop being served at 2 a.m. For more information about the Wild Goose Casino call 925-5825.
They say the neon lights are bright on...Seattle

by Tyler Davis
Ass. Scene editor

It is not necessary to trek to New York to see a first-class Broadway show. The Paramount and 5th Avenue theaters in downtown Seattle have announced their 2004-2005 season line-up and both will host a plethora of hits fresh out of Manhattan.

Six Broadway classics will swing through the 5th Avenue Theatre during the season, beginning in September with the smash "Hairspray," which debuted at the 5th Avenue in May 2002 and went on to win eight Tony Awards. Tickets are on sale now for "Yankee Doodle Dandy," the final production of the 2003-2004 season, which will run from April 24 to May 16.

The Paramount Theatre will boast eight Broadway-off-Broadway hits, including season-opener "Rent," which returns after a successful run at the Paramount in 1999, and Disney's "The Lion King" to run during the 2004 holiday season and into January.

The 2004-2005 season schedules

The Paramount Theatre (911 Pine St., Seattle)

"Rent" Aug. 25-29, 2004
"Oliver!" Sept. 28-Oct. 3, 2004
"Riverdance" Oct. 12-17, 2004
"Little Shop of Horrors" Nov. 2-7, 2004
"Disney's "The Lion King" Nov. 30, 2004-Jan. 16, 2005
Patti LuPone in "Matters of the Heart" April 12-17, 2005
"The Graduate" April 26-May 1, 2005

The 5th Avenue (1308 5th Ave., Seattle)

"Hairspray" Sept. 7-26, 2004
"Smokey Joe's Cafe" Oct. 19-Nov. 7, 2004
"Smokey Joe's Cafe" Oct. 19-Nov. 7, 2004
"Disney's "The Lion King" Nov. 30, 2004-Jan. 16, 2005
Patti LuPone in "Matters of the Heart" April 12-17, 2005
"The Graduate" April 26-May 1, 2005

The women also put on a dance clinic each year for kindergarten through 12th grade students, teaching a routine and having the children perform it for parents.

"It's a good way to get our name out there for girls to look up to, and it's fun because you're working with little kids," Jennifer Haworth, DanceCats captain and sophomore elementary education major, said.

Next season, the team hopes to hold the dance clinic two or three times throughout the year. Haworth has high hopes for the next season of DanceCats.

"We've had a lot of positive response from Central," Haworth said. "We've also been getting a lot of notice from incoming freshmen, because girls who were on a dance team in high school look to see if the colleges have dance teams too and want to go to school where the teams are.

Other students have expressed interest after seeing the team around Nicholson Pavilion. Practices are three times a week and are closed to the public. This is to keep all distractions away to create the best performance.

Next year's season will be a little busier, with performances planned at football games as well as basketball games and a college-wide competition. Dance camp is also planned for August and fundraisers will begin soon.

Flock of cranes attacks disease

by Sally Wright
Staff reporter

Measles is the number one killer of children under the age of 15 in Africa. In the end, it works out to a child a minute dying from the disease. It is the wish of the Red Cross that the children of Africa be vaccinated against measles. In an effort to make this wish come true, the Ellensburg chapter of JARCA has made 1000 paper cranes in hopes that people will sponsor a crane for $1 each, or a donation of any amount.

"You make lots of friends, it's a sisterhood, and that's what a lot of people are looking for," Haworth said. "That's what we hope to offer."

For more information attend tonight's meeting or contact contact central-dancers@yahoo.com
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Awards from competitions

by Sally Wright

Complaints often heard about Ellensburg: too windy, too hot, too cold. While not much can be done about the elements, "Ellensburg Extreme" is laughing in the face of what people consider a complaint: too boring.

"Ellensburg Extreme," created "Ellensburg Art of Jewelry, Blue Gem Co.

The 11 awards placed "Ellensburg Extreme" as the nation's most award-winning student-run comedy show, according to Allwine.

"We made (Washington State University and University of Washington) our bitches," Allwine, senior broadcast journalism and film and video studies major, said in response to the awards the show has received. "(WSU) is usually up there with the competitions. If it wasn't for everybody else (behind the scenes of "Ellensburg Extreme"), though, it wouldn't have happened. They deserve a lot of recognition."

Allwine and Tighe describe "Ellensburg Extreme" as a mix between the Seattle-based show "Almost Live" and nationally known "Saturday Night Live" and "The Daily Show."

"It's the extreme variety comedy show," Tighe, senior broadcast journalism and film and video studies major, said. A typical episode consists of monologues and pre-produced comedy, news and/or sports segments.

Following a live performance from a local or Seattle area band is an interview with the band.

"Behind the scenes is really where it all happens," Tighe said. "I'd say it takes over two hours per minute of the show (for production)."

The first episode of "Ellensburg Extreme" this quarter is the "Spring Break Episode," which will give the accounts of the "Extreme" team's adventures in places like Ireland, Hawaii, Belize and Montana.

There won't be any "Girls Gone Wild," Tighe said. "There's 'Guys in Towels' gone wild, though."

"Guys in Towels" is a three-episode spot on every other episode where some of the men on the show wear only towels while doing random things such as sledging.

"Ellensburg Extreme" can be seen at 7:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. Friday through Sunday on KCTV Channel 2.

For more information on "Ellensburg Extreme," including how to get your band on the show, how to get involved or how to be part of the audience, visit www.ellensburgextreme.com.
The Story of Sacagawea

by Gayle Duncan
Staff reporter

Youth Theatre Guest Director Trisha Dee Bellah is a very busy woman. Her days are nearly relentless series of meetings and rehearsals as she prepares a cast of 10 to perform the children's theater production of Bird Woman: The Story of Sacagawea. The production will then tour the Pacific Northwest for six weeks. I was able to catch up with the guest director who gave me a glimpse of Sacagawea, both the historical figure and the young heroine of Central Theatre Ensemble's production.

Q: Why do you pronounce Sacagawea's name Sa-ka-gah-WAY-uh?
A: This is a grand debate that continues even at the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. We use this pronunciation because our playwright, Ric Averill, says to. Sacagawea with the hard "g" sound means "The Bird Woman." When Lewis and Clark in their travels named a tribuary "The Bird Woman River" they said it was after their native interpreter. So actually the United States Geographic Board recognizes Sacagawea with a hard "g" as the true pronunciation. Her name has historically been translated as "The Boat Launcher" which could have been one of her work-related duties. "The Boat Launcher" is pronounced Sacagawea with a soft "g" sound. In any case, Sacagawea was her Hidatsa name. It is probable that she had other names in her lifetime. She certainly would have had a child name prior to Sacagawea.

Q: We've heard that there are some puppets used in this production. What are their roles?
A: Several characters are portrayed by hand-made body puppets. This is partly because we have eight actors who have to portray over 20 characters. But the puppets also help us from an authenticity standpoint; we are able to sculpt the Native American features of some puppets instead of trying to alter Anglo-features with makeup. This helps us facilitate quick character changes as well. In the end we decided the use of both actors and puppets was the best way to blend aesthetic values while solving logistics problems.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to discuss about Sacagawea that we haven't covered yet?
A: One of our main focuses is authenticity. We've really worked hard to have authentic costumes. The Clgner Museum of Ellensburg has licensed Sacagawea artwork [some of which is featured in the show's promotional material] for the production, and the museum is sending prints of it on tour with us. We're currently learning the Native American Universal Sign Language that dates back to the 16th century. We're also learning authentic dances.

Sacagawea over the years has achieved an almost mythical status in our production we're trying to humanize her. She's just coming out of childhood, which is evidenced in our production by the character of her brother and her childhood friend. She's a new mom having to make choices to benefit herself and her baby.

Actors practice for the upcoming production of Bird Woman.

Lindsey Jackson/Observer

“The Tooth of the Matter”
Susan Savage, RDH

Bonding Discolored Teeth

If you have a badly stained or discolored tooth that is detracting from your appearance, ask your dentist about the bonding technique. In this technique, the tooth will be polished and etched with a buffered phosphoric acid. Then the dentist will add a plastic, tooth-colored material to the tooth that is bonded with a phosphoric acid paste to the etched area. This is more affordable than some other techniques such as porcelain crowns or restoration, which can be more esthetically pleasing. If costs make the difference, however, bonding may serve your purpose well.

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With a little work you can banish the clutter that has accumulated and take control of your space. Though it may not be fun, it certainly makes other areas of life easier to manage. Life is less stressful when you know where you can find things with­

The problem with getting organized is that it often seems like an insurmountable task. But no matter how
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If you do the work, I will provide the "know-how" and together we can get your space under control with enough of spring left for you to acquire a decent tan.

- Set organizational goals for yourself and write them on paper in big, bold letters and stick them on your fridge or somewhere you will see them all the time.

- Make a regular time each week that you will work on cleaning up your space.

- Congratulations! Know the good work you have done and give yourself a good reason to finish your project on time.

- You did it!

- After you finish your organizing project, take an "after" photo and hang it next to your "before" shot. See the difference? Feel proud.

- Plan an event like a party in the near future where you will be able to wow friends with your newly near neat space. This will give you something fun to work toward and give you a good reason to finish your project on
Wrestling, swimming programs dropped from athletic department

by Andrew Grinaker
Sports editor

Take a long look at the pictures to the right, because it will be the last time you will see the swimming and wrestling teams. In a long awaited decision, Central Washington University has decided to no longer sponsor the swimming and wrestling programs. The decision will go into effect starting fall 2004.

"It's the hardest thing I have done in my life," Paul Baker, vice president of university relations, said. "It was an extremely painful decision to make."

The university cited three specific reasons for having to eliminate the sports from the athletic program. The first was the lack of competition in the area for each team. Before the decision, Central was the lone school in the state that offered wrestling at the four-year level. Also, both swimming teams had to play Seattle University three separate times this season.

"The biggest problem the athletic department faces is scheduling and reasons for having to eliminate the sports from the athletic program. The first was the lack of competition in the area for each team. Before the decision, Central was the lone school in the state that offered wrestling at the four-year level. Also, both swimming teams had to play Seattle University three separate times this season."

"The second reason was that the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) does not have championships in swimming and wrestling. There are not enough schools in the conference that have wrestling and swimming to sponsor these championships."

"The move by the athletic department will theoretically lead to strengthening the other sports at Central. The additional money will help balance the budget and lead to positives farther down the road for Central athletics."

"The idea is to make the thirteen sports as effective, as competitive, as winning, and as strong as they can be," Anderson said.

Even after the decision goes into effect, Central will still have the most student athletes in the GNAC and offer the most sports in the conference after Western Washington University. However, the move by the university will leave several students with the decision to either drop the sport entirely or transfer to another school.

"We have offered to keep their scholarships through next year and the NCAA has granted any student can transfer," Bishop said. "We have helped with that process."

After a decision was made, several athletes and coaches expressed their feelings about the programs being dropped from the athletic program.

"It's still a pretty big shock," wrestling coach Jeremy Zender said. "I was never led to believe that this was definitely going to happen."

The wrestling team was also hurt by the decision made by the university.

"(The wrestlers) feel like they have been betrayed a little bit," Zender said. "They are pretty upset, and want to figure out a way to fight it."

The wrestling team still thinks they can dig out of this hole and want the students to know what is going on around the university.

"I think it really hurts the university and I think it's important that the student body lets the university know how they feel with emails and phone calls," Zender said.

The wrestlers were not the only team willing to voice their opinion on the decision. Shelby Settlage, former swimmer and Central's 100 meter

"This is one of several things and a number of steps taken to help the budget shortfall," Mark C. Anderson, director of public relations and marketing, said.

Another fact that did not benefit swimming and wrestling at Central, was that the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) does not have championships in swimming and wrestling. There are not enough schools in the conference that have wrestling and swimming to sponsor these championships.

"I would have liked to have done that," Zender said. "I was never led to believe that this was definitely going to happen."

"It's still a pretty big shock," Jack Bishop, director of athletics, said.

The second reason went hand in hand with the first. With a competition scarce in the Northwest region, both programs were forced to travel outside the state, forcing a large amount of money to be devoted to travel expenses. For example, the wrestling team only had two home meets this year and had to travel to Ohio, Nevada and Colorado.

"I would have liked to have enough financial backing to invest in those sports," Bishop said. "But there really isn't anyone to compete with and you begin to spin your wheels."

The third reason dealt with the decline in funding over the last four years. The athletic department has overspent their budget by more than $100,000 each of those years. The decision to drop swimming and wrestling will save the athletic department close to $102,000 annually.

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The wrestlers were not the only team willing to voice their opinion on the decision. Shelby Settlage, former swimmer and Central's 100 meter
Central track and field
jumping to new heights

by Jan Mentzer
Staff reporter

Central Washington University's track and field team continued their early spring season where Terran Legard and Leo Tiger curted the women's team to an impressive 2nd place finish while Justin Lawrence tied a school record as the men's team finished 3rd.

At the 23rd annual Ralph Vernachia Team Classic held last Friday and Saturday at the Ellingson Great Dome, the women's team had a strong showing. Tiger took 1st place in both the triple jump and the long jump, while Legard and Lea Tiger carried the triple jump and the long jump, while Vernacchia Team . Classic held last women's team had a strong showing.

Tiger was named Outstanding Newcomer of the indoor season when she won the high jump. Graham took 2nd in both the long jump and the triple jump, while Enny Frischbull took 2nd in the high jump.

There was tough competition among the nine teams that competed, which should have a very positive affect on how the season may pan out. "[We're] continuing an upward last few years," Coach Adkisson said. "We're a little stronger in the sprints, jumps and throws than previous years which should help us score a little better in conference play."

Even though the men's outing wasn't as successful as the women's, there are many bright spots on this team. Justin Lawrence won the triple jump while tying a school record with 49'-9". Matt Schmitt won the 10,000-meter run and Mike Pankiewicz won the 800-meter dash. The men showed promise with strong finishes by Fabien Coutard who took 2nd in the 200 meter, and Jason Porter who took 2nd in the 3,000-steeple chase. Beau Ross took 2nd in the high jump. Western Washington University and the University of British Columbia came in 1st and 2nd, respectively, causing a tie between Central and Simon Fraser University with 60 points.

"The men should move up to 2nd in conference next to Western Oregon this year," Adkisson said. "We should have a strong season. We're deep in seniors and jumpers led by Justin Lawrence who should make another trip to Nationals."

Adkisson thinks this year will be successful with all of the returning seniors on both the men and women's team. Adkisson also believes there will be big help from Heather Yergen and Mike Kelley who Adkisson considers to be the most improved athletes from last year. Along with Legard, who has already qualified for Nationals in the 400-meter dash, and triple jumper Lawrence, the team is underway for a great season.

Central competes at the Showell Invitational in Tacoma and the Pelluer Invitational in Cheney next Saturday before gearing up for the Great Northwest Athletic Conference multi-events.

Ultimate frisbee making a comeback

by Ryan Fay
Staff reporter

This quarter, a small group of Central students will continue to play an exciting sport known as Ultimate Frisbee. Students are not considered a school club, but instead it is a way for the players, and whoever else wants to join, to have fun playing Ultimate Frisbee. "Anyone is welcome to play," Mike Weeks, senior computer science major, said. "If they contact me, I can put them on the list of people to call when we go to play."

Weeks hopes to meet one to three times a week and randomly break up into teams. If there are enough people to play, a game consists of seven people on each team and the teams play to seven points. The game consists of one stationary person passing the Frisbee to another person without it dropping or being intercepted by the opposite team. They normally play for about an hour, switching teams between games. The games can be played at almost any distance, including a football field.

Ultimate Frisbee is a great way to exercise outside and have fun. The game has been played here at Central for the past two years and will hopefully continue in the future. Anyone is welcome to join the group. In order to be contacted for the games, just send an e-mail to Mike Weeks at hindric_weme@hotmail.com.

Get Outdoors: Float the Yakima River

by Amanda Schank
Staff reporter

Moving water, hot sun, and girls in bikinis are all reasons that floating the Yakima River has long been a pastime of Central students.

The Yakima River meanders through Yakima Canyon 20 minutes from campus and provides a haven from Ellensburg wind. Central students can rent equipment from Tent-N-Tube and fill their spring day floating the river.

"I've gone half a dozen times or so," Dan Ferguson, junior undecided major, said. "You have the freedom to do anything, I mean anything. It's water and it moves, how great can it be?"

Each year Tent-N-Tube, Central's rental and outdoor program headquarters, has 16 inner tubes, 20 rafts, and seven kayaks for students to rent. The inner tubes can hold a single person, while the rafts can hold up six people.

"We usually rent out more tubes and rafts than kayaks. It's a little less intense and people can kick back and do whatever they want," Chris Soren, senior recreation management major

"It's definitely a process to get there, but once you're on that river it's worth it," Phil Matern, graduate science major, said. "You should have a strong season. We're deep in seniors and jumpers led by Justin Lawrence who should make another trip to Nationals."

Adkisson thinks this year will be successful with all of the returning seniors on both the men and women's team. Adkisson also believes there will be big help from Heather Yergen and Mike Kelley who Adkisson considers to be the most improved athletes from last year. Along with Legard, who has already qualified for Nationals in the 400-meter dash, and triple jumper Lawrence, the team is underway for a great season.

Central competes at the Showell Invitational in Tacoma and the Pelluer Invitational in Cheney next Saturday before gearing up for the Great Northwest Athletic Conference multi-events.

Ultimate Frisbee making a comeback

by Ryan Fay
Staff reporter

This quarter, a small group of Central students will continue to play an exciting sport known as Ultimate Frisbee. Students are not considered a school club, but instead it is a way for the players, and whoever else wants to join, to have fun playing Ultimate Frisbee. "Anyone is welcome to play," Mike Weeks, senior computer science major, said. "If they contact me, I can put them on the list of people to call when we go to play."

Weeks hopes to meet one to three times a week and randomly break up into teams. If there are enough people to play, a game consists of seven people on each team and the teams play to seven points. The game consists of one stationary person passing the Frisbee to another person without it dropping or being intercepted by the opposite team. They normally play for about an hour, switching teams between games. The games can be played at almost any distance, including a football field.

Ultimate Frisbee is a great way to exercise outside and have fun. The game has been played here at Central for the past two years and will hopefully continue in the future. Anyone is welcome to join the group. In order to be contacted for the games, just send an e-mail to Mike Weeks at hindric_weme@hotmail.com.

Get Outdoors: Float the Yakima River

by Amanda Schank
Staff reporter

Moving water, hot sun, and girls in bikinis are all reasons that floating the Yakima River has long been a pastime of Central students.

The Yakima River meanders through Yakima Canyon 20 minutes from campus and provides a haven from Ellensburg wind. Central students can rent equipment from Tent-N-Tube and fill their spring day floating the river.

"I've gone half a dozen times or so," Dan Ferguson, junior undecided major, said. "You have the freedom to do anything, I mean anything. It's water and it moves, how great can it be?"

Each year Tent-N-Tube, Central's rental and outdoor program headquarters, has 16 inner tubes, 20 rafts, and seven kayaks for students to rent. The inner tubes can hold a single person, while the rafts can hold up six people.

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by Mike Leeper
Staff reporter

The crack of the bat, dirt stained pants, the popping of gloves. It is baseball time again in Wildcat country.

The Central Wildcat baseball team is already 25 games into the 2004 season and is playing well after a bit of a slow start. The Wildcats started their season on February 13 with a 0-4 start. They broke out of their funk with some great pitching performances and winning their next four games in a row. In each of those wins the Wildcats didn’t give up more than three runs. Since their 4-4 start the team has won 11 of its past 17 games to go to 15-10 overall.

The catalysts for the 15-10 record and the team is currently tops in the GNAC with his 1.41 earned run average this season. McCarthey is currently the leader on the Wildcats in the GNAC with his 1.41 earned run average this season. McCarthey was also the GNAC Pitcher of the Week on March 30. She led Central to a shutout and 30 strikeouts on the last weekend of the season.

One of the strongest assets of the team is the pitchers. Three pitchers have tossed in 25 games and their earned run average is 2.25 to 2.27. It means they never allow more than three runs on average. One of the major contributors to the team’s success is senior pitcher Jill McCarthey.

NOTABLES: McCarthey was named the GNAC Pitcher of the Week on March 30. She led Central to a 3-1 record in the road with one shutout and 30 strikeouts. She was also the GNAC Pitcher of the Week on May 6 and is 5-3 now with a 1.41 earned run average this season. Currently is the all-time leader on the team in wins (5), earned run average (1.41), innings pitched (69.1), opponents batting average (.188), and strikeouts (50).

Shortstop Brandon Esparza makes a throw to first base during the Wildcats split with the University of Puget Sound on Sunday afternoon.

Softball season in full swing

by Andrew Grinaker
Sports editor

The best way to describe the month of April for the Central Washington University softball team is a bumpy rollercoaster ride. The team won two games, then lost two games, then won their last game.

The first five games of April for the women’s softball team were part of the Easton Tournament of Champions held in Modesto, Calif. The Wildcats, ranked fourth in the inaugural NCAA Division II West region, were able to make it to the quarterfinals of the tournament but lost to Cal State Bakersfield (CSB) 5-3.

Sara Badgely

center field. The single ignited the SSU bats as they had two more hits and scored three runs in the inning with the help of a Central fielding error.

Freshman Sara Badgely knocked in the lone Central run, when she singled in sophomore center fielder Jen Curl. The Wildcats were unable to put a rally together though and lost 3-1.

The following day the Wildcats started the offensive show early by scoring five runs in the first two innings. Sophomore Patty Martinez led the Wildcats to 5-3 victory over Cal State San Bernardino, batting 2 for 2, including a home run. Badgely would pick up the victory for Central, as she pitched five and one third innings, striking out five.

Later that day, the Wildcats completed a near perfect game, beating Cal State Chico 6-0. Senior Jill McCarthey pitched seven scoreless innings for the victory. Badgely two-batted in two runs (RBI’s) for the Wildcats, while freshman Mallory Hofman contributed two RBI’s as well.

The final game of the tournament for the Wildcats saw McCarthy take the mound one more time, giving up only one earned run. However, CSB would score three runs off three Central errors and win the game 3-1. First baseman Amber Miller had the lone RBI for the Wildcats with a double.

In other news for the Wildcat softball team, McCarthy was named the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Pitcher of the week the second time this season. McCarthy went 3-1 on the road trip, striking out 15 batters.

The Wildcats will travel to Nampa, Idaho for a four-game set against Northwest Nazarene University starting with a double-header on Friday and then a double-header on Saturday.
Beat the Weekly Sports Geek
How will the Seattle Mariners do this season?

It’s finally that time again when I can sit in front of my flat screen TV (Thank you Fueng) for three hours arguing balls and strikes with an overweight umpire 2,000 miles away, spit sunflower seeds in my living room and hate Alex Rodriguez no matter what team he is on.

The baseball season is here and the 2004 Seattle Mariners are going for one last shot at the World Series title. However, there will be several questions that will be answered in the first few months of the season. With the defense behind the great starting pitching hold up? Will Scott Spiezio and Eddie Guardado’s injuries affect the team in the long run? Will Freddy Garcia put aside his past problems and pitch like the man everyone expects him to be?

With those questions aside, the Seattle Mariners will look much like the teams of years past, with solid pitching and clutch hitting. The absence of hitting late in the season last year was the reason the Mariners managed to trade hitting for defense. Gone from last year’s team isstrikeout king Mike Cameron, who played some incredible defense in center field. Also departing from Seattle is Freddy Garcia’s former partner in Seattle nighttime crime, shortstop Carlos Guillen.

Former San Francisco Giant Rich Aurilia will replace Guillen at shortstop, while former Kansas City Royal and Mariner product Raúl Ibañez will fill the void in the outfield.

Even though the Mariners made the necessary changes to fill the holes in their lineup, the 2004 season will look much like the past few anticlimactic years. The Mariners can’t afford to have any major injuries with a team full of guys that are 30 years and older. Also, in order for the Mariners to make the playoffs, several players will have to step up in the lineup.

This year could get ugly if injuries start piling up, but should be at least a winning season with one of the strongest pitching staffs in the American League. Even with that said though, Mariner fans will have to settle for winning 90 games, missing out on the playoffs and watching as A-Rod coast into the playoffs. Not the answer. He’s a 31-year-old former Kansas City Royal and has been a disappointment in the early part of the season.

The M’s finished second to last in homeruns last season. This team needs more power but instead, new general manager, Bill Bavasi brought in veterans with good clubhouse presence. Raúl Ibañez and Rich Aurilia. Many people are testing Ibañez as the missing link to our anaemic offense, but Ibanez is not the answer. He’s a 31-year-old 18 homerun season in the American League, 237 home runs in the American League. ED

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Eligibility:
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Nomination and Submission Process:
Must be submitted by current full-time or part-time faculty in CAH. Individuals may not nominate themselves. Nominator should fill out nomination form. Attach a current vita of the nominee. Nominations and supporting materials are due in the Dean’s office by April 12, 2004. Support materials include the nominee’s vita and copy of the work which generated the nomination. See full announcement on the CAH website.

Awards:
The winner will receive a cash award of $250.00 and will be honored at the CAH Awards Banquet on May 19, 2004 along with other honorees of the College.

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