Central students are voice of women's rights at White House

by Amy Gregoux
Staff reporter

Women's issues ascended the White House steps in the nation's Capitol last weekend. More than one million people attended the March for Women's Lives, including five Central Washington University students. The march was intended to be a voice for women's rights.

"The march was one of the most energizing experiences of my life," Caitlin White, junior sociology major, said. "So many people marching for a single reason; they care about the health and well-being of women around the world. The message is loud and clear — feminists are the majority and we have the right to vote."

The March for Women's Lives is a nationwide campaign targeting women's reproductive rights. This year's event covered controversial issues like: abortions, emergency contraception, education, access to other forms of birth control, repealing the global gag rule, gay marriages and the right to vote.

"It felt great to stand up for myself and other women by letting the government know that we will not tolerate their disregard for women's rights," Lindsay Jacobson, sophomore, undecided, FMLA recruitment chair, said. "I was proud to be a part of such a huge, history-making event that involved so many men and women that care about the lives of women."

The March for Women's Lives was informational, educational, and an opportunity to make a difference. I now know that one person does make a difference," Andres Duarte, senior, sociology major, FMLA events chair, said.

The Central students were pleased to see so many men, women and children showing their support for these issues from around the world who traveled in Washington D.C. to attend the event.

"Experiencing the power and unity of the people at the "March for Women's Lives," has given me hope and faith in the future of our country, I now know that one person does make a difference," Andres Duarte, senior, sociology major, FMLA events chair, said. "I will advocate for the equality of all people regardless of sex, race, or sexual orientation. This experience has opened my mind like nothing else and has given me the opportunity to make a difference. I give thanks to everyone who has and continue to support us. Thank you."

The march was informational, see MARCH, page 2

Despite economy doubts, hope stirs in graduates

by Stuart Perkins
Staff reporter

A sluggish economy and reports of high unemployment rates may have some graduating students wondering if they should come back for another degree. However, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate from this time last year is the national unemployment rate from this time last year. The national unemployment rate is currently about 6.1 percent, which is down from the 7.5 percent unemployment rate from this time last year. The national unemployment rate is 5.7 percent. While Washington state's unemployment rate is higher than the national one, this is not something new. According to workforceexplorer.com, Washington state's unemployment rate has remained above the national average for the past 25 years. And even when the job market lined up, I'm still worried that in the end I won't have a job because the economy is so bad," Jessica Pingatore, senior public relations major, said.

Still, some occupations are expected to see growth in the near future. The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) reports that management, accounting, sales, teaching and construction engineering are the top five jobs for 2003-2004 graduates. "If I can't get a job at the International Television Channel, then I will go back to Japan where the job, see JOB, page 4

Debate heats Fireside Chat

by Rachel Guillermo
Asst. News editor

It was getting hot by the fireplace as about 30 students and a handful of faculty members gathered in President Jerilyn McIntyre's home for the spring quarter fireside chat on Monday, April 26.

Members of the president's cabinet were present, including David Solz, provost/senior vice president for academic affairs, Libby Street, executive assistant to the president, Rich Corona, vice president for business and financial affairs and Charlotte Tullus, vice president for student affairs and enrollment management. The small group of students that were in attendance represented different factions around the campus.

The panel's first issue of the night addressed concern for what student's tuition is being used for, whether or not the money was being spent on the new buildings around campus.

"First of all, money for buildings can't be used for salaries for either administrators or for people who teach classes," McIntyre said. "It's money called 'one time money.' There's a difference between one-time money and ongoing money. So if you bend for a new building, you pay for it and it's built and the money is gone."

The open forum quickly began to heat up between the panel and Central wrestlers when Aaron Mann, junior philosophy major, addressed an enrollment cap as a possible solution to the recent budget cut that resulted from the cutting of the wrestling and swimming programs at Central.

"We have one of the lowest kickbacks in the state, of colleges," Mann said. "But in our instance, we are the only school in the state that has a program for wrestling and there are 3,000 wrestlers in the state in high school. That alone, even if hundred of them came to this school, only 30 of them would make the team. That alone should be making up in budgets. Why is
**Dean search ends close to home**

by Jennifer Turner

**Staff reporter**

"Beginning May 1, a search that began four years ago will finally yield some promising results. Meghan Miller has been selected to be the new dean of Central Washington University's College of the sciences."

Her experience, vision and leadership will serve the College of the Sciences well as we transform Central Washington University," David Barbee, provost, said in a statement released on Friday, April 23.

Miller received a Ph.D. in geology from Stanford University and her Bachelors of Science in the same subject at Yale University. She has been a Central faculty member since 1991 and was, at one point, chair of the geology department.

"Under her leadership, the department grew to regional prominence in teaching and research," Soltz said. "(Miller) developed and implemented a very successful graduate program and developed a strong program of undergraduates that is closely integrated with faculty scholarship and funded from all of the major federal sources."

Since September 2002, Miller has served as the interim dean for the COTS, garnering two years of experience in the position.

"It’s nice to have somebody in that position that has been here for a solid decade," Nick Zentner, geology instructor, said. "She understands what we are and what we are trying to do."

COTS, which encompasses all aspects of behavioral, natural and social sciences, had been looking for a candidate that could provide "vision, leadership and support for continuous improvement in all matters concerning the College," according to a statement released on Friday, April 23.

In the summer of 2000, former dean of the COTS, John Ninnemann, left creating a vacancy that until recently Miller filled, as interim dean. Another previous search had been conducted, however, no candidates were deemed eligible at that time.

The COTS search committee began advertising the opening for the fall quarter 2003 with the drastically different results of approximately 40 eligible applicants. Throughout January and February, the committee screened the applicants and conducted telephone interviews. From a pool of 10 applicants, three were selected for on-campus interviews.

"We had a good group of applicants," Roy Savoian, dean of the college of business and chair of the search committee, said. "(We had) a lot of strong candidates for campus interviews. The candidates put a broad pool of faculty members. It was pretty extensive and exhaustive." Soltz reviewed the candidates' information and ultimately made the final decision at the end of last week. Miller will begin her duties as of June 1.

"I’m excited for her," Zentner said. "She has done great things for the (geology) department. I think she has a nice vision for the COTS as well. It’s a positive thing."

**Animal cruelty discussed**

**by Jennifer Turner**

**Staff reporter**

"Most people probably would not advocate the harsh treatment of and outright cruelty to animals, yet it happens every single day. A new club on Central Washington University's campus, Action for Animals (CATA), is focused on educating students and staff about the conditions that animals, specifically primates, are faced with.

"We try to raise issues about animal welfare and animal rights," Laura Schierhoff, CATA's president and a senior psychology, primate behavior and ecology major, said. "CATA and FHA member, she has her heart set on trying to promote vegetarianism, and bring up topics like the exploitation and experimentation of animals."

At 5 p.m. tonight in Randall Hall room 117, AFA is sponsoring a presentation by Matt Rosseil, a noted scientist involved in the non-profit organization in Defense of Animals (IDA). Roger Fouts, co-director of the Chimpanzee Human Communication Institute (CHCI) on campus, will be introducing Rosseil.

"Our fellow animals in our culture and civilization are still viewed as machines," Fouts said. "But they are capable of suffering and they have certain needs and requirements for their general health just like you and I do."

According to the AFA Web site, www.idausa.org, the organization is focused on educating students and staff about the conditions that animals, specifically primates, are faced with. It’s all going to be done by e-mail. People like me feel it is necessary to point out what’s going on here."

Some common chants at the march according to the Central students were: "Gay, straight, black and white, all unite for women's rights; What do we want? Choice! When do we want it? Now! A few prominent women the Central students saw were Maria Cantwell and Hillary Clinton, both in support of the march.

"Who gets to make the decision, the politicians or the people who are affected?" Bedwell asked.

At 5 p.m. Tuesday May 11 at the Chief Owhi Room in the SUB will be "a March for Women’s Lives: Our journey towards feminist activism," a slide-show presentation, explanation of the trip and question and answer session. The FMLA invites students to attend.
CHAT: Execs respond to on-campus queries

continued from 1

enrollment not capped?"

McIntyre’s response to that was short and to the point.

“Well, that’s being discussed,” McIntyre said. “But at the same
time, there is a lot of discussion about the ‘baby boom’ echo, which is the students
graduating from high school in the next several years will basically
reach its peak in 2008. So the legis­lature is saying we should be accommodating that enrollment
growth.”

McIntyre then continued to address the concerns of cutting the wrestling and swimming programs.

“We do get some state support for the athletic programs,” McIntyre said. “But not entirely. A big part
of the athletic program is state support, athletic fee and the income from con­cession contracts from one
kind or another. The decision we reached was reached after three years of study.”

A break in the intense discussion was broken when McIntyre was
asked about a rumor concerning early retirement before her contract was
up. Her response to that filled the room with much needed laughter as
she jokingly accused Matt Schmitt, student trustee, of starting the rumor.

Inevitably the discussion came back to that of the wrestling program.

At the night’s end, it was apparent that both sides of the panel were frus­trated with the situation as Mann
walked out of the room 10 minutes before the broadcast was over.

“I thought it (the discussion) was extremely political,” Mann said.

“They did a very good job of side stepping a lot of questions by giving
a lot of indirect answers which satis­fies most people. However, my
answers did not come directly and when I addressed that problem it was
still dealt indirectly. I was extremely
disappointed and I felt like it was
rehearsed. I felt like they knew what
they were going to say and that they
weren’t going to consider any alter­native reason. They already had
their stance, they weren’t going to be swayed any way and it makes me
sick.”

Soltz had a different take on the night’s event.

“I thought tonight was fine,” Soltz said. “I thought the students were
polite. They asked appropriate
questions. It was a decision that was
made and they don’t agree with [it].”

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(on Third between Main and Pearl)

Charlotte Tullos (left) and Jerilyn McIntyre field questions Monday evening ranging from the importance of supporting
the music department to rumors of early retirement and budgeting rationale.

Charlotte Tullos/Observer

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Charlotte Tullos/Observer

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Located in the Wells Fargo Bank parking lot at 4th & Pearl, in the heart
of historic downtown Ellensburg
from 9:00am to 1:00pm
Entertainment will be furnished
by the Pine Street String Band.
Come and join us for seasonal fruits,
nursery plants, plant starts, baked goods,
handmade soaps and skin care products,
watercraft, hand-sewn fleece
-clothing, pottery, 呈的; defenders
crafts, home-sewn coolie
products, handcrafted rubber stamps,
custom greeting cards, hand-dyed fabrics
and MORE!

The Kittitas County Farmers Market is a non-profit, community
supported organization. For more information call 899-3870.

Carol Turner

CWU Students describe University Court as
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University Court

APARTMENTS
McIntyre lobbies for ed budget in nation's capital
by Marty Maley
Ass. News Editor

Rent, books, food and gas. The cost of attending a four-year institution can be daunting. More students than ever are applying for assistance. Central Washington University President Jerilyn McIntyre felt that someone should talk to our government and explain the problem. So the President went to Washington.

McIntyre addressed Washington's congressional delegations in Washington D.C. April 5 - 9 lobbying for more financial assistance for students.

That assistance will help address increased student financial need. As tuition is scheduled to go up seven percent for next year according to Central's budget planning.

“Our budget is largely made up of the state tax support, the tuition component, and a certain amount that comes from auxiliary like the bookstore and parking,” McIntyre said.

“All the public universities had a big budget cut,” McIntyre said. “We had a 10 percent cut, which basically was the kind of activity that we saw.”

The tuition increase is still essential, McIntyre said, to fund the 900 additional students anticipated to be on Central's campus next year.

“We’re still facing the problem of making sure we have adequate money to cover the instructional cost of the real number of students we have,” McIntyre said.

McIntyre said a fair ratio between state tax support and student support for public universities would be 25 percent from tuition and 75 percent from the state. Currently at Central the 75 percent from tuition and 25 percent from the state.

The Higher Education Act is up for renewal, and with that reauthorization comes the possibility of changes to the act approved by the Senate and the House. The Senate, for example, passed a resolution on March 12 to increase Pell Grant maximums from $4,000 to $4,500 per student. For this resolution to take affect, the House must also pass a similar resolution as a part of the reauthorization process.

McIntyre met with Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray, and Representatives Doc Hastings, Adam Smith and Rick Larsen with three items on her agenda: higher Pell grants, higher loan limits, and greater support of TRIO programs.

Derek Jones
Accretion, athletic teams, clubs, organizations, and student life are all part of what we seek to improve this coming 2004-05 school year. The pending budget crisis has affected more than just clubs, academic departments and sports; it has hurt the very nature and pride of this institution. One issue at a time, step by step, the greatest intentions are to give the power back to students by acting as their spokesperson.

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**Rewrite the Rules**

**Leadership Conference**

"Rewrite the Rules," begins at 8:30 a.m. tomorrow in the SUB. Breakfast, lunch and t-shirt are included. Visit www.cwu.edu/cel/rewiterules.html or call 963-1524 for more details and registration information. Tickets are $10 for students and $20 for faculty and staff.

**Scholarship luncheon**

Ruth Harrington will be honored next Tuesday at 6 p.m., May 4 in the Samelson Union Building Boardroom. Harrington has been collecting money for CWU scholarships by hosting luncheons and donating the proceeds to needy students since it was called the Central Washington State College. CWU will celebrate the 30th anniversary of her luncheons by renaming the existing "Luncheon Scholarship" as the "Ruth Harrington Scholarship." The public event in Harrington's honor will include a pasta buffet. Tickets are $10. To make a reservation call 963-2764, or for the hearing impaired TDD 963-2143. Reservations must be made by tomorrow, tickets are not available at the door.

**Family housing march, meeting**

"Woody" is increasing this quarter and some in family housing say they are feeling slighted. Blackman resides in Jessica Pruitt, sophomore student worker, we have become accustomed to hearing more balanced approach. She starting at the soccer fields by marching at 5:30 p.m. today F8 where a meeting is being held. Pruitters, ages 14 and 12. She also has custody of her nine-year-old niece.

**Student employee of the week**

Jeanne Blackburn, sophomore student, employee, mother.

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**Looking for a Major**

College of Business Information Session

Wednesday, May 5th

5:30 pm in Shaw-Smyser 107

Join us while our faculty discusses preparing for a degree in business, the different areas of specialization and career opportunities.

Pizza and refreshments provided.

For more information contact Debbie Boddy at 963-2931

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**BOD: Advice offered**

continued from 2

the board in general," Figueroa said. "I did most of the communicating between the board and the members whenever one board member didn’t feel like talking to another. Some board members were just not willing to commu­nicate, so it made things a lot harder." But Figueroa said there were times when the board worked well together. "For the most part, the board was one to receive a citation. According to Holcomb, Ted Kolman, owner of the Oak Rail Bar and Grill, had recently unsuccess­fully challenged the ordinance after his establishment received a total of six noise ordinance citations in one week. Kolman was very inter­ested when Holcomb brought the information regarding the states policies on noise ordinances. The lawyers who had argued the first case had not been aware of these policies. So, armed with this new information, Kolman set out on another lawsuit, this time, in Holcobs own words, "to challeng­ing the constitutionality of the ordi­nance."

The job of defending the city’s noise ordinance falls on city attorney, Jim Pidduck. "Ellensburg, like a lot of cities, has a noise ordinance that is subjec­tive and that is not based on decibel readings, but the ordinance does outline, in sub section C, the different factors to be considered when deter­mining what constitutes a noise viola­tion," Pidduck said. Pidduck was unwilling to com­ment on the current lawsuit facing the city or on the argument that the city might not have used the proper proce­dure when submitting the ordinance. "The type of ordinance Ellensburg has falls within the general police powers of cities that are provided for under the state constitution," Pidduck said. "Ordinances such as Ellensburg's have been upheld on at least three different occasions by appellate courts in the state of Washington as well as in Kittitas County Court."

Pidduck also said that a year ago the city’s noise ordinance was chal­lenged on the grounds that it was unconstitutionally vague or over­broad. The courts found it was not and sided in favor of the city. The April 10 court hearing to decide the current case found that the case would have to be decided by a Kittitas County Superior Court. The next court date is set for May 10. the new board work as a team, be open and honest, try to be cohesive and stand up for what is right.

"I think acting as a team will be much more powerful in your accom­plishments," Barbere said. "(It) makes life a lot easier."
...on last week's Observance

Have you ever watched someone talk...I mean, sort of backed off a bit and just watched how their mouth moves, the way they use their hands, how their body language helps to convey meaning? I sometimes imagine I'm from another planet and have never seen a human. The ears are especially fascinating — another communication instrument, unless you are deaf, and then the hands work perfectly fine to convey the finer nuances of communication.

I'm so fascinated with all the manifestations of verbal and nonverbal communication, I'm amazed I ever chose to be a journalist. Trying to convey information with the spoken word is hard enough, but at least your audience has the benefit of voice intonation, eye movement, an upward or downward tilt to the mouth, hand gestures that convey pleasure or displeasure, or body postures that provide clues to your meaning. We have the Sumerians to thank for writing — and what would we do without it?

But written language, as marvelous as it is, is fraught with peril. "Word" is a perfectly clear expression showing how their body language helps to convey meaning? I sometimes imagine I'm from another planet and have never seen a human. The ears are especially fascinating — another communication instrument, unless you are deaf, and then the hands work perfectly fine to convey the finer nuances of communication.

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So, I wrote an opinion that I happen to feel fairly strongly about. Of course I edited my thoughts, but I put it out there. Several people were amused and thought my opinion was right on. A professor I talked to thought it was a tree stumper — but a bit harsh. Another person thought I sounded angry. At least one university employee was offended. (My mother read it and thought it was great.)

Different perceptions from each individual receiver. I wasn't angry when I wrote it, but my readers didn't have the benefit of my unspoken mouth to convey meaning. I was bringing up an issue that had brought me, and other students, close to hysteria, but I didn't mean to offend anyone.

Written communication is tricky that way. I can say "read my lips." All I can say is read my words and hope I'm getting my meaning across. Invariably, however, writers — which means all of us — return to their writing and say, maybe I could have edited my thoughts and said it — or wrote it — differently.

—Martha Goudey-Price

BOD was clearly unprepared

The BOD has come along, or has it? There has been little investigative reporting covering the BOD this year. Even the piece on the Convergence confusion was done slightly favoring the BOD. A popularity contest (and less than 10 percent of the student body) left CWU with a BOD that was clearly unprepared for the responsibilities that their positions entail; a revolution in campus politics was planned. I don't need to list the numerabilities, events and activities the BOD had laid out in their "Quarterly Agendas" that did not happen. Although a few came through the storm of Convergence confusion and self-congratulatory propaganda, has Central been changed? I'd say, not really.

Mark Michael claimed that, "you only really have six months to prove yourself." For those who seek office, I think you can learn from this statement. From the moment you take your oath to the time you leave, you are representing the entire student body. Don't try and reinvent the existing governing body with changes to fit your own desires. There is always room for improvement, but, improvement takes time and needs solid reasoning and genuine thought behind it.

You can prove yourself by acting on behalf of the student body, both active and not active students, supporting growth and advancement for the entire campus community.

Tabitha Williams
Political Science and Social Science Education major

FMLA responds to concerns

Plan B prevents pregnancy

Last week you printed a letter that claimed Plan B, a form of emergency contraceptive that the FDA is considering for over-the-counter see LETTERS, page 7
like to clear up this confusion. Plan B is an abortion pill, RU-486, on the market. This can be taken up to seven weeks into a pregnancy. The point here is that Plan B is not an abortion pill! Plan B is emergency contraceptives available over the counter. It is estimated to cut the rate of unplanned pregnancies in half, as well as prevent hundreds of thousands ofabortions. As for the effects on a woman's body, it is safer than an abortion. 

If you would like more information on Plan B visit www.planbmedqueen.org. To sign a petition urging the FDA to approve over-the-counter sales of Plan B, go to www.feminist.org. Remember, it is your right. If you choose to take on this matter, I hope this information has helped you to form an educated opinion on the subject.

Heather Ellison
President, CWU FMLA

Education plus choice = freedom

As approved by the FDA for emergency contraception, emergency contraception, or Plan B, is not an abortion pill! Plan B is essentially a post-intercourse birth control pill; it will not affect an already existing pregnancy! It simply keeps an egg from implanting, thus preventing the start of development.

On Thursday, April 15, 2004, the CWU Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance hosted a table for CWU students, it may also ultimately cost the university more money because you wanted to save the corporation making something in the neighborhood of $7 billion a year in profit. How did this little company from Arkansas become such a giant? They did so by playing dirty. Wal-Mart is currently the world’s largest corporation making something in the neighborhood of $7 billion a year in profit. How did this little company from Arkansas become such a giant? They did so by playing dirty. Wal-Mart is currently the world’s largest

Voicing Opinions

Wal-Mart: Taking-Over-the-World-Mart?

by Amy Lynn Taylor
Asst. Scene editor

How big is too big? This is the question we must ask ourselves about Wal-Mart. The company behind that bouncy little smiley face is doing a lot more than simply "rolling back prices." Wal-Mart is currently the world’s largest corporation making something in the neighborhood of $7 billion a year in profit. How did this little company from Arkansas become such a giant? They did so by playing dirty. Wal-Mart is currently the world’s largest corporate making something in the neighborhood of $7 billion a year in profit. How did this little company from Arkansas become such a giant? They did so by playing dirty. Wal-Mart is currently the world’s largest

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Orchesis perennial spring concert opens tonight

program coordinator and Orchesis director, said "Extensions" is a good example of the company's broad-based and eclectic productions.

"Our shows have variety in the dances, the dancers and the music," Young said. "The repertoire is never repeated from show to show, so audiences won't see the same performances each season."

More than 10 members of the 40-member company, comprised entirely of Central students, are responsible for choreographing the pieces in "Extensions," and several of them are first-time choreographers.

"(Choreography) is both stressful and enjoyable at the same time," Carrie Menke, senior biology major and first year Orchesis member, said. "Learning something is easier than creating it."

Menke is choreographing a group tap dance number for the production. The Orchesis Dance Company began at Central in 1967 as part of Central's dance program and has grown steadily over the years. Though originally available to students as a class, the growing popularity of the program has prompted Young to require an audition for admission, starting this fall.

"I believe that having to audition students is a good idea for the dance program's growth; this means it's becoming more popular," Young said. "There's a mixed (dance) skill level among the students and we want to make sure our members are capable of the basic dance skills, such as leaps, turns and good alignment."

Marie Galey, senior elementary education major and dance minor with a teaching endorsement, said. "There's a mixed (dance) skill level among the students and we want to make sure our members are adequately skilled dancers."

"There are several classes in the dance program that students can take to work on their basic skills and prepare them for Orchesis," Galey, who is choreographing a modern dance number and a comic ballet for the production, said. "I recommend the dance program to anyone interested in dancing. It is wonderful."

Tickets will be sold at the door, but can also be purchased in the Samuelson Union Building and at the Downtown Pharmacy at 414 N. Pearl Street. General admission is $7 and is $4 for Central students.

For more information contact Young at 963-1937.

Sky-high gas prices plague nation

Local Chevron gas prices reflect national numbers, which have steadily risen to record highs.

Gas prices in Ellensburg

Lowest: $1.95
Four stations
Average: $1.99

Highest: $2.07
East interchange
Chevron

EIA reports that the national average per gallon of regular gasoline is only $1.81.

I think that close to the presidential election, the price will go down," Emily Vosleiten, senior law and justice major, said. "I think that it has a lot to do with politics."

According to the United States Energy Information Administration (EIA), gas prices are projected to rise throughout the summer. The EIA predicts a strong demand for gasoline and low gasoline inventories will add to higher costs.

"I don't like higher gas prices and with the war officially over, I don't understand why gas prices are higher than they were during the war," R.J. Brown, senior public relations major, said.

Gasoline in the United States is not as expensive as it is in some other industrial nations. A gallon of gasoline costs approximately $5 in some European countries, according to economists.

"Two bucks is high compared to Europe it isn't that bad," Seth Miller, senior math and physics major, said.

National price information obtained from
http://www.fuelgaugereport.com/
Ante up! Highs and lows of gambling

by Tyler Davis
Art. Scene editor

Horse races, card games, major league sport teams, the state lotteries, cock fighting - the things people will risk their money on is the hope of garnering an even higher yield. The odds of winning money for even the simplest gambling game are slim (1 in 5 for pull tabs), but most gamblers know their limit. Still, every year, 3 million Americans allow their habits to cross into the dangerous territory known as "pathological gambling." 

Anthropologists predict that people have wagered their property and funds for potential profit for centuries. Today, that practice has grown into a $40 billion industry and is a pastime for nearly 70 percent of the American adult population, according to the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG).

For more help or information on problem gambling, visit Gamblers Anonymous at www.gamblersanonymous.org or the Washington State Council on Problem Gambling at www.wscpg.org.

Playing the rush

With Ellensburg’s Wild Goose Casino under new management, Central Washington University students have the opportunity to test their luck at the gaming tables.

Underage students, many of whom have said Ellensburg has inadequate “under-21” entertainment options, are pleased by the 18 and up return for the gamblers themselves. 

Aside from the financial advantages, the gaming industry provides about 1 million jobs, 370,000 of which are tied to commercial casinos, according to Abraham McLaughlin of the “Frontline.”

And, of course, there is the chance of a major jackpot win or lottery return for the gamblers themselves.

The first time I had a losing night, I knew I was in trouble," he said. "I took twenty bucks, see how you do and leave it at that," Spencer Meier said.

"Pathological gambling" is defined by the National American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries (NASPL) as a progressive disease in which one’s desire and addiction to winning money devastates the lives of not only the gambler, but those he or she has a significant relationship with. More than 3 million Americans suffer from the disease, with an additional 4 to 8 million described as “problem gamblers.” For problem gamblers, the addiction is less significant, but gambling habits still disrupt or damage personal and professional pursuits.

Dr. Robert L. Coster of the Illinois Institute for Addiction Recovery identifies the progression of addictive gambling in three phases:

• The Adventurous Phase: Gamblers experience a big win or a series of big wins, and the excitement motivates them to increase their bets to unreasonable amounts, believing their winning streak will continue.

• The Losing Phase: Gamblers boast about previous wins, while ignoring the fact that they have lost large sums of money. They begin to borrow money to gamble with, and lie to friends and family about why they need the money. Home life deteriorates: debts go unpaid and the gamblers become irritable, restless and withdrawn while gambling hard to regain losses.

• The Desperation Phase: Gambling time increases greatly, accompanied by feelings of remorse, hopelessness, blaming others for troubles and alienation of family and friends.

The gamblers may engage in illegal acts to finance their gambling, and they may experience suicidal thoughts/attempt, arrests for illegal acts, divorce, drug and/or alcohol abuse and/or an emotional breakdown.

A man who anonymously posted his experience with problem gambling on the NCPG Web site said his addiction started after one night of losses.

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A man who anonymously posted his experience with problem gambling on the NCPG Web site said his addiction started after one night of losses.

“The first time I had a losing night, I knew I was in trouble,” he said. “I felt as if I had to go back the next morning to see if I could reclaim my losses.”

He continued on a downward spiral for five years, borrowing what he said was millions of dollars from his friends, family and investors. He was eventually indicted and arrested by the FBI for investment fraud, but has since turned his life around and has quit gambling for good.

“If you have a gambling problem, get help now,” he said. “No matter how bad things are for you now, you can and will get worse if you don’t stop or at least curb problem gambling.”

An NCPG report shows that college students are among the groups most susceptible to problem gambling. Several Central students encourage their peers to keep a level head when trying their money down.

“Gambling is not the bad activity some people say it is,” Mike Wray, sophomore undecided, said. “It can get to be an issue with some people who don’t know when to stop. Even with the new casino, students are hopefully smart enough not to throw their money away.”

Wild Goose has a no-gambling list for people who feel they have a problem. After voluntarily signing the list, patrons are still welcome to the casino’s other facilities but cannot gamble until they have personally spoken to Meier about being taken off the list.

“Ninety-nine percent of (the patrons) are here for recreation and fun, and we do have methods of helping those who have troubles,” Meier said.

Students feel that simple discipline and self-limitation can keep gambling a fun activity rather than a life-altering obsession.

“You take twenty bucks, see how you do and leave it at that,” Spencer Kneify, junior public relations major, said. “If gambling becomes a problem, it’s a problem of the individual, not of the activity.”

Gambling glossary

• Thick’er: a big bet.

• Wise guy: a knowledge- able handicapper or better

• Win only: betting on a competitor to win an event.

• AKA ‘Straight Out’

• Backed: a ‘backed’ sports team is one on which lots of bets have been placed.

Did you know?

• In 2003, Washington State lotteries grossed $660.3 million in sales and gamblers won $98.5 million (NASPL). 

• At least 1% of U.S. adults age 18+ meet criteria for pathological gambling (NCPG).

• An additional 2-3% have less significant but nonetheless serious problems with gambling (NCPG).

• The gaming industry currently grosses $40 billion (and growing) per year, more than film, music, sports, cruise lines and theme parks combined (PBS).

Pathological Gambling Warning Signs

• A certain “high” comes from gambling

• Increased isolation from friends/family

• Declined work performance

• Neglect of basic needs (money for food and rent)

• Lied about how money is spent

• Escape to other excesses (alcohol, drugs, sleep)

• Denial of problem gambling

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CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

By AARON CLEARY & INSTITUTION • 509-963-2143
Spring welcomes farmer’s market

by Candace Young
Staff reporter

The scent of freshly cut flowers, ripe tomatoes and hot-kettle corn sig­ nal the arrival of the 11th annual Kittitas County Saturday Farmer’s Market. The market is a non-profit organization designed to provide a gathering place for producers and consumers of regional agricultural goods. The market will be open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., every Saturday, start­ ing May 1 through October 30. The market is located at the Wells Fargo Bank parking lot at 4th and Pearl.

“It’s a great place for people to come and meet friends,” Carol Beyerl, president of this year’s mar­ ket, said.

Beyerl began her involvement in the market by selling baked goods, which she continues to do every year. The market has become a place to meet people from the surrounding communities and buy local products.

Entertainment events will be part of the market this year. From local bands to art shows, musical theatre to dance performances, the market will host a plethora of entertainment activities.

On opening day, the North Pine String Band will be performing. This will mark the 11th year the band has performed on opening day for the market. Beyerl hopes to have the Central Washington University alumni fire truck present, along with Central cheerleaders and mascot, Wellington. In addition, there will be a drawing, which market goers may enter, for a basket filled with products from the participating vendors.

“It’s fun to see all different kinds of people come to the market,” Gloria Wright, vendor at the market, said. “It’s nice to be out in the community.”

Gloria and her husband, Steve, sell dahlias at flowers at the market, along with fresh produce.

The entertainment this year includes a performance by Bill and the G-Strings. The band is composed of Central Washington University pro­ fessors Bill Chandler and Robert Lupton along with Nate Rich and Central students Jeremy Derosing and Travis Beyerl and. On June 12 the market will debut the local band day. Expect to find a surplus of season­ al wares, including organic produce, farm fresh local produce, arts & crafts, pottery, cut flowers, jewelry, nursery plants and plant starts, cook­ ies, skin care products, wood crafts, photography, and kettle corn, among other products at the market.

“We are like a mall without the walls,” Beyerl said. “You can find food, gifts and clothing here.”

Children’s Day is slated for May 15 this year, with performances from Valley View Choir, Lincoln School Mirambas, Mt. Stuart Chorus, Flaming Fiddlers Youth Group and Sue Wilson’s Children’s Chorus. The Clymer Museum, Gallery One and Creative Expressions will be hosting children’s events throughout the day. The best part of the market for the students is to get a chance to meet a part of Ellenberger,” Wright said.

For further information regarding the market and participating vendors, contact the Kittitas County Farmer’s Market at 899-3870.

GET OUT OF TOWN

Thursday, April 29
Air - 8 p.m. The Paramount Theatre, Seattle, $26-$31

Friday, April 30
Panjabi MC - 9 p.m. Showbox, Seattle, $22

Saturday, May 1
Urgé Overkill - 10 p.m. Gneeland, Seattle, $15

Sunday, May 2
Andrew Tosh - Palladium, Olympia, $15 presale, $20 at door

Tuesday, May 4
Belle & Sebastian - 8 p.m. The Paramount Theatre, Seattle, $26

Corrections

The Holocaust Speaker Series on page 9 of the April 22 Observer was incorrectly referred to as a film series. It is a speaker series. The next speaker will be Peter Metzelaar. 7 p.m., May 5, McConnell Auditorium.

Kelly Byrd’s gender was misidentified on page 11 of last week’s Observer. Byrd is male.
Center offers services to students

By Gwendolyn Escobar
Staff reporter

The Empowerment Center offers services to a growing population on Central Washington University's campus, the non-traditional student. A non-traditional student is at least 25-years-old, is in a long term domestic partnership and/or has dependents.

"About 18% of the student body at CWU is non-traditional students," Karina Whitney, director of the empowerment center, said.

Central has much to offer non-traditional students.

"The Quest" newsletter is published once a month by Editor Leah Shelton.

"This is an incarnation of 'The REACH!' a publication from three years before," Shelton said.

A resource book is available to non-traditional students which includes community and resource information regarding the campus and local community.

Last year, the Empowerment Center distributed 300 copies of the book.

"We're the one stop shop," Whitney said. "We like to provide the services to direct (non-traditional students) to the right agency or person."

The resource book is updated every spring. Students can get a free copy from the Empowerment Center located in SUB room 218.

Non-traditional students have access to a student lounge located in the Owhi room. There is a television set and a toy box for children.

For more information contact the Empowerment Center at 963-3727 or visit their Web site at www.cwu.edu/center.

Local winery tour helps fund international trip

by Kayla Knott
Staff reporter

Delicious wine, fun games, prize giveaways and a good cause are all part of the Bridges Abroad Japanese Exchange Program fund raiser Saturday, May 1.

The event, which lasts from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., is sponsored by Yakima Valley Wine Tours and includes bus transportation to five lower valley wineries, wine tasting, lunch and chances to win great prizes.

"There will be a MC on each bus and two days touring Tokyo. The wineries include the Bon Aire, Taft, Maison de Paggett, Silverlake and Hyatt, all of which are located in the Yakima Valley. Individuals of all ages are welcome to attend the fund raiser, but the wine tasting is for 21 years and up.

For more information, or to purchase tickets for the tour, call 962-6013 or 962-8785.

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Softball sets team record for wins

by Marie Alkire
Staff reporter

Out of the softball team's last four games, the first two against Western Oregon University (WOU) were a lost cause, but the next two against Saint Martin’s College (SMC) broke school records.

The first game ended in a 1-0 Central Washington University loss.

Central held WOU at scoreless until the top of the seventh inning when one run was scored. The Wildcats tried to come back but didn’t get any hits in the final four innings. Senior pitcher Jill McCarthy struck out five, allowing only four hits in the entire game.

In the second game WOU took an early lead with three runs in the first inning and one in the second.

Central’s offense didn’t allow anymore runs for the next two innings and got one for themselves in the fourth inning, but it was not enough. In the fifth and sixth inning WOU scored five more runs while Central only produced one. The first of Central’s runs were made in the fourth inning when freshman left-fielder Molly Maxfield, who was pinch running for senior third baseman Annie Franks, scored off freshman catcher Allie Kaufman’s single to center field. The second run was a homer to left center by sophomore right fielder Paty Martinez, but still left the game in a 9-2 loss for the Wildcats.

“I think we took them too lightly,” Maxfield said. “They have improved a lot since the last time we played them. Also our hitting wasn’t on that day and we made a lot of errors.”

Saturday’s games proved to be a confidence builder and much better for the team, with two victories against SMC.

In the first game, McCarthy only allowed one hit and the defense only committed one error, not allowing a SMC runner past second base.

During the second inning, Martinez scored when junior catcher Brittany Gray grounded out to the pitcher. Freshman shortstop Catrina Robertson also scored stealing home. The Wildcats shut out SMC 2-0 to snap their losing streak.

“We were flat against WOU and knew we had to step it up, so that’s what we did.” McCarthy said.

In their second game, the Wildcats left with an 8-1 victory.

In the first inning, freshman first baseman Mallory Holtman doubled to left field allowing James to score. Freshman pitcher Sara Badgley also scored off a fielding error by SMC’s center fielder Krishanna Nasi. In the third inning junior right fielder Breida Kneer hit a single to right field, then Franks homered down the left field line.

During the fourth inning, three more runs were scored. Junior pitcher Kristin Powell scored on an illegal pitch, then Schmidt doubled to right center allowing Holtman and sophomore designated player Rachel Keen to score. Their final run was scored in the sixth inning when Keen scored off Schmidt’s single up the middle.

By the end of the four games, McCarthy had surpassed Central’s school records for shutout games and strikeouts. She has had eight shutouts this season, nine in her career and 95 strikeouts in 2004.

The team also broke the school record of 20 wins set in 2000, with their 21st victory in their last game.

The Wildcats will need to win at least one of the six games coming up against Humboldt State to grasp the first winning season in Central’s softball history.

The games will be at 1 and 3 p.m. on April 29, 1 and 3 p.m. on April 30 and 9 and 11 a.m. on May 1. All of these games will take place on Central’s home field.

“We have played Humboldt before and they were all close games,” Maxfield said. “We’re looking forward to playing them again but it’s hard to play any team six times in a row. Right now they are ranked first.”

The Wildcats will need to take half, if not more, of the games against Humboldt to have a chance at the postseason.

“Our chances of going to regionals are slim to none but it would be great to spoil their (Humboldt’s) chance.” McCarthy said.
Track team succeeds throughout Oregon
by Jon Menter
Staff reporter

Central Washington University’s track and field team watched a nail-biting finish in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) multi-event and witnessed another school record fall at the University of Oregon.

The reigning GNAC male athlete of the week, senior Michael Morrison, won the men’s decathlon at the GNAC multi-event at McArthur Field in Western Oregon Friday. Morrison was behind when the competition began Thursday, but came back and edged out Western Washington’s Josh Freeman and won the decathlon with 6,342 points. Morrison needed 6,400 points to qualify him for nationals.

“Mike had a real solid performance,” Coach Kevin Adkisson said. “He put up some strong marks and competed really well with him (Josh). Mike chipped away in every event even though he didn’t start really well. He had a tough long jump, but after that he did really well. He had a really good 400 mark.”

Morrison had a rough start Thursday. Morrison said he knew if he could maintain the momentum coming off the end of the day, then it would be a good decathlon. On Friday he started by taking second in the 110 meter hurdles before winning with a time of 49.92 seconds in the 400.

“I knew I could make some points in the 400 and the 110,” Morrison said. “If I had a good day, then nobody in the conference could keep up.”

The competition was close between Freeman and Morrison, but Morrison edged Freeman out to win the decathlon by winning the 1500 with a time of 4:53.15.

“It’s a bitter sweet victory,” Morrison said. “I’m happy to get points for my team, but at the same time I came so close to nationals but fell short. Overall I was happy with my performance.”

Sophomore Creasp Watson held his own in the stiff competition of senior catcher Ryan Miller described what Wilson is like outside of base- ball and appreciated Wilson’s sense of humor.

“Scott is a happy go lucky guy and easy going,” Miller said. “He likes playing cards and jokes all the time. He is just a great guy to be around.”

When not catching, Wilson is often a designated hitter. It looks generally easy, but he spoke of the invisi- ble struggle.

“My father actually was the coach at Central when the other two guys had 23-game hitting streaks that I beat,” Wilson said. “I was a bat boy for them.”

Although some athletes may insist on or pursue their individual records, Wilson cares about the team more than anything.

“I would rather have a 24-game winning streak than a 24-game hitting streak,” Wilson said.

Assistant Coach Lloyd Gage described Wilson as a good teammate.

“Wilson is a great team guy,” Gage said. “He is a team leader and also a captain. He constantly pulls for all the teammates.”

One of Wilson’s teammates, a Japanese proverb says that a son takes over from his father; for Wilson, it is baseball. At the same time when his parents raised him, Wilson cares about the team more than anything. It’s my next favorite sport,” Wilson said.

Wilson, who is from Ellensburg, fully enjoys his surroundings.

“It’s out of my control,” Wilson said.

Instead, Wilson clearly stated his goal for last season. The team has a chance to advance to the regional tournament in NCAA Division.

“My goal this season is to win our region,” Wilson said. “Individually, it’s just no regret.”

While many Central students com-plain about boredom in Ellensburg, Wilson, who is from Ellensburg, fully enjoys his surroundings.

“I like fly fishing. I usually go to Yakima River or somewhere in Montana because my fiancé is there. It’s my next favorite sport,” Wilson said.

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Wildcats get the thorn in the Rose state

by Michael Leeper
Staff reporter

The trip to Oregon didn’t go as planned for the Central Washington baseball team this weekend. The Wolves from Western Oregon University (WOU) took three of four from the visiting Wildcats. There was, however, some good news from the weekend. The Wildcats were named eighth best team in the Western region this week; their highest ranking since joining Division II baseball three years ago.

"At least, we feel like we are finally getting some respect," senior catcher Scott Wilson said. Saturday was a rough day for the Wildcats, who lost both games.

Game one was all Wolves all game. Senior second baseman Jerret McKeehan reached base four times in the game and scored two runs.

Game two was a heartbreaking loss for the Wildcats after they fought with WOU until the end before falling just short in extra innings, 2-1. Senior pitcher Brian Esparza had his second great outing in as many starts, going seven and one third innings while only giving up four hits and two earned runs. Esparza received the loss despite his great performance on the mound. Both teams received great pitching performances from their starters, but in the eighth inning, the Wolves played fundamental base

bats to bring home the winning run. After a lead off walk by Esparza, the Wolves successfully sacrificed the runner to second and that led to the game winning hit. One more note from the game was Wilson’s school record 24-game hitting streak was snapped.

"If we are fine, obviously it was a let down, but we have a couple of double headers, so there is no reason why we can’t win out," senior pitcher Kevin Olson said.

On Sunday, the Wildcats were able to split with the WOU by winning the second game of the doubleheader. In game one, the Wolves charged out of the gates with a four-run first inning. This turned out to be too much for the Wildcats to recover from; they lost the game 12-9. Senior first baseman Brian Thomson and junior outfielder Troy Martin both had solo homeruns in the game for the Wolves. The first five hitters in the Wildcat lineup went nine for 23 (.390 avg.) on the afternoon. Junior pitcher Eric Carlson pitched five strong innings in relief. Carlson gave up only five hits and one run in his five innings of work.

The Wolves got their only win of the game in two runs on Sunday. Behind the solid pitching of Olson and timely hitting, the Wildcats won 6-4. Olson threw five and two thirds innings, while allowing seven hits and three earned runs. The win was Olson’s fifth of the year, the game was saved by senior pitcher Rob Stumpf, his seventh save of the year. Kohl and Wilson each went deep for the Wildcats.

"We pressed, we didn’t play our game," said senior Dave Shroty.

The Wildcats lost their makeup game 12-9 against Lewis-Clark State on Tuesday to drop their record to 22-18. Come support the Wildcats this weekend against Northwest Nazarene on Friday and Saturday at Tomlinson Field. Game one on Friday starts at 1 p.m. with game two following at 4 p.m. Saturday’s games start at noon and game two will follow at 3 p.m.

A real American hero on, off the field

Living in America comes with responsibilities. Freedom is something that isn’t cheap. Men and women have died for rights that make America the greatest country in the world. One of those men was a man who died Friday in Afghanistan, fighting for something not because he believed in war, but because he believed in America.

His name was Pat Tillman. What makes this man more unique than any other man or woman that has put their life on the line? Tillman’s was set to make millions of dollars playing professional football. Tillman was a defensive back for the Arizona Cardinals when the events of September 11 happened. He and his brother Kevin, who played AAA baseball for Cleveland’s minor league, saw an opportunity to be true Americans. They enlisted and became Rangers, a soft spoken, kind hearted Tillman for the Arizona Cardinals State University and played safety for the Arizona Cardinals. He had graduated over his great performance in the game 11-3.8 GPA. Tillman was loyal to the Arizona so when the Rams tried to lure him with more money he turned them down. And when he made his decision to enlist, he walked away from a contract with the Cardinals that would earn him more than three million dollars. Tillman wasn’t looking for publicity by enlisting; in fact he didn’t even hold a press conference. When arrogant, loud mouthed football players whine and compare what they do for a living with war; a soft spoken, kind hearted Tillman proved that football is just a game and war is real.

Tillman enlisted on May of 2002, only months after getting married. In an interview he said he couldn’t stand by and call himself an American without doing something that he believes in; fighting for freedom when our freedom was being tested. Those that knew him were stunned and saddened along with the sports world with the news that Tillman died. Football players that don an ASU or a Cardinals’ jersey will never wear numbers 42 and 40, his numbers in college and in the pros. A memorial to his memory is set for outside of Sun Devil stadium. America lost a real hero Friday, even though that hero wasn’t looking to be one.

Central Sports briefs

by Andrew Grinaker
Sports editor

Football

This Saturday at Tomlinson Field, fans will have their first look at the 2004 Central Washington University football team. The football team will host their annual "Spring Game" after completing winter practices. The team will face each other, switching offense and defensive players as the game progresses. Central’s spring game is similar to the annual "Purple and Gold" spring game that the University of Washington had last Saturday at Husky Stadium.

The community and Central students are welcome to watch the 10 a.m. start this Saturday.

Roberts to NFL

Roberts to NFL

The Wildcats have sent their second football player in as many years to the National Football League (NFL). On Monday, Jake Roberts, a 5-year veteran of the Wildcat football program signed a undrafted free agent contract with the Tennessee Titans. Roberts was one of 27 undrafted players the Titans signed on Monday.

Central Washington Defensive tackle Lance Gibson signed a free agent contract with the New York Jets last year near the same date. Roberts, an all-Great Northwest Athletic Conference selection, led the Wildcats last season with 67 receptions for 838 yards and 12 touchdown catches. Roberts also placed himself in the all-time record books. Roberts finished his career third in receiving yards and second in receptions.

Roberts graduated from University High School in 1999 before coming to Central.

Opinion by
Jonathan Meier
Staff reporter

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San Diego, Manning would be the last quarterback that I would want to lead my team. If he did play for the Chargers, fans and the media would be breathing down his neck all season. I would hate Manning and further fuel my desire to root against players that I hate (Jeremy Shockey). Along the same lines, nothing is worse in sports when an athlete no longer wants anything to do with something in which he or she is involved.

Manning isn't the first athlete to make it public he wouldn't play for a particular team. In fact, all athletes forced to teams that they had to work with athletes that he hadn't seen the athlete play before. Shouldn't the athlete have some say in where he or she is all going to happen?

With the decision, Manning will have to prove himself in a new town (New York City) that lives its sports lives by the phrase, "What have you done for me lately?" Good luck Eli, good luck.

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Get Outdoors: Biking into the uncharted hills

by Amanda Schank
Staff reporter

Biking has pedaled a long and beaten trail from the days of colored streamers and handlebar baskets, to a new world of trick jumps and high speeds.

Ellensburg's roads and the nearby Taneum and Cle Elum areas provide a network of trails and streets for downhill, cross-country or road biking. No matter the location or type, exercise and fun usually go hand-in-hand with springtime riding.

"I prefer biking to anything else because if you do it well, it's always smooth," Tim Runge, junior communication studies major, said. "It's a Zen sort of thing. You get in the zone and you just cruise."

Past the initial two tires and a chain, the world of biking divides into three main categories - cross-country, downhill and road biking.

Cross-country mountain biking involves distances of 10 to 20 miles on off-road terrain. Graham Johnston, an employee at the Recycle Bicycle Shop, suggests Fishhook Flats trail for beginners and the Taneum Ridge and North Fork Taneum trails for more intermediate riders. All three trails are part of a larger trail system in the Taneum area off Interstate 90.

Also found in the Taneum area is downhill mountain biking. As the more extreme branch of biking, downhill biking is a free-riding combination of jumps and speed. The Taneum Ridge and Gooseberry Flat trails in Taneum and the Rat Pack trail in the Taneum area host natural terrain parks for riders. Johnston recommends bringing more than one car for shuttling up and down the hill.

"It can take long to drive up and then it could be only a seven minute downhill ride, but you go faster and get to jump a lot," Johnston said. "It's really fun."

Either form of mountain biking allows the possibility of injury.

"A good day of mountain biking is when you're sore and have at least one or two scratches," Runge said. "If you haven't wounded yourself somehow, you're not trying."

Unlike mountain biking, the level of extreme in road biking isn't found in the terrain but in the faster speeds. Road biking requires a paved road and provides a low impact, high intensity workout. Runge says Canyon Road, the road to Selah and Highway 10 are all road biker friendly.

Whatever the type of biking, Sophia Росales, freshman undecided major, said, "It's a fun sport. There is nothing else I look forward to more than 'Monday night football,' or just laying around all day Sunday watching countless games. There has to be some way that the NFL can extend the season. arena football is the most boring version of football ever invented. If only there was some kind of happy medium."

I realize this is a hope that is probably impossible on many different levels; however, pro football is just too good to be so short. It doesn't help that the NFL draft takes place in April, because all that does is make me want to see the new draft picks in action as soon as possible.

Baseball and basketball have the same teams on top every year, but in the NFL, the champions tend to be up in the air. When watching baseball you know the Yankee will do well, and in basketball you know the Lakers will be at the top. In football it seems to be different each year. It is the mystery of which team will step it up that brings the viewing public back each season. With the Super Bowl being the most watched television event each year, I would think that the television networks would be doing everything they could to extend the season.

All I ask is that the season just goes year round. Is that so much to ask? Although that is impossible, I still can't help but complain. Even if it could be extended four or five more weeks, I could be happy waiting. I guess I will just have to wait for the upcoming season and deal with my NFL withdrawals by watching the Mariners, who are better off not watched.

Two Kittitas country residents bike their way through one of the many trails in the area. photo courtesy of marintrails.com

Forget baseball, bring on football now

Arena football is the most boring version of football ever invented

While baseball season is beginning and basketball is ending, I can't help but wish that the football season was closer. It seems as if the season is shorter than any other sport. There is nothing else I look forward to more than "Monday night football," or just laying around all day Sunday watching countless games. There has to be some way that the NFL can extend the season. arena football is the most boring version of football ever invented. If only there was some kind of happy medium.

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