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Ballot initiatives range from education to gambling

I-872 would change Washington's primary election system

by Kathryn Lake
Staff reporter

Initiative 872 would change Washington's primary to a style where voters can pick any candidate on the ballot and the top two advance to the general election.

Washington's 70-year-old blanket primary, which allows voters to pick any candidate regardless of the candidate's party, was found unconstitutional by a federal court last year. The legislature passed a top-two primary as a replacement earlier this year, but Gov. Gary Locke partially vetoed it. Locke said he believes it to be flawed, and could lead to "endless litigation" and less voter participation.

The Montana-style primary requires voters to choose a political party in the primary and only vote for candidates in that party for partisan races.

Supporters, including Secretary of State
see I-872, page 3

I-892 would allow more open gaming in bars, restaurants

by Natalie McCullough
Staff reporter

Scratch tickets can be fun, but do Washington voters want electronic scratch-ticket machines added to non-tribal gambling establishments? Initiative 892 offers electronic scratch ticket machines as a means to lower property taxes.

Sponsors who put together the statement for I-892 in the Voter's Pamphlet call it a "win-win revenue-neutral tax cutting initiative."

Opponents who put together the statement against I-892 in the Voter's Pamphlet say, "Gambling would double - as would the social problems associated with gambling."

"I-892 is the most unique tax cut initiative we've ever offered because it substantially lowers property taxes for citizens without costing the government a penny," said Tim Eyman, in an article he wrote for HeraldNet.com. "I-892 imposes a 35 percent user fee on electron-

see I-892, page 5

I-884 would raise state sales tax to improve the education system

by Bob Kirkpatrick
Staff reporter

While both the opponents and supporters of Initiative 884 agree on the need to fix Washington's educational funding, they don't agree that I-884 is the way to go about it.

If it passes, I-884 will increase the state sales tax from 6.5 percent to 7.5 percent and generate roughly $1 billion annually for education. The Office of Financial Management says the initiative would raise $4.7 billion in the first five years.

Kittitas County's sales tax would jump to 9 percent if I-884 passes, said Judy Pless, the county's budget and finance director.

Proponents believe the "penny-on-the-dollar" increase is minimal, as it will fund everything from reduced class sizes in K-12 schools to higher enrollments at state-funded colleges and universities. Opponents argue the initiative's language is deceptive and that
see I-884, page 4

I-297 would change rules for clean-up of radioactive waste

by Natalie McCullough
Staff reporter

The Tri-Cities residents' running joke about six-legged frogs found along the Columbia River could be eliminated by Initiative 297. I-297 centers on clean-up activities at the Hanford Nuclear Site and seeks to prevent more radioactive waste from arriving in the state until Hanford is cleaned up. The initiative also assigns funding for public involvement in the supervision of clean up and provides a tax on funds used to clean up the Hanford site.

Opponents of I-297 believe that passing the initiative would destroy agreements held currently with other states for them to accept wastes from Washington.

If I-297 is challenged and the courts uphold it, opponents believe Washington runs a high risk that other states will begin adopting similar laws. Nevada, New Mexico and South
Police Briefs

Compiled by Jennifer Turner
News editor

Thanks for the update
Oct. 21 - Power Street, Cle Elum
A 24-year-old man called in to report that after waking up he had such bad gas pains below his belly button that he almost fainted.

Just do it
Oct. 21 - Upper Pesh Point Road, Cle Elum
A woman called in to report a horse that had been chasing her dogs. The dog also growled at her when she tried to run him off, but she didn't want to shoot him.

What do you call a paranoid kleptomaniac with amnesia? Oct. 21 - Canyon Road
A woman called in to report that she had taken things out of a son's car. The car was actually someone else's, so she apologized but the real owners were upset. At the time of the call, they were still angry and waiting for her outside of her trailer.

Basement ghost
Oct. 21 - E. 3rd Avenue
A woman reported that the door to her basement was not locked and the lights were on. She also informed police that the last time she had been in the basement she had turned them off.

911 as a parenting hotline
Oct. 22 - Garden Avenue, Cle Elum
A woman called in to request that an officer talk to her 14-year-old son about skipping school.

Call back in another hour
Oct. 22 - W. 11th Avenue
It was reported that a dog had been barking for the last two hours.

Maybe he sleeps better on tile
Oct. 23 - Camody-Munro
It was reported that in the bathroom of the C wing on the first floor, a 20-year-old male was found unconscious, but breathing.

Wait, go back to the part about there being estates in Kittitas
Oct. 23 - Alpine Estates, Kittitas
A man called in to report a 4-year-old girl playing in the street. He was concerned because he almost hit her while driving his vehicle. Also, he believes her father uses meth.

Good thing they weren't reporting a murder
Oct. 24 - Roslyn
The reporting party called from California to report that their home had been broken into sometime this last month, and that the perpetrator had probably come in through the window.

The Sherminator
Oct. 24 - N. Spokane Street
It was reported that a 20-year-old man named Sherman was refusing to leave the residence.

A different type of bad Gene
Oct. 25 - N. Main Street
The reporting party called to complain that their brother was being beligerant and "going nuts." Reportedly, the subject also had two knives and was threatening other people in the area.

Planned Parenthood of Central Washington
312 North Pine, Ellensburg
509-925-7113  www.ppcsentwa.org

Birth control
Emergency contraception
Annual checkups
Pregnancy testing

1.800.230.PLAN

Presidential race too close to call

by Danny Bergman
Staff reporter

The race for presidency is down to the final stretch. With the race too close to call, there's no predicting what could happen.

The key issues in this race are the war in Iraq, the economy, healthcare and stem cell research. Many students have also expressed concern about a potential draft taking place, though George W. Bush promises that there will be no draft while he's in office.

"I don't think it was okay that we invaded Iraq, but we shouldn't have sent so many of our troops in. I know we've had help from other countries, but it's mostly our troops there," Hewitt said. Kerry has had little to say about the war until recently. He now states that for us to be successful we need to retain our allies to take the load off of American troops, train Iraqis to fight along side us and be more focused on where and who we're fighting.

"There are similarities between Bush and Kerry and their plans, but I think Kerry's plan is more able," Hanson said.

Another issue Bush and Kerry plan to tackle is healthcare. Bush is against receiving prescription drugs from Canada until we have a way of inspecting all incoming drugs and don't seem to be seeking to promote anything.

Kerry has a plan to lower premiums of healthcare by $1,000 and that he will import drugs from Canada if elected, but has yet to give a specific plan on how he would do so.

"I'm for importing drugs costs if it lowers healthcare, but I can see where Bush is coming from," Weston said. Bush has specifically promised not to raise taxes on families earning less than $300,000. Even though his record shows him voting for higher taxes, there have been no instances on what kinds of taxes he voted on.

"I would agree more with Kerry's plan for taxes," Rebecca Powell said.

Creating jobs is a huge issue as well.

Kerry and the Democratic Party claim that 2.3 million jobs have been lost in the last four years and that Kerry would give some tax breaks to the businesses that keep employees in America.

Bush claims that since he's been in office, 2.4 million jobs have been created.

"The end, Bush has created more jobs than lost, so I would have to go with Bush's plan," said Bush supporter Kristin Collum, education major.

With the election nearing its end, only a few states remain undecided. Florida, Ohio and Iowa are a few swing states that could decide the election, so watch them closely.
I-297: Waste to be shipped to federal sites for permanent storage

continued from 1

Carolina are designated federal nuclear waste repositories and would be the first to adopt these laws. The Department of Energy currently plans to ship over 90 per cent of Hanford's radioactive waste to these sites for permanent storage.

The big question is, what happens to Washington's radioactive waste if other states adopt similar initiatives? The answer is, the waste already at Hanford stays at Hanford.

Supporters of I-297 say it may carry many requirements for regulating hazardous waste sites, but can be refined into three words: "no more, until." This means no more waste if other states adopt similar nuclear waste repositories and would be the first to adopt these sites for permanent storage.

I-872: Initiative could increase voter turnout

continued from 1

Sam Reed, believe it will increase voter participation because it would allow voters to cross party lines again, much like the blanket primary.

"I-872 restores the power of choice to the voter," said Ross Beaulaurier, freshmen undeclared.

The state's political parties and the League of Women Voters are I-872's main opponents. They argue two democrats or two republicans could end up facing each other in General Elections.

"I think the primary should be kept the way it is. The change is really shady to me. You would be, effectively cutting out a lot of potential candidates and beliefs," said Jennifer Estroff, residence hall coordinator for University Housing and New Student Programs.

Freshmen Eriq Law, undeclared, is a supporter of I-872.

"We should just have a candidate that's the best from both parties, a demopublican," Law said.

Gubernatorial candidates vary on many state issues

by Carol Jobek
Staff reporter

Democrat Christine Gregoire, attorney general, is running against Republican Dino Rossi, a state senator, in Washington's 2004 gubernatorial race.

Rossi was the first woman elected to attorney general in 1992 and was re-elected in 1996 and 2000. She served as the director of the Washington Department of Ecology from 1988 to 1992 where she negotiated with the federal government for safe cleanup of radioactive waste.

In 1998, she announced the settlements against the tobacco industry and Washington will be receiving $4.5 billion from the case. Gregoire has chaired The Legacy Foundation to develop anti-smoking education programs around the nation. She filed a complaint to the U.S. District Court in 2002 to get $97.5 million lost by the state in Eiron bonds.

"I believe in a brighter future for our state," said Gregoire, in a campaign pamphlet. "That's why I'm running for governor with a plan to lead Washington in the right direction."

Unlike Gregoire, Rossi has not had a long career in politics. Initially, he built a successful career in commercial real estate and was co-founder of the Eastside Commercial Bank. Rossi then became interested in politics and in 1996 became state senator for the 5th Legislative District and was re-elected in 2000.

Christine Gregoire

Dino Rossi

As senator, Rossi was a leader on budget issues and became chairman of the Senate Ways & Means Committee, which writes the state's budget. He also worked on other issues such as funding for the developmentally disabled community, legislation to punish drunk drivers and secured funding for Hispanic/Latino health clinics.

"I am running for governor because I believe Washington state needs new leadership and a fresh start," said Rossi on his Web site.

Both candidates said they have fresh ideas for the governor's office. Gregoire's plan is to create more jobs, improve education and provide affordable health care. Rossi stands on the ideal of small government with less bureaucracy and few regulations. This, he believes, will lead to more jobs and create more state revenue.

During a visit to Central last spring, Rossi highlighted his main issue as improving Washington state's job climate by changing the culture of state government.

Last week during a campaign swing through Ellensburg, Gregoire cited healthcare as the "defining issue in this race. I believe that healthcare is a struggle hold on our economy. It's our greatest drain on our state government."

On the issue of education, the candidates said they have big plans for the universities and colleges in Washington. Gregoire wants to increase state funding and is looking into adding a new four-year university to ease the high enrollment problems in other colleges. Rossi supports giving colleges and universities flexibility in setting tuition, but wants to assure prices don't rise too high making students unable to afford higher education.

"I'm on the fence on this race," said Seth Shea, junior public relations major. "I wish there was more focus on what can be done as opposed to what the other candidate hasn't done."

Rachel Guillermo contributed to this story.

Where they stand

I-884
Gregoire — For
Rossi — Against
Canadian drug importation
Gregoire — For
Rossi — For
Smoking Ban
Gregoire — For
Rossi — Against
Gay Marriage
Gregoire — No opinion
Rossi — Against

Study Tip #2:
SHOW UP FOR CLASS
READ YOUR BOOKS

HAIR COLOR HAIR CUTS SKIN CARE

Bluestone Academy
School of Cosmetology Arts
Call Now For An Appointment 962-3184

Oak Railroad
Halloween Party
Saturday Night
Costume Contest
Vacation Giveaway
and other prizes
New Surround Sound & Light Show
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Timothy Park
A Residential Duplex Community in Ellensburg, WA.
1/2 off special
First month's rent 1/2 off when you sign up before November 30th

3 bedroom 2 bath units
Full size washer/dryer
Gas fireplace with thermostat
Single carport and garage
Dishwasher
Microwave
Private patio

1000 E. Harvest Loop #300
962-1300
www.timothypark.net

Students question what Nethercutt, Murray would bring to the Senate

by Bridget Pechtel
Staff reporter

With commercials intended to deface the opposition, the Senate race has quickly become a controversial issue. Students on Central Washington University's campus have begun to question what is that Patty Murray or George Nethercutt will bring to office if elected. Rather than wanting to know what it is that either has done wrong, students want to know what will be done right.

Kasey Kahlman, junior political science major, has become disillusioned with the entire Senate race. "Nethercutt and Murray have nothing better to do than take cheap shots at their opposition," Kahlman said, "rather than expressing to voters what they will do if elected.

To help students get into the right state of mind to vote they need to be educated about the candidates and policies.

Patty Murray, Washington state's current senator, has taken the motto "putting Washington state first," and is currently serving her second term. She also acts as an advocate for education and less crowded and more productive classroom. Murray's drive for better education has helped increase her vote.

"Education helped, and still helps to build our country by giving its people the tools needed to have better lives, better economies, better infrastructures, a better society and a better nation as a whole," Woodruff said.

Murray has worked to open new domestic and international markets for Washington. She is quoted in the Voters' Pamphlet as commenting, "farmers and ranchers to be crucial to our state. By cutting overseas tax incentives and opening up jobs in Washington, we will be taking care of our own.

A final issue that Murray is working on is a plan to bring America's troops home safely, as well as a plan against terror which can be better accessed on her Web site or the Voters' Pamphlet.

Kasey Kahlman, junior political science major, knows his vote will go to Nethercutt. "His social policies regarding homosexuality and his proac­tive stance on education is the main issue in America's troops by voting for his Web site at www.nethercutt.com. George Nethercutt has been a representative in Congress since 1995. According to the Voters' Pamphlet he believes in strong leadership to create jobs locally, defending Washington's values and to provide better health care.

If elected, Nethercutt has promised on his Web site to enact a plan to help families by voting for permanent tax relief and accessible health care. To protect senior citizens living in Washington, he will make prescription drugs affordable and has pledged to never cut Social Security.

Educational reform has been a major issue on Nethercutt's agenda. He was involved in a large spending increase to ensure that all children will be educated. As a representative, according to his Web site, he expandd funding to allow more students the chance of a college education. Nethercutt believes that quality higher education is the main issue in expanding the job market in America.

As an advocate for the environment, Nethercutt will decrease the number of chemicals used in Washington's agriculture. He supports fair taxation for farmers and small business owners, as well as unrestricted access for these workers to export at a global level.

Nethercutt is quoted on his Web site as a consistent voter in supporting America's troops by voting for pay increases as well as military benefits.

Grant McDonald, senior political science and history major, knows his vote will go to Nethercutt. "I like the way that he supports our troops," McDonald said. "His policies that he wants to enact are good, not great. I don't agree with his social policies regarding homophobia and abortion, but I feel he has more to offer Washington state than Patty Murray."

To learn more about Representative George Nethercutt, visit his Web site at www.nethercutt.com.

PUBLIC EDUCATION IS THE BEDROCK OF OUR DEMOCRACY.

Patty Murray
U.S. Senator

Funding for higher quality in Washington schools, full funding for special education and less crowded and more productive classrooms. Murray's drive for better education has helped increase her votes.

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To learn more about Representative George Nethercutt, visit his Web site at www.nethercutt.com.
Five-term congressman faces WSU alum for 4th Congressional District seat

by Swan Vazquez
Staff reporter

On Nov. 2, what congressman or congresswoman will Central students pick to represent them? Central Washington University resides in the 4th Congressional District where the current congressman is Republican Doc Hastings. A former Central Washington University alum, Hastings received a degree in business administration. He is running for his sixth term. Hastings currently has a spot on the House Rules Committee. This committee decides which amendments will be put to vote by the House. A seat was also created for him on the Budget Committee, where he has a say in federal spending and tax relief.

"Doc's done a good job," said Matt Marquardt, senior business major. "He's been around for a while."

Hastings' opponent is Sandy Matheson, a Democrat. Matheson has a masters in business administration from Washington State University. She has been president and CEO of the Hanford Environmental Health Foundation, proprietor of Management Advisory and Consulting Services and an instructor at WSU.

"Doc Hastings is a strong Republican," said Jim Wojke, senior political science major. "He'll be unbeatable."

But how will a congressman aid the voting Central student? "I believe that Hastings is a quality leader and does a fair job of representing District Four," said Matthew Mercer, senior business major.

Neither one has higher education issues on their platform. Both Hastings and Matheson have expressed the importance of education but have fixed their attention only on K-12.

Both candidates express their willingness to deal with the impending social security dilemma. They address the problem of such a program not being around after the baby-boomers generation. Hastings believes that younger workers should have the choice to invest a portion of their money into protected retirement plans. The candidates are firm advocates of business, affordable health care, education and the environment.

I-892: Machines won't be in areas highly accessible to those under 21

continued from 1

on scratch ticket machines ... to substantially lower property taxes." I-892, states that non-tribal establishments will be allowed to operate with the same number of terminals as tribal establishments. Advocates for I-892, called "Just Treat Us the Same," promise the initiative will create equal treatment for non-tribal establishments.

According to I-892, terminals would not be allowed in grocery stores or any other places readily accessible to minors. To play the electronic scratch ticket games the player must be 21 years old.

Currently the "scratch ticket" lotteries use printed tickets with a cover concealing information as to whether the holder has won a prize.

The new electronic scratch ticket games operate with the same idea. There isn't a physical ticket with the electronic game. The player "scratches" information displayed through graphics on a computer screen.

The measure would only allow licensed establishments like restaurants, taverns, bowling alleys, horse-racing facilities, non-profit charities and state-regulated Phase II house-banked card rooms to acquire terminals.

These licensed establishments would be able to apply for the 18,000 electronic slot machine licenses, the same number the tribes are allotted. The taxpayer savings would be from the 35 percent tax on the terminals' net winnings.

The gross revenue is the gross amount collected in a year from all the terminals combined.

The state estimates, in the beginning, I-892 will save homeowners $13 a year for a $100,000 property and increase to $32 a year for the same property by 2009.

"It doesn't seem like it's worth all the effort, I mean a $32 tax break, whoop-dee-doo," said Marco Brettmann, senior pre-law and military science major.

Tribes are the most likely losers in the initiative.

How each dollar is split up in I-892

* Paid out as winnings
* Retained by licensed gambling establishment

graphic by Natalie McCullough/Observer

"This is a threat to what we see as a way to fund a lot of essential things for tribal government," said Ron Charles, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe chairman.

Many tribes say it is difficult to measure the impact I-892 would have on them. Tribes are not alone speaking out against the I-892. Religious leaders, government officials and politicians have all issued statements against it.

For more information on I-892 and the fiscal impact statement go to www.ofm.wa.gov/initiatives/default.htm or pick up a voter's pamphlet at the local post office or library.
Opinion

OBSERVANCE

Forgotten elections: State and local races

There's no question that most people are focusing on the presidential election this year, and that's caused many important state races to fall by the wayside.

I know the presidential election is probably the most important in the past half-century, but that doesn't mean this year's gubernatorial race, senate race and various other races aren't important too.

Washington has had a Democrat in the governor's mansion for the past two decades, but this year Dino Rossi could change that.

Rossi, a Republican state senator, has pulled to within six points of state Attorney General Christine Gregoire in recent polls.

The senate race isn't as tight. Incumbent Patty Murray has consistently led challenger George Nethercutt in the polls.

There are proposals to increase taxes to fund education, and to expand legalized gambling to cut property taxes. There are initiatives to clean up radioactive waste and change our primary system.

The president may be the most visible person elected this year, but he's only a small part of the democratic process.

Even further down, state legislators and other elected officials will make policies that will impact you and your daily life more than the president will.

 Kittitas County Commissioners or Ellensburg city council members could pass ordinances you may not agree with.

You might be wondering: What does this all mean to me?

It means you need to be informed. You need to know the issues and the candidates.

A State of Washington Voters Pamphlet is a good place to start. And once you're informed, you need to vote.

I've already done my part for the democratic process mailing in my absentee ballot.

I know many people who attend Central are voting by absentee ballot also, but don't wait.

Don't think that your vote won't make a difference. It just might help shift the balance of power in this state, or in the country.

Ben Davis is the Observer Editor-in-Chief. He can be reached at davbenj@cwu.edu

Letters to the Editor

Biased reporting

Observer reporting leans to the left

If the Observer wants to avoid looking like an amateur newspaper, it might begin by "reporting things fairly and accurately" (Ben Davis, "Understanding What We Do," 7 October 2004). In that same issue, the Observer printed Danny Bergman's "Bush, Kerry Debate the Issues" article. More than once, Bergman inserts his opinion of the performance of the presidential candidates in an article that is not on the opinion page.

Further, the article read like a press release from Senator Kerry's campaign. In addition to Bergman's positive judgments of Senator Kerry's performance in the debate, the senator was disproportionately quoted (both direct quotes and paraphrased quotes) almost twice as often as President Bush. Also, approximately seventy-five percent of Senator Kerry's quotes in Bergman's article were attacks on President Bush, leaving the President on the defensive throughout the majority of the article.

With biased reporting like this in the pages of the Observer, it is no wonder it has received the criticism that Editor-in-Chief Davis comments about.

Joshua Bavasenator
law & justice

Reporters treat men, women differently

Since 1980, research has consistently shown that print reporters treat women and men politicians, Cabinet members and CEOs differently when featuring them as "hard news." For women, but not men, reporters are likely to mention aspects of their physical appearance, implying that a female leader's looks or fashion sense are somehow relevant in considering their accomplishments or proposals.

Imagine my dismay to see the lead article of the Observer headlined "Mcintyre: Transformation on the left."
I fear the next four years

Andrew Grinker
Sports editor

In five days, one of the most momentous decisions in U.S. history will be made. You, I and the rest of this nation, no matter who wins this election, must fear the next four years. Not since the Civil War split the North and South has the most powerful nation in the world been so polarized, so divided on issues, politics and who they feel should lead the free world. An election-day decision will not change liberal's thoughts on Bush's mistreatment and lies about Sept. 11 and Iraq. Furthermore, conservatives will not reverse their premise of Kerry's voting history. In a time so vital to the well-being of this nation, the president elect must unite the country, no matter the circumstances.

In possibly the ugliest presidential campaign in history, it is hard to see one side taking defeat gracefully. A Supreme Court decision, five Republicans to four Democrats, and 36 days were needed for Al Gore to concede the 2000 election. Expect nothing less than a steady stream of angry letters to the editor with a heartless scandal this year.

I fear the next four years based on our current problems involving international and national politics. No matter who wins on Nov. 2, either man faces a plethora of problems. What is the president's long-term plans for Iraq? Insurgents are continuing to penetrate Iraq, killing troops, civilians, and more importantly U.S. morale. Genocide in Sudan, North Korea's treatment of nuclear weapons, the Israeli-Palestine conflict and anti-American sentiment throughout the world are just a few issues facing the president, Republican or Democrat.

Simon Tisdall of "The Guardian," a respected United Kingdom-based newspaper summed it up when saying it clearly: "Any policy had such a direct, existential bearing on America's sense of itself and its security. Rarely has what the American president did mattered so much to so many."

The true problem facing this nation is not who will be president Tuesday, but his plans for the future, their resolve in the face of the danger and their honesty in a sea of lies.

The president of the next four years must get off their figurative donkey or elephant and lead this nation as one, as Americans unite not divide.

Wind farm project makes sense

Allison White
Staff writer

The Kittitas County Board of Commissioners is deciding the future of Ellensburg and the Kittitas Valley. How? They will determine the future of the proposed Enco Desert Claim Wind Power Project.

On Monday evening I attended the public hearing for the Desert Claim Project. I went not only as a resident of Ellensburg in the Kittitas Valley, but as a citizen who will be impacted by the wind farm, as I live on Recer Creek Road, but more importantly, because my family is directly involved with the project.

At the end of the project we will have a portion of the proposed towers on our land, and at some point it will be my responsibility, as well as other members of my family, to carry on the business with Enso. I live eight miles north of Ellensburg along Recer Creek Road, Desert Claim would have 120 functioning towers that would each generate 1.5 Megawatts of power, producing a total of 180 MWs, and standing 340 feet high.

Due to the height of the towers, they will be equipped with flashing red and white lights to caution low flying aircrafts, as they are only two miles away from the flight overlay of the airport.

Most people assume I support this project because I'll benefit from it in the future, but that isn't the reason I'm behind it. I support this project because wind is one of the most abundant resources in the world and it will always renew itself, unlike fossil fuels and other natural resources. People argue about environmental impacts, but studies have been done and the only one that seems lacking is regarding the potential deaths of birds and bats. Maybe I'm being cynical, but the last I knew birds and bats were smart enough to avoid 34 storm "skycrapers," as some people call the towers, moving or not.

Common complaints heard Monday night were about the aesthetics. People say the windmills are ugly and will ruin the view of the valley, the lights will rain stargazing on Table Mountain and the noise will be unbearable.

Presently there are Puget Sound Energy power lines running across the hills of the proposed Desert Claim site. The wind towers would be no worse than the power lines. In fact, I think most people would rather see windmills than ugly, gray towers. The lights on the towers will not be as much of a distraction as long as they do not generate enough light and they are roughly three miles from where people are in their cabins, even further from Lion's Rock (where the valley is hardly visible anyway).

In regards to noise, when the wind towers are running at their maximum capacity, they have a potential of reaching 104 decibels. I stress that these are the maximum conditions. For the majority of the time the towers will hardly be audible.

I strongly believe that the Kittitas Valley, as well as the entire state, can benefit from these towers. Property values in the valley might decrease, and the number of people moving into the area might go down, but if people are moving to a place like Ellensburg to get away from mass populations, maybe it's a good thing they move to wind towers will keep people from overpopulating the area.

Why not embrace them now and do some good for the county instead of waiting for an energy crisis in ten years?

You tell us

"Bush will have a better impact because he is already there. He has already taken the initiative on the situation, he initiated the war. Kerry is not really attracted to war."

Brian Kendall, senior tourism management major.

"I believe Bush does not have a plan to win. He wants to be like a king, in charge of everything. I don't believe he does have a plan to effectively win his war on terrorism."

Jack Frost, junior information technology major.

"Either candidate is going to have a hell of a job. No matter what, it's really a big mess over there, and they are both going to have a really tough time cleaning it up."

Kevin Alloway, sophomore undecided.

continued from 6 track, open with: "Dressed in a red power suit, President Jerilyn Mcintyre spoke about Central Washington University's future during the annual State of the University Address..."

I think a great penance would be to require Observer reporters and editors to describe the men similarly, for the rest of the quarter. Thus, in reading the front page story of the ribbon cutting for the new Music Building, the provost distinguished by a spiffy yellow tie setting off his red hair..."

Laura L. Appleton
Professor of Sociology

Presidential race

Bush has been a divider

Jennifer Turner's opinion on George Bush was interesting. I thought you should know Jennifer that although 1.3 million jobs have been created this year, Bush will be the first president since Hoover to finish out a term with less jobs than at the beginning of the term. You talk about the economy and how we've gained money, Jennifer, until I as an "average Joe" actually feel this supposed economic turnaround I don't believe that the economy is turning around. My parent's small business they've had over for 10 years is failing. I know there are many Ellensburg businesses struggling right now also.

American jobs are going overseas. The computer technology and steel industry are examples of industries hit the hardest. You also mention that Bush has created an environment in which young adults can flourish and raise their families. How can we flourish with a 5.4 percent unemployment rate, a sluggish economy and a country more divided than ever before? The economic gap between rich and poor is the highest since the 1950s.

I hope you enjoy your great community college after where you can raise your children. I'd love to raise my children in a good community college, but I don't think many of us will be saying that community unless we can get jobs to live off of. You speak of the president creating an ideal environment for you to raise your family.

The ultimate truth is President Bush has divided this country so much, that we're all struggling for air. Jennifer, I know we're both products of the American family. One thing is for sure; Bush hasn't created an ideal environment for me to raise my family. John Kerry has my vote.

Chad Michael Pettingill
Sophomore

Elementary Education

Gay Marriage Amendment needed

In modern America, gay mar­riage is a disease, and an amend­ment to the constitution banning gay marriage is the cure. You have to ask yourself: why does the gay want to be married? Is it because they want to be recognized by the state? Well, they could do that just as easy with civil unions that ensures gay couples the same rights as hetero couples. No, I truly believe that gays want to continue to push the envelope until society as a whole accepts them as being "normal."

Guess what? It's not going to happen. Homosexuality is an unprecedented phenomenon in the history of the world. We can see this from the way the media attack gay marriage it's very hard to accept gays as the norm, and if there ever is one that does, I hope I'm long gone from this earth.

Clay McBride
Senior

Central Washington University's Alumni Association presents

Third Annual "Law Day"

Mary Grupe Center
11 am to 3 pm
Thursday, October 28
11 to 12 - Law School Panel Discussion
12 to 1 - Alumni Panel Discussion
1 to 3 - Individual tables

Representatives from:
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For more information contact:
Gonzaga University School of Law at 1-800-793-1710
CWU Alumni Relations Office at 509-963-2848
Prayers are heard in Tower Theatre

by Allison White
Staff reporter

Premiering tonight is "Lloyd's Prayer," a comedic play touching on religion, human values and accepting outsiders into society. It is the first Central Washington University theater production of the fall season.

Director Brenda Hubbard said it's a "religious Saturday Night Live with serious undertones."

Featuring humor and satire, the play is set against a backdrop of golds, greens and browns, simulating a forest that is Bob the Raccoon Boy's home. Bob is a stereotypical outsider. He is shunned by society and cast as a freak show display because of the hair that covers "95. yes! Ninety-five percent of his body," Lloyd tells the audience.

"Each character is a stereotype of a theme," said Hannah Schmabel, senior Theatre Arts major, who plays Mom. "It's about acceptance of what is odd and different."

The story is a "coming of age" for Bob as he struggles to be accepted into society and be treated with respect.

"We don't get to address the topic of God often. It's nice to do a play in a welcoming, all-encompassing way," said Matt Milton, senior Theatre Arts major.

Milton plays Dad, who finds Bob and is forced to take care of him after Mom leaves him, but he would rather pay attention to Princess, his beloved dog. Bob doesn't trust many people because, as he tells the audience, he was taught to "never trust a smile. That's right before something bites."

"Lloyd's Prayer" may be thick with long character monologues, but they add to the feel of the play and are broken up by the Angel of the Lord urging the characters and the audience alike to "Be Amazed!"

The cast is excited for the show and to kick off the theater season. "Lloyd's Prayer" is a good play to open the doors, with playwright Kevin Kling's wacky humor and "light reminders that God forgives," as Jeremy Goecks, sophomore Theatre Arts major said.

The rehearsal exhibited appropri­
tate times for laughter and participa­tion from the audience, but the main message is not lost within the humor.

"Don't take all your love and keep it to yourself," said Shayne McNell, senior Theatre Arts major, who plays Lloyd. "But share it."

Amanda Rubeck, top left, plays a beauty queen and main love interest of Bob in the upcoming theatre production, "Lloyd's Prayer." Bob, Andrew Kunellis, above, tries to wake up conman Lloyd, Shayne McNell. Conman Lloyd, left, turns to religion as a means of exploiting "Bob and the Beast Boy." Far left, Bob caged and turned.

Central clubs get scary at Boo Central

by Desiree Mitchel
Staff reporter

Get out the face paint, black witch hats and goofy clown wigs. But leave the Jason masks and fake blood at home—Boo Central is for the kids.

The annual event is set to make its 12th run Halloween night from 5 to 8 p.m. in Central Washington University's Samuelson Union Building. Welcoming local school children kindergarten through fifth grade, Boo Central provides a safe environment for all sorts of Halloween fun.

Rebekah Varghese, special events coordinator for Campus Activities, said Central student volunteers enjoy seeing and interacting with the children who attend.

"There's always little ghosts, gob­
lins and pirates—it's great," Varghese said. "They're so cute."

On Halloween night, eager young­sters will run and bound from one room to the next to visit the many Halloween-themed booths, each run by students of a school club or organization.

Adam Criswell, also an event organizer for Campus Activities, said this year's Boo Central will include a haunted house, face painting, a cup­cake walk and even a professional caricature artist.

"It changes a lot every year because different clubs do it every year," Criswell said.

The Chemistry Club will be back with its popular touch-on science booth where children can make green slime.

Club President Nathan Ullornn said he and other club members get into the Halloween spirit with experiments that are gross and sometimes even a bit frightening.

"We try to have a lot of fun while exciting the kids about learning," Ullornn said.

Last year's Boo Central brought in about 450 children, and Varghese said that number grows each year. The non-profit event is advertised to area school children and to local businesses that donate decorations, supplies and candy for the kids.

"It's a big community thing," Varghese said.

While it's too late for more clubs to volunteer, individual students can volunteer to be placed where help is needed. To volunteer, call Adam or Rebekah at 963-1450.

Members of the CWU Chemistry club demonstrate scary experiments during last year's Boo Central.
P-Dub's scheduled to be in 'Mint condition'

Erin Sopitch
Staff reporter

What do an oxygen bar, a VIP room and live entertainment have in common? They are all part of a nightlife center set to open in Ellensburg.

P-Dub's Nightclub will be heating things up in Ellensburg as the city's newest nightlife ready for its opening night. Contrary to the rumors going around campus, this is a 21-and-over club.

Phil Williams, former owner of The Mint, which closed in June, has leased the old Goodwill building to house the new hot spot. If all goes as planned, the club should open by late December.

Seeing the need for a more entertainment-centered club, and a definite need for more space to party, Williams had the idea of opening a nightclub that is more centered on what he believes students and Ellensburg residents want.

"The focus of the club is on entertainment, both live and Top-40, with the emphasis on dancing and live acts," Williams said.

He has talked to many Central Washington University students and many of them have reiterated the fact that they are looking for a fun place to party in a safe environment. Williams hopes to incorporate all of this into the club.

"It will be nice to have somewhere new to go," said Danae Robertson, junior tourism major.

Other students feel the same way. "Even with the bars we already have, this one would be a great idea," said Misty Splattstoesser, junior public relations major. "It is a lot bigger and has more areas to check out than other bars in town. The size and the different areas I've heard about would make me want to go."

Upon stepping into P-Dub's it is evident that this will be a big change from the bars Ellensburg is used to. The front part of the bar is geared toward gamers, with two pool tables and ample seating.

The club has a capacity to hold about 400 people, with a wrap-around bar that seats 45. The bar has two liquor stations and two beer stations, which Williams thinks will eliminate the waiting time for a drink.

At one end of the bar will be an oxygen bar. There will be three stations set up where customers pay by the minute to breathe in pure, fresh oxygen. Students are still a little hesitant about this, though.

"I don't know how many kids would really support an oxygen bar. It's not a big enough trend to inspire much interest," said Jessica Connors, senior advertising major.

However, she said she does think the new nightclub will be a success.

"I think there is a great market in Ellensburg for nightlife outlets. College kids are always looking for something fun to do in the evenings. Having live bands and comedy nights and featuring local talent isn't something that's seen a lot around here," said Connors.

There is a VIP room that can be rented out for $21 Runs, and birthdays which will offer a private waitress. There is an elevated seating area in front of the dance floor that will seat another 30 to 40 people with a view of the entire club.

"There's nothing in the county that specifically pinpoint entertainment, and we saw the need to bring a truly entertainment-driven nightclub in the valley," said Jose Perez, P-Dub's manager. "We are just feeding off what the kids want to see in Ellensburg, and we are sure this is it."

On an average night, P-Dub's will have 12 to 13 people working, which should help fulfill their desire for impeccable service, Perez said.

Williams and Perez are also planning to offer VIP cards, which can be purchased every year, to give even more incentives for partying at the club.

Located at the former Goodwill storefront, P-Dub's, formerly The Mint, is scheduled to open in December. P-Dub's will include a VIP room, which will be available to rent for special occasions. Live entertainment and an oxygen bar will also be offered.

With the VIP card partiers won't have to wait in line to get into the club, they will get a discount on the cover charges for nights when a big event is scheduled and may also get special drink offers.

Perez and Williams said they plan to promote local talent by having live bands play at the club. They have planned comedy nights, theme nights and have already scheduled a summer concert series with three or four events.

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ON-AIR PERSONALITIES TALK THE TALK

Animal ears and lingerie 101:
How to avoid the ‘naughty angel’ overplayed costume

BIRD! Were you scared? I hope so, but if not, at least I have your attention. Halloween is the time of year for being shocking and startling. This is why people dress up, jump out at little kids from behind bushes and run around terrorizing neighborhoods. Halloween is one of my favorite holidays. It’s the one time of year you can get away with impersonating whoever you want.

However, there is one thing that bothers me about the celebration of my favorite spooky holiday: you see dozens of the same costumes, year after year. Walk into your typical Halloween party and you are almost guaranteed to find at least one angel, a devil, a doctor and his naughty nurse, a few black cats, a mantis, a ghost, and one couple dressed as Tarzan and Jane. I mean, if Halloween is supposed to be this day of causing fright and surprise, and you’re wearing the same M&M costume you’ve worn for the last four years, something is not quite right.

This year, do something different. Go out on a limb and invent your own costume. Give the right side of your brain a workout and come up with something a little more original than Sheik or a Playboy bunny. Look to comic books, encyclopedias, history books, movies or even the closets of your family and friends for inspiration. Show up to a Halloween bash as an under-recognized Disney character (like one of the mice from Cinderella, or as your favorite toy from the 80s (Popples anyone?), or some sort of freaky deep sea creature (an angler fish would be an awesome costume). If you can’t come up with anything, just make something. Grab some paper or plastic bags, duct tape, foil, tin cans, cardboard boxes and go nuts. You can make yourself into almost anything. Funky old clothes, blankets, barrettes and undergarments can also be combined into some pretty fun costumes.

There is no way not to be impressed by this year’s costumes. The ‘Burg will be out there deli-

...
Together, choirs harmonize messages of peace

By Jared Lovrak
Staff reporter

The Seattle Peace Chorus performed a free concert Saturday night in Central Washington University's new music building.

The chorus, which has performed all over the world, sang songs written by or in honor of some of history's greatest peacemakers, those who have struggled to bring peace to their homelands and abroad.

The concert opened with the combined talents of the Kittitas Valley Children's Choir and the Ellensburg Women's Choir who sang a medley of South African and Israeli folk songs, as well as some more domestic songs such as the classic hymn "Amazing Grace."

Then the Peace Chorus took the stage. The first piece performed was "Requiem," a song written by the late Nobel Prize winner, Pablo Neruda. This was followed by another Neruda piece, "Voy a Vivir."

The concert moved on to include songs inspired by the ancient Indian Emperor, Ashoka, and the classic Jose' Marti piece "Guantanamera."

Following the intermission, the Chorus shifted gears and covered songs inspired by the Native Americans and the victims of the American slave trade. Songs such as "Anthem for a Runaway Slave" and Walter Robinson's "Harriet Tubman" focused more on the culture of the enslaved African Americans while folk songs like "Nkosi Sikelel'i Afrika" gave proper respect to the indigenous African culture.

Between sets a choir member read a brief abridgement of the lives of the various historical figures that inspired them to include certain songs in their presentation. These figures included Hiawatha and Dekanawida as well as such contemporary figures as Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela.

Not all of the Chorus' songs catered to a specific ethnic group or background, however. They also performed several famous spirituals including "Precious Lord," and "If I could help somebody." The concert ended with a rendition of "My Country 'Tis of Thee," during which the audience was invited to join in.

The Seattle Peace Chorus was first formed by Helen Launtemeier in 1983 in response to the fear and paranoia surrounding the nuclear arms race.

Since then, the group has changed its focus to fit the changing times, but has always kept the key themes of peace and harmony among all people as the focal point of its message. According to their Web site, seattlepeacechorus.org, "The Seattle Peace Chorus seeks to promote peace and justice through the sharing of music and ideas—locally and globally."
Four and asking for more

by Pat Brown
Staff reporter

The Wildcats defeated the Humboldt State University Lumberjacks 15-3 in Arcata, Calif. last Saturday. Their fourth consecutive victory now has them in first place in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference. The Wildcats have lost only once since school has been in session. The defense thoroughly dominated the Lumberjacks, allowing only a field goal in 60 minutes of play. The Wildcats have allowed only three points in their two meetings with the Lumberjacks this season.

"We knew it was going to be a hard fought game and that's what we prepared for," coach Zamberlin said.

Senior middle linebacker Blake Walker collected 12 kills. This accomplishment put him past Wildcats alumna Anne Hanks for the most tackles in Central football history.

Senior defensive lineman Dustin Hawkins was another defensive standout. Hawkins had eight tackles, three and a half of which were for a loss. This accomplishment earned him GNAC defensive player of the week honors.

Junior receiver Nate Brookreson picked up the slack for the injured Brian Potucek with 75 yards on six catches. Hanks for the most tackles in the second game and 19 kills and an impressive .484 in game three to seal the victory.

"It took us a while to find our rhythm tonight, but once we settled down we played one of our best offensive matches of late," said coach Mario Adaya. "Lindsay came in and did a phenomenal job of spreading out our offense and keeping Anchorage off balance."

Lindsay was决不 the only Wildcat to have a big night. Kristin Pasley, Cristina Null, LaQue Branch, and Leanne McGahuey also delivered impressive performances to fuel the victory for the Wildcats.

High from their Friday victory, Central headed into their Saturday match against AFU ready for a repeat performance.

The 3-0 victory against the visiting Nanooks began aggressively, but challenged the Wildcats as the Nanooks came back strong scoring five-straight points. The Nanooks went on to win the second game but dropped a quick third set to the Wildcats.

"It's awesome to see a Central team having so much success," said Misty Splintosesser, public relations major. "Watching volleyball games this year has totally excited me to attend more sporting events in general."

The Central women head out for their last meet of the season on Thursday to challenge Humboldt State University and then to Western Oregon on Saturday. This team continues to prove that they are indefatigable in conference play as they continue to dominate GNAC volleyball.

Central is ranked over all, and senior Rachel Bailey-and freshman Kevin Adkisson. "It was a great day overall, Brandy (Anderson) did what we had hoped, and Step (Stine) was in the top ten. Some of our other runners Rachel Bailey and Sarah Benson ran tough. We couldn't have asked for a thing better than the results we had from our ladies today."

Anderson completed the six-kilometer run in a time of 25:49.22. She was more than a minute behind the conference champion, Karen Dickson of Seattle Pacific University, but edged out three runners who were within eight seconds of her from behind. Stine also challenged the 24-minute barrier, before finishing ninth with a time of 24:13.43.

Senior Rachel Bailey and freshman Sarah Benson also had top-20 finishes, coming in 15th and 18th, respectively. Amber Green, Emily Picinich and Lindy Mullens were 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, respectively, to help the Wildcats rack up key team points and win their first cross country team title in the four year history of the GNAC.

On the men's side, sophomore Sam Schofield led the way, earning all-conference honors with a sixth-place overall finish on the eight-kilometer course.

Wildcat women win 2004 GNAC Cross Country Championship

Junior Brandy Anderson finished in fourth place overall, and senior Stephanie Stine was ninth to lead the Central Washington University women's cross country team to the title at the 2004 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Cross Country Championships, held Saturday morning at Beau Pete Golf Course in McKinleyville, Calif.

"We are really excited about the women's victory," said head coach Kevin Adkisson. "It was a great day overall, Brandy (Anderson) did what we had hoped, and Step (Stine) was in the top ten. Some of our other runners Rachel Bailey and Sarah Benson ran tough. We couldn't have asked for anything better than the results we had from our ladies today."

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Are you ready for some football?

WESTERN WASHINGTON VS. CENTRAL WASHINGTON
9TH ANNUAL CASCADE CUP
SATURDAY, TOMLINSON FIELD, 1 P.M.

by Chris Thompson
Staff reporter

East versus west. Spy versus Spy. Tom versus Jerry. There are just some rivalries that are bound to stand the test of time. As is the case every time the Central Washington University Wildcats meet the Western Washington University Vikings.

“When you hear Central-Western you know it’s going to be an all-out dog fight,” said Ana Tuiaea-Ruud, assistant women’s basketball coach. “Records have nothing to do with it. It’s all about representing your school.”

Tuiaea-Ruud, who played college basketball at the University of Washington, said that the Central-Western rivalry is right up there with UW and Washington State University.

“The rivalries compare very well,” Tuiaea-Ruud said. “When I played, Wazzu wasn’t that strong of a basketball team, but every time they played us, we knew it would be a good game. You can never overlook a rival.”

Even newcomers to the Northwest are surprised at the intensity of the rivalry. Jack Bishop, Central’s director of athletics, said it took him a few years to realize just how big the rivalry is.

“I think it’s one of the biggest rivalries I’ve ever been associated with,” Bishop said. It’s huge, it’s healthy, and it gets out of hand a little bit at times but for the most part it’s pretty controlled. It’s huge in all sports.”

Sports Information photographer and senior Joe Whiteside sees the rivalry as a natural part of college life. Traveling with various teams, Whiteside has experienced the rivalry everywhere from Ellensburg to Bellingham to Seattle and it is just as intense no matter where the game is played.

“I hate them. Well, I don’t hate them but I dislike them a lot because they are our rivals,” Whiteside said. “You can be having a bad season, but if you beat Western, there is your season right there.”

For the athletes, the preparation leading up to the Western games tends to be just a little more intense. The practices last a little longer, the butterflies in the stomachs are a little bigger and the game just means a whole lot more.

“Every year when we prepare for Western, we always get so excited,” said senior volleyball setter Kate Reome. “We are so into it and everyone is so focused.”

Reome, who played in her final Central-Western match on Oct. 15, said she will miss the rivalry but is glad that it will continue to live on. This season, the Wildcat volleyball team swept Western for the first time in nine years.

“We respect them as athletes,” said Reome. “But when we play Western, we are out for blood.”

While many Central students might think of the Vikings as granola-munching hippies, Western students have their own opinions of Central and Ellensburg.

“I think Central is a pretty good school, but I would never want to live in Ellensburg, a.k.a. cow country,” said Western senior Allison Butler. “The perception here is that Central students are hicks, cowboys and rednecks.”

What makes the rivalry great is the history between the schools. Saturday’s football game will mark the 94th meeting between the two teams since they first met in 1922, with Central leading the series 56-33-4.

Win or lose this Saturday, one thing is for certain. When the Wildcats and Vikings meet, be it in football, volleyball, basketball or monopoly, it is bound to be a good one.
A standout that fits right in

Freshman shows that men aren't the only ones out on the gridiron

by Paul Hudon
Staff reporter

If you saw freshman Alene Lumsden in the SUB or in a class, she wouldn't appear any different than the rest of the crowd. However, if you were to go watch the Kennedy Assassins intramural flag football team, then you'd certainly be able to pick Lumsden out of a lineup with her fellow teammates.

Lumsden is the only female playing in the open recreation league. She is a freshman to CWU as well as the open recreation league. The passion of outdoor activities sends her out to the football field every Monday and Wednesday to compete.

"The guys in my hall are a lot of fun to be around," says Lumsden. That statement of friendship and camaraderie summarizes another reason why she goes out there twice a week to compete with the guys.

One might think that a single female on a field of men might create a disadvantage or a problem. She doesn't feel that her gender creates any major problems. "Strength wise, sometimes—usually no problem because they treat me like any other player," Lumsden said.

Football is her favorite sport to watch with volleyball being her top choice for sports. The experience of playing football has given her positive memories.

The most positive memory for her is the connections between players and being able to relate to them on different levels afterwards. An outdoors mentality gets Lumsden onto the field, a sense of closeness and hall pride drives her hack it with the big boys keeps coming back for more.

Lumsden has one piece of advice for women about playing flag football and that is to "totally go for it, it's so much fun and it's not intimidating once you get out there."

Late-game heartbreaker extends streak

by Ryutaro Hayashi
Staff reporter

When you think about a dominant women's soccer team, the image in your head might be a school record of winning all 24 games, with the US Women's National Team in herrown. That statement of friendship and camaraderie summarizes another reason why she goes out there twice a week to compete with the guys.

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Lumsden has one piece of advice for women about playing flag football and that is to "totally go for it, it's so much fun and it's not intimidating once you get out there."

Are you feeling a draft?

Army recruiters can't fill their quotas. Re-enlistments are plummeting. Soldiers are being forced to stay past their contracted time.

Meanwhile, Iraq is a quagmire that's only going to get worse. With America's armed forces already stretched to the breaking point in Iraq and Afghanistan, where are tomorrow's troops going to come from?

As college students today, we ought to seriously consider that question.

Oh yes, President Bush insists he won't bring back the draft. But remember: this is the same president who swore that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. That Saddam was linked to 9/11. And that Iraqis would welcome us with open arms. He was dead wrong every time.

With George Bush stubbornly determined to go it alone, our allies won't join us. American troops will still be 90 percent of the "coalition." And 90 percent of its dead and wounded.

And the volunteer military will be a casualty of war.

So unless you like the idea of graduate school in Fallujah, we need to pay careful attention to what our president is saying, versus what it really means.

Now do you feel that draft?
Madden NFL: It's not just 'In the game,' it's a lifestyle

I'm sitting on my recliner with a cup of tea on hand and a frothy beer close by when my girlfriend calls to talk about whatever girls like to talk about. I press pause and tell her I can't talk, I'll call her back in an hour. She sighs and asks, "You're playing Madden aren't you?" She, unlike so many girls I know, understands the importance and competitiveness of the Madden NFL video game series. Conversations can wait for playing a grueling game that is popular in college dorms, apartments and houses across the country.

There have been many days where I don't see the light of day until I have played a good three hours of Madden NFL, if not more.

Tournaments and personal wages are decided in the often trash-talking territories that reside in living rooms that require an extra TV just to play Madden NFL. It has brought people together and torn them apart. The intensity is often raised and a man's confidence can be squashed in the wake of this football gaming dynasty.

Madden football has been in the top five games in sales every year for the past 10 years. I ran an informal survey, and 21 out of 31 students who I spoke with play Madden NFL. Of those students, 25 percent play with the Seahawks.

"In my wildest dreams, I had no idea it was going where it went," said John Madden in a recent interview by G4 Tech TV. Madden plays a very composite part of the game that features not only his name, but his input on the development of the game.

The game was introduced in 1990 for the Sega Genesis, with growing momentum ever since. During that span, Madden NFL has been innovating sports games and is essentially the foundation of Electronic Arts, the developer. Madden NFL became so big, Electronic Arts had to break off into a new branch, which is now EA Sports.

The phenomenon of this game of games can be summed up in two words: Madden Bowl. This event started in 2002 and is played in all 32 football cities. There are over 15,000 competitors and the grand prize is over $50,000.

Madden Football isn't just a boom in the gaming world, but in the music world too. Since Madden NFL came to the Playstation 2, bands have been featured on the game. Now, bands are dying to be on Madden NFL due to head by millions.

Bands from Blink-182 to OutKast have been featured, and Questlove from The Roots produces music specifically for the game.

"I have heard Green Day's new single, "American Idol?" It was on Madden NFL months before it was released to the public, and their album opened at No. 1 on the charts. Today, a band's single will be heard more often on Madden NFL than radio or MTV.

I don't know how many parties at CWU I've been to where I haven't been challenged by someone at Madden NFL. The game itself is a conversation starter and a great way to earn a buck or two. I have taken and lost money on Madden NFL.

"I don't know if there is anything not to like about it," said Zack Flame, sophomore unncurled. "There isn't one negative thing about it, especially this year.'"

With the emergence of ESPN's NFL 2K5, Madden NFL finally has some competition. ESPN came out with a game that is $30 cheaper, and though some critics consider the ESPN game just as good as Madden NFL, Madden is still uncatchable.

The longevity and the innovations that Madden NFL has been able to create are unforgettable. Madden NFL was the first game to create a life-like franchise mode that featured a money agency, the salary cap and the draft.

The game is so realistic that Washington Redskins quarterback Patrick Ramsey learned the Redskins' playbook by playing lots of Madden NFL, which uses real plays.

Rants, raves, cheers and tears can be heard and seen when the game is played. Playing with friends or enemies, head games are played within the game, John Madden himself takes time to criticize your game playing, causing people to tell him to, "shove it" or "go to hell, Madden!"

Jonathan Menzter/Observer

Seniors Casey Lorz and Kelly Ryan play an intense game of Madden NFL 2005 on a school night.
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STREAK:
Team looks to stop the pain

continued from 14

Monday's game against the conference's number two team, Seattle University (6-1-2, 12-2-3 GNAC), which had smashed the Wildcats in the first meeting this year. Although the game ended 2-1, the Wildcats almost carried out a huge upset against the conference superpower, which was enough for them to recognize that the Wildcats were no easy card.

It was the Wildcats who broke the silence of the game. Seattle University's defense had no choice but to commit a foul to stop the Wildcats' slashing counterattack at 26 minutes. Wildcats' junior Ashley Nelson made the most of the 25-yard free kick; she rifled a low drive past SU's goalkeeper.

Although the equalizer at 38 minutes by Jamie Nicolopulous calmed down the Wildcats' extreme tension coming from Nelson's goal, the tight press and chasing of the defense subjugated SU's offense.

Nelson tried her luck with three shots, one of them would gave the Wildcats an early lead, and her aggressiveness never allowed the SU defense to sit back.

The strike from Ashley Porter at 88 minutes preserved SU's rank in the conference.

However, the game meant a lot to the Wildcats.

"We pretty much controlled the whole game," senior McKenzie Brongil said.

"It just shows that we can compete with a good team."

It was proven that their defense could overwhelm the conference superpowers.

"For playing the number nine team in the nation and the number two team in the region, and match up straight way with them, I thought it was a fairly great job today," Farrand said. "Unfortunately the result was we still lost 2-1, but it was a good bounce back after being shellacked 8-0 the last time we played them."

The Wildcats have three more games left to finish their season. They come home this Saturday with Humboldt State University at 10 a.m.

GNAC: Men finish seventh overall

continued from 12

His time of 26:40 was just one second off of fifth place, and Seattle Pacific's Tim LeCount won the conference title with a time of 25:58.

Central Washington's men finished seventh in the ten-team event, as the Wildcats' second-place runner, senior Matt Schmitt, was a distant 35th individually. Teammate Geoff Anderson also cracked the top 40, coming in 37th, with four other Central runners placing between 41st and 48th.

"Sam ran a great race," Adkisson said. "Our two through five runners really worked well together, and seventh place is actually satisfying for us from a team standpoint. It just proves that our conference is getting very tough."

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