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One Act Wonders: Central theatre students put on short plays
PAGE 8

Thursday, December 2, 2004

PERIODICALS
DESK

OBSERVER

CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

www.cwu.edu/~observer

Wildcat women's basketball team start season with four straight wins
PAGE 13



Volume 78, Number 7

Central clubs contribute to charity for children

by Sean McPherson
Staff reporter

Hardcore video game players, known as "gamers," are often stereotyped as lazy, but a charity founded by gamers is changing that perception.

The charity known as Child's Play was founded by two of the most well-known gamers out there—Jerry Holkins and Michael Krahulik. Known as Tycho and Gabe on their Web site, they are the people behind the Internet web-comic Penny Arcade.

The organization was founded last year for children who have to endure long-term treatment in hospitals. The charity donates video games, toys and other forms of entertainment for these children.

Last year, Child's Play collected more than \$250,000 in donations and this year exceeded \$75,000 before the end of November.

Because it is a volunteer based organization, every dollar donated will go toward the cause.

Even local clubs here at Central Washington University have helped out in this effort. The radio program "The Weekly Geek" on 88.1 FM The 'Burg has been regularly promoting the charity, trying to get people to donate.

The Namakemono Anime Club donated money to the charity this year and last year.

"People just put money in the hat," said Brian Skotland, junior Japanese major.

Although the charity is based out of the Seattle area, much of the funding has come through its Internet base.

"When clicking a couple of times amounts to an act of genuine compassion, you could find good samaritans everywhere," Holkins said in a press release.

For more information or to donate, visit www.childsplay.com.

The price of partying for Central students



Alcohol violations up on campus Increase attributed to more students living in student housing

by Kathryn Lake
Staff reporter

Partying might be fun, but at the end of the night, is it worth the risk?

Despite rumors of more strict rules and enforcement in the residence halls, Stacy Klippenstein, director of University Housing and New Student Programs, said both residence assistants' training and the rules involving alcohol are the same as years past.

"The number of alcohol related violations is based on the students, their choices and how they want their university," Klippenstein said.

There have been slightly more violations than years past, however there are 120 more students living on campus this year, said Klippenstein. From Sept. 17. to the present, there have been 90 students

involved in alcohol-related incidents on campus. Last year, records were kept differently; they recorded the number of incidents, not individuals. There were 74 alcohol-related incidents, but many involved more than one person.

The law does not allow someone who is underage and intoxicated to be in a public place. If someone is walking around on campus intoxicated and is confronted by the police, he or she can be cited for being a minor in possession/consumption. What students do behind closed doors is up to them in general. All freshman residence halls are alcohol free.

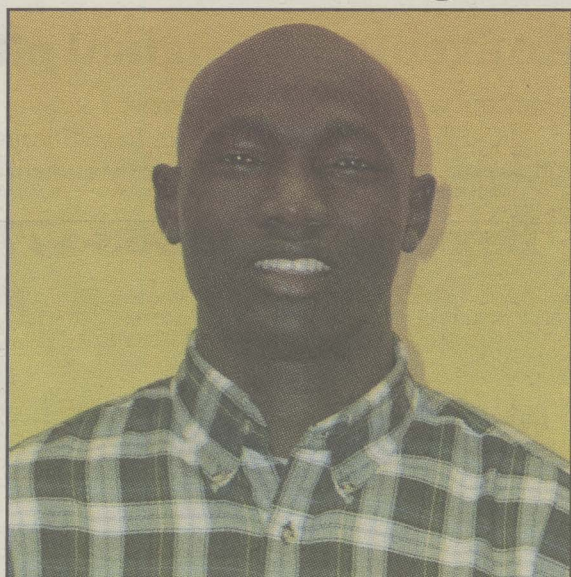
But police respond to many noise complaints and if they find someone who is underage and intoxicated, he or she can be cited.

see **ALCOHOL**, page 2

photo illustration by Ben Davis and Luke Probasco/Observer

Sudanese refugee escapes civil war

Deng Lual, a Central sophomore, was born in Sudan. As a child he and others, called The Lost Boys, walked hundreds of miles to escape a bloody civil war.



Joseph Castro/Observer

by Joseph Castro
Senior reporter

Working one's way through college is an admirable accomplishment. Some find it painstaking, but for Deng Lual, it's a pale obstacle. Pale compared to escaping death and living his childhood as a refugee.

Lual, a sophomore at Central Washington University, was born in Sudan in the midst of a decades-long civil war that cost an estimated 2 million lives and displaced more than 4 million people.

Education had been one of the main issues of the war, something that especially resonates with Lual.

Lual was displaced from Sudan in 1987 at the age of four. Thousands of people living in Southern Sudan—the majority young boys like Lual—were forced to flee when the Muslim Sudanese military from the north attacked southern villages. These children, mostly between the ages of five and 11, walked hundreds of miles through the wilderness to neighboring Ethiopia.

Lual and thousands of children like him were called the Lost Boys. Hundreds of children died along the way from lack of medicine or food and water, and some were killed by wild animals.

see **REFUGEE**, page 11

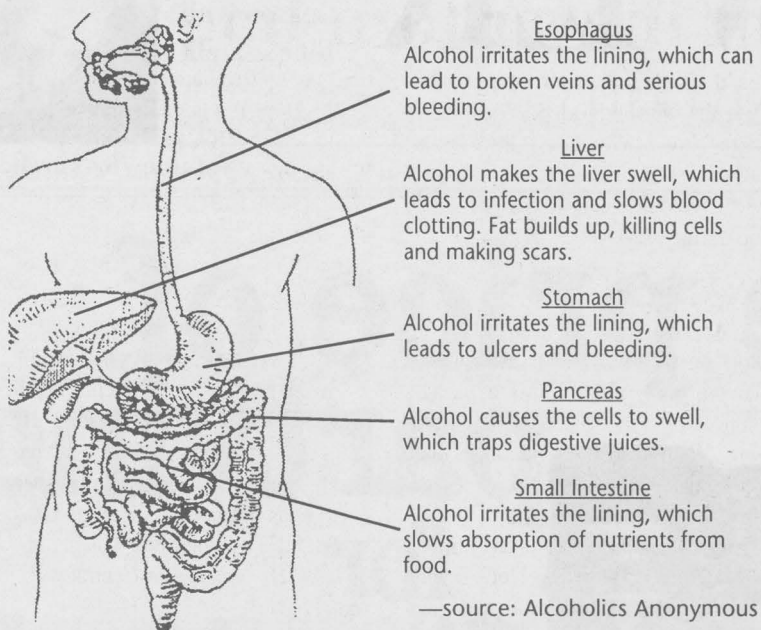
INSIDE



Do students care about Central sports?

PAGE 12

How alcohol affects the body



ALCOHOL: Damage can be financial, physical

continued from 1

In 2003, there were 162 liquor law violations that resulted in disciplinary action or judicial referrals, including 84 arrests.

A minor in possession of alcohol charge is a misdemeanor that can be punishable by a maximum of 90 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine. In general, those charged are required to appear in lower District Court.

With a guilty plea, the usual fine is between \$200 and \$300 as well as court fees, which are around \$50.

The minor is frequently required to go to an alcohol education program; the judge in Ellensburg generally sends students to the Wellness Center's "Prime for Life" class.

Students who are written up for alcohol violations in residence halls also attend this class.

Prime for Life is a program to educate students about the potential risks of alcohol consumption. It is an eight to nine hour class that teaches students how to reduce the risks involved with drinking.

It teaches them how to reduce the likelihood of negative health effects in the future, such as heart disease, liver problems and cancer. The classes help reduce the chance of getting written up again or receiving another MIP.

"The MIP itself has had quite an impact on my drinking habits since now I see the immediate consequences behind my actions," said

Dan Cowles, junior pre-law major. "The fact that I still want to drink is there and will always be there—just my choices of when and where are now backed up with much more care and thought."

Gail Farmer, director of the Wellness Center cautions not letting friends go home with someone they did not come to the party with.

Central's police chief Steve Ritterer said he sees a connection between alcohol and violence.

"I think one fact to consider is that I have been a police officer for 22 years on this campus," Ritterer said. "In those 22 years, every sexual assault that I have investigated has involved the use of alcohol or drugs by the victim, suspect or both."

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Grape Vine w/Fresh & Dried Fruit

Wild Rice w/Chestnuts Parsnip Fritters

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Wild Blueberry Venison Sausage Cassoulet

Cornmeal Crusted Catfish w/Hazelnut Butter

Spit Roasted Haunch of Elk w/Wild Mushroom Demi Glace

Hush Puppies Fry Bread

Pecan-Pumpkin Shortcake w/Huckleberries

CornMeal Pudding with Dried Fruit & Maple Syrup

Briefly

Extra patrol on the lookout

On Dec. 3, police patrols will be participating statewide in the "Night of 1,000 Stars." The stars symbolize the 1,000 badges of the officers who will be on the lookout for impaired and dangerous drivers during the holiday season. In Kittitas County alone, there will be 150 more patrols out between Dec. 3 and Jan. 1.

Coalition targets high-risk drinking

Lynne Imamshah was recently appointed coordinator of the newly formed Campus Community Coalition. The coalition is a partnership of university and community members committed to reducing high-risk and underage drinking. Imamshah was appointed by President Jerilyn McIntyre and was selected to serve on the Presidents Leadership Group. She formed the coalition with campus and community members.

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photo courtesy of Jeff St. John

Central police officer Jeff St. John (right) poses with a fellow soldier in Iraq. St. John spent four months there.

Central police officer talks about his time spent in war-torn Iraq

by Emily Dobihal
Copy chief

After five months overseas, military policeman Jeff St. John missed his wife and kids first, and McDonalds second. After an injury threatened his life, St. John was eventually sent home to Ellensburg and back to work as a patrol officer at Central Washington University.

Of his five months on active duty, the 11-year National Guard member spent the final four in Mosul, Iraq.

Q: What was it like living in Iraq?

A: We stayed in living containers, like hay containers, or trailers. It snowed a week before I got there;

we'd hit the end of the rainy season. But the weather's kind of similar to here—hot. We didn't have a set schedule. But we had briefings at 8 a.m. It would outline what we would do during the day.

Q: What were your duties in the National Guard?

A: I was on a bomb squad when I was on active duty. I dismantled a couple of bombs. I was a military policeman, kind of like a police officer. We trained Iraqi National Guard in things like riot control. We gave them police training.

Q: What did you do on off time?

A: Played cards a lot—spades. We played on a little table with [net-

ting] put up for shade.

Q: How was the atmosphere?

A: Most of [the people] liked you. It's just like anywhere else, 90 percent of the population liked us. Some didn't. We got bombed a lot, but they missed a lot. I guess they didn't miss all the time, they got me.

Q: How did your injury occur?

A: It was a mortar attack. I caught some shrapnel in my stomach. [A fellow officer] saved my life. He dragged me to the hospital. For recovery I stopped in Germany and then Fort Lewis for a couple of surgeries.

St. John returned home at the end of June. He rejoined the Central patrol squad Nov. 1.

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**THURSDAY, DEC 9TH
8:00 AM TO 5:00 PM**

**FRIDAY, DEC 10TH
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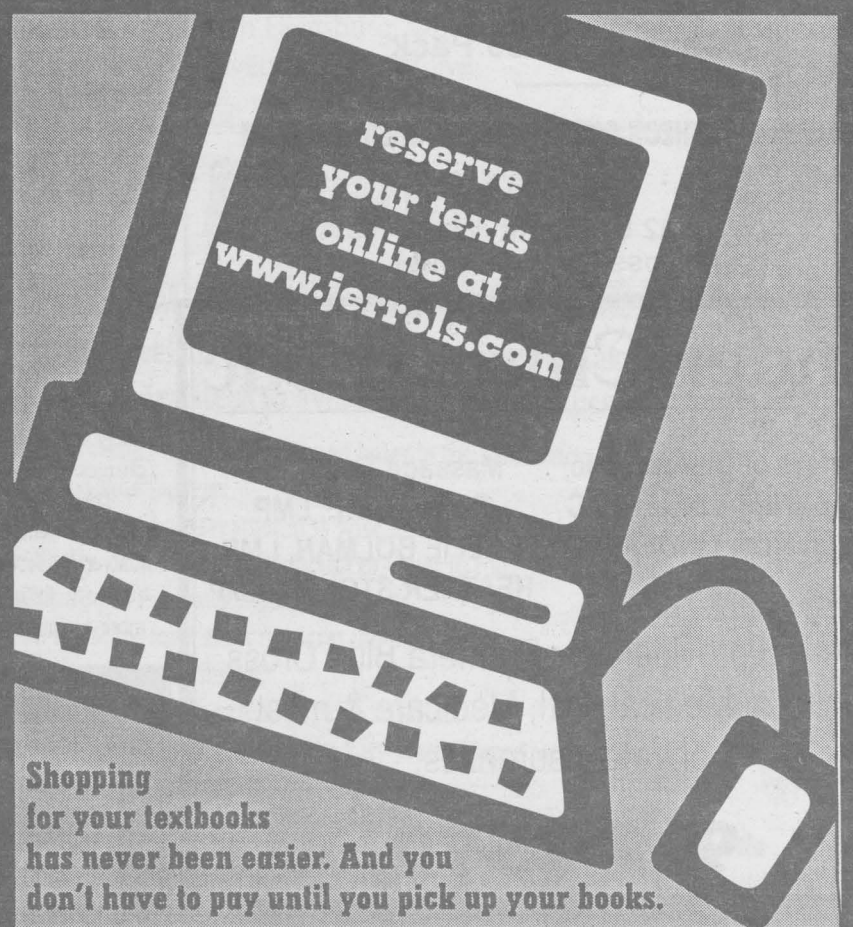
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Observer reporter rides with Ellensburg police

A night with the Ellensburg Police Department

11:00 p.m.: arrive at police department
 11:15 p.m.: leave office with Sgt. Scott Willis
 11:22 p.m.: 100 Block of Lore St to talk with another officer
 11:30 p.m.: Cottage Lane for a noise complaint
 11:43 p.m.: Downtown scene
 12:00 a.m.: Downtown alleyways look for car prowlers
 12:02 a.m.: contact owner of vehicle stopped in driveway of U-Haul
 12:07 a.m.: meet with another officer
 12:20 a.m.: Perkins area, contact car and truck stopped outside of Conoco
 12:30 a.m.: noise complaint- fire-crackers, noise complaint on 19th Street- contact manager of complex
 12:37 a.m.: malicious mischief (willful property damage) on 19th Street
 12:51 a.m.: Oak Rail, man in trouble for disorderly conduct, meet with another officer
 1:20 a.m.: South by Bi-Mart to edge of city limits
 1:30 a.m.: Main St. going north to monitor downtown area
 1:50 a.m.: Responded to 911 hang-up call
 2:00 a.m.: meet with another officer for a DUI stop
 2:20 a.m.: walk DUI stop into jail
 2:30 a.m.: check convenience stores for problems, noise complaint on Radio Hill
 2:50 a.m.: noise complaint on E. 10th Street
 3:00 a.m.: open window at 14th Ave
 3:23 a.m.: Home, Sweet Home

by Bridget Pechtel
 Staff reporter

I never expected to be standing outside of the Ellensburg Police station at 11 p.m. on a Friday night. I also never expected to be at a police station by choice. But on Nov. 19, there I stood, alone, unbearably cold, unable to feel my fingers and on the telephone to my roommate. Luckily, the phone call wasn't for her to post bail, but to keep me company while I waited for Sergeant Scott Willis, my ride-along companion, to pick me up.

Willis, who has been with the Ellensburg police for 15 years, is the supervisor of the shift from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. When he talks about the city, I can tell that he loves his job.

"I love this community. I love the diversity," Willis said.

At 11:30 p.m., I was going to finally see the city from his perspective. The first action I witnessed was in response to a noise complaint at Cottage Lane. This turned out to be three men taking a cigarette break, who got off with a warning to be a little more quiet.

After leaving, Willis drove to the downtown area to scope out the bar scene. We sat until 11:43 p.m., when it became obvious that there would be no need for crowd control. On our way to the south part of Ellensburg to search for possible vehicle prowlers, we drove down the alleyways to make sure people were not using them as bathrooms—a common occurrence.

Driving north on Main Street, Willis noticed a government car parked in the U-Haul driveway at

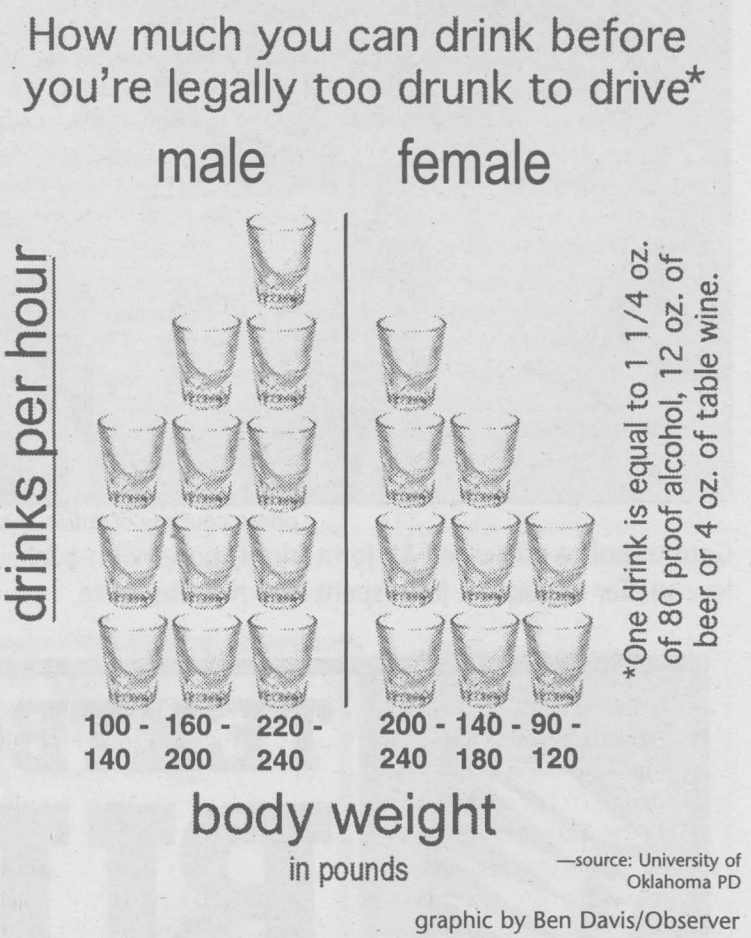
12:02 a.m. Afraid that it could be something bad, such as a possible burglary, Willis stopped and searched the area, but it turned out to be the new owner of the building.

We continued down Main Street and went to the freeway area to check the gas stations for possible problems. What had so far been a quiet night for the police force was about to change. At 12:30 a.m. we responded to a noise complaint on 19th Street. Phoenix Security and the manager of the 19th Street complex had already arrived after they received word that fireworks had been set off.

When we arrived, Willis failed at attempts to get the students to open the door to the apartment. With no answer at the door, Willis was unable to proceed and told the manager to continue with a warning the next day.

At 12:37 a.m., a few houses down on east 19th Street, a young woman called in to report malicious mischief. When a party ended next door, students emptied her recycling bin on the ground and broke it. After taking a report on the incident, Willis and I were once again on our way downtown.

Upon arrival at the Oak Rail at 12:51 a.m., we met another officer who needed to fill out a report on a young man's disorderly behavior—urinating in public. After a quick trip to the station, Willis and I took off to view the city limits to the south and east. This particular Friday night was extremely slow—which is a good thing because, according to Willis, it shows that people are acting responsibly and in a safe manner. Police offi-



cers typically look for burglaries on such nights as well as catch up on paperwork, according to Willis.

The busiest time for the police is around 1:45 a.m., when the bars close. At 1:30 a.m. we arrived downtown and continued to patrol the alleys and surrounding areas. When the Oak Rail closed, the foot patrols moved in to help dissipate the crowd. Willis and I waited and listened for heated voices and/ or fighting. It was a calm

crowd, however, and was gone by 2 a.m.

We had driven one block when we were called to assist an officer in the 1100 block of Lore St. What had been a routine traffic stop turned into a young man driving under the influence. When a DUI is being investigated, two officers are called in for safety reasons. Within seconds of

see **RIDE ALONG**, page 5

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Noise violation laws vary from town to town

by Natalie McCullough and Swan Vasquez

Staff reporters

Could a noise violation become a criminal offense?

In Ellensburg, a third violation could result in criminal charges. If there are no criminal charges, there is usually an eviction notice given. This is because landlords can receive citations as well.

"I have gotten three [tickets], but luckily I have gotten the first two dropped," said Kyle Hemmel, sophomore undecided. "Had I known they could lead to criminal charges, I would have been more careful."

The tickets have to be given within the same year of each other, which is likely how Hemmel avoided criminal charges.

This varies from city to city. In Cheney, where Eastern Washington University is located, a judge has the authority to try students with two or more violations with a criminal charge

instead of the common misdemeanor.

However, Bellingham, home of Central's rival Western Washington University, has laws similar to those in Ellensburg. It is up to the judge's discretion to increase the charge to a criminal offense. If the violator has multiple offenses, the likelihood of reducing the fine is limited. By the second offense a person is charged a mandatory fine of \$250, and it may be increased to \$500.

The state law for noise control, RCW 70.107, says violators are subject to a "civil penalty not to exceed \$100." But it also states that local governments may impose limits differing from those adopted by state government. These changes must be approved by the Department of Ecology, and if no statements of approval or disapproval have been received within 90 days, the changes become law.

Those cited for noise violations are allowed to appeal their fine if it is a first-time offense, which normally carries a fine of \$250 in Ellensburg.

"We actually had our neighbors write us a letter saying it wasn't us, that they didn't think we were loud," said John Lord, junior communication major.

Lord took the letter to the hearing, hoping it would help in lowering the fine. Having documentation as proof helped, because Lord and his roommate got the charge completely dropped.

Since Sept. 1 there have been 33 citations issued in Ellensburg, out of the 151 times the police have responded.

The police said they have been using the "50-foot" technique to determine if the noise is too loud. If someone can hear the noise from 50 or more feet away, the occupant can receive a citation.

"We respond to about 1,000 complaints a year," said Mike Luvera, active police captain. "We respond to everything from 'my neighbor's car is too loud, there is a party next door, or the neighbor's dark is barking. If we can, we try to take care of it on the first response."

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Timothy Park residents face new regulations

by Bob Kirkpatrick
Staff reporter

Tone it down or face eviction is the message being sent to those who reside in off-campus housing at Timothy Park.

Residents, a majority of whom are students at Central Washington University, must now sign an agreement with the owners of the rental properties, restricting the number of guests a tenant may entertain to a maximum of eight.

Additional guests are allowed—as long as the host fills out an application to gain permission prior to inviting them over. Those unwilling to abide by the new regulations set forth by the owners will not be allowed to reside in the duplex community.

"A bunch of my friends and I used to live in T-Park," said Matt Hibbs, senior accounting major. "We moved in there because it was the main attraction for everyone going to Central. But after they established new rules, some of us moved out."

Julie Williams, one of the principle owners of the facility, said most of the incidents arise at the beginning of the school year because people getting together for the first time have a lot of time on their hands.

"Every complex has had a problem with parties and loud noises," said Williams. "We are no different."

The restrictions placed upon tenants at Timothy Park are not that uncommon, according to Williams.

"We've talked to owners of other facilities and the Ellensburg Police Department to get some suggestions," Williams said. "That is where we got the idea."

Sgt. Mike Luvera with the Ellensburg Police Department said he knew a representative from the department had talked with Williams, but that he "didn't realize the specifics."

"It's really up to the owner to decide what they want to do with their property," Luvera said. "Different complexes have different rules."

Luvera acknowledges that officers from the Ellensburg Police Department have responded to a number of complaints regarding loud parties in Timothy Park, but said that is not to be unexpected because of the size of student population that resides there.

"Timothy Park is a large area, so you'd expect to have a higher volume of calls," said Luvera. "Especially with the age group of residents between 18 and 25."

Luvera did indicate, however, the amount of calls were not unusually higher than calls from other housing complexes where students live. Michelle Montgomery, records clerk

with the Ellensburg Police Department, said officers responded to 11 calls in 2003 involving fights and loud disturbances, but no citations were issued. Since Jan. 1 of this year, police have responded to 37 complaints from the Timothy Park complex, 10 of those since the beginning of the fall quarter, again no citations were issued. There are residents at Timothy Park who are glad to see some changes being made to improve the environment in the housing complex.

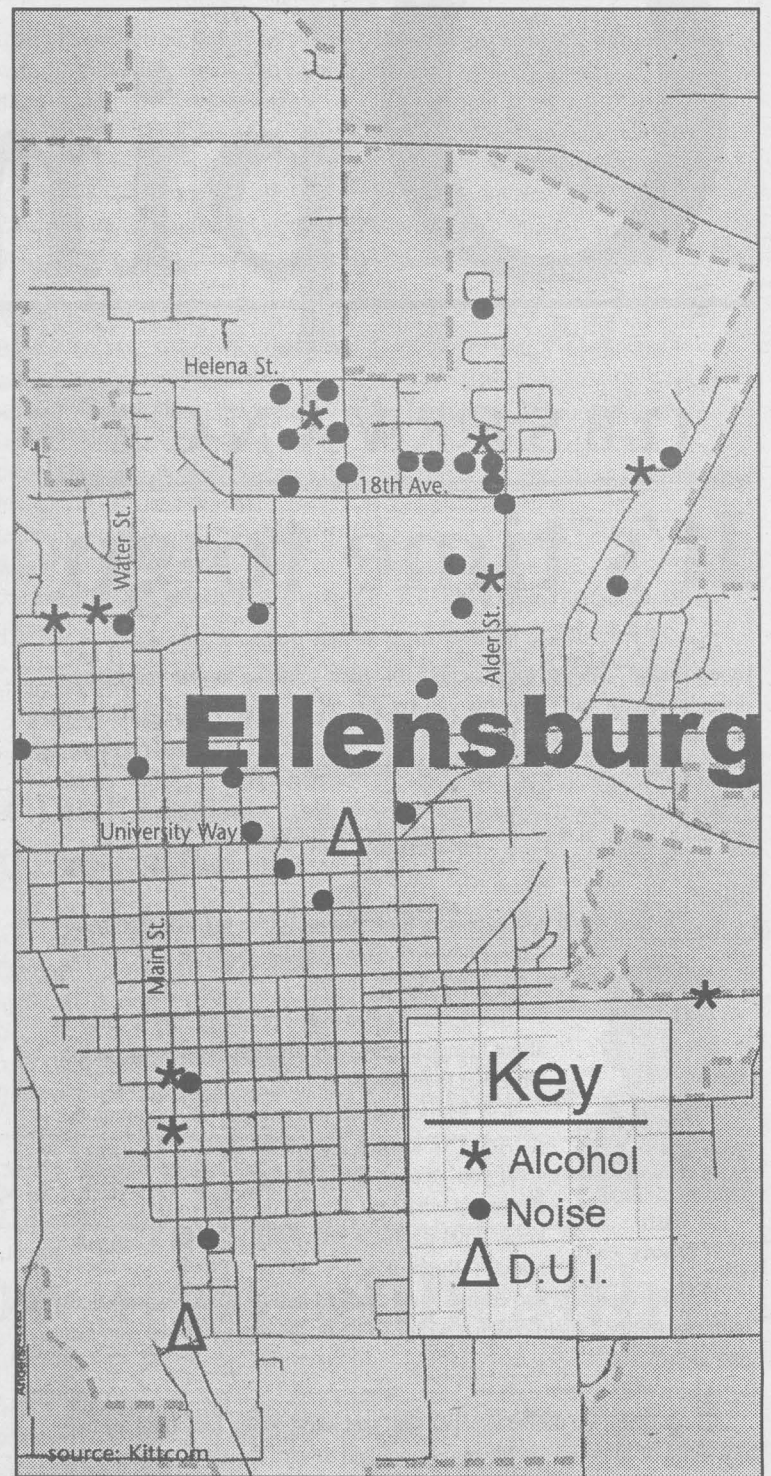
"Drunken people were literally screaming as they strolled through our neighborhood at 3 a.m.," said Marti Osborn, communication post-baccalaureate. "We've also seen some vandalizing of signs, a lot of littering and quite a few drunken men urinating on the sidewalk."

Osborn said Timothy Park has a wonderful layout for families and that it was a shame that management has to be the "manners police."

"It really bothers me that some students can't be considerate and respect their neighbors," Osborn said.

The number of incidents should taper off as the academic year progresses, according to Luvera.

"It takes a while to educate people in crime prevention and to learn how to police themselves," Luvera said. "I think we're on the down side of the calls now."



graphic by Luke Probasco/Observer

This map shows the distribution of noise violations, alcohol violations and DUIs in and around the city of Ellensburg in the past month. Note that most offenses took place in north Ellensburg, where many Central Washington University students live.

RIDE ALONG

continued from 4

arriving, the field sobriety tests were underway. The officers acted in a serious manner, but were compassionate when dealing with the man. At 2:20 a.m., once he was handcuffed and placed in the back of Willis' car, we were off to the jail.

At 2:30 a.m., after leaving the jail, we patrolled the convenience stores to check for problems. We responded to another noise complaint at 2:50 a.m. in the east 10th block. People that

were outside talking were asked to stay inside or keep the noise level down and received only a warning.

On the way back to the station, Willis was asked by the dispatcher to respond to a call from an apartment building on 14th Avenue. A young woman had noticed that her bedroom window was open and was afraid that her apartment had been burglarized. We met two other officers outside of the apartment building who quickly noticed that the screen to the window was still attached. Upon questioning the woman, she remembered opening her window hours earlier.

We arrived back at the station at 3:15 a.m. and after goodbyes and thank you's, I was on my way home. Driving home I realized that the key to a great Friday night for a college student is, of course, to have fun. But, to a police officer it is so much more.

"When we all go home safe - that's the key," Willis said softly, but with conviction.

The key to my Friday night out-on-the-town with an officer? Finally being able to curl up in my bed at 3:30 a.m. knowing that the great police force in Ellensburg is keeping us all safe.

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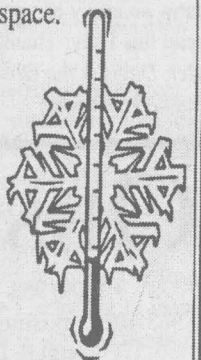
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BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

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

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



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

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

Opinion

OBSERVANCE

It's time to go

Do you ever get that feeling, sitting at your friend's house, that it's just time to leave? Maybe your friend hasn't said anything to you; maybe he doesn't want to, but somehow you get that feeling—it's time for me to go.

That's me, and that's how I feel at the Observer.

I've put in six quarters on the Observer staff—that's two academic years.

But my time at the Observer won't be forgotten.

I'd like to think I've raised the bar for the overall quality of the newspaper.

I've helped teach new reporters how to report. I've helped teach new editors how to edit. And along the way, I've learned a few things too.

I've learned more than I probably ever wanted to about QuarkXpress—the program we use to put the Observer together.

I've learned about this campus and community. And I've learned a lot about myself.

If you've ever changed majors, or struggled to figure out what you want to do with your life, you know what it's like to have that moment when you realize—this is it.

Helping reporters and editors were things I had to learn. I wasn't born with the ability to help coach a writer so he or she can get to the true meat of a story.

And it hasn't been easy.

Every editor on the newspaper staff can attest to the fact that I've had my share of blow-ups in the newsroom and toward the staff, and for that I'm sorry.

But the news business is a stressful one, full of long hours and late nights. How many of you have actually been in an academic building at 4 a.m.?

I have, working on the Observer.

I'm not complaining. I love what I do. And I love that every week people can pick up the newspaper and see what I've worked so hard on.

It's gratifying to have something tangible with my name on it to show for my stress and hard work.

But like I said, I feel like it's time for me to go. I'm not graduating, not yet anyway. I'm just stepping "gracefully" aside to give others their shot at this fun and unpredictable business.

Some of you might not think of the Observer as a real newspaper, but we produce a newspaper the same way the pros do, and it's an incredible experience to be the ultimate authority over what goes in the newspaper and what stays out.

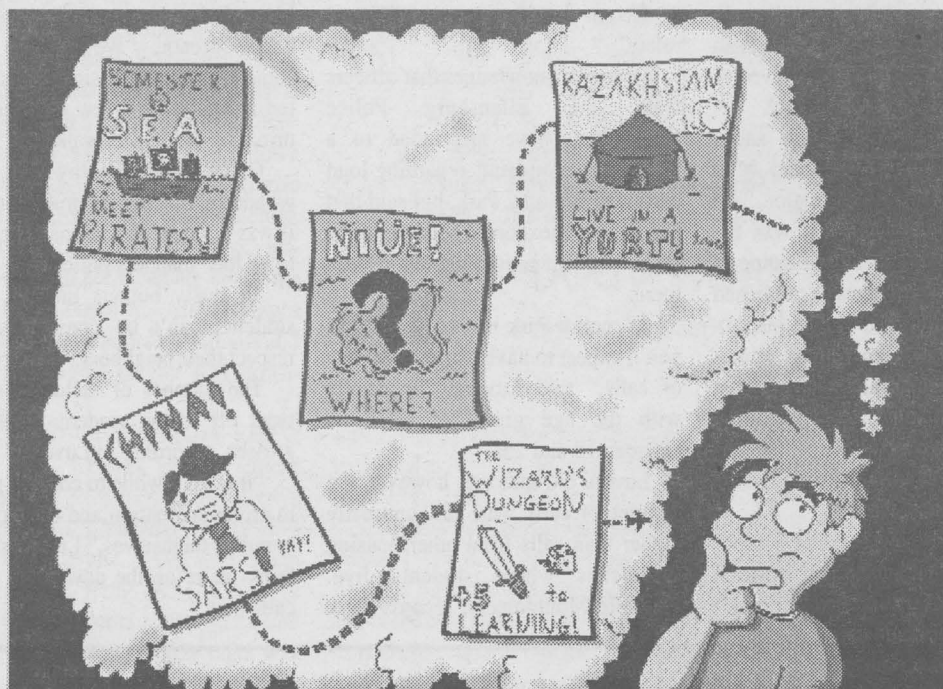
We've designed some cool front pages this quarter, and I'm particularly proud of this one, but I'm most proud of the fact that so many of you wrote letters agreeing or disagreeing with my point of view. It's refreshing to know so many of you read and have an opinion. To those of you who do read this I say: Thank you.

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



Ben Davis

ARTIST'S EYE



THINKING ABOUT STUDY ABROAD?

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A former coach's response to cuts in athletics

I would like to respond to the excuses used to eliminate the wrestling and swimming programs at Central Washington University. The administration has cited three primary factors for determining their decision. They were the lack of funding within the athletic department, no conference for either sport and finally travel is too expensive in order for these teams to find competition.

The first excuse the athletic department cited was the difficulty staying within budget during the last few years. Something had to be done to alleviate the \$100,000 they

had been running in the red. The wrestling and swimming budgets match this amount making the decision, in their eyes, logical. What is difficult to understand is why the revenue from the \$35 a quarter athletic fee has increased but budgets for some sports have decreased? The idea, when the student body adopted this fee in 1997, was that when enrollment increased budgets would increase. Enrollment has increased, so why the cuts? If one were to look at the budgets you would see that deficit spending is due primarily to consistent excesses in football. Since the budget problems began, football has gone from \$100,749 in 2000 to \$237,000 (this is just student fee money) in 2003. It seems that someone ought to do a better job in seeing that that program operates within its limits.

Recently, the student body voted again to increase the athletic fee by another \$5 to save wrestling and swimming. This would generate nearly \$120,000 a year at current enrollment. As we can see this would more than make up the difference. The administration has seen fit to ignore the wishes of its students. Paul Baker VP University Relations states: "that vote does not by any means represent a majority of Central students at Ellensburg. I'm sure you can agree that it is important to place the vote in context for public policymakers who may not understand how many students' voices were not registered in this vote."

Since when do we give more weight to the voices of people who

see **LETTERS**, page 7

OBSERVER

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DEADLINES

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NEWS

- Friday, 5 p.m. - Entertainment, meetings, calendar events.
- Monday, 3 p.m. - Weekend sports information.
- Monday, 5 p.m. - Letters to the editor.

ADVERTISING

• Thursday, 5 p.m. - Display ads. • Monday, 5 p.m. - Classified ads. To place advertising contact your advertising representative, call the Observer business office at (509) 963-1026 or fax information to 963-1027.

You tell us

Do you think Christine Gregoire should concede the governors race?



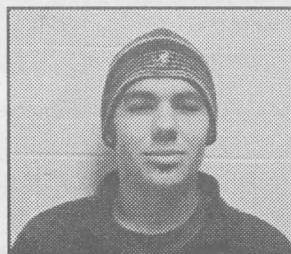
"They counted all the votes twice and she lost both times, so she should quit. She can't keep recounting until she wins."

— **Mike Normoyle**,
senior political science
and philosophy major



"I voted for her, but I think she should concede. I think she should have gracefully stepped down and accepted her defeat."

— **Devin Beach**,
junior communication
studies major



"The governor shouldn't practice a policy of if at first you don't succeed, lower your standards. She is lowering her standards by trying to backdoor her way into office."

— **Phil Davenport**,
freshman undecided



"The margin of error is larger than the percentage of votes. The state allows hand recounts for small margins. It's important votes are respected by a thorough recount."

— **Sarah Schacht**,
senior political science
major

don't vote than those who do? If this is the logic that the university uses, why did the 1997 vote count when approximately 1,500 students participated? This last spring, 1,307 students turned out and 72 percent voted in favor of the increase. Is Central setting a new precedent by not accepting any election if the majority do not participate? Were the rest the items on the ballot, such as student body president thrown out as well?

The second excuse that the administration cited was that the wrestling and swimming programs do not have a conference. True, wrestling competes in the Western Region which includes the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference. The RMAC has invited Central to join as an associate member. This would allow wrestling to enter and give the team a conference.

The third excuse dealing with the cost of travel has been addressed. The RMAC has stated that many of the teams within the conference would make the commitment to travel to Ellensburg to compete. This would alleviate some cost of conference travel. The administration also made the comment that there is little to no competition locally. Actually, there

are a number of schools in the northwest with wrestling such as Portland State, Oregon State, Oregon, Pacific, Simon Fraser, Douglas College, Southern Oregon, Montana State-Northern, Great Falls, Highline Community College, Clackamas Community College, North Idaho Community College, SW Oregon Community College and Yakima Valley Community College. These schools have consistently been on Central's schedule for years. Also, when the team travels, it is usually in a van, driven by the coach, with ten to twelve wrestlers. So, where is this huge travel expenditure?

What else must be done in order to get the programs reinstated? This question was asked of Central's Athletic Director, Jack Bishop by SwimInfo and his response was: "There is too much information going around and I would be glad to look at an e-mail or have someone else handle that, but I'm not going to sit here on the phone and talk to somebody I don't know."

Thanks for the non-answer Jack, but there are a lot of people out there looking for answers. All the issues have been addressed. The student body has agreed to increase

their athletic fee on behalf of wrestling and swimming. Wrestling has a conference that they have been invited to be a part of as well as many of those schools agreeing to come to Ellensburg to compete. Lastly, there are fourteen programs in the Northwest to compete with.

Jack Bishop, President McIntyre, and Members of the Board you have your information and your excuses of have been refuted. Great leadership is realizing and then correcting ones mistakes. No one is perfect. We are all hoping that Central has this type of leadership and the reinstatement of the two strongest traditions and programs at Central will take place quickly.

Kevin Pine
Central alum and former
head wrestling coach

Thanks for a good paper

I saw a copy of the Nov. 18 Observer. Very well done. Keep up the good work. It was the most interesting student newspaper I've read since an issue of the Berkeley Barb in 1968. Of course, the

Berkeley paper would have put the story about the Yugoslavian refugee right at the top of the front page. That was an important story, and very well written. I wish a paper like the New York Times would pick it up.

I liked the story about Jake Vancil, too; although I suspect the heart and soul of the story (I miss the food) is lost in the intended message (Holidays hard for student far from home). People from Hawaii miss the food all year long. We commonly eat things (when in Hawaii) called saimin, Spam musubi, nigiri sushi, sashimi, Korean barbecue, plate lunch, loko moko, poi, kulolo, haupia, mochi, bean cakes, green papaya soup, Portuguese bean soup, dim sum, pork rinds (fresh), chicken long rice, squid luau, laulau, kalua pork, 'opihi, lumpia, pork adobo, ahi poke, sour sop sherbet. "All I want is some rice with my meal," doesn't quite get it. Jennifer Turner's "red zone reality" deserves special mention, as does Bob Kirkpatrick's "Entertainment has undermined journalism." Well done, and keep up the good work.

Earl Neller
Ellensburg resident

VOICING OPINIONS

A nation of the knowingly unhealthy

Our society has turned into a nation on a crash course to being knowingly unhealthy. The general public knows what they put in their bodies, but yet don't have the discipline to take repercussions into considerations. We know how fattening and how health damaging the

food we eat is. Americans live in one of the most fast paced societies in the world, making it easy to make decisions without thinking. The only thing we care about is that it tastes good and we can have it fast and conveniently.

Large corporations concentrate on children, the easiest people to brainwash as well as the easiest to coerce into buying these fast food items. Big business and government have managed to join together with the have a specific goal to make money, no matter what the cost to the public.

We pay workers, who are for the most part under the age of twenty, to carry out the duties of these low-income jobs. After all, they can't complain, they need the money too. Though, it is obvious that kids don't like working for these places being that the average worker quits every three months.

Obesity has become a major part of our dying culture. The United States, being the most powerful nation in the world, can't stop the health threat that is just as deadly as cancer. Yet, we have no warnings on what we eat that inform us of the consequences. Instead, we offer more. For only forty more cents you can have your value meals with twice as



Danny Bergman
Staff reporter

many calories. Who can resist, it's only forty cents?

The industry that once brought in just a few billion dollars is now surpassed the \$100 billion a year point of revenue. With all that money, they have more than enough resources to shove the fast food in our face. McDonalds, which

accounts for almost half of the fast food America eats, has contributed a huge part to the point we are at now. This is the point where we have one out of every four Americans in a fast food restaurant in a given day.

The point where one would have to walk for seven miles to burn the calories received from a super sized value meal. The advertising in the fast food industry, who has the ability to make sure every child sees ten thousand television advertisements a year, has set the pace for other corporations seeking to gain the ability to please a society whose values have changed into a state of self indulgence. And along with this state of self indulgence comes convenience, which is given to us by these restaurants.

Now, the only thing to do is watch ourselves get fatter. Sixty percent of our nation is overweight. Diabetes is a disease that takes around twenty years of your life a way. How can this not be a priority when the disease is found in one out of every three of our children? Our government can shove the health risks that cigarettes give us down our throat, but has a hard time stomaching the use of a surgeon's general warning on

the side of a Big Mac. Within the happy image Ronald McDonald portrays to us is one of the most crooked businesses in the country. We can thank the government for using our tax dollars to help start franchises. This way if the restaurant fails it's on our shoulders. We can't really be surprised though; this is the same government that helped the fast food industry get on its feet. With this in mind, our society has turned into a freeway. Always on the go and always being pushed toward the newest product or juicy burger through "shove it in your face advertising." McDonalds is not alone in this parade of deceit. Taco Bell was found guilty by an Oregon jury of falsifying time cards so that employees didn't get their over time. Thanks to the managers catching this before the time cards were turned in, they got their bonuses.

These companies provide the worst possible workplace with the worst benefits. It's a shame a union can't be started without the corporations budding in. Employees are threatened to lose their jobs if affiliated with a union and have been forced to take lie detector tests in some instances. At least OSHA has stepped in. Oh wait, the National Restaurant Association, who teamed up with other industry groups as well as over one hundred congressmen to oppose any OSHA guidelines trying to be put in place, fought OSHA. These are the same politicians who received donations with groups associated with the fast food industry.

Colorado Springs is one the fastest growing regions in the country. One third of the residents

in Colorado Springs have only resided in the city for less than five years making it the perfect place to analyze the effects a fast food culture can have on a growing city. We are talking about a state government with an annual surplus of \$700 million.

But the state has a hard time finding the funds to solve its education problem, which is 49th in the country, or solving the problem with the shortage in fireman the state has. If they need more money then they should tax these big corporations, such as McDonald's, more.

After all, if the company has enough money to buy satellite equipment that was used in the Cold War to monitor growing regions in the country, then I think it could fork over some extra change to see that the state's education is sound.

I can now understand in great depth why my mom never took me to fast food restaurants. As for the other forty percent of the country, they eat outside their homes. This leads me to think that the only real way to solve this problem is education. It doesn't help that in these very places where we educate our children they consume the same food we are trying to protect them from. We wonder why our children have a hard time in school. Maybe it has something to do with all the sugar they eat.

Until the government can stand up to these corporations, we are fighting an inevitable loss. These are the same companies that get real nice tax breaks.

The American people need to come first and need to have the same care given to us that's given to the big money makers.

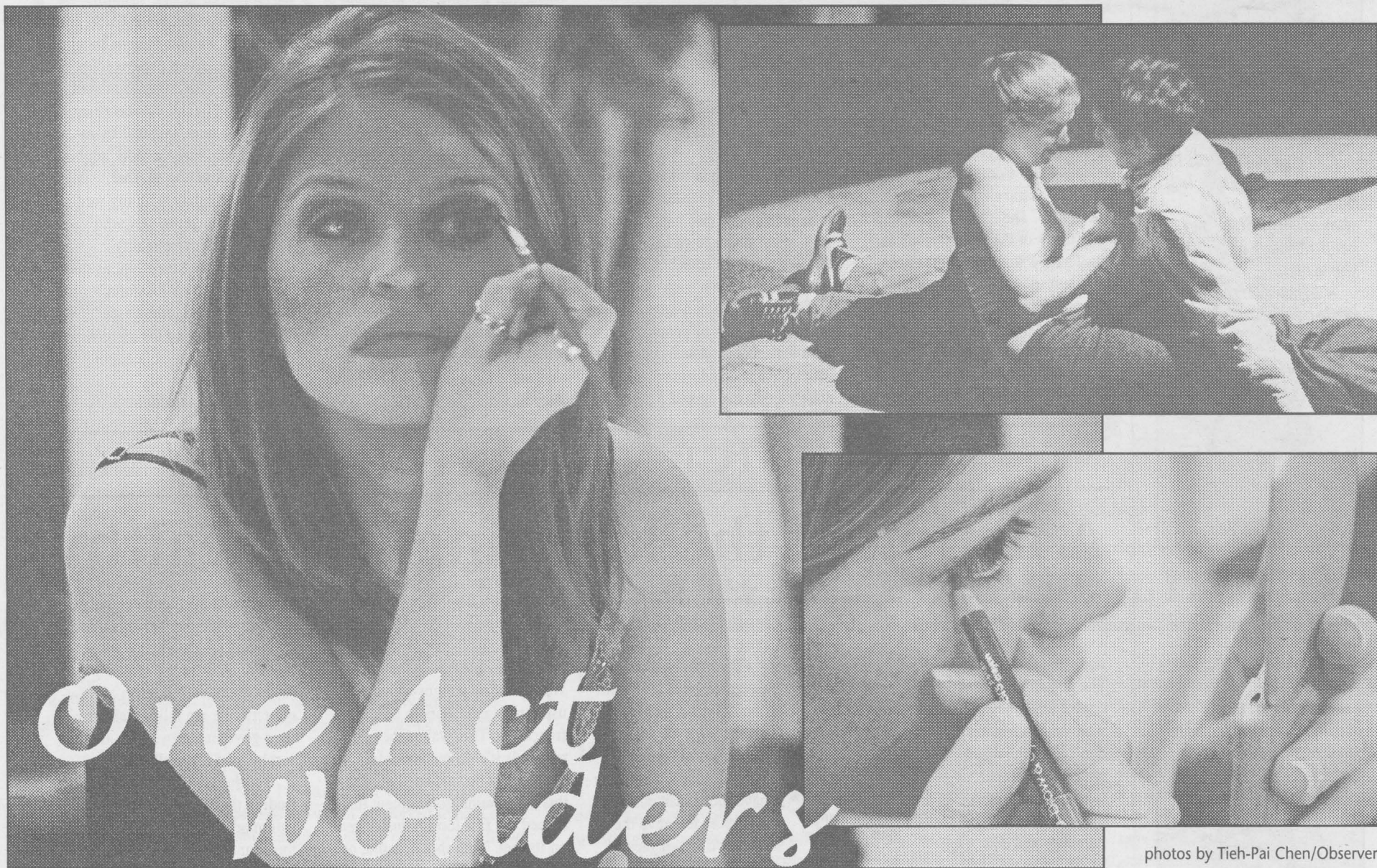
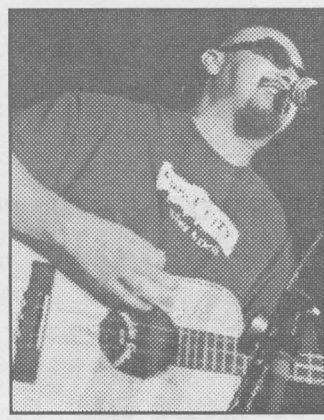


HOW TO MAKE IT THROUGH THE
HOLIDAYS ON A BUDGET PAGE 10

CROWDS CAME TO ROCK TO A
DIFFERENT BEAT PAGE 11

SCENE

A & E



photos by Tieh-Pai Chen/Observer

Because of the character's personality in "Miss Education," Emily Rose Shotwell, above, junior Theatre Arts major, has to use thick, bright-colored make-up to interpret her role. Sarah DeGrave, top right, and Brent Griffith perform for one of the six short-feature stories, "Assumption." Jenny Mcreno, bottom right, sophomore Theatre Arts major who performs in "Miss Education," usually arrives the dressing room about one half hour before the rehearsal.

Central's theatre students put on their Shorts

by Desiree Michel
Staff reporter

Junior Theatre Arts major Alicia James loves to write, but as she sat at her computer last spring with a bad case of writer's block, a deadline loomed and she knew her play wasn't going to write itself. Then, with a sudden burst of inspiration, James wrote "Miss Education," a short satire on fashion magazines and their impact on young women's self-esteem.

"It was written in a mad, twelve-hour sprint, but it normally takes a quarter," James said.

James' "Miss Education," along

with five other short, student-produced plays, will be performed this week in the Milo Smith Tower Theatre at Central Washington University. The Central Theatre Ensemble presents "Shorts: An Evening of Original Plays" on Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 3 and 4 at 8 p.m.

This year's crop of shorts features a fair mix of humorous and serious pieces. Each lasts 12 to 15 minutes, a time frame that makes the short a unique form of theatre.

James said the characters in shorts are different because they're more like caricatures, easy for the audience to quickly

identify and get to know.

Shorts require many set changes, and easily movable pieces are key to production's flow. Leslee K. Caul, director of marketing and development, said the audience must use imagination to bring the sets to life.

"A couch is a living room, a sink is a kitchen," Caul said. "It's more about suggesting a set."

Each short has a single director who oversees set and costume design; almost all other elements are also up to the director's artistic discretion.

Student directors each choose a student-written play early in the

quarter and can choose whether to work closely with the playwright, some thing producer Wesley Van Tassel encourages, or to put their own vision on stage.

Students in the theatre program get experience in multiple aspects of the Theatre Arts, from writing and directing to lighting, acting and costumes.

This is most evident in the production of "Shorts."

"Shorts are a great opportunity for students because everything is student-run, and that makes it a lot of fun because we work with our peers," said Shayne McNeill, senior Theatre Arts major.

McNeill said he loves the camaraderie of the theatre company and the way its faculty pushes students to do more and grow as budding artists. He dreams of someday joining a company in Chicago.

"It's a huge theatre town and it's big on improv—something I fancy," McNeill said.

McNeill is directing "A Couple of Windows," Kristl Miller's short on a series of pictures that illustrate people's lives.

"It's not your normal standard play," McNeill said in a press release. "You will look at theatre differently, and it's funny."



"SHORTS": An Evening of Original Student Plays

Dec. 2
7 p.m. Tower Theatre

Dec. 3 & 4
8 p.m. Tower Theatre

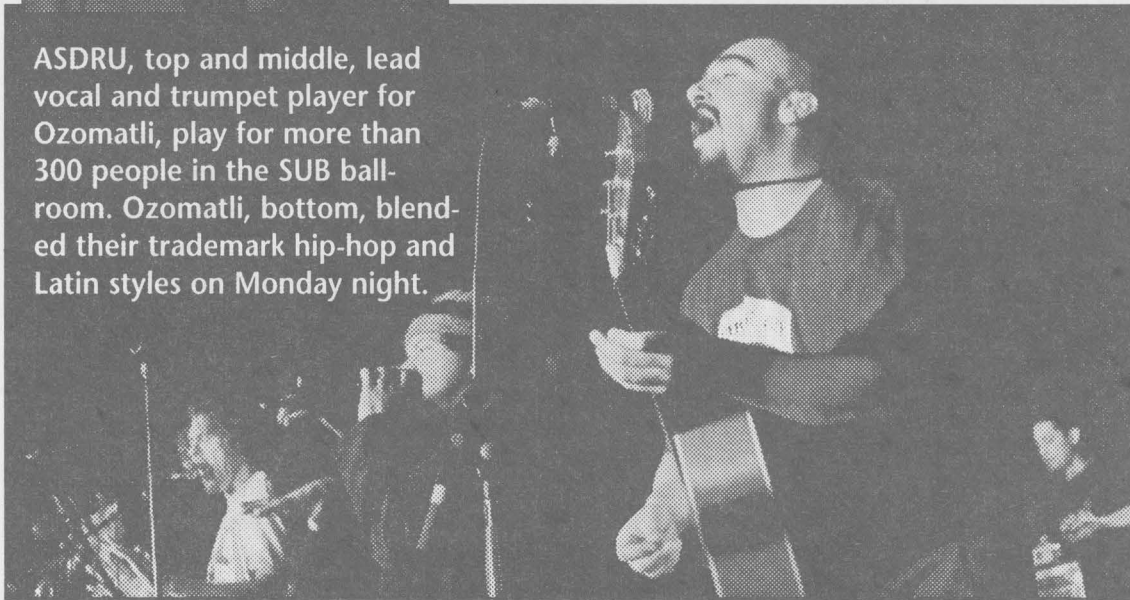
All
Tickets
\$3



photo courtesy of Campus Life

OZOMATLI

ASDRU, top and middle, lead vocal and trumpet player for Ozomatli, play for more than 300 people in the SUB ballroom. Ozomatli, bottom, blended their trademark hip-hop and Latin styles on Monday night.



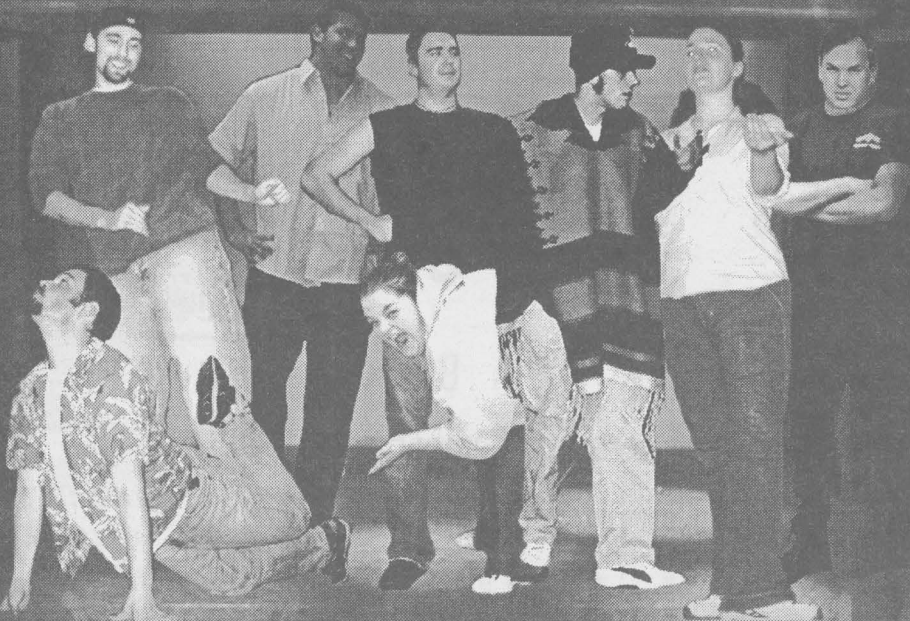
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Movies add Holiday cheer

Compiled by Rachel Guillermo
Asst. Scene editor

It's a Wonderful Life

It's beginning to look a lot like that holiday season where the majority of us go home for winter break, only to sit at home on our couches watching the Christmas classics. The Observer staff put together both a list of their favorite holiday films, along with a list of festive failures.

BEST:

A Christmas Story

Ralphie Parker is a young boy living in the 1940s Indiana, desperately yearning for a Red Rider BB gun for Christmas. Despite protests from his mother, Ralphie

persists, unsuccessfully trying to enlist the assistance of both his teacher and Santa Claus. All the while, Ralphie finds himself dealing with the constant



taunts of a pair of bullies and trying to not get in the middle of a feud between his mother and father regarding a sexy leg lamp.

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

Chevy Chase, star of National Lampoon's Vacation is back as head of the Griswold family to skewer the Yuletide season. Chevy mugs, trips, falls, mashes his fingers and stubs his toes as he prepares to invite numerous dysfunctional relatives to his household to celebrate Christmas. Amidst the more outrageous sight gags the film betrays a sentimental streak, with old wounds healing and long-estranged relatives reuniting in the Griswold living room.

George Bailey grew up in the small town of Bedford Falls dreaming of some day leaving it and making his mark on the world. His family's business is all what stands between the good citizens and Mr. Potter, a rich miser who takes sick pleasure in taking from everybody. George was about to leave when his father dies, leaving George to take care of the business. George is forever reminded of his plans to leave Bedford Falls and is convinced that he is nothing but a failure. On Christmas Eve he decides to kill himself and that's when his guardian angel, Clarence, comes in and tries to convince him that he has had a "Wonderful Life."

WORST:

Jingle All the Way

Mocking the 90s holiday toy crazes of Tickle-Me Elmos and Furbees, "Jingle All the Way" is about Howard Langstong, a harried father, deciding to dream the impossible dream, and getting that year's hot toy, Turbo Man, for his son just before Christmas Day.

Nightmare Before Christmas

Tim Burton's ghoulish tale about Jack Skellington, the king of Halloweentown, discovers Christmas Town, but doesn't quite understand the concept. He kidnaps Santa Claus and takes it upon himself to deliver some alternative gifts to unsuspecting children.



HONORABLE MENTIONS:

Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas
ELF



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Shopping 101: How to when you can't afford to

It's no secret that college students are poor—dirt poor. When faced with the daunting financial task of holiday shopping, the average college wallet trembles with fear. So how can we give great gifts and stay within our budget? Here are six little suggestions to get you started.



Amy Lynn Taylor
Scene Columnist

1. Online auctions: With online auctions like eBay and Amazon, you can get the people on your list what they want, but for a more reasonable price.

2. Re-gifting: Yes, I know this is technically a major gift giving faux pas, but if you have something nice that you've never used why not give it to someone who might enjoy it? But if you are dar-

ing enough to try this idea, make sure that the gift is in mint condition and that you are not giving the gift to the person who gave it to you.

3. Dollar Stores: Dollar stores are great places to pick up things like picture frames, figurines, key chains and other small items. You may not find anything very "nice," but you can probably find something that will make them laugh. This is a great place to pick up white elephant gifts for those with a good sense of humor.

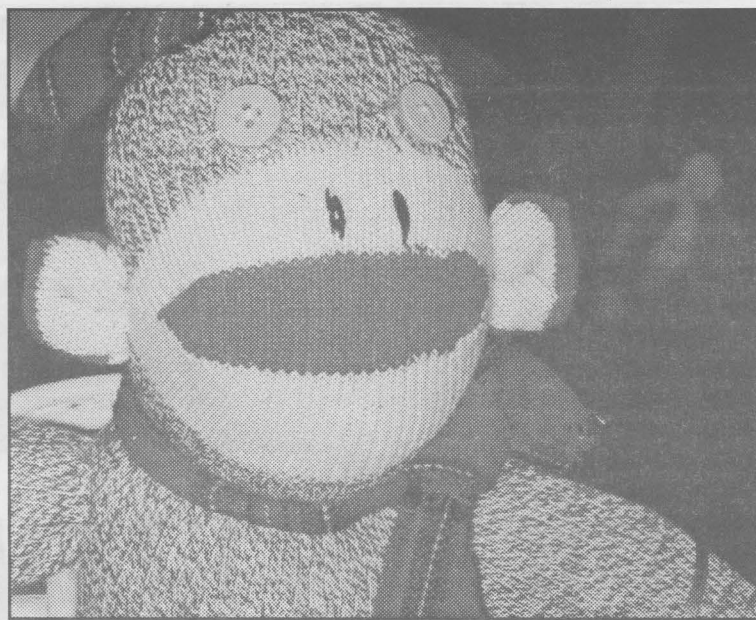
4. D.I.Y.: This generally takes some creativity and skill, but if you can do it, making gifts is a great

way to show people you care. There are many books available at your local library that can help you come up with ideas. You can also visit a craft store or look on-line for ideas. An easy idea: handmade tree ornaments or picture frames.

5. Baking: If you aren't crafty enough to make gifts, you could bake them.

6. I.O.U. coupons: If you can't afford material gifts, make coupons for friends and family that they can redeem for favors later. Tailor your I.O.U. coupons to the people you are giving them to. Offer to do your mom's grocery shopping, shovel the driveway for your dad, make your brother dinner and dessert or massage your boyfriend's nasty feet.

Whatever you give this year, bought or made, give it with love and a smile.



Courtesy of Campus Life

Ware Fair begins today at 10 a.m. and runs until 3 p.m. daily to Dec. 4. This is the 29th annual holiday event to feature handmade arts and crafts.

Christmas crafts

by Allison White
Staff reporter

Looking for some creative and memorable gifts to hand out to friends and family? Go no further than Central Washington University's own Ware Fair.

Starting today in the Samuelson Union Building is the 29th annual holiday arts and crafts fair.

"I know a lady who brings her stuff to make money, and students can buy decorations there," said Julie Maxwell, senior accounting major.

Ware Fair is a festival where community vendors and students participate to earn a little extra money for the holidays and to showcase their talents. For everyone else it's a time to buy unique gifts for family and friends.

"This year it was a goal of the

Ware Fair staff to have more student involvement," said Annie Castle, Ware Fair coordinator. "We have 11 clubs participating this year, including Rodeo Club with baked goods and Alpha Phi Omega with homemade soaps, bath salts and fleece scarves."

Arts and crafts bazaars are not anything rare around the holidays, but some of the things a person can find at them are. In the past, Ware Fair has had vendors specializing in homemade soaps, candles, jewelry, lawn decorations, Christmas ornaments and even clothing including many scarves and hats.

"It's always fun to go around and look at everything," said Cherie Carlyle, junior English education major.

In addition to the vendors, there will be entertainment and a visit from Santa on Friday night, which is part of "Santa Comes to Central." Santa will be on campus from 5 to 8 p.m. in the SUB.

"Holly Hooper will play the piano, Lucho Romero will play the flute and the piano, Megan Davenport with vocals, and Aundrea Schmidt will play violin," Castle said.

Ware Fair runs today from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Dec. 2
SHORT PLAYS
Tower Theatre, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$3 at the door.
WARE FAIR
SUB, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Dec. 3
SHORT PLAYS
Tower Theatre, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$3 at the door.
WARE FAIR
SUB, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Dec. 4
JUST HUSTLE
A low budget detective film created in the spirit of the French New Wave. Johnny Mac goes against his instincts in accepting a stalker case from a desperate waitress. Showing in the SUB, 7 p.m.

SHORT PLAYS
Tower Theatre, 8 p.m. Tickets are \$3 at the door.
WARE FAIR
SUB, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Dec. 5
HOLIDAY POPS CONCERT
Admission is \$3, or \$1 with a food donation. Music Education Building, 7 p.m.
THE JAZZ NUTCRACKER
Central Washington University's Jazz Band is set to perform the Jazz Nutcracker under the direction of Chris Bruya. Admission to the event is \$10 for general public, \$8 for senior citizens, and \$5 for students. Music Education Building, 3 p.m.

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Tieh-Pai Chen/Observer

The Grand Meridian Theater is located at 504 East Mountain View across from Bi-mart.

A Grand new theater

by Jared Lovrak
Staff reporter

In Ellensburg, going to the movies used to have its downside. First-run movies were often sold out. The screens were small. The sound was not top quality. Plus, there simply weren't enough theaters to handle the endless influx of new movies. That's all changed now thanks to Ellensburg's newest movie theater, the Grand Meridian Cinema.

"A lot of movies either don't stick around or don't come around at all," said Grand Meridian manager Jason Paschen.

The Grand Meridian Cinema, located at 504 East Mountain View, is owned by Grand Central Theater owners Rixinger Enterprises and features nine screens, two of which are more than 40 feet wide. An additional movie screen, only slightly smaller than those in the screening rooms, is situated directly above the snack bar in the lobby and plays previews of coming attractions. The screening rooms also feature stadium seating, making the "Oh my god, that guy's not going to sit in front of me is he?!" moments a thing of the past.

"In the old theaters, the seating is really uncomfortable, so sitting through a two-hour movie is painful. Plus, if someone sits in front of you,

you can't see all of the screen," said Marcus Tabert, senior broadcasting major. "And sometimes, the picture and sound quality aren't too good."

Despite the theater's remote location in relation to Central, Paschen said he doesn't believe that Grand Meridian's competition, the Liberty Theater located in downtown, will steal business.

"Before we opened, sometimes people would drive all the way to Yakima to see a movie, so I don't think location will be a problem," Paschen said.

Central students echoed Paschen's sentiments.

"Who wants to go clear to Yakima just to see a popular movie?" said DaJon DeMille, freshman geography major.

Although the new theater boasts a superior movie-going experience over its predecessor, Grand Central, Paschen said that there are currently no plans to close the smaller theater.

"For now it's going to stay open and keep showing new movies," Paschen said. "Overall, it's an improvement. We have better picture, better sound, bigger screens and all the movies we're playing right now are exclusive to the theater."

These exclusive movies include the new Pierce Brosnan heist caper "After the Sunset" and the somewhat

apocryphal Colin Farrel biopic "Alexander." These and other recent releases are now playing at the theater.

Grand Meridian also features an arcade full of new and classic games such as the first-person shooter "Area 51," the sci-fi brawler "Alien vs. Predator" and several pinball games. Grand Meridian will also offer screening room rentals for private functions.

"We haven't worked out a price yet, but people will be able to watch DVDs or play video games on the big screens for parties and stuff," Paschen said. "We also have a room in the back for birthday parties."

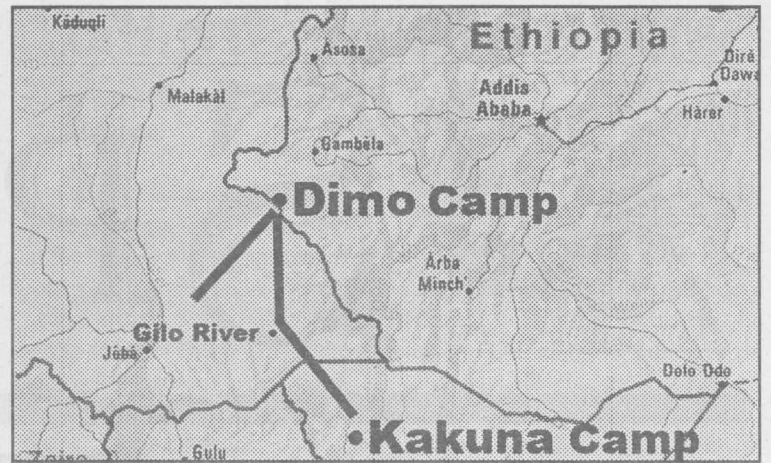
Jacob Slagle, freshman geography major, said he thought "renting out a screening room is a great idea."

Some students were less enthusiastic, but optimistic.

Rick Brajavich, sophomore food and nutrition management major, said he thought it "might be a good thing for younger kids, like teenagers and [maybe also] for the campus Halo tournaments and stuff."

Current ticket prices are \$8.50 for a regular adult ticket, \$6 for a matinee ticket and \$5 for a child or senior ticket.

For movie times, please call 962-FILM(3456).



map courtesy of google.com

Lual and fellow refugees trekked over 1,600 miles across eastern Africa. Lual spent three years in Dimo Camp before fleeing south past the deadly Gilo River and on to Kakuna Camp in north Kenya where he spent nine years.

REFUGEE

continued from 1

Lual lived in Dimo Camp, a U.N. supported refugee camp in Ethiopia, for three years before it was attacked in 1991 by the Muslim Sudanese military. During the attack the army drew refugees back, forcing Lual and thousands of children to cross a deadly river named the Gilo. During the crossing at the Gilo River an estimated two thousand refugees were shot or drowned; some were even eaten by alligators.

Lual had walked almost 1,600 miles since leaving Southern Sudan before he and the Lost Boys reached Kenya. Only 16 of 20 thousand refugees like Lual had survived the exodus.

In 1992 Lual and other Lost Boys settled in a Kenyan refugee camp called Kakuma Camp that supported about 82 thousand people.

"There was a lot of need but little supplies," Lual said.

Lual began his formal schooling at Kakuma Camp where he attended school for eight hours a day.

Living conditions were tough. Typically four people shared a small hut and the U.N. provided only one meal a day.

"It's how you would picture Iraq, mostly desert," Lual said.

To help ease the burden of maintaining the refugee camp, the U.N. decided to relocate refugees to the United States. Refugees under the age of 18 were eligible to make the trip.

Lual had taken an orientation class that would prepare him for his trip to the U.S. He said that almost everything had turned out the way he expected.

Moving from Kenya to Issaquah, Lual said adjusting to the cold was difficult.

"Weather was one of the things I had to struggle with," Lual said. "Making a switch from culture to culture was hard."

Lual came to the U.S. at 16 and soon settled in Issaquah, where he entered Skyline High School as a junior. He graduated in the class of 2003.

Lual attended Bellevue Community College for one year before transferring to Central fall quarter. Lual stays busy as a part-time student while working part-time in the Civic Engagement Center.

"It is not a big deal, compared to what I have done," Lual said. "I used to work 36 hours a week in high school."

Lual may have beaten the odds by surviving his horrific experience, but making it all the way to the U.S. is not the last stop in his journey; Lual's mother, two sisters and two brothers still live in Sudan.

"I haven't seen my family since I was four," Lual said. "I plan to go back someday."

Lual is grateful for the opportunity to study, but his heart is ultimately with his family.

"Lucky is not a word I would use, I would be lucky if they were here, but I am still feeling the pain because they are over there still," Lual said. "I am glad I had the opportunity to be here."

Lual doesn't know where he wants to live in the future, but he eventually plans to find a good job and see where it takes him.

Over 300 Lost Boys like Lual live in the greater Seattle area.

"We get together once a month to see how everyone is doing," Lual said. "It is a strong community where everybody takes care of each other."



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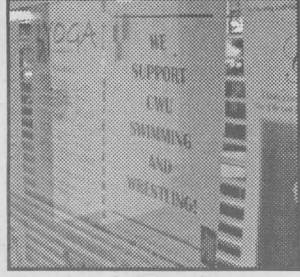
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SPORTS



Do students care about Central athletics?

by Paul Hudon
Staff Reporter

Every Central Washington University student pays a \$35 athletic fee each quarter to support six varsity NCAA Division II sports, participate in intramurals, and for the use of Nicholson Pavillion.

But how many students take advantage of the facilities or go to the games?

The volleyball team saw record numbers in attendance thanks to an undefeated season, while the football team led the school with an average of 2,431.

The men's basketball team is also strong in attendance, but otherwise attendance is down.

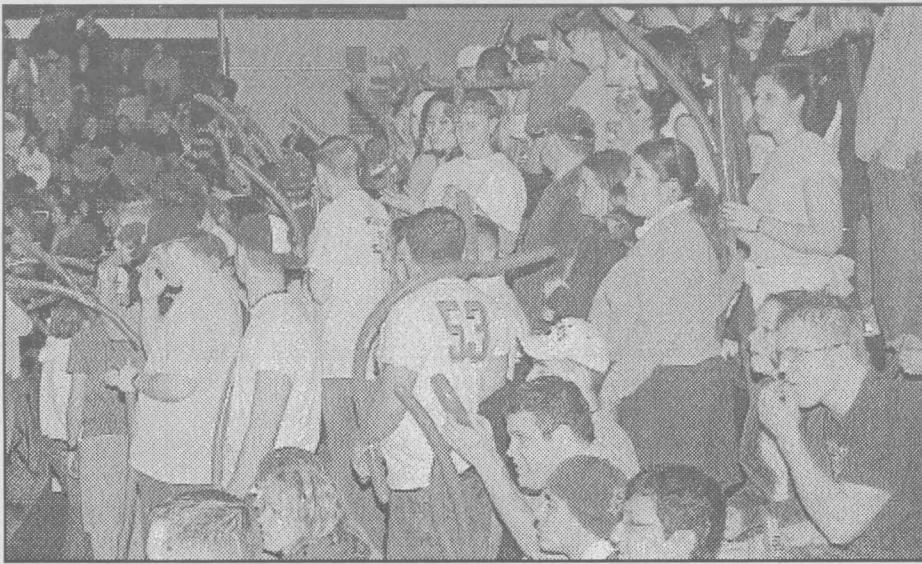
It is safe to say a majority of students don't participate in any formal organized athletics.

"I'm an intramural sleeper," said junior communications studies major Colby Toll in reference to his participation in athletics.

Should we even have to pay the athletic fee if there is a majority of students who do not participate?

"I believe students should have to pay the fee because athletics promotes a positive atmosphere for students," said junior social studies/religious studies major Korri Shimizu.

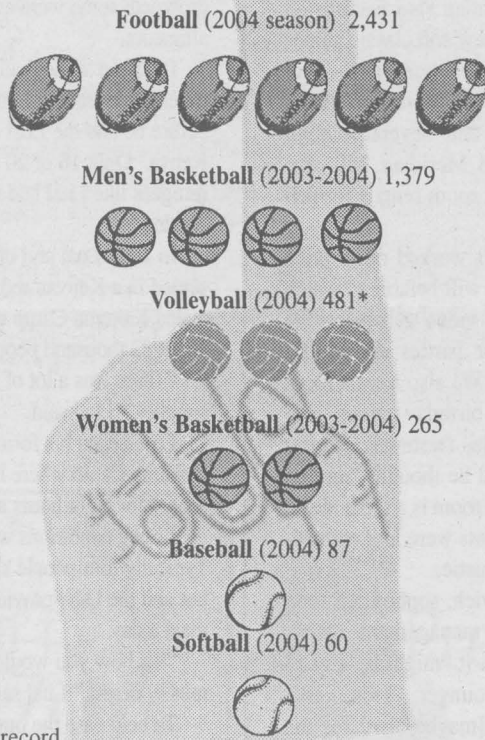
Although many students believe in paying the fee to benefit athlet-



Observer file photo

Average attendance for Central teams

Balls represent number of fans in attendance at home games



* School record

ics, there are some who think students should pay per use.

On the other hand, Sports Information Director Jonathan Gordon believes the fee is essential to the college experience.

"I think it's [the athletic fee] just as much a part of the university as anything else is," Gordon said.

The main reason for low attendance is scheduling. A majority of events are scheduled on the weekends, a time when many students go home.

"During the week, attendance is good but when we play on the weekends, kids go home," said basketball coach Greg Sparling.

The volleyball team had an excellent turnout this year. Their winning record brought people out to Nicholson Pavilion.

In fact, Central was mentioned five times in the top attendance for matches this season.

"There has been an increase in attendance this year," said volleyball coach Mario Andaya.

However, athletic advertisement is hard to come by on campus.

"Students don't realize there are matches," Andaya said. "There needs to be more promotion."

Gordon agrees that there needs to be more advertisement, but Central doesn't have the necessary staffing to promote such athletic events for every sport.

Financially, Central can only do so much with the money they have.

The Battle in Seattle was advertised extremely well, but that is because it was such a big event.

"We're talking Central and Western," Gordon said. "We're talking football in Seattle. The alumni invested a lot into that event."

Would more of an online presence help speak to today's techno-savvy student?

Wildcatsports.com is good when it comes to information and statistics but doesn't have certain aesthetic qualities that draw the eyes to cer-

see **ATHLETICS** page 16

“

I believe students should have to pay the fee because athletics promotes a positive atmosphere

”

Korri Shimizu
Junior

“

Students don't realize there are matches. There needs to be more promotion

”

Mario Andaya
Volleyball head coach

“

I'm an intramural sleeper

”

Colby Toll
Junior, commenting on his participation in campus athletics

The Price of a \$ports fan

by Chris Thompson
Staff reporter

Each year, Team Marketing Report publishes a Fan Cost Index for Major League Baseball, the National Basketball Association, the National Football League and the National Hockey League that tracks the cost of attendance for a family of four. The FCI includes: four average-price tickets, four small soft drinks, two small beers, four hot dogs, two game programs, parking, and two adult-size caps.

The NFL leads the way, with the average cost for a family of four

being \$321.62 per game. The Super Bowl-champion New England Patriots lead the league at \$415.22, with the Patriots' average ticket costing \$75.33. The Seahawks are 28th on the list, with a FCI value of \$260.21.

The NBA is the next most expensive, costing that same family of four \$261.26 to attend the average NBA game, not including the emergency room fees for any injuries due to player-fan fights. Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers are the most expensive at \$387.10. Comparatively, the Los Angeles Clippers who play at the exact same

arena as the Lakers, the Staples Center, cost \$126 less (\$261.10). The Sonics come in at 27th with a FCI value of \$207.52.

The Mariners are the only Seattle-based franchise to be above the league average. The M's have a FCI value of \$173.45, compared with the MLB average of \$155.52. The World Champion Boston Red Sox lead the league at \$263.09.

There are cheaper alternatives for the winter break for those who just can't stay away from the sports atmosphere. The Western Hockey League has teams in Everett, Seattle, Spokane, Tri-Cities, and Portland

and the WHL provides some good action for a reasonable price. Portland has the most expensive tickets at \$20.75, though all the teams have tickets available for \$12 or less.

College athletics

Central Washington University students don't understand just how lucky they are to have free admission to all home sporting events on campus. Those with friends at Washington State University know that students there pay \$79 a year to attend Cougar athletic events.

At Syracuse University, a student season ticket to the Orange football

see **SPORTSFAN** page 14

Fan Cost Index

The average cost for a family of four to go to a certain sporting event: (the cost of four average-priced tickets, four small drinks, two small beers, four hot dogs, two programs, parking and two hats)

1. NFL average \$321.62
Seattle Seahawks \$260.21
2. NBA average \$261.26
Seattle Sonics \$207.52
3. MLB average \$155.52
Seattle Mariners \$173.45

Injuries, inexperience lead to slow start

by Pat Brown
Staff reporter

The Central Washington University Wildcat men opened the season with a 76-63 win over the Warner Pacific Knights at Nicholson Pavillion.

Both teams struggled in the beginning. The Wildcats shot 42.9 percent and made only three of eight free throws in the first half. However, they picked up the pace and outscored the Knights by 14 points in the second half, ultimately leading to a victory. Sophomore forward Lance Den Boer led the Wildcats with 21 points, while forward Kyle Boast had 14 points and 14 rebounds, seven of which were on the offensive end.

The Wildcats then went to Chico, CA to face the Chico State Wildcats in the Wittmeier Mac Martin Tournament. The Central Washington Wildcats were thoroughly dominated on the inside getting out rebounded by 12 and outscored in the paint by 36 points.

Central didn't get much production out of their bench players either. The Wildcat bench players scored only five points while Chico State's bench players scored 29.

The Wildcats have been plagued with injuries. They went on the road with only eight guys, which definitely contributed to the lack of productivity. The final score was 79-99; the most any team has scored against Central so far this year.

"They had too much fire-power, and we didn't have an answer for them inside the paint," said head coach Greg Sparling after the game.

Chico State forward Chuck Webster was six of seven from the floor scoring 14 points in 16 minutes. He eventually earned Wittmeier Mac Martin Tournament MVP honors.

The Wildcats second game in

the tournament was against non-conference Dominican University. It came down to the wire but eventually the Dominican Penguins got the win via a lay up by center David Moore with 30 seconds left. Moore and guard Marcus Williams accounted for 60 percent of the Penguins total points; Moore had 30 and Williams had 21. There were 18 lead changes in the game and 14 ties including a 31-31 tie at halftime. The Penguins got the final word though taking the lead for good with 53 seconds left. The final score was 79-82.

"It could have gone either way, we missed some shots late, they made some shots late," said Sparling reflecting on the game.

It's going to get harder before it gets easier for the Wildcats, who don't have another home game until Jan. 6. Next Saturday they will take on St. Martin's in Lacey for their first GNAC game of the year. St. Martin's is currently 2-2 on the season.

After that the Wildcats travel to Phoenix, Ariz. to play Grand Canyon University, then to Las Vegas, Nev. for the High Desert Classic. Then they will be off to Monmouth, Ore., for the Best Western Dallas Inn & Suites Classic.

The Wildcats struggles so far have come mostly on the defensive end. They currently are last in steals and have the worst defensive field goal percentage in the conference, allowing their opponents to shoot an average of 55.4 percent and score an average 81.3 points per game. This could be blamed in part to having such a young, inexperienced team, with no more than a few months experience playing together for a number of players.

"Once we play more together, once we have an opportunity to sure up our defense, I think that things are going to happen," Sparling said.

The Wildcats have two

Men's Basketball

Home Games following winter break

Thurs. Jan. 6
vs. Seattle Pacific
7 p.m.

Sat. Jan. 8
vs. Western Washington
7 p.m.

Thurs. Jan. 20
vs. Western Oregon
7 p.m.

Division-I transfers this year, sophomore Derek Groth from Air Force Academy and Lance Den Boer from Washington State. Den Boer currently leads the GNAC in points per game with a 22.3 points per game average. Chris Bannish, Robert Hicks, and Sean Russell were all junior College all-stars that transferred to Central this year.

Since the current roster has been so badly depleted by injury, true freshman Joey Luke who was expected to red-shirt will be playing and 6-foot-6-inch Steve Breeze who played tight end in the fall, will be walking on.

Senior Jacob Galloway best known for his defensive prowess on the football field, walked on to the team after having not played competitive basketball for four years.

"He's doing a great job," Sparling said. "He's the kind of kid who plays hard every possession."

This sounds like a prevalent theme for the entire team. Hopefully we can see these players and the team develop and win some basketball games this season.

Young team starts off hot

by Rebecca Thornton
Staff reporter

Women's Basketball

Central Washington University's women's sports continue to impress as the basketball team starts its season at 4-0. With two victories against Adams State University this weekend, head coach Jeff Whitney looks forward to establishing a place as one of the best defensive teams in the conference.

"We started to see our team depth this weekend," Whitney said. "Depth and remaining healthy is key this conference."

In their home opener Friday night, your Wildcats crushed the visiting Adams State University 79-36. Central allowed Adams State just one of its first attempted 16 field-goals.

Senior Loni Ainslie led her team in the first half with eight points in just seven minutes helping the Wildcats with their 34-17 halftime lead.

Sophomores Laura Wright and Ashley Blake impressed fans by helping Central keep its lead over ASU. Blake scored 15 while Wright finished with 17 points and 11 rebounds. Senior Moriah Hover had a career high with 12 points.

Saturday night proved a bit more challenging for the Wildcats as

ASU challenged back. Central still dominated, winning the non-conference game 75-69. Ainslie and junior Jamie Corwin both scored nine points helping the Wildcats to take a 37-35 lead at halftime. Wright finished the game with 24 points and 10 rebounds helping the Wildcats remain in control of the game.

"I thought Adams State came out a lot more energized tonight," Whitney said. "We executed in the second half but we looked like we were tired tonight. We'll take the win."

With wins already banked this early in the season, basketball fans will no doubt enjoy an exciting and dramatic season.

"We have a young team with new players who need experience," Whitney said. "We'll have a better indication of how good the team will be after 9 or 10 games, giving our younger players some good experience."

Alaska Fairbanks will visit Nicholson Pavilion on December 2 to take on the Wildcats in their first conference contest.

Basketball games over winter break

Men

- Noon Saturday, Dec. 17, vs. Central Arkansas, Las Vegas, Nev.
- 6:45 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18 vs. Cal State Bakersfield, Las Vegas, Nev.
- Dec. 29 and 30 at Best Western Dallas Inn & Suites Classic, Monmouth, Ore.

Women

- Dec. 17 and 18 at Coyote CCAA/GNAC Challenge

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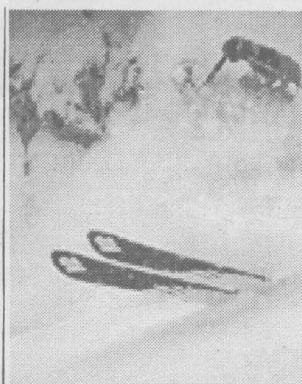
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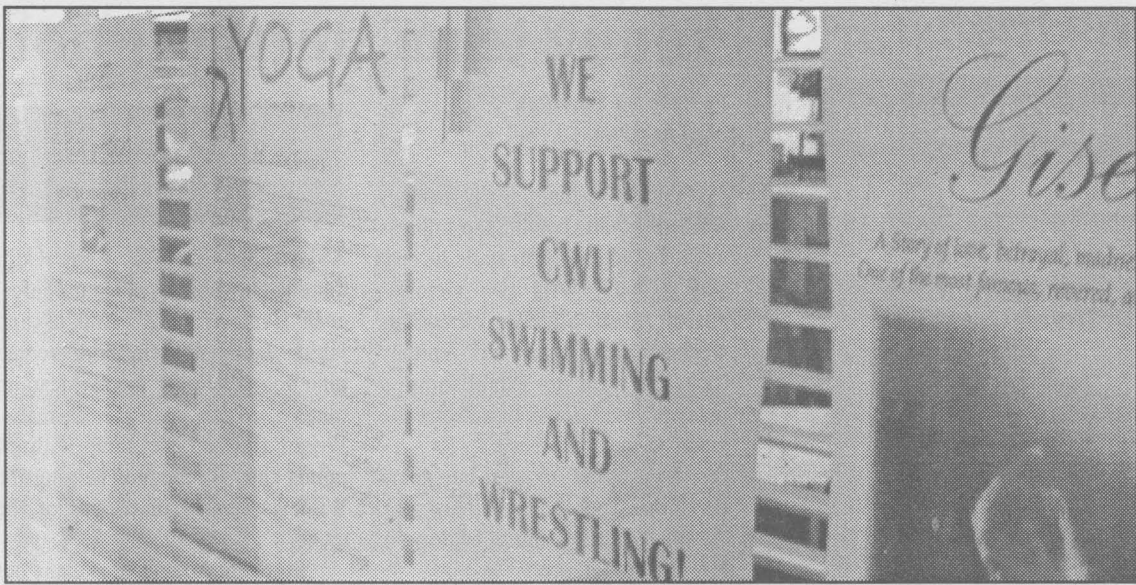
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Students turn from sport to club

by Ryutaro Hayashi
Staff reporter

The same mat, the same swimming pool and the same faces. Different competitors, different recognition and a completely different name. This is what former Central Washington University wrestlers and swimmers are currently facing.

After the unpopular decision made by the university to stop sponsoring both the wrestling and swimming programs was announced last spring they have decided to move forward by continuing their sports, as clubs.

On May 20, students overwhelmingly approved increasing the student athletic fee by \$5 to maintain the wrestling and swimming teams. The university, however, disputed the validity of the vote, citing two reasons: The university said that 935 people out of 8,245 total students, or 11.3 percent, couldn't reflect a consensus. The second reason was that increasing the athletic fee by \$5 wouldn't resolve financial issues such as the cost for salaries, insurance and traveling expenses.

Not all of the former athletes switched to clubs; some ended their

“
*There is a lot of
hoops we have to
jump through*
”

Emily Von Jentzen
President, Swimming club

athletic career at Central and four transferred to other colleges to play in varsity programs. There were also athletes who wanted to transfer but could not.

“Most of us were unable to transfer because the decision was made so late,” said Emily Von Jentzen, senior law and justice and sociology major, who is the president of the swimming club. “The upperclassmen have trouble because they are adding on at least a year of schooling because credits didn't transfer. Most teams have their roster set by that point.”

The new roster of the wrestling club has 20 names on it; half of

them are returning from the varsity program and the other half are freshmen and those who wrestled in high school. The number of wrestlers on the list has dropped from last year's 30. Similarly, the number of swimmers on the list also dropped from 30 to 23 swimmers.

The swimming club has the same practice time and facility as before: morning evening practice on weekdays, plus morning practice on Saturdays. As for the wrestling club, it practices in the same mat room as before at 4:30 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday, and at 6 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

Although the university promises to keep offering scholarships through this academic year, when asked the biggest difference from being a varsity program, presidents of both clubs cited fund raising. They raise money by working security at Husky football games, Seahawks games and concerts.

“It's working a lot,” said Vaughan Bulfinch, senior pre-med, who is a coach and the president of the wrestling club. “It's kind of stretched out. It's been a struggle to get stuff done, but we're managing all right.”

“It (the fund raising) is going

A simple sign outside of Hungry Hippo Sub shoppe shows that Central wrestlers and swimmers are still on the minds of the Ellensburg community. Last spring a decision by the university forced nearly 70 athletes out of NCAA competition.

Andrew Grinaker/Observer

well,” Von Jentzen said. “We've had a lot of opportunities this quarter. But next quarter when we have more meets, it's going to be harder trying to do that. But it's not an option. It's not we can't do it. We have to.”

The competition changes as well. No longer a varsity program, they aren't entitled to join the NCAA. Instead, the swimming club has already been certified by United States Swimming Club.

“There is a lot of hoops we have to jump through,” Von Jentzen said. “We haven't had any meets yet, but all that is done now, so next quarter we should be able to roll right in to meet a schedule.”

The wrestling club is already vigorously inactive. It has joined the National Collegiate Wrestling Association, and wrestlers went to a tournament match on November 14. They are preparing for another tournament on January 9.

“It's very hard to stay at a high competitive level when you don't have the money and when you don't have the bodies to train,” said Jason Hartle, senior geography major, who is an assistant coach of the club.

see CLUB SPORTS page 16

SPORTSFAN: CWU students have it easy

continued from 12

games cost them \$70 for the honor of watching their team go 4-1 at home. Wildcat football fans know that their team went 5-0 at home and it didn't cost a dime for students to attend. Students at Syracuse have to pay \$100 for season tickets to their men's basketball games. Again, at Central, the price of basketball season tickets is the time it takes to take out your Connection Card and flash it at the door upon entrance.

Students at Central might be upset having to pay \$35 a quarter to support the athletic department that brought three Great Northwest Athletic Conference championships to Ellensburg during the fall. At the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va., the students pay an annual \$916 fee to support the athletic department.

I understand that not everyone is a sports fan, though I can't quite understand why, but for students at Central the season tickets are already paid for so you might as well use them and help give the Wildcats the biggest home-field advantage in the GNAC.

Sports Calendar Dec. 2- Dec. 8



Central Athletics

Women's Basketball
Thurs. Dec. 2
7 p.m.
vs. Alaska Fairbanks

Sat. Dec. 4
7 p.m.
vs. Alaska Anchorage



College Football

Sat. Dec. 4
Army @ Navy
11:30 a.m.
CBS

#11 Virginia Tech
@ #9 Miami
10 a.m.
ABC

#3 Auburn
@ #15 Tennessee
10 a.m.
CBS



NFL

Sun. Dec. 5
Green Bay
@ Philadelphia
1:15 p.m.
FOX

Pittsburgh
@ Jacksonville
4:30 p.m.
ESPN

Mon. Dec. 6
Cowboys
@ Seahawks
6 p.m.
ABC

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SESSIONS:

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NOON IN THE SUB PIT

JAN. 10 | 7 P.M. | BARTO LOUNGE

JAN. 11 | 8:30 P.M. | KAMOLA LOUNGE

JAN. 12 | NOON | SUB PIT

JAN. 13 | 7 P.M. | AL-MONTY LOUNGE

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Where is the love for the NHL?

With no end to the NHL strike in sight, the All-Star game cancelled and owner/athlete talks failing, few fans are betting they will see professional hockey this season

As we enter the cold winter months I feel as though I am missing something. What am I missing you ask? I am missing the smell of freshly cleaned ice, the sound of a solid check into the boards, the sight of a toothless smile and the throw'em down, knock'em out brawls seen every night on Sportscenter.

I miss hockey. Although it is a sport not followed by many Americans, growing up in Canada I grew to love the game played on a sheet of ice with sticks. When I was a kid, hockey playoffs, and Monday Night Football were the only reasons I was allowed to stay up late on a school night.

Many of you may not even realize this, or care for that matter, but for the first time since 1994, the owners of the National Hockey League have locked out the players.

Work has been stopped for 75 days now and counting. More than 630 games have been cancelled and more than 275 players have packed their skates to play in Europe for substantially less money.

The 1994 lockout lasted 103 days, the All-Star game was cancelled and the season was cut from 82 games to 48. However, this lockout is feared to be much worse with players and owners because absolutely no progress is being made and the two sides aren't negotiating. The All-Star game has already been cancelled this year and as each day goes by a hockey season seems less likely to happen.



Aaron Miller
Online Editor

Basically, the owners want a salary cap to curb the free spending teams have been doing since the mid 1990s. As of last year, the average player's salary was \$1.8 million. This, along with benefits accounted for more than 75 percent of a franchise's revenue, leave many teams in the red at the

end of the season. Some reports show the NHL losing nearly \$500 million over the last two seasons. Other reports show the NHL only losing around \$300 million. These inconsistencies have players upset with the owners and is one of the main reasons for the lockout from the players side.

To make this simple, the owners want to enforce a salary cap that would keep the revenue costs of salary right at 50 percent. This would lower the league average salary to \$1.3 million.

The players do not want a salary cap. They would rather vote in favor of a luxury tax that would hurt a team for spending more money on high priced free agents and stars. Much like in baseball, the Yankees spend the most so they pay the most in luxury taxes.

The two sides have not met since Sept. 9 and a meeting is not planned anytime soon. Sadly, the closer it comes to the whole season being cancelled, the less people seem to care about hockey.

I waited 15 years for my Calgary Flames to get back to the Stanley Cup

NOT THE FIRST TIME IN SPORTS

NFL 1987 STRIKE

Ending: October 15, 1987 NFL Players Association orders an end to 24 day strike with no agreement made.

MLB 1994 LOCKOUT

Ending: After 234 days, the strike ends. The 1995 season is shortened and the league loses more than \$800 million.

NHL 1994 LOCKOUT

Endings: Agreement is finally made after 103 day strike. Teams played 48 game shortened season.

NBA 1998 LOCKOUT

Ending: Jan. 6 -- After a secret, all-night negotiating session, Stern and Hunter reach agreement to end the lockout the day before the league's "drop dead" date to cancel the season.

last year. Not because of a strike or any other labor disagreement, but because they were a sub par team that couldn't make the playoffs nor win a playoff series. But now with hockey's future in the balance, will I ever get to see my team in the playoffs again?

Maybe. But who is going to be watching?

Your first look at BCS and NFL picks

Bowl Championship Series

packing their bags for Miami.
NFL Picks

It has come down to the final weekend of the season and just about every BCS bowl spot is still up for grabs. The top three (Southern California, Oklahoma, and Auburn) are all sitting at 11-0 and all three play this weekend. Barring any huge disasters, all three should win as well. Here are my BCS predictions.

Fiesta Bowl (Sun Devil Stadium, Tempe, Ariz.; Jan. 1, 5:30 p.m.):

Utah vs. Pittsburgh. I said a few weeks ago that I wanted to see Utah in a BCS bowl and I am happy to see that they have all but made it official. Pittsburgh can win the Big East with a win over West Virginia.

Sugar Bowl (Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans, La.; Jan. 3, 5 p.m.):

Auburn vs. Miami. Virginia Tech could find their way into the Sugar Bowl if they can go into the Orange Bowl and knock off the Hurricanes but history doesn't bode well for the Hokies.

Orange Bowl (Pro Player Stadium, Miami, Fla.; Jan. 4, 5 p.m.):

USC vs. Oklahoma. I would like to see Auburn in this game instead of Oklahoma, but as long as the Sooners can handle Colorado on Saturday in the Big 12 championship game they should be in the national championship game. The Trojans just have to beat their cross-town rival UCLA on Saturday and they can start



Chris Thompson
Staff reporter

Green Bay Packers (7-4) at Philadelphia Eagles (10-1), 1:15 p.m.

Yes, the Eagles are dominating an average NFC this season, but they have been dominating the regular season for a couple years now. I will believe the Eagles are for real when I see them playing in the Super

Bowl come February. On the other side of the field, Packers quarterback Brett Favre has started 200 straight games. When Favre became the starter in Green Bay on Sep. 27, 1992, I was in fifth grade and George H.W. Bush was president. Favre deserves some respect and to celebrate his 201st straight start, *the Packers will celebrate with a 17-14 last-minute win.*

Dallas Cowboys (4-7) at Seattle Seahawks (6-5), 6:00 p.m. Monday Monday Night Football is coming to Seattle. I would love to write about how the Seahawks are going to bounce back from last Sunday's loss to the Bills but I really don't know. The Hawks are still in first place of the NFC West but if they keep losing games at home, they will be watching the playoffs from home. Luckily, the Cowboys aren't in much better shape than the Seahawks. They are dealing with a quarterback controversy and there is already talk that Bill Parcells will not be in Dallas next season. Seahawks need to start winning at home and they will get back on track this week, winning it 27-14 under the lights of Qwest Field.

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ARE YOU BUSY? OR JUST TOO LAZY to clean your own house/apt? Then, I'll do it for you! I like to clean, and will do an awesome job for a reasonable price. Call Christina 425-442-9336. Thanks!

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ATHLETICS: Web design shift limits access for students

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tain things and doesn't advertise, in an exceptional manner, when certain sporting events are.

One main reason for the lack of information is due in part that the university dictates what Wildcatsports.com can and can't do, which limits their possibilities.

When researching other GNAC schools and their sports pages, schools such as Humboldt State University and Western Washington University had features that stood out.

Those features include more

graphics and color, a calendar of events that is easily visible after the page loads and in the case of Seattle University, the possibility of having sports updates emailed to you.

Athletics provide students with the opportunity to get out, exercise, get to know people and engage in spirited competition.

Whether you are sitting in the bleachers to support, out on the court or field or just spreading the word, participation is important.

Gordon said it best when he said, "It's all a part of the college experience."


CLUB SPORTS: Work ahead

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"Right now the main goal is to get more bodies and be trained at a varsity level competition. I don't do this as a club. I do this just as the same wrestling just no money."

For more information about the swimming club, visit the Web site at www.cwuswimming.org. If you are interested in contacting the club, please send e-mail to cwuswimming@hotmail.com.

If you are interested in contacting the wrestling club, please call Vaughan Bulfinch at 360-708-9401 or send e-mail to bulfincc@cwu.edu.



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