Refund delays caused by technical glitch

by Jennifer Turner
Managing editor

Yesterday morning students wan­dered into the cashier’s office every few minutes, each with the same expression — hopeful, yet tired and looking forward to finally hearing some good news about their much-anticipated financial aid refund checks.

Meal plan tastes sour to students
by Teddy Feinberg
Staff reporter

Central Washington University has implemented a new meal plan this year. But it has drawn mixed reviews from the student body, as students still lose their money if they haven’t used it by the end of the year.

In the past, students would throw down a lump sum of money with a big chunk going towards dining hall services’ overhead costs.

The remaining cash would then be transferred to their connection cards and could be used at all campus dining service locations as well as the C-Store. The cost of food would be discounted by up to 65 percent of the original price.

For example, last year if a student wanted a medium meal plan for the fall quarter, they were asked to pay $1135, with $760 of it going towards overhead.

The remaining $375 dollars would go to the student’s connection card and could be used on food.

At the end of the year, all remaining money on the card was taken out of the student’s hands and put directly into the university’s pockets.

Rob Borgenbre, director of dining services and creator of the new system, came to Central two years ago.

Ellensburg food bank founded by university professor
by Kathryn Lake
Staff reporter

It is less than 30 degrees outside but about 20 people are lined up outside of APOYO. As it gets closer to 6 p.m. the line grows; more people are in need of food.

APOYO, which means support or help in Spanish, also stands for Allied People Offering Year-Round Outreach. Central Washington University English Professor Philip Garrison is one of the founders.

APOYO started in 1995, when Garrison was giving out frozen chickens from the back of a van.

“Phil is a very generous person to be doing it. This is a little way I can give a hand,” Moffat said, who also donates to the FISH food bank in Ellensburg. FISH has donated money to APOYO, which was used to buy a hand truck.

“We knew there was the need and that was the only way I could do it,” Garrison said, “so I just started giving out food.”

In 2000, APOYO received its nonprofit organization status, which means it now receives funding from the state.

To receive food, APOYO only requires the name of the family and how many people are in the family.

On July 3 day to Dec. 27, 2004, APOYO has served 943 different families in Kittitas, Grant and Yakima counties. Families come from as far away as Mattawa, Quincy and Vantage.

More people are coming from further away because in their county there’s not enough food,” said Maria Maldonado in broken English. “Here they can get a lot, a lot. There’s no limit!”

Many food banks are required to give out food that people don’t want or need.

“We don’t do that. We provide an ethnically sensitive diet,” said Patricia Garrison, Phil’s wife, who is an adjunct English professor at Central.

APOYO gives out a lot of beans, rice and masa, the flour for tortillas. These are the staples for most of the people APOYO serves.

“Everyone in the area was so thankful, it was like a family,” said Maldonado.

Currently, APOYO has served 743 different people.

See APOYO, page 2
Low-income families rely on community health centers

Health clinic in Kittitas County main option for the local working poor

Women, minorities, younger workers most likely to be part of the working poor

Working: Food banks also provide assistance

Last week at the APOYO food bank located on Peavine Road in Ellensburg, migrant workers received boxes of donated food to help them make ends meet.

Health clinic in Kittitas County main option for the local working poor

You have options. 1-800-395-HELP

The need for healthcare is rising in Ellensburg. There are approximately 15,414 people living in Ellensburg, according to the U.S. Census in 2000 and the Washington State Health Department. Twenty percent of the population of Ellensburg is living below the federal poverty line. Yet there is only one free health-care clinic in town. While students can use the Student Health and Counseling Center for low-cost medical needs, the Ellensburg Community Health Clinic is the only place in town where other Ellensburg residents with neither the insurance nor the money to pay hefty hospital bills can go to get the medical help they need. The clinic is open a few hours every month and is staffed by volunteer doctors, nurses and interpreters. The demand for health care is steadily growing in Ellensburg. According to the health clinic, the amount of people using its facilities has doubled. In 2003, the clinic averaged about 12 people per three-hour session, which more than doubled to 27 per session in 2004. Many of the people and families who use their services are often migrant workers who are illegal aliens who have no chance of getting insurance or getting the help they need medically.

There are plenty of food banks in Ellensburg, including APOYO, which is a food bank specializing in free resources for the local working poor.

APOYO: Local residents depend on donations

How you can help

Mail a check, payable to: APOYO 111 Peavine Road Ellensburg, WA 98926

Jan. 19-31

There will be boxes in the SUB, PE building, Nicholson Pavilion and other places on campus.

Bluestone

Academy Of Cosmetology Arts

Partial Foils $24

201 N. Pine 962-3184
Native American author, journalist to speak at Central

By Jordan Youngs
Staff reporter

In the wake of the devastating tsunami, students may be asking themselves whether Central Washington University is prepared for a natural disaster.

According to Steve Rittereiser, director of Public Safety and Police Services, all of the Central law enforcement team has been through extensive training when it comes to dealing with these matters.

"If an emergency hits Central, we have practiced and we are confident in being able to help people here," Rittereiser said.

The Washington state emergency plan says that people should anticipate being on their own for 24-36 hours, which is why Rittereiser has prepared a specific emergency plan for Central.

"We spend a lot of time preparing for bad things," said Rittereiser.

Rittereiser said that in the Central emergency plan it says that Nicholson pavilion is the safe house for people on campus. There are adequate bathroom facilities, large areas to hold people, and a training room for medical needs at the pavilion.

However, if Nicholson pavilion is not accessible, the Samuelson Union Building would be the second option. If there is any reason to airlift supplies or people in and out of campus, it is written in the emergency plan that helicopters would be able to land on the baseball field.

Although no one expects any tsunamis to crash down on Ellensburg, if any emergency takes place, Central is ready.

TO THE STUDENTS OF CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Thank you for your understanding and your patience regarding the delay of your refund checks from January 12th to January 13th. We understand how important these are to you, and we are all committed to providing you the highest level of service possible. We will continue to address this problem until we know the root cause, and will minimize any possibility of recurrence.

TO OUR EMPLOYEES

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to working the problem and finding solutions to assure that the student refund checks were not delayed beyond 21 hours. You clearly understood the critical nature of this situation and worked around the clock, in a true CWU team manner. Your actions are appreciated more than you can know, and by many you do not know.

Carmen Rahm
Information Technology Services, Senior Director

Don Dieber
Enterprise Information Services, Director

Gene Rau
Applications, Director

Mike Reilly
Enrollment Management, Interim AVP

Jana Kruckenberg
Student Financial Services, Manager

Mac Taylor
Accounting, Director

Observer — News — January 20, 2005

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BSU honors MLK day with open student forum

by Danny Bergman
Staff reporter

Central Washington University’s Black Student Union honored Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the Samuelson Union Building on Jan. 14 with a forum.

The forum gave students a chance to voice their thoughts about the civil rights leader.

Perry Lomax, president of the BSU and leader of the forum, spoke about the importance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to America.

“Hard times are out there,” Lomax said. “Dr. Martin Luthers life demonstrate that there is something that should be one day a year, you shouldn’t promote equality one day a year.”

According to the forum before the three-day weekend, the BSU felt they could reach out to students before the break so students would know why they had the day off.

Damon Brown, BSU vice president said, “the real world is different from BSU. It’s more diverse. Many students can get adjusted to stereotypes.

The forum kicked off with video footage of Dr. King’s famous “I have a dream” speech. Students felt the importance of this day and their dream were able to be shown on the open microphone.

It got off to ‘a slow start, but Lomax began to urge people to speak.

Once the ball was rolling many students spoke.

“I don’t see that, and have been looked down upon by my white friends for that. People get to try and comfort their comfort zones,” said Brilee Tutor, freshman art major.

RJ Barsh, a senior communications major, knows that this day brings up many issues that many people are afraid to discuss.

“We can’t change anything but ourselves. Parenting is where it starts.”

The BSU has a goal of making Central more diverse. Every year the members of the union go to urban high schools, such as Kamer Beach, to inform people about Central and the BSU.

A table is set up in the high schools and students have the opportunity to get any questions about college answered.

“We also call all the new minorities at the beginning of each quarter at Central just to see if everything is going ok and if they need help with anything,” said Brown, the BSU vice president.

On February 15, the BSU is having “Showtime at the McConnell,” which is a talent show judged by the audience.

“It’s like the Apollo. There’s a bunch of good talent out there,” Lomax said.

For more information about the show contact the BSU at 509-963-1928 or go to their office in the SUB, Room 116.

“It’s an important day and we realize what was accomplished,” Cody Parker, Sophomore, undecided.

“Today brings up a topic that people usually stay away from.”

R.J. Barsh, Senior, Communications.

“Today represents freedom and how we are struggling with the dream still.”

Brilee Tutor, fresh man, art major.

Students decide what to do with the old SUB

by Lacey Stanson
Staff reporter

With the opening of the new Student Union Building next January, a decision must be made to either keep the old SUB or to sell the building and offer the site to new students.

Over Christmas break, the committee in charge of transferring building ownership and responsibility, or selling it back to the school.

The committee chose to sell the building back, they would have to sell it back at current market value.

Current building market value is less than the cost of building, which would not be beneficial to students.

Instead of selling the building, the committee is thinking of transferring it so the students are no longer paying the utilities.

It would not be the students selling the building but the school taking over responsibilities of the building.

“If the option is sold, Yergen said, is to schedule meetings, the registrar’s office, the graduation office, and the cashier’s office.

“People don’t have to try to find which lines to stand in which and building to go to. It will be an all-for one shop, get-what-you-need type of place,” Yergen said.

Central is also considering removing the part of the building that hasn’t been renovated.

The food court part and the fitness center would stay and from Chief Owhi room and the Yakima room back would be demolished.

There has also been a discussion about demolishing the entire building and putting in a parking garage, according to Yergen.

“At this point this isn’t looking like the best option and is something that myself and the other members of the committee have to do with,” Yergen said.

There will be more meetings in the next few weeks that will work to finalize the details of the building transfer.

“Nothing has been finalized,” Yergen said. “The transferring of the building will not mean that the original cost of the building, which would not be beneficial to students.”

CLINIC: One facility for Ellensburg

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Where to find help

Ellensburg Community Health Clinic - 929-7266 (open the first and third Saturday every month)

Breast Cancer Resource Center - 1735 8th Ave. Ellensburg - 2787 (Thursday and Saturday)

F.I.S.H. Community Food Bank - 922-9257

Central Washington University Counseling Center - 963-1881

Fish are a vital source of protein that is low in saturated fat and rich in vitamin D and Omega 3 fatty acids.

Science has proved that fish have helped in the reduction of osteoporosis, cardiac vascular diseases and has contributed to the partial reduction of breast, endometrial and prostate cancers.

Local grocery stores said their suppliers have to properly inspect and test the food they purchase. The stores only order fish direct from the suppliers rely upon the local agencies to support the data necessary to ensure that the fish are at safe levels. The local agencies do provide scientific data, but research suggests that it is left up to individual states to carry out the outcomes. So who is left to take on the responsibility? The consumer.

“Until now I was completely unaware of fish being contaminated by mercury,” said Dwayne Washington, junior film and video studies major, and a local fish consumer. “I just rely on stores to provide safe food; but sometimes that isn’t enough to guarantee your safety anymore.”

Consumer studies done by the department of health, have shown that there is a lack of education about the possible dangers of mercury in food.

Women and children are at the most risk. Studies have shown excessive exposure over time to an adult can result in many health problems, including cardiac vascular problems in men and possible pregnancy complications in women.

Children exposed to large amounts of mercury when in the womb can suffer from severe metal retardation, improper neurological development and learning disabilities.

“Nowadays you don’t have to be concerned anymore,” said Carin Thomas, toxicologist and professor at Central. “Protect yourself by keeping the levels you consume below the levels in the new fish.”

The key to safe consumption of fish is to limit your intake and be selective as to the types of fish you choose to eat. Saltwater fish (skjipack tuna) have been shown to be safe when eaten moderately about once a week.

Alaskan salmon have shown contaminant; pink, sockeye and coho salmon are below contamination levels and have unrestricted guidelines by the Environmental Protection Agency.
Central offers tax preparation

by Ashley Bongers
Staff reporter

Tax season is upon us once again. After scouring around the house looking for receipts, documents or anything else that may be considered a tax exemption, don’t stress, just stop by Shaw-Smyser room 109 for free tax preparation.

Washington University’s Accounting Department is offering help to take the stress out of filing income tax returns.

The Accounting Department will be providing taxes for students, faculty, and community members through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program beginning Feb. 2. According to accounting Professor Frederick McDonald. The program will be every Wednesday from 5 to 8 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until April.

VITA is sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service, McDonald said. “We’ve done it for years.”

VITA has taken place at Central for over 8 years. Last year, 156 people used the services, but they had the capability to serve more, according to McDonald. There are no requirements for students or community members to take advantage of VITA. The tax preparation service is free of charge and is performed by accounting majors in the ACCT 492 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance class.

The volunteers have to pass a test administered by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) before they can prepare taxes for the public.

“I wish I had known sooner because it would have saved my parents a lot of trouble over the past few years,” said Erin Sotich, senior public relations major. “It would be nice to have someone look over my taxes for free.”

E-filing is also available through VITA, according to McDonald, and this yields a quicker tax return. VITA is not a paid tax preparation service, so students must take responsibility for preparing their taxes if the IRS audits them.

Although the network is mostly used for checking e-mail and surfing the web, there can be many more applications for the wireless network. Some classes are requiring laptops or PDAs for students to communicate with each other. One future possibility, as Information Technology Services Senior Director Carmen Rahm said in a Q and A last week, was to make classes more mobile, to hold classes outside on hot sunny days and still have some of the technology that one would have inside.

The wireless network may have a long way to go until completion. When the new SUB/REC building is opened next year, it will have the wireless network already installed. Next year, as shown on the ITS website map, Randall Hall, Michaelis Hall and the rest of Nicholson Pavilion will be installed into the wireless network, with Dean Hall in 2007. “Later this year, Lind Hall and Barge Hall will be added to the wireless network.”

Work on the network this year has paused, however, Rahm said funding for this academic year has been spent. Installation of the network will continue in July as new money will come in to fund the project. The wireless network was first made available to students last fall. The first buildings to be installed with the network were the SUB, Shaw-Smyser and Bousil Hall’s, Psychology and Music Education buildings, and Brooks Library.

As stated on the ITS web site, the connection to the wireless network is slower than the wired high-speed internet connection found on campus, but only programs that use higher bandwidth, such as online games, will see a difference.

For more information, go to the ITS web site at http://www.its.edu/wireless/.
January 20, 2005 — Opinion — Observer

What to do with $40 million?

The last six months have seen great tragedy strike the world over. One thousand two hundred twenty-eight American families have lost a loved one since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared major combat operations over in Iraq. The day after Christmas, when Americans were spending precious time with their families and friends, an earthquake with a magnitude of 9.0, the largest the world has seen in 40 years, struck the Indian Ocean. The events that followed left over 160,000 people dead and thousands more in danger of widespread disease. Countries, organizations and individuals from across the world have donated money and time, including the United States.

When originally approached about supplying aid to the countries in need, the United States gave an estimated $35 million to help. Of course, since then our country has evaluated the damage and given much more in aid.

In the next three days the leader of the free world, the president of the United States, will spend an estimated $40 million dollars on his inauguration. Not on protecting troops in Iraq. Not fighting the war on terror in Afghanistan and, maybe more importantly, not saving countless lives who are starving and homeless in Southeast Asia.

$40 million can be spread out a plethora of ways. Democratic Rep. Anthony Weiner of New York was quoted as saying "the money could go to 690 Humvees and a $290 bonus for each soldier in Iraq." True, contributions from major corporations have helped fund a majority of the event, but don't you think a simple phone call could redirect that money to help aid people in Southeast Asia?

The money to be spent in the next three days is a result of the 20th Amendment of the constitution which marked Jan. 20 as the day the president is sworn into office. Typically, parties are held to celebrate a joyous occasion in which months of campaigning and hard work have paid off for the victor.

Although some who know me may argue, I have no problem with Dubya celebrating his victory, just don't do it at the tune of $40 million over three nights.

"It's important that we celebrate a peaceful transfer of power," President George W. Bush told CBS. "You can be equally concerned about our country has evaluated the damage and given much more in aid.

Andrew Grinaker is the Observer Editor-in-Chief. He can be reached at grinaker@cwu.edu.
Letters continued from 6

also people who do not support the brothers' actions. I guess in an opinion article you're only supposed to show one side. Yes, human beings do support the fight that the brothers have undertaken. If we didn't, nobody would like Batman, the Punisher, Spiderman, Daredevil or basically any other comic book hero sworn to vigilante justice. The only difference is that these guys are regular people and the men who want some justice done. How many Irish people do you know? I was just wondering how you would know what kind of response they would have to the movie. I know perception is relative, but I have an idea—the next time you criticize a movie, make sure you really understand it first.

Glenn West
Senior, Law and Justice

Senior golf input sought

The Ellensburg Police Department is a partner in the Campus Community Coalition, a collaborative effort to create a healthy and safe community. Coalition members include government officials, law enforcement, prevention agencies, university and public school employees, local property owners, liquor control board, concerned citizens, and CWU students. All are stakeholders in the mission to change the culture of drinking in Ellensburg and to reduce underage and high-risk drinking.

We are taking a proactive approach to addressing the abuse of alcohol and accompanying illegal behaviors that result in serious and potentially deadly consequences.

One annual event of concern in our community is known as Senior Golf. Started several years ago by and for freshmen to coincide with the end of the academic year and the end of their baccalaureate studies, it grew into a large gathering not only of CWU students of all ages, but also of community, Yakima, and west side youth.

What began as a group of more manageable seniors' parties fractured throughout the north end of town evolved into an event in 2002 where 700-800 students gathered in a cut-de-sac in the Yellowstone neighborhood and local and other police were called to the scene.

Since then, the community policing approach has helped calm things down the weekend before CWU graduation, but as we head toward spring '05, the Campus Community Coalition wants to hear from students. Student feedback and involvement is necessary if we are to develop positive, permanent solutions. From the students' perspective, what are reasonable alternatives to Senior Golf? What can we do differently as a community to meet students' needs while keeping the peace, maintaining the sanctity of property owners' investments, and prohibiting illegal behaviors? Local property owners who participate on the Coalition have some ideas they are willing to help fund, but students need to be part of this discussion.

The next Campus Community Coalition meeting will be on Tuesday, Jan. 25, from 9 to 11 a.m., at the Hal Holmes Community Center. We will begin a discussion on Senior Golf and explore alternatives. We want students as well as community members sitting at that table. If you have ideas but can't be there, contact us. The only way to solve this problem is collaborative, with all concerned having a voice.

We hope to hear from you.

Lynne E. Imamshah, Coordinator, Campus Community Coalition - 963-3240
Bob Richy, Chief, Ellensburg Police Department - 962-7280

Police briefs go too far

Every week when the Observer comes out, I'll admit I usually go straight to the police briefs. I enjoy reading about stupid criminals every now and then, just like many others.

This week was a different story though, because what I found was appalling. One of the Briefs described an incident where an elderly man fell and seriously injured himself and was not able to get up. Printing that alone, in my opinion, wasn't needed, but what I found even more disgusting was the headline. "I've Fallen and I Can't Get Up!" What is so funny about an elderly man falling and getting hurt?

By the title, I'm assuming that someone would like for people to find this amusing. Exploiting the elderly for the "entertainment" of others is uncalled for and I see no reason for it to be printed in this paper.

Shannon Ryan, Sophomore Elementary Education

United States, becoming the only president to be elected to four terms.

1864 — "Meet the Beatles," the first Beatles album, in the United States, is released.

1985 — Super Bowl XIX becomes the most watched game in history. Television commercials ran for a million dollars a minute.

2005 — George W. Bush is inaugurated to his second term as president of the United States.

"If you have money at the end of the year then that is money that you lose. You should never have to transfer through the years or none at all." — Marya Mannes

"The meal plans are too big. I don't even feel like I am a part of the university.

I no longer carry the schoollride that most collegiate athletes carry with them when walking onto a new football field or a shiny basketball court. I keep telling myself that maybe if there had been more university officials attending our meets to witness the hype of the sport, or if they had placed one seed higher at conference, or won just one more meet, maybe the team would still have the lust for NCAA affiliation and still be a member of the varsity athletic program.

Once I get past the anger and resentment, I find that I am more motivated to continue swimming. In all of this, I am determined to show the decision makers of this university that they did in fact make a mistake. More than anything, I've grown to understand that it really takes to love the sport of swimming. So from here, my teammates and I are doing the best we can. The truth is, we are doing much better than anyone expected us to. We are not going to go away. In fact, we are getting stronger — not just in the water, but as an organization. I refuse to let this university determine the outcome of my athletic pursuits.

Joey Bryant, Junior Secondary Education-History

"It's nice that it transfers at the end of the quarter but if you have money left you have to buy random stuff at the end of the year." — Bre Houlroyd, Sophomore Political Science Major

"The meal plans are too big. I don't even feel like I am a part of the university.

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Local show goes to X lengths

Ellensburg EXTreme reaches new heights and expands its broadcast into the Seattle area

by Ben Hanson
Staff reporter

After five successful seasons and eight regional awards from the National Broadcasting Society, "Ellensburg E Xtreme!" will soon be available to more than a million viewers. Last Friday the student-run television show, which is an odd mix of "Wayne's World," "Saturday Night Live" and "Extreme Sports," became available in Seattle. Reruns of past seasons will run at 1:30 a.m. Saturday on SCAN TV, which is either channel 29 or 77, depending on where you are in King County. The older episodes will feature the original hosts, Kevin Tighe and Steven Allwine. After a year on "Ellensburg Extreme!," they graduated last spring. They left their brainchild in capable hands.

Senior broadcast journalism major, Aaron Miller, is the man in front of the camera and one of the executive producers. He likens it to the old Seattle-based TV show "Almost Live." However, he doesn't take himself too seriously, despite the show's success.

Miller joked while commenting about how late their show is on, "We're probably on after some porno."

When asked to describe the show, Miller said, "Comedy, live music, extreme sports are the three basic things [that go into every episode]."

When asked which of the show's awards he was the most proud of, Miller said that it was their comedy awards from the National Broadcasting Society. He certainly has reason to be proud of their comedy. Although it has a somewhat unpolished feel to it, it is considerably funnier than professional shows like "Saturday Night Live."

The comedy portion of the show combines scripted and improvised materials, featuring recurring segments like "Guys in Towels." "Guys in Towels" is exactly what it sounds like, and is definitely a hoot.

Miller's partner in crime is executive producer and director Andy Hanson. According to Miller, he and Hanson use a method used by the show "Seinfeld," with Miller playing Seinfeld to Hanson's Larry David. Because they have equal creative control and two different perspectives, each is able to notice details that the other might not pick up on, which they see as an advantage to last year's duo, Tighe and Allwine, who co-hosted the show. There were creative difficulties between Tighe, Allwine and their director, because the two of them would occasionally try to over ride him. Miller also feels that this change makes it more their own show, rather than continuing the old one.

The crew of Ellensburg E Xtreme are hard at work taping the show every Friday. The reruns of the show will be aired at 1:30 a.m. Saturdays on SCAN TV channel 29 or 77. The show is hosted by Aaron Miller and directed by Andy Hanson.

Pat Lewis/Observer

EXTreme fact box

EXTreme Awards:
- Two Telly Awards
- Broadcast Education Association award
- The National Broadcasting Society
  - 4 regional
  - 2 national

Creators:
- Kevin Tighe
- Steve Allwine

Current executive producers:
- Andy Hanson-Director
- Aaron Miller-Host

New episodes of E Xtreme will air at 7:30 & 11:30 p.m. Fri., Sat. and Sun. on ECTV channel 2.
Roommates tell terrifying tales

by Rebecca George

Editor’s note: All names have been changed to protect the innocent.

Students at Central Washington University have all dealt with, or are dealing with bizarre and often radical roommates both on and off campus. Students, whose names will remain anonymous, shared some of their experiences with The Observer this week.

You’re not my Mother

One student, "Suey," a junior who now lives off campus for her second year, said that her first roommate at Central was "the kind of person who acts like your mother."

"When I was a freshman, my roommate called the Ellensburg Police Station to file a missing persons report because I didn’t come home at 9 p.m. like I usually did," Stuy said. "Well, when I did get home, at about midnight, I explained to my roommate that I had been out at a late movie with my boyfriend. My roommate then tried to tell me that I wasn’t permitted to go out on dates on school nights unless I told her about it ahead of time. Well, needless to say, I moved out the next quarter without telling her."

Bad Luck or Bad Brew

"Jane," a sophomore who continues to reside in the dorms said, "I can remember as a freshman a really terrified year."

"My roommate then tried to tell me that I wasn’t permitted to go out on dates on school nights unless I told her about it ahead of time. Well, needless to say, I moved out the next quarter without telling her."

Prank War Mania

"During a prank war on Halloween this fall," Joe a freshman, said, "my roommate and I thought it would be funny to tape a pair of half opened scissors to the bottom of this guy’s heater who lived across the hall."

"The unfortunate thing was the smell stunk up the entire floor, and we didn’t have the guts to confess to our pranks. Joe said."

"The guy didn’t find the can until after Christmas break...and now my roommate and I are afraid to fall asleep at night out of fear of being ambushed."

Cat Fish Escape

"Anna," a sophomore who continues to live in the same building for the second year in a row, said, "I was staying over at my boyfriend’s dorm one night last spring and we had left the windows open because the dorms didn’t have air conditioning."

"We started making out right after watching Jon Stewart’s Daily Show, when all of a sudden a huge tabby cat jumped in through the window and climbed onto the bed."

"I fell off the bed onto the floor and screamed and the cat freaked out and hid in my boyfriend’s closet."

Anna added that the cat belonged to another student living on the floor who kept his cat in a fish tank in an effort to abide by the dorm’s policy on keeping pets as long as they reside in an enclosed fish tank.

"The fish...I mean cat just wanted to join in the fun," Anna said.

Language divides cultures

One problem we face as Japanese students in American culture is how to adjust to it.

There are more than a hundred Japanese students at Central Washington University. They come to Central from all over Japan and Japan is quite different from English culture. It’s hard to find a language barrier.

English and Japanese are totally different from each other in vocabulary, grammar, sentence patterns, pronunciation, and the use of the tongue. Students from Europe, the United States, and Japanese ones in the language barrier.

Though we have no idea how he might have written those lyrics for, after watching this show at the Showbox on Jan. 14, I left feeling the same way.

Brent Littlejohn

Scene reporter

Observer — Scene — January 20, 2005

A concert is a production, everything planned days ahead; the order of songs, the movement of musicians to the beat of the music, I love a good show, but they tend to lose their innocence when you first realize this fact. There were no signs of a production Friday, Jan. 14, at the Showbox where Ben Gibbard, James Mercer and Dave Bazan showed a sold out hall what innocence they still might have left in them.

Bazan, lead man of Pedro the Lion, opened the concert with just his electric guitar and grizzled self. He had a full head of grey hair from a day of not bathing, or perhaps that’s just how Bazan always looks.

His solo set Friday night stuck with some softer, slower songs from the new disc like "Bands with Managers" and "I do." He also made sure we knew he’s a changing man by singing the semi-controversial "Peaceful, Content," changing Jesus to Jews in "Slow and Steady Wins the Race" and starting the show with a song repeating shit as many times as Bazan could.

Bazan’s known for his question and answer periods during his concerts, and unless it’s about spirituality or Jesus, he’s usually rather open.

Like what you see? Tell us more!

Observer — Scene — January 20, 2005

The only thing better than a powdery day is a powdery day at a discount.
Thai restaurant now owned by Central grad

by Rachel Guillermo
Scene editor

On the corner of 3rd Avenue and Pine Street in downtown Ellensburg there is a little restaurant whose only distinction is a bright green neon sign that reads “Vegetarian.”

This place is called Sugar’s. Formerly known as Bun’s, Sugar’s is the only Thai restaurant in town and has become a favorite of Central Washington University students.

Little known to the public, Sugar’s is now under new ownership by the Rakwichian family. It is the dream and focus of the youngest Rakwichian son after a disappointing life back in Thailand.

“Life here is easier I think,” Alex Rakwichian, 23, said. Rakwichian explains what it was like to live in Thailand. “I lived kind of good but kind of bad at the same time. When it was my country, I just lived my life,” he said. “Sometimes when I work I don’t get paid, and then sometimes when I work I get paid. That’s just the way people are in Thailand.”

The restaurant’s interior is decorated with elaborate Thai figurines and scenic pictures of beautiful countries most Americans only dream about. At the back of the restaurant near the kitchen hangs a picture of the king and queen of Thailand to signify the importance of their cultural background. This is the heart of Sugar’s, where the Rakwichian family and a few other employees are always busy at work making drinks, talking and placing orders to the kitchen.

Orders are up. Rakwichian carries out a few dishes to an awaiting table. Pausing for a few moments to check that everything is right, Rakwichian quickly works the room to make sure everyone is well satisfied and cared for.

Rakwichian, along with his father, mother and a few other employees, work together six days a week sharing duties and the workload of running the front of the restaurant. But because of the language barrier, Alex has taken over most of the management responsibilities.

“I do anything,” Rakwichian said. “Pretty much anything. But if sometimes they need help in the kitchen I’ll cook, but most likely not. My mom does most of the cooking.”

Alex was only 10 years old when he went to Australia for summer vacation. Within those few months, Rakwichian realized there was more for his life than going back to Thailand.

“It was not the right thing for me,” Rakwichian said. “I wanted something else.”

With little more than his name and an enthusiastic attitude, Alex and his older brother later moved to Los Angeles. For five years, Alex worked and went to school in Los Angeles. Then in 1996 Rakwichian moved to Bellevue, Washington. The rest of his family soon followed.

With a determined gleam in his eye, Rakwichian set forth to make something of himself. Rakwichian graduated from Central two years ago with a business administration degree specializing in marketing.

Rakwichian said. “I wanted something else.”

“Before in Thailand, they are not the right thing for me,” Rakwichian said. “But they don’t like to talk. If you don’t have something to give them, they aren’t going to listen to you. They will listen, but they aren’t going to promise to help you. Ever since we changed everything, business has been doing better, they start coming in.”

Outside the sun begins to set, the streets of Ellensburg grow a little darker. Alex’s father, Chi, turns down the lights of the dining room and begins to light candles on each of the tables for dinner. A few more customers walk in. Alex greets them by name. Talking with this reporter, Rakwichian remembers what it felt like for him to live in Thailand and what his life is like now in the United States.

“Life here is easier I think,” Alex Rakwichian, a Central graduate, and his family are the new owners of Sugars, formerly Bun’s. The family has revamped the restaurant and the menu. It wasn’t until this year when Rakwichian took a chance and asked to take over what seemed to be an unprofitable restaurant. It was as if the name of the restaurant took on a new form.

“We’ve been coming here for four, five years,” Rakwichian said. “And we couldn’t find an open spot. Since we looked at Bun’s, his business was on and off all the time. I think it could be a good chance for us to ask to take over. And it turned out good.”

The tiny restaurant underwent a complete remodeling phase. From the menu to the tables to even the lighting, no detail was overlooked. Even the name of the restaurant took on a new form.

“We changed everything and people really like it” Rakwichian said. “Ever since we changed everything, business has been doing better, they start coming in.”

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CULTURE: It's all in the lingo

continued from page 9

English has a lot of idioms, slang and jokes that we don't learn in Japanese school. We only learn formal English. Moreover, although Americans speak English with natural speed, it sounds so fast and unclear to the Japanese students that they often miss what American students say. Even people who got fairly high score in TOEFL or TOEIC test says that it is difficult for them to understand and to catch English when it comes to casual conversation among native speakers of English. As a result, they can't react to the conversation well and instead keep silence. Eventually, they gather with peers and spend the rest of their time chatting in Japanese without talking with native speakers of English. It is a big waste of money and time because they are in the United States to learn. English is different from our language, but that is no excuse, because many Japanese speak English fluently. I think mutual understanding stems from communication and it is a face-to-face conversation. As long as English is a universal language, we can communicate with it. We have to be active and make every effort to fit into this situation even if our English may sound strange to others. We hope American students also speak to us anytime, about anything, and a bit clearer and slower than normally.

Northwest lagers featured at local hopfest downtown this weekend

by Brandon Sanford
Staff reporter

On Saturday, Jan. 22, the Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce and eight local businesses will be taking part in the first annual "Winter Hop A Brew Fest." Participating venues plan to host more than 16 of Washington's microbreweries. In addition to all the beers that will be on tap, participants will also get to enjoy fine live music. Advance tickets are available for $10 at the Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce. Tickets will also be available on the day of the event for $12. To take part in the Winter Hop, you must be at least 21 years old.

Each ticket comes with a voucher for five samples of beer. Each sample of beer after that will cost $1. Participating businesses that will be tapping include the Mountain High Sports, Fitterer's Furniture, Thorie Callahan Girls, Recycle Bicycle Shop, Pearl's on Pearl, Valley Cafe, Starlight Lounge, and Dakota Cafe.

Breweries expected to attend include the Rattlesnake Mountain Brewing Company, the Ice Harbor Brewing Company, and the Snoqualmie Falls Brewing Company. The list of breweries also includes "the much touted Iron Horse Brewing Company," said Leslie Berry, executive assistant for the Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce.

Iron Horse will be available at the Starlight Lounge. "We're going to have some live music, our usual happy hour specials, and starlight fun," said Doris Morgan, owner of Starlight Lounge.

The Recycle Bicycle Shop will also have "a live acoustic guitar player," said owner Fred Johnston. "It should be lots of fun."

Each brewery expected to attend will bring one to four of their specialty beers, most of which are winter beers. According to Berry, the idea of Winter Hop came about because of all the events in Kittitas County that are focused around wine. Since there are so many microbreweries in Washington, the Chamber of Commerce thought this would be a great event.

The chamber has already sold a fifth of all available tickets and plans on making next year's Winter Hop larger and more inclusive of northwest breweries outside of Washington state.

Even if you are not a beer connoisseur, "this is the perfect opportunity to come and talk to the brewers and learn about different beers," said Berry.

Anyone of legal drinking age is invited to attend the Winter Hop, but if racing though a half-rack is your specialty, Winter Hop is probably not the event for you. Beers served in four ounce portions are for "tasting.

How to survive and enjoy cold, snowy winter days and nights

Sarah Maubl Staff reporter

Too cold to go out side? Find yourself bored and wondering what to do? Winter quarter at Central Washington University can become boring. Many students do not want to travel over the snowy periods, which means they are stuck here in Ellensburg, wondering what to do to pass all that time outside of class.

While catching up on all that exciting assigned reading sounds like a blast - here are some better ideas.

Host a movie night
Get all your friends together, think of a theme and rent some videos. Rent some old 80's classics like "The Breakfast Club," "Top Gun" or "The Goonies." Or you could go with your favorite childhood movie, think "The Lion King," "Camp Nowhere" or "The Wizard of Oz." Of course don't forget the movie snacks. You'll need popcorn, milk Duds, Junior Mints, M&Ms, licorice and lots of soda.

Have a game night
Gather some people from your dorm, apartment or hall and have a game night. Have your RA or pick someone from the apartment building to be the judge. Set a dollar amount (it doesn't have to be a lot) then go Goodwill or the Dollar Store and find things to decorate your room. The losers do the winners' laundry for a month.

Skip the dining hall for a night
Host a dinner party with a theme, i.e. hawaiian, western, mexican or a Vegas night. Make it potluck and have people bring their favorite food that goes with the theme. Get decorations and/or games to go along with it such as hawaiian leis or a piñata. Tell the guests to dress accordingly.

Girls' slumber party/boys' video game night
The Girls can plan an old fashioned slumber party complete with makeovers and truth or dare. Have it on a weekend and stay up all night watching chick-flicks and doing each other's hair - embrace your inner 10-year-old.

Boys, plan a video game night.
Have everyone bring over their game systems and favorite video games. Order pizza and get lots of junk food. Then eat and play video games all night.

If your game night is at the same time as the girls' slumber party - plan a late night raid!

A night out on the town
Find a restaurant in Ellensburg you've never eaten at but always wanted to try. Get some people together and go out to dinner. Afterwards catch a movie at the new theater.

Downtown shopping
Yes, there is shopping in Ellensburg - and not just at Fred Meyer. Go explore the shops downtown, you might be surprised at what you find.

Read the Observer Online
Because I said so...

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS
Graduate assistantship applications for Summer Quarter 2005 and for the 2005-2006 academic year are due by February 15, 2005 in the Office of Graduate Studies and Research, Barge 305. Applications and information can be obtained on-line at www.cwu.edu/~masters under the "Forms and Guidelines" link or by visiting the Office of Graduate Studies and Research. Students interested in the assistantship program are also requested to submit a financial aid application available from the Financial Aid Office or on-line. Graduate students who are currently employed as graduate assistants also need to submit applications by February 15 if they are interested in being considered for an assistantship for next year.

Please contact the Office of Graduate Studies and Research at 509-963-3101 with any questions about the assistantship program.

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Central's record to 9-4 overall and 3-1,9-3 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference. Eight teams came and went as the MNNU by one, 32-31, scoring 44 points inside the paint. They also capitalized on their opponent's inability to handle the ball, scoring 36 points on turnovers. Strong play by Central's starting five was complimented by outstanding bench play. The Wildcat had 26 points from the bench, 11 by sophomore Ashley Blake alone. "We started to hit some shots, momentum began to swing our way and the girls built some confidence back up," coach Whitney said. Saturday's victory improved Central's record to 10-4 overall and 4-2 in the GNAC. The Wildcat play against Seattle Pacific University at 5 p.m. tonight in Nicholson Pavilion and will remain home through Saturday when they take on Montana State-Billings. 

Central split conference games

by Eric Norris Staff reporter

Central Washington University women's basketball team returned home from their road trip last Thursday only to be edged out by third ranked St. Martin's college 69-63, then bounced back Saturday for a thumping win against Northwest Nazarene University 86-58.

Last Thursday's loss dropped Central's record to 9-4 overall and 3-2 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

The game began with a three-pointer from Central's Loni Ainslie who was in her first game back from an injury. The game remained close throughout the rest of the first half with Central trailing by only three at the break, 30-27.

At the beginning of the second half St. Martin's Julia Eisenriott found her touch scoring her team's first 11 points. Eisenriott finished the game with 17 points. Central's defense did a great job controlling St. Martin's Beth Layton, one of the league's most explosive players. Layton was held to just 2-10 from the field and finished with only nine points, far below her season average of 19.3.

Central's offense was led by Laura Wright with 16 points and Loni Ainslie with 15. "Both Kelly Quinn and Lauren Short did a great job controlling Layton," Wildcat coach Jeff Whitney said. "We are known for our defense and stressed it this week to try and get back to where we are capable of playing." Central's fortunes were better Saturday when they stomped Northwest Nazarene University 86-58 at Nicholson Pavilion.

The Wildcat's red-hot offense was led by junior Jamie Corwin, who scored a career high 28 points, and sophomore Laura Wright, who scored 23 of her own, one point shy of her own season high.

The game was close through the first half with the Wildcat having the edge going into the break 43-34. The second half belonged to Central as the Wildcat came out strong, increasing their lead and never looking back.

The Wildcats would go on to win 86-58.

Saturday's victory improved Central's record to 10-4 overall and 4-2 in the GNAC.

Falcons, Eagles spread wings in playoffs

Eight teams came and four remain after last weekend's, divisional playoffs. The first game of the weekend was the New York Jets against the heavily favored Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Jets stayed neck and neck with the Steelers throughout the whole game. Jets kicker Doug Brien missed a 43 and 47-yard field goal within the final two minutes of the game, allowing the Steelers to take it to overtime tied at 17. Then Steelers kicker Jeff Reed hit a 33-yard field goal in overtime to seal the 20-17 win. After the game Steelers rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger announced that he was donating his game check to the tsunami victims in Thailand.

The Saturday evening game featured the St. Louis Rams and the Atlanta Falcons at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. The Falcons ran for a post-season record 327 yards, on route to a 47-17 victory. Michael Vick beat the postseason rushing record for a quarterback with 119 yards on eight attempts, while Allen Rossum put up the most punt return yards in NFL history with 152.

Sunday morning the Minnesota Vikings traveled to Philadelphia to face the Eagles. The Eagles shut down Vikings star receiver Randy Moss allowing him only three receptions for 51 yards, in the 27-14 Eagles win.

Club keeps swimmers afloat

by Berivan Yousify Staff reporter

After the Central Washington University cut their athletics budget, swimming team students found a solution for their interest. They came up with a creative answer and they are now a very successful swimming club. This is their first year as a club. They started this fall.

"I wish it still was part of the athletic department, but I understand that the athletic department did what they did," Todd Thurnau, the coach of swimming club, said. Todd Thurnau, the coach of swimming club.

There are about 25 student members in the Central swimming club. They are welcoming anyone interested to enjoy their club.
Athlete Spotlight: Kyle Boast

by Jeff Anderson Staff reporter

When Central traveled to Alaska and knocked off No. 13 in the nation, Alaska Fairbanks, the team relied on guard Kyle Boast for leadership.

Central was led by 6’6” senior Kyle Boast with 24 points and 11 rebounds, and 6’6” sophomore Lance Den Boer with 29 points and 3 rebounds. The lethal combo helped Central to an impressive 3-1 record against nationally ranked teams and 7-7 overall.

Boast was named Great Northwest Athletic Conference player of the week for his play last week against regionally ranked Seattle Pacific University and Western Washington University. In the game against Seattle Pacific University, which Boast considers his best college game ever, he had a career-high 24 points and 11 rebounds. Derek Groth made a lay up tying the game at 87-87.

With six seconds left in the game, Wildcat Robert Hicks made a lay up tying the game again at 90-90. Seawolves center James Harman won the game at the buzzer with a three-point shot ending the game at 93-90.

Kyle Boast had six rebounds and scored 11 points. Lance Den Boer scored 17 points, Chris Bannish scored 14, and Derek Groth scored 13.

“I have to give Anchorage some credit,” coach Greg Sparling said. “It’s just...awesome.”

In the first half, the Wildcats got more energy. Wildcats to victory.

“It was pretty cool being named player of the week and getting a couple of big wins against our rivals,” Boast said. “The SPU game was probably my most well-rounded game.”

Boast says that he always plays as hard as he can because his desire to win is so great. Central’s winning tradition is a large part of why Boast decided to come to Central in the first place.

“The basketball teams have always been good here,” Boast said. “I also really liked the campus and friendly atmosphere at Central.”

This is Boast’s fifth year at Central because he decided to red shirt his freshman year. He completed his undergraduate degree in accounting in the fall and is currently working on his masters in accounting. He plans to finish after the spring quarter and already has a job lined up for him with the Seattle office of Deloitte, a major accounting firm.

He is very close to his family and receives tons of support at home games and even some away games. He has family who travel from Yakima, Seattle, and even Spokane.

Kyle by the numbers:

Points Per Game: 14.6
Rebounds Per Game: 12.9
Field Goal %: 49.7

Kyle Boast shoots over a Western player when the men’s team knocked off their rivals in a 105-100 win.

1500 wins don’t come easy

by Heather Watkins Staff reporter

Central Washington University men’s basketball team traveled to Alaska and won their 1,500th game on Saturday after losing a buzzer-beater game on Thursday.

On Thursday, Jan. 13, the Wildcat’s lost to the Alaska Anchorage Seawolves, who put a stop to Central’s four game winning streak.

In the first half, Central shot 73 percent from the free-throw line, but only had 37 percent from three-point range. At halftime, the Seawolves led 46-41.

In the second half, the Wildcats played hard, shooting 70 percent from the free throw line and 41 percent from three point range. With 1:47 left on the clock, Wildcat Derek Groth made a free throw tying the game at 87-87.

With six seconds left in the game, Wildcat Robert Hicks made a lay up tying the game again at 90-90. Seawolves center James Harman won the game at the buzzer with a three-point shot ending the game at 93-90.

Kyle Boast had six rebounds and scored 11 points. Lance Den Boer scored 17 points, Chris Bannish scored 14, and Derek Groth scored 13.

“I have to give Anchorage some credit,” coach Greg Sparling said. “It’s just...awesome.”

In the first half, the Wildcats’ led the whole time. With 8:36 remaining, they were ahead by 16 points. Central shot 44 percent from three-point range and had 28 points in the paint.

At halftime, Central led 42-31. In the second half with 12:20 remaining, the Nanooks rallied. They led by four points for a few minutes until the Wildcats got more energy.

Central had an amazing second half, shooting 82 percent from the free throw line and 66 percent from the three point range. Lance Den Boer had a high 29 points; Kyle Boast scored 24 points and had 11 rebounds. Derek Groth scored 14 points and Robert Hicks scored 13.

“We played on Saturday, we just looked like a whole different team,” Sparling said. “We did really well on executing.”

Central hosts their next game in Nicholson Pavilion against the Western Oregon Wolves at 7 p.m. Jan. 20, and will stay home against the Humboldt State Lumberjacks at 7 p.m. Jan. 22.

Wildcats 89 Nanooks 82
Central 3-2, 7-7
Leading scorers:
Lance Den Boer, 29 pts.
Kyle Boast, 24 pts.

Next: Tonight vs. Western Oregon
Saturday, Jan. 22
vs. Humboldt State

Intramural Volleyball/Basketball schedule

The intramural schedule is given for the first week of the season. The volleyball schedule is shown and followed by basketball. The games take place at Nicholson Pavilion.

Thursday, Jan. 20
7 pm We Have To Go Now vs. Jelledhejs
Briens Ballers vs. Its Justa Game Focker
Shirts vs. Skills That Killz

8 pm We Have To Go Now vs. Adriens
AllStars
Urman vs. Moose Knuckles
Buckley Brawlers vs. Chunkie Chunks

Monday, Jan. 24
7 pm Cucumbus vs. Rally Monkeys
Masterpiece vs. Screaming Turtles
Home Team vs. Sare Thing

8 pm Hills vs. Cherokees People
Select vs. Powellis Pals

Monday, Jan. 24
7 pm Wesside Ballers vs. Skills That Killz
Tough Cookies vs. Ligers

8 pm Who R They vs. Red Nation
Biggins vs. Flippin’ Sweet
Koher Hot Dougvs vs. Poised
Confusion

9 pm Bobcats vs. Dinkle and Einhorn
Team Kand vs. B Wan
God Squad vs. Demdogs
Deep Roots vs. Hoopers

10 pm Dream Team vs. Walters
2k Mashouagna vs. Army
Dex Nuts vs. Cobras
Tuesday, Jan. 25
7 pm Dynasty vs. All-Stars
Retreads IV vs. Valouc Raptors

Central 3-2, 7-7
Leading scorers:
Lance Den Boer, 29 pts.
Kyle Boast, 24 pts.

Next: Tonight vs. Western Oregon
Saturday, Jan. 22
vs. Humboldt State

Shirts vs. Skills That Killz
8 pm Urman vs. Buckley Brawlers
Chunkie Chunks vs. Moose Knuckles

Monday, Jan. 24
8 pm Wesside Ballers vs. Skills That Killz
Tough Cookies vs. Ligers

8 pm Who R They vs. Red Nation
Biggins vs. Flippin’ Sweet
Koher Hot Dougvs vs. Poised
Confusion

9 pm Bobcats vs. Dinkle and Einhorn
Team Kand vs. B Wan
God Squad vs. Demdogs
Deep Roots vs. Hoopers

10 pm Dream Team vs. Walters
2k Mashouagna vs. Army
Dex Nuts vs. Cobras
Tuesday, Jan. 25
7 pm Dynasty vs. All-Stars
Retreads IV vs. Valouc Raptors

Team vs. Returning Champs
8 pm A Team vs. Tarteels
C Dubz vs. Super Pan Exciting
Team

9 pm Runnin Ryans vs. Forfeit
Chino Stat vs. Ante Bellum
Yurgonbneats vs. Sanbonyjine

WING CENTRAL
DELIVERIES 4PM-11PM

CLUCK BASKET
4PC CHICKEN STRIP WITH FRIES
AND 2002. FOUNTAIN SODA
$5.99

962-5400
SPECIAL DIS FOR DELIVERY ONLY
Welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to another intriguing week of my voice inside of your head.

The NBA season is well underway and approaching All-Star weekend while being over­looked by fans that are glued to the NFL.

Most of the teams that were picked to be at the bottom of the bar­rel to look up are sitting atop the standings looking down. My beloved Sonics are one of those teams.

The Sonics are not only beating the cream of the crop, but they’re beating teams by an average of 20 points! Ray Allen and Rashard Lewis are taking advantage of flying under the radar and taking the league and the fans by storm. The Sonics are not the best team, but they are certainly the biggest surprise.

I know I will get grief for not picking my Supes, but the Suns are by far the best team in the league by far the best team in the league by far the best team in the league by far the best team in the league by far the best team in the league.

The NBA season is well underway, including Tim Duncan who twice has been declared the league’s Most Valuable Player as well as the NBA Finals MVP.

If the Spurs are not the best team who is? The Suns have no bench, play no defense, and have dropped their last four games. The Sonics ended up eight games under .500 last year with virtually the same squad. Maybe someone from the East, like the Miami Heat, could beat the Spurs in a seven game series. They’re 8-9 against the Western Conference though. The defending champion Pistons, until recently, had been hovering around .500 and lost their last game to the Orlando Magic.

The Spurs lead the league in blocked shots averaging 6.7 a game with Rasho Nesterovic averaging 1.58 and Tim Duncan putting up 2.9 a game, the most in the league among active players.

Let’s not forget that this team won the NBA Finals just two seasons ago, knocking out the Lakers in six games along the way. Four of the five starters from that championship team remain, including Tim Duncan who twice has been declared the league’s Most Valuable Player as well as the NBA Finals MVP.

Who is the best NBA team?
What's on tap

**Men's Basketball**

- **Thursday, Jan. 20th**
  - Western Oregon 7 pm
  - Nicholson Pavilion

- **Friday, Jan. 21st**
  - vs. Seattle 5 pm
  - Nicholson Pavilion

- **Saturday, Jan. 22nd**
  - vs. Montana State 5 pm
  - Nicholson Pavilion

- **Sunday, Jan. 23rd**
  - vs. Jazz 6:00 pm
  - Key Arena
  - NO T.V.

- **Monday, Jan. 24th**
  - vs. Lakers 7:30 pm
  - Staples Center

- **Tuesday, Jan. 25th**
  - @ Jazz 6:00 pm
  - Delta Center

**Women's Basketball**

- **Thursday, Jan. 20th**
  - @ Lakers 7:30 pm
  - Staples Center

- **Friday, Jan. 21st**
  - Falcons @ Eagles noon
  - Patriots @ Steelers 3:30 pm

- **Saturday, Jan. 22nd**
  - @ Lakers 7:30 pm
  - Staples Center

**NFL Playoffs**

- **Saturday, Jan. 22nd**
  - Ellensburg:
    - 42/35
    - Fog
  - Stevens Pass:
    - 50/41
    - Rain
  - Snoqualmie Pass:
    - 50/41
    - Rain

**Weekend weather forecast**

- Saturday:
  - Ellensburg: 42/35, foggy
  - Stevens Pass: 50/41, rainy
  - Snoqualmie Pass: 50/41, rainy

**OBSERVER CLASSIFIEDS**

- **DELL LAPTOP FOR SALE**
  - Barely used, works great. Comes with internet card and hook-ups, floppy drive, CD Rom, Windows 98. Paid $800, sacrifice for $450 OBO. Call 509-933-2175 or 509-261-0405 for more information.

- **WEIDER WEIGHTBENCH FOR SALE**
  - Olympic size bar, 300 lbs. of weight. Equipped for incline, decline, bench, curls, leg lifts and curls, squats, and abs. Need more room in apartment, bought for $400, sacrifice $300 OBO. Contact Joe at bevegnij@cwu.edu if interested.

- **DILIGENT STUDENT NEEDED**
  - to collect campus data. Approx. 10 hours work with end of January deadline. Good pay and byline credit offered. Send inquiry to abramchristopher@yahoo.com.

- **FOUND! KEY IN BOUILLON half hour parking lot:** Set of two keys on ring. One key has a black rubber ring on it, the other is green. Claim at Lock shop.

- **THE EARLY BIRD may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese in the trap.**

- **WHAT'S ON TAP**
  - **Men's Basketball**
  - **Women's Basketball**
  - **NFL Playoffs**

- **FIND PUPPY PURPLE KRYPTONITE bicycle cable lock. Call with the combination and it's yours!** 899.3338 Randy

- **GUITARIST LOOKING FOR DRUMMER and bassist for Dave Matthews like music. No EMO! Contact Joe at bevegnij@cwu.edu if interested.**

- **ATTRACTIVE ONE BEDROOM, farm setting near town. $495 mo. available 1 Dec. 2004, first/last/ deposit. Horse boarding available. 962-5598**

- **FEMALE EDUCATION MAJOR looking for fun, responsible, female roommate to share a 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom University Court Apartment. Free tanning, laundry on site! DSL internet connection as well. Roommate needed ASAP, please email if interested: collinsk@cwu.edu.**

- **LOOKING FOR A FEMALE ROOMMATE for Spring Qtr, with the option to stay on. 1 bedroom w/ private bath available in University Court. Rent/Cable is $365, other bills would be utilities and Phone/DSL. Univ. Court offers FREE tanning for residents. Apartment is close to office, mail, and laundry facilities. Call Anna or Stephanie at 933-1782.**

- **$450 GROUP FUNDRAISER SCHEDULING BONUS**
  - 4 hours of your group's time PLUS our free (yes, free) fundraising solutions EQUALS $1000-$2000 in earnings for your group. Call today for a $450 bonus when you schedule your non-sales fundraiser with CampusFundraiser. Contact CampusFundraiser, (888) 923-3238 or visit www.campusfundraiser.com

- **CUTE 2-BDRM APARTMENT, just 2 blocks north of CWU. Avail. no later than 3/20, or earlier if needed. Will pay rent for ALL of March. You don't pay until April 1st. $610/month. Call Casey at 509-925-6602 for more information.**

- **WANT TO GET SOMETHING OFF your chest? Got a gripe about an on or off campus issue? Write an opinion for the world to read. Send your opinion to observer@cwu.edu. Please include your name and phone number.**

**STUDENTS GET FREE CLASSIFIED ADS AT THE OBSERVER. JUST EMAIL YOUR AD TO PAGEx@CWU.EDU. SAVE SOME MONEY!**

**REGULAR CLASSIFIED RATES ARE $4 FOR THE FIRST 15 WORDS AND 20 CENTS PER WORD THEREAFTER.**
SWIMMING: Club set to join new league

"It will be nice to have more people," said Josh Whall, senior business and information technology major. "The more people we have, the more fun we will get. I think everyone should sign up."

The club is having their alumni meet two weeks from now. They are looking forward to the event. Swimmers will get a chance to swim against other competitors. They will also have the opportunity to meet and share ideas.

"It's been fun talking with some of them as we have been setting this event up," said Emily Van Jentzen, president of the Central swimming club. "They have been very impressed by our hard work to get this club going and everything."

The club was invited to join a new league with other clubs in the same situation whose funds got cut from their school's athletic department. Central's swimming club will attend a swim meet in San Diego over Presidents Day weekend.

"As soon as we are members of that new league, we will have some more collegiate teams to swim against," Van Jentzen said.