Volleyball powers up for playoffs

Right to left: Erika Stevens, sophomore outside hitter, meets the ball mid-air for a set as her team mates Lindsey Dollente junior setter, Kristin Pasley, junior right side hitter, Leanne McGahuey, senior middle blocker and Crystal Ames, senior outside hitter look on, ready to strike the ball into the opposition's court.

See full story page 14
Are the residence halls student-safe?

Men more likely to abuse drugs at college

by Charlee Krentz
Staff reporter and
Andrew Van Den Hoek
Special projects editor

As students settle into their first weeks at Central Washington University, they become accustomed to countless realities of college life. Lots of homework, sprinting to get to class, and living in close proximity to people they had never met before going to college. However, one aspect of college life and life in general that they may not have expected to deal with is drugs and alcohol use.

Student opinion in relation to drug use in the residence halls varies depending on who you talk to. "I know for sure in Kamala drug use isn't a major problem," Meghan O'malley, freshman communications and humanities major, said. "I don't think a whole lot of college students use drugs, I think there are some but I don't think it's the entire population."

Though this might be the opinion of some students others have seen a different side of college life. "It goes on," Daniel Sweeney, freshman computer science, an off-campus resident said. "I know friends who have gotten really into using drugs in the dorms that haven't," Sweeney said.

The common perception for Ellensburg and Central Washington University is that there are theft opportunities. "Primarily, it is people leaving the doors open," Central Police Chief Steve Rittereiser said. "If they don't even mean locked, I just mean the door standing open."

"I feel much more comfortable leaving my door open here," Derr said. "I think many people feel that way."

"We're not the only people responsible for making much of Central safe," Rittereiser said. "To protect yourself against any form of crime, maintain certain practices. Things such as closing and locking doors when not in your presence, avoiding strangers in your residence and keeping an eye out for suspicious behavior will help prevent crimes and give them selves a sense of security."

Student living in residence halls.

The survey also said that males in college statistically tend to abuse drugs more than females and that the most prevalent illegal drug in use is marijuana. It's not always easy for students to come to terms with the fact that they might have a drug or alcohol problem together with residents to bring out means of reducing crime. Although the number of burglaries seems insignificant to the thousands who attend Central, it still shows a threat of being burglarized. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health full-time students attending college while living with their families have only a 6 percent lower rate of drug usage compared to their peers who live away from their families. This might be surprising to those who believe drug usage is much higher for students living in residence halls.

"It's the impact on these students in the long run," Rittereiser said. "They might pressure other people into using drugs.

By location, residents reported 25 of the burglary offenses, while 5 were in other buildings on campus. The four sex offenses that were reported were all in resi­dents halls. Central Police Chief Steve Rittereiser said that most thefts reported are crimes of opportunity, where the victim leaves them­selves open to be burglarized.

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Fitness high among McIntyre’s concerns

by Kathryn Lake
Scene editor

Approximately 127 million adults in the U.S. are overweight, 60 million obese and 9 million severely obese. Obesity is the second leading cause of preventable death in the United States according to the American Obesity Association. Obesity is a serious issue for Americans. When talking with the Board of Trustees, McIntyre said they were all interested in the scope of the Blue Ribbon Commission’s thinking in the sense it was about intercollegiate, club and intramural sports. She told the Athletic Advisory Board in October that this scope “suggests a larger ‘fitness for life’ goal that might be worth exploring more.”

The report also stresses the importance of funding for scholarships for student athletes. McIntyre said the fitness component of the report suggests that it is a good idea to think about how to integrate fitness into campus life. While McIntyre finds it important to support intercollegiate athletics, clubs and intramurals, she does not think they are the only ones to worry about.

“The bigger agenda is not just for those who want to participate in intercollegiate athletics, clubs and intramurals; it’s how we fit fitness into campus as a whole,” McIntyre said. “Fitness for life is important for everyone.”

While on the commission, Tony Aronica, the current Associated Students Central Washington University Board of Directors President, was ASCSU VP for Clubs and Organizations. When the student recreation center opens in January, it will be large enough to support all of our students, he said.

“We’re going to try to avoid the freshman 15,” Aronica said.

The fitness component was apparent but was not the largest focus of the commission he said.

“I don’t see any new funding for new equipment; the overarching theme is the money should go to scholarships,” Aronica said.

Many of the recommendations are for new resources. McIntyre said when the commission was started, there was a brainstorming session just in athletics across the university.

She said these issues are “an agenda for funding.” She added a development officer for athletics.

Mark Anderson, former director of public relations and marketing, was appointed to the position in May, due to initial recommendations from the BRC. Anderson is working on a fundraising campaign for the athletic department.

“It’s helpful to have the wisdom of this group behind a list of things that are important,” McIntyre said. “They put at the top the need for scholarships that fits into the university’s priority as well, scholarships for all programs, but that came through loud and clear. That’s a need all over campus, and is a very high priority for the institution.”

Sports Commission recommends facility improvements

by Kathryn Lake
Scene editor

Recommendations:

Further details regarding these recommendations are in the body of the BRC’s report. Students can request a copy under the Public Records procedures at...

Operations:

Intercollegiate Athletics should remain in the NCAA Division II level of competition, with the current complement of intercollegiate teams (13) and with the Great Northwest Athletic Conference as the primary affiliation. This placement should be considered an opportunity to improve scheduling and enhance financial operations.

Intercollegiate Athletics should adopt a periodic program review process, which would involve external evaluators, to analyze operations and facilities.

Funding and Financial Concerns:

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CUW shall increase funding for the intercollegiate athletics program to support additional student-athlete scholarships (at the level defined within the body of this report) and athletics safety and operations (including budgeting for safe travel for student-athletes).

The university should hire an athletic development director whose responsibilities include identification and cultivation of major gifts and corporate and business sponsorship for Central Intercollegiate Athletics.

In addition, the university should consider hiring an athletics marketing director to coordinate marketing efforts for athletics programs with the development director. The BRC also recommend hiring an assistant to support both the athletic department director and the athletics marketing director.

Facilities:

Central should pursue the development and construction of a multi-use academic facility to accommodate academics (including physical education classes and events such as graduation, alumni events, a development office space to host visiting donors) and athletics (including office spaces, a hall of fame and trophy room, a press room a training room, weight room, and spaces for basketball, volleyball, indoor track and field practice and competitions).

This venue could be used for attracting regional events such as state high school athletic tournaments as well as concerts and other entertainment requiring a large indoor space. Central should consider collaborating with the Ellensburg School District, the City of Ellensburg, and other local entities.

The university should pursue state funding as well as outside funding for this project, including corporate sponsorship, local and regional school district support, so that joint use for competition may be possible.

Central should enhance existing indoor athletic venues, particularly Nicholson Pavilion, by following current improvement plans including locker room, weight room and training room upgrades. Moreover, Nicholson Pavilion needs air conditioning, office spaces, additional restrooms and concessions and ticket areas.

Central should improve existing outdoor facilities including multi-purpose fields for intercollegiate athletics, sports clubs and intramural practice and play.

Enhancement of these facilities should include installation of artificial surfaces and a lighting system to allow extended use. It should also include improvements to Tomlinson Stadium’s football field, track, seating, scoreboard and artificial playing surface. Finally, it should include the addition of a new scoreboard to the baseball field and the development of a multi-use softball complex.
said. "They are jam-packed with school supplies and we also started to add hand-written notes of encouragement.

The backpacks are spiral notebooks, binders, penny, snack bars, key chains, glue and writing utensils as well as calculators. More playful items like stuffed animals, cards and coloring books for the younger kids.

"We want the trailer to leave Ellensburg in about two weeks so it can arrive in the Gulf states by Christmas," Williams said. Christina Curran, liaison between the Ed. LLC and the CEC, said a small committee began planning the relief effort project, created by Nickelodeon and called "We Got Your Back," when it was proposed as a possible collaboration by the CEC after Oct. 5. Williams said the project is still in the testing phase and the film series will not be shown on a regular basis like this quarter and will instead be shown only on occasion. There is no schedule yet for the showings or information for the films that will be featured.

The Classic Film Series has been a feature at Central Washington University for almost 30 years and each showing has been a modest success. Recently, students may have noticed small booklets advertising upcoming films for the series especially in the fountain boxes in the Samuelsunion Union Building. These booklets are part of a campaign by Campus Life to increase attendance and awareness for the films.

"We usually do a brochure for the film series and place posters around campus," said nuts Gallagher, program coordinator of the Publicity Center in charge of the Classic Film Series. "This was a more expensive approach, but this is our last film series in McConnell Auditorium and we wanted to do something special." 1,500 were made, according to the Publicity Center. Attendance for the films has been on average about 100 people and attendance for last week's "Truffel" proved particularly high, with about 350 in attendance during the free showing of the movie, and nearly 300 students who stayed after for the question and answer session with Truffel himself. Attendance is also expected to be good for "The Motorcycle Diaries," "Bride and Prejudice," and the final film "Gandolena" in 10.

The booklets were designed by Candice Young and Joanna Horowitz, both former students and interns for the Publicity Center. They were responsible for making the presentation of the films more visually appealing and designing creative descriptions for them, said Gallagher. Features of the booklets include colorful pictures of each movie poster, the time and date of each showing, a summary of the films, and even recommendations for films of similar themes or genres.

The Classic Film Series will be moving to the new SLUB after its doors open in April 2006, when a new theater is being built with 405 seats. Because of the delay between winter quarter and new year, the film series will not be shown on a regular basis like this quarter and will instead be shown only on occasion. There is no schedule yet for these showings or information for the films that will be featured.

Volunteers fill backpacks with supplies for Katrina relief

by Ella Bowman
Staff reporter

At Central Washington University, close to 50 backpacks stocked with school supplies sit in a trailer waiting to go down to California to hopefully be distributed by City of Industry, Calif. to students affected by Hurricane Katrina. The items were the result of generous donations by students and community members over the past month.

"The large amount of backpacks has resulted in a well-splitted distribution between elementary and secondary schools," April Williams, civic engagement fellow said. "They are jam-packed with school supplies and we also started to add hand-written notes of encouragement.

The backpacks are spiral notebooks, binders, penny, snack bars, key chains, glue and writing utensils as well as calculators. More playful items like stuffed animals, cards and coloring books for the younger kids.

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The dilemma, Williams said, is that the prepared backpacks are currently sitting in the trailer after the organization that was supposed to deliver the packs backed out.

"We need someone to volunteer to drive our truck to California," Williams said. "We have money to donate for gas, but we'd ultimately like to give that money to the families or donate it to the Red Cross." Even with the delivery delay, enthusiasm is high.

"I can't stress how excited we are about this," Williams said. "I think people get more involved in giving money. If money is put toward a gift, it's a great opportunity to give something back to people who have lost everything."

If you would like to get involved with your campus and community, volunteers are needed for the upcoming World AIDS Day event now through Dec. 1. Contact April Williams at takeaction@cwu.edu for more information.

Students spars over "Tortilla Curtain"

by Rachel Thornton
Staff reporter

Pamela Alvarado is no stranger to racing against the clock, as a young girl living in Wenatchee Valley. She was waiting for the bus to arrive to take her to school. She remembers the warm sticky feeling of salvia oozing down her skin and the sound of rocks slamming around her, pelted by other kids.

Alvarado said her experience with racism was able to make her draw parallels from T.C. Boyle's "The Tortilla Curtain" and the movie "Crash." She and other student panel members led a discussion about the similar themes found in Tortilla Curtain and Crash after viewing the film Monday night in Hertz auditorium.

The event marked the latest of a series of activities in the "One Book, One Campus" program sponsored by the College Assistance Mentoring Program (CAMP), the Bridges Project, Diversity Education Center, communication department and Latin American studies.

"I can't judge a person by their skin color, their eye color. You have to get to know them.

- Pamela Alvarado, student panel for Tortilla Curtain

"We've Got Your Back" with CEC

Tanya Goetz, Advisory Board member for the Education Living Learning Community (Ed. LLC) and liaison between the Ed. LLC and Civic Engagement Center (CEC) gave Williams' parents the endowment from Williams' parents.

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SAFETY:
help is available

often it takes an outside source to force them to come to terms with the dangerous situation that they face. When deciding how the funds would be distributed, the S & A committee takes into consideration several different factors. Zach George, who was on the committee last spring, said the committee looks at which groups are in need of assistance and funds can be directed to them.

"We look at the campus as a whole," George, senior business administration major, said. "The committee is structured to give an overall view of the campus."

One of the major issues considered during the allocation process was the move into the new Student Union Building (SUB). George said.

"We were able to recover from that standpoint," Chris Hull, general manager of "The Burg," said. "It's been necessary to have extra support.

With the $200,000 a year funding allocated by the S & A committee, Hull and Beckstead are able to do more with the station and are pleased with the allocation.

"They have been progressively supportive of what we're doing," Hull said.

Scott Drummond, director of campus activities, said he is quite pleased with the amount of money received. Although he didn't get the full amount requested, he still doubled his funding from the previous year, receiving a total of $225,000.

"This allocation is a home run compared to the last funding," Drummond said. "We're able to go after bigger names now."

George said Campus Activities received more funding this time because they attract more students, and the committee trusts Drummond with his budget.

"He's not one to overestimate," George said.

Drummond, who also works with Club Central, said there was a technical misunderstanding about funding for 2007. Because there was not a specific room in the SUB designated for Club Central, the committee wasn't sure if there would be one.

"Club Central is a program, not a room." Drummond said. "We ran it wherever we can."

Even with no designated funding, Drummond doesn't seem too concerned.

"Right now Club Central is doing fine," Drummond said. "We're working on an end of the quarter comedy tour."

In response, George said if the committee isn't sure about something they're not going to allocate the funds.

While Campus Activities is pleased with the money they received, the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Alliance (LGBT) is not. The program, which has sponsored such programs as National Coming Out Day, The Evolution of Marriage and the Seattle Women's Chorus, did not receive any funding this time.

George said the LGBT is an interest group, which was originally part of the Diversity Center and was going to start a new center.

"We felt they should be a part of the Diversity Education Center," George said. "[Essentially], we were funding them two different ways.

Leslie Webb, director of the Diversity Education Center has continued to keep working on the LGBT.

"We're there to develop a group of students who are proud to be culturally sensitive," Webb said. "Even though the money's gone, we're still doing the work. It's hard."

Many students may be wondering how the LGBT is managing to create programs without funding.

"Thank creativity," Webb said. "We can't have a keynote speaker, but we could have a program."

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Vigil for Veterans

Patrick Mcafee, senior Air Force ROTC Cadet Wing Commander, stands guard at a vigil in front of McConnell Auditorium Friday Nov. 11. The 24-hour vigil for soldiers who are Prisoners of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) was the second event the ROTC participated in on Veteran's Day. The vigil involved seniors in the Air Force ROTC and went from 5 p.m. Friday to 7 p.m. Saturday. The rose next to McAfee stands for courage of the families affected. Air Force ROTC members also led the Veteran's day parade, which started at 11 a.m. Friday.
OBSERVANCE

Get used to hearing about racism and discrimination

Allison White

Editor-in-Chief

Support that endeavor. The demographics in the Kittitas Valley and the surrounding areas can no longer be ignored, and programs like CAMP, Bridges and the Diversity Education Center, sponsors of the Monday forum, are working toward making that community a reality.

The students who organized The Starlight Protest (yes, it deserves capital letters) have the same goal in mind. They gathered to protest discrimination and yes, there is a rumor circulating about an incident last summer that is still just that: a rumor. But as The Starlight Protest organizers highlight, there have been and continue to be many incidents of racism and discrimination, not just one. In the end it is a matter of someone calling someone something derogatory, which happens every day in every town, across our nation. It is an act that goes ignored, gets brushed off and put out of minds because it is commonplace, and it shouldn't be. This incident leads me to another local example of discrimination.

The night of April 23, 2005 three Central students were assaulted, the case went to trial, and Jesse Simon's letter in last week's paper is the cumulative result. I made a conscious decision to publish his letter the way I did, because of the statement it made. The letter should be read for itself and require no interpretation. People need to open their eyes, shed their ignorant skins and wake up to see that in all the cases of racism, discrimination, ignorance and intolerance, real people are getting hurt.

Three of our peers were victims, and people still claim there is not ignorance, they still claim there is tolerance, they still claim racism and discrimination are not problems. People in towns across this nation are victims to those crimes every day and still nothing is done about it. I can't help but wonder "What will it take for our community to face up to its problem?" It is this question that our generation must now undertake in order to make a future for ourselves.

It is a hard question that perpetuates more questions. But another question came up Monday night and I ask it of you right now: Are we going to do anything now, or ever?

The answer to that question will come out of discussions like the one on Monday night, and it's a step in the right direction toward uniting our multicultural community.

Allison White is the Editor-in-Chief and can be contacted at whiteal@cwu.edu
First Amendment Analysis

After an assault case involving three Central students the First Amendment regarding Hate Speech is taken into consideration by students and faculty.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

In this statement lies what is arguably 44 of the most controversial words ever written. The meaning of the first amendment is one of the most hotly debated subjects in history. Everything ranging from whether or not to burn the American flag to the right to go to church on Sunday hinges upon those words.

Recently its meaning came into question, not in the Supreme Court, not in a state superior court but in county district court. Though Justin Weekes was found guilty of assault two weeks ago in district court Adrian Jarshaw had the harassment charges levied against him dropped.

Jarshaw allegedly attempted to use the first amendment as a defense at the scene of the assault in regards to the word he used that started the altercation. The fight allegedly began after Jarshaw called one of three Central students a "faggot." "I don't see how someone can be a judge in the American legal system and not see that [calling a person a faggot] as an instigator," said Colleen Fagan, President of Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA) at Central.

For many calling someone a "faggot" on the street might seem like a clear case of harassment, especially since it resulted in an assault. The law is vague on the issue. To understand why this is the case a person must first understand the years of district and supreme court rulings surrounding the first amendment. "The Supreme Court has always said no rights are absolute and in the course of that they have carved out exceptions for the free speech doctrine," said Matthew Manweiler, assistant professor of political science. "For example you can't give away battle plans to The New York Times, you can't walk into a crowded theatre and scream fire, these are the clear and present danger exceptions."

Another example of an exception to the first amendment is known as fighting words. The first amendment does not protect words that are meant to incite violence. The question raised in the Jarshaw case centers around whether calling a person a "faggot" on the street fulfills the fighting words doctrine, which make it an exception to the first amendment.

The problem with most constitutional law in terms of carving out exceptions is that they're very subjective," Manweiler said. For example, what one person considers "clear and present danger" very much depends on your interpretation of the words "clear and present danger." In short, the court rulings don't always do a great deal in relation to clarifying the issues.

"You replace one subjective terminology and try to create criteria for it with other subjective terminology," Manweiler said. "'Your'e trying to define one ambiguous term with another."

Other countries' attempts to control hate speech have met with little success. "Canada has regulated against what they consider and carefully define as hate speech especially with regard to websites that are presenting what many would consider radical hateful perspectives," said Michael Ogden, associate professor of communications. "All that this case succeeded in doing is moving all of those websites to the United States where that speech is protected."

For many experts laws relating to hate could set a dangerous precedent for the future. "The problem that we see...is that ounce you begin the regulation of a particular type of speech you begin the slide down a slippery slope," Ogden said. "Today its hate speech tomorrow its political speech of one form or another, the next day its going to be the banning of use of certain forms of vocabulary and supplanting it with new speak.

Even those that are vocally opposed to the use of hate speech can see arguments for its defense under the first amendment. "[Hate speech laws] are easy to enforce but they're impossible to define," said Djorde Popovic, program coordinator for the Diversity Education Center. "Martin Luther King was considered someone who incited riots, I was looking at some FBI memos from 1963 - 64 which were basically calling him one of the most dangerous threats to the state, so his speech was considered hateful at the time and yet he's a national hero now."

For some students this case is a clear cut issue that should have nothing to do with the first amendment. "Let's look at this rationally. Weekes was charged with assault and found guilty, his actions should have always been the sole issue, his motivation is irrelevant," said George Hasley, senior print journalist and political science major. "'Hate Crime' legislation essentially represents the criminalization of thought, which is not a road I think any of us [on the] Left or Right want to go down." Where hate speech and freedom of speech are concerned there is no easy solution. The fine line between freedom of speech and protecting people from hate speech will always be a difficult balancing act.
Every year the theatre department puts on numerous productions, none featuring more student involvement than "Shorts," a collection of one-act plays. "Shorts" offers something few other productions can: it's entirely created by students. "It's completely guided by students in every sense of the word," said Amber Peoples, graduate student in theatre production. "From playwrights, to actors, to directors, to designers, every last bit of it is by students."

"Shorts" is composed of five short plays, and many of these plays were created in a popular theatre class. Playwriting, taught by Wesley Van Tassel, offers students the opportunity to write a play and have it worked on throughout the course of the quarter. "I took Wesley Van Tassel's playwriting class last year, and I've taken it every quarter since then," said Ariel Jacobson, junior theatre arts performance and costuming major. Jacobson is the writer of two of the plays. "I knowingly submitted one play to be a part of 'Shorts' and two more were submitted because I had worked on them during the play writing class." Any student is afforded the opportunity to submit plays for "Shorts," but selections usually come from the playwriting class.

What we're seeing are five plays that have been work-shopped in this class," said Leslee Caul, Director of Marketing and Development for the theatre department. "They have gotten to a stage where they're ready to be presented to the public."

The five plays being shown as a part of "Shorts" are "The Last Will of Lillian Pearlman," "Standing Up," "Detachable," "A Story About Reality" and "Reality for Dummies." "Shorts" is somewhat unique in that it is presented not in McConnell Auditorium, but in the Milo Smith Tower Theatre. "In McConnell, the closest seat in the house is still 30 feet from the stage," Caul said. "The plays in 'Shorts' tend to be the kind of plays that play better in a small intimate space. You can see the nuances of the characters and the things that are happening in a more intimate way."

The high level of student involvement has brought this cast together and the ensemble has had to work together, more so than in most productions. "We have really taken a lot of ownership of the ensemble and of the plays," said Emily Rollie, graduate student in theatre production and director of two of the plays. "We're putting up five different shows so it's that much more work. Because of that we've really pulled together."

Many students chose to become involved in "Shorts" based on the learning opportunity it provides. Working on a larger production gives students just one role to work, but "Shorts" has students working many different roles over many of the five plays. "It gives you the opportunity to learn because you get tossed into it fully," said Bridie Schroeder-LaPlatney, senior youth drama major and director of two of the plays. "It's

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positive. Armstrong travels to universities all over the United States to tell her story. She went to her doctor to get a check-up and asked for an HIV test even though she thought that there was no way she was positive. If she were positive for anything, it would've been pregnancy.

A room filled primarily with women sat down to listen to Rebekka Armstrong, Playboy Playmate, body builder and AIDS survivor.

"What better person to talk to you about sex," Armstrong said. "I have been exposed to a lot of different lifestyles."

In 1989, when Armstrong's modeling career was taking off, she began to feel more tired, bruised easily and noticed changes in her menstrual cycle. She went to her doctor to get a check-up and was told she had leukemia - now she had to come clean. She did and he welcomed her into his home.

On the ride home they stopped by three AIDS clinics to get more information about the disease. On one of her stops she picked up a pamphlet that informed her of a two-day seminar on AIDS for Women and produced by women. Attending the seminar rejuvenated Armstrong and set her on a new healthy path.

In the years following her suicide attempt, Armstrong has been on several medication cocktails that have had debilitating side effects. Some medications left her unable to control her bowels and others made her fingers feel as if they were on fire.

"All I wanted is for you to like me," Armstrong said when speaking about boys. Eventually Armstrong found a boy who showed enough interest in her that she consented to sex. She thought that sex was gross but felt, "I don't have sex with him I am going to lose him and I am nothing without him."

Her relationship ended with an aborted pregnancy and a breakup that would cause her to cry harder than she had ever cried before.

Armstrong is now on a crusade to inform young adults about the risks of having unsafe sex and the personal boundaries that need to be set up to prevent people from falling into the same trap that she was in.

During the talk Armstrong put a condom on her hand and brought it all the way up to her elbow in an effort to show the audience that if a guy says that, "a condom is too tight," or makes any other excuses they are lying.

Students who attended the presentation walked out in a trance, quietly talking to their friends about Armstrong's ordeal.

"It saddened me but she is a big inspiration because she has beaten the odds," Nikki Barone, junior psychology major said. "I am in a monogamous relationship, but the information will help me inform my friends."

The Wellness Center and Campus Activities sponsored the event. Both departments were not hesitant to bring a Playboy Playmate on campus. The Wellness Center's needs assessment found that there was a need to encourage the use of condoms.

We want to help students develop, think for themselves and make critical decisions," said Gail Farmer, director of Wildcat Wellness Center.

Scott Drummond of Campus Activities said that the message was important and that it was not about her being a Playmate but having her on campus would bring attention to the topic of AIDS/HIV awareness and prevention.

By Alison Paine
Staff reporter

Miss September 1986, Rebekka Armstrong is still an active Playmate despite discovering in 1989 she was HIV positive. Armstrong travels to universities all over the United States to tell her story.

What's Next?

Five years ago, members of the university community helped to develop a strategic plan for Central Washington University (see www.cwu.edu/president/archive/goals.html) that directed activities and resource allocation in Ellensburg and at its six centers. The plan and its management objectives have focused us these last five years, during which we've:

• added seven new facilities and renovated others;
• increased the size, academic quality, and diversity of our student body;
• increased faculty and staff scholarship and creative activity;
• increased funding from external grants and contracts;
• developed better and more integrated programs of recruitment, advising, and mentoring;
• improved retention of students;
• developed living-learning communities and expanded civic engagement and service learning activities for students;
• garnered regional and national recognition of academic programs;
• strengthened our partnerships with community colleges throughout the state, including those where our university centers are located.

The plan of 2001 covered the five-year period from 2001-2006. We are now ready to plan for the last half of this decade and beyond. Once again, I am asking for your help. To read more about our accomplishments and to help us determine What's Next? I invite you to go to www.cwu.edu/president/stratplan and complete the survey you'll find there. Responses will form the basis for a series of forums during winter quarter in preparation for completing the 2006-2011 plan.

Sincerely,

Jerylyn S. McIntyre
President

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A concert of memories

The Central Washington University music department performed at the Erin Klotz Concert of Memories at 2 p.m. on Sunday Oct. 13 in the music facility auditorium.

Klotz was a Central music student who died in a car accident in 2001. A tree was dedicated to her during a memorial concert in honor and celebration of her life. Also, a contrabass flute that was partially purchased with donations to the Erin Klotz Memorial Fund, was played during the concert.

Student Art Council hosts an auction

by Rebecca Thornton  
Staff reporter

For art fans throughout Ellensburg, the Student Art Council’s “An Evening with the Arts” is a highly anticipated event. Serving as the Student Council's major fundraising event, 2005 marks the sixth consecutive year the event has appeared on the calendar.

“The Student Art Council benefits Central’s art students, if you’re enrolled in an art class, you’re a member of the Student Art Council,” said President Megan Heer, senior French and sociology major. “We support students in funding for things like educational conferences.”

This event includes an art show as well as a silent and live auction. The art show portion that began on Monday, Nov. 14 will conclude tomorrow with the auctions.

Seventy-five pieces are on display in the Sarah Spurgeon Gallery, open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and admission is free. All of these pieces are for sale in the silent auction which will be open for bidding from 6-7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 18. The live auction will feature 14 works of art and will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The show features work from both undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and alumni and on average brings in around $1,000 for the council.

“An Evening with the Arts” is an annual event, with the silent auction from 6-7 p.m. and the live auction starting at 7:30 p.m. The proceeds go to the Student Art Council, which benefits all Central’s art students.
5 minutes with...Dan Taylor
by Melissa Aboszat-Pelteho
Staff reporter

Dan Taylor is a senior music major. He has been in jazz band for four years, two at Olympic Community College in Renton and two at Central Washington University.

Taylor is in a group named Galileo Quartet that is having a concert at 4 p.m. on Nov. 27 in the Music Building, as well as Duke Ellington’s Jazz Orchestra at 4 p.m. on Dec. 3, also in the Music Building. Taylor also plays from 8 to 10 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month at Grant’s Pizza Place.

Q: Is he band a school group, or do you play for fun?
A: “Galileo Quartet is made of students, but we are a performing group outside of school. We basically play professionally. Galileo Quartet has released a CD called ‘Live at the Starlight.’”

Q: What instrument do you play?
A: “I play piano and sing a little.”

Q: What was the first song you learned to play?
A: “Autumn Leaves.”

Q: What is your favorite song and who is it by?
A: “Anything by ‘Tux.’”

Q: Who is your favorite jazz musician?
A: “Definitely Miles Davis.”

Q: What is your favorite part about playing?
A: “The adrenaline rush of performing.”

Q: Have you ever done anything embarrassing while on stage?
A: “While playing with a rock band, I actually jumped on the power cord and it pulled out of the wall. The whole PA system went blank, but the drummer kept playing like nothing had happened.”

Q: Who plays with you at Grant’s?
A: “Justin Dustin, Stephen Kennedy and Marshall Blakelock play and anyone else who wants to play jazz. Grant’s is cool because any age group, any musical taste can come and enjoy the music.”

Grant is grateful for the support that the entire music department has given her business the past couple of years. “The music department, not just the jazz department, has always been very good to us,” Grant said.

The group that gathers at Grant’s Pizza Place twice a month is never the same. A group will be playing music and all of a sudden there will walk in with a horn and start in on this jam session, attracting people of all shapes and sizes. “Some people will just call their friends and say ‘Hey! You gotta come in here,’” Grant said.

The group is now run by 23-year-old senior music major Dan Taylor.

“From the first time I met Dan, I was a jazz musician and I was new,” said Taylor. “Some of the older players said ‘Hey, come down to Grant’s on Thursday.’”

Taylor also plays in a formal jazz group called the Galileo Quartet which will be playing a show at 4 p.m. on Nov. 27 in the Music Education Building.

To witness a live jam session, just show up at Grant’s Pizza Place every first and third Thursday of the month around 8 p.m.

For more information on Central’s music department visit www.cwu.edu/~music/.

Jazz and cookies, like cookies and milk
by Carter Thomas
Staff reporter

Most times when local students think about the music that comes flying out of Grant’s Pizza Place, thoughts of mobs of black clothes, high pitched angry screams and everyone wearing girl jeans (and that really means everything) come to mind. Well surprisingly one) comes to mind. Well surprisingly…

First every and third Thursday of the month a group of jazz students flow through Grant’s Pizza Place with their music following them every step of the way, giving many patrons a needed change of pace.

“To me it’s really refreshing to hear these guys,” Grant’s Pizza Place owner Kathy Grant said. “I think they do really well and everyone that comes to listen is well behaved.”

Grant also said, about five years ago a group of students in the jazz department came in asking to perform a sort of jam session in the back room of her restaurant.

A couple of years later, the gathering moved downtown to the Mint Tavern where minors were not allowed to participate or observe. Last year however, the decision was made to move the music back into Grant’s.

They’re very topical and very current.”

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Coming Soon to a theater near you

“Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire”
(Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint)
Harry returns for his fourth and most dangerous year.

“Walk the Line”
(Joaquim Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon)
Phoenix plays Johnny Cash in the life story of the Man in Black.

Wednesday, Nov. 23

“Rent”
(Idina Menzel, Taye Diggs)
The bohemian musical finally makes it to the big screen.

“Just Friends”
(Ryan Reynolds, Amy Smart)
A player loses his control when reunited with his dream girl.

“The Ice Harvest”
(John Cusack, Billy Bob Thornton)
Cusack spends his Christmas stealing from the mob.

“Yours Mine & Ours”
(Dennis Quaid, Rene Russo)
Things get cramped when marriage creates a family with 18 kids.

“In the Mix”
(Usher Raymond, Emmauelle Chirqui)
Raymond is a DJ who falls for a mob’s boss’s daughter.

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Another season of Great Northwestern Athletic Conference basketball starts this weekend in Ellensburg when Central hosts the Wildcat Classic. Last season the Wildcats finished 7-11 in the conference. If they are to show any marked improvement, they will have to show up against their GNAC foes. All indications point to a very challenging year on the hardwood.

Washington (7-11 conference, seventh in GNAC 2004-05 season)

if there has not been a problem for Central. Last season the Wildcats finished second in the GNAC in points, putting in just over 84 per game. The same core comes back on the defensive end where coach Greg Sparling has installed a frenetic, run-and-gun attack. Junior swing player Lance Den Boer developed into the go-to scorer every team needs. He can hit from all angles on the court and show off his build on a solid campaign. Fullerton College transfer, combo-guard Robert Hicks, has shown flashes of brilliance. With another year under his belt at Central, Hicks could make the jump into the elite levels of the GNAC. Derek Croft, Chris Bannish and Teddy Craven all return too, giving the Wildcats balance along with too many options for opponents to defend.

Defense is the team’s Achilles’ heel. Sparling has hired three new assistants including classy Freshwater with Freshwater proving to be the Wildcats best dunker. Another intrigu­ ing prospect is last season’s starting point guard Andrew Smith assume the respon­sibilities on the court and in the locker room.

Replacing them will become a team effort. Sophomore Kenny Backer steps in to run things at the point. Seniors Justin Bourne, Ivan Miskovic and Andrew Smith assume the respon­sibilities on the court and in the locker room.

Defense is the team’s achilles’ heel, Sparling tried to correct the problem this off-season, bringing in 6’9” big man Grant Dykstra from Whit­com Community College. He also acquired 6’7” Julius McMillion a trans­ fer from Washington State University. A good mix of size in the middle could take Central a long way in the GNAC.

Western Oregon (13-5 conference, first in GNAC 2004-05 season)

If you despise the Vikings, turn the page. This team’s the truth. All starters return, as Western is ranked #2 nation­ally by Street and Smith’s pre-season DII rankings. Winning the GNAC is expected from the Vikings as Coach Brad Jackson has instilled confidence and chemistry to a perfectly functioning team.

The Vikings averaged 91 points per game last season. Point-guard Kyle Jackson is a natural, when it comes to running a team. Completing the back­ court is shooting guard Alex Allred. They offer a combination of grit and flash to the Vikings. The front-court is led by 6’4” small forward Grant Dykstra. He’s Western’s most dynamic player and a master at filling up the stat sheet. Two seniors finish off the starting five in for­ ward Tyler Amaya and center Tyler MacMullen. They’re both physical and are solid pieces to a stable foundation. The Vikings are built deep as well. Senior guard Preston Vermeulen leads the charge off the bench. Coach Jack­ son considers him a defensive stopper in the rotation. Lukas Hennes provides size and can give either MacMullen or Amaya a rest when the time is right. Daniel Visser and Rob Prinsvich round out the reserves. Alaska Fairbanks (13-5 conference, second in GNAC 2004-05 season)

The Nanooks have solid second in the past few seasons. This year’s offering a stif­ fle challenge to remain on top. The biggest blow came in the form of the departure of Brad Oleson. Oleson was first in the GNAC in scoring while leading the team in rebounds and steals. Also gone is last season’s starting point guard Justin Chivers who dashed out over 100 assists last season. Besides being the Nanooks two best offensive players, both Oleson and Smith were stabilizing forces on the court and in the locker room.

Replacing them will become a team effort. Sophomore Kenny Backer steps in to run things at the point. Seniors Justin Bourne, Ivan Miskovic and Andrew Smith assume the respon­sibilities on the court and in the locker room.

Scoring has not been a problem for the Nanooks this year on the hardwood. Julius McMillion and senior Bryan Pueschner earned it to him,” Harlan said. “I enjoyed the dunk competition a lot,” said Nathan Harlan, a junior pub­ lic relation major. “Each player brought their own spice to the dunk.”

The contest started with six contest­ ants, including three players from the men’s team and Mike Reilly, quarter­ back of the football team. It all came down to a “dunk-off” between junior Julius McMillion and senior Brian Freshwater with Freshwater proving to be the Wildcats best dunker.

Raffle tickets were handed out at the start of the night and those whose num­ bers were called had to successfully complete a task to win $5,000. The first three winners had to make five out of 10 three-pointers from different points around the arc in a time of 25 seconds. The first two competitors couldn’t top three shots and both ran out of time before their last ball. The third contest­ ant released his final ball as time ran out, draining his fifth shot.

The crowd chanted: “Count it! Count it!” as the shot was reviewed on a video camera. When the verdict came that he did not get the shot off in time the crowd erupted with “boos” and then applause for the effort.

“I buzzed early but they should’ve given it to him,” Harlan said.

Later in the night more than three con­ tests attempted the same feat and it was like déjà vu all over again. For the second time in the evening the third contestant to go made the fifth shot as the buzzer rang. The review booth was turned on once again.

While they were making their deci­sion, everyone in the crowd got a chance to win free tuition for winter quarter by throwing a paper airplane towards the center of the floor. The per­ son whose airplane came closest to the center attempted one shot from half­ court for free tuition but the ball fell wide wide.

By this point, the decision had been made and the shot did not count, mak­ ing the cameraman the most rivaled person in the room and Lisa Pueschner the second person to come within a half-second of $5,000.

Pueschner, a senior exercise science major, was not sure if her shot should have been counted.

“It’s hard to say with that clock,” Pueschner said. “I think me and the oth­ er guy should split the money.”

The basketball season starts this Fri­ day when Central hosts the Wildcat Classic. The tournament includes Grand Canyon, Western Oregon, and Chico State. Central’s first game is against Chico State at 5 p.m.

The women’s portion of the Wildcat Classic starts on Friday Nov. 25, against Colorado State-Pueblo.
Say hello to the 2005-06 Wildcat women

by Observer Staff and Sports Information

Following a 10-8 league record last year and a fourth-place finish in the Great Northern Conference, the Wildcats women's basketball team is anxiously looking toward the future.

After some excellent off-season signings, the team is ready to rock. Joining the Wildcats for the season are post Hilary Tanneberg, post Bryna Trescott, wing Kristin Moore and wing/forward Rylene Denbo. All have signed letters of intent to play women's basketball at Central.

"We are very excited about the upcoming season," We know we have some talent to compete with our rivals, both within our conference, and outside of it," said Jeff Whitney, head coach of the women's basketball team. "So we, it's all about getting out there and giving our best effort, and we shall see what happens." Tanneberg is being groomed for a potential star season after transitioning from Central to the University of Montana. She was a redshirt-freshman for the division I Grizzlies last year. At a commanding 6-foot-2, Tanneberg will likely play post.

Hailing from Issaquah, Tanneberg prepped at Liberty High School and was a star for the Patriots, averaging a double-double her senior season. She earned all-KingCo 4A honors as well as all-state awards during her final year.

Solidifying the post-presence is incoming freshman and local product Bryna Trescott. A 6-foot-4 post from Yakima's Eisenhower High School, Trescott helped the Cadets to a Class 4A state tournament appearance and Big Nine League championship this past season. Trescott has the potential to do big things for the Wildcats.

The starting five consists of Lauren Short running the floor at point guard, Ashley Blake and Hanna Hull at the wing positions, Jamie Corwin at wing/forward and Laura Wright solidifying the post.

"Our goal this year is to finish in the top eight and make it to Nationals," Wright said. "We are looking to run the floor, maintain our shot consistency and continue to develop our inside/outside game, and if we do, we should win some games."

Also of note was the addition of Ashley Fenimore, a former point guard at Meadowdale High School in Lynnwood, who has enrolled at Central and is looking to possibly start at point guard. A 5-8 guard, Fenimore averaged nine points and seven assists per game last year for Meadowdale.

She was originally going to attend Seattle Pacific University, but decided she would be a better fit as a Wildcat than a Falcon.

"I can't wait, we've been working all fall and now are ready for our hard work to show, I just know that we will do well this year once we get on the court," Whitney said.

Women's basketball starting lineup

Lauren Short Junior point guard
Hanna Hull Sophomore wing
Laura Wright Junior post
Ashley Blake Junior wing
Jamie Corwin Senior wing/forward

Ski season looks bright

by Jordan Montgomery

Staff reporter

Ski resorts around Washington are opening up and the season looks excellent, especially when compared to last year. Looking at last year's late openings and horrible conditions, many people would say anything would be better than last year.

Out of the 16 ski resorts in Washington, five of them have good snow and are running with more than 50 percent of the resort open. In fact, this season has already seen a few records broken. Mount Baker opened on Tuesday with 73 inches at the base and 83 inches at the summit. According to Snocountry.com, Mt. Baker's snow cap is deeper than that of any other ski resort in the world. This isn't the only time that Baker has made the news. On May 12, 1999, Baker unofficially broke the world record of 97 feet in one season.

"It think it will be a great season," said Jamie Hanna, a business administration and economics major. "If things continue to go the way they are, I think it will be the best season we have had for a while. Last year everything opened so late and only got to go twice or three times, and one time only for a half day because the conditions were so awful."

Hanna has been in the snow since she was six and wants to try and take advantage of her season pass to Stevens this year to make up for the loss of last year's season.

As of now, Spokane's 49 Degrees North is open with 30 inches, running two of its five chairs. Stevens Pass is open with 33 inches of packed snow and 16 of 34 runs open. Most importantly, the summit at Snoqualmie is open with 21 inches of packed snow and two of eight chair running. With three more resorts planning to open within the next week, skiers and boarders alike are already getting on the slopes. These early openings mark the earliest start of a season in just about a decade.

It is too early to tell just how good the season is going to get. In fact, some meteorologists warn that early snow

Ski Classic schedule

Friday Nov. 25
6 p.m. Cal State Monterey Bay vs. Seattle
8 p.m. Colorado State Pueblo vs. Central
Saturday Nov. 26
2 p.m. Colorado State Pueblo vs. Seattle
4 p.m. Cal State Monterey Bay vs. Central

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The Wildcats (22-4, 16-2 GNAC) concluded their regular season last week when they traveled north to take on Alaska Anchorage and Alaska Fairbanks. The Wildcats had an agenda for the trip. They wanted to beat Alaska. Anchorage and Alaska Fairbanks while getting better each game. By executing those three things they knew they could, the GNAC title and possibly make it to playoffs. All the sacrifices, discipline and dedication they have paid off for them. Washington University volleyball team vs. they qualified for post-season play.

On Nov. 10, Central defeated Alaska Anchorage 30-12, 30-21 and 30-21 in front of 450 people at the Wells Fargo Complex in Anchorage.

Senior outside hitter Crystal Anness had 15 kills and 10 digs. Senior middle blocker LeAnne McGahuey added 12 kills and 10 digs. Senior middle blocker Christa Nilsson had five serve aces on the night. The Wildcats dominated with a 38-10 hitting percentage compared to Anchorage’s .07 percent.

The yearly squabble between the two Washington universities dates back a long time and the resentment they have for one another is evident. Both teams are having a home game and with the drenching rain it could possibly be a formula for the worst Apple Cup in history.

Not to say that I don’t think the Huskies will win, because I think they will. It will just be an ugly win. A win that may come down to my hometown kicker’s foot, Evan Kustrin. He will kick a few field goals away from the 30 yard line, but after a disastrous ‘04 season, where he only made half his field goal attempts from 50 yards out, I don’t think he will be missed.

My counterpart the Cougars will rise above their over-hyped mediocrity and demolish the Dawgs. But what he probably won’t tell you is that their cake walk of a schedule started them 3-0 against Idaho, Nevada and Grambling State. No wonder Jerome Randle is having such a great year!

Then again, after that “buffalize” start, they lost seven straight and have given up 270 points, most in the conference.

The Crimson and Silver also lost to Stanford, a team that was beaten by NCAA I-AA team UC Davis. Central State beat Davis two years ago.

Rather, what the Huskies have is tons of momentum. Coming off the biggest win of the season in a 38-14 smashing of Arizona, the Huskies are home against a much despised rival.

Every year the Huskies muster up something against their cross-state foes. Despite their 2-8 record, Coach Tyrone Willingham has turned this program in the right direction.

Tailback James Simms, Jr. is coming off a 200-yard performance against Arizona State. And Shun Stanford is finally coming into his own as an option quarterback. The Huskies will stay to the run and pound out yards against a suspect Cougar defensive line.

The Huskies will come confident into a game between two teams that despise each other. Willing ham’s guys will be ready for a sloppy gridiron battle and prevail.

The Dawgs will hold the Cougars’ Harrison in check and chuck up another Apple Cup victory making the Cougars bow down to the Purple Haze that will be pounding their whiskers into the ground.

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**Rugby has tough weekend**

by Scott Parish
Staff reporter

The Central Washington University women's rugby team went to battle on Saturday against the Wolves from Western Oregon University. In the first half the Wildcats were able to put up five points on a score by senior outside center Julie Carpine but failed to make their conversion. The first half ended with Central trailing 7-5. In the second half both teams fought hard but the score remained the same. It was Western Oregon who was able to capitalize late in the game and score two more tries and a complete one conversion ending the game with a 19-5 win.

Senior Michelle Beanie said, "We came off with a lot of injuries." Coach Michael Ferrand on the game? "Everyone wants to win and the feeling of everyone being together and playing well is that much more fun." Central hopes to bounce back in their next game against the University of Puget Sound. The game will be played in Tacoma. A game time has not yet been set.

**Beattie: AH-GNAC midfielder**

Q: What's your favorite thing about the game?
A: "The feeling of everyone being intense and playing well. It's awesome when everyone is on the same page, like we were against Seattle Pacific. When we come together and play well it's that much more fun." Q: What is the biggest difference between high school and college soccer?
A: "Everyone wants to win and the coach pushes you harder. The two main things are the intensity and the strength of the girls." Q: What will you do in your free time now that soccer is over?
A: "I've already started working out, and when the snow comes, I'll start snowboarding. I also like to watch Oprah." Q: What will you do in the off-season to prepare for next season?
A: "Just staying in shape is huge. If you get out of shape, it's hard to get back in it. I'll do sprints, leg workouts and lift weights. I'll also prepare mentally." Coach Michael Ferrand on Michelle:

"Beattie is an awesome person who cares about her players and friends on the field and off. As a player this year she has demonstrated great intensity with great results. Beattie is the best "walk on player" CWU has ever had." Teammate Lindsay Mitchell on Michelle:

"You notice when Michelle's not on the field because there's a lack of leadership. She jumps higher than anyone I've ever seen in my life. Michelle is an awesome friend. We're roommates and she's like the dad in our house. She washes windows and kills spiders. She's amazing!"

Central Men's Rugby Humbled by WSU

In the first half, the Cougars came out ready to strike. With three quick scores the Wildcats found themselves trailing 17-3. Eventually Central would find its rhythm and start doing some scoring of their own. The Wildcats scored twice more in the opening half, while holding the Cougars scoreless for the remainder and ended the half 17-15 in favor of WSU.

After a strong ending to the first half, Central hoped to have captured the momentum of the game. The teams held each other scoreless for a good portion of the second half but it was Washington State that would break the ice and extend their lead to seven.

After the score, Central showed signs of scoring but the Cougars stopped the Wildcats and put up another seven points of their own, pushing their lead to 14.

Washington State scored again off of a Central penalty late in the half, putting the game out of reach. The final score had the Cougars on top 43-15. Players were disappointed in the outcome of the game. "We went away from our game plan completely, I couldn't make or touch, and my play calling was horrible," senior flyhalf Mike Merrill said.

The team started out strong but the Cougars pulled away late in the contest.

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**Observer — Sports — November 17, 2005**

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Palmquist is the third CWU professor to be named Washington's Professor of the Year, joining Drs. Terry Martin, English, in 2003; and Jim Nimnicht, business administration, in 1999.
Making science accessible to children is important to Dr. Bruce Palmquist, Central Washington University physics and science education professor. He is highly regarded for his commitment to improving public understanding of basic scientific principles and working to develop skills in the next generation of science teachers needed to successfully bring about a scientifically literate society.

For those reasons, along with his dedication to teaching, commitment to students and innovative teaching methods, Palmquist was named Nov. 17 as the 2005 Washington State Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

Palmquist is also well known for his "Bubble Planetarium" presentations, at which he teaches community members, most often school children, about astronomy. "You can show kids something through a microscope once, but they won't always have a microscope. The nighttime sky is always there for them," Palmquist says. "So it's good to help them recognize patterns and describe stories about the night sky." The portable, fabric dome can seat more than 50 people and projects images of the stars and representations of constellations for his audiences to study.

He has also taken on many other projects, including writing a weekly newspaper astronomy column and becoming a regular contributor to the Kittitas Environmental Education Network.

In addition, Palmquist serves as a mentor to members of the CWU student astronomy club and helps facilitate public stargazing events at the university's Lind Hall telescope.

"As a faculty member, I'm not only obligated to teach my students, but I think it's important to reach out to the community," Palmquist points out. "It's a way to provide once-in-a-lifetime learning for community members, age 5 to senior citizens."

Palmquist has also participated in a variety of preserve, inservice and community college teacher-mentoring programs. In addition, he is active in national efforts to improve teacher preparation in science education.

"Many education students are most afraid of teaching the subject of science," Palmquist adds. "They don't realize that science is fun because of the way they are taught in high school and college where they hear a lecture, learn big words and memorize equations. But when I can help them realize science is about exploring and doing experiments, and when they learn that's the way to teach kids, they feel more comfortable."

Palmquist hopes to pass the importance of public service on to his science education students. "In small towns, it's the teachers who are the intellectual lights of the community," he says. "I want my students to take the knowledge and skills they learn in college and help the community."

Palmquist, 47, earned a bachelor degree in physics, Magna Cum Laude, from Augsburg College, in Minneapolis, in 1984, and master's degrees, in the history of science, 1990, and physics, 1992, from the University of Minnesota.

He joined the Central faculty in 1993 after completing his Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction (science education) from the University of Minnesota. Palmquist was also named the 2004 CWU Distinguished Public Service Professor. 
by Dr. Bruce Palmquist

Central Washington University's motto is "By teaching, we learn." Each quarter that I teach, I learn more about my subject, my students and how to help my students better learn the subject matter. So Central's motto certainly applies to me. But, it also applies to the people studying to be teachers in my courses. The best way for them to learn how to teach is to practice the skills of teaching. For nearly 10 years, my students have taught science lessons at Kittitas Elementary School. Without fail, my students cite the teaching experience as their favorite aspect of the course. Although they cite the experience as their favorite, because it is more fun to interact with a bunch of 10-year-olds than listen to a boring professor, they benefit from the feedback they get from their peers, the classroom teacher and me.

Four years ago, I worked with the faculty and staff at Green River Community College in Auburn to bring that great Central education to their campus. To support this program, I developed partnerships with elementary schools in Auburn and Kent, as well as in Kittitas County. Twice a year, my CWU-Green River science teaching students organize science nights at Auburn's Lea Hill Elementary in which children and their parents participate in inquiry science lessons. Every winter quarter, my students write sample Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) scenarios for children in Kent and Kittitas County. These practice WASLs help children when they take the official WASL. For their capstone teaching experience, the CWU-Green River students organize an after school science club at Lea Hill Elementary. My students really take ownership of this activity as they talk about "THEIR" science club.

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In the spirit of "By teaching, we learn," working with preservice teachers, classroom teachers and children, has improved my physics teaching. My physics courses incorporate cooperative group problem solving, guided scientific inquiry and conceptual learning. For example, students work in small groups on real world physics problems, such as determining the speed of a car from the length of the skid marks, using a problem-solving template I developed. This process allows students to focus on the physics and the steps of problem solving. My role is to guide the groups to the best solution. In my opinion, supported by research, students can learn more by talking to each other than they can by listening to a lecture. Observing elementary school classrooms has convinced me that teachers can learn a lot about what their students know by listening to them work. To help facilitate this talking and listening process, I developed a protocol for doing brief assessment interviews at the end of a physics lab. I listen as physics lab students talk to each other and to me about their lab activity.

Five Minutes with Dr. Bruce Palmquist

Editor: What is your favorite aspect of teaching?

Palmquist: I like answering students' questions and helping them make sense of issues they are having problems with. Some professors go into the classroom with an elaborate presentation all planned out. But, that is not for me. I know where the class should end up at the end of the week. And I have planned, in general, how we will get there. But, the students will help create the path with their specific needs and questions.

Editor: Along with all of your teaching responsibilities, you write a weekly newspaper column. Why do you volunteer your time to write it?

Palmquist: Science is such an important topic. And, it is under covered in the popular press. Astronomy is a very attainable topic. The stars and planets are always up there for people to see. I have selfish reasons for writing the column, as well. If my column helps the general public have a more positive outlook toward science, they are more likely to support science teaching in the schools and universities.

Editor: Talk a little bit more about science in the schools, especially the science WASL.

Palmquist: Everyone seems to agree that the WASL is a sensitive subject. In general, children are over-tested. I think no child gets left behind because they leave such a long paper trail of standardized test sheets. But, the science WASL is much better than the typical multiple choice standardized test. The science WASL requires students to write, solve problems, design scientific experiments. Simply memorizing facts will not result in a good WASL score. The WASL's emphasis on designing experiments means that teachers will need to include more experiments and the analysis of experiments in their classroom. This is a good thing.

Editor: You often teach late night astronomy labs or organize public observing sessions, yet still are up early to take care of your classes and other responsibilities. Isn't that a tough schedule?

Palmquist: Well, it isn't easy. The CWU Astronomy Club helps out a lot. In fact, they plan most of the late observing sessions you mentioned. But, I think it is important that introductory astronomy students get familiar with the nighttime sky. The best way to learn about the night sky is to observe it with some expert help.

Editor: Do you have favorite constellation?

Palmquist: Canis Major, the greater dog. In mid November, it is low in the southwestern sky at midnight.
Here's what colleagues say about Dr. Bruce Palmquist, Washington State Professor of the Year:

"My experience over some 30 years directing national education projects suggests that it is rare to find teachers in higher education who are outstanding both in the classroom, and involved substantially with the external community. Dr. Palmquist is one of the rare ones who succeed in both arenas."

Duane Eisenberg
Project Director
Preparing Tomorrow's Science & Mathematics Teachers
Jackson, Miss.

"Project TEACH has become one of the most well-known and respected teacher preparation programs in this region. It has also gained national recognition. Bruce has participated in many regional and national conferences in order to promote the program and to help disseminate the model to other colleges and public school systems."

Stephan Kinboll
Co-Director
Project TEACH
Auburn, Wash.

"Bruce shares his love of science with anyone who asks. He spends uncountable hours providing service to the community, many times with very short notice. He is a tireless worker and loves to share his knowledge with others."

Martha Kurtz
Program Director, Science Education
Central Washington University

"Our children and teachers eagerly welcome each day they have the privilege to work with individuals from his SCED (science education) 322 course. This is a direct reflection of Dr. Palmquist's leadership and instructional mastery, as well as an unquestionable indication of his commitment to molding highly qualified and student-centered instructors."

Derek Lane
Principal
Kittitas Elementary School

"His willingness to take the time and explain basic concepts of physics and astronomy to everyone, ranging from elementary students to his CWU students and to members of the community, seems never ending."

Erin Sheppard
President
CWU Astronomy Club

"Bruce's involvement with KEEN is a shining example of a creative, efficient and effective educational partnership. His dedication to service is a model for university and community relations."

Rebecca Wassell
Executive Director
Kittitas Environmental Education Network
Ellensburg, Wash.

"Your dedication and your achievements as a teacher exemplify CWU's commitment to our students. You provide the perfect blend of disciplinary expertise and passion for teaching. By all accounts, you are the consummate teacher. Your love of science and your unabashed enthusiasm for letting others in on its magic have made you one of the most popular faculty members. You open our students' eyes to science and teach them how to open the eyes of others.

Your "one-man" traveling show has delighted public school classrooms throughout the region. K-12 students and their teachers alike report that when you teach science, it is often fun and funny and never dry. It is particularly noteworthy that you’ve involved your own CWU students in these field trips, modeling first hand the important role that theater plays in teaching scientific principles. Your weekly column about stargazing in the Ellensburg Daily Record exemplifies your amazing ability to describe complex phenomena in simple language that is accessible to non-scientists.

In addition to your work in the classroom, you've provided leadership for the university in other ways. Project TEACH, a program you developed in conjunction with Green River Community College, prepares elementary teachers with special skills in math and science and directly responded to a looming crisis in math and science education. Your collaboration with colleagues in the Center for Teaching and Learning has strengthened interdisciplinary cooperation and ensured that our science education students learn not only what to teach but how to teach.

Thank you for your dedication to Central Washington University, our students, and K-12 students in the region. We are very proud of you.

Sincerely,

Duane Eisenberg
Project Director
Preparing Tomorrow's Science & Mathematics Teachers
Jackson, Miss.

Stephan Kinboll
Co-Director
Project TEACH
Auburn, Wash.

Martha Kurtz
Program Director, Science Education
Central Washington University

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