Love the V: Fourth Annual Vagina Monologues

The Vagina Monologues directors Madeline Cartwright, Kim Rewinkel and Brittney Leonard collaborated on the production, which is in its fourth year. The first performance is 7 p.m. tomorrow night in Hertz Auditorium.

See stories on pages 4, 9, & 11
Students will say their final farewells to residence halls Muzzall and Courson. The towers are scheduled to be mothballed in August.

Central Washington University has deemed them "not in the university's long-range housing master plan, no longer adequately meet students' needs, and are no longer cost-effective," said President Jerilyn Mcintyre. They will remain standing for up to two years.

Bill Vertrees, assistant vice President of Facilities Management, said that once deconstructed, the land will provide many opportunities for development.

"In the future of Central's housing our goal is to have it change significantly," said Stacy Klippstein, director of University Housing and new student programs.

Construction would include suite apartment style housing as well as renovations of current facilities.

The decommissioning of Muzzall and Courson will eliminate 479 student beds. The university will create 334 beds with renovations and upgrades across campus.

The furniture removed from Muzzall and Courson will be distributed among the newly renovated halls. This will not affect the placement of incoming freshmen or current students with on-campus housing needs. Students will have to clear out of the Courson and Muzzall residence halls by August 2006.

Wahle Apartments will be converted into three-person suites with air conditioning, private bathrooms, kitchens and fenced yards. Remodeling will begin July 1. Current Wahle tenants have first pick of the open apartments. Families are able to select two-bedroom options in Getz-Short or one of the many options in Brooklane Village.

Munson Hall will also be converted into a three-person suite style apartment with private bathrooms. The conversion from a conference center has left Central with a housing need for conference visitors.

Barto Hall will be remodeled and converted into three-person suites and will house some freshmen. The B and C wings will be given to the freshmen, while the A wing will be available for upperclassmen only.

North Hall will be converted into doubles with minor remodels.

All rooms will be converted except the ADA rooms, 119, 218 and 228.

Maggie Schmidt/Observer

Students will have to clear out of the Courson and Muzzall residence halls by August 2006.
Bush's budget cuts hurt student loans

by Michael L'Esperance
Head Staff Reporter

The government once said that no American would be denied a college education because he or she could not afford it. However, when the Deficit Reduction Act narrowly passed through the House of Representatives last Wednesday, this promise was put in danger. The legislation is a $40 billion package designed to save revenue through benefit reductions.

Three government programs will have their funding reduced by the new legislation including Medicaid, Medicare, and student loans. Approximately a third of the cuts, or $12 billion, will come from the federal student loan program. This is because many people upset since paying for a college education is already a difficult task.

"The government should be doing more to help students," said Agnes Canedo, director of Financial Aid department.

Under the new legislation students will be able to borrow more money, but they'll have to pay it back at a higher interest rate. The rate will be fixed at 6.8 percent as opposed to the current variable rate of 5.3 percent. One year ago the interest rates on student loans was 2.4 percent. Students collecting financial aid at the time had an opportunity to consolidate their loans by July 1 in order to retain the lower rate.

"If students have a loan out my advice is to consolidate right after spring disbursement and before July 1. This will save the average student approximately $600," Canedo said.

According to the Act, loan rates, freshman and sophomores will be eligible to receive $3,500 and $4,500 a year respectively. This is an increase of 8 percent over the year before. Though more money will be made available, the higher rates will make it more difficult for students from working class families to go to college.

Many students are unhappy about the new legislation and feel that the government should be doing more to help students.

"I don't like the financial goals of the Bush administration," David Werner, senior history major, said. "They need to focus more on social programs." Congress is expected to vote on the bill within the next few weeks.
Annual Vagina Monologues brings conflict to campus

by Carleigh Lorenz
Staff reporter

As The Vagina Monologues return to Central Washington University for the fourth year, a group of students wish it would go away.

There is a group at Central and on Facebook (www.facebook.com) called Students Against the Vagina Monologues.

“We see The Vagina Monologues for what it is: feminist propaganda that is degrading towards both women and men,” the group said on Facebook. “And, running just days before Valentine’s Day, it tries to ruin the one holiday that celebrates relationships with its anti-male rhetoric. We believe women are more than their vaginas and that not all men are rapists and abusers. While we fully support V-Day’s cause of reducing violence against women, we have concerns about the way that The Vagina Monologues. The Web site for the institute said that the V-Day Unveiled (V-DU) Campaign 2006 involves college students ‘who choose traditional values, dignity, and self-respect over the annual feminist cele-

Boothe Luce was a writer during the Depression and later became a congresswoman and ambassador. In 1983 she won the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Durkee said she believes that the play does the opposite of empowering women.

“Most importantly, I fundamentally disagree with a play that lucidly suggests women should determine their self-worth by their sexual anatomy. Whether or not this is the intention of the people involved with the production, it is what the play itself denotes. The monologue ‘The Vagina Workshop’ pronounces, ‘She told me my clitoris was not something I could lose. It was me, the essence of me. It was both the doorbell to my house and the house itself’ (p. 49) and ‘My vagina, my vagina, me’ (p. 50). How is this empowering? I believe true empowerment lies in the heart and the mind, not a body part. And I would rather have my essence determined by my character, my choices, who I am as a person, not my cervices. It’s one thing to accept your gender as part of who you are, another to glorify it and define yourself by it.’

The Vagina Monologues organizers and supporters perform the play to raise awareness of violence against women.

That is the purpose of V-Day. ‘I like that The Vagina Monologues’ main concerns is that the play depicts all men as abusers.

‘I fundamentally disagree with a play that lucidly suggests women should determine their self-worth by their sexual anatomy.’

—Heather Durkee, junior chemistry major

The Claire Boothe Luce Policy Institute (CBLPI) also questions the message the V-Day of The Vagina Monologues. "Most importantly, I fundamentally disagree with a play that lucidly suggests women should determine their self-worth by their sexual anatomy. Whether or not this is the intention of the people involved with the production, it is what the play itself denotes. The monologue 'The Vagina Workshop' pronounces, 'She told me my clitoris was not something I could lose. It was me, the essence of me. It was both the doorknob to my house and the house itself' (p. 49) and 'My vagina, my vagina, me' (p. 50). How is this empowering? I believe true empowerment lies in the heart and the mind, not a body part. And I would rather have my essence determined by my character, my choices, who I am as a person, not my cervices. It's one thing to accept your gender as part of who you are, another to glorify it and define yourself by it.'

The Vagina Monologues organizers and supporters perform the play to raise awareness of violence against women. That is the purpose of V-Day. 'I like that The Vagina Monologues' main concerns is that the play depicts all men as abusers.'

see V-DAY, page 6 ▶

Students to build new recycling can

by Sean McPherson
Staff reporter

Central Washington University students now have a chance to encourage people to recycle and also put their art on display.

The Campus Beautification and Recycling Committee is sponsoring a contest to design a recycling bin. The winner will not only get a $159 student union and recreation workshop for spring quarter’s notice, but will also have their creation be the official bin for the new Student Union Building (SUBREC).

"It is the student’s building and we want the students to know that they have the control as to what happens in that building," said Jeff Rosenberry, chair for Campus Beautification and Recycling Committee and Associated Students of Central Washington University Board of Directors (ASCUW/BOD) vice president for Student Life and Facilities. "So this is a good opportunity right off the bat to say that this is their building and one lucky student will have their design as the official recycling bin."

Rosenberry said the idea behind the contest was a collaborative effort of the entire committee. The campaign started three weeks ago, with submission forms out for only one week. The project also has the backing of the Facilities Management, Campus Life and the ASCUW/BOD.

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Do you have a story idea or News tip that you would like to see the Observer cover? E-mail it to the observer@cwu.edu by Friday before the event takes place. **
Student faces rape charges

by Megan Hansen
Staff reporter

Central Washington University sophomore Jonathan Chandler is facing rape charges for allegedly raping a woman between Nov. 19 and 20. The alleged incident took place at a house on Vantage Highway, commonly known as the "Rugby team house."".

Chandler, a law and justice major and member of the rugby team, was arrested on Nov. 21 for second degree rape and released on $30,000 bail. On Jan. 27 a protection order was granted. A pre-trial hearing is set for 9:30 a.m. March 28 in Kittitas County Superior Court. The judge presiding over the case is Michael E. Cooper.

"It is in his first offense and he was not charged with any other crimes than the standard range of punishment which would be 70 to 102 months in prison," Sarah Britto, law and justice professor, said.

Those who are found guilty of second degree rape, a Class A felony, have many consequences to face post-prison.

"That felony is on [their] record for the rest of their life," Britto said. "They don't qualify for federal housing, will have difficulty finding a job, and they can't vote." Chandler could potentially not qualify for some law positions as well.

Some applications ask if you've ever been arrested. Chandler would have to say that he has and explain if the charges were dropped, but some jobs don't look past that, Britto said.

Chandler not only faces punishment from the state, but Central as well. Central's "Student Judicial Code (SJC)," section 4.1, states that "a student shall be subject to disciplinary action or sanction upon violation of any conduct proscriptions. Article H of the same section specifies sexual assault in any form, including acquaintance rape and other forced and/or nonconsensual sexual activity is subject to Student Judicial action.

Central has its own set of rules and procedures when investigating violations of the SJC.

"We engage in our own process," said Keith Champagne, associate vice president for Student Affairs. "We are not bound by the same rules of evidence [as a court of law]."

If a student has been found guilty of violating the SJC they will face disciplinary action determined by the severity of the infraction, Champagne said.

That means even if Chandler is found innocent in a court of law he can still be found guilty by Central and face suspension or expulsion. However a student is not affected until final decisions and appeals are made. They may remain in classes until the final verdict.

Student trial is set for 9:30 a.m. March 28 in Kittitas County Superior Court. Neither lawyer could be reached for comment.

Judicial code holds students accountable

by Nick Johnson
Staff reporter

Last May, Jason Nelson, junior business major, was drinking with his sister and some friends when they decided to go to the Wild Goose Casino. Nelson was charged with minor in possession of the casino security officer asked him to leave. As the security person was escorting Nelson, words were exchanged and a fight broke out. Police were called to the scene.

The trial is set for 9:30 a.m. March 28. He was charged with an MIP, Minor in Possession, for underage drinking.

Because of the charges, he was required to attend a service and pay fines. Central also required him to take an alcohol class.

"Central Washington University is a responsible university that believes that anyone taking classes from the institution should be held accountable for their actions because they can reflect on the school and the community," said Keith Champagne, associate vice president for Student Affairs.

Being a student at Central entails many responsibilities on and off campus. Not only do students need to concentrate and get their school work done, they must also abide by the Student Judicial Code (SJC). The code states that "the students of Central Washington University are responsible for complying with policies, standards, rules and regulations for academic and social behavior."

Some students feel their behavior off campus is not the universities business. "I believe that students should not be punished for what they do off campus because it is their own business," Eric Brown, sophomore exercise science major said.

Across the nation many university's have a code similar to Central's.

"The code has been at Central for 20 to 25 years," Champagne said. Administrators were the first to bring the SJC to Central in the 1980s.

When students get into trouble with law enforcement, their names are released to campus police Chief Steve Rittereiser, who reviews the reports and sends them to the Student Affairs office. The office then sends an e-mail and a letter to the student explaining that there might be a judicial code violation. Student Affairs will ask the student to meet with staff to discuss the situation. If a student does not show for the scheduled appointment, a hold is placed on his or her university account until the meeting is held. If the student committed the violation, Student Affairs decides on an appropriate punishment.

"Punishment is based on a case-by-case basis and can lead all the way up to complete expulsion from the university. For first and second alcohol violations, students are required to attend a ten-hour program called "Prime for Life" and a letter is sent home to their parents.

"Three Minor in Possession violations result in automatic expulsion from the university." Champagne said.

Students who don't pass "Prime for Life" are required to take it until they do. After a student passes the ten-hour program, they are required to attend a ten-hour program called "Prime for Life" and a letter is sent home to their parents.

"I understand the school's intentions of the class but there could have been a better way of absorbing the information on the consequences of alcoholism. The alcohol class would have been more beneficial if I had seen the actual effect of alcoholism by talking to an alcoholic rather than having to absorb information I already know," Nelson said.

Champagne described a case where if a student committed the violation, Student Affairs decided on an appropriate punishment. Punishments are based on a case-by-case basis, and can lead all the way up to complete expulsion from the university.

"If a student has been found guilty of violating the SJC, they will face disciplinary action determined by the severity of the infraction," Champagne said.

That means even if Chandler is found innocent in a court of law he can still be found guilty by Central and face suspension or expulsion. However a student is not affected until final decisions and appeals are made. They may remain in classes until the final verdict.

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"Darwin Week" will start tomorrow

The 8th annual "Darwin Week" is being held at Central Washington University starting Friday. The events will take place from Feb. 10-17 in conjunction with other events around the world in recognition of Charles Darwin's 197th birthday on Feb. 12.

The theme of this year's event is expressed by Darwin's famous quote, "There is grandeur in this view of life."

Events during the week will include presentations by Alexander Glass from the geology department, Bruce Palmquist from the physics department, Jay Bachrach from the philosophy department and Steve Verhey from the biology department. "Darwin Week" will conclude with a final presentation by Glass on whether evolution can be taught without controversy.

Celebrations like this have been held for more than a decade around the world including Australia, Europe and the Americas. All events are sponsored by the geology and physics departments and Central's science honor research program.

For more information and a full list of all the events taking place, call 965-1792.

People join together to remember, pay tribute to the late Coretta Scott King

Thousands of mourners and four presidents joined together on Tuesday to honor the late Coretta Scott King. King died Jan. 30 from ovarian cancer and complications from previous strokes.

More than 160,000 people waited for long hours to pay respect to the civil rights leader. The public viewing was held at the same church where her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., preached in the 1960s.

Glady's King, Oprah Winfrey and others shared their memories of Coretta Scott King before the funeral. Jesse Jackson and Rev. Al Sharpton gave powerful speeches during Monday night's service for King. King's youngest child Bernice, a minister, gave the eulogy on Monday night as well. She was five when her father was assassinated.

Former president Jimmy Carter spoke of inequality that still exists referencing the government response to Hurricane Katrina victims.

King's body will be placed near her husband's tomb, which she created in his memory. Her tomb cites a bible passage from First Corinthians: "And now abide Faith, Hope, Love. Three: but the greatest of these is Love."

Hotel funding cut off to Katrina victims

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is cutting off funding to 4,500 Hurricane Katrina victims government-funded hotel rooms while 20,000 other victims were given extensions on their hotel rooms.

FEMA says that 80 percent of the people who were cut off have already made other arrangements for shelter.

Protesters gathered in New York to speak out against the evictions by placing eviction notices on the doors of the FEMA branch office. The protesters let others know they were being arrest if they continued.

Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco slammed the federal system that FEMA was cutting of funding to the hotel program before other living arrangements were made for the victims.

compiled by Danny Bergman
Students across the nation are about to lose $13 billion dollars poor-th, thank you President Bush. As a student who relies on financial aid to be in college, I'm angry.

I'm angry with our President, who thinks that he'll make his country stronger by denying money to people who need it for education. If people don't have enough money to attend college, they aren't earning degrees. If they aren't getting degrees, they aren't getting the financial aid that is keeping the U.S. economy afloat.

I'm angry with aspiring students who have refused to do anything about this proposed cut. I know it's a bit late in the game, but the people who are deciding to make this budget reality need to hear from the people it will directly affect. This is impacting every student across the U.S. who uses financial aid to pay for higher education.

But mostly my problem is with the man whose interests only extend to war, war profiteering, defense, "home-land security," oil, an unconstitutional Patriot Act, outing CIA agents, imprisoning members of the media, arresting civilians during public forums and ending tyranny in the world. That man proposed this budget, and if it is passed, it's going to drain $13 billion from students who have almost no other options to pay for education. Here's an idea, before slashing $13 billion away from people in their own country, he goes and finds that missing $1 billion from the Iraq reconstruction budget. That money might prove useful in a situation like this.

But on second thought, maybe students in this nation don't need that $13 billion for all. I mean, we're not really trying to go to school to learn about finding a cure for cancer because you, know, God takes care of those things with his miracles. Then again that might not go so over well in a testing situation, like all things that aren't firmly based in reality.

From the beginning, this presidential administration has had other problems, and after last week's State of the Union address, which completely ignored reality, I have finally come to realize that we are all going to have to re-evaluate the budget passed, it's going to drain $13 billion to national security. I'm still wondering exactly what national security is. Perhaps it's all those unconstitutional Patriot Acts, violating someone's rights, outing CIA agents, imprisoning members of the media, arresting civilians during public forums and ending tyranny in the world. That man proposed this budget, and if it is passed, it's going to drain $13 billion from students who have almost no other options to pay for education. Here's an idea, before slashing $13 billion away from people in their own country, he goes and finds that missing $1 billion from the Iraq reconstruction budget. That money might prove useful in a situation like this.

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Letters to the Editor

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Letters to the Editor

Super Bowl XL: Biggest heist in human history

It will be forever known as the largest, most brazen robbery in the history of history. While hundreds of millions watched, a group dubbed the "Snacky Stripes Bandit Ring" stole the NFL championship right out of the Seattle Seahawks' control, right underneath the world's noses.

The gang of thieves literally hijacked the Lombardi Trophy out of Seahawks receiver Darrell Jackson's hands and framed it immediately into Ben Roethlisberger's. Rumors are now surfacing that, prior to Super Bowl XL, a witness observed a suspect man, dressed in black and white stripes and carrying cooking oil, exit tight-end Jeremy Stevens' locker area. Also, scurrilous review of crime-scene-surveillance footage reveals a frame in which a mysterious, black-shoed, white-pants-clad lump bumps Jackson during the receiver's out-of-bounds-in-the-endzone, incomplete catch.

All gathered evidence suggests impulsive Bill Leach's evil plan: "Captain Stripy McZooki and the bandit's ringleader. Security cameras captured Levy and his gang in their attempt to mug Seattle's quarterback Matt Hasselbeck near the forty-yard-line of Ford Field. The list of suspects is comprised of approximately eleven members - and includes several NFL officials (not observed by surveillance cameras) that are suspected as alternates and co-conspirators.

Despite the abundance of witnesses, the guilty participants in "The Heist" are all currently at large. The thieves are considered heartless, shapeless, sloppy and (repeatedly deleted) ridiculous. Snacky Stripes can be identified by their versatile white-and-black-striped gang colors, unlatching white pants, and their displayed erratic and less-than-objective vision. An anonymous Seattle vigilante mob has posted a five-hundred-dollar-apiece bounty to see all members of this organized crime ring brought to justice - dead or alive.

Theories abound suggesting this "smash and grab job" is part of a covert Anti-Pacific North- west Conspiracy supervised at the highest levels of athletics, commerce, government and society. These implications are supported by accusations that, in order to accomplish such a brazen crime, strings must be pulled at the peak structures of power and influence.

The stolen merchandise is known to be distributed throughout Pittsburgh as well as amongst Steeler supporters. As Seattle's position was never acknowledged, recovery is unlikely, less white-and-black-striped gang colors and parent loans (namely the Stafford and Parent PLUS loans) in the new budget is outrageous. It shows a distinct lack of bigger-picture thinking, but this administration has never been for the bigger picture. They said there were "Weapons of Mass Destruction" and our country went to war, but oops there wasn't.

This administration hides behind a defense of weak lies that distinctly began to crumble on Jan. 31 and this time there is no hope to build up that defense again, no amount of money to casually throw around and no natural disasters to distract Americans' attention. We're all focused on Congress now, and my suggestion is to make sure something happens before we get something else taken from us. Make a call, send a letter or do both. College students in this country need to make a change for once, and we better do it while everyone's watching.

Allison White is the Editor-in-Chief and can be contacted at whitea@cwu.edu.

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December

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Assistant professor of political science Matthew Manweller speaks to a crowd gathered at the SUB amphitheatre on Tuesday, Jan 31. The talk was during an all-day rally geared toward supporting U.S. troops. Manweller talked about his own family’s background in the military, and the pride that gave him. He also emphasized that supporting the troops goes beyond politics, and our generation should be proud of its efforts.

Business boomed but everyone felt a little depressed

For the first time in the Super Bowl’s forty-year history the Seahawks were a part of it. Excitement was everywhere in Washington state, from Vancouver to Grand Coulee Dam. One of the tackler displays of shameless Hawks’ pride occurred last Friday in a Pierce County Superior Courtroom. Upon Judge Beverly Grant’s entry into the courtroom, all were asked to rise and then chant “Go Hawks.” Those in the courtroom didn’t reply with much enthusiasm, so she again requested a “Go Seahawks” chant. She has since apologized for the unprofessional display of pride for the home team.

On this side of the mountains the passion was just as strong. Last Saturday, at the biggest horse race of the entire year - Central vs. Western - with five minutes left and only a one point difference in the game an “F” the Steelers” chant ignites throughout the crowd. The Central vs. Western game ended on a questionable charge call in overtime. Unfortunately, it wasn’t the last questionable call of the weekend. Spirits were high before the game on Sunday. The weather was beautiful and game day festivities were apparent everywhere. The moment had come, Super Bowl XL.

The Seahawks started off strong but in the end a mix of questionable calls, horrible play from Jeramy Stevens and the three big plays the Seahawks defense gave up determined the final outcome; Steelers 21-10. The loss on the field doesn’t totally equate to a loss for Seattle and the rest of Washington. The playoffs, especially in football, are a huge boost for local businesses. This past Sunday, fans were gathering in Pioneer’s Square before Sunrise. Here in Ellensburg business boomed as well. Wing Central manager Jim Rowe said they had twice the business they did for the Super Bowl last year. This business included the sale of about 5,000 wings and a lot of beer.

Wing Central was at full capacity with their $24.95 all-you-can-eat special, that included Dungeness crab, pasta, wings, burgers and more. “(We’re) happy with the turnout, but sad about the way the game went,” Rowe said.

After the game spirits were dampened but the beer kept flowing. With ten seconds left in the game I flipped the channel. “Anything but football right now,” I told myself. I watched the World Series of Poker highlights instead.

A friend of mine left for F.X. McCory’s in Pioneer Square at about 5:00 Sunday morning. He was determined to get the best seat in front of the bar’s big screen. I texted him after the game asking, “How’re things down at F.X. McCory’s?”

His reply, “Depressed.”

V-DAY: Students against The Vagina Monologues organize protest on Web site Facebook.com

“I believe that the play does not give a fair portrayal of men,” Durkee said. “Considering this is a play about violence against women, this shouldn’t be too surprising, but I believe we should give some credit to the decent guys who don’t abuse and rape women. The only really positive representation is Bob, in the monologue titled ‘Because she liked to look’ (p. 53). And what could be Bob’s redeeming quality? Well, he likes to look at vaginas. While looking at one, he says, ‘That’s who you are you’re so beautiful’ (56-57). Now that’s romantic! So much for inner beauty and a love deeper than the physical body.”

Durkee’s other issue with The Vagina Monologues is its depiction of rape. “Finally, one of the monologues sends the message that rape can be good, which I do not believe is an OK message to send to thousands of people across the nation, whether or not this was one person’s experience. In ‘The Little Conch Snatcher that Could,’ a 24-year old woman seduces a 16-year old girl with alcohol and rapes her, and this is considered a ‘salvation’ (82), the love story of the play. There are laws against that for a reason,” Durkee said.

However, Cartwright feels differently. “The thing that bugs me the most is that they make it sound like we promote child abuse. A lot of things have been taken out of context,” she said.

The Students Against the Vagina Monologues group was started on Facebook in December. There are now around 70 members. The CBUP provides groups like that with materials.

“What I found disturbing was a poster that said reject the message of V-Day. To say reject the message of V-Day is counter-productive to everyone’s efforts,” Cartwright said.

Both groups can find positives in the other though. “I would like to make it clear that I am not attacking or criticizing the intentions of the people involved with the play. I am positive that they are doing the production out of the good of their hearts; I don’t think they would donate so much time and energy if they were not sincerely trying to make the world a better place, and I respect them for that. And, the money raised by V-Day has certainly done tremendous good for women around the globe; I appreciate the production’s humanitarian efforts. But having a worthy cause shouldn’t mean that the play is beyond criticism,” Durkee said.

Cartwright also finds the good in Students Against the Vagina Monologues. “What is good about Students Against the Vagina Monologues is that, like The Vagina Monologues, they want to end violence against women. The only thing that I think is bad is that a lot of the people involved in the group are not as educated about The Vagina Monologues as they could be.”

Find The Vagina Monologues or Students Against the Vagina Monologues groups, go to www.facebook.com.
The women involved in the Vagina Monologues have been rehearsing since early fall quarter. Along with this weekend’s performance, many of them have been involved in organizing events to support prevention of violence against women. This is Central’s fourth year participating in the event.

**V-Day Series**

"I think that a real important message that it gives to guys is, 'this is what happens to girls and this is how you feel about it,'" said Carrie Rehkopf, string professor at Central Washington University and violinist quartet member. "It may be an uncomfortable situation, but it's something they need to know about."

Many men have seen The Vagina Monologues in the past and have really enjoyed it.

"My boyfriend absolutely loves it, he thinks it's one of the best things," director Brittany Leonard, senior political science major, said. "A lot of my guy friends think it's a great thing."

Attending The Vagina Monologues gives the viewer an idea of what people around the world go through every day, and opens their eyes to other situations.

"I think people should come see it to really be aware of the things that are going on in the world, to be aware of other people's situations and not to just be sheltered in your own life," Sneed said. "If something like this never happens to you and you don't ever hear about it, then you won't know how to deal with it if it ever does happen to you."

The Vagina Monologues are one aspect of a larger event put on by The Empowerment Center, V-Day. The "V" in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine and Vagina.

"V-Day is an international campaign that occurs all over the world," said Diane Bedwell, senior sociology professor at Central, has been married for 20 years and has a daughter who is a part of the College of the Arts and Sciences. "It is our local sexual abuse prevention program, Cartwright said. "That's reason in itself to support the cause because it's affecting people in our community."

Women and men can take something worthwhile from attending the Vagina Monologues. It is a chance to learn about yourself and to learn about others.

"To see the monologues is to see something like, 'I'm not the only one,'" Leonard said. "To see what other people have gone through makes you aware of what's going on in contemporary culture."

The Vagina Monologues will be performed at 7 p.m. on Feb. 10 and 11 and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 12. All performances are in the Hertz Hall Auditorium. Cost for students is $5 during the presale and $7 at the door. General admission is $7 during the presale and $9 at the door.

The Kairos Quartet has been actively performing since 1993 and has performed in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma and across the Pacific Northwest. All four members have extensive chamber music experience and have toured internationally. Violinist Carrie Rehkopf and cellist John Michel, both string professors at Central, have been married for 15 years, performing together in many ensembles. Violinist Heather Netz joined the quartet last year and violinist Timmy Betts is now in his second year. Both Netz and Betts are adjunct faculty in the music department.

The word "Kairos" is Greek for non-chronological time, such as special time-suspended moments experienced by children and friends, and artists absorbed in their work. The group prides itself on creating these special "kairos" moments for people to enjoy and reach out and break down the barriers between audience and performers.

"If someone has no musical background, coming to a live concert is definitely the way to go," said Rehkopf. "It's much more interesting to watch the performers interact than to just listen." The Valentine's Day concert is a part of the Performing Arts and Presidential Speaker's Series. General admission is $7, students with ID will get in free, and for seniors 62 and older tickets are $6.
by Bryant Phillips
Staff reporter

This Valentine’s Day, couples all over the world will go back to the drawing board and try to think of unique or interesting gift ideas for their sweethearts. The problem is that many people have trouble coming up with ideas other than a bouquet of flowers, jewelry, or chocolates. Here are some ideas from findgift.com for the gift-giving challenged:

Personalized romance novel: Full-length paperback novel featuring you and your valentine. $29.95

“Write Your Own” conversation hearts: Those chocolate hearts with the helpful advice or upbeat fortunes on the wrapper are now customizable. $26.95

Long-stem red rose in 24kt gold: A real rose preserved in 24kt pure gold, in red, pink and yellow. $69.95

Lovopoly: The classic Monopoly can be customized with your own photos and memories. $19.95

Strip chocolate game: As the website states, “Your clothes will come off, the chocolate will go on, play by the rules and everybody wins.” $20.00

Buy an acre of land on the moon: No joke, apparently you can purchase an acre on the moon, even if you’ll never see it. Good conversational piece though. $29.99

Men’s boxer briefs: Personalized boxer briefs with the message of your choice. $26.95

Breakfast in bed: Contains an assortment of gourmet foods to wake your partner up. This purchase includes a serving tray. $19.95

Strip chocolate game: As the website states, “Your clothes will come off, the chocolate will go on, play by the rules and everybody wins.” $20.00

Buy an acre of land on the moon: No joke, apparently you can purchase an acre on the moon, even if you’ll never see it. Good conversational piece though. $29.99

Men’s boxer briefs: Personalized boxer briefs with the message of your choice. $26.95

Breakfast in bed: Contains an assortment of gourmet foods to wake your partner up. This purchase includes a serving tray. $19.95

Trip to a day spa: Findgift.com has selected the best spas over 14 cities, but you could always look up the nearest spa. About $25.00 - $49.99

Personalized “make me late for work” pillowcase: Use your imagination on this one. $12.95

If none of those gifts sound like a good idea here are some great gift ideas generated from students around Central Washington University’s campus:

Pajamas with a valentine theme.

A teddy bear dressed as a cowboy or bandit.

Color-dyed roses.

Tickets to a sports event.

Movie-themed gifts, like a single red rose with a black ribbon from the Phantom of the Opera.


February

9  “Religion and Violence Against Women: Mis-translations of the Bible” 7 p.m. Mary Grupe Center

10  MENC: National Association for Music Education Comedy Night, 7 p.m. Music Building Recital Hall

Vagina Monologues 7 p.m. Hertz Hall Auditorium

Men’s basketball: Central vs. St. Martin’s 7 p.m. Nicholson Pavilion

Second Sunday Faculty Valentine Day Concert. 4 p.m. Music Building concert hall

Sun Kings CBA Basketball at 7:05 p.m. Yakima Valley Sundome

Kairos Quartet Valentine’s Day Concert. 7 p.m. Music Building Concert Hall

VALENTINE’S DAY!!! Enjoy it if you are in a relationship or if you’re single!

Women’s basketball Central vs. Grand Canyon, at 7 p.m. Nicholson Pavilion

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What do you love/hate about Valentine's Day?

by Laura Graves
Staff reporter

I love that Valentine's Day brings out the spirit of love and friendship.

Name: Ryan Taylor
Year: Sophomore
Major: Independent Studies

"I love that Valentine's Day brings out the spirit of love and friendship."

If you're attached on Valentine's Day, you're faced with the pressure of buying, cooking, personalizing, baking, ordering, planning and blowing your savings account to create an unforgettable day.

If you're single on Valentine's Day, your savings account may still be intact, but you have to grit your teeth through the questioning which leaves you dounted. The unanswerable, "Why do all your friends have boyfriends and not you?" and the blunt, "You don't have anyone to spend it with." What are you going to do?

I remember the year I had a boyfriend on Feb. 14. I spent the time envying the plans my single friends had devised instead of appreciating what I had in front of me. I remember feeling stressed trying to put everything together. I also remember the girl my boyfriend was cheating on me with and her showing up at his house while I was there. I'll spare you the unpleasant details, but that night I learned to always listen to my instincts. Most importantly I learned whether you are single or attached, you can still dislike the holiday.

Valentine's Day is the day after. The day where some females gather around their desks or an espresso stand to challenge each other in a game I'd like to call one-upping. It looks something like this. One friend gushes about receiving a single, perfect red rose on Valentine's Day. Another friend one-ups her by saying her boyfriend gave her a dozen red roses. A third woman somehow shows off the heart-shaped necklace someone gave her. The single-red-rose woman one-ups her with her brand new engagement ring. This can go on for hours.

As a spectator, this game annoys me. Rather than appreciate the effort and sentimental value behind their gifts, these types of women can't see beyond the retail value of their boyfriend's love.

I dislike this holiday because we should make a point of letting people know they matter to us all year instead of redeeming ourselves for one day. I'm not suggesting obnoxious balloons that get caught in doors, pink and red candy and sappy cards all year long. I'm talking about the smaller romantic moments didn't occur on Valentine's Day. There was the time a boyfriend surprised me with flowers after a string of really crummy weeks. These instances will not only take a lot of the pressure off of planning one perfect day, it will also make those random, unexpected gestures that much more appreciated and valued all year long.

Barbie Valentines and Frosting

Flowers, cards, and candy filled hearts! What's not to love about Valentine's Day? For many people not having a significant other or at least a potential love interest becomes an obsession and makes Valentine's Day a more negative experience than a positive one.

Valentine's Day isn't about who got the most V alentine's cards, because you got one from none other than Joey Nelson, the cutest boy in class. Or the Barbie doll sticker card from Sarah Baker, she was always so dreamy.

The classroom becomes a mix of Pepto-Bismol pink, candy apple red and a few shades of purple here and there. Although Valentine's Day was only designated for the last half of the school day, teachers always gave in and let the students start in on the cupcakes and candy a few hours early. Life was good.

As I have become older I have realized that those were the good days and I want to continue them. So I have to celebrate Valentine's Day, to ensure a happy one, boyfriend or no boyfriend, I am still a fan of flowers, cards to all my friends.

V a lestine's Day face-off

Valentine's Day is for braggarts

Katie Murdoch
Staff reporter

February 9, 2006 - Scene - Observer

```
Name: Tyler Pendergrass
Year: Sophomore
Major: Undecided

"I hate how commercialized Valentine's Day is and how materialistic."

Flowers, cards, and candy filled hearts! What's not to love about Valentine's Day? For many people not having a significant other or at least a potential love interest becomes an obsession and makes Valentine's Day a more negative experience than a positive one.

Flower filled arms and giddy school girls are simple reminders of broken relationships and other brought about words like "cooties" and "boy/girl germs." Yuck! The point of Valentine's Day was simple: to appreciate and valued all year long.

Take the guesswork out of Valentine's Day with the perfect gift.

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Valentine books for a friend, lover or child.

Valentine's Day is face-off

Valentine's Day is for bragging

Katie Murdoch
Staff reporter

February 9, 2006 - Scene - Observer

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Name: Amanda DoFoor
Year: Freshman
Major: English Education

"I hate that regardless of if I have a boyfriend, my parents will always be there for me and get me something."
Three date ideas for the last minute planner

Michelle Redo Staff reporter

Lindsay Johnson is a participant in this year’s Vagina Monologues. She is doing a monologue entitled “Hai.” It’s about a woman who refuses to shave her vagina.

Q: What are the Vagina Monologues?
A: The Vagina Monologues is a play based on hundreds of interviews of women by Eve Ensler. Each monologue tells a story based on the different experiences of a diverse group of women. Also, The Vagina Monologues is a way to raise awareness and money to fight violence against women.

Q: How did you become involved in the play?
A: I started three years ago and I loved it so much, I’ve done it every year since then. The first year I had a really small part but last year I did the “Hai” monologue as well.

Q: Why do you recommend that people see this play?
A: Well for one, I’ve been touched by the play. And every year, at least one person comes up to me and says “Wow this play really inspired me.” A lot of women have said that it has really comforted them too. Many men have said they never realized these issues. People in general are introduced to issues they didn’t know much or anything, about.

Q: Why do you think that people will come to see this play?
A: I think that every year The Vagina Monologues spark conversations on campus. A lot of people don’t really know what it is just by its title. It creates a bit of controversy, and people become interested and want to come see it.

Q: Why do you think people wouldn’t want to see it?
A: People may not have heard much about the show and they may think it’s just about sex, or it’s crude or vulgar. That’s not it at all, it’s about empowering women.

Q: What’s the audience gay/lesbian ratio?
A: Every year it’s been pretty fifty-fifty. The first year, I was surprised. And I definitely think it’s beneficial for men to come see The Vagina Monologues.

Q: I know that the Vagina Monologues have been in book, film and live form. What if, any are the differences between the three?
A: They’re all the same monologues, but every year, Ensler puts out a set of monologues that we do. They’re usually the same every year, but sometimes she’ll add a new one. For instance, this year, we’re doing a monologue about the Comfort Women.

Q: What are the Comfort Women?
A: Comfort Women are Korean women who were coerced into sexual slavery by the Japanese government during WWII.

Q: Anything else you’d like to say about the Vagina Monologues?
A: People who haven’t seen it should go and see it before they form their opinion about it. Because, whether or not you’re for or against The Vagina Monologues, I think everyone is for stopping violence against women.

The Dakota Cafe makes for one of three great date places in Ellensburg. For those of you 21 and older, they have a selection of award winning wines.

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“When Harry Met Sally” (1989)
“An Affair to Remember” (1957)
“The Princess Bride” (1987)
“Romeo + Juliet” (1996)
“Pretty Woman” (1990)
“Bed of Roses” (1996)
“Somewhere in Time” (1980)

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CENTRAL CITY COMICS
Try it HO
Western wins in overtime

#4 Vikings win all three games against Central this season

by Marquee Allen
Staff reporter

Down by one point in overtime, Central Washington University's freshman guard Colin Monti drove to the basket attempting a lay up. Although the ball went in, the referee made a questionable charging call, giving Western Washington University the ball and the game. "I thought I got fouled. I was in disbelief when I found out," Monti said. "I thought I had it." Central lost the previous four games and needed this win against Western.

Coming into Saturday's game, Central had lost the previous two games against the Vikings and really wanted a win this time. The crowd of 2,575 was a huge factor that added to the intensity of the game. "It was funner to play with a crowd that big, it's the reason why it boosted us," Monti said.

In the second half, Central came out somewhat lethargic and did not score for the first two minutes. Senior guard Robert Hicks drained a three-pointer to give Central their first points of the half. The pace picked up when freshman guard Josue Luke gave the team the spark they needed.

Central got right back into the game and traded the lead back and forth until the very end. The last five minutes became a free throw shooting exhibition with both teams shooting at the foul line trying to pull ahead. With 54 seconds remaining and a score of 80-79, senior guard Chris Banish went to the free throw line. Banish missed his first free throw, but made the second, tying the game at 80. Each team got one last possession, but neither team could take advantage, and the game went into overtime.

Three-point shooting was not a factor in the game until overtime. Each team would trade one three pointer for another. With 35 seconds left, Viking Grant Dykstra made a lay-up giving Western the final lead. Monti drove down the court with 21 seconds left and made a lay-up in traffic that would put Central up by two points, but a charging foul was called.

Western in-bounded the ball and Central intentionally fouled, sending junior center Lukas Henne to the line. Henne missed the first free throw, but made the second. Central took the ball down the court and had trouble finding an open shot. With two seconds remaining junior forward Grant Assink could not make the game winning three, and the Vikings lost 83-91.

"I'm proud of my guys," coach Greg Sparling said. "They played with a lot of heart." There are positive experiences they can take away from the loss and put toward their upcoming game tonight against Saint Martin's.

That was the best team (Western) in the conference," Sparling said. "If they come out and play like they did tonight, I don't see us losing another game."
**Leo Nicholson: Central athletics founding father**

by Courtney Naccarato

Many know him as the man that went far in basketball. Few know him for his achievements outside of basketball. Leo Nicholson loved sports and winning. His drive for both has kept him far.

Nicholson was a native of Yakima. While in high school and college he was a member of the basketball team. He attended the University of Washington and graduated in 1925 with a degree in law. After law school he decided to coach basketball instead. Before coming to Central Leo Nicholson coached at Bethel High School. In 1929, Nicholson came to Central and became the basketball coach and assistant football coach. When football coach Roy Sandberg left the position in 1930, Nicholson took over coaching the football team as well.

His first year of coaching football was a success. The Wildcats had a scoreless tie against Gonzaga and won their other six games that season. The following season in 1931, the Wildcats went undefeated. In 1929 as basketball coach in his first year, his team won twenty intercollegiate games. He lost only one.

In 1931, Nicholson became chair of health and physical education. In 1941, the coaching staff was changed. Phil Sarboe took over as football coach. Leo Nicholson then became the director of athletics.

Nicholson believed a wide athletic program was preferred. Under his program he decided that instructional programs should be built around the needs of the school, intramural sports offered to men and women and recreation offered for students and faculty.

In 1960, the new recreation facility was named after Leo Nicholson. The name was the Leo Nicholson Athletic Pavilion, otherwise known as the Nicholson Pavilion. Central's Board of Trustees approved of the name and he was the first person on active staff to have a building named after him.

In 1961, Nicholson resigned as chairman of Health and Physical Education. His goal was to focus on both basketball and director of athletics.

"Leo laid the foundation for Central basketball," said basketball coach Greg Sparling.

Nicholson coached a variety of sports while at Central, including basketball, tennis, and football. He never coached baseball though. He developed nine Conference Championship Basketball teams.


"500 wins by Leo Nicholson would be unparalleled by today's standards," Athletic Director Jack Bishop said. "To have coached that long at the same place is practically unheard of anymore."

In March of 1964 he was elected to the National Association of Intercollegiate Hall of Fame.

The majority of his thirty-five years at Central he was chairman of the Division of Health and Athletics. He taught physical education, and was director of athletics along with head coach of basketball.

When he retired in 1964 his son, Dean Nicholson, took over as head basketball coach.

Big scores came from the once Great Northwest Athletic Conference Female Athlete of the Week junior Katie Hummel. In the mile run, Hummel took third place with a time of 5:09.09 minutes. Senior Bree Renzetti took eighth in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 9.50 seconds.

The men did not place as high, but still performed well. Freshman Jonathon Lindquist finished eighth behind Tandie in the discus with a throw of 115-05 feet. Senior Bree Renzetti took eighth in the weight throw with a toss of 45-07.25 feet. Junior Cameron Need finished second in the shot put with a shot of 55-10.25 feet, fourth in the discus with 159-03 feet, and sixth in the weight throw with 51-07.00 feet. This coming weekend is the Husky Classic and third UW Open. Adkisson said this will be the last chance to obtain national qualifying marks if they do not already have them.

Athletes such as Cameron Neel and Katie Hummel will not have to worry about getting their marks so they will have the chance to relax before going to conference.

Adkisson said, however, that we should see an extra effort from those athletes without their marks.

"At the UW Open number two, it wasn't exactly open," Adkisson said. "It was more difficult this time to enter our athletes."
Clutch baskets help Wildcats cut down Lumberjacks

by Casey Donovan
Staff reporter

Defense, defense, defense. It has been preached over and over again that it wins championships. For the Central Washington University women's basketball team, it allowed two crucial victories at Nichols Pavilion over the weekend. The Wildcat women looked no further than Thursday night's game against Western Oregon although the team has failed to win a single game all season. They rolled over the Western Oregon Wolves by 30 with a final score of 62-32. The game was never in reach for the Wolves as a balanced scoring attack and ferocious defense by the Wildcats capitalized on 27 points off 27 Western Oregon turnovers. Western Oregon had a tough enough time handling the ball let alone scoring. It came to be the tale of two completely different teams. “Our defense played well,” Coach Jeff Whitney said. “We shut down all their offensive sets.” The shutdown on the defensive end of the court sparked the offense into action. Fast break points led to a tired Western Oregon team that only suited seven players. Central’s three star players—otherwise known as the trifecta—was it again as they accounted for 33 Wildcat points. Led by Laura Wright with 15 points. Jaimee Cowirt sprinted down the court on numerous occasions making for easy Central baskets, while Hanna Hull took open looks that made for easy points. The Wolves then went into a zone which only stopped the bleeding for a little while until Central began a passing clinic that led to numerous open looks. “We passed the ball around well and had some great open looks,” Whitney said. The Wolves then went into a zone which only stopped the bleeding for a little while until Central began a passing clinic that led to numerous open looks. “We passed the ball around well and had some great open looks,” Whitney said. The win couldn’t have came at a more opportune time as Central heads on the road for two games and then back to home for four games. “It’s huge to beat a nationally ranked team like Humboldt State and now we are ready for Alaska, we’re ready to go,” Fenimore said. If Central can continue to shut teams down on defense and have a strong presence offensively, they could be looking to finish the season off in good shape for a possible postseason. “It was a great win for us,” Whitney said. “Now we have to continue to play strong the rest of the season.”

Whispey the doll takes bench warming to new level

by Casey Donovan
Staff reporter

She sits on the end of bench and never gets in a single game. Sometimes, she will be left in the locker room while the Central Washington University women’s basketball team hits the court for practice. Other times, she is kidnapped, held hostage, or violently abducted.

Game after game and day after day she keeps smiling even though she has been through all the harassment. The name is Whispey. Her objective: mystery. Whispey, who stands right around three feet tall and doesn’t weigh more than 20 pounds, probably won’t be seeing the court in her life.

Let’s cut to the chase. Whispey is a doll.

“That’s our freshman mascot,” coach Jeff Whitney said. “I think it’s kind of cool.”

The tradition started five years ago, requiring freshmen to take care of the doll. “We don’t tell the incoming freshman that they have to do that because they probably wouldn’t sign with Central,” Whitney said.

That same tradition was almost put to rest as a very scary incident happened just last year. It was a cold night when the Central women’s basketball team traveled to Northwest Nazarene. All was good until a planned attack was put on the doll. It was snatched up, thrown in a pickup truck and driven away by Northwest Nazarene fans.

What was once a soft, cotton-filled doll is now a plastic blonde strutting a perfect ponytail.

“Last year was a soft one,” freshman Ashley Fenimore said. “We had to rip the arms off the new doll just to fit her into our bags.”

From practices to games, and between meetings and weight lifting, Whispey will be seen right there with her freshmen caretakers. Currently the caretaker’s of Whispey are Kristen Moore, Ashley Fenimore, Kylee Denbo, Bryna Trescott, and Hiliary Tannerberg, with Katie Vande Stouwe being the most recent to have looked after Whispey.

If you don’t see Whispey in the care of one of these players, she is in the hands of someone that wants something from the basketball team.

“All our freshmen are required to carry her around for the whole year and if they don’t have any penalties,” Whitney said.

Penalties are strictly made by the kidnappers, and include bribes of wanting brownies, dinners, and pretty much whatever they dangle well please.

“I’ve had to help get back Whispey from the volleyball team that demanded brownies,” Fenimore said. “It’s such a competition between the Central teams.”

“You’ll see her locked up because other (Central) sports teams take her and they demand whatever,” Whitney said.

Freshmen who lose Whispey are in a world of hurt. Not only do they have to handle the hostage situation with the kidnapper, but they have to go straight to coach Whitney and tell him what happened.

“So the freshmen have to come to us and say, ‘Well, we lost Whispey,’ and I say, ‘Well, wait a couple days or weeks or however long it takes to get her back,’” Whitney said.

The mascot with the ferocious name of Whispey may not be your typical team rally point and/or joke, but for the women’s Cats, it works out just fine.

Even if the Wildcats don’t make ends meet this season, they have Whispey who will always be there to listen and not say a word. At least that’s how it’s supposed to work with dolls.
The Central Washington University softball team began their season this past weekend participating in the Best of the West tournament in Turlock, Calif. at Cal State Stanislaus.

The Best of the West tournament didn't turn out how the Wildcats would have liked, with Central posting a 2-4 record on the weekend.

Despite starting the tournament and then playing another game on Friday, Central managed to get their first win on Saturday against Sonoma State. Although the Wildcats were held to only seven hits by Sonoma, they managed to put up seven runs in the 7-2 victory.

Joey Nilsen, sophomore pitcher for the team, started off with a 5-3 victory over the San Francisco State Gators. Maxfield led the team with three RBIs and senior outfielder Peach received the call on the mound and went the distance pitching all seven innings, holding the Gators to 5 hits and improving to 2-1 on the season.

In their final game, the team played Chico State, but came up just short losing 3-2. Central was held to only three hits in the finale. Vlahovich received her second loss of the season on the mound, putting her at 0-2 on the season.

Despite what seemed like a rough road trip, the team kept their heads high.

"I don’t think it shows what we’ll be like," senior first baseman Mallory Holtman said after the trip. "Out of all of us, good fortune didn’t turn out how we thought it would. I think it shows what we’ll be doing this whole season." Holtman also pointed out that Central has only been able to practice outside on few occasions.

Next up for the Cats is North Idaho College at home on Feb. 14.
It's time to clean your room and invite the family over!

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