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Observer

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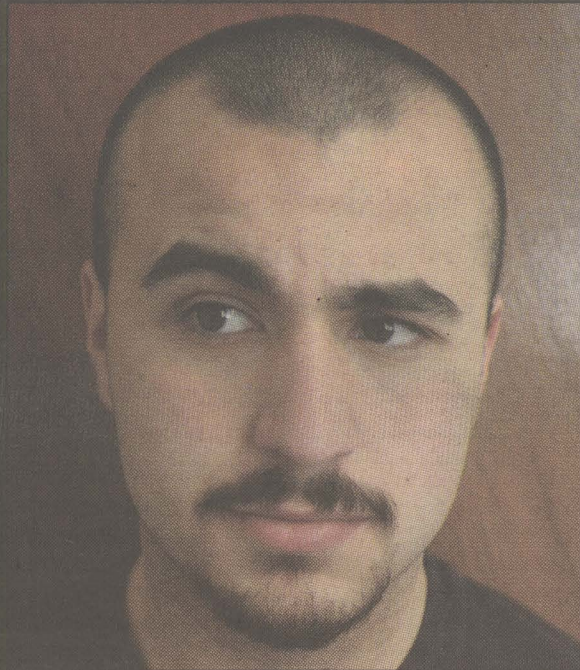
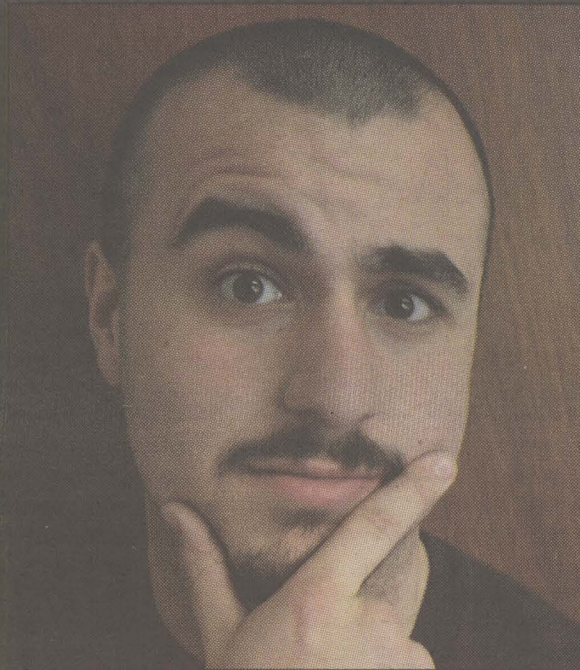
CENTRAL
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THE OBSERVER

february 16, 2006 - volume 79 number 15

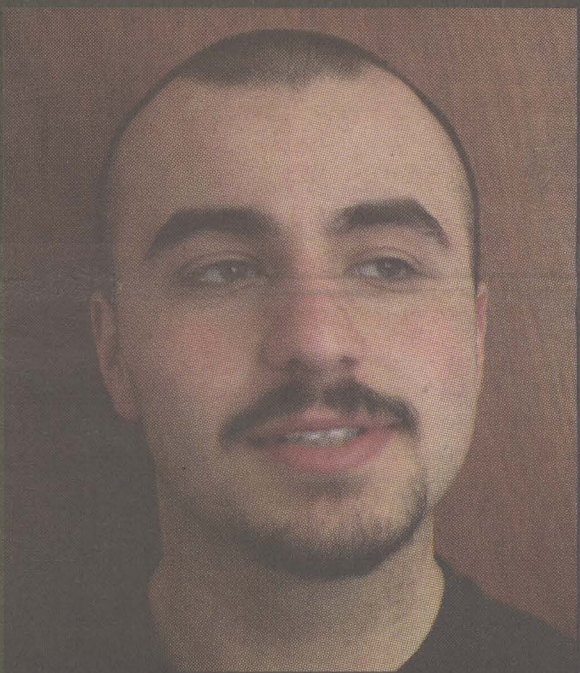
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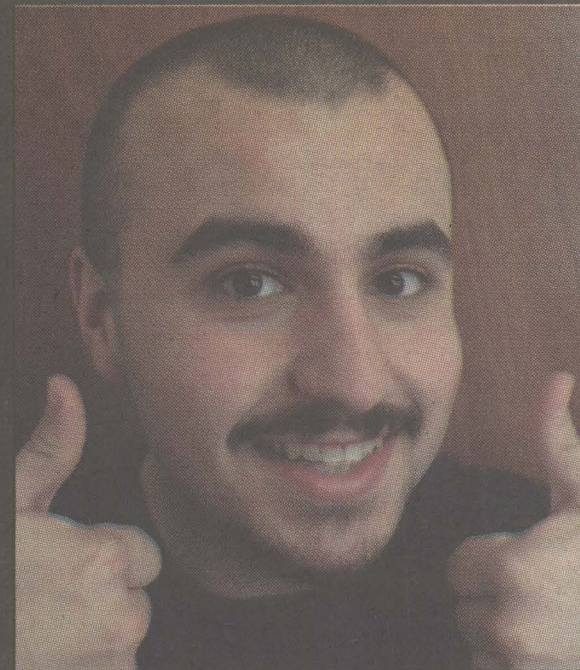
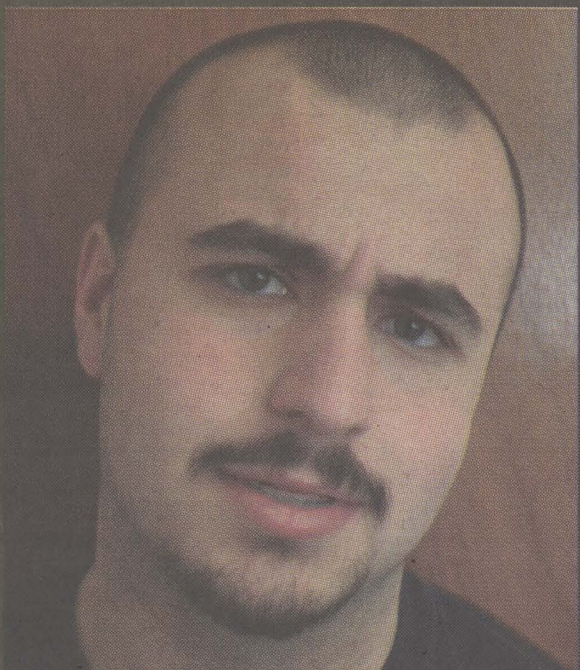
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Expression and experience

Tony Aronica finds himself in leadership

Stephen Ellis/Observer

See story page 2

Less hair, more work: President Aronica joins National Guard

by Paul Balcerak
Staff reporter

Associated Students of Central Washington University Board of Directors (ASCWU/BOD) President Tony Aronica is sporting a new look this quarter. Aronica, a Native American member of the Yakima Nation, recently cut off his locks in preparation for his latest venture in life—becoming a member of the Washington National Guard.

"My hair was a lifelong testament to my Native American roots," Aronica said. "All of my uncles served in the military for a time in which their nation didn't protect all of their basic citizens' rights because they were Indians. So I've decided to join the National Guard and in effect I've traded one testament to my heritage to what I feel is a greater testament to my family legacy."

For the 21-year-old anthropology and history major (who donated his hair to Locks of Love), joining the National Guard is only the most recent undertaking in a college career that puts most other students' to shame.

Aronica's involvement in student government at Central began even before he was recognized as an actual student of the university.

"I had a fairly abnormal high school experience," Aronica said. "I was home studied for most of it and then, the other portion, I did Running Start. I was only a high school student for about six months."

During his tenure in the Running Start program, Aronica participated in over a dozen different clubs and eventually sought a nomination as vice president of Clubs and Organizations. He ran into opposition fast, however, when he was told that he could not run, due to the fact that he was a high school student.

Aronica was determined to get the job, however, as his self-admitted stubbornness kicked into gear and led him to a man who would eventually become his student adviser.

"John Drinkwater, who's been my adviser for two years, the first time I met him, I was rebutting his comments [that I couldn't run] in his office with a con-

"My hair was a lifelong testament to my Native American roots."

—Tony Aronica
ASCWU/BOD President

stitution, claiming that I had more rights than he was willing to give me," Aronica said.

Aronica was ultimately allowed to run and though he lost the election, it would not be his last. Upon becoming a full-time Central student in fall 2003, Aronica began to rack up a laundry list of titles that had come to include the Blue Ribbon Commission on Athletics member, Club Senator (for multiple clubs), Club Senate Treasurer, ASCWU/BOD Vice President for Clubs and Organizations and his current post as ASCWU/BOD President.

If that wasn't enough, Aronica has also kept busy as a member of Central's Douglas Honors College (DHC) as well as the university's American Indian Sciences and Engineer's Society.

DHC director Sura Rath has worked with Aronica since his freshman year and said that Central's young president has more than credentials to his name.

"He has taken the initiative and has shown that leadership ability, I think that we try to encourage in Douglas Honors students," Rath said. "He has, I think, also helped some of his friends in his class, others who have been inspired by him and used him as an example to take on other leadership roles and do well."

ASCWU/BOD Vice President for Student Life and Facilities Jeff Rosenberry notes that Aronica's willingness to help out fellow students extends into his role as ASCWU/BOD President.

"Tony and I work by the same mantra where, if we're not working for the students, we're not working," Rosenberry said. "This is a student government position and Tony really puts the students on a pedestal and he absolutely will bend over backwards to be able to hear what the students have to say and to be able to help the students in any way possible."

Additionally, Aronica has been cred-

ited with restoring the ASCWU/BOD's reputation within the university, after a past administration marred the organization's image. Aronica mostly dodges the praise, crediting the past two year's worth of ASCWU/BOD staff members.

"Any credit that I'm being given is largely due and should be channeled to this year's team," Aronica said. "Secondly, I'm a firm believer that this year's board could not have hit the ground running if we hadn't received the type of preparation that last year's board gave us."

With so many accolades and so much success, it's hard to imagine Aronica stepping out of some form of office, but according to his current plans, life behind a desk will be put on hold, at least temporarily.

His post-college plans include, of course, his commitment to the National Guard and he plans on pursuing further education with the financial assistance he'll receive. Where public office is concerned, Aronica said that while he won't rule it out, he has plans to pursue other avenues.

"I think public service is one of the greatest applications of a responsible citizen's time," Aronica said. "With that said I originally entered my degree at Central very passionate about becoming an archaeologist and eventually a professor. Recently that has been under consideration. I am still strongly considering the possibility of higher education, but more from a student affairs administrative aspect, as opposed to faculty."

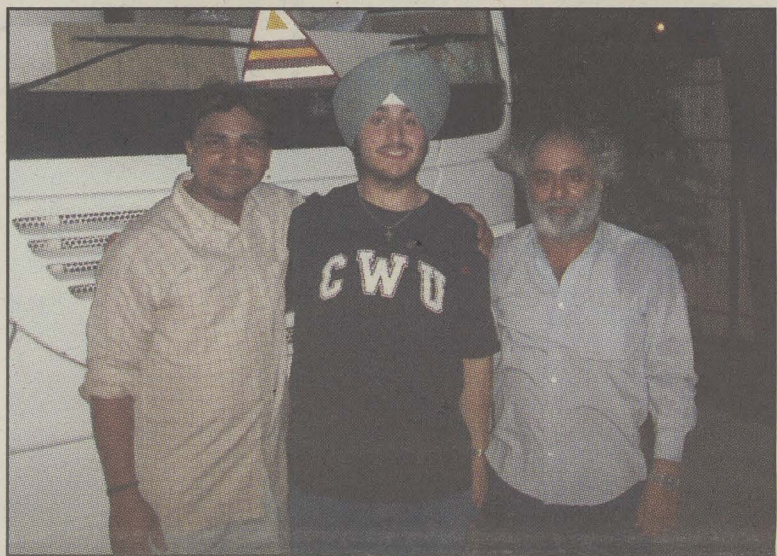
However, if Rath has his way Aronica could well find himself serving what he terms "the greater good" in the political field.

"I would encourage him to think about public office," Rath said. "He is deeply concerned about public service that not many college graduates think about because everybody thinks about



Aronica and Nathan Rains build a house in Mexico during Spring Break 2005.

Photos courtesy of Tony Aronica



Mister Singh (nephew), Aronica and Mister Singh (Uncle) in Jaipur, India in July 2005.



Aronica hangs out in Florence, Oregon in June 2004 with Alex Mundy from Whitman College, Chris Blanchard from YVCC.

how to make more money and be rich and have a big car, or big house, or big job I think he has a genuine concern for public service and he'll be an ideal public servant, so whatever capacity he chooses to serve in I think he will be

wonderful." Whatever the case, Aronica will be guided by his life's philosophy: "If you have the ability, you have the responsibility."

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Observer
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Career services to start charging some

by Patrick Lewis
Senior reporter

Career Services will now be charging community members for their services, after the proposal passed in the Feb. 10 Board of Trustees meeting. Students and alumni will still receive the services free of charge.

According to the proposal, alumni are defined as having completed 45 quarter credits or more at Central Washington University. This includes satellite campuses.

These alumni will receive career counseling free of charge.

"Our priorities must first be with students and alumni, and then we can help community members," said Jaquelyn Johnson, director of Career Services.

Two fees will be set up for community members. One is a \$20 fee per session for general career counseling. The other is \$30 per session for instrument interpretation. Instruments can be online surveys, and tools for finding a job-field.

The fee was designed in accordance with advice from Teresa Kulik, the for-

mer senior assistant Attorney General for Central. She said in the proposal that offering free services to the community is not in compliance with state regulations concerning how the school uses state funds.

The office assists with choosing a major, resumes, job searching, the interview and graduate school application. It also holds around nine events a year and deals with internships.

"Our goal is to prepare students and alumni for the ever-changing global workforce," Johnson said.

Johnson said this was a several year process involving looking at what other state schools have been doing.

The University of Washington doesn't offer any services to community members, and requires students to pay a fee of \$50 a quarter. Washington State University charges \$30 for a single session and \$75 for three within the same year. Western Washington University charges \$25 per hour to both students and non-students, while Eastern Washington University does not charge at all. The Evergreen State College charges a \$50 one-time fee.

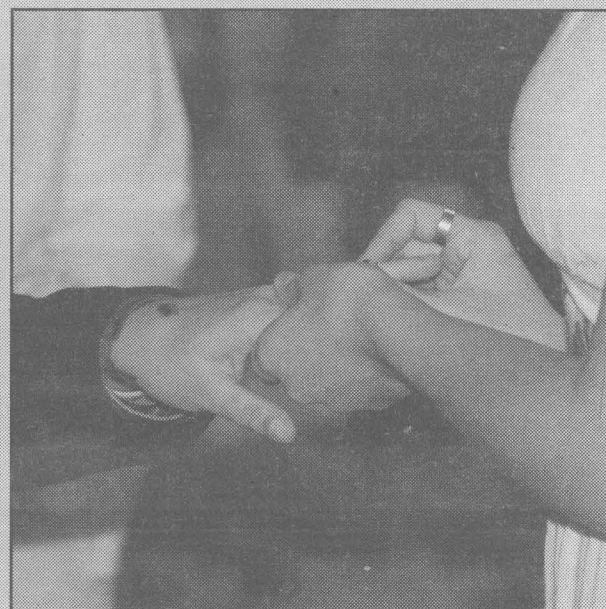


Justin Mumm/Observer

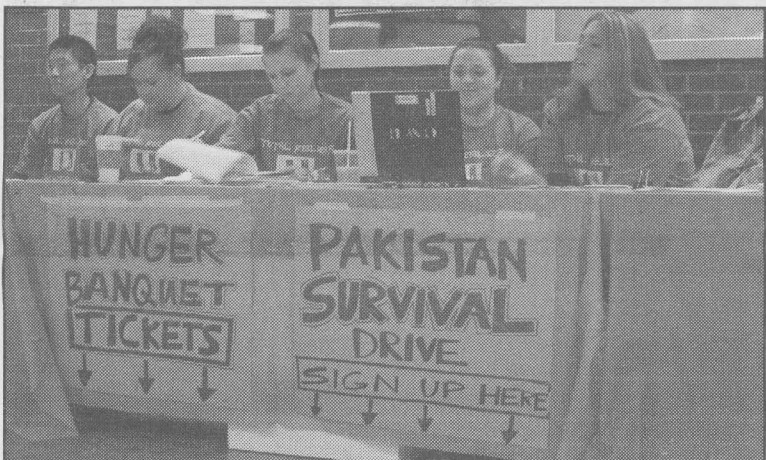
Couples celebrate Freedom to Marry

Above left to right: Kalie Kilpatrick junior psychology and primate behavior and ecology major and Ann Grabler, senior recreation management major along with Megan Divyak, junior information technology major and Deema Slim, senior English major exchanged "wedding vows" during the 11th Annual Freedom to Marry ceremony on Wednesday. Right: Grabler and Kilpatrick exchange rings during the ceremony.

See full story about the event online at www.cwu.edu/~observer



Relief week kicks off



Maggie Schmidt/Observer

Volunteers for the Civic Engagement Center man a booth in the SUB where students can sign up for next week's various activities. Sixty people have each already donated 10 hours of their time for the activities, the volunteers can be recognized by their green Total Relief Week shirts.

by Megan Hansen
Asst. News editor

More than 800 million people go hungry each day and over one billion people around the world live in extreme poverty, which is defined as living on less than \$1 a day. These are just some of the facts presented to students with the kick off to Total Relief Week, a program put on by the Civic Engagement Center will provide activities to increase awareness of emergency and survival issues locally and globally.

"We hope to provide service opportunities to get involved with social situations going on both local and global," said April Williams, service learning fellow for the Civic Engagement Center. "International monetary aid is the best way to help, but a donation of your time is a good way to help too."

There will be a Pakistan Survival Drive from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 21-22 in the Samuelson Union Building. A survival tent will be set up in front of the SUB where people will provide information about disaster relief efforts. Volunteers will recreate the current living conditions of people in Pakistan from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. until the 24.

From Feb. 22 at 12 p.m. to the 23 at 6 p.m. there will be a 30-hour famine. Participants will not eat or drink anything other than water for 30 hours to demonstrate the scarceness of food available to some individuals both

locally and globally. There will be hydration stations staffed by volunteers around campus in support or those who are participating.

"There are currently 100 participants signed up, but there is no limit," Williams said.

Those participants will be recognized by bright orange t-shirts handed out by the Civic Engagement Center.

On Feb. 24 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the south SUB cafeteria there will be a hunger banquet. The banquet is designed to give participants an idea of the facts and statistics about hunger throughout the world.

Participants will eat the same foods and portions based from global averages which were provided by the United Nations and Oxfam International. All proceeds will be given directly to local food banks and Oxfam International and World Vision.

Also on Feb. 24, the Bar 14 Ranch House and the Matterhorn Inn restaurants will be donating three percent of their total food sales to local and international hunger relief.

"One-hundred percent of the money leaving the university [from these events] is tax free and going to organizations [for disaster relief]," Williams said.

For more information on how to donate or become involved, there is a booth set up in the SUB.

GOT FRIENDS?

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BSU gets word out about Black History Month

by Sarah Bertolani
Staff reporter

This month at Central Washington University, students may have noticed yellow signs around campus displaying black history facts. These are one of the many things that the members of Central's Black Student Union (BSU) are doing to promote Black History Month. Along with the signs, BSU has already held a diversity march, hosted Step Afrika, and had a booth in the Samuelson Union Building selling AIDs awareness bracelets and providing BSU information.

Later in the month there will be the "Showtime in the McConnell" where students will perform their own acts and win prizes based on audience approval, and a play entitled "The Meeting" based around Malcolm X and Martin Luther King.

Since 1926, February has been a time in which Americans celebrate Black History Month. Carter G. Woodson, whom this recognized month is credited to, was a Harvard scholar and the son of former slaves. Woodson dedicated his life to ensuring that black history was accurately documented and portrayed. In 1926, he organized the first annual Negro History Week in honor of the birthdays of pivotal black sup-

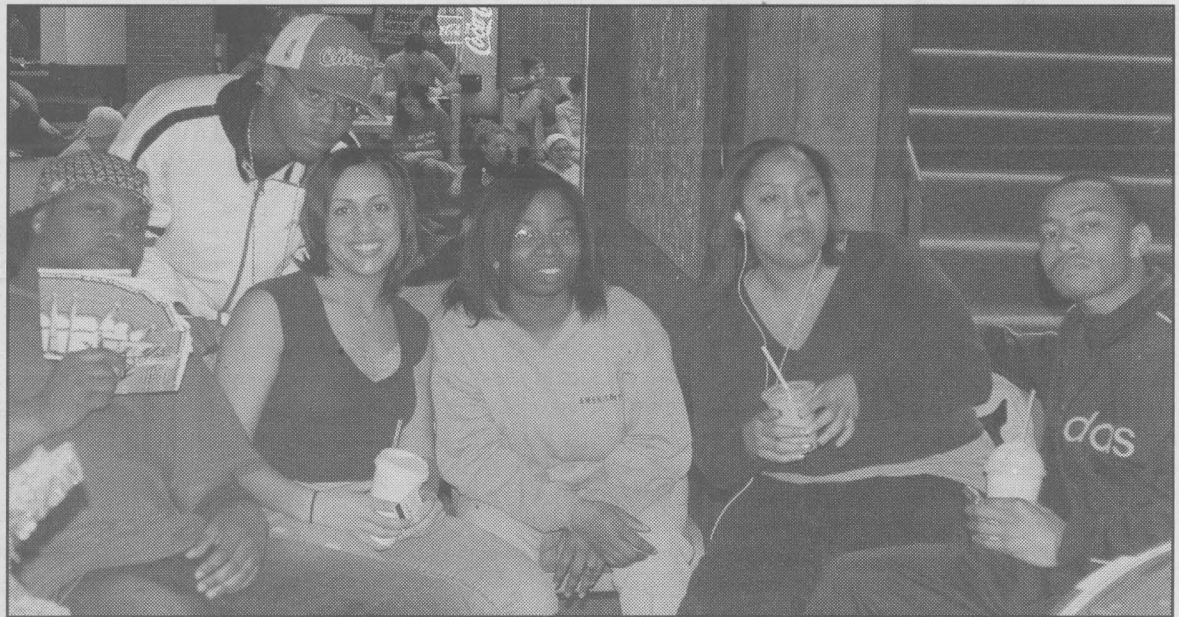
porters Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

"I'm a history buff, so I like hearing and learning about other cultures," Sparky Ainslie, senior history education major, said. "I think it's good for other students to learn about different cultures that have been misrepresented in the past or in our history books, which is what Black History Month tries to do."

A few individuals who have helped break through the barriers and pave the way for others include Gwendolyn Brooks, the first African American to receive a Pulitzer Prize; Nat King Cole, the first African American entertainer to host his own show on national television; Mae Jemison, the first African American woman to go into space; and Madame C.J. Walker, the first self-made African American woman millionaire.

However, not all students may support this month and the efforts that the members of BSU have been making to diversify our campus. Many of the yellow fact signs have been continuously torn down and destroyed around the campus.

"There are people around campus that have been disrespecting what we at BSU have been trying to do," Perry Lomax, co-president of BSU, said. "By knocking down our signs nothing is



Justin Mumm/Observer

Black Student Union members have a booth in the SUB to share information about Black History Month.

being accomplished, if anyone has a problem with what the signs say and what we are doing, then they need to come let me know so that we can deal with it in a mature manner."

However, not all students are in disagreement about the fact signs and what they say.

"I think the signs around campus are very informative and inspirational,"

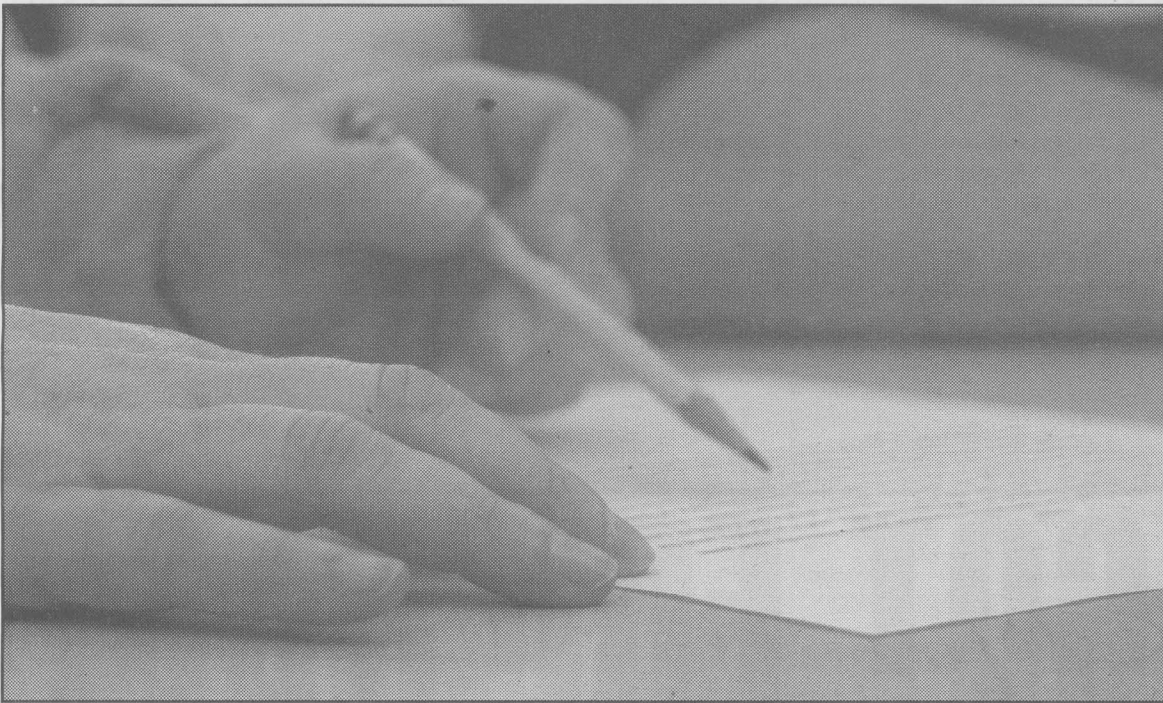
Samantha Oak, junior elementary education major, said. "I think they are a great way to respectively incorporate the black community into Central."

BSU is open to anyone and everyone with an opinion and positive ideas of how to help promote diversity on Central's campus. BSU meetings are held every Monday at 4 p.m. in the Chief Owhi room in the SUB, and new

members are always welcomed.

"This year we are trying to get away from some of the bad press BSU has received in the past. We hope to do this by promoting bigger, better, and more educational events," Lomax said.

For more information on Black History Month visit the BSU booth in the SUB.



Maggie Schmidt/Observer

Students can visit the Writing Center in Hertz Hall for help with papers.

Center offers students help

by Robbie Miller
Staff reporter

Students get told what to do all the time. They're always being taught or instructed when, sometimes, the best thing is just to have someone to talk to.

That is what Central Washington University's writing center believes and that is why they restructured to create a more personal atmosphere for students.

"The writing center is now a center by, for and about students," Teresa Kramer, writing center director, said. "The idea is that it's a community of writers, two writers sitting down together side by side."

Students coming to the writing center can set up a one-hour appointment with a writing consultant, usually a fellow student, to ask any questions they may have. No problem is too big or small. Writing center consultant Denise Skaggs said some appointments last no more than 10 minutes and others need more time.

"The only thing we like to say is that we aren't proof readers," Skaggs said. "People will say, 'I'll drop my paper off and come back,' and we don't do that."

Skaggs said the writing center is meant to be a place of discussion.

Writing Center

Phone Number: 963-1296
Location: Hertz Hall 101
Hours: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Monday - Friday

"The peer consulting philosophy is that it's not like the tutor or consultant is this tower of knowledge," she said. "It's more just about two people sitting down and talking about a paper."

Students that work as consultants must apply for the position. Starting spring quarter, English 402: Writing Center Theory and Practice will be a class that focuses on the methodology behind tutoring and assisting with writing for students who would like to work for the center.

Even consultants hate writing sometimes. Skaggs said that they understand the struggle that students go through when trying to write a paper and are able to relate to them that way.

Skaggs was an undergraduate student at Central and wishes she would have been aware of the resources the

writing center had to offer. Now, as a graduate student, she feels that her writing improves when she helps others and wants to spread the word to her fellow students.

"They [students] don't have to sit alone in their room or in their dorm and think, 'how can I start this paper?' They have another person to just bounce ideas off of and brainstorm with," she said.

Skaggs said students rarely come to the writing center once. They often see their grades improve after the first visit and keep coming back throughout the quarter.

Students Cody Bridgman, freshman law and justice major, and Hernan Lemus, sophomore accounting major, have both returned to the writing center since their first time.

"I brought two papers for my ancient studies class and I got good grades so I came back," said Lemus, who speaks English as a second language.

The writing center offers help to students at all levels. Freshmen comprised 37 percent of last quarter's 611 visitors, but an average of almost three graduate students per week also stopped by for help.

Rugby house misunderstood

by Megan Hansen
Asst. News editor

Students at Central Washington University learn pretty quickly where the regular "party houses" are. Many of these spots come with a reputation attached to them. Some people consider the rugby house on Vantage Highway as one of these "party houses."

With recent allegations of rape at the rugby house a negative stigma has been attached to it.

However, Mike Merrill, information technology and administrative management major and owner of the house, thinks the house's reputation will overcome recent events.

"Everyone wants to know where it is," Merrill said. "So obviously it's an okay house."

Some associations are mixed up with the rugby house.

"The Central men's rugby team has no association with the rugby house," Merrill, a member of the rugby team said.

The rugby house in actuality is

just a regular house where some of the rugby players live. People associate the house with rugby, so it became the rugby house.

It's like if people went to a house where they played beer pong all the time it's known as the beer pong house, said Merrill, who has owned the house for three years.

However, when the house developed its reputation as the rugby house he didn't seem to mind.

"We embraced it, it's a party house," Merrill said. "We didn't realize it would be associated with the team."

The rugby house has reputed problems with the police when in fact only three calls were made in 2005 concerning that residence, two regarding traffic hazards and one concerning an outdoor fire.

The Sheriff's office is aware that the house is a "party house" so extra attention is placed on it.

"We notify the State Patrol and try to work that area, looking for drunk drivers specifically," Kittitas County Sheriff, Gene Dana said.

Check out Observer Online Exclusives at www.cwu.edu/~observer

- ☐ For a complete list of companies that will be at the Construction Management and Engineering Technologies Job & Internship Fair in the SUB Ballroom today from 10-2 p.m.
- ☐ Campus Community Coalition tries to reduce high risk drinking.

Correction: In last week's article "Student faces rape charges," it should have said if a student is found in violation of the Student Judicial Code they will face disciplinary action determined by the severity of the infraction, Champagne said. Jonathan Chandler is a former member of the rugby team.

OBSERVER OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters must be submitted by 5 p.m. Monday the week of publication, must be typed, less than 300 words and must include your name and phone number. Only one letter a month will be accepted from an individual. Anonymous letters will not be

published.

The Observer reserves the right to edit for length, style, grammar and libel. Please mail or e-mail letters to: The Observer, Central Washington University; observer@cwu.edu or by fax to (509) 963-1027.



Kathryn Lake
News Editor

After hearing feedback and receiving several complaints regarding last week's article "Student faces rape charges," I have realized a few things. Most students do not

rights with the public's right to be informed." I feel we have done that. The Observer reported what a student is accused of, when he will be going to trial and what could happen if he is convicted.

One complaint I have heard is that by printing the article, we said Jonathon Chandler was convicted of a crime. There is a big difference between being charged with a crime and being convicted of a crime.

According to the Web site www.law.com the word charge means "n. 1) in a criminal case, the specific statement of what crime the party is accused (charged with) contained in the indictment or criminal complaint." Conviction means "n. the result of a criminal trial in which the defendant has been found guilty of a crime."

Last week's article said Chandler was charged with allegedly raping a woman. In no way has the Observer stated he is convicted of a crime,

because the case has yet to go to trial.

A question that has been asked numerous times is: why did we print his name? Historically the names of people accused of crimes were printed so they did not get lost in the court system and so people could monitor the fairness and accountability of the sys-

tem. Why don't you Google "rape charges" and see how many hits you get? You will see that names are given for all but juveniles who are facing charges of rape.

OBSERVANCE

Charged not convicted: an ethical explanation

As for why we did not print the alleged victim's name, go back to

Google and search for "rape victims." For the most part you will not see any names. You may see the ages of the women and girls and where they live, but you won't see their names.

So why didn't we print the alleged victim's name? First of all, we were not given her name and if we were, it

would not be ethical to print it. Some people feel by printing a victim's name the trauma of their experience is prolonged by the exposure to the public, others believe it is the public's right to know.

It is also a well established policy for newspapers not to release the names of rape victims. Victims are less likely to report crimes if they are afraid their names will end up in the media and because of the intensity of this type of crime victims deserve a little more privacy than vic-

tims of other crimes.

Conversely, I can see why people would say I am not being fair and balanced because of this, but I will deal with that criticism as it comes because that is what I believe.

We will continue to follow this case as it develops and goes to trial. We have now been in contact with both attorneys and hopefully in the near future we will have a follow up story.

And as far as the "Rugby team house" is concerned, court documents state that is what the place where the alleged event took place should be called. So as far as the courts and I am are concerned, that is what it will continue to be called.

If you have questions or comments, please follow the guidelines above to submit a letter to the editor. Anonymous letters will not be printed.

Kathryn Lake is the News Editor and can be reached at lakek@cwu.edu

understand much the about judicial system or newspapers.

The Observer is a newspaper; it is our job to report and print the news thoroughly and honestly. The fact a student is facing rape charges for allegedly raping a woman is news. The Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics states, "Journalists should balance a criminal suspect's fair trial

with quite a complex position. When I first heard that the College Republicans were protesting the production, I was honestly hurt. I felt betrayed by my own people. I thought, how could any group, regardless of denomination, moral standing or belief protest an event with the sole purpose of ending violence against women?

Then I heard the reasoning behind this protest. Then I got angry. Very angry. It is one thing to voice your opinion when it is rooted in a factual and experiential basis. It is quite another to carry off protesting something you've neither read, nor attended based on the fact that Bill O'Reilly mentioned it on his television program and Clare Boothe Luce set up an organization to "unveil" the monologues.

And let me just say that the purpose of "unveiling" something should prove without a doubt the

presence of a scandal that has gone unnoticed previously. The only scandal involved with "The Vagina Monologues" is that it wasn't until 1996 that women even began to openly speak about their vaginas, whereas the other half of the world's population, namely men, have been proudly toting and discussing their genitals since the beginning of time.

Unveiling is not about splicing up someone else's work and slandering it out of context. By your definition of "unveiling," I, a conservative, Republican woman, could take the Bible and show you how it too demeans and devalues women.

The thing that really gets me angry is how people at a place of higher education can still be led without objection into doing other people's dirty work. College Republicans, you make me sick. I remember a time when the sole goal of the club was to get Republicans elected

in public office. Period. I do not remember a time when unnecessary rabble-raising though mindless actions was the central goal of the group.

I'm not going to say you should be ashamed of yourselves, but I have to wonder, how is it that a person can ignore the fact that the other half of the world's population (women) are being violated on a daily basis, simply for the fact that they are women and not men, and you have the nerve to ignorantly interject that due to the fact that something has the word "vagina" in the title, it must be demeaning?

Grow up, or better yet, grow a brain and start thinking through your actions before your pursue them. I say this to you as a rape survivor and a devout Republican, albeit one that has no further interest in being associated with any of you.

Jenn Turner — Senior — English

Letters to the Editor

Republicans and vaginas are a scandalous combination

As both a former member of Central's College Republicans and a cast member of "The Vagina Monologues" production which took place this past weekend, I was presented

To submit items for publication please send Press Releases to **Observer@cwu.edu** a week prior to the event. Please include contact information. Do not send pre-written articles as they will not be published.

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Under 21:
There really are 21 things to do in Ellensburg when you're under 21.
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Stephen Ellis/Observer

Maya Chachava, assistant professor of painting and drawing, and David Hoang, senior painting major, discuss his upcoming Farrell Scholarship exhibition which will open at 7 p.m. Friday Feb. 17 in the Sarah Spurgeon Gallery. Hoang has been preparing for this show since mid-summer.

Christian paintings earn Central student the Farrell Scholarship for Research and Fine Arts

by Meghan Hanley
Staff reporter

Rarely are classic Christian stories presented in a contemporary fashion. However, one Central Washington University student is changing that with an upcoming art show.

David Hoang, senior painting major, has been awarded the C. Farrell Scholarship for Research and Fine Arts.

This scholarship awards the recipient with tuition, books, supplies and the costs to develop a project. Hoang's project consists of an art show displaying paintings and drawings with a Christian theme.

"It's not just stories from the Bible," Hoang said. "There's a handful of each from the Old Testament and the New Testament and then there's some traditions that aren't in the Bible that are passed down from different sects of Christianity."

Hoang presents these Christian stories in an original way. While many of the pieces appear medieval in style, there are clear contemporary elements in some pieces, such as people in the paintings dressed in modern clothing.

"I wanted to do something different with it," Hoang said. "I didn't want to just recreate an icon, or use the same technique of medieval painting to represent the theme, but to do something more in the lines of what's going on with contemporary art. I want to express the story rather than illustrate it."

All the pieces are done in a similar style, and all revolve around the same theme. This unity is an important aspect of the show.

"I think that the show holds together very well in the sense of cohesiveness," said Maya Chachava, assistant professor of painting and drawing. "It's a continuous narrative."

The title of the show is Transfigured, meaning "to alter the outward appearance."

"It's the idea that something changes in its form, but stays the same," Hoang said. "That's the whole intent. The thing that stays the same is the narrative and the stories that are being conveyed, but the physicality of it has completely changed in traditional representation."

Another aspect that sets these paintings and drawings apart from most religious works of art is the models used to create them.

"Everyone that's in my paintings is from within the area, most of them are Central students," Hoang said. "A lot of the models are my friends."

Hoang was informed that he won the C. Farrell Scholarship in spring 2005. According to the official application packet, the C. Farrell Scholarship is given to honor the memory of Dr. and Mrs. S.M. Farrell and Dennis Farrell of Ellensburg.

The scholarship is given to a fine art major planning to undertake a specific creative project in connection with their major, or to a student attempting to accomplish a specific research project in archeology,

geology, or history of the Kittitas Valley.

Having been given such a great opportunity, Hoang was motivated to work hard on his project.

"You don't want to disappoint the committee and the scholarship foundation that gave you this opportunity so you want to put all of your energy in it," Hoang said.

The entire body of work is close to 30 pieces and their value extends far beyond this one show.

"It's a very ambitious and mature project," Chachava said. "I feel that the work can actually go further and maybe that it's just the beginning of something. If he continues working on the same idea, there is a great potential of developing it even further."

The exhibition's official opening is at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, and will remain in the Sarah Spurgeon Gallery until Feb. 24.

Attending the actual opening provides the opportunity to view the pieces in a social atmosphere and to meet the artist, as he will be present during the event.

"This is an exhibit of what I've been doing for the last year," Hoang said. "Know me or not, come share an experience."

The opening of Transfigured will be held at 7 p.m. Feb. 17 in the Sarah Spurgeon Gallery in Randall Hall.

The exhibit will remain in the gallery from Feb. 18-24. Gallery hours are Mon. - Fri., 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Weekends, noon-3 p.m. Admission is free.

'The Meeting' celebrates Black History Month

by TJ McMahon
Staff reporter

Central Washington University celebrates Black History Month by putting on a play entitled "The Meeting," written by Jeff Stetson that presents audience members with a fictionalized encounter between two of the most recognizable names in the black movement, Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X.

Audience members are transported back in time to February 1965, where the two men meet at the Hotel Theresa in Harlem. In reality, the two men only met once briefly in 1964 in Washington

D.C.

This is the first time "The Meeting" will be shown on the Central campus.

The play explores several key issues that seem to separate the two seemingly very different men. Issues of individual fate, religion, socio-economic background, leadership styles, and individual definitions of freedom are all explored.

"The Meeting" also questions the political ramifications such a meeting would have had. The play is presented in three debates between the two men.

"This play gives us a candid view of what could have happened," said Natalie Washington, sophomore music

major and member of the Black Student Union (BSU).

Program coordinator for Central's Diversity Education Center, Djordje Popovic, said the play celebrates the richness of their individual beliefs, backgrounds, and leadership styles.

BSU President Perry Lomax, junior public relations major encourages students to attend the play.

"The more avenues we go down to teach about African American culture the more stereotypes we break down," Lomax said. "[Seeing the play will] help students understand that despite different approaches, they were fighting for a common cause."

The play is presented by the Grimes Theater Group from Boston and has won several awards including a Louis B. Mayer Award, eight NAACP Theater Awards, and six New York AUDELCO nominations.

This year, Black History Month is especially important as we pay homage inspirational leaders such as Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King, Richard Pryor, and Luther Vandross all of whom died in 2005 and 2006.

The play is being performed at 7 p.m. on Feb. 16 at the Hertz Auditorium and is open to the public. Admission is free.



Andria Cruz/Observer

by Katie Murdoch
Staff reporter

Kelly Poppen is a program assistant for Central Washington University's Study Abroad Program. Poppen assists students in

5 minutes with...Kelly Poppen

organizing study abroad programs in South America and New Zealand. After studying abroad in Spain, Poppen wanted other people to have the opportunity to study and live in a foreign country.

Q: What inspired you to work for the study abroad program?

A: As an undergrad at Oregon State University, I studied abroad in Spain. Afterwards, I wanted to share the experience with other people.

Q: How old were you when you lived in Spain?

A: I was 20 the first time I studied there. I also went back the following year. The third time I went for an internship.

Q: What was the internship for?

A: I interned for a study abroad program there. I was a contact

person with 45 other American interns.

Q: Where's your favorite place to send Central students?

A: Chile. There's a great program down there. It has the only American study abroad program so students are forced to speak Spanish and learn it down there.

Q: Why should someone pick up and leave on a program?

A: It's a great experience to see other cultures. It's the only time in your life where you can do this. With a spouse and kids you can't pick up and leave for five months and have the government help you pay for it.

Q: What type of person should consider participating?

A.: Everyone. There are so many different people there's a program for everyone.

February

16 * Black History Month "The Meeting,"

5 p.m. Hertz Hall Auditorium.

* Ben Gessel French Horn Recital. 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Music Education Building room 175.

17 * Morris Uebelacker's "Native

Settlement in the Kittitas Valley" lunch and lecture series. Noon, Kittitas County Historical Museum.

18 * Guided snowshoe hike. 9 a.m. 29 Pine Campground, Teanaway area.

19 * Rodeo Club practice Bloom

Pavilion. Roping 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rough Stock 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Riding 4 to 5 p.m.

20 * American Red Cross Blood Drive.

1:30 to 6:30 p.m. CMA Church: 1407 N. B St.

21 * Brass Choir Concert. 7 p.m. to

8 p.m. Music Education Building.

22 * World renowned deaf actor, director, producer, storyteller, Oscar nominee and teacher

Howie Seago is coming to perform. 7 p.m. McConnell Auditorium.

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You messed up V-Day; follow these steps to get out of the dog house

Picture this guys: on Valentine's Day, you decide you'd like to get that special somebody a quirky, offbeat gift instead of the usual shindig.

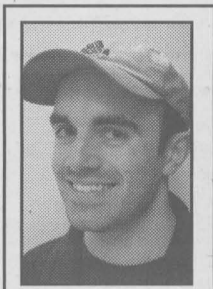
You find some erotic game, or some romance movie that didn't make you nauseous, or some flowers you picked from your neighbor's yard, and get ready for the kiss your valentine will plant on your cheek. Only to find they've spent hundreds of dollars on a fancy dinner, jewelry, or a new car.

And there you are with your bouquet of... dandelions.

You, my friend, are sleeping on the couch tonight.

So how do you overcome your somewhat lackluster gift and get back in your partner's favor? Listen up, and get ready to charm the socks off them.

Let's first assume that your partner's reaction was merely a raised eyebrow and/or



Bryant Phillips
Staff reporter

uncomfortable silence. Tell them this is only part one of the gift, and that part two won't happen until bedtime (make a spanking motion with your hands to emphasize your point).

If their eyebrows rise even higher at that comment, you've pushed your luck too far for one day, so onto something more elaborate and risqué: bunnies.

Get to your nearest pet store and find the rabbit with the fuzziest ears, wiggliest nose, and all the other adjectives that define 'cute'.

Name him Mr. Shniffles or Sir Floppish, then tie a ribbon around his neck and brace yourself for the

high-pitched squeal when your partner receives it.

The catch to this plan is they may be allergic to rabbits, in which case their face will swell up and you're really out of luck.

If this happens, on to plan C, for cookies.

But not just any cookies, because you've really blown it now. If you have any cooking talent at all, prepare to use it all by baking at least three batches of cookies.

You can go with different themes as well,

such as heart-shaped, rich fudge chocolate, and gingerbread sex cookies. However, you'd better be sure they'll laugh at the gingerbread sex cookies, or else you've made the situation even worse.

Let's assume you made the situation even worse. On to the plan of ultimate redemption, the one that will never fail and may step your relationship up to an entirely new level. Be prepared for public humiliation.

If you've ever seen "10 Thing I Hate About You," recall the scene where Heath Ledger sings "I love you baby" to the attractive shrew played by Julia Stiles.

Now replace Heath with yourself, see if you can hire the guy that wrote the song to come out from behind a tree with his guitar at precisely the right moment, and you're in like flint. There is no way this plan can backfire, because movies never lie.

Or you could always apologize to your valentine, be sincere and honest in your gratitude for the time and effort they put into their gift to you, and promise you'll make it up to them later (without the aforementioned spanking motions).

But the chances of something like that working are slim to none.

21 things to do in Ellensburg when you're under 21

1. Rent a raft or tubes and float down the Yakima River.
2. Go hiking on Manastash Ridge or anywhere over the pass.
3. Ski at Snoqualmie or Stevens Pass.
4. Take a day trip to Leavenworth.
5. Go rock climbing in Vantage.
6. Go to a concert at the Gorge Amphitheater.
7. Buy wacky cups from the dollar store and decorate them.
8. Lay out or swim at the pond.
9. Take up a sport.
10. Go to an art museum.
11. Read "Bartending for Dummies" by Ray Foley.
12. Take work out classes at the REC center.
13. Drive to Seattle one weekend night to see a laser show at the Seattle Science Center.
14. Check out Ellensburg's antique shops.
15. Order food to go to the Vantage lookout to watch the sunset.
16. Go swim at the pool at least once a week.
17. Host a poker tournament for your friends.
18. Go to the library and pick random books to read.
19. Be the DD for your older friends when they need you.
20. Learn to cook.
21. Save your money so you can go to the bars when you turn 21.

Compiled by Michelle Redo

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Two new releases – 'Elizabethtown' and 'The Pink Panther' – reveal one big winner



Charlene Krentz
Online reporter

Last weekend I checked out two new releases, one on DVD and one in the theater. The DVD feature, "Elizabethtown," released Feb. 7, is one I can highly recommend because of its warm plot, awesome characters, cool music and flawless comedy.

The movie I saw in theaters, "The Pink Panther," released on Feb. 10 is a little funny, but I can't say much else about it. It's a little too silly and some of the gags got old after the first five times they're shown.

"Elizabethtown," opens with the main character Drew (Orlando Bloom) having a really rough day. He loses his job, is dumped by his girlfriend, and his father dies while visiting relatives in Kentucky. En route to Elizabethtown to arrange the funeral, Drew meets Claire (Kirsten Dunst), a friendly flight attendant. Claire's optimistic and cheery ways pull Drew out of his self-pity and on the road to loving life again.

This movie was bashed by critics, and I can't understand why. The plot and comedy are great. The story celebrates love, life and romance based on love and respect. Plus, the characters look like real people, not super skinny models. What's not to like? The acting? Each actor in the movie deserves an Oscar, especially Bloom. His acting in this film is the best he's ever done. The music? It's classic rock and it fits the plot really well.

One of "Elizabethtown's" two downfalls is an inappropriate joke Drew's mom (Susan Sarandon) tells about a man having an erection. The second is the disappointing bonus features. There are two uninteresting extended scenes, two trailers and a photo gallery.

In "The Pink Panther," the French World Cup soccer team's coach is murdered and his priceless diamond ring, the Pink Panther, is stolen. Determined detective, Jacques Clouseau (Steve Martin), is put on the case and cluelessly bumbles his way through false leads and suspects. His mishaps often leave people and property damaged. The plot keeps you guessing about who the murderer is, but the real mystery of "The Pink Panther" is what miracle is going to help Clouseau solve this case.

The comedy is mostly slapstick and quickly becomes boring. And some "funny parts," like Clouseau trying to take Viagra before interviewing the beautiful Xania (Beyonce Knowles) aren't funny at all. Still, there are a few gut-busting parts, like when Clouseau smashes two cars' bumpers as he parks his tiny car in a semi-truck-sized space.

If I had to recommend one of these films over the other, it would definitely be "Elizabethtown," rated PG-13 for foul language, because the story is more human and unique. It's worth the money if you decide to buy it. "The Pink Panther," rated PG for foul language and some sexual gags, isn't completely bad, it's just not that funny. Wait until it comes out on DVD if you're going to see it. It's not worth shelling out \$6 a ticket at the Grand Meridian.

Reviewer Grades:
Elizabethtown: A-
The Pink Panther C+

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Last week in the "5 mins with" article the interviewee was misidentified. Her name is Lindsay Jacobson.

Check out Scene Online at www.cwu.edu/observer

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AFTER SLOW START
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**FACE-OFF: WHICH IS BETTER COLLEGE
OR PRO BASKETBALL?
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SPORTS

Playoff chances slim but reachable

by Jake Paquette
Staff reporter

The Central Washington University men's basketball team will be out for the weekend, so if you want to leave a message, exit 176 off I-5 to Seattle Pacific University is your best bet. The Wildcats (11-10, 6-6) are looking to send a message to the league in hopes of penetrating the playoff system. Despite the six league losses, Central continues to dream of the playoffs inspiring all fans to keep on rooting. This won't be just another game; it will make or break any chance left. Tip-off is at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Tonight the Wildcats take on Northwest Nazarene in Idaho. Northwest Nazarene is coming off a 78-70 victory over Alaska Fairbanks (14-8) and beat Central in overtime, 103-100 last time they met. Tonight will be no picnic as Central needs at least four victories in the final six games to make the playoffs.

"Four were knocking at the door, five were in, and six were in," head coach Greg Sparling said. "But we have to take it one game at a time."

Northwest Nazarene is loaded with offensive weapons and depth. They have six men averaging over 10 points a game. As a team, Northwest Nazarene made 12 threes a game and average just over eight steals a game.

Senior forward Wade Joseph, 6'5" for Northwest Nazarene is shooting an unbelievable 78 percent from the field making 103 shots in 132 attempts.

"You never see anyone with that high of a field goal percentage this late in the season," Sparling said. "He gets a lot of offensive boards and he gets them with authority. That's his goal on contributing."

Back to the Seattle Pacific match up that will be a quick paced game. Seattle Pacific (19-3, 11-2) is undefeated at home on the year at 10-0.

"They have a good crowd and it seems they have an extra step during home games," Sparling said.

Seattle Pacific's senior guard Tony Binetti and junior forward Dustin Bremerman are number one and four in the league in three point field goal percentages.

"Binetti's had a phenomenal year, he may be a candidate for this year's MVP of the league," Sparling said. "Johnny [Spevak] will take him, he struggled a bit last time he faced him but he'll be fine."

Seattle Pacific is also leading the league in blocked shots with over four a game. On the positive end, Seattle Pacific is coming off a loss to Alaska Anchorage 89-75.



Michael Bennett/Observer

Junior forward Lance Den Boer shoots a layup around Seattle University's Sean Namanny, while junior forward Grant Assink moves in for the rebound attempt. Central defeated Seattle U. 84-76.

Seattle U. and Saint Martins fall to Wildcats

by Marqise Allen
Staff reporter

Coming into this week's game, the Central Washington University men's basketball team was riding a five game losing streak. Their window for making the playoffs would be shut if they could not break their slide. After leaving last weekend, with Central winning both of their games, their playoff hopes are still alive.

In last Thursday's game against Seattle University, Central's senior guard Robert Hicks scored a three pointer only thirty-three seconds into the game. The Wildcats took the first lead and never looked back. The key to winning the game was to contain their offense, holding Seattle's offense to only 76 points, and get production from our bench.

The Wildcat's bench outscored the Redhawk's bench, 43-16. Central's bench scored over half of the points, while freshman guard Joey Luke led the way with 12 points.

The Wildcats' offense was very balanced and they spread the ball around, having five players score at least nine points. Junior guard Lance Den Boer and senior guard Chris Bannish led the offense scoring 13 points.

With both their offense and defense working at the same time, Central easily defeated Seattle, 84-76 and snapped

"It was a street fight from the time warm-ups started"

-Greg Sparling
Basketball Coach

their five-game skid.

"It was a huge momentum swing for us," Den Boer said.

The momentum carried over into Saturday's game against the St. Martin's Saints, who came in after a close one-point loss to Western Washington University.

"It was a street fight from the time warm ups started," Coach Greg Sparling

said.

Both teams came out swinging from the beginning and could separate from each other. The Saints took the early lead, due to Central's offense being completely out of sync for the first half.

"I can't believe how much their press [defense] took us out of the game," Sparling said.

It was not until there were seven minutes left in the first half when Central picked up the pace. The Wildcats went on a 10-0 run to take the lead 43-35, going into the second half with a 45-38 lead.

Central continued their fast pace offense, and Hicks led the way scoring eight out of Central's first 12 points. Central's lead and momentum did not last long, as St. Martin's began to exploit the post, scoring 18 points in the paint in the second half.

"We got in foul trouble," Sparling said. "Grant and Julius got in foul trouble and played hesitant."

The lead swung back and forth until St. Martin's finally took the lead, 82-86, with about five minutes left to go. The Wildcats started to claw their way back starting with a thunderous clean up dunk by junior forward Julius McMillion.

With under 40 seconds left, Central was down 100-104. St. Martin's guard, Joe Chirhart, missed both of his free throws again, after already missing the

two before it.

Central rebounded the ball and drove up court and put the ball in Den Boer's hands, and Den Boer nailed a three pointer to put Central down by one, 103-104.

St. Martin's rushed down the court, but again could not capitalize, giving the Wildcat's the ball with 13 seconds remaining.

Once again, Den Boer had the ball and in the process of going to the basket was fouled and put on the free throw line with four seconds to go. Lance made both attempts giving him 30 points for the night, and giving his team the win, 105-104.

"I knew if I shot them pure, they'd fall," Den Boer said. "I was trying not to think about it, the more you think about it, the worse you do."

This home stand was very crucial to Central's playoff chances, and their hopes of making the playoffs are still intact. The Wildcats showed a lot of courage and fight in their comeback against St. Martin's.

"It was passion for the game," Den Boer said. "We lost a lot of close games and we wanted this one. All five guys wanted it and were on the same page."

Central will be riding their two-game winning streak when they head to Idaho to take on Northwest Nazarene, with a 10-12 record, for a rematch of the close game here at home.

Make or break time for women's basketball

by Casey Donovan
Staff reporter

After obtaining a top ten spot in the NCAA Division II West Region and defeating Alaska Fairbanks 71-58, the Central Washington University women's basketball team hit a brick wall on Saturday night against the University of Alaska Anchorage Seawolves.

Just when the 'Cats had everything going their way, they couldn't pull it out against a mediocre team.

Sure the Wildcats beat them by nearly 40 points earlier this season.

Yes, Alaska Anchorage had lost eight of their last nine games.

But it's not all about statistics.

The road trip to Alaska proved brutal on the Wildcats.

"That trip was long and exhausting," head coach Jeff Whitney said.

The team started out with a two hour ride to Seattle, then a two hour wait for the plane, then a four hour trip on the plane.

You think that's bad? Add into that equation that in Fairbanks it is right between -8 and -18 degrees. Whitney said, this weather in no way compared to two years ago when it hit -56 degrees in Fairbanks.

Whatever the case may be, Central choked. The team had a shot at being tied for fourth in the standings and just one game back of third place Northwest Nazarene University.

Although it looked like Central's defense crumbled under the power of a physically demanding Anchorage team in the statistics, it was really just Anchorage making shots. When you



Coach Jeff Whitney looks on as the Women's basketball team practices earlier this week. Justin Mumm/Observer

allow a team to shoot 58 percent from the floor, you are not going to win.

"They played and executed better than we did," Whitney said. "We changed things up but they continued to drill shots."

Maybe the game got to their heads. Maybe they figured they could coast through until they came back home. Whatever they were thinking, it gave the Wildcats a crucial loss and allowed the Seawolves to play the spoiler.

The game was lost in the trenches, as Anchorage's center Rebecca Kielpinski racked up 31 points in 40 minutes of play. The game went back and forth for most of the first half, with the Seawolves leading 34-27.

Four lead changes happened in the first half, and Central would never see the lead for the rest of the game.

"It comes down to being ready to travel and staying focused," Whitney said. "We were neither."

The Wildcats were led by freshman point guard Ashley Fenimore who scored 17 points. The trifecta of Jamie Corwin, Laura Wright and Hanna Hull was shut down to a duo since Hull made only one field goal and left with four points. Wright and Corwin added 26 points, and Ashley Blake contributed ten.

Sooner or later someone was going to figure out how to attack Central's man-to-man defense and make them

pay for it. It was Alaska Anchorage.

Central didn't find more offensive weapons, and the weapons that were there passed up open looks.

"We had a lot of open looks, but we just weren't shooting the ball well. I don't know what the problem is," Whitney said.

This loss couldn't have come at a more crucial time. Central is home for four games, three of which are conference opponents, including the Western Washington University Vikings.

There are two possible outcomes to this weeks play: Central bucks up and plays hard and comes out victorious or they will lose once again, finding themselves reeling from its devastating loss a

week ago.

With all this being said, Central doesn't have it easy. The Wildcats will play Western Washington, a team that is undefeated in conference play at 13-0. Central has lost twice this year by an average of 26 points to the Vikings, but looks to avenge their two early losses to the Vikings on Saturday night at Nicholson Pavilion.

"To win against Western we have to be on our A game. We have to D-up and play physical because good teams like Western take advantage of teams that break down," Whitney said.

Whitney said that in women's basketball it is very crucial to be able to control teams from going on point runs.

"You are down five or six then all of the sudden you are down 19 after a few minutes," Whitney said.

Central is, however, playing at home where they are 4-2 in conference play, and you know the house is going to be rocking come Saturday night.

"This is a rival game and we have played them twice already, it would be huge to get a victory," Whitney said.

The Wildcats need this victory because in a position which, Coach Whitney refers to as "That bubble".

Now Central has to play for something or there season is over.

"Our last six games mean everything to us. It is vital to win starting right now," Whitney said.

The Wildcats women's Wednesday night game against Grand Canyon was too late to print.

Senior Cresap Watson named athlete of the week

Watson's 6 foot 9 3/4 inch high jump is conference record

by Korben Cook
Staff reporter

Spirits are up heading into the GNAC Indoor Track and Field Championship with senior Cresap Watson being awarded the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) Male Athlete of the Week this week, and junior Cameron Neel accepting it last week.

Watson set a new record in the high jump with a leap of 6-09.75 feet to take first place and a national qualifying mark. Sprinter and jumper, Watson, was surprised to hear that he won the athlete of the week.

"I'm doing better at this point in the season than the same point last season," Watson said. Central has already received three Athlete of the Week awards in the past four weeks.

"[We are] really confident," Watson said. "There is no reason to stop how [well] we're doing."

But first the team had to make it through another competitive weekend in Seattle.

Coach Kevin Adkisson expressed excitement for the distance medley team. This would be the first time they race this season at the Husky Classic and University of Washington Open Number three.

Adkisson's excitement was rewarded when the female distance medley took fourth at the Husky Classic running 12:30.95 minutes.

At the UW Open, the women's 4X400 meter relay took first place with the best time of 4:00.09 minutes. The men's 4X400 meter relay also produced great results coming in second place with a time of 3:30.86 minutes.

In the jumps, freshman Britany Hood clenched ninth place in the long jump with a leap of 15-01.25 feet.

The throws rocked once again at the UW Open, with Neel taking first in the

shotput with a throw of 54-02.50 feet.

The Wildcats took a 17-18 finish in the shotput with senior Bree Renzetti throwing 37-03.25 feet and sophomore Alicia Edwards throwing 36-07.75 feet.

At the GNAC Indoor Track and Field Championship coming up this weekend, the team will be scored as a whole.

So far, every meet that the Wildcats attended has been scored on the individual athlete's performance.

Watson said at the UW Open, one of the coaches scored the team to find out how well they would do at the championship.

By the last event, the Wildcats were ahead by 20 points, way more than any other team. Adkisson said it is time to have the team put its heart into the championship effort.

"The seventh and eighth [positions] are just as important as the first and second," Adkisson said.

Husky classic

- ◆Kara Nygard, 60 meter dash, Fourth, 6, 8.50 seconds
- ◆Amanda Gius, 400 meter dash, Third, 1, 1:00.68 minutes
- ◆Rachael Kaercher, 400 meter dash, Second, 2, 59.18 seconds
- ◆Sarah Benson, 800 meter run, First, 4, 2:24.32 minutes
- ◆Krissy Tandle, Shot Put, Third, Flight 3, 42-02.00 feet
- ◆Jason Roberts, 60 meter dash, Third, 8, 7.41 seconds
- ◆Mike Kelley, 200 meter dash, Second, 10, 24.02 seconds
- ◆Cameron Bailey, Long Jump, Fourth, Flight 2, 19-07.00 feet
- ◆Andrew Gundel, 400 meter dash, Fifth, 4, 54.06 seconds
- ◆Matthew Valdez, Shotput, Fourth, Flight 3, 48-01.75 feet

How to beat the baseball blues in the off-season



Courtney Naccarato
Staff reporter

April is the start of the baseball season. For many the off-season becomes a very antsy time waiting for the boys of summer. The smell of the fresh cut grass and the crack of the bat is well past due. Now every day becomes a countdown for opening day of baseball season.

Many people have come up with ways to beat their off-season blues. It can vary from watching reruns of old games to reading books about baseball. Yet, whatever helps the season get here faster is the key.

Over time numerous books have been written about baseball. "The Curse of the Bambino" is about the curse that longed plagued the Red Sox from winning a World Series. "Eight

Baseball fan essentials:

Sunflower seeds
beer
hot dogs
lawn chair
baseball glove

Men Out" is about the infamous Black Sox scandal in 1919, when the White Sox threw the World Series. And, "Shoeless Joe" is the book that the movie "Field of Dreams" was based.

Almost any player has a book written about them. And it is easy finding books about the major league teams. But it is even easier finding books about baseball as a whole.

Movies about baseball help pass the time, too. "Bad News Bears" a once major leaguer coaches a team of losing little leaguers. "Bull Durham" A washed-up major leaguer goes back to the minors. "Eight Men Out:" the story of the 1919 World Series and what would soon follow. "A League of Their Own" the All-American Girls Baseball League during the World War II era. "The Natural" a 35-year-old struggles to succeed in the big league. "Field of Dreams" an Iowa farmer builds a baseball field in his cornfield and the magic unravels.

Many other movies have been made about baseball, but these are the more popular ones.

College baseball just started recent-

ly. This helps the people who cannot wait. Unfortunately, it is colder outside and the seats hurt more, but it is worth it when longing for the game.

If there is time to go to spring training what a better way to help the season be there sooner. Spring training starts in the beginning of March. In both Arizona and Florida. A game can be watched in either one of these beautiful areas. The tickets are cheaper than the regular season. Plus, it gives fans an opportunity to see up and coming players.

It is hard to pass the time of no baseball for three months. But, these were ideas to help that time go a little bit easier. Regardless, the time will be here sooner than thought.

Wildcat baseball splits series in Turlock California

by Jordan Montgomery
Staff reporter

The Wildcats baseball team returned home after their first season series in northern California last weekend. The Wildcats completed a four game series against the California State Stanislaus Warriors in Turlock, Calif. at Warrior Field. They split the series with two wins and two losses.

"For an opening series on the road and the first time playing outside, I don't feel too bad about a split series," said sophomore short stop Jamie Nilson. "They're a really good team and we won two really close games."

With two games on Saturday and two on Sunday, the Wildcats expected a tough weekend after their long road trip. The two games on Saturday were taken by the Wildcats by one run each time, six to five and then four to three. The Wildcats gained a good perspective of their opponent and they prepared for a tough match on Sunday.

Sunday's first game was taken by the Warriors when they gained an early lead of six to one in the bottom of the first inning. However, the Warriors' offense wouldn't score again until the next game. The Wildcats played well and brought the game up to a one run deficit, but unfortunately could take the lead.

In the second game of the day, and last of the series, the Warriors' offense gained a good

lead in the bottom of the fourth when Stanislaus third baseman Kyle Bonvechio started off the inning with a single, and opened a rally that wouldn't end until four runs had crossed the plate.

In the fifth inning things got worse for the Wildcats. With two outs, the Warriors managed to score eight more runs before freshman pitcher Justin Leppa got the final out of the inning. Leppa's pitching stint was the first of his college career. The final score ended at 14-3.

"We had a few pitchers struggle today," Nilson said. "There are things we can work on, but I think this was a good series for us."

During Saturday's games, the Central bullpen seemed to have it all working.

Central's starting pitcher Scott Parrish threw for five innings and only gave up one run. The Warriors got seven hits off of Parrish, yet could not get a good rally going the whole game. Parrish was relieved by senior pitcher Adam Kemp and junior pitcher/outfielder Rick Templeton who each threw one inning and only allowed three runs between them. Craig Marshall closed out the game by pitching two innings and striking out three batters, eventually earning the save.

Game two on Saturday wasn't much different, with a strong Central pitching performance. Junior pitcher David Jackson started the game out with a commanding presence hold-

ing the Warriors' offense to three runs through five innings and earning his first win as a Wildcat. Mike Morris then closed out the game and earned the save allowing no hits or runs in his two innings pitched. The Wildcat defense once again proved to be dominant against the Warriors, only allowing seven hits and three runs.

However Sunday belonged to the Warriors. The first game on Sunday started out with a harsh first inning rally bringing the warriors lead to six.

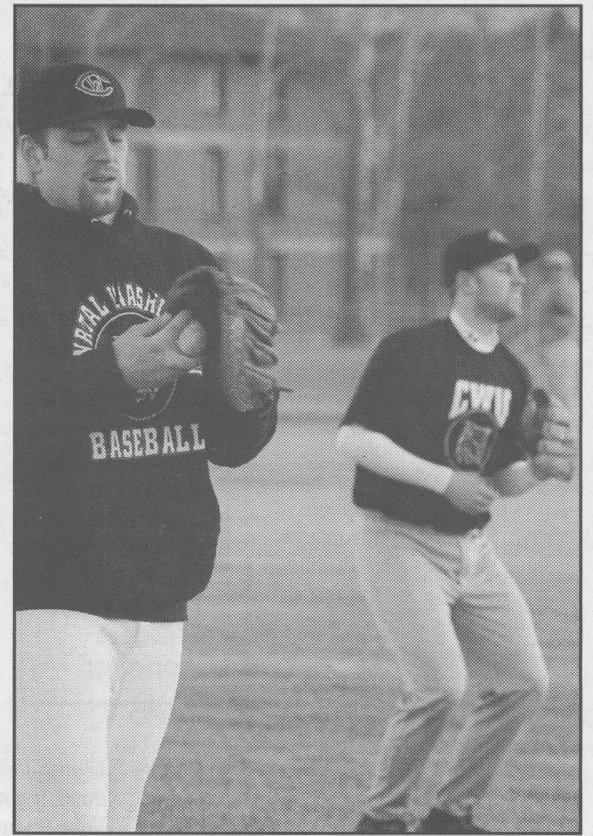
Central's defense held tight and did not allow another run the whole game. Wildcat pitcher Isaac Finch would relieve in the middle of the game throwing four and two thirds innings and striking out five batters before his day was done.

With these four games, the season looks to be off to a good start, with lots of potential. The season opening win officially gave head coach Desi Storey his 300th career win.

The Wildcats next series is scheduled for this Friday and Saturday against Northwest Nazarene University beginning Friday at noon.

Sepanski earns GNAC Hitter of the Week

Senior catcher Chris Sepanski was named the GNAC's Hitter of the Week for the first weekend. Sepanski went 7-14 against Cal State Stanislaus's pitching in four games, with two doubles, one homerun, five RBI's and three runs scored.



Justin Mumm/Observer
Senior catcher/pitcher/first baseman/designated hitter Chris Sepanski works on his split-finger fastball during warm ups at Tuesday's practice.

Softball team looks to improve on slow start

by Carlo Quedado
Staff reporter

Despite starting the season with a 2-4 record and having the teams best pitcher remaining in the dugout due to injuries, softball coach Gary Frederick is still very optimistic.

"We can compete with anyone," Frederick said.

Optimistic for a struggling 2-4 team that hopes to rebound on their two upcoming exhibition games against North Idaho College at Yakima Community College today at noon. Frederick knows his team can do better. In six games, they have been out-hit by opponents .237 to .268. Frederick was also quick to point out that in four out of six games, the women had a better batting average and on-base percentage than their opponents.

Unfortunately, Central's softball team has and will continue to be riddled with injuries. The team is without their best starting pitcher, junior Sara Badgley, who had surgery in December and isn't expected to return until March. Outfielder junior Kasey Druffel will be out indefinitely for the season after surgery.

"The kids we have are good players," Frederick said.



Justin Mumm/Observer
The softball team does fielding drills in preparation for their exhibition game against North Idaho today at noon.

Frederick expects players to step up in their exhibition game against North Idaho College. The team looks to use this game for preparation. The women will look to get their timing down, fill in voids from injuries, and work on one of their

largest problem; driving in runs.

Timing has been detrimental in Central's games so far; defensively, their fielding percentage is .934 against an opponent's .984.

Frederick hopes to see that number go up this

weekend, keeping opponents from reaching on errors and prolonging innings.

Central is looking for a few good women, most importantly a star pitcher and starting outfielder. These spots, especially pitching, will prove difficult to fill. Look for freshman pitchers Linse Vlahovich and Brenda Bray and sophomore Meaghan Craig to play important roles.

Central's starting pitchers are sporting a 2.62 ERA, but with a 47 game schedule and only four pitchers available to the team, the pitching staff will have to carry a heavy load all the way through the Spring.

Losing Druffel has also been a sore point for Central. Frederick hopes the veteran team- 12 out of 18 players are juniors or seniors- can adjust to fill some voids.

The Wildcats will hope some clutch hitting shows up this Thursday. So far, the offense has left 41 players stranded, against an opponent's 46.

Five runs doesn't seem much in the grand scheme of things, except when taking into account the fact that two out of four games lost were decided by one run.

"The team is disappointed," Frederick said. "We could easily have been 4-2 than 2-4. We definitely had opportunities to win the games."

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The weekly sports face-off

— What's better college or professional basketball —

Stepping inside Cameron Indoor Stadium where the Duke Blue Devils play, my body began to shake; chills went through me like I just saw a polar bear. This was at a practice, no less. Imagine attending a game there?

I've been to more than a few big time college basketball games where the atmosphere is crazy. The feeling of students rushing the court after a victory sticks with you for the rest of your life.

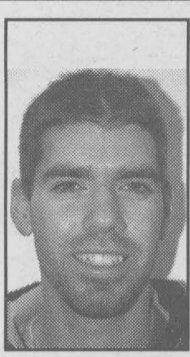
The student body will find out about the opposing players personal life and chant remarks such as "STD's, STD's" as the North Carolina State fans did to North Carolina's Rashad McCants last season. It's amazing.

March Madness is enticing and exciting with unbelievable victories where a team can see its foot slide smoothly inside that Cinderella slipper. But I love its big brother more: The National Basketball Association. A more superior format, set of rules, referees, and, of course, players!

Here's the difference between the two. College sells you a fairy tale, while the NBA sells you reality. We want the truth, right?

I don't want the preview, I want the red-carpet treatment of watching the greatest overall athletic ability of any players in any sport.

I want to watch a grueling 82 game season where the ballers play back-to-back nights and three games in five days while traveling more than MTV Cribs. I want to see 48 minutes



P.J. Larson
Guest
reporter

compared to 40, witnessing the best of seven scenarios instead of one anything-can-happen game.

Give me a three-point line four feet further than the collegians, where anyone at anytime can get hot. Put the best referees in the world directing and controlling these oversized giants. But most of all, give me players who on any given weeknight make you and I go "WOW!!!" as we reach for our phone to call our buddy.

I love this game! How about you?

Seeing the Spurs and Pistons locking down opponents is eye-popping. Seeing Steve Nash run a break is astonishing. Seeing

Lebron James do what he does, on a pass or dunk, is shocking. Seeing Kobe Bryant, being Kobe Bryant is unbelievable. Seeing an agile 300-pound Shaquille O'Neal is only possible on the hardwood floor. Seeing teams beat the buzzer with .04 ticks on the clock is only the NBA!

I love watching stars shine as they do things I've never seen before.

As a basketball fan I want to see key matchups in the late rounds of March Madness, not seeing 30-point blowouts because of, as an NBA general manager once said, "Hey, it's one game in the NCAA Tournament." I don't like to witness unfortunate upsets. I like to truly justify which team is better. The NBA gives us that.

The college game is sick.

The NBA happens to be more ill each and every year.

VS

My favorite thing about sports is the excitement and atmosphere. Not just the excitement on the respective playing field, but the excitement outside the venue tailgating or at the pep rally the night before. I love the culture and pageantry. If you've ever watched the Bayou Classic you know what I'm talking about. The Bayou Classic is usually one of the ugliest college football games you can watch but it sells out every year and the festivities in New Orleans are bettered only by Mardi Gras. The topic at hand isn't football though it's basketball, which unquestionably is more exciting than the NBA.

When watching sports, passion and intensity often add more excitement than talent and athleticism. For this reason college basketball is more entertaining than the NBA. Kobe Bryant's 81 points earlier this year was nothing short of amazing. I watched the highlights and thought to myself, "Geez that's impressive."

As impressive as Bryant's accomplishment was, it was nowhere as exciting as Kentucky guard Craig Sparks three pointer in the conference championships last year that rattled around the rim for what seemed like five minutes before finally falling into the basket; sending his team into overtime.

Sports fans are adrenaline junkies. If you disagree with that claim think of how you acted watching the Seahawks in the Super Bowl.



Pat Brown
Sports Editor

Out of all the postseasons in all sports throughout the world there is no other championship tournament that produces as much adrenaline pumping excitement as the NCAA tournament. Why else would it be called March Madness?

It's a single elimination tournament of 65 teams. It's a tournament where every fan knows a 16 seed is not going to beat a number one seed. There is however, going to be a 12 seed or higher getting into the elite eight. In the last five years of the NBA only once has a sleeper team — Detroit Pistons over L.A. Lakers — won the championship and even then it seems odd calling the Pistons a sleeper.

I'm still going to watch the rest of the NBA regular season and playoffs but I'm about 90 percent sure this year's NBA finals will be another rematch between Detroit and San Antonio. How is this predictability fun for basketball fans?

I love the NBA but when the NBA finals come around in June it often seems like I'm the only one who still cares. This past season's NBA finals may have been the best series in the past decade. It went to seven games and in that seventh there were multiple lead changes. Unfortunately this game happened just a few weeks before the Fourth of July. The regular season started around Halloween.

The talent level in the NBA is better by leaps and bounds but as a fan I want excitement. I'm an adrenaline junkie, just like every other sports fan out there.

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