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Observer

Central Washington University

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Less hair, more work: President Aronica joins National Guard

by Paul Balcerak
Staff reporter

Associated Student Officers (ASCWU/BOD) President Tony Aronica is sporting a new look this quarter. Aronica, a Native American member of the Yakiama 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 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 dedicated his life 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 schooled 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 for about six months.

He began to rack up a laundry list of titles that had come to include the Blue Ribbon Commissions 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 Sara 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 other avenues.

"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 put the students on a pedestal and he absolutely will bend over backwards to help out and to be able to help the students in any way possible."

Additionally, Aronica has been credited with restoring the ASCWU/BOD's reputation within the university, after a past administration marred the organization's image. Aronica mostly doles out the praise, crediting the past two years' 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. "Sec- ondly, 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 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."
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 Jaqueline 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 former 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 does not 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.

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Couples celebrate Freedom to Marry

Above left to right: Katie Kilpatrick junior psychology and primate behavior and ecology major and Ann Graber, senior recreation management major along with Megan Divyak, junior information technology major and Drena Sim, senior English major exchanged "wedding vows" during the 11th Annual Freedom to Marry ceremony on Wednesday.

Right: Graber and Kilpatrick exchange rings during the ceremony.

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

"International monetary aid is the best way to help, but a donation of your time is tax free and going to organizations for disaster relief," Williams said.

"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 that you leave 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.
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 members of Central's Black Student Union (BSU) are doing to promote Black History Month. Although some students may already be aware of the signs, BSU has already held a diversity march, hosted Step Afri­ka, and had a booth in the Samuelson Union Building selling AfE 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 sup­porters Frederick Douglass and Abra­ham Lincoln.

"I'm a history buff, so I like hearing and learning about other cultures," Sparky Ainsi, 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 Coretta Scott King, 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 the idea of the signs. 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 Lemus, co-president of BSU, said. "By knocking down our signs nothing is 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 Owah 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," Lemus said.

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

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 interaction, Champagne said. Jonathan Chandler is a former member of the rugby team.
Letter to the Editor

Re: Kathryn Lake’s column, “Student faces rape charges.”

As a member of the Venice College College Republicans and a cast member of “The Vagina Monologues” production which took place this past weekend, I was presented with quite a complex position. When I first heard that the College Republicans were protesting the production, I was honestly hurt. I left behind my own personal views. I thought, how could anyone, regardless of denomination, moral standing or belief system support 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 on with justifying something you’ve neither read, nor attended based on the fact that Bill O’Reily mentioned it on his television program and Claire Boothe Luce set up an organization to “cure” the monologues. And let me just say that the purpose of “curing” 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 ever began to openly speak about their vaginas, whereas the other half of the world’s population, namely men, have been proud touting and discussing their genitals since the beginning of time. Unlawfulness is the act of pressuring someone else’s work and standing it out of context. By your definition of “lawlessness,” 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 you had a necessary rabble-rousing though mindless action was the central goal of the group. I am 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 victimized on a daily basis, simply for the fact that they are women and not men, and you have the nerve to ignorantly interrupt that due to the fact that something has to do with “vagina” in the title, it must be demeaning? Grow up, or better yet, grow a brain and start thinking through your actions before you 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.

Jeff Turner - Senior- English

Letters to the Editor

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Jeff Turner - Senior- English
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 point. 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.

"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 into 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'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-1 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 met 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 Natallie 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 Lois 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 to 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.
Kelly Poppen is a program assistant for Central Washington University's Study Abroad Program. Poppen assists students in 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 is 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

18
- "Guided snowshoe hike. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rough 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. 8 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. FREE.

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Observer — Scene — February 16, 2006
You messed up V-Day; follow these steps to get out of the dog house

Picture this: 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 exotic 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.

Let's first assume that your partner's reaction to your somewhat quirky, offbeat gift instead of the usual romantic 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.

You really blown it now. If you have any cooking skills at all, prepare to use all of them at 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 you'll laugh at the gingerbread sex cookies, or else you've made the situation even worse.

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 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. En­route to Elizabeth­town to arrange the funeral, Drew meets Claire (Katie Holmes), a friendly flight attendant. Claire's opt­imistic and cheery ways pull Drew out of his self­pity and on the road to loving life again. He loses his job, is dumped by his girlfriend, and his father dying while visiting relatives in Kentucky. En­route to Elizabeth­town to arrange the funeral, Drew meets Claire (Katie Holmes), a friendly flight attendant. Claire's opt­imistic and cheery ways pull Drew out of his self­pity and on the road to loving life again.

This movie was laced with criticism, 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 some skinny models. What's not to like? The acting? Each actor in the movie deserves an awe­some character, 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.

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 mistakes 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 gut­busting parts, like when Clouseau smashes two cars' bumpers as he parks his tiny car in a semi­truck­sized space.

If I had to recommend one of these films over the other, it would definitely be "Elizabeth­town," rated PG­13 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 PG­13 for foul language and some sexual humor, 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.
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, 4-6) 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 (4-14) 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 three's 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 out of 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 1404. "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 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.
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 University of Alaska Anchorage women's basketball team will go face to face with a team this weekend that they have been waiting two years for to see.

"That trip was long and exhausting," head coach Jeff Whitney said. "We changed things up but they continued to drill shots.

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

The throws rocked once again at the UW Open. Watson set a new record in the high jump of 2.0975 meters. At the GNAC Indoor Track and Field Championship, Watson's 6 foot 9 3/4 inch high jump is conference record number three.

How to beat the baseball blues in the off-season

by Kerchen Cook
Staff reporter

Spirits are up heading into the GNAC Indoor Track and Field Championship with senior Creisp Watson being awarded the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) Male Athlete of the Week for the first time.

Coaching Jeff Whitney looks on as the Women's basketball team practices earlier this week.

Athena classic

Norwegian, 400 meter dash, Fourth, 8.60.50 seconds
Amanda Gius, 400 meter dash, Third, 1, 1:00.66 seconds
Rachel Kaeche, 400 meter dash, Second, 2, 59.18 seconds
Sarah Benson, 400 meter dash, First, 1, 2:24.32 seconds
Krissty Tandle, Shot Put, Third, Flight 3, 42-02.00 feet
Jason Roberts, 400 meter dash, Third, 6, 47.11 seconds
Milo Kelly, 200 meter dash, Second, 10, 22.40 seconds
Cameron Bailey, Long Jump, Fourth, Flight 2, 19-07.00 feet
Andrew Gundle, 400 meter dash, Fifth, 4, 54.06 seconds
Matthew Valdez, Shotput, Fourth, Flight 3, 48-01,75 feet

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 on.

Almost any book has a built-in audience. And it is easy finding books about major league teams. But it is even easier finding books about baseball as a whole.

April is the start of the baseball season. For many the off-season becomes a way to beat the baseball blues of summer. The smell of the fresh cut grass and the crack of the bat is just past due.

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

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

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 N membre.

Adkisson's excitement was reward ed when the female distance medley took forth at the Husky Classic run ning 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 in second place with a time of 3:00.86 minutes.

In the jumps, freshman Brittany Hood, clerched ninth place in the long jump with a leap of 15.01,25 feet. The throws rocked once again at the UW Open, with Need taking first in the shotput with a throw of 54-02.50 feet. The 1,600 meter relay also finished in the shotput with senior Bree Renzetti throwing 37-03.25 feet and sophomore Amanda Gius throwing 37-18.75 feet.

So, what are the reasons people watch baseball? Many people have come up with ways to beat their off-season blues. "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 unwinds.

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 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.

The Vikings on Saturday night against the University of Alaska Anchorage Seawolves.

Weather in no way compared against a mediocre team. "That trip was long and exhausting," Whitney said. "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 no way to compare to four games, three of which are conference opponents, including the Western Major Pool.

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 averages to look their average two early losses to the Vikings on Saturday night at Nicholson Pavilion.

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

Watson said that in women's basketball the team were 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 now it is time for them 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 Creisp Watson named athlete of the week

by Kerchen Cook
Staff reporter

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


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College baseball just started recently. 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.

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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.
Softball team looks to improve on slow start

by Carla Quevedo
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. Fredrick was also quick to point out that in four out of six games, the women lost by one run each time, six to five and then four to three. The Wildcats played well and brought the game up to a one run deficit, but unfortunately couldn't 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 out, 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," Nixon 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 really going the whole game. Parrish was relieved by senior pitcher Adam Kemn and junior pitcher/outfielder Kim Templet who each threw one inning and only allowed three runs between them. Craig Marshall shut the game down 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 holding the Warriors' offense to three runs through the first inning. Frederick hopes the veteran team-12 out of 18 players are juniors or seniors-can adjust to new roles.

The softball team does fielding drills in preparation for their exhibition game against North Idaho College 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.

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

For a limited time, the Observer is offering FREE classified ads to students on a space available basis. ADS MUST BE EMAILED to pagec@cwu.edu by 5 pm Monday. Classified ad rate is $4 for the first 15 words and 20 cents a word after that. No commercial ventures will be accepted for free ads.
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 exciting and exciting with unbelievable victories where a team can see its feet 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 love watching stars shine as they do things short of amazing. I watched the highlights and 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 weekend 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 match-ups in the late rounds of March Madness, not seeing 38-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 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 tail-gating 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 top-at least hand isn't football though it's basketball, which unquestionably is more exciting than the NBA.

Kobe Bryant's 81 points earlier this year was nothing short of amazing. I watched the highlights and thought to myself, "Grazz 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.

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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