Observer

Central Washington University
The ingredients are here for a barn burner tonight in Nicholson Pavilion

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Central Washington University women's hoops team is looking for a win more than Chuck Norris is looking to lay a roundhouse kick. This game could be scripted like a Chuck Norris movie. It has mystery, suspense, and an ending that no one will see coming.

The Wildcats are relying on role-players to fill for injuries. Coach Whitney could deliver the punch Western never saw coming. "We're going to go with a little different of a lineup," head coach Jeff Whitney said. "We've had ten people play all year long."

The problem is that the Wildcats come into tonight's game against Western Washington University banged up more than Norris's victims on Walker, Texas Ranger. Possibly the finishing move that Norris usually brings out, which usually is a combination of attacks, might be lost for the Wildcats.

If the two losses weren't bad enough for Central last weekend, both Elyse Mengarelli and Laura Wright were injured.

"We played dinged up last weekend," Whitney said. "This week is huge for us."

The good news is that Wright plans on playing after sitting out some of this week's practice. "I'll be out there," Wright said. "It's Western." Mengarelli is a different story.

MONKEYS BASKETBALL

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Central came off what seems to be their biggest win of the season, a thrilling overtime victory against Seattle Pacific University that rejuvenated the hopes of Central's basketball. Senior forward Lance Den Boer scored a career high 38 points in the victory.

"It's always exciting when we play Western," Den Boer said. "Fans don't care about records when they go to a game like this one. They just want to see Central compete well against Western."

Last weekend's overtime win came after back-to-back overtime losses, one of which was against Western.

"We got mentally and physically refreshed with the win last weekend," Sparling said. "We were not at our best before the losses to Seattle University and Western, Central traveled the nation, playing teams from seven different states."

"The way that our games are scheduled is not favorable at all," Sparling said. "We simply ran into a buzzsaw by traveling so much. It just wears you down traveling the way we do, to both the players and me."

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see WESTERN, page 10

see RIVALRY, page 10

Graphic design by Ross James Woldt, David Woodford and Stein Hansen /Observer
Facilities Management began the task of installing automatic flushers on toilets all over campus in 2005. The project will increase sanitation measures.

"Now it startles me every time I have to use the bathroom."

—Caitlin Morrison
freshman special ed

Using the restroom is now a hands-free experience in all academic buildings including the Student Union and Recreation Center (SUR).

Caitlin Morrison had her first experience with the toilet upgrades.

"Now it startles me every time I have to use the bathrooms," Morrison, freshman special education major, said. "I like how instead of seeing something you don't want to see, you see clean water. Plus, you don't have to touch the handles."

The installation of the new flush valves allows toilets and urinals to operate automatically.

They were installed for sanitary reasons," said Robert Torch, director of maintenance and operations.

The installation process began in summer 2005.

Automatic sinks were installed to increase sanitation of public restrooms.

Valves were added to toilets to change the mechanisms from manual to sensory flush.

"When the issue started to rise about pandemics and personal hygiene, it sped up this implementation and increased the number of automated items we have on campus," said Bill Vertrees, assistant vice president for facilities management.

The money used for the installation of automated valves and sinks came from state capital funds.

The installation process is an ongoing project, though it is currently at a standstill. The project will be complete this summer, after the decisions in Olympia have been approved.

With the next round of appropriations, students can anticipate the installation of automatic toilets, sinks and urinals in residence halls.

"We've done items like the larger bathrooms and certain kinds of sinks and toilets that are easier to retrofit," Vertrees said. "We're working on it a few at a time."

Each toilet and urinal valve costs Central approximately $130, with an additional $50 allotted for labor and installation.

Sensory valves create new restroom experience
by Chelsea Krotzer
Staff reporter

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Proposal gives high school, collegiate-level newspapers First Amendment liberties, protection

by Clare Jensen
Staff reporter

Freedom of speech is one right many Americans value, and American journalists exercise on a regular basis.

However, student journalists at the high school and college levels in Washington have not been included under this American right; their school's administrations have the authority to censor their work.

Washington State Representative and the author of the bill, Dave Upthegrove said, "Why is it okay for students?"

Schaum and Upthegrove developed House Bill 1307, which outlines a student journalist's constitutional right to freedom of speech within their publication, as well as their responsibilities to uphold journalistic integrity.

The bill states that students at the high school and collegiate levels may produce their publications independently and cover any material, as long as it is not obscene, libelous or could create a danger to public citizens and institutions.

"Students must feel free to debate issues," Washington State Representative Brendan Williams said. "Young people today have a very progressive outlook, yet they are not voters. They should be given a taste of adult rights at a younger age."

Williams supports the bill because he enjoys being a student journalist at his high school's uncensored paper, and said he thinks it has helped him become the person he is today.

"I believe very strongly in a free press," Williams said. "Free and open discussion of issues helps young people become more engaged citizens."

Upthegrove said that allowing students to have full control over their publication is a civic education issue.

"If you want young people to develop an appreciation for the first amendment and constitutional rights, put [those] rights into practice," Upthegrove said. "Freedom of press is one of the core components of a free and democratic society. Students shouldn't lose that right!"

Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Iowa and Massachusetts have adopted similar student press laws, according to the First Amendment Center Web site. Williams finds that these states have increased the output of competent journalists.

One of the arguments against the bill is that the school that producing the paper is held responsible for what the students print.

However, the bill clearly states that the school's administration would not be liable for the misdeeds of student journalists.

"No one thinks this is a bad idea," Schraum said. "The only real opposition is school administrations at the high school level."

Williams and Schraum both feel optimistic about the bill passing through the legislature.

The first hearing was held last Friday, and Schraum said he was blown away by the amount of student support.

"It was standing-room only," Schraum said.

Four out of the 11 house representatives supported the bill, and professional journalists advocate the bill.

To learn more about House Bill 1307, visit: www.leg.wa.gov/legislation

For more on House Bill 1307, see: New legislation on page 5

Observer online
www.cwu.edu/~observer:
- Check these wise Sages: Library gets online tool
- Natural science seminar aims to eradicate bone cancer
- Problem-solvers tackle smoking issue
- Kamola cause for smoke alarm

Bill supports free press for student journalists

Food bank caters to county

by Alexandra Baum
Staff reporter

Walking past Courson Hall on the south end of Central Washington University's campus, most people just notice students coming in and out of residence halls and faculty going about their daily tasks.

"We are the only place [open] from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day from the other side of the river," Garrison said. "A quick phone call or e-mail would get us there.

Since Garrison has been running the food bank for 12 years, he has become friends with the patrons.

"Every day that I come to work, there is no day where I don't feel like I am making a difference in someone's life," Garrison said.

"APOYO will always be there and open every day to help the people who need it," Garrison said.

APOYO Food Bank is located beside Courson Hall, where needy residents can receive food.

APOYO has proven itself to be resilient and will remain a staple in the community by overcoming onlookers' personal conflict with the organization.

"There was some pressure a couple years ago to only serve people from Kittitas County, which would be hard on everybody from the other side of the river," Garrison said. "A quick phone call to Olympia and there wasn't a problem."

APOYO is always accepting volunteers.

Food Bank hours of operation are:
Wed. 6-6:30 p.m. and Sat. 7-12:30 p.m.
If interested in volunteering, contact Philip Garrison at (509) 929-5366.

Food bank caters to county

by Alexandra Baum
Staff reporter

Walking past Courson Hall on the south end of Central Washington University's campus, most people just notice students coming in and out of residence halls and faculty going about their daily tasks.

"Twice a week, however, the old heating plant beside Courson turns into a food bank, where needy residents can receive food," Garrison said.

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Signal to improve pedestrian safety

by Megan Lind
Staff reporter

It's no secret that crossing the street between Albertsons and Jerrol's Book and Supply Co. can be difficult. Many central students have either been at a party when a noise violation has been issued or have received a noise violation themselves. Tyson Gamblin, senior business major, has hosted many large parties at his house in a cul-de-sac on North Alder. "It caused eight-to-10 warnings spread out over a two-year period before I was issued a citation," Gamblin said.

Noise violations may be issued at any time; however, they are most often issued between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. "99 percent of our contacts for noise violations are a result of a complaint from citizens," said Ross Green, captain of the Ellensburg Police Dept.

Usually, the police do not issue a citation for the first violation. Although police are not required to give warnings first, they often will if it takes care of the problem. "About 10 to 15 percent of the parties get cited," Green said. "65 to 90 percent get a warning."

In 2005, there were 1,025 noise complaints and only 126 citations issued.

"Noise complaints are a difficult call," Green said. "Party goers don't think they are hurting anyone, but it is a big part of our duties to enforce the noise ordinance."

Some students think they are the main target for being issued noise violations. However, the police make sure they fulfill their duty in applying the noise ordinance to everyone. "The best thing is to keep doors and windows shut. Don't let people congregate out in the yard, and keep the music at a reasonable level," Green said. "The first thing that gets neighbors attention is loud voices outside, people urinating in their yard, parking complaints, and consistent traffic."

Pet registration fees increase

by Zach Hammond
Staff reporter

News pets and pet owners in Ellensburg may soon be affected by amendments proposed to city law.

The city's Animal Control Code, enacted in 1990, has not been amended since 2000, and according to the Animal Shelter Committee, is in need of a major overhaul.

More significant changes have been made to the sections on license and impoundment fees, as well as animal waste.

"The code's wording concerning animal waste has been clarified. The new proposal states that not cleaning up a pet's waste is unlawful, and lays out several suggestions, such as always carrying a "pooper scooper," or similar device, while walking a dog."

"Changes to the code will reflect the standards of most other animal control codes across the state. The board distributes funding from the statewide gas tax to cities and counties for transportation projects. Ellensburg will then pay the extra $55,300."

"As of now, Knobles is waiting for the parts to come in, including push buttons, pedestrian signals, signal poles and signal controller lights. Once the project begins as February or March, it will only take a few days to assemble the whole system and have it up and running."

With the new animal code in effect, owners will pay a $50 licensing fee, which was originally $25. The idea is that owners who pay more for their pets, will invariably take better care of them.

"I think it's a good way to encourage people to spay and neuter their pets," Rainey said.

Under the new code, owners of altered pets are able to license free or more animals for $30. There are also three-year licenses available at a reduced cost, but only if the animal is spayed/neutered with proof of a current rabies vaccination.

"Noise violations may be issued at

By Abby Lee
Staff reporter

When preparing to host a party, one question goes through most central Washington University students' minds: will I get a noise violation?

Jessica Mead, sophomore fashion merchandising major, lives in an apartment on campus on North Alder. "There is no way I would have a party at my apartment," Mead said. "I can hear my neighbors' music very clearly, even when they aren't even trying to be loud, so I choose to party at houses."

The project began after employees at Jerrol's and residents in the surrounding neighborhood submitted a petition to the city council. In response, the city held a study session. After review, the city approved the installation of a new traffic signal.

"We really want to make it easier to cross the street for everyone," Roll Williams, Manager of Jerrol's, said. According to the Ellensburg Police Department, there have been five collisions within the past year on University Way and surrounding streets.

"If a few pedestrians have been involved in accidents anywhere along University Way, that's enough of a reason for the light," Williams said.

Since a project can be costly, Ellensburg has help in funding the project.

The city received a grant from the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board for $42,700. The board distributes funding from the revenue generated by three cents of the state tax on gas to cities and counties for transportation projects. Ellensburg will then pay the extra $55,300.

Knobles Electric Inc. was contracted to complete the project and is scheduled to begin this spring.

"As of now, Knobles is waiting for the parts to come in, including push buttons, pedestrian signals, signal poles and signal controller lights. Once the project begins as February or March, it will only take a few days to assemble the whole system and have it up and running.

"It will be connected, timed and sequenced with the other lights," said Jeff Ely, records department manager. Ellensburg will then pay the extra $55,300.

"It's not that we are trying to be loud, so I choose to party at houses," Williams said.
Opinion

Patrick Lewis
Editor-in-Chief

New legislation aims to protect student press

Paul Balerac
Senior Reporter

If Central Washington University censored the Observer and students were powerless to stop it, would anyone care?

The question may seem outlandish and even ridiculous, but if Central administrators were so inclined, the law would protect them. Believe it or not, there's nothing on the books preventing President Jerilyn McIntyre from marching across campus to the Observer office and deeming anything we write unfit to print.

I may be doing myself and my paper a disservice by printing this, but I do so with the hope that the law will soon change. And recently, I took a step to ensure that it would.

Last week, I had the opportunity to testify before the Washington State House Judiciary Committee on behalf of House Bill 1307, a bill intended to protect student press rights.

Current law gives high schools and universities the power to censor student press. The law originated in 1967 in a Supreme Court case titled Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier. The decision held that high school administrators had the authority to censor student newspapers. In 2005, another Supreme Court case, Hurley v. Harper, extended that right to university administrators.

Supporters of both decisions and opponents of HB 1307 seem to all share the same viewpoint: students aren't responsible enough to use the same logic could rob ROTC members of their First Amendment rights revoked, the same logic could rob ROTC members of their freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom to assemble, and freedom to petition the government. Such an edict could effectively put an end to SAT meetings and tailgate parties outside Tomlinson Stadium, just to name a couple.

Of course, such events would be banned even if students were deemed too irresponsible to conduct them. But a person's responsibility has nothing to do with his or her right to speak freely.

For starters, how do we gauge one's level of responsibility? If it's an issue of age, I would argue that some of the 15-year-olds I've met are more responsible than some of the 45-year-olds I know. If it's an issue of education, then shouldn't high school and college dropouts have their rights restricted as well?

In any case, studies have shown that journalism students have a greater understanding of the First Amendment than other students.

The opposition at last week's hearing didn't seem to care. Their sole argument was that free speech would make schools vulnerable to liability issues. This is true, but only under current law. HB 1307 would actually prevent schools from being held liable for unlawful transmissions in student publications.

Furthermore, I don't believe the liability argument holds any water. Students risk their lives on football fields across the country after signing little more than an impromptu waiver form. (And trust me — if it's a waiver form they want us to sign, everyone in the newsroom will do it.) What newspaper article could cost someone their life?

This leads me to the conclusion that what HB 1307 detractors are really afraid of is scrutiny. They're afraid that their own mistakes could be exposed by students armed with free speech.

Well, they should be afraid, because we will come after them. Not because we're heartless, bloodthirsty sharks, but because we have the right to know the truth and Central's student body has the right hear it. There's no way for any of us to form an opinion if we don't have the facts. And if administrators are given the keys to the journalistic kingdom, the facts will be greatly diluted.

The Artist's Eye

Each week the Observer will highlight a problem in the area.

E-mail your suggestion for projects the university or city should tackle to Observer@cwc.edu. Last week's? Done.
Massive hip-hop group hits campus

Seattle hip-hop dance group to perform in west end of SURC
by Taishi Kanamaru
Staff reporter

It takes more than just an MC to create hip-hop. It also takes artistic and cultural break dancing. The award-winning street dancing crew The Massive Monkees will perform at 7 p.m. tonight in the Student Union and Recreation Center. The Massive Monkees are the official dancers of the Seattle Supersonics. Sponsors of the performance include the Diversity Education Center, the Black Student Union and the African Student Organization. The performance will also kick off Central Washington University's celebration of Black History Month.

"Hip-hop was originated 30 years ago and had four elements: MC, DJ, graffiti and b-boying," said Djordje Popovic, program coordinator of the Diversity Education Center. "In today's culture, when you speak of hip-hop, it's only about the MC. That is the most commercial part of hip hop."

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"Break dancing is one of the fundamental pieces of hip hop," Ham said. "I hope the students will learn hip-hop's foundation and its original purpose to teach people."

"One of the best b-boy crews in the United States happens to be from Seattle, which was unbelievable," Popovic said. Originally formed in Seattle at Franklin High School in 1996, the group has performed at festivals and main stages all over the world. Events include the 2005 NBA All-Star Weekend, Bumbershoot and at the Apollo Theatre. The group has also won several awards, including the 2005 World B-Boy Championship in London.

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Jeremy Charles Higuchi, freshman graphic design major, has an older brother who is one of the original members of Massive Monkees. Higuchi supports his brother, Jonathan, and the group by attending shows and practices and purchasing merchandise.

"They practiced all the time; during lunchtime, breaks, [and] in between classes," Higuchi said. "One of the best b-boy crews in the United States happens to be from Seattle, which was unbelievable," Popovic said. Originally formed in Seattle at Franklin High School in 1996, the group has performed at festivals and main stages all over the world. Events include the 2005 NBA All-Star Weekend, Bumbershoot and at the Apollo Theatre. The group has also won several awards, including the 2005 World B-Boy Championship in London.

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Terminology
B-boying: A style of urban dance that combines footwork with tumbling and spins, usually performed to hip-hop music.

DJ: Stands for "disk jockey," a person who plays, mixes, and scratches prerecorded music for other, usually on turn tables.

MC: Stands for "microphone controller," a person who raps.

"B-boying is based on what you can do, not based on color," Higuchi said. "Hopefully they will stay the same way they've been, not get too commercialized."

Besides winning competitive battles at the highest level and performing on tour, the group is active in their community. They teach b-boy classes and throw jam sessions including the B-Boys Gone Wild series.

Although the group has performed in many places, including New York, Canada and Japan, Angeles said that the group has always appreciated Washington's local support.

"Show up and support us," Angeles said. "You will not be disappointed."

Massive Monkees may perform at half-time of the tonight's basketball game. Their show would then be moved to 9 p.m. For more information, call Djordje Popovic at 963-1687.
West side gets PUNCH of Central Washington art

by Bryant Phillips
Staff reporter

Central Washington University art is moving west, and it’s getting plenty of exposure.

Former and current Central students and faculty have teamed up to create PUNCH Gallery, showcasing art from Kittitas Valley in downtown Seattle.

The gallery’s founding members were brought together by a desire to share the art of the valley with those in and out of the state. "If I wanted to be a commercial gallery, I’d only be able to exhibit work that would sell," Central professor and PUNCH Gallery member Michael Sherwin said.

The gallery is more about promoting the artists, Sherwin said. "We knew we could put together a show that would reflect the valley and its work, and I’m thrilled that the community opens during the first Thursday of every month and invites guests to see the artwork."

The gallery has received plenty of attention since its founding, especially on "First Thursdays." The entire Pioneer Square art community opens its doors on the first Thursday of every month and invites guests to view their exhibits starting from 6 p.m. until midnight.

Since joining the event, PUNCH Gallery has gained glowing reviews in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and other Seattle newspapers, where it has been commended for its original and unconventional art form in the form of sculpture, photos, videos, paintings, drawings and collages.

"We’re an artist-run gallery, which is very different from a commercial gallery," said Justin Beckman, President of PUNCH Gallery.

The PUNCH Gallery, located in Seattle, is run by artists from the Kittitas Valley who commute every weekend.

Northwest comics serve up laughs

by Leah Hafterson
Staff reporter

Get ready for a double shot of laughter tomorrow night when northwest comedians Tyler Boeh and Joe Larson come to Central Washington University.

"Double Shot of Comedy" takes place at 8 p.m. tomorrow in the Student Union and Recreation Center Theatre and is sponsored by Campus Activities.

Boeh is no stranger to Central. The Portland comedian performed for the 2006 Seattle International Comedy Competition, when Central hosted the semi-finals last November.

Larson hails from Seattle. He has performed at Comedy Underground, The Longhorn Bar and Grill and The Standat Las Vegas, and The Ickhouse in Pasadena, Calif.

"Larson’s material reflects on situations that college students often find themselves in, from drinking to growing up. With two comics, you’ll get variety," said Carter Thomas, senior public health major, and student programer for Campus Activities.

"While the gallery only has 11 members, spots may open in the future for anyone who wishes to contribute their art, including Central students, Beckman said.

"PUNCH Gallery is about bringing recognition to Ellensburg, Thorp and Central," Beckman said. "Not everyone’s aware of the quality of work on this side of the state."

For more information, go to www.punchgallery.org.

Comedy nights are put on twice per quarter and usually feature one performer. Since Boeh and Larson are relatively new comedians, Campus Activities could afford to feature both on the same night.

A variety of comedians have performed at Central, from newcomers like Boeh and Larson to nationally recognized names like Kathy Griffin and Jay Leno for Central’s Homecoming events.

"It’s a cheap way to get out and get the Seattle feel in a small town and do something a little bit different on a Friday night," Thomas said.

Comedy nights are more accessible to students at Central than at clubs like Comedy Underground, where the age limit is 21 and over.

Tickets are $3 for students and $4 for general admission. Tickets are available at the door.

SCENE EVENTS

Classic Film Series: "Dave Chappelle’s Block Party"
7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 6, Student Union Theatre
2005 documentary/comedy, $3 single admission, $12 bargain pass

Brown Bag Lecture Series: Meet Your ASCWU-BOD
Noon, Thursday, Feb. 1, SURC 202 - Free and snacks are provided

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Events honor Black heritage

The above mural, found in storage in 2002, was made by Black Student Union members in the early 1960s.

by Andrea Rust
Ass. Scene editor

February has much more to show for itself than chocolate, pink hearts and love notes.

What started as a week-long celebration in Feb. 1966 to commemorate the birthdays of two greatly influential Americans, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, has turned into an entire month dedicated to honoring black history.

Central Washington University officially kicks off Black History Month today.

I see African American history being celebrated throughout the year," said Keith Champagne, associate vice president for student affairs. "But this is said.

"Black History Month is not just a time to commemorate, but also a time to address the problems of today," Popovic said. "There is something about black history that reveals something about everyone."

One of the biggest events planned is the BSU sponsored "Showtime at McConnell," which is a tribute to Harlem's legendary Apollo Theatre.

The Apollo is famous for "Amateur Night," which launched the careers of James Brown and Stevie Wonder.

"Showtime at McConnell" is the largest event of the year," James said. "It's always a fun celebration; people from the community are there, and everyone shares their talent.

Last year at "Showtime," groups of people were turned away because there was no room left in the building, and people of all colors came from all over the state, Washington said.

"It's such a tribute to the history of America," James said. "I have a feeling the campus is more invested in the celebration of Black History Month."

"Black History Month celebrates every aspect of the state, Washington said. "It pulls out the collective beauty and power of the history," Popovic said.

"Black History Month is more of a venue for me to introduce African history and culture to a wider variety of people on campus," said Keith James, co-president of the Black Student Union (BSU). "I appreciate the opportunity to share these things on campus."

Central has its own rich history of Black involvement on campus, which is evident in the mural made in the late 1960s on display in the Diversity Education Center.

It's such a tribute to the history of Central," Leslie Webb, director of the Diversity Education Center, said.

"Black History Month offers an opportunity to shed light on issues people need to educate themselves about that are still affecting our society," said Djordje Popovic, Diversity Education Center program coordinator.

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"But this is said.

among the events will be dance performances, nationally recognized speakers and a downtown march for equity and diversity.

"There is a new surge of people getting out and participating," Washington said.

All of the events throughout the month are free and open to the public.

"It's always a fun celebration; people from all walks of life come from all over the state, Washington said. "It pulls out the collective beauty and power of the history," Popovic said.

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**STANDINGS**

**Men's Basketball**
- Wildcats: 5-4 (GNAC) 6-10 Overall
- Vikings: 3-4 (GNAC) 9-8 Overall

**Women's Basketball**
- Wildcats: 5-3 (GNAC) 13-5 Overall
- Vikings: 6-2 (GNAC) 14-5 Overall

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**SPORTS**

**Twists and turns for Central basketball**

Central women's basketball goes 0-2 last weekend, still struggling

by Brianna Berg
Staff reporter

Going into last weekend, the Central Washington University women's basketball team was ranked fourth in the NCAA Division II West Region, only to be dominated while on the road.

Last Thursday night, the Wildcats faced Seattle University and Northwest Nazarene University on Saturday.

Central suffered two devastating losses on the road, crushing their four-game winning streak and falling short of their goal of coming home 2-0.

"It is a major issue for us," sophomore guard Ashley Fenimore said. "It is hard to play on the road."

"It is a major issue for us," sophomore guard Ashley Fenimore said. "It is hard to play on the road."

Last year, Central fell to the Seattle Redhawks 47-55. The Redhawks followed tradition and held the Wildcats to their season low, winning 60-46.

Junior guard Hanna Hall was the leading scorer against the Redhawks with 15 points. Senior guard Brandie Bounds also scored in double figures with two.

Senior guard Elyse Mengarelli, one of the Wildcat's top scorers, was kept in check with only five points.

"Elyse's game is going to the rim and finishing," Whitney said. "They really kept her out of the paint."

Normally taking charge of boards, the Wildcats struggled in Thursday's game and were out rebounded 39-30.

Going into the game, Central was ranked third in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) in rebounds. Hull, who has brought in an average of nine rebounds in the last two games, grabbed only one board against the Redhawks.

The Wildcats also struggled with turnovers.

David Woodford/Observer
Junior guard Nate Jackson elevates against Seattle Pacific guard Marques Echols for two of his eight points on Saturday.

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**Central football stuck in deadbeat conference**

"We are even looking at having teams from British Columbia, Simon Fraser (also from Canada), and Southern Oregon join the GNAC in order to make the quota of six teams."

Jack Bishop, Athletic Director

For now, Central is stuck in the NCC. Prior to last year, the Wildcats were in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC).

"The current options are possibly joining a league with some of the other NCC teams that do not join the Northern Sun conference, merging GNAC with the Rocky Mountain Conference, or back to the GNAC and look for more members," Central Athletic Director Jack Bishop said. "We are even looking at having teams from British Columbia, Simon Fraser (also from Canada), and Southern Oregon join the GNAC in order to make the quota of six teams."

"As of now, rejoining the GNAC is the most probable choice." Reentering GNAC with Central would be Humboldt State University from California, Dixie State University from Utah, Western Oregon University from Oregon, and Western.

Less travel is one benefit to Central leaving the NCC. With travel comes disadvantages to players: long flights, long drives, lack of sleep, new time zones, fast food, and other side effects that affect both the players' performance and Central's checkbook.

"In joining GNAC there will be less travel cost," Bishop said. "We will also be able to form a league we can control. With only five Division II teams in the Northwest, we will more than likely have to play each team a round-robin type schedule (playing each team twice) which is not really desired for football."

The GNAC will apply for permission from the NCAA to allow one of GNAC's teams to participate in the Rotary Bowl held in Saint George, Utah, an annual postseason football game.

"In addition to an opportunity for the national playoffs, one of our teams will be able to compete annually in the Rotary Bowl against a team from the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference," GNAC Commissioner Richard Hannan said in a press release.

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**STANDINGS**

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**The lowdown on this weekend’s showdown**

Snow pack levels for nearby mountain passes

Central students take rooting for the Colts to a new level
WESTERN: Key Central players can expect minutes continued from page 1

After suffering a serious concussion in Saturday's game, she sat out of practice all week, and will not play in either tonight's or Saturday's game. "I just want to get back onto the court. That's one thing I know," Martin said. If Central wins, it will come from right. Her 12 points and seven rebounds per game average could have a potent message attached to them if she puts up similar numbers in Saturday's game. If Central lands a spinning backhand to Western, they are going to need their outside shooters to perform at a phenomenal level. Both junior guard Hanna Hall and senior guard Brandi Bounds are going to need to get hot from beyond the arc and keep it coming.

To finish off their opponents, the starters are going to need to weed that excess out. After all, they're playing Western. They are the P.O.W. like Norris, needing to keep mental errors like turnovers to a minimum.

Unlike in weeks past, Central is going to have to finish games out and stay the course that is drawn out for them.

Or maybe, like Norris, the Wildcats are going to need to improve and find special talent that comes off the bench. Whatever the case may be, Central is playing Western, or should I say the rival that Norris never had. Maybe. It was his most part, he was out there as a decoy. It wasn't Saint Martin's that shut him down like they thought, it was his injured toe.

Sparling said Central could break into the regional poll by beating Western. If Central is able to win both games, making them 5-4 in conference play, chances are good that Central will be back in the hunt for a championship. If Central wins, it will come down to key role players. Here's how it works. If Central wins tonight, they're going to take notes from chucknorrisfacts.com. If Central is to get a leaping, 360 roundhouse kick, it will come from Wright. Her 12 points and seven rebounds per game average could have a potent message attached to them. If she puts up similar numbers in Saturday's game, Central is going to have to finish games out and stay the course that is drawn out for them.

For now, it is Central and Western. But now it's go-time for Central, and with Western coming to town, the team is prepared to play EMU this weekend and maintain a strong level of play for the remainder of the season.

"There are no off days in our league," Den Boer said. "We just want to get playing well again. We're getting the pieces put back and molding them together." Also, Den Boer's recent 3-point performance, it shows how dangerous he can be even though he is not 100 percent healthy yet from his injured toe.

"Den Boer is such a threat. For awhile there, people didn't know that he hurt his toe," Sparling said. "For the most part, he was out there as a decoy. It wasn't Saint Martin's that shut him down like they thought, it was his injured toe."

Sparling said Central could break into the regional poll by beating Western. If Central is able to win both games, making them 5-4 in conference play, chances are good that Central will be back in the hunt for a championship.

Even though they will only be one game above .500, Sparling acknowledges the fact that they play some of the best teams in the nation and that their "power ranking" gives them the ability to crack into the poll if they win this weekend.

Even after this weekend, Central needs to continue to win in order to find themselves in postseason play with the way that the Great Northwest Athletic Conference has been played out thus far, anything can happen.

"The next two weeks are going to be a complete shakeup," Sparling said. "I honestly feel that the GNAC powers will not come until the final week of play." But for now, it is Central and Western.

"It's go-time," Sparling said.

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Students go extra mile to watch Indianapolis battle New England

by Brooke Saul
Staff reporter

When football fans all over the nation were watching the New England Patriots play the Indianapolis Colts two Sundays ago, many of us wondered how incredible it would be to attend the game.

Three Central Washington University students decided to drive 31 hours to Indianapolis, Indiana in a 1992 Mustang Convertible because they wanted to find out.

Sophomore accounting major Zach Howe, sophomore history education major Jeff Beckley, and sophomore physics major Jordan Boland traveled 2,200 miles to experience the thrill of an NFL playoff game.

The idea originated as a joke between Howe and Beckley. While snowboarding at Snoqualmie Pass the weekend before the big game, they wondered how incredible it would be to snowboard at Snoqualmie Pass the next day.

The idea originated as a joke between Howe and Beckley. While snowboarding at Snoqualmie Pass the weekend before the big game, they decided to go the distance to Indianapolis. Beckley bought tickets the next day.

Boland said that the trio experienced different highlights along the way, including Mount Rushmore and the Mississippi river. When the three of them got to Indianapolis, they tried finding a hotel, but the hotels would not accept them as it was too early in the morning.

The three thought they would have to sleep in the car during a freezing snow storm; however, they finally found a place to stay.

Only two of the “football fanatics” were able to attend the game because they were the only ones with tickets. Beckley and Howe attended the game.

Boland watched the first half of the game from their hotel and the second half at a nearby restaurant.

Boland decided to make the trip as well because he had nothing better to do that weekend. He was nervous because his friends were driving to Indianapolis Friday afternoon and would come back as soon as the game was over Sunday night. Boland felt that if he didn’t go with the other two, that it would be nearly impossible for Howe and Beckley to split drive time without fear of an accident.

The tickets cost $350 each and were located 12 rows from the back of the RCA Dome’s upper level. At one point, Howe and Beckley were asked if they wanted to exchange tickets to sit eight rows from the bottom so that another fan could sit with his friends.

Howe and Beckley thought that it was an amazing experience to cheer with the Indianapolis home crowd.

“It was almost indescribable. I have never been to a game that loud or intense. We were all doing different things,” Beckley said.

“The road trip was a lot of fun but we were able to keep our composure and finish the game,” Den Boer said. “We knew we couldn’t give this one away.”

Den Boer ended up with a career high 38 points while going 5 of 8 from three-point range and 11 of 11 from the free-throw line.

“My teammates did a great job of setting screens for me and getting me touches,” Den Boer said. “I always feel like I get in a better groove when I get my hands on the basketball. I was in a groove tonight and when my teammates are playing well, it helps me play better.”

Central is now 8-10 overall and 3-4 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

The Wildcats next game is at 7:30 p.m. tonight at Nicholson Pavilion against rival Western Washington University. On Saturday night at 7 p.m. against Northwest Nazarene.

**WILDCATS:** First overtime victory in three attempts

continued from page 10

That shot sent the game to overtime.

“When [Echols] hit that shot to tie the game up and send it to overtime, there was a feeling in the huddle of ‘oh, no, not again,’ head coach Greg Sparling said. “I just told them to stay focused and that if we continued to play hard, the game was still within our grasp.”

In the extra period, the Wildcats and Falcons traded baskets early as the score increased to 81-91 with 1:30 to play. Junior guard Nate Jackson hit one of two free throws to break the tie and Moni drew a charge on the ensuing Seattle Pacific possession with 34 seconds to go, giving the Wildcats the ball.

Den Boer was then fouled and hit both free throws to increase the lead to three. A miss by Seattle Pacific forward Drew Matzen and rebound by Moni clinched the win for the Wildcats. Mon­ti’s two free throws made the final score 96-91 as Central won its first overtime game in three consecutive tries.

“They hit a great shot to put it into overtime but we were able to keep our composure and finish the game,” Den Boer said. “We knew we couldn’t give this one away.”

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**LOSSES:** Wildcats drop two crucial games, now 3-4

continued from page 10

The Wildcats came close to their season-high of 25. Central lost the last 13 times in the first half, improving only slightly in the second half with 11 turnovers.

“We really had a miscommunication error,” Bounds said. “Turnovers happen when you are all doing different things.”

Fighting against Northwest Nazarene, the Wildcats continued to struggle, losing 73-60.

The Crusaders started the game on a 9-0 run until Central finally scored their first basket four minutes into the game. The Wildcats took their only lead with eight minutes left in the first half.

By the end of the half, the Crusaders were back ahead by six. Throughout the second half, the Crusaders kept the lead.

The Crusaders kept the lead. Hull, Bounds, and senior center Laura Wright all scored in double figures. Hull and Bounds each scored 11 and Wright added 14.

Dominating with a total of 11 rebounds. The Wildcats have struggled on the road, only winning one of their five conference games away. Central plays at home for the next three games and will try to keep their home losses to zero.

“There are only nine games left in the season,” said Whitney. “These next home games are crucial.”

For more information on Central athletics, go to www.wildcatsports.com.
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