2-8-2007

Observer

Central Washington University
Presidential speaker brings biofuel debate to Central
by Chelsea Krotzer
Staff reporter

Biofuels are both a positive environmental and financial option for the future, said Michael Ott, Presidential Speaker Series presenter.

As Executive Director of the Iowa based biofuel company BIOWA, Ott came to Central Washington University’s campus to explain the production, importance and benefits of bio-fuel.

Ott’s presentation, “Growing the Bioeconomy,” took place at 7:30 p.m. last Wednesday in the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC) ballroom. He was introduced by Meghan Miller, dean of the College of the Sciences.

“Mr. Ott presented an unapologetic business view of advancing alternate energy,” Miller said. “The environmental issues are not the centerpiece of his crusade.”

During the 30-minute presentation, Ott covered various topics, including the importance and motivations towards biofuels, how his endeavors work, the bio-diesel process and the transportation of ethanol and biofuels by train and pipelines.

“I think that it is a great idea,” Eric Lathrom, senior flight technology major said. “I hope that technology advances enough to make this idea practical.”

Ott’s presentation gave a concise breakdown of how the ethanol and bio-diesel creation processes work.

“We need an alternative that isn’t killing us slowly,” Lathrom said.

The focus of the presentation was on the transformation of corn into ethanol. With the use of ethanol, Iowa has become the U.S. leader in using renewable fuel sources, Ott said.

Former central professor turns agriculture into green power
by Chelsea Krotzer
Staff reporter

Central Washington has officially joined the bioeconomy craze. Central Washington Biodiesel (CWB), a local company, has assisted in putting Washington State on the biofuel production map.

CWB is set apart from other companies by its commitment to Washington grown plant products, such as canola oil.

Former Central Washington University professor Steven Verhey started the company in Nov. 2005. “I had been interested in biofuels for a long time,” said Verhey, chief executive manager of CWB. “It was able to take all of the passion and energy I had put into teaching and put it into my business at just the right time in the development of the industry.”

Verhey’s interest in biofuels stemmed from his scientific background and the human contribution to global climate change.

CWB is a small company compared to those found in the Midwest. Companies such as Iowa based BIOWA, which focuses on corn-based ethanol, have become the head of the biofuel industry. An average-sized BIOWA plant can annually produce 50 million gallons of ethanol, while CWB is working towards annually producing 3.5 million gallons.

Across the country, there are 87 major biodiesel plants, as well as countless smaller ones.

“It’s a start,” Michael Ott, BIOWA executive director, said. “The primary motivation is profit. It’s about finding something cheaper or equal to the original source.”

— — —

Lawmakers react to new fuel alternative at state level
by Chelsea Krotzer
Staff reporter

During the 2006 Washington State regular legislative session, House Bill 2738 and Senate Bill 6508 were passed, favoring the inclusion of biofuels as a requirement in state fuel quality standards.

Both bills were requested by Governor Christine Gregoire.

Highlights of the bills include reducing the dependence on foreign oil, improving health and quality of life for Washington residents, and stimulating new industries by the creation of new renewable fuel plants in Washington.

The bills state that 2 percent of the total amount of fuel sold annually in Washington will be biodiesel by November 30, 2008. By Dec. 1, 2008, 2 percent of fuels sold will be denatured ethanol.

There must be provisions in the bill to determine whether or not Washington state can support the fuel industry to satisfy the requirements.

Worthing in the bill under section 7 stipulates the fuel should be produced with at least 10 percent Washington biodiesel.

“Right now, our target customers prefer to use as close to 100 percent biodiesel as they can get,” said Steven Verhey, chief executive manager of Central Washington Biodiesel. “It hasn’t had much effect on our business.”

Senate bill 6508 also created an advisory commission to assist in implementation of the fuel requirements. The director of agriculture oversees the adoption and enforcement of the rules. The director of ecology oversees the environmental impact to air quality that bio-fuels represent.

United States Senator Maria Cantwell has begun various projects in Washington state, as well as in D.C., to assist with the issue of renewable fuels.

Projects include the Washington Bios­

bels Business Collaborative (WBBC) and the Clean EDGE Act.

The WBBC hopes to increase the amount of biodiesel use from local companies across the state. Those already involved include Puget Sound Energy.

The Clean EDGE Act would reduce foreign oil consumption 40 percent by 2020. According to Cantwell’s website, that would save 6 million barrels of oil per day.

These projects are implemented as important steps to increase the use of biofuels by businesses and create programs towards energy independence, according to Senator Cantwell’s website.
Students give blood for cause

by Alexandra Baum
Staff reporter

Walking into the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC) hallway last Thursday, students voluntarily rolled up their sleeves for a cause they knew nothing about.

Students came out to give blood to the American Red Cross blood drive sponsored by The Flying Wildcats and The Arnold Air Society.

“We travel in a mobile unit and are always on location,” Byron Palmer, American Red Cross staff member, said. “We do [this] on a regular basis and there’s no quota.”

The amount of blood that the Red Cross hoped to gain was 63 units, and the total collected was 50 units. The 13 units, according to the Red Cross, will help save up to 150 lives.

“Once the blood is collected, it is taken to the [Red Cross] headquarters in Portland for filtering,” said Byron Palmer, American Red Cross staff.

While the retail price of textbooks will undoubtedly remain high, the state may soon decide to give students a break by not charging sales tax.

Washington State Representative Judy Warrick has proposed House Bill 1531, which exempts students from paying sales tax on textbooks and computer software. The extra money in donators, Brianne Jette, freshman undeclared, said.

“They [employees] ask you questions like ‘have you been to Africa? Or have you lived in Europe in the past five years?’” Kaithlyn Schultz, freshman undeclared, said. “Then they prick your finger to see if your blood has enough iron in it.”

The American Red Cross at Central Washington University is affiliated with the Air Force ROTC and strives to improve the community.

CORRECTION

In the outline for the APOYO food bank photo Feb. 1, AF Arreola was referred to as a graduate of Central Washington University. He is a graduate of Central Washington University. He is a student with a graduate in Health Management.

“Seventy-five dollars is 750 packets of Top Ramen.”

—Steve DuPont

ASCUW/BOD VP for political affairs

Alien Sethi, junior business major, spent $300 on required textbooks for winter quarter, and he only bought three books. This is Sethi’s first quarter at Central Washington University, and he anticipates the cost of books to increase as he continues to take higher-level classes.

“Borrowing money to pay taxes is not acceptable,” Warrick said.

“Seventy-five dollars is 750 packets of Top Ramen,” DuPont said. “It’s also money you don’t have to borrow and pay back with interest.”

There are many other tax-exempt items in the state and students are equally, if not more, deserving of tax exemptions, DuPont said.

House Bill 1531 was presented Monday, along with House Bill 1497 which will increase Central’s tuition waiver authority. Warrick testified on behalf of both bills, and a decision will be made soon.

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day: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Sun., entertainment, meetings, calendar events.

Wednesday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Sun., entertainment, meetings, calendar events.

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Sunday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Sun., entertainment, meetings, calendar events.

The Observer is a class in which students are constantly learning how to investigate, report and produce a newspaper.

Below: Dart Experum, junior business lounges as Carl Mears prepares to draw blood. The blood drive is held every four months. Below: Seasoned donors, Brianne Jette, freshman undeclared gives blood for her third time. Daniel Lamp, freshman paramedics volunteers for his twelfth time.
OTT: Biofuel provides jobs and increases crop profits for farmers across midwest

continued from page 1

"I think biofuels are the bridge to future energy supplies," Ott said. "They allow us to change from a liquid-based carbon economy to a gas-based hydrogen economy.

Integrated into the presentation was the importance of biofuels to students. Ott covered potential job opportunities available to the students on a local as well as national scale.

"You can choose if you want to work in something that has a positive or negative effect," Ott said. "We're looking at future problems and thinking about solutions now. That is what students can do."

Information was localized as Ott began quoting possible solutions for Washington state.

Following the presentation was a 10-minute question and answer session during which audience members were able to voice concerns and seek clarity on Ott's points.

Ott addressed several concerns, ranging from environmental consequences, genetic modification, fossil fuels, and rising farm product prices.

"I planned to have a long Q&A session because the audience zoomed out if you present too many slides," Ott said.

"The crowd asked great questions, showing a good understanding of the important elements."

FROM FIELD TO FUEL

- 4 billion gallons of corn-based ethanol was produced in 2002 (1.5 from Iowa).
- In 2005, the US consumed 1.05 billion gallons of gasoline.
- The garbage from a city of one million people could make ethanol for 24,000 Americans, 500,000 French, 5.6 million Chinese.
- The first biodiesel made from Washington grown canola is sold in Ellensburg.
- Canola biodiesel releases 99 percent less fossil carbon dioxide than petroleum.
- Biodiesel is non-toxic and biodegradable.
- Biodiesel yields more than three times more fuel energy than it takes to make.
- Burning one gallon of fossil fuel puts 20 pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, and biodiesel puts 1.5 pounds into the air.
- Central Washington University's biodiesel product is competitive as much fossil carbon as fossil fuels do.
- In 2004, diesel prices reached $2.20 per gallon. Biodiesel is sold in Ellensburg for $.14.15 per gallon.

Paramedic program on life support: seeks funds, faculty

by Patrick Lewis
Editor-in-Chief

More than 20 students sat down in an open meeting afraid that their chosen major at Central Washington University would no longer exist.

Rumors flew after Carolyn Booth, director of the Purser Paramedic Program, tendered her resignation from the program on April 2, 2007. Rumors were later confirmed as Booth said she decided to resign due to the program not having enough money to function properly.

Students gathered on the second floor of the Student Union and Recreation Center Tuesday night thinking the program would leave with Booth.

"I don't see discontinuing the program, and we were never contemplating discontinuing it," said Rebecca Bowers, a sophomore at the College of Education and Professional Studies. "We have issues that we need to take care of."

Equipment upgrades are coming. The students and seniors face outdated equipment, and Bowers estimated the cost to replace and update the equipment to start at a minimum of $160,000.

This includes a new "Anne" mannequin and defibrillator equipment.

Replacing Booth is another priority. A tenure-track faculty member could be hired in her place, or a full-time lecturer, Bowers said.

Cole Gravel, junior undeclared and Tamara Downs, junior paramedics major, led the meeting. They explained the situation and fielded questions.

Ellensburg Fire Chief John Sinclair provided background on the paramedic program's importance.

"This program was established in 1974, and is incredibly vital to the whole of Central Washington University," Sinclair said. "The role of emergency medical services professionals is huge across the nation."

Washington and Arizona rank as the top two states in first-time passes of theparamedic program tests, and Central was tied for the top pass rate overall, Sinclair said.

"I was scared," he said. "I heard the university was going to put the program on the chopping block." Nate Ruiz, junior undeclared, said, "I definitely feel relieved now." The paramedic major is aimed at students who want to become pre-hospital professionals in emergency medical services. The curriculum includes on-the-job training.

The program is going through the equivalent of an accreditation phase, and recommendations will be important to the growth of the program, Bowers said.

The accreditation report touted Central's program as one of the top three in the nation, she said. The application process took around 10 months, with around 24 being admitted each year.

Downs and working students identify both governmental and public sector funds to improve the program. Rhodene Hubbard, the development officer for the CEPS, said, "The program was identified as a priority when I started this position." Hubbard said. "Equipment is the number one priority at the moment."

"There is no timetable for funds being procured since they could arrive tomorrow or two years from now, Hubbard said.

"We're going to take this opportunity to find ways to make the students coming out of this program as attractive to potential employers as possible," Bowers said.

FUEL: Domestic biofuels lower dependence on foreign oil— unlike fossil fuel, biofuel burns clean

continued from page 1

Both biofuels and fossil fuels create carbon emissions. The difference between the two is that biofuels use recent carbon that is found in the atmosphere. Biofuels are created from plants, which intake carbon dioxide and release oxygen. Fossil fuels are created from materials located deep within the Earth. The carbon found in these products is in thousands, even millions of years old, adding to the amount of carbon already in the atmosphere.

Burning one gallon of fossil fuel adds 20 pounds of fossil carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, while CWB biodiesel adds a mere 1.5 pounds, Verhey said.

"Biofuels are only part of an approach to the problem of global climate change," Verhey said. "The artificially low price of petroleum makes it hard for us to find the will, but we simply must use less energy."

Washington-based businesses and corporations, such as the Washington state ferry system, and various private vehicle owners already use biofuels. Use of biofuels can affect state and national economies.
Chimps cozy despite winter chill

by Bis Hubbard
Staff reporter

Ellensburg's winter weather takes a toll on more than just human residents. The primates at the Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute (CHCI) must put up with the weather as well.

During the spring and summer months, the chimpanzees are frequently seen in their outdoor play areas. During winter, students rarely see the chimpanzees.

The door leading to the outside of the Chimposium is opened every day at 10:30 a.m. if the weather is warmer than 20 degrees. This gives the chimpanzees the opportunity to venture outside during the day, although only in the condition of being staying inside where it's warm.

"The most rewarding time with the chimpanzees is when I go to visit them in good morning," CHCI Director Deborah Fouts said. "That is a quiet time for us to spend together."

Some students at Central Washington University are curious about how the chimpanzees fair outdoors in the winter.

"I don't have a clue what they do during the winter months," Justin Leonard, freshman undecided, said.

The chimpanzees' routine stays the same for most of the year, Fouts said. Dinner and the closing ceremony of the day, depending upon the seasons and the amount of daylight.

The chimpanzees are out around 7:30 a.m. every day. During the day, they are free to roam the large indoor and outdoor areas when weather permits. The chimpanzees also receive three meals a day around 5 p.m. They are also daily observed and different overnight enrichments.

Four watches over the world-ranging small groups, Mojo, Maja and Tatou. Fouts helped teach the chimpanzees American Sign Language (ASL) throughout the years to improve communication with each other and the workers.

Central students have an opportunity to get involved with the chimpanzees, Fouts said. The CHCI is always looking for students to become docents for the Chimposium program. Docents are volunteers who support the CHCI by conducting Chimposium workshops for students and the general public throughout the week. Flyers will be put on next month to recruit new docents.

Some students, such as Nick Dalton, sophomore education major, have been involved in communicating with chimpanzees.

"I am a sign language class," Dalton said. "It would be cool to communicate with them."

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Sex offender notification system debated

by Chelsea Evans

Welcome to the neighborhood of sex offender flyers, patrol officers and suspicious neighbors.

Of the 19,565 sex offenders in Washington state, 86 are registered in Kittitas County, nine are on the county's sex offender Web site with their names and details.

Of the nine listed, only four neighbors were notified of an offender living in their area. Notification by police of sex offenders to neighborhoods depends upon a point system.

The definition of sex offenders can run under several different violations of the law, such as kidnapping, molestation, indecent liberties, sexual misconduct, rape and voyeurism.

Violators of the law who are found guilty are rated on a scale of one to three. Level one is the least serious and three the most.

No matter what level, most offenders receive daily calls, and they may be released early on good behavior. Upon release, only three offenders are made known to neighborhoods by police.

Daren Highamaya, investigator of the Major Crimes Division for Kittitas County, said he finds that notifying neighborhoods increases aggressive behavior against the offenders.

"People come out with pitchforks and rakes," Highamaya said. "But sex offenders have rights, too, and they also need protection."

Highamaya has dealt with citizens' neighborly annoyance toward sex offenders more than once.

Highamaya has had offenders share the same residence more than once. After notification was sent out, the three house was burned down.

A level two sex offender, who will be referred to as John Doe, said the point system for ranking offenders is at times, unjust.

"It would be nice if every case was considered individually, but that takes time and tax payer money," Doe said. "But, at other times where a guy molests his daughter and gets a lesser charge, (level one) there is something wrong with that."

Steve Kittner, assistant vice president for business auxiliaries and public safety, has dealt with sex offenders in Ellensburg neighborhoods and on campus for 20 years.

Central Washington University does not allow level two sex offenders to live on campus.

However, a level one offender currently lives in a residence hall and three offenders attend classes. The reason for not notifying students in neighboring halls is for the protection individuals who have already served their time, Kittner said.

"What our campus policy experience has been is that the residence hall system is not a good place for a person who is considered a level two," Kittner said. "That has always been shot down in the first stages."

The map shows where level two and three sex offenders are living within the city of Ellensburg. Kittitas County has 54 registered offenders in.

Included are offenders who reside in those developments as long as they do not have to register, Doe said. "This by all means is not a good situation," Doe said. "I don't understand how convicted murderers can get out of prison and do not have to register," Doe said. "This label has made it difficult (for me) to walk anywhere or even get a job."

Patrick Allen, senior law and justice major said he agrees a tighter enforcement of laws against sex offenders is necessary, but the offender's personal life should be left alone.

"The way I look at it is that sex offenders are entitled to the same rights as anyone else, yet I believe there should be harder punishments (for sex crimes)," Allen said.

Other Central Students like Rachel Smith, elementary education major, said offenders do have rights, but safety of other citizens in the community come first.

"I believe if a person is willing to commit a sexual crime against another person, then those who are law-abiding citizens deserve to know those offenders who are living in their communities," Smith said.

In an article published normally, Doe said he experiences continual frustration.

"I have lost friends and even girls who were interested in me," Doe said. "I'm really hard to move forward with my life."

Midstate Aviation has been training pilots in Ellensburg since 1961.

Central contracts with the company to train students at Bowers Field.

The county commissioners signed the final Master Plan and Airport Layout Plan in 2004. While the Federal Aviation Administration approved the plan in 2007.

"We're excited for the economic growth and to get new tenants out there," said Kelly Carlson, administrative assistant and airport manager.

For more information on Bowers Field and future plans, visit www.co.kiti tas.wa.us.

Sex Offender Levels:

Level 1

Majority of offenders are Level 1. They are considered low risk and are often first time offenders who usually know their victims.

Level 2

2 offenders are a moderate risk. They usually have one or more victims and may have committed prior crimes. They may not know their victims.

Level 3

3 offenders are considered high risk. They have one or more victims and may have committed prior crimes.

Downtown, one-way streets are enforced with the D.U.I.

"It's just not worth it to drive drunk. You have to be smarter than that," Angela Mullin, junior business administration major, said.

Central Transit is a free resource available to Central students that runs until 1a.m., but only has set stops.

"We must take any person serious, whether or not they should drive," Mullin said. "If you've had anything to drink, the decision should come easily.

Consequences for a D.U.I are serious, but vary for each individual."

"You must serve a mandatory 24 hours if charged with a D.U.I.," Sgt. Lance Berth-Back, Campus Police, said.

Indicators of drunk driving are often failing to signal, not coming to a complete stop, sitting at a light when it's green and driving too close to the line.

"We've always aggressively gone after (drunk drivers)," Green said. "We believe it's a very important issue."

Bowers Field to get upgrade

By Meagan Land

Staff reporter

Bowers Field is the site of the only four-year professional pilot training program in the Northwest, and starting this summer, will get a facelift.

The $790,000 project is still in the design stage, but will begin when most of the students are away for summer break.

The goal is to finish before students return. The next update will be a reconstruction of the airport, taxi lanes and the asphalt, on which 152S and Piper Warrior Planes drive.

Of the total cost, $750,000 will come from the Federal Aviation Administration, $18,000 from local tax dollars, and $18,000 from the Washington State Department of Transportation's Aviation department.

Asphalt reconstruction may be an exciting update for some, but others may not notice it. "You'd never see runway 725 repaved and replaced," Josh Agostini, sophomore aviation major, said.

In October 2000, the Airport Advisory Committee, a strategic planning committee, was formed with representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration, Central Washington University, aviation professionals, the Chamber of Commerce and surrounding property owners.

The committee's goal is to fulfill the needs of Bowers Field for the next 20 years.

"Bowers Field is an asset to the community that not a lot of people know about," said Shan Rowbotham, chairman of the Airport Advisory Committee.

The Bowers Field master plan must be updated every 10 years for Bowers Field to be eligible for federal funding.
There is a good deal of debate around this resolution. On one hand, you have those who feel that the deputy minister of education quoted in the Associated Press as saying that country has lost an entire generation of children. On the other, you have the fact that while this resolution brings pressure to the issue, it mandates no action.

The United Nations estimates that a minimum of 250,000 children are being utilized in war-related roles. Using children as soldiers is deplorable, as are myriad jobs they're thrust into, from spying to sexual slavery.

The acts need to stop. The world would be a better place without seeing photos of children waving AK-47s.

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Fantasy comes to life in artist’s work

Art department faculty member makes a splash in Hollywood

by Bryant Phillips
Staff reporter

Planet Mongo is like an interstellar location from a science fiction novel. Its inhabitants include a red head that dresses in women’s clothing, a girl that’s part wolf and the White Queen. But these are not taken from Narnia or Wonderland.

These are the creations of Margo Selski, an art professor at Central Washington University who has become a sensation in the Midwest and Hollywood for her surreal, Renaissance-inspired paintings showcasing boundless imagination.

“I have a cast of unusual characters that make cameo in my work,” Selski said. “I create a theater and people with an enigmatic cast—queens, mothers, children, predators, prey, flora and fauna.”

Selski is preparing for her largest exhibition yet in the Glass Garage Fine Art Gallery on Feb. 17 in Hollywood. As part of the opening reception for Selski’s exhibition, the gallery will perform a play based on themes and characters created in Selski’s work, and serve appetizers to match the fantastical atmosphere such as “amber mead” and “mermaid pie.”

“The people at Glass Garage Gallery don’t just show artwork; they create an environment to it,” Selski said. “It’s Hollywood. That’s the kind of environment I desire in a gallery where the host is an artist too.”

Selski has also participated in numerous exhibitions and events in Ellensburg. Last month, she submitted artwork to the Central Washington University Art Gallery. In December, she participated in Ellensburg’s First Friday Art Walk by featuring some of her paintings in Ellensburg WineWorks.

see ART, page 11

Margo Selski and her daughter, Tati, sit in front of a piece of Selski’s artwork. She began the series of paintings when she first moved to Ellensburg a year ago.
Local hand, Short Term Memory, performed last Saturday night at Organize Noise. The business hosts concerts several nights a week in addition to lending out books and serving coffee.

Hot coffee, cool music offered at Organize Noise

Family-run business uses donations to provide coffee, books, music and more

by Robbie Miller

It's Saturday night at Organize Noise.

Mary Hammond is crouching on the ground with her hand on the mouse and her neck tilted up to see the computer screen.

The crowd, enjoying classic rock covers from local band Short Term Memory, occupies most of the chairs, so she doesn't bother setting one up in front of the computer desk.

Hammond is searching for a reasonably priced Volkswagen van when Ellensburg High School senior Kevin Carns, approaches and takes something from the desk drawer back to the cribbage table, where Hammond's husband Forrest sits.

Stacy and Forrest Hammond own the sea of books, musical instruments, art, comfortable sofas and organic coffee that is Organize Noise—the only coffee shop/used bookstore in town that operates entirely on donations.

"We just felt like it gave people an opportunity to place value on something that really has no value without a desire or a need for it," Stacy said.

Organize Noise has operated on monetary donations since last May, and it has proved successful thus far.

The Hammonds try to open the shop every day at 9 a.m., and remain open until 6 p.m., and again from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. But with four kids, no additional employees and Forrest attending Central Washington University full time, the schedule doesn't always work out.

"It's kind of rough to do that, but it's also nice to be around them all the time, so it's hard," Stacy said.

"We're going to split up our days and try to re-adjust the atmosphere a bit."

At first glance, the atmosphere is artsy-indie heaven. But, it's the community that keeps people like Carns coming back to play cribbage and drink coffee.

Carns, along with other high school and college students, helped run the shop as a volunteer over the summer when the Hammonds were busy.

Good people are what Carns said he likes about the atmosphere.

"(The Hammonds) are accepting of everybody," he said.

The Hammond kids have beds and a tv. In back, and in the past, the whole family would spend all day at the shop. Their oldest daughter could be seen roller skating past the bookshelves.

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"That's our biggest contention right now; our ability to be around them all the time," Stacy said.

"Hours should stay consistent as the shop expands, and maybe a need for it," Stacy said.

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**Viewpoints on Valentine's Day**

by Andrea Rust
Asst. Scene editor

Call it "Single Awareness Day," "Hallmark's Holiday" or "Men are Jerks Day."
I simply call it Valentine's Day, and with it less than a week away, I have already heard complaints from people living in Valentine's Day hatred.

Single or not, Valentine's Day can be enjoyable for everyone. There is no other day of the year when people can eat chocolate out of lacy heart boxes and watch sappy love movies. Besides, it gives guys a reason to act romantic, "because they have to."

I'm not saying I expect mushy love stuff from my boyfriend on this day, but I am also not a man-bashing love-hater who could care less if the day existed.

Would I be upset if my boyfriend didn't do anything for me on Valentine's Day? Absolutely. Even if I had told him not to get me anything. If he goes out on his own and does something that shows he appreciates me; it means more than any fancy dinner or jewelry ever could. I would be happy with three-dollar daffodils from the grocery store.

I don't think it's asking too much of him to be thoughtful on Valentine's Day, and it doesn't mean he has to burn a hole in his wallet to do so.

And the idea that this day is only for couples is ridiculous, if it were, then Valentine's Day activities would be more equally distributed. I'm sure guys love some of the extra perks that come along with their efforts, but they would probably skip over the Valentine's Day obligations if they had a choice.

My message to guys who despise Feb. 14 is this: if your girlfriend means a lot to you, show her! Ladies, give the boys a break; most of them do their best to make Valentine's Day great.

**Win Valentine's Day Basket**

- See Wildcat Shop for details on how to enter and WIN!
- The drawing will be on February 13 (just in time for that special someone)
- Shop for Valentine's Day savings throughout the store on February 14

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**‘Showtime at the McConnell’ pays tribute to Apollo Theatre**

by Jon Schader
Staff reporter

"Showtime at the McConnell," the premier event of Central Washington University's celebration of Black History Month, is a Central's tribute to the legendary Apollo Theatre in Harlem, New York, and is the significance of the Apollo's rich African-American history.

"Showtime at the Apollo was simply a way to send black entertainers into the mainstream, because there weren't many venues for them to perform in," said Keith James, co-president of the Black Student Union. "We're just trying to pay homage to that opportunity."

"Showtime at the McConnell" will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16 in McConnell Auditorium.

All students are encouraged to sign up. The show will feature about 20 acts, with audience participation crucial to the performers' success.

In short, if the audience boo a performer, that person or group is eliminated from the contest and asked to leave the stage immediately.

At the end of the night, the performers who make it through their acts are brought back on stage for the final round. The act receiving the loudest applause will win $500.

"The Apollo Theatre has become an institution of cultural significance in the United States," said Omofe Poppin, Diversity Education Center program coordinator. "Showtime at the McConnell is the exact same thing as at the Apollo except that it's done with local talent. It's definitely fun, but it's also paying respect to the Apollo, which was kind of a beacon of hope to African-American communities."

Acts include singing groups, comedy routines, dance groups and possibly some rapping. Last year's winners was a group of Hispanic exchange students who choreographed dance routine.

"It's a great place to get involved," James said. "It's one of the most diverse events all year, and there will be people there from all over the Northwest."

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**Monkees rock campus with two dance performances**

Massive Monkees performed last Thursday during half-time at the Central vs. Western basketball game, and in the west end of the Student Union and Recreation Center later that evening. The group pulled volunteers out of the audience at one point to learn basic steps and showcase Central's talent.

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**Jaymes Place**

"Because beautiful hair should be easy..."

---

Ross James Walloetter/Observer

---

The Apollo Theatre opened in 1931 and was originally a whites-only theatre. In 1932, the theatre was bought by Sidney Cohen, and in 1934 it was opened to black audiences.

That same year, the theatre started showcasing black performers in what was called African-American Amorous Night.

One of the first black performers was a young Ella Fitzgerald, who would later become known as one of the most influential jazz singers of all time.

"The Apollo in Harlem is still in operation. It's a legendary landmark in American culture," James said. "Ella Fitzgerald, James Brown, Lauryn Hill and the Isley's all started there."
Armv, tacultv to perform next week

Staff reporter

another in honor of Valentine's pay

one featuring the Army Brass Quintet and

by Taishi Kanamaru

two concerts, involving more than just

ART: Ty Brass Quintef with guest performers

The Music Department offers two concerts,

ART: Central faculty member

5 minutes with... Kakeru Ohashi

by Lisa Jones

Staff reporter

Kakeru Ohashi, senior business adminis-

Q: Who can join ICA?

A: All students are invited to join, especially students who want to learn more about Japanese culture and language.

Q: Why should students join ICA?

A: Joining ICA gives students leadership and social opportunities. It is also a chance for all students to experience new things and try new things.

Q: What types of activities does ICA offer?

A: We do a lot of social activities and informational programs for students. For example, we host career seminars and recruiting days. We are also sponsoring a concert in March, with professional Japanese musicians that will be open to the public.

Q: How has the response been to ICA?

A: It is going really well. We have a lot of people who are contributing to the organization, including some large Japanese companies.

Q: How do students join ICA?

A: They can contact us by e-mailing cwuica@gmail.com.

Q: What are your plans after you graduate from Central?

A: I am going to go back to Japan and begin my career. I plan to learn French so that I can eventually go to a business school in France.

Snedeker, associate chair of

Q: Why did you decide to come to Central Washington University?

A: Ellensburg wasn't too far away from the big city of Seattle but there's also a lot to do here. I also like the atmosphere of Ellensburg and the nice people here.

Q: What were some of the challenges you faced once you arrived here?

A: Once, I had a medical emergency and needed to get to the hospital and I had trouble getting help because I couldn't speak any English yet.

Q: How did that experience affect you?

A: Just last quarter I was able to help another ESL student who had a medical emergency. I was able to recognize that she needed an ambulance and I helped.

Army, faculty to perform next week

by Taisiti Kanamaru

Staff reporter

Valentine's Day doesn't have to cost

a fortune. For students on the inexpen-

sive Valentine date plan, a free music

concert may be just the answer.

Next week, Central Washington University's music department will host two concerts, involving more than just music.

To get people in the Valentine's Day spirit, there will be a mix of classical and jazz music performed by the Facul-

ty Brass Quintet with guest performers

and jazz music performed by the Facul-

ty Brass Quintet with guest performers

The Army Brass Quintet is from the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Com-

mand (TRADOC) Band and is one of the most requested small ensembles, according to the band's Web site.

Snedeker, associate chair of the

music department and member of the faculty band, said the department is getting a lot of contacts with different service bands that tour the nation.

The quartet will feature their Valentine's Day concert at 7 p.m., in the Music Concert Hall.

The quartet, established in 1993, has been Central's quartet-in-residence since 1998.

The members are violinist Carrie Rehkopf and Heather Netz, violist Timothy Betts, and cellist John Michel.

Lydia Tang, senior violin perform-

each concert mainly as well as collabor-

ations between the two.

In addition, members of the Army Brass Quartet will discuss their careers and hold mock auditions for Central music students earlier in the day.

It's a great opportunity for the stu-

dents because service bands are some of the only full-time playing opportuni-

ties outside of professional orchestras," Snedeker said. "Hopefully the students will have fun."

"On Valentine's Day, the Kairos

Quartet, composed of music depart-

ment faculty, will feature their Valentine concert at 7 p.m., in the Music Concert Hall.

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Lydia Tang, senior violin perform-

ance major, has taken private lessons

with Netz and saw the quartet's Valentine's Day concert last year. -

It's the quartet's always been excel-

lent," Tang said. "I think people can
to express their Valentine's Days."

This is the second year Betts has

played in the quartet, and he said last year's Valentine concert was a success.

"I think it's a nice thing to do on Valentine's Day. It's a good date," Betts said. "The whole string quartet is the romantic. Idea for people definitely, and it's beautiful music."

Last year, chocolates were given out to both audiences and Valentine poetry was read.

The quartet even reads messages people had written for their sweet-

hearts.

Although Betts is not sure what exactly is going to happen, the concert incorporates more than just music.

"At least chocolate, probably," Betts said. "Come to our concert. It's going to be great, cheap date."

ART: Central faculty member gets attention from Hollywood

continued from page 8

"When we did the art walk, Margo came and did a guided artist tour of her work," said Natalie Bing, director of civic information for Ellensburg WineWorks. "The people who get to participate were very fortunate because her work has so many layers and sym-

bols. Having Margo share her feelings

and has completely sold out at numer-

ous critically acclaimed exhibitions.

Selski has been Central's quartet-in-residence for a long time. You can't help but love teaching, and I hope to be teaching at Central for a long time. You can't help but love teaching, and I hope to be teaching at Central for a long time.

"I see myself as more of an artist

and showing it, she also raises three

children and teaches at Central.

"I'm excited to be here. I love teaching, and I hope to be teaching at Central for a long time. You can't help but love teaching, and I hope to be teaching at Central for a long time."

"When I don't give [the details]

"I see myself as more of an artist and showing it, she also raises three

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children and teaches at Central.
Track and field shines in GNAC

Central gains four straight GNAC Track and Field Athlete of the Week honors

by Melanie Lockhart
Asst. Sports editor

With championship competition cluttering their schedule, the indoor track and field team prepares for success. Central Washington University participated in the McDonald’s Collegiate Invitational in Moscow, Idaho over the weekend.

Junior Robert Edwards broke his own Great Northwest Athletic Conference record in the 60-meter hurdles on Saturday, finishing in 8.22 seconds. Edwards improved his previous record by 0.34 seconds and placed second overall.

Edwards’ performance earned him the title of GNAC Men’s Track and Field Athlete of the Week, making Edwards the fourth Central athlete in four weeks to win the honor. He also met the NCAA Division II All-American in track and field, earned the GNAC Men’s Athlete of the Week award for his performance.

The Crusaders took a 8-2 lead in the second half, trailing by as many as 17 points. The Wildcats were outscored and Western dominated in the rebound department, getting 22 boards to Central’s 13.

Central struggled in the first half, trailing by as many as 17 points. The Wildcats were outscored and Western dominated in the rebound department, getting 22 boards to Central’s 13.

“...etween the two teams, Central matched Western’s 16 rebounds and only trailed by one point in the scoring department, 33-32.

The Crusaders took off from the cold, winning two big conference games.

The Wildcats fell apart in the second half, trailing by as many as 17 points. The Wildcats were outscored and Western dominated in the rebound department, getting 22 boards to Central’s 13.

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The Crusaders took off from the cold, winning two big conference games.
Standout signal-caller for Wildcat Baseball a YVCC transfer

With baseball opening its season last Saturday, the Observer caught up with Wildcat Michael Johnson, the 5'9' catcher from Sunnyvale in this week's Q and A.

Q: Why did you choose Central Washington University?
A: I came to Central Washington because it's close to home, and I had the opportunity to continue playing baseball.

Q: Are you often referred to as a name similar to yours? I usually get Michael Jackson, or do people confuse you with others?
A: The most common name people refer to me as is Michael Johnson the pitcher. I also hear Michael Jackson all the time.

Q: Michael, we have the same first and last name, it's only right that I ask your middle name?
A: Well my middle name is Christopher. I'm not a big fan of it.

Q: What's it like with the ladies? You should be able to strut in your tight pants now that the season is starting?
A: (laughing) It hasn't been great, truth to fact it hasn't even been good.

Q: Have you ever gotten into a fight with a player during the game?
A: There were never punches thrown, but we got into a couple conflicts in high school.

Q: Have you ever been thrown out of a game?
A: No, but I've been close multiple times.

Q: Everyone comes to a turning point in their life where they know that they want to do something, what was that point when it came to baseball?
A: Growing up, I never had brothers and sisters to look up to, so I looked up to my uncles, because they are the ones who taught me how to play. They are the ones that I watched growing up. So I just wanted to do what they did.

Q: How do you like Central so far?
A: It's good, but cold, I see the sun finally came out today.

Q: What are your goals as a baseball player?
A: I just want to have fun, and reach my full potential as a baseball player at Central Washington University.

Editor's note: reporter Michael Johnson interviewed catcher Michael Johnson. There is no relation between the two.

Wildcats chop down Loggers 7-3 in baseball season opener

by Brooke Saul Staff reporter

Central Washington University's baseball team opened their season last Saturday with a win, scoring seven runs late in the game to come back and win 7-3.

The Wildcats faced an early 3-0 deficit sparked by Puget Sound University's solo home run by Michael Olson in the first inning off junior right-handed pitcher Tyler Levin.

"I didn't do well at the start," said Levin. "I pitched an inside fastball, (to Olsen) but it ended up going over the plate."

Central rallied back, tying the game in fifth inning. Junior second baseman Tyler Farrington hit a two-run single and junior co-captain shortstop Jamie Nilsen stole third. Puget Sound pitcher Evan Scandling balked, sending Nilsen home and tying the game at 3.

Central added another run in the sixth inning to take the lead. The Wildcats came back in the top of the fifth to score three runs on two hits as Freshman right-handed pitcher Kevin Wallenhauser took the mound for Central in the bottom of the fifth inning, allowing only a single in the fifth and a pair of walks in the seventh inning.

Central took the lead in the top of the sixth, scoring an unearned run as Nilsen was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded to bring in Justin Martin. Nilsen is nothing new to getting hit by pitches, being hit 10 times last season to go with his team leading 29 walks.

"(the pitch that hit him) was the turning point in the game," Nilsen said.

In the seventh inning, the lead was extended to four runs after Farrington led off with a double. Junior catcher Michael Johnson was hit by a pitch, then advanced with Farrington on a double steal.

Left fielder Justin Marshall sacrificed in Farrington on a flyout to right field. Junior third baseman John Lobbestael hit a two-run single to right field to make it 7-3.

Wallenhauser then shut down the Loggers in the seventh after a lead-off walk. The Wildcats finished the game with 10 hits to the Loggers' five.

In this game, Nilsen had a perfect opportunity to start a singles, a walk, and was hit by a pitch.

see BASEBALL, page 15
Men's basketball lights up court with two wins at Nicholson Pavilion

by Brooke Saul
Staff reporter

Central Washington University men's basketball team was ready for payback as they hosted Western Washington University at home in front of 3,172 screaming fans.

On Jan. 20, Central lost 77-79 in overtime at Western, making revenge a necessity and not something that the team simply wanted.

Central's senior forward Lance Den Boer scored 37 points, one point shy of his career-high set the week before against Seattle Pacific University, to help lead the Wildcats to a 82-68 victory over Central's biggest rival.

Senior forward/center Grant Assink scored the first five points in the game and performed well for the remainder of the night.

Assink felt that he had a solid game and hopes to have the same energy for the next game.

Central is now 10-9 overall on the season and are above the .500 mark in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

Den Boer and Assink controlled the tempo of the game as Den Boer had 15 points and Assink had 11 in the first half.

In the second half, Assink immediately sunk a three-pointer, but Western simply wanted. With Nicholson Pavilion 3,172 screaming fans.

The Wildcats played against Northwest Nazarene University at home Saturday night. Central shot a season-high 39 percent from the floor, scoring 11 points.

Senior center/forward Jace Severin who added 14 points. Central had 11 of 13 players score at least one offensive rebound and three defensive rebounds in the game.

The Wildcats played against Northwest Nazarene University at home Saturday night. Central shot a season-high 39 percent from the floor, scoring 11 points.

Central dominated in the rebound department with a 45-19 edge on the glass. Den Boer and junior forward Bryce Daub had five rebounds each.

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David Woodford/Observer

Senior forward Lance Den Boer drives toward the hoop during the first half of Thursday's game against Western Washington University at Nicholson Pavilion. Central won the game 82-68 and are 10-10 overall.

BASKETBALL: Wildcats suffer two home losses, drop to 3-6 in GNAC

continued from page 12

first four minutes. The Wildcats followed on a 12-2 run to take the lead 15-10. The Crusaders answered back, going on a 14-0 run to take the lead.

The Crusaders finished the period leading 43-28.

Northwest Nazarene opened the second half on a 12-2 run to take the largest lead of the game at 25 points (55-30). The Wildcats narrowed the lead to 14 points after a 15-4 run.

Central's defense helped the Crusaders scoreless in the final 2:22.

Senior guard Stephanie McKinney, right, drives to the hoop against Western with freshman forward Shaina Afoa. Afoa Western dominated the game, going to the foul line 29 times compared to Central's 18.
Super Bowl MVP?

Rhodes galloped for a game-high 113 yards on 21 carries, including a touchdown. Addai showed his versatility as well with 77 yards on 19 carries and 10 catches for 66 yards, to finish as the game's leading receiver.

Manning managed the game very well and did find Reggie Wayne for a 53-yard touchdown pass due to blown coverage by Chris Harris, but isn't that exactly what Peyton is expected to do? For the Colts, who have been considered a finesse team for years, Rhodes and Addai came up huge on the biggest stage of them all, the Super Bowl.

Peyton Manning definitely contributed to the Indianapolis Colts stunning 29-17 win over the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI, but the MVP should not have been given to the quarterback. However, in no way should the award have been given to the running back, who was not the most valuable player.

Rhodes and Addai helped the Colts control the clock, holding onto the ball 38 minutes of the game. Co-MVPs have only been named once in Super Bowl history. Both Randy White and Harvey Martin of the Dallas Cowboys earned MVP honors in a 27-10 win over the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl XX.

However, it seems to me that the MVP going to Manning is simply a lifetime achievement award rather than for a MVP performance in the Super Bowl.

That is why I am coming up with my own award: the Most Not Valuable Player. This is for that special player who has failed so miserably in a game that you could almost say 'Wow, he really bombed that one'. Congratulations Rex Grossman, you deserve this one.

Grossman is a unique hybrid. It's almost like he plays for multiple teams in every game, but wears only one uniform. You can't really tell what team he is trying to help win.

Grossman is a walking pick-throwing machine. I'm not even sure if I was his family member that I would give him a hug the next time I see him.

Also, his ability to handle the snap is questionable. He is like a person who pours the milk before the Lucky Charms when they are 26 years old.Come on, how may snaps has he taken in his life before he figures out that you have to get the ball before? In order to get a MNVP a player has to screw up really, really bad. It's almost like he plays for multiple teams in every game, but wears only one uniform.

In past games where Peyton Manning was considered a finesse team for years, Rhodes and Addai came up huge on the biggest stage of them all, the Super Bowl.

So the fairy tale ending we all were waiting for is finally over. A black coach has won the Super Bowl, the Colts finally beat the Patriots and Peyton Manning got a shiny red Cadillac for being Most Valuable Player.

I can't accept the reality of Manning being named MVP. Manning wasn't MVP. Unlike in past games where Peyton Manning doesn't do it in Super Bowl XLI. In fact, no one one from the Colts deserved the MVP if you're going to come out and say that "Peyton managed the game well," then I must ask, what is a quarterback supposed to do? It's like saying a pilot who makes some unbelievable play, he didn't do it in Super Bowl XXLI.

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KAYAKING:
formal sessions a possibility during spring quarter ’07
continued from page 12

With the group just beginning and not having club status, they do not have a budget.

Twelve kayaks have been donated by Fluid Adventures. Other participants come to the sessions with their own kayaks and equipment, such as life jackets and helmets.

Instructors are hoping to begin formal sessions soon, depending on attendance. If formal sessions are started, they will meet four times a week: twice at the pool, once at the Ellensburg pond and once on the Yakima River.

However, they will be stuck inside until the weather improves.

“I really enjoy getting outside, away from town,” Cole Barrett, Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals employee, said.

Outdoor Winter Speaker Series

Jan. 17: Alpine Caving in Western Montana
Jan. 24: Avalanche Seminar
Feb. 7: Conquering Denali
Feb. 21: Mt. Stuart, Ice Climbing Adventure on the North Face
Feb. 28: Mountain Biking in Kittitas County
March 7: Ultrarunning

Sponsored by Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals (OPR)
FREE – 7 p.m. Wednesdays Student Union room 137*

MOUNTAIN SNOW PACK LEVELS

Alpental Ski Resort
At 3190’ has 91”

Crystal Mountain
At 4400’ has 78”

Mission Ridge
At 5500’ has 43”

Mt. Baker
At 5780’ has 185”

Snoqualmie Pass
At 3000’ has 82”

Stevens Pass
At 4300’ has 91”

White Pass
At 5780’ has 192”

KAYAKERS of all ages are invited to the lessons. Each session costs $5 and participants are welcome to bring their own kayaks, life jackets and helmets.

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