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Central Washington University

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The Central Washington University

FREE, Take One

April 19, 2007 - volume 80 number 20

Thirteenth Annual Spike Arlt Invitational

WILDCATS DOMINATE

by Candy Jefle
Staff reporter

Domination is the theme of the Central Washington University track team. Central played host at Tomlinson Stadium for the Spike Arlt Invitational last weekend. With many break-out performances, both the men's and women's teams swept the competition, claiming first place overall.

Impressive performances from the throwers were enough to get the crowd roaring. Sophomore Evan Ruud set a new school record in the hammer throw, with a distance of 58.04 meters. Also performing well for the throwing squad, were senior Michael lngman and junior Ian Wells. lngman claimed first in the javelin throw with 61.66 meters, and Wells followed closely with 61.66 meters. "This has been a great year so far for both lngman and Wells," Wells said. "We both have been pushing each other to be better and better.

Senior Cameron Neel claimed victory in the shot put and discus, meeting NCAA Division II provisional national qualifying standards (PNQ). Junior Kris Demouchet took second respectively in the discus throw with a distance of 61.05 meters. Wildcat throwers didn't disappoint, either. The women claimed first in the 4x100 and 4x400-meter relays. Junior Tennar Legard won the 400-meter dash and freshman Raquel Gonzalez won the 100-meter hurdles.

Other standout women include junior runner Katie Hammele, who took first in the 100-meter dash. Closeby following was junior Sarah Benson, taking second. Sophomore runner Rachel Karrcher placed second in the 400-meter dash. The men were also victorious, winning the 4x100 and 4x800-meter relays. Sophomore Matt Rogstad helped clinch the victory in the 4x100-meter relay and also claimed an individual title in the 400-meter dash.

"We did what needed to be done," said Rogstad. "I could not be more excited for what lies ahead.

Junior Robert Edwards took first in the 110-meter hurdles. Freshman runners Colby Brydson and Christian Demouchet took second respectively in the 200-meter and 400-meter dashes. Other standout men include senior Cameron Bailey, taking first in the high jump.

Rival squad Western Washington University took second overall, but was unable to take down the Wildcats. "I was impressed with my team overall, and it was a great competition," said Western head coach Pee Wre Hall. "I expected Central to compete and they came with it.

Central travels this weekend to the Palouse Hills to compete at the Cougar Invitational in Pullman. A select number of athletes will head south to compete at the Oregon Invitational in Eugene.

Central responds to shooting at Virginia Tech

by Paul Balcerak
Editor-in-Chief

The Central Washington University community responded quickly to Monday's mass shooting at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Multiple mass e-mails were sent to Central students in regard to the shootings from various sources on campus.

Central officials addressed student concerns Tuesday afternoon at the First Central Recreation Center (SURC) Pit.

"Both [Central Police Chief Steve] Ritterreiser ... and I concurred," McIntyre said. "Business on campus would continue as usual.

Central Provost David Soltz, a panel member at the forum, took time to assure students that emergency response procedures are in place.

"It's designed ... to be a dynamic and flexible plan," Soltz said. "Central's emergency plans are online but will be made more prominent in the coming weeks," Soltz said. The discussion also turned to how Central can continue giving word of an emergency out. Central e-mail accounts and the school's Web site are relied upon heavily, but Ellenburg's two radio stations would also run emergency broadcasts, Central Police Capt. Kevin Higgin said.

"Central's information technology (IT) department is also looking into new ways to communicate emergencies over cell phones Carmen Rahm, assistant vice president for IT said.

Several police forces in town have made similar assurances of their emergency preparedness.

SUPPORT FOR VIRGINIA TECH

"Tonight's Student Senate for Organizations' memorial vigil from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Mary Grupe Center.

"Through Sunday's Dining Service has bible students can sign up to engage in, in the was end of the SURC. The books will be sent to Virginia Tech's Associated Student Body when they are ready, Interim Dining Director Dan Lutman said.

"We've reviewed our response plan, and we're all on the same frequency to help each other," Kittitas County Sheriff Gene Dana said. "If we needed to contain the area, we can quickly contain the perimeter by calling deputies in.

The mental health of Central students has also been a concern of Central administrators. McIntyre made a point to mention in one of her mass e-mails that Central's Counseling Center is open to any students in need of assistance.

The Counseling Center is part of Central's Wellness Center, which is located across the street from Meisner Hall on Eleventh Avenue.

At least one member of Central's faculty was personally impacted by Monday's events.

Fernon Konukman, assistant professor of health, human performance and nutrition, received his masters and Ph. D. in health and physical education from Virginia Tech.

"I'm so sad for my school," Konukman said. "[Blacksburg is] a very safe place, was a personal friend of Konukman's.

"He's such a great man," Konukman said. "He loved by his students all over the world.

Support among various groups on campus hasn't been lacking. Several have rallied support for Virginia Tech in their own ways (see box at left).

Tony Aronica, ASCWU/BOD Vice President for clubs and organizations, said his office will be handing out orange "remembrance ribbons" to students in the SURC this week.

The ribbons will be worn Friday, April 20, 2007. Other special events include a "Pecos Bill" opened at the Tower Theatre on April 19, 2007. The Central Washington University Newswomen will launch a special project called "Local Newsroom: (509) 963-1073 E-mail: observer@cwu.edu Newsroom: (509) 963-1073 E-mail: observer@cwu.edu

For more information on Central's response plan to potential campus shootings, visit The Observer online at www.cwu.edu/observer.
Students choke on dining prices

Increased dining costs, meal plan changes next year

by Karena Shellman
Staff reporter

Another day, another dollar. Or so it seems, with dining costs on the rise at Central Washington University. Dining Services managers plan to increase food prices next year by four percent due to common inflation.

Senior retail dining manager Dan Layman said meal plans will mostly stay the same with the exception of the eight-meal plan being which is removed from the next academic year's choices.

"That plan didn't really fit the Dining Services' and students' needs," Layman said. "It was meant for the student going home every weekend."

The 65 percent discount system that was implemented this fall will continue on. The system, which is an overhead cost taken out per quarter that changed this year, helps dining staff purchase the right amount of food and hire the correct number of people.

Some students showed concern at the beginning of the year regarding the change. Layman said Dining Services failed to properly teach students about the new plan.

"People have a hard time seeing these costs and swallowing them," said Christie Brister, student connection card manager. "We're actually better on a combined scale than other universities because we have more choices."

Last year, the school gave students the freedom to use their card with their full amount without the 65 percent system. Dining Services managers wanted to give students more freedom, but some miss last year's flexibility.

"I don't like this meal plan," said Ji Kim, freshman accounting major. "I'd rather have the full amount. It seems kind of strange because I pay so much but I have this small amount... so it seems like it's taking a lot of money even though it's not."

Students seem to have enjoyed last year's full value plan, but Dining Services managers weren't fond of it.

"There were a lot of factors that affected the plan [last year]," Brister said. "This year, I'm not hearing a lot of complaints... We're trying to satisfy as many people as possible while meeting certain needs."

One of those factors was students waiting until the end of the school year to use their remaining balances, which left Dining Services managers in a financial hole. "People were spending their remaining balance in the C-Store," Layman said. "And we would only get 35 cents because they sell commercial products where we would get 65 cents if they spent it on dining food."

Central's meal plans are high compared to other universities such as Washington State University, which is experiencing revenue losses in dining. One in three Central students change their meal plan during the year.

"People have a hard time seeing the costs and swallowing them."

--Christie Brister

student connection card manager

The 65 percent system was a Central favorite several years ago, but the school decided to switch plans back to full values, mainly to test student reactions. The four percent increase is something all universities experience.

"We're self-operated but also managed by the state," Layman said. "If employees are required to receive a raise by the state, then we have no control of that."

Some students seem to understand Dining Services' position. "I understand that. Prices are going up," said Ariel Jacobson, senior theatre arts and costume design major. "They seem to be going up for economic reasons and not bureaucratic reasons, and I'm okay with that."

Enterprise financial manager Patrick Stanton said approximately 2,400 students are on meal plans. From fall to winter quarter, 428 changed plans and 405 changed plans from winter to spring.

"What that tells me is out of the 2,400 students, around 800 changed meal plans," Stanton said. "The rest haven't switched, which means they seem to be satisfied."

Check out The Observer Online for additional stories!
www.cwu.edu/~observer

Stories include:
~ An update on faculty transcript problems
~ The Wenatchee Mammoth Project
~ Resources available at the Wellness Center

The Observer is a class in which students are constantly learning to produce a newspaper.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today in the SURC Ballroom, Career Quest's Job and Internship Fair will have booths set up representing over 88 different companies. Companies registered include:

* Americorps * Bartell Drugs * The Boeing Company
* Echos Group * KXL 106.3 FM * Rite Aid Corporation
* SunCadia Resort * Safeway * Walgreens

The Business & Financial Affairs division would like to express our appreciation to the 592 student employees who work with us side by side each day.

The Observer office, located in Bouillon 222, is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Submissions can be brought to the office; e-mailed to Observer@cwu.edu; mailed to The Observer, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA 98926 or faxed to (509) 963-1027. Business Office Fax (509) 963-1026

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Friday, 5 p.m. - Entertainment, meetings, calendar events.
Monday, 3 p.m. - Weekend sports information.
Monday, 5 p.m. - Letters to the editor.
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To contact an advertising representative, call our business office at (509) 963-1026 or fax information to (509) 963-1027.

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

Central Washington University
Academic programs get degree approval

by Chelsea Krizner Avant. News editor

Four new programs will broaden academic opportunities for students at Central.

The programs include an international studies minor, majors in health and physical education with a specialization of athletic administration, a minor in musical theatre for music educators and performers, and a major in technical theatre for music educators and performers, and a major in technical theatre.

"We do these programs to help students by giving them the opportunity to have their education tailored to their career goals," said Julie Underwood, Associated Students of Central Washington University Board of Directors vice president for academic affairs.

The new minors programs are currently available, although they may be absent from the Central Washington University catalog. The BA and MS degree will be available in the fall.

"Theatre arts professor Scott Robinson coordinated the minor in musical theatre for music educators and performers. Both these minors will really make a difference in the kind of student who is considering Central," Robinson said. "It will strengthen ties between music, theatre and dance as their classes are part of both minors."

The creation of the new programs was sparked by student demand. Based on that demand, faculty members then create proposal to submit to the faculty senate.

"The development of curriculum development process is ongoing and requires change," said Linda Beath, associate professor of Undergraduate Studies. "It's an organic process and I see it as a real positive."

The programs were submitted to the faculty senate for approval. A minor in mid-level humanities was the only program not approved at the meeting.

The new programs are based on the large number of required credits and the hidden prerequisites that raised the credit level. The programs that passed utilize faculty and programs currently offered.

"Most [of the programs] are not adding any new courses," Beath said. "It's a binding of current courses being offered or new ones created while others are eliminated.

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Ellensburg fire district requests more funding

by Cabe Wagner
Staff reporter

Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue (KVFR) is understaffed and quarters are tight. The fire department is looking for additional funding to increase the number of firefighters and fund a new emergency service facility.

KVFR protects 268 square miles with a population of 28,000 citizens inside and outside City limits. Since 2005, there has been a 200 percent increase in the number of emergencies to which KVFR responded.

"For the amount of calls we are running right now, we are understaffed," said Josh Del Herrera, a senior in the paramedic program and resident firefighter at Station 21.

Even with an increase in emergency calls, KVFR is operating with the same number of firefighters they had in 2005. Starting at 5 p.m., Station 21 located one mile outside of Ellensburg on Vantage Highway maintains one full-time firefighter and two residents until 8 a.m. the following day.

Residents are Central Washington University students aspiring to become full-time firefighters. They live at Station 21 and are paid per shift and per call.

The minimum staffing during the day at Station 21 consists of only one full-time firefighter.

Station 29, located at 102 North Pearl Street, maintains four full-time firefighters at all times.

"On a more frequent basis, we don't have enough people to go on the calls," John Sinclair, chief of KVFR, said. "You can only stretch a rubber band so far."

The emergency services bond measure would provide KVFR with $3.9 million to increase protection of Kittitas Valley residents.

KVFR would use the proposed bond to fund an emergency service facility at Station 21, which would decrease emergency response time and increase space for offices and training.

Currently, when a call comes in at night, the firefighters must run through a hallway, down the stairs, through the day room and kitchen, outside and finally to the apparatus bay, where they can put on their bunker gear and respond to the emergency.

The new facility would put the sleeping quarters directly next to the apparatus bay.

"We do not have the room to grow and respond to emergencies in the community," Sinclair said.

Last February, 56 percent of voters favored the nearly identical $4.1 million bond, which was not enough to reach a majority vote.

The outcome is expected to be different during the vote on August 21 because the fire department has been campaigning for months.

According to a brochure from the Central Washington University Department of Public Safety and Police Services, the penalties for breaking bicycling laws are:

- Speed Over Legal Limit $62 penalty and up
- Failure to Use Hand Signals $59 penalty
- Clinging to Moving Vehicle $52 penalty

These penalties will go up on April 30 to $91.

Check out The Observer Online to learn more about bicycling laws at: www.cwu.edu/~observer

Club cleans recreation area

by Stephanie Olson
Staff reporter

The Central Washington University family extends its condolences to the members of the Virginia Tech family at this tragic time.

Volunteers picked up litter during the Durr Road Cleanup in 2006. Last year, fifty volunteers collected 2.5 tons of trash from the area. In addition to a target practicing range, the land is used for hiking, hunting and fishing.

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Check out The Observer Online to learn more about bicycling laws at: www.cwu.edu/~observer
The Washington State Senate dealt a huge blow to student newspapers across the state last Friday by failing to take action on HB 1370, the Student Free Press Bill. In doing so, they've left all students open to financial liability for mistakes made by student publications.

House Bill 1370 was originally crafted to provide free press for all high school and college publications. Current law gives editorial reign of student publications to school administrators. The bill would also have protected schools from lawsuits filed against student newspapers for things like libel or slander, provided the schools (or student), the affected party would have written language in the bill calling for the removal of faculty advisors from student newsmen. Financial liability in lawsuits would have been placed on student journalists, instead of on teachers or school administrators.

Unfortunately, the Senate ignored the bill and now we're all back to square one. As current law has it, every student at Central would pay for a lawsuit filed against the Observer. If one of our reporters slandered a private citizen, the affected party would stand to gain the most money by suing Central. Any costs accrued by the suit would ultimately come out of tuition funds and would drastically affect expenditures on things that actually matter to students like building renovations.

I testified on behalf of HB 1370 in January and wrote an editorial about it in the Feb. 1, 2007 issue of The Observer.

Most of HB 1370's opponents at the January hearing argued that the bill would leave journalism students unsupervised and free to print whatever they wanted. A half of that argument is true. HB 1370 would have allowed free press to students but there was no language in the bill calling for the removal of faculty advisors from student newsmen. Financial liability in lawsuits would have been placed on student journalists, instead of on teachers or school administrators.

This bill stood to support everyone, now no one is protected. However, there is still hope.

Brian Schraum, the Washington State University journalism student who spearheaded creation of the bill with Rep. Dave Upthegrove, told me in a recent e-mail that he's committed to keeping the bill alive. If at Central, we should be doing our part to ensure Schraum and Rep. Upthegrove aren't ignored again by writing our legislators and demanding free press for student publications.

To search for your representative in the Washington State legislature online, visit app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/

Letters to the editor

ASCWU/BOD leader criticizes assumed role of Central Transit

The April 12 article referring to Central Transit was based on half-truths and lack of research.

The author's suggestion that Central Transit "forced students to drive inebriated" is absurd. If students choose to drive, that is their responsible decision and plan a safe ride home. It's not the university's responsibility to provide transportation to the small percentage of students who choose to drive while intoxicated.

According to the Wildcat Wellness Center and a 12-year national survey, when provided with a designated driver service, non-driving alcohol related deaths go up by 8 percent. Furthermore, blackouts, missing school or work, and making decisions that were later regretted went up 50 percent.

The article claims that student dollars are being spent without student input. I believe this is true. As a student representative for two years on the Central Transit committee, no changes have been made to the program without student input and approval. The Service and Activities (S&A) committee, which is mostly students, recently approved $50,000 to expand the hours of operation during holidays and the busiest hours. Central Police have done a very good job at researching the needs of students.

The article asked if Central Transit polled student opinion. The answer is yes! In a survey by Central Transit, students felt that Central Transit is very beneficial and that earlier hours (impeccable to Student Village) would be the most useful to students. Central Transit also conducted surveys asking for comments on the usage of parking permits purchased by students.

Central Transit will have 36,000 boardings by the end of the year, which exceeds former transit program boardings and is accessible to students because of the lower cost. This program is still growing.

In the future I expect to see the job quality is steadily researched and verified. Anything less is a disservice to the financial contributors and readers, the students.

—Jared Berry, President, Associated Students of Central Washington University, B.O.D.

RESPONSIBILITY NEEDED IN CUTTING DOWN DRUNK STUDENT DRIVERS

You claim that Central Transit 'doesn't cater to most student's needs because ... operation hours ... don't offer transportation from the bars or other places outside of the transit's route after 1 a.m. on weekends.'

Since when is that what most students want? Perhaps a referendum on the purpose of Central Washington University is needed here, which is primarily education. Having established this fact, perhaps you could demonstrate the link between education and drinking in bars!

Because Central Transit is being supported by Central, its primary purpose must be aligned with education. If using the transit can prevent students from driving while intoxicated, that is a good thing. However, it is incidental to its purpose, meaning that this is not the main reason for its existence. The main reason for Central Transit is to assist students in their education.

Why should Central be responsible for getting students home from bars if they're intoxicated? This responsibility has nothing to do with education. Being an adult in our society gives one a fair amount of freedom to make one's own choices. With this freedom comes responsibility to make good choices.

I would ask you where your personal responsibility is when you are too intoxicated to drive home safely and think that Central should take care of a situation you created that has nothing to do with education.

—Glen Engels, senior information technology and management major

REMOVAL OF TREES ON CAMPUS 'UNNECESSARY' SAYS ENGLISH PROFESSOR

The ongoing destruction of older trees on Central's campus is heartrending and, in many cases, unnecessary. How benefit lower Walnut mall appears now as its arbors of thick-waisted sycamores fall—a glorifying urban forest replaced by lollipop saplings. The felling of D Street's elm canopy, as forecast in last week's Observer, wounds the spirit in anticipation. Central campus is not only a site of learning; it is an extensive public park, a common trust whose stewardship belongs to all citizens of the state.

Like aging people, aging trees are unsustainable to ailments. Still, no one (yet) proposes we euthanize retirees as the cure for arthritis. Moreover, a visit to any campus or village common in New England or Britain will belie the claim that diseased trees must always come down.

When you've witnessed the pampering, the selective prunings, and the incapacities given to older shade trees elsewhere, you have to ask, "Why not here?"

According to professional arborists (see www.sassee.com, arborcare.org and other diseases said to be afflicting campus trees are treatable.

Another reason to doubt the sickness alibi at Central is that the explanation, given several years ago, when a grove of black locusts behind Barge Hall was destroyed. According to a statement from Facilities Management at the time, those trees were "serenice," having "outlived their usefulness." Let us challenge such attitudes, for what we do to the body of the earth we do to ourselves!

Yes, old trees are a liability, but I am puzzled that the insurance climate should be so much scarier in Kittitas County than in regions where arborist character is valued. If the danger of falling branches has grown so urgent, why plant trees in the first place? Why risk going outside, for that matter!

I have no wish to blame the university's grounds keepers for these late-desertions. We have so much that is otherwise gracious to thank them for.

A few years back, though, a committee overseeing campus beautification solicited faculty comments on the subject, at which time it was proposed that "Central Legacy Trees" be identified, fancifully named, sponsored by alumni (or interested others), given the best care money can buy, and above all, spared the saw blade. This idea must have gone the way of so much other faculty input at Central, but it represents an opportunity that could still be realized.

—Rob Schnelle, Senior Lecturer, Department of English
Thomas Ohrstrom, left, and Amanda Rubeck, right, play the roles of Pecos Bill and Missy respectively. "Pecos Bill and the Ghost Stampede" will be showing on campus from April 19-22 before the cast leaves to tour Central satellite campuses across the state.

"Pecos Bill" hits the tall tale trail

By Bryant Phillips
Asst. Scene editor

Name anything having to do with a rodeo, and chances are good that Pecos Bill started it.

He invented the first rodeo, the first roundup and the first cattle drive. And, if you believe those tales, he was also raised by coyotes, tamed a twister and used a rattlesnake as a whip.

At least, that's what Bill would say.

Pecos Bill is the tall tale featured in the Central Washington University production, "Pecos Bill and the Ghost Stampede," a children's play written by Eric Coble. It tells the story of Missy, a rancher's daughter who doesn't feel important until she meets the adventurous Pecos Bill.

"This play booked itself; it's just so American," said Elise Forier, director of the play and an assistant professor in the Theatre Arts department. "I defy you to find someone in America who doesn't like cowboys."

In an attempt to help dig a new well for Missy's ranch, Bill inadvertently discovers oil. They find so much oil that it washes Missy, Bill and his cattle into the Gulf of Mexico, turning the cattle into ghosts.

Now Missy must find her way back home with the help of a giant prairie dog, her best cow friend, Encephalitis and the troublemaking Pecos Bill.

"I think you get a broader perspective when you tour," said Thomas Ohrstrom, junior Theatre Arts performance major. "Your performance has to mold to each audience."

Ohrstrom plays Pecos Bill and starred as Tom Sawyer in last year's children's production. Performing for Ellensburg will be the toughest, since it is a rodeo town and the play focuses on rodeo themes, he said.

Forier also said she wanted to find a play that involved the audience, because when the audience is involved the cast feels more involved as well.

"Last year when we did 'Tom Sawyer,' none of the kids wanted to shake the hand of the actor who played the villain," Forier said. "This time there is no bad guy."

"The prototype of all cowboys is Pecos," said Alicia James, the stage manager for the play. "It's all about being a cowboy, and it's going to be a lot of fun."

"Pecos Bill and the Ghost Stampede" will be performed at 7 p.m. April 19-21 at McConnell Auditorium, and at 2 p.m. on April 21 and 22nd. Tickets are $7 for all seats.
Several students gather around computers to participate in last Saturday's 50-Man Lan. All participants were required to bring their own computers.

“50-Man Lan:”
Battle of the gamers
by Tim Kukes
Staff reporter

It looked like something out of "Apollo 13" or "War Games," with rows of computer terminals lined up in front of two movie screens manned by mesmerized personnel. But this wasn’t Houston control or NORAD; this was the 50-Man Lan.

The 50-Man Lan was a large-scale multi-player gaming tournament, hosted last Saturday by the Information Technology (IT) Club and Central Washington Gamers in the Student Union and Recreation Center Ballroom.

"SURC facilities were absolutely amazing," said Tim McCready, founding member of the IT Club. "SURC facilities worked with the clubs until 2 a.m. that morning to make sure everything was ready for Saturday's event.

Both personal computer games and console games were played. The tournaments featured "Halo 2" for the Xbox, "Unreal Tournament 2004" and "Countertrike: Source" for computers, and "Grass of War" for the Xbox 360. Sponsors included Danger Den, Microsoft, Next Wave Computers and RockStar energy drinks.

Prizes were donated by the sponsors, which consisted of Razor Diamondback Mouses, Windows Vista Home Edition, "Halo 2" beta keys, which were an exclusive prize provided by the Microsoft Corporation.

"It is the first time we ever worked with them," said Evan Belfiglio, senior IT network manager and president of the Central Washington Gamers. "So this is a test for us, to see what Microsoft could do for us and what we could do for Microsoft.

Despite the logistics where to set up the computers, how to wire them together and get them all to communicate with one another, the event went well. A problem with the surge protection caused a momentary power outage in a row of PCs, but that was solved by running a line to an outlet outside of the Ballroom.

"The Ballroom was put to the test, power-wise," McCready said.

One of the highlights of the day was the battle for second place, and a chance for first place, in the "Counter-strike: Source" tournament. Team Super Monkeys played against team Tin Soldiers to determine whether or not they would go on to compete against team Karma for a chance at first place. If Super Monkeys lost, Karma would win the tournament.

In quadruple overtime, Super Monkeys won a chance to vie for first against Karma. Karma won 16-4 against the Super Monkeys.

"It's been intense at times," said Javier Santillana, 2006 Central alumnus and member of team Karma.

The event even attracted people from Central's ongoing open house. They filed in and out to look at the gamers playing against one another.

"I think it is awesome... I am taken back by the grand scale of all this," Jordan Hambrick, 23-year-old Kittitas resident, said.

A student shows off the wheel of a Bert 47.75 inch Sector 9 pintail longboard. Sector 9 is one of the most popular brands of longboards on campus.

Central students cruise campus on low-riding longboards
by Ilia Dickinson
Staff reporter

Central Washington University students have found a new way to travel across Central's campus. Bikes are out, and walking is for squares.

Spring at Central is the season to longboard. Longboard skateboards have been around since the birth of skating. They range in length from approximately 30 to 55 inches. Most are made of seven to 12 thin layers of laminated maple, bamboo or fiberglass.

The sport started on the beaches of California in the 1960s and '70s when surfers wanted a way to carve and ride when they weren't on the water.

Popularity increased as technology paved the way for better polyurethane composite wheels and new board shapes. Longboards began to blend into the background as skating separated from surfing and the trend moved inland.

Central students have rediscovered this lost sport and have begun buying boards for spring.

“Longboarding is picking up as a trend in general,” said Shane Rich, co-owner of local skate shop Static.

Static has been experiencing an increase in longboard sales now that nice weather has arrived.

Rich noticed that newer riders tend to be former skaters that are looking for a nicer ride than shorter skateboards can offer.

"It's like a Cadillac," said John Shaw, freshman undeclared and longboarder.

Shaw favored his Sector 9 board because of the smooth ride it offered, compared to his traditional short board.

Junior Ryan Armstrong has been riding his longboard for about a year. As a snowboarder, he thought the ride would be about the same.

Armstrong sprang for the longboard design "because they go faster" than their shorter counterparts. The boards don't get caught on gravel because the wheels are larger and wider than those on traditional boards.

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A student shows off the wheel of a Bert 47.75 inch Sector 9 pintail longboard. Sector 9 is one of the most popular brands of longboards on campus.

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Presidents rock campus

Chris Ballew, frontman and guitarist for the Presidents of the United States of America, entertains a packed crowd in the Student Union and Recreation Center Ballroom. An estimated 1,000 Central students and local residents attended the concert, which opened with Ellensburg folk-rock group Doc Brown. The concert, which promoted chimpanzee abuse awareness, also helped to raise money for the Retired Chimpanzee Sanctuary Northwest. Donations from concert-goers totaled around $525.00. "It was a very successful event for us," Keith LaChappelle, the Sanctuary's director, said. "Since it takes about $10 a day to care for the chimp, that amount is certainly a big help for us."

For more information about the chimpanzee sanctuary, go to their Web site at www.retireachimp.org

Check us out online

To read more from the Scene section visit www.cwu.edu/~observer for the following stories:

Winegars: Read about the opening of the new ice cream venues in town.

Soular: Check out the new rock band that hit Central Tuesday.
Central pounded Willamette University last Sunday 16-2. Eight players scored for the Wildcats, led by senior attacker Chris Johnson’s 5. Central’s record sits at 4-6 overall.

Western Washington University, ranked 9th Nationally, beat the Wildcats 13-8. The Vikings sit on top of the Pacific Northwest Collegiate Lacrosse League Northern at 8-1.

"Our goalie was hurt and Kellen willingly stepped up," de Raoulx said. "That’s something you can’t teach. That’s heart."

Central dominated the field in the first half, outscoring Bearcats by six.

Coach de Raoulx was disappointed with coordination and lack of focus during the second half. After a time-out, the Wildcats were back on track.

"We had our moments," Stenson said. "There were a lot of emotions. We were sloppy in places."

Maegon returned to the goal to shutout the Bearcats in the second half.

The Wildcats scored another eight points, finalizing the game at 16-2.

"I’m happy," Gallacher said. "We got to go out with a big win and see the seniors get some goals."

Scores for the Wildcats were Johnson (five goals, one assist), Colombo (two goals, three assists), Norris (three goals, one assist), junior midfielder Andrew Bergh (three goals, Dabl (two goals), Thorne (one goal, one assist), Higuchi and freshman attacker Chris Howe each had one assist.

"I’m sad because I won’t have the pleasure of three of the captains next year," de Raoulx said. "I’m happy, though, because they’ve done their best. Their contribution will long be remembered."

The lacrosse team became a club on campus four years ago and has competed in the PNCLL ever since. This has been the most successful season yet, according to the captains.

"It’s been a roller coaster ride," Stenson said. "We’ve been on the verge of collapse three times in the last four years. We’re grateful a few individuals saw it was worthwhile. It pays to not give up."

Pat Graney, the team will resume game play in the fall, and they hope to make it to the playoffs for the first time ever. The club is always looking for dedicated players of all skill levels.

"Lacrosse is the fastest growing sport on two feet," de Raoulx said. "We welcome all new players."

Coach de Raoulx believes the most valuable thing that can come from lacrosse is the creation of lifelong friendships.

"When you play lacrosse, you become a member of a global family," de Raoulx said. "These guys are brothers on and off the field."

Hanging up the cleats for lacrosse

by Michael Johnson
Staff reporter

Kellen Gallacher, a sophomore from Bothell, dedicated ten years of his life to football. He put blood, sweat and tears into the game and his efforts earned him all league honors as a senior in high school.

Gallacher received interest from local Division III schools for football, but decided to hang up his cleats and pursue his education at Central Washington University. As a freshman, Gallacher stayed true to his word. He considered athletics, but decided to remain focused on his schoolwork, though his major still remains undecided.

"I’m glad I made that decision," Gallacher said. "I would have liked to play football, but I’m really glad I decided to hang up my cleats and participate in lacrosse."

Gallacher has played defense for the lacrosse team. He is able to use the same instinctive skills he showed playing football in high school to protect his team.

"I was able to show those defensive skills in a different way on Sunday. Five minutes before Central’s game, sophomore goalie Pat Maegon had back spasms and sat out the first half. The coach asked for a volunteer, and without hesitation Gallacher stepped up to fill in."

Gallacher had never played goalie before, but was willing to step in for a teammate.

"He is an uncompromising athlete," de Raoulx said.

Club members pay $200 each quarter to participate in lacrosse. "Some people want to come out but when they hear the price, they shy away," Gallacher said.

According to Gallacher, he does it because he loves the game.

While a defender by nature, Gallacher, one of four captains, spent the last quarter on Sunday trying desperately to add a goal to his stat-sheet.
Out of bounds with Crabtree

With the 2006-07 NBA season coming to a close, the elite teams in the league look ahead to the playoffs, while the rest of the league looks to May 22 and the NBA Draft Lottery. However, the intrigue of the league has come into question because of the poor effort from the teams with the worst records.

The NBA Draft Lottery awards a certain number of ping-pong balls to a team, dependent on their finish in relation to everyone else. For instance, the team that finishes with the worst record receives 25 percent of the total balls in the lottery. The second worst record receives 19.9 percent, the third gets 15.6 percent and so on for all the teams that failed to make the playoffs.

This year's draft class is unusually strong, including two highly touted prospects in Ohio State's 7-foot center Greg Oden and the Associated Press (AP) Player of the Year, Kevin Durant from Texas. According to most NBA scouts, Oden is the number one overall pick due to his size. Durant is the consensus number-two pick and considered to be the most NBA-ready player in the draft.

For a team with one of the worst records in the NBA, picking up a player like an Oden or Durant could turn the team into a contender for a championship.

Herein lies the problem.

Last Friday night, 17,779 people attended the game between the Milwaukee Bucks (27-53) and the Boston Celtics (23-57). With both teams eliminated from post-season possibilities, the best situation for either team would be to lose the game to keep their ping-pong balls for the draft, which is exactly what the Celtics did.

Both teams elected not to play their star players in order to rest injuries the players had. Michael Redd, the Milwaukee Bucks backcourt's biggest star, watched the game as an example. The average D-1 football coach makes around $500,000. This isn't trying to win; it's trying to get the best young talent.

The other way coaches ruin the draft is by deliberately tanking down the stretch to make sure they get the worst record. This year's draft class is unusually strong, including two highly touted prospects in Ohio State's 7-foot center Greg Oden and the Associated Press (AP) Player of the Year, Kevin Durant from Texas. According to most NBA scouts, Oden is the number one overall pick due to his size. Durant is the consensus number-two pick and considered to be the most NBA-ready player in the draft.

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Junior Kasey Druffel had four hits and three RBI against Western Washington on Saturday in Bellingham.

Strikeout record set on Vikings' territory

by Michael Peterson
Staff reporter

Junior Sara Badgley's pitching performance during Sunday's softball game against the rival Western Washington University Vikings can only be expressed in one word: dominating.

"It was amazing, it almost looked like the opposing hitters didn't even have a chance," Tara Collins, junior, geography major said.

Going into the game, Badgley had Central Washington University's school record for 14 strikeouts in a game. She broke that by two against the Vikings to give her a total of 16 "Ks" in nine innings. Her 16 strikeouts is second only to the record for 14 strikeouts in a game. She broke that by two against the Vikings to give her a total of 16 "Ks" in nine innings.

"The clutch pitching is what kept the game from getting out of control," Dar- yl Pittman, senior business administration major said after watching the match from the stands. "A full count strikeout to win the game is hard enough after nine innings and 15 strike- outs earlier. I believe that is a feat."

The Wildcats ended up with a split at Viking Field, losing the second game 2-4. Badgley pitched the first three innings and added another nine strike- outs to her total for the day, ending with 25 "Ks" in just 12 innings pitched.

The weekend opened for the Wild- cats with a double-header at home on Saturday against Northwest Nazarene University. Central dominated both games, defeating the Crusaders 8-0, 10- 3 respectively.

Central remains two games above .500 for the season and with two games scheduled this week, they hope to tack several more wins.

NBA: Tanking kills league integrity

It's also possible that a team on the bubble of the playoffs might start "tank- ing" games to get a higher draft pick for themselves because no eighth seeded team has ever won a championship.

If Van Gundy's method is used, it would be possible for a team that just won the NBA Championship to pick up the best player in the draft as well.

Either way, it's time to look at chang- ing the style of the NBA Draft, because a league that allows franchises to will- ingly lose games soon loses its integrity.

"There's an incredible view of the Gorgeous area and Interpretive Center," said Virginia Painter, public affairs director for the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. "You can see parts of the forest and inside there are exhibits that show the floods that brought about the Ice Age."

The second campground is Pot Holes state park. This park is located 17 miles southeast of Moses Lake. Take exit 179 off of I-90, then follow the signs to the park. The park has a large grass field for playing on four boat ramps, 73 pic- nic tables, fishing, swimming, two vol- leyball fields and a three-mile hike. This campground requires you to make reservations in advance. There are four ways to do this: by phone, online, by email or directly at the park.

There's freshwater pot holes on the reservoir, it's really a beautiful place," Painter said. "We have open lans and water craft launching points for boats."

The third spot is Sun Lakes. This is a beautiful lake that is a little more out of the way and secluded. It is one of the great national geological wonders. It was formed thousands of years ago by glaciers and had a water level that was 3.5 miles wide and dropped 400 ft. This is long gone but the scenery is still there.

This campground offers two boat ramps, fishing, swimming, water skiing, golf, two horseshoe pits, mountain bik- ing and 15 miles of hiking trails. From eastbound I-90: take exit #151 to SR 283. Go through Ephrata, and continue on to Soap Lake. Turn north on Hwy. 17, and continue 17 miles to park. This park also takes reservations in advance for overnight camping. The same meth- ods as above can be used to reserve.
Wildcats smite NNU Crusaders

by Curtis Crabtree
Staff reporter

The Central Washington University Wildcats baseball team entered the weekend with a four-game series against Northwest Nazarene University on the table.

In Friday's opener, the Wildcats (17-13, 1-7 GNAC) entered the bottom half of the third inning in a 2-2 tie with the Crusaders (16-15, 5-3 GNAC). With runners on second and third base and one out, junior designated hitter Hank Anderson singled to left field, scoring both runners. Junior first baseman Tyler Rylaarsdam and junior second baseman Tyler Farrington each picked up an RBI in the inning as well, and the Wildcats pulled out to a four-run lead. That was all nine innings, allowing only three runs on seven hits while striking out nine.

The Wildcats' bats came through as well with the heart of their lineup, Anderson, Lobbestael and Rylaarsdam, accumulating two RBIs each. Farrington also took pitcher Tim Studland deep with a leadoff home run in the eighth inning to seal the deal as the Wildcats took the third game of the series 8-3.

The final game of the series started with a bang as both teams got off to fast offensive starts. The Crusaders were able to get to junior pitcher Travis Bertholf for three runs in the top half of the first inning. The inning started with help from a base hit to right field by Smith, who also drove in two runs.

The Wildcats countered in the bottom of the first. In game two of the series, the Wildcats got on the board with a two-out RBI hit by junior third baseman John Lobbestael in the bottom of the first. Central added another run in the third on a throwing error by Northwest Nazarene second baseman Cole Smith.

While the Crusaders put up two runs in the fourth inning and another in the fifth, the Wildcats matched them run-for-run and swept the Friday doubleheader with a 5-3 victory. “I think the guys have continued to work at getting better and have quit pressing.” -Desi Storey

head baseball coach

“I think the guys have continued to work at getting better and have quit pressing.”

-Desi Storey
head baseball coach

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