Central votes for student officers

ELECTIONS HIT ALL-TIME LOW

by Chebea Krotzer
Asst. News editor

Elections for the Associated Students of Central Washington University Board of Directors (ASCWU/BOD) take place today. If the past two weeks of campaigning are any indication, though, Central students couldn’t care less.

Last Tuesday, an open forum was held in the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC) pit where audience members asked the present candidates questions. Only 30 students were actively involved in the forum. Others present were reading newspapers, using laptops or talking amongst themselves and eventually left.

“The reason we didn’t have people at the forum and debate in the SURC wasn’t because of advertising,” Underwood said. “It is because they didn’t active involved in the forum. Others present were reading newspapers, using laptops or talking amongst themselves and eventually left.

“The reason we didn’t have people at the forum and debate in the SURC wasn’t because of advertising,” Underwood said. “It is because they didn’t care less.”

The low number of candidates, not the debate style,” said Danielle Martinez, election coordinator and ASCWU/BOD director for community affairs and public relations.

About 75 students attended an informal debate last year; Martinez said. “I was actually surprised to see that many people there,” presidential candidate Katie Underwood said. “I was hoping we’d have at least 10 people.”

Around 9,000 students are enrolled at Central this quarter. The number of students who attended the debate last Thursday did not even constitute one percent of the student population.

Several debate questions addressed a perceived lack of school spirit on campus.

“I see school spirit lacking, as we can see in this year’s elections with only one opposed (position),” said U.P. of student life and facilities candidate Pedro Navarrete. Low turnout at the debate seemed to confirm Navarrete’s assumption.

In total, 900 Central students voted in last year’s elections, representing 10 percent of the student population.

Central Keeps bomb threat under wraps

by Kate Murodich
Asst. News editor

A bomb threat at Central Washington University last Sunday went unannounced by Central officials.

An e-mail that threatened the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC) was discussed at the President’s Advisory Council (PAC) meeting on Wednesday.

Leslie Webb, director of Central’s Diversity Education Center, voiced her concerns at the PAC meeting over the lack of communication in regard to the bomb threat. Students could get word of the threat via a letter that was written to The Observer before receiving an official statement from Central, Webb said.

The Observer didn’t receive a letter as of press time Wednesday. Chief of Campus Police Street Rittereiser warned against publicizing the threat.

“If the Observer runs this story or the editorial, they run the risk of one of these [bomb threats] happening again,” Rittereiser said.

Despite concerns over communication, nobody, including local newspapers, have asked about the threat, Rittereiser said.

University President Jerilyn S. McIntyre requested to have a press release issued assuring Central students of their safety. McIntyre wants to avoid escalating the rumor mill in regard to the bomb threat.

“A short, careful announcement will do this issue to bed,” she said. Rittereiser appeared less apprehensive talking about the incident during an interview compared to his demeanor at the PAC meeting.

After tracing the e-mail and upon inspection, Rittereiser concluded the e-mail was not a credible threat.

“I’m 100 percent convinced the e-mail was unsubstantiated,” she said. However, in response to the threat, officials took safety precautions and closed off the second floor of the SURC to conduct a search.

Central’s Informational Technology Services traced the e-mail to a foreign country. Campus Police are still in the process of identifying the identity of the author of the e-mail with help from the FBI.

The e-mail was sent to a Central employee last Sunday at 5 a.m. The employee read the e-mail twelve hours later and called Kirkmont. Dispatchers notified Campus Police. Offi-
Group strives to unite neighbors

by Jess Hall
Staff reporter

Bridging the gap between students living off-campus and Ellensburg residents involves more than just a plate of cookies and a smile.

Central Washington University's Campus Community Coalition has formed a new group, the Neighborhood Relations Committee (NRC), to better educate landlords and students on how to live cohesively in the community.

“We hope to break down stereotypes that members of the community have towards college students, helping to reduce the amount of conflicts,” said Derek Peacock, Associated Students of Central Washington University, Board of Directors vice president for equity and community service.

The committee is currently holding meetings, and Lynne Harrison, NRC coordinator, is compiling lists of laws, regulations and ordinances in Ellensburg to help educate residents.

Students’ alcohol use is one of the main reasons the committee was created. Other examples given at recent meetings were noise complaints and sexual assaults from drunken party guests.

Committee members feel these problems are due to a lack of knowledge of community laws.

Last year Julie Williams, landlord of the Timothy Park duplexes, called the police every time there was a problem with tenants.

Williams soon found out that it was easier to talk to the students than get police involved. The problems resulted in a lease change for the residents, Harrison said.

In February, the committee asked for a grant to help fund programming that the NRC is initiating.

"SNAP (Student Neighborhood Assistance Program) is one program grant money will help fund.

"Students in this program will be trained as first responders to noise complaints and party calls," Peacock said.

The objective is to have peer-to-peer contact before police become involved.

The committee also plans to help community members and off-campus students to interact and become better neighbors.

Some suggestions for students to avoid confrontation with their neighbors and landlords may include introducing themselves, discussing rental agreements and providing phone numbers in case of problems, Harrison said.

"Since this is the first time living on our own, we aren’t aware of city ordinances and local laws,” Jacari Burkholder, sophomore fashion merchandising major, said. “You never know the right time to talk to your neighbors; this program will help with the respect of others.”

A possible “welcome wagon” packet of ideas and information is being produced by the committee.

Local barbeques and yard sales were also brought up as possible ways to bring the neighborhood together.

The next meeting is at 10 a.m. on May 4, in room 135 of the Student Union Recreation Center. For more information contact the Wellness Center at 963-3240.

Music majors prepare for jury

Katie Hanson, freshman in music education and flute performance major, practices in the music building.

Hanson is rehearsing for her upcoming flute studio recital and flute performance jury. Music performance majors play before a faculty jury to determine their progress in performance and skill. The jury performance is considered as their end of the quarter for jury. A jury is held every three quarters to determine if students will go to next level.

Juries start at 164 to 800.

Kickbusch talks leadership, diversity

by Kareena Shimman
Staff reporter

She’s achieved the highest-ranking position of any Hispanic woman in the United States Army Combat Support Field. She speaks at hundreds of schools and corporate and government institutions about effective leadership, motivation and women’s roles.

Lieutenant Colonel Consuelo Castillo-Kiekbusch is known by many as a powerful, passionate and persuasive woman, and she will be speaking at 6:30 p.m. tonight in the Student Union Ballroom.

Kiekbusch will talk about her role as a female leader, her struggles growing up in poverty and her reason for speaking to people about diversity and minority issues.

She also will be kicking off “Women Rock! Women, part of the Center for Student Empowerment’s recognition of the various roles women play.

“The Center for Student Empowerment thought it was important to have someone who has achieved as much as she’s achieved as a woman in the military,” said Mal Stewman, program support supervisor for the Center for Student Empowerment.

“I think that is an important milestone to showcase her as well as her being an effective and motivated speaker; she’s very dynamic.”

Kiekbusch grew up in Laredo, Texas, a poverty-stricken community also known by some as “The Devil’s Den.”

“You got the feeling that you didn’t count (in Laredo), and that hurts,” said Kiekbusch in a “Hispanic Today” Magazine interview. "My father said, ‘If you want to make it, you need to ask, why not?’”

Kiekbusch followed her father’s advice and entered the U.S. Army.

“I became the first woman in Texas to be commissioned (as an Army officer),” Kiekbusch said in the interview.

“I remember looking out at my company and it just seemed to stretch the whole block. All those bodies, depending on my commands and my leadership. What was I going to do?”

Kiekbusch served in the Army for two decades before announcing her retirement. She wanted to honor her mom by getting back to her family room and become a community leader.

“(Kickbusch) came out of poverty and got one of the highest ranking in the military,” Stewman said. "Then [she] left the military to speak and give back, and to talk about leadership and what it means to be a woman and to achieve so much in such a male-dominated field.”

Kiekbusch dedicates her time to public speaking and encouraging people to give back to their respective communities.

“We don’t hear much about high ranking minorities, women or even men of color,” said Diane Bedwell, women’s and gender programmer for the Center of Student Empowerment. “I just want to hear her story.”

In the last decade, Kiekbusch created a program called Education Achievement Services to teach children about leadership. She has also written a book called “Kicked Out of the Future: A Roadmap for Success for Youth.”

“I hope that students are able to obtain a balance (from her),” Stewman said. “Many people are here to establish their career and they will learn that there is more to it than just money. Never forget where you came from.”
Violence rages on in Colombia as civilians are abused, displaced, robbed, raped and killed. For more than 40 years, two guerrilla groups were fighting against the government and recently turned on each other, catching civilians in the middle. In a presentation on April 26, Yoneth Pérez, president of the Dawn of Women for Arauca (DWA), addressed problems confronting Colombian civilians.

Pérez was on a four-week speaking tour through Montana, Washington and Oregon during April to spread awareness and promote friendship between the United States and Colombia.

"We felt the need as women to organize ourselves," Pérez said. "We began to educate ourselves about women's rights and human rights." Smiling faces of Colombian citizens as well as photos of those in exile, arrested or murdered, were revealed in a slide show during Pérez's emotionally charged presentation.

"The situation has changed, as we found out today," Pérez said. "(It's) getting more complicated and we don't know what's going to happen."

The STEPS program provides insight into future
by Jesse Hall
Staff reporter

The Student Educators Providing Service (STEPS) program has helped students figure out what they really want to pursue for a future career.

The program, hosted by the Civic Engagement Center, is an opportunity for students to get involved with the community by volunteering at local elementary schools, said Michelle Smith, leader of the program.

Most students who participate are education majors, but any student may join.

"It is the perfect chance for education majors to get hands-on experience before they even graduate," Smith said.

"We don't need any more weapons in Arauca," Pérez said in a press release. "There are already more than enough guns and bombs to kill all of us."

The program is on an individual basis. Students only meet with her once to set them up in a classroom they wish to work with as long as both students and teachers' schedules don't conflict.

Volunteers may work with individuals, groups or the entire class. "There have been good responses from Central students," Smith said. "If a student chooses to help out in the third grade and they realize they don't want to, there's still time to change."

"Every day in the classroom I had a new experience that made me know this is what I wanted to do with my life."

Alicia Aichele, sophomore early childhood education major

Currently there are about 40 students involved in the program. Volunteers are able to choose the grade level they wish to work with as long as both students and teachers' schedules don't conflict.

The U.S. government gives $1.5 million per day in military aid to Colombia, said Pérez.

"It is the perfect chance for educators to, there's still time to change." Alicia Aichele, sophomore early childhood education major

The DWA, with other social groups, also works for clean water, discount stores, transportation, radio stations and schools for the disadvantaged.

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ELECTIONS: Student apathy apparent at election debate as shown in the lack of attendance

Last year, the only positions uncontested were vice president of academic affairs and vice president of student life and facilities.

Despite students’ apparent lack of interest in this year’s election, advertising surpassed what was done in years prior, Underwood said.

This year’s candidates also met with stricter application requirements. 500 student signatures were required to run, compared to the 200 that were required last year.

“The reason the signatures were raised was to bring awareness to the fact that elections were even occurring,” student signatures were required to run, stricter application requirements. 500

Student Life and Facilities, began the debate.

The first issue raised was the recycling program. Montgomery began speaking on current recycling bins are under almost every desk in the SURC.

Montgomery stressed the need for the SURC recycling program to be added to the current recycling route.

“The root of the problem is feasibility.” Navarrete’s response included the need to educate students and personnel early on during the Wildcat Welcome Weekend in September. He also felt that the recycling program should be made easier for students to part take in, including placing recycling bins in resident hall rooms.

The second issue responded to was in regard to developing school spirit through the Triad Program, a one-year trial program initiated in September 2006 by Jeff Rosenberry, vice president of student life and facilities. The program received $3,000 in funding from the Office of Student Affairs, alumni, and the ASCWU/BOD. The program promotes and upkeeps three icons on campus, including recently purchased firetruck The General, the ‘victory bell’ and Wellington the Wildcat.

Navarrete used his allotted time to push a new program called Wildcat Society, which would be an addition to the current Triad program. The program would be geared to get students involved on campus and boost school spirit, as well as building resumes and participating in such programs.

“Wildcat Society is an organization which hopefully gives back to students,” Navarrete said. “It’s aimed at keeping spirit and involvement with the school high.”

Montgomery placed school spirit as a high priority for his platform. He spoke of continuing the Triad Program.

The other candidates present at the debate were running unopposed, therefore there was no formal debate took place.

Candidates were:
- Katie Underwood
- Anna Boyer
- Derrick Peacock
- Mike Bogiaty
- Danielle Howard
- Daniel Sweeny

Danielle Howard is one candidates running unopposed. One subject she touched on was the need for more variety of General education classes.

Montgomery placed school spirit as a high priority for his platform. He spoke of continuing the Triad Program.

Grant quenches thirst for science

by TJ McMahon
Staff reporter

Central Washington University has received a National Science Foundation grant for $2.8 million over five years to go toward the Watershed Activities to Enhance Research in Schools (WATERS) program.

WATERS will place Central graduate students in classrooms in the White Swan, Yakima, Ellensburg, and Cle Elum/Roslyn school districts.

The graduate students include biologists, geologists, chemists and resource management specialists.

Students will work with teachers to design a watershed project related to their master’s degree programs.

“The program gives more depth to K-12 science classes,” said Carey Gazis, associate geology professor.

Graduate students working on the project will be selected from a pool of candidates based on several criteria, including research experience and interest in watershed research as it applies to their field of study.

Central will match the graduate students with a school participating in the program based on that school’s needs.

Ellensburg High School chemistry teacher Dave Hodges is excited about the program and the opportunities it presents for students.

“The last five years we’ve tried really hard to strengthen relations with Central and the Ellensburg School District, Hodges said. “The WATERS project is a vehicle to do that.”

Students in Hodges’ chemistry classes will work with graduate students on an original project that will be decided on this summer.

The program received $3,000 in funding from the Office of Student Affairs, alumni, and the ASCWU/BOD. The program promotes and upkeeps three icons on campus, including recently purchased firetruck The General, the ‘victory bell’ and Wellington the Wildcat.

Student center renamed in honor of model alumni

David Wain Coon
Center for Excellence in Leadership

Central Washington University acknowledged the philanthropic achievements of alumni Dr. David Wain Coon by renaming the Center for Excellence in Leadership in his honor. The Center will be recognized as the “David Wain Coon Center for Excellence in Leadership.” The re-naming ceremony occurred at 1:30 p.m. on May 1 in the SURC. University president Jerilyn S. McIntyre kicked off the ceremony with a welcome speech in the SURC ballroom. The Center provides broad leadership education for Central’s campus community that includes individual training, leadership resources and recognition, said Leslie Webb, director of Central’s Diversity Education Center.
New fleet aims to deter drivers from speeding

by Gabe Wagner
Staff reporter

Be on the lookout for two fully equipped patrol motorcycles in Ellensburg. The Ellensburg Police Department (EPD) has recently purchased two patrol motorcycles that will be hitting the streets by the end of the month.

The patrol motorcycles will be used primarily on and around University Way. The EPD is hoping the sight of the motorcycles will make motorists think twice about speeding and breaking other traffic laws. The motorcycles will also be patrolling other areas of congestion within the city.

"University Way is a high-traffic area with a lot of vehicles and pedestrians," Capt. Ross Green of the EPD, said.

The EPD purchased the two motorcycles from the fleet division in Tumwater for $2,000 each.

Last year the EPD applied for a grant for two patrol motorcycles but did not receive the funding so they used money from their budget.

"We were able to take advantage of two fully equipped motorcycles, so we did," Green said.

Dale Miller, EPD chief, has wanted to see a motorcycle fleet in Ellensburg since he started working here last year. Even though some people have expressed interest in patrol motorcycles, others are opposed to the idea.

"I think Ellensburg is a small enough town that we do not need police on motorcycles," Kate Grabenhorst, senior business administration major, said.

Staffing at the EPD will not be affected. Current officers will be trained to accommodate the new transportation.

The police officers will be getting practice ride time in before they leave to an 80-hour course in Spokane in mid-May.

If an officer fails one of the tests, which are given every three days, then the officer will fail the training and be sent home.

The specialized training teaches officers to maneuver a motorcycle safely and efficiently.

One officer at a time will be sent to complete training.

The current plan is to have only two fully qualified motorcycle patrol officers, but more may be trained in the future.

"It is possible [to train more officers], but it depends upon finances and staffing," Miller said.

The failure rate at the Spokane motorcycle program is 20 to 50 percent, said Green.

Some officers have even told Green the program is harder than SWAT (Special Weapons And Tactics) training.

Energy budgets rise, bills remain stable

by Brian Rowe
Staff reporter

An increase in utility budgets won't affect residents as costs will be accommodated by the city.

The city of Ellensburg will increase the budgets of City Light and City Gas by $20,000 each. This increase will cover the costs of Ellensburg growing too much, to fund projects.

"Between the cable, heating and energy bills, I feel like I am always getting squeezed," Mann said. "I struggle to make the rent every month.

"Continued growth..., and the need for full time workers is necessary."

Bob Titus
Director of Energy Services

With the city's population reaching an all-time high, the Energy Services Department at Ellensburg is taking steps, such as the budget increases, to make sure all fundamental needs are met.

"I am broke at almost all times, which can make it hard to get by,"

Maynard Mann, senior business major, is glad to see that the increase will not put a larger burden on students already struggling to get by.
Central coughs up bowl of ABC soup

One of the first stories I wrote during my time as an intern at the Yakima Herald-Republic last quarter nearly turned out to be a real POS.

My editor, John Taylor, was concerned with the way I'd abbreviated a county agency, the Yakima Valley Clean Air Authority. Being a CWU Editor-in-Chief, he didn't think twice about using "YVCAA" on each reference after the first. That's A-OK by "The O's" style guidelines.

John saw things differently.

"People get confused if you throw too many random letters out there," he said. "Let's just say, "the clean air authority.""

His reasoning made so much sense that I began to think that "The Observer" and Central Washington University in general—had become too reliant on acronyms.

FYI: an unofficial count of the April 26 issue of "The Observer" showed 11 different acronyms occurring 31 times in 11 non-sports stories. Most of them were repeats of the same acronym used multiple times in different stories.

OMG, that's an overspill of capital letters.

"The Observer" is hardly the only title to blame. If the acronym ASCUW/BOD was any more tongue twisting, some people might actually choke. What's so hard about saying Associated Students? Sure, it's ten letters longer, but it's three syllables shorter and a million times easier to say than it.

The problem isn't restricted to Central, either. Acronyms used in text messages and America Online's Instant Messenger (AIM, of course) are seeping into our vernacular throughout the U.S. Using acronyms for common phrases makes sense if you're typing, but there's no reason to audibly refer to your "best friend forever" as your BF.

The purpose of acronyms in the first place was to simplify long names or titles. In some cases they work, because the original name becomes obsolete (like FBI). Other times they create something phonetically pleasing and easier to remember than the original series of words (such as SCUBA).

Acronyms become useless, though, when no one knows what they mean, when they don't roll off the tongue naturally, or both.

Central is large enough that it can grow in any direction at will and keep using acronyms like CAH (the College of Arts and Humanities), AAC (the Academic Advising Center) and UNISP (University Housing and New Student Programs). But after next week, "The Observer" will begin phasing them out.

I hope the rest of the university follows suit and purges its acronyms ASAP. Because if Central keeps overusing acronyms, students may be left wondering, "WTF?"

Illustration by Stein Hansen/Observer


to traffic issues

This might shock you, but Washington's roads are in a mess. Taxes like the gas tax haven't provided enough money to fix them, and that money isn't going to fall from the sky. In my opinion there's really one solution that will do the job: tolls.

The Washington State Transportation Commission is considering charging tolls on I-90 near Snoqualmie Pass sometime in the next decade, as well as possibly charging tolls on the I-90 bridge over Lake Washington. While no plans have been drawn up, and plenty of legislation and negative public opinion stands in the way, many on the Transportation Commission agree that tolling is the best way to finance improvements of I-90 and other roads and bridges throughout the state.

One problem many people have with tolls is that they think tolls are too expensive. The new Tacoma Narrows Bridge will charge a $1 toll going eastbound upon completion, and almost all of that money will go toward maintaining the bridge and future projects. Do you really want to keep increasing the gas tax until we're in the most expensive state for gas in the nation? I'd rather pay tolls on a few roads than pay for expensive gas throughout the state.

Another problem people have with tolls is that they picture the old tollbooths where traffic slowed to a crawl to pay. The Narrows Bridges (and the I-90 toll, if implemented) will use technology that simply scans your license plate and bills you at the end of the month. While tollbooths are still in use, this latest technology means you can speed right through.

Tolling isn't exactly new to Washington either. Until 1990, I-5 bridges used tolls to pay for their construction and upkeep. Recent proposals for the construction of a new highway, S 520 bridge over Lake Washington may also include tolls, so Seattleites should be prepared. If I-90 becomes a tolled route through Snoqualmie Pass, I hope Washingtonians will accept the reality that we can pay all we want, but nothing will ever get done unless we find a solution that actually raises enough money. Tolls are that solution.

Imagine waking up every morning, making a pot of coffee and looking out over a gorgeous bay. Birds play in a bird bath beneath the window while squirrels scurry around a backyard garden. Perhaps the house itself was nothing spectacular, but your living room overlooked this beautiful sight. Sounds like the "American Dream," right? But can you honestly say that you would appreciate it each and every day?

Most would take it for granted.

My grandparents moved into their house four years ago. My grandmother loves flowers and plants. Naturally, one of the first projects my grandparents started at their new home was designing their backyard. Four years later, their backyard remains small and simple, but it is one of the most gorgeous yards I have ever seen.

I do my best to visit Grandma and Grandpa regularly, and I am always amazed at how their faces light up when they talk about their yard—especially the animals. They know every creature that passes through and notice every new addition. They get excited when the bird bath is in use, when the squirrels find pieces of bread they put outside or when a new flower blooms.

To often people forget to take a deep breath and enjoy what life has to offer. Much of that is due to how busy we are and how consumed we've become by other things.

In 2001, Americans averaged 1,821 hours at work per person, per year. That means Americans spent about 20.8 percent of 2001 at work. A 2004 survey conducted by KRC Research found that two-thirds of Americans believe the American Dream is becoming harder to achieve. Nearly one-half feel as if it is unattainable.

Happiness isn't impossible, though. It is something that we need to work for and it isn't necessarily easy. But taking a step back from busy schedules can help us to see what we are working for and what we've already achieved.

Every year, hours of hard work go into the upkeep of my grandparents' garden. They regularly put all of their physical strength into their beautiful yard. It is something they have accomplished together and something they have worked hard for. Most importantly, it is something they appreciate. No matter how busy life may seem, take a moment everyday to appreciate life and what it has to offer.

If we can accomplish that, the world will surely be a happier place: one filled with people living the American Dream.

The Artist's Eye

"Remember: every vote counts"

OBSERVER

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Letters to the editor are encouraged and printed as space allows. Submissions should be no more than 300 words and include the author's name and position at the university, or course and place of residence for non-students. Letters may be edited for length, style, spelling, grammar, taste and potentially libelous elements. Letters that attack people will not be published. E-mail: observer@cwu.edu. Fax: (509) 963-1027. Mail: The Observer c/o Central Washington University, 400 E. University Way, Ellensburg, WA 98926.
Students portray beauty of nature in OPR photo contest

by Paige Baglien
Staff reporter

Students may have seen the photographs on display in the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC) a few weeks ago and wondered what it was about.

Those spectacular photos were the entries of contestants in the Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals (OPR) outdoor activities photo contest.

OPR hosted their first annual photo contest in April to search for photos that express the beauty of the natural environment and both the exhilaration and serenity of outdoor activities.

All photos had to be original work by Central Washington University students, and no more than three photos per student could be submitted.

A total of 60 photographs were entered by 22 Central students. All entries were displayed in the SURC between April 18 and 19. It was during these two days that more than 300 students voted for their favorite for Viewers' Choice.

On Friday, April 19, the winners were announced at the OPR Spring Symposium. A committee of five judges who represented Central students, faculty/staff, and campus community members judged the photos on focus and clarity, composition, and the degree to which they adhered to the theme of outdoor recreation.

First place went to "Inside Coleman Glacier" by Ian Stacey. "Bello" by Megan Clarey took home second. Ryan Painter received third place for "Mt. Stuart aka My First Love," and fourth place went to "On Lead" by BJ Buck.

The Viewers' Choice award, which was voted on by students, went to Chris Sheats for his photo, titled "Kinetic Energy."

The top five photo entries from the Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals photo contest:
1st Place (main): "Inside Coleman Glacier," Ian Stacey
2nd Place (far left): "Bello," Megan Clarey
3rd Place (top left): "Mt. Stuart aka My First Love," Ryan Painter
4th Place (bottom left): "On Lead," BJ Buck
Viewers' Choice Winner (above): "Kinetic Energy," Chris Sheats

Photos courtesy of Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals

SEE CONTEST PAGE 11
Bobby McFerrin takes a rest during his performance last Monday in the Music Building Concert Hall. McFerrin performed from his full repertoire in front of a capacity audience of nearly 650 attendees.

It may have taken 48 years for a McFerrin to return to Central Washington University, but when the prodigal Bobby McFerrin did, he did so to a full house. McFerrin performed at Central’s concert hall on Monday night. He was introduced by Marian Hawkins, program director of Northwest Public Radio and host of “The Saturday Show.”

She described the qualities of her craft, the underlying principles of Northwest Public Radio and all performances in her opinion.

“[Bobby McFerrin has both] qualities of heart and mind,” said Hawkins.

McFerrin came on stage amidst applause and whistles. He gave off an air of quiet confidence and modesty while preparing himself for his performance. What a performance it was too.

He began with a simple piece reminiscent of reggae that brought to mind open plains with tall grass swaying in the wind. He then went into more well-known songs such as “Blackbird” and “Drive” which was performed at the insistence of young lady named Jennifer whom he had met in the hallway beforehand.

As I watched him perform, I remembered just how multi-talented he is, as he slapped his hand against his chest, tapped his fingers on the mic, and moved the mic around to emphasize his voice talents. He truly is a one-man band.

Some of the highlights of the show were his performances with several members of Central’s jazz bands. He performed with bass accompaniment, sang a cappella with JR Lakey, Mike Scott, and Stephanie Collins of the Central vocal jazz group, and also sang a duet with Central choral and jazz director Vijay Singh.

Other moments included McFerrin’s attempts to encourage a 4-year-old girl to dance for him, and his finale, which was his own version of “The Wizard of Oz,” going so far to throw water on himself in the end while melting into the floor to the audience’s fervent applause.
Professor travels to Indian yoga festival

by Nichol Burns, Staff reporter

At the base of the Himalayan Mountains, in Rishikesh, India sits the "Yoga Capital of the World," and the location of the annual International Yoga Festival.

Lori Chandler, an instructor for Central Washington University’s yoga program, made a 30-hour trip to attend the conference along with 30 other yoga teachers and practitioners from the United States.

Chandler stayed in India for three weeks attending yoga classes, traveling to several well-known monuments and cities, and meeting other people at the conference from 35 different countries.

Today, Chandler will give a presentation on her experiences in India and provide information on her yoga program in Ellensburg.

"I would definitely be interested in learning about India and their culture because I know it’s completely different," Katie Ramushek, sophomore undeclared major, said.

One out of four citizens live in poverty in India, but it’s hard to tell because they work from the fields, they could still wear hangers and toe rings, Chandler said.

She said the streets are chaotic. If it moves, it’s allowed on the streets, which includes camels, cows, elephants and John Deere tractors.

"People are very devoted spiritually, even those living in poverty, trust that it will get better," Chandler said. "There is no clean drinking water, unless it is boiled, even at the five-star hotels. The cities are very old, with a lot of the houses still made of sticks, and many families reside in abandoned buildings."

Yoga was adopted by the United States in the 20th century. There are numerous types of yoga methods practiced in India, but hatha is wildly popular in the United States. Yoga is a daily habit in the Indian culture and has been for eight thousand years. It is believed to be as essential as life and blood.

Chandler, a yoga teacher for 18 years, teaches for credit at Jazzercise next to Fred Meyer. She also teaches Central faculty and staff during "wellness hour" and adult continued education classes at night on campus.

Participants at the International Yoga Festival in Rishikesh, India, relax during a session of Yoga in a position known as the "Corpse Position." Nearly 300 people from 35 different countries attended the event.

First Friday offers fun, music and art

by Ilia Dickenson, Staff reporter

This Friday, Ellensburg businesses and artists will gear up for the First Friday Art Walk.

The walk is a self-guided tour which is coordinated by the Ellensburg Arts Commission, held every month to promote the work of local artists. In addition, the First Friday Dance Club will host a dance at the Moose Lodge for all ages with a small entrance fee.

"People should come to support our wonderful artists and their work," said Conni Bess, chair of the Ellensburg Arts Commission. "It’s an opportunity to meet the artists and vice-versa."

At more than a dozen businesses around town tomorrow, art aficionados can check out the work of many artists whose work ranges from black-and-white photography to flowers displayed in reflective light. Some businesses even coordinate live music at their venue to enhance the work being displayed.

The Ellensburg Arts Commission is working on getting identifiers such as flags for the businesses that will showcase art, at this point the only way to know the locations involved is to check out the commission’s Web site at www.ellensburgarts.com.

Some of the confirmed venues include the Valley Café, the Starbucks on 10th Street, Ellensburg Wine Works, and the Sarah Spurgeon Gallery on Central Washington University campus. All locations will be open for viewing from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The First Friday Dance Club will be held at 206 N. Main Street and is open to all ages. Admission is $10 for the general public and $7 for students with ID.

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First Friday Art Walk:
- Valley Café
- Starbucks
- Sarah Spurgeon Gallery
- Ellensburg Wine Works
- Moose Lodge

First Friday Dance:
- Moose Lodge

Admission:
- $10 for the general public
- $7 for students with ID
Greek sculptures define a new view of art

Everyone has some idea of what art is, or at least what they think it is. It wasn’t until I traveled to Greece in March that I understood what art is.

In museums I was amazed at the condition of the pieces excavated. After thousands of years, many of the sculptures were still in near-perfect form. I traveled to Olympia, Greece, the site of the first Olympic games in 776 BC. The sculptures in the museum once stood on the site of the games when the first Greek athletes competed.

After seeing the ancient work, including the statue of Hermes, I really started thinking about what I knew as art, and how that art seemed trivial compared to what I was seeing.

I realize art is supposed to make people feel something; to evoke emotion and response. Nothing I had seen before had done that to me.

In Greece I saw the first piece of art that brought tears to my eyes; it was so amazing and breathtaking. “Artemision Jockey,” a statue of a horse and young jockey, was retrieved in pieces from a shipwreck off in Euboea. The emotion on the young boy’s face is intense, and the veins in the horse’s neck bulge across its rippled muscles.

There were hundreds of beautiful statues and sculptures in Greece, but this bronze statue brought to life for me what art should be.

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For More Event Information Visit www.cwu.edu/galileo
Participants add their chips to the pot in last Tuesday's poker tournament, hosted by Campus Activities. Prizes included goods from 88.1 The 'Burg, and certificates to Wild Goose Casino.

Free poker tourney comes up aces

by Meagan Lind
Staff reporter

Chips, money and cards started to fly as students shuffled up, dealt out and went all-in.

Campus Activities hosted a poker tournament at 7 p.m. last Tuesday in the Student Union and Recreation Center ballroom. This was a free tournament for any Central Washington University student interested in poker, and was open to all skill levels.

CONTEST: Viewers’ Choice winner underwent one long adventure for entries

continued from page 7

by Allison Reed
Special to the Observer

Coffee addicted students have recently confirmed the obvious; they rely heavily on their “coffee crutch” to overcome morning fatigue. However, most of these addicts are unaware of potentially harmful effects of caffeine.

A large number of Central Washington University students consume caffeine to get their necessary daily dose of caffeine. Most of these students believe that caffeine helps them wake up, feel alert, and prepares them to face the challenges of the day.

“I buy coffee every day before my first class at the Student Union and Recreation Center,” Mary Regan, junior psychology major, said. “Many times I’ll stop to get more coffee between classes to help me relax.”

These caffeine-deprived students often find themselves eagerly waiting in long lines for their fix and jump-start to the day.

Scott Reed, a barista at the Starbucks Coffee on University Way, said he has seen as many as 30 people wait in line at any one time to get their morning coffee.

“There are times when the line is pouring out the door,” Reed said. “Most of our customers are students who come here every day. I think it’s funny because their parents fund most of these students coffee addictions. Job security, I guess.

Most students are blind to potentially harmful effects coffee can cause even though they drink it every day.

Caffeine withdrawal often occurs when students don’t get their regular cup of coffee. Restlessness, nausea, and intense headaches are just a few symptoms of caffeine withdrawal...

The National Health Association said in a May 2002 article titled Waking Up to the Effects of Caffeine, that the amount of caffeine

in one cup of coffee could be enough to harden a person’s arteries for several hours. Hardened arteries not only put extra pressure on the heart, but increase the risk of heart attack and stroke. This can result in deadly consequences for some people.

“Many people tend to drink coffee in place of water, and because coffee is a diuretic, it causes serious dehydration in many cases,” said Cielia Johnson, a nurse at the Student Health Center. “In turn, this causes headaches and to cure the headaches they drink more coffee. For some people, it’s a never-ending life-long cycle of dependence.”

One Central student appears to have a caffeine addiction of this level. “I need coffee each morning before and after school, it’s really become a daily ritual for me,” said Kyle Patterson, a self proclaimed coffee junkie.

Patterson added that without coffee, he can’t stay focused and has even noticed an adverse effect on his class work when he doesn’t drink it.

People with this level of dependence sometimes face a few, if not all, of the negative effects of caffeine addiction. On the other hand, many feel no ill-effects at all.

Coffee consumption at Central has become a way of life for nearly everyone on campus. It is commonplace to see students scurry from class to class with books in one hand, and their “coffee crutch” in the other.
Central cowgirls third in nation

by Melanie Lockhart
Asst. Sports editor

The Central Washington University women's rodeo team “cowgirled up” on home turf last weekend for the two annual college rodeos, riding from tenth place in the nation to third.

"It shows that the girls did really well in their own rodeos, and that's what they were hoping for," Kay Davis, Rodeo Club adviser, said. "Their hard work and practice is paying off. That's a huge jump from tenth to third. Their talent is amazing."

Central's Rodeo Club hosted the Northwest Regional Rodeo #4 (NWRR4) last Friday and the Fifth Annual Todd Anderson Memorial Rodeo on Saturday and Sunday for a weekend of cowboy (and cowgirl) action.

"It went really well," senior Ashley Smith, Rodeo Club vice president, said. "Everyone was so impressed."

"It shows how talented Kayde Jo and Jaclyn are in all of their events," Davis said. "It's hard enough being at the top in one event. These girls are at the top of every event. I have more admiration for these girls with versatility."

The women finished second overall at the NWRR4, and first overall at the Todd Anderson Memorial Rodeo. On Friday, Ferguson finished second in barrel racing and third in the women's all-around, while Davenport took third in goat tying.

"In skateboarding, for instance, if you mess up you can get up and the skateboards don't come after you," Charlton said. "It put their heart into it," Davis said. "I see their dedication and determination, even if the points don't show it."

"They put their heart into it," Charlton said. "In skateboarding, for instance, if you mess up you can get up and the skateboards don't come after you. At rodeos, horses and bulls can come after you or land on top of you."}

Central's Rodeo Club is fifth and sixth in the nation, respectively, for the women's all-around category. Davenport is ranked third in the nation for goat tying, while Ferguson is tenth for barrel racing. Both women hold top-ten spots in the region for barrel racing, goat tying and breakaway roping.

"It shows how talented Kayde Jo and Jaclyn are in all of their events," Davis said. "They put their heart into it," Davis said. "I see their dedication and determination, even if the points don't show it."

None of the men placed or scored points for Central, but the home crowd cheered the men on.

"It's really encouraging when your name is called; everyone cheers and it's so loud that you can't think," Charlton said. "It made me ride a little better."

On Saturday, Charlton came a half-second short of the eight seconds needed to score points on a bull ride.

"I think we'll do really well," Davis said. "Our girls are building momentum. I think they'll close the season solidly in first place for the region. Our guys are improving and will continue to put their heart into it."

---Mike Charlton
Sophomore bull rider

Firestone back on bareback

by Michael Johnson
Staff reporter

When Firestone is mentioned around here, it's not a reference to the famous tires they use for NASCAR races. Instead, it's David Firestone, the junior from Sunnyside, who's putting up the competition on horses.

Now a member of the Central Washington University Rodeo Club, Firestone is healthy and back with a vengeance. He's determined to prove himself, and he's not holding around.

The aviation and maintenance management major has overcome a great deal of pain and adversity on his road to return to rodeo. Firestone was riding bareback horses in Shelton during a competition last summer. A horse reared, and knocked him off. The horse fell on top of him and, consequently, broke his back.

SEE FIRESTONE PAGE 15
The Wildcats have no remaining home-games on the schedule, and are Saint Martin's last Saturday in Ellensburg six games back for the GNAC lead, sitting in second at 25-17 overall.

Baseball splits at home, sweeps away
by Margie Allen

After splitting two games with Saint Martin's last Saturday in Ellensburg, the Central Washington University baseball team swept the Saints in their doubleheader Sunday in Lacey.

"It felt good to play to our capability for the past few games," Central coach Desi Storey said.

In the first game, the Wildcats jumped to a 3-0 lead in the top of the second inning with the help of junior first baseman Nate Rylaarsdam.

"Desi told us to scoop up on the plate, so I just adjusted my approach," Rylaarsdam said. "He threw me a fastball, and I ripped a double and got two RBIs."

The Wildcats did not stop building their lead, and they tacked on five runs in the next inning. Saint Martin's sophomore pitcher Nick Bronowski could not keep up with the Wildcat bats on the mound after two and a third innings. Junior reliever Andrew Nieszinger replaced him, and after the switch the Wildcats struggled, collecting only three more hits the entire game.

"He was a submarine pitcher, and his ball tailed inside," Rylaarsdam said. "As a team it was tough to hit him because he came low and threw at a weird angle."

Eight runs was all junior pitcher Jordan Moore needed to toss a complete game. Moore ran into trouble in the bottom of the fourth as the Saints chipped away at the lead and scored five runs of their own, but he quickly regained form and shut them down for the rest of the game, helping the Wildcats win, 8-5.

The second game was much closer than the previous as the lead was traded back and forth until the Wildcats came out on top. The game was tied, 4-4, going into the last inning, until junior outfielder Justin Marshall was able to get the Central go-ahead run with a single to left field. Central added one more run to the lead, and held the Saints for the win, 6-4. The pair of wins kept the Wildcats record to 25-17 overall on the season and 9-11 in the Great North-west Athletic Conference (GNAC).

The Wildcats' next game will be this Saturday, May 5, at noon against Whitworth College in Spokane. The Pirates are 11-24 on the season, and 9-15 in the Northwest Conference.

The Wildcats make final push to GNAC outdoor championships
by Mindy Jafek

The Central Washington University track and field team finished strong last weekend claiming eight first place titles.

A partial squad traveled to Bellingham's ugly weather forced athletes to compete in less-than-ideal conditions. Finishing strong for the Wildcats was sophomore Jace Kaecher placing first in the women's 400-meter dash; junior Krisy Tandell held it down for the throws placing second in the women's shot; and junior Austin Zupke placed second in the 400-meter hurdles.

"I was surprised, but very satisfied with my performance," McMeel said. "That was my best series of the whole season."

The Wildcat men also landed in the spikes, claiming three first place finishes: freshman Colby Brydon in the 400-meter dash, junior Robert Edwards in the 110-meter hurdles, and senior Charles Velasquez in the 400-meter hurdles.

For the throwing squad, freshman Tyson Fletcher took third in the discus, and senior Michael Ingram added 14 inches to his provisional national qualifying mark and his GNAC season best in the javelin placing ninth.

"My focus was good for that meet, but I'd like to be better for this weekend," Brydon said.

In general, only two or more men were able to make great marks for nationals, so the track and field athletes will be pulling out all the stops in the next few weeks. The GNAC Outdoor Track & Field Championships will be held this weekend in Bellingham at Civic Stadium. The last meet before nationals, the Ken Foreman Invitational will be held at Husky Stadium in Seattle.

The 2007 NFL Draft for the Seattle Seahawks was anything but flashy.

The Seahawks entered the draft coming off a 9-7 season and NFC West Division Championship. After a very productive free agency period that saw the additions of defensive end Patrick Kelyn, safety Deon Grant and Brian Russell, and tight end Marcus Pollard, the Seahawks began this year's draft with few areas of need.

However, they still needed to improve their defense, which noticeably guard, tight end, defensive tackle and corner-back. Due to the Deion Branch trade with the New England Patriots last season, the Seahawks didn't have a first round draft pick. Therefore, they had to wait until the 22nd pick of the second round and the 55th pick overall.

As the Seahawks' first selection approached, coach Mike Holmgren of California guard Ryan Kalil was jumping down the draft board and happened to be available at 22. Despite being a top 30 prospect according to Scouts Inc, the Seahawks passed on Kalil in favor of University of Maryland center John Wellock.

Wilson is an undersized corner-back at only 5'9" and 189 pounds. However, he's an incredibly fast as he ran a 4.39 40-yard dash at the combine and is a very impressive kick returner.

The thought was Wilson was one of the most competitive kids in all the draft, no matter what the position. "His best trait is his ability to hold the ball, be at the point of contact," Ruskell said.

On day two of the draft, the Seahawks' focus stayed on defense as they took Baraka Atkins, defensive end out of the University of Miami, and linebacker Will Herring from Auburn University.

Atkins is a speed rusher that will probably be part of the starting rotation at defensive end while Herring looks to be a backup linebacker and primarily a special teams performer. "Mike is big," said Ruskell. "He's fast and he looks like he fits what we're doing."

The Seahawks did some offensive line needs on day two, draft guard Mansfield Wrotto from Georgia Tech University and All-American offensive tackle Steve Vavasse of V Awake Forest University.

Wrotto is an unpolished player, having played offensive line for only one season in college, but has the size and potential to develop into an NFL caliber starter at the position. Vavasse is a undersized lineman that projects more as a guard in the league and probably won't make the team.

Due to the Seahawks trading away wide receiver Darrell Jackson to the San Francisco 49ers on Saturday, they decided to add some help at the position taking Courtney Taylor of Auburn University and Jordan Kent of the University of Oregon in the sixth round. Both players have a chance to make the back end of the roster and may develop into solid possession receivers.

However, at drafted's end, the Seahawks still hadn't addressed their problems at tight end. That is, until they signed undrafted free agent Joe Newton out of Oregon State University. Newton was projected as fifth or sixth round draft pick, but despite going undrafted the Seahawks had surprisingly signed him high after the draft. Newton does have a history of injuries and is lacking in speed.

"The draft [felt] very good for us," Seahawks Offensive Coordinator Gil Haskell said. "We didn't reach at all. We took players that we had on the board that we really liked."

All in all, the Seahawks had an average draft. If you consider Deion Branch as a draft pick, then that does raise the overall quality of the selections a little bit. The Seahawks draft grades out to be about an B- overall, but nothing too
Sacrificing goats for softball
by Michael Peterson
Staff reporter

Another one of Central Washington University's talented and hardworking softball players has been recognized for her athletic ability and dominance at the plate.

Last week, Kelli Spaulding was the sixth Central softball player to be awarded the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) Player of the Week Award. This honor is sure to cement her legacy as one of the greatest softball players in CWU history.

Kelli Spaulding is a senior catcher who has been a key player for the Wildcats throughout her college career. She has led the team in batting average for the past two seasons, hitting .350 and .348 respectively.

Off the field, Kelli is just as impressive. She is a double-major in Business Administration and Communication Studies, balancing her academic and athletic commitments with ease.

When she's not at the plate, Kelli is often seen volunteering at local community events, demonstrating the same dedication to service that she shows on the field.

Her hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed. She has been named to the GNAC All-Academic Team three times and has earned Academic All-District honors once.

Congratulations, Kelli Spaulding! Your talent and dedication are an inspiration to all.
Maturity makes a difference

As collegiate track careers come to an end, senior athletes reflect on past experiences while freshmen look to next year

by Mindy Lake

Staff reporter

There is a big difference between the academic load of a freshmen and a senior. The same is true for college athletes.

Athletes have to be disciplined, especially in the college atmosphere. There is an academic, social and athletic balance they must maintain in order to be successful on and off the field. Freshmen are expected to prove themselves.

"As an athlete I've always felt like I've had to prove myself to my team, fans, and most importantly, my coach," freshman thrower Allison McWeeny said.

In the track and field world, most of the competition is done through individual events. Senior thrower Michael Ingman has proven himself and still has the experience and four years of high school to help.

"I'm just lying around doing nothing," Firestone said. "I saw horses coming toward me but I couldn't move. There was nothing I could do."

"Firestone was fortunate not to pinch himself," Rodeo Club advisor Kay Davis said. "He just loves riding. Most people would've given up after an injury like that, but he was determined." Firestone was able to return to the game he was so determined to finish.

"I'm getting my feet steady," Ingman said. "[It's] a period in which you're trying to feel comfortable competing at a high level. It was scary; I couldn't believe it was happening as much as possible," Firestone said. "I wanted my back to the 100 percent when March came." Once he felt prepared, Firestone finally jumped on a horse. Something so familiar now seemed so different.

"You develop a groove. It's easier with the horse," Ingman said. "When I was on the horse," Firestone said. He worked and worked, and finally developed a groove.

"I'm not a quitter," Firestone said. "I was determined, I didn't want to give up." After six months, the back-brace was removed and Firestone went to work. "He wasn't going to let the injury stop him," Rodeo Club advisor Kay Davis said. "He just loves riding. Most people would've given up after an injury like that, but he was determined." Firestone was able to return to the game he was so determined to finish.

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