**Reviewing students' mental health**

By Chelsea Krotzer, Asst. News Editor

The Virginia Tech shooting has caused concern among Central Washington University's administration and faculty in regard to student mental health.

An informational faculty meeting was held on Wednesday, May 2 in Barge Hall, addressing issues involving mental health and treatment available at Central. More than 45 faculty members were in attendance.

One of the main focuses of the meeting was the faculty's role in student mental health.

"Faculty and staff are the real eyes and ears," Rhonda McKinney, director of counseling services, said. "They are there with their students every day with the most interaction."

Each year 10 percent of Central's student population are clients of the counseling center, McKinney said.

Panelists at the meeting included McKinney, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Keith Champagne, Central Chief of Police Steve Rittereiser and Senior Director of Student Health, Counseling, and Wellness Services Robert Trampus.

Faculty members present asked questions throughout the meeting. The main concern was the extent of faculty involvement with potentially troubled students.

"We can't force counseling, but we can talk to the student," Champagne said. "We have worked successfully with this team [of panelists] and families of students with alcoholism, stress, eating disorders ... finding the best way to handle a situation."

Other questions pertained to the Counseling Center helping foreign exchange students on campus.

"We don't have Japanese, Chinese or African American counselors," McKinney said. "We're a pretty white center. It's very difficult to recruit diverse psychologists to this area."

Despite the student community, effort has been put into expanding the Counseling Center's multicultural awareness, including consulting with experts in Seattle, McKinney said.

The panelists discussed student behavior and signs of potential violence. One example included journaling, which is often required in English courses. Professors are to make a judgment call as to whether or not students may be reaching out to them for help through this journaling.

"Our gut instincts are a really valuable thing that needs to be honored and paid attention to," McKinney said. "Trust your instincts and make sure you are safe."

Faculty members were told to report student behavior considered out of the ordinary to Student Affairs. Actions taken by Student Affairs depend on the severity of the issue.

"Once we start talking to a student, we can figure out the issues," Champagne said. "Being able to address the difference of being a jerk and psychologically imbalanced is often difficult."

The panelists urged for more faculty/student communication outside of the classroom.

"Don't assume you can't talk to students," Champagne said. "They'll open up more than you realize."

**Monitoring mentally ill wouldn't solve problems**

By Paul Balcerak, Editor-in-Chief

Perhaps the most recurring question to come in the wake of the Virginia Tech shootings has been, "How can another shooting be prevented?"

National media outlets have extensively scrutinized "warning signs" present and prior to the shooter's rampage. But on college campuses across the country, the fact is that schools can't discipline students until a law has been broken.

So much for detecting "warning signs," Champagne said. "I'm going to call that student in by talking with him or her," said Keith Champagne, associate vice president for student affairs and head disciplinarian at Central Washington University. 'Second, we figure out if that student has violated [any laws]."

Central students are subject not only to local, state and federal laws, but also to the Student Conduct Code, which governs behavior on campus. It also gives Champagne and other university officials the authority to discipline students for off-campus offenses.

Even if Central could discipline potentially dangerous students, the university wouldn't be much safer, said Robert Harden, director of Disability Support Services.

"If we put a tail on everyone who has a mental illness, that isn't going to stop the next act of violence," Harden said. "We don't have any way of predicting who is going to be violent and who is not going to be violent."

Violent behavior by the mentally ill has not been a widespread problem on Central's campus in the past.

"We have no way of predicting who is going to be violent and who is not going to be violent."

--Robert Harden, Disability Support Services Director

"I've been doing [my job] since 1991 and I've never had a student that I was afraid of," Harden said.

Nevertheless, a small number of mentally ill students are removed from campus each year.

"On average, we hospitalize two students per year [for mental health reasons]," said Rhonda McKinney, director of counseling services at Central's Counseling Center.

One such student was willingly transported via police escort to Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital on April 17 of this year. Despite the timing—one day after the Virginia Tech shootings—the transport had "absolutely nothing" to do with the shootings, Central Police Sergeant Jason Koch said.

Although Central administrator's hands may seem tied, Champagne vouched confidence in Central's safety policies. He's also remained critical of Virginia Tech's handling of the shooter prior to the mass shooting.

"They did everything right with this guy except for suspending him, from what I can tell," Champagne said.

If a Central student had been stalk­ ing people, as the Virginia Tech shooter had, the student would not be ignored, Champagne said.

"I'm not going to play with that," he said. "I'm going to call that student in [and call the student's parents]."

Champagne's Problem Solving Task Force, comprised of several Central administrators, would also be involved in any instance in which a student violated a law on or off campus, he said.

"Students who pose an imminent threat to others around them are immediately reported to Campus Chief of Police Steve Rittereiser."

**FREE, Take One**

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Monitoring mentally ill wouldn't solve problems.
Rhonda McKinney, director of Central Washington University’s counseling services, answered questions on May 8 to help the community understand mental health issues. While she declined to speculate why the shooting at Virginia Tech occurred and why young males have carried out some highly visible school shootings, McKinney provided insight into other areas of mental health.

Q. How can students and faculty help someone who is mentally distressed?
A. The main thing we can do is care and reach out to them. So often we’re hesitant because we don’t know what to say or do. Be willing to take the time to listen and know resources to refer people to.

Q. Should Central students worry about their peers?
A. College campuses tend to be very safe. College campuses are safer than most environments because we don’t allow guns on campus. Also, there’s a sense of community on campus and more people feel like they belong to a shared purpose. There are also resources available to mentally distressed students. We have free counseling and medical services. We see about 800 students here per year.

Q. What are the warning signs of someone suffering from mental issues?
A. It’s a very small percentage of people under duress that will hurt someone. They’re more likely to hurt themselves. Most people who are odd or mentally ill are not dangerous. It’s hard even for experts to predict who will go off and kill people. In hindsight there’s this sign and that sign.

Q. Who is more likely to be affected by mental distress—men or women?
A. It’s really hard to identify who’s going to pick up a gun and kill someone and who isn’t. However, it’s a small minority who do.

Q. How do men and women differ when it comes to mental health issues?
A. Men are more likely to complete a suicide and women are more likely to attempt suicide. The theory is men are more likely to use firearms, which doesn’t allow you to change your mind. Historically, men are more comfortable with guns and are more likely to use them.

Q. What are patient privacy rights when concerning mental health?
A. There are laws that protect people’s privacy. The exception to confidentiality laws is they have to tell if someone intends to hurt someone or themselves. By law, I have to protect the intended victim. I’m required by law to protect confidentiality and the public based on my judgment calls.

Q. How do men and women differ when it comes to coping with their mental health?
A. In general, there are exceptions to gender stereotypes. Women are more likely than men to talk about their problems. They are more open in relationships and will share with their friends. Women tend to tap into medical resources and recognize a problem before it becomes severe. Men tend to ignore their problems and put them off and are more likely to engage in activities to cope, but don’t necessarily have intimate conversations. Men also tend to keep things to themselves.

Q. What rights do students with emotional disabilities have?
Students with emotional disabilities are protected under the the Americans with Disabilities Act. According to this law, public entities must ensure that discrimination on the basis of disability does not exist in all programs, activities or services they provide or make available. Students emotionally disabled may require certain accommodations including distraction free testing or extended testing time. Both are considered reasonable accommodations that could be helpful to students.

Information collected from Spring 2007 Resource Booklet published by the Central Washington University Student Counseling Center.

Speaker Events
Famed paleontologist Jack Horner will be on campus today and tomorrow, giving two presentations. Today’s presentation, “How Dinosaurs Changed their Stripes” will be at 6 p.m. in the Student Union. Tomorrow’s presentation, “Dinosaur Growth and Behavior,” begins at 4 p.m. in Science Building, room 147.
Central safety addressed

by Chelsea Krotzer
Asst. News editor

In wake of the Virginia Tech shoot­tings, Central Washington University administrators have been reexamining the safety policies on campus. Through­out the process, Central has hosted numerous information sessions; have shed light on the lack of knowledge fac­ulty and staff have about the campus policies.

Such misconstrued concepts of the policies include faculty members being allowed to bring guns on campus in the trunks of their cars. According to Cen­tral’s policy, no guns are allowed on campus, including in a car, unless in the possession of a legally trained law enforcement officer.

“We know we’re in Washington state; I’m not surprised people own guns,” said Kyle Champagne, vice president for student affairs and enroll­ment management. “I am surprised hearing of guns in faculty cars.

The issue of guns in faculty cars was raised by associate professor of man­agement Greg Cant during a faculty information meeting on Wednesday, May 2 in Barge Hall.

Cant shared with the audience and panelists that he personally knew of fac­ulty members with guns in the trunks of their cars on campus. A gun storage facility is available at the Central Police Department.

One point brought up during the meeting was the lack of knowledge among faculty members of their respon­sibility in the case of such emergencies. Specific building monitors are selected to be contacted in the event of a power outage, shooting or other emergency situation. A number of these individuals are not aware of such a responsibility.

“There are building monitors who retired and are still on the list,” Rittereiser said. “We’re training them] not like we’d like to be or should be doing.”

The necessity of information being passed on to the community in the case of an emergency was also raised.

“There is no way we’re going to make announcements to everyone,” Rittereiser said.

Rittereiser provided a hypothetical example that, in the case of a contained hostage situation at the north end of campus, there would be no purpose to notify people in the nearby community.

“Everyone’s going to dump out up to my scene,” Rittereiser said. “We have to control where and when to make these communications.”

One such situation presented itself last week, when a bomb threat was called into the Student Union and Recreation Center. Rittereiser closed down the second floor of the Student Union to search for the supposed bomb, but did not lock down or evac­uate the area.

In S. Somerson, a security manage­ment consultant in Pennsylvania, affirmed Rittereiser’s actions in keeping students uninformed.

“Most of the time it is safer for people to stay put than to evacuate [at] building into harm’s way,” he said. “Telling the students [about the bomb threat] in this case does not serve a valid purpose.”

He also emphasized the need for students to trust Rittereiser’s judgment.

“Second guessing [campus police] is a mistake,” Somerson said. “If they don’t evacuate they usually have damn good reason.”

Somerson has over 20 years experi­ence as a security consultant.

People on the Street: What do you think of Central’s emergency response plan?

Aaron John
freshman biology

“I haven’t seen any emergencies happen so I can’t compare it to anything, But I would imagine it’s good.”

Michael Aplin
freshman mechanical engineering

“I honestly don’t know anything about it.”

Jolynne Reiman
junior elementary ed

“We don’t have one?”

Meghan Ferreira
freshman undeclared

“We have an emergency response plan?”

Julian Cain
Sophomore recreation management

“I don’t think it’s totally complete. It’s similar to Virginia Tech’s and it’s not very organized.”

Local business sets up memorial

In front of Steward & Williams Tribute and Cremation Center, a voice could be heard saying the names of the ones lost at Virginia Tech. John and Debra McClough stand next to memorial that was set up for about two weeks allowing community members to respond to the incident by sitting and listening or signing a book. About 40 people visited. Book was sent to Virginia Tech, it had around 34 signatures.
Committee offers good, clean fun

by Jess Hall
Staff reporter

The common misconception that Ellensburg is boring, mixed with concern about the overuse of alcohol, has sparked the creation of the Activation Committee. The Campus Community Coalition formed the committee as a program to present alternative social opportunities to students at Central Washington University and local secondary schools.

The group plans to present the opportunities to visit local attractions that aren’t well known but have significance in the history of the Ellensburg community. "The committee hopes to change students’ perception that there is nothing to do here," Lynne Harrison, the committee’s coordinator, said. Currently, the committee is creating a list of 101 recreational things to do in the Kittitas Valley. The hope is to publicize the list in the form of bookmarks and online links. The bookmarks are directed at all Central students and will be ready for the summer.”

The hope is to publicize the list in the form of bookmarks and online links. The bookmarks are directed at all Central students and will be ready for the summer. Returning students will be able to access the list through the university’s Web site by picking up bookmarks on campus such as the Wellness Center and the information desk in the Student Union.

The bookmarks seem like a tangible way to get information into the hands of students," said Katie Ingram, junior special and elementary education major and co-chair of the committee. “We’re trying very hard to get information that will work for a variety of individuals and be interesting at the same time.”

The committee hopes to find activities that appeal to the college student community. “Students aren’t aware of certain things in Ellensburg that just might appeal to them,” Jessica Quisenberry, junior Spanish and accounting major, said. “For example, I like and know of the antique shops here, but it isn’t well publicized.” The bookmarks will have lists of topics that cover a wide variety of interests.

Jeanne Dorre, sophomore health major and committee volunteer gave examples, such as colors and humor, for the decoration of the bookmarks to the committee to be taken into consideration at the upcoming meetings. “We’re college students: funny things are what appeal to us,” Dorre said. “Crazy colors like hot pink could catch my eye.” Only a few selections will be put on the bookmarks. Committee members hope professors will use the list as an extra credit generator.

“The volunteers have been working hard taking surveys and conducting focus groups to find out what students think to find out what students would like to do,” said Tyler McLain, freshman elementary education major and co-chair of the committee. “We want student feedback on which activities are actually interesting, what we should add, how we should present the information, etc.”

Alternative opportunities that once were unavailable will soon be on an easy access list. “Many great community members, students, volunteers and staff members from Central worked hard to put this together because they want the students to enjoy Ellensburg as much as they do,” Ingram said.

Campus community walks for a cure

by Karen Shellman
Staff reporter

Runners are preparing for the long haul, tightening their shoelaces and stretching one last time. But this isn’t a race: it’s not a race to the finish line. It’s a race for a cure—a cure for cancer.

The Civic Engagement Center is sponsoring its second Campaign Against Cancer: Walk of Hope, an annual campus-wide movement to help raise awareness and financial support for cancer research, legislation and treatment. “I think a majority of students have been affected by cancer," said Latisha Yaronan, junior, social work in anthropology major and community health liaison for the Civic Engagement Center. "We’re trying very hard to get information that will work for a variety of individuals and be interesting at the same time.”

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Campus community walks for a cure

BOD RESULTS

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Derrick Peacock
- V.P. for Academic Affairs
Danielle Howard
- V.P. for Student Life and Facilities
Pedro Navarrete
- V.P. for Political Affairs

by TJ McLamathon
Staff reporter

The worst hard time: The untold story of those who survived the great American Dust Bowl is a poignant real-life story of the people who survived the dust bowl, which affected the plains states during the Great Depression.

Central Washington University’s selection for next year’s choice for the One Book, One Campus program.

Writen by Timothy Egan, a New York Times reporter and Seattle native, the book follows 12 students and will be discussed in University 101. The book is required reading for incoming students and will be discussed in University 101.

The provost heads the committee, which includes two student representatives as well as faculty and staff members.

The list of nominees is eventually narrowed down to three or four top candidates. At that point a joint decision between the provost and President Jerilyn McCarthy is made. Next year’s book is not a novel; as has been the choice in previous years but rather a history book with broader implications that many classrooms can use said Soh. The book is required reading for incoming freshmen and will be discussed in University 101.
Campus audit receives mixed results

By Bryant Phillips and Andrea Rust Aug. 5, 2005 Staff reporters

Students who are curious about how much the new football coach Beau Baldwin is being paid, or want to know whether Central Washington University Dining Services passed health inspections, can make requests for these records at any time.

Many students aren't aware they have the privilege of accessing public records, granted by the Washington State Open Records Law, which states that any citizen who wishes to view public records can do so.

"It is important for students and the general public to have oversight of public agencies to see how we are doing," said Bruce Porter, director of Business Services and contracts at Central. "It's good for the public to know we are following rules and regulations."

Reporters requested 10 documents from six departments, Dining Services, the president's office, the provost's office, the athletics department, public safety and student affairs.

Central gave the auditors eight of the 10 documents requested. In six of those cases, the wait for the records was nearly a month and no effort was made to update the reporters about their request, even though written letters indicated that it would be done. The two documents not produced as of press time had to do with campus crime and student judicial proceedings (see accompanying story).

"In general, the response [at Central] is equally pathetic to the response that usually accompanies these audits," said Mike Hiested, a legal consultant for the Student Press Law Center. "Audits done across the country show that there is a real standard that the law requires of these folks and what they actually do.

For the sports department, records requested included Beau Baldwin's contract, the budget for all sports at Central; and any e-mails sent between Central President Jerilyn Mcintyre and the sports department concerning finances during the last 12 months.

Toni Burvee, program manager for business services and contracts, handled the requests and was able to provide the information three weeks after the initial request with the help of Assistant Athletic Director Tom North.

As state law requires, the reporters received a reply within five days, stating Central had received the requests and that someone would contact the students with a date they could expect the records. The reporters went into the office for business services and contracts in Mitchell Hall last Thursday, where they were told the documents had already been found.

From the two requests records, so they are done in the order they are received," Burvee said.

Porter said specific requests usually take about two weeks, depending on the complexity of the request. Public records officers can help people narrow their request to make it more specific and easier to find. Other requested documents included the most recent travel voucher for Provost David Soltz, the budget for Dining Services and health inspection records for Dining Services.

The health inspection records were taken out and copied for the reporter making the request within the day they were requested. The budget for Dining Services took a week to receive.

The recent travel voucher for the provost was mailed to the reporter after three weeks by Burvee.

Overall, Central's response time and willingness to provide requested public documents was on par with other audits held throughout the country, but Hiested said there is plenty of room for improvement.

"We've decided in this country that the government belongs to the people, and if that is true then people need to know what goes on," Hiested said.

Crime and disciplinary records requests come up short

by Courtney Naccarato

Online editor

After the Virginia Tech massacre, students want to know about crimes on campus and the people who commit them.

While state and federal laws allow students to find those things out, in some cases how much detail they get is still up to the school's discretion.

At Central Washington University, a request to see a resolved bike theft case was denied under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which keeps students' educational records private, was amended by Congress to explicitly allow schools to release the final outcome of judicial proceedings where a student is found responsible for behavior that would constitute a violent crime or a non-violent sex offense. But the university doesn't require schools to disclose that information.

The auditor who requested those records from Student Affairs was initially told they were available on the Web site. But at the time, that site only contained statistical information for crimes reported by Central's Public Safety and Police Services through 2005 and didn't include any information but said she would ask the auditor if she didn't know if she was allowed to give out that information but said she would ask someone who would know. She then said that she had the information but the auditor would need to go to the baseball office and contracts office in Mitchell Hall to fill out paperwork.

It was there that Toni Burvee, program manager for business services and contracts, said Central doesn't release names of students in the judicial proceedings unless there is written permission from the student or a court order to do so.

Even then students have a 10-day period to stop the release of the record with their name in it.

The campus police were asked for records related to bike thefts on campus. The secretary greeted the auditor and got a police officer to help out with any questions.

The officer explained that most bike thefts on campus come from drunken persons who want a ride home and then leave the bike at the destination.

He went on the computer to confirm that seven bike thefts had happened since January and that two were retrieved. However, this information was not shown to the auditor.

He said all information could be found on the Central Web site. But again, the site contained nothing more recent than 2005 on bike thefts. The following day the auditor returned. The secretary said she was updating the site.

When asked if a case that had already been solved could be shown, she said no.

Schools are required to follow state and federal open records laws, and resolved cases should be open to the public, according to Mike Hiested, a legal consultant for the Student Press Law Center.

Documents requested

Dining Services:
- Budget
- Health inspection records
President's Office:
- E-mails sent between Central's president and sports department concerning finances during last year.
Provost's Office:
- Most recent travel voucher for Provost David Soltz.
Athletics:
- Football coach Beau Baldwin's contract.
- Sports budget.
Student Affairs:
- Student judicial proceedings.
Public Safety:
- Statistics for crime on Ellensburg campus.

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The auditor who requested those records from Student Affairs was initially told they were available on the Web site. But at the time, that site only contained statistical information for crimes reported by Central's Public Safety and Police Services through 2005 and didn't include any information for federal laws, Central complies with The...
Amended animal code takes bite out of dogs

by Brian Rowe
Staff reporter

Victims dogs beware. After numerous complaints about over-aggressive pets, a decision has been made to amend Ellensburg's Animal Control Code from its original adoption in 1990. The City Council decided that the 17-year-old code was outdated and in need of an overhaul to give animal control officials the means to deal with antagonistic pets.

The objective of the proposed ordinance is to raise the existing code to a level that is similar to some of the other control ordinances in the state.

By improving the animal control enforcement services, the safety of the community is increased by including harsher punishment for owners who don't control their animals. Paula Hake, Ellensburg Animal Shelter manager, said this is a tremendous step in the right direction because the existing code lacked teeth.

"This updated ordinance will make animal control a lot easier to enforce," Hake said. "The code used in the past was antiquated and not up to par with present needs." Ordinance number 4481 rewrites some of the existing sections of the control policy.

A new section of the code will require cat and dog owners to spay or neuter their animals unless the owner obtains a breeder's license. Key changes in the regulations include clarification of definitions such as "dangerous animal" and "exotic animal." An amendment will also require vaccinations for dogs and cats at five months of age.

The new code includes misdemeanors for owners who do not take responsibility for their animals' behavior. The criminal penalties include a fine up to $250 for the first offense, and $500 for the second. Owners would also be prohibited from tethering or confining animals in inhumane ways. Chris Klingerman, senior public relations major, has raised dogs and understands what they are capable of.

"As an owner of two pit bulls, I know they can be dangerous at times, so I make sure they are properly restrained," Klingerman said. "With new fines in place, I definitely do not want any future problems."

Dangerous animals can be a problem, as Ian Thurman, senior film and video studies major can attest. "As a victim of a doberman attack last year, I am frightened of large dogs," Thurman said. "It makes me feel safe to know that the city is taking steps to ensure my well-being."
The Artist's Eye
"Ellensburg police clamp down on true crime"

Last week, a bomb threat was issued to the Student Union and Recreation Center. It was neverworthly, but it certainly wasn't shocking in the context of our increasingly fractured and violent world. What is shocking is that Chief of Campus Police Steve Rittereiser kept the information secret.

"If The Observer runs this story... they run the risk of the public—a disturbing assertion. As Benjamin Franklin said, "Those who would give up Essential Liberty to preserve other Liberty, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."

Given other recent events, the compromise of "certain inalienable rights" is suddenly hitting closer to home.

A few weeks ago, a student was forced to stop attending classes. This student, an award-winning poet, initially did not want to be an innate. The student created posters that were hung for an advanced artwriting course. The posters were a humorous endorsement for a "Vegan diet and read, "Die, Duck."

Even though the metaphor could have been misunderstood, I did not find the posters threatening.

While I don't know all the legal aspects of his case, I do know his absence has left many questioning the role of a university. I have always viewed a campus as a sanctuary for intellectual sharing. It greatly saddens me that the student couldn't be protected here. It's disillusioning to see how the ignorance of authority permits the silencing of a student.

In that vein, when L. Rajan N. Mattis, a Central alumnus and counteroffensive U.S. army general, was asked to speak on campus a few weeks ago, some of the faculty responded with outrage. I applaud Djordje Popvic, who created the flurry of emails among faculty and students, for raising awareness.

At least he got us thinking. But he and others also seemed to imply that students cannot think for themselves. One professor asked, "Are these the chosen role models for a higher education institution?" I have to ask, why are we imposing "role models" rather than upholding Central's core values of "intellectual inquiry and exploration"?

Central's job isn't to teach students what to think, but how to think for themselves.

We should be aware that the violence at Virginia Tech, which could have been committed anywhere, puts our freedoms more at risk than ever.

I foresee a future of security checks, campus surveillance, and intellectual silencing if we as students don't wake up and defend our freedom.

I invite all to explore what the First Amendment means to us as state employees or students. Should we only allow pleasant and comfortable views to be heard? Is the university's responsibility to "select what messages are to be tolerated? Should we censor our students and our press? And if universities cannot protect freedom, where is it to be found?

It's our duty as students to throw off the blanket of contentment and join in the fight for our rights. We cannot hand over our rights so readily.

We should speak up while we still have a voice.

Illustration by Stein Hansen/Observer

Free speech bombs on campus

Letter to the editor

Students should have known about bomb threat to student union

When I read the article about Central's bomb threat I was outraged. How could the school not notify students? This threat happened shortly after the school just assured the student body that they had everything set up for this kind of event.

Not notifying the student body is when something does happen. It does not matter if the threat is completely bogus or not. The students have a right to know.

To search the building for explosives without evacuation is another big concern to me. What if there was an explosive and it happened to go off before our police services could find it? Since the building wasn't evacuated, all those on the first floor could have been hurt.

Despite what the school has told the student body, their actions have proven that they are not looking out for the us like we convinced they were. This is very disappointing and very discouraging.

I would have hoped that even after the search, the school would have notified students that there was a threat that turned out to be false. Maybe next time campus police will, or maybe they won't and someone will be hurt.

I'm very upset at the school, and feel that they are not looking out for the student body.

Kimberly Green
Senior, Dietetics

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 name and place of residence for non-students. Letters may be edited for length, style, spelling, grammar, and potentially libelous language. Letters that attack people will not be published. Email observerletters@uw.edu. Fax: (509) 963-1027. Mail: The Observer c/o Central Washington University, 400 E. University Way, Ellensburg, WA 98926.
The *Wilde* world of ‘Being Earnest’

by Bryant Phillips, Asst. Scene editor

Oscar Wilde probably didn’t envision his masterpiece “The Importance of Being Earnest” set in a world of flapper hair styles and glitzy automobiles when he wrote the play in 1895. That’s exactly why the Central Theatre Ensemble chose to set it in a different time.

Central Washington University will present the opening of “The Importance of Being Earnest” at 7 p.m. tonight in the Milo Smith Tower Theatre. Theatre professor Michael Smith is directing a cast that includes faculty, alumni and students.

“This play is a treasure for everyone,” Smith said. "Sometimes it's presented as a museum piece, but we took the piece and asked ‘how can we bring this to life?”

One method Smith will use to make this production unique is presenting the play in the round, an alternate form of theatre in which the stage is surrounded by audience members on at least three sides. This provides a fuller, more interactive experience for the audience and the actors, Smith said.

“It’s challenging because once you’re on stage you can’t hide anything no matter which direction you face,” said Brent Griffith, senior theatre performance major who plays Algernon. “That’s also what helps fuel you; if you know you have to be in the moment at all times, it’s easier to stay in the moment.”

Another challenge the Central Theatre Department faced was preparing for this play while also producing “Pecos Bill and the Ghost Stampede,” currently touring the Northwest with other Central students and managed by some of the same staff members as “The Importance of Being Earnest.” Paulette Bond, costume shop manager for both plays, said that things do get a little crazy, but it’s just part of the job.

“The ‘20s are my specialty period,” Bond said. “I like designing for it the most.”

John Meyer, senior theatre performance major who plays Jack, said he particularly enjoys the ‘20s era costumes.

“If I feel kind of dapper, you don’t usually get to dress like that,” Meyer said.

Bond and Smith decided to set the play in the ‘20s in part because the Central Theatre Department has hosted a number of productions in the last few years that took place during the 1800s.

In the play, two gentlemen named Jack and Algernon fall in love with two ladies named Gwendolen and Cecily, but there’s a catch: both Jack and Algernon adopt the name “Earnest” to woo the ladies. The result is an elaborate ploy involving a fake brother and name swapping.

“It’s a lot about word play and double entendres,” said Maddie Cartwright, sophomore theatre performing arts major who plays Gwendolen. “It’s the classic tale of mistaken identities.”

With a diverse cast, a production set in the round, costumes made to fit in a different era and a play as popular as “The Importance of Being Earnest,” does Smith feel any pressure?

“We’re ready for the audience,” Smith said. “Bring them on.”

Top: Allison Wooldridge as Cecily and Brent Griffith as Algernon rehearse for the upcoming performances this weekend.

Left: John Meyer, playing the part of Jack, foreground, and Griffith perform a scene. The Tower Theatre has been arranged for the audience to completely surround the performers. Right: Maddie Cartwright as Gwendolen, sips tea during a practice rehearsal. The play and its costumes are set in the 1920s rather than the original setting of Victorian England.
May

10  ○ Theatre Arts Presentation: "The Importance of Being Earnest," 7 p.m., Milo Smith Tower Theatre, $12 general admission, $7 students.
   ○ "From the Ground Up," oral and poster presentations about Central historical amenities, 12:30-3 p.m., Student Union Theatre.

11  ○ "Central Snapshots" Comedy Night: Andy Peters and Dylan Mandlsohn, 8 p.m., Student Union Theatre, $4 general, $3 Central students.

12  ○ Senior Recital: Rachel Alvord, voice, 4 p.m., Music Building Recital Hall.
   ○ "Central Snapshots" Music Presentation: Harlem Gospel Choir, 8 p.m., McConnell Auditorium, $10 general, $5 Central students.

13  ○ Mother’s Day
   ○ Student Recital: Kelly Moore, viola, 2 p.m., Music Building Recital Hall.

14  ○ Diversity Center Event: President’s State of Diversity Address, 1 p.m., Student Union Ballroom.
   ○ Immigration Speaker Series: Tomas Saenz, 7 p.m., Student Union Theatre.

15  ○ "What’s Up, Doc?" 7 p.m., Student Union Theatre, $3 general, $12 bargain pass (good for five admissions).
   ○ Guest Artist Recital: Mark Kellogg, trombone, 7 p.m., Music Building Recital Hall.

16  ○ Alumni Relations Event: "The Real World: Life After College," 1-3 p.m., Mary Grupe Center.
   ○ Wildcat Wellness Center Presentation: "Dope on Dope: The Dirt on Grass," 7 p.m., Student Union.

Orchesis dances the night away

Three members of Central Washington University’s Orchesis Dance Company stand on pointe while performing a segment from "Portrait of a Dancer," choreographed by junior studio art major Lisa Soranaka. The 25-member group performed different forms of dance including jazz, modern, tap and ballet last weekend. Other segments featured a modern dance named "Play Ball," in which the dancers simulated a game of tennis. The piece was organized by Program Director Therese Young.

photo courtesy of Therese Young
Open Mic closes with a bang

by Paige Baglien
Staff reporter

Over the last few months there have been four Open Mic Nights with a new winner each night. On June 1, the best of the best will converge for the Open Mic finale.

Nine musical groups performed at last Wednesday's event with a crowd of students in the Student Union Pit. Styles ranged from Ian O'Brien's rendition of "Don't Worry, Be Happy" to Luke Magill's covers of Eric Clapton. These events have given students from all disciplines a chance to express themselves musically.

"Open Mic Nights have had really great turnouts," said Sarah Grant, student programmer for Campus Activities. "In the past, we've had [more than] 100 people at each Open Mic." The finalists come from a variety of backgrounds and represent varying experience levels. Some have competed in national contests, while others find themselves in front of an audience for the first time.

Cody Foster, aka Sadistik, has won several contests in the area, including Central's Open Mic and "Rock the Mic" in Yakima. He has a date set for his own show in the Pit later this month. He has been rapping for seven years and is planning to release a CD.

"There's a lot of intricate instruments and personal lyrics," said Foster, junior psychology and sociology major. "It's ambient, moody, dark, beautiful.

Last Wednesday's winner, senior marketing major Kyle O'Malley, has never been in a musical contest before and has six songs picked out for the finale. His songs include one piece titled "Black Velvet" and five covers including songs by Journey, John Mayer and Amos Lee.

During the finale, each contestant will get 20 minutes to perform, as opposed to the 10-minute slots during the preliminary performances. A panel of judges along with crowd response will decide Open Mic Night Champion. The winner will receive a prize, but at this point it has yet to be announced.

"All I can tell you is that The Burg is involved," Grant said.

Walking with style

by Erin Black
Staff reporter

Style has hit Central Washington University. The Fashion Merchandising Club is sponsoring a fashion show titled "Walk It Out!" and a silent auction tonight.

"Everybody is really excited about it," said Melissa Triber, sophomore fashion merchandising major and director of the show. This event was created solely by students who are in the Fashion Merchandising Club as well as the fashion show production class.

"I'm there to support and give them direction," said Beth Cenzenz, adjunct instructor of the Fashion Show Production class and 2005 Central Washington University graduate of fashion merchandising.

The silent auction will feature donations from businesses in Ellensburg, Yakima and Western Washington.

Auction pieces will include gift certificates, gift baskets, merchandise and Kilimanjaro tickets.

The proceeds will be used to help fund next year's fashion show and help the club get on to a good start by giving the students more opportunities to learn and grow.

"Walk It Out!" will feature apparel from Ellenburg and Yakima stores, presenting an opportunity for students to see what is locally available.

Central student volunteers will be modeling casual, dress, swim, athletic and club attire. The last part of the show will be a student-designed fashion section.

During intermission, there will be a live performance by Seattle Pacific University students, A.J. Mendez and Christopher Cox, two members of the hip-hop dance group After Hours.

"It's been extremely exciting because this is what I am looking to do in my career," Triber said.

"It's a lot of hard work but it's well worth the effort," said Emily Hull, senior fashion merchandising major and president of the Fashion Merchandising Club.

The silent auction begins at 6:30 p.m. and the fashion show starts at 7 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom.

There will be a charge of $3 per person or $5 per couple.
A participant of the second annual "Wonderful Washington Wine and Cuisine" event breathes in a fresh glass of red wine during the event.

A 'Wonderful' time with food and wine

by Nichol Burns
Staff reporter

Swirl. Sniff. Sip. This was the agenda for the second annual "Wonderful Washington Wine and Cuisine" event in Central Washington University's Student Union Ballroom.

The event was named the largest consumer wine event in central Washington and hosted more than 50 wineries and restaurants.

The event also featured courses by wine educator Amy Mumma and other experts, including Sara Maxwell and Sarah Wolcott, both graduates of the Wine Trade Professional Certificate program at Central.

More than 350 people came from all across Washington to take part in wine tasting and enjoy live music. "Good food, good music and lots of people," Ellensburg resident Robert Swerells said about the event.

Participants even received complimentary wine glasses. "I don't have a favorite [wine] because there are so many different kinds around the world," Mumma said. "Why buy a case when I can buy 12 different bottles? I like to expand my horizons."

Several wine producers from Washington manned tables, while tasters sampled wines that came from across the state, including vineyards from Walla Walla and Rock Island, to name a few.

Participants learned about wine and food pairing and palate training. These mini-classes taught consumers what kinds of characteristics to look for when picking a good wine.

Before coming to Saturday's event, Ellensburg residents and students had the opportunity to partake in other short consumer courses that are offered once a month on Friday evenings at the Mary Gupke Center.

"I've never missed one course," said Brian Jacobson, junior sales and advertising major. "I'm like the only kid there; everyone else is much older."

Central also offers a wine trade minor in conjunction with the World Wine Program and the recreation and tourism department.

"The program consists of academic programs, wine industry training for wine professionals, consumer courses and custom courses," Mumma said.

The academic programs also include a 15-credit wine trade professional certificate that focuses on the global business of wine.

Due to the program's success, there will be another "Wonderful Washington Wine and Cuisine" event scheduled for May of next year.

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HARLEM GOSPEL CHOIR
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MCCONNELL AUDITORIUM
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Record breaking weekend

by Michael Peterson
Staff reporter

This last week for Central Washington University softball players wasn’t just dominating, but record breaking as well.

"Credit to the girls," head coach Gary Fredrick said. "They were out of the post-season race on the road and they finished up with heart and played great."

On Saturday, Central beat Northwest Nazarene 5-0 in the first game and 17-2 in the second. Junior pitcher Sara Badgley threw a one-hit shutout in the first game, topping on 14 more strikeouts in game one to give her a total of 207 for the season.

In game two, junior second baseman Logan Ashow hit two home runs to help the Wildcats set a new single-season school record for wins.

"The hitting was amazing; everyone seemed to know what they were doing at the plate in the second game," junior first baseman Mallory Holtman said.

The Wildcats had 15 hits and no errors in the second game, dominating Northwest Nazarene and holding them to two runs with some outstanding defense.

The Wildcats ended their season record at 24-20, 13-8 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC), with their final two wins on Saturday. Badgley won GNAC All-Conference honors, along with catcher Kelli Spaulding, Holtman and outfielder Kasey Druffel. Druffel also received newcomer of the year honors from the conference.

"An unforgettable weekend," said Nick Henemann, freshman geology major, who attended the games. "The girls played well [and] showed off their talent."

Four players will be leaving the squad after graduation. This is only the second time the team has made it over the .500 mark.

Standout Moments in 2007 Season

- Most team wins in a season (24)
- Sara Badgley had 207 strikeouts for the season
- Kasey Druffel had a season batting average of .416

Wildcats split series against struggling Pirates

by Margaret Allen
Asst. Sports editor

Coming into the final stretch of the season, the Wildcats split their doubleheader duel with the Whitworth Pirates on Saturday.

During the first game, the Central Washington University baseball team jumped to a 2-0 lead in the first inning, which was started by a lead-off home run by Jamie Nilsen, who had been in the midst of a slump. "It felt good to get the team started and get a 1-0 lead and get into a little groove," Nilsen said. "I haven’t hit a home run in a little while."

The lead did not last long, as Whitworth answered back with five runs in the bottom of the second inning. Due to five shutout innings by junior pitcher Jordan Moore, and timely hitting, the Wildcats clawed their way back into the game and took the lead 7-5 in the seventh inning. The Pirates then made a comeback of their own, tying the game in the bottom of the eighth. Whitworth went on to score the winning run in the bottom of the ninth off a RBI single by junior second baseman Jon Whiteside.

"It’s frustrating to lose that first game," Central Coach Desi Storey said. "We were physically the better team, and we let them hang around." Coming into the second game, Central took and held the lead 5-0 in the top of the fifth inning. Along with the Wildcats’ potent offense, junior pitcher Tyler Levin shut the Pirates out for four innings.

"I just wanted to come out and go right after them to put the ball in play," Levin said. "Our defense has been playing well lately."

The Pirates gave Levin some trouble in the fifth and then second to mount a comeback, scoring four runs and coming within one run of Central, 5-4. "There was an error and some bloop hits," Levin said. "Things just spiraled out of control. I just had to compose myself, and my defense got a double play behind me."

Whitworth fell short, however. They did not score again, and only got one more hit against Levin. The win took the Wildcats to 26-18 overall on the season, and 9-11 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC).

"It’s frustrating. We were physically the better team, and we let them hang around."

-Desi Storey
head baseball coach
Curtis Crabtree
Columnist

Out of bounds with Crabtree

Dropping Sir Stanley's Cup

Lou Lamoriello, general manager of the New Jersey Devils, cost his team a chance at the Stanley Cup. It's not often that a man, primarily responsible for personnel decisions, can have a direct impact at a time like this, but Lamoriello managed to do just that.

The Devils lost the Boston Bruins at the Continental Airlines Arena in New Jersey, 4-3, with goalie Martin Brodeur, the Devils came away with a 3-1 victory.

Lamoriello had to be the fall guy.

Johnny Damon looks tired at the plate. The Yankees' only dependable starter, posting a 1-1 record with an earned-run-average of 2.945, was traded to the Texas Rangers in the free-agency period.

The Yankees' play has been lackluster. Unfortunately, this was the right time to fire head coach Claude Julien.

Lamoriello thought this was a playoff spot and were fighting to hold their lead in the Atlantic Division over the Pittsburgh Penguins.

The 44-year-old pitcher is by far the most dependable part of the rotation. With 348 career wins (almost 200 more than career victories), Clemens has battled injuries.

Whether starting in cold weather, or as a starter in the National League Central. And let's not forget all the jokes about how Clemens wouldn't pitch in cold weather, or indoor stadium, etc.

The Wildcat cowgirls secured their first place spot in the region and are still third in the nation.

The pitching staff needs this boost in the arm...and Kei lgawa have made five or more starts.

Asst. Sports editor

the Wall.

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Baseball Prospectus, RoxBusters, Baseball Think Fakery and Bill James all project- ed Clemens statistics for the upcoming season. 

The Web site claims he would possibly be able to start by the end of the month.

Last year with the Astros, Clemens pitched 113 innings with a 4.29 ERA in the weakest division in baseball, the National League Central. And let's not forget all the jokes about how Clemens wouldn't pitch in cold weather, or indoor stadium, etc.

The Wall.

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The pitching staff needs this boost in the arm...and Kei lgawa have made five or more starts.
ADKISSON: Coach looks to athletes setting records as motivation to continue mentoring students

continued from page 12

"I was surprised to see that I got the same gratification from coaching others as I did from competing," Adkisson said.

Adkisson graduated with his master's in exercise science in 1993 and became the head cross country coach in 1999-2000 school year. "Our coach is really motivating," said junior sprinter Andy Gundel. "He does what's best for the athlete."

It's been a journey for Adkisson; things were not always on track. At one point, finances became an issue. He had a family and needed to provide for them. He was most concerned with influencing people's lives and helping them reach their goals. He considered teaching, but the impact was far more uplifting.

"Coach cares about you and wants you to be successful."

Cam Bailey
junior jumper

"What kept me was the high of people getting personal records," Adkisson said. "That was really difficult to give up."

Good thing he didn't, because Central's men's track team won their second consecutive Great Northwest Atlantic Conference (GNAC) Outdoor championship last weekend at Civic Stadium.

"Coach cares about you and wants you to be successful," junior jumper Cam Bailey said.

The women's 4x4 team broke their school record from last year by almost half a second and got a qualifying time for nationals.

"We are growing and improving," Adkisson said.

And that achievement can no doubt be traced back to Adkisson and his commitment and dedication to every athlete that he coaches.

Coach Adkisson came to Central for graduate school in 1991, and has been the head track coach since the 1999-2000 season.

Track men hold GNAC title

By Mindy Jalok Staff reporter

The Central Washington University track and field team competed in Bellingham last weekend for the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) Outdoor Championships.

The men defended last year's title and became the two-time GNAC Outdoor Champions. The women placed third overall, showing some strength in both running and throwing.

For the women, senior Terran Legard had many impressive performances in both team and individual running events. Legard placed second in the 400-meter dash, followed by sophomore Rachael Afoa in third.

Both women also competed in the 4x100-meter relay, claiming second, and the 4x400-meter relay grabbing first with teammates sophomore Amanda Goos and junior Brittany Hood. The dynamic 4x400-meter relay team crushed the school record, conference record and Western's Civic Stadium record with a time of 3:51.48 minutes.

"It was an exciting race," head coach Kevin Adkisson said. "Terran pulled it out in the end, caught up and ended with an amazing finish."

Legard was also pleased with how she performed in the race.

"I felt really good about the 4x400-meter relay. It was awesome to break the school, conference and Civic Stadium record," Legard said.

Junior distance runner Katie Hummel placed third in the 3000-meter run.

The women throwers chipped in with strong performances. Junior Katie McMeel took first in the javelin, junior Karsie Tandle took first in the shot put and second in the hammer throw, and freshman Shanta Afoa took second in the shot put.

The men seemed invincible at Civic Stadium, claiming many top finishes. The relay team, consisting of freshmen Christian Demouchet, freshman Colby Brydson, junior Robert Edwards, and sophomore Matt Rogstad, claimed first in the 4x100-meter relay. Brydson and Rogstad also claimed first in the 4x400-meter relay along with sophomore Daryl Schie and senior Charles Velasquez.

"This was just a great weekend. The guys' performances was something that was really fun to watch..."

Kevin Adkisson head track coach

Rogstad claimed another top title in the 400-meter run. Edwards took first in the 110-meter hurdles, senior Sam Schotthomer placed second in the 10,000-meter distance run and freshman Jonathan Hamilton took first in the high jump.

"It felt really good to get top finishes," Rogstad said. "It was nice having good support; the throwers came out big for all of us, and it was a fun stadium meet."

The throwers took the spotlight dominating almost every event. Senior Cameron Neel took first in the shot put and discus throw.

Sophomore Matt Valdez took second in the shot put and sophomore Evan Ruud claimed second in the discus, hammer and javelin throwing events. Senior Michael Ingman commanded the javelin, snatching first place.

Ruud was also named the GNAC player of the week and received the Men's Outstanding Performer for the 2007 GNAC Outdoor Track & Field Championships.

This is the second year in a row that a Central athlete has been chosen for this award.

"This was just a great weekend," Adkisson said. "The guys' performance was something that was really fun to watch and we placed well in just about every event."

The Wildcats will travel to Seattle this weekend to compete in the Ken Forman Invitational at Husky Stadium. This will be the last opportunity for the Wildcats to get solid marks to qualify for nationals.

This is where some athletes' seasons will come to an end, but some will be able to move on to the post-season of track and field.

Nations will be held on Thursday May 24 through Saturday May 26 in Charlotte, N.C.
RODEO: Cowgirls hold third place in the nation, four Wildcats headed to Casper, Wyoming in June
continued from page 13

"It's disappointing splitting with Whitworth," Nilsen said. "They were both close games, but splitting is better than losing both.

The Wildcats close out their season this weekend with two doubleheaders in Idaho against Northwest Nazarene.

The first two games will be played at 3 p.m. Friday, and the final two will be played at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

"We have to focus on getting rid of the little mistakes and go in with the winning season," Storey said. "That would be the highest record in conference.

"I hope the girls can win it all," Davis said. "They have a shot. This is as count for them individually.

Senior Sadie Shelton from Central is the Northwest Region Student Director and automatically qualifies for nationals. Shelton can score points individually, but not for the team.

"I hope the girls can win it all," Davis said. "They have a shot. This is the strongest team we could hope to take to nationals. I really want this for them, and I know they want it too. They've earned it."

The championship round is on June 26th and will be televised on the College Sports Television network. Check local listings for times.

Pirates: Four games remain on 2007 Wildcat baseball campaign
continued from page 12

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"We have to focus on getting rid of the little mistakes and go in with the winning season," Storey said. "That would be the highest record in conference.

There are still some things we're shooting for even though we weren't going to make the playoffs."

Central travels to Idaho this weekend to finish the regular season in two doubleheaders at Northwest Nazarene tomorrow and Saturday.
WEDNESDAY : MAY 16
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May 10, 2007 — Sports — Observer

BOX SCORE

Game 1 - May 5
Central 7
Saint Martin’s 6
Central
ab r h rbi
Nelson 5 2 2 3
Gundry 2 0 0 0
Lobbetwal 3 0 0 0
Tomkison 1 1 1 1
Scogg 2 0 1 1
Manuel-L 4 0 0 0
Anderson 1 0 0 0
Chen 4 0 0 0
Hylarides 3 0 1 0
Brown 1 0 0 0
Farrell 4 1 3 0
O'Konek 4 1 1 0

Whitworth
ab r h rbi
Licolan 3 0 0 0
Whitmore 2 0 1 1
Woo 4 0 0 0
Parry 2 0 0 0
Templin 3 2 2 2
Scoggin 4 1 1 1
Jones 4 1 2 0
Richardson 3 2 2 2
Rodland 3 0 1 0

Whitefish
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Nelson 4 1 1 0
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Maloney 1 0 0 0
Scogg 0 0 0 0
Tomkison 4 0 0 0
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Wynn 1 0 0 0
Brown 3 0 0 5
Johnson 3 1 0 0
Walkahauser 2 1 1 2
O'Konek 3 0 0 0

Whitworth
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Whitmore 3 0 0 0
Woo 4 0 0 0
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Templin 2 1 0 0
Scoggin 3 1 0 0
Jones 3 1 0 0
Richardson 3 0 0 0
Walsh 3 0 0 0

Central
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Scogg 0 0 0 0
Tomkison 4 0 0 0
Anderson 3 0 0 0
Wynn 1 0 0 0
Brown 3 0 0 5
Johnson 3 1 0 0
Walkahauser 2 1 1 2
O'Konek 3 0 0 0

Central
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Scogg 0 0 0 0
Tomkison 4 0 0 0
Anderson 3 0 0 0
Wynn 1 0 0 0
Brown 3 0 0 5
Johnson 3 1 0 0
Walkahauser 2 1 1 2
O'Konek 3 0 0 0

Women
100 Meter Dash:
6th- Britany Hood (13.58)
8th- Kara Nygard (14.33)
200 Meter Dash:
4th- Terran Legard (26.27)
8th- Rachael Kaercher (27.51)
400 Meter Dash:
2nd-Terran Legard (56.91)
3rd- Rachael Kaercher (57.93)
4th- Chelsea Eyans (58.45)
6th- Amanda Gius (59.47)
3000 Meter Run:
3rd- Katie Hummel (10:13.79)

Men
100 Meter Dash:
4th- Christian Demouchet (11.27)
200 Meter Dash:
3rd- Christian Demouchet (22.59)
4th- Matt Hogstad (23.04)

3000 Meter Run:
3rd- Katie Hummel (10:13.79)

Men
100 Meter Dash:
4th- Christian Demouchet (11.27)
200 Meter Dash:
3rd- Christian Demouchet (22.59)
4th- Matt Hogstad (23.04)

3000 Meter Run:
3rd- Katie Hummel (10:13.79)

TRACK AND FIELD RESULTS
GNAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships

MLAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships

Women

Men

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