Observer

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After two years in debt, Dining Services is once again profitable

by Chelsea Evans
Asst. News editor

Central Washington University’s Dining Services is out of financial trouble for the first time since 2005. The program posted record gains in 2007, totaling $2.2 million. “It was difficult with that financial gray cloud over our head every day,” Dan Layman, interim director for Dining Services said. “All you would hear when you came to work is, ‘jeez, we’re sinking.’”

Layman and Steve Rittereiser, vice president of business auxiliaries and public safety, were responsible for making Dining Services profitable again. Doing so required a facelift for Central’s meal plans and a complete overhaul of Dining Services’ business plan.

Back in 2005, Dining Services operated the same way as any off-campus business. Money from student purchases at dining halls and the C-store was used to cover expenses, but also put money in reserves and buy equipment.

The first element was the process of front-loading. If a student has $100 on their connection card, $65 ($65 is automatically transferred into the Dining Services account. This leaves the student with $35 to spend on food. For the money taken out of the student’s funds, they receive a 65 percent discount in dining halls and ten percent in the C-Store.

“Front loading is made to work with the food we prepare, not spending all the money in the C-Store,” Rittereiser said. The Student Advisory Committee, brought open dialogue about the food selections students wanted and got feedback through surveys.

“We were able to adjust quickly to what our students wanted and didn’t sacrifice customer service,” Corsona said. This year’s Dining Services employees have gone through training that focuses on customer service. Rittereiser said this has boosted morale and had a positive impact. Kirstin Hills, a senior business major and employee of Dining Services since the winter of 2004, said the feel employee morale is up because of improved treatment of employees.

“We are really proud of our student employees. They are the face of dining.”

—Rich Corona vice president of business and financial affairs

Rittereiser and Layman based their solutions on Dining Services, portion of an $800,000 bond that is due for the Student Union each year. Four elements were expected to hit their estimated budget of $1.5 million that was based upon the proper funds needed to put money into reserves emergency accounts, payment for employees and staff, and paying off the bond.

“We can only depend upon the mon­

How much money stu-
Presentations aim to disable barriers

Disability Awareness Week offers a series of events and programs with the hope of educating the campus and community

by Chebea Krotzer
Asst. News editor

The annual Disability Awareness Week at Central Washington University is coming to a close.


Disability Awareness Week will be wrapping up with four presentations today and one final event tomorrow.

"The main message is that we are all different and we are all similar whether we are able or disabled," Sha Peterson, chairperson of Disability Awareness Week, said. "It's important for all of us to learn to enjoy each other based on what we have in common."

Today's presentations will be held in the Student Union, room 210.

Central's Disability Resources Director Von Ellison will speak at the first two presentations. Ellison will discuss the importance of being alert to changes in society, such as newly passed laws for individuals with disabilities, and focusing on the enforcement of such laws.

The noon presentation will cover the need for financial support networks for disabled individuals becoming members of the working community.

"One unexpected medical emergency can cause long-term financial upheaval," Peterson, senior psychology major, said.

A third presentation, titled "Universal Design," will be held at 2 p.m. Director of Central's Disability and Support Services Rob Harden will be speaking about the impact of universal architectural design in the classroom, workplace and society.

Local attorney James Denison will speak about power of attorney issues in the workplace and society.

Following today's presentations, a Quadruple-Rugby event, featuring the Seattle Slams and Portland Pounders, will be held at 7 p.m. tonight in Nicholson Pavilion.

After the match, spectators are invited to join on the court.

"It is impossible to imagine the strength and coordination it takes to play rugby from a wheelchair until you try it," Peterson said.

Prizes will be given to contestants wheelchair races at half-time. Friday's events cater to high school students. Central will also host a high school transition program for disabled students who want to attend college.

"The main message is that we are all different and we are all similar whether we are able or disabled."

—Sha Peterson
Chairperson of Disability Awareness Week

because their parents will not release their social security benefits to them," Peterson said.

Denison's presentation will provide solutions for students dealing with such problems without legal issues or embarrassment for students or their families.

"Each year [Disability Awareness Week] is unique and strong with education and awareness programs," Webb said. "Each year is focused differently and has different student chairpersons."

"Following today's presentations, a Quadruple-Rugby event, featuring the Seattle Slams and Portland Pounders, will be held at 7 p.m. tonight in Nicholson Pavilion."

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Above: Dr. Ted Judd, a neuropsychologist, gave a presentation on Traumatic Brain Injury on Tuesday for Disabilities Awareness Week.

Below: A panel discusses professional and personal questions about "Sex in the real world" on Monday, May 11 in the Student Union pit.

S&A FEE ANNUAL RECAP

Central Washington University's Services and Activities (S&A) Fees Committee wrapped up the year's interim allocations.

The committee's recommended budget will be approved by the Board of Trustees on June 8 if there are no concerns said S&A Fees Committee advisor Jack Baker.

The Committee uses Central students' money to help fund programs, clubs and events on campus. The money is collected from students' quarterly fees.

To see which organizations requested money, how much money they requested and the amount of money allocated to each group, check out The Observer Online at www.cwu.edu/observer.

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CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

ALO Studio
Finale feasts on five freedoms of the First

"I suppose that the freedoms of worship, of speech, of the press, of assembly and the right to change the government—those five freedoms—should be alive in us always. When they are endangered, then we must circle and peaceably assemble, as the Constitution promises."

-The Rev. Billy Talen

Megan Hansen
News editor

The First Amendment Festival is coming to an end next week with one last "hoorah" featuring a "feast" of activities. "Feast on the First" will include free food and an array of programs from hands-on projects to presentations from activists, former Nirvana bassist Krist Novoselic and the Rev. Billy Talent.

The day-long event will start at 9 a.m. on May 30 inside and around the Student Union. Booths will be set up for interest groups in an area called "the marketplace of ideas" in addition to a station where people can make First Amendment posters. The ‘Burg will also play FCC banned music on the west patio.

Special event hosts, junior broadcast journalism majors Bill Kaperak and Katrina Smith will pose as "Anchorman" characters Ron Burgundy and Veronica Corningstone. "I'll be out there making a fool of myself," Kaperak said. "But all in the name of free speech."

At noon on the east patio, Novoselic, author of "Of Grunge and Government: Let's Fix this Broken Democracy," will be speaking to students about how to "wake up the government."

In 1995, Novoselic founded Joint Artists and Music Promotions Political Action Committee (JAMAPAC) and played a major role in helping to overturn the Teen Dance Ordinance, which held clubs and organizations that allowed minors to higher standards and fees in Seattle. This was the point when Novoselic turned to activism. He is currently working on electoral reform.

Throughout the day, Talen will be roaming the Student Union preaching and promoting his performance taking place later that evening.

Talen is known for preaching and warning about consumerism and chains like Wal-Mart and Starbucks are "sucking the soul out of Americans and their towns and neighborhoods."

Cynthia Mitchell, First Amendment Festival chair, organized the wide range of activities to attract people who haven't been interested in the festival before. When Mitchell started planning her yearlong project, her main goal was to inform students. "It was really hoping to wake up students to the fact that we have these freedoms," Mitchell said.

Mitchell was motivated to start planning the festival after reading a 2005 University of Connecticut study in which students felt newspapers should get government approval before printing. Mitchell is pleased with the outcome of the festival and feels her point was made to some who attended events this year. "At every single event there was someone who had that "aha" moment," Mitchell said. "There was enough evidence to say 'okay, it's worth it.'"
Senior’s recycling project strikes gold

by Jess Hall
Staff reporter

Central Washington University senior Megan Heer has taken on local recycling issues by spearheading a new program. Heer’s involvement with recycling began soon after her return from studying abroad in Quebec. During her stay, she noticed an abundance of recycling programs.

“Megan Heer is a student activist who is making a significant impact on Central’s campus by translating a concern for natural resources into an action-oriented effort that will make a difference,” Lorinda Anderson, Civic Engagement Center director said.

Through a sociology class, Megan Heer officially became involved with recycling on Central’s campus. The sociology and foreign language major is researching how Central recycles and who is involved.

Heer has collaborated with University Housing and New Student Programs, the Civic Engagement Center, Career Services, Waste Management Incorporated and others to encourage recycling.

Currently, Heer is working with Anderson in the Student Union and Recreation Center and all the residence halls to update and advertise recycling near trash cans by the end of this quarter.

She has also been working with the student government to refresh the campus recycling and beautification committee.

“The revival of the committee is occurring in hopes that more students become involved with the issue of recycling and to present a comprehensive plan of action to the president of the university to bring about change on an administrative level,” Heer said.

Heer’s involvement with recycling began soon after her return from studying abroad in Quebec. During her stay, she noticed an abundance of recycling programs.

“By moving the garbage can and recycling box and posting a sign, I was able to encourage and give the staff in the office the opportunity to recycle in the office,” Bell said.

Bell lives in University Court Apartment and Heer lived in University Place Apartments.

Neither apartment complex has recycling options available to tenants. Heer hopes to work with Waste Management this summer to improve recycling options and availability near off-campus housing locations.

“Especially in a matrix of higher education, individuals should understand the impact they are having on limited natural resources and the implications of not using and reusing those resources wisely,” Anderson said.

Kim Bell, junior anthropology and biology major, makes a point to recycle.

“My roommate and I recycle everything we can, including cans, plastic bottles, bags, we take everything downtown to be recycled when it seems to pile in the house,” Bell said.

Bell lives in University Court Apartments and Heer lived in University Place Apartments.

Neither apartment complex has recycling options available to tenants. Heer hopes to work with Waste Management this summer to improve recycling options and availability near off-campus housing locations.

“I have taken up the issue of recycling as a way to unite and organize community-based social activism,” Heer said.

For more information on how to get involved with recycling on campus contact the Civic Engagement Center at 963-1643.

Leah Hafterson/Observer

Leader sent to NYC

by Brooke Saul
Staff reporter

Omicron Delta Kappa, a National Collegiate Leadership Honor Society, announced that Central Washington University student Jessica Garity is participating in the annual Campus Leaders Today program.

The program begins June 19 and will be held in New York.

“This is the first time in four years a delegate has been chosen from Central’s chapter,” Requirements for honor society membership include being in the top 35 percent of one’s class and participation in a number of extracurricular activities.

Garity, senior biology and psychology major, has been volunteering at the Ellensburg Community Clinic since 2006.

Campus Leaders Today will train 50 participants to be members of the Board of Directors for non-profit organizations.

“We have about one hundred current members and the turnover is very high,” said Katie Vondruea, vice president of ODK.

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Levy dries out firefighters

by Brian Rowe
Staff reporter

The Ellensburg-based Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue may be fighting more than just fires this summer. While the city and county population have grown over the last three years, the budget for the fire department has decreased every year. In 2005, the department received $1.47 for every $1,000 collected from property taxes and city contracts. In 2006, the levy dropped to $1.36, and in 2007, it bottomed out at $1.26. This saved tax-payers a total of $350,000. This statistic might make citizens jump for joy. However, the negative repercussions on the community could be drastic.

Aging firetrucks, an under-staffed station and a system that relies heavily on off-duty personnel are just a few of the major problems facing the fire department. Emergency Medical Technicians and firefighters fill the same positions. If three emergencies happened simultaneously, there is not enough staff to respond to all three in a timely manner. Fire and Rescue Chief John Sinclair thinks the financial benefits for taxpayers could one day lead to disaster.

"The problem with the current budget is it opens the door for poor response time," Sinclair said. "I can't staff my personnel when there's no money, and you can't schedule emergencies." There is hope for the future however. A proposition will be on the August primary ballot for a lid lift. The lid lift will raise the Fire Department levy to $1.50 for every $1,000 collected. The increase in revenue will allow the department to upgrade their aging fleet and have enough staff members to respond to multiple disasters. Most residents and students are not aware of the budget shortfall. Junior business major Rob Iverson believes that saving money is not worth the risk of jeopardizing lives.

"I know that if my apartment was on fire and my life was in danger, I would want firefighters there immediately," Iverson said. "To have it set up any other way is just asking for trouble."
C-Store prices exceed those of local businesses

Chelsea Evans
Asst. News Editor

Central Washington University's C-Store prices are supposedly competitive with those of the local convenience stores.

"C" stands for 'convenience' and our store is competitive with other convenience stores," said Steve Rittereiser, vice president of business auxiliaries and public safety. "In fact we go and check the prices."

Not according to two price checks at Circle K and 7-Eleven convenience stores, however. A can of Chef-Boy-R-Dee that sells for $2.39 at the C-Store is sold for a dollar less at both Circle K and 7-Eleven.

Dan Layman, interim director of Dining Services, said the reasoning for the high priced products began in 2005 when the old C-Store in the Samuelson Union Building was barely breaking even.

"In working with the administration we decided together the mark up of 100 percent was needed in order to reach our 1.3 million dollar budget," Layman said.

For example, if a product is bought for $6, the C-Store will sell it for $10. Students who live on campus and purchase food items receive a 10 percent discount from the C-Store, meaning they don't pay the full markup. Off campus students still pay full price, however.

Left over is a profit of $3 or more for Dining Services to collect on and add to their operating budget.

But even though overall profits have increased by $2.2 million, prices are still at a 100 percent markup.

"Once we end [the school year] in June we might be able to go look at percentages and their markdowns," Layman said.

Central employees receive recognition at ceremony

An award ceremony was held for Central Washington University's classified and exempt staff from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. last Tuesday in the Student Union, room 215. Approximately 250 people were present at the award ceremony. Numerous employees were honored based on the number of years they worked at Central.

35 years:
Teresa Miller
Robert Powers
Mary Botscher
David Arnaiz
Barbara Hinchliff
Barbara Hodges
Cayle Score
Robert Hendrickson
Deann Saylor
Victoria Patts

30 years:
Susan Browne
Nancy Jackson
Robert McKenzie
David Mallatt
Clyde Linich
Gloria Wilson

25 years:
Dan Layman
Terry Thomas
Teryl Payne
Timothy Stowe
James Thomas

20 years:
Susan Haberman
Deborah Hill
Larita Chaiman
Ron Munson
Wihan Bergman
Deanna Thompson

15 years:
Jamie Schademan
Charles Bond
Barbara Stanley
Kenneth Baxter
Kathie Champagne
Wayne Michael Sweeney
Janet Powell
Robert Tosh
Carolyn Sorenson
Meghan Miller
Ruby McNiel
Suzanne Laude
S. Patrick Camarata

10 years:
Cindy Hunt
Michael Morin

Kerry Slaughter
Kevin Nemeth
Katharine Case-Carlton
Connie Lamber
Kristin Kams
Christopher Hall
Anthony Brown
Janet Davies
Sandra Colos
Billy Vertrees

Lorraine Chavez
Thomas Engel
Mark Pantano
Rose Speddon-Brower
Patrick Stanton
Sheylundra Grand
Christina Short
Rob Lowery
Alex Mandujano
Timothy Stork

*Prices listed are as of May 23, 2007.
First Amendment Festival finishes up

For all it's brought to Central Washington University, the First Amendment Festival appears to have failed to educate the students it sought out.

Communication professor Cynthia Mitchell's yearlong festival has brought speakers ranging from the mundane to the nationally recognized to Central's campus, all with the goal of educating students on their First Amendment rights.

The response from students hasn't been surprising; they simply don't want to learn anything. They've continued to take their rights—soon evaporating in some cases—for granted.

Even worse, some have completely misconstrued the protections provided by the First Amendment.

Last week, Doug Smith, an English graduate student, wrote a letter to The Observer complaining about a group of "Bible thumpers" demonstrating outside the Student Union and Recreation Center. The Observer normally doesn't respond to letters, but Smith's misunderstanding of the First Amendment warrants clarification.

"Whatever happened to separation of church and state?" Smith said. "I think there needs to be a good deal of thought given before this group is allowed to intrude on my personal freedoms."

Perhaps Smith should give more thought to the "Bible thumpers" freedoms. The First Amendment provides not only the free exercise of religion but also the free exercise of religion and the right to assemble peacefully. Furthermore, the Supreme Court has ruled that it's unconstitutional for religious groups to be denied the same rights on a university campus (Rosenberger v. University of Virginia, 515 U.S. 819 (1995)).

Perhaps Smith, the separation of church and state isn't mentioned anywhere in the constitution.

If Smith is unhappy with this, perhaps he should invoke another right guaranteed by the First Amendment: the right to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Smith isn't a bad person; he's simply misconstrued and that's understandable.

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Smith isn't a bad person; he's simply misconstrued and that's understandable.

But before sounding off again, I'd suggest that he educate himself on his— and the rest of our—First Amendment freedoms.

The First Amendment Festival's "Feast on the First" next Wednesday would be the perfect place to do so.
May 24, 2007 — Scene — Observer

Q
May 24, 2007 — Scene — Observer

I

May 24, 2007 — Scene — Observer

is for etiquette

This week:

Lazy Legz:
Break dancer’s show looks past handicaps.

PAGE 10

ASL:
Play performed entirely in sign language.

PAGE 11

Pride Week:
Drag shows to hit campus with style.

PAGE 12

"E" is for etiquette

by Ila Dickenson, Staff reporter

In this day and age, with an increasingly high rate of competitiveness in the job market, seeking any kind of advantage to gain an edge is vital to one’s success. A great way to do that is to learn how to properly act in professional settings so that a person can support their skills with social etiquette. I spent last Monday night at the Professional Etiquette Dinner hosted by the Career Center to get a taste of what dining in the professional world might be like and how I would fit in. What I learned was more than I expected.

As I walked into the Sue Lombard Dining Room at 5:20 p.m., I was struck by the lemon meringue feeling of the room, with the pale yellow paint on the walls and large white crown molding framing the room. This feeling was amplified by the place settings on each of the tables, which were white except for the flowers and tiny bowls of yellow butterballs.

Twenty minutes later, I caught myself cracking my knuckles and neck, slouching over my plate and fidgeting with my pen waiting for dinner to start. At this point, I knew I had much to learn from Merrily Bjerkestrand, Central Washington University alumna, director and consultant for the Northwest School of Protocol, and the woman who was going to show attendees how to act like professionals instead of college students.

Finally, the dinner began. Lesson number one was on sitting down at a table. I had no idea there were such strict guidelines on how to do this, but as Bjerkestrand explained how to properly sit (enter from the right and pull your chair in as you’re almost seated) and why it was important (to avoid confusion or collisions in a crowded room), it began to dawn on me that I might actually use this information someday.

The dinner was made up of foods that would let us practice the skills we were learning. We began with a first course of roasted squash soup where we learned how to use the different kinds of soup spoons. Next was a Caesar salad that gave us the chance to practice eating and cutting according to American and Continental styles. The main course was chicken with creamed mushrooms, roasted potatoes and asparagus. Finally, we had bumbleberry pie with vanilla ice cream for dessert, which I ate for the first time with both a fork and spoon.

"Dining is a bodily function which you want to keep as discreet as possible," Bjerkestrand said several times throughout the night, as people asked questions about how to pick something out of your teeth and what to do if you don’t like something you’re given.

She suggests that people shouldn’t be able to notice how you eat your food when you’re being polite. The focus should be on the conversation and what you have to offer the group.

By the time we were 45 minutes into the lesson, I was totally aware of every move I was making at the table. I was paying attention to where my hands were when I wasn’t eating (Bjerkestrand suggests you rest your hands in your lap or on either side of your place setting), and how I was eating my dinner roll (bite-size pieces pulled off by your fingers and buttered at your bread plate).

Some of the great information I picked up was about the different styles of eating. She told us what was proper etiquette according to American style and also according to the Continental style, so that we can be polite anywhere we go.

Bjerkestrand said that because the social setting changes so much when someone graduates, it’s important to learn the new skills that will be expected but probably not taught. "It’s a powerful, competitive edge," said Bjerkestrand.
Research, expression emphasized at SOURCE

by Tim Kukes
Staff reporter

There is an adage: when you want to know something, go to the source. In this case the "source" is the Symposium on University Research and Creative Expression (SOURCE) conference held last Thursday throughout the Student Union.

The annual conference gives students and faculty the opportunity to showcase their research and studies by presenting them in either a poster or an oral or performance presentation.

The idea behind SOURCE is to take students out of the classroom and allow them to teach people about their research and creative expression. This provides an opportunity for close collaboration between students and faculty.

"SOURCE was designed as a place and time when we can get our undergraduate, graduate and faculty to present their research," said Allen Sullivan, professor of geography and land studies and co-director of SOURCE. "We, as a university, want to present this mentor and mentoree relationship between faculty and students."

SOURCE also gives students the opportunity to present their work outside of the classroom and get valuable feedback from peers and faculty from different disciplines. Since travelling can be expensive, not all students can travel to conferences outside the state to present their work, Sullivan said.

Two award-winning presentations were "The Shipwreck of the Austria" and "Birds in the Valley of Wind."

"The Shipwreck of the Austria," won best poster for a graduate student, and was presented by Faith Haney, a resource management student with an anthropology degree. The poster details archæological research that is being conducted off the Olympic Coast.

"I have always been interested in underwater archeology," Haney said. "The Shipwreck of the Austria" and "Birds in the Valley of Wind," two multi-media art presentations by Naomi Grey, won the film and arts session and was noted for its excellence by Liahna Armstrong, professor of English and film studies. Though her native language is Japanese, Grey did her whole speech in English.

The presentation gave a different cultural perspective of south Kittitas County and north Yakima County.

"Her presentation was so powerful that we didn't need words," Armstrong said.

Provost David Soltz and Associate Vice President of Graduate Studies and Research Wayne Quirk also attended the event.

The conference was funded by the Provost's and Graduate Studies offices.

"It's the celebration of all the great work our students and faculty have been doing," Quirk said.

Central student Jonathan Gain gives a presentation on the ecological impacts of the Wilson Creek Stream Diversion, showing a slide on the samples of insect life present in the creek.
Lazy Legz lets loose on the dance floor
by Nichel Burns  
Staff reporter

These "Lazy Legz" aren't so lazy. Dance inspiration has hit Central Washington University in the form of hip-hop dancing and "battling.
Luca Patuelli, 22, was invited to Central's Annual Disability Awareness Week by the Diversity Center last Monday.
Patuelli has a condition known as Arthrogryposis, which limits joint movement in one's body. The affliction has limited all movement in Patuelli's legs, requiring his use of crutches to walk.
Patuelli broke out some dance moves to show that despite his "lazy legs," he can still dance without needing help.
Performing in the Student Union on Monday, Patuelli captivated a large audience of students and staff. He even got some students involved in a dance battle to see who had the best moves.
Central's mascot, Wellington, joined in on the fun and showed off some not-so-smooth dance steps.
Dancing to hip-hop and oldies such as James Brown got the crowd clapping and cheering for the brave students that participated in learning the new moves Patuelli taught.
He was very inspirational to watch," Alynne Greenwood, sophomore elementary education major, said. "He makes you realize how grateful you should be for your legs and you recognize his deep determination to do the things that you may take for granted."
Patuelli has been traveling the country for about a year speaking and performing to all who are willing to listen.
He is originally from Montreal, Canada, and is currently "living his dream" by telling his story and performing.
Patuelli said he hopes that one day he will be able to throw his crutches down the walls of the Grand Canyon and walk without them.
"He dances better than me," Sean McNulty, sophomore exercise science major, said. "I have two left feet and I'm just clumsy."

Celebrating Student Appreciation Day

The academic school year is coming to an end, and with the stress of finals quickly approaching, students deserve some appreciation.
Look no further, because today is Student Appreciation Day, sponsored by the Associated Students of Central Washington University Board of Directors and University Recreation.
Activities will start at 4 p.m. at the Community Fields behind Nicholson Pavilion.

4 - 7 p.m.
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Free barbecue for students with student ID: chicken, ribs, burgers and dessert.
7:30 p.m.
9:15 p.m.
Fireworks show, Nicholes Field.
10 p.m.
Pride Week Drag Show with Jeni-Wine and Beute, Student Union Ballroom.

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 Marriage issues presented onstage via sign language

by Erin Black
Staff reporter

Venus and Mars collided in a comedic production sponsored by the American Sign Language Club, which showed last Friday, May 18 in McConnell Auditorium.

The play, entitled "Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus," presented a unique opportunity to experience a different facet of society, as the entire play was performed in American Sign Language (ASL).

Mindy Moore, who wrote the script, joined Theron Parker in the performance. They played a deaf couple who had been married for 20 years.

Two vocal interpreters, Molly McGuire and Paul Bert, were brought in from Seattle for audience members who did not understand ASL.

This production shed light on the struggles of married life by poking fun at conflicts. The couple in the play argued about everything from sports to cleaning. They even played around with the idea of meeting new people through the Internet, but eventually they came back to each other.

Moore and Parker do not just play a married couple; they have been married for five years. The two traveled all the way from Texas to perform. Moore teaches art, drama and deaf studies at an elementary school and does workshops and performances. Parker is a freelance performer.

Paul Stone, ASL professor, gave the club the idea to bring the play here. He recommended the actors, whom he knows from his days in Texas.

Every year the club sponsors a big event. Last year they had Howie Seago, a deaf actor who did a performance in sign language involving the audience in skits and games. He may be recognized from his appearance on "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

Central's club consists of 13 members, said Brianna Thornhill, president of the ASL Club. She has been involved with sign language since she was 13 years old.

The club hopes that these events will increase awareness about American Sign Language within the Central community.

For more stories and information about upcoming events, visit The Observer online at:

http://www.cwu.edu/~observer/
Jazz Nite soothes the soul

May 24, 2007 — Scene — Observer

Central Washington University's Jazz Band I performs for a packed Concert Hall at Central's Music Building during Jazz Nite I, one of the final concerts of the year. Central's Vocal Jazz I also performed for the audience. Jazz Nite II, featuring Jazz Band II and Vocal Jazz II, will be Friday, June 1.

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GALA drag shows end Pride Week festivities

by Frank Stanley
Scene editor

Today, be ready for some very pretty men and handsome women.

Bringing an end to this year's Pride Week, hosted by the Diversity Education Center and Central Washington University's Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA), the groups are hosting two drag shows, one at noon at the Student Union east patio and the other from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the Student Union Ballroom.

The first show, an amateur drag presentation, features Central students, both men and women, volunteering in their own display. All students are invited to perform. Volunteers are required to bring their own music.

The second show, a professional drag show, will conclude Pride Week 2007 in conjunction with this year's Student Appreciation Day, sponsored by the Associated Students of Central Washington University Board of Directors and University Recreation.

The drag show has brought high turnouts each year. Last year's show brought 600 attendees when programmers expected only 100 students to participate.

This year's show also includes the return of Washington performers Jerro Wine, Bearet and The Retro Divas, a drag group based out of Seattle and Tacoma.

Tonight's show also features Yakima based musician Da Sean "Da" Don.

This year's Pride Week featured events and activities for all sexual orientations and identities. Events included Ally Day, wherein members of GALA showed their support for allies, or supporters of the cause and the lives of the people associated in the local and national Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community. Today's events also include activities oriented toward ESC Pride Day.

Other sponsors include Ke Aloha, Movimiento Estudiantil Chican@ de Aztlán (MEChA) and the Equity and Services Council.

CENTRAL THEATRE UNVEILS PLAY BILL

The 2007-2008 Central Washington University Theatre Arts bill was announced this last Tuesday, starting with a documentary performed by Central theatre students entitled "Vietnam 101: The War on Campus" on Nov. 1.

Later in November, the family holiday classic "A Christmas Carol" will start on Nov. 16 and run until Dec. 2.

Auditions for both "Vietnam 101" and "A Christmas Carol" will be held on Sept. 19. Other auditions will be announced later.

The Dr. Betty Evans Original One-Act Festival, returning for its sixth year of production, will run from Feb. 12 through 14.

The festival will be followed by a modern romance entitled "Some Girls" showing on Feb. 28 and 29.

On April 25 and 26, "The Adventures of Don Quixote" will begin at Central's Ellensburg campus before touring to Central satellite campuses.

Finally, the classic children's tale "Peter Pan" will close the school year starting on May 10 and running until May 18.

For more info about shows and auditions, visit the Theatre Arts Department Web site at www.cwu.edu/theatre/produc-

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NO FEE"
Kayakers practice, train for summer fun

by Michael Petterson
Staff reporter

Warm weather means it's time to kayak.
The American Canoe Association and Great Northern Whitewater Association held a kayaking class from last Friday to Sunday under the instruction of Jordan Stoner. Stoner took an American Canoe Association course through Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals.

Kayaking lessons started off in the Central Washington University pool, moved to People's Pond on Saturday and to the Yakima River on Sunday.

The rapids were rated between one and three. Ratings are determined by size and difficulty, and range from one to five, with one being the lowest.

"It's not only fun and a great workout, but it's safer than most people think," said Cole Barrett, Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals employee and Central student.

Due to a decrease in student interest, the class was opened to the community. Stoner hopes the continued class will help gather interest.

"It's a new emerging sport and becoming more popular, and with proper training, it can be just as safe as snowboarding," Stoner said.

Kayaking has a bad reputation due to fatal kayaking accidents. When untrained individuals attempt rapids above their skill level, the result can be a loss of control. Proper training classes like this one and the upcoming class in the fall are a great way to start out right, Stoner said.

"I got a bunch of great info I never knew about the sport," freshman Tyrell Nielsen said. "I think the training is as important as experience."

Equipment and information about kayaking is readily available on Central's campus. Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals offers inflatable kayaks for rafting trips, with life vests, paddles, foot pumps and a dry bag.

Track finishes regular season

by Mindy Jafek
Staff reporter

The Central Washington University track and field team has said goodbye to their regular season, and preparation for next season is in motion.

It has been a dynamite season and it will be hard to repeat.

The women's team was third overall in the Greater Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC), and the men claimed the top spot, helping Central to the first GNAC Men's All-Sport title. Along with their numerous top finishes, the Central track team is also sending nine athletes to nationals this weekend.

Head coach Kevin Adkisson, along with assistant coach Chris Baumgartner and throwing coach T.J. Crater, have taken their coaching to another level.

"We've just had a break-out season this year," Adkisson said. "I'm looking forward to next year and the season looks very promising."

Along with the great honor of going to nationals, junior runner Katie Hummel was also named the Central Washington University female athlete of the year. She has had a stand-out year in both cross country and the track and field seasons. Qualifying for nationals in both seasons and staying consistent throughout all the meets, she has really proven herself to be an outstanding athlete.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing what else I can do," Hummel said. "I've got great support and want to push myself further."

The throwing squad has been unbelievable this season, with athletes setting school and conference records as well as personal bests.

Two throwers made nationals from the throwing squad.
Out of bounds with Crabtree: Landing the ball

The Weekly Sports Face-Off: Goin' numero uno

If I had the number one pick in this year's NBA draft, it would take me about five seconds to run to the podium and take Kevin Durant. Sure Greg Oden is projected to be the next great center, but I'm taking the best perimeter threat to come around in the past 10 years. Durant is a beast. At 6'9" and 225 pounds, he's unproven, but the fact that he needs to improve on his weight. He'll definitely need to drink a few protein shakes, eat a couple protein bars, and hit the weight room. With his thin frame, he'll get pushed around on the inside.

Asst. Sports

While both teams will get a player they need to drink a few protein shakes, eat a couple protein bars, and hit the weight room. With his thin frame, he'll get pushed around on the inside.

Crabtree

When Deputy Commissioner Rusty Granik announced the Sonics were picking number two, the Trail Blazers could celebrate winning the lottery. With the Portland Trailblazers' trio of center- Jamaal Magloire, Horace Grant and Luke Schenkman-they will most likely draft Ohio State's Greg Oden, who scouts have touted as the best center in the draft since Patrick Ewing in 1985. This scenario would leave University of Texas' forward Kevin Durant available for the Sonics to draft at number two overall. Durant has been called the most talented player for in this draft by many critics, including Chad Ford of ESPN.com. While both teams will get a player they will absolutely be thrilled to have, the Sonics getting the number two pick ultimately prove to be more important.

In this draft, Oden and Durant are considered as the clear-cut top two prospects. With the Sonics struggling at the three to five position, Durant would give them a true center. Furthermore, while the Sonics don't have anything to lose in this pick, Durant will have to improve and win the lottery.

Curtis Crabtree Sports Columnist

Wildlife enhances local hiking trails

The 2007 NBA Draft Lottery is complete and two of the best college prospects in ages are both theoretically headed to the Great Northwest. The way the NBA Draft Lottery is conducted, each team that didn't make the playoffs gets a weighted lottery chance, which only has a 0.5 percent chance to win the first pick. The Seattle SuperSonics and Portland Trailblazers had an 8.8 percent and a 5.3 percent chance, respectively, to win the first overall pick. Once the process of determining the order is complete, the order of the picks is announced in reverse from 14 down to one. Despite the odds, when it goes down to the two picks, the Sonics are announced, both the Sonics and Trailblazers were still standing.

Weather

Field and Familiar habitats with which to hold Memorial Day weekend at John C. Smith University in Charlotte, N.C. Nine Wildcats will compete for various event titles.

Sean Coffey/Observer

Junior Kriisy Tandle practices throwing the shot put last Monday.

With Tuesday's lottery, the city of Portland got the Christmas present they've been waiting for: since they opened a box labeled Michael Jordan in 1984 and got a package in return, they haven't seen the same. Portland has to take Greg Oden, center out of Ohio State University. There are many reasons for this. He's genetically a freak and averaged 15.7 points, 10 boards and 3.3 blocks with his head-off hand. Second, this finally signals the end of the Zach Randolph experiment.

Wildlife such as deer, eagles, hawks and snakes species frequent the rare basalt cliffs and rounded mountains. Numerous hiking trails with astounding views.

Another thing Durant will have to improve is his head-case who doesn't share the ball. He's already started off last sea­

On the inside, Durant's ultimate goal is to win the lottery. While Randolph is a talent­

Aptly named, he's a legitimate leader, but he's not the only one. For this, the Sonics are going to accomplish in 2007 and beyond.

Curtis Crabtree Columnist

With the Sonics' ability to get one of these two "blue-chip" prospects, the franchise in the interest of fitness, Durant has already started to work hard and put in the work to be a legitimate leader in the basketball world. For the Sonics, the ability to get either player will be vital to the success of the team.

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Near Leavenworth is the Alpine Lake Wilderness. The trails vary in length and difficulty.

The Icicle Trails include interpre­

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Track: Nine Wildcats athletes head to Charlotte for nationals this weekend continued from page 13

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**SPORTS**

**Calendar**

**Today:**
- **CAMPUS:**
  - Murderball (quad-rugby) Seattle Slams vs. Portland Pounders, 7-9 p.m., Nicholson Pavilion, FREE.
  - (May 24-26) NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Charlotte, NC.
  - NBA: Detroit Pistons vs. Cleveland Cavaliers, 5 p.m. TNT.
  - MLB: Mariners at Tampa Bay Devil Rays, 12:10 p.m. FSNW.
  - NHL: Detroit Red Wings vs. Anaheim Ducks, 4:30 p.m. VS.

**Tomorrow:**
- **MLB:** Mariners at Kansas City Royals, 5:10 p.m. FSNW.
- **AFL:** Utah Blaze vs. Orlando Predators, 4:30 p.m.
- **AFL:** San Jose Sabercats vs. Nashville Kats 5 p.m.

**May 26:**
- **MLB:** Mariners at Kansas City Royals, 4:10 p.m. KSTW.
- **AFL:** San Antonio Spurs vs. Utah Jazz, 5:30 p.m. ABC.

**May 27:**
- **NASCAR:** Coca-Cola 600 3:45 p.m. Lowe's Motor Speedway.
- **MLB:** Mariners at Kansas City Royals, 11:10 a.m. FSNW.
- **AFL:** Philadelphia Soul vs. Austin Wranglers, 1 p.m.

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**Observer - Sports - May 24, 2007**

**Photos by Brianne Jette/Observer**

**Next week:**
- NBA: San Antonio Spurs vs. Utah Jazz, 5:30 p.m.
- NHL: Detroit Red Wings vs. Anaheim Ducks, 4:30 p.m.
- AFL: Philadelphia Soul vs. Austin Wranglers, 1 p.m.
- MLB: Mariners at Kansas City Royals, 5:10 p.m.
- CFL: B.C. Lions vs. Montreal Alouettes, 7:00 p.m.
- NCAA: Pacific Lutheran vs. Whitworth, 7:00 p.m.

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