Sledding accident kills 4-year-old

Four-year-old Henry Hyatt was killed in a sledding accident last Monday afternoon.

Henry was the son of Gary Hyatt, Central Washington University's interim assistant athletic director, compliance and academics.

Gary, his wife Jenna and their two boys, Henry and Tommy, were sledding at Sky Meadows, a popular recreation site in Cle Elum.

According to a Kittitas County Sheriff press release, Henry and Tommy were riding on a plastic sled that hit a concrete pumping house found at the bottom of the hill they had been sledding on.

After revival attempts by witnesses on scene, Henry was taken to Kittitas Valley Community Hospital. There, hospital staff attempted to revive the child for three hours. Henry was pronounced dead at 3:15 p.m.

$75,000 to be spent on art

by Mimi Oh
Staff reporter

On the way to classes, students may notice art-adorned hallways. A pleasant atmosphere, through the use of various artwork, is the aim of the new Student Union Art Committee (SUAC), chaired by Vice President for Student Life and Facilities Pedro Navarrete.

"Hopefully this will be a launching pad for the whole campus," Navarrete said. "We hope there will be more student art, including sculptures as well as an alumni aspect."

SUAC, a branchchild of the ASCWU-BOD dating back to when Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC) construction started, will have its first meeting at 2 p.m. on Jan. 25, 2009, in the Board's conference room.

The SUAC will consist of nine members, with an emphasis on student representatives and participation. Four students and five staff and faculty members comprise the committee body.

The SUAC's fund for purchasing art, inventory maintenance, and showcasing art total approximately $75,000. The funds came from students at Central.

"I think to do the entire college would be difficult on a $75,000 budget," said senior ceramics major Nathan McMonagle, about his opinion on the budget. "It would be hard to pay artists what they deserve, for pieces they may be very attached to."

Navarrete explained that the hope of the committee is that the budget would be replenished, or that showcasing work would eliminate the need for more funds.

The $75,000 budget is considered part of the total SURC operational cost. It helps pay for the bond on the SURC. The three sources of funding for the bond are the quarterly Student Activity Fee, the Services and Activities Fee and development revenue from rented out rooms and equipment, for instance.

"We've always meant to initiate a plan to purchase and develop art in the building, including art which is donated," said Senior Director of Campus Life and Student Facility Development, John Drinkwater.

Blaine Bennett replaces Baldwin

Athletic Director Jack Bishop presents new head football coach Blaine Bennett with a jersey at last Friday’s press conference.

The number 12 was Bennett's number while he played as a quarterback at Walla Walla High School and Whitworth College.

Bennett returns to GNAC after six years in Big Ten Conference

by Curtis Crabtree
Asst. Sports editor

After a two week search following the resignation of Beau Baldwin, the Central Washington Wildcats have found their new football coach.

On Friday, Central Athletic Director Jack Bishop announced in a press conference held in the Student Union Theatre that Blaine Bennett had accepted the head coaching job of the Wildcats.

"All the candidates were very solid," Bishop said. "Blaine just seemed to separate himself. I'd say for me personally, the classiness, the character, the integrity I think that I see in Blaine Bennett just seemed to set it apart for me."

Bennett, who had been the head coach of Lafayette Jefferson High School in Lafayette, Ind., last season, was the only candidate with head coaching experience. Bennett was the head coach of Western Oregon University from 1995 to 2000 and led the Wolverines to an NAIA Columbia Football Association championship in 1997.

Upon leaving Western Oregon in 2000, Bennett took a job as quarterbacks coach and recruiting coordinator at Purdue University where he coached current Chicago Bears quarterback Kyle Orton.

He left Purdue after the 2005 season to take a job as wide receivers coach and assistant head coach to John L. Smith. Bennett left the job following the season to return to Indiana for personal reasons.

"We spent five years in Lafayette and the kids wanted to move back and there was a high school open, so I went ahead and took that job," Bennett said.

Bennett became the 22nd head coach of the Wildcats and third in as many seasons.

John Zamberlin, who had been head coach of the Wildcats from 1997 through 2005, took the head coaching job at Idaho State University in December 2006.

That opened the door for Baldwin to take the job after serving as quarterbacks coach and offensive coordinator at Eastern Washington University from 2004 to 2006. Following a 10-3 season and a trip to the Division II quarterfinals, Baldwin returned to Eastern Washington as the new head coach of the Eagles.

After considering former Washington State quarterback coach Timm Rosenbach and Missouri offensive line coach Bruce Walker, the search committee decided that Bennett was the right man to take the Wildcats into the future.

"I hope it is the most popular decision and the right decision," Bennett said while trying to hold back his emotions. "I do feel like this is home for me and being able to come back and be the head coach at Central means a lot. It means a lot."

Even though the athletic department hired a coach just a year ago, the process this time around was a smoother one.

"Last year, I felt that a lot our time was spent identifying who the candidates were and then going through the process," Bishop said.

"This time we didn't go as deep into the many, many e-mails and phone calls. But we focused on the three candidates we came down to. We felt that we had some good ones and Blaine surfaced in that as well."
Art: $75,000 allotted to cover SURC walls with student, alumni art continued from cover

Senior studio art major and Student Art Council President Joe Churchman is one of the two art department representatives on the SUAC. His focus this year has been spotlighting professional development for art students.

"We'll be educating the other people on the committee about what artists hope to achieve by exhibiting their artwork," Churchman said. "The committee is in the planning stage, so it's important to set the rules and regulations as to how to treat artists and their artwork respectively."

"We will work closely with the art department, and the chair of the art department, William Volokost, Navarrete said. "We will try to get as many student representatives on the committee. The greater the student involvement the better."

Navarrete and McAngaule echoed the sentiment that the SUAC may spark student participation will be reinvigorated by the project.

Drinkwater added that the probability result of the SURC art development business plan is the creation of a five-year plan for art purchases and related services.

"We will try to get as many student representatives on the committee. The greater the community involvement the better."

PEDRO NAVARETE, JR., VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT LIFE AND FACILITIES

The Art Selection and Permanent Collection Committee, chaired by Dr. Linda Mara, will make the final call on decisions on all art work that will be on display in the SURC.

Currently, some ideas on the table include hiring an art consultant and deciding on quotas, if any for the type of art that will be purchased.

For example, the SUAC may wish to purchase a certain amount of art that reflects diversity, or art which is made by students.

Construction update...

- Crosswalk Closure: There is construction the pedestrian bridge northeast of Dean Hall that goes over the irrigation canal. The bridge will be closed from Jan. 10, 2008 until March 10, 2008. The area will be fenced off.
- Dean Hall: Renovations are still under construction the better."

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LIFE GUARD CLASSES
- WHAT: Life Guard School
- WHEN: Feb 2-25 Tues, Thurs, Sat
- WHERE: Memorial Pool, Ellensburg
- POINT OF CONTACT: KALI O' BANION
509-962-7211 or obanionk@cwu.edu

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Bill for free speech in schools reconsidered
by Michael Johnson
Staff reporter

There's a revamped bill being introduced to the Senate that would protect high schools and college journalists from censorship. Senator Joe McDermott is sponsoring the bill, which is similar to the 2007 bill sponsored by Rep. Dave Upthegrove.

The bill would forbid administrators at both high schools and colleges from exercising prior review of a newspaper or other publication. The bill would forbid administrators from exercising prior review of a student's publication.

At the high school level, administrators will only be able to censor material that's obscene, libelous, that constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy, incites students to break laws, violate school regulations, or cause a substantial disruption of the school.

"This bill will provide students with minimum protection for student journalists, and allow them to do the type of journalism needed in the real world," said Brian Schraum, a alumnus of Washington State University.

Upthegrove was encouraged to look into the issue by Brian Schraum, who had proposed an anti-censorship policy at Green River Community College.

Last year, the bill gained the Senate Judiciary Committee's approval only after the bill's sponsors agreed to an amendment that removed the protections for high school journalists, leaving only the college-level protections.

"This past year, members of the Washington Journalism Education Association/WJEA reached out to the Association of Washington School Principals," said Kelly Schriner, president of the WJEA.

"Now that they understand the bill, they seem to be taking a neutral role this time."

Students have a higher risk of contracting the flu or strep throat after three-day holidays, according to the Student Health Center at Central.

To avoid the flu, over 700 students received flu shots since November of last year. Flu immunizations are available free of charge at the Health Center Monday through Friday from 10:20-10:50 a.m. and 3:30-3:50 p.m.

Some students are hesitant about receiving flu shots this year. Their reasons include concerns about different types of flu, the cost of the immunization and previous shortages.

"There are so many types of flu," said a senior, music major, said, "the costs outweigh the benefits."

"I personally heard about the free immunizations available at the Health Center, but still chose not to get the flu shot this year," said an anonymous student.

Jackson Holsey, a physician at the Student Health Center, acknowledges the student concerns regarding the different types of flu.

"The influenza vaccination protects against what types of flu will be prevalent in the community this year," Holsey said.

In past years, there has been a shortage of flu shots throughout the country, and people believe that is still the case this year. However, according to the Student Health Center, there is no shortage this year. Students are encouraged to stop by to receive immunizations.

The flu is highly contagious, primarily in the first 24 hours of contractions, when there are no symptoms. The immunization is 90 percent effective, according to Holsey.

Holsey said that the flu has a variety of symptoms, including fever, headache, muscle aches, chills, fatigue and dry cough. "The cases range from mild to severe, some cases resulting in death."

Influenza causes 40,000 deaths per year. "Holsey said, "However, most of the deaths are a result of a combination of influenza and another disease, such as emphysema or diabetes."

The flu is not the only health concern facing the Central community. Strep throat diagnoses are also on the rise. Although strep throat is not as contagious as the flu, it still should be diagnosed and treated. The Health Center physicians have already diagnosed between 10-15 cases of strep throat this year, according to Holsey.

Holsey said that the symptoms of strep throat are throat pain, redness and swelling of the throat and fever. Being seen by a doctor and, if necessary, being prescribed antibiotics, is important when any of these symptoms are noticed.

The Health Center's representatives want students to make an appointment if they show any symptoms of strep throat or the flu. They encourage all students to receive flu immunizations. "We see a lot of students who get his [immunization] every year," Holsey said. "If you get sick, you may miss finals. Do [students] like to feel sick?"

The flu season is far from over. In the past, flu patients were seen at the Health Center as late as March.

It is not too late to receive a flu immunization. "For more information, please contact the Student Health Center at 509-963-1861."

Andy King, a sophomore business administration major, checks out the options for over-the-counter cold and flu remedies at the Cats C-Store. The C-Store stocked up on cold medicine.
WSDOT Information

According to the Washington State Department of Transportation, WSDOT crews charged with keeping the highway open, two key conditions are simply part of the job. Snoqualmie Pass receives about 30 feet of snow annually. From November through April, winter supervisor Bob Johnson oversees an average of 50 WSDOT employees at the Hyak maintenance facility located near exit 54 on I-90. Most motorists are probably familiar with the yellow plows, blowers and graders that clear the road surface. Behind the scenes, a dedicated group of radio dispatchers, mechanics and electronics technicians provide support to the road crews.

As a supervisor, Johnson determines when to restrict vehicle traffic over the Snoqualmie Pass. He relies on a combination of forecasts, the length of the snow season, and reports from graders that clear the road surface. Based on the conditions, he recommends to the State Patrol sliding operations that may be necessary or the restriction of vehicle traffic over the Snoqualmie Pass. When conditions deteriorate to the point of traffic restrictions, communications are established between the WSDOT crew members, the State Patrol, and the control center. Depending on the condition, plows, graders and snow blowers are dispatched to the area.

Washington State Patrol slows traffic for inspection. Drivers may be fined $500 for failing to chain up. Current road and pass conditions can be found at http://www.wsdot.wa.gov, on stations KOMO and KIRO at 1610AM and by dialing 511.

Avalanche forecasters John Stimberis and Aaron Opp of the Washington State Department of Transportation examine snow conditions at a study plot on Snoqualmie Pass.

"People get impatient," Johnson said. "They try to go out around the plows and that's when wrecks happen." The high volume of snow and the often severe topography increase the danger of avalanches. As many as 30 different areas along both sides of the highway are prone to slides. Central alumni John Stimberis and Aaron Opp work the evening shift as avalanche forecasters. Their goal is to ensure driver safety and minimize impact on traffic flow.

As Washington's busiest mountain crossing, Snoqualmie Pass is vital to the state's economy. According to WSDOT, closures on the pass is temporarily closed to vehicle traffic disrupt short highway closures and less frequent avalanche control means less highway closures and less shorter highway closures and less chance of unplanned slide activity. Forecasters use a variety of means to trigger avalanches. The most common method uses a tram system that places 25 to 30 pounds of explosives a few yards above the snow surface. The air burst generated by this method is necessary to break up sticky maritime snow. At some locations, forecasters must use a 105-millimeter recoiless rifle to trigger a slide. During planned avalanche control, the pass is temporarily closed to vehicle traffic. Forecasters must then coordinate with Johnson's plow crews to remove debris from the highway.

Under ideal conditions, the pass will be closed for less than 15 minutes. Some operations require up to 45 minutes, with the longer closures occurring at night. If a driver encounters an avalanche on the road, Stimberis recommends staying in the vehicle. Injuries and fatalities tend to occur when onlookers are caught by secondary slides.

Stimberis is one of two year-round avalanche forecasters. Like many employees at the Hyak facility, Opp is laid off in the warmer months. Both Stimberis and Opp enjoy the challenge of avalanche forecasting, even if the general public is largely unaware of their efforts. "We're lucky to have this job, doing something we enjoy and are interested in," Opp said.
City

News from around the Ellensburg community

Big town appeal with a small town twist
Ellensburg Wine Works brings new beverage choices to E-burg

by Joseph Siemandel
Asst. News editor

Two years ago, Gordy and Kathy Wollen looked at the booming wine industry of Washington's central valley and took a chance. The couple, having been in Ellensburg for 18 years, had already created a successful business, Yellow Church Café, yet decided to open Ellensburg Wine Works. "It truly is a family-owned business," said Assistant Manager Susan Wollen. "Gordy and Kathy are the entrepreneurs of Ellensburg." Ellensburg Wine Works, which in March will have been open for two years, has flourished into a local favorite.

The house, which was built in 1887, was originally a doctor's office before the turn of the 20th century. In 2005, the Wollens bought the property and stayed true to the historic Ellensburg structure by remodeling the house to give it a nautical feel. "The house is a nice place; people can just come and drink wine and socialize," Wollen said. Ellensburg Wine Works has established itself as a place for many to come and socialize. Every Friday of the month, events take place.

During the first Friday Art Walk, the winery hosts works of art by various artists. They also host live music and have different types of wine to sample. The second Friday is set aside for regional favorites, showcasing wines from one specific area which are accompanied by food from the region that has been selected.

"We do different wines from regions like the Pacific Northwest, southern France, Napa Valley, Italy; it's just a good time," Wollen said. The third Friday is staff picks. This is where the staff selects the featured wines and they also offer food and listen to music.

"We always have a good time, and everyone enjoys themselves," Wollen said. This last Friday, in honor of WinterHop Brewfest, the Wine Works hosted a European beer tasting night. They brought in many imported beers and talked about beer to prepare for the event.

Ellensburg Wine Works also hosts a members program for wine lovers. For $50 a year, you can join the Ellensburg Wine Club. You receive 10 percent off of all purchases at Wine Works, half price on all wine tastings and discounted price and priority on all special events at Wine Works. For joining, one also receive special discounts at Yellow Church Café.

But Wollen wants to remind everyone that it's not just for members. Anyone can come and join in on the fun that happens at the Wine Works.

"Some art walks and special events usually yield around 100 people and the events can last anywhere from three to five hours," Wollen said.

Wine Works is not just a business, it is also a charitable organization. The Wollens' granddaughter Ali helped start the Ellensburg Wine Works Humanitarian Project in Rwanda, Africa.

After a visit to Rwanda, Ali and her grandparents joined with the Ellensburg Rotary Club to help fund the Negev's Catch-Up School, which helps orphans of the war-torn country get an education and gives them a chance to get ahead in life. The goal of the project is to get the school running self-sufficiently in one to two years.

With all the things happening at Ellensburg Wine Works, one would think that they would want to take a break and relax, but no. Some time this year, Wine Works plans to move to a larger location and continue to bring joy to all Ellensburg wine enthusiasts.

"Right now I cannot say anything about it, but we will continue to have the same feel of the original wine works," Wollen said.

To learn more about events at Ellensburg Wine Works or to become a member of the Wine Club, go to their website at www.ellensburgwineworks.com or visit the wine house located at 606 N. Main St.

Ellensburg Wine Works can also be contacted at 509-962-8463.

Safety Task Force to help support Ellensburg's public safety needs
City to model plan after the state of Wisconsin's plans

by Paul Boutte
Staff reporter

If the Ellensburg Police Department (EPD) could choose where people drink, they would prefer it was downtown at the bars versus at house parties. There are more filters to control the environment at the bars.

For example, the Liquor Control Board (LCB) officers rove undercover, checking IDs, and bouncers serve as the unofficial first line of defense for law enforcement.

In response from community outcries, however, the Ellensburg City Council formed the Ellensburg Downtown Public Safety Task Force (DTTF) to address some concerns that result from boozing college students.

At the last DTTF, meeting the LCB reported eight alcohol sales to minors in the last couple of months. The DTTF meets monthly at varying downtown locations.

Matt Murphy, representing the LCB, reported eight underage officers to patrol in the downtown area. They also talked about the possibility of a "road crew" project. This is a program originally from Wisconsin geared to give rides to and from the bars to discourage drinking and unruly behavior.

"We discussed transportation to safely, quietly get students out of downtown," said Lynee Harrison, coordinator of the Campus-Community Coalition.

Questions always surface when the topic of transporting drinkers is raised. "Is providing a designated driver service going to enable more drinking? Is there enough demand and subsequent support from the student body? Where would funding come from?"

The Hospitality Resource Alliance (HRA) will survey the local populace to determine if this might be a viable option.

Currently Central Transit runs from 7 a.m. to midnight with a break at midnight. According to Katie Underwood, ASCCU president, Central Transit ran until 1 a.m. all last year, but few students rode Central Transit at those late hours that they scaled its schedule back.

Central Transit was created in 2004, after its predecessor SafeRide switched control from the Wellness Center to Campus Police.

Central Transit is funded from grants by Hopsource and has changed its philosophical outlook. SafeRide was door-to-door, but cost $25-$30 an hour, whereas Central Transit costs about $3-4 hour.

SafeRide's downfall was that they served students until 3 a.m., but the job included putting up with vomit buckets and a large amount of verbal abuse from passengers.

"About 10 percent of students used SafeRide, but all students paid," said Captain Kevin R. Higgins of Campus Police. "We wanted to serve more students."

DTTF is also looking into experimental approaches. The current experiment on tap is a "multi-venue ejection policy." Basically if a person got asked to leave a bar due to poor behavior or over-consumption, he/she would be banned from downtown establishments participating in the project for a three-period of time (currently undecided).

Teddy Kollman, owner of the Oak Rail, would supply eight two-way radios to communicate for the pilot project.

There will only be three bars participating in the initial experiment: The Oak Rail, Lily's Cantina and Annie's Horseshoe.

The DTTF's last experiment took place in the first two weekends, October. They strategically placed a and Pine Street to Dallas Way and Prospect Drive.

It seemed to me and other officers that downtown cleaned out pretty quick," said EPC Chief Dale Miller.

While police were upbeat about the impact of the lighting experiment on lingering downtown drinkers, the statistical margin of offenses and violations did not provide enough to warrant regular use of the expensive lights and generators.

"We don't have a change in legislation; the stats didn't encourage funding for lighting downtown," said Harrison.

Ironhorse Brewery being renovated for customers

by Joseph Siemandel
Asst. New editor

The Ironhorse Brewery has recently been undergoing construction in order to make it more customer friendly.

"We are adding a beer-tasting and sitting room, so when customers come in they can relax," owner and brewmaster Greg Parker said. Construction is underway and employees hope to have the tasting area finished by the end of February.

In the meantime, patrons shouldn't drop their decision to go down to the Ironhorse.

They are still selling their straight-from-the-tap microbrews, and still enjoying crowds that come in and drink with the staff.

"We also are hoping to host more events every month at the brewery," Parker said. "It will be nice to have a place to drink now though.

"The Ironhorse Brewery is located on Prospect Drive off of Doolarway.

Signagd has moved from the corner of 7th Avenue and Pine Street to Dollar Way and Prospect Drive. Signagd also opened a new business, Copydog, a copy and print shop in the old location.

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I'm willing to bet that when Monday rolled around, most were thinking with great pleasure, "no school" or "no work." I say work, because some in this discouraging in a world still time to think about the day with great pleasure, "no classes" or "no work." I say work, because some in this discouraging in a world still time to think about the day with great pleasure, "no classes" or "no work." It has been

Letters to the editor

Observer Staff

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of going off to college? Parties, homework and late nights. But the one thing that we all really look forward to is the parties. Whether we parted before college or not, we can guarantee within your first year of college you will participate in quite a few "get-togethers" with friends, and maybe a few stranger too.

But exactly how safe are these get-togethers? Are participants going to drink and drive? What if anyone gets alcohol poisoning? What if the neighbors call the cops because of the loud noise? That's just what the Campus-Community Relations Committee (CRC) and student volunteers conducted a survey throughout the town collecting information on parties in neighborhoods and neighborhood conduct. Students went door to door in various neighborhoods around Ellensburg and on campus to ask residents to questions about their neighborhood and parties within the area.

Questions ranged from how safe residents felt in their neighborhood to whether residents knew the steps to take in case of alcohol poisoning. It has become clear that there are residents who have their homes surrounded by college parties. According to the survey, many residents noted that, compared to last year, this year is very calm, there have been few complaints about noise disturbances and alcohol-related parties. Residents feel safe in their neighborhoods, parking is not a problem, and alcohol-related parties were not noted as a problem. However, garbages around the area was a big concern and not many residents knew what steps to take in case of alcohol poisoning. The majority of those surveyed believed that all they had to do was call 911 or rush the person to the hospital. Even more distressing was the fact that many households did not have plans in place to keep intoxicated people from driving when leaving the party.

The CRC will be analyzing the information gained from this survey and heartening ways to better educate the community about alcohol-related issues. Also, after the appropriate educational materials are provided to the participants, the committee will conduct a post-test to those who took this survey to see how effective the information was to the public.

I would like to thank all the volunteers for the numerous hours they put into making this project successful and meaningful, and I'd like to thank all those on campus and in the community who participated in the survey. Also, I'd like to remind all those students out there to be safe when partying.

Miguel Peters
JUNIOR, COMM. STUDIES MAJOR

Observer Staff

I need to correct a statement I made that was quoted in the article on Dean Hall trees (from 11/20/07). I misinterpreted a discussion we had at a project meeting regarding relocating memorial and class trees prior to tree removal. Contrary to my quote, the contractor was NOT required to coordinate tree removal with CWU facilities prior to tree removal. The trees were identified for removal during design to accommodate new construction, and the CWU was contracted to remove them. Furthermore, they carefully surveyed the plagues and have been coordinating with us to relocate the memorial and class trees in appropriate new locations (either a different existing tree or a newly planted tree).

The contractor's team has done an excellent job coordinating and minimizing campus impacts. And after construction is finished, the completed Dean Hall site will contain a beautiful, native garden with numerous new trees, a meadow, a variety of plastic and concrete classroom areas.

And, by the way, the tree stump in the photograph was not a ginkgo memorial tree, it was a pine stump.

Thank you.

Javon Hillmann
MANAGER, FACILITIES PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION

Remembering a dwindling dream

MELANIE LOCKHART
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It has been 17 years since an American, Michael Andretti, has scored a point in F1 and he didn't even break into the double digits. We used to be

THE OBSERVER

The editorial views expressed are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of the newspaper staff at large, the student body, the faculty or the administration. They are not considered as official views of Central Washington University.

January 24, 2008 - Opinion - Observer - Central Washington University

NASCAR and alcohol-related parties were not noted as a community problem. The CC91§. Neighborhood Relations Committee (CRC) and student volunteers conducted a survey throughout the town collecting information on parties in neighborhoods and neighborhood conduct. Students went door to door in various neighborhoods around Ellensburg and on campus to ask residents to questions about their neighborhood and parties within the area.

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Thank you.

Javon Hillmann
MANAGER, FACILITIES PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION

Dear America, it is with the deepest regret that I must inform you memorial trees have died from wounds received by boredom and unappreciation.

Now, this is where most of you expect me to launch into a tirade about the shortcomings of NASCAR and condemnation of oval track racing. In fact, I contend that many NASCAR drivers are the highest caliber of racers. Examples such as Tony Stewart and Jeff Gordon have proven time and time again that they can hold their own in sports cars and even open wheel. Gordon also carries the elite distinction of being eligible for an International Automobile Federation (FIA) Super License, almost unheard of in the realms of formula one, the United States has only one active driver with an American flag next to his name - Travis Pastrana - and he doesn't even race cars. Instead, their talent is relegated to driving prowess. Instead, their talent is relegated to the fire-breathing tuning of Briton's own Cosworth. At least the United States can lay claim to a handful of F1 drivers, some even successful. World Rally Championship (WRC), on the other hand, has only one active driver with an American flag next to his name - Travis Pastrana - and he doesn't even compete in every race of the season. The closest the United States has ever come to being involved seriously in WRC is the presence of the Ford nameplate, but everyone in the know understands that Ford is just a hedge that the United States can sell its Formula One (F1) future on. The upcoming 2008 season will see the return of the Oregon Trail Rally. I refer to the death of motor sports only at the Oregon Trail Rally. Driving elites such as Boris Said and Andy Lally go nowhere other than America's. An American flag means victory over all driving classes, they did so with eight foreign drivers. Driving elites such as Boris Said and Andy Lally go nowhere other than America's. An American flag means victory over all driving classes, they did so with eight foreign drivers.

Eric Haugland
COPY EDITOR

January 24, 2008 - Opinion - Observer - Central Washington University

Here lies American motor sports, R.I.P.

Eric Haugland
COPY EDITOR

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Now, this is where most of you expect me to launch into a tirade about the shortcomings of NASCAR and condemnation of oval track racing. In fact, I contend that many NASCAR drivers are the highest caliber of racers. Examples such as Tony Stewart and Jeff Gordon have proven time and time again that they can hold their own in sports cars and even open wheel. Gordon also carries the elite distinction of being eligible for an International Automobile Federation (FIA) Super License, almost unheard of in the realms of formula one, the United States has only one active driver with an American flag next to his name - Travis Pastrana - and he doesn't even compete in every race of the season. The closest the United States has ever come to being involved seriously in WRC is the presence of the Ford nameplate, but everyone in the know understands that Ford is just a hedge that the United States can sell its Formula One (F1) future on. The upcoming 2008 season will see the return of the Oregon Trail Rally. I refer to the death of motor sports only at the Oregon Trail Rally. Driving elites such as Boris Said and Andy Lally go nowhere other than America's. An American flag means victory over all driving classes, they did so with eight foreign drivers. Driving elites such as Boris Said and Andy Lally go nowhere other than America's. An American flag means victory over all driving classes, they did so with eight foreign drivers.
Networking offers great ‘real world’ experience

Over the holiday break I had the opportunity to get a glimpse into the world of a professional sports writer. In the last month and a half, I’ve had a chance to get some of my stories published and attend Seattle sports events. The great experience to me is that there are certain things you may hear about, but who you know,”

While most Central students have their own cars in town, some do not, such as the international students and those without a driver’s license. In order for them to get off campus, they either have to walk, ride a friend, or take Central Transit. Not consistent with this is the idea of when to be at the bus stop. I don’t mind waiting for a bus that never came. I get a glimpse into what you know, but who you know,”

Contrary to popular belief, outlining test material and taking notes can help. The Artist’s Eve ...

Amanda Umberger  Asst. Sports editor

Derrick Mason, Troy Smith; Ed Reed, Lota Taluker, and wide receiver TJ Houshmandzadeh. Gregg put me in touch with Clare Farmsworth, the Seahawks head writer for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, because he wasn’t able to watch practice due to the Neuheisel story.

The Artist’s Eye...

Dona Buse  Staff reporter

Amanda Umberger  Asst. Sports editor

Amanda Umberger  Asst. Sports editor

The Artist’s Eye...

Illustration by Michael Sande

Time to defeat driving demons

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Contrary to popular belief, outlining test material and taking notes can help.
After nearly five months of preparation, the John Moawad Invitational Jazz Festival is kicking off a week later than in years past.

The festival will run from approximately 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on both Thursday, Jan. 23, and Friday, Jan. 24, in the Music Building Concert and Recital Halls. Performers will include jazz choirs and jazz bands from schools around the state. Feature performances will be held each night at 5 p.m. by Central's vocal jazz I and jazz band I along with guests John Harbaugh and Lenny Price.

"The audience is mainly visiting high school students," said Brandon Jones, sophomore music education and performance major. "They can come see what other schools are working on and broaden their own perspective. It's also a great eye-opener to the future of jazz music."

The annual event began over 30 years ago as the Central Washington University Invitational Jazz Festival, and in 2003 was renamed the John Moawad Invitational Jazz Festival in order to recognize longtime director of jazz studies, John Moawad.

In his time at Central, Moawad transformed the festival into an opportunity for alumni to "come on home" and return to the music, Chris Bruya, current director of jazz studies, said.

Bruya has planned and organized the event for the past six years. Due to scheduling conflicts and the pressure of a new quarter, the festival date was pushed back one week later than in previous years. Still, the two days are booked with 42 jazz groups, compared to a mere eight groups five years ago.

Lara Nelson, sophomore music education major, participated in the festival for two years when attending Eisenhower High School in Yakima. Now a Central student, Nelson is grateful to have had the opportunity to visit the campus and music building during the jazz festival.

"It's an all-day event," Nelson said. "Even if you only have 10 minutes, you can stop in and listen or talk to the different music teachers."

The event books the entire Music Building for the two-day period and provides an opportunity for student recruitment. Visiting students are able to see the campus facilities and observe Central's music program firsthand. Furthermore, while performing, groups are evaluated by judges and then provided with a clinic to focus on areas in need of improvement and enhance the educational experience.

"There are no awards," Bruya said. "The jazz festival is an opportunity to share the gift of music while playing for, and learning from, other groups. The atmosphere is educational, but relaxed."
Campus Activities works for Central students

by Tim Kukes
Scene editor

Over the course of the years Campus Activities has been bringing entertainment to Central students, faculty and Ellensburg residents. They strive hard to bring acts that appeal to a wide base of people with differing views and backgrounds.

“The purpose of Campus Activities is to bring entertainment that students at Central University, Scott Drummond, associate director of Campus Life, said, “Activities are developed by CWU students for CWU students to enhance their university experience, both in and out of the classroom.”

To this end, Campus Activities is allocated a bi-annual budget of approximately $123,000, said Drummond. This means that for the next two years, Campus Activities has approximately $123,000 to spend for each year. Not only do fees for booking acts come from these monies, so do all the expenses that Campus Activities incurs. $30,000 to $50,000 goes to pay for the eight students who work an average of 15 hours a week, said Drummond. Other expenses include advertising, facility expenses, supplies, travel, etc.

“There is an old rule I think that says you'll spend 20 percent - 30 percent of your event budget on advertising,” Drummond said.

One of the resources that helps support Campus Activities is the Publicity Center. The Publicity Center provides marketing and advertising for many campus groups. There are currently 13 students working for the Publicity Center.

“Our students are clearly more in touch with what catches the eyes of their peers,” said Lola Gallagher, assistant director of Campus Life and Publicity Manager.

Events can range from $400 for small one-night acts, such as Star Anna, to $50,000 for homecoming events. Programs that students may be familiar with are Welcome Week, Homecoming, Family Weekend, Boro Central, Ware Fair and Student Appreciation Day. Some guest speakers have been Jodi Sweinset of “Full House,” Dr. Ruth Westheimer and actor Edward James Olmos.

Over the last six years, Homecoming has brought Jim Gaffigan, Kathy Griffin, Damon Wayans, Drew Carey, Jay Leno and David Spade. At this time next year’s Homecoming show is unknown, Drummond said.

“I don’t know if people realize that they [Campus Activities] are responsible for bringing in the big name entertainment,” Gallagher said.

The decision to decide what events and acts Campus Activities features is primarily made by the programming agency, Drummond said. This group consists of students who are hired by the director of Campus Life to research ideas for different events and activities that students may enjoy. They set the budget for events, coordinate venues, and check availability of acts.

Jeff Dye says he supports education, not babies, because “100 percent of babies don’t read or write.”

Campus Activities employees Sarah Grant, senior tourism major, and Jenny Eakins, senior anthropology major, showoff posters of upcoming events that Campus Activities sponsor for the entertainment of students.

“Distractions are a challenge — our entertainment has become so self-contained, it’s hard to get people off and about,” Drummond said.

But there have been significant changes over the last 15 years. Campus Activities is in the new SURC, which opens up capabilities for the agency and a whole new venue. Larger spaces, greater power accessibility, and better equipment allow Campus Activities to sponsor more sophisticated activities. It also raises the bar.

“I would like to see more activities that will benefit us after graduation other than job fairs and workshops,” Britta Gidican, senior public relations major, said.

Comedy night at Central

by Ilc Dickerson
Staff reporter

Last Friday night, a group of Central students gathered to watch two skinny white guys talk about everything that college kids care about: Canada, video games and being badasses.

Comedians Dax Jordan and Jeff Dye entertained the audience at Holmes Dining for a comedy show hosted by Campus Activities and student programmer Carter Thomas.

Holmes hadn’t been transformed from the light and spacious all-you-can-eat dining hall into a chic comedy club with the help of a few spotlights and a perimeter of black curtains. First to hit the stage was Dax Jordan from Portland, Oregon. Jordan made light of heavy topics by joking about everything from autism to the Vietnam Conflict to Michael J. Fox and Canada.

As a tip to the audience, Jordan suggests telling this joke next time you want a good laugh.

"Why do girls wear makeup and perfume?" said Jordan. “Because they’re ugly and they stink.”

Next up was Jeff Dye, a local from the Kentwood High School class of 2001. Dye’s influences include some Central favorites like Jim Gaffigan and Mitch Hedberg, both of whom have performed at Central before.

Dye’s act talked about his life as a badass, his gym habits and creepy clay baby anti-tobacco commercials.

Over the past few years, Dye has learned about hope from two places: his dad and his car.

He loves that his dad is going bald but worries about growing one place, doesn’t mean it should give up and stop growing altogether.

Dye drives a 1995 Jetta and is inspired by the fact that the speedometer goes up to 155 miles per hour. “My Jetta’s got dreams!” Dye said.

The night ended after two hours of non-stop laughter from two Central favorites.

“I think that they were good,” Christy Vallecillo, senior history major, said. “They were not the best - I’ve seen better, but for $2 they were alright.”

Both comedians were chosen from a talent agency to perform for the crowd of about 100 students, senior community health major.
Tryouts test the drama in students

by Kevin Opsahl
Staff reporter

What goes on in the theatre department at Central is more than meets the eye. Department majors are not only expected to be seasoned actors, but also the ability to become well-versed in show business, whether it's working as stage crew, participating in costume and puppet labs or writing original one-act material.

Auditioning for a play remains a constant challenge for students. The spring production of "Peter Pan," the musical, was recently cast by director Terri Brown, associate professor with the Central Theatre Ensemble (CTE). Students who aspire to be the leading roles must be versatile and ready to bring their singing, acting, and dancing skills to the stage.

Michael J. Smith, associate professor of performance and artistic director of CTE, has been in the business long enough to know what qualities are needed in the tryout process.

"I look at quality of commitment, energy and truth," Smith said. "In other words, they're creating a set of circumstances that are unique to this piece. If they can ... believe in this world that they are creating, then that's great. It means that they can take us on a journey, that's what theatre is."}

On audition day, a swarm of students file into the McConnell Auditorium. They must perform a four-minute monologue, poem, nursery-rhyme or story, followed by 16 bars of a Broadway song of the faculty choosing.

"I have always been a huge fan of the story of Peter Pan ever since I was little and saw the Disney movie," says Amanda Camp, freshman undeclared, who was cast as Peter Pan, said, "I can't wait to bring my interpretation of the much-loved character to life.

Based on the first audition, Brown develops a list of people she wants to see again during the callback session. Later in callbacks, she splits them into groups to do acting exercises. The groups read excerpts from the script to see how their chemistry works on stage and how they can interpret the lines.

David Brown, production manager and music director, then has them sing in harmony as a group.

Choreographer and faculty lecturer Annette Childress gives students an approximate 45-minute lecture to learn a dance routine that may last only three minutes. They are given a half-hour to go through the motions, then an additional 15 to rehearse privately. The groups then come together to perform all at once, while Childress and Brown review their individual performances.

"Some kids would stomp, or get really mad because they hold themselves to such a high standard," Jordan Thayer, junior business major, said of those who did not make the final cut in the dance auditions. Thayer was cast as a firelighter in "Working the Musical" in 2005.

Leslee Caul, director of marketing and development, and an accomplished actress who has participated in various CTE productions since 1994, knows the importance of tryouts.

"This is like a job interview," Caul said. "If you pursue this as a profession, ... your job really becomes the audition process. Even if you're in a play or a TV commercial ... you're always looking for that next job."

The rigors of the dance auditions are given special attention this quarter. Children is instructing a special course for stage dance to prepare those who made the cut for the intricate steps needed in musicals. The department is always finding creative ways to connect classwork and production.

Although the audition process is competitive from the perspective of a major, the CTE is truly all-inclusive. Central wants all people to feel that they can participate in the productions — including people from the community. The cast of "Peter Pan" includes a number of community members as pirates and children as extras.

"Peter Pan" will play at 2 p.m. May 10, 11, 17 and 18 in McConnell Hall, and repeat on the 16 and 17 at 7 p.m. General admission is $15, students and seniors admission is $7, and CWU students admission is $4.

January

24 • "Hold on to Your N.U.T.S!" plays at 6:30 p.m. in the SURC Theatre
• John Moawad Invitational Jazz Festival in the Music Building, all day

25 • Teton Gravity Research's "Lost and Found" plays at 8 p.m. in the SURC Theatre. $8 for students, $12 general
• John Moawad Invitational Jazz Festival in the Music Building, all day

26 • Heather Netz, violin recital at 4 p.m. in the Music Building recital hall

27 • Pan's Labyrinth plays at 7 p.m. in the SURC Theatre. Admission is $3
• Music Antiqua, 3 p.m. in the Music Building recital hall
• NHL All-Star game. Western conference vs. Eastern conference, 6 p.m. Eastern Time

28 • The Matrix plays at 7 p.m. in the SURC Theatre. Admission is free.

29 • Poker Tournament at 6:30 p.m. in the SURC Ballroom

30 • Lowll Skoog presents "Skiing the Cascade Crest" at 7 p.m. in the SURC Ballroom

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On Tuesday, video game enthusiasts from the Central community came together to compete for bragging rights in the Halo 3 tournament.

The atmosphere of the Student Union Ballroom was reflective of the gaming activities it was housing.

The electronic glow of several drop-down projector screens, along with the chaotic sounds of gunfire, yelling, groaning and weeping, set the mood for this all-out fight to the virtual death.

Hosted by Campus Activities and organized by the Central Washington Gamers club, the tournament featured 22 participants, all competing for the grand prize: a brand new XBOX 360, two games and a case of Red Bull.

Campus Activities strives to provide the student body with ample entertainment and a variety of events throughout the year.

"Besides classes, of course, activities on campus are the best part of college," said Sarah Ruiz, junior political science major and Campus Activities family outreach programmer.

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Raz worked closely with the Central Washington Gamers to bring everything together for this tournament.

"Campus Activities actually approached us for help in setting up the brackets," said Evan Bellinger, senior information technology / network administration major and president of the Central Washington Gamers. Once the competition was whittled down to the top four players, the final match kicked off with a four-way, last-man-standing battle.

Kyle Weyand, junior anthropology major, proved to be that man.

"I've been playing Halo for four years," Weyand said. "This was definitely the most intense game I've ever played."

Video gaming is a very popular pastime on campus, and though the tournament is now over, opportunities to network with fellow gamers still stand. Officially recognized by Central Washington University as a student club, the Central Washington Gamers consists of Central students who are passionate about video games.

Anyone interested in joining the club should visit their Web site at www.centralwashingtongamers.com.
"Sicko" finds U.S. health care wanting

In his latest documentary, "Sicko," director Michael Moore addresses health care in America with his personal cynicism added in. According to the film, uninsured patients are denied proper treatment. For example, an uninsured man accidentally sawed off the top of his middle and ring fingers. The doctors said that for $60,000, they could reattach his middle finger. For $12,900 they could also sew on his ring finger. So he chose just to have his ring finger re-attached.

What about those who do have insurance? Donna and Larry Smith had to move into their daughter's spare room in Denver, Colo., because they had to sell their house. They both had steady jobs and health insurance. Donna was a newspaper editor and Larry was a machinist. But Larry had three heart attacks, and then Donna was diagnosed with cancer. Their co-pays and deductibles added up to the curb when they clearly need help. Donna was a newspaper editor and Larry was a machinist. But Larry had three heart attacks, and then Donna was diagnosed with cancer. Their co-pays and deductibles added up to the curb when they clearly need help. Donna was a newspaper editor and Larry was a machinist. But Larry had three heart attacks, and then Donna was diagnosed with cancer. Their co-pays and deductibles added up to the curb when they clearly need help.

Moore talked about how our healthcare system was created, including what the application process is like and why some people are denied. For example, one woman didn't get approved for payment because she didn't tell her insurance company she had a yeast infection years ago. Later in the documentary, Michael Moore went to England, France, Canada and even Cuba where they have national health care, which means citizens don't have to worry about money if something should happen to them or someone they care about. Are they drowning in taxes in order to pay for this? No, they pay according to their needs. They compare and contrasts our system to theirs.

After his trip to France, Michael Moore returns to America and shows people being dropped off at a Union Rescue Mission in Los Angeles, Calif., because they couldn't afford to pay their hospital bill. They still had their hospital gowns on. But the name of the hospital they came from had been removed from their I.D. tags. In a chilling scene, one woman they showed was so disoriented when they took her to the mission, she didn't even know where she was.

It made me wonder, do we really live in a society where we kick people to the curb when they clearly need help? It's shocking to know that what he's talking about really is happening in America.

Michael Moore takes alling Sept. 11 first responders and other people in need of medical treatment to Guantanamo Bay to get the help they need. Afterward they discovered that Cuba has National Health Care. I think taking people to Guantanamo Bay to get medical care is a bit extreme. I also know that there are people who can afford to buy insurance. However, they still don't choose to get it for one reason or another. Instead they would spend their money on other things like a nicer car or television. But when it comes to health care, the French, British, Canadians and Cubans apparently do have something on us Americans. Take it from my friend who lives in Liverpool, England. He says, "It's nice knowing that if anything ever happens to me I will be taken in an ambulance, operated on and looked after and all free of charge."
Wildcat women are 1-4 since beginning conference play

by Brianna Freeman
and Frank Stanley
Staff reporter and Sports editor

As they continue to try to turn things around in the midst of a four-game losing streak, a good strategy for the Central Washington women's basketball team might be to find more non-conference opponents.

Since opening the season 9-0 and beginning Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) play with a win over archival Western Washington, the Wildcats have lost four straight, all coming in GNAC play.

The two most recent losses were a 107-76 blowout by Northwest Nazarene University and an 81-73 loss to Seattle Pacific University, who is currently ranked as the number three team in the nation, according to the latest USA Today/ESPN Division II Top 25 Coaches' Poll.

The loss against NNU was only the second time under head coach Jeff Whitney that a team has scored more than 100 against Central.

“Teams don’t shoot 50 percent every game, and tonight, they were on fire,” Jackie Hollands, Seattle Pacific guard.

“A few of us,” Hollands said. “We knew they were going to give it everything. When it came down to free throws, that really helped with how they were shooting.”

The Wildcats return to the road this week as they continue GNAC play tonight at Saint Martin’s University and then Western Oregon on Saturday before opening a four-game homestand against Alaska next week in Nicholson Pavilion.

THE GNAC BLUES

Above: Senior wing Hanna Hull drives to the basket against Lindsay Brady of Northwest Nazarene on Jan. 17, at Nicholson Pavilion. Hull had 48 points in a 107-76 loss to the Crusaders, just the second time in four years that a team has scored at least 100 against Central.

Right: Senior wing Elaye Maras spots up for a mid-range jumper against Northwest Nazarene last week. Maras scored 13 points from the bench and was perfect from the free-throw line. The loss to the Crusaders was the Wildcats’ third straight since winning their GNAC opener on Jan. 5.

Wildcats men go 1-1 in Alaska trip (Page 15)
We were on the cusp of what could have been a national (football) disaster. Let me start this month, Washington-State Redskin head coach Joe Gibbs announced his retirement. After their respective playoff losses, Indianapolis coach Tony Dungy and Seattle coach Mike Holmgren also mulled over stepping down from their positions. Since then, Dungy has opted to stay with the Colts for one more year and as of this writing, Gibbs fans will see the angry walrus on the sidelines again next season.

Three Hall of Fame coaches, all could have been long gone by now. Add this year’s coaching carousel and the NFL’s higher-ups would have seen one huge shakedown of coaches.

It could have been a nnounced his Frank Stanley ·

One thing I am not including col-

lege coaches because frankly, they’ve

ruined their rep with the NFL, thanks to

Little Nicky Saban and Bobby “The

Greedy Weiss” Petrino. This should be

my “power ranking” list of coaching candidates for what could have been three different jobs, now down to one:

The “If Only” Wild Card: Mike Ditka, former head coach, now ESPN analyst.

Yeah, I had to get the big joke out of

the way because, hey, it’s Ditka. Wash-

ington could actually find something

meaningful in his hiring and he could.

Oddly enough, fit in this system. But we

all know the answer to this. So, my job’s

over, get your ha-ha has now.

Oh former head coaches, where are you now?: Denny Green, Cam Cameron, Mike Tice and Dom Capers, former head coaches, current NFL coaches, current assistants and a flurry of assistants.

much of a defensive mind and both Tice

and Cameron are better off as offensive

assistants. They’re pretty names on the

list, but no.

Oh man, look at all of the assis-
tant coaches?: Jim Haslett, Russ

Grimm, Ron Rivera, Monte Kiffin, Al

Saunders, Greg Williams, Jim Cald-

well, all current NFL assistant coaches.

So many assistants, so little space, so

I’ll just brief each one. Haslett: doing

line with the Rams. Grimm: doing fine

with the Cardinals. Rivera: doing fine

with the Cardinals. Kiffin: won’t leave

Tampa Bay. Saunders and Williams: one

should take the Skin’s head coaching

job while the other will work under

Calwell: won’t leave Tony Dungy.

They’ll be good, but can we get them out of retirement?: Marty Schottenheimer, former head coach, now ESPN insider, and Bill Cowher, former head coach, now CBS analyst.

Even though they are only one year

removed from coaching, the talk of

when they’re coming back started just as

the 2007 season started. Now they are

enjoying their new jobs behind desks:

even easily on ESPN, and we see Bill’s

chin with every pregame and halftime

show on CBS.

So, where do they fit? Oddly enough, all three teams could have ben-

efited from either. Both of them empha-
size the run (Marty Ball, anyone?) and

include a balanced passing attack (Seatt-

le is more proficient), but the biggest

change would most likely be the differ-

ence between two teams to a 3-4 defense.

If that were the case, Cowher could be a better fit for Washington or Indi-
apolis, building around their blitzing

safeties (Bob Sanders for the Colts and

LaRon Landry for the ‘Skins) and Schotty

keeps to the front seven: something

more useful to the Seahawks.

The frontrunners: Steve Spagnuolo and Rex Ryan, both current defensive coordinators.

Let their teams do the talking. Spagnu-

ulo led one of the fastest pace rushes

in the NFL with the New York Giants and

Ryan headed the Baltimore Ravens’
defense, the best in the NFL. Since

Washington is the only vacancy avail-

able with a young, maturing defense,

both are a perfect fit, creating a three-

way fight between these two and my

next candidate.

The “mystery candidate?” Jim Fas-

sel, former head coach.

Fassel, was recently announced as

one of the leading candidates for the

Washington job, and frankly, he’s a great

fit. Despite his offensive downside as

the Baltimore Ravens offensive coordi-

nator in 2006, he’s had success at the

head coaching level and can just step in

for Gibbs and things would keep run-

ning as they are now.

It’s his until Holmgren comes

ba-ha-ha: wait: Jim Mora, current NFL assistant.

He has local ties, he knows the sys-

tem, he’s already with the team, he’s got

a good coaching background and, hey,

he’s a likable guy. He wanted the Uni-

versity of Washington job and got the

second best opportunity instead.

Most people were wondering why

there was little media coverage on who

Seattle would hire should Holmgren step down, and the clear answer is they

already had their choice. With Mora, it’s

not a matter of how, it’s when, because

he will become the next head coach of

the Seattle Seahawks.

That’s 18 candidates that could make a viable head coach, so who needs col-

lege coaches? Pete Carroll can keep win-

ning and everyone can be happy. Next

Week: I’ll discuss the blunders of sports columnists and what to avoid.

New Coach: Bennett becomes Central’s 23rd head coach, beating out Timm Rosenbach and Bruce Walker continued from cover

Central returns to the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) in 2008 after spending the last two seasons as a part of the now-defunct Northwest Central Conference.

Bennett didn’t waste much time-

before throwing his verbal shot at rival

Washington. "We have the advantage over our opponent across the mountains," Bennett said. "I will probably never say their name even once, but you know who you’re talking about."

The Bennett family has a long history in the city of Ellensburg. Bennett’s father, Blaine “Shotty” Bennett, led Ellensburg High School to the state 2A football championship in 1973, the only one in the school’s history. Bennett played quarterback for Dennis Erickson at the University of Idaho from 1983 to 1985 before transferring to Whit-

worth College to play for his father.

Upon graduation, Bennett got into coaching as a graduate assistant under Erickson and Mike Price at Washington State in 1988. He spent a year as offensive coordinator at Chico State in 1990 before moving on to Western Oregon as an assis-
tant in 1992. Bennett then took over the head coaching job at Western Oregon.

Bennett said that he plans on bringing

his version of the spread offense to Central

which made him the top assistant

Last season. Bennett worked with

quarterback Mike Reilly when Reilly was

still in high school and Bennett was at

Western Oregon.

"He has really matured," Bennett said. "I told him that the other day that he does

n’t look like the same Mike Reilly I remem-

bered, so until I have a chance to work

with him, it’s really hard to compare. I

know his numbers are excellent. I know he

is a phenomenal quarterback.”

Reilly also spoke very highly of his

pre-

decessor with Bennett.

"He was very knowledgeable as far as

his football knowledge and technique," Reil-

ly said. "I was very impressed. He was able

to convey that knowledge in a way that

was very easy to learn and very easy to

understand. I wasn’t talking about.

Bennett said that one of the questions

posed to him by the search committee was how long he intends to stay at Central.

"I’m not going to sit up here and say I

will retire from Central Washington Uni-

versity," Bennett said. "But I do promise I

am going to do my very best. I plan on

being here a long, long time, win a lot of

games, a lot of championships and I am

very excited to be a part of this GNAC

conference.”

After going through three coaches in

three years, stability at the head coaching position would be something Bennett would like to see.

"I felt that both years [with a good

process, but it’s not one that I hope I
go through every year," Bennett said. “I’m get-

ting so dang good at it but I don’t really

want to do it a lot.”

INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Central Washington’s indoor track and field team opened its 2008 season at the University of Washington Invitational last Saturday in the Dempsey Indoor Facility in Seattle, Wash. Top performers at the meet included junior thrower Matt Valdez, who got third place in the men’s shot put with a throw of 14.45m, and senior sprinter Chelsea Evans, who placed fourth in the women’s 400-meter dash with a time of 59.93 seconds. Valdez also placed eighth in the weight throw.

On Central’s top-10 finishes include: junior sprinter Rachael Karrner, 400-

meter dash (eighth), the women’s 4x400 relay team (10th), junior sprinter Matt Rogstad, men’s 200-meter dash (eighth), the men’s 4x400 relay team (11th), the men’s distance medley team (11th), senior jumper Scott McCoy, men’s pole vault (eighth), sophomore thrower Tyler Fischer, men’s shot put (11th) and weight throw (fourth) and sophomore thrower Mike Ordre, men’s weight throw (seventh).

The team’s next meet is the McDonald’s Collegiate invite at the Universi-

ty of Idaho in Moscow.

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THE WEEKLY SPORTS FACE-OFF: 'Roid Rage: putting users in the Hall of Fame

Cody Gapp
Staff reporter

As we all already know, the Mitchell Report is destroying our generation's role models. You idolized them.

Some of Major League Baseball's credentials for induction to the Hall of Fame include: statistics, personality, and sportsmanship. Little do people know, there are players who have done things worse than steroids and made it into the Cooperstown.

A player by the name of Ty Cobb is in the Hall of Fame. Cobb played from 1905-1928 and is considered one of the greatest players of all time with the highest career batting average. A player by the name of Nolan Ryan is in the Hall of Fame. Ryan has pitched three no-hitters and is considered one of the greatest pitchers of all time. A player by the name of Frank Thomas is in the Hall of Fame. Thomas had a career batting average of .344 and had 499 home runs.

Saying that is so difficult for me, because I respect the rules of baseball, and as the Commissioner of baseball, I have to make mistakes in their lives, and people grow and learn. These athletes I have mentioned, have succeeded in being the best at their sport. They deserve to be rewarded with a trip to the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.

Finally, with the actual list of names in the report, it's not like everyone there was bound to be on the list. It's not like everyone there was going to be a Hall of Famer.

The players that are on the list, they should all be treated as such. Basically, it's all the same: it presents an unfair advantage to play the game.

Saying that is so difficult for me, because there are so many players that play the game, yet it's tough to gauge just how much of those achievements can actually be attributed as clean play. It's much like the New England Patri­ots. They have an asterisk next to their record, just how far back does it go? Did they cheat during their Super Bowl victories? Unfortunately, we may never know.

Carry it over to baseball and say, Roger Clemens: did he strike out 20 Mariners in 1986? Yes, but who can tell if he knew that back hand would more than likely be ludicrous, but how can we tell if his time with the San Francisco Giants are headlines everywhere. Roger Clemens and that other guy from the San Francisco Giants are headlines everywhere. Roger Clemens has won seven Cy Young awards, has 4,800 strikeouts and is the greatest pitcher of his time. Those achievements are Hall of Fame worthy. Those achievements are Hall of Fame worthy.

Holmgren era to continue

This year's Seattle Seahawks season was a mess, but it was much of a roller coaster as it was last year.

The Seahawks looked like they could stand toe-to-toe against any of the NFL, and then they drop two or three straight to teams that, in paper, they should beat.

They had to deal with injuries all season long, and having a former MVP, not producing as he was expected. And to top it all off, there was the heart breaking loss to the Green Bay Packers in the NFC divisional playoff game. These issues are part of a long list of some things that head coach Mike Holmgren looks at each year at the end of the season and decides if he wants to return the next season.

After a week of vacation with his family, Holmgren came back to Seattle and held a press conference to tell the press that he is going to come back next season to finish up his contract. Holmgren wants to give everything he has next season and try to do whatever it takes to win a Super Bowl Championship.

Before Holmgren, the Seahawks wrote a joke in the NFL. They didn't have much of a direction and went to lose almost all of three games. Holmgren brought a winning attitude to Seattle that every Seahawks fan now expects. Before Holmgren, Seahawks fans could only dream of going to the Super Bowl but in 2005, he made that dream a reality when they faced the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XL.

When Holmgren came over to Seattle he completely changed the makeup bringing in players he wanted to take over the team. His first move was to get now pro-bowl quarterback Matt Hasselbeck. Like many other quarterbacks Holmgren has groomed, such as Brett Favre, Holmgren took Hasselbeck under his wing and gave the reins to him to take the Hawks to the playoffs.

Next he drafted former MVP running back Shan Alexander and made him a centerpiece to the offensive line by drafting Steve Hutchinson. Other key additions Holmgren made were drafting defensive tackle Josh Tatupu, cornerback Marcus Trufant, free safety Ken Hamlin, wide receiv­ers Darrell Jackson, and many others that became the face of the franchise.

Holmgren has turned this once pitiful franchise into a top contender in the NFC that most now fear.

With Holmgren returning for one more season as head coach he gives the fans one more year of contending football. Much of Holmgren's staff is going to return with him, as well as defensive backs coach Jim Mora. It has been speculated that Mora will be the next head coach for Seattle when Holmgren leaves the Hawks for retirement.

Our question at hand is if the 2008-09 season is interested in the 2008-09 season in which Holmgren will be returning to the Seahawks or if it was a one-off situation? Happy to see that the 2007 season is going to be one more for Holmgren and his staff. Holmgren is going to give it one more shot at making this Seattle Seahawks team even better, and hopefully he will deliver.

Frank Stanley
Sports editor

The Sports Editor's Quiz Question

Who hit the game winning shot for the University of Indiana in the 2005 final game of the 1987 NCAA Tournament?

Answers can be sent to crabtree@isu.edu.

The first correct answer will be noted in next week's issue.

Please include year and major in your answer to qualify.

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The midseason NBA report: Marc's top 10 candidates for MVP

We have come to the midway point of this year's NBA season, and the list for who will win the MVP continues to grow as more and more players have gotten into the flow. As things pick up, we pick up the pace of the playoffs, here's my personal list of the top 10 candidates for this year's Maurice Podoloff Trophy as the NBA's Most Valuable Player.

Marc Boese

We have come to the midway point of this year's NBA season, and the list for who will win the MVP continues to grow as more and more players have gotten into the flow. As things pick up, we pick up the pace of the playoffs, here's my personal list of the top 10 candidates for this year's Maurice Podoloff Trophy as the NBA's Most Valuable Player.

10. Allen Iverson, Denver Nuggets: A. I. is taking his team on their own ride through the Western Conference, and his numbers continue to justify the high price tag.

9. Dirk Nowitzki, Dallas Mavericks: Consistency. Each year this guy has been one of the best in the league, and he has continued to produce.

8. Steve Nash, Phoenix Suns: Nothing but good news for Nash and Phoenix basketball fans. He continues to lead the league in assists with more than 20 per game and is averaging 42 percent of his three-pointers.

7. Tim Duncan, San Antonio Spurs: I can't stand watching 'Mr. Fundamental' play, but his numbers and his team leadership every year can't be ignored. Duncan makes his teammates better and his Spurs are defending champs. Don't be surprised if Duncan leads the team to a second championship in a row.

6. Chris Paul, New Orleans Hornets: Paul used to look good only off the court when posing for GQ, but this year he looks like he's coming into his own.

5. Kobe Bryant, Los Angeles Lakers: Scoring off the top five is very impressive, but Kobe is the real deal. Changing his numbers from eight to 24 has really changed him as a player. He's not the ball hog he was before, but he can always find the hoop when it's time. With a little more experience, look for his name in the top three next year.

4. Yao Ming, Houston Rockets: Yes, Yao Ming. I never thought I would put him in the top five, but he's at the top anyway. The Rockets need him to be their leader in and out of the court, and he continues to produce.

3. LeBron James, Cleveland Cavaliers: He's not the next MJ, but he could be the next MVP. This kid is leading the league with almost 30 points per game and still finds time to get a team-high 7.5 assists each night. The Cavs have won eight of their last 10 games and James didn't drop 50 points on Memphis just last night.

2. Dwight Howard, Orlando Magic: The "new" Shaq. This 22-year-old beast brings home a double-double almost every night.

1. Kevin Garnett, Boston Celtics: Just saying his name should be enough, but, in just a few weeks, Garnett has managed to be second in the league in scoring behind King James.

GNAC at a Glance

Men's Basketball

January 17

CUW 73 - UAA 78
2 tied with 23

WUW 81 - UAF 63
Graham (WUW) 21

MSUB 52 - SU 81
Richardson (SMU) 21

SU 72 - WOU 78
2 tied with 20

January 19

CUW 91 - UAF 69
Foote (CUW) 21

WUW 62 - UAA 63
Webb (WUW) 27

MSUB 72 - WOU 85
Brooks (MSUB) 32

SPU 72 - NNU 87
Roberts (NNU) 19

SU 77 - SMU 88
Linton (SMU) 27

Women's Basketball

January 17

NNU 107 - CUW 76
Hein (NNU) 19

WOU 60 - UAF 77
Brown (UAF) 24

SPU 86 - WOU 44
Hollands (SPU) 20

SMU 52 - UAA 63
Kiepski (UAU) 15

January 19

SPU 83 - CUW 71
Hollands (SPU) 25

MSUB 75 - SU 56
Carpenter (MSUB) 20

SMU 63 - UAF 61
2 tied with 15

NNU 69 - WUW 53
DuBar (WUW) 21

WOU 39 - UAF 78
Nilsson (UAU) 17
SUMMER SESSION ROCK FESTIVAL

MARCH 27th, 2008
10 am to 2 pm

FESTIVAL INCLUDES:
- Battle of the bands
- Music seminar with music industry pros
- Guitar hero contest
- Raffle to win a bass guitar and other prizes
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FESTIVAL DETAILS:
- Guitar hero contest in SURC room 107 10-10:30
- Seminar in SURC Ph 11:30
- Battle of the bands SURC Ph 12:30

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